

California and Oregon



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2016 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

Commercial fishing in Alaska is a major contributor to Pacific Northwest and California employment and wages. The fishing industry employs thousands of individuals, who earn millions of dollars, and produces 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 and shipping, boat builders, restaurants, scientists, and administrators.

Statistics are not readily available for Alaska seafood processing jobs and wages paid to Oregon and California residents. The following numbers are for harvesting (fishing) only:

Key Statistics for California:

- California residents who fished a commercial fishing permit: 199¹
- California resident commercial crewmember license holders: 1,112²
- California resident permit holders who fished plus crew: 1,311^{1,2}
- Alaska commercial fishing vessels registered to California owners: 142³
- Alaska fisheries ex-vessel earnings by California-based permit holders: \$36.6 million¹
- Estimated harvest by California-based permit holders: 160 million pounds¹

Key Statistics for Oregon:

- Oregon residents who fished a commercial fishing permit: 332¹
- Oregon resident commercial crewmember license holders: 1,099²
- Oregon resident permit holders who fished plus crew: 1,431^{1,2}
- Alaska commercial fishing vessels registered to Oregon owners: 272³
- Alaska fisheries earnings by Oregon-based permit holders: \$136 million¹
- Estimated harvest by Oregon-based permit holders: 576 million pounds¹

Sources

1. Commercial fishing permit activity and estimated harvest and earnings by permit holder are from the Alaska Commercial Fishery Entry Commission (CFEC) at https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/fishery_statistics/earnings.htm.
2. Crew numbers are from Alaska Department of Fish and Game commercial crew license list, and are the number of full year adult resident license holders who list their address in a given community. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.licensefile>
3. Vessel numbers are from CFEC database data found online at <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/plook/#downloads> and are a count of commercial fishing licensed vessels that list home port or ownership in a given community.