

4.3 South West Alaska

4.3.1 Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Islands

Communities

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Geographic Location

The Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands cover a vast geographical distance. Roughly 1,300 air miles separate the community of Iliamna, in the Lake and Peninsula Borough, from the town of Attu, at the extreme western edge of the Aleutian Islands. This is a distance comparable to the entire length of the West Coast of the U.S., from Seattle to Los Angeles. The Aleutian Island Chain dips to the south; its southernmost point, at approximately 52.9 °N Lat., lies at a latitude similar to London, England. This region contains four boroughs: the Bristol Bay Borough, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, the Aleutians East Borough, and the Aleutians West Borough.

Weather

The Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Islands region is in Alaska's maritime climate zone. Communities located along the coastline have mild winters with temperatures ranging from 10 °F to 35 °F and cool summers with temperatures from 45 °F to 65 °F. Precipitation averages 20-25 inches annually. Communities located inland on the Alaska Peninsula lie within the transitional climate zone but still exhibit a strong maritime influence. Two weather features are predictable features of life on the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Island chain: wind, and fog. In particular, communities which face the Bering Sea experience average winds of 15 knots year-round, with severe winter storms bringing winds in excess of 100 miles per hour. The warm Japanese Current keeps Bering Sea ports ice-free during all seasons, contributing to one of the richest marine ecosystems on earth.

General Characterization

The Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands have a long history of interaction between Europeans and Alaska Natives. The area is currently characterized by a high degree of interconnection between local, national, and transnational economies. Since at least the 18th century, when Russian traders first came to the Aleutians for valuable fur seals, the region and its natural resources have been part of a broad web of economic activity.

Today, the most important part of that web is the commercial fishing industry. The Bering Sea is the most productive groundfish fishery on Earth, and nearly all communities in this region are involved in the fishery, at-sea or on-shore in fish processing facilities.

There is a strong Native Alaskan presence--primarily Aleut and Alutiiq peoples--in the region; individual communities vary, ranging from 8% to 95% Native. The other demographic features of the region are highly influenced by the commercial fishing industry. Because most employment opportunities relate to fishing, nearly all communities have a strong male bias (often more than 60% male).

Institutional Framework

The Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands region is comprised of three boroughs and one census area: the Bristol Bay Borough, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, the Aleutians East Borough, and the Aleutians West Census Area. Some communities profiled in this section are unincorporated and rely on their respective boroughs for government services.

There are two Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups that operate in the region: the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, and the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Community Development Association. These groups distribute a portion of commercial fishing proceeds to their various communities and sponsor economic and infrastructural development. In addition, there are a number of regional Native corporations and Native village corporations with recognized status under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence Fisheries

Fishing is the backbone of the regional economy in the Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Islands region. Commercial fleets operate out of most of the communities profiled in this section. In addition, commercial fish processing is a source of value-added revenue for many communities. Much of the seafood processing labor force comes from outside the region, although individual communities vary as to what portion of labor comes from local sources.

The epicenter of commercial fishing in the region is unquestionably Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, with its large commercial fleet and processors, as well as offshore floating processors. The most revenue is generated by groundfish. Landings for a given year typically are measured in the hundreds of thousands of tons. Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab is also an important part of the commercial fishery. In Bristol Bay Borough, the salmon fishery is a major part of the area's economic activity, and is one of the largest salmon fisheries in the world.

Sport fishing is not as extensive in this region as it

is in south-central and southeastern Alaska. The sport fishing that does take place is primarily centered in the community of King Salmon, where sockeye salmon runs draw sport fishermen from all over Alaska and the globe. Major sport species include all five species of Pacific salmon, as well as trout, halibut, and northern pike. Sport-caught halibut in the area can be some of the largest in the world (over 400 lbs).

Subsistence fishing and hunting form a major part of residents' livelihoods on the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands. In nearly all communities, a substantial majority of residents use subsistence resources. The most common subsistence fish species include salmon (all five Pacific species), cod, char, and trout.

Regional Challenges

The region's high dependence on commercial fishing is both an asset and a liability. In recent years, foreign competition has driven down the market price of salmon in the U.S., causing financial trouble for many Alaska communities. In 2003, the Aleutians East Borough received a total of \$1,101,638 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A handful of individual communities in the region have received lesser amounts.

New federal regulations governing fishing activities in areas with populations of Steller sea lion have also placed an economic burden on many communities. These regulations prohibit fishing near known sea lion rookeries, and may have resulted in financial loss in some cases. A handful of communities in the region have received federal Steller sea lion compensation funds.

Adak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The city of Adak is located on Adak Island, part of the Aleutian Island chain. It is situated on Kuluk Bay about 1,300 miles southwest of Anchorage and 350 miles west of Unalaska. It is the southern-most community in Alaska and is on the same latitude as Vancouver Island in Canada. The area of Adak includes 122.4 square miles of land and 4.9 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

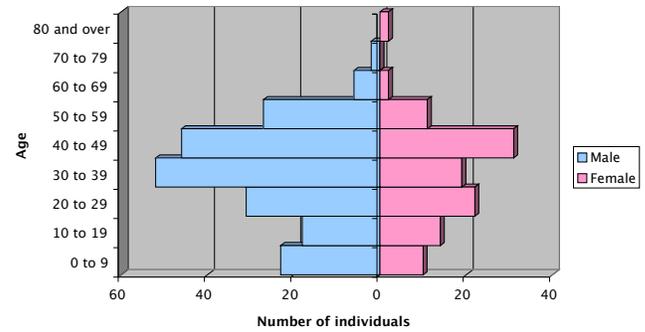
In 2000, the second-class city of Adak had a recorded population of 316 people: 64.9% male and 35.1% female. By 2002, the population had reduced to 149 people, according to a state demographer. The population of Adak has fluctuated quite extensively over the years due to changing military activities. In 1944, there were more than 30,000 people in Adak, because of WWII action in the Aleutian Islands. A population was first recorded by the Census in 1970 at which time there were 2,249 inhabitants, but with the closing of the naval facility the population decreased by about 2,000 persons.

The breakdown of the racial composition of the 316 people living in Adak as recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was as follows: 49.7% White, 35.1% Alaska Native or American Indian, 9.8% Asian, 1.9% Hawaiian Native, 1.3% Black, and about 2.2% were recorded as being two or more races. Of the 9.8% of the population that was classified as Asian, all were identified as Filipino. The total percent of people in Adak who were Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races was 37.3%. About 5.1% of the population was of Hispanic origin.

The median age for Adak in 2000 was 35.2 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. No percentage of the population lived in group quarters in Adak in 2000, which was a great change from the 1990 Census which describes 30% of the population living in group quarters, because the navy base was still in operation on the island at that time. Approximately 96.1% of the population over 25 years of age had graduated from high school or obtained higher degrees. Of those age 25 or older, 10.3% had obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher.

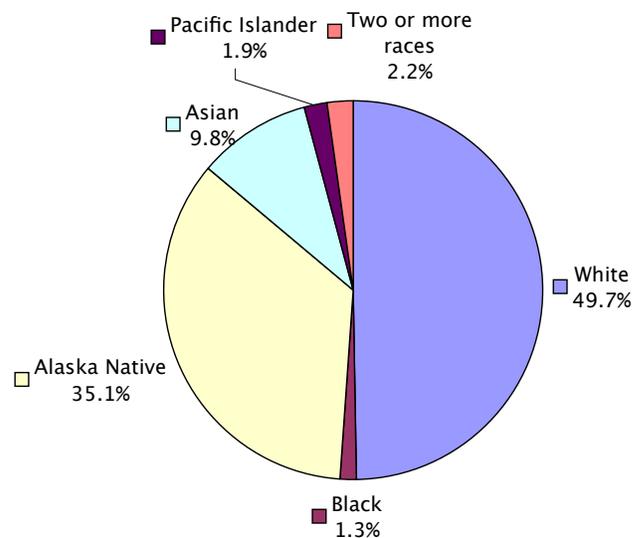
**2000 Population Structure
Adak**

Data source: US Census



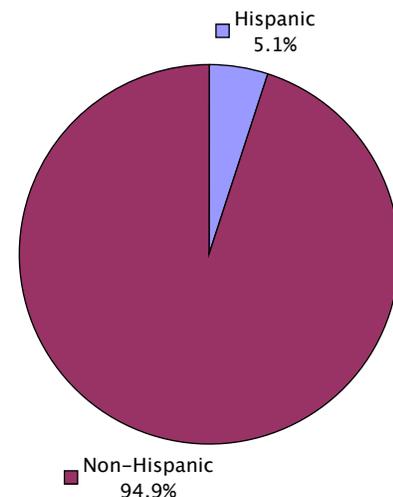
**2000 Racial Structure
Adak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Adak**

Data source: US Census



History

The Aleutian Islands “drew humans to the island chain as early as 8,000 years before the present” (National Park Service 2003). The historical inhabitants of the Aleutian Islands area are known today as Aleuts (Unangan), and the Native Aleut people once heavily populated the island of Adak. The island was abandoned in the early 17th century when Aleut hunters moved or were moved eastward because of the Russian fur trade. The Native people continued to use the island as a place to fish and hunt until the beginning of WWII. In 1913, the island was designated as part of the Aleutian Island Reservation, but in the 1940’s became “a key operations and supply location for United States military forces after the Japanese occupation of Kiska and Attu Islands during World War II” (EPA 2002). Adak’s population in the spring of 1944 was made up of at least 32,000 military personnel. After WWII, Adak was turned into a Naval Air Station, playing an important role during the Cold War as a submarine surveillance center. The navy base housed 6,000 personnel and their families during its peak, but harsh cut-backs occurred in 1994 and navy family housing and schools were closed. Adak naval station officially closed on March 31, 1997. The EPA has been performing Superfund clean-up and restoration of Adak because of the 40-year period that hazardous substances were disposed of on the island, including materials such as transformer oils containing PCBs, petroleum, chlorinated solvents, and batteries. Live explosives were also present on the island and the navy neither confirms nor denies that the island was the site of nuclear depth charges and torpedoes. There were large earthquakes in the years of 1957, 1964, and 1977. Aleut Corporation has recently acquired Adak’s facilities in a land transfer agreement and in 1998 about 30 families with children, mostly Aleut Corporation shareholders relocated to Adak. Adak became incorporated as a second-class city in April 2001. In April of 2003 Adak “was chosen for a \$900 million radar system as part of the national missile defense system” which is expected to arrive in the community by the summer of 2005 (Kenai Peninsula Online 2003).

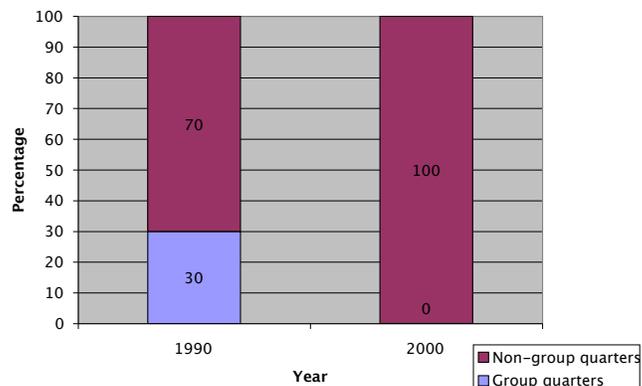
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Since the closure of the naval facilities at Adak there

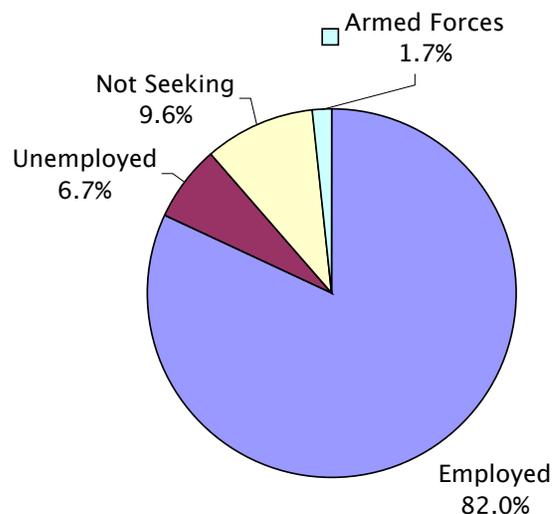
**% Group Quarters
Adak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Adak**

Data source: US Census



has been an attempt to reinvent the industry of the city by Aleut Corporation. According to Kenai Peninsula Online “the Aleut Corporation hopes to transform Adak into a fishing community.” Aleut Corporation has recently received U.S. Navy and Department of Interior land in Adak in exchange for other lands held by Aleut Corporation elsewhere in the Aleutian Islands. Most of the naval facilities have also been transferred to the corporation. Members of Aleut Corporation have moved to Adak where they have opened an office and established Aleut Enterprise Corporation (AEC) “to encourage new business on Adak” (Adak Island, Open to the World 2003). The AEC “leases commercial land, buildings, rents housing, rents vehicles, and operates port services and fuel sales” (Adak Island, Open to the World 2003) within the city. According to the Alaska Journal of Commerce, as of February 2001, Aleut Corporation “with \$2.4 million in earnings last year,

has already invested \$2.5 million in various expenses related to Adak, although government contracts with Aleut Corporation subsidiaries have recouped some of that” (Bradner 2001).

It was announced in April of 2003 that Adak has been chosen as the site for the national missile defense system, which has been budgeted at \$9.1 billion. It is estimated that this facility will require approximately 80 to 95 people to operate the system. According to the Kenai Peninsula Online newspaper, “Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said the decision to put the radar system on Adak will benefit the Native people who have taken over running Adak facilities.” The system is expected to arrive by summer 2005 and will “[use] a finely focused beam to track incoming ballistic missiles while they are in space” (Kenai Peninsula Online 2003).

The local processor, Norquest-Adak Seafood Co., is located in the city. Four commercial fishing permits were issued in the year of 2000 to Adak residents for commercial fishing of groundfish. Subsistence fishing of salmon is also of great importance to the local economy. Contractors perform environmental clean-up for the ongoing projects for the EPA within the community. Jobs are also provided by the airport, restaurant, grocery, ship supply store, and Aleut Corporation.

About 75.6% of the population in 2000 was part of the total potential work force, 16 years of age and older. Out of the population age 16 and over, 82.0% were employed, 6.7% were unemployed, 1.7% were part of the armed forces, and 9.6% were not in the labor force. The per capita income in 2000 for Adak was \$31, 747 and the median household income was \$52,727. About 4.7% of Adak’s population in 2000 lived below the poverty level.

Governance

The city of Adak, established as a municipality in 2001, has a manager form of government which includes a mayor, a seven person city council, an advisory school board, and various municipal employees including a police chief and fire chief. The city is not part of an organized borough. There is a 3% Sales Tax in the city as well as a \$.02 per gallon Fuel Transfer Tax.

The Aleut Corporation is the regional Native corporation active in the area, although Adak was not included in Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

(ANCSA) and is not federally recognized as a Native village. In Adak, Aleut Corporation has taken a very active role in the development of the city, taking over responsibilities of almost all services to the community, the ownership of a large amount of the land, and taking action to bring new businesses to the community. It appears that Aleut Corporation acquired the Navy and Department of Interior lands in Adak in part because they had historically been the location of an early Aleut community and also for the existing facilities.

The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Dutch Harbor and is a satellite interviewing and processing office. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and office of Sustainable Fisheries are in Dutch Harbor, as is the nearest ADF&G office.

Facilities

The city of Adak is accessible by air or by sea. Present in the city of Adak are an airport, docks, housing facilities, restaurant, grocery, and ship supply store. The airport has two 7,800 foot paved runways and Alaska Airlines operates passenger and cargo airline service to Adak on Tuesdays and Sundays. The approximate price to fly roundtrip from Adak to Anchorage, according to Travelocity and Expedia, is \$1,124 (price given for date as close to September 1st 2003 as possible). There are three deep water docks and fueling facilities in Adak. Funds have been requested to expand the small boat harbor which would include new breakwaters, new moorage fleets, and a 315 foot dock. Because the port facilities were built to handle naval ships, they can now handle a large assortment of vessels. The city has about 16 miles of paved roads and also has other dirt and gravel roads.

Aleut Corporation operates the city’s landfill and the electric power is supplied by the City of Adak from diesel fuel. The City runs a piped water system from stored water tanks and also runs the sewer system. Adak Medical Clinic is located in the community and is operated by Eastern Aleutian Tribes. It is a qualified Emergency Care Center and is staffed by a physician’s assistant who provides emergency care, family practice, and referral services. The police services available within the community are operated by City Public Safety. Car rentals are available at Adak Car Rentals, and Hotel Adak is the hotel in the community. Both are run by Aleut Enterprise Corporation. Adak School, the only school present, teaches K-12th grade. The school had 18 students in 2000 and 3 teachers.

There is a weight room and a racquetball court at the high school. Also available in the community are an Olympic size swimming pool, auto hobby shop, and bowling alleys, although it is unclear if these facilities are still in operation.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Since Aleut Corporation acquired the land on Adak there has been an attempt to turn the village into a fishing center for the area. In 2000, there were four commercial fishing permits issued. There was one community member who owned a vessel participating in federal commercial fisheries who was a resident of Adak, and according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC) there were two licensed crew members from Adak in 2000.

Of the four commercial fishing permits issued to residents of the community all were issued for the harvesting of groundfish. Of those four, one was issued for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a hand troll, one was for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a mechanical jig, one was for demersal shelf rockfish with a longline vessel under 60 feet in the southeast, and one permit was for demersal shelf rockfish using a mechanical jig in the southeast (not fished). There were 49 vessels that delivered 'Other Groundfish' landings in Adak, 24 for sablefish, 32 for halibut, and 12 vessels that delivered Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab landings to the community. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in the community are unavailable. There is one land-based processing plant, Norquest-Adak Seafood Co., located in the community of Adak which processes BSAI crab, groundfish, halibut, and sablefish. The plant has been in operation as Norquest since 2000 and the land for the plant is leased from Aleut Corporation.

The city of Adak was recently granted \$88,548 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

The tourism industry in Adak is currently made up

of visitors attracted by sightseeing on cruise vessels, but there is no recent evidence of sport fishing. It is expected that tourism will grow in Adak in the next few years. Accommodations facilities exist to make the sport fishing industry a possibility in the future. No sport fishing permits were sold in 2000 in Adak.

Subsistence Fishing

In recent history Adak has been considered a Federal non-rural area because of the naval base and the large population on the island at the time. Recently, with the establishment of the 2003-2004 Federal Subsistence Fishery Regulations, Adak was still considered a non-rural with regard to Federal subsistence. In order to have the right to harvest subsistence wildlife, fish, and shellfish on Federal lands, a status of rural must be granted. Rural status has been requested by Adak, but has not been granted. Adak is, however, considered rural by the State of Alaska, so residents are eligible to harvest subsistence resources on State lands. Based on the island's location, history, isolation, ethnic make-up, and salmon harvests, it may be surmised that Adak residents are engaging in a variety of subsistence activities. However, there is no information available from the ADF&G for any species other than salmon because of the non-rural designation.

Prior to 1988, the non-commercial salmon net fishery at Adak was classified as a subsistence fishery. In 1988 it became a personal use fishery, but was reclassified as a subsistence fishery again in 1998 (Division of Subsistence ADF&G 2001). In 1999, all fresh water on Adak Island and all salt water within 100 yards of a stream terminus were closed to subsistence fishing for salmon because of the federal position on non-rural subsistence. In the Adak district in 1999 it is estimated that five subsistence salmon permits were issued in the area by the State and that 164 sockeye and 4 chum salmon were harvested. In the community of Adak itself, one household salmon permit was issued in 1999.

In 2003, NOAA began a program to distribute subsistence halibut permits to certain rural residents in Alaska. Because the NOAA program uses the State designations of rural and non-rural, residents of Adak were classified as rural for the purposes of this program and have been eligible to apply for permits. The application process for this fishery began in May 2003 and is ongoing.

Akutan [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Akutan is a second-class city located in the Aleutians East Borough. It is on the Bering Sea side of Akutan Island, one of the Krenitzin Islands of the Fox Island Group, 35 miles east of Unalaska and 766 miles southwest of Anchorage by air. The land area of Akutan is 14 square miles, and the water area is 4.9 square miles.

Demographic Profile

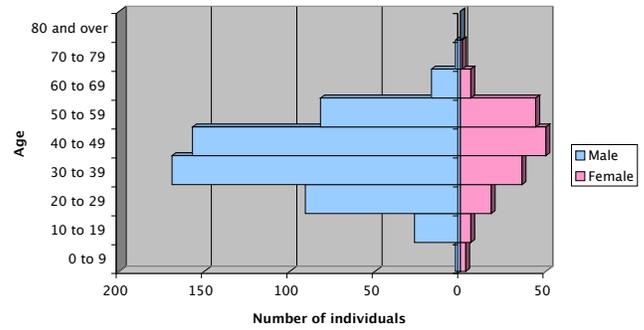
Akutan has only about 75 permanent year-round residents in 34 households. The 2000 census, however, reports a total population of 713, and the majority of these (638, or 89.5%) are fish processing workers that live in group quarters. Fish processing has a huge impact on the demographic makeup of the community: 77.0% of residents are male, and 78.4% are between the ages of 25 and 54. The median age is 40.2 years old, whereas the national age median is 35.3 years of age. The current racial makeup of Akutan is as follows: White (23.6%), Alaska Native or American Indian (15.7%), Black (2.1%), Asian (38.6%), Hawaiian Native (0.03%), other (18.2%), and two or more races (1.5%). A total of 16.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Residents of Hispanic origin make up 20.8% of the population. Among the community's population as a whole, 48.5% of residents 25 years old and over have a high school diploma, and 19.3% have some college education.

History

Archaeological evidence, though scarce, suggests that Akutan has been the site of a traditional Unangan (Aleut) village since prehistory (Black et. al 1999:35). In 1878 the Western Fur and Trading Company started a fur storage and trading port there, and a Russian Orthodox church and school were built during that year. A commercial cod fishing and processing business was started shortly thereafter. The Pacific Whaling Company built a whale processing station across the bay from Akutan in 1912 which operated until 1939. After the Japanese attacked Unalaska in June 1942, the U.S. government evacuated Akutan residents, along with many other Aleuts, to the Ketchikan area, and many residents never returned, even after the re-

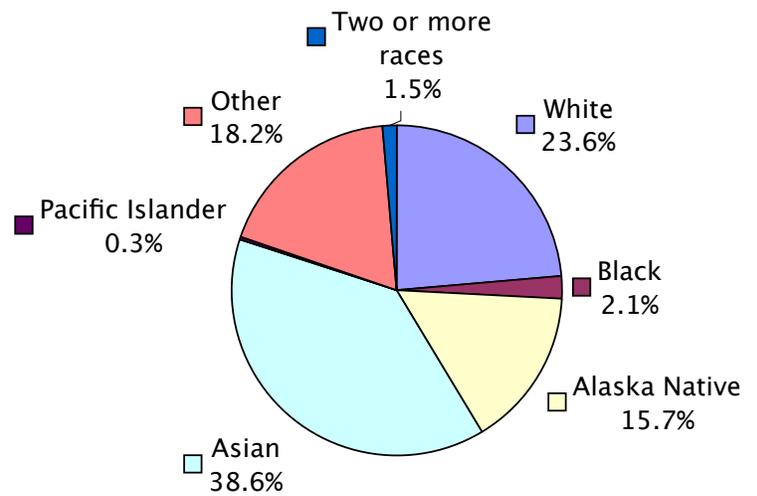
2000 Population Structure Akutan

Data source: US Census



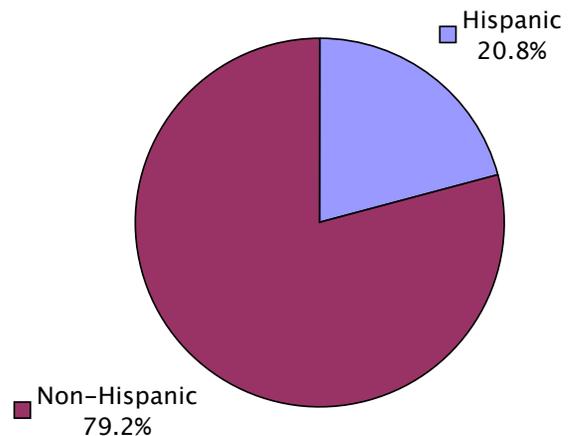
2000 Racial Structure Akutan

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Akutan

Data source: US Census



establishment of the village in 1944.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

In addition to the subsistence economy, Akutan depends heavily upon commercial fishing. The median annual per capita income is \$12,259, and the median household income is \$33,750. Given the extremely transient nature of the workforce in Akutan, it is difficult to obtain an accurate picture of employment. The 2000 U.S. Census, for instance, reported that 78.9% of residents were unemployed, and 5.9% were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 45.5% lived below the poverty level. A more likely interpretation is that labor opportunities are highly uncertain and depend upon the season, catch, and other variables. Residents and transient workers go through frequent periods of temporary unemployment.

Governance

Akutan was incorporated as a second-class city in 1979 and has a “strong mayor” form of government. Government revenues come entirely from a 1% raw fish tax imposed by the city and a 2% raw fish tax imposed by the Aleutians East Borough. There is no sales tax or property tax in Akutan. In terms of tribal governance, the city is under the jurisdiction of the Aleut Corporation, a regional Native corporation created in 1971 by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Akutan is also a member of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, a regional Native non-profit organization, and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association, which is responsible for allocating proceeds from community development quotas and investing in infrastructural development.

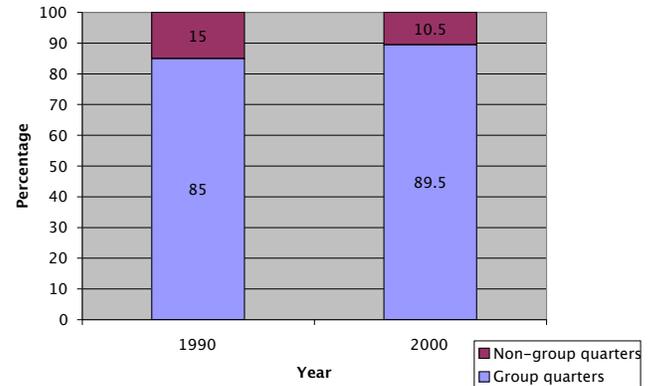
The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices are all located in Dutch Harbor.

Facilities

Major utilities, including water, sewer, and garbage, are operated by the city. Electricity is generated at a hydroelectric facility managed by Akutan Electric Utility. A plan to develop two new water catchment dams and construct a new 125,000 gallon water

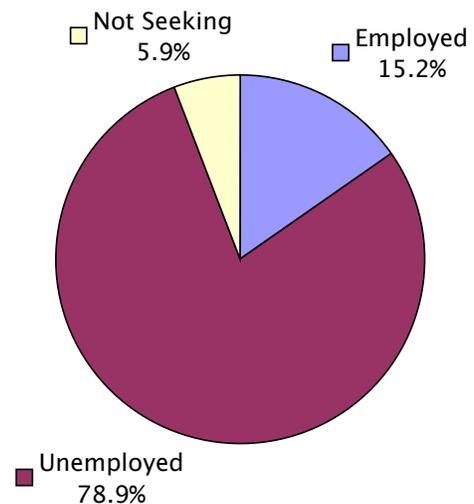
**% Group Quarters
Akutan**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Akutan**

Data source: US Census



storage tank and treatment plant is currently under consideration. In addition to public utilities, the city’s primary employer, Trident Seafoods, operates its own water, sewer and electric facilities, and its own vessel dock. The following public services are also provided: health care (Anesia Kudrin Memorial Clinic), police (public security office), city public library, and youth center.

Transportation to and from Akutan is limited because of its rugged topography. An airport construction plan is being considered, but access is currently only by boat and amphibious craft. Roundtrip airfare from Akutan to Anchorage, via Dutch Harbor, is approximately \$952 (Travelocity 2003). Privately operated businesses include one grocery store, two hotels, and an automobile repair shop. The Akutan

School, under the jurisdiction of the Aleutians East School District, offers instruction to students in grades K-12. There are two teachers and 18 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Akutan is located in the middle of the world's most productive groundfish fishery. In 2000, 7 residents held a total of 10 commercial fishing permits for the following fisheries: halibut, king crab, and various groundfish. In 2000, there were 4 vessel owners for federal fisheries and 18 registered crew members residing in the community. The following is a detailed description of commercial permits in Akutan.

There were five total commercial permits in the groundfish fishery, including four miscellaneous finfish hand troll permits (one fished), and one miscellaneous finfish pair trawl permit (none fished). In the halibut fishery, four longline permits for vessels under 60 feet were issued (four fished). In the crab fishery, one king crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in Bristol Bay fishery was issued (one fished).

Akutan's main role in the commercial fishery is as the home of a Trident Seafood processing plant, the largest such facility in North America (Kenai Peninsula Online 2003). In 2000, there were vessels delivering the following species to Akutan for processing: crab (73 vessels), halibut (56 vessels), other groundfish (75 vessels), herring (41 vessels), salmon (40 vessels), and sablefish (7 vessels). In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in Akutan are unavailable.

In 2003, the Aleutians East Borough was granted \$1,101,638 in federal disaster funds to compensate for

falling salmon prices. A portion of this sum will likely be used for programs that affect Akutan. In 2002, the city of Akutan was granted \$147,417 in federal funds to compensate the community for fisheries losses related to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act. The Aleutians East Borough as a whole was granted \$140,063 in Steller sea lion funds. The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association, the local CDQ group, was granted \$57,163 in Steller sea lion funds.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing in Akutan is limited, with only 2 licenses sold in the community in 2000, both to Alaska residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence fishing is a major part of the economy for Akutan residents. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reported that, in 1990, 100% of Akutan households used subsistence resources. Ninety-six percent of Akutan households used subsistence salmon (all five Pacific species, with coho, pink, and sockeye being particularly important), and 100% used non-salmon subsistence fish (including cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, sole, char, and trout). Ninety-two percent of households used marine mammals for subsistence, and 88% used marine invertebrates.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Akutan in 1990 was 466.1 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (26.0%), non-salmon fish (30.8%), land mammals (5.9%), marine mammals (22.7%), birds and bird eggs (6.1%), marine invertebrates (6.0%), and vegetation (2.4%).

Atka [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Atka is located on Atka Island towards the end of the Aleutian Island archipelago.

Atka is the western most fishing community in the Aleutian Islands chain: 1,200 air miles southwest of Anchorage and 350 miles west of Unalaska. Atka encompasses 8.7 square miles of land and 27.4 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

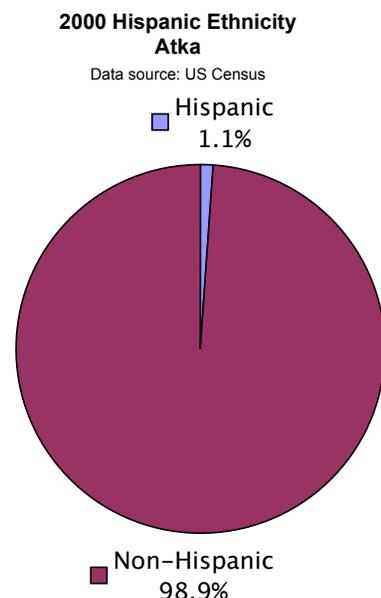
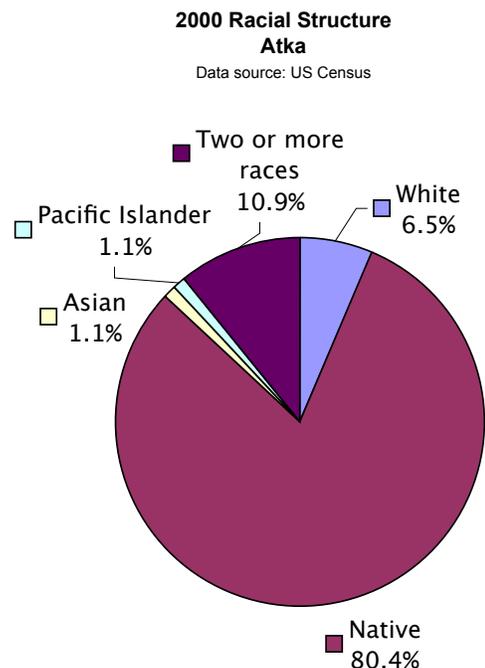
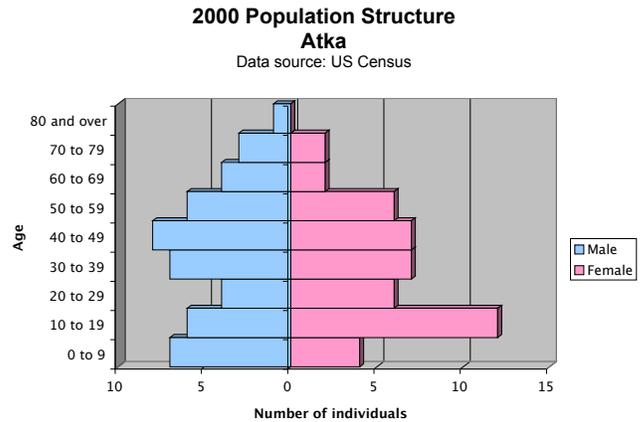
A population of 92 was recorded for Atka by the 2000 U.S. Census. The population has fallen consistently from the maximum of 132 listed for the 1880s and 1890s when census records were first calculated. The racial composition of Atka in 2000 included: 80.4% Alaska Native, 6.5% White, 1.1% Asian, 1.1% Hawaiian Native, and 10.9% two or more races. A total of 91.3% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 1.1% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic.

Unlike many fishing communities, the genders were in equal balance in Atka according to the 2000 U.S. Census. While 15.2% of the population was over 55 years of age, 31.5% of the population was 19 years. The median age was 35.5 years, comparable to the 2000 national median of 35.3 years.

Of a total of 41 houses in the community, 32 were occupied year-round in 2000, 9 housing structures were vacant and 4 of these were occupied seasonally. Only 6.5% of the total population lived in group quarters. Almost 40% of the total population had a high school diploma while 25% had some college education, but no degree.

History

Atka Island has been populated by Unangans, speakers of the Aleut language, for at least 2,000 years. Archaeological evidence suggests that the contemporary village site itself has been occupied since prehistoric times. Atka was valuable to Russians, who first arrived on the island in 1747, as both a trade site and a safe harbor. A number of hunters were enslaved and relocated to the Pribilof Islands to work in the fur seal harvest 40 years after Russians first made contact with the people of Atka. The remaining population



was largely dependant on sea otter hunting and had no immediately viable cash economy after this subsided in the late 1800s. Atka remained heavily resource dependant, though. Reindeer were introduced to the Island in 1914 (currently a herd of over 2,500 head of reindeer continues to provide fresh meat). During the 1920s the community became relatively affluent due to fox farming.

Following the Japanese attack on Unalaska in June 1942, the U.S. government evacuated Atka residents to internment camps in the Ketchikan area in Southeast Alaska while the town of Atka was burned to the ground to prevent Japanese forces from making use of the structures and resources. Residents were not permitted to bring belongings, so family heirlooms, religious icons, and other elements of material culture were destroyed. The village was later rebuilt by the U.S. Navy and residents were permitted to return in the summer of 1945. Several of the people who moved to Atka at that stage had previously lived in Attu, a village located at the end of the Aleutian Island archipelago, and had been captured as prisoners of war by Japanese forces in 1942. Significant reparation measures are being taken on behalf of the federal government to compensate people from Atka for wartime damages and losses.

The Aleutian language is still spoken in one-fourth of homes. The St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, rebuilt after the wartime destruction of the town, remains a central part of village life.

Infrastructure

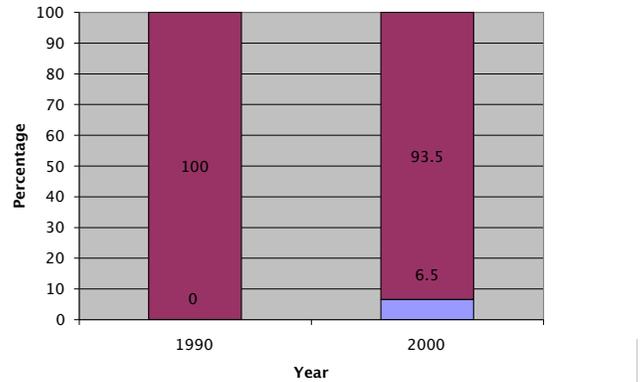
Current Economy

The economy of Atka is predominantly based on subsistence living as well as commercial fishing. There were 9 permit holders who held 17 permits in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC). A small on-shore fish processor, Atka Pride Seafoods, services the local fleet. A number of offshore fish processors carry out crew changes through Atka which, because of limited facilities, may place stress on the community, but is also an opportunity to be capitalized on by local businesses.

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 70.9% of the potential labor force was employed and there was no unemployment. A total of 29.1% of the population

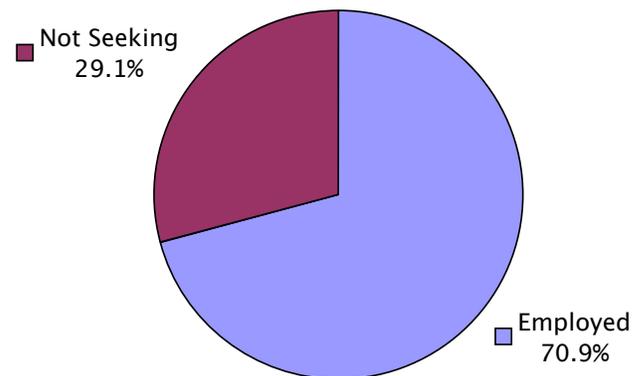
**% Group Quarters
Atka**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Atka**

Data source: US Census



over 16 years of age were not in the labor force, and 7.5% of the population lived below the poverty level. Year-round income opportunities in the village are mostly limited to education and government related work. The median household income in the same year was \$30,938 and the per capita income was just over \$17,000.

Governance

Atka is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1988. It is governed locally by a “strong mayor” and seven-member city council which meets monthly. Atka does not belong to an organized borough; therefore, the city is responsible for many services. The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc., a federally recognized, nonprofit, tribal organization of the Aleut people in Alaska which contracts with federal, state and local governments, also provides services in Atka. Some of these services include public safety

(Village Public Safety Officers) and health programs (emergency, elders, behavioral, outreach and advocacy oriented programs). Special taxes in Atka include a 2% raw fish tax and a 10% accommodation tax. Atka is a member of the for-profit regional Aleut Corporation under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Atxam Corporation is the Native village corporation. The total land entitlement under ANCSA is over 100,000 acres. The Native village of Atka is federally recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by virtue of their status as an Indian tribe. It has organized itself under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), with a constitution and elections as prescribed by the Act. Atka is involved in a Community Development Quota program under the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office are all in Unalaska.

Facilities

The community water and sanitation systems, which service all households, are operated by the City. Hydroelectric potential is under development at Chuniisax Creek. Electricity is currently diesel powered and provided by Andreanof Electric Corporation. All houses use fuel oil for heating and there are three providers of fuel on the island which also service vehicles.

Atka has a state-owned 3,200 foot lighted paved runway which is currently being renovated with federal grants. Scheduled air services are available twice weekly from Unalaska and can also be chartered from Cold Bay. The cost of a roundtrip plane ticket from Atka to Anchorage is about \$900 (based on the closest available date to September 1, 2003 for Peninsula Airways flights). Coastal Transportation provides freight services during the peak fishing season from May to October. A new dock and port facility, operated by the City, were recently completed 5 miles from town. The development of several facilities associated with the fishing industry, with the help of the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association in the 1990s, has resulted in significant economic enhancement in the community (Obeso, 1994).

Tourism is limited in Atka. There are short-term accommodations available. Atka is within the

Aleutian Region school district and one school on the island, with two teachers, serves 19 pupils ranging from grades K-12. The school gym is used widely for community gatherings including bingo nights. Public security is provided by a VPSO associated with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. Health care is provided locally primarily by the Atka Health Clinic also operated by the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association.

North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is of great significance to the economy of Atka. According to the ADF&G and reported by ACFEC, 17 permits were held by 9 permit holders in Atka in 2000 (10 fished). There were three vessel owners in the federal fisheries, no vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and 19 crew members with residence in Atka.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Atka was involved in halibut (10 vessels) and sablefish (five vessels) fisheries in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in the community are unavailable.

Permits for halibut issued in Atka for 2000 pertained to one hand troll (not fished), 7 longline vessels under 60 feet (6 fished), and one longline vessel over 60 feet. All permits designated for halibut for statewide waters. Permits for sablefish issued in 2000 pertained to four longline vessels under 60 feet for statewide waters (three fished). Additionally, one permit for a salmon set gillnet limited to the Atka/Amlia Islands and three permits for miscellaneous salt water finfish longline vessels under 60 feet for statewide waters were issued but not fished.

The existence of processing facilities in some communities is an important part of the community's involvement in the fishing industry. Atka Pride Seafoods, the only processor in Atka, is a small plant with the capacity to process crab, halibut, and sablefish, operating seasonally to serve the local fleet and employing only local residents. The plant struggled with initial economic hardship due to the extension of start-up costs over several years, but is now experiencing consecutive years of profitability.

Atka Seafoods operates its own electric system.

Atka did not receive federal salmon disaster relief funds in 2003 to offset any loss of revenue from fish taxes due to low salmon prices. In 2002, the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA) received \$57,163 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

Recreational sport fishing activity is very limited in Atka. No sport fishing licenses were sold in Atka in 2000. This may be due in part to the remoteness of the community and the infrequency of transportation from larger population centers. Additionally, the town does not have the facilities to support a large tourism industry.

Subsistence Fishing

Numerous social, economic, and technological changes have influenced life in Alaskan fishing communities and subsistence harvests and practices continue to provide fishing communities with important nutritional, economic, social, and cultural requirements. Data from 1994 compiled on behalf of the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Atka. All households participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Of the total

population, 96.4% used salmon, 92.9% used non-salmon (cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, char, and trout), 92.9% used marine mammals, and 85.7% marine invertebrates.

The total per capita harvest for the year was 439.28 lbs. The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resource categories. Salmon constituted 21.58% of the total subsistence harvest while non-salmon fish made up 9.03%, land mammals 21%, marine mammals 34.3%, birds and eggs made up 1.81%, marine invertebrates were 1.19%, and vegetation made up 1.09% (ADF&G, 2000). The wild food harvest in Atka made up 284% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1994 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or .424 lbs of wild food per day).

Permits are not required for subsistence fishing in the waters fished by the community of Atka and there were no annual harvest assessment programs in place as of 2001. Residents of Atka and members of the Native Village of Atka, an Alaska Native Tribe, who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Chignik [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Chignik, from a Koniag (Sugpiaq) word meaning “big wind,” is located on the south shore of the Alaska Peninsula on Anchorage Bay. The three Chignik communities are clustered on the south side of Chignik Bay. In fact, the complete name of this community is Chignik Bay. This town lies 450 miles southwest of Anchorage and 260 miles southwest of Kodiak. Chignik, part of the Lake and Peninsula Borough, encompasses 11.7 square miles of land and 4.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

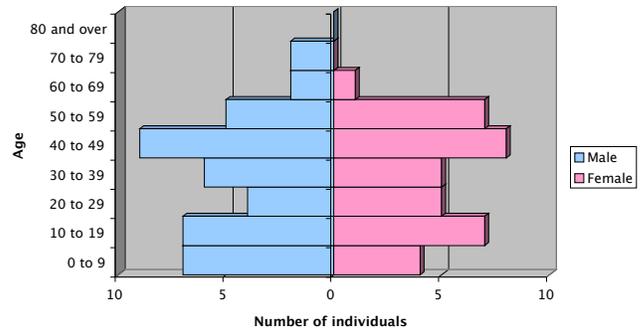
In 2000, the city had 79 inhabitants in 29 households. About 60.8% of the recorded inhabitants of Chignik were Alaska Native, 31.6% White, 2.5% Asian, 2.5% Hawaiian Native, 1.3% other, and 1.3% were two or more races. A total of 60.8% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. At the same time, 1.7% of the population identified themselves as having Hispanic origins.

This community, in comparison to other communities of the area, has a fairly balanced gender ratio, although it is still significantly skewed compared to national patterns: 53.2% of the population was male and 46.8% female. This ratio may vary significantly, especially in summer when the population increases by 600 to 800 people (mostly male) when seasonal employees arrive to work for the processing plants. There were 42 empty households for seasonal use. The median age of this community, in contrast to most neighboring communities is similar to the national average: 36.3 years and 35.3 years, respectively. The historical records of the census are inconclusive with a high degree of variability. This may be a consequence of the seasonality of the fishing industry, corresponding employment opportunities, and associated short term migratory movements.

Of the population 25 years of age and over, a total of 25.9% of the population never completed 9th grade, 74.1% had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling, and 13.0% of the population had a bachelor’s degree or higher.

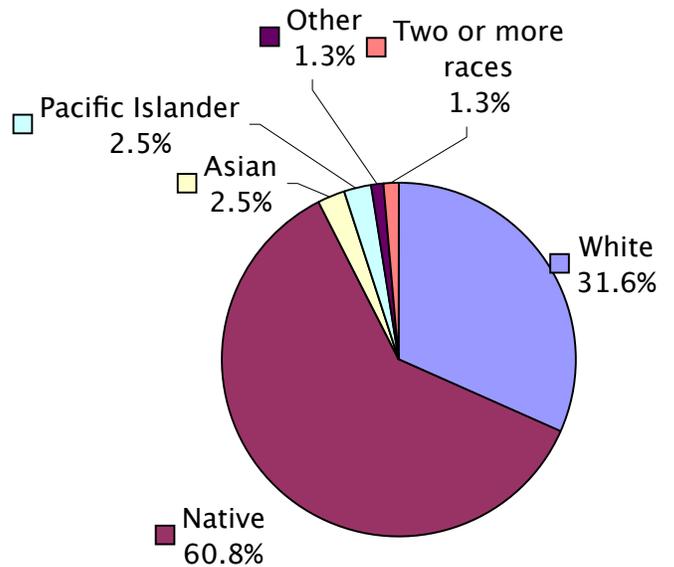
2000 Population Structure Chignik

Data source: US Census



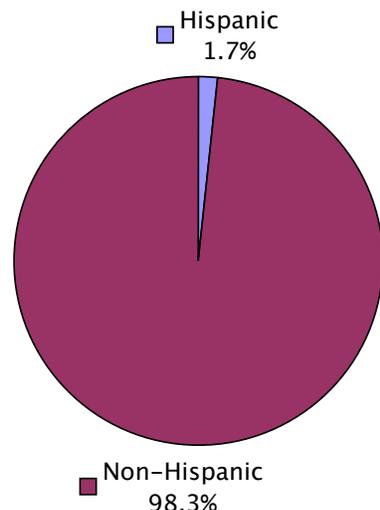
2000 Racial Structure Chignik

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Chignik

Data source: US Census



History

The earliest peoples in the Chignik area were Aleuts, the Native peoples of the Aleutian Islands and the Alaska Peninsula. There is evidence of early settlements in the Chignik area dating back to at least 1900 years ago. A Kaniagmuit village referred to as ‘Kalwak’ was originally located in the area where Chignik is today, but it was destroyed by the Russian fur industry in the late 1700s when locals were enslaved to provide work for the fur trade. These changes translated to massive relocation of populations. The area received important population influxes.

The village of Chignik began in the late 19th century as a salmon cannery and a fishing village. Workers and supplies were transported from San Francisco to Chignik by the Star of Alaska, a ship that brought Chinese crews to make tin cans for the cannery, as well as Japanese workers to process the fish.

The population of Chignik was reported as having 193 people in 1890. By the early 20th century the village had two large canneries, which provided a large part of the infrastructure for the village. A post office was set up in Chignik in 1901 and coal mining was popular in the area from 1899 to 1915. Chignik was incorporated in 1983.

Two historical canneries are still in operation in the city. Today they are part of the Norquest Adak and the Trident Seafoods processing companies. Historically, many native Alutiiq women of the Chignik area married men who were Scandinavian, Chinese, Japanese, Mongolian, Hawaiian, or Filipino. Still present in the community today are many of the Scandinavian and Russian names of those original immigrants.

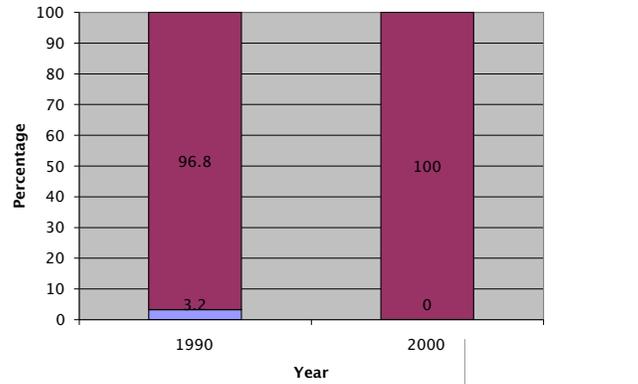
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The current economy of the City of Chignik is based on both commercial fishing and subsistence practices. The city has 18 residents holding commercial fishing permits and two processing plants: Aleutian Dragon and Chignik Pride Fisheries. The processing facilities are a fundamental factor in Chignik’s demography and economy; between 600 to 800 people come to Chignik to fish or work in the plants each summer from places such as Mexico, the Philippines, and U.S. states. The city also employs residents for road rebuilding and the

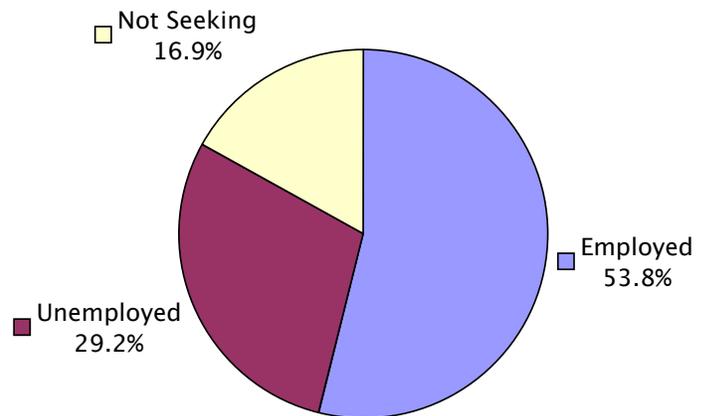
**% Group Quarters
Chignik**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Chignik**

Data source: US Census



construction of the new boat harbor.

In 2000, the employment structure of the community showed that a 53.8% of the total workforce was employed, a very significant 29.2% was unemployed, and 16.9% of the adults were not seeking jobs. Overall, 41.5% of the total workforce worked for the government. The community had an average per capita income of \$16,166 and a median household income of \$34,250. A total of 4.5% of the population lived below the line of poverty.

Trapping is a source of income during the off-season. Subsistence practices are present in the area and play a significant role in the local economy. These practices include the harvesting of salmon, trout, crab, clams, caribou, moose, and porcupine.

Facilities

Chignik can be reached both by air and sea. The city has a state-owned gravel runway, a state-owned

seaplane base, and a gravel airstrip owned by Chignik Fisheries. Regular air flights run to Chignik from King Salmon and Port Heiden. The price of a roundtrip airplane ticket from Chignik to Anchorage in early September of 2003 was \$752.

The State Ferry operates over the summer from May to October and travels to the area bi-monthly. Barges carry transported goods to the city weekly from late spring to early fall, and arrive monthly from fall to spring. The city has a public dock and a 110-slip small boat harbor currently under development, and there is already a privately owned 600 foot dock and boat haul-out present in the Bay. The primary means of local transportation are ATVs and skiffs.

There is only one store in Chignik and it is owned by one of the processors, Trident Seafoods. The store is only open during the salmon processing season which ends in September. During the rest of the year residents must order their supplies, usually from Seattle, and have them shipped by barge. During winter some staple goods are held in a community store room and are available for sale.

There is a local health clinic, the Chignik Bay Sub-Regional Health Clinic, but for all major medical services such as births, residents must travel to other cities. The town has centralized water and sewage systems managed by the municipality. Chignik Electric, operated by the city, provides power to the town. The community has a school, the Chignik Bay School, with 14 students and 2 teachers. There is no local police department.

Governance

The second-class City of Chignik, incorporated in 1983, has a “strong mayor” form of government with a seven-member city council. The city has no sales tax and no property tax, but it does have a 1% salmon and 2% other seafood landing tax. The taxes on fish are a fundamental income for these communities and a main incentive to incorporate. There is also a 2% raw fish tax which is imposed and collected by the borough.

Far West Inc. is the local Native corporation managing approximately 119,000 acres. The Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) is the regional Native corporation for the area. Its counterpart, the regional Native non-profit institution, is the Bristol Bay Native Association. Also located in the community is the Chignik Bay Tribal Council which is a traditional council accepted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Chignik has an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office open during summer. Sand Point or Kodiak are the closest permanent offices. In order to access to a Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office the inhabitants of Chignik have to get in touch with Kodiak, Unalaska, or Anchorage. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has its closest quarters in Kodiak, Unalaska, or Homer.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Chignik is the central community of the Chignik cluster due to the presence of two processing plants, the importance of commercial fishing for the community cannot be understood without taking into account the combination of the employment-businesses-fleet structure of the three Chigniks combined.

According to ADF&G records for 2000, Chignik had 18 commercial permit holders holding 41 all-fisheries combined permits. Simultaneously 37 of its residents were registered as crewmen. There were 4 federal fisheries vessel owners plus 11 owners of salmon vessels resident in the community. The Chignik fleet fished most of Alaska’s significant species: crab, halibut, herring, other types of groundfish, other shellfish, and salmon.

Fishing permits issued for the Alaskan fishing industry are specific to species, size of the vessel, type of gear and fishing area.

Groundfish: The groundfish sector accumulated eleven permits (three fished): two permits for vessels under 60 feet and one for a vessel 60 feet or over, all of them to fish with pot gear (3 fished). The remaining groundfish permits, one hand troll, two longline vessels under 60 feet, one beam troll and one with mechanical jig, were not fished in 2000. All groundfish permits had a statewide range.

Herring: The herring fleet also has a significant presence in Chignik’s harbor. In 2000 there were nine issued permits (two fished). Three permits were issued for herring roe with purse seine in Bristol Bay (two fished). Five permits were issued for herring roe with purse seine: one in Prince William Sound, one in Cook Inlet, one in Kodiak, one in Chignik, one in the Alaska Peninsula, and one for herring food/bait with purse

seine in Prince William Sound (none fished).

Salmon: The salmon fleet held 13 permits for purse seine restricted to Chignik (14 fished).

Other fisheries: In the community there was one non-fished Dungeness crab permit for a pot gear vessel under 60 feet with westward range. There were also four permits to fish halibut (three fished). All of them were for longline vessels over 60 feet with statewide range. There was also a non-fished permit for a vessel under 60 feet with pot gear fishing to catch octopus/squid.

The commercial fishing plants in Chignik process salmon, herring roe, halibut, cod, and crab. At the NorQuest processing plant they work with halibut, sablefish, groundfish, and salmon. At the Trident Seafoods (Sea Catch Inc.) facility they process and can salmon and groundfish.

In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in Chignik are not available. The composition of the fleet delivering at Chignik's harbor though, offers a perspective on the capacity and particularities of its fishing industry: groundfish (36 vessels), sablefish (6 vessels), halibut (20 vessels), and salmon (112 vessels). The fleet delivering landings is clearly larger than the number of ships home-ported or anchored in that particular harbor. The presence of processing plants automatically turns a harbor into a regional center for the local fishing industry.

The Chignik Seafood Producers Alliance (CSPA) is a new organization and a fundamental development in the fishing industry. CSPA is made up of purse seine salmon permit holders and "in 2002, 77 Chignik permit holders joined the Co-op, 22 permit holders chose to fish independently in the open fishery, and one permit holder did not join the cooperative and also did not fish" (Knapp et. al. 2002). Permit holders can choose to join the Co-op and the Co-op is allowed a percentage of the sockeye salmon harvest in Chignik. Permit holders can also choose to not join the Co-op and can still fish independently.

Chignik received a direct allocation of \$56,421 in federal salmon disaster funds at the same time that Lake and Peninsula Borough received \$442,002. These allocations were to compensate for losses due to prices plummeting in the international market. This allocation was implemented in 2003.

The community, the borough, and the BBEDC (CDQ) received \$24,860, \$29,832, and \$ 75,026

respectively to reduce the impact of Steller sea lion protective regulations that came up after the inclusion of this species into the endangered species list. This allocation, under ESA regulations, was implemented in 2002.

The funds not directly allocated to the city were added to the general budget of the borough or the CDQ and helped to compensate for the decline in fish taxes income and to relieve the budgetary tensions of the institutions of the area.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing is not a significant source of income in the community of Chignik. In 2000 this community did not issue a single sport fishing permit. The area, though, is visited by numerous non-residents who get their permits elsewhere. One company offers fishing services to outsiders.

Subsistence Fishing

In 1991, Chignik demonstrated the significance of subsistence practices for traditional Alaska communities. All households participated in the use of harvested resources. In relation to the main marine resources: 100% used subsistence salmon, 96.7% used other types fish (cod, halibut, prowfish, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, wrymouth, char, grayling, and trout), 33.3% marine mammals, and 100% marine invertebrates. The results reflect that the inhabitants of the community were harvesting 357.5 lbs per person per year. This statistic emphasizes the importance of subsistence fishing, hunting, and gathering for these communities.

In order to understand the relative importance of each resource we have to break down the composition of the harvest: salmon 47.9%, other fish 30.7%, land mammals 6.82%, marine mammals 0.7%, birds and eggs 1.2%, marine invertebrates 10.9%, and vegetation 1.8%.

In 1999 Chignik had 11 Alaska salmon household subsistence permits: the catch was mainly sockeye. Residents of Chignik and member of Alaska Native Tribes who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Chignik Lagoon [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Chignik Lagoon is located on the south shore of the Alaska Peninsula, 450 miles southwest of Anchorage. It lies 180 air miles south of King Salmon, 8.5 miles west of Chignik, and 16 miles east of Chignik Lake. The three Chignik communities are clustered off the south side of Chignik Bay. Chignik Lagoon took its name from its location and proximity to Chignik. Chignik is the Koniag (Sugpiaq) word for “big wind.” The area encompasses 13.1 square miles of land and no water area.

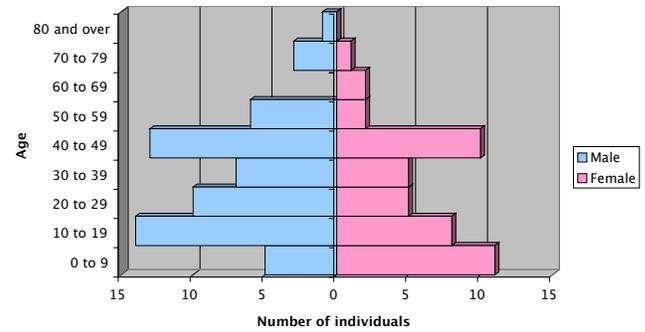
Demographic Profile

Chignik Lagoon had 102 inhabitants in 2000 according to the U.S. Census. The racial composition of Chignik Lagoon was: 81.6% Alaska Native or American Indian, 11.7% White, 1% Black, and 2.9% belonged to two or more races. A total of 82.5% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In 2000, this was a very young community with a median age of 26.3 years, versus the U.S. median of 35.3 years. A significant percentage of the population (23.8%) was under 19 years of age. As with many Alaskan communities, males outnumbered females, 57.3% to 42.7%.

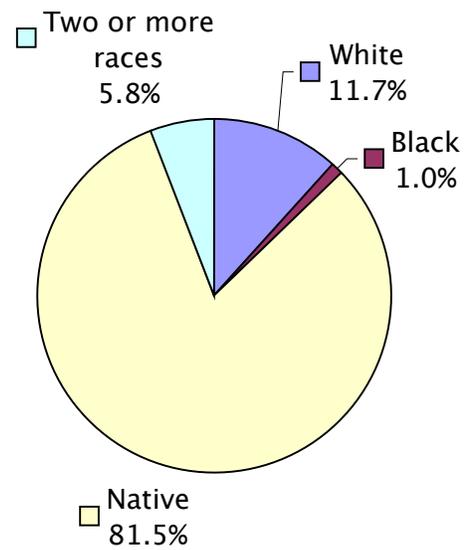
Chignik Lagoon’s demographics vary by season. Although it is hard to make accurate estimates of the transient population, different accounts seem to confirm that during the fishing season the village increases its population by several hundred. Permanent residents of the village lived in 33 households. Most of the summer residents lived in the 35 otherwise vacant houses in the community and in boats offshore.

Chignik Lagoon does not show up in the U.S. Census until the 1960s. A number of communities on the Peninsula and the Islands have had important levels of mobility due to high seismic activity in the area. In any case, the 80s and the 90s showed a relatively unchanged population ranging from 40 to 50 inhabitants. In 2000, however, the population almost doubled in size since the last count. Of the population 25 years of age and over, about 70% had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling, and 12% had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher. About 30% had not graduated from high school.

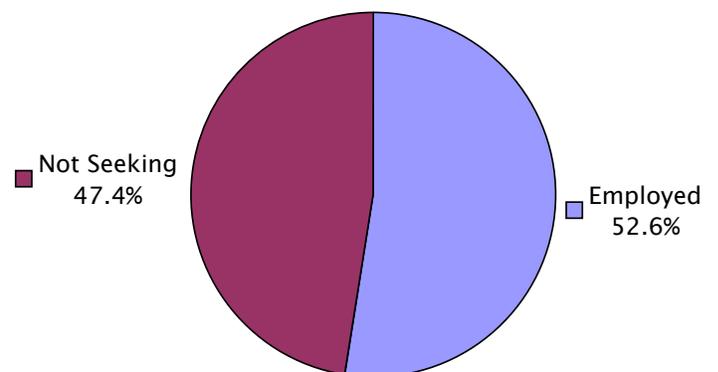
**2000 Population Structure
Chignik Lagoon**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Chignik Lagoon**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Chignik Lagoon**
Data source: US Census



History

The history of Chignik Lagoon, as with other aspects of the community, cannot be detached from the history of the whole Bay. Although the U.S. Census does not mention Chignik Lagoon until the 1960s, the area, as evident from a nearly 2,000 year-old site near Chignik, has long been populated. The Chignik area was originally populated by Kaniagmuit Eskimos. After the Russian occupation, intermarriage between Kaniags and Aleuts (Unangan) produced the Koniags.

The Russian era, the 18th century, had a deep impact on the area: a village was destroyed (Kaniagmiut), others moved or were ravaged by disease or warfare, sea mammal populations were decimated during the 'golden age' of the fur trade, and the Russian Orthodox Church became part of the local heritage. The Native population decreased to half of its pre-contact size at the same time that the population began to include high numbers of Russian and Scandinavian fishermen.

In spite of recent increases in population, Chignik Lagoon remains largely a summer camp for hundreds of fisher folk. A fundamental factor that helped to consolidate a permanent population in the area was the succession of canneries and processing plants that came to the area throughout the course of the 20th century.

Infrastructures

Current Economy

More than half of Chignik Lagoon's workforce is involved in the fishing industry, specifically the salmon fishery. Chignik is famous for its sockeye runs and the community is very dependant on its salmon fleet. Chignik Lagoon has become a regional fishing center with the combined influences of Chignik Bay and Chignik Lake.

In 2000, 29 residents held fishing permits. There is a seafood preparation and packaging company, the Chignik Kipper. There are two on-shore processing plants operating in the vicinity of Chignik (Aleutian Dragon Fisheries and Chignik Pride). However, the primary year-round employers are the village council, the electric plant, and the school. In 2000, the community had 19 governmental workers. From the potential total workforce, 52.6% were employed and the remaining 47.4% were not seeking jobs.

The per capita income in the community was \$28,940 and a very high \$92,297 in median household income. Only a 1.8% of the population lived below the line of poverty. Subsistence activities like fishing, hunting, and gathering were still a significant part of the local economy.

Governance

Chignik Lagoon is an unincorporated village located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The Bristol Bay Native Corporation is the regional Native corporation, while the Chignik Lagoon Corporation is the local corporation managing approximately 96,000 acres. The Chignik Lagoon Village Council is recognized by the BIA as a traditional council.

This community is part of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) and receives community development quotas (CDQ) from this organization. This community also benefits from a regional nonprofit organization, the Bristol Bay Native Association.

Although only open seasonally, the closest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices are located in Chignik and Port Moller. Sand Point or Kodiak hold the closest permanent ADF&G offices. In order to access to a Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office, inhabitants of Chignik Lagoon have to get in touch with Kodiak, Unalaska, or Anchorage. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices are in Kodiak, Unalaska, or Homer.

Facilities

Chignik Lagoon is primarily accessible by air and sea. There are no roads connecting it to other villages, although there is strong regional interest in constructing roads in the area connecting Chignik, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and the landfill.

There is a State-owned gravel airstrip and seaplane base. There are scheduled flights operated by Peninsula Airways as well as charters that connect the town to others, mainly nearby King Salmon. Because of the length of the airstrip, only small aircraft can take-off and land at Chignik Lagoon. The price of a roundtrip ticket by plane from Anchorage, with a connection in King Salmon is \$752. There is also a small boat harbor. The State ferry provides service four times a year. A cargo ship brings supplies weekly in the summer and bi-weekly in the winter. Boat haul-outs

are available. Local transportation is mostly via ATVs and skiffs. Although limited, there are car rentals and accommodations for visitors.

There is no police service. Basic health care is provided by the Chignik Lagoon Health Clinic and the Chignik Lagoon First Responder Group. The Chignik Lagoon Council owns and operates its water, sewer, and power systems. There is also an incinerator and landfill for garbage disposal. The town has its own school, the Chignik Lagoon School, with 22 students, 5 teachers, and a gym. The community has a collective power provider, Chignik Lagoon Power Utility, piped sewage, and a piped water system mostly operated by the village council.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

The importance of commercial fishing for the Chignik Lagoon community cannot be understood without taking into account the combination of the employment-businesses-fleet structure of the three Chigniks combined.

According to ADF&G records for 2000, Chignik Lagoon had 29 commercial permit holders, with a total of 70 permits across all fisheries. In Chignik Lagoon, 53 individuals were registered as crewmen and there were 9 federal fisheries vessel owners plus 18 owners of salmon vessels. The Chignik Lagoon fleet was involved in most of the Alaskan fisheries: crab, halibut, herring, other groundfish, other shellfish, and salmon.

The permits issued for Alaskan fisheries are specific to species, size of vessel, type of gear, and fishing area.

Halibut: There were five issued permits pertaining to halibut fisheries. Four permits were fished, all of them for longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters.

Groundfish: Groundfish had the highest number of permits: 30 permits for 19 holders (8 fished). The community had one permit for a hand troll vessel (not fished), 12 for vessels under 60 feet with pot gear (6 fished), 14 for mechanical jig, 2 for longline vessels over 60 feet (none fished), and one for pot gear over 60 feet. All these permits were for statewide waters.

Salmon: The salmon fleet was also very significant to Chignik Lagoon's commercial fisheries, accounting for 22 permits (21 fished): all were purse seine, 21

restricted to Chignik, and one restricted to the Kodiak waters.

Other: One Dungeness crab permit was issued for a pot gear vessel over 60 feet. Other fisheries in Chignik Lagoon included herring and other shellfish: the former included 10 permits, from which only one for herring roe with purse seine in Bristol Bay was actually fished (two herring roe with purse seine in Kodiak, four herring roe with purse seine in Chignik and four herring roe with purse seine in Bristol Bay). Two issued permits that were fished: they both related to the combined category of octopus and squid (one permit for a longline and one for a pot gear, both of them over 60 feet and statewide range).

Besides the two fish processing plants operating in neighboring Chignik, Chignik Lagoon had its own seafood preparation and packing plant, Chignik Kipper. Although Chignik Lagoon had a fleet anchored in its waters, there was no real landing of fish due to the absence of a large processing plant. This lack pushes the vessels of this community to deliver somewhere else, probably Chignik Bay.

In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough received an allocation of \$442,002 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for losses due to salmon prices plummeting, and \$29,832 to reduce the impact of Steller sea lion protective regulations. The BBEDC also received \$75,026 for this reason. The funds, added to the general budget of the borough or the CDQ, helped to compensate for the decline in fish taxes income and to relieve budget tensions for institutions in the area.

Sport Fishing

In 2000 this community did not issue any sport fishing permits. The area, though, is visited by numerous non-residents that get their permits elsewhere. Locals rely on subsistence fisheries. The village had three business licenses issued for fishing guide enterprises, and two licenses for fishing activities.

Subsistence Fishing

In 1989 Chignik Lagoon demonstrated the significance of subsistence practices for traditional Alaska communities. All households participated in the use of harvested resources. In relation to the main marine resources: 100% of the households used salmon, 100% used other fish (herring, smelt, cod, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, char, and trout), 13.3% used marine mammals, and 86.7% used marine

invertebrates. The results reflect that the inhabitants of the community were harvesting an average of 211.4 lbs of subsistence resources per person per year.

In order to understand the relative importance of each resource it is useful to break down the composition of the harvest: salmon 47.4%, other fish 21%, land mammals 17.3%, marine mammals 0, birds and eggs 2.5%, marine invertebrates 9.8% and vegetation 2%.

