

Seafood Industry

Photo Credit: Michael Penn/Juneau Empire



The seafood industry is the largest **private sector** employer in Southeast Alaska **in terms of wages**, accounting for 13% of all regional wages, and 10% of all employment.⁸ In 2010, 4,645 **Southeast residents** (as crew or fishermen) fished commercially. Including nonresidents, more than 10,000 **harvesters** participated in the Southeast Alaska commercial fishery industry in 2010.

Fishing has long been a key element of the Southeast Alaska economy. Southeast Alaska has several dozen fisheries conducted by a fleet of mostly small boats. Regional seafood processors dot the entire archipelago from Ketchikan to Haines. Processors range from fishermen direct operators to larger operations in Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Sitka. Juneau hosts several mid-size processors. Salmon remains the bedrock for Southeast's small boat fleet, but unlike many Alaska fishing regions, Southeast also has a diverse array of high-value, low-volume fisheries.

This section explores the economic impacts of the regional fisheries in two ways: first by examining the value and volume of **seafood caught in Southeast Alaska** waters—including ex-vessel and first wholesale value—and second by examining

⁸ Due to different rules regarding wage and labor data, fisheries statistics are often excluded from the overall picture of wages and jobs distribution. The chart above includes wages earned by Southeast Alaska fishermen and crew based on JEDC analysis. Government is the largest employer, accounting for 40% of all wages. The largest private sector employer in terms of **employees** is tourism.

the level of participation, pounds landed, and estimated gross earning of **Southeast Alaska residents who fish** commercially in Alaska.

Commercial Harvest in Southeast Alaska

Southeast Fisheries Ex-Vessel Value (\$ Paid To Fishermen)

In 2010, the ex-vessel value (or money paid to fishermen) of the Southeast Alaska fisheries was \$291 million. Due to a significant increase in seafood prices—especially for Coho, Chum and Chinook—fishermen earned 25 percent more for their seafood in 2010 over 2009, despite a similar amount of pounds landed. Preliminary results show additional price increases for 2011.

Southeast Alaska Commercial Seafood Industry Harvest & Value Information, 2009-2010

Species	Landed Pounds 2010	Landed Pounds 2009	Calculated Ex-Vessel Value 2010	Calculated Ex-Vessel Value 2009	Change in value 2009 to 2010
Salmon	209,278,632	217,704,265	\$150,844,605	\$111,215,839	36%
Chinook	3,799,987	3,804,385	\$16,490,949	\$11,994,887	37%
Sockeye	4,221,783	5,494,064	\$7,124,923	\$6,829,771	4%
Coho	19,451,314	16,769,651	\$25,254,296	\$17,412,757	45%
Pink	102,744,757	120,408,221	\$41,325,419	\$34,582,622	19%
Chum	79,060,791	71,227,944	\$60,649,019	\$40,395,802	50%
Halibut	9,253,090	10,039,049	\$45,618,735	\$32,755,929	39%
Sablefish	9,346,729	9,847,620	\$54,957,735	\$49,075,299	12%
Dungeness	3,242,076	3,572,064	\$5,615,885	\$6,326,238	-11%
Herring	39,911,512	34,341,480	\$15,331,088	\$17,991,427	-15%
Geoduck, Sea Cucumbers, Urchins	2,667,409	2,709,504	\$9,376,748	\$8,505,381	10%
King and bairdi	1,693,808	1,298,359	\$5,088,680	\$3,949,943	29%
Shrimp	497,943	612,862	\$2,989,726	\$2,462,540	21%
Miscellaneous Groundfish	3,973,636	2,783,320	\$1,924,880	\$1,816,298	6%
Total	279,864,836	282,908,521	\$291,748,083	\$234,098,894	25%

Source: ADF&G - COAR and Fish Ticket Databases; Run 6/1/2011 for 2010 summary

Average Price Per Pound in Southeast Alaska, 2009 & 2010 (Ex-Vessel Value)

