



# SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON AND TROUT: A \$1 BILLION ECONOMIC ENGINE

*Fisheries Account for 1 in 10 Jobs and Pump \$986 Million into Regional Economy*



*Southeast Alaska's important fishing economy and culture are supported in large part by the healthy salmon and trout populations that contribute over \$986 million to the region's economy and account for more than an estimated 10 percent of the region's jobs. Assessing the economic value of salmon and trout is critical to understanding and estimating the value of programs designed to conserve and restore watersheds upon which salmon and trout depend.*

It's a story familiar to many who fish for a living, fish for fun or simply love to eat fish; throughout the western United States and British Columbia, salmon and trout are in trouble. Numerous stocks of salmon and anadromous trout are in dramatic decline. In some of the worst cases, they are at risk of extinction. Of all the salmon-producing areas of North America, Alaska is the only region where wild salmon stocks are still considered strong<sup>1</sup>. The healthy, robust wild salmon and trout populations in Southeast Alaska can in large part be attributed to vast tracts of relatively intact habitat free of dams and agricultural and urban development. Add high marine survival rates and careful management of harvest to the equation, and it's clear that Southeast Alaska is one of the world's salmon success stories.

In spite of degradation in some watersheds, Southeast Alaska still supports a disproportionately high share of the wild anadromous stocks of trout and salmon remaining in the Pacific Northwest<sup>1</sup>. Limiting further habitat degradation, restoring impacted streams and riparian areas and working to minimize negative impacts of climate change will be the keys to the continuation of the Southeast Alaska salmon success story.

**DOWNLOAD FULL REPORT AT:** [WWW.TU.ORG/SITES/WWW.TU.ORG/FILES/DOCUMENTS/ECONREPORTFULL.PDF](http://WWW.TU.ORG/SITES/WWW.TU.ORG/FILES/DOCUMENTS/ECONREPORTFULL.PDF)

This document is an executive summary of *Economic Contributions and Impacts of Salmonid Resources in Southeast Alaska* produced for Trout Unlimited by TCW Economics

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## Southeast Alaska is steeped in water resources.

Thousands of mainland and island watersheds, when stitched together, make up one of the world's last, great salmon strongholds. The area extends about 500 miles from the U.S./Canada border just below Prince of Wales Island north to Yakutat and Cape Suckling. The Tongass National Forest, America's largest national forest, encompasses over 90 percent of the land area of Southeast Alaska.

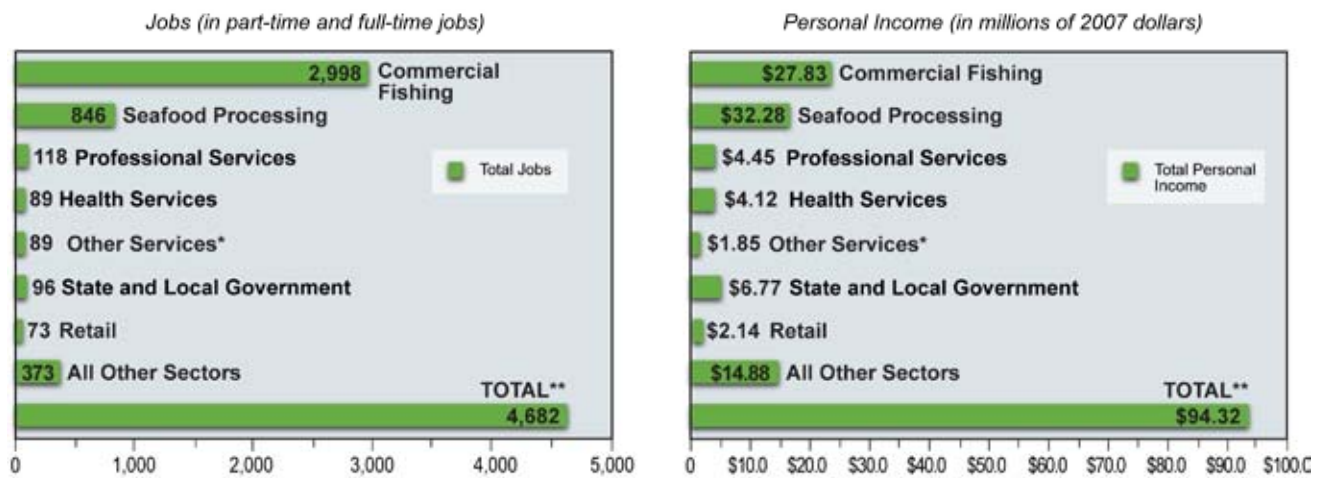


## ABOUT THIS STUDY

This economic study commissioned by Trout Unlimited Alaska highlights the value of salmon and trout fisheries and hatcheries to Southeast Alaska, and underscores the urgent need for comprehensive stream conservation and restoration programs that will protect and enhance this valuable resource into the future. The study and the economic values it contains are also a means of comparing the relative value of healthy fisheries to other resource extraction activities, some of which directly affect the on-going productivity and economic contribution of those fisheries.

