

2020 Alaska Chinook Salmon Outlook & Summary

Market Commentary

The anticipated 2020 harvest of 320,000 Chinook salmon represents a third year of growing harvest if realized. Even with this increase, landings for the species would be low compared to historical data. Most production goes to the domestic market, with significant exposure to the high-end market. Due primarily to disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, market prices are expected to be down in 2020. A lower ex-vessel price for Prince William Sound Chinook is an early indicator of market weakness.

Harvest Summary & 2020 Forecast, Thousands of Fish

	2016	2017	2018	2019P	2020F	2016-20
Southeast	311	172	161	188	197	
PWS	13	14	8	19	30	
Bristol Bay & AK Pen.	47	53	64	60	66	
Kodiak	7	7	3	7	7	
Cook Inlet	11	8	4	4	8	
Other	20	9	3	9	13	
Alaska Total	409	263	243	287	321	
Alaska Total (M lbs.)	5	3	3	3	4	

Chinook are the most valuable salmon per pound and the Alaska state fish.

Sources: Alaska Department of Fish & Game; North Pacific

Historical Ex-Vessel Price & Value

	Avg. Price/Lb.	Ttl. Value (\$M)
2010	\$3.67	\$17
2011	\$3.57	\$20
2012	\$3.72	\$17
2013	\$4.27	\$16
2014	\$4.19	\$23
2015	\$3.47	\$19
2016	\$4.88	\$21
2017	\$5.74	\$17
2018	\$5.99	\$15
2019P	\$4.34	\$14



	Pink	Keta	Sockeye	Coho	King
Price	\$0.35	\$0.67	\$1.34	\$1.13	\$4.77
Volume	366	136	276	29	4

Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Avg. annual 2014-2019 (prelim.) prices and harvest volume in million lbs.

Key Wholesale Products

Frozen H&G and Fillet
51% by value
Key Market: US

Fresh Bled Whole Fish
22% by value
Key Markets: US

Fresh H&G
19% by value
Key Markets: US

First Wholesale Value Per Pound, by Trimester

	Frozen H&G	Fresh H&G	Frozen Fillet
T1 - 2017	\$4.89	\$13.08	\$9.93
T2 - 2017	\$7.19	\$9.82	\$14.50
T3 - 2017	\$6.06	\$8.49	-
T1 - 2018	\$5.34	\$15.12	\$14.76
T2 - 2018	\$9.30	\$10.88	\$17.64
T3 - 2018	\$4.97	\$13.29	\$16.10
T1 - 2019	\$3.65	\$14.91	\$14.51
T2 - 2019	\$5.21	\$10.18	\$11.38
T3 - 2019	\$4.50	\$13.36	\$11.01

Source: Alaska Department of Revenue (Alaska Salmon Price Report).

Missing data withheld to preserve confidentiality.

Note: Values 2016-2019

Information compiled by McDowell Group for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. Comments/questions may be sent to seafood@mcdowellgroup.net.

