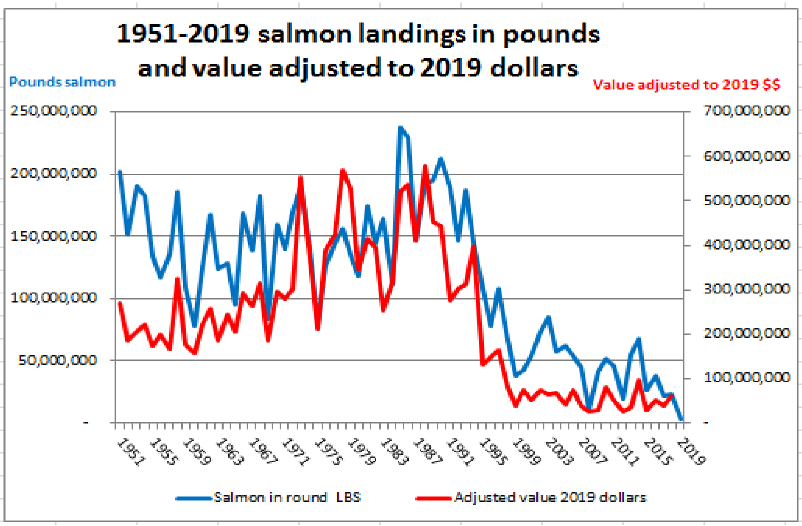
REPORT ON THE HARVEST AND VALUE OF THE 2019 SALMON SEASON – THE BIGGEST DISASTER IN OVER 70 YEARS!

The 2019 salmon season has been devastating for BC's fishermen, anciliary workers and processing companies. In 2019, the total number of salmon commercially harvested in BC was 629,000 fish or 3,583,000 pounds, the lowest catch in 70 years. This includes all salmon species – chinook, sockeye, chum, pink and coho. The value of the catch for fish harvesters in 2019 was 15 million dollars, the lowest landed value paid to fishermen since 1951.

From the 15 million dollars earned by fishermen, they have to first pay their pre-season expenses of DFO licence fees, insurance, moorage, gear storage, and prep for their boats and engines. Fishermen also have up-front fishing expenses (fuel, grub, inseason repairs to their boats and gear) that they must pay during the season. When these expenses for the whole fleet are added together and deducted from the 15 million dollars, there is not much left to take home to feed their families and none left to look after their boats over the winter.

Shoreworkers, and others who are dependent on salmon for work, saw little this summer. A plant can process well over 3 million pounds in a season so at a harvest of 3.5 million pounds the salmon was spread thin between BC's many processing plants – resulting in little or no work for plant workers. Most of the salmon in our local markets have been sourced from northern Alaska or Russia, which have had a banner year, unlike BC and southern Alaska.

The commercial salmon fishery was the smallest since 1951 measued in both pounds and value.



- 2019 landings are the lowest since 1951
- The value of the salmon harvest is the lowest since 1951
- 2019 landings are 3.3 times lower than the 2008 harvest of 11,885,000 pounds which was the previous record low
- At $15 million dollars, the harvest value is $10 million less than the lowest prior value in 2008

Chart 1

Tables 1 and 2 show the lowest 10 years (pounds and value) out the last 68 years (since 1951)

Table 1 – pounds of salmon - These are the 10 lowest years since 1951

Table 2 – value adjusted to 2019 dollars - These are the lowest 10 years in terms of value paid to fishermen.

2019 is the lowest year whether measured in numbers of salmon, in pounds, or in value

YEAR	Salmon in round LBS
2019	**3,583,034**
2008	11,885,123
2012	19,918,769
2017	21,997,728
2018	23,144,132
2015	26,578,935
1999	37,791,647
2016	37,981,245
2009	40,803,162
2000	42,981,330

Table 1

Year	Value adjusted to 2019 dollars
2019	15,230,249
2008	25,365,806
2012	26,657,075
2009	27,615,895
2015	29,805,252
2013	35,927,982
2017	37,642,665
2007	37,856,434
1999	38,314,416
2005	43,298,747

