



ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

NOVEMBER 2014

**SEAFOOD
HARVESTING
JOBS**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Seafood processors, a large segment of a massive industry
Alaska's community development quota groups

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

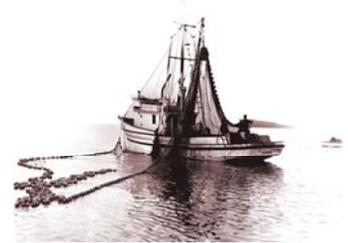
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Fishing employment up considerably

By JOSH WARREN



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**ALASKA DEPARTMENT
of LABOR
and WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

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ON THE COVER: "The Catch" in Bristol Bay near Naknek. Photo by Flickr user Chris Ford
Flickr license: creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/legalcode

On page 4, this 1967 photo from NOAA's Historic Fisheries Collection shows a salmon seiner with a power block in Icy Strait.

Alaska Economic Trends is a monthly publication dealing with a wide variety of economic issues in the state. Its purpose is to inform the public about those issues. *Trends* is funded by the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It's published by the Research and Analysis Section. *Trends* is printed and distributed by Assets, Inc., a vocational training and employment program, at a cost of \$1.37 per copy. Material in this publication is public information, and with appropriate credit may be reproduced without permission.

Partnering to help Alaskans prepare for priority maritime jobs



By Dianne Blumer
Commissioner



Follow the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development on Facebook (facebook.com/alaskalabor) and Twitter (twitter.com/alaskalabor) for the latest news about jobs, workplace safety, and workforce development.

This month in *Trends* we go to sea — or more correctly to seafood — looking at the broad and deep workforce that is fishing Alaska’s rich waters for the largest seafood harvest of any U.S. state.

It was a good year for Alaska seafood workers in 2013, as the industry had the highest employment since 2000. Increases in Alaska salmon harvests drove most of that increase.

That increase offset declines for some other fisheries, including halibut and other groundfish. In some cases, these fisheries are operating under lower harvest quotas and other restrictions.

Because of the short and intense harvest season for the five Pacific salmon species, when there are lots of salmon, the industry needs lots of help. That need extends beyond the fishermen to the seafood processors who transform those wild Alaska fish into the final fillets and other seafood products that consumers demand worldwide.

There’s more than fish at work here too. Thanks to innovative economic planning, Alaska has a number of remote communities taking an active role in harvesting seafood from their local waters. The Community Development Quota program allocates a portion of the federally managed fisheries to nonprofits representing coastal communities along the Bering Sea coast: six corporations, or CDQs, representing 65 villages harvesting halibut, crab, and groundfish.

In these villages, where jobs are few and barriers to economic development are many, more than 300 jobs each month are directly connected to the CDQs, reaching a peak of more than 700 in July, with another 1,000 affiliated jobs through the program.

Developing Alaska’s Maritime Workforce

Seafood harvesting and processing are part of a larger maritime industry that encompasses 70,000 Alaska jobs and also includes research, enhancement and management, marine vessel occupations, and support industries.

Alaska has more miles of coastline than all of the U.S. coastal states combined. The U.S. is an Arctic nation by virtue of Alaska’s northernmost coastline. Seafood harvesters, seafood processors, marine occupations, support industry jobs, and research, enhancement, and management all recognize the need to address our critical and growing workforce shortages together.

That’s why these groups, joined by five state agencies — Labor and Workforce Development; Fish and Game; Transportation and Public Facilities; Education and Early Development; and Commerce, Community and Economic Development — and the University of Alaska worked hand-in-hand to develop a strategic plan to recruit, train, and support this important workforce.

The plan identifies 23 priority occupations across the four maritime subsectors. It also includes strategies to create a seamless workforce development system that will prepare Alaskans for these opportunities. For more information and a copy of the plan, go to Labor.Alaska.Gov/maritimeplan.

November is Hire a Veteran Month

Gov. Sean Parnell has proclaimed November as “Hire a Veteran Month,” honoring the more than 73,000 veterans and their family members who live in Alaska — the largest per capita population of veterans in the nation.

While the Alaska Department of Labor works throughout the year with veterans and soldiers transitioning to the civilian workforce, we also hold Alaska’s largest job fair each November focused on vets. The 2014 Alaska Veterans and Military Spouses Job Fair will be Friday, Nov. 7 at the University Center Mall in Anchorage.

Our partners help provide this fair at no charge to employers or job seekers: Sadler’s/University Center Mall, CH2M HILL, Morris Alaska, University of Alaska Anchorage, VETS, Alaska Forget Me Not, Peppercini’s, Alaska Society of Human Resource Management, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, and the Alaska National Guard.

seafoodharvesting

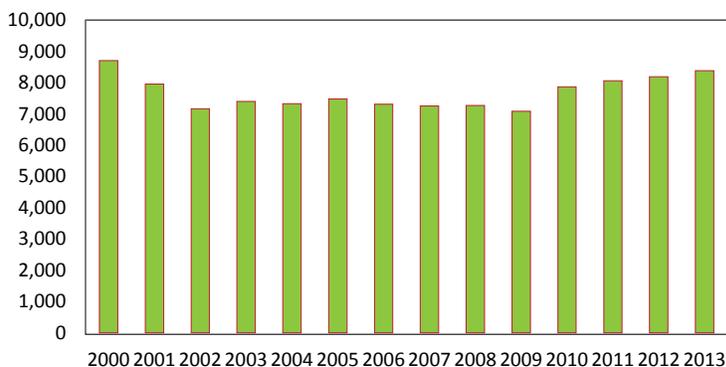
jobs in 2013



Fishing employment up

1 Average Monthly Jobs on the Rise

ALASKA, 2000 TO 2013



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

By JOSH WARREN

Alaska's rich seafood resources are an important part of the state's economy and a source of jobs and income for thousands of people. At the beginning of a long economic chain that ends with salmon or halibut on someone's dinner table are the people who harvest the seafood from the state's oceans and rivers.

