

TONGASS SALMON FACTSHEET



These facts are meant to further inform conversations about the Tongass National Forest, which produces more wild salmon than all other national forests combined.

Resource Economics

- 🐟 Tongass rivers, lakes, and streams produce 80% of the commercial salmon annually harvested from Southeast Alaska. This is about 50 million salmon valued at \$60 million annually.
- 🐟 In 2007, commercial salmon fishing supported an estimated 4,682 jobs (about 1 in 10) in Southeast Alaska, including 2,998 direct fishing jobs and 846 seafood processing jobs.
- 🐟 In 2007, the combined economic impact of commercial, sport and subsistence salmon fishing, as well as hatchery operations, in SE Alaska, was estimated at \$986 million.
- 🐟 The Tongass NF produces on average 28% of Alaska's annual commercial salmon catch, and 25% of the entire west coast annual harvest!

Cultural Values

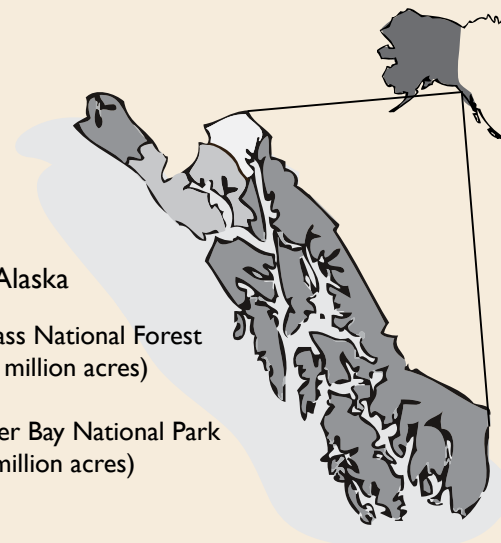
- 🐟 Wild salmon have fed the people of Southeast Alaska for more than 9,000 years.
- 🐟 Ninety-six percent of Alaskans surveyed say salmon are essential to the Alaskan way of life.

Household Use of Salmon

- 🐟 Nearly 90% of rural households in Southeast Alaska use salmon.
- 🐟 The estimated subsistence and personal use harvest averaged 52,511 salmon annually between 2004-2013.
- 🐟 On average, a resident of Southeast Alaska's rural communities uses 75 pounds of salmon per year (while the US national average for seafood consumption is now less than 15 pounds per person per year).

Sport Fishing

- 🐟 Two out of every three fish in Southeast Alaska sport harvest are salmon.
- 🐟 On average, 120,000 sport anglers catch close to one million salmon in Southeast Alaska each year.



Southeast Alaska

- Tongass National Forest (16.8 million acres)
- Glacier Bay National Park (3.3 million acres)

Salmon in the Forest

- 🐟 Tongass fisheries biologists have recorded 14,873 miles of anadromous rivers and streams and 123,173 acres of lakes and ponds that support and produce wild salmon from the Forest.
- 🐟 Salmon-derived nitrogen has been found in trees more than 500 yards away from salmon streams, particularly in areas where bears feed on salmon.
- 🐟 More than 50 species of animals feed on salmon when they return to spawn in freshwater.

Watershed Health

- 🐟 About 6% of the streamside area on Tongass salmon streams has been affected by timber harvest and/or road building.
- 🐟 Most Tongass watersheds are in near natural conditions, but some critical floodplain areas are degraded in important fish-producing watersheds.
- 🐟 Per a 2015 forest-wide watershed condition assessment, less than 7% of 900+ watersheds need work to restore aquatic habitat.
- 🐟 Statewide, 89% of Alaskans say that even in tough economic times, it is important to maintain funding for salmon conservation.