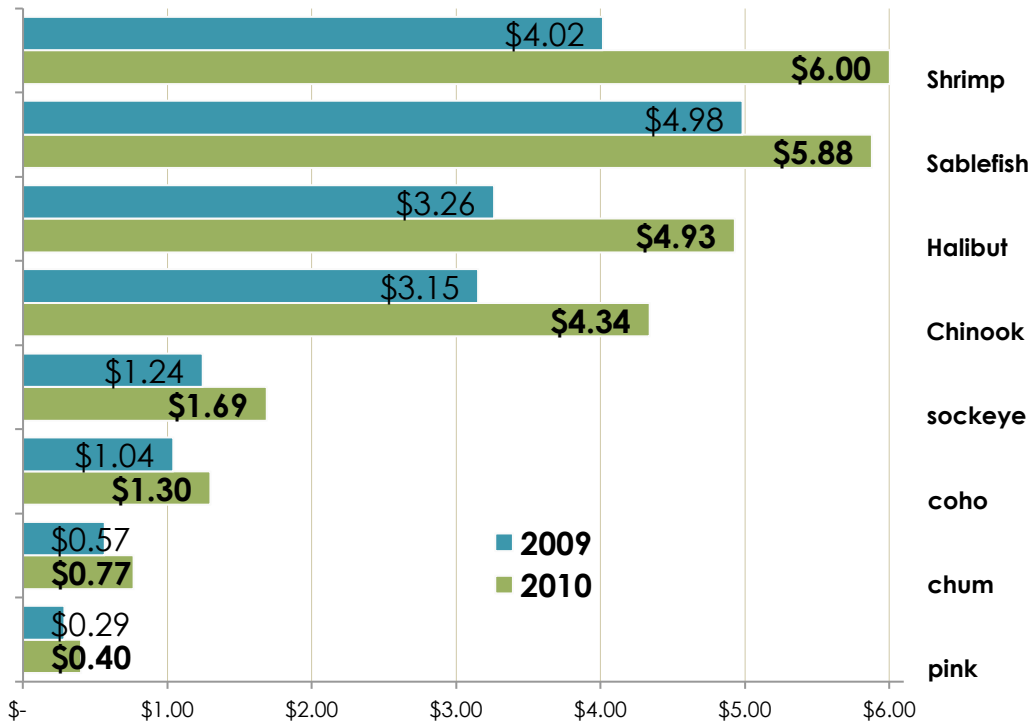
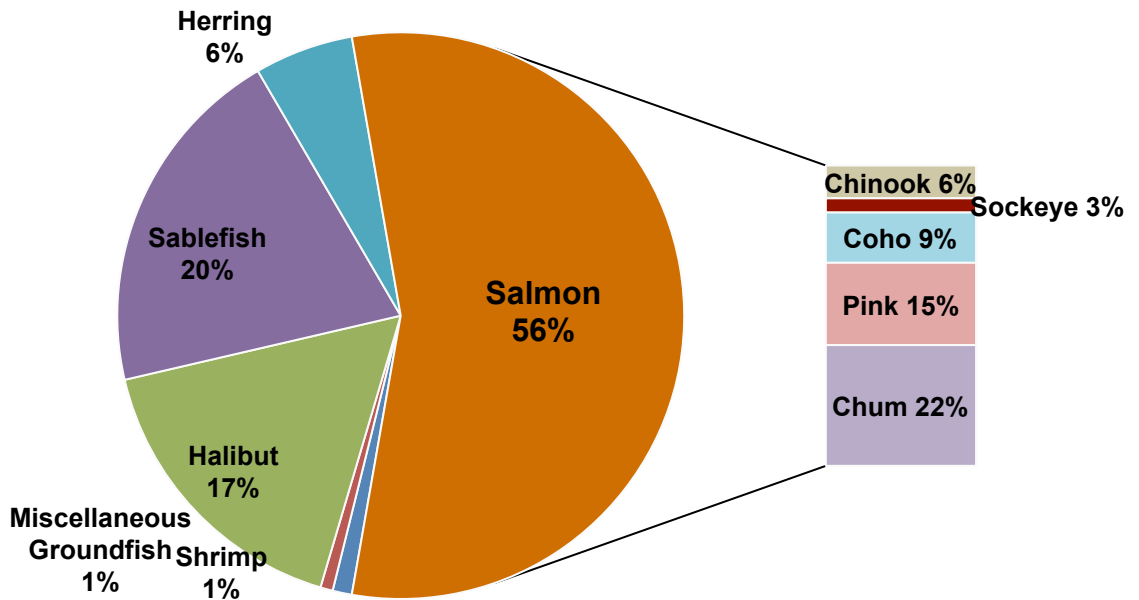


