The pace of fishing dropped in Statistical Week 35 (through Sept. 2), the last week some seafood harvesters plan to buy Alaska salmon this season. With a harvest of about 7 million salmon, mostly pinks, last week was the lowest weekly harvest since June.

Coho and Chinook salmon remain the species for which harvests have not reached the pre-season forecast. Coho harvest is at 52% of the pre-season forecast, 75% for Chinook. Significant coho harvests often continue into mid-September. It’s also not unusual for harvest volumes for both low-volume species to be adjusted upward after the season as fish ticket data are processed.

The number of Alaska pink salmon harvested is up only slightly from 2021, following a drop-off in harvest over the past two weeks. The harvest is flat compared to 2021 in estimated ex-vessel weight. This year’s 200,000 metric ton (mt) Alaska pink salmon harvest is less than half the estimated Russian pink salmon harvest of 472,000 mt. This 2023 pink salmon harvest is Russia’s largest since the record 2018 harvest.

The University of Washington’s Fisheries Research Institute released a preliminary Bristol Bay salmon forecast for 2024 last week. It predicted a 2024 harvest of 26.4 million sockeye, which is about a third smaller than the 2023 harvest.

Where to buy Alaska seafood:  alaskaseafood.org
Salmon Harvest by Statistical Week, 2023
(Thousands of fish per week)

*Last year uses 2021 pink salmon instead of 2022 (most recent odd-year).

Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.  (See ADF&G Blue Sheet page for more about statistical weeks)