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Prince William Sound Area Commercial Salmon Fisheries: A Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, 2024

by

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code		all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
deciliter	dL		AAC		
gram	g	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H _A
hectare	ha			base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
kilogram	kg			catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilometer	km	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	coefficient of variation	CV
liter	L			common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
meter	m	at	@	confidence interval	CI
milliliter	mL	compass directions:		correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	east	E	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
Weights and measures (English)		north	N	covariance	cov
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	south	S	degree (angular)	°
foot	ft	west	W	degrees of freedom	df
gallon	gal	copyright	©	expected value	<i>E</i>
inch	in	corporate suffixes:		greater than	>
mile	mi	Company	Co.	greater than or equal to	≥
nautical mile	nmi	Corporation	Corp.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
ounce	oz	Incorporated	Inc.	less than	<
pound	lb	Limited	Ltd.	less than or equal to	≤
quart	qt	District of Columbia	D.C.	logarithm (natural)	ln
yard	yd	et alii (and others)	et al.	logarithm (base 10)	log
Time and temperature		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
day	d	exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	minute (angular)	'
degrees Celsius	°C	Federal Information Code	FIC	not significant	NS
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	id est (that is)	i.e.	null hypothesis	H ₀
degrees kelvin	K	latitude or longitude	lat or long	percent	%
hour	h	monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability	P
minute	min	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
second	s	registered trademark	®	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
Physics and chemistry		trademark	™	second (angular)	"
all atomic symbols		United States (adjective)	U.S.	standard deviation	SD
alternating current	AC	United States of America (noun)	USA	standard error	SE
ampere	A	U.S.C.	United States Code	variance	
calorie	cal			population sample	Var var
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

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**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA COMMERCIAL SALMON
FISHERIES: A REPORT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES, 2024**

by

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ABSTRACT

Overall, commercial salmon harvests in the Prince William Sound Area were relatively low from 2021 through 2024, and harvests were 9% less than the 2011–2020 average. Harvest in the Prince William Sound Area was dominated by pink salmon *O. gorbuscha*, which made up an average of 84% of the harvest from 2021 to 2024. The majority of the harvest (83%) was primarily from commercial gillnet and purse seine fisheries, whereas the remainder (17%) was from hatchery harvests for broodstock and cost recovery purposes.

Keywords: pink salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, sockeye salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, harvest, drift gillnet, set gillnet, purse seine, commercial fishery, hatchery, cost recovery, Prince William Sound

INTRODUCTION

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SALMON FISHERIES

This report summarizes the performance of the Prince William Sound (PWS) commercial fishery, including the Copper and Bering River Districts, from 2021 to 2024. It also highlights significant events since the 2020 PWS Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting. Detailed annual summaries are published in the *Prince William Sound Area Finfish Management Report* series (e.g., Botz et al. 2024; Olson et al. 2023; Scannell et al. 2023), and provide historical data for comparison and trend analysis.

Pacific salmon *Oncorhynchus* spp. returns and harvests in PWS were highly variable over the past 4 years. Wild pink salmon *O. gorbuscha* escapements were within or above escapement goals. Wild chum salmon *O. keta* escapement goals were not achieved in some districts. Coghill Lake sockeye salmon *O. nerka* escapements were within the escapement goal range. Coghill and Eshamy Districts gillnet fishery management was often conservative to achieve hatchery broodstock and cost-recovery goals. Adequate wild stock escapements allowed for liberal time and area management of purse seine fisheries during odd years (2021 and 2023). However, even years (2022 and 2024) warranted conservative management to meet wild and hatchery stock escapement goals. When possible, broad area purse seine fisheries allowed a wide distribution of fishing effort, alleviating congestion and, to some extent, gear conflict issues.

The most notable events since the 2021 BOF meeting are as follows:

- Following decent prices paid for pink salmon in 2021 and 2022, market conditions led to a decrease in pink salmon prices and below-average exvessel values for the purse seine gear group in 2023 and 2024.
- The PWS allocation was near parity between the drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups in 2021, 2022, and 2024. However, because the drift gillnet allocation value fell below 45%, the Port Chalmers remote release chum salmon fishery was assigned to the drift gillnet gear group in 2023.
- Dual permit operations in the purse seine fleet, which were adopted by the BOF at the 2021 meeting, have increased annually since 2022.
- Participation in the purse seine, drift gillnet, and set gillnet fleets has been reduced.
- The 2024 PWS pink salmon season harvest was one of the lowest on record.

MANAGEMENT AREA

The PWS management area encompasses all coastal waters and inland drainages that flow into the north-central Gulf of Alaska, between Cape Suckling and Cape Fairfield. This area includes the

Bering River, Copper River, and all of Prince William Sound, with a total adjacent land area of approximately 38,000 square miles (Figure 1).

The salmon management area is divided into 11 districts, which correspond to the local geography and the distribution of the 5 species of salmon harvested in the commercial fisheries. The management objective for all districts is to achieve escapement goals where they are established, while allowing for the orderly harvest of all fish surplus to spawning requirements and inriver goals. In addition, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) follows regulatory plans to manage the fisheries and assist private nonprofit (PNP) hatcheries in achieving cost-recovery and broodstock objectives.

There are 6 hatcheries contributing to PWS area fisheries (Figure 1). Of these 6, 5 are operated by the regional aquaculture association, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC). Gulkana Hatchery (GH; located between Paxson and Summit Lakes) augments the production of sockeye salmon to the Copper River. Cannery Creek Hatchery (CCH; located on the north shore of PWS in Unakwik Inlet), and Armin F. Koernig Hatchery (AFK; located in southwestern PWS on the east shore of Evans Island) produce pink salmon. The Wally H. Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH; located in northwestern PWS on the south shore of Esther Island) produces pink, chum, and coho *O. kisutch* salmon. Main Bay Hatchery (MBH; located in western PWS at the head of Main Bay) produces sockeye salmon. The sixth hatchery is the Solomon Gulch Hatchery (SGH), operated by the Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA); it is located on the south shore of Port Valdez and produces pink and coho salmon.

Legal gear types for commercial salmon fishing in the Prince William Sound Area include purse seine, drift gillnet, and set gillnet. There are 535 drift gillnet permits issued for use in the Bering River, Copper River, Unakwik, Coghill, and Eshamy Districts, as well as the Port Chalmers Subdistrict, in accordance with the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370). Set gillnet gear (28 permits) is allowed only in the Eshamy District. Purse seine gear (267 permits) is allowed in the Eastern, Northern, Unakwik, Coghill, Northwestern, Southwestern, Montague, and Southeastern Districts.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MANAGEMENT AND SALMON ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION PLAN

In December 2005, the BOF modified the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* (5 AAC 24.370). The modifications only allocated salmon from PWSAC hatcheries and no VFDA or wild stocks. Additionally, a 5-year rolling average exvessel value (Table 1) is now used rather than annual value percentages (Table 2). The set gillnet gear group is allocated 4% of the 5-year rolling average value of PWSAC hatchery stocks. Drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC hatchery stocks. If the set gillnet gear group catches 5% or more of the 5-year rolling average value of PWSAC hatchery stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the following year. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is calculated to be 45% or less, then in the year following the calculation, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict from June 1 through July 30. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is calculated to be 45% or less, then in the year following the calculation, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict from June 1 through July 20.

In addition, the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* (5 AAC 24.370) limits the time and area open to specific gear groups to achieve allocation and management objectives. For example, the Southwestern District, except within the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Special Harvest Area (SHA) and Terminal Harvest Area (THA), is closed to purse seine fishing prior to July 18 to ensure early season chum and sockeye salmon bound for other districts reach their intended destinations (5 AAC 24.370(e)(2)(A)). The purse seine gear group is allowed to fish in the Coghill District after July 21, when the harvest is predominantly pink salmon (5 AAC 24.370(e)(5)(B)). Regulatory provisions also allow hatchery chum salmon to be harvested before July 21 within the Esther Subdistrict of the Coghill District when the drift gillnet fleet is not adequately harvesting the available surplus.

There are 3 proposals currently before the BOF that concern allocation in the general PWS area.

- Proposal 75 – Amend the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* to change the allocation trigger from 45% to 50%, and remove the Esther Subdistrict as a shortfall remedy for the purse seine fleet.
- Proposal 76 – Amend the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* to adjust the allocation trigger from 45% to 50%, and remove the Esther Subdistrict as a shortfall remedy for the purse seine fleet.
- Proposal 77 – Include Valdez Fisheries Development Association’s hatchery salmon harvest value in the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan*.

For 2021 through 2024, ADF&G calculated the allocation value percentages using 3 inputs: harvest estimates of PWSAC-hatchery fish by species and gear type (Tables 1 and 2), and area-specific prices per pound (COAR 2023). The allocation value percentages were applied to the management year following the year of the calculation.

2021–2024 Allocation

The allocation values for drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups in 2021 and 2022 were within the allocation plan parity range (45–55%; Table 1). In 2023, the allocation value for the drift gillnet gear group was 44.4% (Table 1), triggering exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict chum salmon remote release fishery from June 1 to July 30. The set gillnet fleet was above its 5% allocation trigger in 2022 (Table 1), and was limited to 36 hours per week beginning July 10.

SALMON HARVEST OVERVIEW 2021–2024

The PWS Area (including the Copper and Bering River Districts) commercial salmon harvest relative to the 10-year averages oscillated from above average in 2021 and 2023 to below average in 2022 and 2024. This oscillation was primarily due to poor returns to hatcheries within the PWS Area (including the Copper and Bering River Districts). The 2021–2024 average commercial salmon harvest of 46.37 million fish was 8% lower than the 2011–2020 average (50.51 million fish; 2011–2020) for this area (Table 3).

- The MBH sockeye salmon run was, on average, 23% below forecast for 2021–2023, and above forecast by 96% in 2024.
- Chum salmon returning to WNH were, on average, 26% above forecast for 2021–2023, and below forecast by 81% in 2024.

- Chum salmon returning to AFK were 63% above forecast in 2021 and, on average, 49% below forecast 2022–2024.
- Chum salmon returning to Port Chalmers were above, on average, 108% above forecast for 2021–2022 (63%) and, on average, 33% below forecast for 2023–2024.
- Pink salmon returns to VFDA were, on average, 17% above forecast for 2021–2023, and 64% below forecast for 2024.
- PWSAC hatcheries were an average of 23% above forecast for the odd-year returns (2021 and 2023) and, on average, 62% below forecast for the even years (2022 and 2024).
- Wild pink salmon returns were above their respective 5-year averages in 2021 and 2022, and below their respective 5-year average in 2023 and 2024 (Table 3).

The above-average 2021 salmon harvest of 70.72 million fish was composed of approximately 9,500 Chinook, 1.35 million sockeye, 264,800 coho, 66.41 million pink, and 2.69 million chum salmon. This was the third-lowest harvest of Chinook salmon since 1990 (Table 3). Most of the harvest (89%, or 62.98 million fish) was in the commercial fishery. The remaining 11% of the harvest (7.72 million fish) was for hatchery cost recovery and broodstock (Table 4). The preliminary estimated value of all 2021 salmon harvests combined was \$120.78 million, including hatchery sales (Table 5).

The below-average 2022 harvest of 33.36 million fish was composed of approximately 14,200 Chinook, 1.7 million sockeye, 104,400 coho, 28.44 million pink, and 3.1 million chum salmon (Table 3). Approximately 14.1% of the harvest (4.7 million fish) was for hatchery cost recovery and broodstock fish. Most of the harvest (86%, or 28.6 million fish) was in the commercial fishery (Table 6). The estimated value of all 2022 salmon harvest combined was \$99.37 million, including hatchery sales (Table 7).

The above-average 2023 harvest of 66.36 million salmon was composed of approximately 12,200 Chinook, 1.99 million sockeye, 191,600 coho, 58.8 million pink, and 5.4 million chum salmon (Table 3). Most of the harvest (80%, or 52.7 million fish) was in the commercial fishery. The remaining 20% of the harvest (13.7 million fish) was for hatchery cost recovery and broodstock fish (Table 8). The preliminary estimated value of all 2023 salmon harvests combined was \$85.82 million, including hatchery sales (Table 9).

The 2024 harvest of 15.03 million salmon was the second-lowest total since 1990. It was composed of approximately 10,300 Chinook, 3.20 million sockeye, 165,500 coho, 9.95 million pink, and 1.70 million chum salmon. The pink salmon harvest was the lowest since 1993, the chum salmon harvest was almost half the 10-year (2014–2023) average, and the sockeye salmon harvest was the highest since 2015 (Table 3). Approximately 39% (5.83 million fish) of the harvest was for hatchery cost recovery and broodstock fish. Most of the harvest (61%, or 9.20 million fish) was in the commercial fishery (Table 10). The estimated value of the 2024 commercial salmon harvest (excluding hatchery sales) was \$38.54 million (Table 11).

GILLNET FISHERIES

There are 2 proposals currently before the BOF specific to gillnet fisheries within PWS.

- Proposals 56 and 57 – These proposals would allow a drift gillnet, up to an aggregate length of 200 fathoms, to be fished by a permit holder with 2 Area E drift gillnet permits (stacked) or by 2 Area E drift gillnet permit holders concurrently fishing from the same vessel (dual).

Coghill District

The Coghill District is in northwestern PWS and is approximately 45 miles long. Most commercial fishing in the Coghill District targets hatchery salmon from WNH and wild sockeye salmon headed to Coghill Lake. The hatchery is located in Lake Bay at the southern end of Esther Island (Figure 1) and has annual production goals of approximately 250,000 coho, 9.5 million pink, and 3 million chum salmon. Early season management of the Coghill District is largely based on Coghill Lake sockeye salmon escapement and WNH chum salmon run strength.

The Coghill District is open for the harvest of chum, sockeye, pink, and coho salmon to drift gillnet permit holders and to purse seine permit holders beginning July 21 and ending when the harvest is no longer predominantly pink salmon.

PWSAC, in consultation with ADF&G, generally completes a high percentage (80–90%) of pink and chum salmon cost-recovery harvest before recommending commercial openings in the SHA, THA, and hatchery subdistricts. Commercial openings may be announced within hatchery subdistricts during cost recovery.

Eshamy District

The Eshamy District, in western PWS, is 15 miles long and open to all drift and set gillnet permits in Area E. It is the only district in PWS where set gillnet gear is allowed. The Main Bay Subdistrict was established to allow permit holders to harvest hatchery sockeye salmon while minimizing the harvest of salmon bound for other areas in PWS and the harvest of wild sockeye salmon returning to Eshamy Lake.

During years in which the set gillnet gear group allocation value is 5.0% or more, the group is limited to no more than 36 hours per week, beginning on July 10. In 2022, the group was above the 5.0% allocation and was limited to 36 hours per week. However, in 2021, 2023, and 2024, the group was below the 5.0% allocation, and no restrictions were triggered (Table 1).

There is 1 proposal currently before the BOF specific to the Eshamy District.

- Proposal 79 – Close subsistence, sport, and commercial common property fisheries in the Eshamy District within the Main Bay Hatchery (MBH) Alternating Gear Zone (AGZ), Special Harvest Area (SHA), and Terminal Harvest Area (THA) while Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation conducts cost recovery operations.

Port Chalmers Subdistrict (Montague District)

The Port Chalmers Subdistrict is in the northern end of the Montague District and has been a remote release location for PWSAC chum salmon since 1994. In 2021, 2022, and 2024, the allocation was close to parity, and the area was fished by the purse seine gear group. However, the area was allocated to the drift gillnet gear group in 2023 (Table 1). PWSAC chum salmon runs to the Port Chalmers remote release location have averaged nearly 600,000 fish over the past 5 years (2019–2023), more than double the 2014–2018 average of 228,000 fish. Chum salmon harvest in 3 out of the last 5 years, 2019, 2022, and 2023, ranked 3rd, 6th, and 4th highest, respectively, in the last 20 years (Table 12).