That group is not captured in the most visible government job numbers. Those numbers, usually called "nonfarm payroll employment," also exclude the self-employed, the military, and other jobs defined as "agricultural" for various reasons, generally because those numbers are harder to come by.

To fill that gap, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game about a decade ago to develop a method to estimate seafood

harvesting jobs that was the most comparable to the nonfarm payroll employment numbers. The comparisons aren't perfect, but they allow someone to get a sense of how seafood harvesting compares as a source of jobs to other industries for which job numbers are more readily available.

Seafood harvesting employment grew in 2013

In 2013, Alaska's seafood harvesting average monthly employment grew to a level not seen since 2000.

Jobs grew by 2.4 percent, primarily driven by increased salmon harvesting. This brought the year's monthly average to 8,393, less than 400 shy of 2000's level. (See Exhibit 1.)

The increase in harvesting and jobs has also produced a larger seasonal swing. Alaska's seafood harvesting has one of the strongest seasonal patterns in the nation, with a difference of about 25,000 jobs between the highest and lowest months.

Winter employment shrank or remained stable in 2013 while peak summer employment reached a record 25,859 jobs in July. June alone had 2,500 more harvesters than it had in 2012.

Large gains in salmon fisheries employment

Salmon harvesting jobs were the main source of growth between 2012 and 2013, with a gain of 452 jobs, or 10 percent. (See Exhibit 3.) This growth came from a small increase in reported crew sizes by permit holders as well as more fishing. (See the sidebar on page 6.)

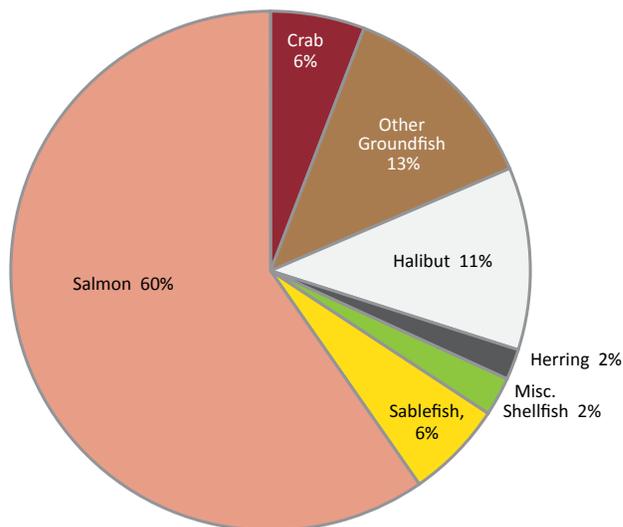
Employment increased somewhat in the smaller sablefish, herring, and shellfish fisheries. Herring fisheries grew the most in terms of a percentage at 25 percent, which translated to 32 additional jobs.

Offsetting the growth in these fisheries, groundfish and crab lost employment over the year. Crab harvesting lost around 100 jobs, a drop of 17 percent. These losses were mostly in late spring and early summer, and minor growth in the winter wasn't enough to offset them. Groundfish job losses were spread evenly across the year with every month but one showing fewer harvesting jobs. The average loss over the year was 187 jobs, or 15 percent.

2

Average Yearly Jobs by Species

ALASKA, 2013

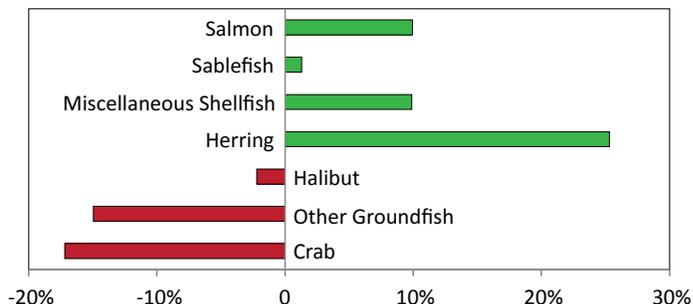


Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

3

Job Growth by Species

ALASKA SEAFOOD HARVESTING, 2012 TO 2013



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Groundfish species continue to dominate catch volume

The job numbers here have a much lower profile than other fisheries data, such as catch volume and value. State and federal biologists and other experts manage the fisheries as a renewable economic and subsistence asset.

According to the most recent NOAA report, Alaska fisheries produce over half the United States' total harvest volume and a third of the total value.

Groundfish make up the largest share in terms of volume and salmon in value¹ among all fisheries, with nearly \$680 million worth brought to dock in 2013.

