

A COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Wild fish stocks are a dynamic resource, subject to swings in abundance due to changes in climate, feed and other factors. Despite this, Alaska's Seafood Industry continues to earn superlatives due to a commitment to stewardship and sustainability. State and federal fishery managers set catch allocations at scientifically set levels to protect the resource. As a result, no stocks of groundfish are considered overfished. Key habitat areas are closed to protect the broader ocean ecosystem totaling more than five times the entire US National Park System. Alaska fisheries operated under limited access or catch share quota systems are now recognized as a key strategy to prevent overfishing. National Geographic recently listed Alaska as one of only three well-managed fisheries in the world, the others being Iceland and New Zealand.



Courtesy of ASMI and Shot in the Dark

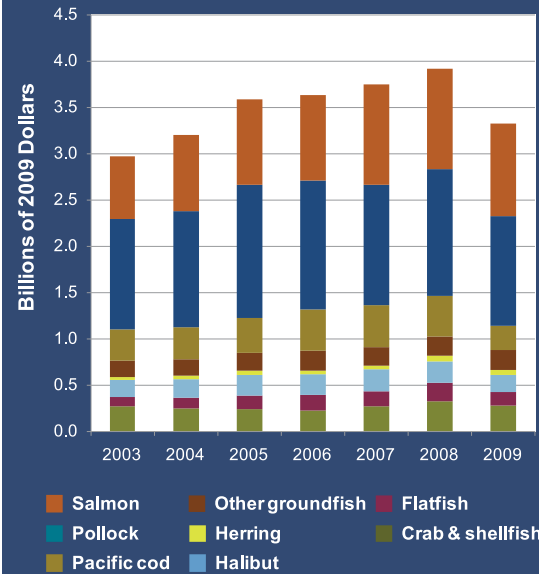


"Alaska's seafood industry is the largest private sector employer in the state, creating over 70,548 direct jobs – more than oil and gas and mining combined."

POSITIVE TREND

The inflation adjusted wholesale value of Alaska seafood has steadily increased over the past five years from \$2.88 billion in 2003 to \$3.3 billion in 2009, an increase of 15 percent. With continued science-based management, Alaska's seafood industry is a growing, sustainable and vital part of the Alaska economy.

Real Wholesale Value by Species, 2003-2009



Source: Hiatt, 2007 and Hiatt, 2010b



MARINE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Promoting sustainable fisheries to feed the World.

PSPA

Pacific Seafood Processors Association



AT-SEA PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION
Partners for Healthy Fisheries

February 2011

Alaska's Seafood Industry:

*Global in stature;
Leaders in the Nation;
A Statewide Economic
Engine That Drives Local
Communities*



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F/V Mar Del Norte, Kodiak, AK
Courtesy of Alaska Groundfish Databank

Alaska's seafood – salmon, crab, pollock, halibut, cod and more – is one of the largest renewable resources in the world. Alaska's seafood production ranks 14th in the world and leads the nation's harvest from the sea. Raised wild and harvested sustainably, Alaska's quality seafood graces the finest white-tablecloth restaurants and satisfies appetites on the go at the corner fast-food outlet.

Alaska's seafood industry traces its heritage to the purchase of Russian America and it remains a vital part of the state economy today. The Alaska Seafood Industry is the state's largest private sector employer and the largest manufacturing sector; a multi-billion dollar economic engine that profoundly affects the state economy and reaches broadly from Alaska's urban centers to its smallest coastal communities.

GLOBAL STRUCTURE

At over 4 billion pounds annually, compared to other fishing nations, Alaska would be the fourteenth largest producer of wild seafood. The harvest of Bering Sea pollock and other Groundfish, capped at 2 million metric tons annually, is among the largest single fisheries in the world. Alaska also boasts 35 percent of the world’s harvest of wild salmon. The 2010 salmon season was one of the best on record in terms of harvest and value, the 11th highest harvest since state-hood. Alaska exports \$1.6 billion of seafood annually to customers around the world including in Japan, China, Korea, Canada and Europe. Alaska fisheries are global in stature.



“The direct and induced economic output of the Alaska seafood industry was \$4.6 billion in 2009.”

NATIONAL LEADERS

Alaska leads the nation in production of seafood with an annual harvest that was 52% of all seafood landed in the United States in 2009. Unalaska/Dutch Harbor has reigned as the nation’s top fishing port in terms of volume for decades and it also ranks as the second top port in terms of ex-vessel value, the price paid fishermen for their catch.



Unalaska / Dutch Harbor, Alaska
Courtesy of Bob King



Photo Courtesy of the
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

In all, eight Alaska fishing communities rank among the top 20 richest ports in the nation including Kodiak (number 3), Naknek-King Salmon (4), Sitka (5), Homer (12), Seward (17), Ketchikan (18), and Cordova (19). Three other Alaska ports, Akutan, King Cove and Sand Point, would also make the top 20 were it not for confidentiality requirements that prevent release of data for ports with fewer than three processors. Alaska leads the nation in seafood production.

A STATEWIDE ECONOMIC ENGINE

The estimated ex-vessel value of Alaska fisheries, the price paid to fishermen, totaled \$1.3 billion in 2009. The wholesale value of Alaska seafood is pegged at \$3.3 billion plus \$1.3 billion in indirect and induced economic output for a total of \$4.6 billion to the Alaska economy. The value of seafood exports from Alaska exceeds that of mining or expenditures by the visitor industry and among other private sector industries is second only to oil and gas. Alaska’s seafood industry generates \$79 million in state taxes and fees annually in addition to local fish taxes.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alaska’s seafood industry is the largest private sector employer in the state, creating over 70,548 direct jobs – more than oil and gas and mining combined – and another 10,252 indirect jobs. Seafood processing accounts for over 71 percent of all manufacturing jobs in the state. These direct and indirect jobs are spread widely across the state including more than 10,000 jobs each in the Southeast, South Central, the Aleutian Islands, and Bristol Bay; 6,500 jobs in Kodiak and 4,500 jobs in the Northwest, Arctic, Yukon and Kuskokwim region, jobs with a combined annual payroll of over \$1.45 billion. The Western Alaska Community Development Quota program, which allocates a portion of the Bering Sea catch for coastal communities to invest in economic development, generates over \$180 million in revenues annually, employs 1,600 workers, pays over \$22.3 million in wages, and invests millions more in training opportunities afforded local residents.

