

**Ninilchik:**

**Holdings of Limited Entry Permits, Sablefish Quota Shares,  
and Halibut Quota Shares Through 1998  
and  
Data On Fishery Gross Earnings**

**CFEC Report 99-Ninilchik-SN**

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**Abstract:**

This report is one of a series of reports on the holdings of restricted use privileges by persons living in Gulf of Alaska coastal communities. The 1999 reports are the second edition of the report series. The Restricted Access Management Program (NMFS-RAM) of the National Marine Fisheries Service - Alaska Region provided funding for the preparation of these reports.

This report provides fishery-specific data on holdings of Alaska limited entry permits by persons from Ninilchik. The tables show the number of limited entry permits initially issued to persons from the area, and the number of these permits held at year-end 1998. Time series data on limited entry permit holdings are also provided. Similarly, the report contains data on halibut and sablefish quota shares initially allocated to persons from this area as well as quota shares held at year-end 1998. Quota shares are the basic use-privileges issued under the halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) programs. Time series data on quota share holdings are also provided. Finally, the report contains time series data on the fishery gross earnings of Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) limited entry and interim-use permit holders from this area, organized by permit fishery. The report also contains 1995-1998 time series data on gross earnings in the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries for quota share holders from the area.

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# Introduction

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## Purpose of the Report

This report is one of a series of updated reports on Gulf of Alaska coastal communities. This second edition of these reports contains an additional year of data. Minor changes were made in the grouping of some communities. There may also be changes from the previous reports' data due to updates in fish ticket, permit, and IFQ files. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) prepared the reports with funding provided by the Restricted Access Management Program (NMFS-RAM) of the National Marine Fisheries Service - Alaska Region. This particular report covers the holdings of restricted use-privileges by persons from Ninilchik, Alaska.

In early 1998, the *Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition* (Coalition) made presentations to two committees of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and National Research Council regarding restricted access programs of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). These two committees were “the Committee to Review Community Development Quotas (CDQ)” and “the Committee to Review Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ).” A presentation was also made before a joint meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (ABOF) and the Council.<sup>1</sup>

The Coalition indicated that Gulf of Alaska coastal communities were dependent upon continued access to commercial fishing and they wanted their concerns to be considered in the future when the Council develops new restricted access programs or modifies existing Council programs. They also indicated that some Gulf of Alaska coastal communities had not fared well under the State of Alaska's limited entry program or under the Council's sablefish and halibut IFQ programs.

NMFS-RAM administers the sablefish and halibut IFQ programs and the Council's vessel moratorium for groundfish and crab. NMFS-RAM will administer the new groundfish, crab, and scallop license limitation programs passed by the Council as well as any future restricted access programs passed by the Council. NMFS-RAM is committed to monitoring changes under the existing restricted access programs in Alaska so they can provide the Council and the public with accurate data and information on the programs. NMFS-RAM hopes this monitoring effort will help inform policy discussions on proposals for new programs or proposals to alter existing programs.

For this reason, NMFS-RAM contracted with CFEC to produce a series of reports on Gulf of Alaska coastal communities or groups of communities. The purpose of the series of reports is to

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<sup>1</sup>The name of the group making the presentations was slightly different for each presentation. The statement to the Committee to Review CDQs in January 1998 was made by a group called “The Coalition of Gulf of Alaska Small Boat Fishermen In Support of Marine Resources Conservation and Allocation Equity.” The statement made at the February 1998 joint meeting of the ABOF and the Council was made by a group called “Gulf of Alaska Fisheries Dependent Communities Coalition.” The presentation to the Committee To Review IFQs in April 1998 was made by a group called the “Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition.” The authors have assumed that these are the same groups and we have used the latter name herein for ease of exposition.

provide basic data on how these communities have fared with respect to the initial allocation and retention of entry permits for Alaska's limited fisheries and with respect to the initial allocation and retention of quota shares under the sablefish and halibut IFQ programs. Data are also presented on the estimated fishery gross earnings of persons from these communities.

## **Report Overview**

This report is divided into three sections. Each section contains information on both CFEC permits issued under Alaska's limited entry program and on Quota Shares (QS)/IFQ issued under the Council's sablefish and halibut IFQ programs.

