Low sockeye return predicted for 1987

A preliminary forecast of the 1987 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon return predicts one of the lowest sockeye salmon runs in recent years, according to staff biologists of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The estimate of the total sockeye salmon return is for 14.2 million fish, with a projected harvest of about 7 million.

Not all of the data on which the final forecast is based have been analyzed at this time and some changes can be expected in the final forecast, according to the department's Fish & Game Bulletin.

A more detailed and complete Bristol Bay forecast will be available in February when the statewide salmon forecast leaflet is published.