Table 2

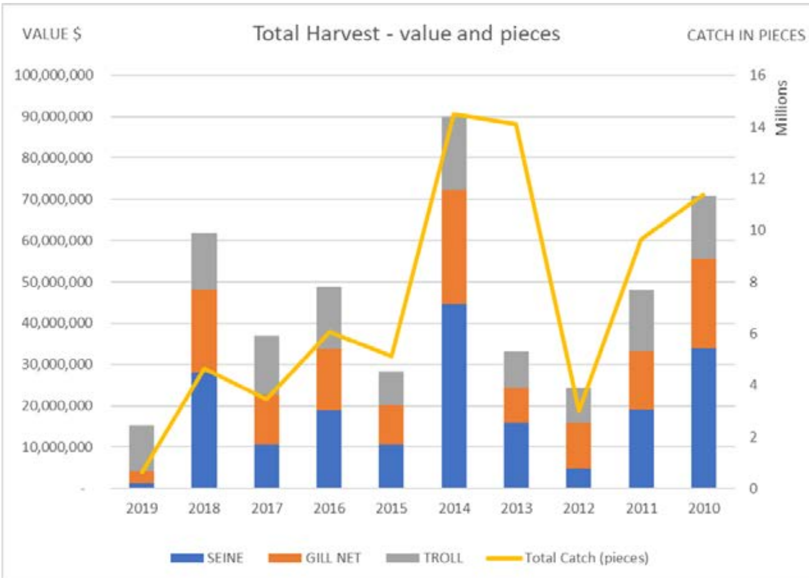


Chart 2 shows the total harvest of all salmon in the last 10 years.

- The yellow line shows the number of salmon caught which is the lowest by far in any of the 10 prior years
- The bars represent the value of fish caught
- The bars are multi coloured to differentiate the income of each of the 3 salmon gears – seine, gillnet and troll.

Chart 2

There are always inequities in fishing between the gear types. In 2019, as can be seen in Chart 2 above, trollers did much better than seiners and gillnetters.

The combined gillnet and seine catch (Chart 3) shows how poorly they performed compared to previous years.

Differences in catch occur every year depending which salmon return in larger numbers. However, all fleets caught fewer salmon in 2019 of all species.

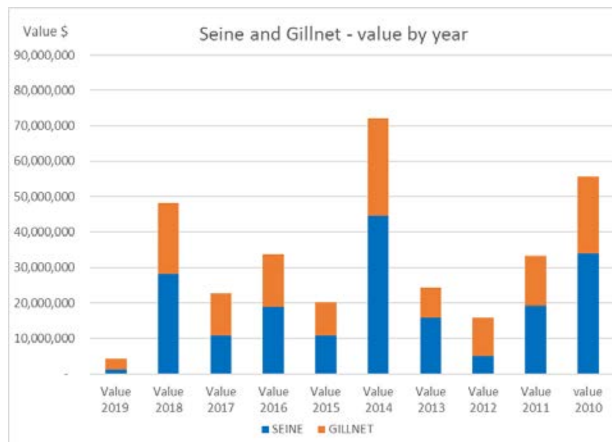


Chart 3

Table 3   The number of salmon caught in 2019 asa percentage of the averaged catch of the past 10 years

	# Salmon catch		%
	Ave 2009-18	**2019**	2019 of
AREA	**Alll Species**	**All Species**	Ave 2009-18
SEINE Salmon Area A	2,952,930	121,363	4%
SEINE Salmon Area B	2,884,567	9,312	0%
SEINE Total	5,837,496	130,675	2%
GILLNET Salmon Area C	638,853	137,541	22%
GILLNET Salmon Area D	582,813	52,774	9%
GILLNET Salmon Area E	640,475	-	0%
GILL NET Total	1,862,141	190,315	10%
TROLL Salmon Area F	**398,691**	**284,752**	**71%**
TROLL Salmon Area G	73,553	23,238	32%
TROLL Salmon Area H	134,266	-	0%
TROLL Total	606,510	307,990	51%
Grand Total	8,306,148	628,980	8%

In total, salmon fishermen only caught 8% of their 10 year average harvests. They caught 92% less than their 10 year average.

The second column of Table 3 is the average of the catches over the past 10 years (2009-2018) for each gear-type as well as the total average catch.

The second column is the number of salmon caught in 2019.

The third column shows the percentage of fish caught in 2019 compared to the average harvest. Area A (north coast) seines caught only 4% of their average catch and Area B (south coast) seines caught zero. In 2019 seines harvested 2% of their 10 year average harvest.

Area C Gillnets (northern) harvested 22% of their average and Area D (southern) harvested 9% and Fraser River gillnets did not go fishing.

Area F (northern) troll did better. They caught 71% of their average harvest – still, almost 30% less than average. Area G troll (West Coast Vancouver Island) caught only 32% of their 10 year average and Area H (Fraser/Gulf) did not go fishing.