In this community, most of this subsistence practices are focused on fish: in 1999 Chignik Lagoon had 32

Alaska salmon household subsistence permits: the catch was mainly sockeye. In addition, the inhabitants of this community (rural residents or members of an Alaska Native tribe) are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut by holding Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARCs). These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Chignik Lake [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The town of Chignik Lake is located on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula on the shore of Chignik Lake. The three Chignik communities are clustered off of the south side of Chignik Bay. Chignik Lake took its name from its location and proximity to Chignik, the Koniag (Sugpiaq) word for “big wind.” This community is situated 13 miles from Chignik, 265 miles southwest of Kodiak and 474 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 12.3 square miles of land and 9.6 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

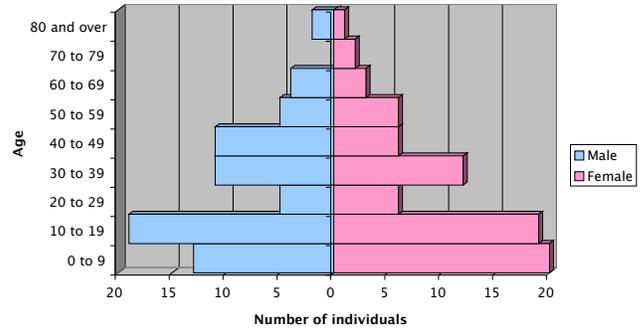
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Chignik Lake had 145 inhabitants. The racial composition in 2000 was: 86.9% Alaska Native or American Indian, 11.7% White, 0.7% Asian, and 0.7% two or more races. A total of 87.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. A small 1.4 % of the population was of Hispanic origin. All the permanent residents of the village lived in 40 households. Ten housing units were vacant in the community and of those one was vacant due to seasonal use.

In 2000, the median age of Chignik Lake was 20.8 years versus the U.S. median of 35.3 years. A high percentage (49%) of the population was under 19 years old. In 2000, females outnumbered males 51.7% to 48.3%. Chignik Lake does not show up in the Census until the 1960s. A historical analysis depicts a community with a slow but constant growth tendency. Of the population age 25 years and older, 42.9% never completed high school, 57.1% graduated from high school or higher schooling, and 8.6% of the population had a bachelor’s degree or higher.

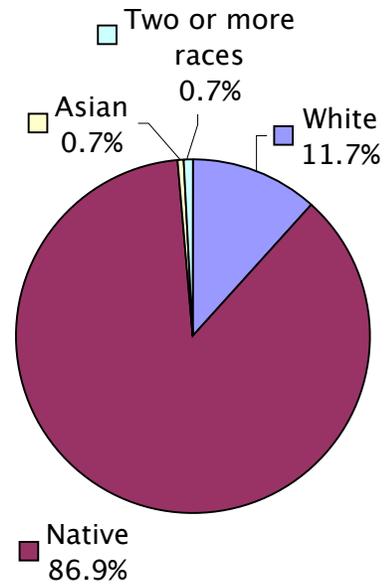
History

The building of a school in the early 1950s was a turning point in the emergence of Chignik Lake. It attracted a group of families, mostly Russian Orthodox, eager to protect their identity and educate their offspring in near-isolation. Before that event, the community seems to have been a winter residence for a few families, the first of which settled in the area around 1903. It is hard to understand the population dynamics of Chignik Lake in the first half of the 20th

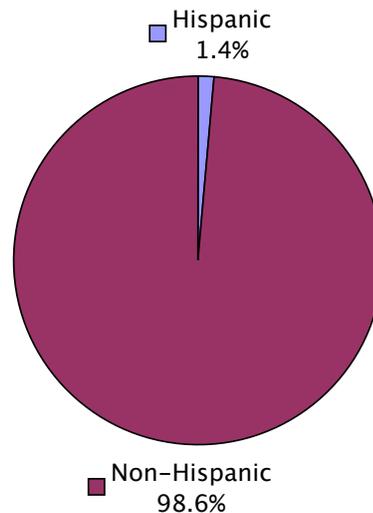
2000 Population Structure Chignik Lake
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure Chignik Lake
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Chignik Lake
Data source: US Census



century because the community does not appear in any census before the 1960s.

The population, mostly Aleuts or of Aleut descent, seem to be originally from Kanatag and Illnik on the opposite shore of the Alaska Peninsula. Prior to the foundation of the school, all of these communities used to meet in different semi-permanent camps. The community still keeps the winter camp character of its origin. During the summer months an important part of the town travels down the river to fish in the Chignik salmon fishery or to work in fish processing industry.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of this small community is based exclusively on commercial fishing and subsistence. A significant number of residents, still following the old seasonal pattern, leave the community to work at the commercial fishing industry in the Chignik Bay processing plants or as crewmen of the fleet of the area. Eight residents of the community hold commercial fishing permits. In addition, Chignik Lake relies heavily on subsistence hunting and fishing (salmon, other fish, caribou, moose, and seal). It is important to point out that an attempt to establish a tourism industry seems to be developing, including accommodations and fishing guides.

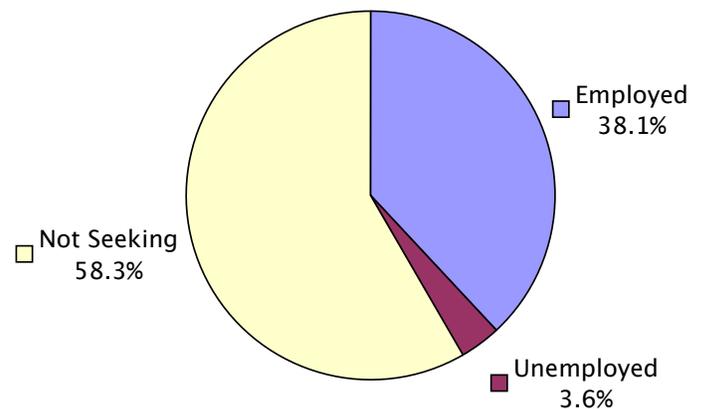
The employment structure shows that 38.1% of the potential labor force was employed, 3.6% was unemployed, and 58.3% were not seeking jobs. The singularity of these results, as well as its accuracy to represent social reality, needs to be understood in the context of a community completely dominated by a seasonal industry. Censuses, with their tendency project a 'snapshot' of a community, are not well equipped to represent communities that in fact are extremely variable across the year. An appalling 22% of the population is reported to live below the line of poverty. The per capita income was \$13,843 with the median household income having been \$41,458 in Chignik Lake in 2000.

Governance

Chignik Lake is an unincorporated village located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The Bristol Bay Native Corporation is the regional for-profit Native corporation while the Chignik River Ltd. is the local corporation managing 100,000 acres.

**2000 Employment Structure
Atka**

Data source: US Census



This community is part of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) and receives community development quotas (CDQ) from this organization. Bristol Bay Native Association is the regional nonprofit. The community is also part of the region-wide nonprofit Bristol Bay Native Association. Chignik Lake Traditional Council is recognized by the BIA.

Although only open seasonally, the closest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices are located in Chignik and Port Moller. Sand Point or Kodiak are the closest permanent ADF&G offices. In order to access a Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office residents of Chignik Lagoon have to go to Kodiak, Unalaska, or Anchorage. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices are in Kodiak, Unalaska, and Homer.

Facilities

The easiest way to access Chignik Lake is by airplane. The community has a State-owned gravel airstrip and seaplanes land at nearby Chignik Lagoon. Regularly-scheduled and charter flights are provided mainly by Peninsula Airways. The price of a roundtrip ticket from the community to Anchorage in early September of 2003 was \$752.

Chignik Lagoon is the port of arrival of most commodities destined for Chignik Lake. These goods are transported weekly during the summer and monthly during winter. By sea, the inhabitants of Chignik Lake have to rely on the services that the State Ferry provided to Chignik Lagoon four times per

year. There is no harbor, dock, barge access, or boat haul-outs. Skiffs and ATVs are the primary means of local transportation. The three Chigniks are currently lobbying for the construction of roads between them.

Chignik Lake has two registered businesses licensed for visitors' accommodation. The community has one school, the Chignik Lake School, with 38 students and four teachers. The town had no police presence. Primary health care is provided by the Chignik Lake Health Clinic or, alternatively, by the Chignik Lake Rescue Squad. The town has centralized systems of water and sewage management, and during the summer, power is provided by the Chignik Lake Electric Utility Inc. In winter power is purchased from the school district.

Involvement in the North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

As mentioned in the Current Economy section, the importance of commercial fishing for Chignik Lake community cannot be understood without taking into account the combination of the employment-businesses-fleet structure of the three Chigniks combined.

According to ADF&G records for 2000, Chignik Lake had 8 commercial permit holders, holding 10 all-fisheries combined permits. In Chignik Lake 38 individuals were registered as crewmen and there was one vessel-owner fishing in federal fisheries, and 5 owners of salmon vessels. The small fleet of Chignik Lake was mainly focused on salmon, although it was also engaged with herring and other groundfish fisheries.

Permits issued for Alaskan fisheries are specific to species, size of the vessel, type of gear, and fishing area.

The community had only one permit that was fished which pertained to a vessel under 60 feet with pot gear for miscellaneous salt water finfish. The salmon fleet encompasses most of Chignik Lake's commercial fisheries. It accounted for eight permits, six of which were fished: six were purse seine restricted to Chignik (five fished), one for a drift gillnet which was fished, and one for a set gillnet which was not fished, both restricted to the Bristol Bay waters. There was also one permit issued and fished to catch herring roe with purse seine in Bristol Bay which was actually fished in 2000.

Although Chignik Lake did have a fleet, there was no real landing of fish due to the absence of a large processing plant. This lack pushes the vessels of this community to deliver elsewhere, probably Chignik Bay.

In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, where Chignik Lake is located, received an allocation of \$442,002 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for losses due to plummeting salmon prices, and \$29,832 to reduce the impact of Steller sea lion protective regulations. The BBEDC also received \$75,026 for this reason. The funds, added to the general budget of the borough or the CDQ, helped to compensate the decline on fish taxes income and to relieve the budgetary tension of the institutions of the area.

Sport Fishing

In 2000, this community did not issue a single sport fishing permit. The area is visited by numerous outsiders that get their permits elsewhere, though. In 2002, the village had two business licenses related to sport fishing as a tourist activity.

Subsistence Fishing

In a survey conducted on behalf of ADF&G in 1991, Chignik Lake demonstrated the great significance of subsistence practices for traditional Alaska communities. All households participated in the use of harvested resources. In relation to the main marine resources: 100% of the households used subsistence salmon, 100% used other types of fish (herring, smelt, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, char, and trout), 70.8% marine mammals, and 100% marine invertebrates. The results reflect that the inhabitants of the community were harvesting 442.4 lbs per person per year. These statistics emphasize the importance of subsistence fishing, hunting, and gathering for these communities.

In order to understand the relative importance of each resource it is helpful to break down the composition of the harvest: salmon 46.06%, other fish 9.4%, land mammals 34.5%, marine mammals 0.9%, birds and eggs 3%, marine invertebrates 4.7%, and vegetation 1.5%.

In 1999, residents of Chignik Lake had 11 Alaska salmon household subsistence permits and the catch was mainly sockeye. In addition, the inhabitants of this community (rural residents or members of an

Alaska Native tribe) are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut by holding Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARCs). These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Dutch Harbor / Unalaska

[\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Unalaska is a town located on Unalaska Island in the western Aleutian Islands. The Dutch Harbor portion of the community is located on Amaknak Island and is mainly an industrial port area, connected by a bridge to Unalaska Island, where most of the population is concentrated. Unalaska and Dutch Harbor are treated as a single community here, in accordance with their inseparability in certain data sets and an underlying socioeconomic interconnectivity.

Demographic Profile

Unalaska is a town of 4,283 people in 988 housing units (Census 2000). During peak fishing seasons the population of the city can swell to over ten thousand. The size of Unalaska’s temporary population is illustrated by the fact that 51.2% of the population lives in group housing quarters.

Though few non-Natives lived in the community before WWII, 7.7% of the population recorded by the Census in 2000 was Alaska Native or American Indian in race. Approximately 3.7% was Black, 44.2% percent was White, 30.6% percent was Asian (Filipinos, in particularly, make up a large portion of the Asian population), 9.3% consisted of other races, 0.6% was Hawaiian Native or Other Pacific Islander, and 3.9% was two or more races. A total of 9.3% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Residents of Hispanic origin made up 12.9% of the population.

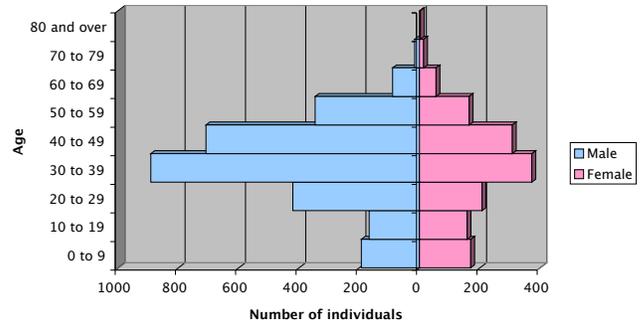
Male residents comprise 66.1% of the local population, and females 33.9%. The median age of Unalaska, at 36.5 years, is similar to the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. Approximately 78.1% of the adult population has an educational level of high school or higher.

History

The Aleutian Islands have been populated for 3000-6000 years by Aleut (Unangan) people. The Aleuts of Unalaska and Umnak Island are known as Qawalangin, which means “sons of sea lions.” In 1759 there were estimated to be more than 3,000 Unangan in 24 settlements on Unalaska and Amaknak.

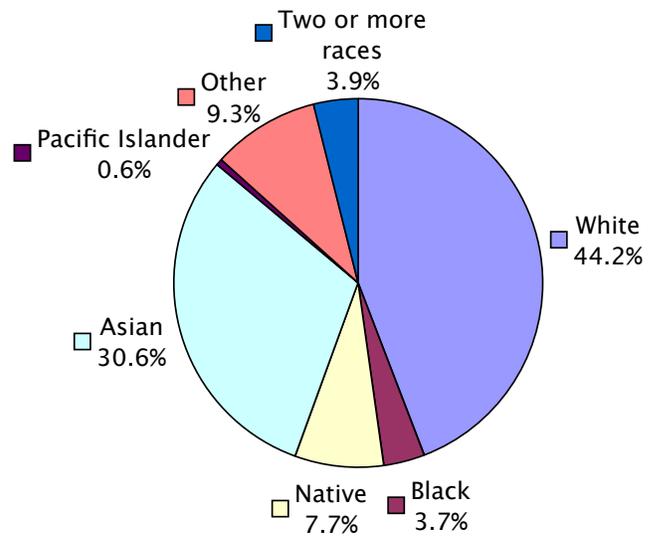
2000 Population Structure Unalaska

Data source: US Census



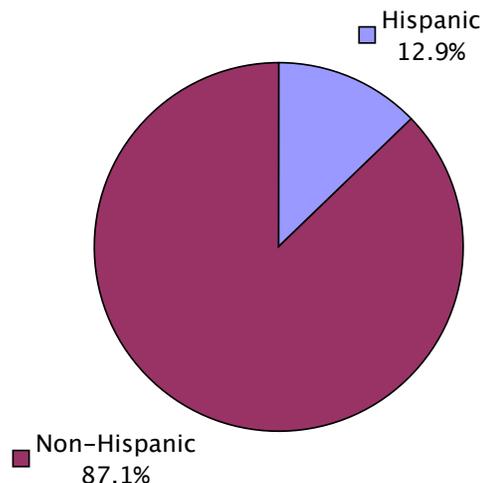
2000 Racial Structure Unalaska

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Unalaska

Data source: US Census



Russian traders and explorers began visiting the Aleutian Islands in 1741, and established a permanent fur-trading post at Unalaska in 1774. The Russian period brought forced labor in the fur trade for the Russian American Company, depletion of local fur-bearing animals, epidemic disease outbreaks, the Russian Orthodox religion, and an alphabet for the Aleut language. The 1867 purchase of Alaska by the U.S. introduced different forms of commerce, including the establishment of the Alaska Commercial Company, a fishing outfit.

The U.S. military presence on the island began gradually with a naval radio command station in 1911. However, in the years leading up to the U.S. entrance into WWII, the strategic importance of the Aleutians prompted an intense build-up of bases and personnel, with the population reaching a staggering 50-70,000 by 1943 (AWCRSA Profile, 2002). The Japanese bombed Dutch Harbor on June 3, 1942, resulting in 43 deaths, and, on July 19, of that year, the Aleuts of Unalaska were forcibly evacuated and interned at an abandoned cannery at Burnett Inlet, near Wrangell in southeast Alaska. By 1951 the military presence was all but gone from the city. By 1960 Unalaska was the only surviving settlement out of the 24 that had existed on Unalaska and Amaknak Islands at the beginning of Russian contact (Veltre, 1980). In the recent past, Unalaska was heavily involved in the cod, herring, salmon, King crab, and snow crab commercial fisheries. Today Unalaska/Dutch Harbor is the center of the Bering Sea groundfish fishery.

Infrastructure

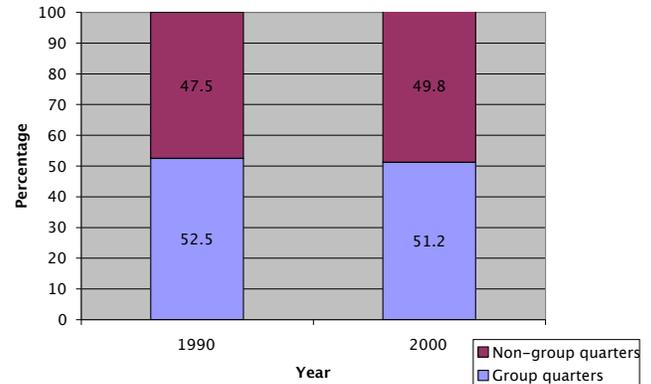
Current Economy

The Unalaska/Dutch Harbor economy is based almost entirely on commercial fishing. It is the major source of employment, accounting for over 90% of jobs. Employment occurs in the harvest and processing sectors, and in fishing-related services such as fuel, vessel maintenance, trade, and transportation (Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development). A nascent tourism industry is present in the community, with cruise ship stopovers, sport fishing, kayaking, and bird-watching attracting visitors. The subsistence economy is also still important in the community.

The median per capita income in 2000 was \$24,676, and the median household income was

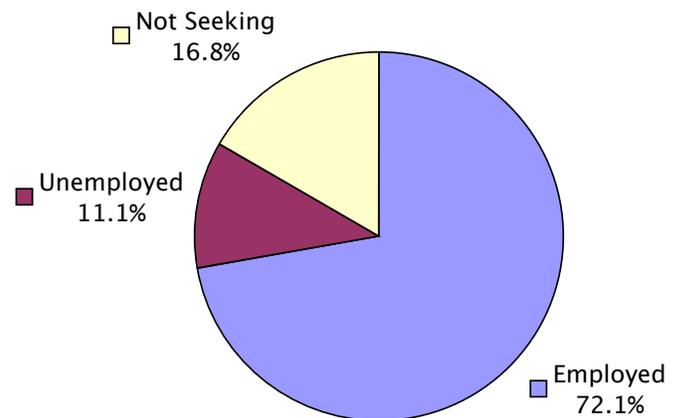
% Group Quarters Unalaska

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Unalaska

Data source: US Census



\$69,539. Approximately 12.5% of the population was below the poverty level. In 2000, 11.1% of residents were unemployed and seeking work, and 16.8% were unemployed and not seeking work (not in the total potential labor force).

Facilities

Unalaska is accessible only by air (800 air miles from Anchorage) or sea. Scheduled commercial flights provided by Alaska Airlines and Peninsula Airways are often cancelled due to weather, stranding passengers for days at a time. Roundtrip airfare from Unalaska/Dutch Harbor to Anchorage is approximately \$772 (Travelocity 2003) The State ferry service operates from April until October every year and commonly there is only one trip per month.

Dutch Harbor/Unalaska has ten major docks, three of which are managed by the city. These docks contain 5,200 feet of moorage and 1,232 feet of floating dock.

The city's small boat harbor has 238 moorage slips and 900 linear feet of dock space, but the boats are often crowded and moored three vessels out from the dock. Currently there are plans to build a new small boat harbor which would help to provide more space with 250 additional slips.

Two schools, both operated by the city, provide instruction for students: one primary school and one secondary school, with a combined total of 30 teachers and 390 students. The city also operates all major utilities, including electricity, sewer, and water. There are two health clinic facilities in Unalaska: the Iluliuk Family Health Clinic, which is operated by a non-profit board of directors, and the Wellness Clinic, which is operated by the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association. The city also provides police and fire services.

In terms of privately owned facilities, there are four hotels, two grocery stores, and a wide variety of businesses in the service sector.

Governance

Unalaska was incorporated in 1942. Because of its standing as a first-class city which has elected not to be included in a borough, it has greater taxation powers. It also has greater public administration responsibilities, such as the funding and operation of its public schools and utilities. The city government includes an elected mayor, a six-member City Council, and a staff that make up various departments. The City of Unalaska has a 3% sales tax, a 5% accommodations tax, and a 2% raw fish tax.

The Ounalashka Corporation, the Qawalangin Tribal Council, the Aleut Corporation, and the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association also provide services to the city's residents such as public functions, projects, or funding.

The Ounalashka Corporation (OC) is a for-profit corporation which was formed by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The corporation contributes to many community organizations, including but not limited to programs supporting traditional culture.

Located in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska are a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office of Sustainable Fisheries and an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Division of Commercial Fisheries office. There is also an officer of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) stationed in town.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Unalaska/Dutch Harbor is located at the center of the most productive groundfish fishery in the world. Pollock generates the most revenue of the commercially fished species in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska. Other species processed in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska include Pacific cod, black cod, halibut, flatfish, salmon, herring, opilio and Tanner crab, and king crab. In 2000 there were 50 residents who held a total of 103 commercial fishing permits. There were 17 resident vessel owners operating in federal fisheries and six vessel owners operating in non-federal fisheries. There were 200 registered crew members residing in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor in 2000. This section contains detailed information about commercial permits in 2000 for Unalaska and Dutch Harbor as a single entity.

Crab: Permits in the crab fishery totaled 16 (13 fished). A detailed breakdown of these permits was as follows: one Dungeness crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in the Aleutian Islands westward area (none fished), one king crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in Bristol Bay (one fished), two king crab pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in Dutch Harbor (one fished), one Dungeness crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in the Aleutian Islands westward region (one fished), one king crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in Norton Sound (one fished), four king crab pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in Bristol Bay (three fished), and six Tanner crab pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (six fished).

Other Shellfish: A total of four permits for other shellfish were issued, but none were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one shrimp permit for vessels with otter trawl gear in Prince William Sound (none fished), two octopus/squid pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), and one sea urchin permit for individuals using diving gear in statewide waters, southeast Alaska (none fished).

Halibut: Permits in the halibut fishery totaled 25 (13 fished). A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one halibut hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished), 15 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (13 fished), 5 halibut mechanical jig permits in statewide waters (4

fished), and 4 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (3 fished).

Herring: There was only one permit issued in the herring fishery (none fished). This permit was for a vessel with purse seine gear in Bristol Bay.

Other Groundfish: Permits in the groundfish fishery totaled 40 (18 fished). A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one lingcod mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished), 9 miscellaneous finfish longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (4 fished), 2 miscellaneous finfish pot gear permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), 18 miscellaneous finfish mechanical jig permits in statewide waters (7 fished), 4 miscellaneous finfish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (2 fished), and 6 miscellaneous finfish pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (5 fished).

Sablefish: Permits in the sablefish fishery totaled seven (five fished). A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: four sablefish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (three fished), and three sablefish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (two fished).

Salmon: Permits in the salmon fishery totaled eight (five fished). A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one salmon drift gillnet permit for vessels operating in Prince William Sound (one fished), one salmon purse seine permit for the Chignik fishery (one fished), one salmon purse seine permit for the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands (none fished), one salmon drift gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), three salmon drift gillnet permits for the Bristol Bay fishery (three fished), and one salmon hand troll permit for statewide waters (not fished).

Dutch Harbor/Unalaska is the busiest fishing port in the Nation in terms of landings; nine processors reported a total of 316,312.6 tons in landings for 2000. Of this, the vast majority of landings (305,394.8 tons, or 96.5%) were in the groundfish fishery. Vessels delivered landings to Dutch Harbor/Unalaska for the following species: groundfish (192 vessels), sablefish (56 vessels), halibut (197 vessels), BSAI crab (136 vessels), salmon (50 vessels), herring (46 vessels), and scallops (1 vessel).

The largest onshore processors in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska are Unisea, Westward Seafoods, and Alyeska Seafoods. Osterman Fish, Prime Alaska, and Royal

Aleutian also operated in Dutch Harbor. The off-shore processors in the area are the Bering Star, which is a floating processor that spends most of its time in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, and the Fishing Company of Alaska (FCA), which is an at-sea processing company.

In 2002 the city of Unalaska was granted \$876,540 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

Sport Fishing

There are at least four charter boat companies that operate out of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, taking customers on sport fishing cruises to catch sockeye salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon, halibut, and Dolly Varden. There are three registered fishing guides for fresh water and six for salt water. Sport fishing permit sales for Unalaska totaled 833 in 2000, including 485 to Alaska residents.

Some participants in the halibut charter fleet report a recent increase in competition on the local fishing grounds from commercial fishing boats which have responded to a decrease in the ex-vessel value of salmon by moving into halibut fisheries.

Subsistence Fishing

Many residents of Unalaska use subsistence resources. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1994, 96.8% of Unalaska households used subsistence resources. Approximately 91.9% of households used salmon, particularly coho and sockeye. Approximately 94.6% of households used non-salmon fish species, including cod, halibut, herring, rockfish, sablefish, and char. In addition, 13.8% used marine mammals for subsistence, and 86.5% used marine invertebrates.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Unalaska in 1994 was 194.5 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (27.7%), non-salmon fish (41.6%), land mammals (4.9%), marine mammals (4.9%), birds and bird eggs (0.8%), marine invertebrates (14.1%), and vegetation (6.0%). In 1999, 206 households in Unalaska and Dutch Harbor held subsistence salmon harvesting permits. The local Qawalingin Tribe of Unalaska holds a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), which allows them to harvest halibut for subsistence. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement

subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Additional Information

The Unalaska Native Fisheries Association (UNFA) is a local fishing organization based in Unalaska which acquired a herring gill-net quota for the small boat fleet of the city as well as a 2% quota on cod in the Northern Pacific. The Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) is an association made up of three of the processors in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska: Unisea, Westward Seafoods, and Alyeska Seafoods as well as

other corporate member processors and was designed to address the issues of its members. PSPA's office is in Seattle, but its members are located in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska.

Many different religions are practiced in the city of Unalaska and many religious organizations are present including Eastern Orthodox, United Methodist, Christian Fellowship, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Bahai, and the Aleutian Bible Church. Buddhism is also practiced by many Vietnamese and Japanese residents.

Egegik [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The second-class city of Egegik is located on the south bank of the Egegik River on the Alaska Peninsula, making it a prime spot for harvesting salmon. Egegik is part of the Lake and Peninsula Borough and is about 326 air miles southwest of Anchorage and 100 miles southwest of Dillingham. The area of Egegik encompasses 32.8 square miles of land and 101.2 square miles of water.

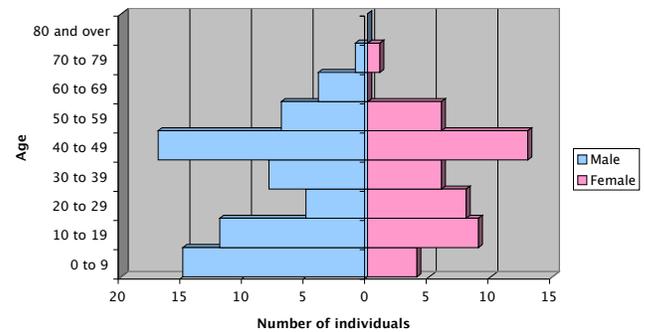
Demographic Profile

The city of Egegik had a population of 116 people in 2000 as recorded by the U.S. Census. Of those inhabitants, 59.5% were male and 40.5% were female. By 2002 the population had decreased to 88 people as reported by a State Demographer. However, this fluctuation in population seems to be typical of the community since about 1920, during which time the population has stayed between 75 to 150 inhabitants at the time of year in which the censuses were conducted. During the commercial fishing season the population of Egegik swells by 7 to 13 times its normal population and gains 1,000 to 2,000 cannery workers and fishermen seasonally.

In 2000, out of the 166 inhabitants of Egegik, about 48% of the population was between the ages of 25 and 54 years. The median age for Egegik was 35.3 years which was the same as the national median age. About 19% of the population was White, 58% Alaska Native or American Indian, 22% were of two or more races, and a little less than 1% was Asian. About 76.7% of the population reported being Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races. Approximately 6.9% were of Hispanic origin. One hundred percent of the population lived in households rather than group quarters. There were a total of 286 housing units in Egegik, although only 44 were occupied, with 236 households vacant due to seasonal use. Approximately 54.7% of the population age 25 and over had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling, and five people (4.3% of the population) had an associate's degree.

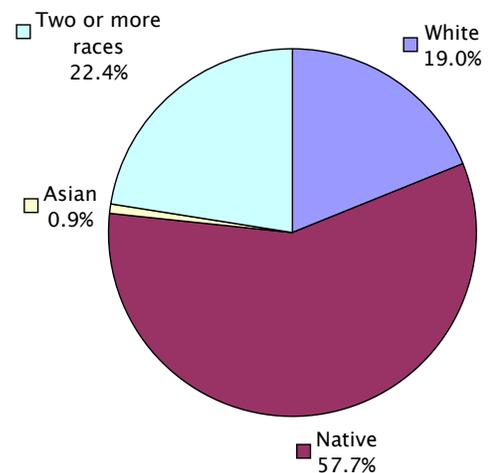
**2000 Population Structure
Egegik**

Data source: US Census



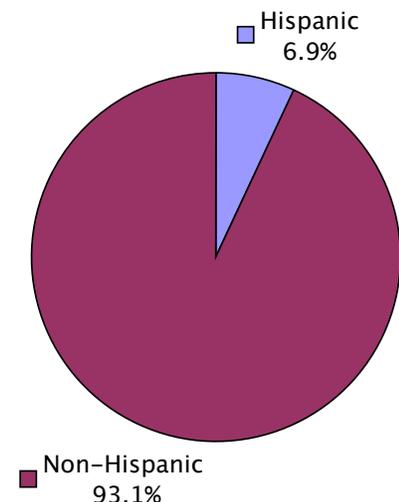
**2000 Racial Structure
Egegik**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Egegik**

Data source: US Census



History

The Bristol Bay region is estimated to have been inhabited since approximately 6000 years ago by Yup'ik Eskimos and Athabaskan Indians. In later years it was settled by the Aleuts. The initial contact between Native peoples and the Russian fur traders occurred around 1818 to 1867. The Russians reported that in 1876 the village site was a fish camp named 'Igagik' meaning throat. According to the Lake & Peninsula School District website, Egegik is an Alutiiq word which means 'between the rivers.' Historically, local Native peoples would travel each summer to the area of Egegik for a seasonal fish camp.

In 1895 the Alaska Packers Association built a commercial salmon saltery in Egegik, and a town built up around this historic fish camp site. Native peoples from other villages moved to Egegik at the time of the influenza outbreaks which began in 1918, in an effort to escape the disease. Around 1930 another saltery was built on the site where the current Alaska General Seafoods support camp is located today.

During WWII many Egegik men served in the military in Dutch Harbor as well as other areas, and many were enlisted to help build the King Salmon airport. Egegik became incorporated as a second-class city in 1995. Today Egegik has five on-shore processors in the area and numerous floating processors, making it an important salmon production port.

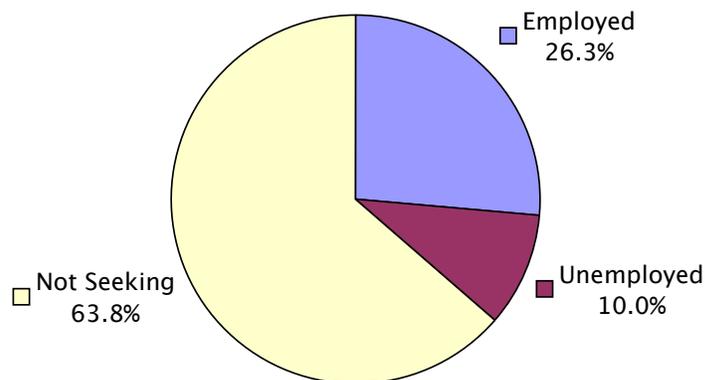
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Egegik is based on subsistence living and commercial fishing, as well as fish processing. Subsistence fishing, hunting, and gathering are very important to the inhabitants of Egegik and they make use of a variety of animals and plants consisting mainly of salmon, trout, smelt, seal, grayling, clams, moose, bear, caribou, porcupine, waterfowl, ptarmigan, berries, and greens. There are five on-shore processors and many floating processors in Egegik. These processors bring seasonal workers to the area each commercial fishing season. In 2000, 72 permits were issued to residents of Egegik and there were 48 licensed crew members who were residents. Of those residents age 16 and over, 26.3% were employed, 10.0% were unemployed, and 63.8% were not in the labor force. A large percentage (66.7%) of

2000 Employment Structure Egegik

Data source: US Census



those who were employed worked for the government. The per capita income for Egegik was \$16,352 with the median household income being \$46,000. About 6.9% of the inhabitants of Egegik lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Egegik is a second-class city with a mayor form of government. The elected officials for the city include: the mayor, a six person city council, the advisory school board, and a few municipal employees including a fire chief. The City has a 2% Raw Fish Tax and in addition the Borough imposes its own 2% Raw Fish Tax as well as a 6% Accommodations Tax. The city is located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough.

The regional Native corporation in the area is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC). The Becharof Corporation is the for-profit Native village corporation in Egegik. The President of the corporation, Hazel Nelson was recently appointed to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) in August of 2002 and is one of the eleven voting members on the Council. The Egegik Village Council is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council for the village. The tribal council and the president of the council "work jointly with the city council in receiving funds for the village projects" (Lake & Peninsula Borough 2003) such as the local road project and putting together other village improvement projects and services. The council has received many federal grants such as the \$113,986 awarded in 2002 and \$117,060 awarded in 2001. The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) is the local Community Development Quota (CDQ) group for

the area and whose home office is in Dillingham. The regional Native non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association.

The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in King Salmon. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are both located in Kodiak.

Facilities

Egegik is accessible by air and water and also by snow machine in the winter. It is 326 miles southwest of Anchorage and 35 miles southwest of King Salmon. Barge services are transported from both Anchorage and Seattle to the area. Scheduled air flights are available to the community as well as charter flights. The approximate price to fly roundtrip to Anchorage from Egegik according to Travelocity and Expedia is \$537.00 (price given for date as close to September 1st 2003 as possible). There is a 5,600' lighted gravel runway located two miles northwest of Egegik. The Egegik boat harbor can lodge up to 150 vessels; a public dock has been recently constructed, and a boat haul-out is available for use. Privately owned facilities are also present: two docks and marine storage.

Egegik belongs to the Lake and Peninsula Schools school district and there is one school located in the community, Egegik School which teaches grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. Egegik School had 10 students and 1 teacher in the year 2000 which sets the community in danger of losing the school if the number of students drops below ten. A recreation center is present in the community as well as a public library and school library. Accommodations are available at the Fun N Wash Hotel and Becharof Lodge. Egegik Health Clinic is the clinic located in the area for which funds have been requested for the construction of a Regional Health Clinic and the purchase of an ambulance. City police are present as well as the city volunteer fire and the VPSO office. Electricity is provided by Egegik Light & Power Company, which uses diesel as a primary fuel source. All local homes are heated using kerosene. Individuals are responsible for collecting their own refuse, but the city and International Seafoods operate the landfill. The sewer system and water system are both run by the city, although only 17.9% of the households use the public water system and only 28.4% use the public sewer system.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In the year of 2000, 72 permits were issued to residents of Egegik and according to the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) there were 48 licensed crew members who identified themselves as residents of Egegik in the same year. There were two vessel owners involved in federal fisheries which were residents of Egegik in the year 2000 and 22 vessel owners involved in commercial fishing for salmon.

Out of the 72 permits issued in 2000, 46 were actually fished. Of the total permits issued to community members 10 were for the harvesting of halibut, 21 were for herring, two were for other groundfish, and 39 were for salmon. There were 23 salmon permits issued using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (20 were fished), 15 for a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (12 were fished), and one using a fish wheel in the Upper Yukon, although the fish wheel permit was not fished. Of the two permits issued for groundfish one was issued for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a mechanical jig statewide and one was issued for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide, although neither permit was fished. There were 11 permits issued for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay (nine were fished), nine issued for herring roe using gillnets in Security Cove (three were fished), and one issued for herring roe using a purse seine in Kodiak (zero were fished). There were nine permits issued to Egegik residents for halibut using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide, although only one was fished and there was one permit issued for halibut using a hand troll statewide which was also fished.

There were six vessels which participated in the halibut fishery in 2000 and delivered landings to the community, 429 delivered salmon, and 213 which delivered herring. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in the community is unavailable. There are five on-shore processors and several floating processors in Egegik including but not limited to: Woodbine Alaska Fish Co., M/V Woodbine, Alaska General Seafoods, Clark Fish Co., International Seafoods, and Big Creek Fish Co. Halibut and herring are processed by Woodbine Alaska Fish Co. Salmon is processed by the Clark Fish Co. and by Woodbine Alaska Fish Co.

Recently \$63,664.59 was allocated to the

community of Egegik as part of the salmon disaster funds. The amount of \$442, 001 in salmon disaster funds was also allocated to the Lake and Peninsula Borough, which Egegik is a part of. The Borough was also recently granted \$29,832 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the United States government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003). The CDQ which Egegik is part of as well, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation was also granted \$75,026 as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation funds.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishers as well as subsistence fishers for the most part target coho salmon in an area downstream of the Becharof Lake outlet, although “in recent years residents of Egegik have expressed concern over apparently declining numbers of coho salmon and other species in the outlet area” which was associated with an increase in the number of fly-in sport fishers (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2003). One sport fishing license was sold in Egegik in the year 2000 to an

Alaska resident.

Subsistence Fishing

For the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Subsistence study year of 1984 which was the most representative year for the community; 100% of the households in Egegik used all subsistence resources, 96% used salmon, 64% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, flounder, halibut, char, grayling, trout, and whitefish), 4% used marine mammals, and 44% of the households in Egegik used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 384.34 lbs in the community in 1984. Of that per capita harvest 24.37% was salmon, 4.10% was non-salmon fish, 0% was marine mammals, 3.54% was marine invertebrates, 4.20% was birds and eggs, and 63.79% was land mammals. No harvest quality information was collected in the community for vegetation; therefore the amount was given as 0% for that particular year. In 1999 also according to ADF&G, there were 24 household salmon permits issued to residents of Egegik. Rural residents and tribal members of Egegik are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

False Pass [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community of False Pass is located on the eastern shore of the first Aleutian Island, Unimak, on Isanotski Strait, midway between the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska. Located 646 air miles southwest of Anchorage, False Pass encompasses 26.8 square miles of land and 41.4 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

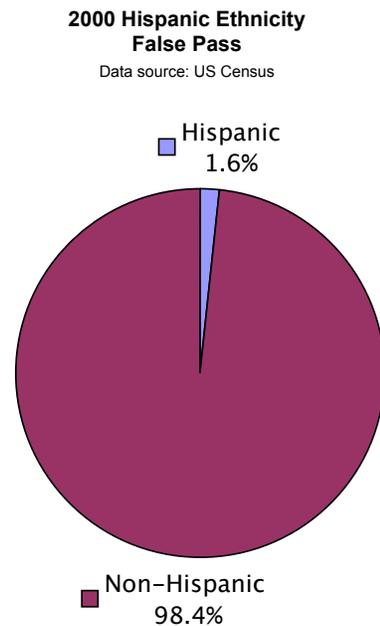
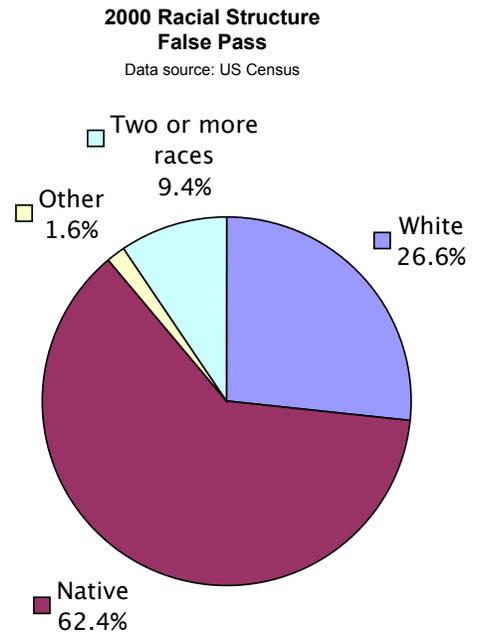
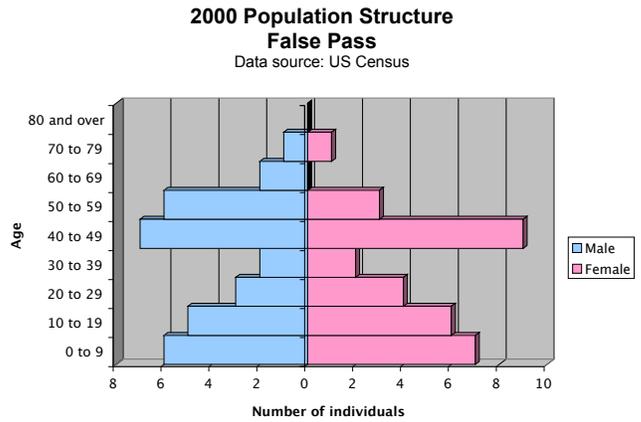
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of False Pass was 64. Total population numbers have been reasonably stable since the 1930s. Unlike many fishing communities, the genders were in equal balance in False Pass in 2000.

The racial composition of the population in 2000 was: 62.5% Alaska Native or American Indian, 26.6% White, 1.6% other, and 9.4% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 65.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 1.6% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 31.5 years which is slightly below the national median of 35.3 years. According to the 2000 census, 37.5% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 10% of the population was over 55 years of age. The pattern of this age structure shows a fairly young population. In fact, about 33% of the population in 2000 was 14 years old or below and the median age in False Pass was 5 years younger than the national average in 2000.

There were 40 housing units in False Pass, 18 of which were vacant in 2000 and of these, 2 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 census, none of the population lived in group quarters. About 65.2% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, while 17.4% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

The False Pass area has been inhabited since prehistory by Aleuts or Unangan. At the time of Russian contact during the fur trade in the 18th century, the area had the largest population of Aleuts anywhere in the Aleutian Islands, with twelve Aleut settlements

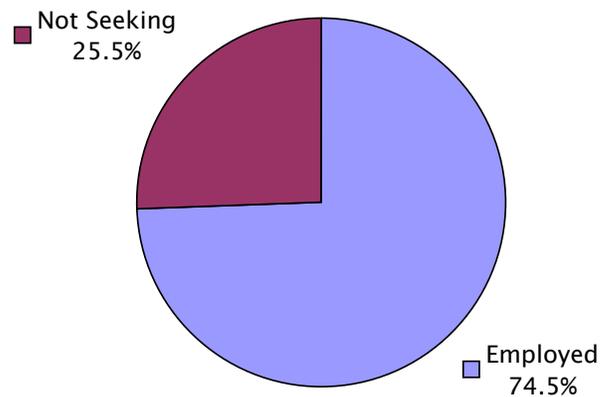


on Unimak Island alone. Disease and war during the Russian fur trade destroyed most of the Aleut settlements in the area, and the Russians consolidated the remnants of the surviving villages into one newly created village on the tip of the Alaska Peninsula on Isanotski Strait, opposite the present community of False Pass. This village was called Morzhovoi.

The P.E. Harris Company from Seattle established a salmon cannery in False Pass in 1919, and the community grew with an increasingly large and diverse population. Alaska Natives immigrated from Akutan, Unalaska, Morzhovoi, Sanak Island, Ikatan, and elsewhere, attracted to the opportunities provided by the cannery. A local post office was established at this time. After Alaska became a U.S. Territory, new immigrants, mostly of Scandinavian origin, began to settle in the area. They brought with them commercial fishing and fish preservation technologies, most importantly salting. The first commercial fisheries in the area were thus focused on salted cod and salmon. In addition, hunting and trapping has been an important means of subsistence for the people of False Pass. People from this area have often moved between nearby towns in the area in response to cannery and school closures. History, family ties, and social networks continue to provide links between local Native communities in the area, so intra-community cohesion is strong (Black and Jacka, 1999). The cannery in False Pass has operated annually, except between 1973 and 1976, when it was closed due to a combination of harsh winters and depleted fish resources. The cannery was subsequently purchased by Peter Pan Seafoods in 1962. It was destroyed by fire in March 1981 and was not rebuilt, leading to some population drain.

Isanotski Strait, accessible by vessels up to 200 feet in length, is the major pass between the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. For this reason, both Isanotski Strait and the community of False Pass have long been called “the Pass” by fishermen from all over southwestern Alaska. Despite its name, there is nothing “false” about the pass. Because the north entrance to Isanotski Strait is shallow, it was historically very difficult for non-motorized sailing vessels to navigate the channel, so the sailing ship captains gave it the name “False Pass” and the name stuck. False Pass is situated in a volcanic region, but this is not considered to pose an immediate threat.

**2000 Employment Structure
False Pass**
Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The local economy of False Pass is driven by the fishing industry, relies on associated services, and is supplemented by subsistence practices and government. A total of 24 commercial fishing permits were held by 11 permit holders in 2000 according to AC FEC. False Pass’ opportune location makes it an important refueling and supply stop for Bristol Bay, Bering Sea and northern Gulf of Alaska fishing fleets.

The City of False Pass has finalized plans for a small boat harbor, which will be built in the summer of 2005. This will allow fishermen and other users to keep boats in protected moorage throughout the year. The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA), through its subsidiary, Bering Pacific Seafoods, will build a seafood processing plant during the summer of 2005, with plans to make it operational in 2006.

Although False Pass is largely surrounded by the Unimak Wilderness Area (designated in 1980) of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, tourism does not play a significant role in the local economy at this time.

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 74.5% of the potential labor force was employed and there was no reported unemployment (those actively seeking work). A total of 25.5% of the population over 16 years of age were not in the labor force (not actively seeking work) and 8% of the population lived below the poverty level. The government is a significant

employer in False Pass; 51.2% of the potential labor force was government workers in 2000. The median household income in the same year was \$49,375 and the per capita income was \$21,465.

Governance

False Pass is a second-class city that was incorporated in 1990. It is governed locally by a mayor and seven-member city council that meets monthly. Taxes in False Pass include a 2% raw fish tax implemented by the city on local commercial landings and a 3% sales and use tax on goods and services. There is a further 2% raw fish tax from the borough on all landings in the borough. The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc., a federally recognized non-profit tribal organization of the Aleut people in Alaska which contracts with federal, state and local governments, also provides services in False Pass, some of which include public safety (Village Public Safety Officers) and health programs (emergency, elders, behavioral, outreach and advocacy oriented programs). False Pass is a member of the regional for-profit Aleut Corporation under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Isanotski Corporation is the local Native village corporation. The total land entitlement under ANCSA is almost 80,000 acres. The False Pass Tribal Council is federally recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). False Pass belongs to the Aleutians East Borough, which is responsible for many services. False Pass is involved in a Community Development Quota program under the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) which provides mechanisms for the distribution of money from a fishing quota in the Bering Sea to community development initiatives. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Unalaska, as is the nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS). The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is seasonally located in Cold Bay (between May and October) while the nearest permanent office is located in Unalaska.

Facilities

False Pass is accessible only by air and sea. Its location offers protection from ocean swells, and coves within the pass itself provide safe anchorages during severe weather. The pass is almost always free of sea ice. Unimak Pass, at the western end of Unimak

Island, is used only by the largest oceangoing ships; the north channel of Isanotski Strait into the Bering Sea has navigation buoys so that passage is routine and safe. The cost of a round trip flight from False Pass to Anchorage is \$843, which includes \$643 for the Alaska Airlines flight between Anchorage and Cold Bay (based on the closest available date to 1 September 2003), and \$200 for the Pen Air flight between Cold Bay and False Pass three times a week year-round. A state-owned 2,100 foot gravel airstrip and a seaplane base are available. Currently, there is no boat harbor, but a dock and boat ramp are available. A boat haul-out and storage facility are under construction and the need for protected moorage has been identified. The Corps of Engineers is designing a \$13 million small boat harbor, which will be built during the summer of 2005. As of 2003, navigational improvements are also underway. The project is sponsored by the Aleutians East Borough and in cooperation with NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cargo freighters arrive from Seattle every 2 weeks or every week, depending on demand. The State Ferry operates once a month between May and October from Homer and Seldovia. Local taxi and delivery services exist in False Pass only on demand. Freshwater is supplied by a nearby spring and storage tanks. All residents are connected to the piped water system. The city water system has been upgraded with standard fire hydrants and underground distribution to all residences, but the Peter Pan Seafoods facility has its own above-ground water system. Septic tanks provide for domestic and business sewage disposal. A city-wide sewage system is currently being designed. Electricity is provided by False Pass Electric.

False Pass is within the Aleutians East School District and two teachers currently instruct 12 students in grades K-12 at the False Pass School. Local healthcare is provided by False Pass Health Clinic operated in part by the Borough. Public safety is provided by city police and VPSO associated with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. There are no hotels in False Pass, but short-term accommodation is available at the Isanotski Bed and Breakfast.

In February of 2004, Peter Pan decided to put the entire fisheries support facility up for sale. The grocery store and hardware store were closed in July of 2004, but fuel sales continue. Other services previously provided by the company have been eliminated. The local Native Corporation, Isanotski Corporation,

started a new grocery store near the city dock that now serves the community and the fishing fleet.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is of great significance to the economy of False Pass. According to the ADF&G, and reported by ACFEC, 24 permits were held by 11 permit holders in 2000 (15 fished). There were two vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 10 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and 13 licensed crew members claiming residence in False Pass. Although a floating processor facility owned by the APICDA CDQ group was to begin operating in 2000, no commercial landings are recorded in False Pass in 2000 - 2002.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in False Pass for 2000 were for halibut, herring roe, sablefish, other groundfish, and salmon. Permits for halibut consisted of two hand trolls and one halibut longline vessel over 60 feet (not fished). All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters. Permits for herring roe consisted of two purse seine limited to the Alaska Peninsula (none fished) and three purse seine limited to Bristol Bay. Permits for groundfish excluding sablefish consisted of one miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll with statewide jurisdiction (not fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessel under 60 feet for statewide waters (not fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessels under 60 feet for statewide waters (one fished), and two miscellaneous saltwater finfish dinglebar trolls (none fished). Permits for sablefish pertained to one longline vessel under 60 feet for statewide waters. Permits issued for salmon pertained to three purse seine limited to the waters of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands (two fished), four drift gillnets for the Alaska Peninsula, and two set gillnets for the Alaska Peninsula.

It was announced in July 2003 that False Pass would receive \$27,732 worth of federal salmon disaster relief funds that were distributed to selected municipalities statewide which have been adversely affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The Aleutians East Borough, in which False Pass is located, has been allocated \$1,101,638. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates the

state response to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices due to competition with imported farmed fish. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002, the Aleutians East Borough received \$140,063 and the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) received \$57,163 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations. False Pass belongs to both the Aleutians East Borough and to APICDA.

Sport Fishing

Recreational sport fishing activity is very limited in False Pass. There were four sport fishing licenses sold in False Pass in 2000, all to False Pass residents and one sport fishing business is currently operating. This may be due in part to the remoteness of the community and the infrequency of transportation from larger population centers. Additionally, the town does not have the facilities to support a significant tourism industry at this time. Sport fish landings data are not available at the community level, however, fish landed under the four local licenses may be included in ADF&G's household use surveys, which are reported below under subsistence.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence permits for fishing and hunting are obtained from the ADF&G office in Cold Bay. Data from 1988 compiled on behalf of the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in False Pass. One hundred percent of households participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. All households used salmon and 95% used non-salmon fish (herring, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, sole, char, and trout), 60% used marine mammals, and all 100% used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita harvest for 1988 was 412.51 lbs. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 46.82% salmon, 14.65% non-salmon fish, 9.24% land mammals, 6.13% marine mammals, 4.43% birds and eggs, 5.63% marine invertebrates, and 3.09%

vegetation. The wild food harvest in False Pass made up 267% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1988 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or 0.424 lbs of wild food per day) (Wolfe, division of Subsistence, ADF&G).

Eight permits were held by households in False Pass for subsistence fishing of salmon according to records from 1999. Coho made up the largest proportion of the salmon harvest, followed by sockeye and chum. Residents of False Pass and members of the Native Village of False Pass, an Alaska Native Tribe, who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003. Registration for the program is still underway.

Igiugig [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Igiugig is located approximately 370 miles southwest of Anchorage, on the Kvichak River near the south shore of Lake Iliamna. The area encompasses 19.8 square miles of land and 1.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Igiugig is a mixed village of Alutiiq and Eskimo residents. The U.S. Census has only spotty data on Igiugig's population prior to 1960; since that time, the community has grown steadily. In 2000, Igiugig had a population of 53 in 16 households. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (71.7%), White (17%), and two or more races (11.3%). A total of 83% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 1.9% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender makeup of the community was somewhat skewed, at 56.6% female and 43.4% male. The median age was 36.3 years, similar to the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In 2000, all of Igiugig's population lived in households rather than group quarters, and 20% of all local housing units were vacant due to seasonal use. In terms of educational attainment, 72.2% of residents aged 25 or older held a high school diploma.

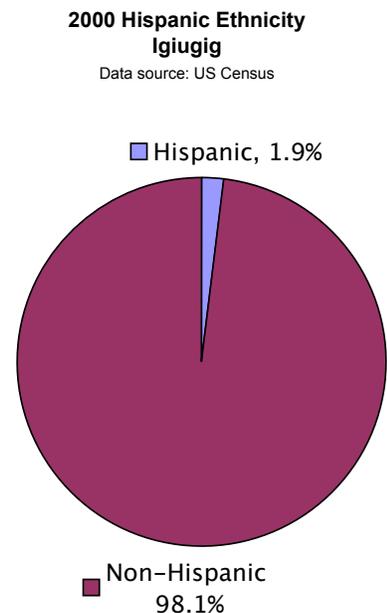
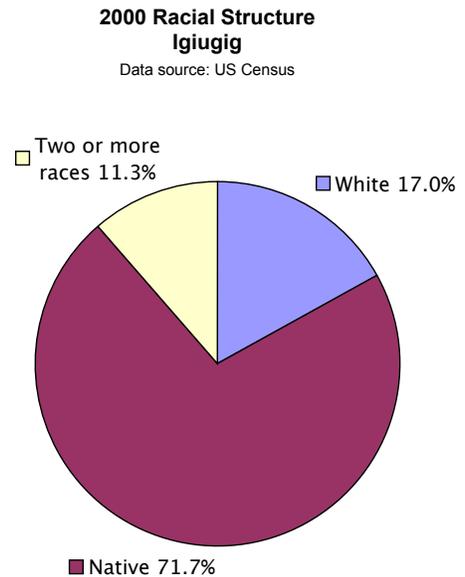
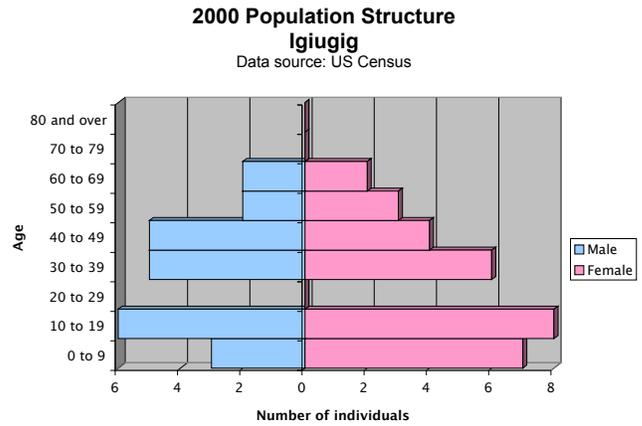
History

The Lake Iliamna area has been occupied by humans since prehistory. Its population, even today, is comprised primarily of Yupik Eskimos and Aleuts. Prior to the turn of the 20th century, Kiatagmuit Eskimos lived on the Kvichak River, downriver to the present site of Igiugig. At the turn of the century, these people moved to Igiugig, as did many residents from the nearby village of Branch. Today, Igiugig is a community comprised primarily of Alutiiq and Eskimo residents whose livelihood depends heavily upon subsistence hunting and fishing.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Igiugig centers on commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing, primarily in the Bristol



Bay fishery. Some residents hold commercial fishing permits. Many residents travel to Naknek during the summer to fish or work in the canneries.

The median annual per capita income in 2000 was \$13,172, and the median household income was \$21,750. The U.S. Census reported no unemployment in 2000. Approximately 55% of residents were not in the labor force (not formally employed and not seeking work). A more appropriate interpretation is that employment is highly seasonal in Igiugig; particularly during the summer season, many residents seek work outside the community. Approximately 6.9% of residents live below the poverty level.

Governance

Igiugig is an unincorporated village governed by a village council. It is under the jurisdiction of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The Igiugig Native Corporation is a federally recognized entity and holds a land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). In addition, Igiugig is a member of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, a for-profit organization, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, a non-profit organization.

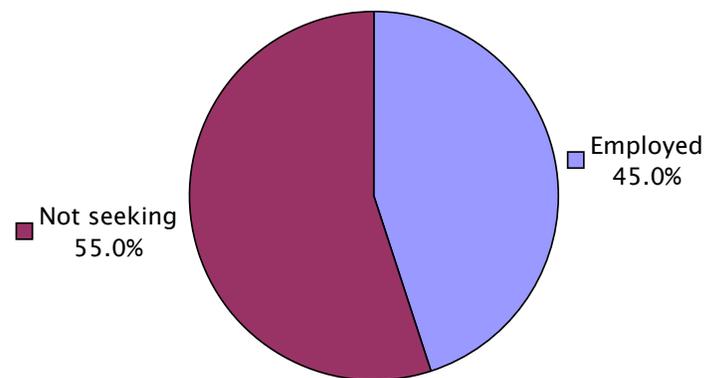
The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is in Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in King Salmon. The nearest NMFS enforcement office is in Homer.

Facilities

Igiugig is accessible primarily by air and water. There is a state-owned gravel runway located in the village. Roundtrip airfare from Igiugig to Anchorage is approximately \$507, including a charter connecting flight to King Salmon. There is also a small public dock, where barges deliver goods from Naknek or Dillingham via the Kvichak River.

The village operates a piped water and sewer system, but not all homes are connected. The Igiugig Electric Company, operated by the village council, provides diesel-generated power to the community. There is a local health clinic, owned by the village council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. There is one school located in the village that offers instruction to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The school has two teachers and 14 students.

**2000 Employment Structure
Igiugig**
Data source: US Census



Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Despite its small size, Igiugig has a presence in North Pacific fisheries, primarily in the Bristol Bay salmon and herring fisheries. In 2000, there were 8 registered crewmembers and 13 vessel owners for federal fisheries residing in the community. In addition, five local residents held a total of seven commercial fishing permits, including the following: one herring roe purse seine permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), two herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (one fished), and four salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (three fished).

In 2000, there were no processing plants and therefore no registered landings in Igiugig. In 2002, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, in which Igiugig is located, was granted \$29,832 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$442,002 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Igiugig.

Sport Fishing

The sockeye salmon fishing in the Kvichak River and surrounding areas is well known. Other sport species include trout and northern pike. There are seven commercial lodges that serve sport fishermen in Igiugig. In 2002, there was one registered freshwater fishing guide service in the community.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence resources are a mainstay of the Igiugig economy. The ADF&G's, Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1992, 100% of Igiugig households used subsistence fish, including salmon and non-salmon fish species. The salmon harvest consisted of chum, coho, chinook, and, primarily, sockeye. Non-salmon fish harvests included halibut, blackfish, char, grayling, pike, and trout. In addition, 70% of households used marine mammals (including seals and whales) for subsistence, and 20% of households used marine invertebrates (primarily crab).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Igiugig in 1992 was an astounding 2,826.3 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (24.6%), non-salmon fish (13.9%), land mammals (44.7%), marine mammals (10%), birds and eggs (2.4%), and vegetation (2.4%).

Iliamna [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Iliamna is located on the northwest side of Iliamna Lake in the Kvichak River basin which connects the community with Bristol Bay. The town lies 225 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is near the Lake Clark Park and Preserve. The area encompasses 35.9 square miles of land and 0.6 square miles of water. This is one of the numerous examples of inshore communities which are intimately involved in saltwater fisheries.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Iliamna had 102 inhabitants. Since the 1980s, and after 40 years of steady population numbers, Iliamna seems to be experiencing a slow but steady increase of population probably related to its consolidation as a recreational fishing location. About 50% of the population was Alaska Native or American Indian, 39.2% White, and 2.9% as belonging to more than two races. A total of 57.8% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The population is a relatively young, with a 31.5 years median age (compared to the national average of 35.3 years) and with a 36.3% of the population under 19 years old. The gender balance is skewed towards males with 52.9% male and 47.1% female. Of 58 housing units, 23 were vacant. Of the population age 25 years and over in Iliamna, 92.1% had completed high school or gone on to further schooling and 28.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

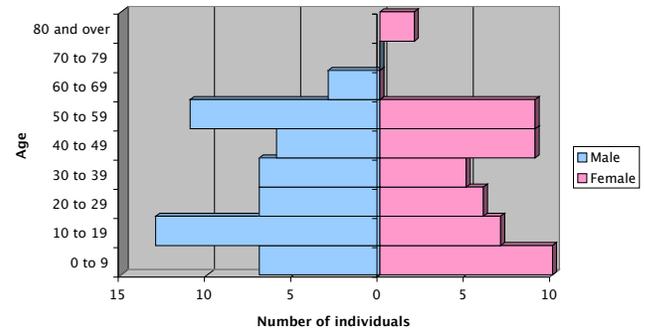
History

The current village was founded in 1935. Prior to 1935, "Old Iliamna" was located near the mouth of the Iliamna River, a traditional Athabascan village. A post office was established there in 1901, but was moved with the town a few decades later.

Iliamna's current size and character can be attributed to the development of fishing and hunting lodges. The first lodge opened in the 1930s. A second lodge was built in the 1950s. During the 70s and 80s, land lots were made available by the Baptist Church, and additional lodges were constructed. In recent years Iliamna has become a recreational and tourist attraction due to the excellent fishing at Iliamna Lake. The population is mixed, with non-Natives, Tanaina

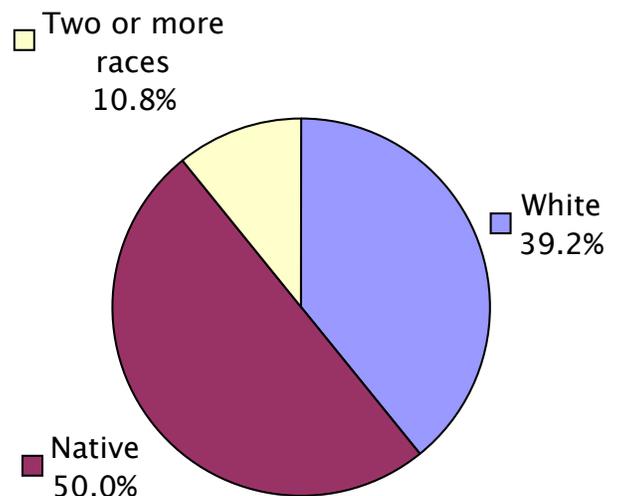
**2000 Population Structure
Iliamna**

Data source: US Census



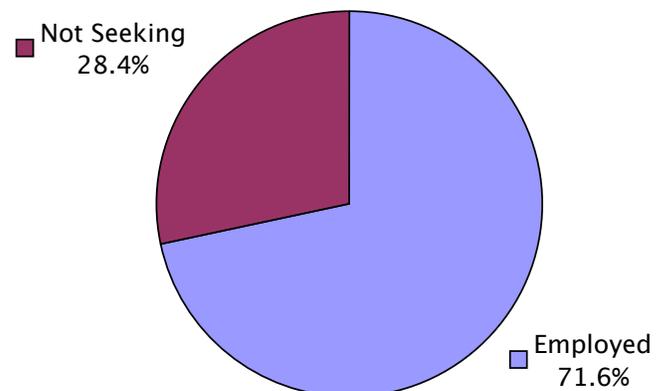
**2000 Racial Structure
Iliamna**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Iliamna**

Data source: US Census



Athabascans, Alutiiq, and Yup'ik Eskimos. The sale of alcohol is prohibited in the community, although importation or possession is allowed. Recent mineral discoveries seem to suggest that the socioeconomic future of Iliamna may be very different from what we encounter there today.

Infrastructures

Current Economy

The current economic structure of Iliamna revolves around three complementary main activities: commercial fishing, sport fishing, and tourism. Even though Iliamna is an inshore community, 17 residents hold commercial fishing permits and many depart each summer to fish in Bristol Bay. The fresh waters of Lake Iliamna, the second largest lake in the U.S., offer a famous opportunity for freshwater fishing and tourism. The tourism industry though, hires most of its employees from outside of Alaska.

Many residents are dependent on subsistence practices. Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. and independent mining consultants have established that the Pebble deposit, 15 miles from Iliamna, is one of the world's largest reservoirs of gold and copper. Presumably the exploitation of these mineral resources will significantly alter the current economic structure. Massive mining may have an impact on existing activities.

The employment structure of the community according to the 2000 U.S. Census showed that 71.6% of the population is currently working while 28.4% of the workforce is not searching for a job. The yearly per capita income in this community is \$19,741 while the median household income is \$60,625. A small total of 3.1% of the population lives below the line of poverty. The government employs 29 members of the community in different capacities.

Governance

Iliamna is an unincorporated community which lacks of its own managing institution. It is located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The village corporation is the Iliamna Natives Limited which manages approximately 73,000 acres of land. The regional corporation is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. The Iliamna Village Council, known as well as Nilavena Tribal Council, and recognized by the BIA, is also part of Iliamna's institutional structure.

Iliamna is part of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) and receives community development quotas (CDQs) from this organization. This community also benefits from the works of a nonprofit organization, the Bristol Bay Native Association.

The closest regional offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) are in King Salmon and Dillingham. Kodiak and Homer have the nearest NMFS offices although Anchorage is also a potential accessible office for the people of this area. Anchorage has the closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BCIS) office.

Facilities

Iliamna is primarily accessible by air and water. It has a large airstrip, legacy from its past as a military base. The town is serviced by 3 daily flights to Anchorage. Heavy supplies arrive by barge up river from Kvichak Bay. There is also a State-owned gravel airstrip, located between Iliamna and Newhalen, with aircraft facilities and three daily flights to Anchorage. In addition, there are floatplane facilities at Slop Lake, East Bay, and Pike Lake, and a private airstrip at Iliamna Roadhouse, as well as a private floatplane access at Summit Lake. The price of a roundtrip ticket by plane from the community to Anchorage early September of 2003 was \$255.

The village has a breakwater, a boat harbor and a dock. In recent years, road connectivity has improved and may keep doing so in the future. An 8-mile gravel road connects Iliamna to Newhalen, and a 22-mile road to Nondalton is under construction. A state-maintained road connects the community with Cook Inlet. Past and future mining activities may have had, and will have, an impact on infrastructure.

The INN Electric Cooperative owns a diesel plant in Newhalen and 50 miles of distribution line to connect three nearby communities. The Tazimina Hydroelectric Project was recently completed, powering Iliamna, Newhalen and Nondalton.

Iliamna has its own State police station (Village Public Safety Officer) that also services Newhalen. Healthcare is provided by the Iliamna Health Clinic, as well as the Iliamna/ Newhalen Rescue Squad. Iliamna though, has no school. The town has a considerable amount of tourist accommodations available. Iliamna residents are using individual water wells and septic systems. A total of 85% of homes are fully plumbed.

A 270 foot well provides water to the community building/village office.

Involvement in the North Pacific fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Iliamna is an inland community, it is still deeply involved with the fishing industry. Its characteristics cannot be completely understood without taking into account this inland character which implies involvement with freshwater fishing industries and as well as Bristol Bay's fishing industry.

According to the official records from 2000, Iliamna had 16 commercial permit holders with a total of 16 permits. In Iliamna, 45 individuals were registered as crewmen and there were 12 owners of salmon vessels and no owners of federal fisheries vessels. In 2000, the Iliamna fleet was exclusively involved in the Salmon industry. Due to its geographic location, no landings may be made at Iliamna; therefore, its fleet always delivers elsewhere in Bristol Bay.

Permits are issued specific to species, size of the vessel, type of gear, and fishing area. In 2000, salmon was the only saltwater commercial fishery of Iliamna. It accounted for 16 permits: 8 drift gillnet and 7 set gillnet (both restricted to the Bristol Bay), and one set gillnet restricted to the Lower Yukon River. All permits were fished.

In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, where Iliamna is located, received an allocation of \$442,001 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for losses due to prices plummeting, and \$29,832 to reduce the impact of Steller sea lion protective regulations. The BBEDC also received \$75,026 for this reason.

The funds, added to the general budget of the borough or the CDQ, helped to compensate for the decline of income from fish taxes and to relieve the resulting budgetary tension of the institutions of the area.

Sport Fishing

In 2000, this community issued 1301 sport fishing permits: 93 of them were bought by local and Alaskan residents. In 2002 the village had 14 licensed businesses related to sport fishing as a tourist activity: 13 focused on freshwater activities and one in saltwater fisheries.

Subsistence Fishing

In a survey conducted in 1991 on behalf of ADF&G, Iliamna demonstrated the significance of subsistence practices for most Alaskan communities. All households participated in the use of harvested resources. In relation to the main marine resources: 100% of the households used salmon, 87% other fish (herring, flounder, halibut, grayling, burbot, sucker, pike, white fish, char, and trout), 39.1% marine mammals, and 47.8% marine invertebrates. The results reflect that the inhabitants of the community were harvesting 847.6 lbs per person per year. These statistics emphasize the importance of subsistence for such communities.