Though salmon harvested in Alaska made up about 17.5 percent of total seafood volume, it was 36.5 percent of total commercial fisheries value. In contrast, wall-eye pollock was well over half the volume – 3 billion pounds in 2013 – but around 25 percent of total Alaska landings value.

The variations in methods, regulation, and markets dictate the effort and employment necessary for each fishery. Limits on size, equipment type, and the number of days allowed for salmon fishing mean more job opportunities and crew are needed. For example, larger ships that fish the Bering Sea for pollock can get by with fewer crew and fetch higher catch prices.



Harvesters pull in an 800-pound cod pot on the Obsession. Photo by Nick Rahaim

Southeast leads regions

Southeast Alaska has been the regional leader in both volume and value of the high-effort salmon fishery since 2011, thus generating the largest job counts. (See Exhibit 4.)

Southcentral was next in 2013 with its halibut fleet and Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet salmon fisheries. The Aleutians/Pribilof Islands' employment was third-highest because of its diversity and triple-digit

¹It's important to note that these data break out halibut and sablefish from the "groundfish" category. If all species of groundfish were combined, groundfish value would be higher than that of salmon.

employment in salmon, halibut, groundfish, and crab harvesting.

Kodiak loses jobs

Employment in Kodiak fisheries dropped 12.6 percent overall in 2013, but still remained higher than 2011 levels. Like most of the other regions, Kodiak's salmon fisheries grew — but employment dropped in halibut and various other groundfish fisheries because of an overall decrease in the number of landings and a reported decline in the number of crew members necessary to fish each permit.

Bristol Bay pattern differs

The Bristol Bay Region's employment growth pattern

About these numbers

Unlike the "nonfarm payroll employment" numbers published every month by state and federal statistical agencies, fish harvesting employment estimates can't be generated simply by asking employers how many people they had on their payroll in a certain month.

Instead, employment of a certain number of people has to be inferred from the fish or other seafood "landings" — the initial sale of the catch.

Because of the way the fisheries are managed — by permits that are generally associated with a specific type of gear, including boat size — a landing under a certain permit requires about the same number of people to

be involved in the catch. Those numbers are called "crew factors."

For example, a certain permit to fish for king crab in Bristol Bay with pot gear on a vessel more than 60 feet long requires about six people to be involved in the crab harvest according to the survey responses of people who own those permits. So when a crab harvest is landed under that permit in a calendar month, we assume the permit generated six jobs in that month.

The jobs are assigned to a location based on harvest areas rather than by place of residence of the permit holder. That approach approximates what's done with payroll employment numbers, which are categorized by place of work rather than by the place of the workers' residence.

Most permits have a geographic designation for where the specific species can be harvested. Employment generated under permits that allow fishing anywhere in the state is assigned to a region by a different method (a special harvest area code).

The numbers are presented here as annual averages because that is also what comes closest to the way payroll employment numbers are published and analyzed. Like seafood harvesting employment, construction and tourism jobs have much higher summer employment levels than they do during the winter. Averaging the seafood harvesting employment numbers across all 12 months allows for more meaningful comparisons between job counts in different industries.

differed from the rest of the state, with salmon employment flat.

The salmon job count was stable mostly because of how the harvesting seasons and landings meshed with calendar months. In 2013, June and July had record employment but August employment was half what it had been the prior year. August employment swings wildly depending on whether the harvest season continues that long into the year. Salmon generates 98 percent of the region's harvesting jobs.

Northern a small piece

Northern Region has a comparatively small harvesting employment level, but the jobs are important to the area. The region gained an average of just four yearly jobs, largely from a strong herring return. Herring harvest employment was five times higher than it was the year before, but the yearly average doesn't reflect that because the herring season lasts just one month, diluting the annual average with months of inactivity.

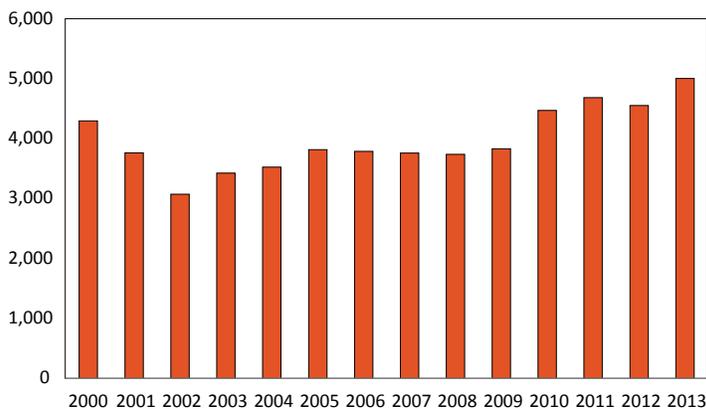
Aleutians area loses 150 total jobs

The Aleutians and neighboring Pribilof Islands lost 150 jobs in 2013. Only August and November gained jobs, with the other 10 months reflecting varying declines.

