

# Alaska's Fisheries



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## 2018 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

*As Alaska's largest private-sector employer, commercial fishing and seafood processing is a vital component of the Alaska and US economies. The AK 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. The state constitutional mandate ensures sustainable fisheries management for the benefit of future Alaskans and the world.*

### ***Virtually every U.S. State benefits from commercial fishing in Alaska!***

#### **Key Statistics – Alaska fishing & seafood processing (2018 data):**

- **8,699 permit holders** fished in 2018 – 6,055 were Alaska residents<sup>1</sup>
- **21,341 Alaska crew licenses** purchased in 2018 – 10,481 resident, 10,333 non-resident with total crew license revenue of \$3.2 million.<sup>2</sup>
- **27,256 Seafood processor workers** – 7,614 AK and 19,642 non resident<sup>3</sup>
- **Processor wages - \$444.7 Million**<sup>3</sup>
- **Permit holders** live in 49 U.S. States (all states except WV)<sup>4</sup>
- **Crew members** come from every U.S State (except WV), 18 countries, 3 Canadian Provinces, and 1 U.S. Territory (American Samoa)<sup>4</sup>
- **Commercial fishing is vital to Alaska** - permit holders live in 221 AK communities<sup>4</sup>
- **Est. ex-vessel earnings to fishermen: \$1.94 Billion**<sup>5</sup>
- **The Alaska seafood industry provided about 58,700 direct jobs in Alaska**<sup>5</sup>
- **Seafood directly employs more workers than any other private sector industry in Alaska and is the foundation of many rural communities.**<sup>6</sup>
- **Approximately 5.7 billion pounds of seafood worth \$2.0 billion was harvested annually in 2017/2018. Processors turned this harvest into 2.8 billion pounds of product worth \$4.7 billion.**<sup>6</sup>
- **Over \$172 million in commercial fishing taxes were collected in 2018. Of this, \$73 million went to state government and \$51 million to local governments**<sup>5</sup>

#### **Sources:**

1. Alaska Commercial Fishery Entry Commission - [CFEC Fishery Statistics - Participation & Earnings \(state.ak.us\)](#)
2. ADFG commercial crew licenses sold in 2016 – see table online at: [Crewmember Number Sold & Revenue 2010-2019 \(alaska.gov\)](#)
3. Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development- <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/seafood/seafoodstatewide.cfm>
4. UFA analysis of 2018 AK CFEC permit and ADFG Crew license lists downloaded from: [CFEC Public Search Database \(state.ak.us\)](#)
5. Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI), *2019 Annual Report - ASMI Annual Report 2019 (adobe.com)*
6. The Economic Value of Alaska's Seafood Industry – ASMI [McDowell-Group ASMI-Economic-Impacts-Report-JAN-2020.pdf \(alaskaseafood.org\)](#)