



Advisory Announcement

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2025 BRISTOL BAY SALMON SEASON SUMMARY

The following is an overview of the 2025 Bristol Bay commercial salmon season. All data are preliminary. The 2025 inshore Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run of 56.7 million fish (Table 1) was the 7th largest inshore run since 2005 and was 16% above the 48.7 million average run for the latest 20-year period (2005–2024; Elison et. al 2025). This is the 11th year in a row that the total inshore run was larger than 50 million fish.

The 2025 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run was 14% above the preseason inshore forecast of 49.8 million fish (Table 2). All sockeye salmon escapement goals were met or exceeded, with a total bay-wide escapement of 15.5 million fish (Table 3). The commercial harvest of 41.2 million sockeye salmon was 18% above the 34.8 million preseason forecast (Table 1). The preliminary harvest estimates for other species are 6,148 Chinook, 589,433 chum, 25,788 coho, and 256 pink salmon (Table 1).

EXVESSEL VALUE

Exvessel value of salmon caught in Bristol Bay in 2025 was estimated using the price information from final operations reports for each species, and numbers and average weights from preliminary fish ticket numbers. The 2025 Bristol Bay preliminary exvessel value of \$215.3 million for all salmon species (Table 4) was 7% above the 20-year average of \$200.7 million (Elison et. al 2025). Prices may not include incentives for icing, bleeding, floating, or production bonuses.

SPECIES PERFORMANCE

Sockeye Salmon

The 2025 harvest of 41.2 million sockeye salmon was 23% higher than the recent 20-year average of 33.6 million for all districts (Table 5; Elison et. al 2025). Nushagak and Wood River sockeye salmon have optimum escapement goal (OEG) ranges that were adopted in 2023 by the Alaska Board of Fisheries as part of the Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan (Table 3). Sockeye salmon escapement goals were exceeded on the Nushagak, Igushik and Togiak rivers. The Kvichak, Naknek, Alagnak, Egegik, Ugashik, and Wood rivers were within their escapement goal ranges (Table 3). Overall, run timing was one day early compared to the 20-year average.

In 2025, the age composition of sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay was roughly on forecast, with 38% 2-ocean fish (forecast of 37%) and 61% 3-ocean fish (forecast of 63%) returning. The 1.2 age class

contributed 27% and age 1.3 fish contributed 58%. While the average weight of 5.1 pounds is slightly higher than the recent 5-year average of 4.9 pounds due to the large number of 3-ocean fish, weight at age was below average for most age classes (Table 4; Figure 1).

Chinook Salmon

Bristol Bay Chinook salmon harvest and abundance continued to be low in 2025. Chinook salmon harvested in Bristol Bay are incidentally caught during directed sockeye salmon fishing periods. The 2025 Chinook salmon harvests were below the 20-year average in all districts (Table 6). The preliminary total Chinook salmon harvest of 6,148 was 82% below the most recent 20-year average of 33,469 fish, and the lowest in the last 20 years. However, it is comparable to harvests since 2021. Nushagak Chinook salmon is the main source of Chinook harvest in Bristol Bay and is currently a stock of management concern. The Nushagak District was managed according to the Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan with sockeye salmon escapement triggers that delay the start of fishing and OEGs to allow for increased Chinook salmon escapement. The Nushagak District Chinook salmon harvest was 3,625 fish 86% below the 20-year average harvest of 25,890 fish (Table 6; Elison et. al 2025). The Nushagak River Chinook salmon in-river run index at Portage Creek sonar was 34,322 fish, which is below the escapement goal range of 55,000–120,000 fish and the in-river goal of 95,000 fish.

Chum Salmon

The 2025 preliminary Bristol Bay chum salmon harvest was 589,433 fish (Table 1), 41% below the recent 20-year average of 1.0 million fish, but the largest harvest since 2019 (Elison et. al 2025). The Nushagak District is the largest producer of chum salmon and had a harvest of 309,902 fish (Table 1). The Nushagak River chum salmon in-river run index at Portage Creek sonar was 368,817 fish, well above the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal of 200,000 fish.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon in Bristol Bay are predominantly an even-year species. Pink salmon harvest was incidental to the sockeye salmon fishery and totaled 256 fish (Table 1). Pink salmon escapement is not monitored in Bristol Bay.