Gillnet Season Summary 2021

The PWS gillnet fishery experienced the third-lowest Chinook salmon harvests (Table 13) and below-average catches of sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in 2021. Early in the season, both

Copper River sockeye and Chinook salmon harvests, as well as inriver passage, were significantly below average, leading to an extended fishery closure. This resulted in increased fishing effort in the western PWS gillnet fisheries. Within these fisheries, below-average runs of hatchery-produced sockeye and chum salmon, coupled with substantial hatchery cost-recovery goals, created irregular fishing opportunities throughout June and July. Notably, the hatchery chum salmon run (Table 12) exceeded the forecast by 10%, while the hatchery sockeye run was 33% below the forecast (Table 14). A significant portion of both runs—32% of the chum and 37% of the sockeye—was harvested for hatchery cost-recovery and broodstock purposes. The drift gillnet season concluded with below-average coho salmon runs in the Copper River, Bering River, and Coghill Districts, prompting conservative management strategies for those fisheries (Scannell et al. 2023).

Participation in the 2021 fishery was low, with 477 drift gillnet permit holders reporting sales of 8,300 Chinook, 897,300 sockeye, 191,500 coho, 954,500 pink, and 1.34 million chum salmon, totaling 3.39 million fish. Additionally, 24 set gillnet permit holders harvested 9 Chinook, 79,200 sockeye, 57 coho, 24,800 pink, and 12,400 chum salmon, amounting to a total of 116,500 fish (Table 4).

Key Highlights from the 2021 Fishing Season:

- **Participation Decline:** Only 477 drift gillnet and 24 set gillnet permit holders reported deliveries, the lowest for both gear groups in 10 years (Scannell et al. 2023).
- **Drift Gillnet Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated exvessel value for the drift gillnet fleet was \$28.54 million, with average permit earnings of \$54,200, the second lowest in the past decade and 31% below the 10-year average of \$79,100 (Table 5; Scannell et al. 2023).
- **Set Gillnet Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated exvessel value for the set gillnet fleet was \$967,000, with average permit earnings of \$40,300, the second lowest in the past decade and 50% below the 10-year average of \$80,600 (Table 5; Scannell et al. 2023).
- **Chinook Salmon Harvest Ranking:** The 8,300-fish Chinook salmon drift gillnet harvest was the third lowest since 2004 (Tables 4 and 13).
- **Sockeye Salmon Run:** Below-average runs for wild and enhanced sockeye stocks for the Copper/Bering River systems and PWS.
- **Chum salmon run:** A strong run of enhanced chum salmon returning to WNH helped mitigate the financial consequences of the below-average runs of Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon.
- **Hatchery Goals:** MBH and WNH hatcheries successfully achieved their escapement targets. The WNH chum salmon return was above forecast, and the MBH sockeye run was below forecast. The WNH coho salmon egg take goal was not met, and eggs had to be transferred from SGH (Scannell et al. 2023).

The WNH-enhanced chum salmon run was forecasted to be 1.68 million fish (Table 14). PWSAC estimated cost-recovery and broodstock needs at 793,000 chum salmon, leaving 887,000 chum available for commercial harvest (Scannell et al. 2023). The actual commercial harvest in the Coghill District reached 1.2 million fish, exceeding the forecast by 34%, and representing 27% of the total drift gillnet exvessel value for all salmon (Table 4). This harvest provided an alternative revenue source amid the underperforming Copper River sockeye and Chinook fisheries. PWSAC harvested 623,000 chum salmon, or 33% of the total run for cost recovery and broodstock (Table 15).

The 2021 forecast for the Coghill Lake sockeye run was 282,000 fish, with 252,000 available for the commercial fishery (Table 14). The 2021 escapement of 101,083 sockeye salmon exceeded the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range of 20,000–60,000 fish. Of the 198,000 sockeye salmon harvested in the Coghill District, 28% (56,300) were from MBH, while 72% (142,000) were wild stocks, presumed to be from Coghill Lake (Scannell et al. 2023). Wild sockeye from Coghill Lake thus accounted for 16% of the total drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest in PWS in 2021.

PWSAC forecasted a total run of 89,000 coho salmon to WNH (Table 14). The total commercial harvest of coho in the Coghill District amounted to just 2,900 fish, primarily composed of enhanced salmon from WNH. This enhanced coho run was 97% lower than preseason forecasts and marked one of the smallest runs on record (Scannell et al. 2023).

In 2021, the MBH sockeye salmon run of 729,300 fish was 32% below the forecast of 1.08 million (Table 14). Overall, 293,900 sockeye, 254,000 pink, and 133,600 chum salmon were harvested in the Eshamy District by 308 drift gillnet permit holders. An additional 24 set gillnet permit holders harvested 79,200 sockeye, 24,800 pink, and 12,400 chum salmon (Table 4). Wild sockeye salmon, presumed to be from Coghill Lake, accounted for 21,100 fish (6%) of the 373,200 harvested, while wild chum salmon composed 5% of the district harvest (Scannell et al. 2023).

Gillnet Season Summary 2022

The PWS gillnet fishery experienced below-average returns for Chinook, sockeye, and chum salmon, as well as weak coho salmon harvests in 2022. Early in the season, the Copper River sockeye run was significantly below average, resulting in short-duration fishing periods through mid-June, and increased fishing effort in the western PWS gillnet fisheries. Irregular fishing opportunities persisted throughout June and July due to below-average hatchery sockeye and chum salmon runs, compounded by high cost-recovery goals. The hatchery chum salmon run was 24% above forecast, while the hatchery sockeye run was 18% below forecast. Hatchery cost-recovery and broodstock harvests accounted for 38% of the chum salmon run and 35% of the sockeye salmon run (Olson et al. 2023). Participation in the fishery continued to be low, with 454 drift gillnet permit holders harvesting 12,900 Chinook, 1.31 million sockeye, 92,500 coho, 679,000 pink, and 1.25 million chum salmon, totaling 3.35 million fish. Additionally, 26 set gillnet permit holders reported 23 Chinook, 182,000 sockeye, 33 coho, 71,500 pink, and 25,900 chum, for a total of 279,000 fish (Table 6).

Key Highlights from the 2022 Fishing Season:

- **Participation Decline:** 454 drift gillnet and 26 set gillnet permit holders reported deliveries, a decrease from 2021 (Table 6).
- **Drift Gillnet Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated exvessel value for the drift gillnet fleet was \$29.64 million, 23% below the 10-year average of \$38.43 million; and average permit earnings were \$65,300, 33% below the 10-year average of \$74,700 (Table 7; Olson et al. 2023).
- **Set Gillnet Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated exvessel value for the set gillnet fleet was \$2.15 million, above the 10-year average of \$2.06 million; and the average permit earnings of \$82,700 surpassed the 10-year average of \$73,600 (Table 7; Olson et al. 2023).
- **Chinook Salmon Harvest Ranking:** The Chinook salmon drift gillnet harvest of 12,900 fish was above the 10-year (2012–2021) average harvest of 12,300 (Tables 7 and 13).
- **Copper River sockeye return:** Significantly below average return, warranting conservative management through mid-June.

- **Hatchery Goals:** MBH and WNH hatcheries successfully achieved their escapement targets. The WNH chum and MBH sockeye salmon returns were below their respective forecasts. The WNH coho salmon egg take goal was not met, and eggs had to be transferred from SGH (Olson et al. 2023).

The WNH enhanced chum salmon run was forecast at 2.48 million fish, with PWSAC projecting cost-recovery needs of 1.29 million fish, leaving 1.19 million available for commercial harvest (Table 16; Olson et al. 2023). The Coghill District drift gillnet fishery was mainly operated outside hatchery subdistricts due to a strong run of Coghill Lake sockeye and a large hatchery cost-recovery goal. The actual harvest of chum salmon in the Coghill District was 1.1 million fish, 19% below the 2012–2021 average of 1.4 million (Table 6). PWSAC harvested 709,000 chum salmon for cost recovery and broodstock, equating to 38% of the total run estimate, slightly above the historical average (Table 15). Wild fish composed approximately 5% of the harvested chum salmon in the Coghill District (Olson et al. 2023).

The 2022 forecast for the Coghill Lake sockeye salmon run was 414,000 fish, with 384,000 available for commercial harvest (Table 16). The escapement of 34,092 sockeye salmon through the Coghill River weir was within the sustainable escapement goal of 20,000–75,000 fish. Of the 235,000 sockeye salmon harvested in the Coghill District, 21% (50,000) were from MBH, while 79% (185,000) were wild stocks, assumed to originate from Coghill Lake (Olson et al. 2023). Wild sockeye salmon from Coghill Lake thus accounted for 14% of the total drift gillnet sockeye harvest in PWS.

PWSAC forecasted a total run of 138,000 coho salmon to WNH (Table 16). The total commercial harvest in the Coghill District was 39,600 fish (Table 6), primarily from enhanced stocks at WNH. The enhanced coho salmon run was 71% less than preseason forecasts but 6% above the 10-year average of 37,200 (Olson et al. 2023). Insufficient coho salmon were available for broodstock at WNH, necessitating sourcing eggs from SGH.

For MBH, the projected total run of enhanced sockeye salmon was 841,000 (Table 16). The total district drift gillnet harvest was 466,200 sockeye, 218,100 pink, and 119,300 chum salmon with 258 drift gillnet permits. A total of 26 set gillnet permit holders harvested 181,600 sockeye, 71,500 pink, and 25,900 chum salmon (Table 6). The total MBH sockeye salmon run was 608,800 fish, 28% below forecast. Wild stocks accounted for 17% of the total sockeye salmon harvested, with wild chum salmon at 24% and wild pink salmon at 85% of their respective totals (Olson et al. 2023). The total exvessel value for Eshamy District sockeye salmon was \$6.39 million, representing 35% of the total exvessel value for set and drift gillnet fisheries (Table 7). The Eshamy River escapement of 19,325 sockeye salmon exceeded the lower end of the escapement goal (13,000–28,000), but remained 25% below the previous long-term average (2002–2011) (Olson et al. 2023).

Gillnet Season Summary 2023

The PWS gillnet fishery experienced below-average harvests for Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon, but above-average chum salmon harvests in 2023. Early season challenges included a notably low early-season Copper River sockeye salmon run, prompting short fishing periods and extended closures into mid-June. This situation led to increased fishing effort in western PWS gillnet fisheries.

Overall participation in the fishery was low in 2023. A total of 444 drift gillnet permit holders harvested 11,100 Chinook, 1.49 million sockeye, 168,000 coho, 396,000 pink, and 2.90 million chum salmon, resulting in a total of 4.97 million fish. Additionally, 22 set gillnet permit holders reported sales of 10 Chinook, 175,000 sockeye, 121 coho, 37,000 pink, and 26,900 chum salmon (Table 8).

Key Highlights from the 2023 Fishing Season:

- **Participation Decline:** 444 drift gillnet and 22 set gillnet permit holders reported deliveries, the lowest participation in the past decade (Table 8; Botz et al. 2024).
- **Drift Gillnet Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated exvessel value for the drift gillnet fleet was \$27.56 million, 23% below the 10-year average of \$35.87 million; and average permit earnings were \$62,100, down from the 10-year average of \$70,700 (Table 9; Botz et al. 2024).
- **Set Gillnet Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated exvessel value for the set gillnet fleet was \$1.97 million, slightly below the 10-year average of \$2.02 million; and the average permit earnings of \$89,400 surpassed the 10-year average of \$72,900 (Table 9; Botz et al. 2024).
- **Chinook Salmon Harvest Ranking:** The Chinook salmon drift gillnet harvest of 11,100 fish was below the 10-year (2013–2022) average harvest of 12,400 (Tables 8 and 13).
- **Copper River sockeye return:** Significantly below average return, warranting conservative management through mid-June.
- **Port Chalmers chum salmon:** The Port Chalmers remote release chum salmon fishery harvested 1.3 million fish (100% above forecast), marking the second-largest drift gillnet harvest on record (Table 8; Botz et al. 2024).
- **Hatchery Goals:** WNH and MBH achieved their escapement targets. The WNH chum salmon run was above forecast, and the MBH sockeye salmon run was below forecast. The WNH coho salmon egg take goal was not met, and eggs had to be transferred from SGH. WNH coho salmon survival remains low, and this was the 7th consecutive year that coho salmon harvest in the Coghill District did not exceed 15,000 fish.

The WNH chum salmon run was forecasted at 2.21 million fish (Table 17), with approximately 969,000 allocated for cost recovery and broodstock, leaving 1.24 million available for commercial harvest. In the Coghill District, the drift gillnet harvest of chum salmon was 1.5 million fish, representing a 54% increase over the forecast and an 18% increase over the 10-year average of 1.3 million fish (Table 8; Botz et al. 2024). Wild chum salmon made up 5% of the Coghill District’s commercial fishery (Botz et al. 2024).

For sockeye salmon, the 2023 forecast for Coghill Lake was 453,000 fish, with 419,000 available for commercial harvest (Table 17). Due to hatchery chum salmon cost-recovery and broodstock needs, conservative management measures were implemented in the Coghill District’s hatchery subdistricts, reducing fishing opportunities and fleet participation. Coghill River sockeye salmon escapement was 64,212 fish and was within the sustainable escapement goal range of 20,000–75,000. The Coghill River escapement goal has been met or exceeded annually since 2017 (Botz et al. 2024). The total drift gillnet harvest for sockeye salmon in the Coghill District was 233,000 fish, representing a 45% increase over the 2013–2022 average (Table 8; Botz et al. 2024). Otolith contribution estimates suggested that approximately 199,000 wild and 40,400 MBH sockeye salmon were harvested in this district (Botz et al. 2024).

The PWSAC forecasted a total run of 122,000 coho salmon to WNH (Table 17). The Coghill District's total commercial coho salmon harvest was only 8,100 fish, all presumed to be of WNH origin, marking a notable 93% decline from the forecast and representing the 7th consecutive year with fewer than 15,000 coho harvested (Botz et al. 2024).

The 2023 PWSAC chum salmon forecast for Port Chalmers Subdistrict was 650,000 fish. The total drift gillnet harvest was 1.30 million chum salmon. A total of 238 drift gillnet permit holders reported deliveries (Table 8). The 2023 chum salmon harvest was 100.0% above forecast and 81.4% above the 5-year average of 717,000 fish. Wild chum salmon harvest made up 4.5% (59,100 fish) of the total harvest (Botz et al. 2024).

For MBH, the projected total run of enhanced sockeye was 934,000, with 132,300 needed for broodstock and cost recovery, leaving 802,000 available for harvest (Table 17). Fishing in June and July included two 24–36-hour periods weekly, but late June closures were necessary to accelerate cost-recovery efforts, which were then completed earlier than anticipated. Due to uncertainty regarding escapement at Eshamy River, openings after July 24 were limited to 1–2 short fishing periods per week (Botz et al. 2024).

The total district drift gillnet harvest was 352,000 sockeye, 103,000 pink, and 88,400 chum salmon with 253 drift gillnet permits. A total of 22 set gillnet permit holders harvested 175,000 sockeye, 37,000 pink, and 26,900 chum salmon (Table 8). Overall harvests remained below the 10-year averages. The total MBH sockeye run was 796,000 fish, 15% below forecast (Botz et al. 2024). Wild stocks accounted for 15% of the total sockeye salmon harvested, with wild chum salmon at 12% and wild pink salmon at 100% of their respective totals (Botz et al. 2024). The total exvessel value for Eshamy District sockeye salmon was \$5.58 million, representing 19% of the total exvessel value for set and drift gillnet fisheries (Table 9). The Eshamy escapement of 11,194 sockeye salmon was below the escapement goal range of 13,000–28,000 and 57% below the long-term average (2002–2011; Botz et al. 2024).

Gillnet Season Summary 2024

In 2024, the PWS gillnet fishery had below-average harvests of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, while sockeye salmon harvests were above average. Early in the season, the Copper River sockeye salmon harvest and inriver passage were significantly below average, leading to short fishing periods and extended closures until early June. Western PWS gillnet fisheries experienced mixed opportunities, with above-average sockeye salmon runs and below-average chum salmon hatchery runs, alongside large cost-recovery goals. The MBH sockeye salmon run exceeded forecasts by 96%, while the WNH chum salmon run was 71% below forecast. Cost-recovery and broodstock harvesting composed 66% of the WNH chum salmon run and 25% of the MBH sockeye salmon run. Weak coho salmon runs to the Copper, Bering, and Coghill Districts necessitated conservative management near the end of the season. The total exvessel value for the drift gillnet fleet surpassed totals from 2021 to 2023 (Tables 5, 7, and 9), primarily due to rebounding prices and strong sockeye salmon harvests in the Copper River, Coghill and Eshamy Districts (Table 11).

