

Dow Jones **Factiva**

## Alaska Seafood Processors Expect to Spend More This Year on Pandemic-Related Costs

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By Angela Denning  
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Alaska's seafood industry has a lot of moving parts. There are the fishermen, the processors and the market, plus all of the fish.

By all accounts, the pandemic has hit the processors hard.

A recent survey found that they spent about \$70 million on COVID-19 mitigation measures and other pandemic-related costs in 2020. This year, that total is expected to be even more: Over \$100 million.

A lot of that has already been spent, said Dan Lesh of the McKinley Research Group.



“There were challenges and some plant closures that happened despite all these protocols,” he said.

McKinley [surveyed seafood processors and others](#) in March about the effects of COVID-19 on Alaska's seafood industry. Lesh said the flat fish industry was hit hard with coronavirus outbreaks in January, causing expensive plant closures. Those costs are in addition to the ongoing price for pandemic mitigation.

“A lot of these costs are already baked in, and my understanding is that most the mitigation measures will be continued,” he said.

In other words, this calendar year has more months when processors will be dealing with the pandemic.

Processors surveyed said their peak employment last year dropped 31% because of intentionally smaller workforces, as well as problems recruiting and retaining workers. Two-thirds of processors received pandemic relief money, but it only covered about a quarter of their costs, on average.

“None of the processors said it covered even half of their costs,” Lesh said. “Thirty-five percent was the highest estimate we got in our survey.”

But Lesh said there's hope that more relief money could come this year with newer programs.

As for the seafood market? While it's hard to summarize all species together, some areas saw growth, Lesh said. Take salmon, he said.

"Every indication is that everything's been sold out from last year," he said.

"There were times where we saw 30-40% increases in frozen and fresh seafood sales," said Ashley Heimbigner of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, which contracted the research group for the surveys.

Heimbigner said online seafood sales skyrocketed during the pandemic.

"So people are also getting more comfortable buying seafood online," she said "And that's through Instacart or their local grocer, but also through community-supported fisheries and direct marketers ordering direct from fishermen."

That's online, though. The food service market dropped out as restaurants were closed. And that instability affected prices paid to fishermen.

Then there's the fish: 2020 is considered [the worst year for the salmon returns](#) since the 1970s, and the state is seeking eight separate fisheries disaster declarations.

The forecasts for some species don't look very promising.

Chum are expected to be down 23% from the 10-year average. Pinks, which return every other year, could be down 41% from recent odd-years.

But it's hard to predict what exactly the season will be like. One thing's for sure: vaccinations are going to play a major role.

One of Alaska's biggest processors, Trident Seafoods, is requiring a fully-vaccinated workforce for its Petersburg plant. Last year workers stayed in a closed campus. In an email, spokesperson Shannon Carroll said they'll keep the campus open this year with some restrictions, as long as the town is in a low-risk status.

Tonka Seafoods, a smaller local processor, isn't requiring vaccinations but is strongly encouraging them with incentives. Co-owner Seth Scrimcher said about 80% of its workforce is vaccinated.

Petersburg's largest processor, OBI, which employs hundreds of workers, would not comment for this story. However, Petersburg's emergency operations center said the company told the borough it planned a 90% vaccination rate for resident employees and 100% for transient workers. And if they achieve this, then they would likely have an open campus.

Ultimately, how 2021 will turn out for the multi-billion dollar industry remains unknown — at least for now.

Photo Credit: shironosov/iStock/Getty Images Plus

#### **STORY TAGS:**

[Alaska](#), [seafood processors](#), [coronavirus](#)

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# Alaska Fish Radio: Salmon Markets Looking Good for Alaska; Halibut Hangs High

Source: Alaska Fish Radio  
By Laine Welch  
May 19, 2021

This is Alaska Fish Radio. I'm Laine Welch – Favorable winds for Alaska salmon so far and halibut hangs high. More market updates after this –

*Fish Radio is brought to you by Alaska Boats and Permits in Homer. Marine broker for vessels, permits and IFQs. Online at [www.alaskaboat.com](http://www.alaskaboat.com)*

*Did you know that eating wild and sustainable Alaska seafood can boost your immune system? Learn more about Alaska seafood's many proven nutritional benefits at [www.wildalaskaseafood.com](http://www.wildalaskaseafood.com).*

It's favorable winds for Alaska salmon based on market indicators so far. Starter grounds prices for fishermen at Copper River were reported at \$10 a pound for sockeyes and \$15 for kings.

That compares to Covid-crashed prices last year at \$3 for reds and \$6.50 for king salmon; this year's first opener prices are in line with 2019 start-offs.

The first 12-hour fishery produced a total of 9,750 fish: 7,779 sockeyes and 1,802 king salmon, said [Fish and Game in Cordova](#) by 395 deliveries.

For wild salmon's bellwether – sockeyes from Bristol Bay – markets appear “very favorable” heading into the 2021 season with strong demand.

Intel from the fishermen-funded and operated [Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association](#) says business risk due to the pandemic is down, demand is robust, global currencies favor buying from the U.S. and processing operations at Bristol Bay are in good shape.

While overall costs are expected to be higher, market conditions suggest a higher final/average dock price for Bristol Bay fishermen, the BBRSDA said.



Another indicator - US frozen sockeye exports in March averaged \$3.66 a pound at first-wholesale, the highest in a decade.

Other salmon inventories are in short supply, says Rob Reieron of global marketer [Tradex](#), especially chums. He says chum sales will move fast early in the season.

“There is an extreme lack of Chum Salmon that has put a supply strain on all other species of wild salmon. It is in my opinion that buyers need to stay extra vigilant to qualify any wild salmon offers they are receiving. Our recommendation is to get your Chum Salmon program in order, starting with inquiries into what volumes and sizes you will require this year.”

Switching to Pacific halibut: Prices are running about \$2 higher for fishermen than last year, nearing or over \$6 a pound at most major ports.

Demand for higher priced fresh halibut usually tapers off at this time, but Rob Reieron says not so this year.

“For halibut, demand in the fresh market is strong, and fresh halibut continues to dominate sales. Historically, we have seen processors freeze halibut after Mother's Day, however given the strong demand for fresh halibut, this could potentially delay production of frozen Halibut.”

Find links to Alaska fish prices and catches at [www.alaskafishradio.com](http://www.alaskafishradio.com) and on Facebook and Twitter.

*Fish Radio is also brought to you by OBI Seafoods, an Alaska corporation proudly supporting Alaska's coastal communities and the Alaskans who depend on fishing for their livelihoods and culture. [www.obiseafoods.com](http://www.obiseafoods.com)  
In Kodiak, I'm Laine Welch.*

Photo Credit: twildlife/iStock/Getty Images Plus

**STORY TAGS:**

[Alaska Fish Radio](#), [Alaska](#), [salmon](#), [halibut](#)

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## “New” Peter Pan Breaks All Records for Highest Grounds Prices in Copper River Fishery

May 28, 2021

Peter Pan Seafoods, under new management since the purchase last year from Maruha Nichiro by Rodger May of Northwest Fish Company and the Alaska-based McKinley Capital, broke historical records for ex-vessel prices last week when they pushed their offer for Copper River sockeyes to \$12.60/lb and for Chinook to an unprecedented \$19.60/lb.



“Since taking ownership in January, the new owners and all of Peter Pan have been working very hard to listen to fishermen about what they want and need,” said Jon Hickman, Peter Pan’s vice president of operations.

“We’ve developed this business plan that not only prioritizes our relationship with fishermen but also our employees and the communities in which we operate. We’ve made a number of commitments and every week we’re checking more boxes on the promises we’ve made: from more value-added products to opening in new areas.

“It’s a really exciting time at Peter Pan right now. We want people to know we are back and the Peter Pan Seafood Company today is not the same company people may remember from years past,” Hickman said.

The success of the first week and a half on the Copper was a perfect storm of sorts, with restaurants and retailers opening up after a year of lock-downs and pre-season sales for fresh sockeye fillets at \$45-\$65/lb. in Seattle with Chinook going from \$80/lb. to \$140/lb. depending on the cut. More marketing momentum surged for the First-Fish of the Year as both Trident and OBI Seafoods paired with celebrity chefs to launch separate promotions — each an innovative fundraiser for food banks and front-line workers. While the May 17 opener on the Copper River Flats was modest in terms of catch, the weather was good and social media eager to retweet and share a good news story from Alaska.

During the second opener on May 20, Peter Pan bumped prices up sixty cents to \$12.60/lb for sockeyes and 19.60/lb for Chinook. They worked with their strategic partners in Cordova to custom process the fish, flying it to buyers on Alaska Airlines.

During the third opener on Monday May 24, Peter Pan paid fishermen \$20/lb. for the prized Chinook, or king salmon. Then late on Tuesday, the state’s Fish and Game management biologists closed the Copper River fishery due to low escapement numbers. The earliest an opener may occur — an announcement is scheduled for this afternoon — will be Monday, Memorial Day. Meanwhile, two other sockeye fisheries will open in Prince William Sound on Monday morning.

Peter Pan will be buying in the Sound, but Hickman did not offer or speculate on what level prices will be next week.

“What will remain the same throughout the whole season is our commitment to providing the best service and support possible to the fleet,” Hickman said.

“New Peter Pan’s plan for this season and beyond is to produce more value-added products and export less work outside of the U.S. This philosophy, we believe, will bring the whole Alaska market up in all ports.”