	Value of catch All Species		% Value 2019 of
	Ave 2009-18	**2019**	Ave 2009-18
Seine	19,585,200	**1,171,191**	6%
Gillnet	13,620,480	**3,137,802**	23%
Troll	12,488,500	**10,921,257**	87%
Total	45,047,915	**15,230,249**	34%

Table 4

<u>Value – Income - Earnings</u> When the harvest is down so are people's earnings.

The value of the seine harvest was 6% of the average of the most recent 10 years. Gillnets got 23% of their 10 year average earnings and the troll fleet made 87% of their 10 year average.

All in all, fishermen made only 34% of the average value of the most recent 10 years. Their incomes were down by 76%.

This is a busy chart but it shows the differences between each Gear-type and each Area of the coast.

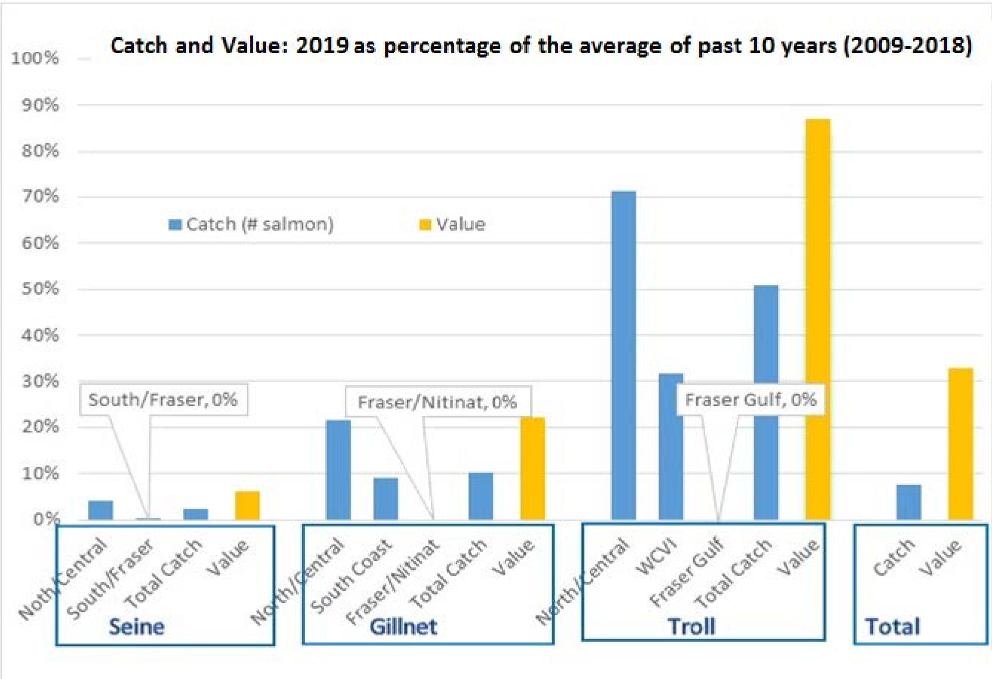


Chart 5

Seiners are the worst off – as a fleet they made less than 6% of their 10 year average or a 94% loss. The South/Fraser seine fleet made nothing.

Gillnetters lost 77% of their averge earnings –and the Fraser gillnet fleet had no earnings.

Trollers look good in comparison – but they still earned much less than average. Gulf trollers did not fish.

Fishermen in BC need financial assistance. Shoreworkers, tendermen and anciliary workers need financial assistance.

Fishermen lost between 30% and 100% of their income, before expenses. Climate change and its various impacts on salmon have created a crises; salmon did not return to BC from the North Pacific where they over-winter. Who knows if this pattern of low salmon returns will continue? But until there is a climate adaptation plan for commercial fishing people and the fish processors, government needs to ante-up and give fishermen and anciliary workers financial support.

