

State of Washington



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2018 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

Alaska's commercial fishing sector is a major contributor to employment and wages in Washington. The Alaska fishing industry employs thousands of individuals from U.S. states, who earn millions of dollars in wages, 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 service businesses such as hardware and marine suppliers, fuel, accountants, air and water travel and shipping, boat builders, restaurants, scientists, and administrators.

Virtually every business in the greater Seattle area benefits from commercial fishing dollars.

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

Key Statistics from 2018:

- Washington residents who fished an AK commercial fishing permit: 1,474¹
- Washington resident AK commercial crewmember license holders: 4,611²
- Washington resident permit holders who fished plus crew: 6,047^{1,2}
- Alaska commercial fishing vessels registered to Washington owners: 1,625³
- Alaska and offshore federal fisheries ex-vessel earnings by Washington-based permit holders: \$897 million¹
- Estimated AK and offshore federal fisheries harvest by Washington-based permit holders: 4.0 billion 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 ownership in a given community.

Thanks to our Washington Business Members and member groups!

Alaska General Seafoods
Alaska Scallop Association
Bristol Bay Fishermen's Assn.
Bristol Bay Reserve
Freezer Longline Coalition
F/V Northwestern
Groundfish Forum
Icicle Seafoods, Inc.
Icy Strait Seafoods
International Maritime Group

Kinematics Marine Equipment
LFS Inc.
North Pacific/Sitka Sound Seafoods
Ocean Beauty Seafoods
Pacific Fishing Magazine
Pacific Marine Expo
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