

2026 Alaska Sockeye Salmon Outlook & Summary

Market Commentary

Spring 2026

Global sockeye salmon harvest in 2026 is forecasted to drop 15% from the previous five-year average. The forecast is driven by a 21% forecasted drop in Bristol Bay, the world's largest sockeye fishery. The record high 2022 Bristol Bay sockeye harvest continues to impact the 5-year average. The commercial outlook is uncertain in Cook Inlet, where the Alaska Department of Fish & Game forecasted an "excellent" overall sockeye run for Upper Cook Inlet but has not forecasted a commercial-specific harvest because of low run sizes and fisheries restrictions. Following record low levels in 2023, statewide Alaska sockeye ex-vessel prices increased in 2024 and 2025 but remained below the ten-year average. Wholesale sockeye values and early season base price indicates strong potential for higher average ex-vessel prices in 2026.

Harvest Summary & 2026 Forecast, Million Pounds

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026F	21-25	5-yr Avg.	26F vs Avg.
Bristol Bay	199	303	225	144	208	171		216	-21%
Alaska Peninsula	34	40	16	12	15	23		23	0%
Kodiak	15	11	12	8	7	10		10	-5%
PWS	7	9	11	17	7	7		10	-34%
Cook Inlet	8	7	10	12	23	12*		12	-
Other	7	7	12	6	10	6		8	-24%
Alaska Total	270	377	285	198	269	229		280	-24%
Russia	69	85	82	79	94	84		82	+2%
Global Total	347	481	376	283	364	314		370	-15%

Sources: ADF&G, trade publication, and MRG calculations. Columns may not sum to totals because of rounding or exclusion of small salmon-producing nations in global break downs. *No commercial forecast available for Cook Inlet. Previous five-year average used as conservative estimate.

Historical Ex-Vessel Price & Value

	Avg. Price/Lb.	Ttl. Value (\$M)
2016	\$1.07	\$303
2017	\$1.37	\$398
2018	\$1.65	\$426
2019	\$1.61	\$460
2020	\$1.12	\$259
2021	\$1.78	\$480
2022	\$1.46	\$549
2023	\$0.87	\$248
2024	\$1.25	\$266
2025P*	\$1.17	\$315



Average Price ('24/'25P) and % of Total AK Wholesale Value ('24)

	Sockeye	Pink	Keta	Coho	Chinook
Ex-Vessel \$/lb.	\$1.21	\$0.30	\$0.54	\$1.34	\$6.05
Wholesale Value %	62%	17%	17%	3%	1%

Source: ADF&G. *Preliminary

Note: Wholesale value % limited to 2024 due to data availability.

Key Wholesale Products

Frozen H&G and Fillet

80% by value
Key Markets: U.S., Japan

Fresh

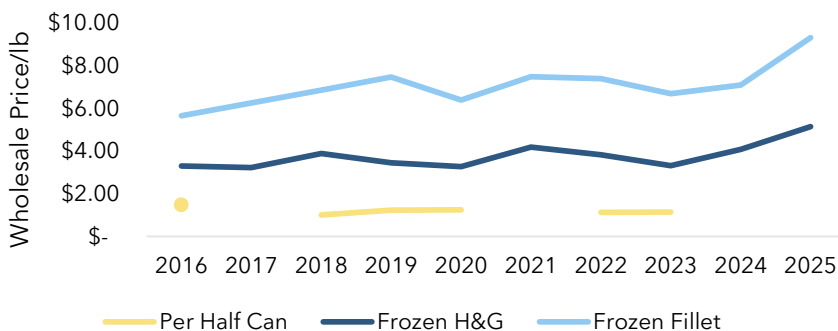
11% by value
Key Markets: U.S., Canada

Canned

8% by value
Key Markets: U.S.

Note: Values are 2023/2024 averages.

First Wholesale Prices for Key Products, 2016-2025



Source: ADF&G and AKDOR (2025)



Compiled by McKinley Research Group
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