As the summer harvest season winds down, the size of the 2021 harvest continues to gain ground on the 2020 (2019 for pink salmon) benchmark, thanks to strong late season pink salmon harvests and upward adjustments of keta harvests from mid-August. The 2021 harvest is now almost 20% greater than the year-to-date 2020/2019 harvest at least in terms of number of fish.

The total weight of the harvest will not compare as favorably to past years if average fish sizes across all fisheries are found to be as small as sockeye in Bristol Bay and pink salmon in Southeast. Comprehensive salmon harvest volumes will not be available until Alaska Department of Fish & Game’s post-season salmon harvest summary which usually publishes in early November.

The pink salmon harvest for the week that ended Saturday was more than 6 million fish which is the largest harvest for this week of the season in at least 10 years. Nearly half of this late-season pink salmon harvest occurred in the Kodiak area.

Last week’s data included an upward revision of keta salmon totals for statistical weeks 34 and 35. Keta salmon harvest totals remain well above the particularly low 2020 numbers (up 47% YTD) and below the five-year average (down 35%). The keta

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.