Although the economic contribution of Southeast Alaska's salmon and trout resources to commercial and recreational fisheries have been previously studied<sup>1</sup>, the goal of this study was to conduct a more holistic review of the contribution of trout and salmon resources to the region, including subsistence and personal use fisheries. In addition, the role that salmon hatcheries play in supporting salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska and in contributing to the regional economy is examined.

## Contribution of Commercial Fishing to Southeast Alaska Jobs and Personal Income by Sector



\* Other services include machinery and equipment repair and maintenance, and other lesser-important services.



## ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Southeast Alaska's healthy salmon and trout resources are essential to the commercial, sport and personal use/subsistence fishing sectors of the economy. Economic values associated with commercial, recreational, and personal use fisheries measure the monetary importance of these fisheries to those who participate in them; this value is called a "use value."

The use value of salmon resources to commercial fisheries in Southeast Alaska is estimated at \$260.9 million. Southeast Alaska commercial salmon fisheries contribute roughly 28 percent of the annual statewide salmon harvest. (Alaska's salmon harvest accounted for 89 percent of the salmon stocks harvested in North America between 1996 and 2001.)

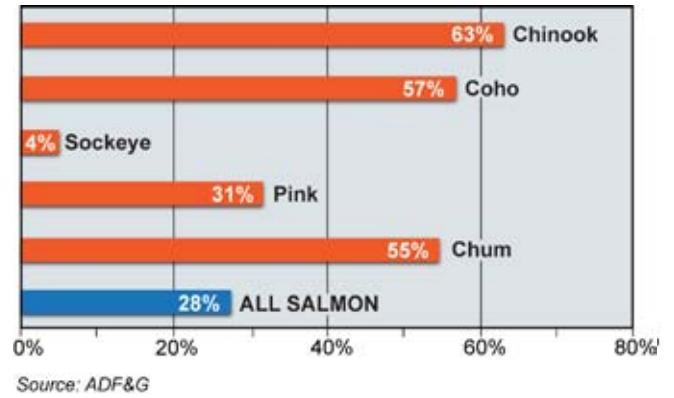
The value of trout and salmon to recreational fisheries in Southeast Alaska is estimated at \$204.4 million, including expenditures of \$174.4 million and net economic values of \$30 million. Both visiting and resident sport anglers also make substantial contributions to the retail and travel and accommodation sectors of the regional economy.

The value of salmon and trout resources to personal use/subsistence fisheries is estimated at over \$750,000, including \$453,500 in expenditures and \$320,300 in net economic values. Many rural communities in Southeast Alaska depend on subsistence fisheries as a primary source of food. A significant number of these communities are experiencing economic downturns and declining populations.

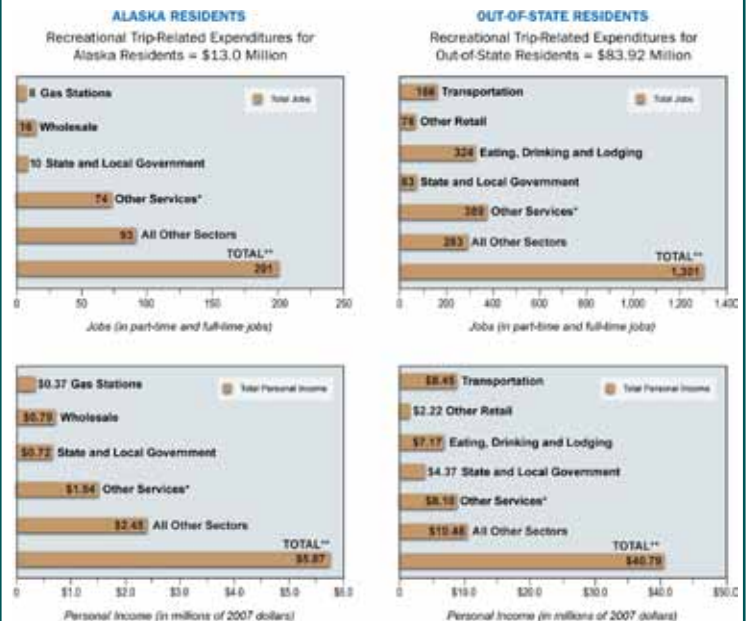
Collectively then, use values of salmonid resources to Southeast Alaska's commercial, recreational and personal use fisheries are estimated at \$466.1 million.



