

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Press Contact:
Matt Aboussie
Rising Tide Communications
matt@risingtidealaska.com

Fishing means business in Alaska's Bristol Bay, and business is good.

Record harvests and fishermen earnings in 2019 continue a healthy 5-year trend.

BRISTOL BAY, Alaska (Sept. 25, 2019) – Bristol Bay, Alaska is home to the world's largest commercial sockeye salmon fishery. Preliminary reports on the 2019 salmon season from Alaska's Department of Fish and Game have smashed pre-season predictions, bringing the fourth largest return of wild sockeye salmon and the highest dollar value to fishermen in history. For the fifth consecutive year, Bristol Bay saw more than 50 million sockeye salmon return to its waters, highlighting the region's abundance and economic importance to the nation's fisheries, economy, and food systems.

Each year, millions of wild sockeye salmon return to their birthplace in the headwaters of Bristol Bay. In 2019, Bristol Bay saw a total return of 56.5 million sockeye, making it the fourth largest return in the fishery's 130-year history. Biologists working in the region ensure sufficient salmon successfully travel upstream for maximum sustained reproduction before they allow the remainder to be harvested. Fishermen in Bristol Bay harvested over 43 million sockeye salmon in 2019, the second-largest number ever, netting them a record-setting \$306 million for all five salmon species, nearly double the 20-year average.



[A fisherman in Bristol Bay, Alaska, home to the world's largest commercial sockeye salmon fishery. Photo: Chris Miller]

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Press Contact:
Matt Aboussie
Rising Tide Communications
matt@risingtidealaska.com

“This season was a continuation of a theme of abundance in Bristol Bay, and is a bright spot for wild salmon globally,” said Andy Wink, executive director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association. “We’re really encouraged by the intersection of high volume and high prices in Bristol Bay right now and it’s thanks to solid sustainable fishery management, good environmental conditions, focus on harvest quality, and increasing demand due in part to successful marketing efforts.”

Each year, Bristol Bay supports over 14,000 jobs including 8,000 small boat fishermen and generates more than \$1 billion in economic activity annually in the U.S. Many Bristol Bay fishing vessels are multigenerational family-owned businesses, coming from more than 40 U.S. states.



[Bristol Bay, Alaska supports over 14,000 jobs including 8,000 small-boat fishermen each year. Photo: Bob Waldrop]

“So often when fisheries make the news, the story is not good. However, we’re proud to be home to the opposite of that,” said Bristol Bay fisherman and BBRSDA board member Michael Jackson. “We as fishermen pride ourselves on the sustainability and responsible management of our fishery, and that means putting the fish first when it comes to how we balance our harvests, and it is proving to be a good method that’s really paying off.”

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Press Contact:
Matt Aboussie
Rising Tide Communications
matt@risingtidealaska.com

About BBRSDA: The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association is a fishermen-funded group with a mission to increase the value of the Bristol Bay fishery through education, quality outreach, and marketing. Learn more at bbrsda.com.

Sources:

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareabristolbay.salmon_harvest

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1114049452.pdf>

###