2021 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

Aleutian Islands (other) ranked the #2 fishing port in the U.S. by weight and the #6 port by value, with landings of 499.3 million pounds of seafood worth $168.4 million in 2021.

JOBS - FISHING
Permit holders, crew and vessels:
Commercial fishing permit holders: 160
Total permits owned: 329
Permit holders who fished: 132
Commercial crewmember license holders: 231
Permit holders who fished plus crew: 363
Percentage of local population who fished: 10.3%
Vessels home ported: 285
Vessels owned: 234
Each of these individual small and family businesses represents investment, employment, and income in the Aleutians East Borough community.

INCOME:
Estimated ex-vessel income by Aleutians East Borough–based fishermen: $33.5 million
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 the Aleutians East Borough benefits from commercial fishing dollars.

JOBS - PROCESSING
Seafood processing jobs in Aleutians East Borough: 2,678
Total processing wages: $74.7 million
Number of processing facilities (2022): 7

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 • Alaska State Troopers • United States Coast Guard • University of Alaska School of Fisheries• Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisor program, and more.

REVENUE to the State and Community through Fishery Taxes ...
FY 2021 shared taxes – The Aleutians East Borough and its communities collectively received $2.0 million in fisheries business and landing taxes through the municipal tax-sharing program from Aleutians East Borough fisheries landings and businesses. The State of Alaska received a like amount. In addition, borough and local municipal fisheries taxes added $4.1 million in revenue to Aleutians East Borough communities.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
The Aleutians East Borough is in House District 37, Senate District S.

Aleutians East Borough includes the communities of Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, Port Moller, and Sand Point.

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.
7. Local taxes are from the DCCED Alaska Taxable Alaska Taxable 2020 Supplement Report, found at Alaska Taxable 2021.pdf.