

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2017 PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AND COPPER RIVER SALMON FORECAST SUMMARY

This news release provides a summary of the 2017 salmon forecasts for the Prince William Sound (PWS) area. A more complete forecast document providing details on methods, history, data sources, and sources of uncertainty in the forecasts can be found on the Department of Fish and Game website at the following link: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.salmon>

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation 2017 projections may be viewed at the following link: <http://pwsac.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/2017-PWSAC-Forecast.pdf>

Formal forecasts were calculated for stocks including natural Copper River Chinook and sockeye salmon; Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon; natural PWS pink and chum salmon; and Coghill Lake sockeye salmon (Table 1). Other hatchery forecasts are provided by Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) and Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA).

Table 1. Total run estimates for the 2017 Prince William Sound area stocks from formal forecasts (thousands of fish).

Area/Production Type	Species	Forecast Estimate	Range	Rank last 20 years (1 = largest run)
Copper River				
<i>Natural Production</i>	Chinook Salmon	29	3–55	20 th
<i>Natural Production</i>	Sockeye Salmon	1,510	1,070–1,960	17 th
<i>Gulkana Hatchery Production</i>		300	210–380	11 th
<i>Total Production</i>		1,810	1,280–2,340	16 th
Prince William Sound				
<i>Natural Production</i>				
Coghill Lake	Sockeye Salmon	74	51–131	15 th
Eshamy Lake		NA	NA	NA
<i>Total Natural Production</i>		NA	NA	NA
<i>Natural Production</i>	Pink Salmon	21,097	11,770–30,424	2 nd (20 odd years)
<i>Natural Production</i>	Chum Salmon	371	241-501	18 th

In addition to formal forecasts of total runs, commercial common property projections are estimated for most natural stocks and Gulkana Hatchery production (Table 2). Harvest projections for most hatchery stocks are not available at this time.

Table 2. Commercial common property harvest projections for the 2017 Prince William Sound area by production type, and species (thousands of fish).

Fishing Area	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Bering River						
<i>Natural Production</i> ^a	0	4	48	0	0	52
Copper River						
<i>Natural Production</i>	4 ^b	716 ^b	207 ^a	35 ^a	15 ^a	977
<i>Hatchery Production</i>	0	173 ^b	0	0	0	173
<i>Total Production</i>	4	889	207	35	15	1,150
Prince William Sound						
<i>Natural Production</i> ^c	1	66	2	19,647	171	19,887
<i>Hatchery Production</i>	0	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Total Production</i>	1	*	*	*	*	*
Area Totals						
<i>Natural Production</i>	5	786	257	19,682	186	20,916
<i>Hatchery Production</i>	0	*	*	*	*	*

Note: CCP = Commercial Common Property. All forecasts by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

^a No formal forecasts are created for these stocks. CCP harvest projections shown are recent 10-year averages.

^b Harvest estimates for these stocks are from formal forecast models documented in the complete forecast document.

^c Formal forecasts were completed for Coghill Lake sockeye salmon (CCP forecast =44 thousand), but shown here is the recent 10-year average natural harvest of sockeye salmon from all Prince William Sound Districts. Formal forecasts were also completed for pink and chum salmon from all districts combined, but the Chinook and coho salmon projections are 10-year average CCP harvests.

* Total run forecasts are completed by Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation and Valdez Fisheries Development Association; however, no commercial harvest projections are available.