

Economic Value of Bristol Bay and Southeastern Bering Sea Fisheries

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Sustainable fisheries resources potentially affected by offshore oil and gas drilling in the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area are worth more than \$2 billion dollars annually

The economic figures for the fisheries provided below are intended to give an approximate assessment of the value of the fisheries that could be affected by oil and gas development in the portion of the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area currently scheduled for leasing 2011 (Sale 92 area). These fisheries were determined to be potentially affected by the impacts of offshore oil and gas development based on two criteria: 1.) the fisheries take place within or surrounding the proposed lease sale area (Sale 92 area) and/or 2.) the species that are fished utilize habitat within or surrounding the area proposed for leasing.

The impacts of oil and gas development would extend beyond the proposed 5.6 million acre lease sale area. Offshore seismic surveys, infrastructure construction and emplacement, vessel traffic, the discharge of drilling muds and cuttings, as well as chemical or oil spills could affect fisheries that occur inside and outside the lease sale area. Oil and gas activities have the potential to cause displacement from fishing grounds, degradation of fish habitat, as well as lethal and sublethal impacts to fish and their prey. Even the perception of a reduction in the quality of product harvested in the region could drive down prices on the world market.

Values after processing were only available for the federal groundfish fisheries. In all other fisheries the ex vessel values, or value before processing, are given below. Thus, the total value for these fisheries actually exceeds the numbers presented below, as value after processing is higher than the price paid to fishermen at the dock.

<u>Federally-Managed Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Groundfish</u>	
<u>2005 Value after Processing</u> (includes pollock, Pacific cod, and flatfish) ¹ :	\$1.7 billion
<u>Pacific Halibut 2006 Ex vessel value</u> ² :	\$193 million
<u>Salmon 2007 Ex vessel values</u> ³ :	
• Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Salmon	\$27 million
• Bristol Bay Salmon (includes sockeye and other species)	\$108 million
• Kuskokwim Salmon	\$1.2 million
• Yukon Salmon	\$2.5 million
	Total Salmon: \$138.7 million
<u>Shellfish 2006 Ex Vessel Values</u> ⁴ :	
• Red King Crab 2006 ex vessel value:	\$78 million
• Tanner Crab 2006 ex vessel value:	\$1.2 million
	Total Shellfish: \$79.2 million
<u>State-Managed Groundfish 2007 Ex Vessel Values</u> ⁵ :	
• Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands	\$4.3 million
• Alaska Peninsula	\$6 million
	Total State-Managed Groundfish: \$10.3 million
<u>Bristol Bay (Togiak) Herring Sac Roe 2007 Ex Vessel Values</u> ⁶ :	
• Seine	\$1.4 million
• Gillnet	\$ 492,000
	Total Herring: \$1.9 million

Overall Total Value: more than \$2.1 billion



¹ North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (December 2007) Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for the Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area: Economic Status of the Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska, 2006. Accessed February 14, 2008 at: <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/docs/2007/economic.pdf> .

² Welch, Laine (December 9, 2006) "Halibut Catch in Southeast Could Drop in 2007" *SitNews*. Accessed February 14, 2007 at: http://www.sitnews.us/LaineWelch/120906_fish_factor.html

³ Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2007 Alaska Commercial Salmon Harvest and Ex Vessel Values Accessed February 14, 2007 at: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/finfish/salmon/catchval/blusheet/07exvesl.php> .

⁴ Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2006 Preliminary Alaska Commercial Shellfish Catches and Ex Vessel Values. Accessed January 22, 2007 at: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/shellfish/06value.php> .

⁵ Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2007 Alaska Commercial Groundfish Harvests and Value (State-Managed). Accessed February 14, 2007 at: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/finfish/grndfish/catchval/07grndf.pdf> .

⁶ Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2007 Alaska Commercial Herring Sac Roe Harvests and Ex Vessel Values. Accessed February 14, 2008 at: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/finfish/herring/catchval/07catch.pdf> .