Section 1 provides data on the initial allocation of permanent limited entry permits issued to persons from Ninilchik and the year-end 1998 number of entry permits held by persons in Ninilchik. These data are provided by limited entry fishery. The section also provides data on the amount of QS initially allocated to persons from Ninilchik and the amount of QS held by persons in Ninilchik at the end of 1998. These data are provided by the sablefish and halibut fisheries management areas.

Section 2 provides a more detailed time series table on the holdings of limited entry permits by persons from Ninilchik. Table 2a shows changes in the holdings of entry permits over time. The data are provided by limited fishery. Section 2 also provides a time series table on the holdings of sablefish and halibut QS by persons from Ninilchik. Table 2b, by species and management area, shows changes in QS holdings over time.

Section 3 provides information on the estimated fishing gross earnings associated with persons from Ninilchik. Table 3a provides time series gross earnings information on CFEC permit holders who live in Ninilchik. The earnings are based upon fish ticket records and include information on both limited and unlimited fisheries. Table 3b provides time series gross earnings data associated with quota share holders from Ninilchik. These data are based upon NMFS-RAM harvest records and are presented by species and management area.

## 1. Initial Allocation And Year-End 1998 Holdings Of Restricted Use-Privileges

This section provides overview data on the restricted fishery use-privileges held by persons from Ninilchik at initial allocation and at year-end 1998.

*Table 1a* provides data on holdings of Alaska limited entry permits by permit type. These data are compiled from CFEC permit files.

The number of limited entry permits held at initial allocation and at year-end 1998 are presented by limited fishery permit type. The total number of limited entry permits held across all limited fisheries, and the number of unique persons from Ninilchik who hold limited entry permits are summarized at the bottom of the table.

A person can hold limited entry permits for more than one limited fishery. Different fisheries have been limited at different points in time since 1975, and the initial allocation of permits may have taken place in any year over the 1975 to 1998 period.

There are several reasons why the number of limited entry permits held by persons from a community can increase or decrease over time. Permits can be initially allocated to persons in the community. Permits can also be transferred from persons outside the community to persons in the community, or vice versa. Similarly, persons holding limited entry permits can move into or out of the community. Finally, limited entry permits can be revoked or forfeited under the law. For all of these reasons, the number of entry permits for a particular fishery held at year-end 1998 might be different than the number of entry permits held by persons in the community at some other point in time.

*Table 1b* provides data on halibut and sablefish QS holdings at initial allocation and at year-end 1998. These data are taken from NMFS-RAM computerized records.

The amount of QS and the number of QS holders at initial allocation and at the end of 1998 are given by species and management area. Quota share amounts have been converted into 1998 IFQ equivalent pounds using 1998 NMFS-RAM standard conversion factors.

Summary rows showing halibut and sablefish IFQ pounds and the unique counts of QS holders across areas are provided. A community total row is provided showing the unique number of QS holders from the community across both species and all management areas.

The reader should note that a QS holder might hold QS in multiple areas and for both halibut and sablefish. Individual QS units hold different values as IFQ pounds from year-to-year and from area-to-area and therefore are not additive across areas.

There are several reasons why the amount of QS held by persons from a community can increase or decrease over time. Quota shares can be initially allocated to persons in the community. Quota shares can also be transferred from persons outside the community to persons in the community, or vice versa. Similarly, persons holding QS can move into or out of the community. Quota

shares may be revoked. For all of these reasons, the amount of QS of a particular type held at year-end 1998 might be different than the amount of QS of that type held by persons in the community at some other point in time. For similar reasons, the number of QS holders can change over time.

Table 1a. Number of entry permits held in NINILCHIK at initial issuance and at year-end 1998, by limited entry fishery.

<b>Limited Entry Fishery</b>	<b>Number of Permits at Initial Issuance</b>	<b>Number of Permits at Year-end 1998</b>
Dungeness Crab, Pot Gear, Cook Inlet	2	2
Herring (Roe & Food/Bait), Purse Seine, Cook Inlet	1	0
Roe Herring, Purse Seine, Kodiak	2	1
Roe Herring, Gill Net, Kodiak	1	0
Herring, Gill Net, Norton Sound	1	1
Salmon, Purse Seine, Prince William Sound	0	1
Salmon, Purse Seine, Cook Inlet	2	1
Salmon, Purse Seine, Kodiak	0	3
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Southeastern	0	1
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Prince William Sound	0	2
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Cook Inlet	9	8
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Bristol Bay	1	1
Salmon, Set Gill Net, Cook Inlet	51	20
Salmon, Set Gill Net, Bristol Bay	0	1
Salmon, Hand Troll, Statewide	0	1
Salmon, Power Gurdy Troll, Statewide	0	1
<b>Total Number of Entry Permits (All Fisheries)</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Number of Unique Persons Holding Entry Permits</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>41</b>

Table 1b. Type and amount of QS, 1998 IFQ pounds equivalent and number of unique QS holders in NINILCHIK at initial issuance and at year-end 1998.

