

Kenai



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2021 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

Kenai is ranked the #44 fishing port in the U.S. by weight and the #87 port by value, with landings of 13.1 million pounds of seafood worth \$12.1 million in 2021.⁶

JOBS - FISHING

Permit holders, crew and vessels:

Commercial fishing permit holders: **185¹**
Total permits owned: **246¹**
Permit holders who fished: **128¹**
Commercial crewmember license holders: **140²**
Permit holders who fished plus crew: **268^{1,2}**
Percentage of local population who fished: **3.6%^{1,2,4}**
Vessels home ported: **158³** Vessels owned: **75³**

Each of these individual small and family businesses represents investment, employment, and income in the Kenai community.

INCOME:

Estimated **ex-vessel income** by Kenai-based fishermen: **\$4.7 million.¹**

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 Kenai benefits from commercial fishing dollars.**

JOBS – PROCESSING

Seafood processing jobs in Kenai Peninsula Borough: **1,048⁵**

Alaska resident processing jobs in borough: **450 (47%)⁵**

Total processing wages in borough: **\$16.6 million⁵**

Alaska resident processing wages in borough: **\$7.9 million (49%)⁵**

Number of processing facilities in Kenai (2022): **8⁴**

Footnotes - 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.
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. 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 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 \(noaa.gov\)](#).
7. Revenue figures are from the Alaska Department of Revenue Shared Taxes report: [FY2021 - Shared Tax Report - - Working Updated 11.29.2021.xlsx \(alaska.gov\)](#)

...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.

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 2021 shared taxes – **The City of Kenai received \$60.3 thousand and the Kenai Peninsula Borough received \$635.6 thousand in fisheries business taxes** through the municipal tax-sharing program from Kenai and borough fisheries businesses.⁷ The State of Alaska received a like amount.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Kenai is in House District 30, Senate District O.

Salmon is the most abundant and valuable species to Kenai fishermen, with total estimated 2021 landings of 3.6 million pounds worth more than \$4.4 million.¹