Coho Salmon

The preliminary coho salmon harvest in 2025 was 25,788 fish (Table 1), 66% below the recent 20-year average of 94,269 fish (Elison et. al 2025). The Nushagak District is typically the largest producer of coho salmon and had a harvest of 10,102 fish, though the Egegik District accounted for the most coho harvest in 2025 with 10,798 fish. Harvests of coho salmon can be variable from year to year depending on processor availability, market conditions, and overall fishing effort. There was no real interest in a coho salmon fishery in the Nushagak District this season and harvest was incidental to the sockeye salmon fishery. Coho escapement is not monitored in Bristol Bay.

ALLOCATION

Bristol Bay fisheries are managed for allocation (secondary to escapement) between drift and set gillnet gear groups in four of five districts. The Togiak District does not have an allocation plan. Strategies used to achieve allocation between gear groups included varying the amount of fishing time and providing separate gear group openings. Allocation goals and actual harvest percentages for 2025 are listed in Table 7. In the current regime of large sockeye salmon returns, a more mobile fleet, and dual permits, gear group allocations can be difficult to achieve when the primary objective is managing to meet escapement goals.

Acknowledgements

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Reference cited

Elison, T., A. Tiernan, T. Sands, S. Vega, C. Weaver, and J. Terry-Shindelman. 2025. 2024 Bristol Bay annual management report. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-17, Anchorage.

Table 1.—Preliminary Bristol Bay salmon harvest and escapement by district and species, 2025.

District	Sockeye	Chinook	Chum	Pink	Coho	TOTAL
Naknek-Kvichak catch	11,479,338	832	121,743	9	598	11,602,520
Escapement-Kvichak tower	2,968,128	a	a	a	a	2,968,128
Naknek tower	1,042,152	a	a	a	a	1,042,152
Alagnak tower	2,157,828	a	a	a	a	2,157,828
N-K subtotal	17,647,446	832	121,743	9	598	17,770,628
Egegik catch	7,610,876	495	44,317	37	10,798	7,666,523
Escapement-Egegik tower	1,382,106	a	a	a	a	1,382,106
Egegik subtotal	8,992,982	495	44,317	37	10,798	9,048,629
Ugashik catch	4,981,397	356	45,596	0	1287	5,028,636
Escapement-Ugashik tower	1,041,048	a	a	a	a	1,041,048
Ugashik subtotal	6,022,445	356	45,596	0	1,287	6,069,684
Nushagak catch	16,596,415	3,625	309,902	65	10,102	16,920,109
Escapement- Wood tower	2,657,028	a	a	a	a	2,657,028
Igushik tower	668,268	a	a	a	a	668,268
Nushagak sonar	3,260,590	34,322	368,817	a	a	3,663,729
Nushagak subtotal	23,182,301	37,947	678,719	65	10,102	23,909,134
Togiak catch	522,320	840	67,875	145	3,003	594,183
Escapement - Togiak tower	314,064	a	a	a	a	314,064
Togiak subtotal	836,384	840	67,875	145	3,003	908,247
Bristol Bay catch	41,190,346	6,148	589,433	256	25,788	41,811,971
Bristol Bay escapement	15,491,212	a	a	a	a	a
Bristol Bay total run	56,681,558	b	b	b	b	b

^a Escapement not assessed or incomplete

^b Total run size cannot be determined in the absence of complete escapement data.

Table 2.—Difference between Bristol Bay sockeye salmon actual inshore run and preseason forecast, 2025.

District	Inshore forecast	Inshore run	% Above/below forecast
Naknek-Kvichak	15,530,000	17,647,446	14% Above
Egegik	6,260,000	8,992,982	44% Above
Ugashik	6,700,000	6,022,445	10% Below
Nushagak	20,360,000	23,182,301	14% Above
Togiak	980,000	836,384	15% Below
Totals	49,830,000	56,681,558	14% Above

Table 3.—Bristol Bay sockeye salmon escapement goals and actual escapements, 2025.

River system	Escapement goal range	Escapement
Kvichak River	2,000,000–10,000,000	2,968,128
Naknek River	800,000–2,000,000	1,042,152
Alagnak River	210,000 minimum	2,157,828
Egegik River	800,000–2,000,000	1,382,106
Ugashik River	500,000–1,400,000	1,041,048
Nushagak River OEG	370,000–2,500,000	3,260,590
Nushagak River SEG	370,000–900,000	
Wood River OEG	700,000–3,000,000	2,657,028
Wood River SEG	700,000–1,800,000	
Igushik River	150,000–400,000	668,268
Togiak River	120,000–270,000	314,064
Total		15,491,212

Table 4.—Average price, weight, harvest, and value of salmon harvest in Bristol Bay, 2025.

