Cordova

2021 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

Cordova ranked the #12 fishing port in the U.S. by weight and the #20 port by value, with landings of 122.7 million pounds of seafood worth $69.7 million in 2021.5

JOBS - FISHING
Permit holders, crew and vessels:
Commercial fishing permit holders: 3271
Total permits owned: 5331
Permit holders who fished: 2681
Commercial crewmember license holders: 1872
Permit holders who fished plus crew: 4551,2
Percentage of local population who fished: 17.8%1,2,4
Vessels home ported: 6373 Vessels owned: 4173
Each of these individual small and family businesses represents investment, employment, and income in the Cordova community.

INCOME:
Estimated ex-vessel income by Cordova–based fishermen: $17.2 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 Cordova benefits from commercial fishing dollars.

REVENUE to the State and Community through Fishery Taxes ...
FY 2021 shared taxes – Cordova received $1.2 million in fisheries business tax through the municipal tax-sharing program from Cordova fisheries.7 The State of Alaska received a like amount. In addition, city fisheries taxes added $321,524 in revenue to the Bristol Bay Borough in 2021.8

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
Cordova is in House District 32, Senate District P. Salmon is the most abundant and valuable species to Cordova fishermen, with total landings of 62.3 million pounds worth more than $38 million in 2021.

...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, aquaculture and hatchery workers, air cargo crew, freight agents, and scientists.

Much of the seafood harvested in Cordova 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 • Alaska State Troopers • United States Coast Guard • University of Alaska School of Fisheries• Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory program, and more.

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.
3. Vessel numbers are from CFEC database data found online at https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/plock/Downloads and are a count of commercial fishing licensed vessels that list home port or ownership in a given community.
4. Population data used to calculate the percentage of residents who fished, are from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Database: Alaska Population Estimates.
5. Processor employment and wage data is from the Alaska Department of Labor and Personnel provided on request.
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 Top US Ports (noaa.gov).
8. Local taxes from DCCED are from Table 2 of the Alaska Taxable database, found here: Alaska Taxable 2021.pdf