In order to understand the relative importance of each resource we have to break down the composition of the harvest: salmon 50.9%, other fish 9%, land mammals 31%, marine mammals 4.9, birds and eggs 1.8%, marine invertebrates 0.4%, and vegetation 2%. In 1999, Iliamna had 34 household with salmon subsistence permits; the catch was mainly sockeye with almost 9000 units.

Ivanof Bay [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Ivanof Bay is located at the western edge of the Lake and Peninsula Borough, 500 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 3.4 square miles of land.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, Ivanof Bay had 22 residents in nine households. The median age in the community was 40 years, somewhat older than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. The community was primarily an Aleut (Unangan) village; 95.5% of residents were Alaska Native and 4.5% were White. About 72.7% of residents were male (16 residents); whereas only 27.3% were female (6 residents). All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. In terms of educational attainment, 63.6% of residents over age 25 held a high school diploma.

History

This area of the Alaska Peninsula is the traditional territory of the Aleut (Unangan) people. Ivanof Bay was named by Lieutenant Dall of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1880, but the community was not inhabited until the 1930s, when a salmon cannery was established. Permanent occupation of the site began in 1965, when several families moved from the nearby community of Perryville.

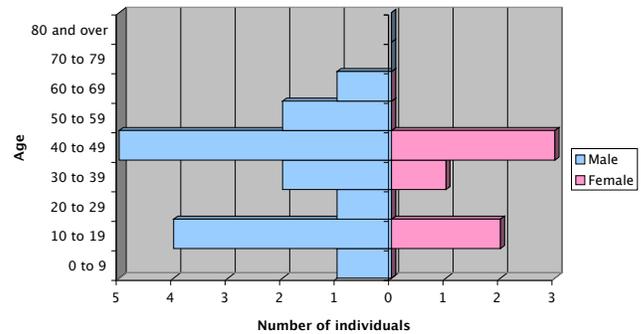
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The Economy of Ivanof Bay is centered on fishing, both commercial and subsistence. Two local residents hold commercial fishing permits. All residents supplement their incomes with the harvesting and use of subsistence resources. In 2000, the median per capita income in Ivanof Bay was \$21,983, and the median household income was \$91,977. The U.S. Census reports no unemployment in Ivanof Bay in 2000, with 36% not in the labor force (i.e. not seeking work); employment opportunities are, however, subject to seasonal variation.

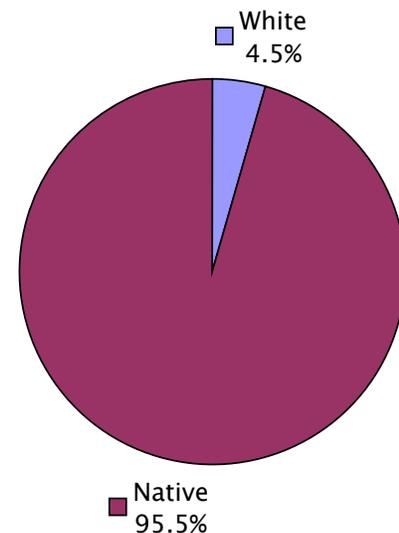
**2000 Population Structure
Ivanof Bay**

Data source: US Census



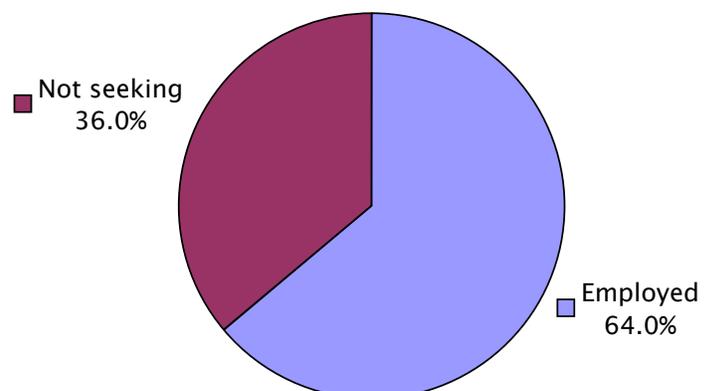
**2000 Racial Structure
Ivanof Bay**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Ivanof Bay**

Data source: US Census



Governance

Ivanof Bay is an unincorporated community under the jurisdiction of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The borough is responsible for tax collection and the administration of services. Bay View Inc., the local village corporation, is an important body of Native governance in the community and is recognized under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). In addition, there is a local village council, the Ivanof Bay Village Council. Ivanof Bay also belongs to the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, a regional Native for-profit corporation, as well the Bristol Bay Native Association, a regional Native non-profit. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) are both in Kodiak. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in Port Moller.

Facilities

Ivanof Bay is accessible by air via a privately owned 1,500 foot gravel airstrip and a floatplane landing area. Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, via Sand Point, is approximately \$571, plus the cost of a charter flight to Sand Point (Travelocity 2003).

Most supplies and cargo arrive either by plane from King Salmon or by sea from Chignik Bay. The village operates a piped water system, and individuals use septic tanks for sewage. The village council operates a local diesel-powered electric utility. There is a health clinic in the community that is owned by the village council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). There was a local school located in Ivanof Bay until 2000, when it was closed due to under-enrollment.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Despite its small size, Ivanof Bay participates actively in North Pacific fisheries, including both Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska waters. In 2000, there were four vessel owners and nine registered crew members residing in the community.

In addition, two local residents held a total of five commercial fishing permits. These permits included the following: one halibut longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), one herring roe purse seine permit for Bristol Bay (none fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (one fished), and one salmon purse seine permit for the Chignik fishery (two fished).

In 2000, there were no processing plants and therefore no registered landings in Ivanof Bay. In 2002, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$29,832 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Borough was granted \$442,002 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Ivanof Bay.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing is not an important component of Ivanof Bay's involvement in North Pacific fisheries. There was no recorded sport fishing guide services or license sales in 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence activities are an important part of the local economy of Ivanof Bay. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1989, 100% of Ivanof Bay households used subsistence fish, including salmon (all five Pacific species) and non-salmon fish (especially cod, halibut, smelt, char, and trout). In addition, a majority of households (85.7%) used marine mammals (primarily seals and sea lions) for subsistence, and 100% used marine invertebrates (including crabs, clams, chitins, octopus, and sea urchin).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Ivanof Bay in 1989 was 489.9 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (38.1%), non-salmon fish (13.3%), land mammals (28.5%), marine mammals (5.6%), birds and eggs (2.9%), marine invertebrates (9.5%), and vegetation (2.2%).

King Cove [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

King Cove is situated on the southern side of the Alaska Peninsula. The community is located 18 miles southeast of Cold Bay and 625 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 25.3 square miles of land and 4.5 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

King Cove has a total current population of 792, with the gender ratio of 59.6% males and 40.4% females. According to census data, the population has grown from 135 residents in 1940 to its current total in only a few generations. The increase in population is due primarily to the continuing success of the fishing industry in King Cove. The racial composition of the population in 2000 included 46.7% Alaska Native or American Indian, 26.8% Asian, 15% White, 1.6% Black, 5.9% 'Other', and 3.8% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 47.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Those who identified themselves as Hispanic made up 7.4% of the population. The median age was 34.9 years which is comparable to the national median of 35.3 years. According to census data 24.5% of the total population was 19 years old or younger, while 11.8% was over 55 years of age. The pattern of this age structure shows a fairly consolidated age structure around working-age people.

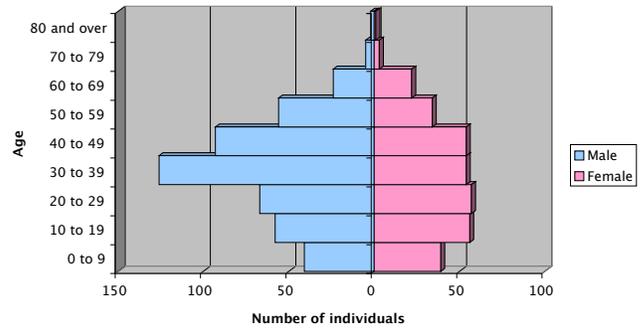
There were 207 housing units in King Cove, 37 of which were vacant, with 24 vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 37.8% of the population lived in group quarters. About 74.2% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, and 4.2% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

Early settlers founded King Cove in 1911, attracted to the newly constructed salmon cannery built by Pacific American Fisheries. The first residents of King Cove were Scandinavian, other Europeans, and Unangan fishermen and their families. In fact, half of the founding families consisted of a European father and an Aleut mother. The cannery operated until 1979 when it was partially destroyed by fire; however, fishing and fish processing have remained

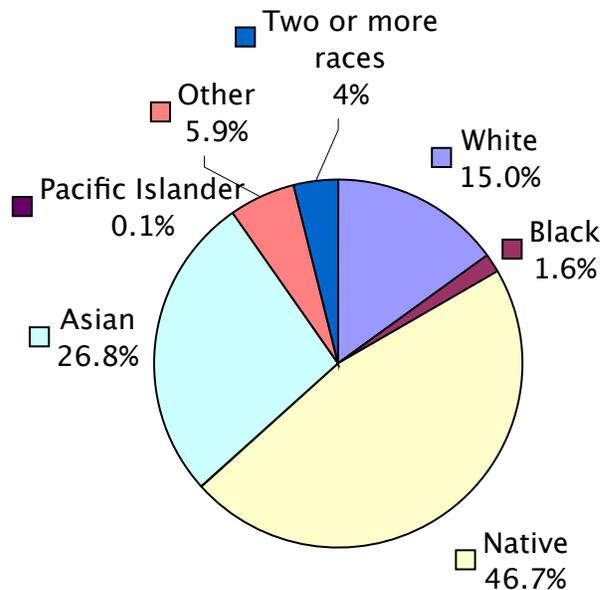
2000 Population Structure King Cove

Data source: US Census



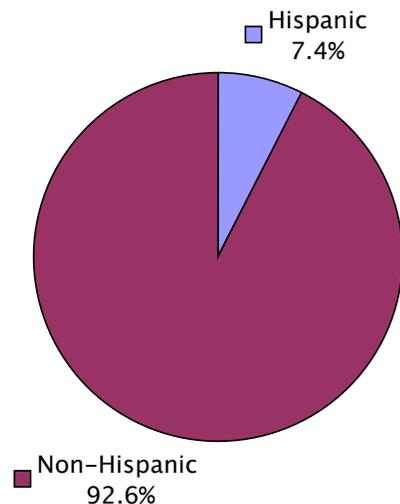
2000 Racial Structure King Cove

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity King Cove

Data source: US Census



a significant part of the economy and culture of the town. Peter Pan Seafoods is the successor to Pacific American Fisheries and now claims to be the largest salmon cannery in North America. King Cove’s Scandinavian heritage permeates the town’s history and remains evident in cultural, economic, and social structures. Chinese and Japanese workers brought to the area to work in the cannery made up a significant part of the population before the war, but Asian labor was considered expensive and was discontinued, replaced by Europeans, Native Alaskans, and other North Americans. Most of the Asian population moved away, but some who had intermarried with Natives remained (Black and Jacka 1999: 1-2).

Many of King Cove’s residents came from nearby Belkofski whose population dwindled throughout the early 1900s as the population of King Cove increased steadily. This trend, and others similar to it, was due in part to King Cove’s enduring cannery industry which has outlasted several other endeavors in the region.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Economically, King Cove is largely dependant on year-round commercial fishing and seafood processing industries. Peter Pan Seafoods is the largest company in the industry in King Cove, and one of the largest processors under one roof in all of Alaska. A total of 63 residents held 137 commercial fishing permits in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC). Income is supplemented by subsistence activities.

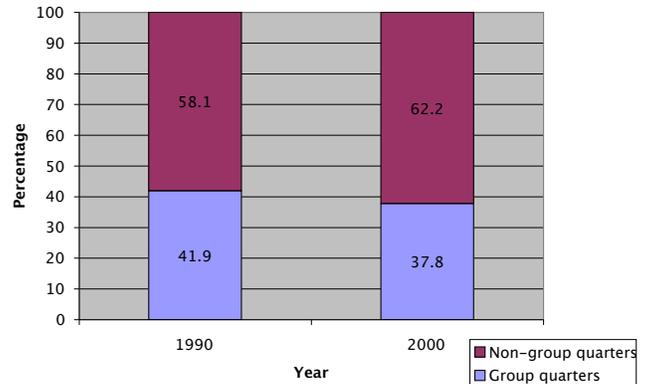
At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 68.5% of the potential labor force was employed and 4.7% were unemployed. A total of 26.8% of the population over 16 years of age were not in the labor force and 11.9% of the population lived below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was \$45,893 and the per capita income was \$17,791.

Governance

The City of King Cove is a first-class city initially incorporated in 1947 as second-class, but able to achieve first-class status in 1974. It is governed locally by a manager as well as a mayor and six-member city council. King Cove is within the Aleutians East Borough. Special taxes in Atka include a 2% raw fish tax mandated by the city, a further 2% raw fish tax

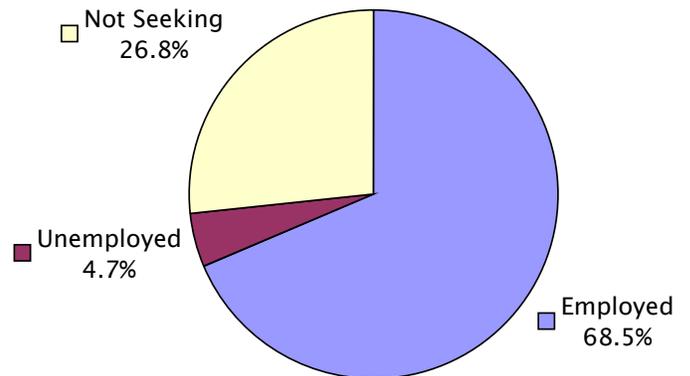
**% Group Quarters
King Cove**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
King Cove**

Data source: US Census



regulated by the borough, and a 3% sales tax. The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA), a federally recognized non-profit tribal organization of the Aleut people in Alaska, contracts with federal, state and local governments and provides services in King Cove including a Village Public Safety Officer and health programs (emergency, elders, behavioral, outreach and advocacy oriented programs). King Cove is a member of the regional for-profit Aleut Corporation under the ANCSA. King Cove Corporation is the local village corporation. The total land entitlement under ANCSA is almost 130,000 acres. The village council, Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, is a BIA-Recognized Traditional Council which means that they are eligible for funding and services by virtue of their status as a Native tribe. King Cove has organized itself under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), with a constitution and elections as prescribed by the Act.

The Native Village of Belkofski and the Belkofski Corporation also function in King Cove. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Unalaska, as is the nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) and the nearest ADF&G office is located in Cold Bay but only open between May and October (a permanent office is located in Unalaska).

Facilities

King Cove is accessible only by air and sea. The cost of a round trip flight from King Cove to Anchorage, via Cold Bay, is \$643 plus the cost of a charter flight between Cold Bay and King Cove (based on the closest available date to 1 September, 2003). A local priority is to construct a 27-mile road to Cold Bay to access their airport; however, the \$14 million road has drawn State and national controversy. The State Ferry operates bi-monthly between May and October. The ferry and marine cargo services use one of three docks owned by Peter Pan Seafoods, and a deep water dock is also operated by the City. A new harbor and breakwater is under construction by the Corps of Engineers and Aleutians East Borough which will provide additional moorage for 60 foot to 150 foot fishing vessels.

Water is supplied by Ram Creek and a \$9 million project to develop a new supply is nearing completion. All residents are connected to the piped water system. A piped sewage collection system connects all homes and facilities to central septic tanks. A hydroelectric power project has recently been completed at Delta Creek. Peter Pan, the largest seafood processing plant operates its own electric system.

King Cove is within the Aleutians East School District and 15 teachers instruct 105 students in grades K-12 at King Cove School. Local healthcare is provided by King Cove medical clinic. Public security is provided by city police and Village Public Safety Officers associated with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. Tourism is limited in King Cove, however, there are short term accommodations available.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

The fishing industry is the main economic endeavor in King Cove. According to ACFEC figures, 137 permits were held by 63 permit holders (105 fished).

There were 24 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 35 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and 201 crew members claiming residence in King Cove.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to King Cove was involved in halibut (56 vessels), sablefish (16 vessels), other ground fish (111 vessels), Bering Strait Aleutian Island crab (41 vessels), herring (7 vessels), and salmon (631 vessels) fisheries in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in the community are unavailable.

Halibut: There were 15 permits issued for the halibut fishery in King Cove, 13 of which were fished in 2000. Permits for halibut pertained to 8 longline vessels under 60 feet (7 fished), and 7 longline vessels over 60 feet (6 fished). All permits designated for halibut allowed fishing in statewide waters.

Sablefish and Other Groundfish: Permits for sablefish issued in King Cove for 2000 pertained to one longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters. There were a total of 42 permits issued in King Cove for the other groundfish industry, 31 of which were fished. These permits pertained to nine miscellaneous saltwater finfish otter trawls, 23 miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessels under 60 feet (17 fished), 3 miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jigs (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish pair trawl (not fished), and six miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessels 60 feet or over (five fished). All permits designated for other groundfish allowed fishing in statewide waters.

Shellfish: Permits for Bering Strait Aleutian Island Crab pertained to one king crab pot gear vessel under 60 feet confined to Bristol Bay (not fished), five king crab pot gear vessel over 60 feet confined to Bristol Bay (four fished), one king crab pot gear vessel over 60 feet confined to Bristol Bay and associated with the Community Development Quota, Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, and five tanner crab pot gear vessel over six feet confined to the Bering Sea. Additionally, one permit for an octopus/squid pot gear vessel under 60 feet with statewide jurisdiction was issued but not fished.

Herring: Permits for herring roe pertained to four purse seine confined to the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), five purse seine confined to Bristol Bay (three fished), and two permits for herring food/bait

purse seine also limited to the Alaska Peninsula (one fished).

Salmon: Permits relating to salmon in King Cove pertained to one purse seine limited to Kodiak (not fished), 32 purse seine limited to the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands (23 fished), 10 drift gillnets confined to the Alaska Peninsula (9 fished), 2 drift gillnets confined to Bristol Bay (one fished), 8 set gillnets in the Alaska Peninsula (11 fished), and 2 set gillnets in Bristol Bay.

The Peter Pan Seafoods facility in King Cove is one of the largest cannery operations in Alaska and the largest salmon processor in North America. Employment at the cannery brings up to 500 non-residents to town as needed, thus the seasonal influence of the cannery on the community is extreme. Peter Pan Seafoods has the ability to process salmon, sablefish, other groundfish, herring, halibut, and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab. Bering Pacific Seafoods is also a processor of salmon in King Cove.

It was announced in July 2003 that King Cove would receive \$207,513 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The Aleutians East Borough, in which King Cove is located, has been allocated \$1,101,638. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices due to competition with foreign aquaculture fish. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002, the Aleutians East Borough received \$140,062 and the City of King Cove received \$590,781 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset losses to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

There was a total of 32 sport fishing licenses sold in King Cove in 2000, 30 of which were sold to Alaska residents. Three saltwater sport fishing businesses are currently operating in King Cove, two of which are also involved in freshwater sport fishing.

Subsistence Fishing

Numerous social, economic, and technological changes have influenced life in Alaskan fishing communities, and subsistence harvests and practices continue to provide fishing communities with important nutritional, economic, social, and cultural requirements. Data from 1992 compiled on behalf of the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in King Cove. All 100% of King Cove households participated in the use of subsistence resources including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Just over 97% of the total population used salmon and 89.3% used non-salmon fish (herring, smelt, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, skates, sole, char, pike, and trout). About 25% of the total population for that year used marine mammals and 94.7% of households used marine invertebrates.

The total per capita harvest for the year was 256.07 lbs. The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resources categories. The total subsistence harvest breakdown was: 53.41% salmon, 16.67% non-salmon fish, 15.37% land mammals, 0.82% marine mammals, 3.62% birds and eggs, 6.76% marine invertebrates, and 3.34% vegetation. The wild food harvest in King Cove made up 165% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1992 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or 0.424 lbs of wild food per day).

In 1999, 52 permits were held by households in King Cove for subsistence fishing of salmon. Sockeye made up the largest proportion of the salmon harvest, followed by coho and chum. Residents of King Cove and members of the Agdaagux Tribe and the Native Village of Belkofski, the two Alaska Native Tribes of King Cove, who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

King Salmon [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

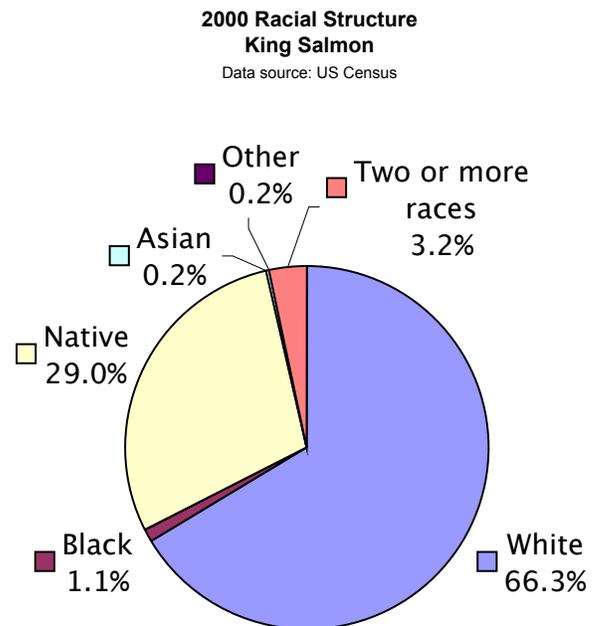
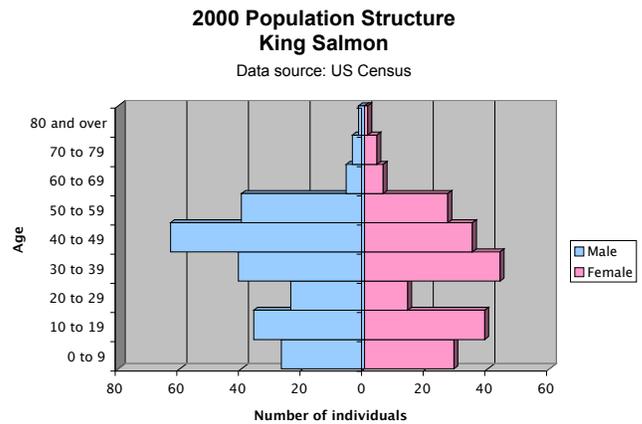
King Salmon is an unincorporated city of 442 residents in the Bristol Bay Borough. It is located 284 miles southwest of Anchorage, about 15 miles upriver from Naknek. The area encompasses 169.6 square miles of land and 1.4 square miles of water. King Salmon is the hub for the largest red salmon fishery in the world, at Bristol Bay, and the port of entry for many visitors to Katmai National Park.

Demographic Profile

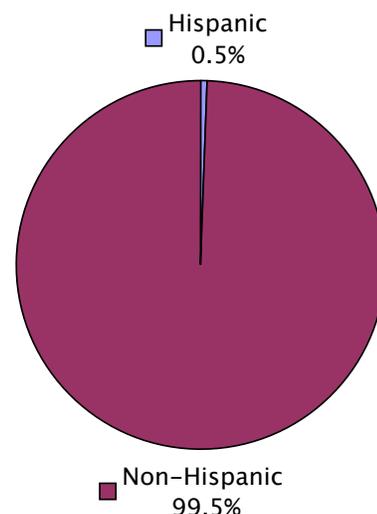
King Salmon has 442 residents in 196 households. All community members live in households rather than group quarters. The gender composition of the community is significantly skewed because of employment opportunities in fishing-related industries, at 54.9% male and 45.1% female. The racial makeup of the community is as follows: White (66.3%), Alaska Native or American Indian (29.0%), Black (1.1%), Asian (0.2%), other (0.2%), and two or more races (3.2%). A total of 30.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Residents of Hispanic origin comprise 0.5% of the population. The age structure of King Salmon is somewhat skewed; 57.2% of residents are between the ages of 25 and 54, and only 29.6% of residents are aged 19 and under. The median age in the community was 37.8 years, slightly older than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. King Salmon attracts working-age people with its many and varied employment opportunities in the salmon fishery and in recreation. The growing economy in King Salmon has led to a doubling in the local population since 1960.

History

Archaeological evidence suggests that people have resided in or around King Salmon for at least 6,000 years. The area was historically Sugpiaq Aleut territory. At the time of the Mt. Katmai eruption in 1912, however, there was no permanent settlement in King Salmon. King Salmon was founded when residents from areas to the south were evacuated and relocated there. The community has been an important site of military operations since the 1930s, when an air navigation silo was built. An Air Force base was established in King Salmon during WWII. The base



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
King Salmon**
Data source: US Census



now supports only limited military activities and is maintained under the stewardship of the Chugach Development Corporation. The community is now the most important transportation hub for Bristol Bay and is heavily involved in the salmon fishery and recreation industry.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of King Salmon centers around two industries: the commercial sockeye salmon fishery in Bristol Bay, and recreation in surrounding areas. Other industries such as transportation, accommodations, and other services have grown up to support these primary industries. King Salmon is the transportation hub for the Bristol Bay fishery, and distributes salmon throughout the world.

The median annual per capita income is \$26,755, and the median household income is \$54,375. The unemployment rate is 6.9%, and 21.7% of residents are not in the labor force (not employed and not seeking work). Approximately 12.4% of residents live below the poverty level.

Governance

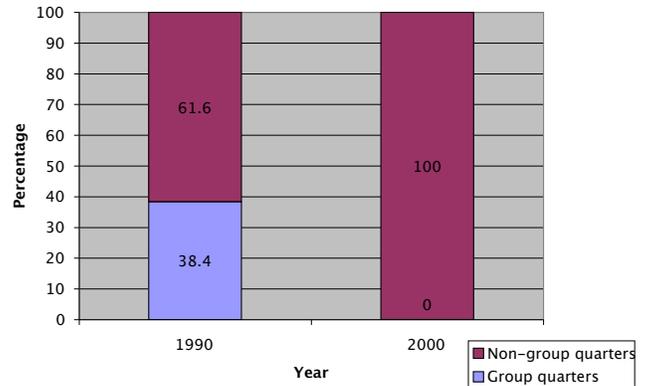
King Salmon is an unincorporated village governed by a village council, which is recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). It is located in the Bristol Bay Borough. The village council is a member of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, a for-profit organization, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, a regional non-profit organization. All taxes, including property tax, a 3% raw fish tax, and a 10% accommodation tax (May-October) are collected by the Borough. King Salmon receives a community development quota (CDQ) through the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation. The nearest NMFS Enforcement Office is located in Homer. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is in Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located right in King Salmon.

Facilities

Because of its former role as a military base, King Salmon’s transportation infrastructure is well developed. The former air base is now the site of an 8,500 ft-long paved runway, a 4,000 ft-long asphalt/gravel crosswind runway, and an FAA air traffic

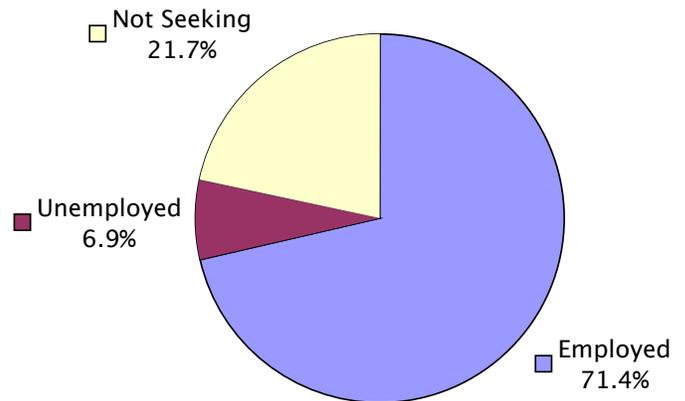
**% Group Quarters
King Salmon**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
King Salmon**

Data source: US Census



control tower. There is also a 4,000 foot stretch of the Naknek River that has been designated as a float plane landing strip. Roundtrip airfare from King Salmon to Anchorage is approximately \$357 (Travelocity 2003). Because of these important air links, much of the commercial sockeye salmon catch in Bristol Bay is trucked or shipped 15 miles upriver to King Salmon, where it is then distributed all over the world. A wide variety of accommodations and amenities is available.

In terms of utilities, the Bristol Bay Borough operates a landfill, incinerator, and balefill, between King Salmon and Naknek and these are shared by both communities. Sewage services are generally provided by the borough; some residents use individual septic tanks. Electricity is provided by Naknek Electric Association. The King Salmon Health Clinic, owned by the local village council, provides health care to the community.

There are no schools in King Salmon. Students are bussed to Naknek, 15 miles away, to attend classes with students there. For the two communities combined, there are three schools, with a total of 22 teachers and 236 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing for sockeye salmon and other species is an integral part of King Salmon's economy. In 2000, 36 residents held a total of 58 commercial fishing permits for the following fisheries: salmon, halibut, herring, and other groundfish. There were two vessel owners for federal fisheries and 70 registered crew members residing in the community. The following is a detailed description of commercial permits in 2000 for King Salmon.

Halibut: There were eight total permits for the halibut fishery, and three permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: seven longline halibut permits for vessels under 60 feet in length (three fished), and one longline halibut permit for vessels under 60 feet (none fished).

Herring: There were a total of 17 permits for the herring fishery, and 11 were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: 7 herring gillnet permits for Security Cove (2 fished), and 10 herring gillnet permits for Security Cove (9 fished).

Salmon: There were a total of 31 permits for the salmon fishery, and 36 were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: 14 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (16 fished), and 17 salmon set gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (20 fished).

Groundfish: There were a total of two permits for the groundfish fishery, including one miscellaneous finfish longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters and one miscellaneous finfish mechanical jig permit, but no permits were fished.

In 2000 there were no processing plants and therefore no registered landings. However, in addition to direct involvement in commercial fish harvesting and processing, King Salmon is a key part of the transportation network of the Bristol Bay fishery. Fish landed throughout Bristol Bay and surrounding areas are transported by truck or boat up the Naknek River

to King Salmon and distributed around the world.

In 2002 the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, the regional community development quota (CDQ) group, was granted \$75,026 in federal funding to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003 the Bristol Bay Borough was granted \$1,739,411 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. This was the largest sum granted to any governing body in Alaska. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect King Salmon.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing is an important part of the economy in King Salmon. King Salmon is located on the Naknek River (itself a major hub for sport fishing) and 15 miles inland from Bristol Bay, considered the largest sockeye fishery in the world. As of 2002, there were 24 registered guides for freshwater fishing and 2 guides that offer both saltwater and freshwater services. In 2000, sport fishing license sales totaled 3,065, including 511 sold to Alaska residents and 2,554 sold to non-residents. Local companies specializing in sport fishing and recreational transportation (including overland, boat and plane) are plentiful. In addition to sockeye, sport fishermen land the other four species of Pacific salmon, pike, trout, and other species.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence activities are an important part of the local economy of King Salmon. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1983, 88.4% of King Salmon households used subsistence fish, including salmon and non-salmon fish species. A small portion of households (2.3%) used marine mammals for subsistence, and 27.9% used marine invertebrates.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for King Salmon in 1983 was 220.3 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (46.6%), non-salmon fish (7.2%), and land mammals (46.2%). Salmon subsistence catches are primarily sockeye from the Bristol Bay fishery. Other subsistence resources, including marine mammals, birds and bird eggs, marine invertebrates, and vegetation, were either not harvested or taken only in insignificant amounts.

Kokhanok [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Kokhanok is located on the south shore of Iliamna Lake, approximately 88 miles northeast of King Salmon and 320 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 21.3 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

The population of Kokhanok has grown steadily in recent years, doubling between 1970 and 2000. In 2000, Kokhanok had a population of 174 people in 52 households. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (86.8%), White (8%), other (1.1%), and two or more races (4%). A total of 90.8% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 1.1% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender makeup was quite skewed, at 58.6% male and 41.4% female. The median age was 29.5 years, significantly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 77.6% of residents aged 25 or older held a high school diploma.

History

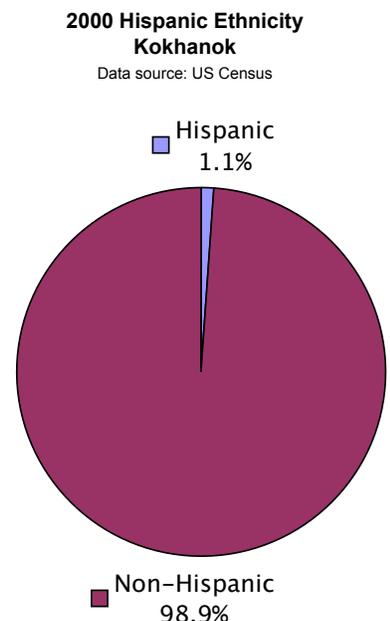
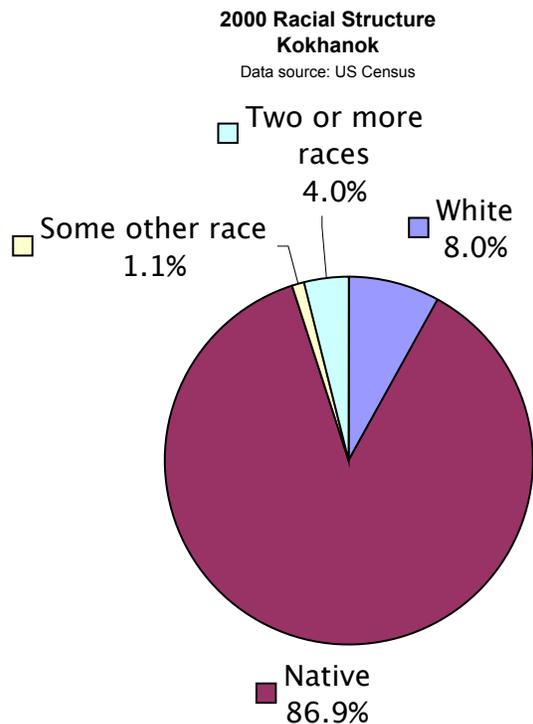
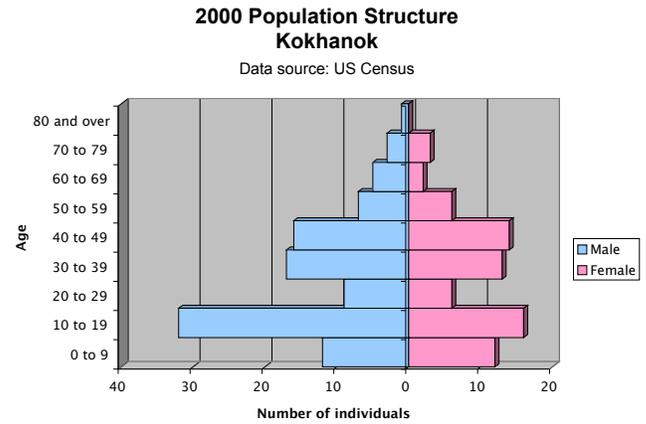
The Lake Iliamna area has been inhabited through the years by Aleut, Yup'ik, and Athabascan peoples. Kokhanok began as a Native fishing village, and was first listed by the U.S. Census in 1890. The community was relocated to higher ground a few years ago when the rising level of Lake Iliamna threatened several community buildings.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial fishing and subsistence hunting and fishing are the backbone of Kokhanok's economy. Several residents hold commercial fishing permits, most of them in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. In addition, the local school is the largest source of employment in the community.

In 2000, the median per capita income was \$7,732, and the median household income was \$19,583. The unemployment rate was 4.1% in 2000, and 63.6% of



residents over 16 years of age were not in the labor force (i.e. retired or not seeking work). Approximately 42.6% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Kokhanok is an unincorporated village under the jurisdiction of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. Kokhanok is governed by a federally recognized Native village council. In addition, Kokhanok belongs to the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, a for-profit corporation, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, a non-profit organization. The nearest U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is in Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in King Salmon. The nearest NMFS enforcement office is in Homer.

Facilities

Kokhanok is accessible by air via a state-owned 3,400-foot gravel airstrip, and by water via a seaplane base. There are no docking facilities. The village council operates a piped water and sewer system that serves some households. Some households have their own septic tanks. The village council also provides electricity by a diesel-powered generator. There is a local health clinic, owned by the village council and operated by Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. Police services are provided by a state village public safety officer (VPSO). There is one school in the community, which offers instruction to students from grades K-12. The school has five teachers and 46 students.

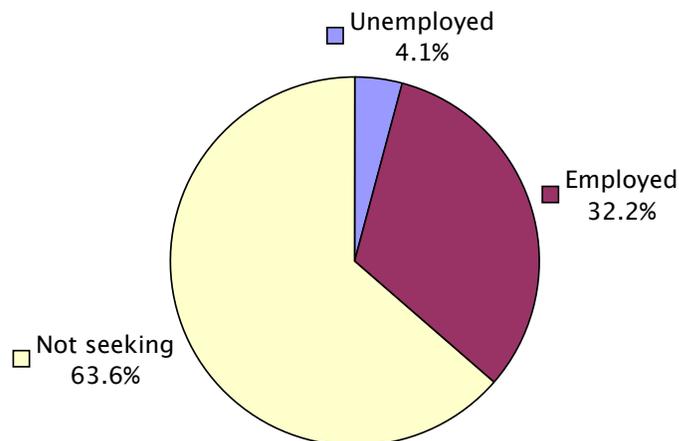
Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, primarily in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery, is an important part of Kokhanok's economy. In 2000, there were four vessel owners and 32 registered crew members residing in the community. There were no processing plants and therefore no registered landings. Eight local residents held a total of eight commercial fishing permits, including the following: four salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (four fished), and four salmon set gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (three fished).

In 2002 the Lake and Peninsula Borough, in which Kokhanok is located, was granted \$29,832 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due

**2000 Employment Structure
Kokhanok**
Data source: US Census



to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$442,002 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Kokhanok.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing activities are limited in Kokhanok. There were no registered fishing guides or license sales in the community in 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence activities are a major part of the local economy of Kokhanok. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1992, 97.2% of Kokhanok households used subsistence fish. Approximately 97.2% of households used subsistence salmon (primarily sockeye, but also other species of Pacific salmon), and 91.7% used non-salmon fish species (especially Dolly Varden, trout, grayling, and pike). In addition, 55.6% of households used marine mammals for subsistence (including seals and whales), and 30.6% of households used marine invertebrates (especially clams).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Kokhanok in 1992 was an astounding 1013.3 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (55.6%), non-salmon fish (10.4%), land mammals (28.8%), marine mammals (0.4%), birds and eggs (2.2%), birds and eggs (0.6%), marine invertebrates (0.3%), and vegetation (2.2%).

Levelock [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The unincorporated town of Levelock lies on the west bank of the Kvichak River, 10 miles inland from Kvichak Bay. Anchorage is 278 air miles to the northwest. The town is located near the Alagnak Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The community encompasses 14.5 square miles of land but has no jurisdiction over water. The river, which is the main communication channel, is ice-free from June through mid-November.

Demographic Profile

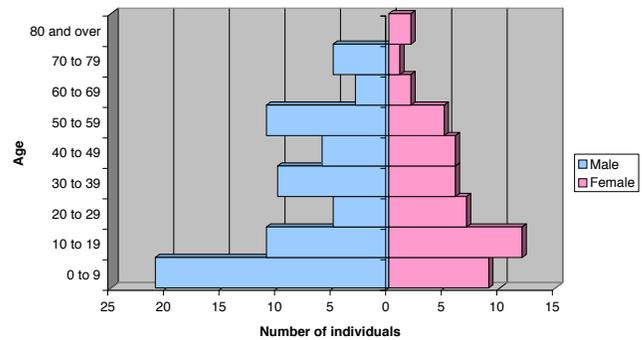
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Levelock had 122 inhabitants. The town did not appear in the Census records until the 1950s. The numbers were stable until the 80s, but the last twenty years have witnessed significant increases in population. A detailed breakdown of the racial composition of Levelock is as follows: 89.3% Alaska Native or Indian American, 4.9% White, and 5.7% two or more races. A total of 95.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Approximately 2.5% of the population is Hispanic. Levelock's gender breakdown is skewed towards males with 59% male versus 41% female. All residents live in households and there are no communal housing quarters. The population of the community is very young with a median of 27.5 years of age compared to the U.S. median of 35.3 years. A total of 43.4% of the population is under 19 years old, while only a 17.1% is over 55 years old. Of those age 25 years and over in Levelock about 65.6% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling, and 4.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. About 34.5% had not graduated from high school.

History

Levelock was historically, and remains, a mixed Alutiiq and Yup'ik village. Although there is no systematic census data from Levelock until the 1950s, 19th century Russian accounts reported the presence of a community known as "Kvichak." The village is again mentioned by the name of Kvichak in the 1890 census, although the population was not counted. A 1908 survey of Russian missions identified Levelock as "Lovelock's Mission." The Bristol Bay area suffered

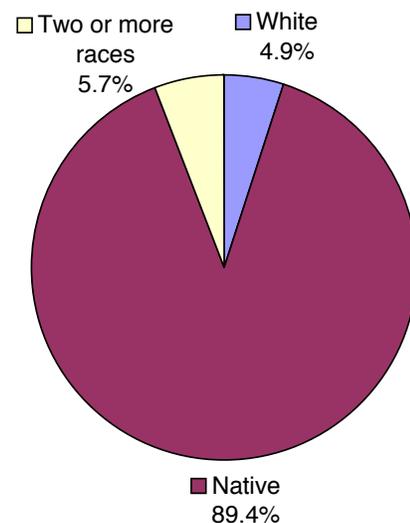
2000 Population Structure Levelock

Data source: US Census



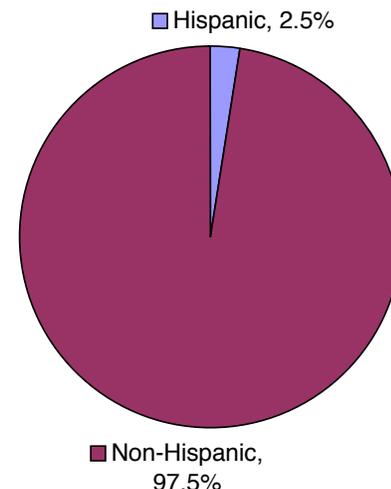
2000 Racial Structure Levelock

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Levelock

Data source: US Census



successive waves of epidemics, in 1837, 1900 and 1918, which had a devastating effect on the communities in the area. Although during these years many communities were abandoned, Levelock survived and succeeded in climbing onto the commercial fisheries golden train.

Koggiung Packers operated a cannery at Levelock in 1925-26 until a fire destroyed the cannery. A second cannery operated from 1928-29. In 1930, the first school was built, and a post office was established in 1939. By this time, families had converted their homes to oil heat. Moose first appeared in the area in the 1930s. During the early 1950s, another cannery was in operation. Commercial fishing and subsistence activities are the main focus of the community.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Levelock's economy is based around commercial fishing and government jobs. A total of 15 residents hold commercial fishing permits. Subsistence practices are present in the area and play a significant role on the local economy. The community relies upon subsistence activities for a large portion of its diet. Salmon, trout, moose, caribou, and berries are harvested.

The 2000 U.S. Census illustrated an employment structure which shows that 46.6% of the total workforce is employed and 53.4% of the adults are not actively seeking a job. These statistics should be understood in the context of a community completely dominated by a seasonal industry. About 34.2% percent of the workforce is employed by the government. The community shows a low per capita income of \$12,199 and a median household income of \$31,667. A very high 24.6% of the population lives below the line of poverty.

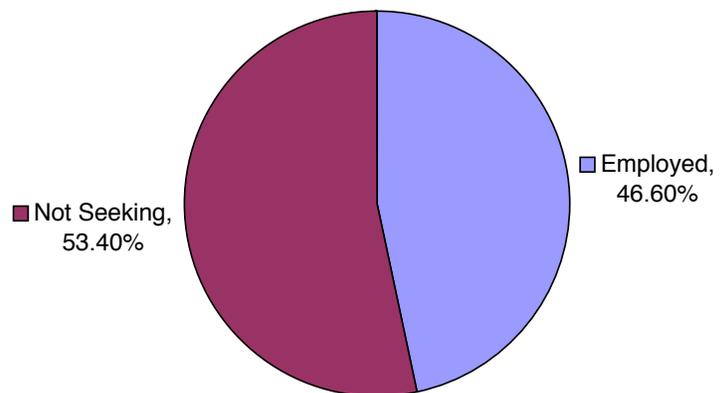
An important part of the workforce travels to Naknek to fish or work in the canneries during the summer season. The increasing appeal for tourism has helped to consolidate a modest but gradually growing accommodation sector.

Governance

Levelock is an unincorporated town located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. It belongs to the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. The local Native corporation is Levelock Natives Limited which manages approximately 96,800 acres of land while the authorized traditional entity, recognized by the BIA is

**2000 Employment Structure
Levelock**

Data source: US Census



the Levelock Village Council.

This community is also part of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) and therefore receives community development quotas (CDQ) from this organization. This community further benefits from a regional nonprofit organization: the Bristol Bay Native Association.

The closest regional offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) are in Dillingham and King Salmon. Kodiak and Homer have the nearest NMFS offices although Anchorage is also a potential accessible office for the people of this area. Anchorage and Kodiak have the closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office.

Facilities

Levelock is mainly accessible by air and water. In winter, when the river freezes and the winds are too strong for river access, some trails to surrounding villages are used. There are two airstrips that receive scheduled and chartered flights (King Air and Peninsula Air). The price of a roundtrip ticket by plane from the community to Anchorage, with a connection in King Salmon, in early September of 2003 was \$492. The harbor has a 110 foot dock and a beach with an unloading area. The village has a natural harbor with one accessible dock.

Levelock School has 3 teachers and 17 students of all ages. Health care in the community is provided by the Pilot Point Health Clinic or, as alternatively, by the Levelock First Responders. The community has a public

security service (State VPSO). Although Levelock has the Levelock Electric Cooperative, 95.5% of the household use kerosene or fuel to generate power. Water is provided by wells on an individual basis and there is no central sewage system.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Levelock is not a typical Alaskan fishing community due to its geographic location. The town lies at the shore of the Kvichak River, ten miles upstream from its mouth. Although Levelock is not a coastal community, it is still a community intimately involved with the fishing industry. According to official records from 2000 Levelock had 15 commercial permit holders, with a total of 16 commercial fishing permits. A total of 21 individuals were registered as crewmen and there were 6 owners of salmon vessels, but no federal fisheries vessel owners resident in the community. The Levelock fleet was involved, in one way or another, in the following Alaskan fisheries: herring, other groundfish, and salmon.

Commercial fishing permits are issued with specification to species, vessels size, gear type, and fishing grounds. The salmon fleet was, by far, the main part of Levelock's commercial fisheries. It accounted for 14 permits (10 fished): eight permits were issued for drift gillnet in the Bristol Bay area (seven fished), and six permits were issued for set gillnet in the Bristol Bay area (three fished). The other groundfish industry had one issued permit for a hand troll vessel with statewide range which was not fished. The remaining fishery in Levelock was herring: one permit (issued and fished) for herring roe with gillnet in Bristol Bay.

Although Levelock had a fishing fleet, there was no real landing of fish due to the absence of a large processing plant in that locality. This lack pushes the vessels of this community to deliver somewhere else in Bristol Bay.

The Lake and Peninsula Borough, where Levelock is located, received an allocation of \$442,002 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for losses due to salmon prices plummeting and \$29,832 to reduce the impact of Steller sea lion protective regulations. The BBEDC also received \$75,026 for this reason. The

funds, allocated in 2003 for the case of the salmon disaster fund and in 2002 for the Steller sea lion case, were added to the general budget of the borough or the CDQ, helped to compensate for the decline of income from fish taxes and to relieve the budgetary tensions of the institutions of the area.

Sport Fishing

In 2000, this community did not issue sport fishing licenses. The area, though, is visited by numerous outsiders who obtain their permits elsewhere. In 2002, the village had no registered sport fishing businesses.

Subsistence Fishing

In the survey conducted on behalf of ADF&G in 1992, Levelock demonstrated the significance of subsistence practices for most Alaskan communities. All households participated in the use of harvested resources. In relation to the main marine resources: 93% of the households used subsistence salmon, 90% other types of fish (herring, smelt, flounder, sole, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, sucker, trout, and white fish), 46.7% marine mammals, and 3.3% marine invertebrates. The results reflect that the inhabitants of the community harvested 884 lbs per person that year. These statistics emphasize the importance of subsistence fishing, hunting, and gathering for these communities. The relative importance of each resource to the total harvest can be understood from this compositional breakdown: salmon 53%, other fish 7.5%, land mammals 30.9%, marine mammals 5.7%, birds and eggs 1.3%, marine invertebrates 0.07%, and vegetation 1.6%.

Most of these subsistence practices are focused on fish: in 1999 Levelock had 5 Alaska salmon household subsistence permits: the catch was mainly sockeye with 1500 units. In addition, the inhabitants of this community (rural residents or members of an Alaska Native tribe) are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut by holding Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARCs). These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Naknek ([return to communities](#))

People and Place

Location

Naknek is situated on a 100-foot bluff overlooking the northern bank of the mouth of the Naknek River, at the northeastern end of Bristol Bay. It is 297 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 84.2 square miles of land and 0.7 square miles of water. Naknek lies about 20 miles from the western border of Katmai National Monument which encompasses Mt. Katmai, Mt. Novarupta, and the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes.

Demographic Profile

According to the U.S. Census, the population of Naknek was 678 with gender in the community skewed towards males (53.8%) versus females (46.2%). Total population numbers have been increasing steadily since the late 1800s. A major upsurge in the population occurred between 1960 and 1970, although not adequately reflected in census data because of the seasonal nature of the occupations of these new community members. The 1973, the Limited Entry Act passed by the Alaska State Legislature slowed the increase of out-of-state fishers here and elsewhere (Partnow 2001:11). Seasonal fluxes in the resident population can occur on the order of 2000 people, attracted to the most prolific sockeye salmon fishery in the world. For the most part, people reside on their boats, in tents on the beach, or in cannery bunkhouses.

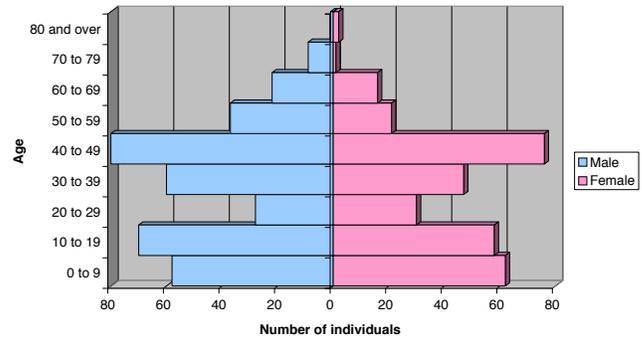
The racial composition of the population in 2000 was: 51.1% White, 45.3% Alaska Native or American Indian, 0.1% Asian, 0.7% Pacific Islander, and 2.4% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 47.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Less than 1% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic.

The median age was 34.4 years which is comparable to the national average of 35.3 years for the same year. About 37% of the population was 19 years and below while only about 10% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There were 40 housing units in Naknek, 18 of which were vacant in 2000. Of those, 2 were vacant due to seasonal use. None of the population lived in group quarters.

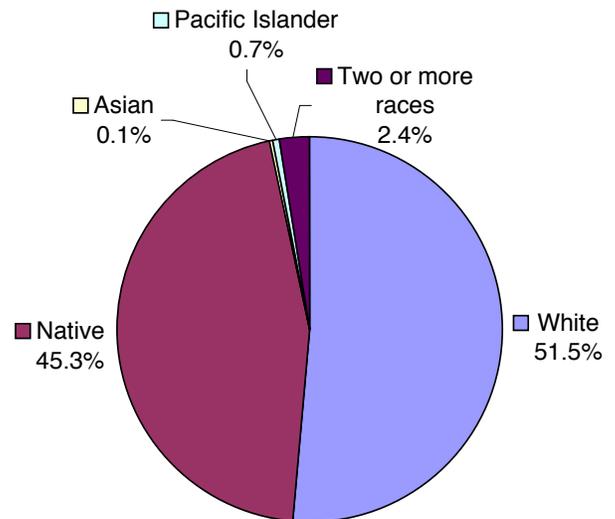
2000 Population Structure Naknek

Data source: US Census



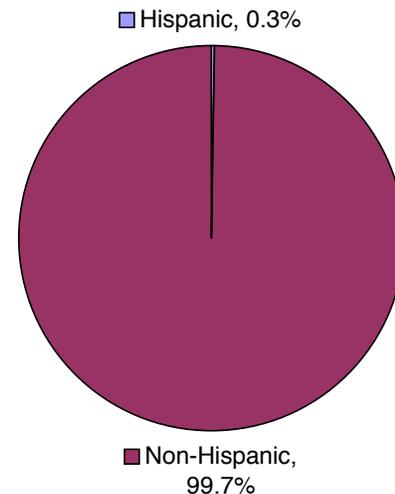
2000 Racial Structure Naknek

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Naknek

Data source: US Census



According to 2000 census data, about 65% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, and about 17% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

The region around Naknek was settled by Yupik Eskimos and Athabascan Indians over 6000 years ago. Residents of villages in the area used rivers to interact with each other and for transport in pursuit of seasonal subsistence resources. In 1821, the original Eskimo village of "Naugeik" was noted by Capt. Lt. Vasiliev. By 1880, the village was called Kinuyak and later spelled Naknek by the Russian Navy. The Russians built a fort near the village and fur trappers inhabited the area for some time prior to the U.S. purchase of Alaska. The first salmon cannery opened on the Naknek River in 1890. The Homestead Act enabled canneries to acquire land for their plants, and also made land available to other institutions and individuals including the Russian Orthodox Church. Squatters built shelters on the church property and were eventually sold lots in what became the center of Naknek. Naknek has developed over the years as a major fishery center.

Infrastructure

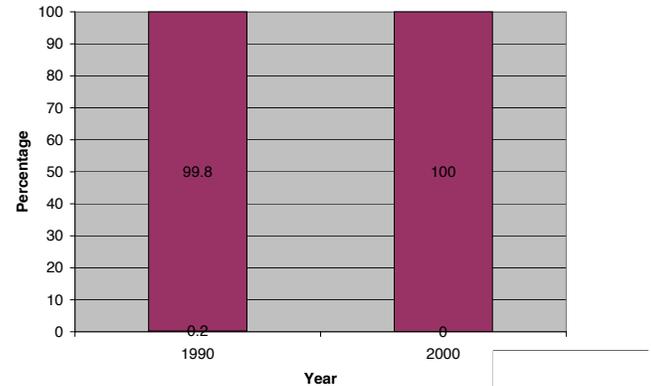
Current Economy

Naknek, as the political and economic seat of the Bristol Bay Borough, is the business center for the Bay. The local economy of Naknek, driven by the fishing industry, relies heavily on associated services including government employment, and is supplemented to some degree by subsistence practices. Naknek's economy is highly sensitive to the seasonality of the fishing industry and to the huge sockeye salmon fishery in Bristol Bay in particular. Several thousand people typically flood the area during the fishing season. A total of 154 commercial fishing permits were held by 115 permit holders in 2000 according to ACFEC. Millions of pounds of salmon are trucked over Naknek-King Salmon road each summer, where jets transport the salmon around the world. Trident Seafoods, North Pacific Processors, Ocean Beauty, and six other fish processors operate facilities in Naknek.

In 2000, 71.1% of the potential labor force was employed, with a 6.7% unemployment rate in Naknek. A total of 28.9% of the population over 16 years of age were not in the labor force and 3.7% of the population

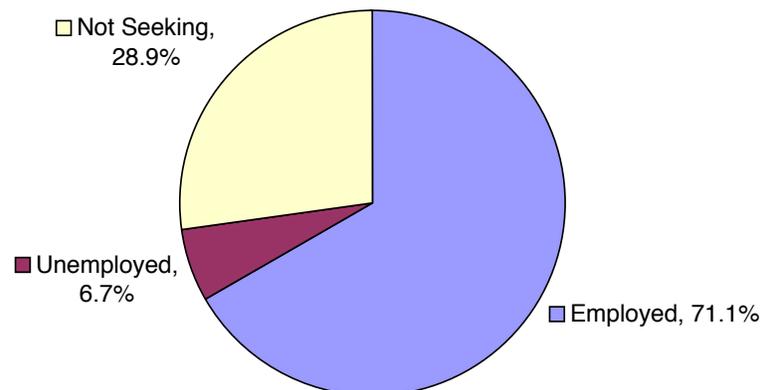
**% Group Quarters
Naknek**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Naknek**

Data source: US Census



lived below the poverty level. The government is a significant employer in Naknek where 51.2% of the potential labor force worked for the government. The median household income in the same year was \$53,393 and the per capita income was \$21,182.

Governance

Naknek is an unincorporated city within the Bristol Bay Borough. The Bristol Bay Borough functions as the chief governing body for the communities of Naknek, South Naknek, and King Salmon. However, because of Naknek's status as an unincorporated city there are no city or borough officials or finances associated with the city. Bristol Bay Native Association is the regional no-profit organization. The Naknek Village Council is federally recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Naknek is a member of the regional for-profit Bristol Bay Native Corporation under the Alaska

Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Paug-Vik, Inc., Limited is the local Native village corporation. The total land entitlement under ANCSA is about 130,000 acres. Naknek is involved in a Community Development Quota program under the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Unalaska, as is the nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), and there is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office located in Naknek.

Facilities

Naknek is accessible both by air and by sea and is connected to King Salmon overland by road. The cost of a round trip flight from Naknek to Anchorage, via King Salmon, is \$357 plus the cost of a charter flight between King Salmon and Naknek (based on the closest available date to 1 September, 2003). Two airports, one state owned and one private, are located just outside of Naknek. The Borough operates the cargo dock at Naknek, which is the Port of Bristol Bay; however, no commercial docking facilities are available at the canneries, although the development of a fisherman's dock, freight dock, and Industrial Park are regional priorities. The majority of public and private buildings have individual wells and are fully plumbed including a collective sewage network operated by the Borough. Other waste facilities are shared with the nearby community of King Salmon. Electricity is provided by Naknek Electric Association.

Naknek is within the Bristol Bay Borough School District. There are two schools in Naknek itself. Twelve teachers instruct 114 students at Bristol Bay High School and 8 teachers instruct 109 students at Naknek Elementary School. Public security is provided by the borough. Local health care is provided at Camai Clinic run by the Bristol Bay Borough. There are several facilities to accommodate tourists in Naknek.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

The fishing industry in Naknek is dominated by the salmon fishery which is very significant to the community's economy. According to ACFEC figures for 2000, 154 permits were held by 115 permit holders (123 fished). There was one vessel owner in the federal fisheries, 39 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and

161 crew members claiming residence in Naknek.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Naknek was involved in halibut (27 vessels) and salmon (900 vessels) fisheries. In 2000, there were 11,493.62 tons of salmon landed at the docks in Naknek. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for other species in the community are unavailable.

Salmon: A total of 110 permits were issued for the salmon fishery in 2000 (103 fished). Permits for salmon pertained to one drift gillnet confined to the Alaska Peninsula, 38 drift gillnets confined to Bristol Bay (39 fished), and 71 set gillnets confined to Bristol Bay (63 fished).

Halibut: There were a total of 16 permits issued for the halibut fishery (three fished). Permits issued in Naknek for halibut pertained to 14 longline vessels under 60 feet (three fished) and two permits were issued for longline vessels over 60 feet (none fished), both with statewide range.

Herring and groundfish: Permits issued for herring roe pertained to 2 purse seine limited to Bristol Bay, 7 gillnets in Security Cove (2 fished), 15 gillnets in Bristol Bay (12 fished), and 3 gillnets in Norton Sound (one fished). There was also one permit issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig with statewide range which was not actually fished in 2000.

Naknek is a significant node in Alaska's fishing industry with several processors and numerous processor-supported port facilities. The harbor and dock are well equipped to deal with the demand driven by the seasonally intense harvest in Alaska's fisheries. Many landings cross the docks in Naknek which are subsequently transported to processors both within Naknek and the nearby communities of South Naknek and King Salmon.

Bristol Bay is home to the largest sockeye salmon run in North America. The majority of fish processed in Naknek is salmon, at least nine processors have this capacity, but halibut and herring are also processed. There at least 11 processing plants in Naknek altogether, including Trident Seafoods Corporation, Ocean Beauty Seafoods Inc., and Alaska General Seafoods. The Wards Cove processing facility, which included a community grocery store, was sold to Seattle-based Yardarm Knot in the spring for 2003. The outward

movement of Wards Cove Packing Company from numerous Alaskan communities has not happened without significant economic and social stress.

It was announced in July 2003 that the Bristol Bay Borough, in which Naknek is located, would receive \$1,739,411 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices due to competition with foreign aquaculture fish. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002 the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), to which Naknek belongs, received \$140,062 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

A total of 365 sport fishing licenses were sold in Naknek in 2000, 170 of which were sold to Alaska residents. Four sport fishing businesses are currently operating in Naknek. Naknek river drainage system provides optimum opportunities for freshwater salmon fishing, although several regulations restrict where and when sport fishing can be conducted in the area.

Subsistence Fishing

Numerous social, economic, and technological changes have influenced life in Alaskan fishing communities, and subsistence harvests and practices continue to provide fishing communities with important nutritional, economic, social, and cultural requirements. Data from 1983 compiled on behalf of

the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Naknek. A high percentage of households participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. About 92.3% of the total population in that year used both salmon and non-salmon fish resources (smelt, char, grayling, pike, and trout). Approximately 15.4% of the population used marine mammals and 34.6% used marine invertebrates. The total per capita harvest for the year was 188.18 lbs.

The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resources categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 54.44% salmon, 9.89% non-salmon fish, 35.11% land mammals, and marine mammals accounted for only 0.55% of the total harvest. The harvest quantities for birds and eggs, marine invertebrates, and vegetation were not recorded in the Division of Subsistence database. The wild food harvest in Naknek made up 122% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1983 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or .424 lbs of wild food per day) (Wolfe, division of Subsistence, ADF&G).

According to records from 1999, 111 permits were held by households in Naknek for subsistence fishing of salmon. Sockeye made up the vast majority of the subsistence salmon harvest. Residents of Naknek and members of Naknek Native Village who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Nelson Lagoon [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Nelson Lagoon is an unincorporated city in the Aleutians East Borough. It is located 580 miles southwest of Anchorage, on the northern coast of the Alaska Peninsula. The area encompasses 135.3 square miles of land and 61.4 square miles of water.

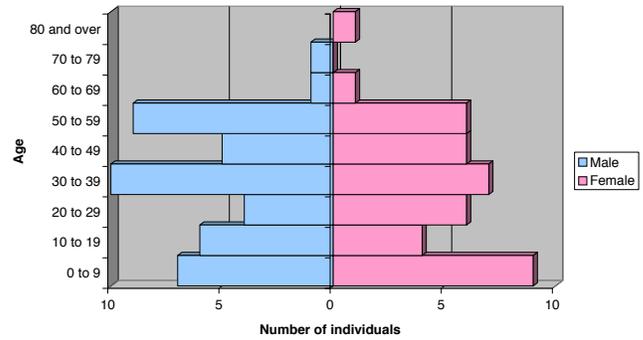
Demographic Profile

Nelson Lagoon has 83 permanent residents in 31 households, with an average household size of 2.68 people, and its population is predominantly comprised of Alaska Natives. The gender composition of the community is only somewhat skewed, at 51.8% male and 48.2% female. The racial makeup of the community is as follows: White (13.3%), Alaska Native or American Indian (78.3%), Asian (2.4%), and residents of two or more races (6.0%). A total of 81.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The median age of residents was 33.3 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. All of Nelson Lagoon’s permanent residents live in households rather than group quarters, but the population often increases four-fold during the summer months, when temporary residents come for the salmon fishing season.

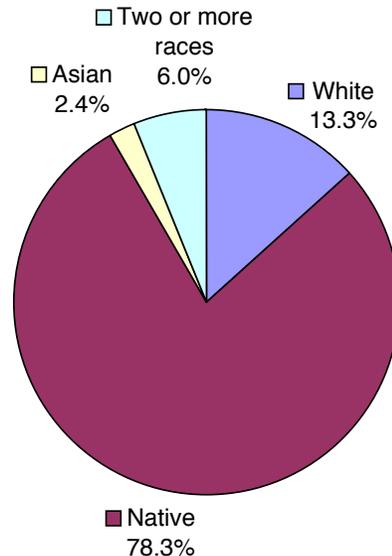
History

The presence of ancient artifacts suggests that Aleut people hunted and fished in this area in the distant past. Permanent human settlement, however, is a relatively recent phenomenon in Nelson Lagoon. The lagoon itself was named in 1882 for Edward William Nelson of the U.S. Signal Corps, who explored the Yukon Delta region in the late 19th century. Coal mining in the nearby Herendeen Bay area began in the late 1800s, but died out shortly thereafter as dependence on fuel oils grew. A salmon saltery was in operation on the site from 1906 to 1917, attracting Scandinavian fishermen, but the site was not occupied year-round until 1965, when a school was built (Rennick 1994: 40-42). Today, Peter Pan Seafoods operates a cold storage facility across Herendeen Bay at Port Moller, and most of Nelson Lagoon’s residents are involved in the commercial salmon fishery.

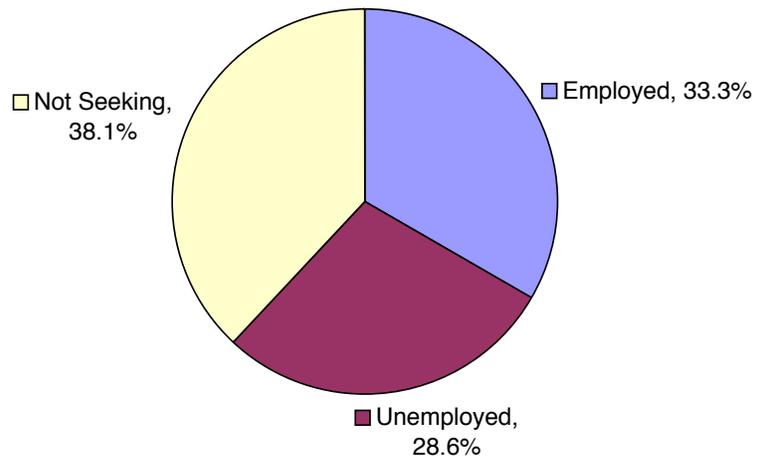
2000 Population Structure Nelson Lagoon
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure Nelson Lagoon
Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Nelson Lagoon
Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Nelson Lagoon is largely dependent on the salmon fishery. Many local residents hold commercial fishing permits, and most of the salmon catch is processed at the nearby town of Port Moller. The median annual per capita income in Nelson lagoon is \$27,596, and the median household income is \$43,750. Approximately 6.4% of community residents live below the poverty level.

The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 28.6% of residents were unemployed and 38.1% were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work) Given Nelson Lagoon's high degree of dependence on the commercial fishery, and the seasonal nature of this type of employment, a more likely interpretation is that employment opportunities vary according to season. Approximately 10.8% of residents are employed by the government at the city, borough, state, and federal levels. Some subsistence hunting and fishing supplements the main economy. There is also a small commercial sector in Nelson Lagoon, including traveler accommodations, child care, and a grocery store.

Governance

Nelson Lagoon is an unincorporated village governed by a village council, which is recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The village council is a member of the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, a community development quota (CDQ) group responsible for allocating community development quota proceeds and investing in infrastructural development. The village is also a member of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, a non-profit organization, and the Aleut Corporation, a regional Native corporation.

There is no property tax and no sales tax in Nelson Lagoon. A 2% raw fish tax is administered by the borough. The nearest NMFS office and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are in Kodiak. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in Port Moller.

Facilities

The local water utility is operated by the village council, and consists of piped water from a 600,000 gallon storage tank. Nelson Lagoon Electric Cooperative provides electricity produced by a diesel

generator. Individually owned septic tanks constitute the sewer system. The Nelson Lagoon Health Clinic, owned by the local village council, provides health care to the community. Police services (VPSO) are provided by the borough.

The Nelson Lagoon School, operated by the borough, has two teachers and 11 students from grades K-12. Access to Nelson Lagoon is by plane or boat. Transportation facilities include a gravel airstrip, a dock, and a boat ramp. Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, via Sand Point, is approximately \$571 (Travelocity 2003).

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon fishery, is a vital part of the economy in Nelson Lagoon. In 2000 there were 31 commercial permits held by 24 residents, and 18 vessel owners who resided in the community. There were 25 vessels home-ported and 23 registered crew members in the community.

Commercial permits in 2000 were issued for the following fisheries: 16 salmon set gillnet permits for the Alaska Peninsula (16 fished), 11 salmon drift gillnet permits for the Alaska Peninsula (11 fished), 3 herring roe gillnet permits for the Alaska Peninsula (3 fished), and one Korean Hair Crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet statewide (none fished).

In 2000 there were no processing plants in Nelson Lagoon and therefore no registered landings. Most landings are taken to nearby Port Moller, where there is a processing plant and cold storage facility. In 2002 the Aleutians East Borough was granted \$140,063 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association, a regional community development quota group (CDQ), received \$57,163 in Steller sea lion funds. In 2003 the Aleutians East Borough was granted \$1,101,638 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that directly affect Nelson Lagoon.

Sport Fishing

There is limited sport fishing in Nelson Lagoon, with a total of eight licenses sold locally in 2000. Of

this total, six were sold to Alaska residents and two to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence fishing, particularly for sockeye salmon, is an important part of the economy for Nelson Lagoon residents. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1987, 100% of households in Nelson Lagoon used subsistence resources. Approximately 92.3% of households used subsistence salmon, and 53.8% used non-salmon subsistence fish (including cod, flounder, and char). Approximately 7.7% of households used marine mammals for subsistence, and 100% of households used marine invertebrates.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Nelson Lagoon in 1987 was 253.9 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (33.8.0%), non-salmon fish (1.8%), land mammals (51.2%), marine mammals (0.5%), birds and bird eggs (3.0%), marine invertebrates (6.3%), and vegetation (1.8%).

