This year’s harvest to date of 1.2 million salmon is about half of what had been caught at this point in 2020. But it is too soon to draw any conclusions about the state of the season: typically less than 2% of the state’s salmon harvest occurs through week 24.

Data shown includes early-season openers in Area M (the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands region) and Prince William Sound. PWS harvests are above last year’s at this point but slow by historical standards.

As usual, sockeye have been the most harvested species in this early part of the season. Area M has seen harvests of 339,000 sockeye, a big jump over 2020 and above long term averages. Meanwhile the pink salmon harvest of 414,000 in Area M is more than six times less than the big early season seen in 2019.

This year’s ADF&G salmon forecast is generally for a low harvest by historical standards, but still well above the poor 2020 harvest of 118 million fish. In particular, 2021 is expected to be comparable to the 10-year average for sockeye salmon, driven by strong sockeye projections for Bristol Bay. But harvests for the other four salmon species are forecast to be below 10-year averages.
Salmon Harvest by Statistical Week, 2021
(Thousands of Fish per Week)

*Last year uses 2019 pink salmon instead of 2020 (most recent odd-year).

Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.