

# Salmon Troll

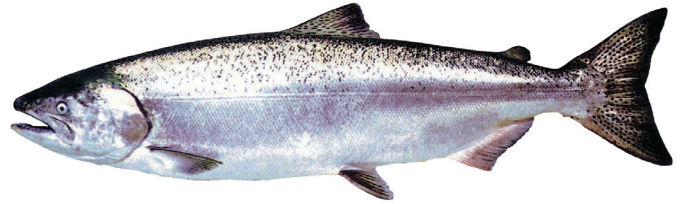
## SPECIES TARGETED

Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

## ABOUT

Pacific salmon belong to the family *Salmonidae*, genus *Oncorhynchus*. North Pacific salmon are found along the coast from California to Alaska and Russia. Chinook and Coho are major species targeted in the British Columbia (BC) troll fishery.



Chinook salmon

Although chinook and coho are the focus of the troll fleet, sockeye, when allocations are available, are desirable for their high commercial value.

(Also see: [Salmon Gillnet and Seine Infosheet](#))

## STOCK STATUS

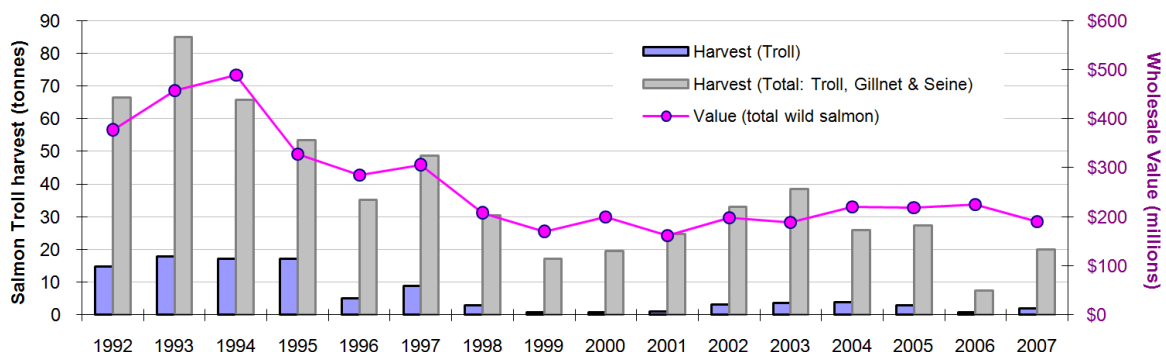
Stocks are reasonably stable although each species exhibits periodic swings in abundance. There are concerns with respect to specific runs including; Cultus Lake sockeye, Sakinaw Lake sockeye and Interior Fraser coho. These stocks have been designated as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) (*DFO - Fisheries Management*).

## MANAGEMENT

BC's salmon troll fishery is managed by the federal Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). As salmon are migratory, Canada and the US collectively manage allocation and other issues related to the salmon stocks under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Harvest is regulated through a number of management tools such as season length, timed openings, gear and area restrictions, quotas, non-retention of certain species and allocation limits (*DFO - Fisheries Management*).

## PRODUCT VALUE

In 2007, the wholesale value of BC harvested salmon was \$189.7 million. Alaska-caught salmon canned in BC accounted for an additional wholesale value of \$21.4 million (*BC Seafood Industry Year in Review*).



**LIFE HISTORY**

Pacific salmon are found all along the BC coast. Most salmon are produced from large rivers such as the Fraser River and its main tributaries, the Bella Coola River in the Central Coast, the Nass and Skeena Rivers in the North, and the Somass River flowing into Barkley Sound.

Pacific salmon are anadromous, breeding and spending varying portions of their early life in fresh water, then entering the ocean to feed until maturity. Each species has a different life history. Salmon spawn in fall and winter in gravel beds in streams from a hundred yards to over 1,000 miles from the sea. Eggs incubate for several months before hatching into alevins. Shortly after, they emerge from the gravel as fry. In the spring the juveniles either migrate to the sea where they spend up to five years depending on the species or rear in freshwater for one or two years before migrating to sea as smolts. In early summer of their maturing year salmon return to their home streams to spawn. After spawning salmon die.

After hatching, chinook remain in fresh water for varying lengths of time (3 months to a year) depending on water temperature.

Young coho generally spend one year in freshwater although in northern populations, high proportions of juveniles spend two or even three years in freshwater before entering the ocean.

**PRODUCTS**

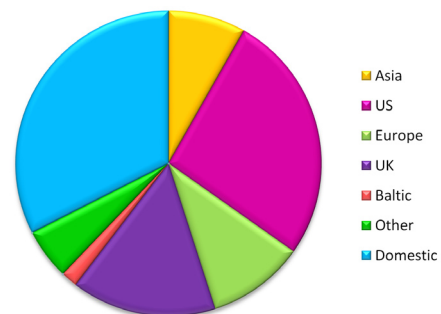
Most troll caught salmon are sold fresh, frozen-at-sea, or are processed into variety of forms including smoked, dressed whole, steaks and fillets.

**PRODUCT MARKET**

Markets are species specific and include Japan, United States, New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom.

**MARKET TREND**

World and domestic market demands for wild salmon remain strong.

**LINKS**

DFO - Fisheries Management Plans: [www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/fishmgmt\\_e.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/fishmgmt_e.htm)

BC Seafood Industry Year in Review: [www.env.gov.bc.ca/omfd/reports/index.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/omfd/reports/index.html)

Pacific Salmon Commission: [www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org)

BCSeafood.ca: [www.bcseafood.ca/index.php](http://www.bcseafood.ca/index.php)

Fish and Seafood Online: <http://www.ats-sea.agr.gc.ca/sea-mer/index-eng.htm>