Newhalen [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Newhalen is a second-class city of 160 people located on the north shore of Iliamna Lake, 320 miles southwest of Anchorage across Cook Inlet. The area encompasses 6.1 square miles of land and 2.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Newhalen is primarily a community of Yupik Eskimos and Aleuts. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 85.5% of the community’s 160 residents are Alaska Native or American Indian, 8.8% of residents are White, and 6.3% are two or more races. A total of 91.3% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The gender distribution of the community is even, with 50% men and 50% women. The age structure is quite young, with a median age of 20.5 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. Approximately 48.8% of the population is aged 19 or under. This is most likely because employment opportunities in Newhalen are limited; many residents of working age leave the community for jobs in nearby Iliamna or in the Bristol Bay area. All residents live in households (none in group quarters), and the average household size for the community is 4.1 persons. There are 39 households.

History

The area of Newhalen has been occupied by humans since prehistory. Its population, even today, is comprised primarily of Yupik Eskimos and Aleuts. The name “Newhalen” is an Anglicization of “Noghelingamuit,” meaning “People of the Land of Prosperity or Abundance” in Yupik. The natural resources in the area are abundant and include salmon, trout, moose, rabbit, seal, and caribou. Most residents rely primarily on subsistence hunting and fishing for their livelihoods.

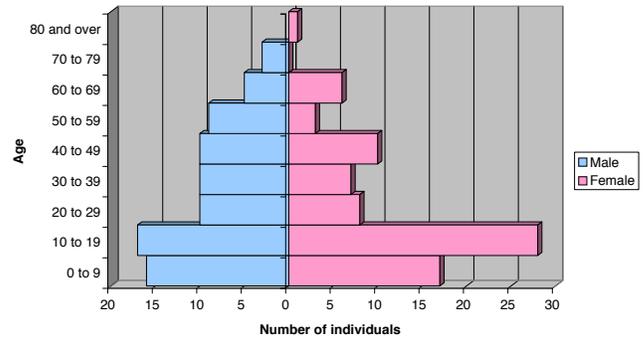
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Residents of Newhalen rely heavily upon natural resources for their economic livelihoods. Fishing is particularly important, with community members involved in the Bristol Bay commercial fishing industry,

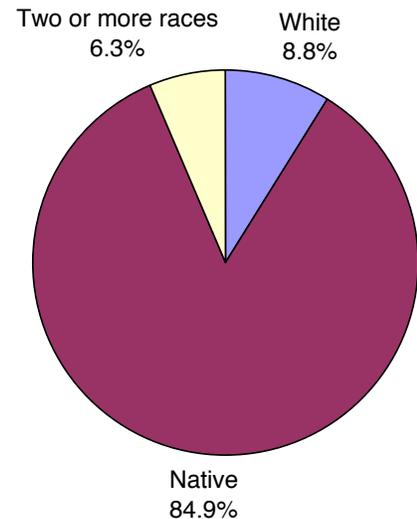
**2000 Population Structure
Newhalen**

Data source: US Census



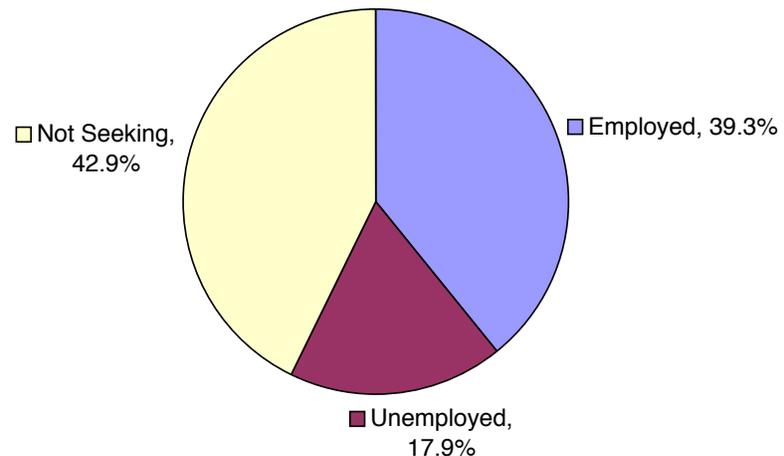
**2000 Racial Structure
Newhalen**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Newhalen**

Data source: US Census



and in subsistence fishing in the Lake Iliamna area. The area also attracts sport fishermen from around the world. In cooperation with the nearby town of Iliamna, some Newhalen residents are involved in tourism-related businesses such as guide services and hotels.

The average per capita income of Newhalen is \$9,447, and the average household income is \$36,250. In 2000, 17.9% of residents were unemployed, but employment figures vary according seasonally. Approximately 15% of residents live below the poverty level, and 42.9% of residents are not in the work force (not employed and not seeking work).

Governance

Newhalen is a second-class city, incorporated in 1971, with a strong mayor form of government. It is located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The Newhalen Village Council is an important form of local Native governance. The city is a member of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, a regional non-profit organization. Government revenues are obtained through a 2% sales tax, a 2% raw fish tax, and a 6% accommodations tax, all administered through the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is in Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in King Salmon. The nearest NMFS enforcement office is in Homer.

Facilities

The only local road connects Newhalen to the nearby village of Iliamna. Two nearby airstrips (one 3,000 foot and one 1,500 foot) are shared by the two villages; roundtrip airfare to Anchorage is approximately \$255 (Travelocity 2003). The two villages also share most facilities, including the Newhalen School, which has 79 students and seven teachers, and police services (VPSO). There is a local city-owned health clinic. The INN Electric Cooperative (shared between Iliamna, Newhalen, and Nondalton) provides electric power, which is generated by a hydroelectric station and a diesel generator. Water distribution is provided by the city, and sewage services are handled both by the city and by individually owned septic tanks. The city also operates a health clinic.

Private facilities in Newhalen include charter air services, a grocery store, and a petroleum station.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing in Newhalen revolves around the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. In 2000, a total of eight commercial fishing permits were held by eight community members. There were 20 registered crew members, 4 vessel owners for the salmon fishery, and no vessel owners who participated in federally managed fisheries.

Commercial permits in 2000 were as follows: six salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (four fished), and two salmon set gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (two fished).

In 2000, there were no processing plants in Newhalen and therefore no registered landings. In 2002, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, in which Newhalen is located, was granted \$29,832 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lion habitat under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$442,002 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Newhalen.

Sport Fishing

The sport fishing industry in the Bristol Bay Management Area is world-renowned for all five species of Pacific Salmon, as well as rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, Arctic char, and Dolly Varden. Because of Newhalen's proximity to Lake Iliamna and the Newhalen River, its economy benefits from sport fishing during the summer months. However, most community residents who participate in the sport fishing industry do so in cooperation with the nearby community of Iliamna. There are no registered sport fishing guide services and no recorded sport fishing license sales for Newhalen.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence activities are heavily focused on salmon and account for a major part of the local economy in Newhalen. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence, reports that, in 1991, 100% of Newhalen households used subsistence resources. One hundred percent of residents used both salmon and non-salmon fish species for subsistence. Non-salmon fish species

used included: herring, smelt, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, burbot, char, grayling, pike, sheefish, sucker, and trout). Approximately 61.5% of households used marine mammals for subsistence, and 42.3% used marine invertebrates.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Newhalen in 1991 was 747.2 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (56.2%), non-salmon fish (5.0%), land mammals (30.7%), marine mammals (1.1%), birds and bird eggs (2.8%), marine invertebrates (0.4%), and vegetation (3.8%).

Pedro Bay [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Pedro Bay is located on the east end of Iliamna Lake, 176 miles southwest of Anchorage. Its area encompasses 17.3 square miles of land and 1.6 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, Pedro Bay had a population of 50 people in 17 households. All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The population of the community has remained stable since the first census records were taken in 1950. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (40%), White (36%), and two or more races (24%). Approximately 64% of local residents were Alaska Native or part Native. Somewhat unusually, the gender composition featured a greater proportion of females (56%) than males (44%). The median age of the community was 35 years, slightly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 80.6% of Pedro Bay residents aged 25 or older held a high school diploma.

History

The Lake Iliamna area has been a crossroads of Aleut, Yup'ik and Dena'ina peoples since prehistory. Pedro Bay was named for a man known as "Old Pedro," who lived in the area in the early 1900s. Today, the village retains many Dena'ina cultural influences and relies heavily on subsistence resources.

Infrastructure

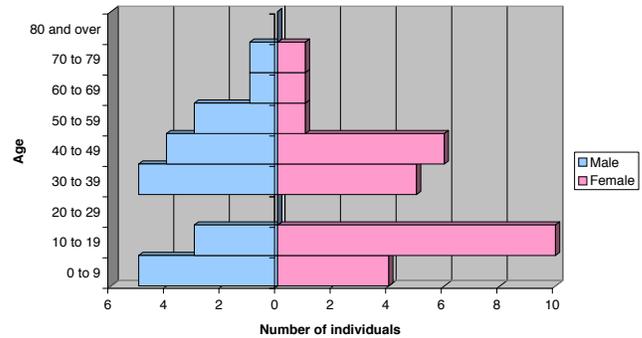
Current Economy

Commercial fishing and local tourism, along with employment provided by the village council, are the cornerstones of Pedro Bay's economy. Many residents find seasonal employment in the Bristol Bay fishery, and a number of residents hold commercial fishing permits. In addition, subsistence resources provide an important supplement to the formal economy.

In 2000, the median per capita income in Pedro Bay was \$18,419 and the median household income was \$36,750. The 2000 U.S. Census does not report any unemployment for Pedro Bay; however, 20.6% of

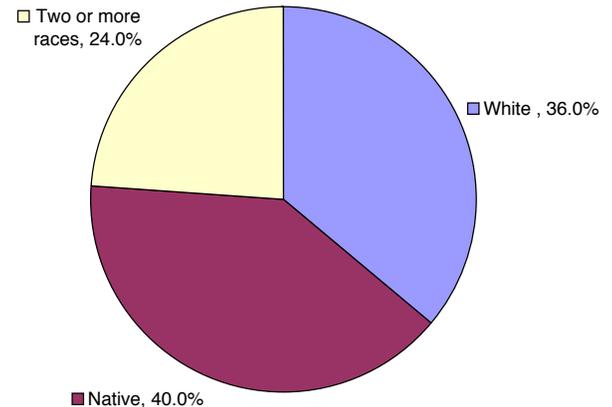
**2000 Population Structure
Pedro Bay**

Data source: US Census



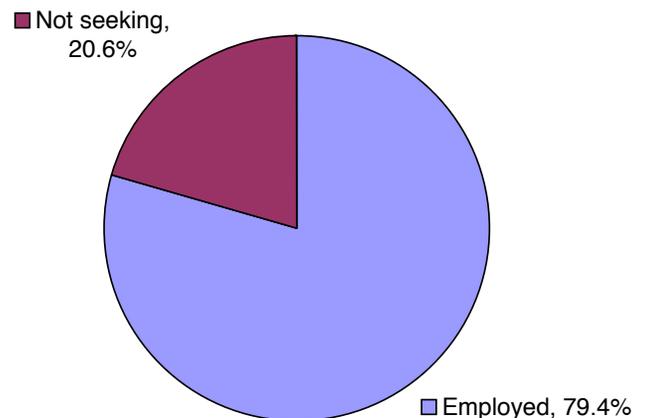
**2000 Racial Structure
Pedro Bay**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Pedro Bay**

Data source: US Census



residents were not in the labor force (i.e. retired or not seeking work). Approximately 6% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Pedro Bay is an unincorporated village under the jurisdiction of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. It is governed by a village council. The borough administers a 2% raw fish tax and a 6% accommodations tax. The Pedro Bay Corporation, a Native village corporation, is a federally recognized Native governing body and has a land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). In addition, Pedro Bay is a member of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation and the Bristol Bay Native Association.

The nearest U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is in Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in King Salmon. The nearest NMFS enforcement office is in Homer.

Facilities

Pedro Bay is accessible by air, via a state-owned 3,000-foot gravel airstrip, and by water via either the Kvichak River and Iliamna Lake to the southwest or Iliamna Bay on the Cook Inlet side to the southeast. There is a dock on Iliamna Lake.

Most homes in Pedro Bay use individual wells and septic tanks; there is no piped water or sewer service. The village council operates a diesel-powered electric utility that supplies power to the community. There is a local health clinic, owned by the village council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. There is also a volunteer fire department. There is one school in Pedro Bay which offers instruction to students from grades K-12. The school has two teachers and 14 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, there were nine commercial vessel owners and five registered crew members residing

in the community. Three local residents held a total of three commercial fishing permits, all for Bristol Bay salmon, including one drift gillnet permit (none fished), and two set gillnet permits (two fished).

In 2000, there were no processing plants and therefore no registered landings in Pedro Bay. In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$442,002 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. The borough was also granted \$29,832 in Steller sea lion compensation funds for economic losses due to the protection of key sea lion habitat. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that benefit Pedro Bay.

Sport Fishing

Despite its small size, Pedro Bay attracts a fair amount of visitors, who come to the area for wilderness tours and sport fishing. Sport fishing license sales in 2000 totaled 127 in Pedro Bay, most of which (121, or 95%) were sold to non-Alaska residents. In 2002, there was one registered saltwater sport fishing guide and one freshwater fishing guide in Pedro Bay. In addition, there were several wilderness lodges in Pedro Bay that catered to outside visitors. Major sport fish species include salmon (primarily sockeye), trout, Arctic grayling, Arctic char, and Dolly Varden.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence activities are an important part of the local economy of Pedro Bay. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1996, 100% of Pedro Bay households used subsistence resources. Approximately 92.3% of households used salmon (primarily sockeye) and 76.9% used non-salmon fish species (including halibut, char, and trout). A small portion of households (15.4%) used marine invertebrates for subsistence. Marine mammals were not used.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Pedro Bay in 1996 was 396.7 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (73.3%), non-salmon fish (6.5%), land mammals (18.3%), birds and eggs (0.5%), marine invertebrates (0.5%), and vegetation (0.8%).

Perryville [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Perryville is an unincorporated city in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. It is situated in on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of Chignik and some 275 miles southwest of Kodiak. Its area consists of 9.2 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

The population of Perryville in 2000 was 107 people in 33 households. This figure has held relatively stable since the village was founded in 1912. Approximately 54.2% of residents are male and 45.8% are female. The median age in Perryville is relatively young, at 26.5 years, and below the national average of 35.3 years of age. The current racial makeup of the community is as follows: White (1.9%), Alaska Native or American Indian (97.2%), and two or more races (0.9%). A total of 98.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. All residents live in households (none in group quarters).

History

Although Aleut people have sporadically lived in the area for centuries, the official founding of the village of Perryville came in 1912 when the Katmai eruption forced villagers from Katmai and Douglas to relocate. The village is named after Captain K.W. Perry, commander of a U.S. Revenue Cutter Service vessel whose crew helped rescue and resettle people who had been affected by the eruption. Since that time, Perryville has remained a small community of mostly Aleut residents who depend heavily upon the Chignik salmon fishery.

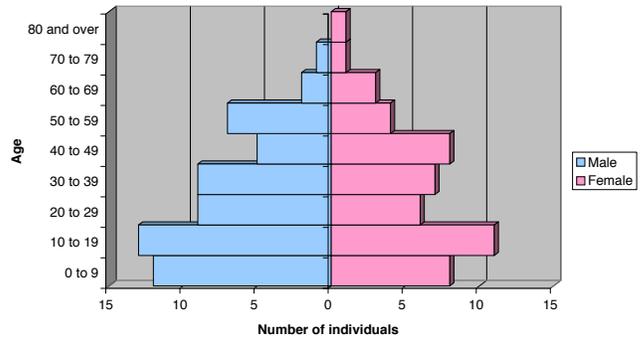
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial fishing is the most significant part of the Perryville economy. Because of its close proximity to Chignik, many residents participate in the salmon fishery during the peak months. Subsistence harvesting of both marine and land resources is also an important part of the economy.

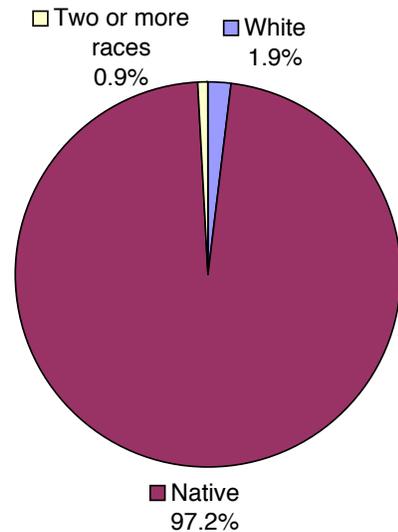
2000 Population Structure Perryville

Data source: US Census



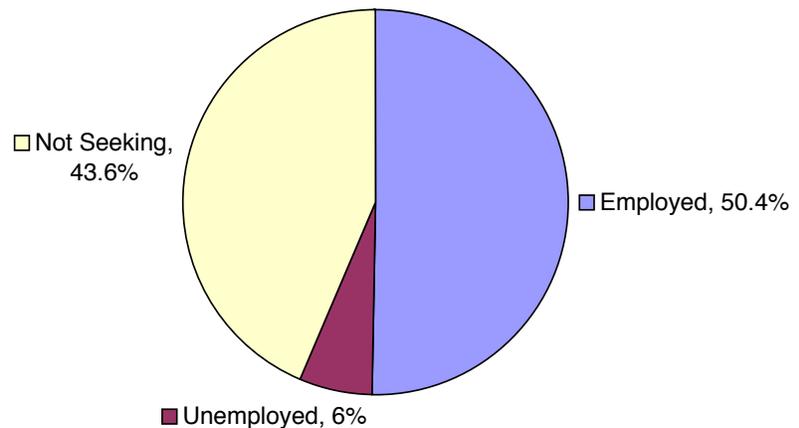
2000 Racial Structure Perryville

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Perryville

Data source: US Census



Approximately 25.2% of community residents are employed by the government, including city, borough, state, and federal sectors. Unemployment in Perryville is 6.0%, and 43.6% of residents are not in the potential labor force (unemployed or not seeking work). The average annual per capita income is \$20,935 and the average household income is \$51,875. Approximately 16.0% of community residents live below the poverty level.

Governance

Perryville is an unincorporated city. Services and facilities are operated by the Lake and Peninsula Borough. Government revenues come from a 2% raw fish tax and a 6% accommodation tax, both of which are administered through the Borough. The Oceanside Native Corporation and the Native Village of Perryville are both tribal forms of government recognized under the Indian Reorganization Act. Perryville is also a member of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, a regional non-profit organization.

Facilities

Utilities such as water and electricity are provided by the Native Village of Perryville. Electricity is produced by a diesel-fueled generator. Sewage is disposed of in septic tanks which are operated by private individuals. Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, via Sand Point, is approximately \$571, plus the cost of a charter flight to Sand Point (Travelocity 2003).

There is a health clinic that is owned by the village council. The Perryville School, which is operated by the Lake and Peninsula Borough, has three teachers and 34 students from grades K-12.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is a vital part of the economy in Perryville. In 2000 there were 11 community members who held a total of 16 commercial fishing permits. Three vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries, and nine vessel owners with operations in

non-federal fisheries resided in the community. There were 29 registered crew members in the community.

Permits in 2000 were issued for the following fisheries: one longline halibut permit for vessels over 60 feet in length (one fished), two herring roe pot gear permits for vessels under 60 feet (none fished), one groundfish pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet (one fished), three groundfish mechanical jig permits (one fished), and nine salmon purse seine permits for the Chignik fishery (eight fished).

In 2000, there were no processors in Perryville and therefore no registered landings. In 2002, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$29,832 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to the protection of Steller sea lions under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$442,002 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Perryville.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing in Perryville is relatively limited, with only three license sales in 2000, all to Alaska residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence use of natural resources, especially salmon, is very important to the local economy of Perryville. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1989, 100% of Perryville households used natural resources for subsistence. One hundred percent of households used salmon (including all five Pacific species) and 96.3% used non-salmon fish (herring, smelt, cod, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sculpin, char, and trout). Approximately 63.0% of households used marine mammals for subsistence, and 96.3% used marine invertebrates.

The per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Perryville in 1989 was 394.3 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (51.3%), non-salmon fish (17.6%), land mammals (15.2%), marine mammals (6.5%), birds and bird eggs (2.1%), marine invertebrates (5.2%), and vegetation (2.6%).

Pilot Point [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Pilot Point is located on the northern coast of the Alaska Peninsula, on the east shore of Ugashik Bay. The community lies 84 air miles south of King Salmon and 368 air miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 25.4 square miles of land and 115.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, Pilot Point had 100 inhabitants. The population growth in the community has been historically dependent on the state of the fishing and processing industries. The community is primarily of Alutiiq ancestry, with some Yup'ik Eskimo residents. Approximately 86% of residents were Alaska Native or American Indian, and 14% were White.

All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. There were 40 vacant houses due to seasonal use. In terms of gender ratio, in contrast to most Alaskan communities, women comprise the majority of the population (56%). The median age of the community was 29 years, significantly younger than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years.

In terms of educational attainment in Pilot Point, of the population age 25 and over, about 87.3% had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling. About 12.7% had not completed the 12th grade.

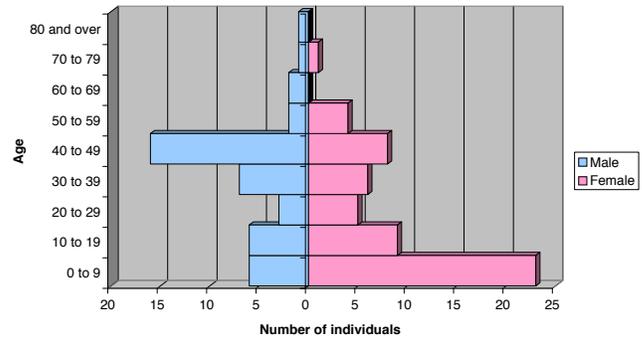
History

According to most accounts, Pilot Point originated as a village surrounding a processing plant, which was founded in 1889. At that time, it was called "Pilot Station," after the river pilots stationed here to guide boats upriver to a large cannery at Ugashik.

The area, which has abundant natural resources, is believed to have been inhabited as a seasonal fish camp for thousands of years. In 1892 Charles Nelson opened a saltery which was sold to the Alaska Packer's Association in 1895. The saltery continued to expand, and by 1918, developed into a three-line cannery that attracted immigrants from all over. Reindeer herding experiments at Ugashik helped to repopulate the area after the devastating 1918 flu epidemic. The herding experiments, however, eventually failed. Until the epidemic, the main settlement, with a blossoming

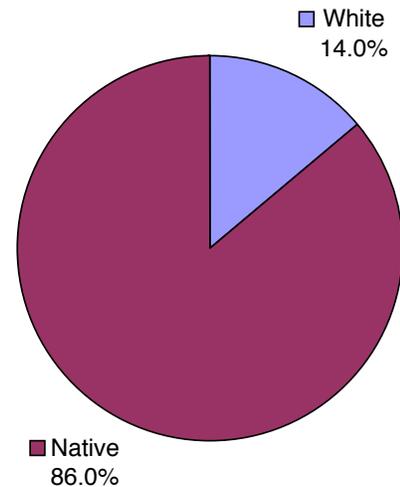
2000 Population Structure Pilot Point

Data source: US Census



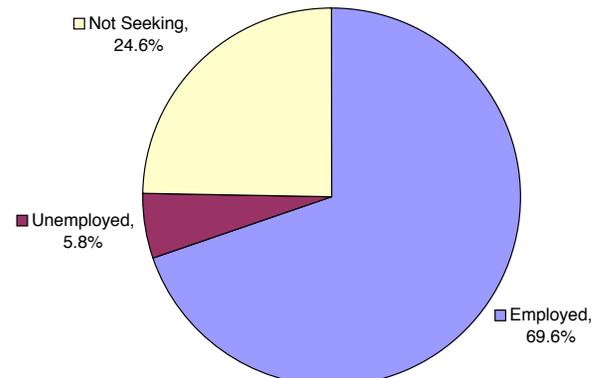
2000 Racial Structure Pilot Point

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Pilot Point

Data source: US Census



cannery industry, was upstream at Ugashik. A post office was established in the town in 1933, and the name was changed to Pilot Point.

The prosperity of the community has always been linked to the fishing industry. In the 70s the deterioration of the harbor, among other factors, forced the last cannery effort to close. Pilot Point incorporated as a city in 1992 as a way to generate resources for the community through taxation.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The two main components of Pilot Point's economy are commercial fishing and government jobs. In 2000, 69.6% of the total workforce was employed, 5.8% was unemployed, and 24.6% was not seeking a job. Approximately 32% percent of the workforce worked for the government. The annual per capita income was \$12,627 and the median household income was \$41,250. An astonishing 20.8% of the population lived below the poverty line.

Subsistence practices are present in the area and play a significant role on the local economy. Trapping is a source of income during the off-season. Salmon, caribou, moose, goose, and porcupine are harvested.

Governance

Pilot Point was incorporated as a second-class city in 1992. It is under the jurisdiction of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. It has a strong mayor form of government with a seven-member city council. The city imposes a 3% tax on raw fish and the borough administers a 6% tax on accommodation.

The Bristol Bay Native Corporation is the regional for-profit Native corporation of the area. The Alaska Peninsula Corporation is responsible for the management of approximately 99 acres of land under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). This community is part of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (CDQ) and receives community development quotas from this organization. The city also has the Pilot Point Village Council, which is recognized by BIA as a traditional council. Pilot Point is also a member of a regional nonprofit organization, the Bristol Bay Native Association.

The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices are located in Chignik and

King Salmon. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is in Kodiak, Unalaska, or Anchorage. NMFS has its closest quarters in Kodiak, Unalaska, or Homer.

Facilities

As with most of the communities of the Aleutian Islands and the Alaskan Peninsula, Pilot Point is not accessible by land. It has a gravel airstrip that receives two air taxis, six days per week, from King Salmon. These flights are part of the mail service. There is a second airstrip managed by the bureau of land management 10 miles to the southeast (Ugashik). The price of a roundtrip ticket by plane from the community to Anchorage, connecting in King Salmon, is approximately \$597.

The sea is the other main connector with the outside world. A barge service provided from Seattle serves the community twice a year, in spring and fall. It is chartered from Naknek. The village has a natural harbor with one accessible dock. The community does not have ground transportation services.

There are two lodges available for accommodations. The Pilot Point School has two teachers and 25 students of all ages. Health care in the community is provided by the Pilot Point Health Clinic. Pilot Point has also its own police station (State VPSO). The water, on an individual basis, is provided by wells, and there is not a central sewage system.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

The Ugashik River produces a very important part of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery, and the privileged location of the town next to the river defines the structure of Pilot Point's fishing industry.

In 2000, Pilot Point had 21 commercial permit holders with a total of 30 permits. In Pilot Point, 33 individuals were registered as crewmen and there were two federal fisheries vessel owners plus nine owners of salmon vessels. Pilot Point's fleet was involved, in one way or another, in the following Alaskan fisheries: halibut, herring, other groundfish, and salmon. The following is a breakdown of the commercial permits issued to Pilot Point residents in 2000.

Halibut: Five permits issued for halibut, all of which were for longline vessels over 60 feet with

statewide range (two fished).

Other Groundfish: Two permits issued for herring roe gillnet, one in Security cove and one in Bristol Bay (none fished).

Salmon: Salmon permits accounted for the bulk of Pilot Point's issuance. These included 9 drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (8 fished), and 11 set gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (6 fished).

Herring: There were three herring permits issued, including one gillnet permit in Security Cove (not fished), and two gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (one fished).

There were no processing plants and no landings in Pilot Point in 2000. Pilot Point received a direct allocation of \$61,235 in federal salmon disaster funds, and the Lake and Peninsula Borough received \$442,002. These allocations were to compensate for losses due to plummeting prices in the international market. This allocation was implemented in 2003.

The Lake and Peninsula Borough and the BBECDC (CDQ) received \$29,832, and \$75,026 respectively to reduce the impact of Steller sea lion protective regulations that came up after the inclusion of this species into the endangered species list. This allocation, under ESA regulations, was implemented in 2002.

The funds not directly allocated to the city were added to the general budget of the borough or the CDQ and helped to compensate the decline on fish taxes income and to relieve the budgetary tensions of the institutions of the area.

Sport Fishing

In 2000, this community issued three sport fishing licenses. The area, however, is visited by numerous

outsiders that get their permits elsewhere. Locals rely mainly on subsistence fisheries. One company offers freshwater fishing services to outsiders.

Subsistence Fishing

In a survey conducted in 1987 in Pilot Point by the ADF&G, all households reported using subsistence resources of some sort. 100% of households used subsistence salmon, 94.1% used non-salmon fish (including herring, smelt, cod, flounder, halibut, char, grayling, pike, and trout), 52.9% used marine mammals, and 64.7% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of subsistence resources was 383.7 lbs in 1987.

In terms of the composition of the subsistence diet, it was comprised of salmon (24.7%), other fish (4%), land mammals (62.4%), marine mammals (1.2%), birds and eggs (4.4%), marine invertebrates (1.6%), and vegetation (1.5%).

In 1999 Pilot Point had 13 salmon household subsistence permits; the catch was mainly sockeye. In addition, the inhabitants of this community (rural residents or members of an Alaska Native tribe) are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut by holding Subsistence halibut Registration Certificates (SHARCs). These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Port Alsworth [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Port Alsworth is located on the east shore of Lake Clark, within the Lake Clark National Park and Reserve. It is approximately 280 miles southwest of Anchorage across Cook Inlet.

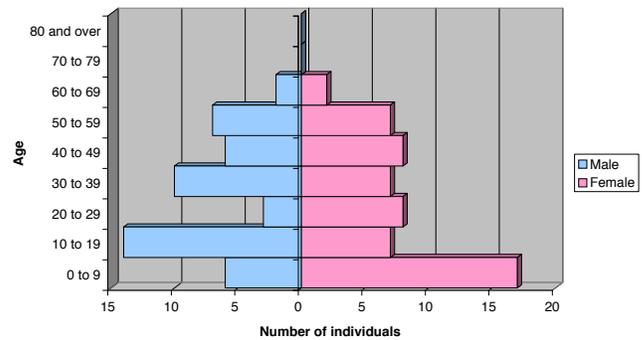
Demographic Profile

In 2000, Port Alsworth had 104 residents in 34 households. All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The demographic composition of the community was as follows: White (77.9%), American Indian and Alaska Native (4.8%), and two or more races (17.3%). Overall, 22.1% of residents were all of part Alaska Native. The gender makeup of the community was slightly skewed, at 53.8% female and 46.2% male. The median age was 25.5 years, significantly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, approximately 93.1% of residents aged 25 years or older held a high school diploma. The population of Port Alsworth has grown steadily in recent years; the 2000 U.S. census reported a four-fold increase in population from 22 residents in 1980 to over 100 residents in 2000.

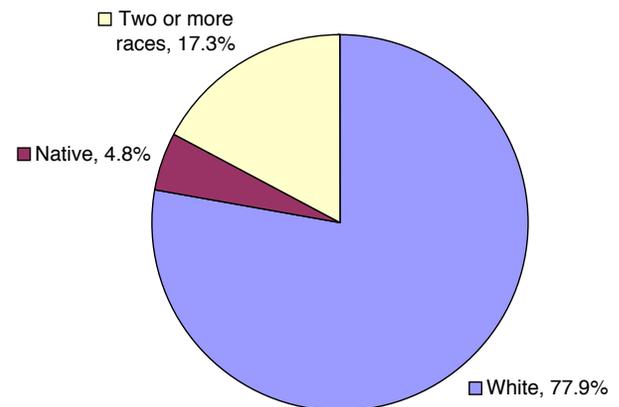
History

The area around Lake Clark and Lake Iliamna has been the territory of Yup'ik Eskimos and Aleuts for at least the last 1,000-2,000 years. Prior to that time, there is evidence that the area was inhabited by people of the Paleoartic Tradition (National Park Service). The first Euro-American settlement was founded at Tanalian Point, the site of present-day Port Alsworth, by prospectors. In 1942, Leon "Babe" Alsworth and his wife Mary Ann moved to the area and established the community that is today Port Alsworth (National Park Service). The modern history of Port Alsworth is inextricably linked with the growth of the natural resource industries and the founding of the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The Lake Clark National Monument was founded in 1978 and upgraded to a National Park and Preserve in 1980 in accordance with the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA). Today Port Alsworth provides services, including hunting and fishing guides, to visitors to the national park and preserve.

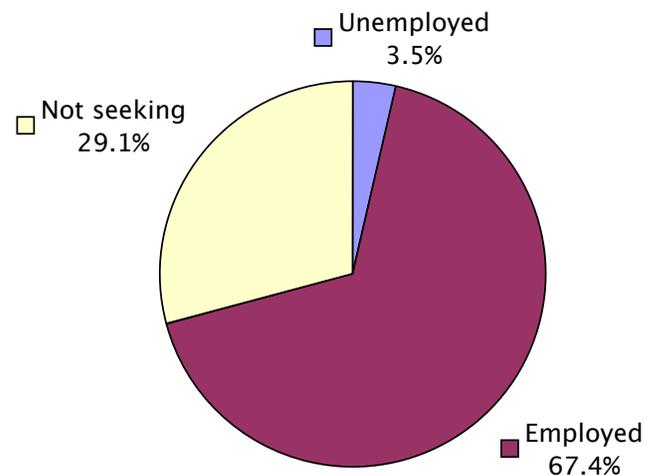
**2000 Population Structure
Port Alsworth**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Port Alsworth**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Port Alsworth**
Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Port Alsworth centers around the tourism industry in the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The majority of local businesses are geared toward providing services such as tour guides, hunting, and fishing guides, and charter flights, to tourists visiting from outside the area. Commercial fishing is also an important part of the local economy, and some residents hold commercial fishing permits, primarily for the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. In addition, most residents supplement their incomes with subsistence hunting and fishing.

In 2000, the average annual per capita income in Port Alsworth was \$21,716, and the average household income was \$58,750. The unemployment rate was very low (3.5%), and 29.1% of residents aged 16 years and over were not in the labor force (i.e. not seeking work). Approximately 6% of local residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Port Alsworth is an unincorporated community under the jurisdiction of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. All taxes and services are administered by the borough. There is a local village corporation, the Tanalian Corporation. In addition, the community belongs to a regional Native corporation, Cook Inlet Region, Inc. The nearest U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is in Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in King Salmon. The nearest NMFS enforcement office is in Homer.

Facilities

Port Alsworth is accessible by air, via a 4,000-foot gravel airstrip. There is no piped water or sewer system; individuals and families use wells and septic tanks. Electricity is provided by the local Tanalian Electric Cooperative, which uses a diesel generator. The community provides volunteer fire and emergency services. Port Alsworth is in the Lake and Peninsula School District, which is operated by the borough. There is one school in the community with two teachers and 16 students from grades K-12.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is an important part of Port Alsworth's economy. In 2000, four local residents held a total of four commercial fishing permits, all for the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. One permit was a drift gillnet permit (one fished), and the other three were set gillnet permits (none fished).

There was no commercial fish processing in Port Alsworth in 2000, and no registered landings. In 2003, the Lake and Peninsula Borough was granted \$442,002 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. The borough was also granted \$29,832 in Steller sea lion compensation funds for economic losses due to the protection of key sea lion habitat. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that benefit Port Alsworth.

Sport fishing

Lake Clark and other surrounding lakes and rivers are critical salmon habitat for the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. Sport fishing and hunting are allowed within the Lake Clark National Preserve, an area adjacent to the national park. Sport fishing license sales in Port Alsworth totaled 554 in 2000. Approximately 64 of these were sold to Alaska residents; the rest were sold to fishermen from elsewhere.

Many local businesses in Port Alsworth are geared toward supporting the sport fishing industry in local lakes and rivers. In 2002, there were five sport fishing guide services for freshwater guides and one for saltwater guides. Major sport species include salmon (primarily sockeye), trout, Arctic grayling, Arctic char, and Dolly Varden.

Subsistence Fishing

Alaska residents are allowed to harvest subsistence resources within the Lake Clark National Park, and subsistence is an important part of life in Port Alsworth. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1983, most Port Alsworth households used subsistence fish, including salmon (primarily sockeye) and non-salmon fish species (primarily trout and char). The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Port Alsworth in 1983 was 361.1 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (66.4%), non-salmon fish (3.2%), land mammals (26.8%), birds and eggs (1.2%), marine invertebrates (0.3%), and vegetation (2.1%).

Port Heiden [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Port Heiden is located on the northern shore of the Alaska Peninsula, near the mouth of the Meshik River. It lies 424 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is situated close to the Aniakchak National Preserve and Monument, in the Kvichak Recording District. The area encompasses 50.7 square miles of land and 0.7 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Port Heiden had 119 inhabitants in 41 households. All residents lived in housing rather than group quarters. The racial composition of the community included: 65.5% Alaska Natives or American Indians, 19.3% White, 2.5% other, and 12.6% two or more races. A total of 78.2% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 2.5% of residents were of Hispanic. The gender ratio of the community was slightly unbalanced, at 51.3% male and 48.7% female. Although the median age of the village was not as young as some surrounding villages, its median age of 33 years was still under the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. Approximately 41.7% of the population was under 19 years of age, and only 15.1% was over 55 years.

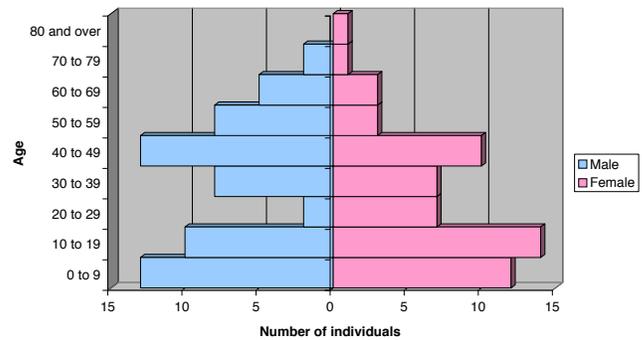
In terms of educational attainment, only 55.4% of residents aged 25 or older held a high school degree or higher level of education. Approximately 12.5% of residents had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 44.7% did not complete high school.

History

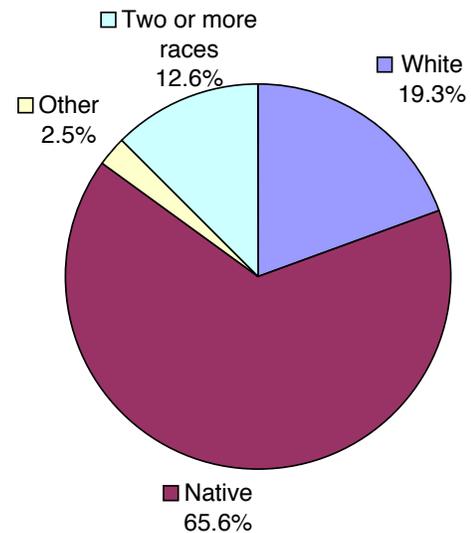
This area is the only natural protected harbor between Port Moller and Ugashik Bay. The current site of Port Heiden is the result of the consolidation of the old village of Meshik and its more recent neighboring community, Port Heiden. Meshik was populated since the 1880s and benefited from the salmon boom in Bristol Bay, early in the 20th century.

The influenza epidemic of 1918-19 hit hard in the area. Meshik never fully recovered, although people from neighboring smaller communities that had been affected by the epidemic regrouped there. Port Heiden Packing Company operated a saltery in the community until the 1930s. The canneries, important employers of

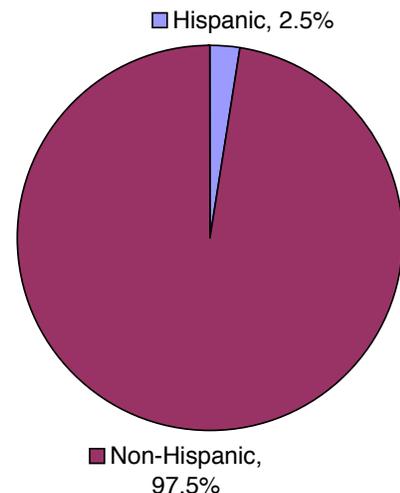
**2000 Population Structure
Port Heiden**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Port Heiden**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Port Heiden**
Data source: US Census



the area, were located in Ugashik.

WWII drastically changed the social landscape of the area: Fort Morrow was built nearby, and 5,000 personnel were stationed at the base. The military, however, vanished after the war.

A school was established in the early 1950s, which attracted people from surrounding villages. Port Heiden incorporated as a city in 1972. The community recently relocated inland because storm waves had eroded much of the old town site and threatened to destroy community buildings.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The two main anchors of Port Heiden's economy are commercial fishing and government jobs. There is also a local company, Christensen and Sons, which buys and flies local fish out to urban markets. The 2000 U.S. Census reported that 57.9% of the total workforce was employed, 11.6% was unemployed, and 30.4% was not seeking employment.

The median per capita income of Port Heiden in 2000 was \$20,532 and the median household income was \$31,875. Approximately 5.6% of the local population lived below the poverty line. Subsistence practices, including fishing and hunting, are present in the area and play a significant role on the local economy.

Governance

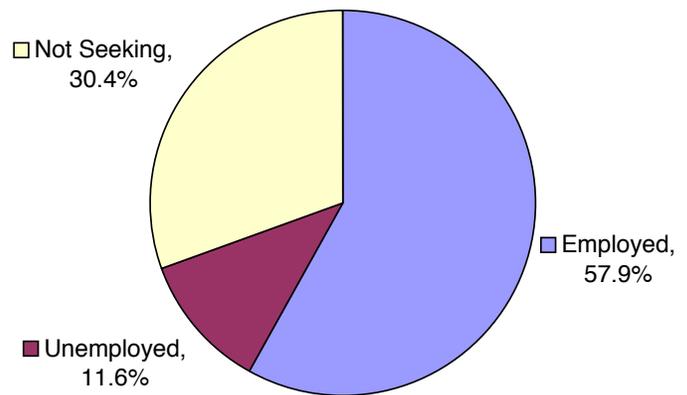
Port Heiden is a second-class city and was incorporated in 1972. It is located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. Its form of government is "Strong Mayor" with a seven-member council. The borough administers a 6% tax on accommodations.

The Bristol Bay Native Corporation is the regional corporation in this area. The Alaska Peninsula Corporation, responsible for the management of 70,000 acres of land, is the local corporation. This community is part of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (CDQ) and receives community development quotas from this organization. The city also has the Port Heiden Village Council, recognized by the BIA as a traditional council.

Although open only seasonally, the closest Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices are located in Chignik and Port Moller. Sand Point, King Salmon,

**2000 Employment Structure
Port Heiden**

Data source: US Census



Dillingham or Kodiak are the closest permanent offices. The closest BCIS offices are in Kodiak, Unalaska or Anchorage. NMFS has its closest quarters in Kodiak, Unalaska or Homer.

Facilities

The community is accessible by air and sea. It has a state-owned airport that acts as a transfer point for flights going west on the Pacific side of the Peninsula. This airport is a part of the legacy of a bygone military presence, as are some 60 miles of local roads. The price of a roundtrip ticket by plane from the community to Anchorage, connecting in Pilot Point and King Salmon, was \$597 plus the cost of a charter flight to Pilot Point.

There is a shallow natural boat harbor with no docks: a boat haul-out, beach off-loading area, and marine storage facilities. As in many other communities in the area, residents receive cargo from Seattle delivered twice a year. The barge is chartered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Accommodations are provided by several lodges. The local school, Meshik School, has 30 students and four teachers. Port Heiden also has a Health Clinic and a rescue squad. The village does not have centralized power; 89.2% of the houses use fuel or kerosene. There are no central water or sewage systems; all homes have individual wells and septic tanks.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

According to 2000 official records, Port Heiden had 17 commercial permit holders with 29 all-fisheries combined permits. In addition, 22 individuals were registered crewmen and there were 16 owners of salmon vessels in the community, with no vessel owners working in federal fisheries. The Port Heiden fleet was involved in three important Alaskan fisheries: halibut, herring, and salmon.

The following is a breakdown of commercial permits issued to Port Heiden residents in 2000.

Halibut: Four commercial permits issued to longline vessels over 60 feet in length, with no permits fished.

Salmon: The salmon fleet accounted for most of Port Heiden's commercial fishing activities. It accounted for 18 permits, 15 of which were fished: 15 drift gillnet permits (13 fished), and three set gillnet permits (one fished). All were restricted to Bristol Bay.

Herring: Seven permits were issued, including one herring roe purse seine permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), and one purse seine permit (none fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), and four herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (none fished).

Although Port Heiden had a fleet working in its waters, there was no real landing of fish due to the absence of a processing plant. Vessels from this community deliver somewhere else.

Port Heiden received a direct allocation of \$1,106.23 in federal salmon disaster funds, and the Lake and Peninsula Borough received \$442,000. This allocation was implemented in 2003 to compensate for losses due to plummeting prices in the international market.

The Lake and Peninsula Borough and the BBEDC (CDQ) also received \$29,832, and \$75,026 respectively to reduce the impact of Steller sea lion protective regulations that came up after the inclusion of this species into the endangered species list. This allocation, under ESA regulations, was implemented in 2002.

The funds not directly allocated to the city were added to the general budget of the borough or the CDQ and helped to compensate the decline on fish tax income and to relieve the budgetary tensions of the institutions of the area.

Sport Fishing

In 2000 Port Heiden issued eight sport fishing permits, all of which were bought by Alaskan residents. However, the area is visited by numerous outsiders that get their permits elsewhere. In 2002, the village had only one business license related to sport fishing as a tourist activity.

Subsistence Fishing

In the survey conducted in 1987 by the ADF&G, Port Heiden demonstrated the significance of subsistence practices for traditional Alaskan communities. All households in that year participated in the use of harvested resources. In terms of the main marine resources, 91.1% of households used subsistence salmon, 91.9% used other types of fish (herring, smelt, cod, flounder, halibut, char, trout, and white fish), 32.4% used marine mammals, and 86.5% used marine invertebrates. The average per capita harvest of subsistence resources was 407.6 lbs. This statistic emphasizes the importance of subsistence for these communities, including fishing, hunting, and gathering.

The composition of the subsistence harvest in 1987 was as follows: salmon (20.88%), other fish (2.87%), land mammals (61.56%), marine mammals (3.86%), birds and eggs (19.2%), marine invertebrates (4.34%) and vegetation (3.4%).

In 1999 Port Heiden had three Alaska salmon subsistence permits: the catch was mainly sockeye. In addition, the inhabitants of this community (rural residents or members of an Alaska Native tribe) are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut by holding Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARCs). These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Port Moller [\(return to communities\)](#)

A full profile was not completed for Port Moller because sufficient information could not be obtained. Port Moller was selected for profiling because it was the site of a processor that had fish landings in 2000 (see selection criteria in methods section). However, since it is not treated as a community by the U.S. Census, the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, or other data sources, it was not possible to gather the same sorts of information on Port Moller that is contained in the other profiles.

Port Moller is a seasonal (May-September) community on the Bristol Bay side of Alaska Peninsula. Port Moller currently has a salmon cannery, an ADF&G office, and a municipal airport. By air, it is usually accessed by charter from Cold Bay. The cannery was built in 1911 inside of the Moller Bay sand spit, and was owned for many years by Pacific American Fisheries. It is currently owned and operated by Peter Pan Seafoods. In the summer there are about 150 temporary residents associated with the processor.

This does not include the crew of fishing vessels, who bunk on their boats and may number around 300 (Robert Murphy, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, personal communication, 2003). CFEC records indicate zero permit holdings in the location. Vessel registration files indicate one vessel owner residing in Port Moller in 2000 and six vessels listing Port Moller as their homeport. 215 unique vessels delivered fish to the processor in Port Moller in 2000.

There are no residents of Port Moller during the winter, although according to some reports the community may sometimes have an over-winter population of one – probably a caretaker. During the summer, Port Moller is the landing site of a monthly barge from Seattle that supplies not only Port Moller, but nearby communities such as Nelson Lagoon. The area is the site of the Hot Springs Village archaeological excavations, which indicate a human presence over 5000 years old.

Saint George [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community of St. George is located on the northeast shore of St. George Island in the Bering Sea. St. George is the most southern out of the five total Pribilof Islands, although only two of the islands, St. George and St. Paul, are inhabited. St. George is 47 miles south of St. Paul Island, 250 miles northwest of Unalaska, and 750 air miles west of Anchorage. St. George is situated in the Aleutian Islands Recording District and takes up an area of 34.8 square miles of land and 147.6 square miles of water. Early Russian missionaries called the islands “the place that God forgot” because of the sideways rain, thick fog, and high winds (Corbett and Swibold 2000); the islands have also been referred to as the ‘Mist Islands’ or the ‘Seal Islands.’

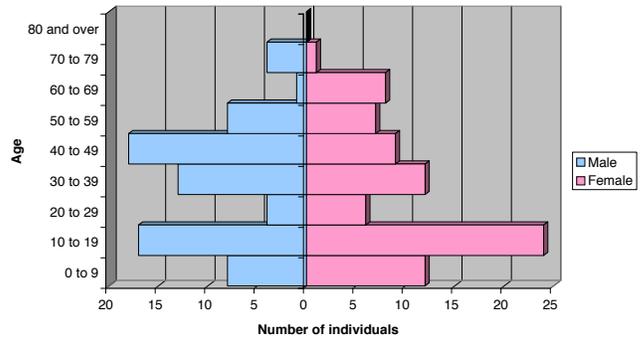
Demographic Profile

In 2000, the community on St. George Island had 152 inhabitants, 48% of which were male and 52% were female. Since 1880 the population has fluctuated between 90 to 264 inhabitants, but since approximately 1970 the population has remained relatively stable. About 7.9% of the population was White in 2000 and 92.1% were Alaska Native or American Indian. The Alaska Native or American Indian community members are predominantly Aleut, although there are a small number of Eskimo residents. No one in the community was of Hispanic origin at the time of the 2000 Census, and about 46.7% of the population was between the ages of 25 and 54. The median age of those in St. George was 33 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. No one in the community lived in group quarters. There were a total of 67 housing units in the community and of those 51 were occupied and 7 were vacant due to seasonal use. In regards to educational attainment 95.0% of the population age 25 and over had graduated from high school or gone on to higher education, 15.0% had a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 11.3% had obtained a graduate or professional degree.

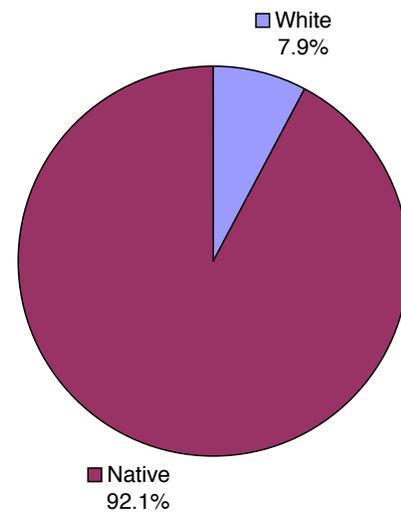
History

St. George Island was first “discovered” by Europeans, specifically by Gavril Pribilof, in June 1786 in search for the breeding grounds of the northern

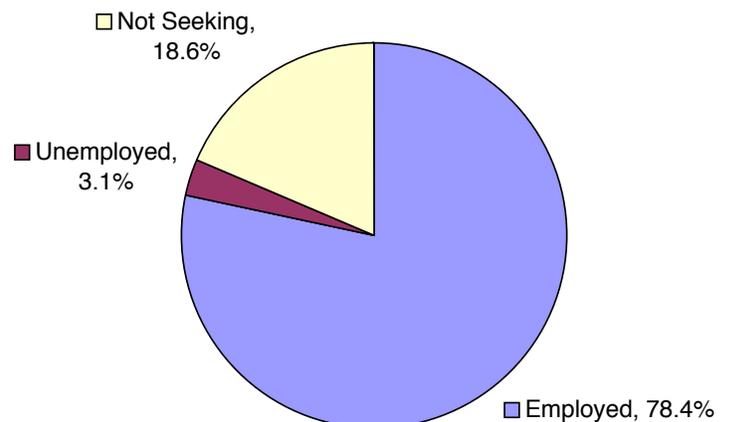
**2000 Population Structure
Saint George**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Saint George**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Saint George**
Data source: US Census



fur seal. St. George was the first of the Pribilof Islands landed on. The island was named after Pribilof's vessel, the Sveti Georgiy, or Saint George. St. Paul Island was "discovered" a year later by Pribilof's hunter crew which had been left behind to look for possible fur seal hunts and was originally termed St. Peter and St. Paul Island. The islands were uninhabited at the time of discovery, but they had been known by native Aleut oral history "as Aamix, a rich hunting ground once visited by an Aleut chief lost in a storm" (Corbett and Swibold 2000).

The Pribilof Islands are the breeding and hauling grounds for the largest concentration of northern fur seals and it is very easy to round up the seals and club them as they breed on land and can be easily driven to the killing grounds. Aleut hunters were captured from Unalaska and Atka in 1788 and brought to the Pribilofs to hunt the fur seals on the islands for the Russian American company. Originally some of the Native slaves were allowed to return to their homes, but by around the 1820's permanent settlements of slaves existed and many of their descendants still live on the islands today.

According to Corbett and Swibold "by the time of the sale of the Russian-American territories to the United States in 1867, the Pribilof Aleuts had attained an enviable status, enjoying full rights as citizens of Russia, literate in two languages, paid fairly for their labor, and retaining their traditional systems of governance". From the years of 1870 to 1910 the Pribilof Islands were leased to private companies by the U. S. Government. The private companies, the Alaska Commercial Company and then the North American Commercial Company, provided food, medical care, and housing to the Pribilof Aleuts for their work in the highly profitable fur seal harvest and in the fur seal plant. The U.S. Bureau of Fisheries took over control of the islands and the industry in 1910 and the Aleut people were treated as wards of the U.S. Government and every part of their lives was interfered with by the government (Corbett and Swibold 2000).

In 1942, during WWII, Aleut residents of the Pribilofs were forcibly evacuated by U.S. authorities with no advanced warning and were interned in Funter Bay, southeast Alaska with the St. George residents held in a mining camp and the St. Paul residents in an abandoned cannery, both in deplorable conditions. Thirty-two Pribilof Aleuts died in the Funter Bay camps. The residents were returned to the Pribilofs to

continue the fur seals harvests in May of 1944.

In the mid-1960's the Pribilof Aleuts "gained full rights as American citizens, as well as government-level wages and benefits" (Corbett and Swibold 2000). In 1979 they received \$8.5 million in partial compensation for the treatment they were subjected to by the federal government during the years of 1870 to 1946. Fur seal harvests were outlawed in 1983 and at that time the U.S. government withdrew from the Islands and provided \$20 million to help develop and vary the local economy (\$8 million to St. George and \$12 million to St. Paul). Control of the villages was turned over to local groups at that time as well. The city of St. George was incorporated in 1983.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of St. George is based on employment by the government and commercial fishing, although subsistence harvests, particularly of the fur seal are important to the community as well. Puffin Seafoods and Snopac Products operate in the community and both have facilities present which provide employment, although the seasonal processors for Snopac most likely come from other areas as dorm facilities are available. A total of 14 residents of the community were issued commercial fishing permits in 2000 and there were three licensed crewmen. The St. George Aquaculture Assoc. has begun salmon and shellfish programs in the community. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is completing federal hazardous waste clean-up on the island and provides contractual employment through the village corporation, St. George Tanaq Corporation. Bird watching is an attractant for tourists to the area as St. George Island is a hot spot for migrating seabirds, which nest on the jutting cliffs of the island. Of those residents of St. George age 16 and over 78.4% were employed, 3.1% were unemployed, and 18.6% were not in the labor force. According to the Census 48.7% of the employed population was made up of government workers and 47.4% were private wage and salary workers. The per capita income for St. George was \$21,131 with a median household income of \$57,083. About 7.9% lived below the poverty level.

Governance

St. George is a second-class city incorporated

in 1983. The city has a Mayor form of government with officials including a mayor, a seven person city council, school board members, planning commission members, and municipal employees which include a village public safety officer (VPSO). The City imposes a 3% Fish and Marine Products Tax and a \$.03/gallon Transfer Tax, but has no Sales Tax or Property Tax. The City is not part of any organized borough.

The regional Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporation present in the area is Aleut Corp. The Native village corporation is the St. George Tanaq Corporation and “the company’s primary operational focus is real property development, management, and leasing; commercial construction related to environmental remediation and general contracting; investment management; ranching; and hotel and tourism management” (St. George Tanaq Corporation 2003).

The Pribilof Island Aleut Communities of St. Paul and St. George Islands is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council to represent both communities, although the St. George Traditional Council also exists independently. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group present in the area is the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA). Puffin Seafoods, L.L.C. in St. George is one of APICDA’s joint ventures which purchases halibut from local community fishers.

Another important organization in the area is the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA) which “is a non-profit tribal organization of the Aleut people in Alaska” (APIA website 2003) and is federally recognized as a tribal organization. APIA supplies a variety of services including a VPSO to St. George and health care outreach to the community as well.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration (BCIS), and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices would most likely be located in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska.

Facilities

St. George is reachable by both air and sea. There are scheduled flights from St. George to St. Paul and to the mainland, although flights can be undependable due to frequently difficult Pribilof weather conditions. According to Expedia and Travelocity the approximate price to fly roundtrip from St. George to Anchorage is

\$695 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). There are two airstrips, one owned by the City and a newer State-owned 5,000 foot gravel runway airport. St. George has three docks; one is operated by the village corporation. An inner harbor and dock were recently finished five miles away from the community in Zapadni Bay. Supplies and freight are brought from Anchorage by ship monthly or bimonthly and from Seattle five or six times a year. Many birdwatchers stay at the St. George Tanaq Hotel. The community has one school, St. George School which teaches grades K-12 and had 22 students and 3 teachers in 2000. Health care is available from the St. George Health Clinic which is operated by the Village Council. The VPSO is supplied by APICDA, but there are no police present in the community. Electricity is provided by St. George Municipal Electric Utility with the main power source being diesel, although in 2000 96.1% of the households heated with kerosene. A piped water system and sewage collection services are operated by the City.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, 14 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of St. George. There were eight residents of the community who were the owners of vessels involved in the commercial fishing of federal species and no residents who owned vessels involved in the commercial fishing of salmon. There were three residents of St. George which were licensed crew members in 2000. Of the total of 14 commercial permits issued to community members, two were issued for halibut hand troll (one fished), nine for halibut longline vessel under 60 feet (seven fished), and three for halibut using a mechanical jig (one fished). There were no vessels which delivered landings to the community as according to the fish tickets for 2000.

Puffin Seafoods and Snopac Products are in operation in the community of St. George. Puffin Seafoods, L.L.C. is a fish handling facility and purchases halibut from local fishers, although fish must be tendered by ship to St. Paul where they are processed by Trident Seafoods. Puffin Seafoods has been in business since 1998 and is a joint venture between APICDA Joint Ventures and the St. George Fishermen’s Association. Snopac Products Inc. is a Washington state based fish processing company

which leases a dock in St. George, has a 136 bunk dormitory facility built in the community for processor workers, and has an additional 108 bunks available on the M/V Snopac. Snopac processes crab in St. George which normally begins on January 15th, although in 2001, 2002, and 2003 the processing vessel was not sent to St. George “for crab, due to the small quotas, though [they] did purchase Opilio” (Snopac Products Inc. 2003).

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) was recently granted \$57,163 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the United States government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing appears to attract the attention of tourists, along with the tourists who travel to the islands to go birding. One sport fishing permit was sold in St. George in 2000 to an Alaska resident and 53 were sold to U.S. residents from states other than Alaska for a total of 54 sport fishing permits sold in St. George in 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence is very important to residents of the island of St. George. For the ADF&G Division of Subsistence study year of 1994, the most representative year for the community, 100% of the households in St. George used all subsistence resources: 75% used salmon, 100% used non-salmon fish (herring roe, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, char, pike, sheefish, and trout), 77.8% used marine mammals, and 66.7% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 63.24 lbs in 1994. Of that per capita harvest 5.02% was salmon, 43.03% was non-salmon fish, 39.15% was marine mammals, 1.70% was marine invertebrates, 1.78% was birds and eggs, 3.06% was land mammals, and 6.25% was vegetation. Pribilof Island Natives are now the only persons allowed to harvest the northern fur seal and are only allowed to do so for subsistence use. They have taken less than 2000 non-breeding males annually for the years of 1986 to the mid-1990's, but have taken less than 1000 annually for the past few years. Rural residents and tribal members of St. George are eligible to apply for a halibut subsistence certificates (SHARC).

Saint Paul [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The city of St. Paul is situated on the southern tip of St. Paul Island. St. Paul Island is the largest of the five Pribilof Islands which are located in the Bering Sea. Only two are inhabited, St. George and St. Paul. St. Paul is 240 miles north of the Aleutian Islands, 47 miles north of St. George, and 750 air miles west of Anchorage. It is located in the Aleutian Islands recording district and includes 40.3 square miles of land and 255.2 square miles of water. The Pribilof Islands experience very heavy fog in the summer months. Early Russian missionaries called the islands ‘the place that God forgot’ because of the thick fog, sideways rain, and high winds (Corbett and Swibold 2000); but the islands have also been referred to as the ‘Mist Islands’ or the ‘Seal Islands’.

Demographic Profile

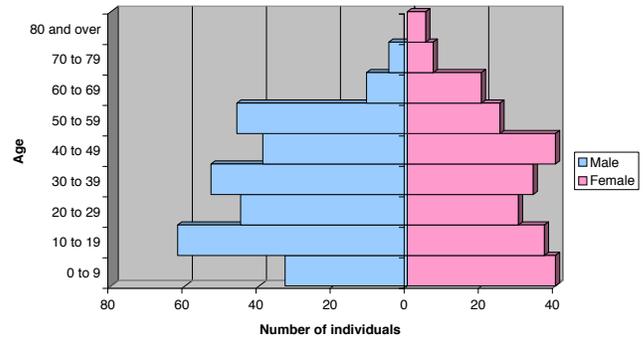
St. Paul Island had a total population of 532 people in 2000 and of those 55.3% were male and 44.7% were female. The population of the island grew from 298 to 763 residents between 1880 and 1990, but then dropped down to 532 in 2000. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census 13% of the population were White, 85.9% were American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.6% were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 0.6% were two or more races. St. Paul “is the largest community of Aleut people in the world” and a total of 86.5% of the population reported being Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994). No one in the community was of Hispanic origin. About 32.3% of the community was 19 of age or under. The median age of those in St. Paul in 2000 was 31.9 years, versus the national age median of 35.3 years. Approximately 510 lived in households, and 22 lived in group quarters. There were a total of 214 housing units: 177 were occupied, 37 were vacant, and 11 were vacant due to seasonal use. In regards to education, approximately 73.6% of the population age 25 and over had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling and 10.5% had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher.

History

St. George Island was the first of the Pribilof

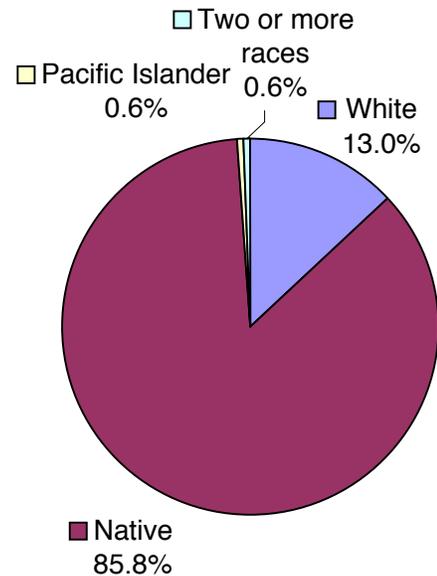
**2000 Population Structure
Saint Paul**

Data source: US Census



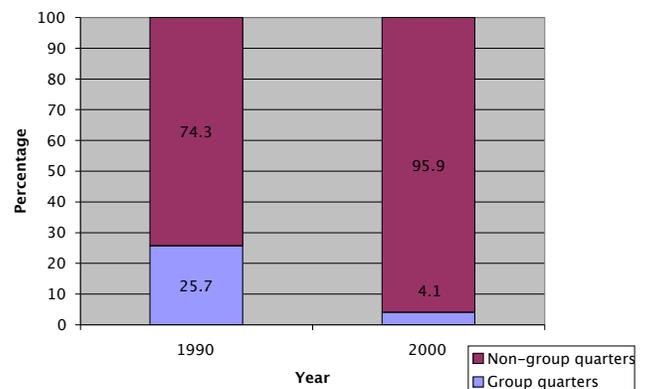
**2000 Racial Structure
Saint Paul**

Data source: US Census



**% Group Quarters
Saint Paul**

Data source: US Census



Islands to be “discovered” by Europeans, specifically by Gavril Pribilof in June 1786, searching for the breeding grounds of the northern fur seal. St. Paul Island was “discovered” a year later by Pribilof’s hunter crew which had been left behind to look for possible fur seal hunts. It was originally termed St. Peter and St. Paul Island because the island was discovered by the crew on the day of these apostles. The islands were uninhabited at the time of discovery, but they had been known by Native Aleut oral history “as Aamix, a rich hunting ground once visited by an Aleut chief lost in a storm” (Corbett and Swibold 2000).

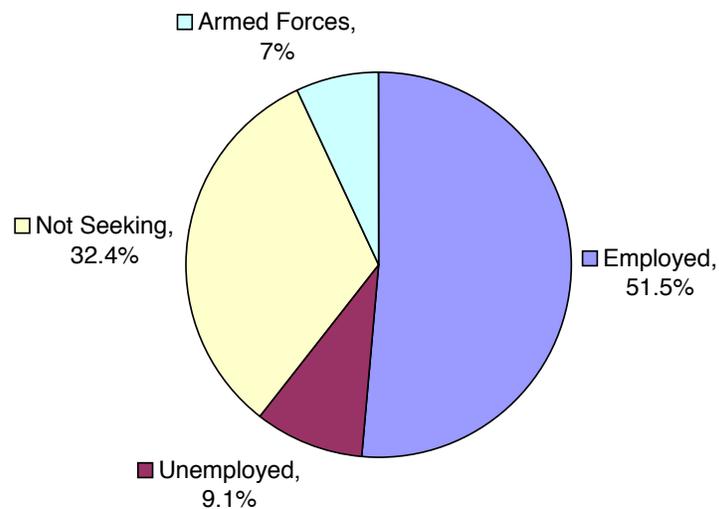
The Pribilof Islands are the breeding and hauling grounds for the largest concentration of northern fur seals in the world. Hunters round up the seals and club them as they breed on land as they can be easily driven to the killing grounds. Aleut hunters were captured from Unalaska and Atka in 1788 and brought to the Pribilofs to hunt the fur seals on the islands for the Russian American company. Originally some of the Native slaves were allowed to return to their homes, but by around the 1820’s, permanent settlements of slaves existed, and many of their descendants still live on the islands today.

According to Corbett and Swibold “by the time of the sale of the Russian-American territories to the U.S. in 1867, the Pribilof Aleuts had attained an enviable status, enjoying full rights as citizens of Russia, literate in two languages, paid fairly for their labor, and retaining their traditional systems of governance”. From 1870 to 1910 the Pribilof Islands were leased to private companies by the U.S. Government. The private companies, the Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Commercial Company, provided food, medical care, and housing to the Pribilof Aleuts for their work in the highly profitable fur seal harvest and in the fur seal plant. The U.S. Bureau of Fisheries took over control of the islands and the industry in 1910 and the Aleut people were treated as wards of the U.S. Government (Corbett and Swibold 2000).

In 1942, during WWII, Aleut residents of the Pribilofs were forcibly evacuated by U.S. authorities with no advanced warning and were interned at Funter Bay in southeast Alaska. The St. George residents were held in a mining camp and the St. Paul residents in an abandoned cannery, both in deplorable conditions. Thirty-two Pribilof Aleuts died in the Funter Bay camps. The residents were returned to the Pribilofs to continue the fur seals harvests in May of 1944.

**2000 Employment Structure
Saint Paul**

Data source: US Census



In the mid-1960’s the Pribilof Aleuts “gained full rights as American citizens, as well as government-level wages and benefits” (Corbett and Swibold 2000). In 1979 they received \$8.5 million in partial compensation for the treatment they were subjected to by the federal government during the years of 1870 to 1946. Fur seal harvests were no longer controlled by the federal government in 1983 as according to the Fur Seal Act Amendments and the U.S. government withdrew from the Islands and provided \$20 million to help develop and vary the local economy (\$8 million to St. George and \$12 million to St. Paul). Control of the villages was turned over to local groups. The commercial harvest of the fur seal ended in 1985.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of St. Paul is based on commercial fishing, government employment, and tourism. St. Paul is a port for the Central Bering Sea fishing fleet and is the site of several processors including Trident Seafoods, Icicle Seafoods, Unisea, and Pribilof Alaska Seafoods. A total of 30 St. Paul residents held commercial fishing permits in 2000 and 65 residents were licensed crew members. The fur seal rookeries and the mass quantities of nesting, migrating sea birds draw almost 700 tourists per year. Subsistence is also important to community members and halibut, fur seals, reindeer,

marine invertebrates, and plants and berries as well as others resources are used. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is conducting federal hazardous waste clean-up on the island and provides contractual employment through the village corporation, The village corporation, Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) is one of the largest employers in St. Paul. Out of the population age 16 and over, 51.5% were employed, 9.1% were unemployed, 7.0% were in the armed forces, and 32.4% were not in the labor force. Of those employed, 56.8% were classified as government workers. The per capita income at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census was \$18,408 and the median household income was \$50,750. About 11.9% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

St. Paul is a second-class city incorporated in 1971. It has a Manager form of government which includes a mayor, seven-person city council, regional school board, planning commission, and various municipal employees. The city imposes a 3% Sales Tax, but has no property tax. The city is not part of an organized borough.