Quota Share Type	Area	Initial Issuance			Year-end 1998		
		Amount of QS (QS units)	1998 IFQ Equivalent (pounds)	Number of QS Holders	Amount of QS (QS units)	1998 IFQ Equivalent (pounds)	Number of QS Holders
<b>Halibut</b>	3A	514,293	72,313	35	403,503	56,736	18
	3B	60,327	12,312	5	91,180	18,608	2
	<b>Halibut Total</b>		84,625	35		75,344	19
<b>Sablefish</b>	Central Gulf	1,641	165	1	2,744	276	2
	<b>Sablefish Total</b>		165	1		276	2
<b>Community Total (Unique)</b>				35			20



## 2. Comparisons Of Holdings Of Restricted Use-Privileges Over Time

This section provides more detailed time series data on the restricted use-privileges held by persons in Ninilchik.

*Table 2a* provides time series data on the type and number of limited entry permits held by persons from the community in five-year increments from 1975 through 1995 and at year-end 1997 and 1998. Holdings of entry permits in the community can change over time due to initial allocations, permit transfers, the relocation of permit holders, and permit revocations or forfeitures.

This table only covers entry permits in limited fisheries. Fisheries are limited under Alaska law only when limitation becomes necessary. The original 19 salmon fisheries were limited in 1974. Other limitations occurred in more recent years.

*Table 2b* provides time series data on the amount of sablefish and halibut QS held by persons from Ninilchik over the 1995 to 1998 time period. The sablefish and halibut IFQ program began in 1995. The table is organized by species, management area, and year, and shows the number of QS holders from the area. Quota share holdings are translated into 1998 IFQ equivalent pounds using standard NMFS-RAM conversion factors. The table includes summary rows showing the total unique number of QS holders from the community in each year across all areas and species.

The counts of QS holders in the table refer to the persons holding the QS. These persons can be natural persons (individuals), corporations, partnerships, or other legal entities. Quota share holders are not always the individuals who fish the IFQ in a year. Provisions in the IFQ program allow for the use of hired skippers and for some QS leasing under certain conditions.

Holdings of QS in the community can change over time due to initial QS allocations, QS transfers, the relocation of QS holders, QS revocations, or other changes due to administrative appeals.

Table 2a. Year-end counts of permits, by limited entry fishery, held by persons from NINILCHIK from 1975 to 1998.

Limited Entry Fishery	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	1997	1998
Dungeness Crab, Pot Gear, Cook Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Roe Herring, Purse Seine, Prince William Sound	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Herring (Roe & Food/Bait), Purse Seine, Cook Inlet	0	3	3	2	0	0	0
Roe Herring, Purse Seine, Kodiak	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Herring, Gill Net, Norton Sound	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmon, Purse Seine, Prince William Sound	0	1	2	1	1	1	1
Salmon, Purse Seine, Cook Inlet	2	4	3	2	1	1	1
Salmon, Purse Seine, Kodiak	0	0	2	4	3	3	3
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Southeastern	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Prince William Sound	0	1	1	1	2	2	2
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Cook Inlet	5	25	22	16	12	8	8
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Peninsula-Aleutians	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Bristol Bay	0	2	6	3	2	1	1
Salmon, Set Gill Net, Cook Inlet	44	40	32	25	18	18	20
Salmon, Set Gill Net, Bristol Bay	0	0	1	2	1	1	1
Salmon, Hand Troll, Statewide	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Salmon, Power Gurdy Troll, Statewide	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Total Number of Entry Permits (All Fisheries)</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>