Species	Price/lb.	Avg. weight (lb.)	Number of fish	Total weight	Value
Sockeye	\$1.03	5.05	41,190,346	208,011,247	\$214,251,585
Chinook	\$0.68	9.71	6,148	59,697	\$40,594
Chum	\$0.27	5.81	589,433	3,424,606	\$924,644
Pink	\$0.05	2.83	256	724	\$36
Coho	\$0.48	5.44	25,788	140,287	\$67,338
Totals			41,811,971	211,636,561	\$215,284,196

Table 5.—2025 preliminary Bristol Bay commercial sockeye salmon harvests and 20-year averages by district.

District	2005–2024 average sockeye harvest	2025 sockeye salmon harvest
Naknek-Kvichak	10,480,705	11,479,338
Egegik	8,658,757	7,610,876
Ugashik	3,480,334	4,981,397
Nushagak	10,286,864	16,596,415
Togiak	610,534	522,320
Totals	33,517,194	41,190,346

Table 6.—2025 preliminary Bristol Bay commercial Chinook salmon harvests and 20-year averages by district.

District	2005–2024 average Chinook salmon harvest	2025 Chinook salmon harvest
Naknek-Kvichak	1,705	832
Egegik	697	495
Ugashik	917	356
Nushagak	25,890	3,625
Togiak	4,260	840
Totals	33,469	6,148

Table 7.—Allocation of Bristol Bay drift and set gillnet harvest, 2025.

District	Drift gillnet percent of harvest allocated /caught	District set gillnet percent of harvest allocated /caught	Section set gillnet percent of harvest allocated /caught
Naknek-Kvichak	84% / 76%	16% / 24%	Naknek: 8% / 12% Kvichak: 8% / 12%
Egegik	86% / 75%	14% / 25%	—
Ugashik	90% / 88%	10% / 12%	—
Nushagak ^a	74% / 80%	26% / 20%	Nushagak: 20% / 16% Igushik: 6% / 4% Wood River: NA / NA

^a Wood River Special Harvest Area harvest is included in Nushagak drift and set gillnet calculations.

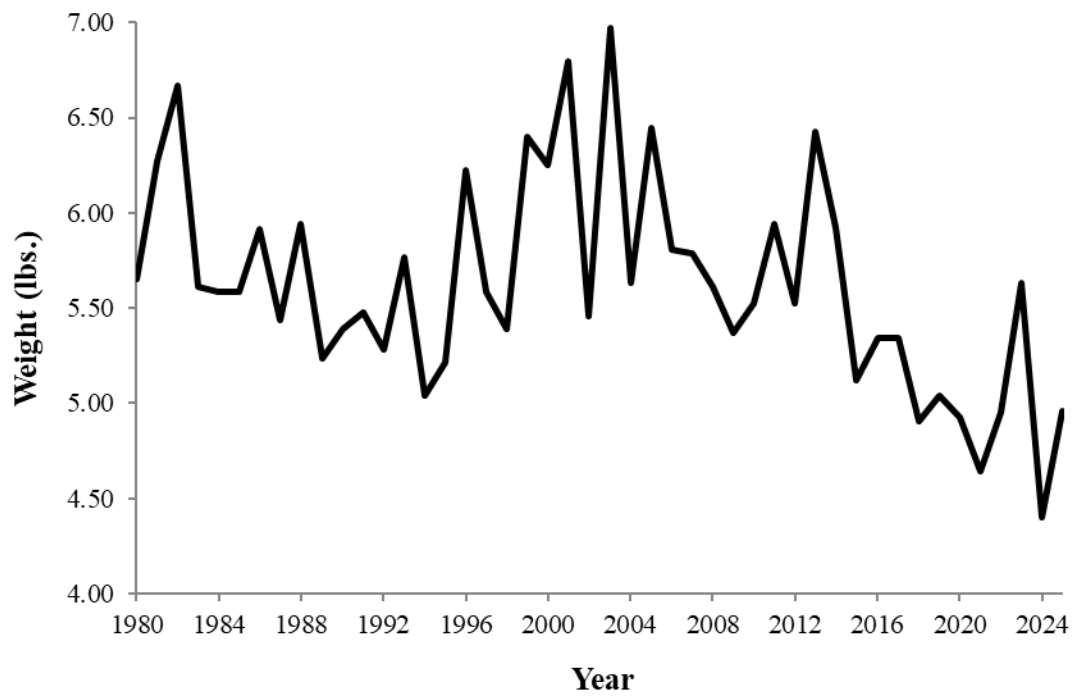


Figure 1.—Average weight of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon, 1980–2025.