

REPORT ON THE HARVEST AND VALUE OF THE 2019 SALMON SEASON –

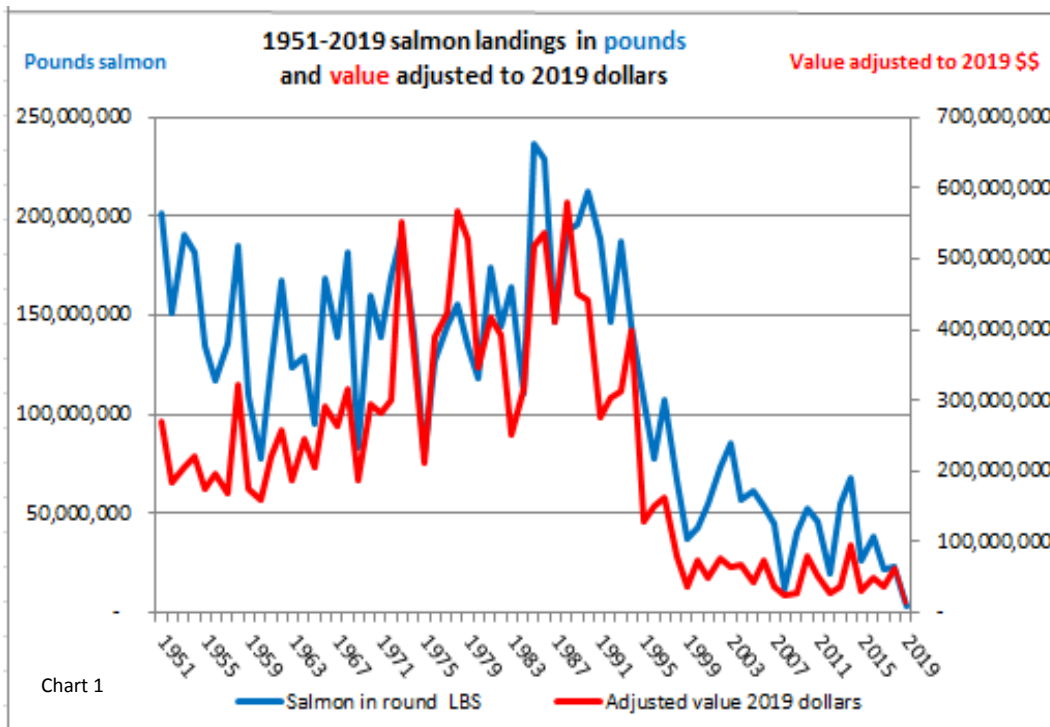
THE BIGGEST DISASTER IN OVER 70 YEARS!

The 2019 salmon season has been devastating for BC’s fishermen, ancillary workers and processing companies. In 2019, the total number of salmon commercially harvested in BC was 629,000 salmon or 3,583,000 pounds, the lowest catch in 70 years. The value was 15 million dollars, the lowest landed value paid to fishermen since 1951.

From their earnings, fishermen 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 expenses are deducted, 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 lowest since 1951 measured 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) since 1951

Table 1 – **pounds of salmon** -

These are the 10 lowest years since 1951.

Table 2 – **value adjusted to 2019 dollars** -

The lowest 10 years in terms of value paid to fishermen since 1951.

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

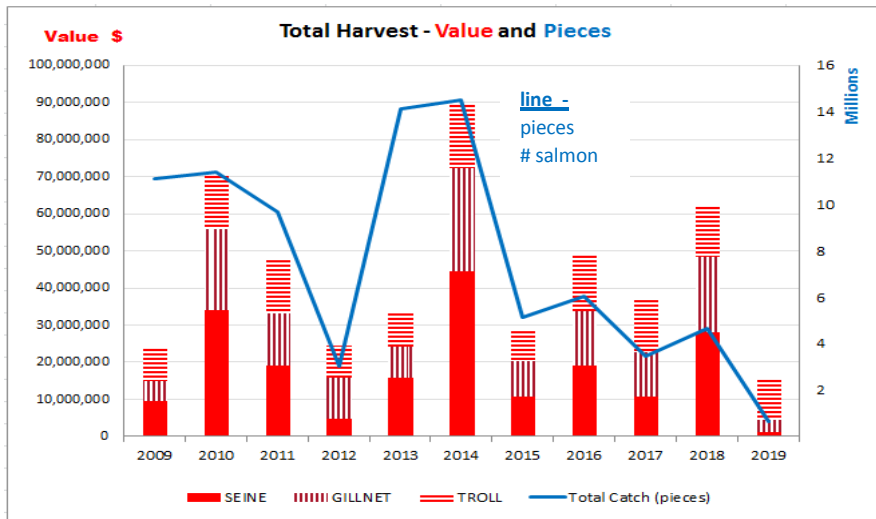
Table 1

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 2

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

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



- The blue line shows the **number (pieces)** 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 and patterned to differentiate the income of each of the 3 salmon gears – seine, gillnet and troll.