Drift gillnet participation declined, while set gillnet participation increased compared to 2023. A total of 423 drift gillnet permit holders harvested 9,500 Chinook, 2.39 million sockeye, 160,000 coho, 153,000 pink, and 326,000 chum salmon, totaling 3.03 million fish. In contrast, 25 set gillnet permit holders harvested 7 Chinook, 310,000 sockeye, 21 coho, 18,800 pink, and 13,100 chum salmon, resulting in 342,000 fish harvested (Table 10).

Key Highlights from the 2024 Fishing Season:

- **Participation Decline:** 423 drift gillnet and 25 set gillnet permit holders reported deliveries. Drift gillnet participation continued to decrease from previous years (Table 10).
- **Drift Gillnet Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated exvessel value for the drift gillnet fleet was \$28.47 million, 16% below the 10-year average of \$33.78 million; and average permit earnings were close to the 10-year average at \$67,300, similar to the 10-year average (Table 11; Botz et al. 2024).
- **Set Gillnet Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated exvessel value for the set gillnet fleet was \$2.54 million, 30% above the 10-year average of \$1.96; and the average permit earnings of \$102,000 was the highest recorded in recent years (Table 11; Botz et al. 2024).
- **Chinook Salmon Harvest Ranking:** The Chinook salmon harvest of 9,500 fish was below the 10-year (2014–2023) average harvest of 12,600 (Tables 10 and 13).
- **Copper River sockeye run:** Delayed early run entry into the river, warranting conservative management through mid-June. High abundance for the remainder of the season resulted in progressive liberalization of the fishery.
- **Main Bay Hatchery sockeye run:** The estimated enhanced sockeye salmon run of 1.69 million fish was 96% above the preseason harvest forecast (Table 18) and 87% above the 2014–2023 average run of 905,000 fish (Botz et al. 2024).
- **Hatchery Goals:** WNH and MBH achieved their chum and sockeye salmon broodstock escapement goals. The below forecast WNH chum salmon run resulted in the cost-recovery goal not being achieved by a large margin, and additional MBH cost recovery was taken to cover part of this shortfall. The WNH coho salmon egg take goal was met.

The forecast for the hatchery chum salmon run to WNH was 2.82 million fish (Table 18). PWSAC projected that approximately 1.60 million fish would be needed for cost recovery and broodstock, leaving 1.22 million for commercial harvest. The drift gillnet harvest of chum salmon in the Coghill District totaled 233,000 (Table 10), which was 81% below both the forecast and the 10-year average (Botz et al. 2024). PWSAC harvested 552,000 chum salmon for cost recovery and broodstock, 66% below projections. Wild chum salmon accounted for 10% of the Coghill District commercial fishery.

The sockeye salmon forecast for Coghill Lake was 273,000 fish, with 243,000 available for commercial harvest (Table 18). Due to cost-recovery needs, conservative management was implemented in hatchery subdistricts, allowing for increased fishing times in College Fjord but reducing overall fleet participation. Total sockeye salmon escapement past the Coghill River weir was 86,969 fish, above the SEG range. The weir operated from June 15 to July 27, with a peak passage of 13,570 fish on June 27–28. The drift gillnet harvest of sockeye salmon in the Coghill District was 97,100 fish (Table 10), 45% below the 2014–2023 average (Botz et al. 2024).

PWSAC projected a total run of 62,000 coho salmon to WNH (Table 18), with a gillnet commercial harvest of only 478 fish, all assumed to be WNH origin. This harvest was 99% below forecast and marked the 8th time in the last 10 years that fewer than 15,000 coho were harvested (Botz et al. 2024).

PWSAC also projected a total run of 864,000 hatchery sockeye salmon to MBH (Table 18), with 259,000 required for broodstock and cost recovery, leaving 605,000 for commercial harvest. Sockeye salmon began arriving in the Eshamy District in late May, and the fishing schedule in June, July, and August consisted of two 24–36-hour periods per week. Due to the strong run to

MBH, PWSAC was able to complete cost-recovery operations sooner than expected, and management restrictions in the commercial fishery were limited to closing the hatchery subdistrict.

In the Eshamy District, 214 drift gillnet permit holders harvested 857,000 sockeye, 96,300 pink, and 61,600 chum salmon, while 25 set gillnet permit holders harvested 310,000 sockeye, 18,800 pink, and 13,100 chum salmon (Table 10). The total sockeye salmon harvest in the Eshamy District was above the 10-year average, while pink and chum salmon were below. The MBH harvested 435,000 sockeye salmon for cost recovery and broodstock, almost 3.5 times the 10-year (2014–2023) average of 127,000. The Eshamy District escapement of 13,612 sockeye salmon was within the escapement goal but 47% below the long-term average (Botz et al. 2024).

PURSE SEINE FISHERIES

Purse seine districts include the Eastern, Coghill, Montague, Northern, Northwestern, Southeastern, Southwestern, and Unakwik Districts. These districts are managed to achieve wild pink and chum salmon escapement goals by district and allow for the orderly harvest of surplus wild and hatchery salmon stocks. Wild pink and chum salmon escapement is monitored throughout the season through aerial surveys of 134 index streams. Pink and chum salmon escapement trends determine the area and duration of fishing periods within districts.

Hatchery subdistricts are managed cooperatively with PWS hatchery operators to achieve hatchery cost-recovery and broodstock goals. Two hatchery operators within PWS produce chum, pink, and coho salmon for the purse seine fleet: Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) and PWSAC. VFDA operates Solomon Gulch Hatchery (SGH), and PWSAC operates Armin F. Koernig Hatchery (AFK), Wally Noernberg Hatchery (WNH), and Cannery Creek Hatchery (CCH).

There are 2 proposals currently before the BOF specific to purse seine gear specification in PWS.

- Proposals 73 and 74 – Allow permit stacking and increase the length of purse seine gear that may be operated when 2 limited entry purse seine permits are registered to the same vessel in the PWS Area commercial salmon fishery.

Purse Seine Season Summary 2021

Fishery Overview

In 2021, the PWS purse seine commercial harvest totaled 59.48 million fish, closely matching the 5-year odd-year average of 58.50 million fish, a difference of just 2% (Table 13). This included 700 Chinook, 109,200 sockeye, 65,000 coho, 58.59 million pink, and 719,500 chum salmon (Table 4). The pink salmon harvest ranked third for odd-year totals since 2000 (Table 13).

Key Highlights from the 2021 Fishing Season:

- **Participation Decline:** Only 212 permit holders reported deliveries, the lowest in 5 years (Tables 4, 5, and 19).
- **Exvessel Harvest Value:** The estimated value was \$71.22 million, with average permit earnings of \$335,900, the second highest in the past decade and 35% above the 10-year average of \$221,000 (Table 5; Scannell et al. 2023).
- **Pink Salmon Harvest Ranking:** The pink salmon harvest was significant, with wild stocks composing 37% of the total (Scannell et al. 2023).

- **Wild Pink Salmon Run:** The wild pink run was the second largest historically, allowing for openings outside hatchery subdistricts from mid-July onward (Table 20; Scannell et al. 2023).
- **Aerial Index Results:** The aerial index reported 3.01 million pink salmon escapements, with all districts meeting their escapement goals (Table 21).
- **Chum Salmon Challenges:** Wild chum escapements and harvests were below the 10-year average, with 4 out of 5 districts failing to meet escapement goals (Table 22; Scannell et al. 2023).
- **Hatchery Goals:** All PWS hatcheries successfully achieved their escapement targets.

Pink Salmon Overview: The 2021 pink salmon forecast was 57.38 million fish, with projections of 47.55 million for commercial harvest (Tables 14 and 23). The actual run reached 69.41 million, 21% above forecast (Tables 4 and 23). The total harvest was 66.41 million, exceeding the 5-year average of 63.10 million (Table 3), with 58.7 million from the purse seine fishery compared to the odd-year average of 57.31 million (Tables 5 and 13). Harvest composition was 37% wild, 32% PSWAC, and 31% VDFA (Scannell et al. 2023).

The commercial harvest of wild pink salmon was 22.22 million, above the preseason forecast of 19.19 million (Tables 14 and 23). The VDFA run was 20.36 million, slightly below forecast but 5% above the 5-year average. The PWSAC pink salmon run of 23.82 million exceeded forecasts but was below the 5-year average (Tables 14, 20, and 23).

Chum Salmon Overview: The purse seine fleet harvested 719,400 chum salmon, primarily from PWSAC hatcheries (Tables 5 and 12). The Southwestern District saw a commercial harvest of 296,600 chum salmon, mainly from AFK, while the overall harvest of AFK chum salmon was 416,100, 63% above forecast (Tables 4, 12, and 14). Additionally, 32,700 sockeye salmon were harvested during the chum season, mainly from MBH (Table 24). The AFK chum return is managed by regulation to reduce interception of fish bound for other districts.

Coho Salmon Overview: The SGH coho salmon forecast anticipated 87,000 fish, with a projected commercial harvest of 31,600 (Table 14; Scannell et al. 2023). However, the actual SGH run was only 66,500, leading to a total commercial harvest of 40,200 fish across all gear types (Scannell et al. 2023). The total PWS harvest by the purse seine fleet was 65,000 coho salmon, below the 10-year (2011–2020) average of 93,400 fish (Table 13).

Purse Seine Season Summary 2022

Fishery Overview

In 2022, the PWS purse seine commercial harvest totaled 25.01 million fish, 12% above the 5-year even-year average of 22.37 million (Tables 6 and 13). This included 636 Chinook, 79,700 sockeye, 8,300 coho, 23.80 million pink, and 1.12 million chum salmon (Table 7). Purse seine permit holders increased to 221 from 212 in 2021 (Tables 6, 7, and 19).

Highlights from the 2022 Fishing Season:

- **Dual Permit Operations:** This was the first season for dual permit operations following their adoption at the 2021 BOF meeting (Tables 7 and 19).
- **Exvessel Harvest Value:** Estimated at \$43.64 million, average permit earnings were \$219,300, lower than the 2012–2021 average of \$233,900 (Table 7; Olson et al. 2023).

- **Record Pink Salmon Harvest:** A single-day harvest on July 9 in Port Valdez reached 4.88 million, overwhelming processing capacity and necessitating transfers to other processing facilities (Olson et al. 2023).
- **Pink Salmon Run:** The PWSAC pink salmon run was poor and below forecast (Tables 16 and 20), limiting commercial opportunities in August (Olson et al. 2023).
- **Wild Pink Salmon Return:** The total wild pink salmon return was 6.83 million, the second largest even-year return since 2000, and above the 5-year average of 4.57 million (Table 20; Olson et al. 2023).
- **Weather Impact:** Poor weather in August affected wild pink and chum salmon escapements, limiting survey capabilities in northern and eastern PWS.
- **Hatchery Goals:** All PWS hatcheries successfully achieved their escapement targets.

Pink Salmon Overview: The pink salmon forecast was 26.84 million, with a projected commercial harvest of 19.02 million (Table 23). The observed run reached 30.21 million, 13% above forecast (Tables 20 and 23). The total harvest was 28.44 million, 39% above the 5-year average of 47.48 million (Table 3). Of this, 23.80 million were from the purse seine fishery, surpassing the 5-year average of 23.31 million (Tables 6 and 13). Harvest composition was 74% SGH, 4% PWSAC, and 22% wild stock (Olson et al. 2023).

The commercial harvest of wild pink salmon was 5.45 million, exceeding the forecast of 4.25 million (Tables 16 and 23). The estimated wild harvest, combined with an aerial survey index of 1.38 million fish, was the second largest return since 2000 (Tables 20, 21, and 23). The VFDA run was 19.49 million, 37% above the forecast and 40% above the 5-year average (Tables 16, 20, and 23). About 7% (1.30 million) of this run was collected for cost recovery and broodstock (Olson et al. 2023). The PWSAC pink salmon run of 3.89 million was 53% below forecast and 61% below the 5-year average, with 83% (2.94 million) allocated for cost recovery and broodstock (Olson et al. 2023).

Chum Salmon Overview: The purse seine fleet harvested 1.12 million chum salmon, mainly from PWSAC-enhanced stocks returning to the AFK Hatchery and the Port Chalmers Subdistrict (Tables 6 and 12). Wild stock harvests totaled approximately 334,500 chum salmon (Table 12).

The Southwestern District commercial harvest was 201,000 chum salmon, primarily from AFK (63%), with a total harvest of 217,820 fish, 39% below the preseason forecast (Tables 6, 12, and 16). Additionally, 32,300 sockeye salmon were harvested in the AFK chum salmon fishery, with 83% being MBH-hatchery origin (Table 24). The AFK chum salmon return is managed by regulation to reduce interception of fish bound for other districts.

In the Montague District, 706,700 chum salmon were harvested, with 88% from Port Chalmers, exceeding the preseason forecast of 280,000 (Olson et al. 2023).

Coho Salmon Overview: The SGH coho salmon forecast was 74,600, projecting a commercial harvest of 21,500 fish (Table 16; Olson et al. 2023). The VFDA run was below forecast at 34,500 fish (54% below), leading to a total commercial harvest of 2,500 fish across all gear types (Olson et al. 2023). The purse seine fleet's coho harvest was 8,300 (Table 6).

Purse Seine Season Summary 2023

Fishery Overview

In 2023, the Prince William Sound (PWS) purse seine harvest totaled 47.50 million fish, 27% below the 5-year odd-year average of 65.12 million. This included 423 Chinook, 88,300 sockeye, 17,700 coho, 46.41 million pink, and 979,800 chum salmon (Tables 8, 9, and 13). The pink salmon harvest ranked 6th for odd-year commercial seine harvests from 2005 to 2021 (Table 13).

Highlights from the 2023 Fishing Season:

- **Weak Markets:** Low pink salmon prices led processors to suspend operations earlier than expected.
- **Permit Holder Increase:** Active permits rose from 199 primary and 22 dual in 2022 to 236 primary and 27 dual in 2023 (Tables 8, 9, and 19).
- **Exvessel Harvest Value:** Estimated at \$34.18 million, average permit earnings were \$163,500, down 31% from the 2013–2022 average of \$236,400 (Botz et al. 2024).
- **Pink Salmon Escapement:** The aerial index was 1.94 million fish, with all districts meeting or exceeding their escapement goals except the Southeastern District (Table 21).
- **Chum Salmon Escapements:** Wild chum salmon escapements were met in the Eastern and Northern Districts but not in Coghill, Northwestern, or Southeastern Districts, probably due to weather affecting survey accuracy (Botz et al. 2024).
- **Hatchery Goals:** All PWS hatcheries successfully achieved their escapement targets.

Pink Salmon Overview: The forecast was for a total run of 64.81 million fish, divided between 37% PWSAC, 32% VDFSA, and 31% wild (Tables 17 and 23). The projected commercial harvest was 55.31 million pink salmon (Table 23). The observed run in 2023 was 60.75 million, 6% below forecast (Tables 20 and 23). Hatchery runs exceeded expectations (Tables 17 and 23). The total harvest was 58.81 million pink salmon, 16% below the 5-year average of 69.78 million (Table 3). Of this, 46.41 million were harvested in the purse seine fishery, compared to a 5-year average of 63.81 million (Tables 8, 9, and 13). The commercial harvest composition was 39% SGH, 39% PWSAC, and 22% wild stock (Botz et al. 2024).

The commercial harvest of wild pink salmon was 10.23 million, below the preseason forecast of 18.30 million (Tables 17 and 23). Combined with an aerial survey index of 1.94 million, the estimated wild pink salmon return was 12.22 million, just under half the 5-year average of 24.00 million (Tables 20, 21, and 23). The VFDA run was 21.64 million, 6% above forecast and 5% above the 5-year average (Tables 17 and 23), with 15% (3.25 million) allocated for cost recovery and broodstock (Botz et al. 2024). The PWSAC pink salmon run was 26.89 million, 11% above forecast but 11% below the 5-year average, with 33% (8.65 million) collected for cost recovery and broodstock (Table 23; Botz et al. 2024).

Chum Salmon Overview: The purse seine fleet harvested 979,800 chum salmon in 2023 (Tables 9 and 13), primarily from wild stocks in the Eastern District and PWSAC-enhanced stocks returning to AFK Hatchery (Table 12; Botz et al. 2024). Approximately 806,700 wild-stock chum salmon were harvested by all gear groups (Table 12).

