

# Wild Alaska Pollock & its Importance to Alaska

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**RDC Breakfast, October 3, 2024**

*Julie Decker, PSPA*

*Jim Johnson, Glacier Fish Company*

*Stephanie Madsen, APA*

# About Pacific Seafood Processors Association

- Formed in 1914, Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) is a nonprofit trade association representing 11 seafood processing companies in the policy, regulatory, and legislative arenas.
- PSPA purchases fish from thousands of independent commercial fishermen, processes it and sells it around the world.



**PSPA**  
PACIFIC SEAFOOD  
PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION  
— EST. 1914 —

# Why the Alaska Pollock Fishery Matters

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- Vital to Alaska
- Model for sustainability
- Feeds the world



## ALASKA POLLOCK FISHERY

One of the most abundant,  
fisheries in the world.

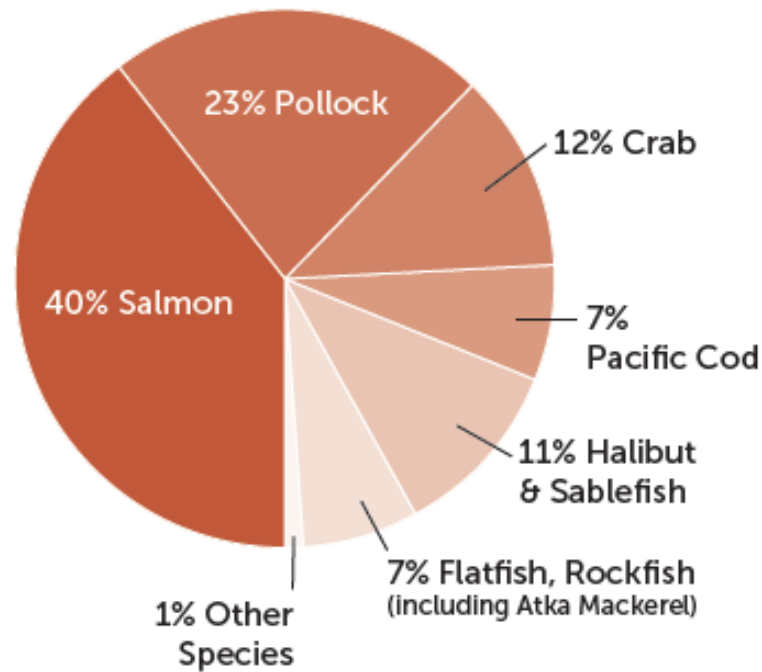
Recognized<sup>1</sup> and certified<sup>2</sup> as  
among the most responsibly  
managed fisheries in the world.



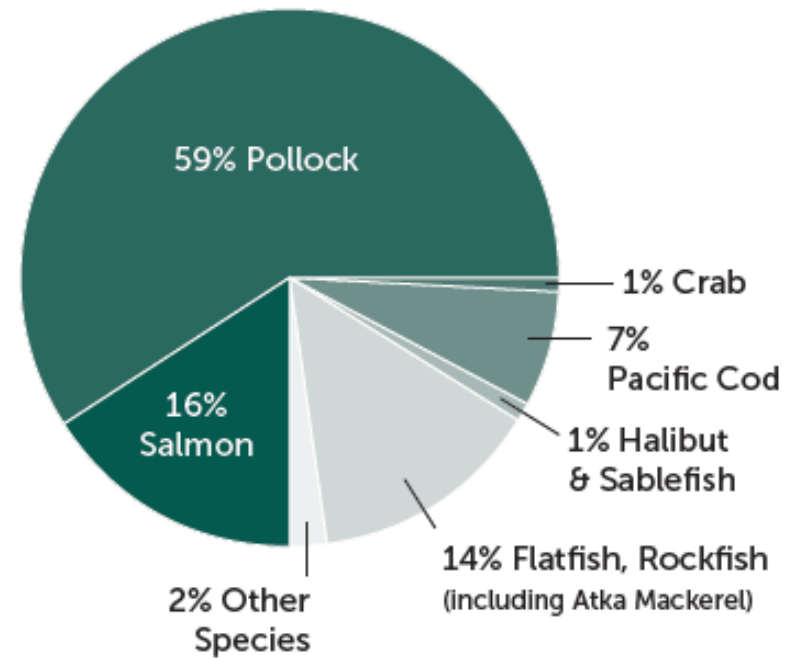
ACCOUNTS FOR OVER  
**35% of all fish**  
CAUGHT BY U.S. COMMERCIAL  
FISHERIES

# Top Two Alaska Fisheries: Salmon & Pollock

## VALUE AND VOLUME BY SPECIES 2021-2022



Percent of Ex-Vessel Value



Percent of Volume

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

A source of employment and economic opportunities for Alaska families and communities.



