

Bristol Bay Vessel Characteristics – Submitted By BBEDC

The data below is specific to Bristol Bay 32' vessels that participate in the Bristol Bay drift salmon fishery. The data is from 2025 and compiled by Northern Economics from CFEC data. There are three categories.

1. Bristol Bay – Vessels registered to local Bristol Bay watershed residents
2. Other Alaska – Vessels registered to Alaskan residents who live outside of Bristol Bay
3. Outside Alaska – Vessels registered to non-Alaskan residents

All vessels participate in the Bristol Bay S03T salmon fishery.

The *Vessel Characteristics* analysis below shows that local Bristol Bay watershed resident vessels are consistently smaller in scale and capacity when compared with both Other Alaska and Outside Alaska fleets. Bristol Bay resident vessels cluster at the lowest end of vessel length, engine horsepower, and hold capacity, with most vessels falling into the smallest size classes shown. In contrast, Other Alaska vessels are commonly 1.5 - 2 times larger than Bristol Bay resident vessels across multiple metrics, including size and horsepower, indicating greater speed, range, and harvesting efficiency. The disparity is even more pronounced for Outside Alaska vessels, which dominate the largest size and power categories, often exhibiting roughly double or greater horsepower and storage capacity relative to Bristol Bay resident vessels.

These quantitative differences translate directly into **competitive advantages**. Larger and more powerful vessels can fish longer, travel farther, carry more product per trip, and better withstand weather — advantages that disproportionately benefit Other Alaska and Outside Alaska participants. The concentration of higher-value, higher-capacity vessels outside Bristol Bay underscores a structural imbalance in the Bristol Bay fishery. The Other Alaska and Outside Alaska fleets operate with significantly greater physical and financial capacity, shaping unequal economic outcomes and access across regions.



Two 32-foot driftnet boats in Bristol Bay.

Vessel Characteristics of Bristol Bay Salmon Fisheries

Select a Metric:

- Vessel Ages
- Vessel Lengths
- Vessel Lengths by Community
- Gross Tons
- Horsepower

