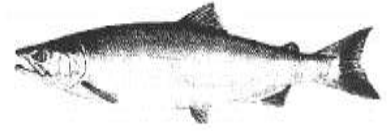


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
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Date Issued: 1/18/2013  
Time Issued: 11 a.m.

**2012 PRELIMINARY LOWER COOK INLET SALMON SEASON SUMMARY**

The preliminary estimate of the 2012 Lower Cook Inlet Area commercial salmon harvest as based on current fish ticket data is 498,597 salmon. The harvest was composed of 256,267 pink, 186,581 sockeye, 55,434 chum, 182 coho, and 133 Chinook salmon. The harvest was comprised of 382,895 (77%) commercial common property fishery (CPF) fish, and 115,702 (23%) hatchery cost recovery and broodstock fish.

***Southern District***

The 2012 preseason commercial harvest forecast for natural production in the Southern District was 1,900 sockeye and 6,200 pink salmon. Hatchery releases from previous years at Leisure Lake, Hazel Lake, Tutka Bay, Port Graham and English Bay were anticipated to contribute 8,500 sockeye salmon to the 2012 commercial harvest. The commercial salmon fishing season in the Southern District began on Friday, June 1. Purse seine harvest for the 2012 season was 6,396 sockeye and 157,770 pink salmon. This compares to a previous 10-year harvest average of 78,561 for sockeye and 10,702 for pink salmon. The set gillnet harvest was 10,260 sockeye and 10,305 pink salmon. The previous 10-year harvest average for this gear type is 30,597 sockeye and 3,730 pink salmon. Preliminary estimates show that pink salmon escapement in index streams was near the midpoint of the cumulative sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 59,700–178,500 fish. The weir at the English Bay River passed 3,985 sockeye salmon. This was below the SEG of 6,000–13,500 for this system.

***Outer District***

The 2012 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Outer District was 16,700 sockeye and 256,000 pink salmon. The commercial salmon fishing season began in this district on Thursday, July 26. Overall harvest was 77 sockeye, 69,259 pink and 51,313 chum salmon. This harvest compares to previous 10-year averages of 14,558 sockeye, 422,428 pink and 24,149 chum salmon. Preliminary escapement survey indices for chum salmon were near the upper end of the SEG range of 12,850–34,600. Pink salmon were in the lower end of their SEG range of 54,500–237,200. Aerial surveys of Desire Lake documented 8,840 sockeye salmon. This is within the

SEG range of 8,800–15,200 fish for Desire Lake. The Delight Lake weir counted 10,887 sockeye salmon. This is also within the SEG range of 7,500–17,650 fish for this system.

### ***Eastern District***

The 2012 preseason commercial forecast for the Eastern District was 25,700 wild stock sockeye salmon. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) forecasted a total run of 216,000 sockeye salmon to Resurrection Bay facilities. Total harvest from this district was 83,953 sockeye salmon with all of these fish harvested by CIAA for cost recovery purposes. This compares to a previous 10-year average commercial harvest of 52,344 sockeye salmon for common property and cost recovery harvests combined. Escapement through the weir at Bear Creek (12,293) was sufficient to meet the “desired inriver return” of 5,620-13,220 sockeye salmon. This goal is the combination of the SEG (700–8,300) as well as the estimated 4,920 sockeye salmon required for broodstock for the CIAA sockeye salmon program at Trail Lakes Hatchery. In addition, 2,140 sockeye salmon were documented during aerial surveys of Aialik Lake escapement. This is below the SEG range of 3,700–8,000 fish for this system.

### ***Kamishak Bay District***

The 2012 preseason commercial forecast for the Kamishak Bay District was 98,300 sockeye and zero pink salmon. CIAA forecasted a run of 10,200 sockeye salmon to the Kirschner Lake remote release site. Total harvest from this district was 55,255 sockeye, 61 pink and 2,425 chum salmon. In addition, 1,260 sockeye salmon were harvested by CIAA from the Kirschner Lake Special Harvest Area (SHA) for cost recovery purposes. This compares to a previous 10-year average of 64,961 sockeye, 70,776 pink and 56,663 chum salmon. Preliminary escapement survey indices for both chum and pink salmon show escapement levels in the lower end of their respective SEG ranges of 65,550–141,600 for chum, and 25,950–203,400 for pink salmon. Video enumeration of sockeye salmon returning to Chenik Lake documented escapement near the upper end of the SEG range of 3,500-14,000 fish. Video documentation of escapement to Mikfik Lake for this species was below the SEG range of 6,300–12,150 fish.