### 2007 Commercial Harvest of Salmon in Southeast Alaska as Percent of Statewide Total



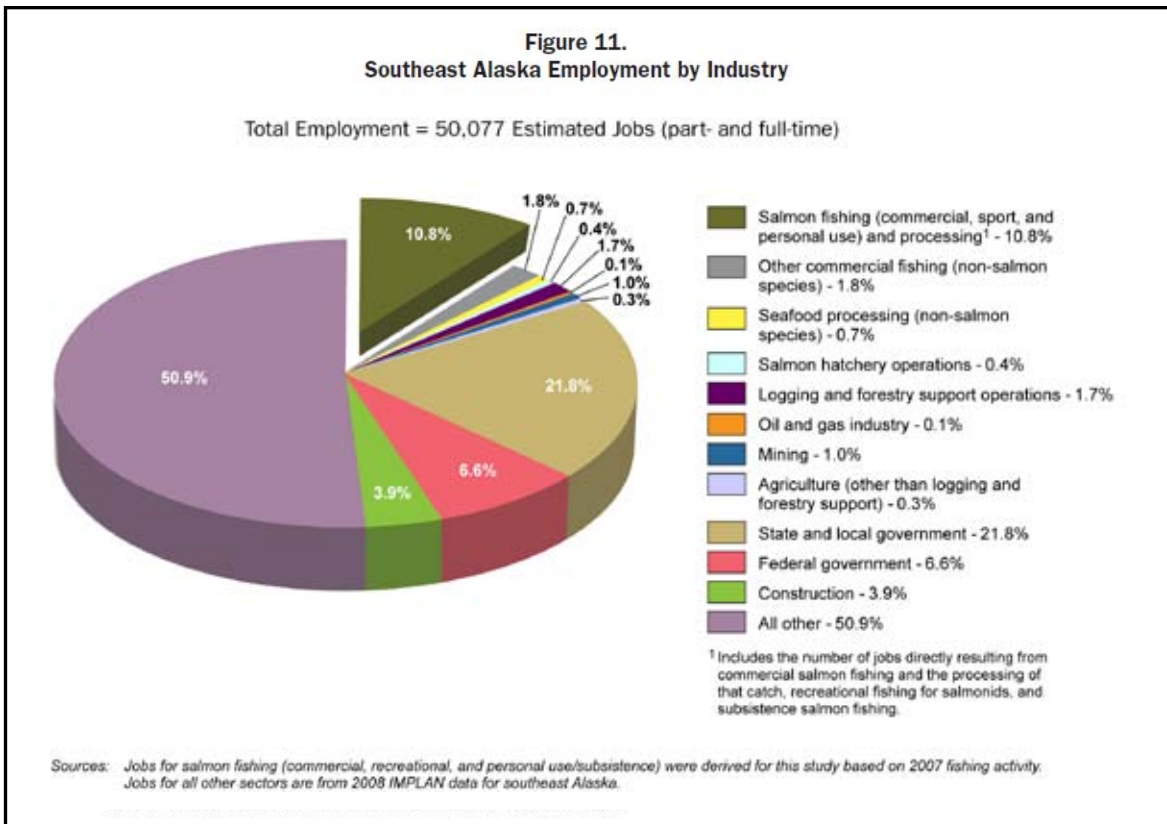
### Economic Impacts of Sport Fisheries in Southeast Alaska on Sectors of the Southeast Alaska Regional Economy (Year 2007): Trip Related and Package Expenditures



Salmon and trout resources also directly and indirectly generate economic activity on a local and regional scale. The total economic output of Southeast Alaska's three salmonid fisheries and hatchery operations is estimated at \$986.1 million, which includes multiple rounds of economic activity as purchases made by these fishing sectors ripple through the regional economy.

The regional economic "impact" of hatcheries and commercial, recreational and personal use/subsistence fisheries can

be measured in terms of jobs and personal income. The number of jobs directly and indirectly supported by Southeast Alaska wild salmon and trout and hatchery operations is estimated at 7,282, about 10.8 percent of total employment in Southeast Alaska. Additionally, total personal income (wage earnings, profits, and other income) generated by these fisheries and hatchery operations is an estimated \$188.9 million.



<sup>1</sup> Please see full report for references cited in this study. [www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/EconReportFull.pdf](http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/EconReportFull.pdf)

\*\* Total jobs and personal income include "induced" effects resulting from spending of income received by households and revenues received by local governments.

**Graph Source (pg. 2 & 3 (bottom)):** Results from IMPLAN-based economic input model developed by Ed Waters; refer to full study's Appendix A for modeling details.

**Note:** Due to fluctuations in salmonid populations, pricing and fishing effort, these values vary from year to year. The year 2007 was used to generate this report as it offered the most recent and complete data available.

The full study and citations are available at: [www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/EconReportFull.pdf](http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/EconReportFull.pdf)

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# TROUT UNLIMITED ALASKA

*Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program* works to preserve, protect and restore wild salmon and trout populations throughout Alaska. TU's vision for the Tongass National Forest includes permanent, community-driven conservation designations for high-value salmon and trout watersheds, as well as the implementation of a comprehensive plan for restoring fish passage and impacted watersheds throughout the region. These actions will sustain and enrich the vital economic and social contributions of salmon and trout to Southeast Alaska.

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