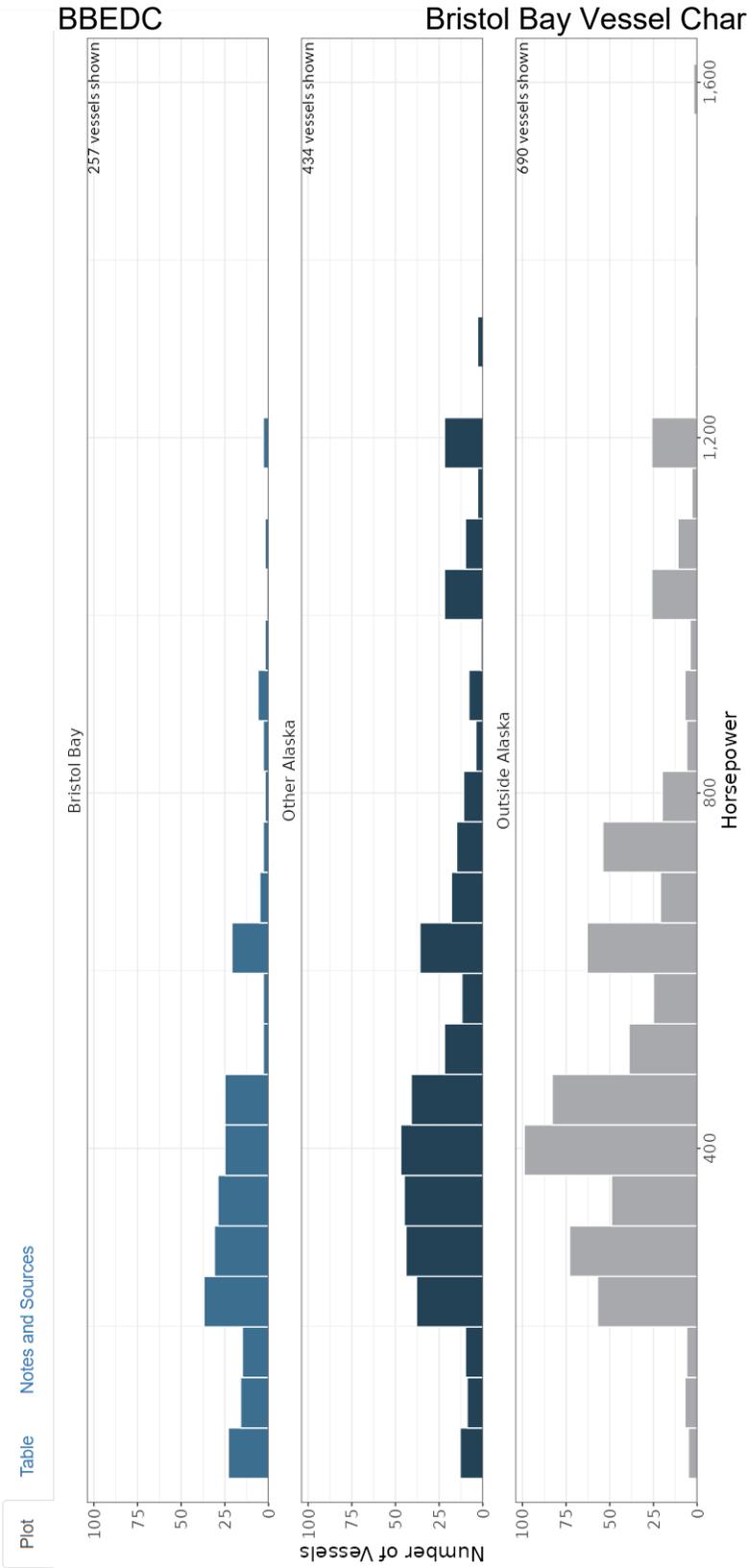
Select a Year: 1980 2025

Length Range (feet): 18 32

Horsepower Range: 1 1,650

Select a Region:

- Bristol Bay
- Other Alaska
- Outside Alaska



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Select a Year: 1980 2025

Length Range (feet):

Horsepower Range:

Select a Region:

- Bristol Bay
- Other Alaska
- Outside Alaska

Plot Table Notes and Sources

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	Residency	Year	Number of Vessels	Median Horsepower	Horsepower-25th percentile	Horsepower-75th percentile
1	Bristol Bay	2025	255	318	200	450
2	Other Alaska	2025	429	435	307	660
3	Outside Alaska	2025	688	450	330	692.5

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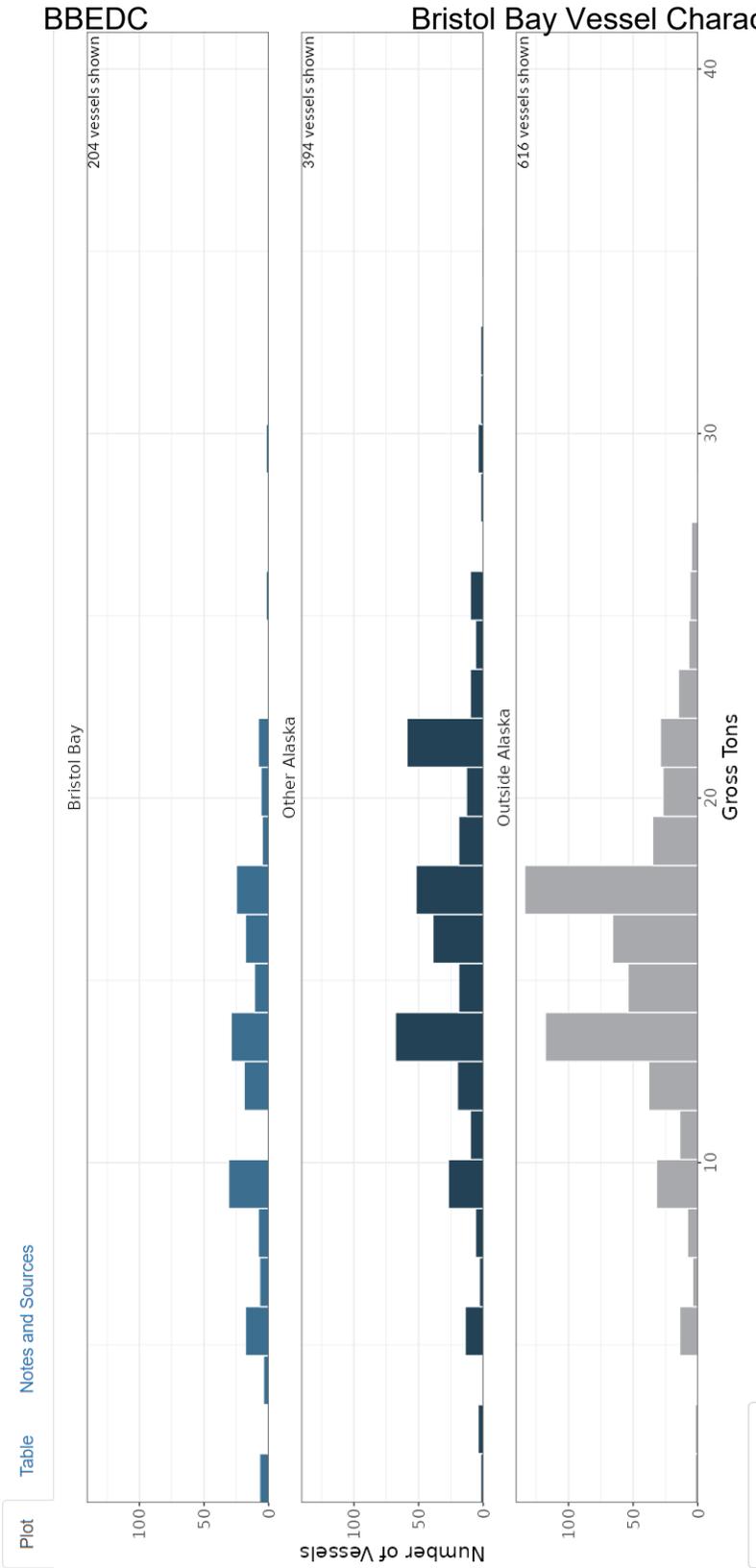
Select a Year: 1980