In the Southwestern District, the commercial harvest was 199,600 chum salmon, with 63% from AFK, 16% from Port Chalmers, and 11% wild (Table 9; Botz et al. 2024). The total harvest of 158,000 fish was 17% below the preseason forecast of 190,000 (Tables 12 and 17). Additionally,

29,100 sockeye salmon were harvested in the chum salmon fishery, with 85% from MBH hatcheries (Table 24).

Coho Salmon Overview: The 2023 SGH coho salmon forecast was 80,000, with a projected commercial harvest of 35,400 (Table 17; Botz et al. 2024). The VFDA run was below forecast at 38,000 fish (51% below), with 8,700 harvested across all gear types (Botz et al. 2024). The purse seine harvest of coho salmon in PWS totaled 17,700 (Table 9).

Purse Seine Season Summary 2024

Fishery Overview

In 2024, the PWS purse seine commercial harvest totaled 5.81 million fish, 74% below the 5-year even-year average of 22.37 million. The harvest included 202 Chinook, 88,400 sockeye, 3,500 coho, 4.90 million pink, and 821,400 chum salmon (Tables 10, 11, and 13). There were 205 purse seine permit holders in 2024 (177 primary and 28 dual permits), a decrease from 236 in 2023 (Tables 10, 11, and 19).

Highlights from the 2024 Fishing Season:

- **Record Low Pink Salmon Harvest:** 2024 marked the worst pink salmon harvest since 1993, and the second worst since the late 1970s when PWS hatcheries were established (Botz et al. 2012).
- **Exvessel Harvest Value:** Estimated at \$7.53 million, with average permit earnings at \$42,500—significantly lower than the 2014–2023 average of \$203,000 (Table 1; Botz et al. 2024).
- **Participation:** The number of permits (205) reporting at least 1 delivery (Table 11) was the lowest since 2011 (Botz et al. 2024), with the last delivery reported on August 15, 2 weeks earlier than expected.
- **Weak Stocks:** Both hatchery and wild pink salmon stocks underperformed compared to preseason forecasts.
- **Hatchery Goals:** VFDA achieved its cost-recovery goal but fell short of its egg-take goal (71% complete). PWSAC did not meet its cost-recovery goal (about 60% complete) or its egg-take goal at AFK (95% complete).

Pink Salmon Overview: The pink salmon forecast estimated a total run of 32.18 million fish, distributed as 48% VFDA, 32% PWSAC, and 20% wild. The projected commercial harvest was 22.82 million pink salmon (Tables 18 and 23). The total observed run in 2024 was significantly lower than forecasted, with all pink salmon stocks underperforming (Tables 4 and 20). The overall harvest was 9.95 million pink salmon, 62% below the 5-year average of 26.06 million (Table 3). Of this, 4.90 million were harvested in the purse seine fishery, compared to a 5-year average of 22.37 million (Tables 10, 11, and 13). The commercial harvest composition was 70% SGH, 28% wild, and 2% PWSAC.

The commercial harvest of wild pink salmon was 1.41 million, below the preseason forecast of 5.66 million (Tables 18 and 23). The estimated wild pink salmon return was not available at the time of this report. The total VFDA run was 5.59 million, 64% below the forecast of 15.53 million, and 61% below the 5-year average of 19.32 million (Tables 18, 20, and 23). Approximately 37% (2.04 million) of the VFDA run was collected for cost recovery and broodstock (Table 23). The

PWSAC pink salmon run was 2.96 million, 71% below the forecast of 10.20 million and 64% below the 5-year average (Tables 18, 20, and 23). Approximately 96% (2.84 million) of the PWSAC pink salmon return was collected for cost recovery and broodstock (Table 23).

Chum Salmon Overview: The purse seine fleet harvested 821,400 chum salmon in 2024 (Tables 10, 11, and 13). Most of the harvest consisted of PWSAC-enhanced chum salmon returning to the AFK Hatchery and Port Chalmers Subdistrict. Approximately 115,900 wild-stock chum salmon were harvested by all gear groups in 2024 (Table 12).

In the Southwestern District, the commercial harvest was 110,800 chum salmon, with 77% from AFK, 18% from Port Chalmers, and 1% wild fish (Table 10). Including 84,900 AFK chum salmon harvested in the district, the total harvest of the AFK run was 133,400, 44% below the preseason forecast of 240,000 (Tables 12 and 18). Additionally, 52,000 sockeye salmon were harvested in the commercial chum salmon fishery, with 74% from MBH hatcheries (Table 24). The AFK chum salmon return is managed by regulation to reduce interception of fish bound for other districts.

In the Montague District commercial fishery, 683,400 chum salmon were harvested, composing 89% from Port Chalmers, 6% from WNH, 1% from AFK, and 4% wild fish (Table 10). The Port Chalmers harvest of approximately 628,400 chum salmon in PWS was 32% below the preseason forecast of 920,000 (Table 12).

Coho Salmon Overview: The 2024 SGH hatchery coho salmon forecast was 54,400 fish, with a projected commercial harvest of 13,000 (Table 18). Data for the estimated total VFDA coho run is not yet available. The overall purse seine harvest of coho salmon in PWS was 3,500 fish (Table 11).

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TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.–The 5-year rolling average harvest allocation percentages by gear type in Prince William Sound Area E, 2014–2024.

Year	Purse seine (%)	Gillnet	
		Drift (%)	Set (%)
2014	53.7	46.3 ^a	4.3
2015	55.4	44.6 ^a	4.3
2016	53.0	47.0	5.1 ^a
2017	53.3	46.7	5.2 ^a
2018	56.9	43.1 ^a	4.7
2019	47.7	52.3	5.4 ^a
2020	52.7	42.0 ^a	5.3 ^a
2021	49.5	50.5	5.0
2022	51.8	48.2 ^a	5.1 ^a
2023	55.6	44.4 ^a	4.0 ^a
2024	52.9	47.1 ^a	4.5 ^a

Note: Fish ticket harvest and Commercial Operator’s Annual Report (COAR 2023) values used to calculate average gear specific harvest values.

^a Allocation triggers were in effect.

Table 2.—Harvest values (in millions of dollars) and percentages by gear type in Prince William Sound Area E, 2004–2023.

Year	Drift gillnet	% Drift gillnet	Purse seine	% Purse seine	Set gillnet	% Set gillnet	Annual total
2004 ^a	\$18.3	73.8%	\$6.0	24.3%	\$0.5	1.9%	\$24.8
2005 ^a	\$20.5	51.4%	\$18.8	47.2%	\$0.5	1.4%	\$39.8
2006 ^a	\$24.4	66.6%	\$11.4	31.1%	\$0.8	2.3%	\$36.6
2007 ^a	\$31.2	46.0%	\$35.3	52.0%	\$1.4	2.0%	\$67.9
2008 ^a	\$28.3	34.6%	\$52.1	63.6%	\$1.5	1.8%	\$81.9
2009 ^a	\$31.8	72.2%	\$10.5	23.8%	\$1.7	4.0%	\$44.1
2010 ^a	\$47.9	33.9%	\$89.7	63.5%	\$3.6	2.6%	\$141.2
2011 ^a	\$48.3	54.3%	\$37.5	42.1%	\$3.2	3.6%	\$88.9
2012 ^a	\$58.9	53.5%	\$47.7	43.3%	\$3.5	3.2%	\$110.1
2013 ^a	\$51.0	32.9%	\$101.4	65.4%	\$2.6	1.7%	\$155.1
2014 ^a	\$53.5	55.6%	\$39.8	41.3%	\$2.9	3.1%	\$96.3
2015 ^a	\$37.9	35.9%	\$65.7	62.2%	\$2.0	1.9%	\$105.7
2016 ^a	\$35.3	66.4%	\$16.0	30.1%	\$1.9	3.6%	\$53.2
2017 ^a	\$39.0	32.8%	\$77.8	65.6%	\$1.9	1.6%	\$118.6
2018 ^a	\$34.1	43.4%	\$42.5	54.1%	\$2.0	2.5%	\$78.6
2019 ^a	\$43.9	42.0%	\$57.6	52.7%	\$2.7	5.3%	\$104.2
2020 ^a	\$12.1	29.6%	\$27.8	68.1%	\$1.0	2.3%	\$40.8
2021 ^a	\$25.2	23.6%	\$80.9	75.5%	\$1.0	0.9%	\$107.1
2022 ^a	\$27.7	35.2%	\$48.9	62.0%	\$2.2	2.8%	\$78.8
2023 ^b	\$27.6	43.3%	\$34.2	53.6%	\$2.0	3.1%	\$63.8

^a Fish ticket harvest and Commercial Operator’s Annual Reports (COAR 2023) values were used to calculate annual gear-specific harvest values.

^b Fish ticket harvest and prices are based on weighted average prices given voluntarily by processors and hatchery operators and do not represent prices reported in the Commercial Operator’s Annual Report.

Table 3.—Commercial salmon harvest by species for all gear types, Prince William Sound, Copper, and Bering Districts, 1990–2024.

Year ^a	Harvest					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
1990	22,128	910,837	523,808	44,155,214	965,129	46,577,116
1991	35,259	1,733,363	641,354	34,336,248	351,877	37,098,101
1992	41,304	1,770,499	618,941	8,634,000	333,676	11,398,420
1993	32,005	1,851,133	445,612	5,760,597	1,186,365	9,275,712
1994	49,326	1,515,320	1,058,175	36,886,301	1,058,227	40,567,349
1995	68,783	1,523,464	965,017	16,054,564	758,545	19,370,373
1996	58,651	3,000,498	459,319	25,759,129	2,103,003	31,380,600
1997	53,728	4,134,600	83,116	25,824,543	2,225,354	32,321,341
1998	72,346	1,717,078	167,702	28,363,087	1,245,272	31,565,485
1999	64,557	2,007,797	170,076	44,790,010	2,960,822	49,993,262
2000	33,147	1,431,106	714,288	35,655,937	4,887,082	42,721,560
2001	41,407	2,263,274	494,179	35,147,107	3,099,796	41,045,763
2002	40,465	2,263,177	650,518	18,950,931	6,373,517	28,278,608
2003	49,278	2,730,160	502,135	35,834,165	3,782,103	42,897,841
2004	39,142	1,892,525	620,121	23,531,483	2,001,949	28,085,220
2005	36,027	1,988,729	531,771	59,944,654	2,099,493	64,600,674
2006	31,634	2,524,501	763,720	21,722,036	2,181,580	27,223,471
2007	41,079	3,231,140	328,980	63,436,592	3,579,048	70,616,839
2008	12,407	1,301,038	550,629	42,353,653	5,076,135	49,293,862
2009	10,760	1,919,185	300,615	18,836,139	3,222,176	24,288,875
2010	11,003	2,045,144	334,450	71,079,559	4,323,309	77,793,465
2011	20,459	3,541,989	369,818	33,183,313	1,914,525	39,030,104
2012	13,157	3,700,774	209,741	27,073,566	3,818,970	34,816,208
2013	10,836	2,334,623	614,900	92,207,217	3,838,598	99,006,174
2014	11,660	3,305,486	614,557	43,871,378	1,424,095	49,227,176
2015	24,546	3,221,586	218,302	95,652,490	2,206,333	101,323,257
2016	13,466	1,989,245	482,782	12,207,310	2,892,065	17,584,868
2017	15,201	1,437,504	556,021	46,800,556	5,122,151	53,931,433
2018	8,586	1,318,539	522,876	22,988,024	3,305,029	28,143,054
2019	20,587	2,602,317	526,912	47,846,646	5,239,065	56,235,527
2020	7,322	945,912	286,512	22,784,056	1,820,673	25,844,475
2021	9,466	1,347,477	264,820	66,405,295	2,690,221	70,717,279
2022	14,231	1,699,869	104,415	28,439,749	3,104,913	33,363,177
2023	12,240	1,989,924	191,562	58,811,510	5,352,481	66,357,717
2024	10,306	3,199,377	165,456	9,952,334	1,703,921	15,031,394
10-year Avg (2011–2020)	14,582	2,439,798	440,242	44,461,456	3,158,150	50,514,228
10-year Avg (2012–2021)	13,483	2,220,346	429,742	47,783,654	3,235,720	53,682,945
10-year Avg (2013–2022)	13,590	2,020,256	419,210	47,920,272	3,164,314	53,537,642
10-year Avg (2014–2023)	13,731	1,985,786	376,876	44,580,701	3,315,703	50,272,796
5-year Odd Avg (2011–2019)	18,326	2,627,604	457,191	63,138,044	3,664,134	69,905,299
5-year Odd Avg (2013–2021)	16,127	2,188,701	436,191	69,782,441	3,819,274	76,242,734
5-year Even Avg (2014–2022)	11,053	1,851,810	402,228	26,058,103	2,509,355	30,832,550
5-year Odd Avg (2015–2023)	16,408	2,119,762	351,523	63,103,299	4,122,050	69,713,043

^a Includes commercial fishery, hatchery sales, and test fisheries harvest, personal use, educational, special use permit harvest, and donated fish, 1990–2024.

Table 4.—Prince William Sound management area commercial salmon harvest by gear type and district, 2021.

District	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Eastern	207	192	22,412	33,911	22,913,808	100,146	23,070,469
Northern	190	52	19,014	6,294	10,678,381	12,963	10,716,704
Coghill	114	2	5,506	917	4,180,861	1,600	4,188,886
Northwestern	43	15	3,443	257	707,552	2,966	714,233
Southwestern	178	72	49,099	16,544	12,460,881	296,641	12,823,237
Montague	144	380	6,686	6556	6,879,217	295,939	7,188,778
Southeastern	41	4	660	502	765,176	9,176	775,518
Unakwik	4		2,375		154	18	2,547
Purse seine total	212	717	109,195	64,981	58,586,030	719,449	59,480,372
Bering River	86	20	243	42,058		443	42,764
Copper River	458	7,512	404,558	145,598	33,744	8,518	599,930
Coghill	359	494	192,461	1,957	666,347	1,192,380	2,053,639
Eshamy	308	251	293,859	1,875	254,010	133,608	683,603
Unakwik	9	4	5,987		409	219	6,619
Drift gillnet total	477	8,281	897,323	191,515	954,510	1,335,168	3,386,797
Eshamy	24	9	79,220	57	24,755	12,413	116,454
Set gillnet total	24	9	79,220	57	24,755	12,413	116,454
Commercial fishery total		9,007	1,085,738	256,553	59,565,295	2,067,030	62,983,623
Solomon Gulch	1			6,700	1,961,675		1,968,375
Cannery Creek	1				1,217,346		1,217,346
Wally Noerenberg	1				1,465,142	622,683	2,087,825
Main Bay	1		255,837			80	255,917
Armin F. Koernig	1				2,194,688	6	2,194,694
Port Chalmers	1						
Hatchery total ^a	6		255,837	6,700	6,838,851	622,769	7,724,157
Test fishery							
Home pack	459	6,094	1,590	1,149	422	9,714	459
Confiscated fish							
Donated fish		23	4			27	
Misc. total	459	6,117	1,594	1,149	422	9,741	459
Prince William Sound total harvest		9,466	1,347,692	264,847	66,405,295	2,690,221	70,717,521

^a Hatchery sales for hatchery operating costs.

Table 5.—Mean price and estimated exvessel value of the total commercial salmon harvest by gear type, Prince William Sound, 2021.