Peter Pan has four processing facilities in Alaska: Valdez, Dillingham, Port Moller, and King Cove. They are all positioned to take advantage of the natural salmon runs and the most productive grounds for pollock, cod, flatfish, and crab.

Peter Pan began buying fish in Alaska in 1898 when Alaska Portland Packers staked a claim at the junction of the Wood and Nushagak Rivers in Bristol Bay, which was to become the community of Dillingham. Throughout the early part of the 20th century, Pacific American Fisheries (PAF) and P.E. Harris were leaders in the Alaska salmon industry. By 1917, PAF had processing facilities at King Cove and Port Moller and by mid-century they had created an export market to the United Kingdom for canned salmon. In 1962 P.E. Harris Company changed its name to Peter Pan Seafoods. In 1979 the company was sold to Nichiro and further expansion occurred.

Today, the company has made history again under new management and with an ambitious new plan to expand value-added products made in Alaska for markets worldwide.

Fishermen who have gillnetted the Flats for years appreciate the historical note but put it in broader and different contexts.

“It is the highest price I’ve seen in my career,” veteran Cordova harvester John Renner told Margaret Bauman of The Cordova Times. “With a small catch I think it is good for the fleet and generally bad for the market.” Renner’s concern was that high prices may put the fish out of reach for some consumers.

Veteran gillnetter Kathy Halgren, who fished from 1975 until the early 2000’s, is writing a memoir of her early years on the Flats. She remembered price negotiations from 1979, when Bob Blake was president of the Cordova Aquatic Marketing Association.

“The CAMA membership agreed to ask \$2 for the sockeye and \$1.85 for the kings. May 15 and not a single buyer matched the asking price. The gillnetters sat on the beach,” Halgren recalled.

“Before the second period, CAMA rejected an offer of \$1.40 for reds and \$1.60 for kings. We spent two additional agonizing periods, with great weather, on the beach. CAMA held a meeting Thursday morning. The major processors didn’t budge in their offer.

“The gillnetters were starving. They imagined the salmon flooding up the river. The harvesters were desperate to have cash in their pockets and taste their first bite of spring salmon. Members considered a price of \$1.40 and \$1.62 offered by cash buyers. The membership voted and we went fishing,” Halgren said.

A lot has changed in Cordova and in the Copper River since those price negotiations took place. The comments from both long-time fishermen -- one looking forward and one looking to the past -- help to put this new price level in perspective.

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#### **STORY TAGS:**

[Peter Pan Seafoods](#), [Copper River sockeyes](#), [Chinook Salmon](#), [ex-vessel prices](#)

# Russia May Face With a Shortage of Red Caviar This Year Due to Poor Salmon Catch

May 28, 2021

Russia may face a shortage of red caviar this year, mainly due to poor salmon catch in 2020, which became one of the lowest for the last several years.

In 2020 the salmon fishing season in Russia was one of the poorest for at least the last five years, when the overall salmon catch amounted to 300,000 tonnes, which is almost 56% less than in 2018.

The decline, however, was not only observed in Russia, but also in Alaska, where it was equivalent to 37% compared to previous years.

Poor salmon catch in 2020 led to the decline of red caviar production in Russia by almost two times last year, from 21,600 tonnes in 2019 to 11,000 tonnes. It resulted in the growth of prices for red caviar in the Russian market by almost 20%-60%.

According to predictions of Rosrybolovstvo, salmon catch this year may amount to about 459,300 tonnes, which is only 8% less than in 2019. At the same time the volume of caviar production may be about 18,000-20,000 tonnes.

In the meantime, most producers and local analysts consider these forecasts as too optimistic. The majority of them believe that the peak salmon catch in Russia has already passed, with output within the next several years not exceeding 300,000-350,000 tonnes per fishing season.

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[Russia](#), [salmon](#)

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# JAPAN: Fish Roe Prices Up Significantly In May At The Tokyo Central Wholesale Market

June 29, 2021

Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market sales of salted fish roe in May were significantly lower than the same month of the previous year, with the average selling price of all products rising sharply, except for herring roe in the off-season. Ikura salmon caviar, which increased in April ahead of the Golden Week holidays, also dropped sharply as the selling price grew, reports Suisan Keizai.

## Sujiko salted salmon roe

Domestic inventories continued to run short just before the arrival of new products from North America. Sales in May were 19 tons, continuing to fall below the same month last year.

The price was 3277 yen/kg (\$29.57/kg), which was 5.5% or 170 yen/kg (\$1.53/kg) higher than April, holding a high price due to product shortage.

In January through May, the total quantity sold decreased by 24.2% to 94 tons, and the unit price increased by 20.1% to 3196 yen/kg. Depending on the new product, it is likely to set the lowest sales record for the year.

## Ikura salmon caviar

Due to the shortage of salmon roe in general, the supply of Ikura salmon caviar decreased significantly. The selling price rose to 6926 yen/kg (\$62.55/kg). If it exceeds 7,000 yen/kg (\$63.22/kg), it will be the highest price in three years, but it has already reached the same high level as four seasons ago.

In April, due to the effects of the Golden Week holidays and the temporary easing of outing restrictions under COVID-19, monthly sales exceeded 100 tons. Still, in May, temporary demand disappeared due to the impact of another state emergency from late April, stalling sales volume again. Despite this, high unit prices continued, and this trend is likely to continue until the shortage is resolved.

## Alaska pollock roe

The increase in product prices became remarkable after March, likely because the new production of raw material decreased unexpectedly, increasing the cost of green roe.

In May, the price was 1397 yen (\$12.61/kg), up 15.6% from the same month of the previous year. In response, the sales volume decreased by nearly 20% to only 101 tons. The cumulative total has slowed down by 10% to 512 tons, but the price went up 10% to 1396 yen/kg (\$12.60/kg).

## Mentaiko spicy pollock roe



As with salted pollock roe, high product prices and declines in sales volume became apparent. Sales volume in May was 152 tons, down 9.0% from the same month of the previous year. Unit price rose 17.7% to 1695 yen/kg (\$15.31/kg), returning to the high level two years ago.

Until April, the price was relatively stable in 1500 to 1600 yen/kg (\$13.55-14.45/kg). Hence, the cumulative unit price from January to May was 1583 yen/kg (\$14.30/kg), slightly higher by 3.7% than the same period of the previous year. The sales volume was 786 tons, down 5.5%.

#### Salted kazunoko herring roe

The sales volume increased a little, and although it was in the off-sales season, it sold 13 tons in May, which was 60% higher than the same month of the previous year. Although the cumulative total volume from January to May decreased by nearly 20% to 59 tons, the May sales volume increased even though the unit price continued to rise.

The average unit price was 2652 yen/kg (\$23.98/kg), 19.0% higher. Since February, it had been significantly higher than the previous year, so the average price for cumulative total returned to 2453 yen (\$22.18/kg), 10.6% higher than the last year.

#### Seasoned kazunoko herring roe

High product prices had continued for a long time due to a chronic high cost of green roe, and the selling price in May was 2467 yen (\$22.31/kg), 42.4% higher than the same month of the previous year.

Of course, price differences are depending on the grade and specifications. Still, the sales volume of 7 tons in May was 40% higher than the previous year, and both the sales volume and unit price were significantly higher.

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#### **STORY TAGS:**

[Japan](#), [fish roe](#)

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# Alaska Fish Radio

## Salmon market is hotter than ever: “Unprecedented!”

by [Laine Welch](#) | Aug 30, 2021 | [Uncategorized](#)



Bill Webber of Cordova

Alaska's salmon catch is on its way to 205 million fish and by all reports, markets are set to buy all they can get. Here's how [global supplier Tradex](#) of British Columbia sums it up. Spokesperson Rochelle Reieron —

*“Our recommendation is to buy everything and anything you need or will need for your inventories – now. Stocks will deplete and prices will continue to rise. If you require Salmon, now is the time to buy and stock up or you will be left out.”*

Reieron says any sockeye on the market quickly sold out.

*“Processors are even buying in the open market to ensure product for their programs and with that, processors are also taking PO’s in advance of fishing and pricing is subject to catch.”*

The same holds true for farmed salmon. The Covid pandemic caused “an explosion of salmon consumption” James Griffin, director of the Chilean Salmon Marketing Council, told [Undercurrent News](#). He said that Americans are more excited than ever to buy salmon “and even though foodservice has returned and prices are way up, sales remain at a torrid pace.”

Griffin added that the entire salmon market is “unprecedented” describing it “like an inflated balloon that’s expanding exponentially across every supplier, whether it’s wild or farmed.”

Chile is the top importer of farmed Atlantic salmon to the U.S. followed by Canada and Norway.

The U.S. imported more than 450 million pounds of farmed salmon worth \$2.1 billion from all sources in the first six months of this year, according to federal trade data. (205,927mt)

That’s equivalent to 57% of the total volume and 62% of total value for all of 2020.

Undercurrent said this past June, the average price paid for farmed salmon imports was \$5.70 a pound, 24% higher than the average \$4.60 paid the previous year.

Alaska provides 95% of the wild salmon purchased by Americans. But it’s share of the [global salmon market](#) is just 13% with farmed salmon production outnumbering wild harvests by nearly 3 to one.

