

Jason Lake gillnets in Young's Bay.



"We should still be getting \$16 to \$18 per pound and we're getting about \$10. We should be getting more but the markets have just collapsed because of the whole coronavirus."

Lake, 45, has since turned to selling his catch to smaller retailers such as Northwest Wild Products, who can pay a better price compared to some bigger processors, he said.

"I'm thankful I'm getting \$10. If we hadn't done that we would be fishing for \$4 per pound or less right now. Ron [Neva] has been a fleet savior. I'm just thankful we've been able to keep the price up."

The hierarchy of salmon is largely based on fat content, which affects flavor, texture and omega-3 amounts, from king/Chinook to sockeye, coho, pink and chum.

Chum salmon are often smoked or used for chowder and pink are traditionally canned, while the finest king salmon fillet are featured prominently on restaurant menus.

"A lot of these fish would go to Portland and Vegas," Lake said regarding the spring Chinook catch.

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Northwest Wild Products owner Ron Neva, left, has been the primary buyer for Jason Lake's catch so far this season. Neva bought all of Lake's catch that day, which included five chinook salmon totaling nearly 80 pounds.

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