Ketchikan Gateway Borough

2021 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

Ketchikan is ranked the #18 fishing port in the U.S. by weight and the #29 port by value, with landings of 59.5 million pounds of seafood worth $44.3 million in 2021.6

JOBS - FISHING
Permit holders, crew and vessels:
Commercial fishing permit holders: 3411
Total permits owned: 5741
Permit holders who fished: 2091
Commercial crew full year license holders: 3422
Permit holders who fished plus crew: 5511.2
Percentage of local population who fished: 4.0%1,2,4
Vessels home ported: 3773 Vessels owned: 3163

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

INCOME
Estimated ex-vessel income by Ketchikan–based fishermen: $26.3 million1
Earnings generated from commercial fishing circulated in the local economy through property and sales taxes; purchases, utilities, transportation, and other services. Virtually every business in Ketchikan benefits from commercial fishing dollars.

JOBS – PROCESSING
Seafood processing jobs in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough: 9285
Total processing wages: $16.7 million5
Alaska resident processing wages: $5.1 million5
Number of processing facilities (2022): 54

… AND MORE JOBS
In addition to direct harvester and processor workers, fisheries related jobs include hatcheries, 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. Ketchikan is the home of the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.

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.

REVENUE to the State and Community through Fishery Taxes …
FY 2021 shared taxes – The Ketchikan Gateway Borough received $331,618 in fisheries business and landing taxes through the municipal tax-sharing program from Ketchikan fisheries. The State of Alaska received a like amount.7

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
The Ketchikan Gateway Borough is in House District 36, Senate District R.

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough includes the communities of Ketchikan, Saxman, and Ward Cove.

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/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).