Fishermen are having to choose between boat payments or rent, vessel maintenance or tying up for good. Fishing is the most dangerous profession in the world. More fish harvesters lose their lives than any other occupation – yet they have no money to keep their vessels seaworthy. Fish processing companies who have had no salmon to process and therefor no earnings, either, will find it impossible to make loans to assist fishermen with their vessel costs. Skilled deckhands, shoreworkers, net menders, tendermen will vacate the industry, leaving no one to train future generations. This is the biggest disaster in 70 years

All data found at DFO: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/comm/index-eng.html
Either site: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/comm/summ-somm/smon/specgear-espeng/index-eng.html

Year	Salmon in round pounds	Current dollars	Constant dollars Value adjusted to 2019 dollars
1951	201,772,168	28,396,000	**268,654,355**
1952	151,131,536	19,555,000	**185,009,716**
1953	190,811,884	21,848,000	**206,703,773**
1954	181,921,963	23,579,000	**221,509,761**
1955	134,451,359	18,481,000	**173,617,282**
1956	116,981,265	21,356,000	**197,839,611**
1957	135,851,515	18,885,000	**167,950,600**
1958	185,301,870	37,079,000	**323,290,105**
1959	109,421,172	20,503,000	**176,458,077**
1960	77,590,825	18,401,000	**158,367,316**
1961	125,321,354	26,152,000	**222,208,713**
1962	167,668,854	30,559,000	**256,388,088**
1963	123,669,209	22,790,000	**187,665,802**
1964	128,908,275	30,244,000	**244,518,158**
1965	95,295,050	25,958,000	**204,899,243**
1966	168,850,753	38,654,000	**292,979,750**
1967	138,986,489	36,001,000	**262,433,519**
1968	182,341,943	44,887,000	**315,153,989**
1969	83,347,977	27,810,000	**186,424,824**
1970	159,810,917	45,076,000	**294,761,686**
1971	139,446,814	44,476,000	**281,189,498**
1972	169,385,594	50,341,000	**301,143,022**
1973	190,607,295	99,998,000	**553,515,900**
1974	139,870,102	73,998,000	**368,333,328**
1975	80,213,003	46,913,000	**211,425,480**
1976	126,682,047	91,942,000	**389,367,073**
1977	144,583,586	108,725,000	**424,091,082**
1978	155,655,202	158,164,000	**568,708,291**
1979	134,953,792	160,533,000	**526,169,587**
1980	118,765,246	117,003,000	**346,848,893**
1981	173,991,052	158,067,000	**415,900,154**
1982	144,852,550	165,102,000	**394,000,122**
1983	164,594,949	111,085,000	**252,448,705**
1984	111,181,343	144,801,000	**317,183,143**
1985	237,140,273	246,674,000	**519,026,997**

Year	Salmon in round pounds	Current dollars	Constant dollars Value adjusted to 2019 dollars
1986	229,139,696	265,777,000	**537,191,694**
1987	147,037,331	212,063,000	**409,988,467**
1988	193,010,334	312,067,000	**579,801,362**
1989	195,611,790	256,084,000	**451,873,090**
1990	212,516,839	263,401,000	**441,983,565**
1991	188,892,099	172,441,000	**277,152,161**
1992	146,600,816	191,800,000	**303,512,693**
1993	187,368,704	201,024,000	**312,183,953**
1994	145,123,718	256,310,000	**398,970,292**
1995	107,572,375	85,697,000	**130,353,247**
1996	77,538,796	100,072,000	**149,491,655**
1997	107,367,345	109,907,000	**162,798,066**
1998	67,097,701	54,640,000	**79,573,974**
1999	37,791,647	26,912,000	**38,314,416**
2000	42,981,330	52,413,000	**72,605,340**
2001	54,518,122	37,143,000	**50,508,422**
2002	73,294,896	57,369,000	**75,622,773**
2003	85,111,676	48,875,000	**63,423,395**
2004	57,073,280	53,198,000	**67,458,300**
2005	61,952,111	35,022,000	**43,298,747**
2006	53,548,088	61,532,000	**75,306,136**
2007	44,612,751	31,670,000	**37,856,434**
2008	11,885,123	21,772,000	**25,365,806**
2009	40,803,162	23,724,000	**27,615,895**
2010	52,143,743	70,817,000	**80,468,380**
2011	45,646,719	48,033,000	**53,043,065**
2012	19,918,769	24,419,000	**26,657,075**
2013	54,899,522	33,127,000	**35,927,982**
2014	67,677,517	89,890,000	**95,244,845**
2015	26,578,935	28,420,000	**29,805,252**
2016	37,981,245	48,820,000	**50,721,090**
2017	21,997,728	36,909,000	**37,642,665**
2018	23,144,132	61,738,000	**61,738,000**
2019	3,583,034	15,230,249	**15,230,249**

All data found at DFO: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/comm/index-eng.html
https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/comm/summ-somm/smon/specgear-espeng/index-eng.html

Constant dollars adjusted for inflation from 1951 to 2019 kindly provided by Dyhia Belhabib