# Troll catch for chum salmon in Sitka Sound hits new record

August 31, 2021 by Robert Woolsey, KCAW - Sitka



While a troller fishes in the background, the seiner St. Teresa brings in a set of cost-recovery chum in Crawfish Inlet. NSRAA releases two chum stocks, a summer run reared at Hidden Falls Hatchery, and a fall run reared at Medvejie/Bear Cove. This latter stock is driving the record harvest in Sitka Sound in August. (NSRAA image)

The troll fishery for chum salmon in Sitka Sound has gone from looking pretty dismal to record-setting — almost overnight.

A surge of hatchery-produced, fall chum has been pushing catch rates for trollers into numbers normally seen by the net fisheries.

The troll catch for chum hit a new record last Friday, with almost half a million fish, about 50,000 more than the old record set in 2013. And the fishing isn't over yet.

Even more extraordinary is the turnaround in chum this year, from zero to hero. June and July were bad, and then August came.

“Early to mid-August they just started hitting the hooks for the trollers,” said Scott Wagner, general manager of the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. “That’s what the first indication was.”

Although NSRAA is a nonprofit hatchery based in Sitka, the payday for the fleet has been significant, especially when adding in the chum harvest from Crawfish Inlet (175,000), about 20 miles to the south. One-hundred-fifty-eight permit holders have been landing anywhere between 200 and 600 fish per day. At around \$1.15 per pound, and six-pound average, that totals over \$4.6 million.

This is the kind of volume more typical of purse seiners, whose bigger boats and large nets scoop up fish by the hundreds. Trollers are hook-and-line boats that catch salmon one at a time, and Wagner says they were doing generally better out in Sitka Sound than seiners, which concentrate their effort in the bays, near the release sites.

Despite the large numbers, it’s still fishing, and not all gear groups saw the same success. Wagner says that gillnetters appear to have missed the boat this year.

“Unfortunately for them (gillnetters) they have not had a good year at Deep Inlet,” said Wagner. “Trollers are having really good interception. The few times when you have the right weather and wind conditions to push them into the inlet, they were not in the right place at the right time to catch them, and those went to the seine fleet.”

NSRAA chum has made headlines before. In 2018, the first year of the Crawfish Inlet project, [there was a return of 3.4 million fish](#) — a staggering success rate for a release of 20 million fry just three years earlier. The composition of this year’s big return is also mostly three-year-

olds, and Wagner is unsure why. NSRAA has traditionally based its forecast models on four-year-old chum. The prevailing theory on these swings in abundance is warming ocean temperatures.

“I think what we’re seeing is [the impact of The Blob](#),” said Wagner, “that heatwave that hit the gulf 2016-18. Those impacts linger several years and we’re just now seeing reports that the plankton makeup in the gulf is just now rebounded from the shift that happened during those warm years.”

[A striking comparison can be found in the 2020 season](#) in Deep Inlet, when only 700,000 fish total returned, on a release of 55 million fry.

Even on a good run like this year’s in Sitka Sound, success isn’t uniform, and can even be mysterious. About twice as many of the chum being caught right now are headed back to the Medvejie hatchery in Bear Cove, although less than half as many fry — 20 million — were released there than at Deep Inlet, which had 55 million. The two release sites are only 12 miles apart by water.

As much as is known about rearing salmon, Wagner says there’s a lot of uncertainty.

“There is a lot of thought process and research and science in it,” said Wagner, “but it’s a giant black box out there that you dump everything into and see what comes out.”

NSRAA wrapped up its cost-recovery fishing on Aug. 25 — where it harvests and sells enough salmon to cover the expenses of hatchery operations. The Department of Fish & Game opened Crawfish Inlet to “common property” seining last Thursday, in order to minimize the straying of hatchery-produced chum into streams that already support wild stocks. Seining will remain open until Sept. 24.

Dow Jones **Factiva**

## **Kamchatka's Salmon Fishing Season Concludes with Record Catch Exceeding 440,000 Tonnes**

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September 23, 2021

Commercial salmon fishing ended on September 22 on the west coast of Kamchatka, Russia, and the total catch of salmon on the peninsula has exceeded 440,000 tonnes, the press service of the regional government reported on Wednesday.

Commercial salmon fishing on the east coast of the peninsula concluded on September 11, thus the region's 2021 salmon-fishing season has finished.

"The fishing season was successful this year. Fishermen demonstrated the second record result in the entire history, having exceeded 440,000 tonnes in all types of fishing, with about 435,000 tonnes being in commercial fishing. Meantime, the initial forecasts of sectoral science had been 360,000 tonnes," Kamchatka Fisheries Minister Andrei Zdetovetsky was quoted as saying in the report.

Zdetovetsky stressed that the anglers achieved an excellent result despite restrictions on the availability of transportation, logistics and processing.

"A large role was played by the promptness of the fishing regulation as well as the additional allocation of production volumes by the Russian Federal Fisheries Agency (Rosrybolovstvo). Additionally, we have high rates of allowing producers to spawn. The science notes that we have coped with the task of ensuring natural reproduction, suggesting that fish protection has also done a good job," Zdetovetsky said.

According to the press service, 96 industrial enterprises and 121 indigenous communities have participated in salmon fishing in Kamchatka this year, with amateur fishing having been organized at 80 fishing sites.

The volume of salmon for traditional fishing totaled nearly 7,500 tonnes. In addition to the indigenous communities, more than 10,000 anglers took advantage of the right to fish from 50 kg to 200 kg depending on the area of residence. About 730 tonnes of salmon had been allocated for amateur fishing.

### **STORY TAGS:**

[Kamchatka](#), [Russia](#), [salmon](#)

Story Posted: 9/23/2021 9:27:41 AM

## Global Wild Salmon Tallies; Ongoing Trade Hits from Russian Embargo, China Tariffs

Source: Fish Radio with Laine Welch  
By Laine Welch  
September 28, 2021

This is Alaska Fish Radio. I'm Laine Welch – global wild salmon tallies and ongoing U.S. trade hits. More after this -

*The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute provides digital and print marketing materials to the Alaska seafood industry. Find access to thousands of stunning photos, high quality video footage, and sales tools at [www.alaskaseafood.org](http://www.alaskaseafood.org).*



*Grundéns' DECK-BOSS 15-inch boots feature a protective toe cap, uppers that won't crack, and compression molded rubber outsoles for better traction on wet decks. Made in the USA.*

Alaska's salmon catch has topped 226 million – that's 36 million more fish than the preseason projection.

That production is dwarfed by Alaska's biggest competitor – Russia - whose wild salmon catch of nearly 386 million fish is 13% more than expected.

Trade data show that the US so far this year has purchased nearly three million pounds of salmon from Russia valued at almost \$11 million. Nearly half of the volume and value was from sockeye salmon.

Global market watcher Tradex predicts the combined 2021 wild salmon totals from Russia, the US, Japan, Canada and South Korea will top 2 billion pounds compared to 1.3 billion pounds last year.

But all that salmon will go into a tight market, says spokesperson Rochelle Reiersen -

*"Sockeye continues to remain short. We have not seen any twice frozen fillets on the market yet and there are virtually zero once frozen offers. We do not expect much more sockeye to come out for the remainder of the year and when the odd offer does appear, expect it to be very expensive. Our recommendation for sockeye buyers is to seek out an alternative Salmon product. For chum, there has not been a lot of product and we do not expect to see much more either. For pinks, even though the salmon season saw an abundance of pinks, there does not seem to be much pink offers available from Alaska right now."*



On the trade front: Russia has not purchased a single pound of US seafood since 2014 due to a trade embargo, yet Russian seafood imports to the US have increased by 173%.

And the continuing trade war with China has pushed up tariffs as high as 37% to 42% on seafood going to that country.

Seafood is Alaska's top export by far and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute reports that the value going to China has dropped by about half a billion dollars in the last four years.

Find links at [www.alaskafishradio.com](http://www.alaskafishradio.com) and on Facebook and Twitter.

*Fish Radio is also brought to you by Ocean Beauty Seafoods, an Alaska corporation proudly supporting Alaska's coastal communities and the Alaskans who depend on fishing for their livelihoods and culture. [www.obiseafoods.com](http://www.obiseafoods.com) In Kodiak, I'm Laine Welch.*

Photo Credit: [Konstantin Baidin](#) / Shutterstock.com

**STORY TAGS:**

[Alaska](#), [Alaska Fish Radio](#), [salmon](#)

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Source: SeafoodNews.com

## Alaska Salmon 2021 Catches, Values Rank Third

Source: Alaska Fish Radio  
By Laine Welch  
November 3, 2021

This is Alaska Fish Radio. I'm Laine Welch – Alaska's 2021 salmon fishery ranks third in the record books. More after this –

*Fish Radio is brought to you by Alaska Boats and Permits in Homer. Marine broker for vessels, permits and IFQs. Online at [www.alaskaboat.com](http://www.alaskaboat.com)*

*The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute provides digital and print marketing materials to the Alaska seafood industry. Find access to thousands of stunning photos, high quality video footage, and sales tools at [www.alaskaseafood.org](http://www.alaskaseafood.org).*

It's a fish trifecta for Alaska's 2021 salmon season! The fishery produced the third highest catch, fish poundage and value on record dating back to 1975.



The [preliminary harvests and values by region](#) were released this week by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The catch of nearly 234 million salmon had a dockside value of almost \$644 million, nearly 46% higher than last year. (117 fish valued at just over \$295 million) and weighing in at 858.5 million pounds.