Table 2b. Quota share amounts held in NINILCHIK in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Quota Share Type	Area	Year-end	Amount of QS Held (QS units)	1998 IFQ Equivalent (pounds)	Number of QS Holders	
<b>Halibut</b>	3A	1995	640,205	90,018	32	
		1996	444,445	62,492	25	
		1997	422,289	59,377	21	
		1998	403,503	56,736	18	
	3B	1995	60,327	12,312	5	
		1996	60,327	12,312	5	
		1997	50,974	10,403	3	
		1998	91,180	18,608	2	
<b>Sablefish</b>	Central Gulf	1995	1,641	165	1	
		1996	2,744	276	2	
		1997	2,744	276	2	
		1998	2,744	276	2	
	<b>Community Total (Unique)</b>		1995			33
			1996			30
			1997			24
			1998			20

### 3. Fishery Gross Earnings

This section examines the estimated fishery gross earnings of persons from Ninilchik. The gross earnings in these tables are CFEC estimates of the dollar amount received for the fish sold. These estimates are not measures of net earnings or profits because none of the costs associated with the fishing operations have been removed.

*Table 3a* provides time series data on the gross earnings of CFEC permit holders from Ninilchik. The table covers the 1975 to 1995 time period in five-year increments, and 1997. The table is organized by CFEC permit fishery and includes counts of the number of persons from Ninilchik who had gross earnings from the fishery.<sup>2</sup> The total gross earnings of CFEC permit holders from Ninilchik over all fisheries in the year and the unique number of persons who recorded landings in any fishery during the year are summarized at the bottom of the table.<sup>3</sup> The table includes data from both limited and unlimited fisheries. Table 3a is derived from Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) fish ticket data and CFEC ex-vessel price estimates.<sup>4</sup>

*Table 3b* provides 1995-1998 time series data on the gross earnings of QS holders from Ninilchik in the sablefish and halibut IFQ fisheries. These data are derived by applying CFEC statewide average ex-vessel price estimates to NMFS-RAM harvest data. NMFS-RAM catch files represent a different data source than the ADF&G fish ticket files. The table includes estimates of total gross earnings and the number of QS holders from the area by species, management area, and year.<sup>5</sup> A summary row provides the total gross earnings associated with the QS holders from the area summed over all management areas and species as well as a count of the unique number of QS holders from Ninilchik with commercial sablefish or halibut harvests during the year.<sup>6</sup>

Both tables represent estimates of fishery gross earnings associated with persons from Ninilchik, irrespective of where the harvest actually occurred or where the fish were landed. The gross earnings in these tables do not represent the value of fish landed in Ninilchik. Data on halibut and sablefish landings by major port are available from NMFS-RAM.

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<sup>2</sup>In some cases, CFEC permit codes for a fishery have changed over the years. In such cases, the reader may see a fishery description repeated in the table.

<sup>3</sup>A person may participate in multiple fisheries as a CFEC permit holder. Therefore, the unique number of permit holders in the community is usually less than the sum of permit holders with landings across all fisheries.

<sup>4</sup>The 1975 fishery earnings in the table for CFEC permit holders may be underestimated. 1975 was the first year that CFEC permit numbers were data entered. Permit numbers are not on the 1975 computerized halibut fish ticket records. Therefore, halibut earnings cannot be attributed to any CFEC permit holder during that year and hence cannot be assigned to communities. Also, in 1975, in some fisheries besides halibut, the percentage of missing or unmatched CFEC permit numbers was higher than in more recent years. For these reasons, the 1975 gross earnings may be underestimated.

<sup>5</sup>Again, these data represent the person who holds the QS and not necessarily the individual who recorded the landing. The IFQ programs allow the use of hired skippers under certain conditions. Some QS leasing is also allowed.

<sup>6</sup>QS holders may have holdings for more than one management area and species. Thus the unique counts of QS holders with harvests across all species and areas may be less than the sum of the counts of QS holders with harvests across all species and areas.

Table 3a. Gross earnings and number of persons from NINILCHIK with landings by fishery and year, 1975-1997.

