

Kodiak Fishermen Best at Bringing Home the Bacon

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

Kodiak-based

commercial fishermen by far brought home the largest amount of money among fishing community in the state - more even than the whole of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. That's just one of the results from the 2011 edition of the Community Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing fact sheet produced by the United Fishermen of Alaska.

The survey

lists the number of permit-holders, crewmen and homeported boats in Alaska's major fishing areas and quantifies the financial impact those, as well as processing jobs, have on their communities. The figures are for calendar year 2010.

The fact

sheet reinforces the importance of commercial fishing to Kodiak, which is the number four fishing port in the nation by volume delivered and number three by value. Though Dutch Harbor-Unalaska lands more pounds of seafood with a greater value, the amount of money earned by resident fishermen pales compared to Kodiak.

The

estimated ex-vessel income by resident fishermen in Dutch was \$3.3-million. The resident fisherman population, including permit holders and crewmen, was just 92, with only 30 vessels home ported there.

By

comparison, 622 vessels claim Kodiak as their homeport, with over 1,400 permit holders and crewmen calling Kodiak home as well. The estimated ex-vessel income by Kodiak residents was \$127-million.

Since Unalaska

is number two in the nation by volume of seafood crossing the docks, it makes sense that it has the most processing jobs in the state at 3,313. That's 254 more than the Aleutians East Borough and 337 more than Kodiak. Unalaska processing wages in 2010 amounted to over \$55-million. It was just under \$50-million in the Aleutians East, and it was \$41-million in Kodiak.

The UFA report profiles 18 different Alaska fishing communities.