More than 70 million salmon have been harvested through July 1, 2020. This week and next will be dominated by pink salmon production. Landings for the species will need to improve significantly to meet the ADF&G harvest projection of 61 million fish.

Nearly 44 million sockeye have been harvested YTD, a level similar to the long-term average. About 1.3 million sockeye were added last week. Bristol Bay contributed about half this total followed by AK Peninsula & Aleutian Islands region and Kodiak. Chignik continues to suffer from low escapement which is limiting commercial harvest.

Last week’s production of about nine million pinks brings the yearly total to about 23 million fish. The current pace is nearly identical to 2018 and 2016 (total harvest for both years was less than 40 million fish). PWS has supplied about half the YTD production, with the region’s harvest lagging 2018 but in line with expectations. Other areas have seen strong fishing: Kodiak’s harvest of four million pinks last week was double the 5-year average and AK Peninsula & Aleutian Islands’ YTD harvest is more than triple the 2018 level. Productive fishing in Cook Inlet last week brought the region close to the 2018 pace. Weak landings persist in Southeast and AYK.

Keta landings have not improved. Current production of about 4.2 million fish is down nearly 10 million keta from the 5-year average. Among all salmon harvest regions, Kodiak is experiencing the smallest deficit with keta landings down 17% from last year. PWS has contributed about 45% of the harvest with volume down 36% from 2019. Harvest in the AYK region and Southeast are particularly slow, down 79% and 66% from last year, respectively.

Where to buy Alaska seafood (click for link): ASMI Suppliers Directory
Salmon Harvest by Statistical Week, 2020

(Thousands of Fish per Week)

*Last year uses 2018 pink salmon instead of 2019 (most recent even-year).

Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.