Chart 2

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

The combined gillnet and seine catch (Chart 3) shows how poorly the net fleets 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

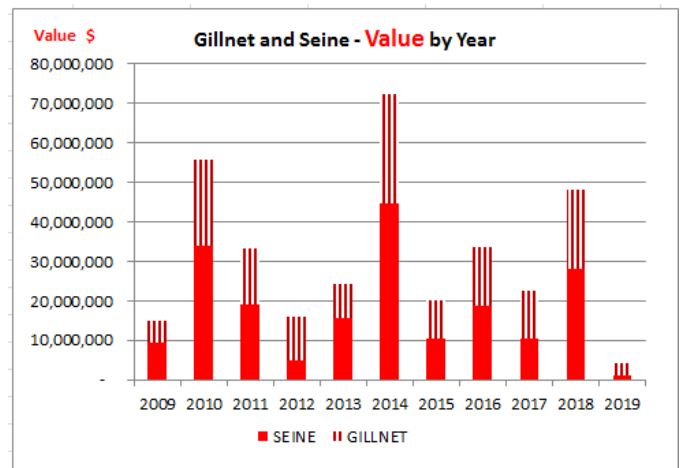


Chart 3

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

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

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 third column is the number of salmon caught in 2019.

The fourth column shows the percentage of fish caught in 2019 compared to the average catch. 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.

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- WCVI) caught only 32% of their 10 year average and Area H (Fraser/Gulf) did not go fishing.

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

	Value of catch All Species		% Value 2019 of Ave 2009-18
	Ave 2009-18	2019	
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%

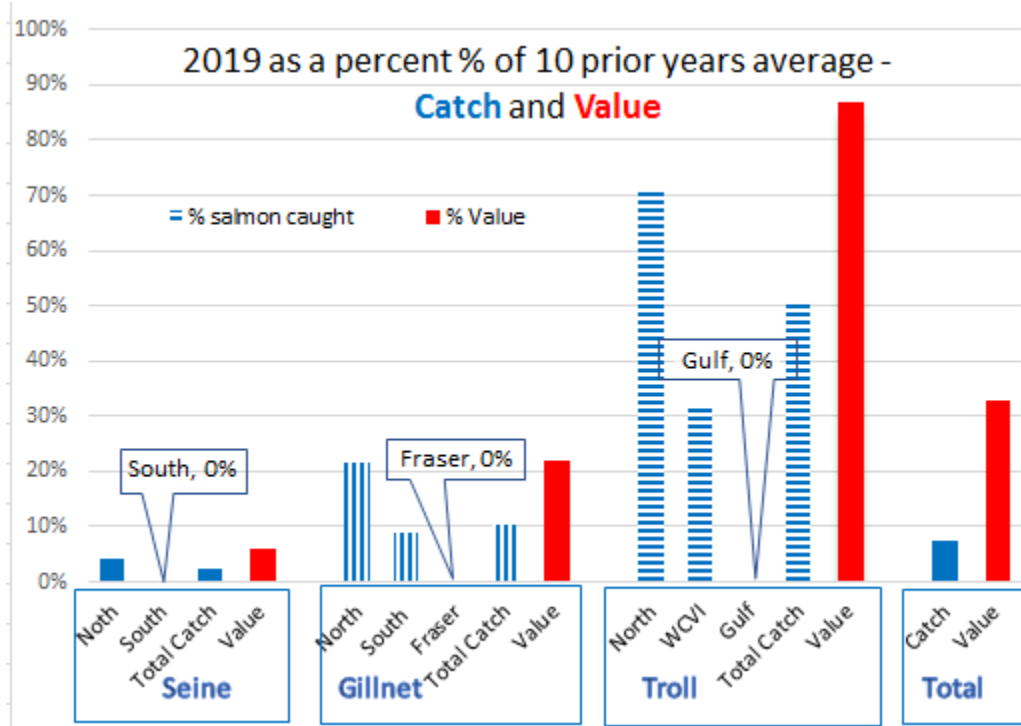
Table 4

Value – Income - Earnings 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.



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 average 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.

Chart 5

Fishermen in BC need financial assistance. Shoreworkers, tendermen and ancillary 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 ancillary 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

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