Aleutians salmon harvesting employment rebounded

5 Salmon Fishing Jobs Up Over Decade

ALASKA, 2000 TO 2013

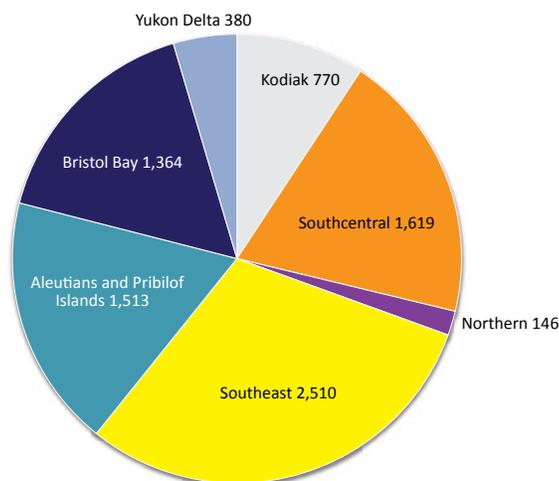


Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

4

Harvesting Jobs by Region

ALASKA, 2013



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

to its 2011 level, which was a 20 percent increase from 2012. The declines in the region's other fisheries overpowered the rebounding salmon employment, because salmon is such a small share. (See Exhibit 6.)

Southeast sets a record

Southeast fisheries gained more than 210 harvesting jobs in 2013, reaching a level not seen since 2000.

Most species showed employment growth from the prior year, with the exceptions of groundfish and crab, which had negligible losses.

The area's longest continuous growth has been in its salmon fisheries. Salmon harvesting reached new highs since in 2000 in 2010, 2011, and 2013.

Southcentral has a big summer boost

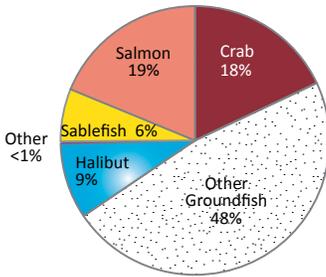
Salmon harvesting is almost as dominant in Southcentral as it is in Bristol Bay, at 73 percent of all harvesting jobs. (See Exhibit 6.)

While salmon fisheries across Alaska gained jobs on an average monthly basis, Southcentral gained the most in its peak months. The region's average increase was only 197 for the year, but

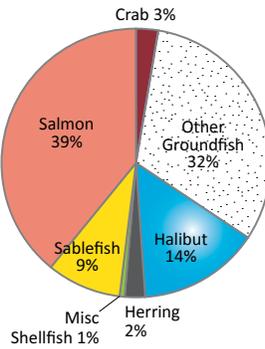
6 Where Species Are Harvested

HARVESTING JOBS BY REGION, 2013

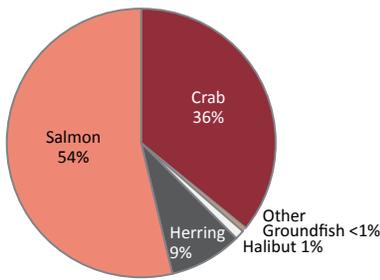
Aleutians



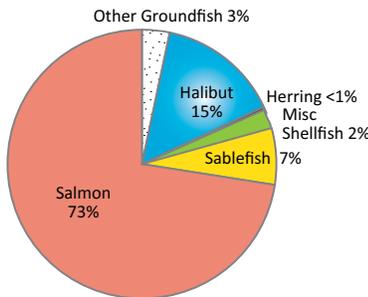
Kodiak



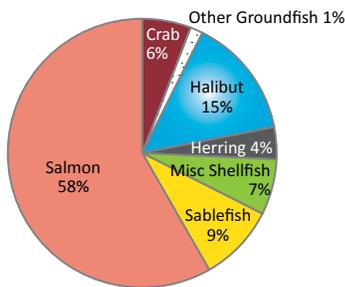
Northern



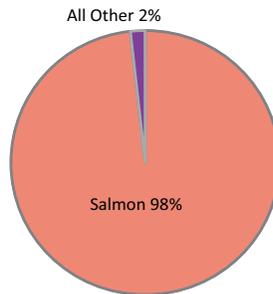
Southcentral



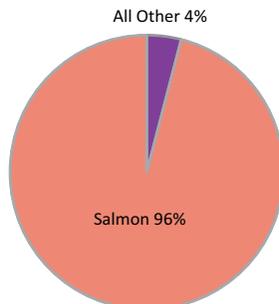
Southeast



Bristol Bay



Yukon Delta



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

June alone was up 1,515 jobs from the year before.

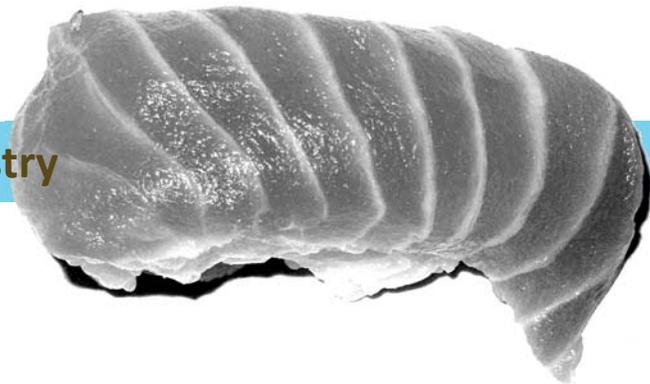
Harvesting jobs for all the other species in Southcentral mostly remained stable. Steady overall job increases have been the norm for this region in recent years.

