



# state employees

The centralized administration of state and federal divisions makes surveying public sector workers challenging. It's difficult to identify someone with knowledge about workers' duties. Consequently, the results of a separate survey reflect reported values from a nonstatistical sampling of state workers.

State government employment makes up 8 percent of the total nonfarm workforce in Alaska, and public-sector green occupations are similar to their private-sector counterparts. Zoologists and wildlife biologists was the highest reported green occupation, and numerous science positions also topped the list of the highest reported occupations.

These reported occupations reflect a common goal of the public sector, to improve management of public resources. The largest green category among public employees was education, compliance, public awareness, and training (47 percent), followed closely by agriculture and natural resource conservation (45 percent), and pollution prevention at 32 percent. (For a list of green jobs in state government, see Appendix Four.)

The state plays a critical role in the management of public goods in general, and common-pool resources in particular. From an economic standpoint, goods and services are deemed public if their consumption is nonrivalrous, nonexcludable, or both. Examples of

## THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Until Alaska became a state in 1959 and assumed control of its fisheries, salmon harvests were in decline.

The constitution charges the state and Legislature with ensuring common use and sustainable yield of all its renewable resources. In 1973, the Legislature enacted a limited entry law to create transferable permits to limit seafood harvesting to economically healthy and sustainable levels.

Fish harvesting accounted for 29,981 jobs in 2009, with another 23,661 jobs in seafood processing. The industry brought in a harvest valued at \$1.2 billion that same year.

All commercial salmon fisheries in Alaska are under limited entry, and therefore considered a regulated sustainable industry. However, it is beyond the scope of this report to quantify green jobs within the seafood harvesting industry.

pure public goods include clean air and water, and the establishment and maintenance of state parks.

Because of the collective ownership of mineral and land rights in Alaska, common-pool resources managed by the state include renewable resources such as timber harvesting and sustainably managed fisheries, and nonrenewable mining resources.

By nature, common-pool resources are nonexcludable as a result of collective ownership, so must be regulated to ensure long term viability. Without sustainably managed extraction, common-pool resources can be rendered nonrenewable through overharvesting. Public sector green workers act as stewards of resources that are not privately owned.

From left, Reynolds Skan Jr., Andrey Seledkov, and Leo Ortega sort salmon fresh off the boat last August at Alaska Glacier Seafoods in Juneau. Photo by Kim Andree, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.



# NINE

## Public Sector Employment, State

Occupation	Reported green employment	Total reported employment	Percent green	Categories of work*
Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	132	147	90%	
Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health	91	104	88%	
Civil Engineers	52	130	40%	
Conservation Scientists	46	64	72%	
Natural Sciences Managers	37	45	82%	
Biological Technicians	21	24	88%	
Environmental Engineers	16	22	73%	
Foresters	15	16	94%	
General and Operations Managers	14	26	54%	
Urban and Regional Planners	14	20	70%	
Social Science Research Assistants	12	25	48%	
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	9	9	100%	
Forest and Conservation Technicians	8	16	50%	
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health	7	8	88%	
Economists	6	11	55%	
Farmworkers, Farm and Ranch Animals	6	9	67%	
Statisticians	5	9	56%	
Lawyers	5	12	42%	
Engineering Managers	3	4	75%	

Source: Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section \*See page 5 for icon key.