

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AND COPPER RIVER SALMON FORECAST SUMMARY

This news release provides a summary of the 2015 salmon forecasts for the Prince William Sound (PWS) area. A more complete forecast document providing details on methods, history, data sources, and sources of uncertainty in the forecasts and can be found on the Department of Fish and Game website at the following link: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.salmon#/forecasts>

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation 2015 projections may be viewed at the following link: <http://pwsac.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2015-PWSAC-Forecast.pdf>

Formal forecasts were calculated for stocks including Copper River Chinook and Sockeye salmon; PWS pink salmon, PWS chum salmon; Coghill and Eshamy lakes sockeye salmon (Table 1). Hatchery forecasts are calculated by Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) and Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA).

Table 1. Total run estimates for the 2015 Prince William Sound area stocks from formal forecasts (thousands of fish).

Area/Production Type	Species	Forecast Estimate	Range	Rank last 20 years (1 = largest run)
Copper River				
<i>Natural Production</i>	Chinook Salmon	36	22–58	33 th
<i>Natural Production</i>	Sockeye Salmon	2,750	1,960–3,530	6 th
<i>Gulkana Hatchery Production</i>		450	320–570	10 th
<i>Total Production</i>		3,190	2,280–4,100	5 th
Prince William Sound				
<i>Natural Production</i>				
Coghill Lake	Sockeye Salmon	123	74–246	10 th
Eshamy Lake		53	29–77	6 th
<i>Total Natural Production</i>		176	120–300	
<i>Natural Production</i>	Pink Salmon	16,870	6,860–26,890	6 th (20 even years)
<i>Natural Production</i>	Chum Salmon	484	185–888	34 th

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

Table 2. Commercial common property harvest projections for the 2015 Prince William Sound area by production type, and species (thousands of fish).

Fishing Area	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Bering River						
<i>Natural Production</i> ^a	0	15	49	1	0	65
Copper River						
<i>Natural Production</i> ^b	6	1,980	214	29	15	2,244
<i>Hatchery Production</i> ^{b, c}	0	250	0	0	0	250
<i>Total Production</i>	6	2,240	214	29	15	2,504
Prince William Sound						
<i>Natural Production</i> ^d	0	126	2	15,420	284	15,832
<i>Hatchery Production</i>	0	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Total Production</i>	0	*	*	*	*	*
Area Totals						
<i>Natural Production</i>	6	2,381	265	15,420	299	18,371
<i>Hatchery Production</i>	0	*	*	*	*	*

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

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

^c Forecasts completed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

^d Formal forecasts were completed for Coghill and Eshamy lakes sockeye salmon; and pink and chum salmon from all districts combined. Chinook and coho salmon projections are 10-year average CCP harvests.

* Total run forecasts are completed by PWSAC and VFDA; however, no commercial harvest projections are available.