For more information, see our Web site at laborstats.alaska.gov.

Josh Warren is a Department of Labor economist in Juneau. To reach him, call (907) 465-6032 or e-mail him at Joshua.Warren@alaska.gov.

SEAFOOD PROCESSORS

Large segment of a massive industry



By **DANIEL STRONG**

Following the harvest, the next major step for Alaska seafood is processing.

In 2013, 27,909 people worked as seafood processors at some point in the year, nearly four out of five of whom worked hands-on making surimi, processing fish roe, or cutting and trimming. The other fish processing workers perform an array of supporting services including grading, machine operation, ship maintenance, packaging, and general labor.

Alaska had about 170 fish processing facilities in 2012. Most on-shore processing plants were in Southeast (39.3 percent) and Southcentral (26.8 percent). However, the highest numbers of processing workers were located in the Aleutians and Pribilofs Island region followed by Southeast, Bristol Bay, and Southcentral.¹ (See Exhibit 1).

Minimal training required

Most fish processing jobs require relatively little on-the-job training and less than a high school diploma, so they're a ready source of employment for younger workers and those without higher education. Working throughout the season and consistently returning to the same company can also provide opportunities to advance.

¹The count of workers shown here represents those who worked at any time in 2013. Some may have worked in more than one borough and were counted more than once. Data may not be comparable to data in our "Residency of Alaska Workers" publication because of differences in methodology.

Mainly seasonal jobs

Although some fisheries continue throughout the year, the industry is mostly seasonal and few workers are employed year-round. In 2013, only 2 percent of seafood processors (representing 18 percent of seafood processing occupations), worked an average of at least three quarters, and many of those were office workers or material movers. The vast majority, 91 percent, worked two or fewer quarters.

High percentage of nonresidents

The remoteness of many fisheries and low resident populations mean it's often necessary to bring in out-of-state labor or workers from other regions to process the large seasonal catches, particularly salmon.

Although the seafood processing industry has a high number of nonresidents (73.6 percent in 2012), some regions have a low ratio of nonresident workers. For example, the Yukon Delta employs 9.2 percent nonresidents, and three-quarters of its resident workers come from the region.

Most come back more than once

Seafood processors tend to stay in the industry for at least a few years. From 2007 to 2012, more than half returned for a second season. Over the same period, a quarter had worked in the industry for the past five years or longer.

The Kodiak region has the highest longevity among seafood processing workers, with an average of 32.9 percent having worked in the industry for the past five years. Kodiak also had the lowest percentage of workers who'd held another job during the year, at 12.2 percent.

A group of higher-wage positions

Individual workers are classified in occupations, but companies are classified in industries and these companies employ other workers in addition to the seafood processing workers. When looking at the seafood processing industry as a whole, different trends emerge.

Though it generally has low hourly wages, high seasonality, and low resident hire, the industry does have a number of higher-wage occupations that follow a different trend. (See Exhibit 2.)

The 11 highest-paid occupations in the industry relate to engineering, high-level management, installation, maintenance, and repair work. The largest numbers of workers in this group were ship engineers at 34 percent, followed by captains, mates, and boat pilots (27.8 percent) and general and operations managers (14.6 percent).

This group made up just 1.2 percent of all industry workers but made 6 percent of total wages. The median annual wage for the industry was \$24,689, compared to \$66,720 for the highest-paid occupations. These wages ranged from a low of \$57,889 for ship engineers to a high of \$148,678 for chief executive officers.

Management occupations made an average of \$82,364 a year and accounted for 36 percent of the total wages among this group. About 64 percent of this group's wages were earned by plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters; electrician helpers; structural metal fabricators and fitters; engineers (other); captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels; and ship engineers.

This group requires more training

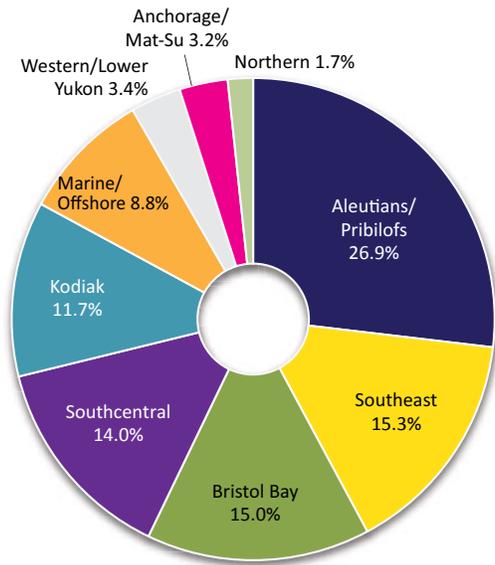
Most of these higher-paying occupations require more qualifications than other fish processing industry jobs, with two-thirds requiring a bachelor's degree.

Despite this, the necessary work experience and training are minimal. Most of these occupations require less than five years of experience and no on-the-job training.

Captains, mates, and boat pilots must have a U.S.