Length Range (feet): 18 32

Gross Ton Range: 1 45

Select a Region:

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Select a Year: 1980

RC060

Plot Table Notes and Sources

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	Residency	Year	Number of Vessels	Median Gross Tons	Gross Tons-25th percentile	Gross Tons-75th percentile
1	Bristol Bay	2025	203	13	10	16
2	Other Alaska	2025	390	16	13	20
3	Outside Alaska	2025	614	16	13	18

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Bristol Bay Vessel Characteristics

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Select a Metric:

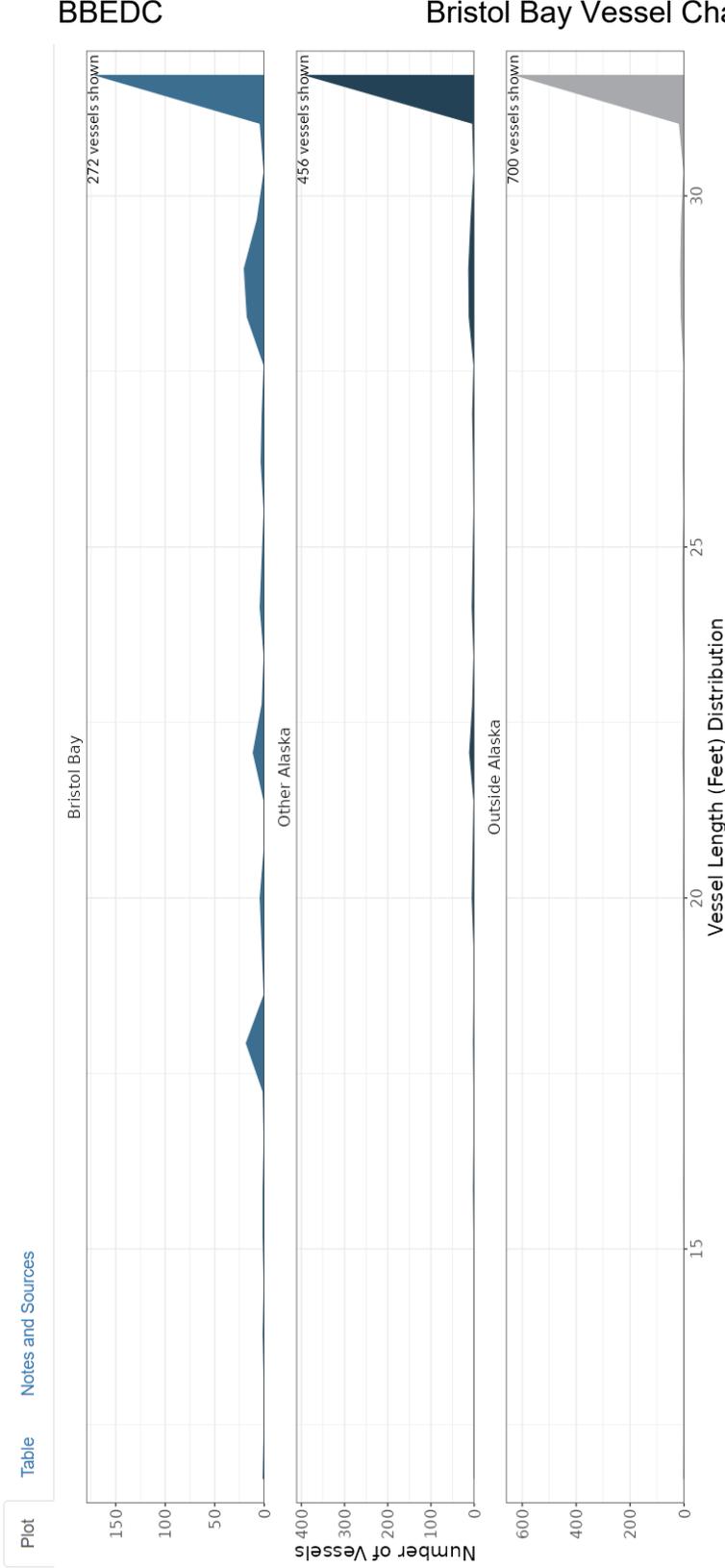
- Vessel Ages
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Select a Year:

1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2025

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- Bristol Bay
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Select a Year:

1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2025

Plot Table Notes and Sources

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Show 10 entries

	Residency	Year	Number of Vessels	Median Length	Length-25th percentile	Length-75th percentile
1	Bristol Bay	2025	270	32	28	32
2	Other Alaska	2025	451	32	32	32
3	Outside Alaska	2025	698	32	32	32

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