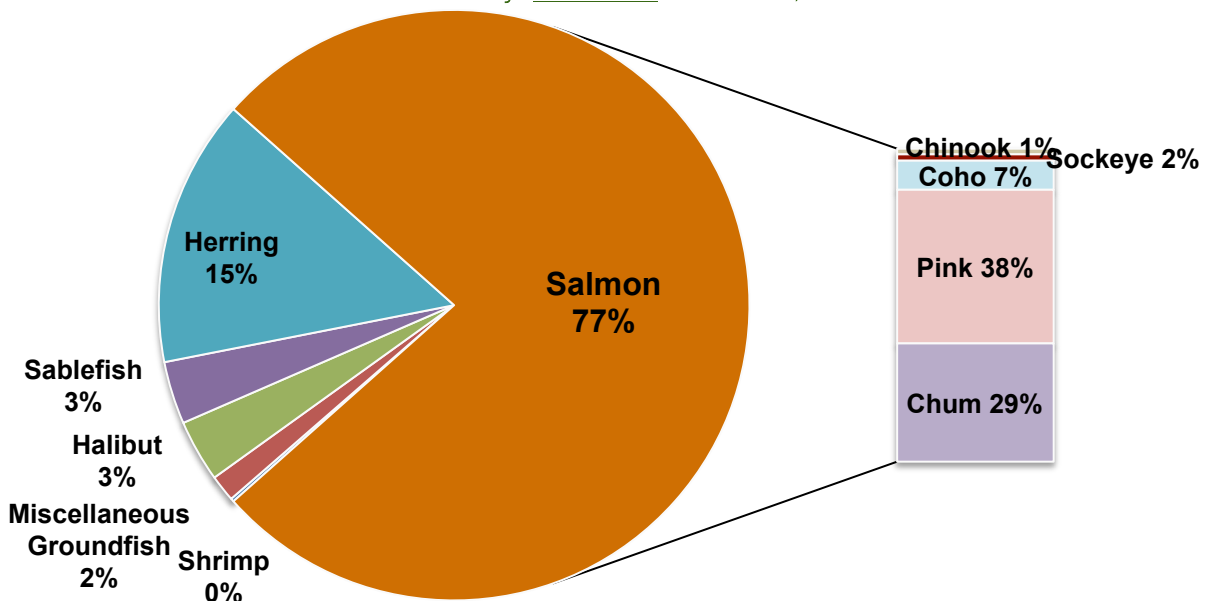
Photo Credit: Michael Penn/Juneau Empire

In 2010, the five salmon species represented more than three quarters (77 percent) of the region's catch in terms of volume and just over half (56 percent) of the total ex-vessel value.

Southeast Harvest by Value, 2010



Southeast Harvest by Pounds Landed, 2010



In 2010, sablefish made up three percent of the total volume caught yet accounted for one-fifth (20 percent) of the total ex-vessel value. Participants must hold federal quota rights, or Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) in order to fish sablefish, and there is a small state managed sablefish fishery in Lynn Canal just north of Juneau.

Halibut has also emerged as a valuable fishery. In 2010 halibut accounted for three percent of the total Southeast harvest and accounted for 17 percent of total ex-vessel value.

Southeast Alaska (Resident) Fishermen

Another measure of the economic value of commercial fishing in the region is how many Southeast Alaska **residents** participated in the Alaska commercial fishing industry. According to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), 4,645 Southeast Alaska residents (2,118 commercial fishermen and 2,527 crew members) fished in 2010, including 689 Juneau residents (eight fewer than in 2009). Regionally, this represents a less than one percent increase in the number of fishermen from 2009 numbers.