1 Harvesters Spread Statewide

HARVESTING JOBS BY REGION, 2013



Note: The count of workers shown here represents those who worked at any time in 2013. Some may have worked in more than one borough and were counted more than once. Data may not be comparable to data provided in our "Residency of Alaska Workers" publication due to differences in methodology. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Coast Guard license. Engineers, plumbers, and electrician helpers must be licensed by the State of Alaska, and other occupations may have federal certification requirements.

Higher-paid group works more

Workers in these higher-paid occupations also tend to work year-round. In 2013, they worked an average of three quarters, about 24.3 percent more than the average for all seafood processing occupations combined. Structural metal fabricators, administrative services managers, electrician helpers, engineers (other), and general and operations managers worked the most, more than three quarters in 2013.

These occupations also tend to have a higher percentage of Alaska residents than other seafood processing industry jobs. On average, less than a quarter in this group were nonresidents, with the lowest nonresident percentages among administrative services managers (8.7 percent), CEOs (9.1 percent), and sales managers (10.5 percent).

The highest rates of nonresident workers were among ship engineers (59.5 percent); captains, mates, and boat

pilots (52.4 percent); and structural metal fabricators and fitters (34.4 percent).

Older workers in higher-paid group

These higher-paying occupations tended to employ older workers,² with over half being 45 or older, on average. Electrician helpers had the fewest older workers at 30.1 percent, while CEOs had the most, at 76.4 percent. For comparison, seafood processors were 39.6 years old on average.

Occupational outlook

Seafood processing industry employment is projected to grow by 6.7 percent between 2012 and 2022, and the highest-paid processing occupations are expected to grow at nearly twice that rate. Across all industries, expected growth ranges from a low of 6.9 percent for electrician helpers to 15.3 percent for captains, mates, and boat pilots.

Daniel Strong is a research analyst with the Department of Labor in Juneau. To reach him, call (907) 465-6036 or e-mail him at Daniel.Strong@alaska.gov.

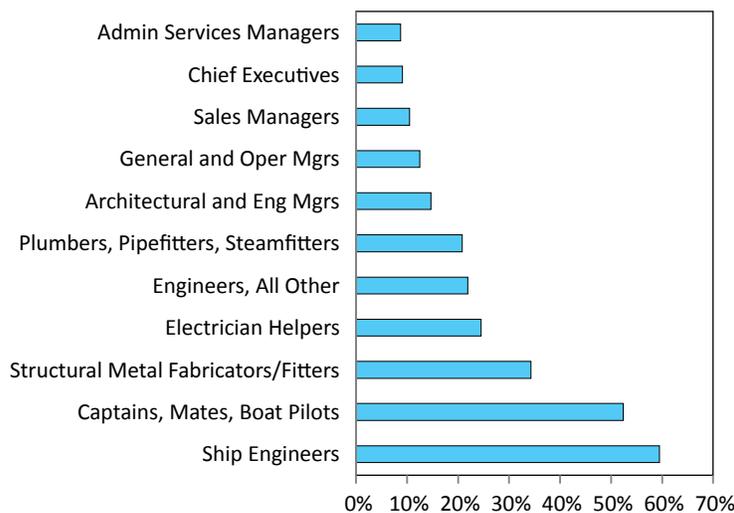
²Age information comes from PFD data and is for Alaska resident workers only.

2 Highest-Paid Processing Occupations ALASKA, 2013

Occupations	2013 Quarters	
	avg wages	worked
Chief Executive Officers	\$148,677.72	2.95
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	\$82,210.60	4.00
Engineers, All Other	\$82,176.59	3.14
General and Operations Managers	\$73,467.15	3.06
Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels	\$70,767.14	2.48
Sales Managers	\$66,720.29	3.00
Administrative Services Managers	\$63,317.29	3.50
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$60,326.87	2.13
Electrician Helpers	\$59,667.70	3.50
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$59,639.42	2.61
Ship Engineers	\$57,888.53	2.84

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

3 Major Variation in Nonresident Rates ALASKA SEAFOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY, 2013



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Alaska's Community Development Quota Groups

Six groups allocate fish and revenues to 65 western villages

By **CAROLINE SCHULTZ**

Alaska's abundant resources have long been the primary agent of economic development in the state, and fair allocation of the revenue, particularly from public resources, is a continual challenge.

Fisheries are among the most difficult common good to allocate because of the lack of property rights associated with bodies of water. Management strategies for fisheries vary by species, location, season, and fishermen's intentions and means.

Congress enacted the Community Development Quota program to help distribute and manage these resources. The CDQ program allocates a percentage of all

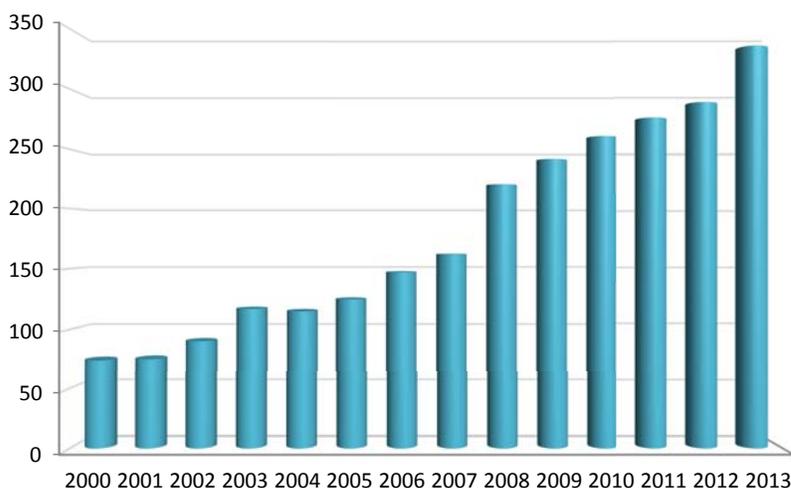
federally managed Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, or BSAI, harvest quotas to nonprofit organizations representing eligible coastal communities. These nonprofits are called CDQ groups. BSAI species include, among others, certain species of groundfish, halibut, and crab.