Purse seine ^a					
Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
Chinook	717	8,808	12.28	\$1.65	\$14,533
Sockeye	109,195	544,227	4.98	\$1.59	\$865,321
Coho	64,981	458,055	7.05	\$0.67	\$306,897
Pink	58,586,030	188,935,065	3.22	\$0.35	\$66,127,273
Chum	719,449	4,818,240	6.70	\$0.81	\$3,902,774
	59,480,372	194,764,395			\$71,216,798
Drift gillnet ^a					
Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
Chinook	7,741	106,104	12.81	\$13.25	\$1,405,878
Sockeye	897,108	4,783,156	5.33	\$2.66	\$12,723,194
Coho	191,448	1,441,643	7.53	\$1.84	\$2,652,623
Pink	954,510	3,522,231	3.69	\$0.34	\$1,197,558
Chum	1,335,168	9,141,461	6.85	\$0.86	\$7,861,657
	3,385,975	18,994,595			\$25,840,911
Set gillnet ^a					
Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
Chinook	9	131	14.56	\$3.41	\$447
Sockeye	79,220	457,999	5.78	\$1.88	\$861,038
Coho	57	398	6.98	\$1.41	\$561
Pink	24,755	94,842	3.83	\$0.34	\$32,246
Chum	12,413	87,412	7.04	\$0.83	\$72,552
	116,454	640,782			\$966,844
Hatchery sales ^a					
Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
Chinook					\$0
Sockeye	255,837	1,305,912	5.10	\$2.70	\$3,525,962
Coho	6,700	34,602	5.05	\$0.10	\$3,460
Pink	6,838,851	17,665,157	2.57	\$0.88	\$15,545,338
Chum	622,769	3,912,303	5.91	\$0.94	\$3,677,565
	7,724,157	22,917,974			\$22,752,326
Combined					
Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Species	Number
Chinook	8,467	115,043	13.22		\$1,420,858
Sockeye	1,341,360	7,091,294	5.37		\$17,975,516
Coho	263,186	1,934,698	7.19		\$2,963,541
Pink	66,404,146	210,217,295	3.58		\$82,902,416
Chum	2,689,799	17,959,416	6.86		\$15,514,548
	70,706,958	237,317,746			120,776,879
2021 Summary					
Gear type	Value of catch		No. of permits	Average earnings	
Purse seine	\$71,216,798		212	\$335,928	
Drift gillnet	\$25,840,911		477	\$54,174	
Set gillnet	\$966,844		24	\$40,285	
Subtotal					
Value of commercial fishery catch	\$98,024,553				
Hatchery	\$22,752,326				
Total	\$120,776,879				

^a Number and pounds from fish ticket data. Value from statewide season summary. Personal use/homepack not included.

Table 6.—Prince William Sound management area commercial salmon harvest by gear type and district, 2022.

District	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Eastern	204	30	8,785	5,921	21,083,363	169,071	21,267,170
Northern	93		4,327	220	1,053,709	21,360	1,079,616
Coghill	44	3	5,909	218	108,822	5,366	120,318
Northwestern	33		4,263	1	317,409	15,654	337,327
Southwestern	105	21	48,295	1,720	1,016,253	200,931	1,267,220
Montague	110	582	5,901	220	177,917	706,708	891,328
Southeastern	9		16	3	38,997	3,222	42,238
Unakwik	2		2,174		1	379	2,554
Purse seine total	221 ^{a,b}	636	79,670	8,303	23,796,471	1,122,691	25,007,771
Bering River	58	30	5,217	8,603	0	576	14,426
Copper River	433	12,262	601,009	44,128	66,777	13,517	737,693
Coghill	320	462	228,947	39,373	393,428	1,117,362	1,779,572
Eshamy	258	95	446,235	346	218,133	119,332	784,141
Unakwik	30	18	26,023		458	3,808	30,307
Drift gillnet total	454	12,867	1,307,431	92,450	678,796	1,254,595	3,346,139
Eshamy	26	23	181,587	33	71,466	25,940	279,049
Set gillnet total	26	23	181,587	33	71,466	25,940	279,049
Commercial fishery total		13,526	1,568,688	100,786	24,546,733	2,403,226	28,632,959
Solomon Gulch	1			2,874	1,281,142		1,284,016
Cannery Creek	1				851,253		851,253
Wally Noerenberg	1				949,504	701,433	1,650,937
Main Bay	1		124,581			133	124,714
Armin F. Koernig	1				809,568		809,568
Port Chalmers	1						
Hatchery Total ^c	6		124,581	2,874	3,891,467	701,566	4,720,488
Test fishery							
Home pack		705	6,600	755	1,549	121	9,730
Confiscated fish							
Donated fish							
Miscellaneous total		705	6,600	755	1,549	121	9,730
Prince William Sound total harvest		14,231	1,699,869	104,415	28,439,749	3,104,913	33,363,177

^a Refers to primary permits.

^b Purse seine permit total includes 199 primary permits and 22 dual permits.

^c Hatchery sales for hatchery operating costs.

Table 7.—Mean price and estimated exvessel value of the total commercial salmon harvest by gear type, Prince William Sound, 2022.

Purse seine ^{a, b, c}						
	Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	636	5,944	9.35	\$1.46	\$8,678
	Sockeye	79,670	367,792	4.62	\$1.65	\$606,857
	Coho	8,303	52,544	6.33	\$1.07	\$56,222
	Pink	23,796,471	84,208,384	3.54	\$0.40	\$33,683,354
	Chum	1,122,691	7,671,600	6.83	\$1.21	\$9,282,636
		25,007,771	92,306,264			\$43,637,747
Drift gillnet ^a						
	Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	12,867	181,718	14.12	\$12.90	\$2,344,162
	Sockeye	1,307,431	6,743,166	5.16	\$2.45	\$16,520,757
	Coho	92,450	693,331	7.49	\$1.28	\$887,464
	Pink	678,796	2,250,433	3.32	\$0.43	\$967,686
	Chum	1,254,595	8,181,136	6.52	\$1.09	\$8,917,438
		3,346,139	18,049,784			\$29,637,507
Set gillnet ^a						
	Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	23	339	14.74	\$3.86	\$1,309
	Sockeye	181,587	998,983	5.5	\$1.85	\$1,848,119
	Coho	33	228	6.91	\$1.19	\$271
	Pink	71,466	227,666	3.19	\$0.41	\$93,343
	Chum	25,940	179,175	6.91	\$1.15	\$206,051
		279,049	1,406,391			\$2,149,093
Hatchery sales ^a						
	Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	0	0	0		\$0
	Sockeye	124,581	492,320	3.95	\$3.00	\$1,476,960
	Coho	2,874	13,534	4.71	\$0.04	\$541
	Pink	3,891,467	13,216,650	3.4	\$1.31	\$17,313,812
	Chum	701,566	4,364,585	6.22	\$1.18	\$5,150,210
		4,720,488	18,087,089			\$23,941,523
Combined						
	Species	Number	Pounds	Average weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	13,526	188,001	13.9		\$2,354,149
	Sockeye	1,693,269	8,602,261	5.08		\$20,452,692
	Coho	103,660	759,637	7.33		\$944,498
	Pink	28,438,200	99,903,133	3.51		\$52,058,194
	Chum	3,104,792	20,396,496	6.57		\$23,556,336
		33,353,447	129,849,528			\$99,365,870
2022 Summary					No. of	Average
Gear type			Value of catch		permits	earnings
Purse seine			\$43,637,747		221 ^b	\$219,285 ^c
Drift gillnet			\$29,637,507		454	\$65,281
Set gillnet			\$2,149,093		26	\$82,657
Subtotal						
Value of commercial fishery catch			\$75,424,347			
Hatchery			\$23,941,523			
Grand total			\$99,365,870			

^a Number and pounds from fish ticket data. Value from statewide season summary. Personal use/homepack not included.

^b 22 Dual purse seine permits.

^c Purse seine average earnings are based on the number of primary permits (199).

Table 8.—Prince William Sound management area commercial salmon harvest by gear type and district, 2023.

District	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Eastern	208	325	16,812	4,708	20,637,651	612,141	21,271,637
Northern	176	38	8,684	2,681	7,789,283	48,704	7,849,390
Coghill	60	5	6,902	78	1,185,005	83,078	1,275,068
Northwestern	21		2,055	21	329,377	4,342	335,795
Southwestern	193	29	38,989	8,558	14,356,825	199,572	14,603,973
Montague	60	15	1,229	1,464	1,558,280	13,140	1,574,128
Southeastern	32	4	317	169	556,579	18,528	575,597
Unakwik	15	7	13,312		694	271	14,284
Purse seine total	236 ^{a,b}	423	88,300	17,679	46,413,694	979,776	47,499,872
Bering River	50	43	11,383	24,495		134	36,055
Copper River	422	10,682	862,002	134,030	15,058	19,148	1,040,920
Coghill	288	168	232,744	8,074	212,583	1,493,929	1,947,498
Eshamy	253	32	351,959	1144	103,338	88,405	544,878
Montague	238	162	25,489	12	64,882	1,299,909	1,390,454
Unakwik	13		5,535		37	2	5,574
Drift gillnet total	444	11,087	1,489,112	167,755	395,898	2,901,527	4,965,379
Eshamy	22	10	175,364	121	37,036	26,940	239,471
Set gillnet total	22	10	175,364	121	37,036	26,940	239,471
Solomon Gulch	1	44	633	4,424	3,269,127	4,248	3,278,476
Cannery Creek	1		28		2,430,003	9	2,430,040
Wally Noerenberg	1				1,903,711	1,439,433	3,343,144
Main Bay	1		226,956			31	226,987
Armin F. Koernig	1		14		4,360,742	1	4,360,757
Hatchery total ^b	5	44	227,631	4,424	11,963,583	1,443,722	13,639,404
Test fishery							
Home pack		676	9,517	1583	1,299	516	13,591
Confiscated fish							
Donated fish							
Misc. total		676	9,517	1,583	1,299	516	13,591
Prince William Sound total harvest		12,240	1,989,924	191,562	58,811,510	5,352,481	66,357,717

^a Refers to primary permits.

^b Purse seine permit total includes 209 primary permits and 27 dual permits.

^c Hatchery sales for hatchery operating costs.

Table 9.—Mean price and estimated exvessel value of the total commercial salmon harvest by gear type, Prince William Sound, 2023.

Purse seine ^{a, b, c}				Average		
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	423	4,584	10.84	\$0.70	\$3,209
	Sockeye	88,300	475,999	5.39	\$0.99	\$471,239
	Coho	17,679	117,504	6.65	\$0.28	\$32,901
	Pink	46,413,694	143,322,547	3.09	\$0.22	\$31,530,960
	Chum	979,776	6,494,531	6.63	\$0.33	\$2,143,195
		47,499,872	150,415,165			\$34,181,505
Drift gillnet ^a				Average		
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	11,087	172,310	15.54	\$11.36	\$1,957,442
	Sockeye	1,489,112	8,107,463	5.44	\$1.91	\$15,485,255
	Coho	167,755	1,295,151	7.72	\$1.16	\$1,502,375
	Pink	395,898	1,272,838	3.22	\$0.23	\$292,753
	Chum	2,901,527	18,495,422	6.37	\$0.45	\$8,322,940
		4,965,379	29,343,183			\$27,560,763
Set gillnet ^a				Average		
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	10	106	10.6	\$3.18	\$337
	Sockeye	175,364	1,003,428	5.72	\$1.85	\$1,856,342
	Coho	121	800	6.61	\$0.70	\$560
	Pink	37,036	114,197	3.08	\$0.24	\$27,407
	Chum	26,940	173,480	6.44	\$0.47	\$81,536
		239,471	1,292,011			\$1,966,182
Hatchery sales ^a				Average		
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	44	259	5.89	\$0.60	\$155
	Sockeye	227,631	993,647	4.37	\$1.55	\$1,540,153
	Coho	4,424	23,500	5.31	\$0.05	\$1,058
	Pink	11,963,583	32,016,556	2.68	\$0.47	\$15,047,781
	Chum	1,443,722	8,116,595	5.62	\$0.68	\$5,519,285
		13,639,404	41,150,557			\$22,108,432
Combined				Average		
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	11,564	177,259	15.33		\$1,961,143
	Sockeye	1,980,407	10,580,537	5.34		\$19,352,988
	Coho	189,979	1,436,955	7.56		\$1,536,893
	Pink	58,810,211	176,726,138	3.01		\$46,898,902
	Chum	5,351,965	33,280,028	6.22		\$16,066,955
		66,344,126	222,200,917			\$85,816,881
2023 Summary					No. of	Average
Gear type			Value of catch		permits	earnings
Purse seine			\$34,181,505		236 ^b	\$163,548 ^c
Drift gillnet			\$27,560,763		444	\$62,074
Set gillnet			\$1,966,182		22	\$89,372
Subtotal						
Value of commercial fishery catch			\$63,708,450			
Hatchery			\$22,108,432			
Grand total			\$85,816,882			

^a Number and pounds from fish ticket data. Value from statewide season summary. Personal use/homepack not included.

^b 27 Dual purse seine permits.

^c Purse seine average earnings are based on the number of primary permits (236).

Table 10.—Prince William Sound management area commercial salmon harvest by gear type and district, 2024.

District	Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Eastern	174	30	4,245	2,254	4,148,332	21,968	4,176,829
Northern	15	1	974	71	89,666	854	91,566
Coghill	10		2,177	3	11,133	481	13,794
Northwestern	40	1	5,027	311	142,515	2,813	150,667
Southwestern	69	9	70,460	418	252,339	110,809	434,035
Montague	81	154	4,332	142	140,368	683,422	828,418
Southeastern	23		240	280	116,138	1,070	117,728
Unakwik	4	7	923				930
Purse seine total	205 ^{a,b}	202	88,378	3,479	4,900,491	821,417	5,813,967
Bering River	108	41	57,925	41,571	79	273	99,889
Copper River	407	9,240	1,373,473	117,274	4,609	31,205	1,535,801
Coghill	160	108	97,089	478	52,006	232,659	382,340
Eshamy	214	123	857,074	591	96,321	61,646	1,015,755
Unakwik	2		295			2	297
Drift gillnet total	423	9,512	2,385,856	159,914	153,015	325,785	3,034,082
Eshamy	25	7	310,160	21	18,837	13,090	342,115
Set gillnet total	25	7	310,160	21	18,837	13,090	342,115
Solomon Gulch	1	19	450	18	2,042,883	872	2,044,242
Cannery Creek	1				1,106,794		1,106,794
Wally Noerenberg	1			1,100	518,558	542,533	1,062,191
Main Bay	1		405,441			4	405,445
Armin F. Koernig	1				1,211,542		1,211,542
Hatchery total ^b	5	19	405,891	1,118	4,879,777	543,409	5,830,214
Test fishery							
Home pack		566	9,092	924	214	220	11,016
Confiscated fish							
Donated fish							
Miscellaneous total		566	9,092	924	214	220	11,016
Prince William Sound total harvest		10,306	3,199,377	165,456	9,952,334	1,703,921	15,031,394

^a Refers to primary permits.

^b Purse seine permit total includes 177 primary permits and 28 dual permits.

^c Hatchery sales for hatchery operating costs.

Table 11.—Mean price and estimated exvessel value of the total commercial salmon harvest by gear type, Prince William Sound, 2024.

Purse seine ^{a, b, c}				Average		
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	202	2,116	10.48	\$0.25	\$529
	Sockeye	88,378	463,108	5.24	\$1.40	\$648,351
	Coho	3,479	22,771	6.55	\$0.90	\$20,494
	Pink	4,900,491	16,591,952	3.39	\$0.25	\$4,147,988
	Chum	821,417	5,419,479	6.60	\$0.50	\$2,709,740
		5,813,967	22,499,426			\$7,527,102
	Drift gillnet ^a				Average	
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	9,512	124,432	13.08	\$12.32	\$1,533,002
	Sockeye	2,385,856	12,913,506	5.41	\$1.92	\$24,793,932
	Coho	159,914	1,237,818	7.74	\$0.81	\$1,002,633
	Pink	153,015	519,871	3.40	\$0.29	\$150,763
	Chum	325,785	2,109,247	6.47	\$0.47	\$991,346
		3,034,082	16,904,874	36		\$28,471,675
	Set gillnet ^a				Average	
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	7	84	12.00	\$3.31	\$278
	Sockeye	310,160	1,630,644	5.26	\$1.52	\$2,478,579
	Coho	21	155	7.38	\$0.50	\$78
	Pink	18,837	62,832	3.34	\$0.29	\$18,221
	Chum	13,090	83,570	6.38	\$0.49	\$40,949
		342,115	1,777,285			\$2,538,105
	Hatchery sales ^a				Average	
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	19	136	7.16	Not yet available	
	Sockeye	405,891	2,062,501	5.08		
	Coho	1,118	7,790	6.97		
	Pink	4,879,777	14,516,536	2.97		
	Chum	543,409	3,117,253	5.74		
		5,830,214	19,704,216			
	Combined				Average	
	Species	Number	Pounds	weight	Price	Value
	Chinook	9,740	126,768	Not yet available		
	Sockeye	3,190,285	17,069,759			
	Coho	164,532	1,268,534			
	Pink	9,952,120	31,691,191			
	Chum	1,703,701	10,729,549			
		15,020,378	60,885,801			
	2024 Summary					No. of
Gear type			Value of catch		permits	earnings
Purse seine			\$7,527,102		205 ^b	\$42,526
Drift gillnet			\$28,471,675		423	\$67,309
Set gillnet			\$2,538,105		25	\$101,524
Subtotal						
Value of commercial fishery catch			\$38,536,882			
Hatchery			\$0			
Grand total			\$38,536,882			

^a Number and pounds from fish ticket data. Value from statewide season summary. Personal use/homepack not included.