All Alaska regions saw salmon earnings double or nearly triple from last year, except for the Kuskokwim, Yukon and Kotzebue where values decreased.

At Southeast, for example, the value to fishermen topped \$132 million compared to just \$50 million last year.

Prince William Sound salmon at nearly \$122 million was up from about \$72 million in 2020.

Cook Inlet salmon values crept up to nearly \$19 million, a \$9 million increase.

Kodiak salmon values topped \$51 million, an increase of more than \$24 million.

At the Alaska Peninsula the salmon value this year topped \$67 million, a nearly \$51 million gain.

At Bristol Bay, the salmon value of nearly \$249 million was an increase of more than \$108 million from last year.

Sockeyes accounted for nearly 56% of the total value at over \$361 million and 24% of the harvest.

Pinks at nearly \$179 million were 28% of the value and 69% of the statewide harvest.

A total of 6,362 individual permit holders made salmon landings in 2021, a slight decrease from 2020 (6,496 permits).

Prices for all salmon increased across the board with Chinook averaging \$5.82 per pound, a 75-cent increase; sockeyes averaged \$1.34 compared to 76-cents last year, cohos fetched \$1.45 compared to \$1.17, pinks at 37-cents was a 7-cent increase and chums averaged 77-cents a pound, a 34-cent increase.

The values don't reflect post-season adjustments or bonuses to fishermen. The final value of the 2021 salmon fishery will be determined next spring following reports from buyers.

Find links to the 2021 Alaska salmon report at [www.alaskafishradio.com](http://www.alaskafishradio.com) and on Facebook and Twitter.

**Check out the lineup at Pacific Marine Expo, Nov. 18-20 in Seattle. [www.pacificmarineexpo.com](http://www.pacificmarineexpo.com)**

*Fish Radio is also brought to you by OBI Seafoods, an Alaska corporation proudly supporting Alaska's coastal communities and the Alaskans who depend on fishing for their livelihoods and culture. Visit [www.obiseafoods.com](http://www.obiseafoods.com) In Kodiak, I'm Laine Welch.*

Photo Credit: Shutterstock/ Maxim Gorishniak/ 4355

**STORY TAGS:**

[Alaska Fish Radio](#), [Alaska](#), [salmon](#)

Story Posted: 11/3/2021 9:21:03 AM

Source: SeafoodNews.com

Dow Jones **Factiva**

# Southeast Alaska Commercial Salmon Harvest 4 Times Higher Than Last Year

Copyright © 2021 Alaska Public Media  
By Sage Smiley  
November 5, 2021

Southeast Alaska's salmon harvest was over four times more than last year's, according to [a preliminary report](#) from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game released on Monday.

Commercial fishermen in Southeast harvested 58 million salmon across the five species this year: almost 7 million chum salmon, 48 million pinks, 1.5 million coho, 1.1 million sockeye and 216,000 king salmon.

That's [a marked improvement in harvest for every species](#). Even the embattled Southeast king salmon had a commercial harvest increase of more than 16,000 fish. In total, commercial salmon fishermen in the region caught and sold 44 million more salmon than last year.



Even taking into account the odd-year pink salmon peaks, this year's pink salmon harvest was [more than double 2019's Southeast Alaska pink salmon catch](#).

The preliminary ex-vessel value of the 2021 salmon fishery in Southeast was over \$132 million this year — more than double last year's preliminary ex-vessel value for the salmon fishery. That breaks a three-year streak of dropping ex-vessel values for Southeast's salmon fishery.

Price per pound was also up across all five species this year in Southeast, according to the preliminary report. That was true for many other salmon fisheries in the state. In Bristol Bay, the price per pound for sockeye jumped 250% from 2020's preliminary price.

Fish & Game reports that the statewide salmon harvest — both by numbers of fish and by weight — was the third-highest on record, and this year's statewide salmon harvest was almost double last year's.

The statewide ex-vessel value of almost \$644 million is the third-highest reported since the mid-1970s.

Photo Credit: Claudiovidri/ Shutterstock

**STORY TAGS:**



The global supply chain is having trouble recovering. Photo: Jonathan Boonzaier

## 'It's really dire': Experts warn no relief on the horizon from high shipping costs

While shipping companies enjoy a \$100 billion profits bonanza, those shipping seafood and other goods are stuck with high freight rates for the foreseeable future.

3 September 2021 20:40 GMT

19 October 2021 5:31 GMT *UPDATED* 19 October 2021 12:14 GMT

By [Ian Lewis](#) and [John Evans](#)

Shipping companies are reluctant to put a date on when container shipping trade will return to anything remotely like normal, spelling bad news for seafood companies importing and processing inventory in other parts of the world -- Asia in particular.

Container line operators are collectively expected to make around \$100 billion (€86 billion) in profits this year, a result of the phenomenal, COVID-19-induced bonanza that nobody predicted.

While this may be welcome news for the shipping sector, which has endured a long period of low shipping rates, the seafood industry is among many sectors struggling to deal with a shortage of shipping containers, which has driven up freight costs massively for US and European importers.

[Among several other problems, containers have become displaced around the world, far away from ports where they are needed.](#)

A single container shipment from Asia to the United States was priced at more than \$20,000 (€17,000) per 40-ft equivalent unit in early September, up to 10 times what it might have cost in recent years.

As businesses across the world have grappled with fallout from the shipping container shortage exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, [container manufacturers appear in no hurry to restore the balance, as they seek to boost profits in a once former flagging industry.](#)

The rise in rates has been fueled by a shift in consumer. COVID lockdowns led to higher consumer spending on goods delivered in containers and less spending on services such as dining out and travel.

“In the US, the demand is phenomenal,” Zim CFO Xavier Destriau told **IntraFish** sister publication [TradeWinds](#). Zim is an international leader in container shipping.

“And we still have bottlenecks on the supply side. That is fueling the rates week after week.”

## Pressure post-COVID

It's not just COVID-19. “Black swan” events such as [the grounding of the \*Ever Given\* in the Suez Canal in March](#) and lockdowns in Chinese ports have further restricted supply in the shipping sector. And congestion has built up in US ports as COVID-19 rules have led to a shortage of workers.

But Destriau believes markets will remain stronger, irrespective of the pandemic.

“If we were to wake up tomorrow in a COVID-19-free world, we truly think that up until year end, we’ll still have pressure on the supply side,” he said.

“Chinese New Year is now a minimum timeline for a new normalization, and maybe beyond.”



**Container spot freight rates fall sharply, but when will pain end for seafood industry?**  
[Read more](#)

The prospect of a tight container market for months to come is bad news for shippers, not least in the seafood industry.

Companies shipping smaller volumes that are exposed to the spot market face paying extortionate container rates because they are unlikely to get their cargoes onto ships without paying hefty premiums.

## 'Really dire'

More surprising, perhaps, is how the tightness has become problematic for shipping liner operators.

The situation is "really dire," according to Nils Haupt, senior director of Germany's Hapag-Lloyd.

"We really want normalcy. We all want supply chains to run smoothly," he said. "The system is not working well enough, and we all need to pull in the same direction to get this resolved."

A representative of one major liner operator refers to the container shipping system as having "broken down," with complaints from both customers and crews over port schedule reliability.

Several lines are expected to follow European operators CMA CGM and Hapag-Lloyd, which have imposed voluntary rate caps after anger from customers over high prices and poor service.

[France's CMA CGM set the ball rolling by saying it would impose a freeze on spot rates in the coming months. German rival Hapag-Lloyd confirmed it has implemented similar measures in a freight market in which "prices are just too high".](#)

At the same time it is anyone's guess when the global business community can put the shipping container crisis firmly behind it.

That will depend on global progress in bringing the pandemic fully under control, according to Jeremy Nixon, chief executive at shipping container firm Ocean Network Express (ONE).

On that front, risks remain that low vaccination levels in many countries can result in sudden changes in labor availability and operational conditions.

But the liner industry is doing its bit to help, having "deployed every spare vessel and containers," Nixon said.

It is why some operators talk of a "new normal" in container shipping that will mean a soft landing for freight rates.

Even when congestion eases and demand normalizes, supply will be limited as liner companies play catch up on their fleets, Destriau said.

"We are of the view that the 'new normal' in terms of equilibrium and rate level will remain higher than the pre-COVID level," he said.

## Eye-popping profits

Eight carriers that account for nearly half of global shipping capacity — Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd, Zim, Ocean Network Express (ONE), HMM, Evergreen, Yang Ming and Wan Hai — will rake in more than \$65 billion (€56 billion) in operating profits over 2021, according to analyst firm Alphaliner.

Most of the gains will come in the second half as capacity is squeezed and port congestion continues to push rates up.

Unsurprisingly for an industry that has been bleeding money for the best part of a decade, there are plenty of counter-arguments to companies complaining about the rates.

The steep rise in prices has led to some unprecedented shifts in the sector, though, including the entrance of a new breed of charterers.

Chinese freight forwarders and well-known retail outlets such as Home Depot, Walmart and Ikea have [entered a charter market that was previously more or less the sole domain of established liner operators](#).

Whether these new charterers will remain in the market once freight rates fall to more normal levels remains to be seen.

It seems likely that some will drop out, but others could see advantages in gaining greater control of their supply chains. It has long been rumored that Amazon is looking at setting up shipping services for its huge online shopping business.

