

Bethel Census Area



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2021 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

JOBS - FISHING

Permit holders, crew and vessels:

Commercial fishing permit holders: **848**¹

Total permits owned: **914**¹

Permit holders who fished: **113**¹

Commercial crewmember license holders: **179**²

Permit holders who fished plus crew: **292**^{1,2}

Percentage of local population who fished: **1.6%**^{1,2,4}

Vessels home ported: **53**³ Vessels owned: **66**³

Each of these individual small and family businesses represents investment, employment, and income in the Bethel Census Area.

INCOME

Estimated **ex-vessel income** by Bethel Census Area-based fishermen: **\$2.3 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 the Bethel Census Area benefits from commercial fishing dollars.**

JOBS – PROCESSING

Seafood processing jobs in Bethel (2020): **29**⁵

Total processing wages (2020): **\$552 thousand**⁵

Number of processing facilities (2020): **1**⁴

...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 • Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory program, and more.

REVENUE to the State and Community

There was no fishery tax revenue to Bethel Census Area in FY 2021. Bethel Census Area communities collectively received \$279,164 in fisheries business and landing taxes through the municipal tax-sharing program from Bethel Census Area fisheries landings and businesses from FY 2013 through 2017.⁶ The State of Alaska received a like amount.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

The Bethel Census Area is in House Districts 37 and 38, and Senate District S.

Bethel Census Area includes communities of Akiachiak, Akiak, Aniak, Atmautluak, Bethel, Cheforanak, Eek, Goodnews Bay, Kasigluk, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Mekoryuk, Napakiak, Napaskiak Newtok, Nightmute, Nunapitchuk, Oscarville, Platinum, Qunihagak, Sleetmute, Tooksook Bay, Tuluksaq, Tuntutuliak, Tununak, and Upper Kalskak

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