ALASKA'S POLLOCK FISHERY REPRESENTS

**30% | \$1.56B**

OF THE OVERALL FIRST WHOLESAL VALUE  
OF ALASKA SEAFOOD.

(Source: ASMI, April 2024)



ALASKA SEAFOOD INDUSTRY EMPLOYS

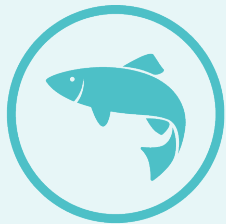
**48K WORKERS**



## PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

WE ARE A PILLAR OF ALASKA'S STATEWIDE ECONOMY AND A RELIABLE SOURCE OF INCOME FOR HARDWORKING FAMILIES.

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Alaska seafood  
industry employs

**48K**  
WORKERS

Alaska pollock fishery  
supports many small boat  
fisheries.



# About Glacier Fish Company



- In its 42<sup>nd</sup> year Glacier has a long history of participation and stewardship in the Bering sea fisheries. We operate and are owners in five frozen-at- sea catcher processors (CPs) which include two American Fisheries Act CPs and have invested in shore side infrastructure in Unalaska, AK.
- Glacier have been partners in the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program since its inception in 1992 and
- Glacier is majority owned by Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation which represents and benefits 15 coastal communities in the Bering Strait region
- Glacier and its ownership group has a proud history of responsible conduct, continuous improvement and fully supporting research and science based management approaches





## SUPPORT COASTAL COMMUNITIES

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA (CDQ) PROGRAM ENSURES ALASKAN COASTAL COMMUNITIES SHARE IN OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHERY.

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**35%**

**OF ALASKA POLLOCK  
ASSETS**

are owned and controlled by  
Western Alaska communities  
through the CDQ program.

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**65**

**WESTERN ALASKA  
COMMUNITIES**

depend on the Alaska pollock  
sector for economic activity,  
including shoreside processing  
jobs, port and support business  
employment, and tax revenue.

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**6 CDQ**

**GROUPS  
PROVIDE FUNDS**

to support education, training  
and employment opportunities,  
and investments to improve  
infrastructure.

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# Geo-Political and Macro-Economic Factors are a threat to Alaska as a global leader in fisheries

- A recent *NY Times* article described the perfect storm of post-covid whiplash coupled with an imbalanced global trade picture severely impacting Alaska fisheries and communities
- The Alaska delegation led by Senator Sullivan delivered a great result in banning Russian pollock, cod, crab and salmon in the US and closing a loophole that allowed it to flow through China while previously passing legislation to forbid Russia in using “Alaska” in marketing
- However, our key trading partners in Europe, Japan, Canada and the UK have either none or more lenient sanctions damaging US export trade to these markets while still allowing Russian to fund its war
- Our major competitors in Russia and China, don’t have the same sustainability and labor standards and a communique from the G7 August Summit put this issue front and center for future cooperation

# The EU is now majority supplied by Russia/China on Pollock while declaring that it will stop at nothing to push Alaska Pollock out of the Japan market through dumping

## Alaska senator wants EU to join US in 'economic war' against Russia seafood

'We're going to try and get our European allies to step up and work with us on closing off these Russian fish supplies that are driving down prices all over the world,' the senator said.



Senator Dan Sullivan of Alaska wants Europe to make Russia pay a price for its Ukraine invasion. (Photo: Dan Sullivan)

## Russian Fishery ups pollock surimi forecast to 160,000t by 2028, hopes for higher prices later in year

*Russia's largest pollock quota holder has upped its forecast for countrywide surimi production of over 160,000t by 2028, even more bullish than one given last year*

