

Alaska Statewide



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2015 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

As Alaska's largest private-sector employer, commercial fishing and seafood processing is a major contributor to employment and wages. The 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.

Virtually every business and community in Alaska benefits from commercial fishing dollars!

Key Statistics for 2015:

- The Alaska seafood industry provided over 60,000 direct jobs, and thousands more indirectly, making it the largest private-sector employer in the state.⁷
- Commercial fishing permit holders live in 214 communities throughout Alaska.³
- Alaska residents who fished a commercial fishing permit: 6,924¹
- Percent of active commercial fishing permit holders who are Alaska residents: 71%¹
- Alaska resident-owned commercial fishing permits fished: 9,049¹
- Percent of Alaska resident ownership of commercial fishing permits fished: 73%¹
- Commercial fishing crewmember licenses held by Alaska residents: 11,046²
- Commercial fishing vessels registered to Alaska resident owners: 7,164⁴
- Estimated harvest by Alaska resident permit holders: 1.4 billion pounds¹
- Est. gross ex-vessel earnings by Alaska resident permit holders: \$602.5 million¹
- Total annual landings for Alaska and federal waters off Alaska: 6.0 billion pounds⁵
- Total Alaska and federal waters off Alaska fisheries ex-vessel income: \$1.8 billion⁵
- Alaska total seafood export value: \$3.27 billion⁵
- Alaska resident processing jobs: 8,044⁶
- Total processing jobs: 27,133⁶
- Alaska resident processing wages: \$146.0 million⁶
- Total processing wages: \$413.4 million⁶
- Fisheries business and landing taxes are split between the State and communities - directly benefit 56 Alaska communities.⁹
- The seafood industry contributes over \$250 million (FY2013) in taxes and fees to the State, local municipalities, and a wide spectrum of state and federal agencies.¹⁰

Sources:

1. Alaska Commercial Fishery Entry Commission - https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/gpbycen/2015/00_AK.htm
2. ADFG resident adult full year and 7 day commercial crew licenses sold in 2015 – see table online at: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/license/pdfs/2006_2015_crew_license_sales_num_rev.pdf
3. Obtained from communities listed with CFEC permit activity in 2015 yearly download at - <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/plook/#downloads>
4. Commercial vessel statistics from CFEC at https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/vbycen/2015/00_AK.htm
5. NOAA landings and ex-vessel value - www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/commercial-landings/annual-landings-with-group-subtotals/index
6. Alaska Department of Labor, by request. See <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/seafood/seafoodstatewide.cfm>
7. Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, 2015 Annual Report - http://ebooks.alaskaseafood.org/ASMI_Annual_Report_2015/#/12/
8. McDowell Group, The Economic Value of Alaska's Seafood Industry - http://ebooks.alaskaseafood.org/ASMI_Seafood_Impacts_Dec2015/#/4/
9. Alaska Department of Revenue, FY2015 Shared Taxes and Fees Annual Report- <http://www.tax.alaska.gov/programs/sourcebook/index.aspx>
10. Compiled from various sources as found on "UFA Alaska Seafood Industry Taxes and Fees" sheet, compiled from 2013 statistics, online at <http://www.ufafish.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/4a-Alaska-Seafood-Industry-Taxes-Fees-021115-v1s.pdf> .