Seward

2018 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

Seward ranked the #31 fishing port in the U.S. by weight and the #25 port by value, with landings of 28.7 million pounds of seafood worth $43.7 million in 2018.¹

JOBS - FISHING
Permit holders, crew and vessels:
Commercial fishing permit holders: 56¹
Total permits owned: 109¹
Permit holders who fished: 41¹
Commercial crewmember license holders: 107²
Permit holders who fished plus crew: 148¹,²
Percentage of local population who fished: 5.7%¹,²,⁴
Vessels home ported: 92³ Vessels owned: 69³
Each of these individual small and family businesses represents investment, employment, and income in the Seward community.

INCOME
Estimated ex-vessel income by Seward–based fishermen: $8.3 million¹

Earnings generated from commercial fishing circulated in the local economy through property and sales taxes; purchases of homes, rentals, hotels, electricity, entertainment, fuel, vehicles, food, repair and maintenance parts, transportation, travel, medical, and other services. Virtually every business in the Seward community benefits from commercial fishing dollars.

JOBS - PROCESSING
Seafood processing jobs in Kenai Peninsula Borough:
1,959⁵
Alaska resident processing jobs in borough: 874 (44.6%)⁵
Total processing wages: $19.6 million⁵
Alaska resident processing wages: $9.7 million (49.3%)⁵
Number of processing facilities: 34⁴

...AND MORE JOBS
In addition to direct harvester and processor workers, fisheries related jobs include fuel, accountants, consultants, air and water travel, hardware and marine repair and supply businesses, advocacy and marketing organizations, air cargo crew, freight agents, and scientists.

Much of the seafood harvested in Seward was shipped or flown out, providing many transportation sector jobs.

Government related jobs include Alaska Department of Fish and Game • Fish and Wildlife Protection/Alaska Department of Public Safety • Docks and Harbors • Hatcheries • Alaska State Troopers • United States Coast Guard • University of Alaska School of Fisheries • Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory program, and more.

REVENUE to the State and Community through Fishery Taxes ...
FY 2018 shared taxes – Seward received $456,144 and the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $1.5 million in fisheries business and landing taxes through the municipal tax-sharing program from Seward and Kenai borough fisheries landings and businesses.⁷ The State of Alaska received a like amount.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
Seward is in House District 29, Senate District O.

Seward has a diversified fleet with fishermen landing an estimated $3.4 million worth of salmon, $1.3 million in halibut, and $2.4 million in sablefish in 2018 statewide fisheries.

Footnotes - Sources:
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.
4. Number of processing facilities, and population data used to calculate the percentage of residents who fished, are from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) Community Database: https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcca/DCRAExternal.
5. Processor employment and wage data is from the Alaska Department of Labor at http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/seafood/seafoodstatwide.cfm.
6. NOAA, NMFS Office of Science and Technology, see reports “Total Commercial Fishery Landings at Major U.S. Ports” ranked by value and by weight at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial_fisheries/commercial-landings/index
7. Revenue figures are from the Alaska Department of Revenue Shared Taxes report; http://www.tax.alaska.gov/programs/sourcebook/index.aspx.