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**Alaska's Commercial Salmon Fishery**

**By Scott Michaels**

In Alaska, salmon come first. Alaska has a long and successful track record of managing and conserving its abundant salmon resources. Record salmon runs with a recent average annual catch of 165 million salmon is the proof of this successful approach.

Nearly 95% of all commercially caught salmon in the US are harvested in Alaska. Alaska is the top producer of wild, high-value salmon, producing nearly 80 percent of the world supply of king, sockeye, and coho. Alaska's commercial salmon fishery is vital to the Alaskan economy and the Alaskan way of life.

Each year, the salmon industry provides thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars to the state's economy. Commercial fishing is critical to communities and fishing families throughout the state.

Alaska's fishing industry leads the state in providing 47% of private sector jobs, and is second only to the oil industry in providing revenue to the state. In 2002, the exvessel value for combined fisheries totaled \$955 million with \$162 million from salmon.

Salmon fishing permits are issued to individuals, not corporations, through the "limited entry permit system". The total number of available permits for each fishery is strictly limited. Fishermen may not own more than one salmon permit for the same gear type and area. This creates a fishery made up of many individuals and families.

Three main gear types catch Alaska salmon: trolling, gillnetting, and purse seining. All commercial salmon fishing boats are relatively small vessels; averaging 30 to 50 feet.

Trollers use long trolling poles to pull or troll 2 to 4 deep weighted lines through the water, each with 8 - 12 leaders attached. At the end of each leader there is a lure or baited hook. Boat size varies from small skiffs to vessels of 50 feet or more with most ranging between 25 to 40 feet.

## Alaska's Commercial Salmon Fishery

Trollers primarily target king, coho, and pink salmon as they enter Alaskan waters on their way to the spawning grounds. Trollers catch a relatively low volume of high-quality fish. The fish they catch are bright and vigorous from fresh ocean waters. They are often sold dressed, or filleted in the fresh or fresh frozen market.

Gillnetters set curtain-like nets in the water suspended from a float line at the surface and a weighted lead line along the submerged bottom edge. Nets vary in length from 900 to 1800 feet long. The net's mesh openings are just large enough to allow an adult fish head to get through and become entangled at the gills.

There are two types of gillnets; driftnets that are free floating from boats, and setnets that have one end attached to the shoreline. Boat size is limited to 32 feet or less in Bristol Bay; otherwise, the average range is 30 to 40 feet. Gillnetters primarily harvest sockeye, chum and coho.

Purse Seiners use a large floating net, pulled and set in circle by a power skiff, to surround schooling

salmon. The weighted "purse line" at bottom of the net is drawn closed to contain the fish. The net full of fish is then gathered to the boat through a highpowered hydraulic block.

Purse seiners are not allowed north of the Alaska Peninsula; boat size is limited to 58 feet. Purse Seiners harvest mainly pink salmon near the shoreline and close to fresh water spawning grounds where runs are highly concentrated.

Alaska fishing legend is home to salmon runs so thick you can walk across their backs, halibut so big they're called barn doors, and bottom fish so plentiful, fishing for them is called "catching".

<http://www.alaskasalmonfishingdirectory.com>

### **Smoked Salmon As A Corporate Gift Or Executive Gift, Not A Glass Golf Ball.**

**By James Zeller**

A corporate gift that is appropriate, an executive gift that is appreciated, a client gift that is actually remembered; what actually works? Smoked salmon gifts have become in vogue for more than just party appetizers.

There are numerous industries which interact with clients that would be better off giving a real gift of appreciation at the close of a deal, or business sale, than gifting some cheap logo scribed trinket. For an executive gift or corporate gift you may consider a fine gourmet gift of class and distinction, Alaska smoked salmon.

Real estate, mortgage, and corporate executives are constantly looking for the closing gift that will appear genuinely thoughtful, and be sincerely appreciated and remembered by their customer or client. A corporate gift, like a glass golf ball on the desk plaque, just doesn't work for most people. You may

say, 'but it is cheap, and you can purchase them by the case, and even have them engraved.' Sure you can, and you can certainly go with that, but your corporate image will reflect those same under laying tones. What does the recipient perceive? A cheap gift. You know, about as useful as the chiropractor's bent pen.

One mortgage company came up with a great solution to this need. At the close of every deal, their clients receive a gourmet gift box of smoked Alaskan salmon. Inside the box is 8 ounces of smoked sockeye salmon from Alaska. A recipe is included for a smoked salmon appetizer. Smoked salmon hors d'oeuvres make the perfect addition to a party with smoked salmon appetizers and dips.

At Christmas, one University sent every member of their board, an executive gift of a smoked salmon Wood Gift Box. This beautifully crafted wood gift box enclosed an 8 ounce fillet of Copper River Sockeye Salmon. In gourmet circles, Copper River Sockeye salmon is recognized as the premiere red salmon of the world, for flavor and taste. Smoked sockeye salmon has the bright red appearance and succulent flavor that gourmet chefs from around the world, integrate into their entrees and salmon recipes.

A corporate gift or an executive gift would be far more appealing if it were something unique and something really good to eat. Smoked salmon is an ideal choice. Today smoked salmon is packaged in foil retort packages and is COMPLETELY SHELF STABLE, which is easily mailed across the country. Smoked salmon gifts fits any gift giving occasion or designation. Companies can purchase wholesale cases of smoked salmon gift boxes for very affordable prices.

For corporate and business gifts, smoked salmon makes a great gift if a party is to be attended, you would be amazed at the reception. Imagine business associates asking, where did the smoked salmon come from? Who brought it? Does the glass golf ball on the desk get that kind of referral?

Do your business a favor, and make the investment of giving a gift that actually has ROI. Remarkably, smoked salmon from Alaska is healthy and a good source for important nutrients and Omega 3. Can the glass golf ball do that?

James Zeller writes for gourmet related websites and blogs, such as

<http://www.cruets.com>

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