Aleut Corporation is the regional Native corporation for the area. The Native village corporation for St. Paul is Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) with the non-profit section of the organization called Tanadgusix Foundation (TDX Foundation). TDX Corporation is a for-profit corporation providing dividends to its shareholders based on being “an active developer and investor in the fish processing, hotel, shipping, commercial real estate, tourism, environmental engineering industries and energy development and services” (Beringsea.com 2003). TDX Corporation owns several hotels and has recently “been working in the Government sector environmental and power projects at various military installations throughout the United States” (Beringsea.com 2003). TDX Foundation provides “support for educational, social, and cultural needs of Alaska Natives and descendants of Alaska Natives” (Beringsea.com 2003) including but not limited to grants, scholarships, and student aid.

The Pribilof Island Aleut Communities of St. Paul and St. George Islands is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council to represent both communities, although the St. Paul village council called the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island also exists independently. The tribe was formed in 1950

and “promotes and maintains cultural practices, awareness, preservation, self-governance, and self-determination for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island” (Beringsea.com 2003).

The CDQ group for St. Paul is the Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association (CBSFA). Another important organization in the area is the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA) which “is a non-profit tribal organization of the Aleut people in Alaska” (APIA 2003) and is federally recognized as a tribal organization. APIA provides a variety of services including the Pribilof Counseling Center in St. Paul and health care outreach to the community as well.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration (BCIS), and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices would most likely be located in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska.

Facilities

The community of St. Paul is accessible by both air and the sea. Regularly scheduled flights to the island are available, but if weather conditions do not permit either landing or take off, passengers can be stranded for days waiting to travel. According to Travelocity and Expedia the approximate cost to fly to Anchorage roundtrip from St. Paul is \$695.00 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). There is a State-owned gravel runway 6,500 feet in length which is undergoing major improvements. A small boat harbor is being constructed by the Corps of Engineers through 2005. A breakwater, barge off-loading area, and 700 feet of dock space are present in the community. The majority of supplies and freight are sent by ship to St. Paul. King Eider Hotel and Trident Seafoods Restaurant are located in the city. The St. Paul School teaches 112 students by 10 teachers in grades K-12. Health care is provided at St. Paul Health Center which is operated by API/A, although the facility is in need of being replaced. The city has a police department and a volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance service. Electricity is provided by St. Paul Municipal Electric Utility which is operated by the city and whose power source is a hybrid diesel and a wind turbine system, although 85.8% of the households heated with kerosene in 2000. Sewer and water services are provided by the city which is also the refuse collector and the landfill operator.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 43 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of St. Paul in 2000 and there were 65 residents who were licensed crew members. There were 25 vessel owners involved in federal fisheries and no one involved in commercial salmon fishing. Out of the 43 commercial fishing permits issued, 27 were fished. Thirty-five residents of St. Paul were issued halibut permits for a hand troll statewide (two fished), 27 for a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (22 fished), and one for a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide (one fished). Five permits were issued for other groundfish with two for miscellaneous salt water finfish with a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (both fished) and three for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (two fished). One permit was issued for octopi/squid using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide, one for salmon using a set gillnet for Atka/Amlia Islands, and one for sablefish using a longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (none fished). There were 12 vessels participating in the other groundfish fishery which delivered landings to the community, one which delivered sablefish, 29 which delivered halibut, and 20 which delivered Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, the landings data for St. Paul for all federal species, other groundfish, sablefish, halibut, and BSAI crab is unavailable.

Several processors are stationed in the community including Trident Seafoods, Icicle Seafoods, Unisea, and Pribilof Alaska Seafoods. The Trident plant “is the largest crab production facility in the world,” but also processes cod, halibut, and other species as they are available (Trident Seafoods 2003). The plant usually employs 20 to 400 people and is open for four months each year. Unisea and Pribilof Alaska Seafoods both process groundfish and halibut. Pribilof Alaska Seafoods also processes sablefish.

The CDQ group for St. Paul, the Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association (CBSFA) was recently granted \$17,863 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There is little evidence of sport fishing in the community. One sport fishing license was sold in St. Paul in 2000 to a U.S. resident from somewhere other than Alaska, but no other sport fishing information was available.

Subsistence Fishing

For the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence study year of 1994 (the most representative year for the community), 98.8% of households in St. Paul used all subsistence resources: 52.4% salmon, 91.7% non-salmon fish (herring roe, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, char, pike, sheefish, and trout), 71.4% marine mammals, and 54.8% marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 267.47 lbs in 1994. Of that per capita harvest 1.14% was salmon, 43.81% was non-salmon fish, 48.18% was marine mammals, 0.68% was marine invertebrates, 1.10% was birds and eggs, 3.30% was land mammals, and 1.78% was vegetation. Pribilof Island Natives are now the only ones allowed to harvest the northern fur seal and are only allowed to do so for subsistence use. They have taken less than 2000 non-breeding males annually for the years of 1986 to the mid-1990’s, but have taken less than 1000 annually for the past few years. Rural residents and tribal members of St. Paul are eligible to apply for a halibut subsistence certificate (SHARC).

Sand Point [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Sand Point is located on Humboldt Harbor on the northwestern edge of Popof Island, on the Popof Strait. It is part of the Shumagin Islands, off the Alaska Peninsula. Sand Point is administratively located in the Aleutians East Borough. It is five miles south of the Alaska Peninsula and about 570 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 7.8 square miles of land and 21.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Sand Point had 952 residents. The town had a very high percentage of Alaskan Natives (42.3%), in addition to Whites (27.7%), Asians (23.2%), Blacks (1.5%), Hawaiian Natives (0.3%), “Other” (2.2%), and two or more races (2.7%). A total of 44.2% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Approximately 13.5% of residents were Hispanic.

The population of Sand Point has been constantly growing since the 1900s. This steady rate of increase was secured in the 1930s with the establishment of the fishing industry, which replaced gold mining.

A more rapid demographic increase in the 1950s seems to be correlated with the consolidation of the town as a micro-regional economic pole attracting Aleuts from other communities of the area. The importance of the fishing industry in the village explains the relatively high presence of a transient population. In 2000, for example, 64.2% of the population lived in 170 households, while 35.7% lived in group quarters provided by the fishing industry.

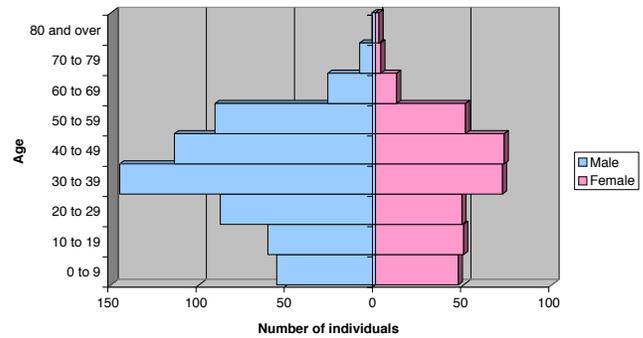
The gender ratio (62.2% male: 37.7% female) was typical of a community deeply involved in the fisheries industry. Sand Point’s median age of 36.5 years was very similar to the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. From an educational perspective, 80.6% of Sand Point’s population age 25 and over had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling, 6.4% had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 19.5% had not completed high school.

History

Officially, Sand Point was founded sometime

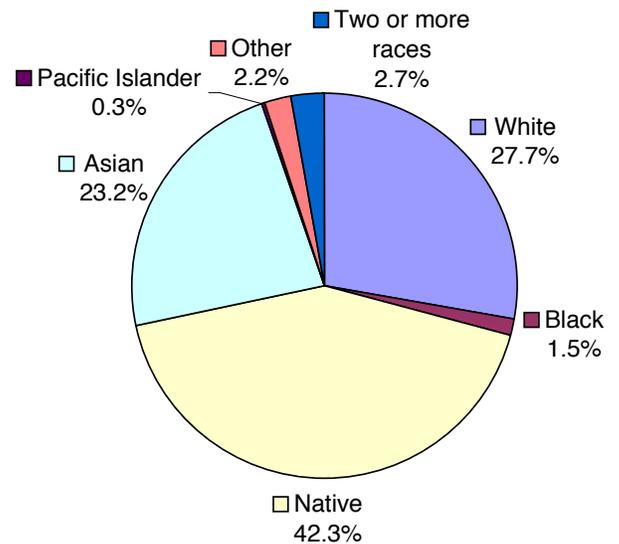
2000 Population Structure Sand Point

Data source: US Census



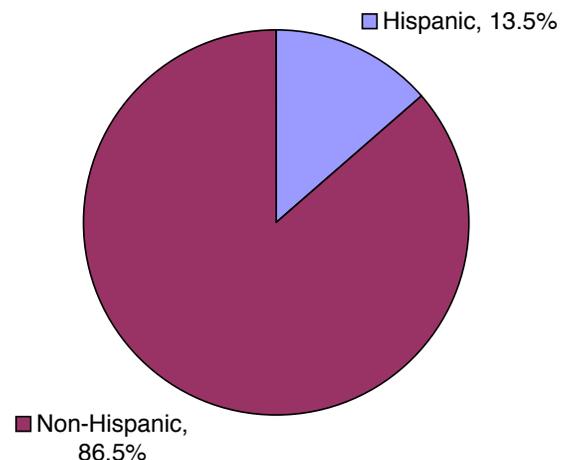
2000 Racial Structure Sand Point

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Sand Point

Data source: US Census



between 1887 and 1889 by a San Francisco fishing company as a trading post and a cod fishing station. Aleuts from surrounding villages and Scandinavian fishermen were the first residents of the community. The Shumagin Islands, however, have a long history of previous settlement. When Russian explorers, over the first half of the 18th century, first described these islands, they encountered a population of Unga people.

Sand Point inherited its leading role as a micro-regional fishing center from the now-abandoned town of Unga. The original station of Sand Point was a supply post for the cod fishing industry. The first settlers combined fishing and trading with fox-farming. Early on, however, hardrock mines were opened in the area, and in 1904 gold was found on its beaches.

Fish processing began in the 1930s and quickly became the dominant sector of the community's economy. The escalation of fishing finally attracted the Aleuts from the surrounding smaller communities. Since then, as shown by the demographic profile, the community has not stopped growing. This trend is mainly due to its consolidation as a regional services center, its salmon fisheries (especially during the 70s and 80s), and the vitality of its Native local corporations.

Although fishing and processing have decreased in relation to other productive activities (from 87% in 1967 to 59% in 2000), they are still the nucleus of Sand Point's economy, and a significant part of the services that are offered by the community depend on the healthy continuity of the fishing industry.

Infrastructure

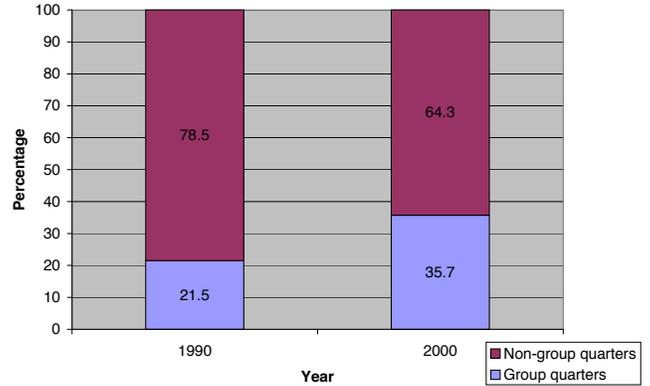
Current Economy

Sand Point harbors the largest fishing fleet of the Aleutian chain. In 2000, 117 residents held commercial fishing permits. Trident Seafoods operated a major year-round bottomfish, pollock, salmon and fishmeal processing plant, and provided fuel and other services. It employed from 50 to 400 employees, depending on the season. Peter Pan Seafoods owned a storage and transfer station in the community to support its fleet.

Approximately 51.3% of the total potential labor force was employed at the time of the 2000 census. About 22.8% of the total potential labor force was unemployed and 25.8% of the adult workforce was

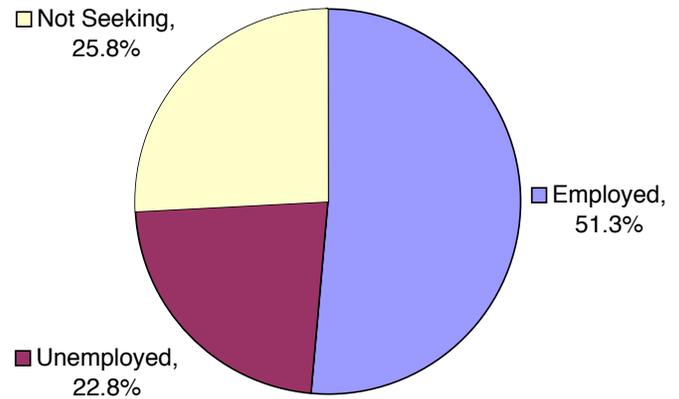
**% Group Quarters
Sand Point**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Sand Point**

Data source: US Census



not searching for employment. These figures must be understood in the context of a community completely dominated by a seasonal industry.

A variety of small businesses and public services take care of the daily needs of the local population. The currently expanding tourism sector completes the economic picture of the town.

In 2000 the median per capita income in Sand Point was \$21,954 and the median household income was \$55,417. Approximately 16% of the population was below the poverty level. Local residents participate in subsistence hunting and fishing.

Governance

Sand Point, part of the Aleutians East Borough, was incorporated as a first-class city in 1966. Its form of government is a strong mayor supported by a six-member council. The town of Sand Point has a 3% sales tax and a 2% raw fish tax (another 2% raw fish tax is administered by the borough). Fish taxes are the primary means of sustaining public services in Sand Point.

Sand Point also has representatives of the Pauloff Harbor Village Council, Qagan Tayagungin Tribe, and the Unga Tribe. The Sanak, Shumagin and Unga corporations are also present in town. Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), the Shumagin Corporation manages around 150,000 acres. The regional corporation is the Aleut Corporation. The community development quota group (CDQ) of the area is the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA).

Sand Point is almost equidistant from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices of Dutch Harbor and Kodiak Island. The ADF&G has a permanent office in Sand Point.

Facilities

Sand Point has a new airport owned by the State of Alaska that directly connects this community with Anchorage and other local destinations. The airport is served by Peninsula Airways, Hageland Aviation, Arctic Circle Air, and Alaska Central Express. The price of a roundtrip ticket by airplane from the community to Anchorage was, in September 2003, \$571.

Marine facilities include a 25-acre boat harbor with four docks, 134 boat slips, a harbormaster office, a barge off-loading area, and a 150-ton lift. A new boat harbor is scheduled to be constructed at Black Point by the Corps of Engineers. Sand Point also has a processing plant for groundfish, Pollock, and salmon. The community is served by barge services and the state ferry. If the weather is good it operates bi-monthly between May and October. The town is linked to the network established by the southwest Alaska marine highway.

Sand Point School has 111 students and 15 teachers. Five students from the community attend the Aleutians East Correspondence School. The city owns the Sand Point Health Center, although there is a second alternative center, the Sand Point EMS. A new

health clinic is scheduled to be built during spring of 2005. The city has its own police department.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Sand Point is home to one of the largest commercial fleets of Southwest Alaska. According to 2000 official records, Sand Point had 116 commercial permit holders and a total of 327 all-fisheries combined permits. In Sand Point, 225 individuals were registered as crewmen and there were 61 federal fisheries vessel owners plus 98 owners of salmon vessels residing in the community. Sand Point's fleet was involved in most of the Alaskan fisheries, including crab, sablefish, halibut, herring, other groundfish, other shellfish, and salmon. The following is a breakdown of permits issued to Sand Point residents in 2000.

Halibut: There were 52 issued permits for halibut fisheries (38 fished): 24 permits for longline vessels over 60 feet (21 fished), 3 permits for longliners under 60 feet (one fished), and 3 permits for vessels with a mechanical jig (one fished). All halibut permits had statewide range.

Groundfish: Groundfish was the fishery that accumulated the highest number of permits, with 150 permits and 84 permit holders (70 fished). The community had two statewide non-fished permits to catch lingcod (one with dinglebar troll and another with mechanical jig). It also had 16 groundfish generic permits for a hand troll vessel (one fished), 3 non-fished longline permits for vessels under 60 feet, and 31 permits for otter trawl (23 fished). All groundfish permits had statewide range.

Salmon: The salmon fleet accounted for 100 permits, 85 of which were fished: 45 permits were for purse seine restricted to the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands (35 fished), 8 were for drift gillnet, and 43 for set gillnet, also on the Alaska Peninsula (40 fished). There was also one fished permit for a drift gillnet in Prince William Sound, two set gillnet permits to fish in the Lower Yukon River (none fished), and one permit for a statewide power gurdy troll (not fished).

Crab: There were three king crab permits, one for a vessel under 60 feet with pot gear and two for vessels over 60 feet fishing with pot gear in Bristol Bay. There were also two permits for vessels over 60 feet for Tanner crab with pot gear in the Bering Sea.

Other: Other fisheries in Sand Point included herring and other shellfish. Herring permits included eight herring roe purse seine permits, three in Bristol Bay, one in Cook Inlet, one in Chignik, and three along the Alaska Peninsula. None of these permits was fished. In addition, there were two herring roe gillnet permits (none fished), and nine herring food/bait purse seine permits on the Alaska Peninsula (none fished). Other shellfish, including octopus and squid had one permit for vessels over 60 feet with pot gear (none fished), and one sablefish mechanical jig permit (none fished).

In terms of fish processing, Trident Seafoods operated a major year-round bottomfish, pollock, salmon and fishmeal processing plant, and provided fuel and other services. It employed from 50 to 400 people depending on the season. Peter Pan Seafoods owned a storage and transfer station that supported its fleet. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in the community is unavailable. The fleet delivering landings to Sand Point was larger than the number of ships home-ported or anchored in that particular harbor.

Sand Point received a direct allocation of \$72,145 in federal salmon disaster funds, and the Aleutians East Borough received \$1,101,638. These allocations were to compensate for losses due to plummeting prices in the international salmon market. This allocation was implemented in 2003.

The community, the borough, and the APICDA (CDQ) received \$1,208,457, \$140,063, and \$57,163 respectively to reduce the impact of Steller sea lion protective regulations that came up after the inclusion of this species into the endangered species list. This allocation, under ESA regulations, was implemented in 2002.

The funds not directly allocated to the city were added to the general budget of the borough or the CDQ and helped to compensate for the decline in fish taxes income and to relieve the budgetary tensions of institutions in the area.

Sport Fishing

In 2000, this community issued 42 sport fishing permits, 25 of which were bought by Alaskan residents. This small number of permits does not preclude the possibility that the area could be visited by outsiders who purchased their permits elsewhere. In 2000, Sand Point also had five sport fishing guide businesses: four focused on freshwater activities and one in saltwater fisheries.

Subsistence Fishing

A survey conducted by ADF&G in 1992 in Sand Point demonstrated the significance of subsistence practices to most Alaskan communities. All Sand Point households participated in the use of subsistence resources. In relation to the main marine resources, 99% of the households used subsistence salmon, 97.1% used other types of fish (herring, smelt, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, skates, sole, tuna, burbot, char, pike, sheefish, trout, and whitefish), 25% of households used marine mammals and 90.4% used marine invertebrates. The total per capita harvest of subsistence resources was 255.7 lbs.

The breakdown of the subsistence harvest was as follows: salmon (53.8%), other fish (21.1%), land mammals (11.31%), marine mammals (1.84%), birds and eggs (2.3%), marine invertebrates (7%) and vegetation (2.7%).

In 1999, Sand Point had 54 Alaska salmon household subsistence permits. The catch was mainly made up of sockeye and chum. In addition, residents of Sand Point (rural residents or members of an Alaska Native tribe) are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut by holding Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC). These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

South Naknek [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

South Naknek is situated on the south bank of the Naknek River on the Alaska Peninsula. It is located 297 miles southwest of Anchorage and just west of Katmai National Park and Preserve. The area encompasses 95.0 square miles of land and 2.5 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of South Naknek was 137, with gender skewed towards males who made up 56.2% of the population versus 43.8% females. The population swells well into the thousands during the summer with seasonal fisheries workers, a trend which may not be adequately reflected by census data. The eruption of Novarupta volcano near Katmai in 1912 destroyed villages along the northeastern coast of the Alaska Peninsula and inland along the Savonoski River. People were forced to find new homes and new occupations further south. South Naknek was reestablished, and by the 1970s most people in the region had moved to either South Naknek or Naknek.

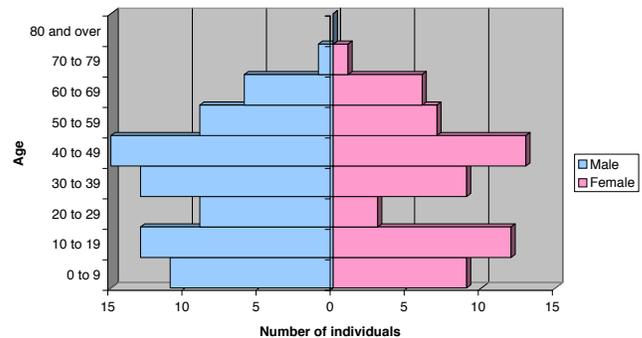
The racial composition of the population in 2000 included the following: 83.9% Alaska Native or American Indian, 13.1% White, 1.5% Black, 0.7% Asian, and 0.7% Hawaiian Native or Other Pacific Islander. Only 2.2% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic. The median age was 35.8 years which is comparable to the national average of 35.3 years for the same year. About 32.7% of the population was 19 years and below while only about 14% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There are 137 housing units in South Naknek, 91 of which were vacant in 2000. Of the total, 87 were vacant due to seasonal use. According to 2000 census data, none of the population lived in group quarters. About 59.8% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, while only a small percentage had a bachelor's degree or higher.

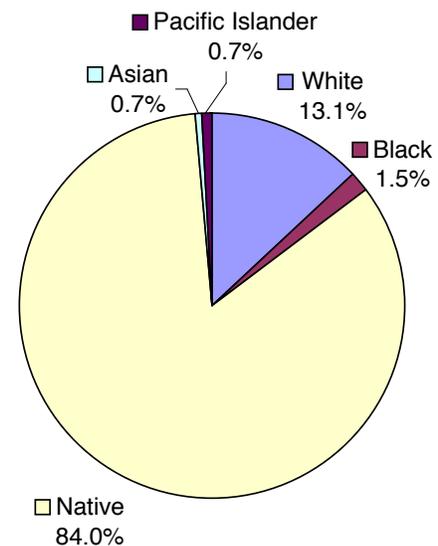
History

The region along the Naknek River was originally settled over 6,000 years ago, and was historically Sugpiaq Aleut territory. The Sugpiaqs traveled between Katmai and the Naknek River, pursuing seasonal food

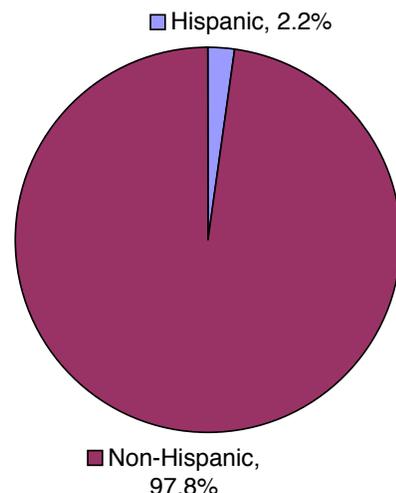
**2000 Population Structure
South Naknek**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
South Naknek**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
South Naknek**
Data source: US Census



sources. This is one of the many villages along the coast where Laplanders were brought in to herd reindeer. The herds were purchased in the 1930s by the BIA for the local Native economy. South Naknek was settled permanently after the turn of the century as a result of salmon cannery development. Some villagers relocated from New and Old Savonoski, near the “Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes” to South Naknek, attracted by the economic opportunities and associated benefits of the town. The eruption of Novarupta volcano near Katmai in 1912 destroyed villages along the northeastern coast of the Alaska Peninsula and inland along the Savonoski River so people were forced to find new homes and new occupations further south. New Savonoski was established, but by the 1970s most people had moved to either South Naknek or Naknek

Infrastructure

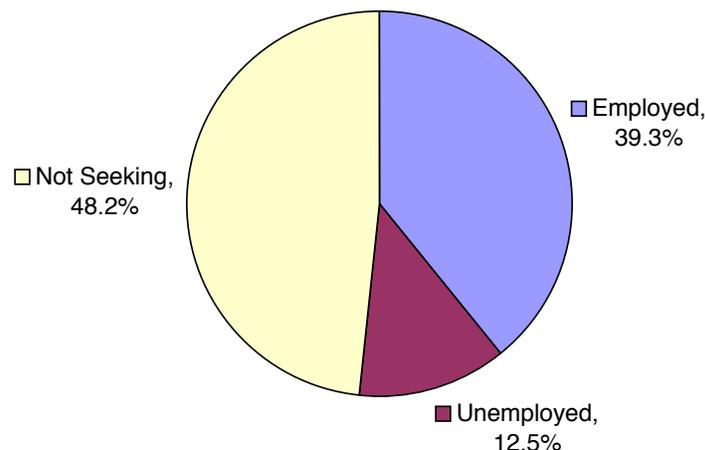
Current Economy

The local economy of South Naknek is driven by the fishing industry, relying heavily on associated services including government employment, and is supplemented to a relatively large degree by subsistence practices. South Naknek’s economy is highly sensitive to the seasonality of the fishing industry and especially to the red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay in particular. Several thousand people typically flood the area during the fishing season. A total of 48 commercial fishing permits were held by 43 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. Trident Seafoods operates in South Naknek. A second processing facility, owned by Wards Cove Packing, closed in 2002. Most other employment is in public services. A few people trap, and most residents depend on subsistence hunting and fishing. Salmon, trout, caribou, rabbit, porcupine, and seal are utilized.

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census for South Naknek, 51.8% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 12.5% unemployment rate. A total of 48.2% of the population over 16 years of age were not in the labor force and 27.1% of the population was below the poverty level. The government is a significant employer in South Naknek, 63.6% of the potential labor force were government employees in 2000. The median household income in the same year was \$22,344 and the per capita income was \$13,019.

**2000 Employment Structure
South Naknek**

Data source: US Census



Governance

South Naknek is an unincorporated city within the Bristol Bay Borough. The Bristol Bay Borough functions as the chief governing body for the communities of Naknek, South Naknek, and King Salmon. Because of South Naknek’s status as an unincorporated city there are no city or borough officials in the city nor are there municipal or borough finances dispersed to the community. Bristol Bay Native Association is the regional non-profit organization. The South Naknek Village Council, also known as Oinuyang Native Village of South Naknek, is federally recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). South Naknek is a member of the regional non-profit Bristol Bay Native Corporation under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). At the local level, the village corporation of South Naknek has merged with those of Kokhanok, Newhalen, Port Heiden, South Naknek, and Ugashik to form the Alaska Peninsula Corporation. The total land entitlement granted to South Naknek under ANCSA is just over 92,000 acres. South Naknek is involved in a Community Development Quota program under the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Unalaska, as is the nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office.

Facilities

South Naknek is accessible both by air and by sea and is connected to Naknek by a bridge and King Salmon in the winter by the frozen Naknek River. The cost of a round trip flight from South Naknek to Anchorage, via King Salmon, is \$357 plus the cost of a charter flight between King Salmon and South Naknek (based on the closest available date to 1 September, 2003). There is a State-owned 2,200 foot lighted gravel airstrip one mile south of the community and a second airport run by the PAF Cannery three miles to the southeast. Scheduled and charter flight services are available. A 3,000 foot designated stretch of the Naknek River is used by float planes. There is a dirt road to New Savonoski which is not routinely maintained. The Borough operates a mid- and high-tide cargo dock at South Naknek with 200 feet of berth space to accommodate barges. Trucks, cars, ATVs, snowmachines, and boats are used extensively for local travel.

Public security is provided by the Borough Police Department and Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) associated with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. Local health care is provided by the South Naknek Health Clinic. There are several facilities to accommodate tourists in Naknek. The tourism industry is very limited in South Naknek. Individual water wells and septic systems serve the majority of the community; others use the piped water and sewer system. Power lines cross the Naknek River five miles east of Naknek and connect to South Naknek. South Naknek is within the Bristol Bay Borough School District where 2 teachers taught 13 pupils at the South Naknek Elementary School in 2000. Students attending high school are flown to Naknek daily to attend school.

There are several facilities to accommodate tourists in Naknek; however, the tourism industry is very limited in South Naknek.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

South Naknek's fishing industry is based almost exclusively on salmon which generates the most significant proportion of revenue in the local commercial fishing industry. According to ACFEC figures for 2000, 48 permits were held by 43 permit holders (41 fished). There were no vessel owners in

the federal fisheries, 12 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and 39 crew members claiming residence in South Naknek.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to South Naknek in 2000 was involved solely in the salmon (509 vessels) fishery. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in the community are unavailable.

Permits for salmon issued in South Naknek for 2000 totaled 42 (39 fished). The permits pertained to 12 drift gillnets (11 fished) and 30 set gillnets (28 fished), all restricted to Bristol Bay. Permits issued for halibut pertained to three longline vessels under 60 feet with statewide jurisdiction (none fished). Permits issued for herring roe pertained to three gillnets restricted to Bristol Bay (two fished).

Bristol Bay is home to the largest sockeye salmon run in North America. Both Wards Cove Packing Company and Trident Seafoods Corporation have processing plants in South Naknek. As the Naknek River freezes during the coldest months of the year these facilities operate exclusively as salmon canneries between May and October.

It was announced in July 2003 that the Bristol Bay Borough, in which South Naknek is located, would receive \$1,739,411 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002 the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), to which South Naknek belongs, received \$140,063 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

Recreational sport fishing activity is very limited in South Naknek. No sport fishing licenses were sold

in South Naknek in 2000. However, the community's proximity to Naknek may mean that many recreational fishers participate in South Naknek's fishing economy without necessarily being based there. Naknek river drainage systems provides optimum opportunities for freshwater salmon fishing, although several regulations restrict where and when sport fishing can be conducted in the area.

Subsistence Fishing

Numerous social, economic, and technological changes have influenced life in Alaskan fishing communities and subsistence harvests and practices continue to provide fishing communities with important nutritional, economic, social and cultural requirements. Data from 1992 compiled on behalf of the ADF&G's Division for Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in South Naknek. All 100% of households participated in the use of subsistence resources including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Approximately 97.1% of the total population used salmon, 85.7% used non-salmon fish (herring, smelt, cod, flounder, halibut, sculpin, sole, burbot, char, grayling, pike, trout, and white fish), 28.6% used marine mammals, and 51.4% used marine invertebrates.

The total per capita harvest for the year was 296.82 lbs. The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other

resource categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 48.76% salmon, 6.78% non-salmon fish, 37.3% land mammals, 0.67% marine mammals, 0.69% birds and eggs, 0.68% marine invertebrates, and 5.12% vegetation. The wild food harvest in South Naknek made up 192% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1992 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or .424 lbs of wild food per day) (Wolfe, division of Subsistence, ADF&G).

According to records from 1999, 44 permits were held by households in South Naknek for subsistence fishing of salmon. Sockeye made up the vast majority of the subsistence salmon harvest. Residents of South Naknek and members of South Naknek Native Village who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

No trapping, hunting, or subsistence fishing is allowed in Katmai National Park.

Four communities - South Naknek, Levelock, Kokhanok and Igiugig - located near the boundary and with a history of subsistence activities in Katmai National Park and Preserve were surveyed and their subsistence use and harvest areas were mapped to better understand subsistence patterns within the park and preserve.

Ugashik [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

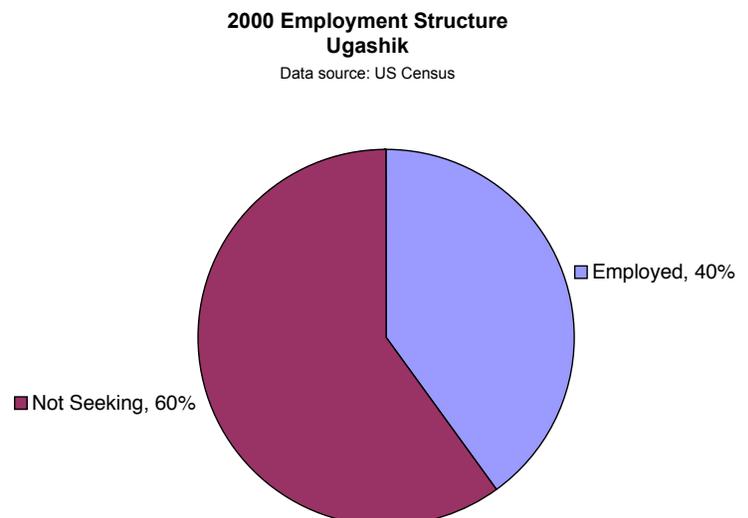
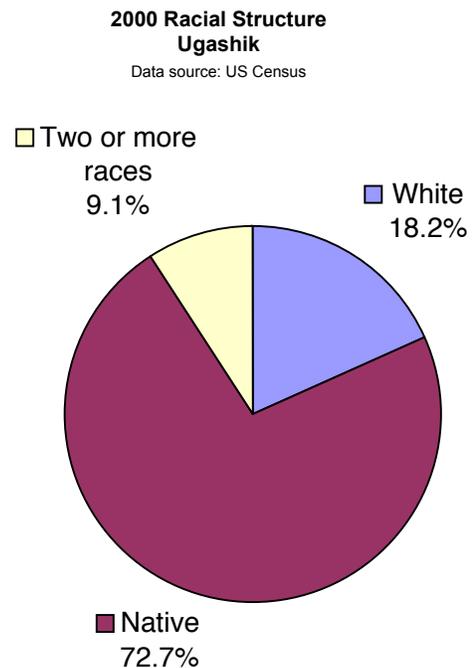
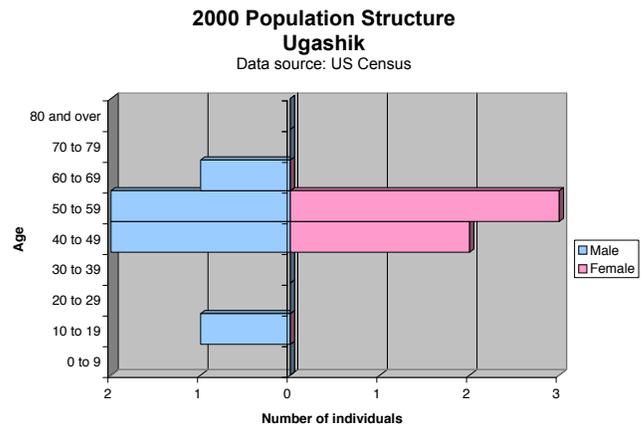
Ugashik is situated 16 miles up the Ugashik River on the northwest coast of the Alaska Peninsula. The community is part of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The area of Ugashik is made up of 233.9 square miles of land and 14.7 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Ugashik had 11 inhabitants at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census of which 54.5% were male and 45.5% were female. Since 1880, Ugashik's population has shrunk from 177 residents to 11 in 2000, although from 1990 the population rose slightly from 7 to 12 in 2002, as established by a State Demographer. In 2000, 18.2% of the population was White, 72.7% was American Indian and Alaska Native, and 9.1% was two or more races. A total of 81.8% of the inhabitants of the community reported being Alaska Native either alone or in combination with one or more races. No one in the community was Hispanic. In 2000 there were 35 total housing units in Ugashik and of those only 7 were occupied. Twenty eight were vacant and 26 of those were vacant due to seasonal use. No one at that time lived in group quarters in the community. The median age in Ugashik was 50.5 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. Ten of the 11 residents of Ugashik were 25 years old and over. In 2000, 60% of the population had either graduated from high school or attended some college.

History

Historically the area of Ugashik was occupied by Aleut and Alutiiq peoples. The village of Ugashik was "the southernmost mentioned in the early Russian sources" and during the early 1800's the people of the community "traveled regularly across the peninsula to the Pacific side to hunt the abundant sea mammals" (Parnow 2001, p. 37). Around 1876 the Alaska Commercial Company established a post in Ugashik, which around 1880 was referred to and recorded as 'Oogashik' by the Census takers (Parnow 2001, p. 113 & 153). The Red Salmon Company established a cannery in Ugashik in the 1890's and the community became one of the largest villages in the region. Around the same time a new village by the name of Kanatak, which was situated on the Pacific end of the Ugashik



River, was settled most likely by previous Ugashik inhabitants. The flu epidemic of 1919 decimated the population of Ugashik and it was recorded as having no inhabitants by both the 1910 and 1920 Censuses. In the early 1900's reindeer herds were brought to the area as part of a government project and Inupiat reindeer herders followed the herds to the locale to tend to them (Parnow 2001, p. 159 & 233). Inupiat and other seasonal workers came as well to work in the canneries of the area and some Inupiat families settled permanently there (Parnow 2001, p. 234). The cannery in the community continued to operate under a range of owners during this time and Briggs Way Cannery opened in 1963. Currently the village has a small year round population with some of the village inhabitants living in Pilot Point, although tribal members live throughout Alaska, Washington, and California.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Ugashik is based on subsistence and commercial fishing, although fish processing is also important to residents of the area. Four residents of the community had commercial fishing permits and three residents had crew member licenses in 2000. A total of 10 of the 11 residents of Ugashik in 2000 were age 16 and over, and of those four were employed and part of the labor force (40%) and six were not part of the labor force (60%). All four residents in the labor force were government employees, and three of them were female. No one in the community was considered unemployed. The per capita income in the community in 2000 was \$12,530 with the median household income being \$28,750. At the time of the census, 10% of the local population was living below the poverty level.

Governance

The village of Ugashik is unincorporated and thus has no city or borough officials present in the community and no finances, although it is located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The Native village corporation for Ugashik is the Alaska Peninsula Corporation. The Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) is the regional Native corporation for the area. The Ugashik Traditional Council is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) federally recognized traditional council and tribe present in the village. The Bristol

Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) is the local Community Development Quota (CDQ) group for the area and whose home office is in Dillingham. The regional Native non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The nearest ADF&G office to the community is located in King Salmon whereas the closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office and NMFS office are both located in Kodiak.

Facilities

The community of Ugashik is reachable by both air and water. A 5,280 foot gravel airstrip is located at Ugashik Bay, about 12 miles from the village and is owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Division of Lands. A 3,200 foot gravel airstrip is also located in the village. According to Travelocity and Expedia the approximate price to fly from Ugashik to Anchorage is \$603 plus the fare for a charter from Ugashik to Pilot Point and back (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Freight is barged into the community from Naknek with a barge landing recently built in Ugashik. Currently funds are being searched for by the village council to rebuild the community dock. Locals travel primarily by skiffs and all terrain vehicles (ATVs). The community has no public water, sewer, or electric services. All households in the community use heating oil to heat their homes. Most residents of Ugashik use septic systems and all homes have individual wells. Refuse collection is not available. The community plans to build a landfill in the near future. Electricity is available from individual generators run off of diesel. There are no police in the community and the fire and rescue is provided by volunteers. The Ugashik Traditional Village and Ugashik, Inc. own and operate a small health care facility in the local community building. There is no school in the community.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Ten commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Ugashik in 2000 and there were three licensed crew members. Four owners of vessels participated in the commercial salmon fishery, all residents of the community, and no one participated in the federal fisheries. Of the 10 commercial fishing permits issued to Ugashik residents, 4 were fished. One

permit was issued for halibut using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (not fished). Of five herring permits issued, not one was fished in 2000; two of those permits were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay, two for herring roe using gillnets in Security Cove, and one was issued for herring roe using a purse seine in Bristol Bay. There were two salmon permits issued for use with a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay and two issued using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay, and all fished in 2000. No vessels delivered landings to the community as there is currently no processor in operation.

Recently, \$442,002 was allocated in salmon disaster funds to the Lake and Peninsula Borough of which Ugashik is a part. The CDQ group in which the community is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation was also recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003). The Lake and Peninsula Borough was also granted \$29,832 as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program.

Sport Fishing

No sport fishing licenses were sold in 2000 in Ugashik. However, sport fishermen often fly into the Ugashik area to fish for arctic char, Dolly Varden, arctic grayling, sockeye salmon, coho salmon, king salmon, and northern pike.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence is very important to residents of the village. For the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence study year of 1987 (the most representative year for the community): 100% used salmon, 100% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, flounder, halibut, char, grayling, pike, trout, and whitefish), 0% used marine mammals, and 0% of the households in Ugashik used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 814.40 lbs in 1987. Of that per capita harvest, 39.31% was salmon, 4.43% was non-salmon fish, 0% was marine mammals, 0% was marine invertebrates, 3.13% was birds and eggs, 50.81% was land mammals, and 2.32% was vegetation. In 1999, also according to the ADF&G, there were 25 salmon permits issued to residents of the Ugashik District. Rural residents and tribal members of Ugashik are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

4.3.2 Western Alaska

Communities

[Akiachak](#)

[Aleknagik](#)

[Bethel](#)

[Chefornak](#)

[Clark's Point](#)

[Dillingham](#)

[Eek](#)

[Ekuk](#)

[Ekwok](#)

[Emmonak](#)

[Goodnews Bay](#)

[Hooper Bay](#)

[Kipnuk](#)

[Koliganek](#)

[Kongiganak](#)

[Kotlik](#)

[Kwigillingok](#)

[Manokotak](#)

[Marshall](#)

[Mekoryuk](#)

[Napakiak](#)

[New Stuyahok](#)

[Newtok](#)

[Nightmute](#)

[Pilot Station](#)

[Platinum](#)

[Portage Creek](#)

[Quinhagak](#)

[Saint Mary's](#)

[Scammon Bay](#)

[Togiak](#)

[Toksook Bay](#)

[Tuntutuliak](#)

[Tununak](#)

[Twin Hills](#)

Geographic Location

Western Alaska includes three census areas: Wade Hampton, Bethel, and Dillingham. Most of the communities in the region lie within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, a vast area of low-lying land along the Bering Sea coast, some 300-500 miles west of Anchorage. From north to south, the area stretches from Kotlik, at 63.034° N Lat, to Clark's Point, at 58.844° N Lat.

Weather

Weather throughout the region is diverse. Communities in the southern part of the region and those located along the Bering Sea Coast are influenced by maritime currents and tend to have more moderate weather, with winter temperatures averaging 5-30°F and summer temperatures averaging 35-65°F. Precipitation is also greater here, averaging around 30 inches per year. By contrast, communities in the northern portion of the region, as well as those located away from the moderating influence of the ocean, have more extreme weather. Winter temperatures average between -2°F and 20°F, and summer temperatures average between 42 °F and 62 °F. Precipitation is much lower in the northern and inland areas, averaging around 16 inches annually. Because of the topography of the region, which is characterized by vast expanses of low-lying land crisscrossed by rivers, periodic flooding is commonplace.

General Characterization

Western Alaska is home to a predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo population. In contrast to many other parts of Alaska, native cultural traditions are a vital part of everyday life here. In 2000, approximately 90% of residents of Western Alaska were Alaska Native or part Native, and many residents still speak their Native Alaskan language. Despite its vast geographical size, Western Alaska's population is sparse, amounting to just under 28,000 people. The larger towns in the region—Bethel, Dillingham, and Hooper Bay—account for nearly one-third of the population of the entire region. The remaining residents are scattered throughout dozens of small villages in the region, accessible only by air or water.

The economies of communities throughout the region depend heavily on the commercial fishing industry. The salmon and herring fisheries of Bristol Bay and Kuskokwim Bay account for a majority of fishing activity. In addition, major fish processing plants are located in Bethel and Dillingham. Many smaller communities also have village processing plants. Regional and local Native governments also constitute a major source of employment. Economic development, however, has been slow in Western Alaska. The poverty rate, at more than 20%, is higher than most areas of Alaska. An unemployment rate of 9% and a relatively low annual per capita income pose additional challenges.

Institutional Framework

There are no organized boroughs in Western Alaska. The region is made up of three census areas: Wade Hampton, Bethel, and Dillingham. Most communities have either incorporated city governments or federally recognized Native village councils, or both.

There are three community development quota (CDQ) groups that operate in the region, including the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, the Coastal Villages Region Fund, and the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation. These groups allocate a portion of commercial fisheries revenues toward promoting community development and employment. In addition, the Calista Corporation, the second largest of 13 regional corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), is an important body of Native governance. The Calista Corporation holds a federal land entitlement and seeks to promote natural resource development and employment for Alaska Natives in the region.

Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence Fisheries

The economy of Western Alaska revolves around fishing. Large commercial fleets are based in larger hubs, such as Dillingham, with more extensive port facilities; however, every community profiled in this section, no matter how small, participates in commercial fishing as a home port for vessels, a base for crew members, or as a site of fishing processing.

Commercial fishing in the region is centered in both Kuskokwim Bay and Bristol Bay, considered the largest sockeye salmon fishery in the world. Commercial catches of salmon and herring make up the bulk of fishing activity, but other species such as halibut and groundfish are also important. In addition, many communities have commercial fish processing and storage facilities. Although the larger commercial processors are located primarily in larger hubs such as Bethel and Dillingham, many smaller communities have their own village-based fish processing facilities.

Sport fishing in Western Alaska, in comparison to other regions, is a relatively small enterprise. While several thousand sport fishing licenses are sold each year throughout the region, mostly in the larger hubs of Dillingham and Bethel, the region does not draw nearly as many visitors as Southeastern or South-central Alaska. Major sport fish species include

salmon, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, arctic grayling, and northern pike.

Partly as a result of the strong Native cultural traditions throughout the region, Western Alaskan residents depend heavily on subsistence fish and other resources. Communities large and small supplement their formal economies with subsistence resources. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, on average, more than 95% of all households in the region harvest subsistence fish, including salmon and non-salmon species. In addition, land mammals such as caribou and moose, marine mammals such as harbor seals, and a wide variety of birds and eggs are used for subsistence by local residents. Subsistence harvests can be enormous; the village of Akiachak, for example, reported an average per capita harvest in 1998 of 1,328 lbs—one of the highest figures anywhere in Alaska.

Regional Challenges

Western Alaska faces some dramatic economic and developmental challenges. Poverty rates are high and educational levels are low, a combination that has caused the region to lag somewhat behind other regions in terms of economic development. In addition, Western Alaska's communities, most of which are predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo, struggle to keep their cultural legacies alive. Facilities such as the Yup'it Piciryarait Museum, located in Bethel, play a vital role in the preservation of the local cultural heritage.

The region's high dependence on commercial fishing—and on salmon in particular—leads to some particular challenges. First, many small, remote communities must solve the logistical problem of harvesting fish in far-flung locations and shipping it to markets elsewhere. Most communities are forced to ship freshly caught fish by plane to a central processor in Bethel or elsewhere, where it is then forwarded along to markets. This process results in an additional economic burden that must be shouldered to communities. In addition, the region's high dependence on salmon during a time of price decline proves difficult. In recent years, foreign competition has driven down the market price of salmon in the U.S., causing financial trouble for many communities. Federal salmon disaster funds, distributed to large and small communities alike, represent only a partial solution to this problem.

Akiachak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Akiachak is located on the west bank of the Kuskokwim River, 18 miles northeast of the city of Bethel. The area encompasses 10 square miles of land and 2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, Akiachak was a community of 585 residents in 133 households. The community was primarily comprised of Alaska Natives, mostly Yup'ik Eskimos (92.3%), with a small percentage of White (3.4%) and mixed race (4.3%) residents. A total of 96.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Approximately 1.2% of community residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. There are more men in the community (54.9%) than women, and the average age is 22.2 years, much younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. Approximately 44.4% of the local population is under age 18. All residents live in households rather than group quarters. In terms of educational attainment, 64.8% of residents hold a high school diploma or higher.

History

The region is traditional Yup'ik Eskimo territory, and Akiachak was originally used by Yup'ik groups as a seasonal subsistence site. The community was first listed in the U.S. Census in 1890, when it had a recorded population of 43 residents. Akiachak has grown steadily since that time, in part because of its close proximity to Bethel, the regional economic hub.

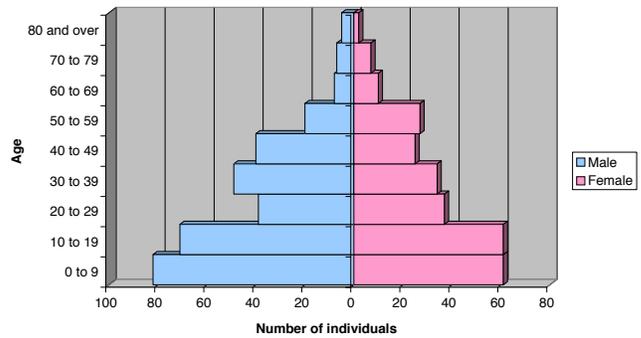
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Akiachak is highly dependent on fishery resources and is involved in both commercial and subsistence fishing. The median per capita income in 2000 was \$8,321 and the median household income was \$35,833. Unemployment in the community was 14.3%, and 43.8% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 21.2% of residents lived below the poverty level.

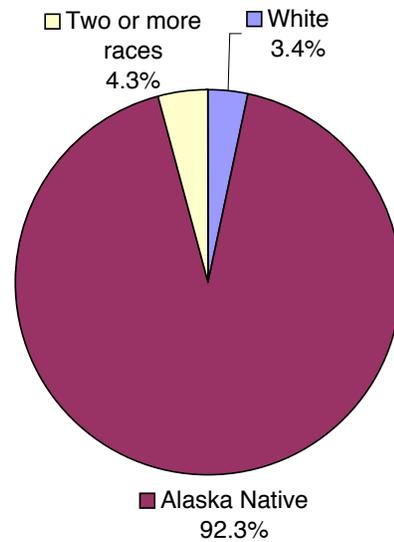
2000 Population Structure Akiachak

Data source: US Census



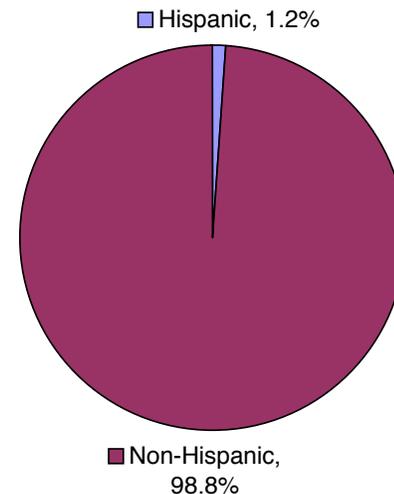
2000 Racial Structure Akiachak

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Akiachak

Data source: US Census



Governance

Akiachak was incorporated as a second-class city in 1974, but the city government was dissolved in 1987 in favor of traditional village council governance—the first community in Alaska to do so. The official name of the village council is Akiachak Native Community. There is also a Native village corporation called Akiachak, Ltd. The community is “unorganized” (i.e. not located within a borough). The majority of local government operating revenues come from federal grants and contracts. The Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, is active in the community and promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

There is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office nearby in Bethel. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Akiachak is accessible by road via Bethel and by air via a 1,625 foot airstrip operated by the State Department of Transportation. Roundtrip airfare from the nearby city of Bethel to Anchorage is approximately \$206. Most residents get their own water from wells; there is no piped water or sewer service. The village council operates a landfill in the community. Electricity is provided by the village corporation and is generated by a diesel generator. There is a local health clinic operated jointly by the village council and the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Police services are provided by a volunteer public security officer (VPSO).

There is one school located in Akiachak, offering instruction to students in grades K-12. There are 12 teachers and 183 students. The school is under the jurisdiction of the Yup'it School District.

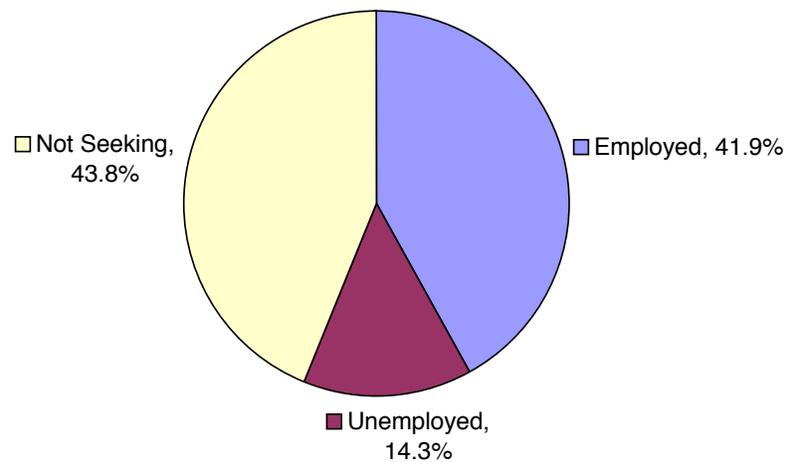
Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Involvement in commercial fishing, particularly within the herring and salmon fisheries, is an important part of the local economy in Akiachak. In 2000, 70 local residents held a total of 87 commercial fishing permits, and 75 permits were fished. There were 98 registered crew members. In addition, there were

2000 Employment Structure Akiachak

Data source: US Census



19 vessel owners with operations in state-managed fisheries who resided in the community. This section contains a detailed description of the permits issued to Akiachak residents in 2000.

Herring: Fourteen residents held a total of 14 permits in the herring fishery. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one herring roe gillnet permit for Cape Avinof (none fished), 12 herring roe gillnet permits for Goodnews Bay (10 fished), and one herring roe kelp harvesting permit for diving/hand-picking in the Bristol Bay fishery (none fished).

Other Finfish: Three local residents held a total of four permits for miscellaneous other finfish, but none was fished. These permits consisted of three freshwater fish set gillnet permits for statewide waters and one freshwater fish pot gear permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters.

Salmon: Sixty-nine local residents held a total of 69 commercial permits in the salmon fishery, and 65 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one salmon drift gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), and 67 salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (63 fished).

In 2000, there were no commercial processing plants and therefore no recorded landings for Akiachak.

Sport Fishing

Because of its relatively remote location, sport fishing in Akiachak is limited. As of 2002, there were

no registered sport fishing guide services in Akiachak. In 2000, a total of 30 sport fishing licenses were sold in Akiachak, all of them to Alaska residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence activities are an important part of the local economy of Akiachak. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1998, 98.8% of Akiachak households used subsistence fish. Approximately 97.5% of households used subsistence salmon (all five Pacific species) and 98.8% used non-salmon fish (including blackfish, halibut, pike, whitefish, and others). A significant portion of households (58%) used marine mammals (especially seal, walrus, and whale) for subsistence, and a small portion (3.7%) used marine invertebrates (especially clams).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Akiachak in 1998 totaled 1,328 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon, especially Chinook (48.8%), non-salmon fish, especially whitefish and blackfish (18.7%), land mammals, including caribou and moose (20.4%), marine mammals, especially seals (2.3%), birds and eggs (5.2%), and vegetation (4.6%).

Akiachak residents have not been historically involved in halibut fishing and the community does not hold a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC). Salmon subsistence harvesting, however, is very important in the community; approximately 119 households (90% of all households) held subsistence salmon harvesting permits in 1999.

Aleknagik [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Aleknagik is situated at the southeast end of Lake Aleknagik at the head of the Wood River. The community is 16 miles northwest of Dillingham and is located in the Dillingham Census Area. Aleknagik is made up of 43.8 square miles of land and 7.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

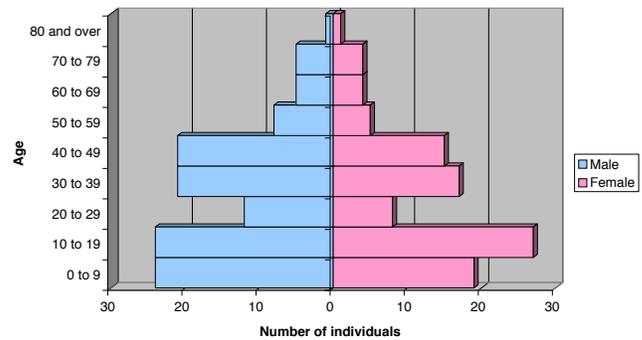
At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census the community of Aleknagik had a total of 221 inhabitants, and of those 54.8% were male and 45.2% were female. Prior to the 1940 census no population was recorded for the community other than in the year 1890 when it was reported that there were 68 inhabitants. Since 1950 the population of the community has fluctuated for the most part between about between 128 and 231 persons living in the community. In 2000 about 81.9% of the residents of Aleknagik were American Indian and Alaska Native, 13.6% were White, 1.4% were classified as “Other”, and 3.2% were of two or more races. When more than one race is taken into account, about 84.6% of the population was at least part American Indian and Alaska Native. Approximately 1.4% of the residents were Hispanic. The median age of the community was 28.3 years, significantly lower than the national average of 35.3 years. There were a total of 107 housing units, 37 of which were vacant and 21 vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the population lived in group quarters. Out of the population of the community age 25 and over about 70.9% had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling, and 12.7% had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher.

History

Historically the areas of Wood River and Aleknagik Lake were used as summer fish camps. The name Aleknagik means “wrong way home” because on occasion the Native peoples who were returning to their homes on the Nushagak River would get lost in the fog and end up at Aleknagik Lake after being swept along the Wood River by the tide. According to the 1890 Census there were 68 inhabitants in the village at that time. In 1929 there were 55 people living in the “Wood River village” area, which is located south of Aleknagik according to census data. There were five

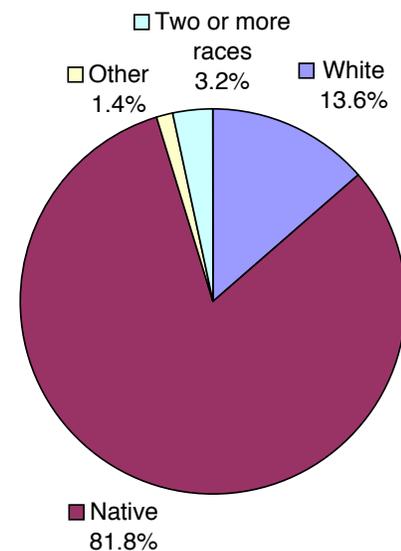
2000 Population Structure Aleknagik

Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure Aleknagik

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Aleknagik

Data source: US Census



families living on the shore of Aleknagik Lake year round in 1930; the Waskeys, Polleys, Hansons, Yakos, and Smiths. In 1933 a log cabin school was built on the shore of the lake and the first teacher was Josie Waskey. Many families relocated from Goodnews, Togiak, and Kulukak to Aleknagik because they were attracted by the school, the other facilities present in the community, and the bountiful timber, fish, and game. In 1937 a post office was built and in 1938 a two-story school was constructed with a teacher apartment.

By the time of the 1940 U.S. Census, the community of Aleknagik had a total of 78 inhabitants, a small sawmill, and over 30 buildings. A Seventh-day Adventist Mission and School were built in the 1940s on the north shore of the lake. A Russian Orthodox Church and a Moravian Church were built in the community in the 1950s and at that time over 35 families lived in the area. A 25-mile road connecting the south shore of the lake to Dillingham was built in 1959. In 1973 the City became incorporated. And in 2000, over 24 additional square miles were annexed to the City.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

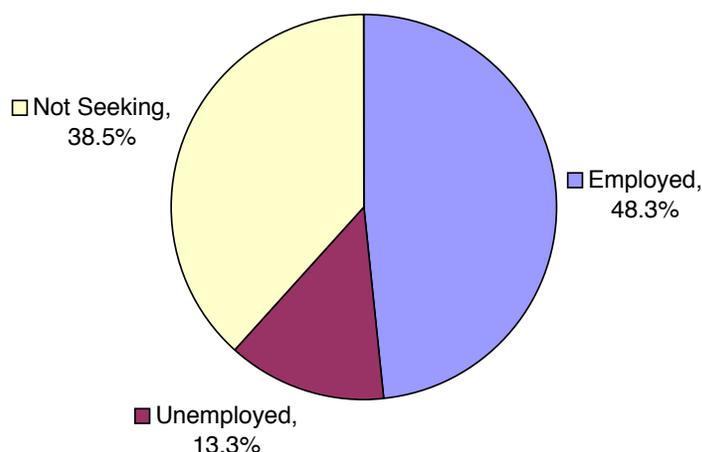
Many inhabitants of Aleknagik are involved in commercial and subsistence activities during the summer months on the Bristol Bay coast. In 2000, 50 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community and 48 residents were licensed as crew members. Since 1997 poor fish returns and falling fish prices have had a major effect on the community. Income is also derived from the sport fishing industry. Another important source of income for community members is trapping. In 2000 of those age 16 years and over in Aleknagik about 48.3% were employed, 13.3% were unemployed, and 38.5% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed, approximately 47.8% were classified as government workers. The per capita income for residents was \$10,973 in 2000 with the median household income at \$22,750.

Governance

Aleknagik is a second-class city incorporated in 1973 and has a strong mayor form of government which includes a mayor and a seven person city council. The city is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is the

**2000 Employment Structure
Aleknagik**

Data source: US Census



Bristol Bay Native Corporation and the Native village corporation is Aleknagik Natives Ltd. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is the Aleknagik Traditional Council. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group which the city is included in is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation. The regional non-profit organization for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Aleknagik is accessible by air, water, and by road from Dillingham. Regular flights are scheduled to Aleknagik through Dillingham and there is a state-owned 2,070 foot gravel airstrip present in the community. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Aleknagik is \$424 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). On the north shore is Moody's Aleknagik Seaplane Base which accommodates float planes. Two additional airstrips are located around the community. The north shore of Aleknagik Lake is not accessible by road

and residents must travel by skiffs to the south shore where the town is located. A state-owned and operated 100 foot dock is located on the north shore of the lake. Also on the north shore are a breakwater, barge landing, boat launch ramp, and boat lift. Locals travel by vehicles, skiffs, ATVs, and snowmachines.

Accommodations are available at the Aleknagik Bed and Breakfast. There is one school in the community, Aleknagik School, instructing grades K-8 with 33 students and 5 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the North Shore Health Clinic and at the South Shore Health Clinic which are owned by the City and operated by the City and by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). Police services are available from the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The electric utility is the Nushagak Electric Cooperative which is operated by REA Co-op with the main power source of diesel, although in 2000 about 95.8% of households heated using heating oil and 4.2% heated using wood. There is no piped water system and individuals and the school are the operators of their own wells. Sewage and refuse are disposed of in private septic tanks, and the city operates a septic pumping service. The City operates two landfills, one on the north shore and one on the south shore.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 50 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Aleknagik in 2000 and 48 residents were licensed crew members. No vessel owners in the community participated in federal fisheries, although 15 vessel owners participated in the salmon fishery.

Out of the 50 permits issued to community members, a total of 33 were actually fished. One permit was issued for halibut using longline on a vessel over 60 feet statewide, although it was not fished in 2000. A total of 21 permits were issued for the commercial fishing of herring: 4 were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Security Cove (four fished), 7 for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay (5 fished), and 10 for herring spawn on kelp which is dived for or handpicked in Bristol Bay (none fished). Twenty-eight permits were issued for salmon: 19 using drift gillnets

in Bristol Bay (15 fished), and 9 using set gillnets in Bristol Bay (9 fished).

No landings were delivered to Aleknagik in 2000 because no processors were present in the community. The CDQ group in which the community is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Aleknagik Lake is a popular spot for sport fishing and boasts that it carries “all five species of Pacific salmon, rainbow trout, arctic char, Dolly Varden, arctic grayling, lake trout, and northern pike” (CountrySport Limited 2003). According to the ADF&G there were six businesses which were listed as freshwater guide businesses in 2002 in Aleknagik, six full service guiding services businesses, one drop-off service business, and two lodge/resort services businesses. In 2000, 10 sport fishing licenses were sold in Aleknagik to residents of the State of Alaska and a total of 393 sport fishing licenses were sold in the community to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G, for the most representative year of 1989, 100.0% of Aleknagik households used all subsistence resources: 94.7% used salmon, 94.7% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, cod, flounder, halibut, sculpin, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, sucker, trout, and whitefish), 81.6% used marine mammals, and 52.6% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest for community members was 379.29 lbs for all subsistence resources: 25.07% salmon, 16.18% non-salmon fish, 4.01% marine mammals, 0.83% marine invertebrates, 3.71% birds and eggs, 43.06% land mammals, and 7.14% vegetation. Also according to ADF&G there were 11 subsistence salmon household permits issued in 1999 to residents of Aleknagik for an estimated total of 997 fish harvested. Residents are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Bethel [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Bethel is located within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, 40 miles inland from the Bering Sea on the Kuskokwim River. It is approximately 400 air miles west of Anchorage. The area encompasses 43.8 square miles of land and 5.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, Bethel had a population of 5,471 people in 1,741 households. Most of the population (95.6%) lived in households rather than group quarters. The racial breakdown of the community was as follows: White (26.8%), Alaska Native or American Indian (61.8%), Black (0.9%), Asian (2.9%), Hawaiian Native (0.2%), and other (0.5%). Residents of two or more races comprised 6.9% of the population. A total of 68% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Residents of Hispanic ethnicity comprised 1.7% of the population.

There were more men (52.5%) than women in Bethel in 2000. The median age was 29.1 years, significantly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years, owing to Bethel's position as a regional employment hub that attracts working-age people. For the same reason, Bethel's population has grown steadily in recent years, more than doubling since 1970.

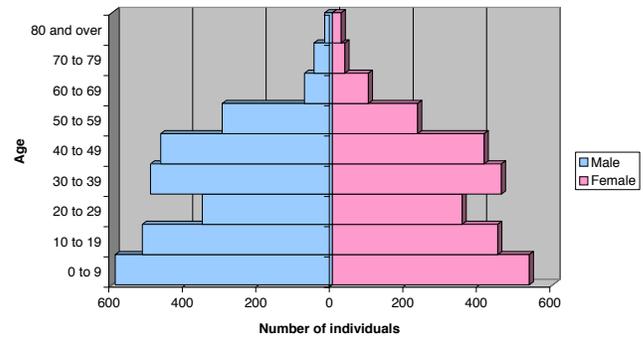
Approximately 84.2% of residents over 25 years of age have attained a high school degree or higher level of education.

History

Yup'ik Eskimos have inhabited the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area for at least 2,000 years. Bethel was settled by Yup'ik people who called the village "Mumtrekhlogamute," meaning "people who smoke fish." By the late nineteenth century, the village was an Alaska Commercial Company Trading Post. The Moravian church established a mission in the area in 1884. Bethel was incorporated as a second-class city in 1957, and has since become a regional hub for the many small towns and villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region. Yup'ik culture is still a strong influence in Bethel; the Yup'iit Piciryarait Museum plays an active role in the preservation of the local cultural heritage.

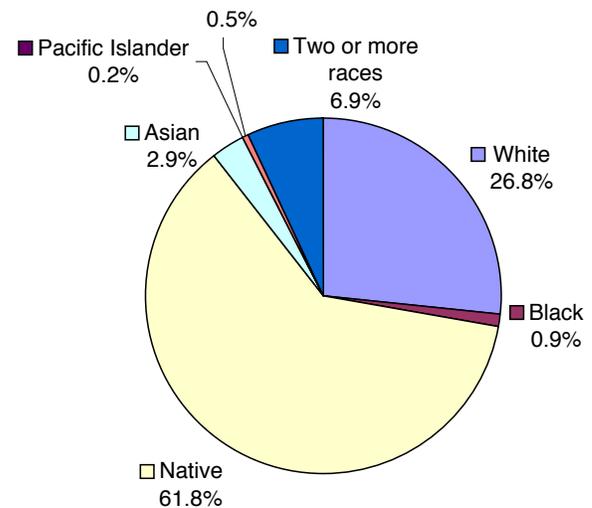
2000 Population Structure Bethel

Data source: US Census



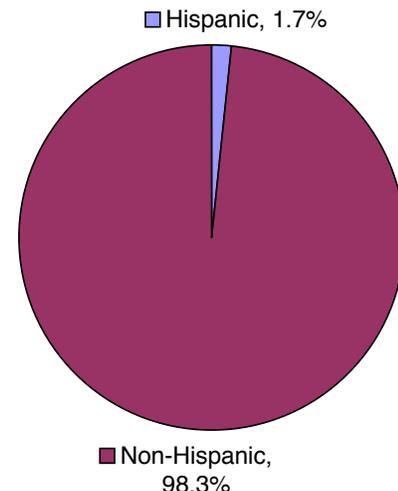
2000 Racial Structure Bethel

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Bethel

Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

Both subsistence and commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon and herring fisheries, are important parts of the Bethel economy. Because Bethel is the only town of substantial size in the region, it has become the regional hub for the many smaller villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Many residents of small villages come to Bethel for employment and for major services such as medical care. The current economy of Bethel reflects this fact: about 50% of local jobs are in the government sector, and the service sector also accounts for a growing percentage of employment.

The median per capita income in Bethel is \$20,267, and the median household income is \$57,321. Approximately 6.5% of the population is unemployed, and 27% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 11.2% of residents live below the poverty level.