In the longer term, the fate of container markets depends on controlling the pandemic, according to Jeremy Nixon chief executive at shipping container firm Ocean Network Express (ONE).

“Ultimately, demand and supply will come back into balance, but we remain conservative in trying to predict when this may or may not happen,” Nixon said.

With the shipping chaos, insurance rates for shipping seafood around the globe are starting to stabilize at 'new normal' levels some 20-40 percent higher than before the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, just one of several consequences of global trade disruptions.





## Indoor DIPAC exhibits to remain closed for summer

Outdoor viewing and salmon counts still on

By Dana Zigmund

Monday, June 28, 2021 5:44pm | NEWS LOCAL NEWS SALMON

Staff at the Douglas Island Pink and Chum Inc.'s Macaulay Salmon Hatchery are ready for another summer season — even if it will be a little different than past years.

According to DIPAC executive director Katie Harms, the indoor public spaces of the Ladd Macaulay Visitor Center will remain closed for the summer, including the rearing facility, touch tanks, aquariums and bear and bald eagle displays. The facility closed for public visits in the spring of 2020 as part of COVID-19 prevention.

“We hope to open in the fall,” Harms said.

She said that in December the board of directors decided to keep the doors shut for the summer so that cruise ship and travel package companies could plan around the closure and avoid having to process potential refunds.

Harms said people are welcome to visit all outside viewing areas, including the 450-foot fish ladder, the viewing window and to interact with the exterior signage.

According to DIPAC’s website, on-site “educational signage details the life cycle of Pacific Salmon and Alaska hatchery operations.” The signs explain the differences between the five species of Pacific Salmon. Informational posters located on the windows of the hatchery provide additional information.

The city’s sport fishing pier located next to the facility remains open and provides direct access to salmon returning to the hatchery. Nearby benches offer plentiful opportunities to see bald eagles. Seals often gather in the area as the salmon return.

### Landside damages DIPAC’s freshwater supply

#### **Recovery**

In December, a landslide damaged a pipeline carrying freshwater from the Salmon Creek reservoir to the hatchery, severing its freshwater source and necessitating the destruction of some fish.

At the time, the Empire reported that all chinook pre-smolt, the majority of coho pre-smolt and all rainbow trout were destroyed to preserve water for the hatchery. Pre-smolt is a salmon in a developmental stage before smolt, which is the stage before adulthood.

In a phone interview last week, Harms said that there had been no significant additional losses stemming from the incident.

“We had some losses. But, the overall crisis averted,” she said.

Harms said that the facility maintained chum salmon production despite the incident and that staff had released those fish to the sea.

## Paddling the channel

### **Season off to a slow start**

Harms said it's too early to make predictions about this year's salmon return. But, the fish were slow to appear this summer.

According to a June 24 harvest update posted on DIPAC's website, "chum catch numbers appear to be well below forecast for Lynn Canal and Taku Inlet after the first opener of the season. There have been a handful of trollers fishing homeshore the past week with a slow start to the season."

A new update will be available on Thursday, July 1.

• *Contact reporter Dana Zigmund at [dana.zigmund@juneauempire.com](mailto:dana.zigmund@juneauempire.com) or 907-308-4891.*



## No salmon processing at OBI Seafoods' Excursion Inlet plant this summer

Posted by [Henry Leasia](#) | Apr 5, 2021 | [Featured Stories](#), [News](#) |

OBI Seafoods will not process salmon at its cannery in Excursion Inlet this summer. The Haines Borough is preparing for a dramatic reduction in raw fish tax revenue as a result. OBI Seafoods will continue to buy salmon from local fishermen for its plant in Petersburg.

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Last year, weak salmon returns and the pandemic led to a quiet summer at the Excursion Inlet plant. This year, they won't be processing salmon at all.

OBI Seafoods Public Affairs Manager Julianne Curry said the decision was made based on forecasted salmon returns for this summer.

"The company took a really careful look at the State of Alaska salmon run predictions for the 2021 season and we made the really difficult decision to shut down salmon buying at our Excursion Inlet facility this year," Curry said.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has forecast a return of 28 million pink salmon to Southeast Alaska. That's a little bit lower than the 10-year average but better than the most recent years. Salmon runs for other species are forecasted to be below average, particularly the hatchery chum targeted by many Lynn Canal gillnetters.

Curry said OBI Seafoods will still be purchasing salmon for their plant in Petersburg while the Excursion Inlet facility is not operating. "Our fishermen who have long-term ties to the facility and the people there really aren't going to notice much, if anything, in terms of service interruption," Curry said. "Petersburg can handle all of the deliveries that people are looking to

make when it comes to the summer salmon season this year. We're planning on still having an incredibly high level of tender support and we've got some first-rate tenders."

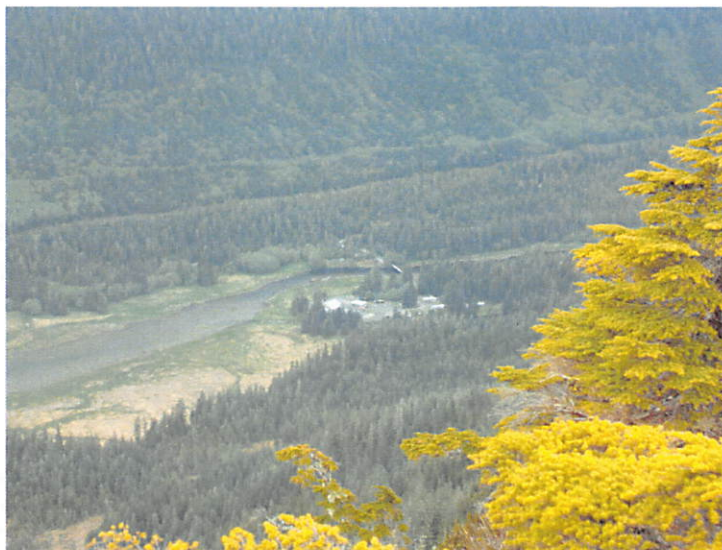
The Excursion Inlet cannery has provided a source of tax revenue for the Haines Borough for years. Raw fish taxes in Haines have averaged \$231,000 each year over the past 5 years. With the suspension of salmon processing this summer, Haines Borough manager Alekka Fullerton expects only about \$35,000 worth of raw fish tax revenue for the next fiscal year.

Curry says the suspension of salmon processing in Excursion Inlet is not a permanent decision. The company will re-evaluate at the end of the 2021 season.



### Hatchery funding bill passes House, on to Senate

Posted by Joe Viechnicki | May 19, 2021



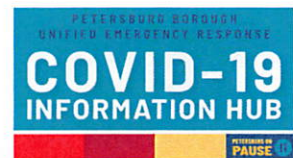
Thousands of king and coho salmon return to the Crystal Lake Hatchery on Mitkof Island near Petersburg each summer. (Joe Viechnicki/KFSK)

A bill to fund maintenance work and enhancement programs at state owned sport fish hatcheries passed the Alaska House this month but time is running out on its passage this session.

House bill 80 would reinstate a surcharge on sport fishing licenses. A higher surcharge was in place until this year and the money from it was used to pay back the debt from building sport fish hatcheries in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Some of the money also paid for hatchery king salmon production near Petersburg and Juneau.

Wasilla Republican Rep. David Eastman was one of two votes against final passage in the House. He wondered if the bill violated the state's constitution.

"In article 9, section 7 we have a provision that states that the proceeds of any state tax or license shall not be dedicated to any special purpose," Eastman said. There is an exception for requirements from the federal government. I'm not aware that we are required to have these surcharges from the federal government to contribute to those programs."



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Money from the sale of fishing, hunting and trapping licenses goes into a state revolving fund for Fish and Game resources, one exception to that Constitutional prohibition. Anchorage Democratic Rep. Geran Tarr noted this bill would create a sub-account of that fund similar to one that was already in place to pay off the hatchery debt.

"I also thought I might just point to the fiscal note so that folks could notice that largely this would be absorbed by non-resident individuals coming to Alaska, so the non-resident 14-day sport fishing, 7-day, 3-day, one day and I think that's just great for us to consider at this time because you know of course we love that the visitors come but we need them to also contribute to the services that they receive while they're here," Tarr said.

Reinstatement of the surcharge was proposed by the Dunleavy administration but it was increased in the House. It has support from both commercial and sport fishing interests. The bill would add 6 dollars and 50 cents (\$6.50) to the cost of a resident license. Non-resident licenses would increase by \$6.50 up to \$42.50.

The bill directs the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to use some of the revenue from the surcharge for fisheries management, research, invasive species and habitat restoration. The rest would go to maintaining the state's hatcheries in Anchorage, Fairbanks and near Petersburg as well as enhancement programs for sport fishing.

The measure passed the House May 7 on a 36-2 vote and goes to the Senate next. The session ends May 19th. Bills that don't pass this session will carry over until next year.

