

Heidi Drygas
Commissioner

www.labor.alaska.gov



P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
907.465.2700
commissioner.labor@alaska.gov

Press Release

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For more information: Nelson San Juan, Seafood Employment Office
907-269-4708, Nelson.San.Juan@Alaska.Gov

Recruiting for More Than 1,600 Seafood Workers Begins Now *Department works with processors to expand Alaska Hire*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is coordinating with seafood processing workers to increase Alaska Hire as processors recruit for more than 1,600 seasonal processing jobs for Alaska's 2015 commercial salmon and pollock seasons. Commissioner Heidi Drygas met last week with many of Alaska's largest seafood processors to discuss how processors can increase Alaska Hire through use of Registered Apprenticeships, work release programs, and employment of returning citizens.

"The busiest seafood processing season takes place June through September and it is important for workers to contact their nearest Alaska Job Center now to apply," said Nelson San Juan, Employment Security Specialist at the Seafood Employment Office in the Anchorage Midtown Job Center. "These jobs provide an excellent opportunity for people who enjoy physical work, want to establish a work history, earn and save money quickly, and move up the career ladder."

Seafood processing employers are recruiting to fill more than 1,000 seafood processing positions for the Bristol Bay salmon season, which takes place from mid-June to mid-July in Naknek and Togiak. Seafood companies in Dutch Harbor are now recruiting for more than 100 jobs processing pollock beginning in June. In Kenai, salmon processors need nearly 500 workers from late June to mid-August.

Openings are posted online in Alaska's Labor Exchange System (ALEXsys) and include higher paying skilled and technical positions. Seafood processing work is physically demanding and can involve overtime during peak season. Job seekers who live in rural areas may also call the Anchorage Seafood Employment Office at 1-800-473-0688 for more information.

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Alaska Job Center Network – ALEXsys
<http://jobs.alaska.gov/offices/>

Anchorage Seafood Employment Office
<http://jobs.alaska.gov/seafood/recruitment.html>