

Commercial Fisheries Harvest

Commercial fishing is a key industry in Puget Sound. Millions of dollars of revenue are generated annually from fish sales. The 17 federally recognized tribes in Puget Sound, along with Washington State, jointly manage the fish and shellfish resources. By treaty, tribal fishers collectively and non-tribal fishers collectively are each entitled to up to one-half of the harvestable amount. Every year, limits are set based upon a complicated set of factors that are used to predict how many fish will be available for harvest, taking into account the status of protected and non-protected stocks. Overall harvest limits are set to ensure that harvests are sustainable and there will be adequate salmon resources into the future. Then this must be divided into commercial, recreational, subsistence, and ceremonial harvest. Our long-term vision, as recovery proceeds, is to restore the ecosystem and health of Puget Sound to ensure sustainable ongoing fishing, including commercial.



Photo Credit: Canopic@flickr

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The commercial fisheries harvest indicator was adopted by the Leadership Council without setting a specific 2020 target. Commercial harvests are regulated through a separate legal process.

Staff are considering including this parameter in the Quality of Life Index, which is under development.

Pounds of All Salmon Caught in Puget Sound Commercial Harvest
In Millions, 2000-2020

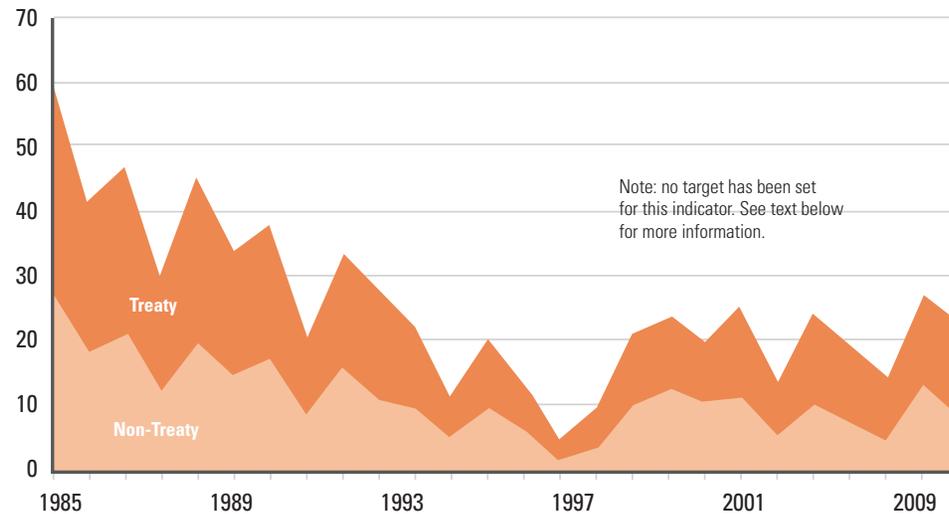


Figure1. The graph shows the pounds (in millions) of all salmon sold in commercial fisheries. Additional commercial benefit accrues from secondary businesses (e.g. restaurant sales) and recreational fisheries as well (not shown here). Note that commercial harvest also does not represent all harvest impacts on a species (e.g. unsold by-catch or gear-related mortalities). The treaty/non-treaty breakout shown here does not reflect allocation balance for a number of reasons.

Source: Historic Catch and Landing System (HCLS) and TOCAS and LIFT systems, jointly maintained by the treaty tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.