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Today Friday, May 21

[Petersburg Court Closed at 12noon](#)

[Beef Spaghetti](#)

7:00am [Tai Chi at Mountain View](#)

8:00am [Legislative Informatic](#)

12:00pm [Cancelled - Al-Anon](#)

12:00pm [Daily Mass](#)

5:30pm [Steak Night](#)

6:00pm [Friday Night Bingo](#)

7:00pm [AA Meeting - Candle](#)

**Saturday, May 22**

[Baler Facility Closed](#)

12:00pm [Soup and Bread Mee](#)

5:30pm [St. Catherine's Cathc](#)

**Sunday, May 23**

[Parks and Rec Community Cente](#)

8:30am [St. Catherine's Cathc](#)

10:00am [Petersburg Lutheran](#)

11:00am [First Baptist Church](#)

11:00am [Presbyterian Church](#)

11:00am [Sunday Service at Li](#)

**Monday, May 24**

[Hamburgers](#)



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# HB 80 would help boost funding for sport fisheries

By [The Cordova Times](#) - May 16, 2021

House Bill 80, which passed the House 52-4, and is now under consideration by the Senate, would allow the Department of Fish and Game to resume collection of a surcharge on sportfishing licenses.

That would raise an estimated half a million dollars annually toward enhancement and maintenance of sportfishing facilities.

“Alaskans who enjoy and rely on sportfishing deserve credit for finding a solution to help protect salmon enhancement programs, an idea that found support across the political spectrum,” said Speaker of the House Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak.

Rep. Bart LeBon, R-Fairbanks, who carried HB 80 on the House floor, noted that the state’s world-class natural resources attract sportfish harvesters from around the state and globe. This bill will help ensure the future of maintenance needs at hatchery facilities around the state and promote habitat restoration, sport fisheries management and research and invasive species management, he said.

HB 80 addresses the critical need for legislative action so that salmon enhancement programs will continue in Southeast Alaska, with the primary goal of helping reverse the alarming trend of reduced Chinook salmon numbers, said Rep. Dan Ortiz, I-Ketchikan.

## The Cordova Times

The Cordova Times is Prince William Sound’s oldest newspaper, publishing since 1914. Send story ideas and news tips to [news@thecordovaitimes.com](mailto:news@thecordovaitimes.com).

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Dow Jones **Factiva**

# Opinion: Sustaining Alaska's Fisheries Through Nonprofit Hatcheries

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By Matt Alward

June 10, 2021

You don't need me to tell you that fishing is central to Alaskan life — as an economic driver, cultural touchstone, and recreational centerpiece. From commercial businesses to subsistence harvest to sport charters, fisheries have always played a significant role in the lives of Alaskans across the state, and we hope to continue that tradition for generations to come. Alaska's fish stocks are a renewable resource that can support sustained fisheries well into the future—but only if properly managed. Hatcheries are vital to ensuring long-term sustainable harvests for all user groups, in years of both abundance and low returns, in Alaska.

The United Fishermen of Alaska strongly opposes fish farming — but hatcheries are not fish farms. In Alaska's hatcheries, fish eggs are fertilized, reared to grow into juveniles, and then released as fry to the ocean to grow into adulthood. Most fundamentally, hatcheries serve to improve egg-to-juvenile survival. In nature, egg-to-fry survival rates among fish average less than 10%; in hatcheries, that rate is over 90%. With a mission to supplement wild stocks, most critically during years of low returns, hatcheries have allowed Alaska's fish populations to thrive without reducing harvest opportunities for the user groups that rely on salmon. The development of Alaska's hatchery program in the 1970s coincided with an incredible rebound of wild salmon populations across the state. It has led to some of the highest harvests in recorded history. As much of the world struggles to avoid overfishing, or depletion of natural fish populations, Alaska's fish stock remains abundant, with three of the four highest wild stock returns in Alaska's history occurring within the last ten years.

Nearly 50 years after establishing the hatchery associations, all commercial salmon fishermen in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Kodiak and Cook Inlet harvest hatchery-produced salmon as a part of their overall harvests. Beyond commercial fisheries, hatcheries contribute to salmon harvests for both sport fishing by residents and tourists, and personal and subsistence fishing. A recent 2020 report found that Alaska's sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries roughly harvested hatchery salmon of 10,000 chinook, 5,000 chum, 100,000 coho, 19,000 pinks, and 138,000 sockeye between 2012-2016 annually. When it came to sport fishing alone, 17% of coho, 5% of sockeye, and 8% of chinook harvests were hatchery stock.

The report also outlined the role that hatchery fish play in providing vital fishing opportunities that otherwise would result in extremely limited harvests. We've all experienced some level of the inevitable ebb and flow in past fishing seasons. Still, with the contribution of hatchery-produced fish to the overall salmon population, the impact of that ebb and flow has been limited. Overall, hatchery-produced fish supplement the total salmon harvest and help to protect fisheries from large fluctuations in wild salmon populations. To further protect wild salmon stocks, the genetic diversity of hatchery-produced salmon is monitored, tested, and regulated closely by the Department of Fish and Game. Hatchery populations are marked before release to distinguish them from wild stocks.

Alaska's hatcheries and their mission statements are rooted in meeting the needs of the fisheries and serving harvesters across the state with the shared goal of sustainability, food security and healthy salmon runs for generations. The release of hatchery fish into Alaskan waters ensures economic opportunity and healthy wild populations for years to come; not to mention additional food for marine mammals and other species competing for food in the ocean. Here in Alaska, we're doing it right, and our hatcheries will allow sustainable fisheries to thrive now and well into the future. As a fisherman and an advocate for our fisheries, I look forward to this 2021 season and future seasons in which we can teach our children the values of hard work and sustainable harvests.

*Matt Alward is a commercial fisherman and the president of United Fishermen of Alaska.*

**STORY TAGS:**

[Opinion](#), [Alaska](#), [Hatcheries](#), [salmon](#)

Story Posted: 6/10/2021 9:28:15 AM

Source: SeafoodNews.com



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## Hatchery salmon production ending at Little Port Walter

Posted by Joe Viechnicki | Jul 12, 2021



Little Port Walter (Photo courtesy of NOAA Fisheries)

A federal fisheries agency is phasing out production of hatchery king salmon at a remote field station in Southeast Alaska.

The salmon hatchery is connected to a research station at Little Port Walter, near the southern tip of Baranof Island, south of Sitka. NOAA Fisheries sees an annual return there between 500 and three thousand adult chinook.

Robert Foy, science and research director at NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Fisheries Science Center, said it's a budget decision and a change in focus.



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“Our goal is to reprioritize and identify opportunities on the science side, to focus more directly with the National Marine Fisheries Service mission and conduct the research that’s needed to support the existing private non-profit hatcheries in the state,” Foy said last week.

The field station’s research on king, chum and pink salmon and steelhead trout will continue at Little Port Walter. Foy estimated the decision to phase out the hatchery operation will save the agency roughly around a quarter of million dollars a year. And it’s possible a regional non-profit or other organization could take over the king salmon production.

“We’re still communicating with a number of different entities and our hope is that someone will take this on,” he said. “Again this is an excellent opportunity. NOAA Fisheries still remains involved. Our scientists are still engaged in this process and by phasing this out throughout this year, the opportunity still exists in order to identify that entity that could come in and assist with the facility.”

Barring that, the final release of young salmon will be in May of 2022. The hatchery will collect broodstock this fall. And king salmon from prior releases are expected to return to Little Port Walter through 2025.

The hatchery run was started in the late 1970s using stock from the Keta River in southern Southeast. Those hatchery returns helped in research used to make king salmon management decisions.

### KFSK Community Cal

Today	Tuesday, .
<b>Tuesday, July 13</b>	
7:00am	Mac and che
10:00am	Alaska's Suff
10:00am	Parole and R
12:00pm	CANCELLED
1:00pm	SUSPENDEI
6:15pm	Youth Night a
7:00pm	AA Meeting -
<b>Wednesday, July 14</b>	
7:00am	Corn dog
9:30am	Petersburg p
10:00am	Alaska's Suff
10:00am	Alzheimer's C
6:00pm	Free Supper
<b>Thursday, July 15</b>	
7:00am	Pizza
10:00am	Alaska's Suff
10:00am	Story Time - I
10:30am	Homegrown I
12:00pm	Daily Mass
2:30pm	In The Garde
<b>Friday, July 16</b>	

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Petersburg Listening Project



Michael Penn / Juneau Empire File Then-Juneau Mayor Bruce Botelho, left, and former Juneau Representative Bill Hudson, right, speak with John Torgerson, chairman of the Alaska Redistricting Board during a break in hearing public testimony at the Capitol Wednesday, April 20, 2011. Alaska's state flags were lowered Thursday for longtime Alaska lawmaker, Hudson, who died Oct. 11.

## ‘A large legacy’: Hudson remembered for dedication to Juneau and the state

Alaska's state flags were lowered Thursday for longtime Alaska lawmaker Bill Hudson.

By Peter Segall

Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:44pm | NEWS ALASKA LEGISLATURE STATE & LEGISLATURE

Alaska's state flags were lowered Thursday for longtime Alaska lawmaker Bill Hudson, who died Oct. 11.

A statement from the governor's office said Hudson served six terms as a legislator and several administrative positions, including director of the Alaska Marine Highway System.

“Whether he was commanding the Coast Guard, directing the Alaska Marine Highways, or serving as a state legislator, Bill was always passionate about improving Alaska,” Dunleavy said.

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Juneau's delegation — Sen. Jesse Kiehl and Reps. Sara Hannan and Andi Story, all Democrats — issued a joint statement remembering Hudson.