^b 28 Dual purse seine permits.

^c Purse seine average earnings are based on the number of primary permits (177).

Table 12.—Prince William Sound chum salmon returns by origin, 2004–2024. Includes commercial common property fishery, cost recovery, broodstock, and raceway sales.

	Estimated total run						
	Hatcheries						
Year	Wally Noerenberg	Port Chalmers	AFK	Hatchery total	% Hatchery	Wild ^a	Total run
2004	1,597,480	395,978	–	1,993,457	82	430,939	2,424,396
2005	1,968,212	231,659	–	2,199,870	89	274,168	2,474,038
2006	1,788,714	435,758	9,163	2,233,635	84	413,606	2,647,241
2007	1,178,160	59,182	174,263	1,411,605	78	405,017	1,816,622
2008	3,234,593	1,804,230	–	5,038,823	93	396,096	5,434,919
2009	2,196,409	951,365	–	3,147,774	92	86,735	3,422,876
2010	2,469,628	1,722,638	–	4,246,239	91	416,776	4,663,055
2011	1,121,064	674,484	–	1,795,548	94	483,455	1,910,561
2012 ^b	2,904,100	351,470	336,515	3,592,085	66	714,895	5,473,106
2013	3,510,052	499,589	–	4,010,169	89	503,123	4,513,918
2014	969,732	195,988	94,171	1,259,891	75	423,187	1,683,495
2015	2,127,037	143,582	183,763	2,455,950	83	237,430	2,944,336
2016	2,689,637	158,912	249,225	3,097,773	97	100,950	3,198,723
2017	3,960,674	251,212	492,198	4,704,084	84	906,800	5,610,884
2018	2,405,201	389,459	350,548	3,145,207	91	322,958	3,468,165
2019	2,648,844	1,579,488 ^c	542,094	4,770,427	88	625,455	5,395,882
2020	889,707	193,657	578,984	1,662,348	93	122,925	1,785,273
2021	1,870,568	259,442	416,119	2,546,129	94	172,563	2,718,692
2022	1,874,060	675,671	217,820	2,767,548	89	344,536	3,112,084
2023	3,187,090	1,192,635	158,033	4,537,758	85	806,663	5,341,421
2023	542,533	628,396	133,430	1,586,882	93	115,910	1,702,792
Average (2014–2023)	2,262,255	384,506	328,295	3,094,711	88	406,347	3,525,895

Note: AFK = Armin F. Koernig Hatchery. En dashes mean no fish that year.

^a Does not include an estimate of escapement.

^b Includes an additional 7,575 fish that were marked as Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH), but released at multiple locations; also WNH marked fish returning to the Sawmill Bay remote release site were apportioned to AFK (Sheridan et al. 2013).

^c 6,330 chum salmon were harvested for cost recovery.

Table 13.—Commercial salmon harvest by species and gear types, Prince William Sound, 2004–2024.

Drift gillnet	Permits	Chinook salmon		Sockeye salmon		Coho salmon		Pink salmon		Chum salmon		Total	
Year	fished	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
2004	522	38,430	865,610	1,500,223	8,840,005	575,330	5,239,614	81,090	303,349	581,762	4,245,882	2,776,835	19,494,460
2005	508	35,024	760,249	1,606,130	9,372,731	360,574	2,895,354	228,463	879,380	888,847	7,003,627	3,119,038	20,911,341
2006	494	30,603	626,574	2,012,665	11,465,039	477,430	4,317,508	145,348	540,697	314,487	2,562,735	2,980,533	19,512,553
2007	506	39,300	865,337	2,645,002	16,420,836	190,025	1,646,033	188,950	718,467	1,100,667	7,902,498	4,163,944	27,553,170
2008	507	11,643	255,200	1,061,222	6,520,283	325,249	3,185,661	960,113	3,559,632	2,561,113	19,620,303	4,919,340	33,141,079
2009	511	9,794	184,028	1,555,423	9,701,353	275,634	2,474,852	400,524	1,374,494	2,291,834	17,588,820	4,533,209	31,323,546
2010	519	10,006	196,645	1,691,672	10,316,221	298,267	2,728,181	3,488,016	13,036,181	3,301,284	22,826,586	8,789,245	49,103,813
2011	513	18,929	384,494	3,155,094	19,292,220	233,663	1,710,333	829,504	2,595,389	1,305,120	9,663,856	5,542,310	33,646,292
2012	522	12,008	252,700	3,239,242	21,657,664	184,373	1,501,620	1,234,392	4,355,409	2,864,085	20,193,411	7,534,100	47,960,804
2013	526	9,316	172,845	2,043,926	12,493,882	356,891	2,892,610	2,605,952	7,179,124	2,778,574	20,609,389	7,794,659	43,347,851
2014	525	10,318	183,370	2,971,088	17,721,706	565,765	4,549,720	1,299,109	4,530,008	764,251	5,757,157	5,610,531	32,741,961
2015	520	22,795	392,427	2,521,420	13,925,879	160,506	1,176,345	976,921	3,572,099	1,047,792	6,677,339	4,729,434	25,744,089
2016	517	12,608	223,064	1,695,103	8,911,819	448,104	4,051,591	114,646	424,557	1,812,113	12,325,066	4,082,574	25,936,096
2017	507	14,007	287,540	1,125,065	6,426,761	443,288	3,658,431	1,031,736	3,901,129	2,326,665	17,790,421	4,940,761	32,064,282
2018	509	8,088	130,846	1,060,384	4,810,554	432,266	3,785,116	600,544	2,240,729	1,936,956	16,443,689	4,038,238	27,410,934
2019	509	19,483	359,636	2,176,225	11,809,092	206,965	1,804,178	801,295	2,975,719	2,770,853	17,456,127	5,974,821	34,404,752
2020	489	6,412	85,360	572,366	2,721,019	236,641	1,995,365	968,808	3,544,856	301,429	2,333,523	2,085,656	10,680,122
2021	477	8,281	106,104	897,108	4,783,156	191,448	1,441,643	954,510	3,522,231	1,335,168	9,141,461	3,386,515	18,994,595
2022	454	12,862	181,669	1,308,488	6,747,533	92,450	693,331	678,796	2,250,433	1,256,723	8,194,699	3,349,319	18,067,664
2023	444	11,054	171,827	1,484,865	8,085,056	167,531	1,293,831	395,597	1,271,788	2,894,523	18,451,808	4,953,570	29,274,309
2024	423	9,512	124,432	2,385,856	12,913,506	159,914	1,237,818	153,015	519,871	325,785	2,109,247	3,034,082	16,904,874
3-yr Avg (2021–2023)	458	10,732	153,200	1,230,154	6,538,582	150,476	1,142,935	676,301	2,348,151	1,828,805	11,929,323	3,896,468	22,112,189
10-yr Avg (2011–2020)	514	13,396	247,228	2,055,991	11,977,060	326,846	2,712,531	1,046,291	3,531,902	1,790,784	12,924,998	5,233,308	31,393,718
10-yr Avg (2012–2021)	510	12,332	219,389	1,830,193	10,526,153	322,625	2,685,662	1,058,791	3,624,586	1,793,789	12,872,758	5,017,729	29,928,549
10-yr Avg (2013–2022)	503	12,417	212,286	1,637,117	9,035,140	313,432	2,604,833	1,003,232	3,414,088	1,633,052	11,672,887	4,599,251	26,939,235
10-yr Avg (2014–2023)	495	12,591	212,184	1,581,211	8,594,257	294,496	2,444,955	782,196	2,823,355	1,644,647	11,457,129	4,315,142	25,531,880

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Table 13.—Page 2 of 4.

Set gillnet	Permits	Chinook salmon		Sockeye salmon		Coho salmon		Pink salmon		Chum salmon		Total	
Year	fished	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
2004	27	11	137	91,412	534,952	825	5,838	51,655	185,964	10,381	75,046	154,284	801,937
2005	27			109,532	660,746	882	6,879	126,135	485,449	3,452	24,863	240,001	1,177,937
2006	26	9	119	124,087	714,984	352	2,789	20,863	75,678	9,883	80,879	155,194	874,449
2007	26	18	469	196,537	1,262,467	365	2,901	13,796	50,980	24,651	162,996	235,367	1,479,813
2008	25	18	365	162,403	1,005,782	151	1,232	20,455	75,112	53,627	420,780	236,654	1,503,271
2009	27	47	863	152,642	1,002,774	49	401	4,251	16,743	50,748	377,465	207,737	1,398,246
2010	29	17	256	282,434	1,804,647	69	550	16,766	63,743	80,531	558,576	379,817	2,427,772
2011	29	37	653	312,659	1,950,062	612	3,979	17,629	60,987	25,350	186,996	356,287	2,202,677
2012	29	14	151	294,632	2,095,745	97	660	17,311	69,832	24,368	175,423	336,422	2,341,811
2013	29	59	1,005	203,019	1,200,938	360	2,501	19,114	52,786	42,630	318,383	265,182	1,575,613
2014	29	22	328	259,740	1,462,134	65	511	35,681	119,268	20,929	159,305	316,437	1,741,546
2015	29	61	918	265,447	1,349,271	839	5,641	29,070	114,052	21,696	138,054	317,113	1,607,936
2016	29	34	613	218,013	1,113,861	13	90	8,011	32,364	20,831	154,881	246,902	1,301,809
2017	29	7	63	181,949	930,457	216	1,333	37,633	146,700	17,583	131,011	237,388	1,209,564
2018	26	7	109	180,945	833,866	103	794	22,784	89,795	9,948	84,131	213,787	1,008,695
2019	27	14	260	225,676	1,182,251	182	1,195	54,899	215,713	38,534	235,674	319,305	1,635,093
2020	26	7	116	91,826	455,035	23	152	35,136	128,633	4,069	29,608	131,061	613,544
2021	24	9	131	79,220	457,999	57	398	24,755	94,842	12,413	87,412	116,454	640,782
2022	26	23	339	181,522	998,658	32	220	71,466	227,666	25,940	179,175	278,983	1,406,058
2023	22	10	106	175,293	1,003,116	121	800	37,036	114,197	26,940	173,480	239,400	1,291,699
2024	25	7	84	310,160	1,630,644	21	155	18,837	62,832	13,090	83,570	342,115	1,777,285
3-yr Avg (2021–2023)	24	14	192	145,345	819,924	70	473	44,419	145,568	21,764	146,689	211,612	1,112,846
10-yr Avg (2011–2020)	28	26	422	223,391	1,257,362	251	1,686	27,727	103,013	22,594	161,347	273,988	1,523,829
10-yr Avg (2012–2021)	28	23	369	200,047	1,108,156	196	1,328	28,439	106,398	21,300	151,388	250,005	1,367,639
10-yr Avg (2013–2022)	27	24	388	188,736	998,447	189	1,284	33,855	122,182	21,457	151,763	244,261	1,274,064
10-yr Avg (2014–2023)	27	19	298	185,963	978,665	165	1,113	35,647	128,323	19,888	137,273	241,683	1,245,673

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Table 13.—Page 3 of 4.

Purse seine	Permits	Chinook salmon		Sockeye salmon		Coho salmon		Pink salmon		Chum salmon		Total	
Year	fished	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
2004	105	156	2,822	17,530	84,679	33,990	290,025	11,573,514	42,935,506	881,129	6,827,836	12,506,319	50,140,868
2005	103	225	3,497	63,482	386,306	142,672	1,045,854	47,017,421	163,737,078	568,847	4,326,988	47,792,647	169,499,723
2006	111	227	3,890	37,745	209,554	268,574	2,363,009	11,828,266	41,816,238	1,032,627	9,116,072	13,167,439	53,508,763
2007	120	730	9,855	66,004	411,699	108,593	932,489	51,270,207	173,441,948	1,353,892	9,480,697	52,799,426	184,276,688
2008	141	127	2,383	74,912	459,725	202,003	1,838,787	33,727,052	114,828,548	1,820,049	14,157,467	35,824,143	131,286,910
2009	154	35	680	70,473	442,495	6,739	53,121	10,765,944	32,873,517	270,805	2,121,386	11,113,996	35,491,199
2010	174	23	413	62,759	393,402	8,338	69,570	62,257,799	223,054,644	186,537	1,309,539	62,515,456	224,827,568
2011	183	147	2,113	64,153	390,558	92,258	609,889	26,110,357	79,386,131	107,839	799,592	26,374,754	81,188,283
2012	224	186	2,182	154,907	1,021,983	22,318	170,151	22,813,337	90,709,525	504,087	3,582,930	23,494,835	95,486,771
2013	211	804	8,431	76,727	470,891	221,984	1,697,940	85,925,135	238,018,132	487,464	3,683,581	86,712,114	243,878,975
2014	222	496	6,494	60,763	341,236	34,968	237,899	37,873,270	127,295,081	376,148	2,915,417	38,345,645	130,796,127
2015	216	497	6,150	241,230	1,276,937	44,996	287,483	89,122,361	301,626,581	463,489	2,912,270	89,872,573	306,109,420
2016	210	47	687	64,548	357,938	29,229	245,977	8,514,793	32,844,471	379,066	2,672,403	8,987,683	36,121,476
2017	230	356	3,929	118,769	691,621	81,625	563,418	42,466,443	165,000,927	2,321,979	16,974,368	44,989,172	183,234,263
2018	234	293	3,297	70,296	316,407	80,610	619,300	19,545,060	74,614,511	1,053,907	8,138,452	20,750,166	83,691,968
2019	238	245	2,853	179,885	883,853	296,231	2,326,504	42,926,908	147,043,209	1,157,239	7,256,616	44,560,508	157,513,035
2020	219	369	4,579	40,456	192,846	29,541	222,675	17,800,247	65,015,224	894,651	6,952,975	18,765,264	72,388,299
2021	212	717	8,808	109,195	544,227	64,981	458,055	58,586,030	188,935,065	719,449	4,818,240	59,480,372	194,764,395
2022	221 ^a	636	5,944	79,670	367,792	8,303	52,544	23,796,471	84,208,384	1,122,691	7,671,600	25,007,771	92,306,263
2023	236 ^a	423	4,584	88,328	476,163	17,679	117,504	46,418,284	143,334,482	979,785	6,494,600	47,504,499	150,427,333
2024	205 ^a	202	2,116	88,378	463,108	3,479	22,771	4,900,491	16,591,952	821,417	5,419,479	5,813,967	22,499,426

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Table 13.—Page 4 of 4.

Purse seine		Chinook salmon		Sockeye salmon		Coho salmon		Pink salmon		Chum salmon		Total	
Year	Permits fished	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
10-yr Avg (2011–2020)	219	344	4,072	107,173	594,427	93,376	698,124	39,309,791	132,155,379	774,587	5,588,860	40,285,271	139,040,862
10-yr Avg (2012–2021)	222	401	4,741	111,678	609,794	90,648	682,940	42,557,358	143,110,273	835,748	5,990,725	43,595,833	150,398,473
10-yr Avg (2013–2022)	221	446	5,117	104,154	544,375	89,247	671,180	42,655,672	142,460,158	897,608	6,399,592	43,747,127	150,080,422
10-yr Avg (2014–2023)	223	408	4,733	105,314	544,902	68,816	513,136	38,704,987	132,991,793	946,840	6,680,694	39,826,365	140,735,258
5-yr Odd yr Avg (2011–2019)	216	410	4,695	136,153	742,772	147,419	1,097,047	57,310,241	186,214,996	907,602	6,325,285	58,501,824	194,384,795
5-yr Even yr Avg (2012–2020)	222	278	3,448	78,194	446,082	39,333	299,200	21,309,341	78,095,762	641,572	4,852,435	22,068,719	83,696,928
5-yr Odd yr Avg (2013–2021)	221	524	6,034	145,161	773,506	141,963	1,066,680	63,805,375	208,124,783	1,029,924	7,129,015	65,122,948	217,100,018
5-yr Even yr Avg (2014–2022)	221	368	4,200	63,147	315,244	36,530	275,679	21,505,968	76,795,534	765,293	5,670,169	22,371,306	83,060,827

^a Includes both primary and dual permits.

Table 14.—Preseason harvest forecast for the 2021 commercial salmon fishery by district and species, Prince William Sound Area.

