**Division of Commercial Fisheries**
**Forrest Bowers, Director**

Homer Area Office
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK 99603-7942

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**
**Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner**

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

# Advisory Announcement

***For Immediate Release:*** **Tues., Nov. 24, 2026**
***Time:*** **2:00 PM**

**CONTACT: Glenn Hollowell**
**Finfish Management Biologist**
**(907) 235-8191**

## 2026 Lower Cook Inlet Commercial Salmon Fishery Season Summary

The 2026 Lower Cook Inlet Area commercial salmon harvest was 354,000 fish. The harvest was composed of 280 Chinook, 342,000 sockeye, 440 coho, 9,100 pink, and 2,300 chum salmon (Table 1), of which 193,000 (55%) were commercial harvest, and 161,000 (45%) were hatchery cost recovery. Total commercial common property harvest value was estimated to be $2.5 million. All data in this summary are preliminary.

### *Southern District*

The 2026 preseason commercial harvest forecast for purse seine in the Southern District was 103,800 sockeye and 38,900 pink salmon, with an additional 30,500 hatchery-produced sockeye salmon available in special harvest areas (SHAs). The purse seine harvest estimate is 148 Chinook, 114,186 sockeye, 122 coho, 2,804 pink, and 824 chum salmon, with 19 permit holders reporting deliveries. This compares to previous 10-year average harvests of 94 Chinook, 85,557 sockeye, 1,150 coho, 161,996 pink, and 830 chum salmon, with an average of 15 permit holders reporting deliveries.

The 2026 preseason commercial harvest forecast for set gillnet was 130 Chinook, 27,000 sockeye, 170 coho, 8,600 pink, and 1,900 chum salmon. The set gillnet harvest estimate is 132 Chinook, 20,126 sockeye, 249 coho, 2,566 pink, and 637 chum salmon, with 17 permit holders reporting deliveries. The previous 10-year average harvests for this gear type are 294 Chinook, 22,914 sockeye, 2,132 coho, 18,458 pink, and 3,273 chum salmon, with an average of 17 permit holders reporting deliveries.

Southern District pink salmon escapement was 87,740 fish and within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 50,000–110,000 fish. Chum salmon escapement in the Southern District was 3,917 fish and within the SEG range of 1,500–5,000 fish.

### *Outer District*

The 2026 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Outer District was 25,000 sockeye, 134,500 pink, and 17,700 chum salmon. Harvest from this district is confidential as fewer than three permit holders reported deliveries. The most recent previous 10-year average harvest is 35 Chinook, 12,311 sockeye, 451 coho, 716,166 pink, and 40,065 chum salmon, with an average of 12 permit holders reporting deliveries.

Pink salmon escapement to Outer District index streams of 118,954 was within the Outer District SEG of 105,000–235,000 fish. Chum salmon escapement in the Outer District was 23,640 fish and within the 17,500–32,000 fish SEG. Desire Lake sockeye salmon escapement was 8,800, within the 4,800–11,900 SEG range. Delight Lake sockeye salmon escapement was 3,080 and below the 5,100–10,600 SEG range.

### *Kamishak Bay District*

The 2026 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Kamishak Bay District was 46,200 sockeye, 1,000 pink, and 1,800 chum salmon. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) forecasted a run of 21,400 sockeye salmon to the Kirschner Lake remote release site. The harvest estimate from the 8 permit holders that delivered is 50,000 sockeye, and 3 chum salmon. In addition, CIAA harvested 30,203 sockeye salmon from the Kirschner Lake SHA for cost recovery. This year's Kamishak District harvest compares to previous 10-year average

harvests of 47,319 sockeye, 1,330 coho, 49,153 pink, and 9,982 chum salmon, with an average of 4 permit holders reporting deliveries.

Pink salmon escapement to this district was 5,875 and below the 35,000–150,000 SEG range. Chum salmon escapement was 46,233 and below the 50,000–115,000 SEG range. Sockeye salmon escapement to Mikfik Lake was 6,455 and within its 3,400–11,000 SEG range. Chenik Lake (9,287) was within its 2,900–13,700 SEG range, and Amakdedori Creek (690) was below its 1,200–2,600 SEG range for this species.

***Eastern District***

Due to small runs in the last 10 years, no wild stock sockeye or pink salmon were forecasted to be available for commercial harvest from the Eastern District in 2026. CIAA forecasted a total run of 84,400 sockeye salmon to Resurrection Bay release sites with 76,800 fish needed for broodstock and cost recovery. Total cost recovery harvest from this district was 32,603 sockeye salmon. Harvest from this district is confidential as fewer than three permit holders reported deliveries. The previous 10-year commercial harvest average for sockeye salmon is 3,784 fish. CIAA passed 12,000 sockeye salmon through the Bear Creek weir in 2026 with 2,092 fish taken for broodstock leaving a final spawning escapement of 9,908 fish, which is above the SEG of 700–8,300. Hatchery runs of sockeye salmon to this district were below preseason anticipated levels. The only other index stock in the Eastern District is Aialik Lake sockeye salmon (7,010) which exceeded the SEG range (3,200–5,400).

Table 1. Lower Cook Inlet Management Area preliminary commercial salmon harvest, 2026.

| District | Permit holders | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho | Pink | Chum | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southern District | 19 | 148 | 114,186 | 122 | 2,804 | 824 | 118,084 |
| Kamishak District | 8 | | 50,000 | | | 3 | 50,003 |
| Eastern and Outer districts | <3 | ---------- confidential ---------- | | | | | |
| Purse seine total | 22 | 148 | 164,186 | 122 | 3,001 | 1,578 | 169,035 |
| Southern District | 17 | 132 | 20,126 | 249 | 2,566 | 637 | 23,710 |
| Set gillnet total | 17 | 132 | 20,126 | 249 | 2,566 | 637 | 23,710 |
| Commercial common property total | | 280 | 184,312 | 371 | 5,567 | 2,215 | 192,745 |
| China Poot SHA | | | 28,821 | | | | 28,821 |
| Hazel Lake SHA | | | 711 | | | | 711 |
| Tutka Bay SHA | | | 64,962 | 1 | 3,460 | 3 | 68,426 |
| Resurrection Bay SHA | | | 32,603 | | | 7 | 32,610 |
| Kirschner Lake SHA | | | 30,203 | | 11 | | 30,214 |
| Hatchery cost recovery total | | 0 | 157,300 | 1 | 3,471 | 10 | 160,782 |
| Commercially sold total | | 280 | 341,612 | 372 | 9,038 | 2,225 | 353,527 |
| Homepack | 11 | 2 | 74 | 66 | 26 | 31 | 199 |
| Lower Cook Inlet total | | 282 | 341,686 | 438 | 9,064 | 2,256 | 353,726 |