



# NOAA FISHERIES

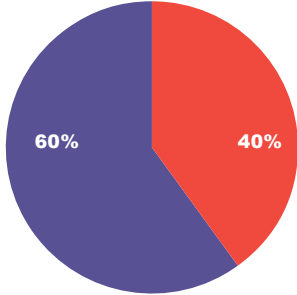
## Alaska Recreational Fisheries

With more coastline than all other U.S. states combined, Alaska's coastal waters provide expansive marine recreational fishing opportunities. Commonly caught sport fish species include Pacific halibut, rockfish, Pacific cod, lingcod, and all five species of Pacific salmon: Chinook, chum, coho, pink, and sockeye. Together, these world-renowned fisheries resources support a thriving recreational sport fishery, while providing for personal use and subsistence needs of resident Alaskans and for important commercial fisheries. In partnership with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Alaska, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission, NOAA Fisheries is working to ensure sustainable and enduring saltwater fishing opportunities in Alaska.

### SALTWATER FISHING EFFORT

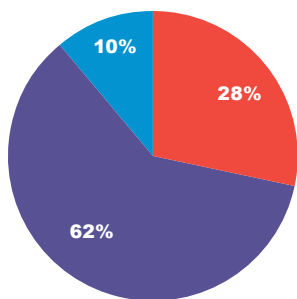
In 2017, all saltwater trips combined resulted in a total of 861,000 fishing days\* in Alaska. Of those fishing days:

#### Resident vs non-resident anglers



- Resident 40%
- Non-resident 60%

#### Type of fishing trip

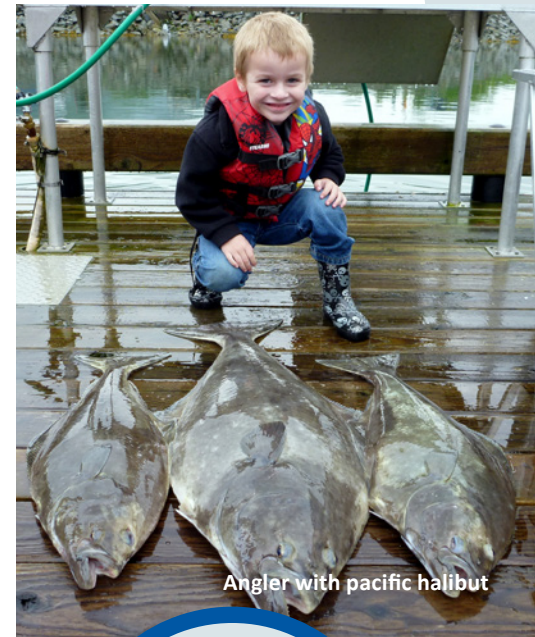


- Charter 28%
- Non-Charter 62%
- Shellfish 10%

\*Fishing days are a measure of fishing effort, or the amount of fishing activity in a given location. Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fishing Survey.

### POPULAR RECREATIONAL FISH SPECIES

2017 Species	Total Catch (number of fish)	HARVESTED RELEASED
Pacific halibut	551,600	
Coho salmon	539,100	
Rockfish	407,200	
Pink salmon	272,000	
Chinook salmon	191,400	
Lingcod	49,100	
Sockeye salmon	45,900	
Pacific cod	43,500	
Chum salmon	32,000	
Sablefish	28,000	
Shark	9,600	



Angler with pacific halibut

In 2017, 295,000 anglers spent nearly \$470 million on saltwater trips and durable goods across Alaska.

The State of Alaska sets sport fishing regulations for all recreational fisheries except for Pacific halibut. Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fishing Survey.

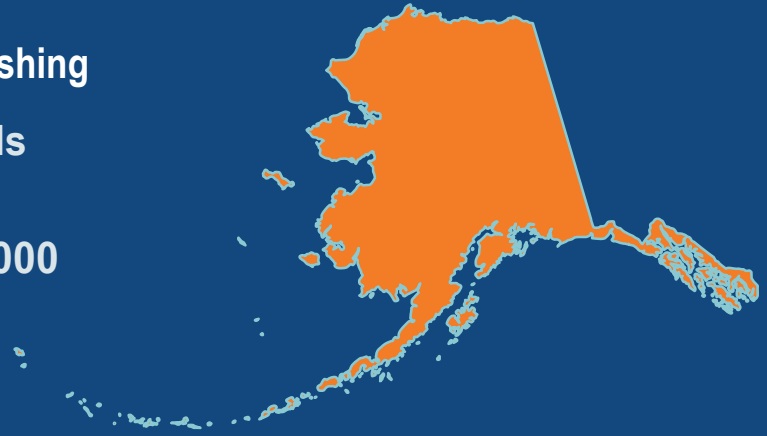
## Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing

### Fishing Trip and Durable Goods

Expenditures: \$467,477,000

Total Sales Impacts: \$566,733,000

Total Jobs: 5,550



## Species Spotlight

### YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH

With their bright colors and potential to reach relatively large sizes, yelloweye rockfish are one of the most sought-after rockfish species by recreational anglers in Alaska. They are among the longest lived rockfishes, with the potential to reach 100+ years of age and up to 36 inches in length. Although yelloweye are so long-lived, they are slow to mature. Males in Southeast Alaska mature around age 18, while females mature around age 22. Yelloweye rockfish can be found along the coast of Alaska from the Aleutian Islands down to the southern tip of Southeast Alaska, and their range continues south down to the Baja Peninsula.



Yelloweye rockfish stocks are currently depressed throughout much of their range and care needs to be taken to ensure their sustainability into the future. The fact that yelloweye rockfish are slow to mature and frequently targeted by anglers makes them vulnerable to overfishing. This vulnerability is compounded by the fact that yelloweye cannot vent their swim bladders. This makes them susceptible to barotrauma from rapid decompression when they are removed from deep water. Research by NOAA Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has shown that proper deepwater release techniques can lead to increased survival of released rockfishes. Beginning in 2020, saltwater sport fishermen in Alaska must have a functioning deepwater release mechanism on board their vessel and all rockfish not harvested must be released at depth of capture or at a depth of 100 feet.

### LEARN MORE

In Alaska, NOAA Fisheries works closely with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Alaska, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

For more information visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/alaska>

Kurt Iverson: Alaska Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator,  
[kurt.iverson@noaa.gov](mailto:kurt.iverson@noaa.gov), (907) 586-7210

Scott Vulstek: Alaska Fisheries Science Center Recreational Fisheries Coordinator,  
[scott.vulstek@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.vulstek@noaa.gov), (907) 789-6096



Angler with quillback rockfish



Anglers with pacific halibut