

Alaska's Fisheries



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Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

As Alaska's largest private-sector employer, commercial fishing and seafood processing is a vital component of the Alaska and US economies. The AK fishing industry employs tens of thousands of individuals producing billions of pounds of seafood for the US and the world. Commercial fishing permit holders represent small and family-owned business, supporting dozens of other services businesses such as hardware and marine suppliers, fuel, accountants, air and water travel, shipping, boat builders, hatcheries, restaurants, scientists, educators, and administrators. The seafood industry provides Alaskans and the public with access to local seafood through restaurants, grocery stores, and seafood markets. The state constitutional mandate ensures sustainable fisheries management for the benefit of future Alaskans and the world.

Virtually every Alaska community and U.S. State benefits from Alaska fisheries

Key Statistics – Alaska state waters and offshore federal fisheries & seafood processing

(Data obtained from government agency sources, from most recent year available):

- **8,686 permit holders** fished in 2018 – 6,049 resident (69.6%), and 2,637 non resident¹
- **20,814 crew licenses** purchased in 2018 – 10,481 resident, 10,333 non-res.²
- **Permit holders live in 49 U.S. States and the District of Columbia** (all states except WV)³
- **Crew members** come from every U.S state and territory (except N. Mariana Is)³
- **Total 2018 harvest 5.96 Billion lbs...** over 61% of total US harvest¹ - more than the total U.S. annual seafood consumption and enough for a meal for every person in the world.¹
- **Est. gross ex-vessel earnings to fishermen in 2018: \$1.76 Billion**¹
- **24, 863 Processor workers** – 7,409 AK and 17,454 non resident (2015).⁸
- **Processor wages - \$413.4 Million** - \$154 million to AK Residents (2015).⁸
- **Alaska total seafood export value: \$3.45 Billion** (2017)⁷
- **Alaska hosts the top 3 US fishing ports by volume and 9 of the top 20** (2017)⁵
- **Total first wholesale value – \$4.2 Billion**⁶ (2016)⁶
- **Commercial fishing is vital to Alaska** - permit holders live in 214 AK communities⁴
- **The Alaska seafood industry provided nearly 60,000 direct jobs in Alaska**, and thousands more indirectly, making it the **largest private-sector employer in the state**.⁶
- **Fisheries taxes to the state's GF rose to \$78.3m in FY2018** - up 19% from FY2017.⁹
- **The seafood industry contributes over \$140 million (2017) in taxes and fees to the State**, over **50 local municipalities**, and a wide spectrum of state and federal agencies.⁶

Sources:

1. Alaska Commercial Fishery Entry Commission - 2018 preliminary - <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/gpbycen/2018/MenuStat.htm>
2. ADFG commercial crew licenses sold in 2018 – not including duplicate licenses - see table online at: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/license/pdfs/2009_2018_crew_license_sales_num_rev.pdf
3. UFA analysis of 2017 AK CFEC permit list and ADFG Crew license list.
4. Obtained from communities listed with CFEC permit owners in 2017 from- <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/plook/#downloads>
5. NOAA landings and ex-vessel value - www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/commercial-landings/
6. The Economic Value of Alaska's Seafood Industry – ASMI - McDowell Group 2017
<http://www.alaskaseafood.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AK-Seafood-Impacts-Sep2017-Final-Digital-Copy.pdf>
7. ASMI- Annual report 2018 - https://uploads.alaskaseafood.org/2019/02/ASMI_2018_AR_final_WebSpreads.pdf
8. AK Dept of Labor -2015 is most recent year reported - <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/seafood/seafoodstatewide.cfm>
9. Dept. of Revenue FY2018 Annual Report - online at <http://tax.alaska.gov/programs/sourcebook/index.aspx>