Governance

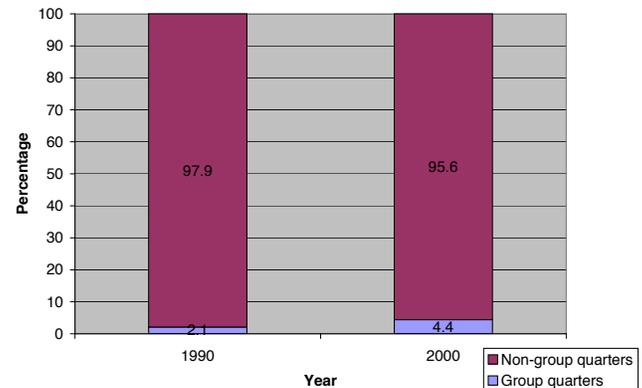
Bethel was incorporated as a second-class city in 1957. It has a strong mayor form of government. A 5% sales tax is collected in Bethel as well as a 5% alcohol tax, 3% hotel/B&B tax, 6% gaming tax, a fuel tax, and a vehicle registration tax. The city is in the Bethel recording district and is not within an organized borough. A Native governing body, Orutsararmuit Native Council, is a federally recognized tribal group representing the two-thirds of Bethel residents who are of Native descent. The Bethel Native Corporation is the local for-profit Native governing body. The Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, is active in the community and promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries. There is a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office and an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office located in Bethel. The nearest office of the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Facilities and infrastructure in Bethel are well developed in comparison to other cities and towns

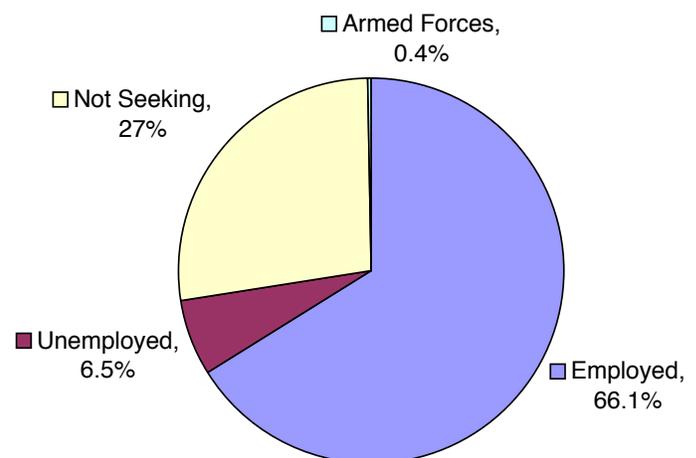
% Group Quarters Bethel

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Bethel

Data source: US Census



in the region. There is a 6,400 foot paved runway with propeller and jet plane service to the city from Anchorage and other cities. Roundtrip airfare from Bethel to Anchorage is approximately \$206. There is also a 1,850 foot gravel runway, and two floatplane bases. The Port of Bethel, on the Kuskokwim River, is a busy shipping port that receives supplies for residents throughout the area. There are only 16 miles of local roads, and transportation in winter is generally by snow machines.

There is a central piped water and sewer system, operated by the city, but only some residences are connected to it. Many houses have their own wells and septic tanks. There is a city-operated landfill. Electricity comes from the Bethel Utilities Corporation and is produced by a diesel generator. Other public services include the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital, operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health

Corporation, and police, fire and rescue services, operated by the city. There are six schools in Bethel, with a total of 87 teachers and 1,328 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon fisheries of Kuskokwim Bay and Bristol Bay, is an important part of the local economy of Bethel. In 2000 there were 201 registered crew members. There were two vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 22 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries who resided in the community. In 2000, 199 local residents held a total of 213 commercial fishing permits and 133 permits were actually fished. This section contains a detailed description of permits issued to Bethel residents.

Halibut: Three halibut longline permits were issued for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters, and one permit was fished.

Herring: Twenty-one residents held a total of 21 permits for the herring fishery, and 6 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: six herring roe gillnet permits for Nelson Island (one fished), two herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (none fished), two herring roe gillnet permits for Nunivak Island (one fished), four herring roe gillnet permits for Cape Avinof (one fished), five herring roe gillnet permits for Goodnews Bay (one fished), and two herring roe gillnet permits for Cape Romanzof (two fished).

Other Finfish: A total of two permits were issued for miscellaneous finfish, including one for set gillnet vessels in statewide waters and one for longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters. No permits were fished.

Salmon: One hundred eighty-six local residents held a total of 187 permits for the salmon fishery, and 126 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: 11 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (11 fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (none fished), 161 salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (105 fished), and 14 salmon set gillnet permits for the lower Yukon River (10 fished).

In 2000, there were five commercial fish processors in Bethel taking landings from federally managed fisheries, with a total of 123.4 tons in landings. These landings were comprised entirely of halibut, delivered by 167 vessels. In addition, 95 vessels delivered salmon landings to processors in Bethel; the specific tonnage of landings for salmon is confidential, however, in accordance with confidentiality requirements. In 2003, Bethel received \$20,338 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate the community for falling salmon prices.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing, while less significant than commercial and subsistence fishing, is nevertheless an important part of Bethel's involvement in North Pacific fisheries. In 2000, a total of 570 sport fishing licenses were sold in Bethel, most of them (410) to Alaska residents. In 2002, there were two registered sport fishing guides for freshwater and no registered guides for saltwater sport fishing. Major sport fish species include salmon, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, arctic grayling, and northern pike.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence hunting and fishing are practiced in Bethel. However, detailed data on subsistence resource uses from the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence is lacking. In 1999, 1,508 households in Bethel held subsistence salmon harvesting permits, and harvested Chinook, sockeye, Coho and chum salmon, mostly from the Kuskokwim Bay and Kuskokwim River. Bethel has a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, which allows residents to harvest halibut for subsistence uses. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Additional Information

The Camai festival, a three-day event celebrating Yup'ik dance and traditional culture, is held annually in Bethel.

Chefnak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Chefnak is located on the south bank of the Kinia River, near its mouth at Etolin Strait. It is 98 air miles southwest of Bethel and 490 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 5.7 square miles of land and 0.8 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000 there were 394 residents of Chefnak in 75 households. All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The racial composition of the community was as follows: Alaska Native or American Indian (93.4%), White (2.0%), and two or more races (4.6%). A total of 98% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The gender makeup was not hugely disparate, at 51.5% male and 48.5% female. The median age in the community, 20.8 years, was quite a bit younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. Approximately 60.2% of residents 25 years of age and older had a high school degree or higher level of education.

History

The area of Chefnak has historically been occupied by Yup'ik Eskimos. The original village was located on Etolin Strait, in the Bering Sea, until residents moved in the 1950s to its current site, one mile inland, in order to avoid flooding. The Native village corporation of Chefnak, Chefnarmute Inc., was granted a land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971.

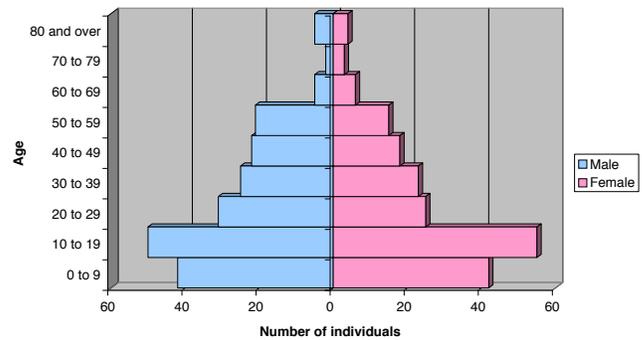
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial fishing is a mainstay of the local economy. In addition, subsistence fishing and hunting are important to nearly all residents of Chefnak. The median per capita income in 2000 was \$8,474 and the median household income was \$35,553. Unemployment in Chefnak was 7.9%, and 33.7% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not in the labor force). Approximately 25.1% of individuals in the community lived below the poverty level.

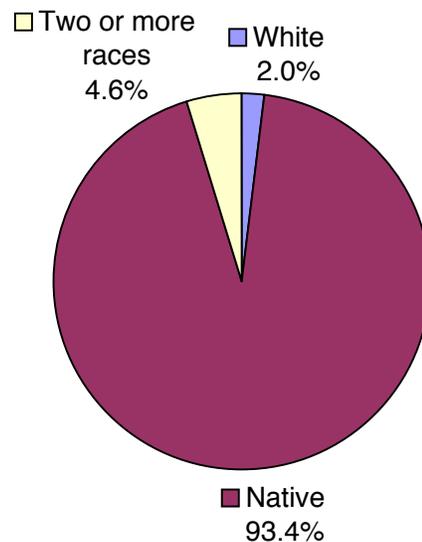
**2000 Population Structure
Chefnak**

Data source: US Census



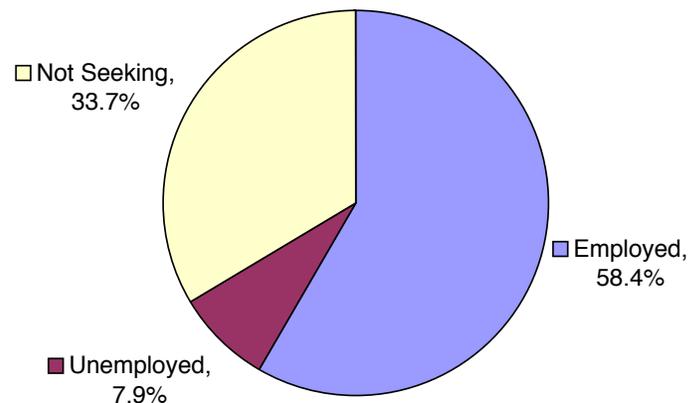
**2000 Racial Structure
Chefnak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Chefnak**

Data source: US Census



Governance

Chefornak was incorporated as a second-class city in 1974 and has a strong-mayor form of government. In Chefornak a 2% sales tax is collected. In addition to the city government there is also a village council, an important body of local Native governance. In addition, the village corporation, Chefarmute Inc., is a federally recognized Native organization. The village is a member of the Calista Corporation, a regional Native corporation.

The Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, is active in the community and promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Access to Chefornak is primarily by air. There is a 2,500 foot gravel airstrip owned by the state, as well as a seaplane base. Roundtrip airfare from Chefornak to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$380. Small boats can also navigate the Kinia River to its mouth on Etolin Strait.

There is no piped water or sewer system; most residents rely on wells and septic tanks. There is a city-operated landfill. Electricity is provided by Naterkaq Light Plant, a city-operated facility that produces power with a diesel generator. There is a health clinic, owned by the city and operated with cooperation from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. There is one school in the community, which offers instruction to students grades K-12. The school has a total of 8 teachers and 147 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, there were eight vessel owners residing in the community who operated in federally managed fisheries. There were 21 registered crew members in

the community. In 2000, 27 local residents held a total of 56 commercial fishing permits, and 24 permits were fished. This section contains a detailed description of Chefornak's commercial fishing permits.

Halibut: Eighteen residents held a total of 27 permits for the halibut fishery, and 10 permits were fished. These permits included the following: 13 halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (3 fished), and 14 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (10 fished).

Herring: Twenty residents held a total of 22 permits for the herring fishery, and 9 permits were fished. These permits included the following: 7 herring roe gillnet permits for Nelson Island (2 fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (none fished), and 14 herring roe gillnet permits for Cape Avinof (7 fished).

Salmon: Seven local residents held a total of seven permits for the salmon fishery, and five permits were fished. These permits included the following: five salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (five fished), and two salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (none fished).

In 2000 there was one commercial fishing processing plant in Chefornak. Detailed information on landings is unavailable, in accordance with confidentiality requirements.

Sport Fishing

Given its remote location, sport fishing is not significant in Chefornak. Detailed data on sport fishing activities and permits for Chefornak are unavailable.

Subsistence Fishing

The ADF&G does not have detailed information on subsistence resource use in Chefornak. The community holds a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), which means its residents are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003. In 1999, 94 households held permits to harvest subsistence salmon.

Clark's Point [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Clark's Point is situated on the northeastern shore of Nushagak Bay in the Dillingham Census Area. It is about 15 miles from Dillingham and 337 miles southwest of Anchorage. It makes up 3.1 square miles of land and 0.9 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

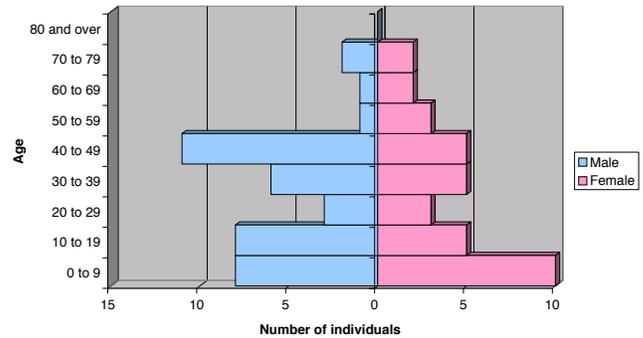
There were a total of 75 inhabitants in Clark's Point according to the 2000 U.S. Census, and of those, 53.3% were male and 46.7% were female. According to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Clark's Point "is the summer working grounds of about 300 additional people who work the sockeye salmon runs" (p. 152). Since about 1980 the population has remained relatively stable, fluctuating from 60 to 79 residents. Prior to that, the population topped 100 people in the 1950s and 1960s. During 1930s and 1940s the population was only around 12. In 2000, about 90.7% of the residents were American Indian and Alaska Native, 6.7% were White, 1.3% was Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 1.3% was of two or more races. About 92.0% of the population of Clark's Point identified themselves as all or part American Indian and Alaska Native. No one in the community was Hispanic. The median age of the community was 30.5 years, significantly lower than the national median of 35.3 years. There were a total of 51 housing units, 27 of which were vacant and 22 were vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the population lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 and over, 76.5% had graduated from high school or a higher level of education and 3.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

Originally Clark's Point was called by the Eskimo name "Saguyak." There is no evidence that the area of Clark's Point had been settled before the Nushagak Packing Company cannery was established there in 1888. The village of Clark's Point was named after the manager of the Alaska Commercial Company store at Nushagak, John Clark. Prior to the opening of the cannery it is reported that Clark had opened a saltery in the area. The Nushagak Packing Company cannery became a member of the Alaska Packers Association in

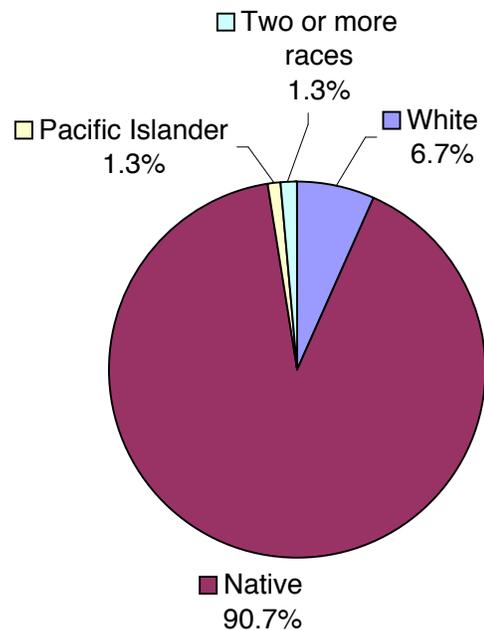
**2000 Population Structure
Clarks Point**

Data source: US Census



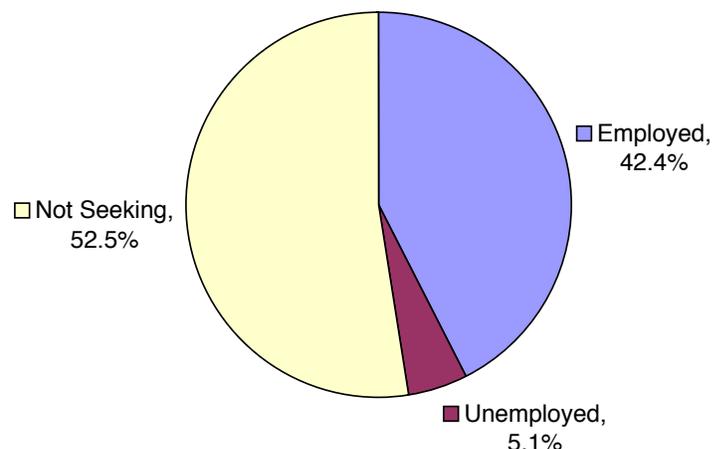
**2000 Racial Structure
Clarks Point**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Clarks Point**

Data source: US Census



1893. A two-line cannery was built in the community in 1901, but during WWII the canning operation ceased and only salting was done. A major flood took place in Clark's Point in 1929. By 1952 the processing plant was shut down permanently and at that time was used as headquarters for the Alaska Packers Association's fishing fleet. In 1971 the City was incorporated. In 1982 a housing project was constructed on the bluff which is both higher and safer ground, as the community has had major problems with erosion and past floods. The processing plant was purchased by Trident in 1987, but there hasn't been any processing at the plant since the 1950s. Since then the plant has "been used mainly as a fish camp, storing boats and providing services, bunkhouse rooms, ice, groceries and meal services" and was put up for sale by Trident at the beginning of 2002 at which time the company said that would be the last summer they would operate the facility (Juneau Daily News Online 2002).

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Clark's Point is based, for the most part, on commercial fishing. In 2000, 28 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community and there were 30 licensed crew members. All community members are dependent on subsistence to a certain extent and many will travel large distances to acquire resources if necessary. Of the population of Clark's Point age 16 years and over in 2000, about 42.4% were employed, 5.1% were unemployed, and 52.5% were not in the labor force. Of those employed, about 56.0% were listed as government employees. The per capita income in 2000 was \$10,989 and the median household income was \$28,125. About 45.7% of the population lived below the poverty level at the time of the Census.

Governance

Clark's Point is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1971. Clark's Point is not part of an organized borough. The city has a strong mayor form of government including the mayor, a six person city council, a four-person advisory school board, and various municipal employees. There is a 5% sales tax in Clark's Point, but no property tax. The regional Native corporation for the area and is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. The Native village corporation is

Saguyak Inc., and the traditional council, recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), is the Clark's Point Village Council. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group in which the city is included is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation. The regional non-profit organization for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Clark's Point is accessible by both the air and water, although air travel is the more common method of traveling to the community. There is a 2,600 foot gravel runway owned by the State and floatplanes are able to land on the Nushagak River. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Clark's Point is \$399 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Freight is barged to Dillingham and then transported to Clark's Point. An underdeveloped spit dock owned by the City is the only boat moorage so boats, therefore, land on the beach. Trident Seafoods owns a private dock at their facility. The main means of transportation for locals is either ATVs or snowmachines. There are no visitor accommodations in the community. There is one school, Clark's Point School, which teaches grades K-7 with 17 students and 2 teachers in 2000. Health care is available from Clark's Point Health Clinic which is operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) and is owned by the City. The clinic is located in a flood plain and is in need of replacement. There are no police services in the community. The electric utility is the City of Clark's Point with a main power source of diesel. The water system is operated by the City and about 80% of residents are connected to this system. The remaining residents use individual wells. The City also operates the sewer system with the buildings located on the bluff connected to 40% of homes and the school. Those who live below the bluff use septic tanks or pit privies and both the city offices and the clinic use honeybuckets. The City also operates the landfill but refuse collection is not available.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 28 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Clarks Point in 2000 and 30 residents were licensed crew members. No vessel owners resident in Clarks Point participated in the federal fisheries, although 10 resident vessel owners participated in the salmon fishery.

Of the 28 permits issued to community members, 22 were fished in 2000. Six permits were issued for halibut using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (none fished). Nine permits were issued for herring roe: four using gillnets in Security Cove (two fished) and five using gillnets in Bristol Bay (four fished). A total of 13 permits were issued for salmon: 8 using drift gillnets in Bristol Bay (11 fished) and 5 using set gillnets in Bristol Bay (5 fished).

There were a total of 87 vessels which delivered salmon landings to the community of Clarks Point in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable. It is not clear why salmon landings are delivered to the community if no processor is in operation in Clark's Point.

The community was recently granted \$174,475 in federal salmon disaster funds. The CDQ group in which Clark's Point is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing does not seem to be much of an attraction for tourists to the community of Clark's Point and the support systems necessary for this industry are currently not available. According to the ADF&G there were no sport fishing licenses sold in the community in 2000 and no sport fishing guide businesses in Clark's Point which were listed for 2002. It is mentioned by ADF&G that king salmon can be caught by sport fishers on the Nushagak River and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, which is west of the community "is well-suited for salmon and trout sport fishing" (inAlaska.com 2003).

Subsistence Fishing

All residents of the community are dependent on subsistence to an extent, and exchange relationships are in place with near communities such as the trading of smelt for whitefish with Ekwok, New Stuyahok and Bethel, and the trading of moose for lingcod from Manakotak. According to the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence, in the survey year of 1989 the per capita wild food harvest by residents of Clark's Point was 363.0 lbs. About 94.1% of households in the community used Chinook salmon, 100% used sockeye salmon, 94.1% used smelt, 76.5% used caribou, 41% used Dolly Varden and pike, and 29.4% used herring roe on kelp. The ADF&G reported in 1999 that 15 household subsistence salmon permits were issued to those from the community for an estimated total of 1,218 harvested salmon. Residents of Clark's Point are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Dillingham [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Dillingham is situated on the very northern end of Nushagak Bay at the junction of the Nushagak and Wood Rivers. It is in northern Bristol Bay in the Dillingham Census Area and is 327 miles southwest of Anchorage. The community includes 33.6 square miles of land and 2.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

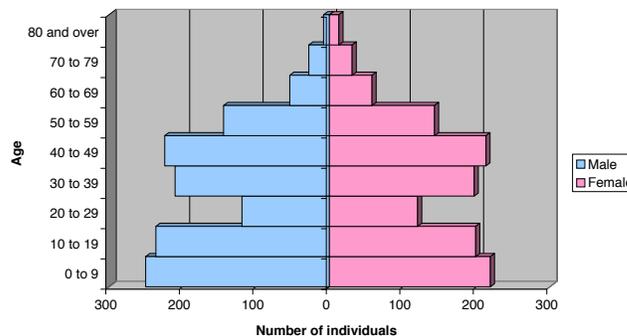
There were a total of 2,466 inhabitants in the community of Dillingham at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census. The gender breakdown was 51.6% male and 48.4% female. The population of Dillingham shrunk between 1920 and 1930, but since then has continued to rise to the 2,475 inhabitants counted by a state demographer in 2002. The population of the community doubles during spring and summer due to the seasonality of commercial fishing and the operation of fish processing plants. In 2000 about 52.6% of the population of Dillingham was American Indian and Alaska Native, 35.6% was White, 1.2% was Asian, 0.6% was Black or African American, 0.6% was some other race, and 9.4% was of two or more races. When race alone or in combination with one or more other races is taken into account, about 60.9% of the population was American Indian and Alaska Native, and 43.1% was White. About 3.5% of the population was Hispanic. The median age of Dillingham was 32.8 years, significantly lower than the national median of 35.3 years. There were a total of 1,000 housing units in the community of which 116 were vacant, and of those, 39 were vacant due to seasonal use. About 1.3% of the population lived in group quarters at the time of the 2000 Census. About 83.5% of the population of the community age 25 and over had graduated from high school or higher, and 21.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

According to inAlaska.com "Yup'ik and Athabascan people settled the region, known as Naugeik, more than 6,000 years ago." Historically, an Eskimo and Athabascan village was situated at the north end of Nushagak Bay and was known as "Aleknuguk" or "Chogium" (North Pacific Fishery Management Council, p. 143). In 1818 the Russians

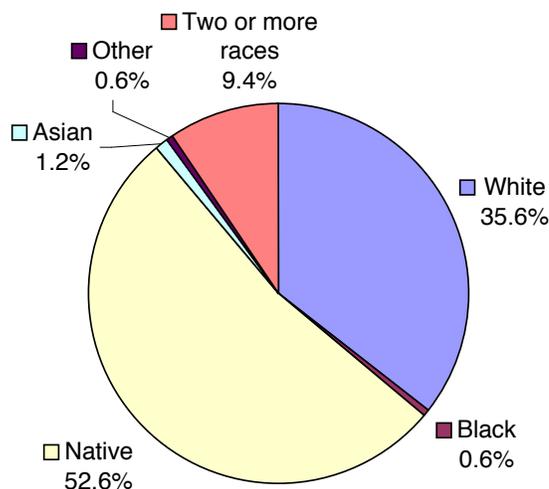
**2000 Population Structure
Dillingham**

Data source: US Census



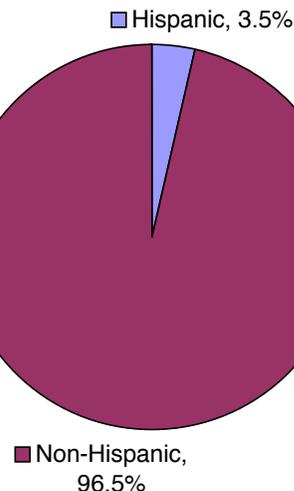
**2000 Racial Structure
Dillingham**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Dillingham**

Data source: US Census



established the fur trading post Alexandrovski Redoubt, and the area became a trade center. Native peoples from the Kuskokwim Region, Alaska Peninsula, and Cook Inlet came to the post to visit or live. In 1837 a Russian Orthodox mission was erected and at that time the village was known as Nushagak. The U.S. Signal Corps established a meteorological station in the community in 1881. The first salmon cannery in the Bristol Bay region was built east of the site of modern day Dillingham by Arctic Packing Co. in 1884. This “turned the community into a primarily fishing village that attracted Aleut, Eskimo and Athabascan Indian fishermen from all over the area” (North Pacific Fishery Management Council, p. 143). In the next 17 years, 10 more canneries were established. After U.S. Senator Paul Dillingham’s 1903 tour of Alaska with his Senate subcommittee, the town and post office at Snag Point were named after him. The region was struck by the 1918-19 influenza epidemic and there were no more than 500 survivors, including no one under the age of two. After the epidemic, a hospital and orphanage were built in Kakanak six miles from the center of present-day of Dillingham. The town site of Dillingham was first surveyed in 1947 and the City became incorporated in 1963.

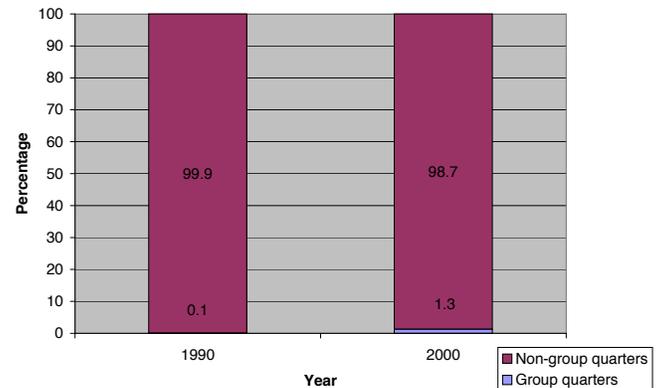
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Dillingham is based primarily on the fishing industry. The main activities are commercial fishing, fish processing, cold storage, and support of the fishing industry. Revenue is also generated by the sport fishing industry. The community is the economic, transportation, and public service center for western Bristol Bay. The processors of Peter Pan Seafoods, Triton Fisheries, Icicle, and Unisea are present in Dillingham. In 2000, 457 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Dillingham and there were a total of 481 licensed crew members which were residents. Each year the population doubles during spring and summer because of seasonal workers in the commercial fishing sector. Seasonal employment is aided in stabilizing by the city’s role as the regional center for government and services. Many residents are dependent on subsistence activities. Of the population age 16 years and over in 2000, about 67.6% were employed, 5.2% were unemployed, 0.2% were in the armed forces, and 27.0% were not in the labor force.

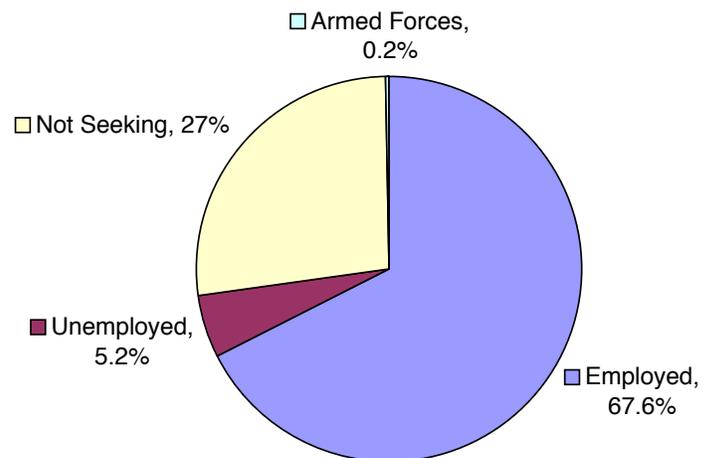
% Group Quarters Dillingham

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Dillingham

Data source: US Census



Of those employed, about 37.9% were classified as having been government workers. In 2000, the per capita income of Dillingham was \$21,537 with the median household income was \$51,458.

Governance

Dillingham is a first-class city which was incorporated in 1963. It has a manager form of government which includes a mayor, seven-person city council, five person school board, five person planning commission, and various municipal employees, including a police chief. The city is not part of any organized borough. A 6% sales tax is imposed as well as an 11.0 mills property tax, 10% liquor tax, 6% gaming tax, and a 10% accommodations tax. The regional Native corporation in which Dillingham is

included is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the regional non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Native village corporations are Choggiung Ltd. (a merged corporation of Dillingham, Ekuk, and Portage Creek) and Olsonville, Inc. which is a Native village corporation and an ANCSA Native Group. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group in which the city is included is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is the Curyung Native Village Council, also known as the Native Village of Dillingham. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located within Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, an office is located in Homer, and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

The city of Dillingham is accessible by both air and sea. A 6,404 foot paved runway and flight service station is owned by the state and regular jet flights are available from Anchorage. The approximate cost of a roundtrip flight to Anchorage from Dillingham, according to Travelocity and Expedia, is \$319 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). There is a seaplane base owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Division of Lands and a heliport is available at Kanakanak Hospital. The small boat harbor is a tidal harbor for seasonal use with 320 slips, a dock, barge landing, boat launch, and haul-out facilities and it is City-operated. There are two barge lines which make trips from Seattle to the community. There is a gravel road connecting the community of Aleknagik to Dillingham. Accommodations are available at five different inns, lodges, and B&Bs. There are two schools in the community; Dillingham Elementary School which teaches preschool through 5th grade, and Dillingham Middle/High School which teaches grades 6 through 12. In 2000 there were a total of 526 students at both schools and a total of 40 teachers. Health care is available at Kanakanak Hospital, Dillingham Medical Clinic, and Dillingham Health Clinic which are owned and operated by the U.S. Public Health Service. The Kanakanak Hospital is an Acute Care facility. Police services are available from the City Department of Public Safety and from the State Troopers Post. The electric utility is the

Nushugak Electric Cooperative which is operated by REA Co-op with the main power source being diesel. This plant also supplies power to Aleknagik. The City operates a piped water system, but there are also individual wells as well for the 60% of the homes which are not served by the piped system. The sewer system is also operated by the City, although about 75% of the residents have septic systems. The refuse collector is Dillingham Refuse Inc. and the landfill is operated by the City.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

The community of Dillingham is very involved in commercial fishing which forms the economic base of the community. In fact, the population of the community doubles during the fishing season. There were a total of 457 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Dillingham in 2000 and 481 licensed crew members which were residents. Ten resident vessel owners participated in the federal fisheries in 2000 and 147 vessel owner residents participated in the salmon fishery. Out of the total of 457 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of the community, a total of 294 were fished in 2000.

Halibut: Forty-four permits were issued for the commercial fishing of halibut: 40 were issued using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (13 fished) and 4 were issued using longline on a vessel over 60 feet statewide (one fished).

Herring: In regards to herring, 164 permits were issued to residents of Dillingham and of those 50 were fished. One permit was issued for herring roe using a purse seine in Prince William Sound (none fished), one for herring roe using a purse seine on the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), 15 for herring roe using a purse seine in Bristol Bay (3 fished), one for herring roe using a beach seine in Norton Sound (none fished), 38 for herring roe using a gillnet in Security Cove (4 fished), 74 for herring roe using a gillnet in Bristol Bay (43 fished), 2 for herring roe using a gillnet in Goodnews Bay (none fished), one for herring roe using a gillnet in Norton Sound (none fished), and 31

* Commercial fishing permit data presented here is from the CFEC and is for the communities of Dillingham and Portage Creek combined.

for herring spawn on kelp gathered by diving or hand picked in Bristol Bay (none fished).

Groundfish: A total of four permits were issued for other groundfish and of those none were fished in 2000. One permit was issued for miscellaneous salt water finfish using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide and three were issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a mechanical jig statewide.

Salmon: Two hundred forty five permits were issued for salmon and of those 230 were fished. A total of 140 were issued for salmon using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (137 fished), 102 using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (93 fished), one using a set gillnet in the Kuskokwim (not fished), and 2 using a set gillnet in the Lower Yukon (none fished).

Salmon landings were delivered to the community of Dillingham by 441 vessels in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable. No landings were delivered to the community for any other fisheries. The processors of Icicle, Peter Pan, Trident, and Unisea all are present in the community.

The city of Dillingham was allocated \$119,145 in federal salmon disaster funds in July of 2003 because of the recent drop in salmon prices and loss in taxes generated. The CDQ group in which Clark's Point is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing seems to play an important role in Dillingham. Many businesses in the community cater to this industry and a large number of licenses are sold each year. Many species of fish are fished for sport

in and around Dillingham including but not limited to king salmon, chum, Coho, pink salmon, rainbow trout, arctic grayling, arctic char, northern pike, Dolly Varden, and the area "is home to the world's largest sockeye (red) salmon fishery" (Alaskaoutdoors.com 2003). According to the ADF&G, in 2000 there were 674 sport fishing licenses sold in Dillingham to Alaska State residents and a grand total of 2210 licenses sold to residents of non- residents. The ADF&G reported listings for sport fishing guide businesses in the year 2002: 2 listings for saltwater guide businesses, 20 for freshwater guide businesses, 14 for full service guiding services, 12 for lodge/resort services, and 5 for aircraft/fly-in services. These numbers attest to the fact that sport fishing is a major tourist attraction for the area.

Subsistence Fishing

Many community members are dependent on subsistence resources, apparently used by almost all households in Dillingham. The ADF&G report for the most representative year for Dillingham, 1984, showed that 98.0% of households used all subsistence resources: 88.2% salmon, 75.0% non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, halibut, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, trout, and whitefish), 26.8% marine mammals, and 13.1% marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest for all subsistence resources by community members was 242.23 lbs: 58.37% salmon, 7.21% non-salmon fish, 1.23% marine mammals, 0.50% marine invertebrates, 2.19% birds and eggs, 27.20% land mammals, and 3.30% vegetation. The ADF&G reported that in 1999 there were 343 household subsistence salmon permits which were issued to residents of Dillingham. Residents are also eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Eek (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Eek is located on the south bank of the Eek River, 12 miles east of the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. It is 35 air miles south of Bethel and 420 miles west of Anchorage. The area encompasses 0.9 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000 there were 280 residents and 76 households in Eek. The community was primarily a Yup'ik Eskimo village. All residents lived in households rather than in group quarters. The racial composition of the community was as follows: Alaska Native or American Indian (95.7%), White (3.2%), and two or more races (1.1%). A total of 96.8% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 0.4% of the population (one resident) was of Hispanic origin. The gender ratio was significantly skewed, at 54.6% male and 45.4% female. The median age was 24 years, quite young compared to the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. Approximately 64.2% of residents 25 years of age or older had a high school degree or higher level of education.

History

The village of Eek was originally located on the Apokok River, several miles south of its present location. It was moved in the 1930s to avoid the constant problem of flooding. A Bureau of Indian Affairs school and a Moravian Church were constructed shortly after the move. The village's post office was established in 1949, and the village was incorporated as a second-class city in 1970. Today most residents have a subsistence lifestyle, depending on local fish and game.

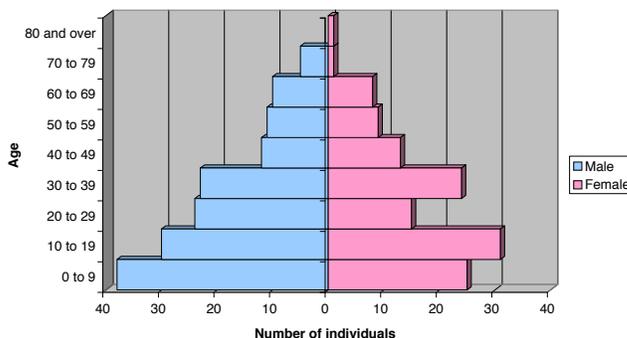
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Eek is a mixture of commercial fishing and subsistence hunting and fishing. Many local residents have commercial fishing permits for Bristol Bay and Kuskokwim Bay fisheries. The median per capita income in Eek is \$8,957 and the median household income is \$17,500. Approximately 7.5%

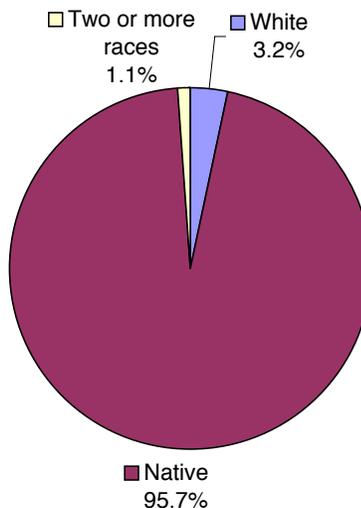
**2000 Population Structure
Eek**

Data source: US Census



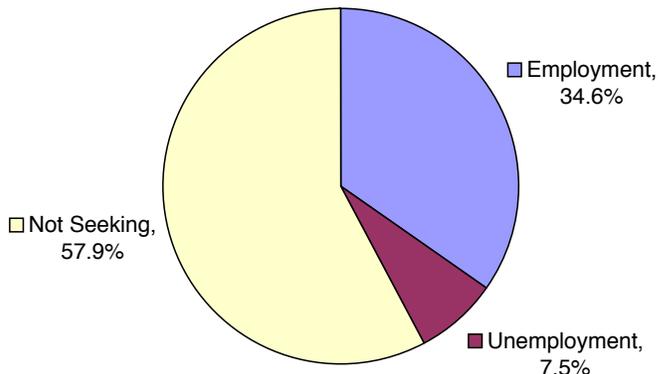
**2000 Racial Structure
Eek**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Eek**

Data source: US Census



of the local work force is unemployed and 28.8% of individuals live below the poverty level.

Governance

Eek incorporated as a second-class city in 1970. It is classified as “unorganized” (i.e. not under the jurisdiction of a Borough). It has a strong mayor form of government. The city administers a 2% sales tax; it has no property tax or other special taxes. Eek is federally recognized Native community with a village council. Its village corporation, the Iqfijouaq Company, is another important body of local Native governance. Eek is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group that promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Eek is accessible by air via a 1,400 foot sand and gravel airstrip. There is also a seaplane base on the Eek River. Roundtrip airfare from Eek to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$465. Local transportation is by fishing boat, skiff, and snowmachine. Water is from the Eek River and is treated and stored locally. Most houses do not have plumbing. There is a city-operated landfill. Electricity is provided by AVEC and is produced by a diesel generator. The Eek Health Clinic is owned by the city and operates in cooperation with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. There is one school in the community, which offers instruction to students in grades K-12 and has a total of 7 teachers and 76 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the Bristol Bay and Kuskokwim Bay salmon fisheries, is a vital part of the economy of Eek. In 2000, 45 local residents

held a total of 55 commercial fishing permits, and 43 permits were fished. There were 11 vessel owners with operations in non-federal fisheries residing in the community, and 51 crew members residing in the community. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Eek residents.

Halibut: Four total permits were issued, including one halibut hand troll permit for statewide waters and three halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters. No permits were fished.

Herring: Seven local residents held a total of seven commercial permits for the herring fishery, and three permits were fished. These included the following: one herring roe gillnet permit for Cape Avinof (not fished), and six herring roe gillnet permits for Goodnews Bay (three fished).

Salmon: Forty-five local residents held a total of 55 commercial permits for the salmon fishery, and 43 permits were fished. These permits included the following: four salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (three fished), 39 salmon set gillnet permits for Kuwkokwim Bay (36 fished), and one salmon set gillnet permit for the lower Yukon River (one fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors in Eek and therefore no registered landings.

Sport Fishing

Because of Eek’s relatively isolated location, sport fishing is negligible. There were no reported sport license sales in Eek for 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

The ADF&G does not have any specific data on subsistence activities in Eek. However, the community has a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), which means that residents are entitled to harvest subsistence halibut. In 1999 a total of 67 households held permits to harvest subsistence salmon. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Ekuk [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Ekuk is situated on the east coast of Nushagak Bay and spreads out for approximately two miles along a slender gravel spit which extends from Ekuk Bluffs in a hook shape. The community is about 17 miles south of Dillingham and makes up 4.7 square miles of land but has no water area under its jurisdiction. It is located in the Dillingham Census Area.

Demographic Profile*

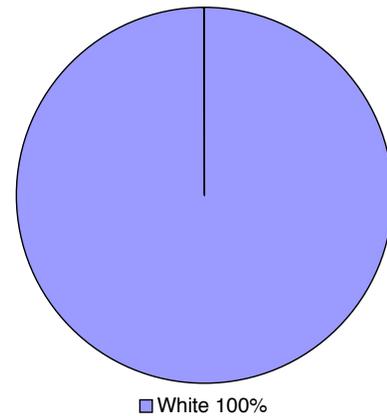
In 2000 there were two inhabitants of Ekuk, one male and one female. They both were White with a median age of 75 years. The two residents present at the time of the 2000 Census were the only year round residents and most likely the cannery watchman and the watchman's spouse. The population of the community has undergone changes over recent decades. The 1960 U.S. Census reported 40 inhabitants, 51 inhabitants in 1970, and 7 residents by the 1980. In 1990 the population was three, which reduced to the two reported by the 2000 Census. According to the most recent figures by a State Demographer, in 2002 there were five residents of Ekuk. In 2000 there were 73 total housing units in Ekuk and of those only one was occupied. The other 72 were vacant due to seasonal use. Both residents of Ekuk lived in households in 2000. The Wards Cove Packing Co. had been in operation in Ekuk, but closed in 2002. During the operation of Wards Cove Packing, a work force resided in Ekuk seasonally, including 200 workers at its peak. The current population of Ekuk is made up of seasonal subsistence users, seasonal commercial set netters, and possibly those operating the buying station for Yardarm Knot Fisheries during the salmon season.

History

The name Ekuk means “the last village down,” which reflects that the village is the community farthest south on the Nushagak Bay. Russian accounts first document the village in 1824 and 1828 as Village Ekouk and Seleniye Ikuk. Ekuk is believed to have been a major Eskimo village at one time in history. After 1818 the Russians employed the Natives of the area as guides as they navigated their boats up Nushagak Bay to the Aleksandrovsk trading post. Many residents of the community moved to the Moravian Mission

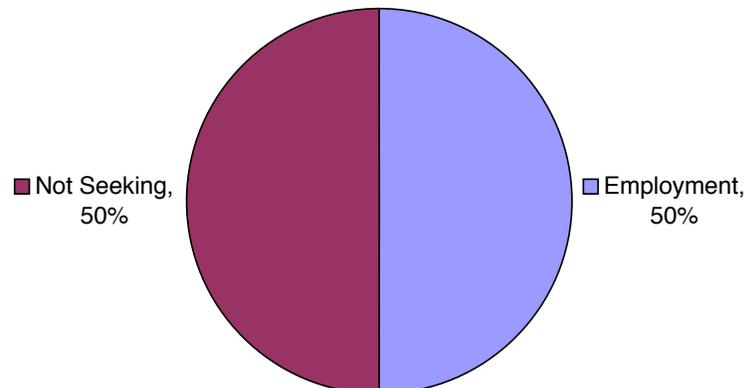
**2000 Racial Structure
Ekuk**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Ekuk**

Data source: US Census



* Ekuk was not considered to be a “Place” level geography by the 2000 U.S. Census; however it was considered an Alaska Native village statistical area (ANVSA). The 2000 Census data used in this section was located for Ekuk in the Census geographic category of “Reservation or Statistical Entity.”

at Carmel prior to the opening of the North Alaska Salmon Company cannery in Ekuk in 1903. Many residents were also drawn away from the village by the opening of additional canneries on both sides of the bay between 1888 and 1889. The Wards Cove Packing cannery was built in the 1940's in Ekuk. A school was present in the community during 1958 to 1974. In 2002 Wards Cove Packing closed down the operation of their salmon processing facilities including the Ekuk plant because of the drop in salmon prices and the decreased participation by fishers in the fishery. Yardarm Knot Fisheries recently purchased the Ekuk cannery and made it into a buying station for the Ekuk salmon set netters.

Infrastructure

Current Economy*

In 2000 it appears that all employment for the permanent residents was supplied by the cannery. All employed residents were classified as having held service occupations. In 2000 the per capita income was \$25,000 and the median household income was \$51,250. None of the residents lived below the poverty level. Ekuk is currently a subsistence-use site, with many families having set net sites. Yardarm Knot operates a salmon buying station at the old Wards Cove cannery for the commercial set netters who most likely come from the nearby communities of Clark's Point, South Naknek, and Manokotak which all have members who hold set net permits for the Bristol Bay area.

Governance

Ekuk is unincorporated and is not part of any organized borough; therefore there are no city or borough employees in the village. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council for the community is the Ekuk Village Council whose President is also a Board Representative for the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, which is the Community Development Quota (CDQ) group in which the village is included. The Native village corporation is Choggiung, Ltd. which owns most of the land and the airstrip in Ekuk. Choggiung, Ltd. is the merged Native corporation of Dillingham, Ekuk, and Portage Creek. The Native regional corporation is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation and the regional non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Ekuk can be reached by air and by sea; however, air travel is the most common means of transportation to the village. The airstrip is a 1,200 foot sand and gravel owned by Choggiung, Ltd. The approximate cost according to Anchorage from Ekuk is \$319 according to Travelocity and Expedia (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Flights are available from Dillingham in the summer months including both scheduled and charter flights. A small dock is located on the south side of the village and other private docks are present. The site of the old cannery and current buying station has a boat haul-out and two docks. The community of Clark's Point which is located two miles north can be reached during the winter months by snow-machine. There are no accommodations for tourists in the village and no school is present in Ekuk. There is no health care facility in Ekuk, but a clinic is located in Clark's Point. There are also no police services in the village. Individuals run their own generators, collect their own refuse, and take care of their sewer and water needs. No central facilities are available as the area is, for the most part, only seasonally used. Funds were requested to drill a community well.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

No one in the village of Ekuk held commercial fishing permits in 2000 and there were no resident crew members. The only two permanent residents at that time were employed as caretakers of the cannery which was still in operation during that year. During

* Ekuk was not considered to be a "Place" level geography by the year 2000 U.S. Census; however it was considered an Alaska Native village statistical area (ANVSA). The 2000 Census data used in this section was located for Ekuk in the Census geographic category of "Reservation or Statistical Entity."

2000, the Wards Cove Packing plant was still in operation and had 200 seasonal employees at its peak. The plant processed salmon and had a total of 122 vessels which delivered landings in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable, most likely because only one processor was present in the community.

In 2002 the Wards Cove plant closed and recently the plant was purchased by Yardarm Knot Fisheries, which is a Seattle-based company. Yardarm Knot Fisheries is currently not processing at the plant, but has turned the facility into a buying station for the Ekuik salmon set netters. The fish are tendered to the company's Red Salmon Plant in Naknek. The set netters most likely come from neighboring communities such as Clark's Point and reside in their own temporary camps during the salmon season.

The CDQ group in which Ekuik is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There is no evidence of sport fishing in Ekuik and facilities do not currently exist to attract tourists to this industry as there is no hotel in the community or businesses related to sport fishing. No sport fishing licenses were sold in the community in 2000 and no sport fishing businesses were listed for the community by the ADF&G for 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

No data were available regarding subsistence harvesting in Ekuik, although the village is the site of subsistence set net salmon harvesting. Permanent residents are also eligible to apply for a permit to harvest Nushagak Peninsula caribou.

Ekwok [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Ekwok is situated inland on the Nushagak River and is in the Dillingham Census Area. It is located 43 miles northeast of Dillingham and 285 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is comprised of 16 square miles of land and 1.4 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

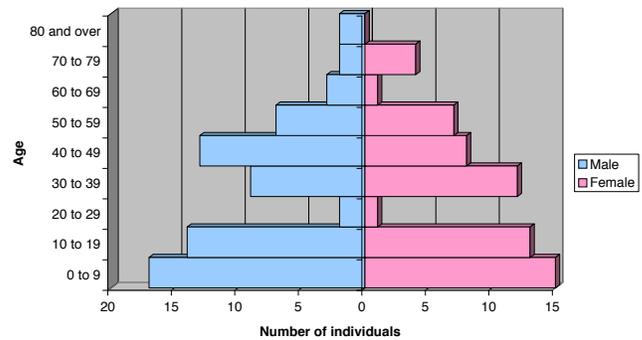
In 2000 there were a total of 130 residents in Ekwok. The population leaned heavily towards males, who made up 53.1% versus 46.9% females. The population of Ekwok has fluctuated substantially since 1930, the first year a population was officially recorded by the U.S. Census; at the time the community included 40 people. In recent years, the community has fluctuated between about 77 and 130 people. In 2000 about 91.5% of the residents were American Indian and Alaska Native, 6.2% White, and 2.3% were of two or more races. When race alone or in combination with one or more other races is taken into account, about 93.8% of the population was American Indian and Alaska Native. No one in the community was Hispanic. The median age was 31.5 years, significantly younger than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. In 2000 there were 56 total housing units in Ekwok, although 14 were vacant, five due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 years and over, about 64.7% had graduated from high school or higher, and 5.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. About 27.5% of the population age 25 and over had completed less than 9th grade.

History

Yup'ik and Athabascan people settled in the region more than 6,000 years ago (inAlaska.com). Ekwok is the oldest continuously occupied Yup'ik Eskimo village on the Nushagak River; its name means "end of the bluff." During the 1800s the village was used as a fish camp in the spring and summer and as a berry picking base in the fall. By 1923 the settlement of Ekwok was the largest along the river. A Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school was constructed in the village in 1930. Until the post office opened in 1941, mail was delivered to Ekwok by dog sled. There was a severe flood in the early 1960s and at that time the

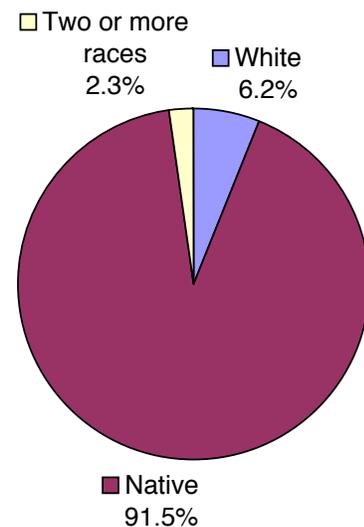
**2000 Population Structure
Ekwok**

Data source: US Census



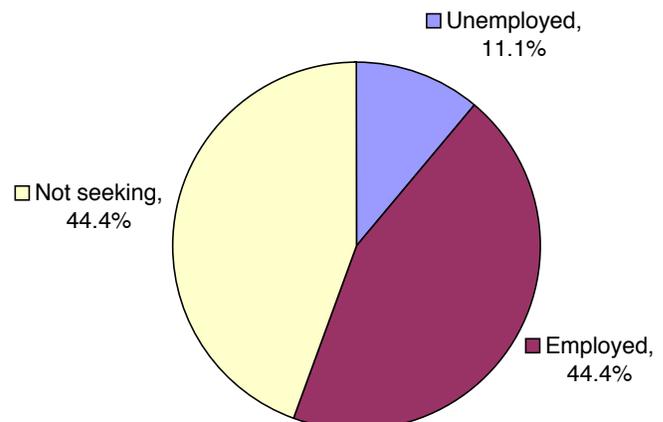
**2000 Racial Structure
Ekwok**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Ekwok**

Data source: US Census



village was relocated to its current location, which is on higher ground. In 1974 the city became incorporated.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The residents of Ekwok are all very dependent upon subsistence harvesting. Many members of the community also tend summer gardens, which are popular because families stay in the village to subsistence fish. A few members of the community trap. A large number of residents are not involved in the labor force. Of those age 16 and over in 2000, 44.4% were employed, 11.1% were unemployed, and 44.4% were not in the labor force. Of those who were employed, 74% were classified as government workers. About 39.3% were involved in occupations which were educational, or related to health and social services. In 2000, 7 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Ekwok and 13 community residents were licensed crew members. The Native village corporation, Ekwok Natives Ltd., owns a fishing lodge which is located two miles downriver. Near the community is the site of a gravel mine. The median per capita income was \$11,079 in 2000 and the median household income was \$16,250. About 32.1% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Ekwok is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1974. The City has a mayor form of government which includes the mayor, a seven-person city council, a three-person advisory school board, and a few municipal employees, including a public safety officer. Ekwok is not part of any organized borough and there are no taxes administered by the city. The Native village corporation is the Ekwok Natives Ltd. Ekwok Natives Limited owns a fishing lodge which is located about two miles away from the community. Ekwok belongs to the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, a Native regional corporation, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, a non-profit organization. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group to which Ekwok belongs is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, an office is located in Homer, and a main

office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Ekwok is most accessible by air travel. A State-owned 2,720 foot gravel runway is present in Ekwok and floatplanes land on the Nushagak River. Both regular and charter flights are available to the community from Dillingham. The approximate cost to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Ekwok is \$444. During the months which are ice-free, the Coastal Marine Transport barge service brings cargo to the community from Dillingham. The community does not have any docking facilities; however, there is a barge off-loading area. Locals use skiffs, ATVs, and snowmachines to travel to other villages. Accommodations are available in the community at either the Ekwok Lodge or Maalug's Lodge. There is one school, William "Sonny" Nelson School, which teaches K-8th grade. In 2000 the school had a total of 26 students and 3 teachers. The Ekwok Health Clinic There is newly constructed, owned by the City, and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). There are no police services in the community; however, one of the municipal employees for the city is a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The electric utility is Ekwok Electric, which is operated by the city. Refuse collection is not available and is up to the individuals. The city operates the landfill. The majority of residents rely on individual wells for water. There are 20 HUD homes which each have individual wells and a piped septic system. Sixteen additional homes are linked by a piped sewage system which the city operates, but the remaining residences all are dependent upon either septic systems or a flush/haul system.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of seven commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Ekwok in 2000, but only four were fished. A total of 13 members of the community were licensed crew members in 2000. Two residents vessel owners participated in the salmon fishery; no residents vessel owners participated in the federal fisheries.

Two permits were issued to residents for herring roe, including one gillnet in Security Cove (not fished)

and one gillnet in Bristol Bay (not fished). Five permits were issued for the commercial fishing of salmon all using drift gillnets in Bristol Bay (four fished).

No vessels delivered landings of any kind to the community of Ekwok because no processor was present in the community.

The CDQ group in which Ekwok is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing is a visitor attraction for Ekwok. In 2000 there were a total of 45 sport fishing licenses sold in the community, and of those only eight were sold to Alaska state residents. There were two businesses in the community in 2002 according to the ADF&G which were listed as freshwater guide businesses

and full service guide businesses. Accommodations for visiting sport fishers were available at Maalug’s Lodge.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence, in 1987 100% of all households in Ekwok used some type of subsistence resources: 89.7% salmon, 75.9% non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, flounder, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, sucker, trout, and whitefish), 41.4% marine mammals, and 0% marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 796.57 lbs in 1987. Of that per capita harvest, 52.27% was salmon, 8.61% was non-salmon fish, 0% was marine mammals, 0% was marine invertebrates, 0.46% was birds and eggs, 31.29% was land mammals, and 2.38% was vegetation. Also according to ADF&G, 12 household permits were issued for subsistence salmon to residents of Ekwok in the year 1999 for an estimated harvest of 1,870 total salmon. Residents of Ekwok are not eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Emmonak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community of Emmonak is situated at the mouth of the Yukon River on the coast of Western Alaska. It is located about ten miles from the Bering Sea and is on the north bank of Kwiguk Pass. The community is located in the Wade Hampton Census area and makes up an area of 7.5 square miles of land and 1.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

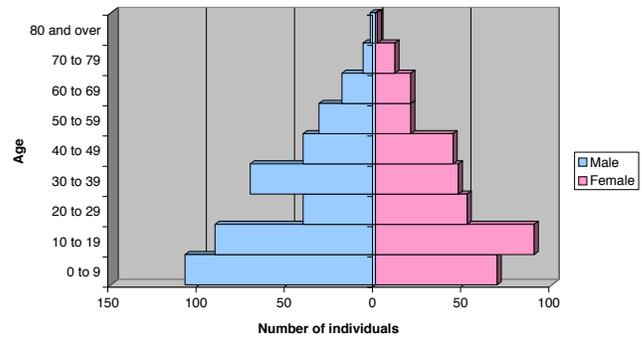
There were a total of 767 inhabitants of Emmonak city in 2000, and of those 53.8% were male and 46.2% were female. A population was first recorded by the Census in 1940 when there were 42 inhabitants. The population reached 358 by 1960 and has continued to rise since. The population can swell to as many as 2000 persons seasonally during the fishing season. According to the 2000 U.S. Census the racial composition of Emmonak is as follows: 91.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, 5.6% White, 0.3% Black, 0.1% Asian (Korean), and 2.7% two or more races. When considering race alone or in combination with one or more races, 93.9% of the population were American Indian and Alaska Native. About 1.0% of the population of the community was Hispanic. Approximately 55.9% of the population was age 18 and over in 2000 and the median age was 23.0 years versus the national median age of 35.3 years. There were a total of 218 housing units in 2000, of which 29 were vacant, 9 due to seasonal use. No one lived in group quarters in 2000. About 71.3% of the residents age 25 and over had graduated from high school or higher and 4.5% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

According to the National Park Service “one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP”, the Arctic Small Tool tradition, which is significant because “some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures” to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically the native Eskimo people present in the area of Emmonak have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because “southwestern Alaska lacked significant

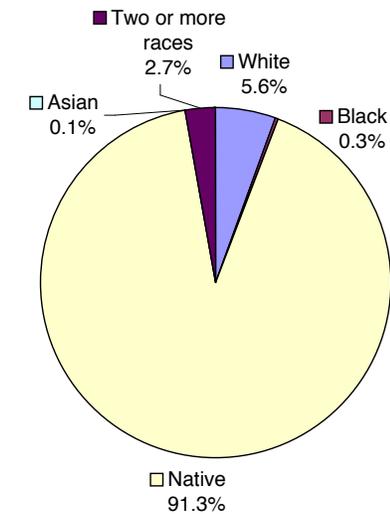
**2000 Population Structure
Emmonak**

Data source: US Census



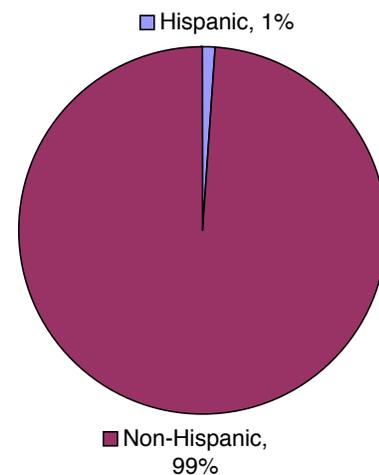
**2000 Racial Structure
Emmonak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Emmonak**

Data source: US Census



amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state”, the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800’s: Russian Orthodox, Moravians, and Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

The village of Emmonak was originally called “Kwiguk” which is a Yup’ik word meaning “big stream.” Those from the village refer to themselves as “Kuigpagmuit” meaning “people from the Yukon River.” The community has also been recorded historically as “Emanguk” by the Census Bureau and was at first a summer fish camp before becoming a permanent village. The village was first reported by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1899 at which time it was situated 1.4 miles south of its current location. In 1920 a post office was established. The community members “built their own log cabin school in 1950” and Emmonak “has the distinction of being the only village to build its own school without outside assistance” (Lower Yukon School District 2003).

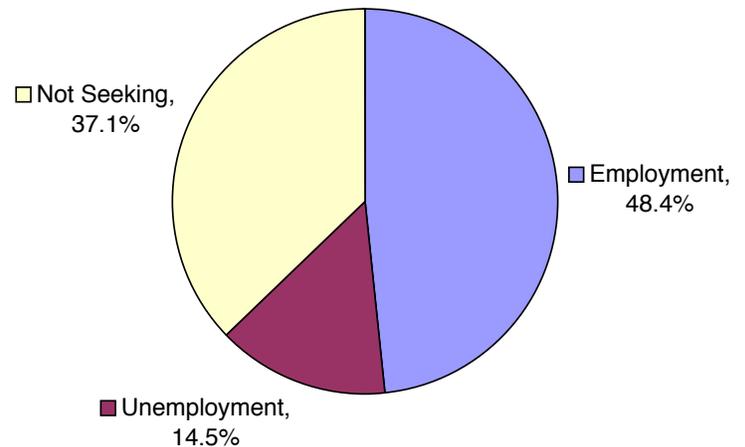
When commercial fishing became a key industry in the community, the northern Commercial Company established a cannery, although it was washed away in 1964 by flooding. Also in 1964 the City government was incorporated. During 1964 to 1965 the village was relocated to its current location because of growing flooding and erosion at the previous site. The new village site was named Emmonak, meaning “blackfish.” The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is banned in the city. Residents of a nearby fish camp, Chuloonawick live in the city of Emmonak as well.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Emmonak is very seasonal. It is the center for commercial fishing, processing, and purchasing on the lower Yukon River during the commercial fishing season. Residents travel to subsistence fish camps during the summer months to dry salmon for use in the winter. In 2000, 107 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Emmonak and there were 134 residents which were licensed crew members. The Yukon Delta Fish Marketing Co-op is present in the community as is a processor (Bering Sea Fisheries Inc.) which processes

**2000 Employment Structure
Emmonak**
Data source: US Census



salmon. Of the population of Emmonak age 16 years and over, 48.4% were employed in 2000, 14.5% were unemployed, and 37.1% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed, over half were classified as government workers. The per capita income in the community in 2000 was \$9,069 and the median household income was \$32,917. About 16.2% of the people in Emmonak lived below the poverty level at the time of the Census. Subsistence is very important to residents of the community.

Governance

Emmonak is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1964 and has a manager form of government that includes a mayor, seven person city council, five person advisory school board, and various municipal employees including a gaming supervisor. There is a 3% Sales Tax in the city as well as a Raw Fish Tax. There is no Property Tax. The city is not located in any organized borough. The regional Native corporation in which the community is included is the Calista Corporation, the second largest of the 13 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) regional corporations. The Native village corporation is the Emmonak Corporation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional village council is called Emmonak Village. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group for the area is the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located within the city of Emmonak, but is a seasonal office which is open from June 1st to August 31st, and an office is available year round in the community of Nome. The closest Bureau

of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is also located in Nome. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and the main office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Emmonak is reachable by air, water, and by land trails to Kotlik, Alakanuk, and Sheldon Point using snow machines during the winter. A 4,400 foot gravel airstrip, owned by the State, is available to the community. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Emmonak is \$710 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible) and requires travel via a rural airline. There are seven airline services that travel to the city. During the summer all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and skiffs are used for local transportation by community members. Accommodations are available at the City Hotel and a B&B. There is one school, the Emmonak School, K-12, which had 229 students and 17 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the newly constructed Emmonak Health Clinic which is operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and by the City. Police services are provided by the City Police Department. The electric utility's name is AVEC which is operated by REA Co-op and the City, and the main power source is diesel. In 2000 about 94.4% of the households heated using kerosene. Water, sewage, and garbage are all operated by the City.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

There were a total of 107 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Emmonak in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC). There were no vessel owners from the community of Emmonak participating in federal fisheries or in the commercial fishing of salmon. There were a total of 134 licensed crew member residents in 2000.

Of the 107 permits issued to Emmonak community members, 87 were fished. Two permits were issued for king crab using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet in Norton Sound (none fished). A total of five herring permits were issued with one for a herring roe gillnet around Nelson Island (none fished), one for a herring gillnet around Nunivak Island (one fished), and three

for herring roe using a gillnet in Norton Sound (none fished). One hundred permits were issued to residents of Emmonak for salmon using a set gillnet in the Lower Yukon (86 fished).

The only landings in the community were salmon, delivered by one vessel in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable. Bering Sea Fisheries, Inc., a land based salmon processor, was present 2000. According to the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association “for more than thirty years, Bering Sea Fisheries, Inc. has successfully been buying and marketing Yukon kings and chums” and “even in the disaster declaration years, Bering Sea Fisheries, Inc. managed to make ends meet.” Also present in the community was the Yukon Delta Fish Market Co-op.

The City of Emmonak was recently allotted \$27,711 in federal salmon disaster funds. The CDQ group, the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, was recently granted \$50,017 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing does not seem to be much of a tourist attraction. A total of 81 sport fishing licenses were sold in Emmonak to Alaska State residents in 2000 and a grand total of 82 sport fishing licenses were sold to non-residents. According to the ADF&G, there were no sport fishing guide businesses registered in Emmonak in 2002 and no business licenses currently on file with the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G, for the most representative year of 1980, a total of 100.0% of all households in Emmonak used all subsistence resources: 72.2% salmon, and 50.0% marine mammals. The data for non-salmon fish was not available, although it

* Commercial fishing permit data presented here is from the CFEC and is for the communities of Chuloonawik and Emmonak combined.

was mentioned that cod, eel, blackfish, burbot, pike, sheefish, and whitefish were used. The per capita subsistence harvest of all resources by residents of Emmonak in 1980 was 612.20 lbs. The composition of the harvest was made-up of 36.92% salmon, 33.18% non-salmon fish, 15.44% marine mammals, 5.21% birds and eggs, and 9.28% land mammals. A total of 157 household salmon subsistence permits were issued to residents of Emmonak in 1999 for a total of about 11,039 harvested fish. Residents of the community are eligible to apply for subsistence halibut registration certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Goodnews Bay [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community is located in Goodnews Bay, a small inlet off Kuskokwim Bay in the Bering Sea. It is approximately 116 air miles south of Bethel and 400 miles west of Anchorage. The area encompasses 3.2 square miles of land.

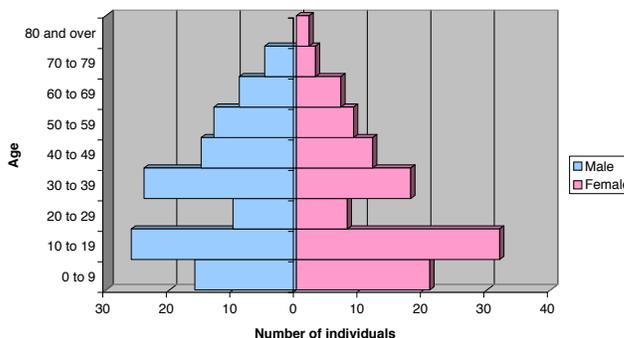
Demographic Profile

In 2000 Goodnews Bay had 230 residents and 71 households. It was primarily a Native village of Yup'ik Eskimos. All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The racial composition of the community was as follows: Alaska Native or American Indian (92.6%), White (5.7%), and two or more races (1.7%). A total of 93.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The gender ratio is somewhat skewed, at 51.3% male and 48.7% female. The age structure of the community is relatively young, with a median age of 30.7 years compared to the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. These factors, in combination with the fact that most residents (75.6%) speak Yup'ik at home, suggest that Goodnews Bay is an intact Native community with minimal out-migration for employment. Approximately 55.6% of residents aged 25 years or older have a high school degree or higher level of educational attainment.

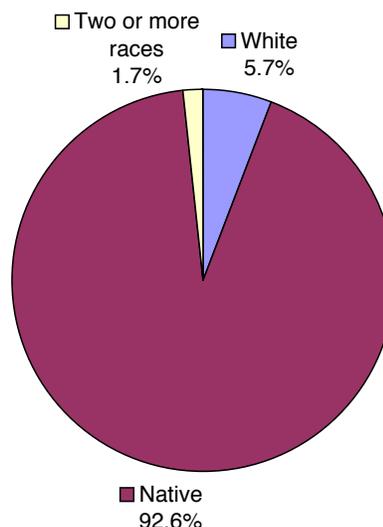
History

The area of Goodnews Bay has traditionally been the home of Yup'ik Eskimos, who called the village "Mumtraq." A Moravian mission was founded at the head of Goodnews Bay in the late 19th century. In the spring of 1911, a scientific team from the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, aboard the steamer ship "Explorer," landed in Goodnews Bay to conduct survey work (Mahler, 1911). The original village was moved to its present location in the 1930s to avoid the constant flooding and storms experienced at the old site. A government school and post office were established in the 1930s.

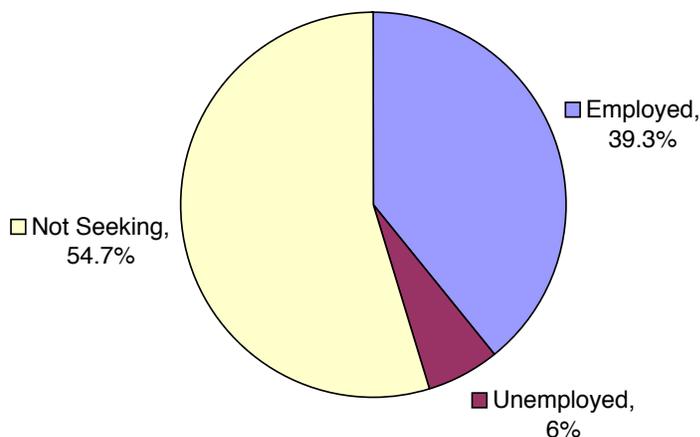
2000 Population Structure Goodnews Bay
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure Goodnews Bay
Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Goodnews Bay
Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

Most residents of Goodnews Bay rely heavily upon subsistence fishing and hunting. A significant number of residents hold commercial fishing permits. There is also some mining nearby for platinum and gold. In 2000 the median household income was \$16,250 and the median per capita income was \$6,851. The unemployment rate was 6%, and 54.7% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work). Approximately 39% of residents lived below the poverty level. It should be noted, however, that cash income is only part of the economic picture in Goodnews Bay; subsistence resources provide an important alternative source of livelihood for most local residents.