CFEC Permit Fishery	1975		1980		1985		1990		1995		1997	
	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons
Halibut, Hand Troll, Statewide	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	2	\$0	0	\$0	0
Halibut, Longline Vessel Under 60 Ft, STW	\$0	0	\$15,672	9	**	2	\$31,261	14	**	3	**	3
Halibut, Longline Vessel 60 Ft or Over, STW	**	1	\$12,408	10	\$51,505	13	\$300,540	19	\$83,447	10	\$145,333	6
Dungeness Crab, Pot Gear To 50 Ft, Statewide	**	1	**	1	**	2	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Dungeness Crab, Pot Gear To 50 Ft, Cook Inlet	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	2	\$0	0
Roe Herring, Purse Seine, Prince William Sound	\$0	0	**	1	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Roe Herring, Purse Seine, Cook Inlet	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	2	\$0	0	\$0	0
Roe Herring, Purse Seine, Kodiak	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	**	1	**	1
Roe Herring, Purse Seine, Bristol Bay	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	1	**	1	**	1
Roe Herring, Gill Net, Cook Inlet	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Roe Herring, Gill Net, Westward	\$0	0	\$18,342	6	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Roe Herring, Gill Net, Kodiak	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Roe Herring, Gill Net, Security Cove	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1
Roe Herring, Gill Net, Bristol Bay	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	2	\$0	0	**	1
Herring, Purse Seine, Statewide	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
King Crab, Pot Gear To 50 Ft, Cook Inlet	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Herring Spawn on Kelp, Diving/Hand-Picking, PWS	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	2	\$0	0	\$0	0
Herring Spawn on Kelp, Pound, Prince William Sound	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Herring Spawn on Kelp, Other Gear, Statewide	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Misc Saltwater Finfish, Hand Troll, Statewide	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	2	**	1
Misc Saltwater Finfish, Longline Vessel Under 60 Ft, STW	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	2
Misc Saltwater Finfish, Mechanical Jig, Statewide	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	3
Misc Saltwater Finfish, Longline 5 Tons or Over, Statewide	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0
Shrimp, Pot Gear To 50 Ft, Statewide	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Shrimp, Pot Gear Vessel Under 60 Ft, Cook Inlet	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1
Razor Clams, Shovel, Statewide	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Salmon, Purse Seine, Prince William Sound	\$0	0	**	1	**	2	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0
Salmon, Purse Seine, Cook Inlet	**	2	**	3	**	1	**	1	**	1	**	1
Salmon, Purse Seine, Kodiak	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	3	**	1	**	2
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Southeastern	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	1
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Prince William Sound	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	1	**	2	**	2
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Cook Inlet	\$56,676	8	\$237,836	21	\$882,019	25	\$773,213	16	\$260,760	11	\$219,676	7
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Peninsula-Aleutians	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0

Table 3a. Gross earnings and number of persons from NINILCHIK with landings by fishery and year, 1975-1997.

CFEC Permit Fishery	1975		1980		1985		1990		1995		1997	
	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	# persons
Salmon, Drift Gill Net, Bristol Bay	\$0	0	**	2	\$742,096	6	**	3	**	2	**	2
Salmon, Set Gill Net, Cook Inlet	\$179,356	40	\$419,617	35	\$997,059	31	\$249,275	24	\$168,129	14	\$280,270	15
Salmon, Set Gill Net, Bristol Bay	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	2	**	1	**	1
Salmon, Gill Net, Yukon	**	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Salmon, Power Gurdy Troll, Statewide	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1	**	1
Sea Urchin, Diving Gear, Statewide	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	3	\$0	0	\$0	0
Demersal Shelf Rockfish, Longline Vessel Under 60 Ft, SE	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	**	1
<b>Unique Totals For All Fisheries</b>	<b>\$335,712</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$1,020,830</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>\$3,261,049</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>\$2,355,404</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>\$1,188,947</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>\$1,059,816</b>	<b>40</b>

Note: \*\* and \* mask data to preserve confidentiality.

Table 3b. Gross earnings and numbers of persons (QS holders) from NINILCHIK with credited IFQ landings in halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries by area and year, 1995-1998.

Quota Share Type	Area	1995		1996		1997		1998	
		Gross Earnings (\$)	Number of Persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	Number of Persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	Number of Persons	Gross Earnings (\$)	Number of Persons
<b>Halibut</b>	3A	*	12	*	11	*	9	*	5
	3B	**	2	**	1	**	1	**	2
	<b>Halibut Total</b>	\$115,555	12	\$120,410	11	\$137,469	9	\$85,307	6
	<b>Community Total (Unique)</b>	\$115,555	12	\$120,410	11	\$137,469	9	\$85,307	6

Note: \*\* and \* indicate data masked to preserve confidentiality.