The program allows villages to participate and invest in BSAI fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, with the goals of alleviating poverty and achieving sustainable and diversified local economies in western Alaska.

Sixty-five western Alaska villages are eligible, based on proximity to the coast and historic involvement in BSAI fisheries. Six corporations represent the villages, managing and administering the allocations and using

1 CDQ Employment on a Steady Rise

AVERAGE MONTHLY JOBS, ALASKA, 2000 TO 2013



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

the revenue to fund economic development and provide jobs.

CDQ villages are among the most economically disadvantaged in the state, with chronically high unemployment and impediments to traditional economic development including remoteness, sub-standard infrastructure, and extremely high costs.

In the 22 years since their inception, the CDQ groups have become powerful players in the heavily industrialized commercial BSAI fisheries. Initially, the CDQ groups partnered with non-CDQ harvesters by leasing their allocation to vessels and processors. Now, some of the CDQ groups own their own catcher vessels, factory trawlers, and on-shore processing facilities. Although law allocates about 10 percent of the total harvest quota to CDQ groups, they control an estimated 40 percent of the pollock trawl fleet in the Bering Sea.

According to their 2013 financial statements, the six corporations earned \$318 million in gross revenue from a variety of sources that included fishing, processing, quota royalties, program revenue, and investment income. The corporations' combined net assets amounted to \$899 million in 2013.

The CDQ groups take different approaches to economic development, tailoring their programs and investments to the needs of their communities. These include direct employment, investment in subsidiaries, scholarships, community grants, training, scientific research, and infrastructure.

The economic impact of CDQ groups goes beyond jobs

The six CDQ groups are among the biggest private sector employers in western Alaska, with average monthly employment of 336 in 2013. (See Exhibit 1.)

CDQ employment is highly seasonal; in 2013, summer employment peaked at 767 in July, up from a low of 157 in January. This seasonal pattern is largely the result of summer employment programs for young workers as well as normal summer economic activity brought on by better weather and more daylight.

For the most part, the CDQ groups don't directly employ fish harvesters and processors, which are instead managed by subsidiaries and joint ventures. CDQ subsidiaries generate an additional 1,000-plus jobs in the region.

Continued on page 15

2 Alaska's CDQ Groups AS OF 2013

Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

Akutan	Nelson Lagoon
Atka	Nikolski
False Pass	St. George

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

Aleknagik	Naknek
Clarks Point	Pilot Point
Dillingham	Port Heiden
Egegik	Portage Creek
Ekuk	South Naknek
Ekwok	Togiak
King Salmon	Twin Hills
Levelock	Ugashik
Manokotak	

Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

St. Paul

Coastal Villages Region Fund

Chefornak	Napaskiak
Chevak	Newtok
Eek	Nightmute
Goodnews Bay	Oscarville
Hooper Bay	Platinum
Kipnuk	Quinhagak
Kongiganak	Scammon Bay
Kwigillingok	Toksook Bay
Mekoryuk	Tuntutuliak
Napakiak	Tununak

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

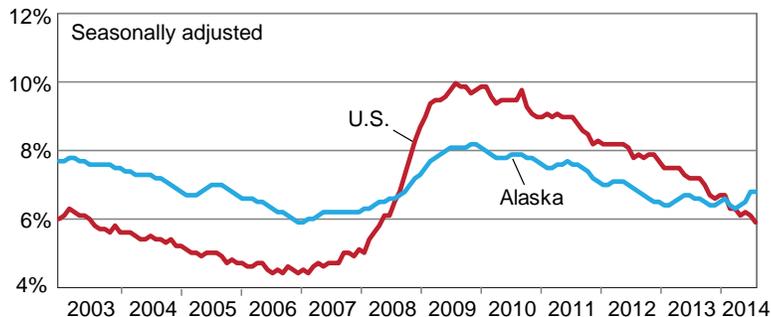
Brevig Mission	Savoonga
Elim	Shaktoolik
Gambell	Stebbins
Golovin	Teller
Koyuk	Unalakleet
Little Diomede	Wales
Nome	White Mountain
Saint Michael	

Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

Alakanuk	Kotlik
Emmonak	Mountain Village
Grayling	Nunam Iqua

Employment Scene

1 Unemployment Rates JANUARY 2003 TO SEPTEMBER 2014



Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

2 Unemployment Rates BOROUGHES AND CENSUS AREAS

	Prelim. 9/14	Revised 8/14	9/13
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	5.9	6.1	7.2
Alaska Statewide	6.8	6.8	6.6
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	5.7	6.3	7.0
Alaska Statewide	5.9	6.2	5.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.2	5.6	5.1
Municipality of Anchorage	4.9	5.3	4.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	6.0	6.7	6.3
Gulf Coast Region	6.2	6.2	6.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	6.7	6.6	6.6
Kodiak Island Borough	4.1	4.8	4.3
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6.2	5.9	6.6
Interior Region	5.7	6.0	5.7
Denali Borough	3.3	2.9	4.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.0	5.5	5.0
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	9.6	9.7	9.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	13.8	13.2	14.0
Northern Region	9.1	9.7	9.6
Nome Census Area	11.4	12.5	11.2
North Slope Borough	4.1	4.7	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	14.5	14.8	15.5
Southeast Region	5.2	5.3	5.0
Haines Borough	4.8	4.4	4.9
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	9.5	9.2	9.0
Juneau, City and Borough	4.1	4.4	4.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	5.1	4.9	4.5
Petersburg Census Area	8.6	7.6	6.9
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	10.9	11.8	10.1
Sitka, City and Borough	4.0	4.0	4.3
Skagway, Municipality	1.7	1.2	2.6
Wrangell, City and Borough	6.2	6.4	6.2
Yakutat, City and Borough	5.6	7.9	5.9
Southwest Region	12.1	12.3	12.6
Aleutians East Borough	7.6	8.0	11.2
Aleutians West Census Area	5.8	6.1	8.1
Bethel Census Area	15.6	15.9	15.9
Bristol Bay Borough	2.7	2.0	2.6
Dillingham Census Area	9.4	8.5	8.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	6.1	7.4	5.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	20.5	22.7	20.1

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



This month in Trends history

As we enter the second year of Alaska's recession, attention centers on the price of oil and the state budget forecast. Now we can also begin to worry about the impact the stock market collapse will have on the state's economy. With the federal government an important source of jobs in Alaska, will pressure to cut the federal budget deficit mean cutbacks in federal spending in Alaska? Will a recession mean less oil consumption and therefore lower prices for oil?

While the current situation does not look promising, the long term future of Alaska remains bright. Metal mining, forestry, and tourism are strong and appear to be growing. As the excesses of the last few years are wrung out of the economy, the price of oil firms up over time, and other projects are put in the works, the rebound may catch us all unprepared.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has published *Alaska Economic Trends* as far back as 1961 and other labor market summaries since the late 1940s. Historical *Trends* articles are available at labor.alaska.gov/trends as far back as 1978, and complete issues are available from 1994.

Employer Resources

November is 'Hire a Veteran' month in Alaska

For many years, Alaska and the nation have honored veterans during the month of November. Veterans Day, observed on Nov. 11, is the anniversary of the World War I armistice that ended hostilities on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Alaska also marks Hire a Veteran Month in November, beginning with a proclamation by the governor and led by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The department will host its annual Alaska Veterans' Job Fair on Friday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the University Center Mall, located at 3801 Old Seward Highway in Anchorage. More than 120 employers and 1,500 job seekers are expected.

The latest information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

shows that Alaska is home to more than 73,000 veterans, the largest per capita veteran population in the nation. Additionally, many Alaska employers realize the benefits veterans can bring to their businesses by employing more than 42,000 veterans.

Employers who would like to hire veterans or learn how veterans can benefit a business should contact their nearest Alaska Job Center. To find the nearest job center, visit jobs.alaska.gov and click on "Alaska Job Centers" on the left, or call (877) 724-2539. For more information about the Veteran Employment and Training Program, visit jobs.alaska.gov/veterans/.

Employer Resources is written by the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

CDQ GROUPS

Continued from page 13

The economic impact of CDQ groups goes beyond providing jobs in western Alaska. The corporations provide funding for local governments, tribal organizations, and schools. This gives these villages the ability to govern, provide basic services, and improve their living standards.

According to the 2011 Western Alaska Community Development Association report, the six CDQ groups provided nearly \$7.3 million for infrastructure projects and more than \$17.7 million for community benefit projects.

In 2011, CDQ groups granted more than 725 scholarships, worth \$2.1 million, and spent an additional \$780,000 on training and skill development.

The groups and their subsidiaries are also important taxpayers in incorporated communities and boroughs.

CDQ groups' challenges

Controversy often follows when property rights are assigned to a common good. CDQ groups are just some

of the players in the Bering Sea commercial fisheries and western Alaska communities, and some for-profit harvesters and processors in the western crab and groundfish fisheries think the nonprofits have too much quota and too much control over federal policies.

CDQ groups also disagree with each other about the fairness of the quotas based on population and historical ties to the fisheries. There are some concerns that the groups' incentives aren't always aligned with their region's best interests, such as the disputes over the impact of salmon bycatch in the pollock trawl fishery on weak salmon subsistence harvests on the Yukon River. Broader, long-term concerns for the Bering Sea fisheries include climate change, ocean acidification, and stock depletion.

The biggest challenge the CDQ groups face goes back to their mission to alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits to western Alaska, a region that's one of the most difficult in the country to develop. But the CDQ groups have created jobs and provided scholarships and training, and have invested in both public and private industry in the region.

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