Governance

Goodnews Bay was incorporated as a second-class city in 1970. It is classified as “unorganized” (i.e. not in a borough). It is within the Bethel census recording district. The Native Village of Goodnews Bay is a federally recognized tribal group. There is also a local village corporation, Kuitsarak, Inc. The city is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, which promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Access to Goodnews Bay is primarily by plane or boat. The state owns a 2,850 foot gravel airstrip in the community for chartered or private planes. Roundtrip airfare from Goodnews Bay to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$555. There is no dock in Goodnews Bay, although barges deliver fuel and other supplies. Most homes currently have no plumbing; a piped water and sewer system is under construction. Electricity is provided by AVEC, in cooperation with the city, and

is produced by a diesel generator. The Goodnews Bay Health Clinic is operated by the city. There is a village public safety officer.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is an important part of the economy of Goodnews Bay. The salmon and herring fisheries in Kuskokwim Bay and Goodnews Bay are particularly important. In 2000 there were nine vessels with operations in non-federal fisheries who resided in the community. There were 37 registered crew members. A total of 52 commercial permits were issued to 41 local residents, and 34 permits were fished. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Goodnews Bay residents in 2000.

Halibut: One permit was issued for longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters. This permit was not fished.

Herring: Twenty-three residents held a total of 23 permits for the herring fishery, including the following: one herring roe gillnet permit for Nelson Island (one fished), and 22 herring roe gillnet permits for Goodnews Bay (6 fished).

Salmon: Twenty-eight residents held a total of 28 permits for the salmon fishery, including the following: 2 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (2 fished), and 26 salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (25 fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors located in Goodnews Bay and therefore no registered landings. In 2003 Goodnews Bay received \$7,905 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices.

Sport Fishing

Because of its remote location and subsistence lifestyle, sport fishing in Goodnews Bay is limited. There were no recorded sport license sales in Goodnews Bay for 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not have detailed information about subsistence harvesting and use in Goodnews Bay. The city holds a Subsistence

Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, which allows households to harvest subsistence halibut. In 1999, 53 households held permits to harvest subsistence salmon. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Hooper Bay [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Hooper Bay is situated 20 miles south of Cape Romanzof and 25 miles south of Scammon Bay about two miles from the Bering Sea in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The community is located in the Wade Hampton Census Area and makes up 8.7 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

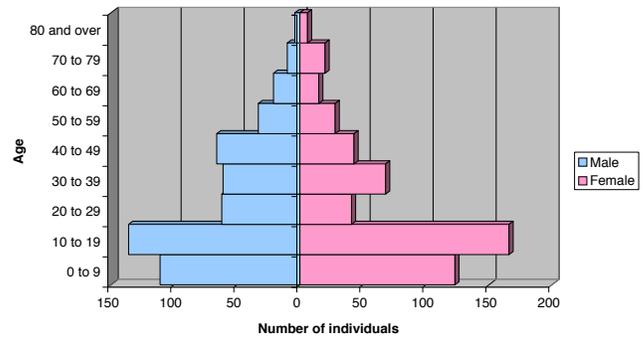
Demographic Profile

Hooper Bay had a total of 1,014 inhabitants according to the 2000 U.S. Census, with 49.7% male and 50.3% female residents. Hooper Bay's population has risen steadily since 1930 when it was 209 people. The racial composition in 2000 was: 93.7% American Indian and Alaska Native, 4.2% White, and 2.1% two or more races. When taking into account race alone or in combination with one or more other races, about 95.8% of the population identified as American Indian and Alaska Native. About 0.1% of the population was Hispanic. The median age in Hooper Bay in 2000 was 18.4 years of age, much younger than the national average of 35.3 years. There were 239 housing units and of those 12 were vacant, one vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters in 2000. Of the residents of the community age 25 years and over, 72.0% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and 8.2% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

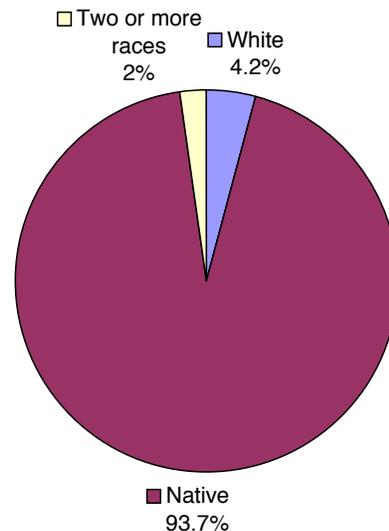
History

According to the National Park Service "one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP;" the Arctic Small Tool tradition, which is significant because "some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures" to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically, the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Hooper Bay have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because "southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state", the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world

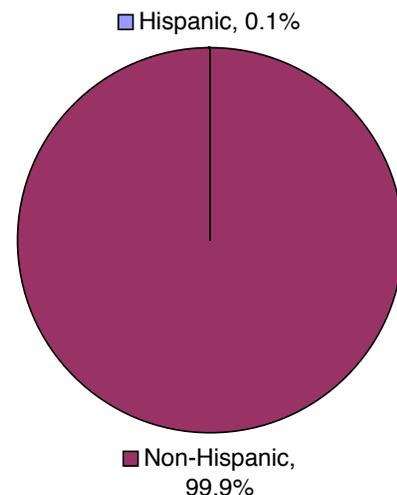
**2000 Population Structure
Hooper Bay**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Hooper Bay**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Hooper Bay**
Data source: US Census



until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

The traditional Yup'ik name for the community of Hooper Bay was "Askinuk." In 1878 the village was first reported as Hooper Bay by E.W. Nelson of the U.S. Signal Service who named the village after the explorer Capt. Calvin Leighton Hooper (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994). At the time of the 1880 U.S. Census it was reported that the village had 175 inhabitants. A post office was established in 1934. A Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school was established in Hooper Bay in 1948 (Alaskool 1998-2002). The City government was incorporated in 1966. The present-day Yup'ik name referring to those from the community is "Naparyarmiut" which means "stake village people." The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is banned in the city. Residents of the village of Paimiut also live in Hooper Bay.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

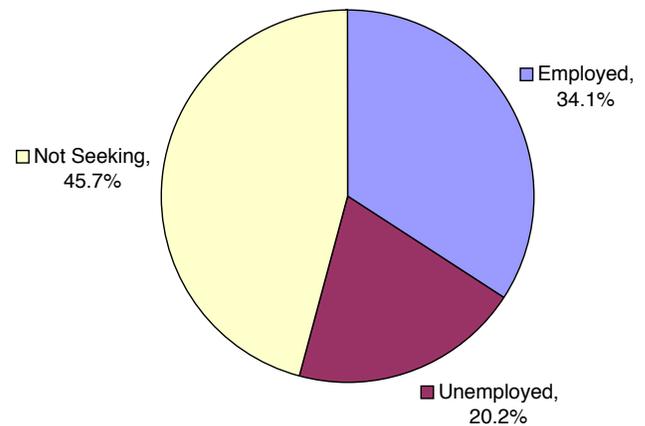
The employment of Hooper Bay is for the most part seasonal and there is little income-producing activity during the winter months. The community members' income is supplemented by subsistence activities. In 2000 there were 49 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Hooper Bay, and 84 residents which were licensed crew members. Some employment is provided by BLM fire fighting. Handicrafts including grass baskets and ivory objects are produced by community members. Residents are interested in developing the Naparyarmiut Arts & Crafts Cooperative. According to the 2000 Census, of the population age 16 years and over 34.1% were employed, 20.2% were unemployed, and 45.7% were not in the labor force. Of those employed, 53.0% were recorded as being government workers. The per capita income in Hooper Bay in 2000 was \$7,841 and the median household income was \$26,667. About 27.9% of the residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Hooper Bay is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1966 with a mayor form of government which includes a mayor, a seven person city council, a five person advisory school board, and a variety of municipal employees including a fire chief and police

**2000 Employment Structure
Hooper Bay**

Data source: US Census



chief. There is a 4% Sales Tax in the city. The city is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation. The Native village corporation is the Sea Lion Corporation which owns the Sea Lion Hotel, helping to promote tourism and the sale of Native-made baskets on their website (Sea Lion Corporation 2003). The Native Village of Hooper Bay is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council in the community. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) which the community of Hooper Bay is a part of is the Coastal Villages Region Fund whose offices are located in Bethel and Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in the city of Emmonak, but is a seasonal office which is open from June 1st to August 31st, although an office is available year round in the community of Nome. The closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is also located in Nome. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a more main office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Hooper Bay is accessible by both the air and water, although winter land trails are available to Scammon Bay, Chevak, and Paimiut. A State-owned 3,300 foot paved runway is present in the community. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Hooper Bay is \$476 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Bulk supplies and fuel are delivered by barge during the summer. Under

construction is a commercial fishing dock. Locals use skiffs during the summer for transportation. Accommodations are available at Qavartarvik Lodging and the Sea Lion Hotel. There is one K-12 school, Hooper Bay School, which had 391 students and 26 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Hooper Bay Health Clinic which is operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and owned by the City. Police services are provided by State VPSO and City Police. The electric utility in the community is AVEC which is operated by REA Co-op and the City with a main power source of diesel. In 2000 97.4% of households heated using kerosene. The water system is run by the City and school, but there is no piped water system. The City also operates the sewer system and the landfill, and individuals are responsible for their own refuse collection.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 49 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Hooper Bay in 2000, and a total of 84 licensed crew members lived in the community. There were no resident vessel owners participating in federal fisheries, but there was one vessel owner who was a resident and participated in the salmon fishery.

Of the 49 permits issued to community members, a total of 27 were fished. One permit was issued for halibut using a mechanical jig statewide which was fished in 2000. Forty three permits were issued for herring roe using gillnets off of Cape Romanzof (24 fished). Five permits were issued for salmon, two using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (one fished), one using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (not fished), and two using set gillnets in the Lower Yukon (one fished).

No vessels delivered landings to the community because a processor was not present in Hooper Bay. The city was allocated \$2,859 in federal salmon disaster funds in July 2003 because of the recent drop in salmon prices and loss in taxes generated.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing does not seem to attract tourists to the area as the infrastructure for sport fishing does not really seem to exist in the community. There was a total of 59 sport fishing licenses sold in the city of Hooper Bay in 2000, all to residents of the State of Alaska. According to the ADF&G there were no sport fishing guide businesses registered in Hooper Bay in 2002, and no business licenses were currently on file with the Department of Community and Economic Development for sport fishing businesses.

Subsistence Fishing

Full subsistence data was not readily available for the community of Hooper Bay, although the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development declares that subsistence, along with commercial fishing, is a major means of support for community residents. According to estimation by the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence, the annual per capita harvest of wild food by residents is about 709.2 lbs. Also according to ADF&G, in 1999, 194 household subsistence salmon permits were issued in Hooper Bay and an estimated 10,387 salmon were harvested. Residents of the community have the right to apply for subsistence halibut registration certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Kipnuk [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Kipnuk is located on the west bank of the Kugkaktlik River in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, 85 air miles southwest of Bethel, and a few miles inland from the Bering Sea. It is in the Bethel Recording District. The area encompasses 19.4 square miles of land and 0.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000 Kipnuk was a predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo community of 644 residents in 137 households. All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The demographic characteristics are typical of a stable, fast-growing Native community; the local population has doubled since 1970. The racial makeup of the community in 2000 was as follows: American Indian or Alaska Native (96.6%), White (2.0%), and two or more races (1.4%). A total of 98% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The gender composition was quite imbalanced, at 56.5% male and 43.5% female. The median age was 20.6 years, much younger than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. Approximately 60.7% of residents 25 years of age or older held a high school degree or higher level of educational attainment.

History

Yup'ik Eskimos have inhabited Western Alaska since prehistory. The earliest record of an established village at Kipnuk was by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which reported that the village was established around 1922. The community was not included in U.S. Census records until 1940, when its population consisted of 144 residents. Kipnuk today maintains its strong sense of traditional culture; more than 90% of local residents speak their Native Yup'ik language at home.

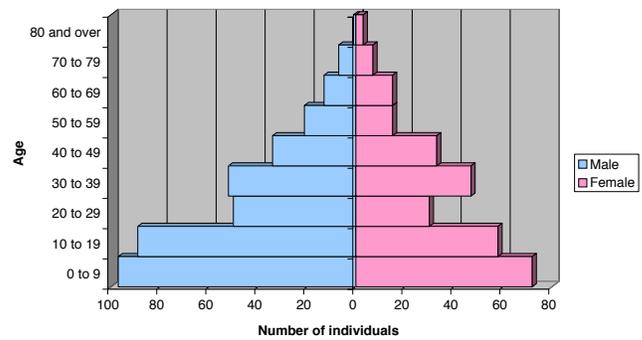
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Kipnuk is a combination of commercial fishing and subsistence fishing and hunting. Most employment opportunities are seasonal.

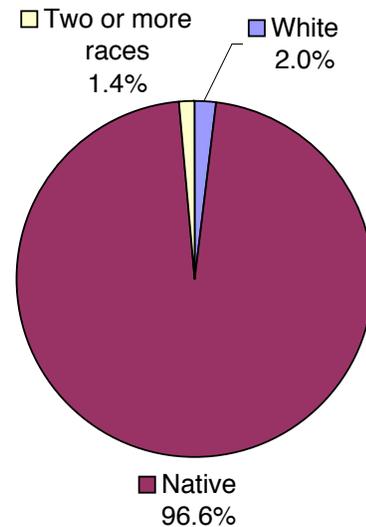
**2000 Population Structure
Kipnuk**

Data source: US Census



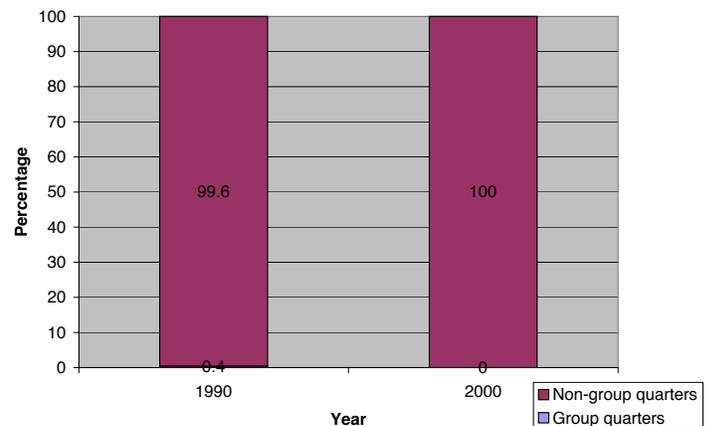
**2000 Racial Structure
Kipnuk**

Data source: US Census



**% Group Quarters
Kipnuk**

Data source: US Census



In 2000, the median per capita income was \$8,589 and the median household income was \$34,375. Approximately 20.2% of the total workforce was unemployed, and 40.4% of residents aged 16 and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 20.9% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Kipnuk is an unincorporated city located in the Bethel Recording District. It is classified as “unorganized” (i.e. not located within an official borough). The community is governed by the Kipnuk Traditional Council, a federally recognized village council. There is also a local village corporation, Kugkaktlik Ltd. The Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, is active in the community and promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

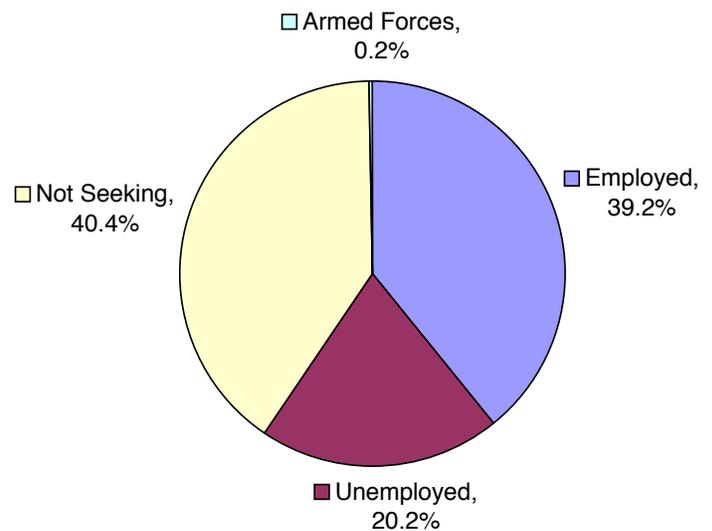
Facilities

Access to Kipnuk is by air; the state owns a 2,120 foot gravel airstrip in the community. Roundtrip airfare from Kipnuk to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$380. There is also a seaplane base. Boats and skiffs provide local access to the community via the Kugkaktlik River.

A new 210,000 gallon water storage tank, filled by a reservoir, provides water for the community. There is no piped water or sewage, and homes have no plumbing. The village council operates a landfill and electricity, which is produced by a diesel generator. The Kipnuk Health Clinic is owned by the village council and operated in conjunction with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Police services are provided by a village public safety officer.

Kipnuk is within the Lower Kuskokwim School District. There is one school in the community offering instruction to students in grades K-21. There are 15 teachers and 213 students.

**2000 Employment Structure
Kipnuk**
Data source: US Census



Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, 7 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 65 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries resided in the community. There were 82 registered crew members. In 2000, 97 local residents held 135 commercial fishing permits; 85 permits were fished. This section contains a detailed description of commercial fishing permits issued to Kipnuk residents in 2000.

Halibut: Twenty-one residents held a total of 21 permits in the halibut fishery, and 7 permits were fished. The permits included the following: 3 halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (one fished), 17 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (6 fished), and one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished).

Herring: Eighty-nine local residents held a total of 89 commercial permits in the herring fishery. All 89 permits were herring roe gillnet permits for Cape Avinof (63 fished).

Salmon: Twenty-five local residents held a total of 25 commercial permits for the salmon fishery, including the following: 10 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (10 fished), and 15 salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (5 fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors located in the community and no registered landings.

Sport Fishing

Because of its isolated location, Kipnuk's sport fishing activities are minimal. There were no sport license sales and no registered sport fishing guides in Kipnuk in 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not have detailed information on subsistence harvesting and use in Kipnuk. Kipnuk has a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), issued by NMFS, which allows residents to harvest halibut for subsistence purposes. In 1999, 177 households held permits to harvest subsistence salmon. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Koliganek [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community of Koliganek is situated on the west bank of the Nushagak River. It is 65 miles northeast of Dillingham and is the most inland community in the Dillingham Census Area. The area makes up 12.5 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

There were a total of 182 inhabitants of Koliganek in 2000, 54.9% male and 45.1% female. Since the 1950 U. S. Census, the population of the community has continued to grow from the 90 in 1950 to 186 in 2002 as established by a State Demographer. The racial composition of Koliganek in 2000 follows: 87.4% American Indian and Alaska Native, 10.4% White, and 2.2% "Other." Approximately 2.2% of the population was Hispanic. The median age of Koliganek was 26.0 years versus the national age median of 35.3 years. There were 77 housing units with 24 vacant and two vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group housing at the time of the 2000 Census. Of the population age 25 years and over, about 76.8% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and 11.6% had obtained a bachelor's degree to higher.

History

The community of Koliganek is a Yup'ik Eskimo village that was first recorded as "Kalignak" in the 1880 U.S. Census. The name was also recorded in 1930 by the U.S. Geological Survey. Since the time of the survey the community has relocated four miles downstream of the original village site.

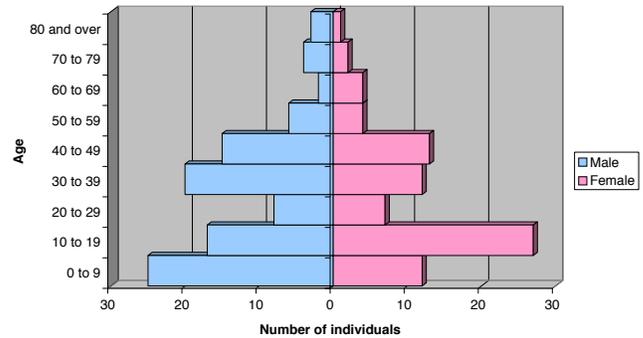
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Most year round employment in Koliganek is provided by the school and village. The economy is also based on commercial fishing, trapping, and subsistence practices. In 2000, 20 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents and 38 residents were licensed crew members. Of the population of Koliganek age 16 years and over, about 60.6% were employed, 9.2% were unemployed, and 30.3% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed,

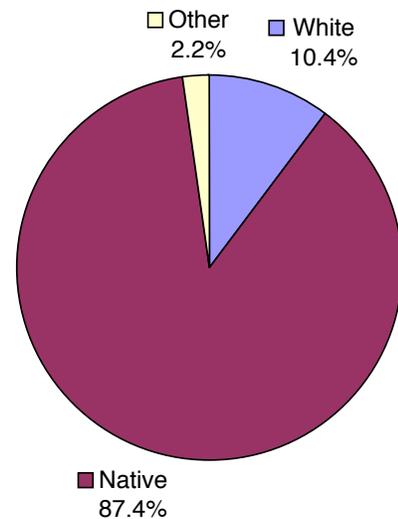
2000 Population Structure Koliganek

Data source: US Census



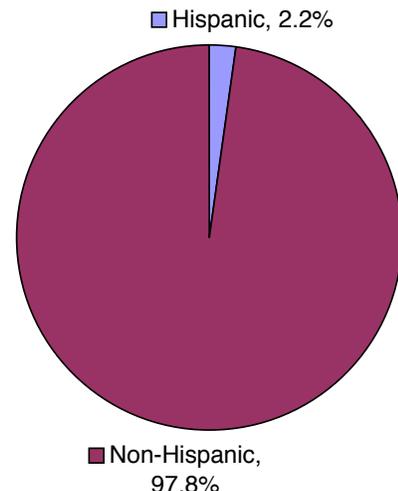
2000 Racial Structure Koliganek

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Koliganek

Data source: US Census



about 83.3% were classified as government workers. The per capita income in the community was \$13,242 and the median household income was \$44,583. About 19.3% of residents lived below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

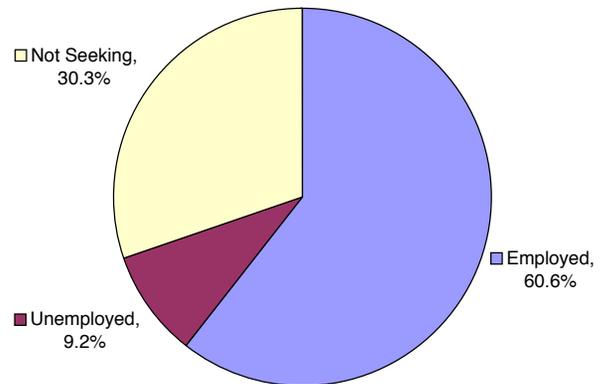
Koliganek is unincorporated and is not part of any organized borough; there are no city or borough officials in the community. The regional Native corporation for Koliganek is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the regional non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Native village corporation is Koliganek Natives Ltd. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council for the village is the New Koliganek Village Council, also known as New Koliganek Village. Since the community is not incorporated, the Council appears to be responsible for many services usually provided by the city. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, an office is located in Homer, and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Koliganek is accessible by air, water, and snow machine in the winter. A 3,000 foot State-owned runway is available and is new to the community. The approximate cost to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Koliganek is \$464 according to Travelocity and Expedia (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). During the summer, travel is usually by boat and all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Residents travel south down the river to New Stuyahok frequently. No docking facilities are available in the community and goods are lightered from Dillingham. Accommodations are available at the Ketok Lodge, Marantha Lodge, and High Cache Lodge. There is one school in the village, Koliganek School which teaches grades K-12. In 2000 the school had 79 students and 7 teachers. Health care is available at the Koliganek Health Clinic which is owned by the Village Council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). At present, a new clinic is under construction. Police services are offered by the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The

**2000 Employment Structure
Koliganek**

Data source: US Census



electric utility is the Koliganek Village Council which is operated by the Village Council and School and the main power source is diesel. According to a sample by the 2000 Census, about 70.4% of households heated using kerosene and 25.9% heated using wood. A little more than half of the homes in the community are connected to a community septic tank and piped water system and the remaining homes use individual septic systems and wells or haul water and have honeybuckets. The sewer system is operated by the Village Council as is the water system and the operation of the landfill. Individuals are responsible for the collection of their own refuse.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Koliganek is located relatively far inland, the community is still involved in commercial fishing not only of salmon, but also of herring and halibut. A total of 20 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community of Koliganek in 2000 and 38 residents were licensed crew members. Nine resident vessel owners in Koliganek participated in the salmon fishery, and no resident vessel owners participated in the federal fisheries.

Out of the total of 20 permits which were issued to residents, 13 were fished in 2000. Three permits were issued for the commercial fishing of halibut to Koliganek residents (none fished). Two were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay and one for herring roe using a gillnet in Norton Sound. Seventeen

permits were issued for salmon (13 fished): 14 were issued using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (10 fished) and 3 using set gillnet in Bristol Bay (3 fished).

No landings were delivered in Koliganek in 2000 as no processors were in operation in the community

Sport Fishing

Salmon can be caught on the Nushagak River in addition to other species, and on this Koliganek appears to have built the beginnings of a sport industry. In 2000, according to the ADF&G, 10 sport fishing licenses were sold in Koliganek to residents of the State of Alaska and 13 were sold to non-residents. One business in Koliganek was listed with ADF&G for 2002 as a freshwater guide business as well as a lodge/resort service.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence is very important to residents of the community. According to the ADF&G, for the most representative year of 1987 in Koliganek, 100.0% of households used all subsistence resources: 83.3% salmon, 92.9% non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, flounder, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, sucker, trout, and whitefish), 71.4% marine mammals, and 14.3% marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest for community members was 830.47 lbs: 43.64% salmon, 11.47% non-salmon fish, 0% marine mammals, 0.16% marine invertebrates, 1.39% birds and eggs, 40.88% land mammals, and 2.51% vegetation. In 1999 a total of 18 household subsistence permits were issued to residents of Koliganek by ADF&G for a total estimated harvest of 2,772 fish.

Kongiganak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Kongiganak is located on the west shore of Kuskokwim Bay on the Bering Sea. It is 70 miles southwest of Bethel and 451 miles west of Anchorage. The area of Kongiganak encompasses 1.7 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Kongiganak is a primarily Yup'ik Eskimo village with 359 residents in 79 households. In 2000 all residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian or Alaska Native (95.8%), White (2.8%), and two or more races (1.4%). A total of 97.2% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 1.7% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender ratio was significantly skewed, at 54.6% male and 45.4% female. The median age was 21.8 years, considerably younger than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. Approximately 62.9% of residents 25 years of age and older held a high school diploma or higher level of educational attainment. A majority of residents (89.6%) speak a language other than English at home, particularly Yup'ik. These demographic characteristics are representative of a stable Native community marked by little out- or in-migration.

History

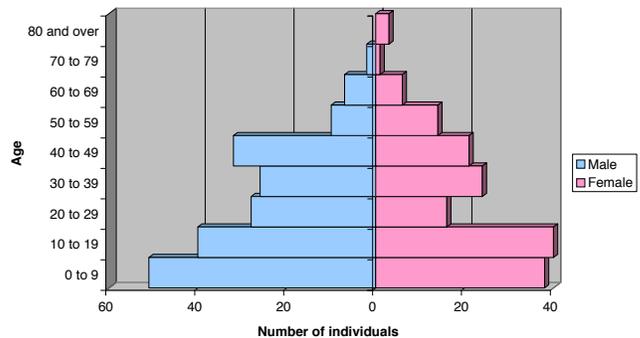
Western Alaska has been the traditional home of Yup'ik Eskimos since prehistory. Former residents of the village of Kwigillingok, seeking higher ground and a respite from flooding, permanently settled in Kongiganak during the 1960s. Today, Kongiganak is still marked by a sense of traditional culture, as evidenced by the fact that nearly 90% of residents speak their Native Yup'ik tongue at home.

Infrastructure

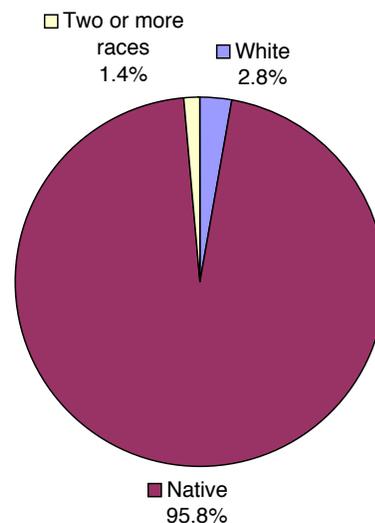
Current Economy

Most residents in Kongiganak practice a subsistence lifestyle of hunting and fishing. The other main source of employment is the commercial fishing sector, so full-time employment is subject to seasonal variation. The local school is also a major source of

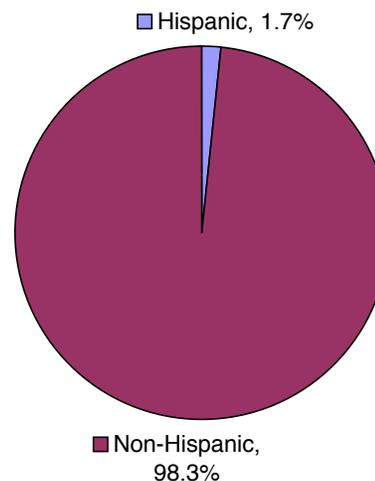
**2000 Population Structure
Kongiganak**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Kongiganak**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Kongiganak**
Data source: US Census



employment in the community.

In 2000, the U.S. Census reported that only 1.9% of Kongiganak's workforce was unemployed, and 46.4% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Employment opportunities, however, are highly seasonal, so this rate is likely much higher during certain times of the year. About 13.8% of residents lived below the poverty level in 2000. The median per capita income was \$9,881 and the median household income was \$33,250.

Governance

Kongiganak is an unincorporated village under the administration of a village council, which is a federally recognized Native governing body. There is also a village corporation, the Qemirtalek Coast Corporation. Kongiganak lies within the Bethel census recording district.

Kongiganak belongs to the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, which promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

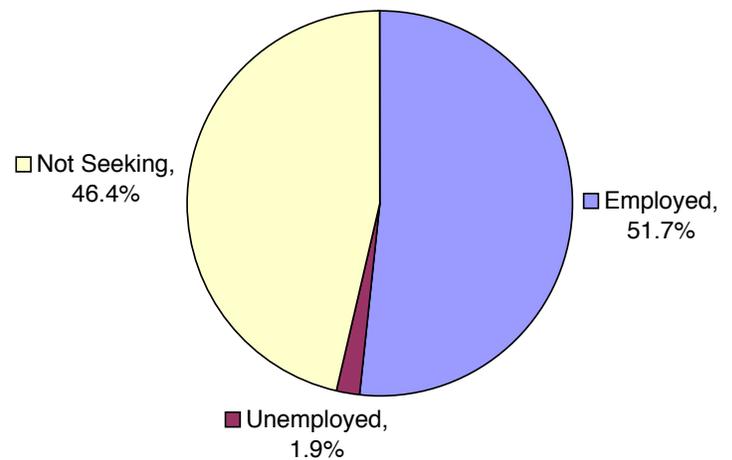
The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Access to Kongiganak is by bush plane; the state owns a 1,885 foot gravel airstrip in the community. Roundtrip airfare from Kongiganak to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$509. There are no dock facilities in Kongiganak, but barges deliver cargo each summer, which is off-loaded by boat and skiff. Winter trails provide access to the neighboring villages of Kwigillingok and Tuntutuliak.

Homes in Kongiganak do not have plumbing. Treated surface water is the major source of household water. The village council operates a landfill and the Puvurna Power Company provides electricity, which is produced by a diesel generator. The local health clinic is owned by the village council and operated in conjunction with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Police services are provided by

**2000 Employment Structure
Kongiganak**
Data source: US Census



a village public safety officer. There is one school in the community, offering instruction to students from grades K-12. The school has seven teachers and 110 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were eight vessel owners with operations in state-managed fisheries and one vessel owner with operations in federal fisheries who resided in the community. There were 38 registered crew members. Twenty-eight residents held a total of 34 commercial fishing permits in Kongiganak. This section contains a detailed description of the permits issued to Kongiganak residents.

Halibut: Five residents held a total of five commercial permits in the halibut fishery. These included the following: one halibut hand troll permit for statewide waters (one fished), three halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), and one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished).

Herring: Seven local residents held a total of seven commercial permits for the herring fishery. These included the following: five herring roe gillnet permits for Cape Avinof (one fished) and two herring roe gillnet permits for Goodnews Bay (two fished).

Salmon: Twenty-two local residents held a total of 22 commercial permits for the salmon fishery. These

included the following: 4 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (5 fished), and 18 salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (12 fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors in Kongiganak and therefore no registered landings.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing activities in Kongiganak are limited, given its remote location and heavy reliance upon subsistence fishing. In 2000, there was only one sport license sold in the community. There were no registered sport fishing guides.

Subsistence Fishing

The ADF&G does not have detailed information about subsistence activities in Kongiganak for 2000.

Kotlik [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Kotlik is situated 35 miles northeast of Emmonak in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The community is on the east bank of the Kotlik Slough and is in the Wade Hampton Census Area. It is 165 air miles northwest of Bethel and 460 miles from Anchorage. Kotlik makes up 3.8 square miles of land and 0.8 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

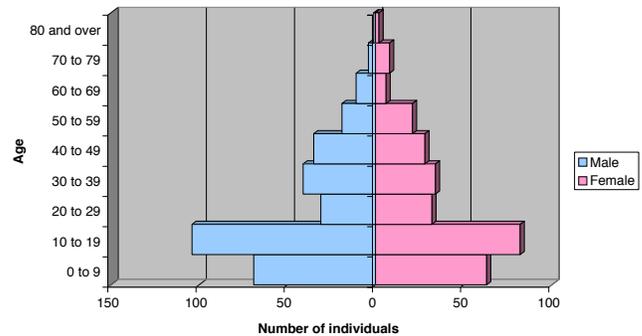
There were a total of 591 inhabitants in the community of Kotlik according to the 2000 U.S. Census, and of those, 53.3% were male and 46.7% were female. In 1920 the population of the community was 83, dropping to 14 by 1930. Since 1930 the population of Kotlik has continued to rise. The racial composition of the community in 2000 was as follows: 93.6% American Indian and Alaska Native, 3.6% White, and 2.9% of two or more races. A total of 96.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Approximately 0.3% of the population was Hispanic. The median age of the community in 2000 was 18.5 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. There were a total of 139 housing units and of those 22 were vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the population lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 years and over, 66.4% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and 6.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

According to the National Park Service “one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP,” the Arctic Small Tool tradition, which is significant because “some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures” to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically, the Native Eskimo people in the area of Kotlik have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because “southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state,” the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world

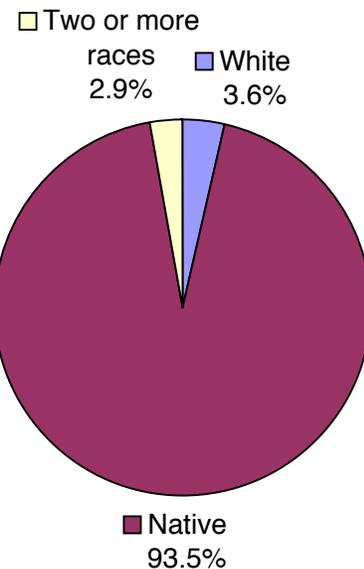
**2000 Population Structure
Kotlik**

Data source: US Census



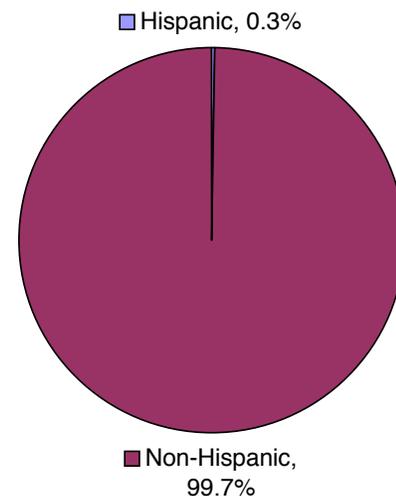
**2000 Racial Structure
Kotlik**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Kotlik**

Data source: US Census



until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's: initially the Russian Orthodox, then the Moravians, and finally the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council reports that “the Eskimo word kotlik refers to breeches, according to 19th century explorer R.L. Faris, who documented the name of the Kotlik River” (1994, p. 59 – Western Alaska). Russian traders settled in the area surrounding Saint Michael after 1867 and many current residents of Kotlik are descendants of those traders. The Saint Joseph parish was established in the community in the early 1930s by a priest who was stationed at Saint Michael, Fr. Martin Lonneux, S.J. (Diocese of Fairbanks 2003). The community of Kotlik grew when a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school was constructed in the mid-1960s and the inhabitants of many nearby villages including Channiliut, Hamilton, Bill Moore’s Slough, and Pastolaik relocated to Kotlik. It became one of the bigger ports and commercial centers of the lower Yukon River because of its location, providing easy access for barges and large river boats. The city was incorporated in 1970. The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol are not allowed in the city. Residents of the summer fish camp of Hamilton also live in Kotlik.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

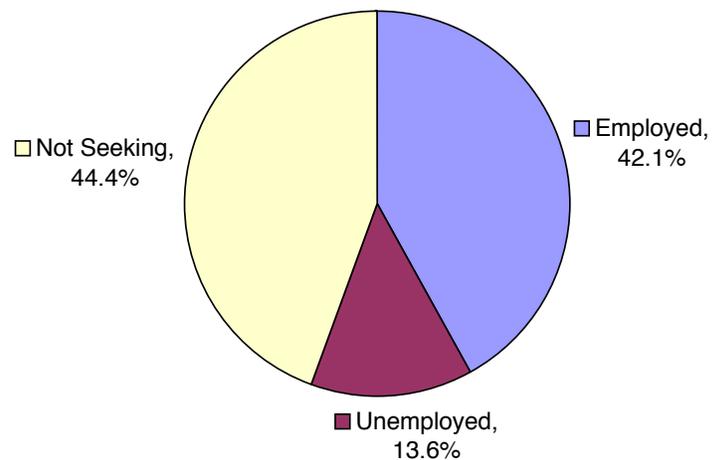
The economy of Kotlik is based for the most part on fishing and fish processing. It is very seasonal with the residents relying heavily on subsistence harvesting. In 2000, 91 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community and there were a total of 92 resident licensed crew members. Residents are interested in developing a seafood processing facility and an arts and crafts project. Income is also earned from trapping. Of those in the community that were age 16 and over in 2000, 42.1% were employed, 13.6% were unemployed, and 44.4% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed about 51.0% were classified as government workers. The per capita income was \$7,707 and the median household income was \$37,750. About 21.1% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Kotlik is a second-class city incorporated in 1970

**2000 Employment Structure
Kotlik**

Data source: US Census



and has a Manager form of government including a mayor, six person city council, five person advisory school board, and various municipal employees. There is a 3% sales tax. The city is not part of any organized borough. The Native regional corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation and the Native village corporation is the Kotlik Yupik Corporation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized village council is the Kotlik Traditional Council. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group for the area is the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in the city of Emmonak, but is a seasonal office which is open from June 1st to August 31st. The closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is also located in Nome. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel.

Facilities

Kotlik is reachable by both air and water. A State-owned 4,400 foot gravel airstrip is present in the community which provides cargo and mail service as well as passenger transportation. The approximate cost, according to Travelocity and Expedia, to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Kotlik is \$710 on a rural airline (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). The community is accessible by barge and there are no roads which lead to the city. There are about 50 commercial and private boats which are owned by residents. Accommodations in the city

are available at the City Lodge. There is one school, the Kotlik School, which teaches grades K-12 and had 204 students and 14 teachers in 2000. The school gym is accessible for community members. Health care is available at the Kotlik Health Clinic, which is owned by the Kotlik Traditional Council and operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), although the clinic currently needs to be expanded and is in need of new equipment. Police services are provided by City VPSO and fire service is provided by volunteers. The electric utility is Kotlik Electric Services which is operated by the City with diesel as the main power source. In 2000, about 90.2% of households heated using kerosene and 9.8% heated using wood. A piped vacuum sewer and circulating water utilidor is being constructed in Kotlik, although 19 facilities and households are not yet served and those residents must take care of their own hauling of water and sewage. The washeteria operator is the City and the sewer system is operated by both the City and individuals. Individuals must collect their own refuse. The City operates the landfill, although it is difficult to bury and trench in the area so an incinerator and recycling program are being considered.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were a total of 91 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Kotlik in 2000 and 92 resident licensed crew members. No vessel-owner residents of Kotlik participated in either the federal fisheries or the salmon fishery.

Of the 91 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of the community, a total of 69 were fished in 2000. Three permits were issued for king crab using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet in Norton Sound (none fished). A total of 13 permits were issued for harvesting herring: one was issued for herring roe gillnet in Cape Romanzof (not fished) and 12 were issued for herring roe gillnets in Norton Sound (6 fished). A total of 75 permits were issued for salmon using set gillnets in the Lower Yukon and of those 63 were fished.

No vessels delivered landings to the community of Kotlik in 2000 because no processors were in operation

in the community. The CDQ group for the community, the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA), was recently granted \$50,017 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing does not seem to be much of a source of income for the community with no obvious businesses which draw in tourists for this purpose. In 2000 there were 89 sport fishing licenses sold in Kotlik to residents of the State of Alaska and a total of 91 which were sold to non-residents. According to the ADF&G, there was no sport fishing guide businesses in Kotlik which were registered in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

Inhabitants of the community of Kotlik rely heavily on subsistence harvesting and many have fish camps which are located on the Yukon River. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for the most representative year of 1980 in the community of Kotlik a total of 100.0% of the households used all subsistence resources, 85.7% used salmon, 100.0% used marine mammals, and the total percent was not available for non-salmon fish, although the species used included smelt, cod, blackfish, burbot, pike, sheefish, and whitefish. The per capita subsistence harvest for residents of Kotlik was 502.60 lbs and of this harvest 28.67% was salmon, 30.08% was non-salmon fish, 20.07% was marine mammals, and 7.88% was made-up by birds and eggs. Also according to ADF&G in 1999 there were 90 household subsistence salmon permits which were issued to those from Kotlik for an estimated 7,053 harvested salmon. Residents of the community are eligible to apply for subsistence halibut certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Kwigillingok [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Kwigillingok is on the western shore of Kuskokwim Bay on the Bering Sea, near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. It is 77 miles southwest of Bethel and 388 miles west of Anchorage. The area encompasses 20.2 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Kwigillingok is a predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo community. In 2000 there were 338 residents in 73 households; all residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian or Alaska Native (97.6%), White (2.1%), and two or more races (0.3%). A total of 97.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The gender makeup was significantly skewed, at 56.8% male and 43.2% female. The median age was 26 years, much younger than the national age median of 35.3 years. Approximately 66% of residents aged 25 or older had a high school degree or higher level of educational attainment.

History

Yup'ik Eskimos have inhabited this region of Western Alaska since prehistory. The U.S. Census did not record the population of Kwigillingok until 1920, when there were 104 residents. At about the same time, a Moravian Church was established in the community. Today, Kwigillingok maintains a strong sense of traditional culture, as evidenced by the fact that more than 90% of local residents speak their Native Yup'ik language at home.

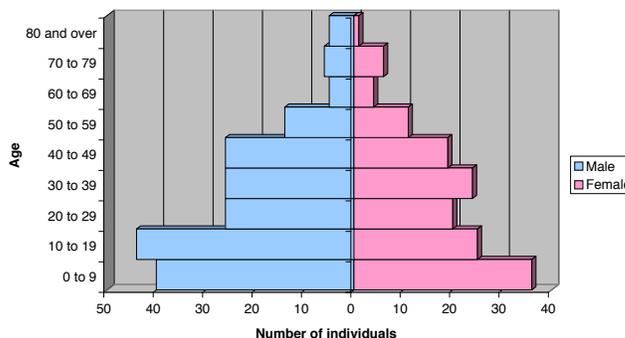
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Kwigillingok is dominated by commercial fishing, particularly in the herring and salmon fisheries. The other major source of formal employment is the local school district. Most residents rely at least in part on subsistence hunting and fishing.

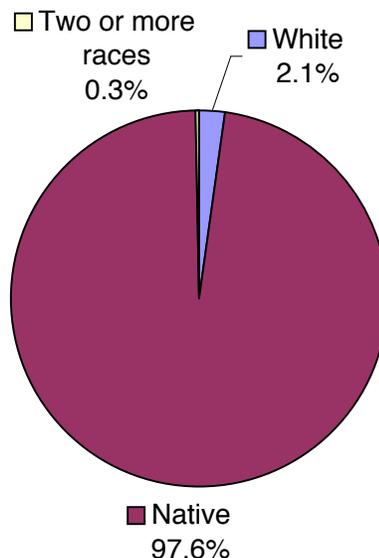
**2000 Population Structure
Kwigillingok**

Data source: US Census



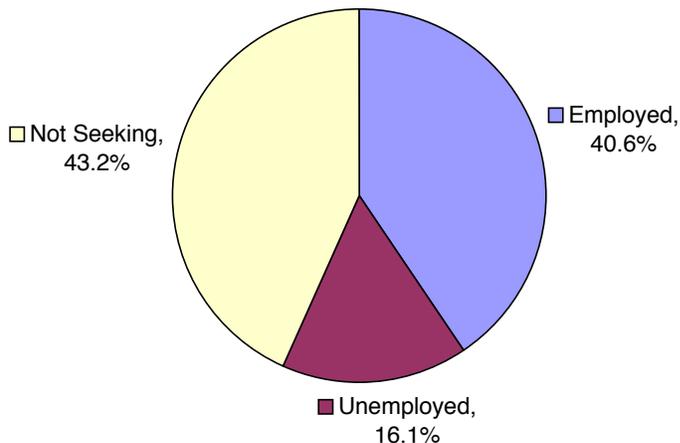
**2000 Racial Structure
Kwigillingok**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Kwigillingok**

Data source: US Census



In 2000, the median per capita income in Kwigillingok was \$7,577 and the median household income was \$36,250. The unemployment rate was 16.1%, and 43.2% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). The poverty rate was quite high, at 34.7%.

Governance

Kwigillingok is an unincorporated Native village governed by a federally recognized village council. There is also a Native corporation, Kwik Inc., in the village. The village does not belong to a formal borough, but is under the jurisdiction of the Bethel Census Recording District. Kwigillingok is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, which promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Access to Kwigillingok is by air, via a 2,500 foot state-owned airstrip and a seaplane base. Roundtrip airfare from Kwigillingok to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$509. There are no dock facilities. There is no piped water in the community. The village council operates a landfill and a diesel-powered electric utility company. There is a local health clinic, owned by the village council and operated in conjunction with the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Police services are provided by a village public safety officer (VPSO).

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were 14 vessel owners with operations in state-managed fisheries and one vessel owner with operations in federal fisheries who resided in the community. There were 26 registered crew members. There were 37 local residents who held a total of 53 commercial fishing permits. This section contains a detailed breakdown of permits issued to Kwigillingok residents in 2000.

Halibut: Six local residents held a total of seven commercial permits in the halibut fishery. These included: six halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished, and one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (one fished).

Herring: Nineteen local residents held a total of 20 commercial permits in the herring fishery. These permits included the following: one herring roe gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (none fished), and 19 herring roe gillnet permits for Cape Avinof (7 fished).

Salmon: Twenty-six local residents held a total of 26 commercial permits in the salmon fishery. The permits consisted of: 7 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (8 fished), and 19 salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (5 fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors in Kwigillingok and no registered landings.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing in Kwigillingok is limited. The ADF&G reported that there were no sport license sales and no registered fishing guides in the community in 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

The ADF&G does not provide detailed information on subsistence activities in Kwigillingok.

Manokotak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Manokotak is situated on the Igushik River. The community is 25 miles southwest of Dillingham and 347 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is in the Dillingham Census Area and makes up 36.4 square miles of land and 0.9 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

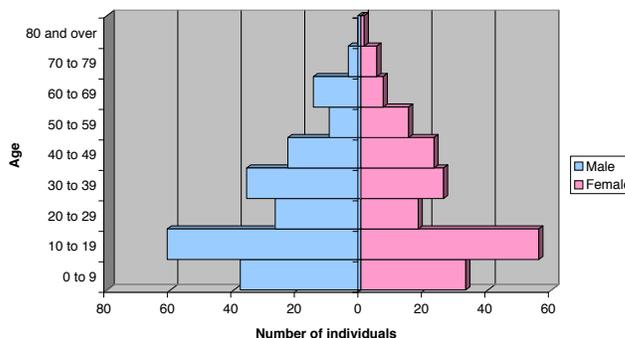
The community of Manokotak had a population of 399 at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, with 53.9% of the population male and 46.1% female. The community became a permanent settlement in 1946-47, and since the 1950 census the population has continued to rise from the 120 persons reported in 1950 to the 404 reported by the State Demographer in 2002. The racial composition in 2000 was as follows: 94.7% American Indian and Alaska Native, 4.8% White, 0.3% Black, and 0.3% two or more races. No one identified as Hispanic. The median age in Manokotak was 21.9 years of age versus the national median age of 35.3 years. There were a total of 106 housing units of which 13 were vacant at the time of the census, and two vacant due to seasonal use. No one lived in group quarters in the community. Out of the population 25 years of age and over, about 62.5% had graduated from high school or higher and about 10.8% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

The community of Manokotak is one of the newer villages in the region of Bristol Bay as it became a permanent settlement between 1946 and 1947. It was formed by the merging of Igushik and Tuklung, although people also joined the village from Kulukak, Togiak, and Aleknagik. In 1949 the school was in a church, but by 1958-59 a proper school had been built. The post office was built in 1960. Trapping has declined in the area since the 1960s, but had been a lure to Manokotak prior. In 1970 the City became incorporated. Residents of the community use Iguashik as a summer fish camp. The village of Manokotak is a Yup'ik community with a lifestyle based on fishing, trapping, and subsistence. The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is not allowed in the city.

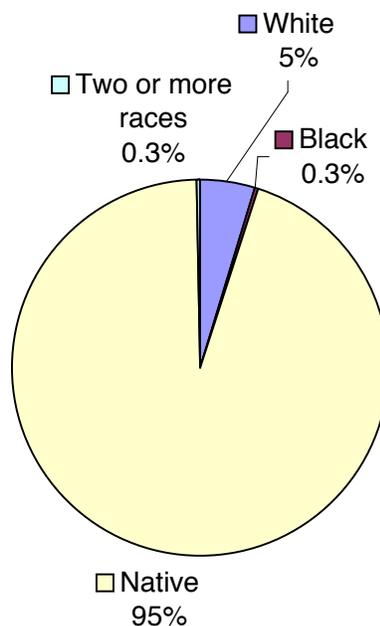
**2000 Population Structure
Manokotak**

Data source: US Census



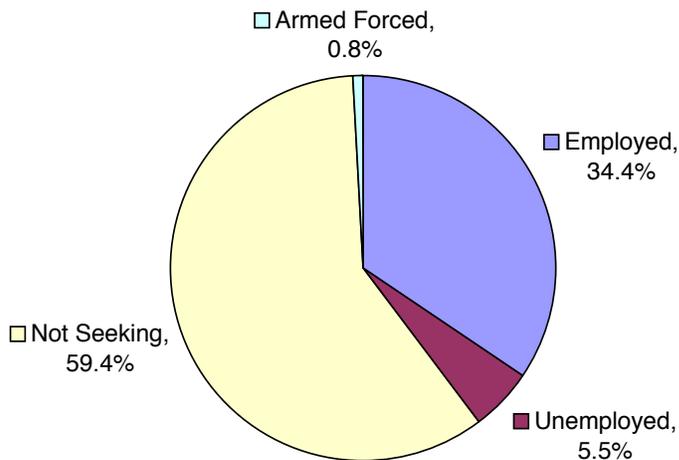
**2000 Racial Structure
Manokotak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Manokotak**

Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Manokotak depends for the most part on commercial fishing, trapping, and subsistence activities. In 2000, 152 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community and 97 community members were licensed crew members. Many residents trap fox, beaver, mink, and otter. Residents rely heavily on subsistence and usually move to Igushik or Ekuk each summer. Reciprocal relationships exist between residents of Manokotak and several nearby villages, especially Togiak and Twin Hills. Of the population age 16 years and over, about 34.4% was employed, 5.5% was unemployed, 0.8% was in the armed forces, and 59.4% was not in the labor force. Of those employed, about 83.0% were classified as government workers. The per capita income was \$9,294 and the median household income was \$26,875. About 35.3% of residents lived below the poverty level in 2000.

Governance

Manokotak is a second-class city incorporated in 1970 and has a Mayor form of government, including the mayor, a seven person city council, a five person advisory school board, and a few municipal employees. There is a 2% sales tax in the city, but no property tax. The city is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation in which the city is included is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation and the regional non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Native village corporation is Manokotak Natives Ltd. and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is the Manokotak Village Council. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group in which the village is included is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, and there are offices in Homer and Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

The city of Manokotak is accessible by both air and water. A 2,740 foot lighted gravel airstrip which is owned by the State is located one mile north of the

community, and a 5,000 foot seaplane base is present. Flights are available from Dillingham; both regularly scheduled flights as well as charter. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Manokotak is \$404 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). There are no docking facilities on the Igushik River and supplies are lightered each summer, and must be pulled up to the mud beach. Traveling by boat on the Igushik River can be difficult as the river is made up of many miles of meandering loops. In 1998 construction began on a 6.5 mile road to a barge landing area on the Snake River. Residents use ATVs, snowmachines, and some vehicles for transportation. During the winter months, snowmachines use the Manokotak Trail to travel to Dillingham to haul fuel. There are no visitor accommodations in the community. Manokotak School instructs grades K-12 and had 142 students and 17 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Manokotak Health Clinic which is owned by the Village Council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). The clinic has problems with water freezing and the community would like to construct a new facility. Police services are available from the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The electric utility is the Manokotak Power Company which is operated by the Village Corporation with a main power source of diesel. The City operates the water system which consists of a piped water system that serves 68 households along with the piped sewer system. A duplex and two homes have individual wells. The City operates the sewer system and the landfill as well, although individuals are responsible for collecting their own refuse.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Manokotak is not located directly on the coast it still has a large tie to the commercial fishing industry and many members of the community hold commercial fishing permits. A total of 152 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community in 2000 and 97 residents were licensed crew members. There were 25 residents which owned vessels and participated in the commercial salmon fishery in 2000, although no resident vessel owners participated in federal fisheries.

Out of the 152 permits issued to Manokotak

residents, 75 were fished in 2000. Three permits were issued for halibut using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished). Seventy-five commercial permits were issued for herring (8 fished): 3 were issued for herring roe using a gillnet in Security Cove (none fished), 24 for herring roe using a gillnet in Bristol Bay (7 fished), 2 for herring roe using a gillnet in Goodnews Bay (one fished), and 46 for herring spawn on kelp harvested by diving or handpicked in Bristol Bay (none fished). One permit was issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (not fished). A total of 73 permits were issued for salmon (66 fished): 28 were issued using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (25 fished), 44 using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (41 fished), and one using a set gillnet in the Kuskokwim (not fished).

No landings were delivered to Manokotak in 2000 because no processors were in operation in the community.

The CDQ group in which Manokotak is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

The community does not seem to draw many tourists to the area for sport fishing as there are no

businesses present to support sport fishing or any hotels where tourists could lodge. In 2000 the ADF&G reported one sport fishing license sold in Manokotak to a resident of the State of Alaska. Also according to ADF&G, in 2002 there were no sport fishing businesses listed in Manokotak.

Subsistence Fishing

Residents of Manokotak are heavily dependent on subsistence harvests. Relationships exist with neighboring communities for sharing resources, especially Togiak and Twin Hills. According to the ADF&G for the most representative year, 1985, 100.0% of households used all subsistence resources: 100.0% salmon, 100.0% non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, flounder, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, trout, and whitefish), 83.3% marine mammals, and 88.9% marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest for Manokotak’s residents was 384.07 lbs of all subsistence resources of which 35.36% was salmon, 22.16% was non-salmon fish, 8.49% was marine mammals, 1.18% was marine invertebrates, 4.39% was birds and eggs, 24.73% was land mammals, and 3.68% was vegetation. In 1999 as reported by ADF&G, there were 18 household subsistence salmon permits issued for a total estimated harvest of 3,413 fish. Residents of Manokotak are eligible to apply for subsistence halibut certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Marshall [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Marshall is situated on the north bank of Polte Slough and on the east bank of the Yukon River in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. It is north of Arbor Island and is located on the northeastern boundary of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The community is in the Wade Hampton Census Area.

Demographic Profile

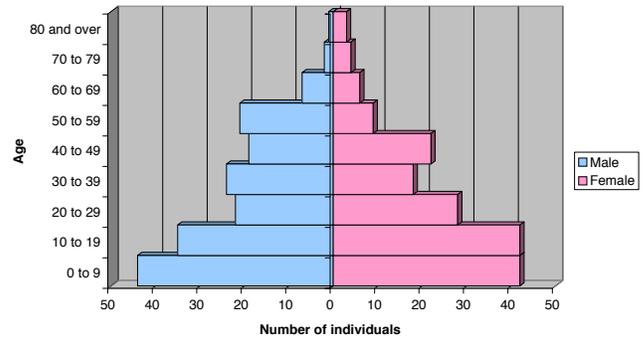
Marshall had a total of 349 inhabitants in 2000: 50.1% male and 49.9% female. Since 1940 the population of Marshall has grown steadily from a reported 91 inhabitants in that year. The racial composition of Marshall in 2000 was as follows: 96% American Indian and Alaska Native, 2% White, and 2% two or more races. A total of 97.7% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 0.3% of the population (one resident) was Hispanic. The median age in the community was a very low 22.3 years of age versus the national average of 35.3 years. There were a total of 104 housing units in Marshall. Thirteen were vacant and of those two were vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Of the population 25 years of age and older, about 74.8% had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling and about 7.4% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. About 1.2% had a graduate or professional degree.

History

According to the National Park Service, the Arctic Small Tool Tradition, "one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP." Some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition "marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures" to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically, the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Marshall have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because "southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state", the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's; initially with the Russian

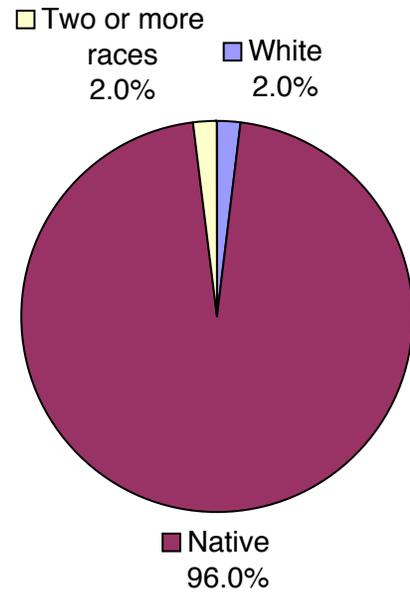
2000 Population Structure Marshall

Data source: US Census



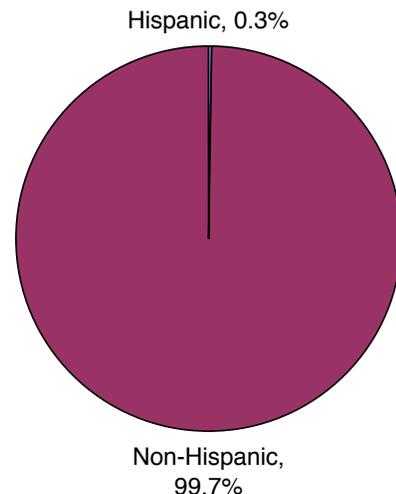
2000 Racial Structure Marshall

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Marshall

Data source: US Census



Orthodox, then the Moravians, and finally the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

In 1880 an expedition came upon an Eskimo village at this site which was called “Uglovaia.” In 1913 gold was discovered at Wilson Creek, which is located nearby to the site of the village. The site became a placer mining camp and was named “Fortuna Ledge” after the first child which was born at the camp, Fortuna Hunter. The site of the camp was convenient for riverboat landings, as it was located on a channel of the Yukon River. In 1915 a post office was established in the community. At that time the population soared to over 1,000 occupants. The village was named “Marshall’s Landing” later for Thomas Riley Marshall, Vice President of the U.S. under Woodrow Wilson from 1913-1921. The village became incorporated as a second-class city in 1970 and at that time was named Fortuna Ledge; however, it was commonly called Marshall. In 1984 the name was officially changed to Marshall; in some places, however, it is still referred to as Fortuna Ledge. Those from the village of Ohogamiut live in Marshall as well.

Infrastructure

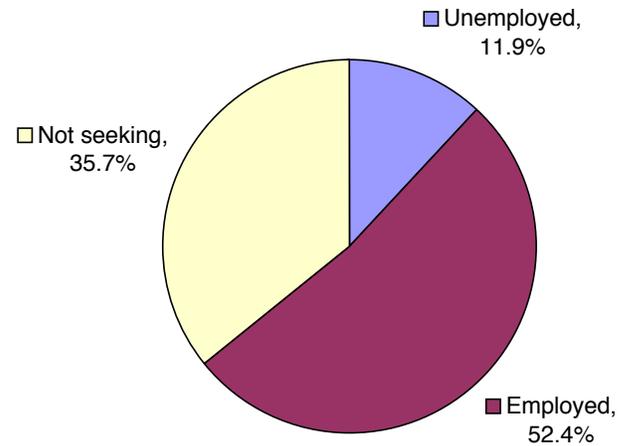
Current Economy

The economy of Marshall is very seasonally based and includes fishing, fish processing, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire fighting positions, all of which are for the most part performed in the summer months. In 2000 there were 41 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Marshall/Fortuna Ledge, and 60 residents which were licensed crew members. Some income is also provided by trapping. Income is supplemented for community members by subsistence activities. Of the population age 16 years and over in 2000, 52.4% were employed, 11.9% were unemployed, and 35.7% were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work). Of those residents who were employed, about 59.1% were classified as government workers. In 2000 the median per capita income in Marshall was \$9,597 and the median household income was \$32,917. About 28.6% of the population lived below the poverty level at the time of the Census.

Governance

Marshall was incorporated as a second-class city

**2000 Employment Structure
Marshall**
Data source: US Census



in 1970. The city has a Mayor form of government which includes the mayor and a six-person city council, a five-person advisory school board, and a few municipal employees including a police and fire chief as well as a police officer. The city has a 4% sales tax, but no other taxes. Marshall is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation and the Native village corporation is Maserculiq Inc. There are two tribal offices located in the community: the Native Village of Marshall and the Native Village of Ohogamiut. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in the city of Emmonak, but is a seasonal office which is open from June 1st to August 31st. The closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is also located in Nome. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a larger office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Marshall is accessible for the most part by both air and water; there are no roads which connect it to other communities. Recently a 4,000 foot gravel airstrip owned by the state was completed. The approximate cost to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Marshall via Bethel is \$483. The city receives barge services. Local residents have boats, but in the winter months they are reliant upon dog teams and snow machines. There are no hotels or accommodations in the city for visitors. There is one school in the

community, which teaches grades K-12. The Marshall School had a total of 118 students and eight teachers in 2000. There is also a school building with a Head Start Program that serves children aged three to five. Health care is available at Theresa Elia Memorial Health Clinic, which is owned by the City and operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC). Police services are available from the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) and the City Village Police Officer (VPO). The electric utility for the area is AVEC, which is operated by REA Co-op and the city with a main power source of diesel. The water system, sewer system, and landfill are all operated by the city. The city is also the refuse collector. About 70% of the homes in the city have full plumbing which includes piped, circulating water and a sewer system, whereas the remaining houses use honeybuckets and haul water.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

A total of 41 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Marshall/Fortuna Ledge in 2000 (38 fished). There were 60 residents of the community who were licensed crew members in 2000 as well. No one in the community owned a vessel which was involved in either the federal fisheries or the salmon fishery.

The following is a brief description of permits issued to Marshall residents in 2000. Two permits were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Norton Sound (none fished). A total of 39 permits were issued for salmon, all using set gillnets in the Lower Yukon

(38 fished).

There were no landings of any sort in Marshall in 2000 because no processor was present in the community.

The community of Marshall was recently granted \$500 in salmon disaster funds by the federal government. These funds were granted because of the recent falling salmon prices largely due to competition with foreign aquaculture fish.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing does appear to be an important industry in Marshall; 17 sport fishing licenses were sold in the community in 2000, all of which were sold to Alaska State residents. There also was one business in Marshall which was listed as both a saltwater and freshwater fishing guide business in 2002, according to the ADF&G.

Subsistence Fishing

Little data was available about the exact subsistence harvests for Marshall in regards to which species were harvested and exact amounts. The Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development mentions that residents use subsistence to supplement their incomes and harvest salmon, moose, bear, and waterfowl. According to the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence, the established annual wild food harvest for those in Marshall is 691.6 lbs per person. The daily wild food harvest is 1.9 lbs per person. Also according to the ADF&G, 68 household permits were issued for subsistence salmon to residents of Marshall in 1999 for an estimated harvest of 4,775 total salmon. Residents of Marshall are not eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

* Commercial fishing permit data from the CFEC is given for the communities of Fortuna Ledge and Marshall

Mekoryuk [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Mekoryuk is situated on the mouth of Shoal Bay. It is on the north shore of Nunivak Island in the Bering Sea and is about 30 miles off the coast. The community is in the Bethel Census Area and is located about 149 air miles west of Bethel and 553 miles west of Anchorage. Mekoryuk is included in the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge and makes up 7.4 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

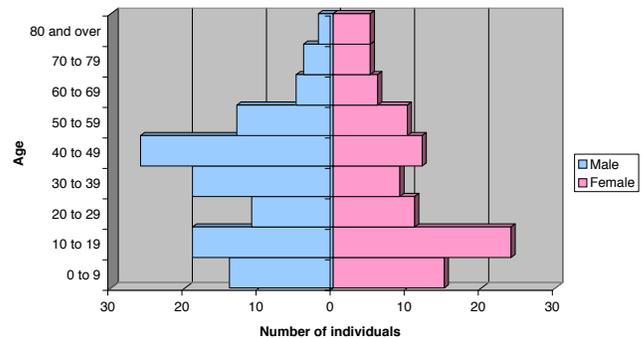
There were a total of 210 inhabitants of Mekoryuk at the time of 2000 U.S. Census and of those a significantly large amount, 53.8% were male. About 46.2% of the population was female. The population of the community has fluctuated quite a bit since 1910 when there were 127 occupants to the largest point which was at the time of the 1970 Census when there were 249 occupants. In 2000 about 3.3% of the population was White, 90.5% were American Indian and Alaska Native, and 6.2% were of two or more races. A total of 96.7% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 0.5% of the population was Hispanic. The median age in the community was 35.6 years of age which is very close to the American median age of 35.3. There were a total of 96 housing units in the community in 2000, 23 were vacant, and of those six were vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the population lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 and over about 68.9% had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling, 5.0% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and a very large percent (31.1%) never graduated from high school.

History

Historically the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Mekoryuk have been the Yup'ik peoples, specifically the Nuniwarmiut people who are Cup'it Eskimos. Nunivak Island itself has been peopled for approximately 2,000 years. In 1821 the first outside contact occurred with the Russian American Company. The Company documented 400 people living in 16 villages on the Island. In 1874 a summer village camp by the name of "Koot" was noted at the modern day site of Mekoryuk. There was an epidemic in 1900

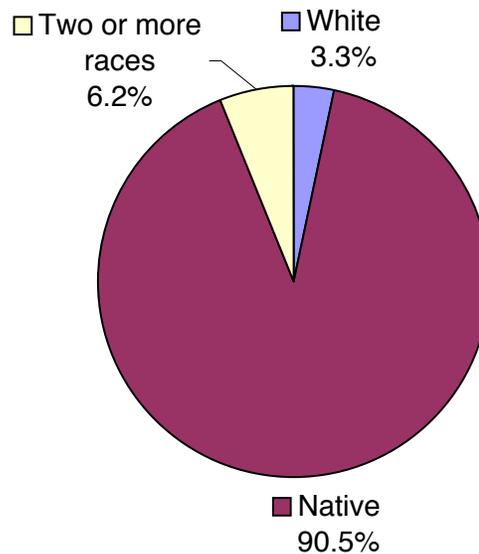
2000 Population Structure Mekoryuk

Data source: US Census



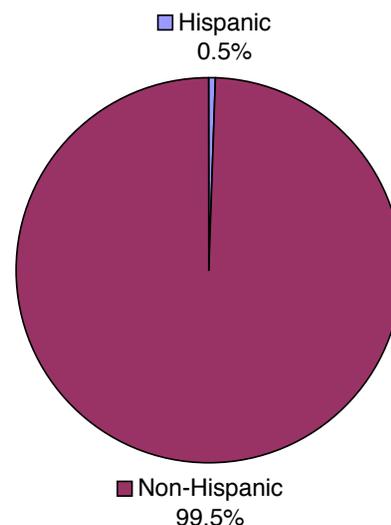
2000 Racial Structure Mekoryuk

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Mekoryuk

Data source: US Census



which decimated the population. Only four families in the village survived. An Eskimo missionary built the Evangelical Covenant Church in the 1930s in the village and a BIA school was built in 1939. The school brought people who moved from other parts of the island to the village. An Eskimo-Russian trader introduced reindeer for commercial purposes in 1920. In the 1940s the operation was purchased by the BIA and in 1945 a slaughterhouse was constructed. The reindeer were bred with caribou from Denali Park and the offspring are larger and more difficult to handle than other reindeer in the state of Alaska. In 1934, 34 musk-oxen from Greenland were brought to the Island in an endeavor to save the animal from extinction. Presently the herd numbers at around 500 musk-oxen with calves from the herd having been relocated and introduced to other areas of Alaska. In 1940 a post office opened in the village. During this time women lived in semi-subterranean sod houses with the men living in one or more men's community houses called "qasgir" and at which time traditional ceremonies and beliefs were still practiced by the Native people. Extensive change was brought about to the Island in the 50s and 60s. In 1957 an airstrip was built and the Territorial Guard was formed which caused the men to go to Fort Richardson which is located by Anchorage for training. By 1957 the only permanent community on the Island was Mekoryuk and around this time many of the families moved to the community of Bethel to be closer to the high school. Families returned to Mekoryuk for fishing and sea mammal hunting in the late spring. In 1969 the City became incorporated. In 1978 a high school was constructed in the community.