Southeast Alaska Resident Fishermen & Crew, 2010

Borough or Census Area	SE Fishermen who Fished	SE Crew Members who Fished	Total SE Residents who Fished
Juneau	258	431	689
Haines	90	87	177
Ketchikan	232	355	587
Wrangell-Petersburg	562	649	1,211
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	132	147	279
Sitka	457	552	1,009
POW-Outer KTN	247	269	516
Yakutat	140	37	177
Total SE Alaska 2010	2,118	2,527	4,645
Total SE Alaska 2009	2,129	2,545	4,674
Change 2009-2010	-0.5%	-0.7%	-0.6%

Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

Note: Fishermen Who Fished is a count of permit holders who made at least one landing during the year. Permits Fished is the number of permits with recorded landings.

Including **non-residents**, there were more than 10,000 participants in the Southeast Alaska fishery in 2010.

Pounds of Seafood Landed by Southeast Residents

In 2010, the total pounds landed by Southeast Alaska fishermen was 179 million, with associated estimated gross earnings of \$176 million. This represents a five percent increase in pounds landed over 2009, and a 23 percent increase in gross earnings over the same period. Estimated gross earnings were derived from an ex-vessel price per pound developed by the CFEC.

The following table presents pounds and value of fish landed by commercial fishers residing in Southeast Alaska.

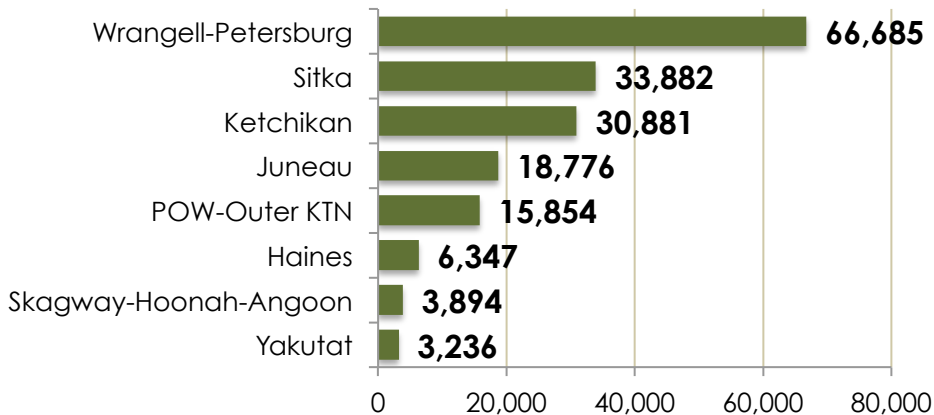
Southeast Alaska Resident Commercial Fisheries Pounds Landed and Gross Earnings, 2009-2010

Area of Residency	Pounds Landed (000)			Gross Earnings (000)		
	2010	2009	Change	2010	2009	Change
Juneau	18,776	18,486	2%	\$21,452	\$17,527	22%
Haines	6,347	6,105	4%	\$6,771	\$5,244	29%
Ketchikan	30,881	31,285	-1%	\$21,282	\$17,959	19%
Wrangell-Petersburg	66,685	64,249	4%	\$62,797	\$52,621	19%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	3,894	3,759	4%	\$6,530	\$5,590	17%
Sitka	33,882	29,350	15%	\$40,151	\$30,489	32%
POW-Outer KTN	15,854	15,032	5%	\$13,093	\$11,461	14%
Yakutat	3,236	2,226	45%	\$4,257	\$2,374	79%
Total SE Alaska	179,556	170,492	5%	\$176,334	\$143,265	23%

Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

Note: Pounds landed and gross earnings are by residency of the fishermen only, and does not necessarily represent fishing activity in a specific area. The 2010 data is preliminary.

Pounds of Seafood Landed by Area of Residency, 2010



Seafood Processing in Southeast Alaska

In 2010, 51 shorebased seafood processing facilities were active in Southeast Alaska and collectively processed 209 million pounds of product, with a wholesale value of \$468 million. This represents a 25 percent increase in value since 2009, and a 17 percent increase in poundage. More than half of the product was processed in Sitka (61 million pounds) and Ketchikan (53 million pounds). Juneau had nine shorebased processors, producing 14.5 million pounds of product, a three percent increase over 2009.