District/ facility ^a	Forecast type ^b	Chinook		Sockeye		Coho ^c		Pink		Chum	
		Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range
Copper River ^d	Commercial harvest	13	0–29	844	429–1,945	218	–	–	–	–	–
Bering River ^e	Commercial harvest	–	–	4	–	61	–	–	–	–	–
Coghill ^f	Commercial harvest	–	–	252	160–345	–	–	–	–	–	–
Eshamy ^f	No forecast	–	–	NA	NA–NA	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unakwik ^g	Commercial harvest	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
General districts	Commercial harvest	–	–	–	–	–	–	17,349	–	308	–
Total wild stock		13	0–29	1,103	589–2,290	279	–	17,349	–	308	–
SGH	Total run	–	–	–	–	87	–	20,590	10,296–30,890	–	–
AFK	Total run	–	–	–	–	–	–	5,000	2,500–7,500	150	100–200
WNH ^h	Total run	–	–	–	–	89	55–155	6,600	3,200–11,800	1,680	1,500–1,870
CCH	Total run	–	–	–	–	–	–	6,000	4,000–8,100	–	–
MBH ⁱ	Total run	–	–	1,076	941–1,211	–	–	–	–	–	–
GH	Total run	–	–	67	59–75	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total hatchery		–	–	1,143	1,000–1,286	176	55–155	38,190	19,996–58,290	1,830	1,600–2,070
Total hatchery and wild		13		2,246		455		55,539		2,138	

Note: All values are in thousands. NA (not available). Harvest estimates are made only for areas and species that constitute a significant portion of the catch.

Note: Prince William Sound Area hatchery facility abbreviations include SGH (Solomon Gulch Hatchery), AFK (Armin F. Koernig Hatchery), WNH (Wally Noerenberg Hatchery), CCH (Cannery Creek Hatchery), MBH (Main Bay Hatchery), and GH (Gulkana Hatchery).

^a Formal forecast procedures are used for estimating wild stock runs of pink and chum salmon in PWS. Hatchery contributions are based on known fry releases and average marine survival rates.

^b Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) provides common property fishery (CPF) harvest forecasts for all wild stocks and Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon. Hatchery operators provide CPF forecasts for PWS hatchery runs and Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon. Harvest projections do not include salmon harvested by hatcheries for cost recovery.

^c ADF&G provides commercial common property (CCPF) harvest forecasts for Copper River and Bering River district coho salmon runs.

^d Formalized sibling model forecast procedures are used for Copper River sockeye salmon runs. Copper River Chinook and coho salmon harvest estimates are based on the mean annual harvest (5-year for Chinook and 10-year for coho salmon).

^e Bering River coho and sockeye salmon harvest estimates are based on 10-year mean annual harvest.

^f Formalized sibling model forecast procedures are used for Coghill District sockeye salmon runs. Coghill District's wild pink and chum salmon harvests are included in the "General (PWS) districts" projection.

^g Unakwik District sockeye salmon harvest estimate is based on the 10-year mean annual harvest.

^h Wally Noerenberg Hatchery chum and coho salmon harvest estimates include all on-site and remote release runs.

ⁱ Main Bay Hatchery sockeye salmon harvest estimate includes all on-site and remote release runs.

Table 15.–Wally Noerenberg Hatchery chum salmon contributions to Prince William Sound, Bering River, and Copper River Districts, 2012–2024.

Year	Wally Noerenberg						Hatchery total
	Commercial harvest ^a	Commercial harvest %	Cost recovery ^b	Cost-recovery %	Broodstock and raceway sales ^c	Broodstock and raceway sales %	
2012	1,886,397	81	269,982	12	171,847	7	2,328,226
2013	1,593,010	63	761,280	30	187,281	7	2,541,571
2014	614,610	63	173,205	18	181,917	19	969,732
2015	1,150,091	50	673,209	29	487,224	21	2,310,524
2016	1,904,944	66	679,209	23	307,474	11	2,891,627
2017	3,610,476	75	446,092	9	728,355	15	4,784,923
2018	2,280,944	71	451,471	14	468,196	15	3,200,611
2019	1,746,730	55	1,163,607	37	248,792	8	3,159,129
2020	304,477	34	383,044	43	202,081	23	889,602
2021	1,249,973	68	332,387	18	258,797	14	1,841,157
2022	1,165,202	62	438,868	23	269,990	14	1,874,060
2023	1,741,337	55	1,228,259	39	215,463	7	3,185,059
2024 ^d	282,523	34	298,384	36	244,149	30	825,056

^a Commercial harvest and purse seine cost-recovery information from fish ticket reporting. Cost recovery does not include raceway or carcass sales.

^b If contribution estimates are not available, all fish are assumed to originate from the facility where they were counted.

^c Broodstock and raceway sales from Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation annual hatchery reports.

^d Based on preliminary contribution estimates.

Table 16.—Preseason harvest forecast for the 2022 commercial salmon fishery by district and species, Prince William Sound Area.

District/ facility ^a	Forecast type ^b	Chinook		Sockeye		Coho ^c		Pink		Chum	
		Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range
Copper River ^d	Commercial harvest	14	—	928	561–1,295	221	—	—	—	—	—
Bering River ^e	Commercial harvest	—	—	4	—	60	—	—	—	—	—
Coghill ^f	Commercial harvest	—	—	384	307–461	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eshamy ^f	No forecast	—	—	NA	NA–NA	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unakwik ^g	Commercial harvest	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General districts	Commercial harvest	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,253	773–11,127	132	0–392
Total wild stock		14	—	1,319	868–1,756	281	—	4,253	773–11,127	132	0–392
SGH	Total run	—	—	—	—	75	—	13,503	6,752–20,255	—	—
AFK	Total run	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,600	1,500–3,600	360	290–440
WNH ^h	Total run	—	—	—	—	138	85–191	2,700	1,200–4,200	2,480	2,210–2,750
CCH	Total run	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,000	1,500–4,600	—	—
MBH ⁱ	Total run	—	—	841	745–938	—	—	—	—	—	—
GH	Total run	—	—	53	33–73	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total hatchery		—	—	894	778–1,011	213	85–191	21,803	10,952–32,655	2,840	2,500–3,190
Total hatchery and wild		14	—	2,213	—	494	—	26,056	—	2,972	—

Note: All values are in thousands. NA (not available). Harvest estimates are made only for areas and species that constitute a significant portion of the catch.

Note: Prince William Sound Area hatchery facility abbreviations include SGH (Solomon Gulch Hatchery), AFK (Armin F. Koernig Hatchery), WNH (Wally Noerenberg Hatchery), CCH (Cannery Creek Hatchery), MBH (Main Bay Hatchery), and GH (Gulkana Hatchery).

^a Formal forecast procedures are used for estimating wild stock runs of pink and chum salmon in PWS. Hatchery contributions are based on known fry releases and average marine survival rates.

^b Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) provides common property fishery (CPF) harvest forecasts for all wild stocks and Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon. Hatchery operators provide CPF forecasts for PWS hatchery runs and Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon. Harvest projections do not include salmon harvested by hatcheries for cost recovery.

^c ADF&G provides commercial common property (CCPF) harvest forecasts for Copper River and Bering River district coho salmon runs.

^d Formalized sibling model forecast procedures are used for Copper River sockeye salmon runs. Copper River Chinook and coho salmon harvest estimates are based on the mean annual harvest (5-year for Chinook and 10-year for coho salmon).

^e Bering River coho and sockeye salmon harvest estimates are based on 10-year mean annual harvest.

^f Formalized sibling model forecast procedures are used for Coghill District sockeye salmon runs. Coghill District's wild pink and chum salmon harvests are included in the "General (PWS) districts" projection.

^g Unakwik District sockeye salmon harvest estimate is based on the 10-year mean annual harvest.

^h Wally Noerenberg Hatchery chum and coho salmon harvest estimates include all on-site and remote release runs.

ⁱ Main Bay Hatchery sockeye salmon harvest estimate includes all on-site and remote release runs.

Table 17.—Preseason harvest forecast for the 2023 commercial salmon fishery by district and species, Prince William Sound Area.

District/ facility ^a	Forecast type ^b	Chinook		Sockeye		Coho ^c		Pink		Chum	
		Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range
Copper River ^d	Commercial harvest	53	—	1,646	1,017–2,275	213	—	—	—	—	—
Bering River ^e	Commercial harvest	—	—	4	—	60	—	—	—	—	—
Coghill ^f	Commercial harvest	—	—	453	357–549	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eshamy ^f	No forecast	—	—	NA	NA–NA	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unakwik ^g	Commercial harvest	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General districts	Commercial harvest	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,230	—	389	—
Total wild stock		53	—	2,106	1,374–2,824	273	—	20,230	—	389	—
SGH	Total run	—	—	—	—	80	—	20,381	10,190–30,571	—	—
AFK	Total run	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,800	4,100–9,500	190	150–240
WNH ^h	Total run	—	—	—	—	122	75–170	6,100	1,900–10,200	2,210	1,950–2,460
CCH	Total run	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,300	8,100–14,500	—	—
MBH ⁱ	Total run	—	—	934	826–1,043	—	—	—	—	—	—
GH	Total run	—	—	55	46–65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total hatchery		—	—	989	872–1,108	202	75–170	44,581	24,290–64,771	2,400	2,100–2,700
Total hatchery and wild		53	—	3,095	—	475	—	64,811	—	2,789	—

Note: All values are in thousands. NA (not available). Harvest estimates are made only for areas and species that constitute a significant portion of the catch.

Note: Prince William Sound Area hatchery facility abbreviations include SGH (Solomon Gulch Hatchery), AFK (Armin F. Koernig Hatchery), WNH (Wally Noerenberg Hatchery), CCH (Cannery Creek Hatchery), MBH (Main Bay Hatchery), and GH (Gulkana Hatchery).

^a Formal forecast procedures are used for estimating wild stock runs of pink and chum salmon in PWS. Hatchery contributions are based on known fry releases and average marine survival rates.

^b Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) provides common property fishery (CPF) harvest forecasts for all wild stocks and Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon. Hatchery operators provide CPF forecasts for PWS hatchery runs and Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon. Harvest projections do not include salmon harvested by hatcheries for cost recovery.

^c ADF&G provides commercial common property (CCPF) harvest forecasts for Copper River and Bering River district coho salmon runs.

^d Formalized sibling model forecast procedures are used for Copper River sockeye salmon runs. Copper River Chinook and coho salmon harvest estimates are based on the mean annual harvest (5-year for Chinook and 10-year for coho salmon).

^e Bering River coho and sockeye salmon harvest estimates are based on 10-year mean annual harvest.

^f Formalized sibling model forecast procedures are used for Coghill District sockeye salmon runs. Coghill District's wild pink and chum salmon harvests are included in the "General (PWS) districts" projection.

^g Unakwik District sockeye salmon harvest estimate is based on the 10-year mean annual harvest.

^h Wally Noerenberg Hatchery chum and coho salmon harvest estimates include all on-site and remote release runs.

ⁱ Main Bay Hatchery sockeye salmon harvest estimate includes all on-site and remote release runs.

Table 18.—Preseason harvest forecast for the 2024 commercial salmon fishery by district and species, Prince William Sound Area.

District/ facility ^a	Forecast type ^b	Chinook		Sockeye		Coho ^c		Pink		Chum	
		Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range	Point estimate	Range
Copper River ^d	Commercial harvest	—	—	1,297	992–1,602	213	—	—	—	—	—
Bering River ^e	Commercial harvest	—	—	4	—	60	—	—	—	—	—
Coghill ^f	Commercial harvest	—	—	243	122–365	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eshamy ^f	No forecast	—	—	NA	NA–NA	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unakwik ^g	Commercial harvest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General districts	Commercial harvest	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,663	1,436–17,946	469	231–707
Total wild stock		—	—	1,544	1,114–1,967	273	—	5,663	1,436–17,946	469	231–707
SGH	Total run	—	—	—	—	54	—	15,531	7,765–23,296	—	—
AFK	Total run	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,800	1,300–4,300	240	200–270
WNH ^h	Total run	—	—	—	—	62	32–157	3,300	900–5,700	2,820	2,490–3,160
CCH	Total run	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,100	1,500–6,700	—	—
MBH ⁱ	Total run	—	—	864	765–961	—	—	—	—	—	—
GH	Total run	—	—	68	59–77	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total hatchery		—	—	932	824–1,038	116	32–157	25,731	11,465–39,996	3,060	2,690–3,430
Total hatchery and wild		—	—	2,476	—	389	—	31,394	—	3,529	—

Note: All values are in thousands. NA (not available). Harvest estimates are made only for areas and species that constitute a significant portion of the catch.

Note: Prince William Sound Area hatchery facility abbreviations include SGH (Solomon Gulch Hatchery), AFK (Armin F. Koernig Hatchery), WNH (Wally Noerenberg Hatchery), CCH (Cannery Creek Hatchery), MBH (Main Bay Hatchery), and GH (Gulkana Hatchery).

^a Formal forecast procedures are used for estimating wild stock runs of pink and chum salmon in PWS. Hatchery contributions are based on known fry releases and average marine survival rates.

^b Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) provides common property fishery (CPF) harvest forecasts for all wild stocks and Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon. Hatchery operators provide CPF forecasts for PWS hatchery runs and Gulkana Hatchery sockeye salmon. Harvest projections do not include salmon harvested by hatcheries for cost recovery.

^c ADF&G provides commercial common property fishery (CCPF) harvest forecasts for Copper River and Bering River district coho salmon runs.

^d Formalized sibling model forecast procedures are used for Copper River sockeye salmon runs. Copper River Chinook and coho salmon harvest estimates are based on the mean annual harvest (5-year for Chinook and 10-year for coho salmon).

^e Bering River coho and sockeye salmon harvest estimates are based on 10-year mean annual harvest.

^f Formalized sibling model forecast procedures are used for Coghill District sockeye salmon runs. Coghill District's wild pink and chum salmon harvests are included in the "General (PWS) districts" projection.

^g Unakwik District sockeye salmon harvest estimate is based on the 10-year mean annual harvest.

^h Wally Noerenberg Hatchery chum and coho salmon harvest estimates include all on-site and remote release runs.

ⁱ Main Bay Hatchery sockeye salmon harvest estimate includes all on-site and remote release runs.

Table 19.—Active purse seine permits by year, 2000–2024.

Year	Number of vessels	Number of dual permits	Total permits
2000	130	—	131
2001	146	—	148
2002	115	—	120
2003	106	—	107
2004	101	—	105
2005	101	—	101
2006	111	—	111
2007	119	—	120
2008	139	—	141
2009	153	—	154
2010	174	—	174
2011	183	—	183
2012	224	—	224
2013	211	—	211
2014	222	—	222
2015	220	—	216
2016	210	—	210
2017	229	—	230
2018	234	—	234
2019	238	—	238
2020	218	—	218
2021	212	—	212
2022	199	22	221
2023	209	27	236
Average (2014–2023)	219	—	224
2024	177	28	205

Note: En dashes = no data because dual permits did not exist until 2022; average not calculated.

Table 20.—Prince William Sound pink salmon runs by origin, 2000–2024.