By [Tom Seaman](#) | May 28, 2024 10:34 BST



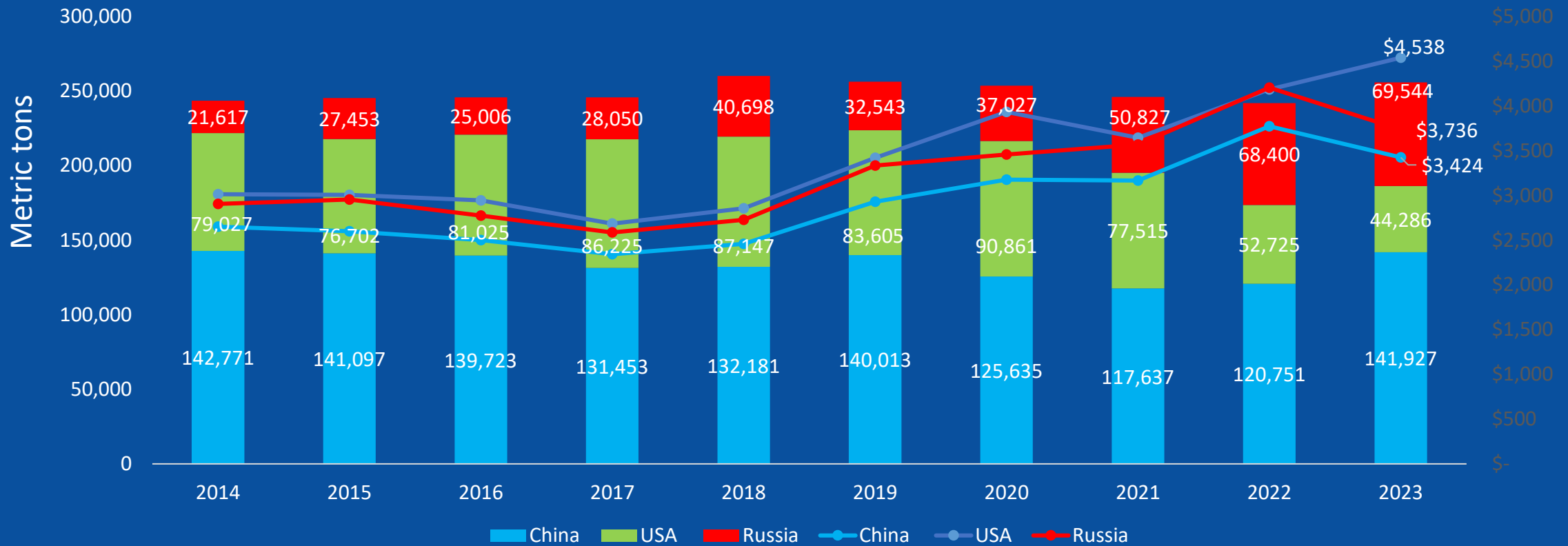
Russian Fishery

**Russian Pollock surimi supply**

Surimi production on a Russian Fishery Company (RFC) vessel. Credit: RFC

# Annual EU imports of Pollock/AK Pollock fillets by country of origin (metric tons)

EU frozen fillet imports



Source: Eurostat

# Vessels, plants and infrastructure in Alaska are in most cases an average of 40 years old

- Competing nations build vessels and processing capacity with cheap labor, provide direct subsidies and do not adhere to the same best in class sustainability and labor standards that exist in Alaska fisheries
- Fishery managers adhering to sound principals of science based fishery management are a critical component to allow for investment in fleets, plants and infrastructure
- Alaskans are hearing a lot of fishery issues in this campaign-cycle and it is more critical then ever for fact-based information to be front and center

## Russian Fishery launches fifth vessel in investment quota trawler series

*The new RFC vessel, named Captain Yunak, is the fifth of 10 trawlers being built under a state investment quota program, with four vessels already operating in the Far East*

By [Undercurrent News](#) | Sept. 25, 2024 10:08 BST



Credit: BEC

# About At-Sea Processors Association

- The At-Sea Processors Association (APA) is a trade association representing five member companies that own and operate 15 U.S.-flag catcher/processor vessels that participate principally in the Alaska pollock fishery.
- As partners in these robust fisheries, APA works with fishery managers, scientists, environmentalists and other industry members to ensure the continued health and sustainability of our marine resources.





RESPONSIBLE &  
SUSTAINABLE FISHERY

- 1 | Intensively studied and managed.
- 2 | Transparent and accountable.
- 3 | Involving Alaskans in governance.

**“one of the cleanest in terms of incidental catch of other species”**

APPROXIMATELY  
**99% of the fish**  
WE CATCH IS POLLOCK.



## CONTINUALLY IMPROVE

WE TAKE SERIOUSLY OUR COMMITMENT TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE HOW WE FISH AND TO ENSURE A HEALTHY MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

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### SALMON EXCLUDER NETS

We developed & deployed fishing nets designed with Salmon Excluder Devices allowing Chinook salmon to escape.



### DATA COLLECTION

We work closely with federal regulators & scientists to continually improve data collection to better understand fishing and climate impacts to the Eastern Bering Sea marine ecosystem (and to reduce incidental catch).



# Incentive Plan Agreements: Positive Outcomes

Bering Sea catcher-processor fleet have reduced its already small Chinook salmon bycatch by more than 50% since 2020.

## OUR CAPTAINS AND OUR VESSELS



BYCATCH  
AVOIDANCE  
TECHNIQUES



SHARE  
REAL-TIME  
DATA



MOVE  
VESSELS  
AWAY



CLOSE  
OFF  
AREAS

# Let's work together.



RESOURCE  
Development Council

## Connect with us