Hudson served under former Gov. Jay Hammond when the Permanent Fund was first created, and he later served on the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp. Board of Trustees after being appointed by former Gov. Frank Murkowski, according to the delegation. Hudson had a long and strong track record as a public servant.

“Hudson left a large legacy to both the State of Alaska and the city of Juneau,” the statement read. “He was a public servant to his core, having first arrived in Alaska as a member of the United States Coast Guard. He took that experience to the legislature, where he served six terms representing Juneau's Mendenhall Valley district. As a Coast Guardsman, he was passionate about saving lives and considered his boating safety bill one of his most important pieces of legislation.

“Bill called Juneau his home and spent his life giving back to his community,” the statement continued. “He fought off many attempts to move the capital from Juneau during his time as a legislator and was a fierce advocate for the Alaska Marine Highway System. Believing in a better quality of life for all Alaskans, he helped secure the funding to establish the Glory Hall in downtown Juneau and was a lifelong supporter of the Salvation Army.”

Each of Juneau's state lawmakers expressed admiration for Hudson and unanimously said he worked hard to improve both Juneau and Alaska and will be missed.

• Contact reporter Peter Segall at [psegall@juneauempire.com](mailto:psegall@juneauempire.com). Follow him on Twitter at [@SegallJnuEmpire](https://twitter.com/SegallJnuEmpire).

### Recommended for You

# Labor shortages and increased prices hinder busy construction time in Juneau

[More from News of the North](#)

Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021 1:01pm

**Juneau, Alaska (KINY) - It's been a busy time for Juneau's building industry.**

Victor Banaszak, owner of VRB Construction and President-elect of the Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association and past president of the Alaska State Home Building Association, joined Brian Holst of the Juneau Economic Development Council program to talk about that on Action Line.

He said the building industry is at an all time high throughout Alaska. "It's really strange, but we are just so, so, so busy that you can't get a contractor almost because everybody's booked out months if not years."

Holst added that housing permits for 2021 already exceed the number in 2020.

Banaszak said a shortage of labor is a bottleneck. "It's extremely tough to find labor. And anybody would hire anybody with an ounce of work ethic right now, if you'll show up." He added that they are willing to train people and if they have excited for the industry and they want to work and learn, they'll be hired indefinitely.

In addition, Banaszak said the supply chain problem is a big deal and has done two things. "Not only is it delaying jobs, but it's also driving the costs up."

He said they are working on the problem at the state and national level to try to see if there's a way to make things more available. Right the price for materials has skyrocketed, he said. "In maybe six months they went up 300 percent."

Banaszak said a home that cost \$300,000 to build last year, would cost a solid 25 percent higher now. Builders are also facing delays. He mentioned he just ordered windows for a big job that will take four months for delivery when before it took three weeks. "Its pretty brutal," he said.



Douglas Island Pink and Chum had a better year than 2020, and things appear to be improving for next year, said hatchery employees. (Michael S. Lockett / Juneau Empire)

## DIPAC clocks good 2021 season

Returns aren't as good as several years ago but they're an improvement over 2020's dismal numbers.

- By [Michael S. Lockett](#)
- Thursday, November 11, 2021 6:30am
- [NEWSFISHINGLOCAL NEWS](#)

This year marked a better season for Douglas Island Pink and Chum Inc. after a lean 2020 and damage to the hatchery's freshwater supply by a landslide in December.

"It's been a pretty good season," said Brock Meredith, operations manager for DIPAC. "We got 130% of our forecast on chums. We got 1.4 million total chum return."

The hatchery's numbers aren't quite where they want it to be, Meredith said, but it's trending in the right direction.

"We're still not up to what we'd like," Meredith said. "We didn't fully make cost recovery, but we were closer than before."

The fish are always influenced heavily by conditions in the Gulf of Alaska, where they spend much of their life. It can be difficult to accurately forecast their returns, Meredith said.



“Forecasting has been a tough one the last couple of years. There had been quite a shift in the age composition of the returning fish,” Meredith said. “Cohos are in particular difficult to forecast. They only spend one full year out in the gulf. With chinook and chum you have numerous age classes returning.”

For the Cohos this year, Meredith said, about 96% of the fish forecasted returned.

“We were being pretty conservative in our forecasts. There’s a lot of indicators that the conditions in the Gulf of Alaska where the fish spend most of their life is improving,” Meredith said. “Once we let em go, it’s out of our hands.”

For a number of years, a mass of warm water called “the blob” affected the returns, reducing productivity in the gulf, Meredith said.

“There’s a mass of nutrients and plankton that (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is seeing out there that can only be tied to colder temperatures,” Meredith said. “It can only mean better things for us and better things for people who depend on our returning salmon.”

### **Break in the line**

A December 2020 landslide brought on by heavy rains ruptured the freshwater feed line that supplies DIPAC. The break was repaired more quickly than expected by Alaska Electric Light and Power, Meredith said.

“They got that pipe repaired a lot sooner than they thought they might. Our chums, which is what pays our bills, fared very well,” Meredith said. “AEL&P has got a plan to, within the next five years, replace that upper penstock.”

Hard work by DIPAC staff salvaged what could have been a dire situation, Meredith said, but there will still be secondary effects that appear over the next few years.

“That’s going to put a big dent in the returns of kings and cohos next year, and chinook in 2023,” Meredith said. “We had to release most of those to return early, and we don’t expect many of those to return.”

However, things are generally trending positively for DIPAC, Meredith said.

“We won’t come out with our forecast for another month or so, but I would bet money it’ll be considerably better. Not returning to what it was 5-6 years ago, but considerably better,” Meredith said. “Things are looking up at DIPAC.”

• *Contact reporter Michael S. Lockett at 757-621-1197 or [mlockett@juneauempire.com](mailto:mlockett@juneauempire.com).*



Alaska lawmaker Don Young addressed keeping finfish aquaculture out of the state during a virtual hearing held July 29, 2021. Photo: US Congress

## 'We want our fish to be wild': Alaska congressman floats new bill to block offshore aquaculture

The lawmaker said residents of the state are opposed to 'hatchery fisheries' in the state, and wants to get to the bottom of the decline of some wild salmon species.

29 July 2021 20:46 GMT UPDATED 30 July 2021 11:57 GMT

By [Rachel Sapin](#)

Alaska's longtime Republican Congressman Don Young has yet again introduced the Keep Fin Fish Free Act, legislation prohibiting the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) unless specifically authorized by Congress.

Young said the state's residents are opposed to what he described as "hatchery fisheries" in the state.

"We don't want that. We want our fish to be wild," he said Thursday during a hearing held by the US House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.



**GM salmon producer AquaBounty reveals location of \$200 million land-based farm**

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Young said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) should be focusing on issues with Alaska's ocean, and why fishermen are seeing fewer kings and other salmon during summer fishing seasons.

"I know we're not catching like we used to, because they're not there," he said.

"We have to figure this out. Is it climate change, are they moving north, is there a nuclear sub stuck out there?"

Young [tried passing the measure in 2019 as well](#), but it died in the House committee it was assigned to that year.



### Is Alaska salmon farming such a wild idea?

[Read more](#)

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- [‘There’s an amazing volume of fish going by’: Alaska pink salmon fishery comes alive](#)
- [Here’s what the major buyers are paying for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon](#)
- [North Pacific Seafoods to pay nearly \\$2 million over labor violation lawsuit](#)

### Alaska farms lots of salmon already

For years, Alaska officials have been resistant to offshore aquaculture, fearing the negative impacts it could have on wild, commercial fisheries.

However, [the state does have 30 hatcheries operated](#) mostly by private nonprofit (PNP) corporations made up of commercial salmon fishermen in southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet and Kodiak.

The hatcheries are used primarily for pink and chum salmon, and do not grow fish to adulthood, but incubate fertilized eggs and release resulting juveniles back into the wild, which eventually are harvested by the state’s commercial fishing fleet.

In 2019, hatchery-produced salmon accounted for 25 percent of Alaska’s total salmon harvest. Roughly 50 million hatchery salmon were caught and were worth an estimated \$118 million (€99 million), or 18 percent of the state’s total salmon harvest value.

Fish farming is banned in Alaska, but the state’s jurisdiction extends only to waters three miles offshore. Beyond that limit is federal waters, and the state ban does not apply.

### US lawmaker proposes fishing legislation focused on climate change

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### No Biden position on offshore aquaculture

Last year, former US President Donald Trump [signed an executive order](#) that, among other things, aimed to boost the domestic seafood industry by streamlining aquaculture development offshore.

[The administration also designated the US Gulf of Mexico and waters off California as the first of several aquaculture development zones.](#)

Biden has issued his own executive order that could prohibit commercial fishing across at least [30 percent of the nation’s Exclusive Economic Zone \(EEZ\) by 2030](#). But he hasn’t yet specifically addressed where his administration stands on Trump’s offshore aquaculture order.

During the hearing, the congressman also introduced legislation prohibiting the “shipping, transporting, offering for sale, selling, or purchasing a genetically altered finfish,” outside of its use for scientific purposes.

The measure is aimed at US land-based AquaBounty, which recently went to market with its first harvest of genetically modified salmon. The company has been developing the fish for nearly two decades.

