2018 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

Sitka ranked the #21 fishing port in the U.S. by weight and #16 by value, with landings of 45.5 million pounds of seafood worth $61 million in 2018.9

JOBS - FISHING
Permit holders, crew and vessels:
Commercial fishing permit holders: 5481
Total permits owned: 1,0641
Permit holders who fished: 4151
Commercial crew full year license holders: 4522
Percentage of local population who fished: 10%1.4 Vessels home ported: 6073 Vessels owned: 5743
Each of these individual small and family businesses represents investment, employment, and income in the Sitka community.

INCOME:
Estimated ex-vessel income by Sitka–based fishermen: $41.1 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 Sitka community benefits from commercial fishing dollars.

JOBS – PROCESSING
Seafood processing jobs in Sitka: 9085
Alaska resident processing jobs: 297 (32.7%)5
Total processing wages: $15.9 million5
Alaska resident processing wages: $7.6 million (47.7%)5
Number of processing facilities: 54

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

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 – The City and Borough of Sitka received $1.3 million in fisheries business and landing taxes through the municipal tax-sharing program from Sitka fisheries landings and business taxes. The State of Alaska received a like amount. In addition, local charter fisheries taxes added $119,580 in revenue to the City and Borough of Sitka in 2017 through a local fish box tax.5

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
Sitka is in House District 35, Senate District R.

The Sitka based NSRAA hatchery programs produced over 4.0 million salmon for commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use with $28.6 million in value to Southeast Alaska commercial fisheries in 2018. Salmon is the most abundant and valuable species to Sitka fishermen, with total landings of 15.7 million pounds worth almost $18.7 million.1

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/dcr/DCRAExternal.
5. Processor employment and wage data is from the Alaska Department of Labor at http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/seafood/seafoodstatewide.cfm.
8. Local taxes from DCCED are from Table 2 of the Alaska Taxable database, found here: https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcr/dcrarepoext/Pages/AlaskaTaxableDatabase.aspx.