The Alaska salmon harvest now exceeds pre-season projections: the total harvest across all five species has surpassed 205 million fish, as of Saturday. The 2021 total is more than 8% above the projected 2021 harvest and 17% above the year-to-date 2020 harvest (2019 for pink salmon).

Both sockeye and pink salmon harvests have surpassed projections by more than 10% this season -- but have also seen smaller average fish sizes. Meanwhile, keta, Chinook, and coho salmon harvests are not expected to reach their projected levels.

Bristol Bay’s average sockeye size in 2021 -- just 4.65 pounds according ADF&G -- is the lowest since at least 1979. When accounting for smaller fish, estimated Bristol Bay sockeye harvest volume is the lowest since 2014 at 187.6 million pounds. Tight supplies are being reported as a result.

Similarly, average pink salmon sizes in Southeast Alaska are among the lowest on record, at just 2.9 pounds. While 2021’s YTD harvest of 40.6 million pinks in Southeast would be the most numerous harvest since 2013, by weight 2014, 2015, and 2017 all beat 2021’s YTD harvest volume. Average fish size data in 2021 is unfortunately not yet available for most other regions.

Where to buy Alaska seafood (click for link): ASMI Suppliers Directory
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.