



Photo: Richard Yamada

## Saltwater Recreational Fisheries in

# Alaska

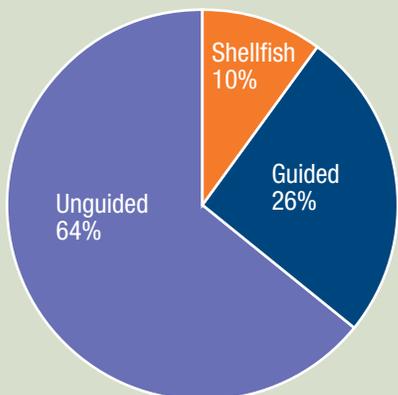
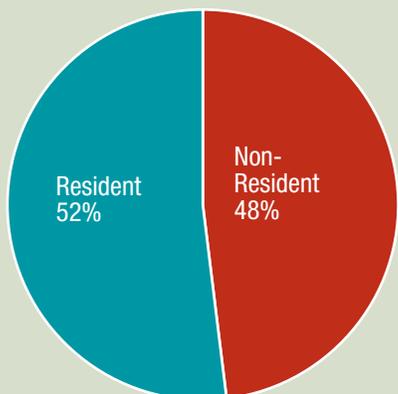
**In 2015, more than 300,000 anglers spent nearly \$470 million on saltwater trips and durable goods across Alaska.**

Source: FEUS 2015

**W**ith more coastline than all other 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 2015, all saltwater trips combined resulted in a total of 975,000 fishing days\* in Alaska. Of those fishing days:



\*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 Saltwater Recreational Species in Alaska

2015 Species	Total Catch NUMBER OF FISH	Harvested Released
Pacific halibut	692,000	
Coho salmon	578,000	
Rockfish	475,000	
Pink salmon	314,000	
Chinook salmon	226,000	
Pacific Cod	133,000	
Lingcod	55,000	
Sockeye salmon	41,000	
Chum salmon	38,000	
Sablefish/Black Cod	36,000	
Shark	20,000	

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. Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand.



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

**Fishing Trip and Durable  
Goods Expenditures:**

**\$469,587,000**

**Total Sales Impacts:**

**\$618,859,000**

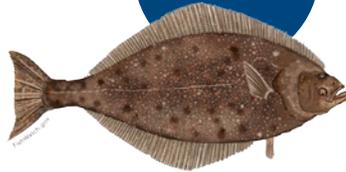
**Total Jobs: 5,407**

Sources: Fisheries Economics of the United States 2015,  
Marine Recreational Information Program



## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

### Pacific Halibut



Pacific halibut is the most common sport-caught species in Alaska, averaging more than 790,000 fish caught annually by recreational anglers. Pacific halibut are a highly sought-after trophy fish as they are strong fighters, one of the world's largest sport-caught fish, and, as table fare, have highly desirable firm, white flesh. The recreational fishery for Pacific halibut contributes important economic benefits to the state's economy, with more than 500,000 angler trips occurring annually in Alaska by resident and nonresident anglers.

Regulating recreational harvest of Pacific halibut is a highly collaborative science-based process implemented under the Pacific Halibut Treaty. The regulations are developed on the international, federal, and state levels in coordinated efforts by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, NOAA Fisheries, and the State of Alaska. Working with our partners, NOAA Fisheries has facilitated engagement and participation of the recreational fishing sector in the rulemaking and policy decision process to ensure recreational fishing opportunities for Pacific halibut are available to all anglers fishing in Alaska.



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### 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 the [NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region website](#).

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