



ADF&G estimates salmon harvest at 95.3 million fish

The 1987 commercial salmon harvest is estimated to have produced a harvest of 95.3 million fish weighing a total of 489.4 million pounds, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

This is the first time in eight years that Alaska commercial salmon harvests have fallen below the 100 million fish level.

The ex-vessel value for this season is estimated to have set a record at an estimated \$457.9 million. The value may be even higher when more precise price information becomes available.

The 1987 salmon harvest was slightly more than the pre-season catch pro-

jection of 94.7 million fish. Larger than expected sockeye salmon harvests, especially in Bristol Bay — 16 million fish — and Upper Cook Inlet — 9.2 million fish — produced a total statewide catch of 35 million sockeye. That greatly exceeded the 23 million projected sockeye harvest.

The statewide harvest of 45.9 million pink salmon, however, was substantially below the 53.9 million harvest projections. Failure of pink salmon returns occurred in Lower Cook Inlet and Southeast, but were exceptionally higher than anticipated in Prince William Sound.