Year ^a	Estimated total run					Total
	Hatcheries				Wild ^b	
	SGH	AFK	WNH	CCH		
2000	12,113,551	6,904,559	8,856,119	6,573,795	7,360,000	41,808,024
2001	15,932,656	4,865,879	7,126,101	2,108,028	8,800,000	38,832,664
2002	5,149,430	7,929,788	5,616,803	1,588,501	1,230,000	21,514,522
2003	17,784,817	7,065,581	17,843,002	8,349,320	7,389,184	58,431,904
2004	11,296,792	5,230,138	2,704,549	2,761,140	4,900,000	26,892,619
2005	17,833,484	10,121,228	9,221,716	13,595,157	12,540,000	63,311,585
2006	9,021,053	5,216,231	3,977,073	2,969,543	1,794,000	22,977,900
2007	23,967,744	15,760,177	7,519,098	7,430,043	10,333,079	65,010,141
2008	15,617,999	6,112,588	8,701,656	11,013,594	2,232,000	43,677,837
2009	1,222,473	10,703,437	3,223,164	3,258,244	2,825,000	21,232,318
2010	18,399,595	13,768,753	17,309,257	19,768,346	4,320,000	73,565,951
2011	13,830,644	3,199,541	6,647,472	4,743,895	9,230,000	37,651,552
2012	11,330,663	3,763,888	5,687,710	3,478,658	4,320,000	28,580,919
2013	22,183,858	20,222,117	17,479,441	15,959,517	22,250,000	98,094,933
2014	25,445,746	4,476,859	7,609,619	4,537,866	2,500,000	44,570,090
2015	34,751,413	10,854,375	17,537,606	10,183,238	31,680,000	105,006,632
2016	8,057,516	1,471,867	744,035	707,850	3,520,000	14,501,268
2017	14,543,144	4,968,436	2,508,749	6,736,574	22,430,000	51,186,903
2018	10,002,010	3,307,954	2,296,808	3,656,259	5,980,000	25,243,031
2019	11,282,485	6,071,637	4,025,313	10,274,004	18,380,000	50,033,439
2020	8,624,211	1,293,916	4,185,154	3,057,366	6,534,128	23,694,775
2021	20,363,732	4,310,394	9,464,883	10,045,817	25,227,494	69,412,320
2022	19,492,853	1,072,482	1,433,531	1,381,203	6,826,696	30,207,038
2023	21,644,173	11,465,374	4,813,755	10,607,099	12,222,224	60,752,625
2024	Not yet available—waiting for escapement information					
5-year Even-year avg (2012–2020)	12,692,029	2,862,897	4,104,665	3,087,600	4,570,826	27,318,017
5-year Odd-year avg (2011–2019)	19,318,309	9,063,221	9,639,716	9,579,446	20,794,000	68,394,692
5-year Even-year avg (2014–2022)	14,324,467	2,324,616	3,253,829	2,668,109	5,072,165	27,643,240
5-year Odd-year avg (2013–2021)	20,624,926	9,285,392	10,203,198	10,639,830	23,993,499	74,746,845

Note: Hatchery facility abbreviations include SGH (Solomon Gulch Hatchery), AFK (Armin F. Koernig Hatchery), WNH (Wally Noerenberg Hatchery), and CCH (Cannery Creek Hatchery).

^a Includes commercial common property fishery (CCPF) harvest, cost recovery, and broodstock and raceway sales.

^b This does not represent the total spawning escapement but rather a comparable annual index.

Table 21.—Prince William Sound pink salmon escapement indices by district, 2000–2024.

Year	Eastern	Northern ^a	Coghill	Northwestern	Eshamy	Southwestern	Montague	Southeastern	Total
2000	554,984	168,247	223,646	66,078	4,286	131,648	227,881	282,258	1,659,028
2001	436,585	163,573	148,665	102,294	2,963	176,503	314,323	655,480	2,000,386
2002	226,068	138,204	54,882	50,981	1,397	35,554	71,461	364,630	943,177
2003	975,327	255,059	375,147	103,931	5,206	130,356	320,494	691,769	2,857,289
2004	724,663	158,958	79,010	51,306	2,300	108,192	183,891	687,903	1,996,223
2005	1,025,756	570,079	528,264	401,640	32,396	272,572	566,002	1,330,407	4,727,116
2006	248,592	208,397	145,511	127,836	11,247	118,205	149,798	178,009	1,187,595
2007	374,723	156,063	197,405	68,667	9,461	116,130	142,769	443,914	1,509,132
2008	193,844	141,396	145,177	141,787	579	70,291	56,999	112,347	862,420
2009	454,960	119,747	125,907	127,261	9,790	239,357	263,770	488,831	1,829,623
2010	490,952	287,570	335,108	211,709	9,585	126,489	144,821	310,676	1,916,910
2011	982,837	167,408	257,020	147,128	4,368	232,302	598,918	1,537,438	3,927,419
2012	301,709	106,568	172,611	117,795	1,052	90,156	77,756	258,047	1,125,694
2013	1,266,783	329,434	640,414	203,444	12,145	348,012	411,373	1,472,633	4,684,238
2014 ^b	270,244	105,843	63,290	67,030	12,400	83,581	24,917	185,072	812,377
2015 ^c	1,605,058	779,600	801,201	454,427	70,068	789,725	649,144	2,032,492	7,181,715
2016 ^d	663,113	152,509	171,362	171,633	NA	NA	NA	169,660	1,328,277
2017 ^d	624,502	445,858	187,159	259,842	2,880	212,009	237,927	528,948	2,499,125
2018	309,325	113,383	70,881	111,194	16,594	81,100	135,208	293,275	1,130,960
2019	445,075	195,169	153,129	91,267	1,402	33,340	25,385	290,452	1,235,219
2020	206,152	105,226	88,401	77,828	7,250	64,470	84,238	138,330	771,895
2021	729,369	464,350	300,227	368,406	17,925	339,920	242,151	544,906	3,007,254
2022	353,187	163,498	73,971	292,892	14,937	200,057	143,917	137,692	1,380,152
2023	650,740	302,345	169,737	312,060	12,756	134,089	177,472	183,087	1,942,286
2024	Not yet available								
Even-year average (2000–2024)	378,569	154,150	135,321	124,006	7,421	100,886	118,262	259,825	1,259,559
Odd-year average (2001–2023)	797,643	329,057	323,690	220,031	15,113	252,026	329,144	850,030	3,116,733

Note: This does not represent the total spawning escapement but rather a comparable annual index. Current even-year goals by district are: Eastern 203,000–328,000; Northern/Unakwik 96,000–127,000; Coghill 37,000–110,000; Northwestern 52,000–93,000; Eshamy 1,000–4,000; Southwestern 62,000–105,000; Montague 36,000–72,000; Southeastern 88,000–153,000. Current odd-year goals by district are: Eastern 346,000–863,000; Northern/Unakwik 111,000–208,000; Coghill 54,000–233,000; Northwestern 64,000–144,000; Eshamy 5,000–31,000; Southwestern 112,000–231,000; Montague 143,000–330,000; Southeastern 286,000–515,000.

^a Northern District totals include both Northern and Unakwik Districts' counts combined.

^b Only 17 of 33 index streams in the Montague District were surveyed often enough (≥ 3) in 2014 to use with the area under the curve (AUC) methodology.

^c AUC counts adjusted for the average proportion of the 214 index streams represented by the 129 index streams surveyed 3 or more times in 2015.

^d Escapement index total includes indices from Eastern, Northern, Coghill, Northwestern, and Southeastern Districts. Only Eastern, Northern, and Northwestern had reasonable temporal survey coverage. The Coghill and Southeastern Districts had limited temporal coverage, but the indices were within the SEG range, so they are included in the total.

Table 22.—Prince William Sound chum salmon escapement indices by district, 1995–2024.

Year ^a	Eastern	Northern ^b	Coghill	Northwestern	Southeastern	Total
1995	75,655	28,899	11,596	4,883	23,200	144,233
1996	137,908	55,568	19,669	24,405	47,334	284,884
1997	93,146	19,429	3,101	8,387	43,274	167,337
1998	86,227	28,867	22,764	7,553	52,103	197,514
1999	242,713	36,691	5,057	4,544	36,181	325,186
2000	196,253	23,655	20,488	10,150	34,969	285,515
2001	198,683	75,473	13,388	6,373	37,526	331,443
2002	94,046	30,531	7,430	16,194	104,906	253,107
2003	198,921	44,272	19,729	12,736	116,131	391,789
2004	108,833	42,456	9,685	10,371	42,344	213,689
2005	113,135	30,657	11,979	12,696	25,547	194,014
2006	109,403	52,069	15,900	25,860	26,739	229,970
2007	123,814	49,669	14,052	10,778	60,464	258,778
2008	74,740	38,791	39,660	28,051	21,614	202,857
2009	100,309	22,063	6,150	12,293	106,284	247,099
2010	91,514	38,207	51,589	30,074	85,138	296,522
2011	196,933	52,474	16,368	11,447	91,218	368,440
2012	61,969	14,680	10,281	7,072	20,467	114,468
2013	119,110	34,240	11,369	4,746	35,942	205,407
2014	93,491	27,680	9,491	5,041	30,177	165,880
2015 ^c	112,142	43,179	15,444	7,321	52,031	230,117
2016 ^c	131,168	10,746	1,010	4,100	26,127	173,151
2017 ^c	85,618	34,516	13,666	7,381	49,421	190,602
2018	109,598	18,407	13,617	15,563	10,164	167,349
2019	56,846	11,690	3,437	3,258	19,451	94,682
2020	103,849	23,542	8,998	7,405	26,909	170,703
2021	58,965	20,404	2,395	6,979	46,391	135,133
2022	64,365	26,014	8,629	13,372	12,944	125,324
2023	157,274	55,482	6,250	738	7,791	227,535
2024	Not yet available					
Average (2015–2023)	97,758	27,109	8,161	7,346	27,914	168,288

Note: Current goals are district-specific lower-bound sustainable escapement goals: Coghill >10,000; Eastern >79,000; Northern/Unakwik >28,000; Northwestern >7,000; Southeastern >11,000. This does not represent the total spawning escapement but rather a comparable annual index.

^a This does not represent the total spawning escapement but rather a comparable annual index.

^b Northern District totals include both Northern and Unakwik District counts combined.

^c Area under the curve (AUC) counts adjusted for the average proportion of the 214 index streams represented by the 129 index streams.

Table 23.—Comparison of forecasted and total pink salmon runs by origin, 2021–2024.

Forecast			Total run		
Wild	Total run	Projected harvest	Commercial harvest	Escapement	Total run
2021	19,187,000	17,349,000	22,220,240	3,007,254	25,227,494
2022	5,036,000	4,253,000	5,446,544	1,380,152	6,826,696
2023	20,230,000	18,392,000	10,225,086	1,942,286	12,167,372
2024	6,447,000	5,664,000	1,405,535	Not yet available	
PWSAC	Total run	Projected commercial harvest	Commercial harvest	Broodstock and cost recovery	Total run
2021	17,600,000	13,104,000	19,066,855	4,754,239	23,821,094
2022	8,300,000	4,863,000	947,842	2,939,374	3,887,216
2023	24,200,000	20,277,000	18,231,551	8,654,677	26,886,228
2024	10,200,000	6,079,000	121,735	2,836,894	2,958,629
VFDA	Total run	Projected commercial harvest	Commercial harvest	Broodstock and cost recovery	Total run
2021	20,590,000	17,095,000	18,354,722	2,009,010	20,363,732
2022	13,500,000	9,901,000	18,177,963	1,314,890	19,492,853
2023	20,380,000	16,645,000	18,390,115	3,254,058	21,644,173
2024	15,530,000	11,077,000	3,545,033	2,042,883	5,587,916
Totals	Total run	Projected commercial harvest	Commercial harvest	Broodstock and cost recovery	Total run
2021	57,377,000	47,548,000	59,641,817	9,770,503	69,412,320
2022	26,836,000	19,017,000	24,572,349	5,634,689	30,207,038
2023	64,810,000	55,314,000	46,846,628	13,851,021	60,752,625
2024	32,177,000	22,820,000	5,072,304	Not yet available	

Note: PWSAC (Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association); VFDA (Valdez Fisheries Development Association).

^a Harvest forecast.

Table 24.—Sockeye salmon contribution estimates during the hatchery chum salmon fishery at Armin F. Koernig Hatchery, approximately June 1–July 18 annually.

Year	Wild	MBH	Total
2006	0	15,376	15,376
2007	822	8,788	9,610
2008	6,383	52,242	58,625
2009	4,247	57,342	61,589
2010	3,064	55,928	58,992
2011	2,854	19,519	22,373
2012	15,380	65,035	80,415
2013	4,298	36,163	40,461
2014	2,028	25,675	27,703
2015	4,951	96,984	101,935
2016	2,323	49,239	51,562
2017	2,799	23,344	26,143
2018 ^a	3,472	29,101	32,573
2019	6,053	30,335	36,388
2020 ^b	—	—	—
2021	2,210	30,411	32,621
2022	4,546	26,971	32,345
2023	3,669	24,696	29,062
2024 ^c	13,779	38,226	52,005
Average (2012–2016)	5,796	54,619	60,415
Average (2017–2020)	4,108	27,359	31,343
Average (2017–2021)	3,634	28,298	31,931
Average (2017–2022)	3,816	28,032	32,014
Average (2018–2023)	3,792	27,476	31,522

Note: MBH = Main Bay Hatchery.

^a Adoption of language to reduce the harvest of salmon destined for other areas of Prince William Sound.

^b No otolith sampling due to COVID-19.

^c Preliminary data and subject to change.

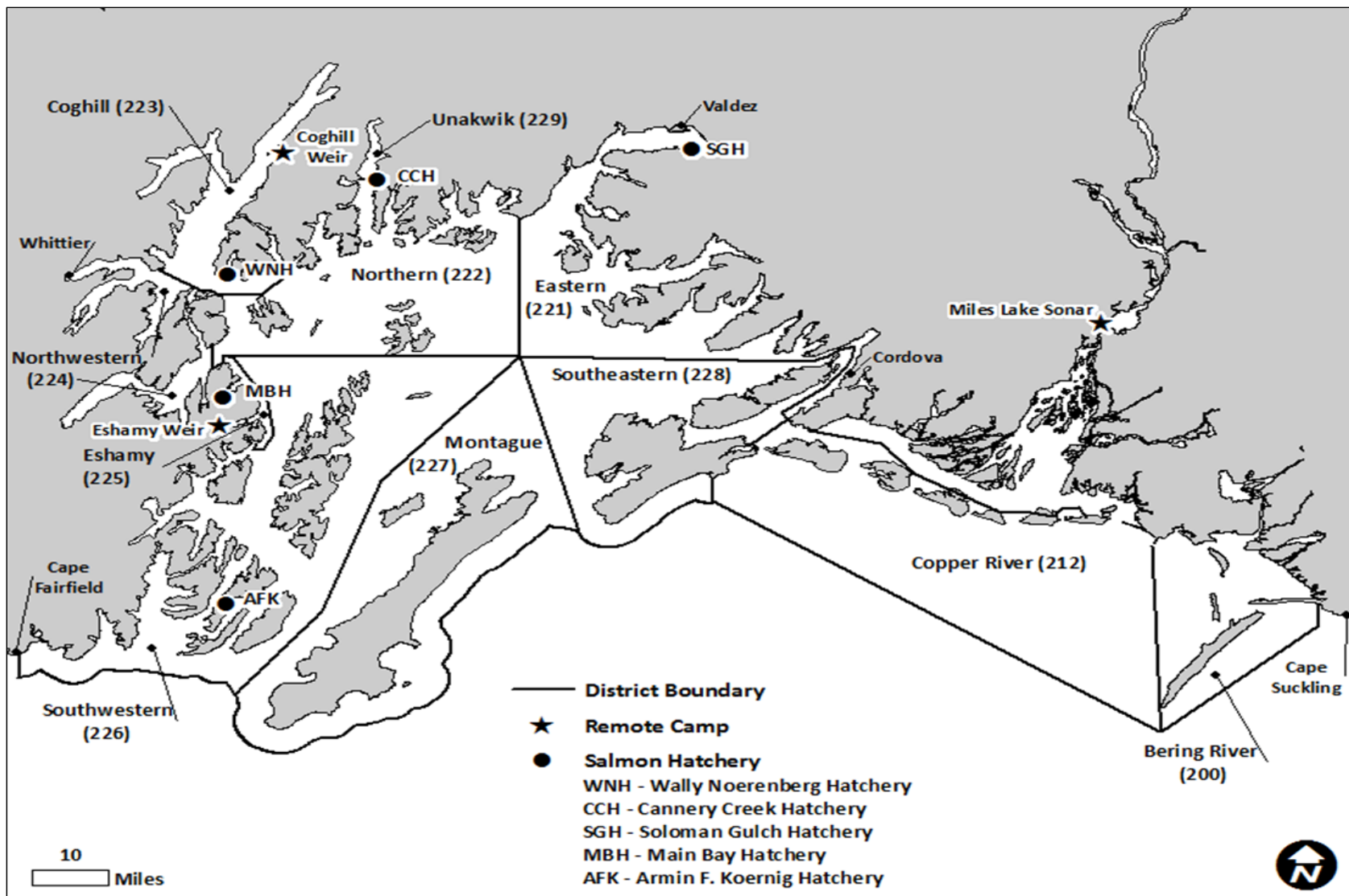


Figure 1.—Prince William Sound Management Area showing towns, commercial fishing districts, weir locations, Miles Lake sonar camp, and 5 of the 6 salmon hatcheries.

Note: The Gulkana Hatchery is located too far up the Copper River to display on this map.