[On Thursday, it announced it will begin building a new large-scale land-based GM salmon farm in Ohio, a few hours from its current pilot facility in Indiana.](#)

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski has also been fighting the sale of genetically modified salmon in the United States. In 2019, [she inserted a measure into a large spending bill](#) that would require the salmon to be clearly labeled for consumers. [\(Copyright\)](#)

#### Read more

- [USDA investigating organic labeling for wild-caught seafood](#)
- [VIDEO: Captain of US vessel captures Russian warship’s warning; incident now under investigation](#)
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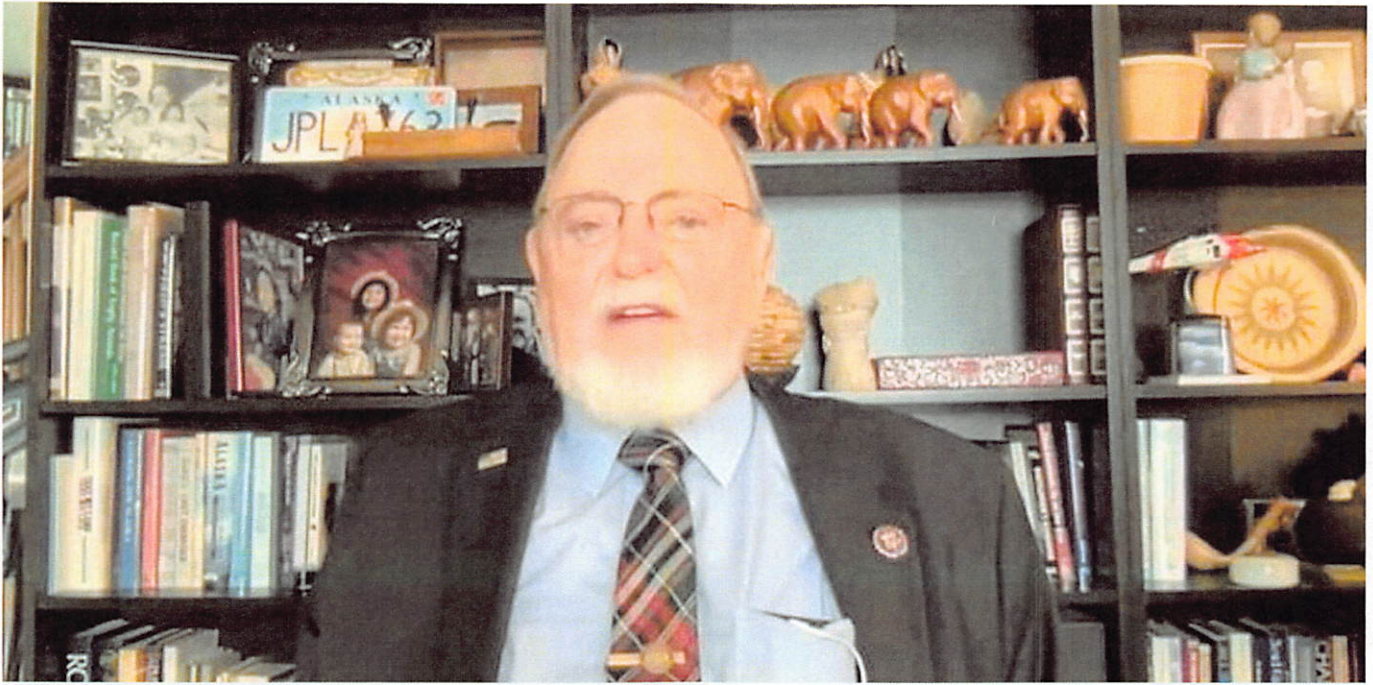
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# AQUACULTURE

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LATEST JOBS



Alaska lawmaker Don Young addressed keeping finfish aquaculture out of the state during a virtual hearing held July 29, 2021. Photo: US Congress

## Alaska lawmaker clarifies support for state's salmon hatcheries, despite aquaculture opposition

Congressman Don Young said during a Congressional hearing in July he was 'concerned about the balance between fish and farmers and people.'

12 August 2021 21:40 GMT    UPDATED 13 August 2021 20:22 GMT

By [Rachel Sapin](#)

Alaska's longtime Republican Congressman Don Young recently opined at a US Congressional hearing that the state's residents are opposed to what he described as "hatchery fisheries" in the state.

That's in spite of state itself being home to [30 hatcheries operated](#) mostly by private non-profit (PNP) corporations made up of commercial salmon fishermen in southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet and Kodiak.

But Zack Brown, a communications director for Congressman Young, told [IntraFish](#) that comment was not entirely accurate, although those are the words the congressman used while virtually attending the hearing in July.



**'It's collateral damage': Salmon farming industry ensnared in fight for indigenous rights**

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**'There's an amazing volume of fish going by': Alaska pink salmon fishery comes alive**

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"The Congressman was condemning fish farming in or near Alaska, but this does not include Alaska's hatchery programs, which he has always supported," Brown told [IntraFish](#).

"He has enjoyed decades of collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and other nonprofit hatchery associations across the state. These hatcheries help keep wild salmon stocks strong for commercial, sport, and subsistence use, and the Congressman continues to support their operations."

In 2019, hatchery-produced salmon accounted for 25 percent of Alaska's total salmon harvest. Roughly 50 million hatchery salmon were caught and were worth an estimated \$118 million (€99 million), or 18 percent of the state's total salmon harvest value.

Fish farming is banned in Alaska, but the state's jurisdiction extends only to waters three miles offshore. Beyond that limit is federal waters, and the state ban does not apply.

Young recently introduced the "Keep Fin Fish Free Act," legislation prohibiting the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) unless specifically authorized by Congress.

Offshore aquaculture, farming beyond the nearshore and inshore coastal zone, in waters greater than 65 feet in depth, [is the most promising option for expanded sustainable seafood production](#), accord to several industry seafood groups.

# FEMA Announces Initial Initiatives to Advance Equity

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**Release Date: July 21, 2021**

Today, FEMA announced two initiatives to advance equity across the agency, which are the first step in focusing the agency toward reducing barriers and increasing opportunities. The two major initiatives are the formation of an Equity Enterprise Steering Group and the establishment of a robust stakeholder engagement process to develop the agency's 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan. Both initiatives include internal and external stakeholders to reflect the agency's commitment to advancing equity. These actions are just the first of many planned for the coming months.

Too many disaster survivors face barriers in accessing assistance programs and resources to support their recovery. Certain populations – specifically low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, people with disabilities and older adults, those with language barriers and those living in rural and isolated areas – are disproportionately impacted by disasters. FEMA is committed to ensuring disaster assistance programs do not exacerbate existing inequal conditions.

“We’re turning a page at FEMA and infusing equity throughout our agency, programs, and policies to better serve people who face unique barriers before, during and after disasters,” said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. “Systemic racism across institutions and society has sidelined generations of people of color and low-income households and that practice needs to end.”

The new Equity Enterprise Steering Group is focused on assessing issues like access and delivery of FEMA programs, services, and activities. Members include representatives from each of the major offices across the agency and is co-chaired by the Office of Equal Rights and the Office of Response and Recovery. The group is designed to drive forward our commitment to equity in every part of the agency, not just certain programs.



FEMA is developing the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan through inputs from stakeholders within the agency and beyond to reflect a whole of community perspective. Stakeholders will inform the agency's goals and objectives, with equity as a foundational priority for the coming years.

Administrator Criswell added: "As emergency managers, we must meet people where they are. Our first steps forward will shape future decisions by engaging our teams, partners, key stakeholders, and the public to boost access and reduce barriers. In time, we hope our work will ultimately lead to systematic generational change for underserved populations in disaster-prone communities."

## Increasing Additional Equitable Measures

FEMA continues to use equity as a lens to drive response operations and deliver better services to marginalized and other vulnerable populations. While FEMA continues to work towards creating equitable outcomes for survivors, the agency is working within this specific authorities and responsibilities to make changes, including:

- **Spearheading a successful Community Vaccination Centers Mission** to combat COVID-19 and administer vaccinations, in which more than 58% of all vaccines were given to individuals of color, provides a model for how equity considerations can be incorporated into other policies and programs.
- **Encouraging active employee engagement** to ensure internal discussions generate new ideas on workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion. Diverse organizations such as FEMA's Employee Resource Groups and other employee-led groups have partnered with senior leadership to seek ideas and input.
- **Hosting a Command and General Staff "Equity Stand Down"** with over 400 FEMA field leaders on Aug. 4-5. This will provide critical information on civil rights law, equity levers field leaders can pull to enhance equity, and training on how to use the many tools available within FEMA to incorporate equity into tactical decision making (e.g., where to place Disaster Recovery Centers).
- **Issuing a request for information and began soliciting public comment on our programs to help identify regulations and policies** that may benefit from modification, streamlining, expansion or repeal to better address climate change and underserved communities and populations. The [request for information](#) closed today, July 21.
- **Assessing several programs** to determine where the agency can make



improvements and where there is a need for support from other federal partners and the legislative branch.

- **Expanding eligibility criteria for Critical Needs Assistance** to include applicants who state they have a need for shelter but have not been able to leave their damaged dwelling.
- **Expanding access by integrating a Documentation Drop Off Center model** for Disaster Recovery Centers that enables survivors to submit documentation in-person, notifies survivors when a representative is available, and provides estimated wait times.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

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Also, follow Administrator Deanne Criswell on Twitter [@FEMA\\_Deanne](https://twitter.com/FEMA_Deanne).

## FEMA Mission

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

