As Alaska’s early season fisheries (Chinook, sockeye, and keta) reach the approximate midpoint of their season, the pace of fishing has slowed down slightly compared to last year. This year’s salmon harvest so far is about 87% of the harvest at this point last year (2019 for pink salmon), down from 96% last week.

So far this year 23% of the projected Alaska salmon harvest of about 190 million fish has been caught, including 72% of the projected sockeye harvest. On average over the past five years, keta, sockeye and Chinook salmon harvests have all peaked at this point in the summer.

The volume of Alaska’s salmon harvest remains centered around Bristol Bay and the Alaska Peninsula. Bristol Bay’s sockeye run has come in very strong and more spread out than in 2020. The sockeye are coming in smaller, however, with 2021’s average size currently at 4.5 pounds per fish compared to 5.1 pounds in 2020. Smaller fish turn an 11% year-to-date increase in Bristol Bay sockeye harvested to no change in estimated harvest volume.

Keta harvests have dropped both of the last two weeks. If they have already peaked, the total keta harvest this year will be far below the five-year average, although may still exceed last year’s total.

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.