The 2019 Alaska commercial salmon harvest is winding down. The YTD harvest totals 198 million fish, which is about 8 percent (18 million fish) lower than in 2017. Still, the 2019 season is on track to be the 8th largest harvest since 1975, measured by number of fish.

Production of more than 55 million sockeye in 2019 represents the largest harvest since 1995 and the fourth strongest season since 1975. About 130,000 sockeye were harvested last week, primarily in Kodiak.

Nearly 124 million pink salmon have been harvested YTD, 8 percent behind 2017’s pace. Productive fishing in recent weeks has closed the gap between 2019 and 2017: four weeks ago, the deficit was 20 percent. About 3.5 million pinks were added to the total last week, the second strongest harvest for statistical week 36 in at least 12 years. Kodiak was the source of 2.9 million of these fish; the 2019 season may be the area’s second-largest pink harvest since 1975.

The YTD keta harvest of 16 million fish is 16 percent behind 2018 and 7 percent lower than the five-year average. Although Southeast is well below last year’s harvest (and its 2019 forecast), the area has produced 39 percent of the Alaska total — the most of any region. PWS has harvested nearly double their forecasted volume and contributed 33 percent to this year’s production. Historical data indicate about 500,000 fish are typically harvested through the end of the season over the next three weeks.

Although the data may be revised upward, preliminary numbers show coho production slowing last week to about 250,000 fish; the five-year average for the week is nearly 500,000. The YTD total of about 2.9 million fish is 11 percent lower than in 2018 and 23 percent behind the five-year average. Chinook production of nearly 240,000 fish is nearly equal to the 2018 harvest. Chinook production through the remainder of the season is expected to be minimal, based on historical data.

Where to buy Alaska seafood (click for link): ASMI Suppliers Directory
Salmon Harvest by Statistical Week, 2019

(Thousands of Fish per Week)

*Last year uses 2017 pink salmon instead of 2018 (most recent odd-year).

Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.