

Economic Values of Sport, Personal Use, and Commercial Salmon Fishing in Upper Cook Inlet

(Quick Reference)



PARTICIPATION

- 160,000 anglers—Alaskans and visitors—sport fish for salmon, and 20,000 Alaskans harvest salmon for personal use in Upper Cook Inlet recreational salmon fisheries each year.
- 1,375 to 2,500 individuals are seasonally employed in commercial salmon harvesting and processing or have jobs arising indirectly from the effects of commercial harvest and processing activity in Upper Cook Inlet.
- Sport and personal use salmon fishing in Upper Cook Inlet account for well over one-third (37%) of all recreational fishing in Alaska.
- Upper Cook Inlet accounts for 2% of the total statewide commercial salmon catch.
- Cook Inlet commercial salmon fisheries have substantially lower yields and substantially higher rates of permits not fished than comparable fisheries.

ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

- Recreational salmon fishing in Upper Cook Inlet generates 3,400 average annual jobs producing \$104 million (2006 dollars) in income.
- Commercial salmon fishing in Upper Cook Inlet generates between 275 and 500 average annual jobs producing between \$10 and \$18 million (2006 dollars) in income.
- The average commercial salmon harvest size in Upper Cook Inlet from 2002 to 2006 is greater than the average harvests over the past ten and past fifty years.
- The current (2000-2006) value of Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvests is 14% of the highest historic value (1986-1992) and 39% of the most recent decade (1991-2000).

NET ECONOMIC VALUE (NEV)

- The average value over and above expenses that individual Alaskans place on their annual recreational fishing is \$776 (2006 dollars).
- The net economic value of recreational salmon fishing in Upper Cook Inlet to Alaskans and visitors is \$115 million (2006 dollars)—almost half (47%) of the statewide net economic value total—with \$62 million of that total going to Alaskans.
- The net economic value of Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishing to all permit holders—Alaskans and non-residents—is less than \$1 million.

FUTURE TRENDS

- Demand for recreational fishing opportunities in the Cook Inlet boroughs is expected to continue to grow by 2.3% per year through 2011—a net increase of almost 29,000 anglers over 2002-2006 levels.
- Salmon farming and globalization of seafood markets will continue to exert downward pressure on prices and values in all of Alaska's commercial salmon fisheries.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) study models from the mid-1990s suggest that at current commercial prices and values, increasing sockeye salmon allocations for sport fishing in Upper Cook Inlet would generate overall economic gains in the region.

ALLOCATION

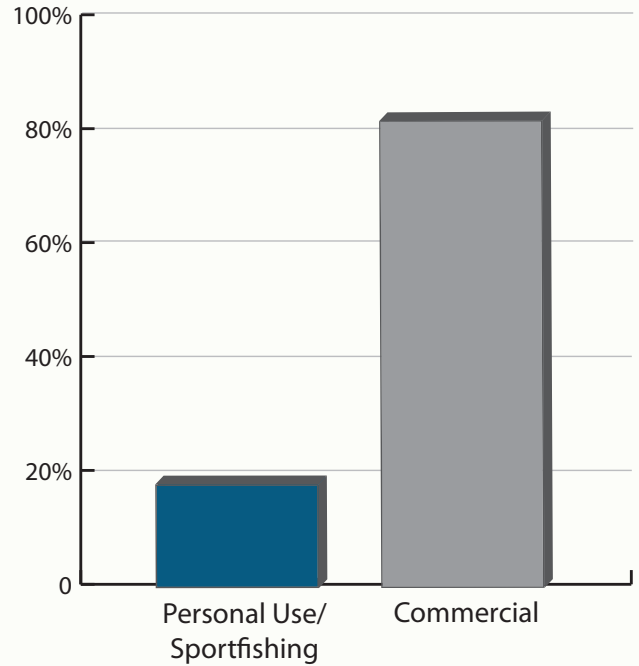
- Commercial fisheries are currently allocated 82% of the Upper Cook Inlet salmon harvest, while sport and personal use fisheries are allocated 18% of the harvest.
- In Alaska 2% of the total salmon harvest is allocated for recreational use. For allocations in Alaska to be comparable with other North American Pacific salmon fisheries, allocation rates for recreational fishing would need to be increased two (200%) to five (500%) times.

Economic Values of Sport, Personal Use, and Commercial Salmon Fishing in Upper Cook Inlet

Percentages of Alaskans Who Sport Fish by Region of Residence



Allocation of Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Harvest by User Group, 2002-2006



Average Annual Jobs and Income Generated by Salmon Fishing in Upper Cook Inlet by Harvest Type