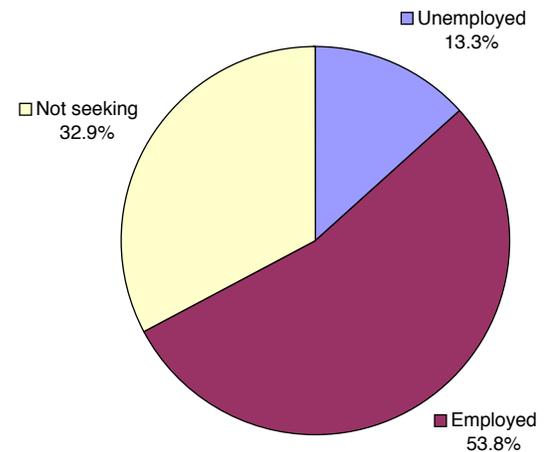
Infrastructure

Current Economy

In Mekoryuk employment is provided for the most part by the school, City, Village Corporation, commercial fishing, construction, and service industries. A major employer in the community is Nuniarmiut Reindeer and Seafood Products Co. Many families earn income from the production of Native crafts or from trapping. The processor, Coastal Villages Seafood, processes halibut in the community. In 2000 a total of 113 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community and 50 community members were licensed crew men. Nearly

2000 Employment Structure Mekoryuk

Data source: US Census



all families are involved in subsistence and most families have fish camps. In 2000 of those residents age 16 years and over about 53.8% were employed, 13.3% were unemployed, and 32.9% were not in the labor force at the time of the Census. Nearly 64.9% of those which were employed were classified as having been government workers. The per capita income for those in Mekoryuk was \$11,957 in 2000 with the median household income of \$30,833. About 21.9% of residents were below the poverty level.

Governance

Mekoryuk is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1969 and has a Mayor form of government which includes the mayor, seven person city council, five person advisory school board, and various municipal employees including a Village Police Officer (VPO). The city is not part of any organized borough. The city enforces a 2% sales tax, but has no other taxes. The regional Native corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation with the village Native corporation being the Nima Corporation. The village council and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized IRA Council for the village is the Native Village of Mekoryuk. The village is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group that promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries. Coastal Villages Region Fund is active in the community, operating a fish processing plant in Mekoryuk. The

closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

The community is very dependent upon air transport for cargo, mail, and passenger services. A 3,070 foot gravel runway which is owned by the State supplies year-round access to Mekoryuk. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to fly from Anchorage to the community is \$459 with a connection flight through Bethel (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). There are two companies which provide airline services in Mekoryuk. Goods are delivered to the community either once or twice a year from Bethel by barges. The shoreline is protected from the extreme waves of the Bering Sea by a breakwater. Locals use ATVs, boats, and snowmachines for travel within the community. There are several places for tourists to stay if visiting the community including the Mekoryuk B&B, the IRA B&B, and Rosie's B&B. There is one school in the city, Nuniwarmiut School which teaches grades K-12. The school had a total of 40 students in 2000 and five teachers. Health care is available at the Mekoryuk Health Clinic which is owned by the City and is operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC). For sanitation services, the City of Mekoryuk operates a flush and haul system, and the water is delivered from a city-operated reservoir. Police services are provided by both the City Village Police Officer (VPO) and the City Public Safety Office. The electric utility is AVEC which is operated by REA Co-op and the City with a main power source of diesel. The water system is operated by the City. The water is taken from a well and then is treated and stored in a tank available at a central hauling point for residents. Approximately 90% of the homes in the community are served by a new flush/haul system which is operated by the City and funds have been supplied to connect to the remaining homes which still use honeybuckets. The school has its own well and currently is in need of a new water treatment system. The landfill in the community is operated by the City.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were a total of 113 commercial fishing permits which were issued to residents of Mekoryuk in 2000 and a total of 50 licensed crew members which were residents of the community in 2000. There were 37 community members which were the owners of vessels which were involved in the federal fisheries and 2 which were involved in the salmon fishery.

Of the total of 113 commercial fishing permits which were issued to residents in 2000, 86 were fished. A total of 51 permits were issued for the commercial fishing of halibut and of those 48 were fished in 2000; 19 were issued using hand trolls statewide (17 fished), 31 using longline vessels under 60 feet statewide (30 fished), and one using a mechanical jig statewide which was fished. In regards to herring roe a total of 60 permits were issued of which 37 were fished: 11 using gillnets by Nelson Island (10 fished), four using gillnets in Security Cove (none fished), one using a gillnet in Bristol Bay (not fished), 35 using gillnets around Nunivak Island (27 fished), 8 using gillnets in Goodnews Bay (none fished), and one using a gillnet in Norton Sound (not fished). In regards to other groundfish a total of one permit was issued to a resident of Mekoryuk for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide, although it was not fished in 2000. One permit was issued for the commercial fishing of salmon using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay and it was fished in 2000.

No vessels delivered landings to the community of Mekoryuk in 2000, however a processor is present in the community now, a halibut plant, Coastal Villages Seafood, Inc. Coastal Villages Seafood is operated by the CDQ for the area, Coastal Villages Region Fund which operates a total of five halibut and salmon plants in communities included in the CDQ.

Mekoryuk was recently allocated a sum of \$3,645 in federal salmon disaster funds because of the recent falling salmon prices attributed to foreign farmed fish.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing seems to be present in the area of Mekoryuk with one business in operation in the community in 2002 according to the ADF&G; which was listed as having been a saltwater guide business

and providing saltwater fishing charter services, tent/cabin camp services, and drop off services. In 2000 there were a total of six sport fishing licenses which were sold in the community with five of the total sold to Alaska state residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Little information about subsistence uses of specific resources is given by the ADF&G for Mekoryuk. The information that is available reports that in the most representative year of 1990, 100% of households used herring in the form of herring sac roe. According to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) important subsistence staples of the community are salmon, reindeer, seal meat, and

seal oil. The DCED also mentions that most families in Mekoryuk have fish camps. As reported by ADF&G it has been established that residents of Mekoryuk harvest annually approximately 704.2 lbs of wild food per person per year, which equates to a daily wild food harvest of approximately 1.929 lbs per person. Also according to ADF&G in regards to salmon, a total of 92 household permits were issued to those from Mekoryuk in the year 1999 for the harvesting of subsistence salmon. A total of 1,664 salmon were harvested by residents in that particular year of which the majority was chum salmon. Residents of Mekoryuk and the Native Village of Mekoryuk tribal group are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Napakiak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Napakiak is located at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River, 15 miles southwest of Bethel. It is on an island between the Kuskokwim River and Johnson’s Slough. The area encompasses 4.7 square miles of land and 0.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Napakiak is a predominantly Yup’ik Eskimo village. In 2000 there were 353 residents in 90 households. All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian or Alaska Native (96%), White (1.4%), Black or African American (1.7%), and two or more races (0.8%). A total of 96.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 0.3% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender composition of Napakiak was significantly skewed, at 56.7% male and 43.3% female. The median age was 26.2 years, significantly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, approximately 62.2% of residents over 25 years of age held a high school diploma or higher degree. The presence of traditional Yup’ik culture is still quite strong, as evidence by the fact that 84.4% of residents speak their Native language in the home.

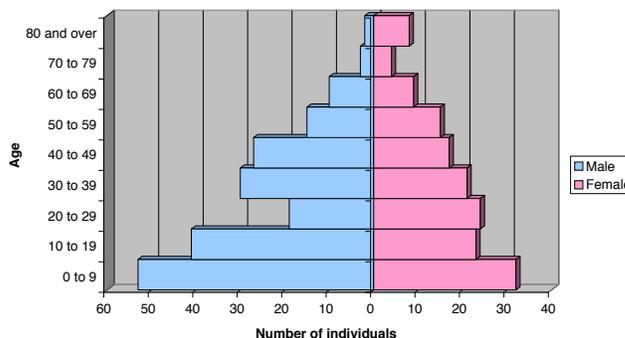
History

Yup’ik Eskimos have inhabited the Yukon-Kuskokwim area since prehistory. The first European reports of the village of Napakiak were in 1878 by E.W. Nelson, although the village at that time was located downriver at the mouth of the Johnson River. The Moravian Church constructed a chapel in Napakiak in the 1920s.

Napakiak was incorporated as a second-class city in 1970. In 1973, the first airstrip was constructed, enabling year-round access to the community. Napakiak today is predominantly a Yup’ik village with a strong sense of Native identity.

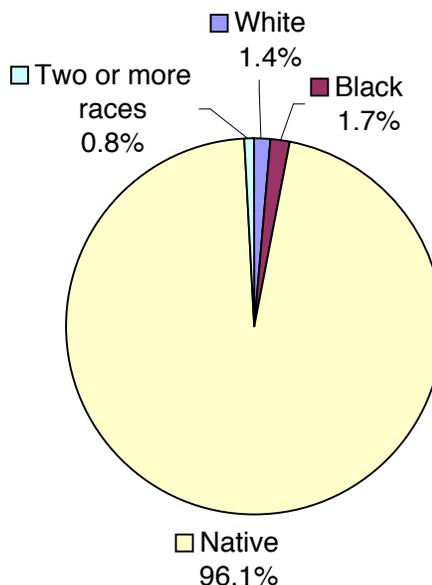
**2000 Population Structure
Napakiak**

Data source: US Census



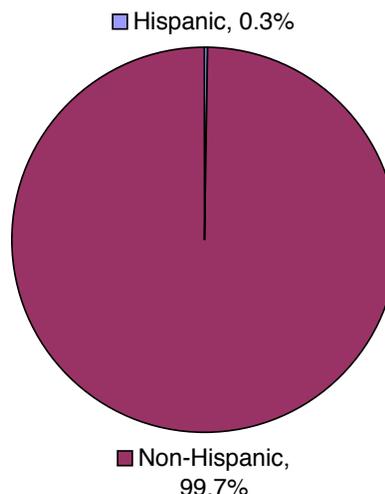
**2000 Racial Structure
Napakiak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Napakiak**

Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial fishing, though highly seasonal, is a major source of employment in Napakiak. Other employers include the school and local government. In addition, the majority of residents rely heavily on subsistence hunting and fishing.

The median per capita income was \$7,319 and the median household income was \$28,750. Approximately 13.1% of the potential labor force was unemployed, and 41.2% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 20.2% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Napakiak was incorporated as a second-class city in 1970. A 3% sales tax is collected in the city. Napakiak is not located within an organized borough, but is within the Bethel Census Area. A federally recognized Native village council is active in the community. There is also a village corporation, the Napakiak Corporation.

The village is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group that promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

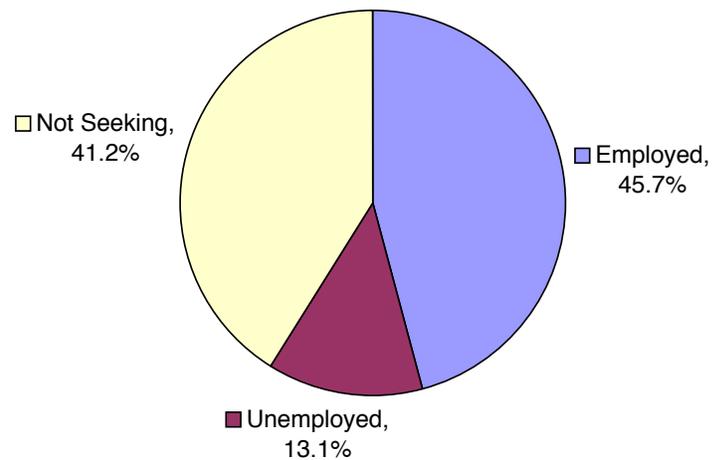
Facilities

Access to Napakiak is primarily by air; the state owns a 2,150 foot gravel runway in the community. Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, via the nearby Bethel airport, is approximately \$206. There are no docking facilities, although barges often deliver cargo from Bethel during the summer months, and the Kuskokwim River serves as a transportation thoroughfare.

Water for domestic use is collected from a community well. Electricity is transmitted from Bethel Utilities and purchased and distributed locally by a private company, Ircinraq Power Company. There

2000 Employment Structure
Napakiak

Data source: US Census



is a local health clinic that is owned by the city and operated in conjunction with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Police services are provided by a village public safety officer. There is one school in Napakiak, offering instruction to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. There are six teachers and 102 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were 12 vessel owners residing in the community with operations in state-managed fisheries. Forty-two local residents held a total of 48 commercial fishing licenses, and 35 licenses were fished. There were 47 registered crew members. Napakiak's most significant involvement in commercial fishing is in the Bristol Bay and Kuskokwim Bay salmon fisheries. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Napakiak residents in 2000.

Herring: Nine residents held a total of nine herring roe gillnet permits for Goodnews Bay. Only three permits were fished.

Salmon: One resident held a salmon drift gillnet permit in Bristol Bay (two fished). Thirty-eight residents held a total of 38 salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (30 fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors in Napakiak and no registered landings.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing is not a significant part of Napakiak's involvement in North Pacific fisheries. There were no sport license sales in Napakiak in 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

Most residents in Napakiak use subsistence resources. However, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not have detailed information about subsistence harvesting and use in Napakiak.

New Stuyahok [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community of New Stuyahok is situated on the Nushagak River. It is located about 12 miles upriver from Ekwok and 52 miles northeast of Dillingham. It has been constructed at two elevations: one is at 25 feet above the river level and one is about 40 feet above the level of the river. The community is located in the Dillingham Census Area and makes up 32.6 square miles of land and 2.0 square miles of water.

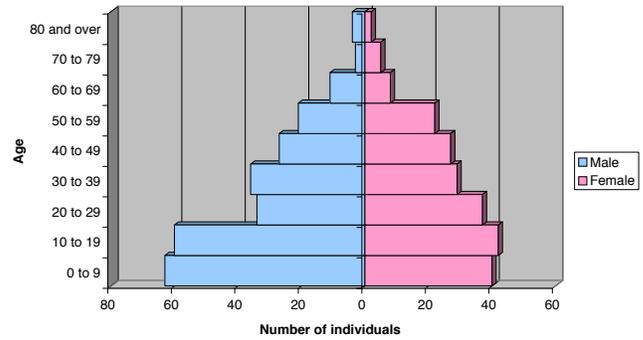
Demographic Profile

There were 471 inhabitants of the community of New Stuyahok in 2000 and of those 55.0% were male and 45.0% were female. Since a population was first recorded for the community at its present location by the 1950 Census, the population has continued to grow from the 88 residents reported in 1950 to the 479 in 2002 as established by a State Demographer. In 2000 about 92.8% of the population of New Stuyahok was American Indian and Alaska Native, 3.8% were White, and 3.4% were of two or more races. A total of 96% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 1.3% of the population was Hispanic in 2000. The median age for the community was 24.4 years of age, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. There were a total of 107 housing units with two having been vacant and one of those vacant due to seasonal use at the time of the Census. No one in the city lived in group quarters. Out of the population age 25 and over, about 67.5% had graduated from high school or higher and 10.3% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately 25.9% of the inhabitants age 25 and over had completed less than 9th grade at the time of the 2000 Census.

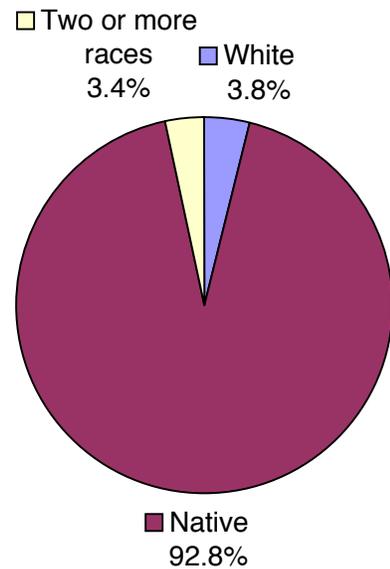
History

The current site of New Stuyahok is the third location of the village that community members can remember. In 1918 the village moved downriver from the "Old Village" to the Mulchatna area. The community was involved in herding reindeer for the U.S. government in the 1920s and 30s, but by 1942 the herd had dwindled down to nothing. In addition to the diminishing herd, the village site was too far inland at that time to receive barge service and the village had

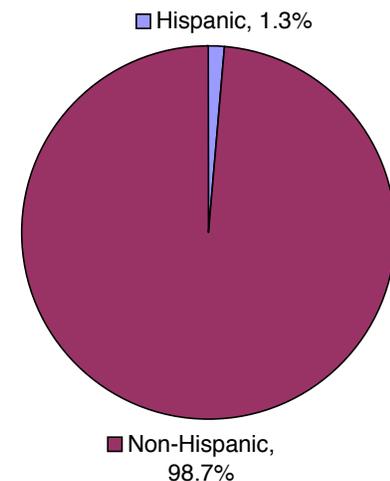
**2000 Population Structure
New Stuyahok**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
New Stuyahok**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
New Stuyahok**
Data source: US Census



been exposed to flooding, therefore the village moved downriver in 1942 to its present location. The name Stuyahok fittingly means “going downriver place.” In 1961 the first school was built in New Stuyahok, in addition a post office was built in the same year, and soon after an airstrip was built. In the decade of the 1960s the community experienced a 40% increase in its population. In 1972 the City became incorporated. The city of New Stuyahok is a southern Yup’ik community with a lifestyle of fishing and subsistence. Russian Orthodox influences are visible.

Infrastructure

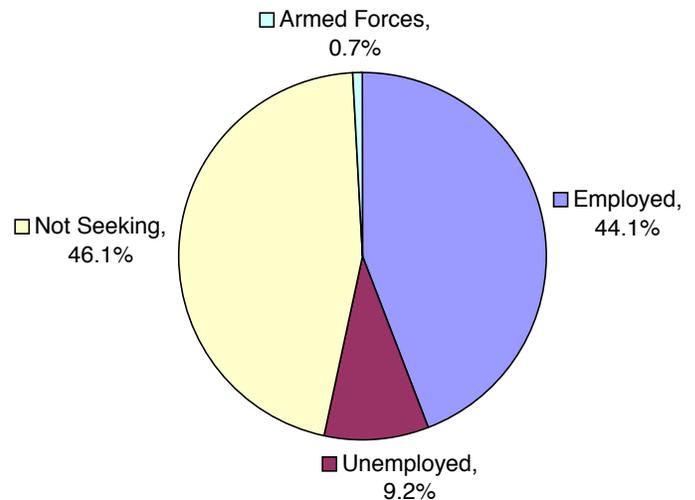
Current Economy

The economy of New Stuyahok is based for the most part on the salmon fishery, including both commercial and subsistence fishing. In 2000 there were 61 commercial fishing permits which were issued to residents of the community and a total of 96 licensed crew members who claimed residency. Many community members are involved in trapping and the whole community is dependent upon subsistence harvesting. Oftentimes, subsistence resources are traded between neighboring communities. Of the population age 16 years and over in New Stuyahok about 44.1% were employed, 9.2% were unemployed, 0.7% were in the armed forces, and 46.1% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed about 67.7% were classified as having been government workers. The per capita income was \$7,931 with the median household income having been \$26,042. About 31.7% of residents were below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

New Stuyahok is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1972 and has a Mayor form of government which includes the mayor, an eight person city council, five person advisory school board, and various municipal employees including a police officer and a public safety officer. There are no taxes imposed by the City and New Stuyahok is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation in which the community is included is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation with the regional non-profit for the area being the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Native village corporation is Stuyahok Limited. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional

**2000 Employment Structure
New Stuyahok**
Data source: US Census



Council is the New Stuyahok Village Council. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, an office is located in Homer, and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

New Stuyahok is accessible for the most part by air. From Dillingham both charter and regularly scheduled flights are available. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from New Stuyahok is \$449 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). A 1,800 foot lighted, State-owned gravel airstrip is available, although it is located on a hill and conditions are often windy enough to prevent landing. Funds have been requested by the community to build a crosswind landing strip. No docking facilities are available at the City. During the summer months, goods are lightered frequently. Locals normally use skiffs, ATVs, and snow machines as modes of transportation. Accommodations are reportedly available at the clinic, City office, and at the school. One school is located in New Stuyahok, Chief Ivan Blunka School, which teaches grades K-12. In 2000 the school had a total of 166 students and 8 teachers. Health care is available at the New Stuyahok Health Clinic which is owned by the Village Council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). The clinic

needs to be expanded and experiences problems with the water freezing. Police services are provided by the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), City Village Police Officer (VPO), and by the City Public Safety Building. The electric utility is AVEC which is operated by the REA Co-op and the City with a main power source of diesel. The water system is operated by the City and those which are not hooked up to the piped water system are responsible for their own water and use individual wells. The washteria is operated by the Village Council and the Splish Splash Washout Center. A greater part of the homes are connected to the piped water and sewer system. The sewer system, landfill operation, and refuse collection are all the responsibility of the City.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although the city of New Stuyahok is located inland on the Nushagak River, the community is still active in the commercial fishing industry, mostly in salmon, but also taking part in the fishing of halibut and herring roe. A total of 61 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of New Stuyahok in 2000 and 96 residents were licensed crew members. Twenty-six vessel owners which were residents of the community participated in the harvesting of salmon, although no residents which were vessel owners participated in the federal fisheries.

Out of the total of 61 permits which were issued to residents, 40 were fished in 2000. One permit was issued for halibut using longline on a vessel over 60 feet statewide, although it was not fished. Nineteen permits were issued for herring, and 5 were fished: 4 were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Security Cove (2 fished), 13 for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay (3 fished), and 2 were issued for herring spawn on kelp gathered by diving or handpicked in Bristol Bay (none fished). Forty-one permits were issued for salmon of which 35 were fished: one was issued for salmon using a purse seine in Kodiak (not fished), 33 using drift gillnets in Bristol Bay (26 fished), and 7 using set gillnets in Bristol Bay (9 fished).

No vessels delivered landings to New Stuyahok because no processors were in operation in 2000.

The CDQ group in which New Stuyahok is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There is little evidence of sport fishing around the New Stuyahok area and the facilities, such as a hotel or related businesses do not presently exist in the community for this industry. According to the ADF&G, in 2000 no sport fishing licenses were sold in New Stuyahok and in the year 2002 no businesses were listed as being sport fishing services in the community.

Subsistence Fishing

Community members are very dependent on subsistence harvests and often trade items with other villages. According to the ADF&G, for the most representative year of (1987), 100.0% of households used all subsistence resources, 90.0% used salmon, 100.0% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, flounder, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, sucker, trout, and whitefish), 77.5% used marine mammals, and 15.0% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of community members was 700.42 lbs of which 58.34% was salmon, 5.14% was non-salmon fish, 0.08% was marine mammals, 0.06% was marine invertebrates, 0.56% was birds and eggs, 33.86% was land mammals, and 1.96% was vegetation. Also reported by ADF&G is that 47 household subsistence salmon permits were issued to those from the community in the year 1999. Residents of New Stuyahok do not appear to be eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Newtok [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Newtok is located on the Ninglick River, north of Nelson Island, in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region. It is 94 miles northwest of Bethel. The area encompasses 1.0 square mile of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Newtok is a predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo village. In 2000 there were 321 residents in 63 households. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (95.3%), White (3.1%), and two or more races (1.6%). A total of 96.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The gender makeup of the community was significantly skewed, at 54.2% male and 45.8% female. The median age of Newtok was 20.7 years, significantly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 71.1% of residents aged 25 and over held a high school degree or higher level of education.

History

The people of Newtok, together with Native communities on Nelson Island, are known as Qaluyaarmiut, or "dip net people." Their ancestors have lived on the Bering Sea coast for at least 2,000 years. Newtok's contact with the outside world has traditionally been limited; until as recently as the 1980s, high school students had to travel outside the community for an education. Village leaders are currently suggesting a land trade with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which would allow them to relocate their village to a new site called Taqikcaq in order to avoid erosion.

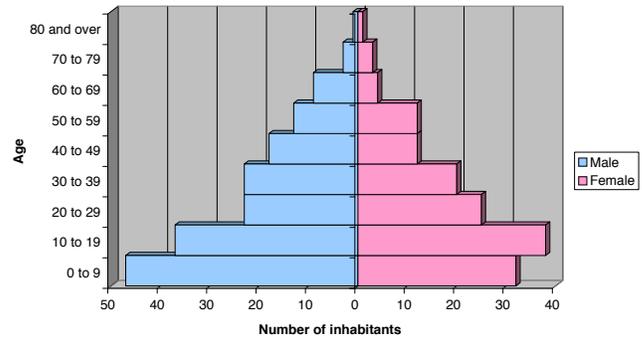
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Newtok depends largely on commercial fishing. Many residents hold commercial permits. Other employment sources include the school, the health clinic, and village organizations. In addition, almost all Newtok residents rely on subsistence hunting and fishing to supplement their incomes.

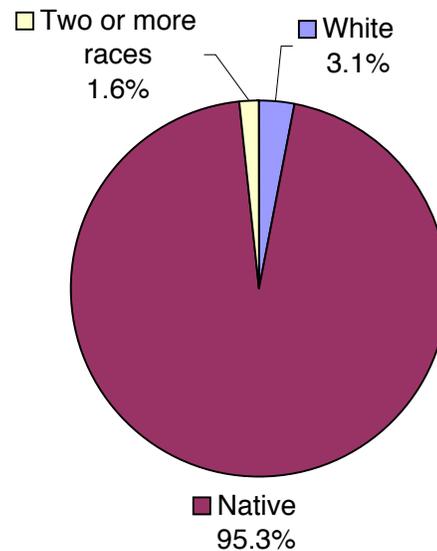
2000 Population Structure Newtok

Data source: US Census



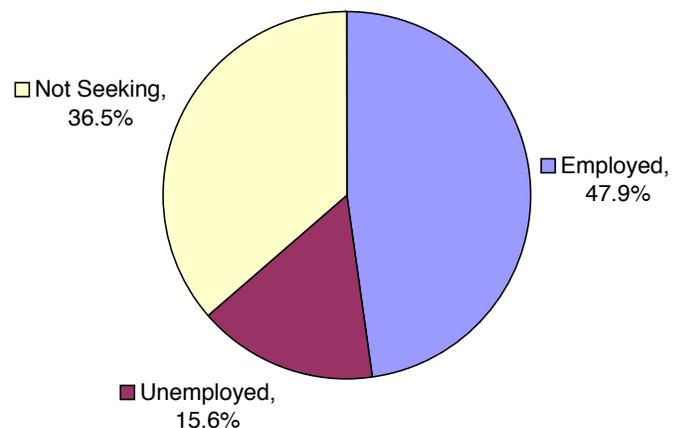
2000 Racial Structure Newtok

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Newtok

Data source: US Census



In 2000, the per capita income was \$9,514 and the median household income was \$32,188. The unemployment rate was 15.6%, and 36.5% of residents aged 16 and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 31% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

The city of Newtok was incorporated in 1976, but disbanded in 1997 in favor of a traditional village council form of government. Newtok is not located within an organized borough, but is under the jurisdiction of the Bethel Recording District. There is also a village corporation, the Newtok Corporation. The village is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group that promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Access to Newtok is by airplane, seaplane, or boat. The state owns a 2,180 foot airstrip in the community. Roundtrip airfare from Newtok to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$421. Household water comes from a lake via a water treatment plant. Houses are not plumbed. The Ungusraq Power Company, operated by the village council, provides electricity to the community. Power comes from a diesel generator. There is a local health clinic that is owned by the village council and operated in conjunction with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. There is one school in the community that offers instruction to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The school has eight teachers and 107 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 eight vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries resided in the community, along with

five vessel owners with operations in state-managed fisheries. There are 28 registered crew members. Twenty-six local residents held a total of 39 commercial fishing permits, primarily in the herring and halibut fisheries. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Newtok residents in 2000.

Halibut: Seventeen local residents held a total of 19 commercial permits in the halibut fishery. These permits consisted of: nine halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (three fished), nine halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (four fished), and one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (not fished).

Herring: Fourteen local residents held a total of 15 commercial permits in the herring fishery. These permits consisted of: 13 herring roe gillnet permits for Nelson Island (8 fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Security Cove (none fished), and one herring roe gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (none fished).

Salmon: Five local residents held a total of five commercial permits in the salmon fishery. These permits consisted of: three salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (three fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), and one salmon set gillnet permit for the Lower Yukon (not fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors and no registered landings for Newtok.

Sport Fishing

Because of its geographic isolation and its reliance upon subsistence hunting and fishing, sport fishing activities in Newtok are limited.

Subsistence Fishing

Most residents in Newtok depend on subsistence resources for a major part of their livelihoods. However, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game gives only limited information about subsistence harvesting and use in Newtok. They report that, in 1990, all residents used herring for subsistence, and the average per capita harvest of herring for that year was 77.4 pounds. Although most residents of Newtok also use other fishery resources—particularly salmon—detailed information on these resources is not available. In addition, in 2003 Newtok held a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), which allows residents to harvest halibut for subsistence purposes.

Nightmute [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Nightmute is located on Nelson Island in the Bering Sea, about 100 miles west of Bethel. The area encompasses 97.0 square miles of land and 4.6 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Nightmute is a predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo village. In 2000 there were 208 residents in 47 households. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (91.8%), White (5.3%), and two or more races (2.9%). A total of 94.7% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 1% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender makeup of the community was only slightly skewed, at 51.9% male and 48.1% female. The median age was 21.8 years, significantly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 63.2% of residents aged 25 and over held at least a high school diploma. Traditional Yup'ik identity is strong in Nightmute; 88.4% of residents speak Yup'ik at home.

History

Nelson Island and the surrounding Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region have been inhabited by Yup'ik Eskimos since prehistory. Local people call themselves Qaluyaarmiut, or "dip net people." In 1964 many of Nightmute's residents moved to Toksook Bay village, about 28 miles away. A Jesuit order of Catholic missionaries has operated in the village since the early twentieth century. In the 1930s, a small church was constructed. The village of Nightmute was incorporated as a second-class city in 1974.

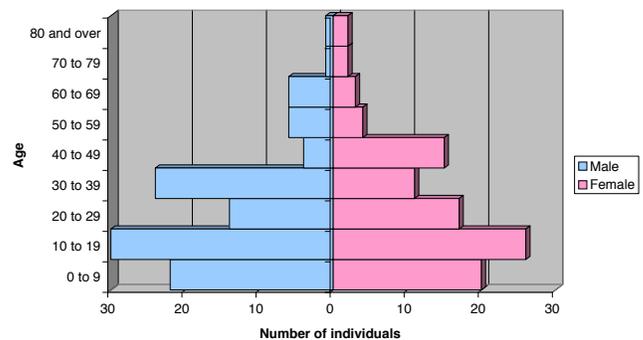
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial fishing is a major part of the economy of Nightmute. The local school system is another major source of employment. In addition, most residents supplement their incomes with subsistence hunting and fishing. In 2000 the median per capita income was \$9,396 and the median household income was \$35,938. The unemployment rate in Nightmute

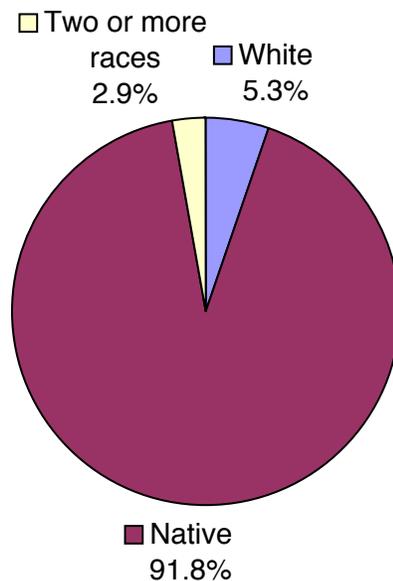
**2000 Population Structure
Nightmute**

Data source: US Census



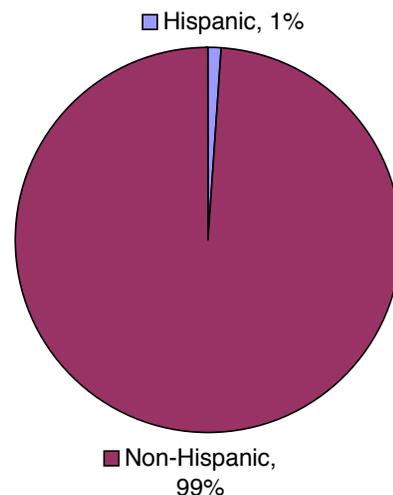
**2000 Racial Structure
Nightmute**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Nightmute**

Data source: US Census



was 10.8%, and 32.9% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 10.7% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Nightmute is a second-class city with a strong-mayor form of government. It is under the jurisdiction of the Bethel Recording District. There is also a federally recognized tribal government in the community, the Native Village of Nightmute, as well as a village corporation, Chinuruk Incorporated. The city is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, which promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries. Government revenues come from a 2% sales tax administered by the city.

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Nightmute is accessible by air; the state owns a 1,600 foot airstrip, and there is also a seaplane base in the community. Roundtrip airfare from Nightmute to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$425. Fishing boats and skiffs are also used for local travel. There are no piped water or sewer systems; water for household use is hauled from a central watering point. The city operates a landfill. Electricity is provided by AVEC Corporation, which produces power with a diesel generator. The local health clinic is owned by the village council and operated in conjunction with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Police services are provided by a city volunteer public safety officer.

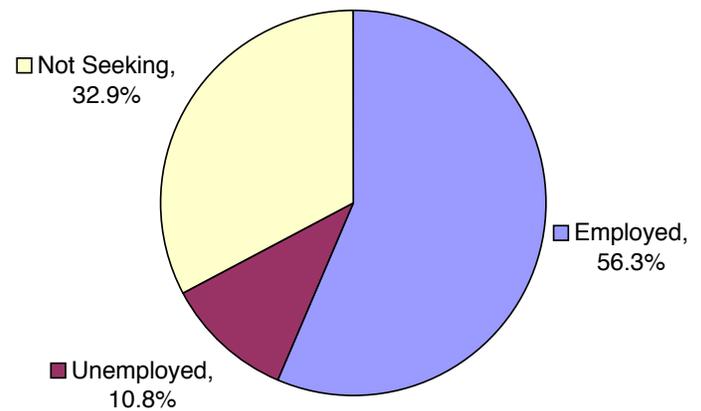
Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, 15 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries resided in Nightmute, along with three vessel owners with operations in state-managed fisheries. In addition, there were 22 registered crew

2000 Employment Structure Nightmute

Data source: US Census



members in the community. Thirty-one residents held a total of 44 commercial fishing permits, primarily in the halibut and herring fisheries. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Nightmute residents in 2000.

Halibut: Twenty residents held a total of 20 permits in the halibut fishery, and 15 permits were fished. The permits consisted of: 14 halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (12 fished), 5 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (3 fished), and one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished).

Herring: Eighteen local residents held a total of 18 permits in the herring fishery. All permits were herring roe gillnet permits for Nelson Island. Thirteen of these permits were fished.

Salmon: Six local residents held a total of six permits in the salmon fishery, and three permits were fished. The salmon permits consisted of: three salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (two fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished) and two salmon set gillnet permits for the lower Yukon (none fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors and no registered landings in Nightmute.

Sport Fishing

Because of its relatively isolated location and reliance on subsistence fishing, sport fishing activities in Nightmute are limited.

Subsistence Fishing

The majority of Nightmute residents rely on subsistence resources to supplement their incomes. In 1990, for example, 100% of households reported using subsistence herring; the per capita harvest of herring was 215.1 lbs. However, the ADF&G does not provide detailed information on other subsistence activities in Nightmute. As of 2003, the community held a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), which allows its residents to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Pilot Station [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Pilot Station is situated on the northwest bank of the Yukon River, on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. It is 11 miles east of Saint Mary’s and 26 miles west of Marshall. It is in the Wade Hampton Census area and makes up 1.7 square miles of land and 0.6 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Pilot Station had a total of 550 inhabitants in 2000. The population was definitely skewed toward males, which made up 55.8% of the population. The population of Pilot Station has changed quite a bit since 1880; however, since about 1960 it continued to rise steadily up to 2000. According to the 2000 Census, the racial composition of Pilot Station was as follows: 96.9% American Indian and Alaska Native, 2.4% White, and 0.7% two or more races. A total of 97.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. There were no residents of Hispanic ethnicity. The median age in the community was 19.5 years, considerably younger than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. Pilot Station had a total of 126 housing units in 2000; however, 17 were vacant, three due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters at the time of the Census. Of the population age 25 years and over about 51.3% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and about 9.6% had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher. Approximately 28.1% had completed less than 9th grade.

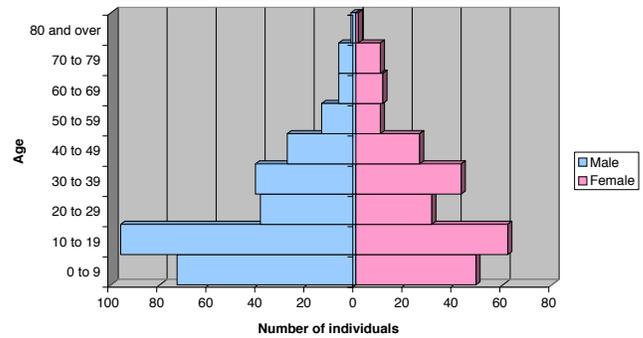
History

According to the National Park Service, the Arctic Small Tool Tradition, “one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP.” Some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition “marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures” to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003).

Historically, the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Pilot Station have been the Yup’ik peoples. Because “southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state,” the Native people of the southwest region did not

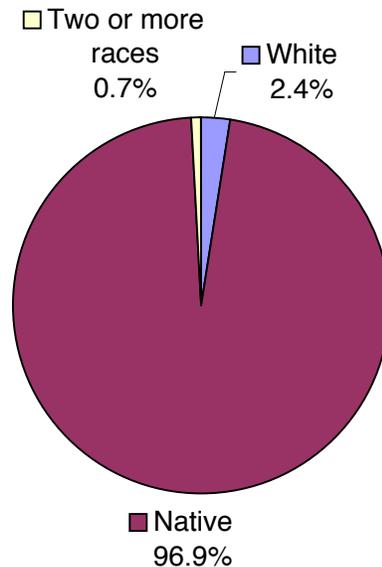
**2000 Population Structure
Pilot Station**

Data source: US Census



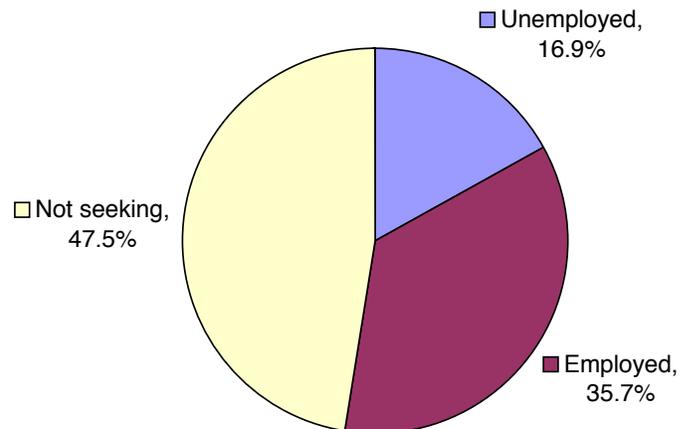
**2000 Racial Structure
Pilot Station**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Pilot Station**

Data source: US Census



experience continual contact with the outside world until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000: 115).

The village of Pilot Station was originally called "Ankachak," when it was located one-third of a mile down the river from the village's present site. The village later moved to a site termed "Potiliuk." Nearby the new village site is the location of an old village called Kurgpallermuit, which is a designated historic place, as it was occupied during the bow and arrow wars between the Yukon and Coastal Eskimos. Intermittently, the Chevak and Pilot Station people fought when the coastal people traveled up the Kashunak River according to local legend. In the early 1900s a Russian Orthodox Church was built and today is one of the oldest structures in the area. The village was first noted with the name "Pilot Station" by R.H. Sargent of the U.S. Geological Survey in 1916. The village's name was changed to Pilot Station by local riverboat pilots who used the village as a checkpoint. In 1969 Pilot Station became incorporated as a second-class city.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

In Pilot Station the majority of year-round employment is either with the school or the city government. In 2000 a total of 59 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Pilot Station and 69 residents were licensed crew members. Income is supplied as well by trapping and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire fighting, but it is also supplemented by subsistence activities. Of those age 16 years and over in the community in 2000 about 35.7% were employed, 16.9% were unemployed, and 47.5% were not in the labor force. Of those who were employed, about 67.9% were classified as government workers. The median annual per capita income was \$7,311 and the median household income was \$31,071 in 2000. About 28.7% of the population was below the poverty level.

Governance

Pilot Station is a second-class city which was incorporated in the year 1969. The city has a Manager form of government which includes a mayor, seven-

person city council, five-person advisory school board, and many municipal employees including three Village Police Officers (VPOs) and one Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The city implements a 4% sales tax and has no other taxes. The city is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation and the Native village corporation is Pilot Station, Incorporated. The Village Council and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is called the Pilot Station Traditional Council. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in the city of Emmonak, but is a seasonal office which is open from June 1st to August 31st, although an office is available year round in the community of Nome. The closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is also located in Nome. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a larger office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Pilot Station is accessible for the most part by air and water transport. There is a 2,250 foot gravel airstrip which is owned by the state. The approximate cost to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Pilot Station, via Bethel, is \$503. Bulk supplies and fuel are delivered by barge during the summer. The community is easily reachable by river-going vessels. Inter-village transportation is provided by snowmobiles and skiffs as there are no roads which link Pilot Station to its neighboring communities. There are no hotels in the community or accommodations for visitors. There is one school, Pilot Station School, which teaches grades K-12. In 2000 there were a total of 211 students at the school and 17 teachers. Health care is available at the Pilot Station Health Clinic which is owned by the city and operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC). The clinic however is currently situated in a flood hazard area and is need of being relocated. Police services are supplied by the State VPSO, City VPO, and City Public Safety Facility. The electric utility for the area is AVEC which is operated by REA Co-op and the city with a main power source of diesel. The piped water and sewer system is operated by the city and includes more than half of the community. Currently 27 homes in the community haul well water and use honeybuckets for sewage; however, major improvements are in the works to expand the piped system to include the 27 unserved

homes, the school, city and tribal offices, Head Start, and other community buildings. The school operates its own water treatment system. Refuse collection is the responsibility of the City who also operates the landfill along with C&D.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 59 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Pilot Station in 2000, and of those 56 were fished. There were 69 licensed crew members in the same year. There were no residents who were vessel owners and were involved in either the salmon fishery or the federal fisheries. Of the 59 total commercial permits issued to those from Pilot Station, two were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Norton Sound (none fished). Thirty-nine permits were issued for salmon using set gillnets in the Lower Yukon (38 fished).

No landings of any kind were delivered to Pilot Station in 2000 because no processor was present in the community.

Sport Fishing

There is little evidence of tourists from outside the state or country traveling to Pilot Station for sport fishing. However, in 2000, there were 59 sport fishing licenses sold in the community to Alaska State residents. According to the ADF&G there were no sport fishing businesses listed in Pilot Station in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

There is little data available regarding subsistence in Pilot Station with regard to specific species harvested and amounts. However, the incomes of residents are supplemented by subsistence activities including the harvesting of salmon, moose, bear, porcupine, and waterfowl. According to the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence it is established that the annual wild food harvest for those in Pilot Station is 713.9 lbs per person. The daily wild food harvest is 1.956 lbs per person. Also according to ADF&G, 95 household permits were issued for subsistence salmon to residents of Pilot Station in the year 1999 for an estimated harvest of 6,241 total salmon. Residents of Pilot Station are not eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Platinum [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Platinum is located on the south spit of Goodnews Bay, on the Bering Sea coast. It is 123 miles southwest of Bethel. The area encompasses 44.6 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

Platinum is a predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo village. In 2000 there were 41 residents in 17 households. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (90.2%), White (7.3%), and two or more races (2.4%). A total of 92.7% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The gender makeup was only slightly skewed, at 51.2% male and 48.8% female. The median age was 32.5 years, somewhat younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, only 39% of residents aged 25 and older hold a high school degree; this figure is significantly lower than other Native communities in the area.

History

The community of Platinum was established after traces of platinum were discovered in the area in 1926. Until 1936, when two companies bought out all the local claims, a multitude of prospectors covered the area looking for the precious metal. Platinum developed as a company town; the local store, as well as water and electric utilities, were all supplied by the mine. The mine, which was later sold to Hanson Properties, stopped operations in 1990. Today, Platinum is a predominantly Yup'ik Eskimo village, although its legacy as a hub for White settlers remains.

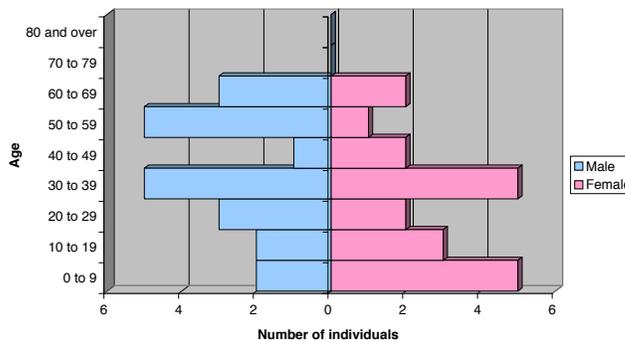
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial fishing is the base of economic activities in Platinum. In addition, many residents use subsistence resources to supplement their incomes. In 2000 the median per capita income was \$7,632 and the median household income was \$21,250. The unemployment rate was 20%, and 26.7% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately

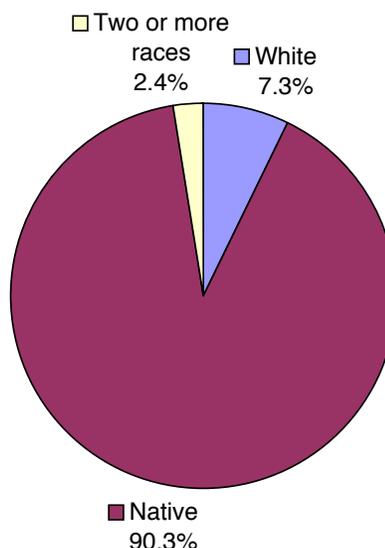
**2000 Population Structure
Platinum**

Data source: US Census



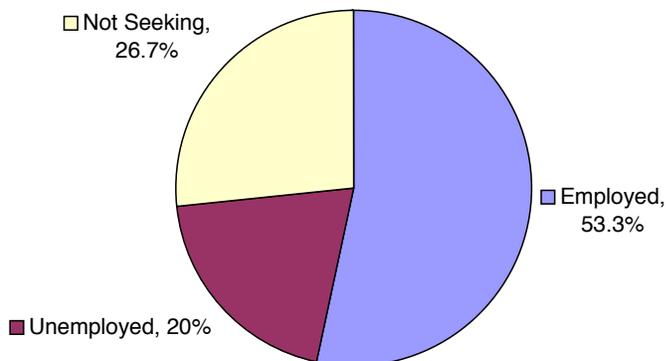
**2000 Racial Structure
Platinum**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Platinum**

Data source: US Census



22% of residents were living below the poverty level.

Governance

Platinum was incorporated as a second-class city in 1975 and has a strong-mayor form of government. It is not located within an organized borough, but is in the Bethel Recording District. There is a federally recognized native governing body in Platinum, the Platinum Traditional Village. There is also a village corporation, Arviq, Incorporated. The city is a member of the Coastal Villages Region Fund, a Community Development Quota (CDQ) group, which promotes employment opportunities for residents as well as participation in the Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

There is a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office and an office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) located in Bethel. The nearest U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Citizenship Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Platinum is accessible by air via a 3,640 foot state-owned runway. There is also a 2,000 foot airstrip owned by the Platinum Mine, and a seaplane landing site. Roundtrip airfare from Platinum to Anchorage, via Bethel, is approximately \$544. As of 2000 there were no docking facilities. There is no piped water system; residents have individual wells and septic tanks. Electricity is provided by the city and is produced by a diesel generator. There is a local health clinic that is owned by the city and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. There is one school in Platinum that offers instruction to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were eight vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries residing in Platinum. In addition, there were seven registered crew members. Nine local residents held a total of 16 commercial fishing permits, and 7 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is presented in this section.

Herring: Nine residents held a total of 10 commercial permits in the herring fishery, but only 2 permits were fished. Herring permits consisted of the following: one herring roe gillnet permit for Security Cove (not fished), and nine herring roe gillnet permits for Goodnews Bay (two fished).

Salmon: Six local residents held a total of six commercial permits in the salmon fishery, and five permits were fished. Salmon permits consisted of the following: one salmon drift gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), and five salmon set gillnet permits for Kuskokwim Bay (four fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors and no registered landings for Platinum.

Sport Fishing

Because of its relatively isolated location, sport fishing in Platinum is limited. In 2000, three sport fishing licenses were sold in Platinum, all of them to non-Alaska residents. There were no registered sports fishing guides.

Subsistence Fishing

The ADF&G does not have detailed information on subsistence activities in Platinum. The community holds a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), which allows its residents to harvest halibut for subsistence purposes. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Portage Creek [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The town of Portage Creek is situated at the mouth of Portage Creek, a tributary of the Nushagak River. It is located in the Dillingham Census Area and is 29 miles southeast of Dillingham. It is comprised of 13.1 square miles of land and 0 square miles of water.

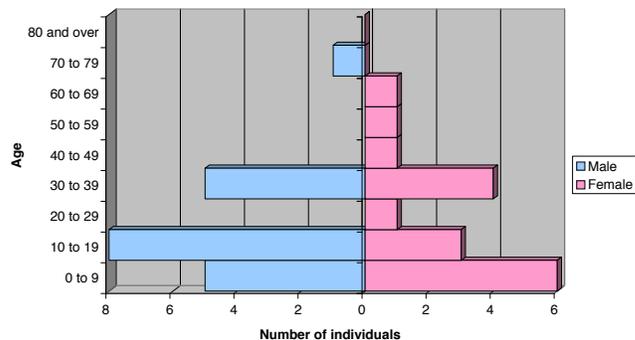
Demographic Profile

Portage Creek had a total of 36 inhabitants in 2000. The gender composition was skewed more toward males, who made up 52.8% of the population, versus 47.2% females. A population was first recorded by the Census in 1970, at which time there were 60 residents. Since then the population has fluctuated, but has never been as high as when originally recorded. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the racial composition of Portage Creek was as follows: 86.1% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 13.9% White. No one in the community was Hispanic. The median age in 2000 was an extremely young 14 years of age, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. There were a total of 22 housing units in Portage Creek in 2000; 15 were vacant, and of those, 8 were vacant due to seasonal use. No one lived in group quarters at the time of the Census. Of the population age 25 years and over 50% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and 50% had completed some high school but had not received a diploma.

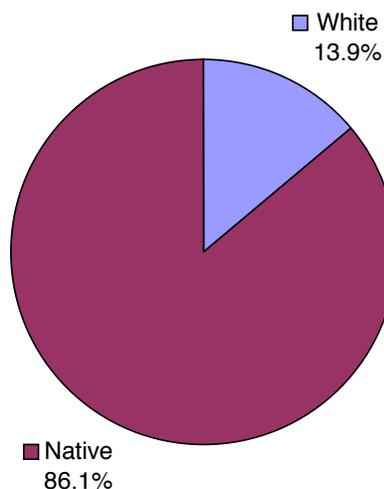
History

The area has a long history of human occupation. “Yup’ik and Athabaskan people settled the region, known as Naugeik, more than 6,000 years ago” (inAlaska.com). The area of Portage Creek was used as an overnight summer camp by the Yup’ik Eskimos. It was named Portage Creek because it was used to portage boats from the Nushagak River to the Kvichak River. Travelers could portage their boats and then bypass the long journey around Etolin Point and the open waters of Bristol Bay. In 1961 the village was permanently settled by some families from Koliganek and other villages located up the Nushagak River. In 1963 a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school was established in the community. During the winter of 1964-1965, 11 families lived in the community. The community was serviced by a local scheduled air

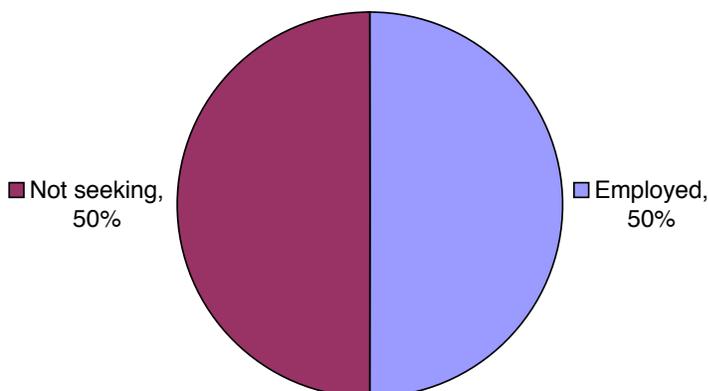
**2000 Population Structure
Portage Creek**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Portage Creek**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Portage Creek**
Data source: US Census



carrier in 1965. During the mid-1980s, the community was active; since then the population has declined. Portage Creek is also known as Ohgsenakale.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The residents of Portage Creek all depend on subsistence activities to a certain degree. Community members harvest salmon, moose, caribou, duck, geese, and berries. Exchange relationships exist with other coastal communities in order to acquire walrus, seal, and herring roe. Most families have fish camps which are located at Ekuk or Lewis Point. During the summer, the Portage Creek General Store and Lodge are in operation. There were three commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Portage Creek in 2000 and three community members were licensed crew members. According to the Census, of residents age 16 and over in 2000, 50% were employed and 50% were not in the labor force. The two people who were employed in the community were classified as government workers. The median annual per capita income in Portage Creek was \$8,010 and the median household income was \$41,250. No one in the community was below the poverty level at the time of the Census.

Governance

Portage Creek is unincorporated and is not part of any organized borough; therefore there are no city or borough officials present in the community. The Village Council and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is the Portage Creek Village Council, which is also known as the Ohgsenakale Tribe. The Native village corporation is Choggiung, Ltd., which is the merged corporation of the communities of Dillingham, Ekuk, and Portage Creek. The Native regional corporation is Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the regional non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group in which the village is included is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, an office is located in Homer, and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of

Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Portage Creek is accessible by both air and water. The most frequent mode of reaching the community is by chartered air. A 1,900 foot state-owned sand-surfaced airstrip is located in the community and is only maintained during the summer months. Seaplanes land on the Nushagak River. The approximate cost to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Portage Creek is \$464. There are no docking facilities in the community, and cargo goods are lightered to the beach. Locals use skiffs as the primary means of transportation and snowmachines are used for winter travel. There are no hotels or accommodations for visitors in Portage Creek. There is one school, Portage Creek School, which teaches grades K-7. The Portage Creek School had a total of 14 students and two teachers in 2000. There are no health care facilities in Portage Creek. A clinic was constructed by the village in 1979, but is not in operation. The nearest health care facility is in Dillingham. There are no police services in the community. There are no central electric, water, sewer, or refuse facilities currently in operation in Portage Creek. Most community members haul their water from down the river, as the central well is rusty. Residents use honeybuckets for their sewage needs. There is no functioning electrical system and the landfill has been deemed inactive.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

The commercial fishing permit data for Portage Creek and Dillingham is combined by the CFEC and is explained in the Dillingham profile (see Dillingham profile). Three residents of Portage Creek were licensed crew members in 2000. No one in the community owned a vessel which participated in the federal fisheries; however, one resident owned a vessel which participated in the salmon fishery.

*Commercial fishing permit data presented here is from the CFEC and is for the communities of Dillingham and Portage Creek combined.

According to data separately supplied by CFEC and analyzed by AKFIN, a total of three commercial fishing permits were issued to residents only of Portage Creek in 2000, and of those one was fished. Two of the permits were issued for salmon (one fished). One permit was issued for herring (not fished).

There were no landings of any kind in Portage Creek in 2000 because no processor was located in the community.

The CDQ group in which Portage Creek is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There is little available evidence of sport fishing in Portage Creek in terms of licenses sold and businesses. The Department of Community and Economic Development’s Alaska Community database does mention that Portage Creek “is a popular recreational

fishing and camping site from May through July, and a hunting location for Yup’ik residents.” There were no sport fishing licenses sold in Portage Creek in 2000 and no sport fishing guide or related businesses were present in the community in 2002, according to the ADF&G.

Subsistence Fishing

Little data is available for the community of Portage Creek in terms of exact numbers of subsistence harvests and species harvested; however, subsistence plays an important role and all residents are dependent upon it to some extent. Residents harvest berries, geese, duck, caribou, moose, and salmon. Trade relationships exist with neighboring communities, and walrus, seal, and herring roe are sought after. It has been established by the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence that the annual wild food harvest for Portage Creek is 387.4 lbs per person. The daily wild food harvest is 1.0 lbs per person. Also according to ADF&G, two household permits were issued for subsistence salmon to residents of Portage Creek in 1999 for an estimated harvest of 59 total salmon. Residents of Portage Creek are not eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Quinhagak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community of Quinhagak is located on the Kanektok River and is on the east shore of Kuskokwim Bay. It is situated less than a mile away from the coast of the Bering Sea and is 71 miles southwest of Bethel. The community is in the Bethel Census Area and makes up 4.7 square miles of land and 0.6 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

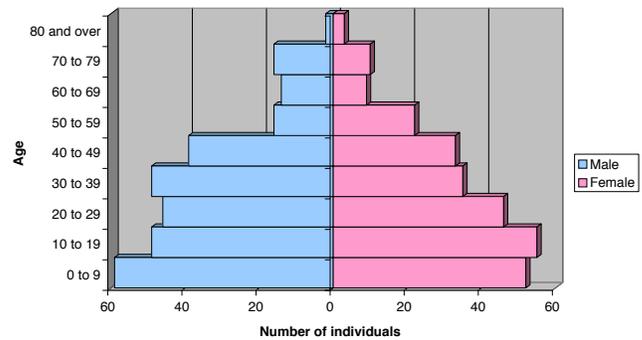
There were a total of 555 inhabitants of the community of Quinhagak in 2000 and of those 52.3% were male and 47.7% were female. Since 1950 the population has continued to rise in numbers from the 194 persons reported in 1950 to 572 in 2002 as established by a State Demographer, although prior to that the population fluctuated somewhat. In 2000 the racial composition was as follows: 96.0% American Indian and Alaska Native, 2.7% White, and 1.3% two or more races. A total of 97.3% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 0.7% of the residents were Hispanic. The median age in the community was 26.6 years versus the national age median was 35.3 years. About 62.9% of the population was 18 years and over in age in 2000. There were a total of 153 housing units of which 16 were vacant and 7 of those were vacant due to seasonal use. No one lived in group quarters in Quinhagak in 2000. Out of the residents of the community which were 25 years and over in age, 49.7% had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling and 4.1% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. About 30.8% of the population had completed less than 9th grade.

History

According to the National Park Service "one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP", the Arctic Small Tool tradition which is significant because "some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures" to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Quinhagak have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because "southwestern Alaska lacked significant

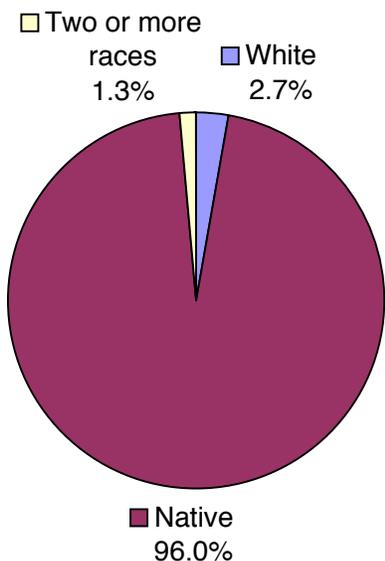
**2000 Population Structure
Quinhagak**

Data source: US Census



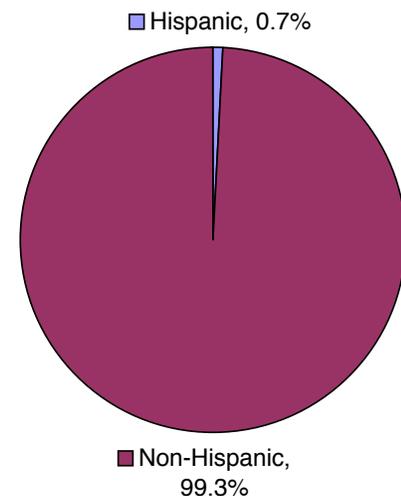
**2000 Racial Structure
Quinhagak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Quinhagak**

Data source: US Census



amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state,” the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800’s; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

The village of Quinhagak’s name in Yup’ik is Kuinerraq which means “new river channel.” This village’s origin has been dated to about 1,000 B.P which makes the village one of the oldest in the area. Quinhagak was the first community to have continuous contact with whites on the lower Kuskokwim. The village was reported on a map in the year 1826 by Gavril Sarichev. Goods were sent to Quinhagak for Kuskokwim trading posts by the Alaska Commercial Company in the year 1867 following the Alaska purchase and these goods were stored in a building on Warehouse Creek. In 1893 a Moravian Mission was built in the community at which time there were many non-Natives in the village of which the majority were waiting to travel up river by boat. A mission store opened in the year 1904 and a post office was established in 1905. A school opened in the community in 1909.

Over 2,000 reindeer were brought to the area during the years of 1906 and 1909, which were managed by the Native-owned Kuskokwim Reindeer Company until the herd had scattered by the 1950s. The Kuskokwim River was chartered in 1915 and it was no longer necessary to ship the goods through Quinhagak, as they were sent by barge directly to Bethel. The first electric plant opened in the community in 1928 and in 1934 the first mail plane arrived. In 1975 the City was incorporated. The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is banned in the city.

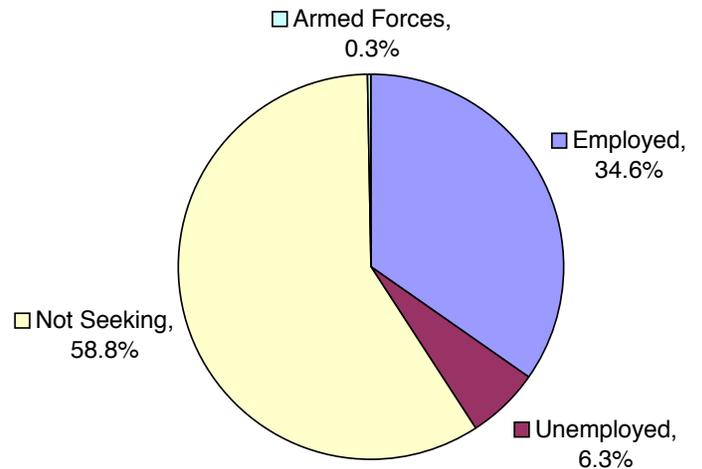
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Quinhagak is based on employment in commercial fishing, the school, and government services, although income can also be provided by trapping, basket weaving, skin sewing, and ivory carving. Coastal Villages Seafood, LLC., which processes salmon, is present in the city and “during the 2000 season the plant employed about 40 people” and is planning to expand (Knapp et. al 2001). In

**2000 Employment Structure
Quinhagak**

Data source: US Census



2000, 138 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community and there were 55 licensed crew members. Subsistence is important to residents, with salmon and seal remaining staples of the diet. In 2000, of the population age 16 years and over, about 34.6% were employed, 6.3% were unemployed, 0.3% was in the armed forces, and 58.8% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed, 74.6% were considered government workers by the Census. The per capita income in Quinhagak in 2000 was \$8,127 and the median household income was \$25,156. About 26.1% of the population was below the poverty level.

Governance

Quinhagak is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1975 and has a Mayor form of government including the mayor, a seven person city council, a five person advisory school board, and about five municipal employees. A 3% sales tax is enforced in the city. The city is not part of any organized borough. The Native regional corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation and the Native village corporation is Qanirtuuq, Inc. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized IRA council for the village is the Native Village of Kwinhagak. The community is part of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) group called the Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF). The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel, although an office is also located

in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Transportation to Quinhagak is possible by both air and water, and in the winter land trails are available to Eek and Goodnews. The community is heavily dependent on air travel for both cargo and passenger mail. Present is a 2,600 foot State-owned gravel airstrip and space is available as well for the landing of floatplanes the Kanektok River. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Quinhagak is \$592 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible) with eleven airline services traveling to the community. Recently a dock and harbor were finished. Cargo comes to Quinhagak twice a year by barge. Local transportation includes boats, ATVs, snow machines, and some vehicles.

Two rooms are available as accommodations through the City and IRA Office and are located on the 2nd floor of the water treatment plant. There is one school, Kuinerrarmiut Elitnaurviat which teaches the grade K-12. There were 153 students and 12 teachers in 2000. The high school has a portable pool. Health care is available at the Quinhagak Health Clinic which is operated by the Village Council MOA with the Yukon- Kuskokwim Health Corporation and is owned by the Village Council. Alternate health care is available by the Quinhagak EMS Quick Response Team. Police services are available by the City Village Police Officers (VPOs) and by the Tribal Police.

The electric utility in Quinhagak is AVEC which is operated by REA Co-op and the Village Council with the main power source being diesel. In 2000 about 89.8% of the households used kerosene to heat and 8.8% heated using wood. The water system operator is the Village Council and the School and the washeteria is operated by the Village Council. There is no piped water system and water is derived from a well. The Village Council also is the operator of the sewer system, but there is no piped sewer and because of this lack of piped systems 89 households haul water and use honeybuckets. Individuals are responsible for collecting their own refuse and the landfill is operated by the City and Village Council.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 138 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Quinhagak in 2000 and there were 55 licensed crew members which were residents of the community. Eighteen vessel owners which were residents participated in the federal fisheries and 8 vessel owners participated in the salmon fishery.

Of the 138 permits issued in 2000 to community members, a total of 91 were fished. Forty-three permits were issued for the commercial fishing of halibut: 25 using a hand troll statewide (12 fished) and 18 using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (six fished). Nine permits were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Goodnews Bay and of those four were fished. With regard to salmon, 86 permits were issued: two using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (one fished) and 84 using a set gillnet in the Kuskokwim area (68 fished).

No vessels delivered landings to Quinhagak in 2000. Perhaps salmon landings were delivered to a nearby community and shipped to Quinhagak for processing because according to the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage regarding the Quinhagak salmon plant “in 2000 the plant did much better, increasing production to more than 400,000 pounds, producing high-quality headed and gutted and filleted fish, and paying relatively high prices to local fishermen”. The plant is a subsidiary of Coastal Villages Region Fund CDQ group and is titled Coastal Villages Seafoods, LLC. The processor had “plans to expand production substantially in 2001 and [was] making major new investments to add new equipment and a bunkhouse and mess hall complex” and this expansion would decrease shipping costs and provide the opportunity for income for locals (Knapp et. al 2001). One of the largest challenges for the plant is the transporting of fresh fish by plane from the community to Anchorage for sale.

Sport Fishing

The Kanektok River on which the community of Quinhagak is situated is well known for its sport fishing and “is almost a surefire place to catch kings in the range of 20 to 30 lbs” and can be fished by purchasing a permit from the Quinhagak Village Corp., Qanirtuuq Inc., to fish on lands owned by the corporation including the banks of the Kanektok (Unruh 2003). According

to the ADF&G there were four listings for freshwater sport fishing guides businesses in Quinhagak and three listings for full service guiding services in 2002. In 2000 there were seven sport fishing licenses sold in Quinhagak to residents of the State of Alaska and a total of 45 sport fishing licenses sold to non-residents. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service fly-fishing clinics have been sponsored by the Quinhagak Village Corporation and offered to residents of the community and visitors in order to encourage understanding between community members and the sport fishing industry.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G, for the most representative year (1982), 100.0% of households used all subsistence resources: 83.3% salmon, 100.0% non-salmon fish (smelt, cod, blackfish, char, whitefish, and Cisco), and 58.3% marine mammals. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources by members of the community was 767.92 lbs of which 44.57% was salmon, 19.47% was non-salmon fish, 16.21% was marine mammals, 3.81% was birds and eggs, 15.35% was land mammals, and 0.58% was vegetation. Also according to ADF&G in 1999 there were 133 subsistence household fishing permits, which were issued to those from Quinhagak. Residents are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Saint Mary's [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community of Saint Mary's is situated on the north bank of the Andreafsky River. It is located five miles from the Andreafsky's confluence with the Yukon River. Saint Mary's is 450 air miles west-northwest of Anchorage and encompasses the Yup'ik villages of both Saint Mary's and Andreafsky. It is in the Wade Hampton Census Area and is comprised of 44 square miles of land and 6.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

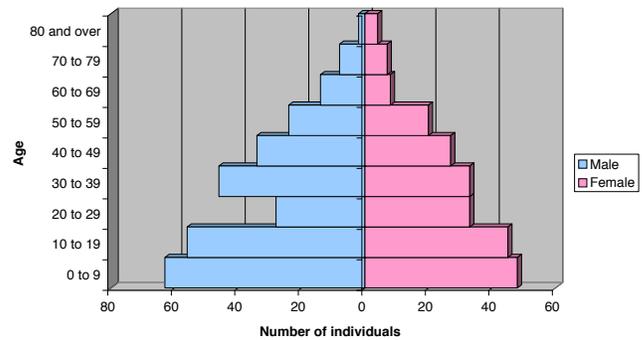
St. Mary's had a total population of 500 in 2000. Males made up 55.0% of the population, and females made up 45.0%. The population of the community has continued to rise since 1960, when it was first reported by the Census. The racial composition of Saint Mary's in 2000 was as follows: 11.2% White, 86.0% American Indian and Alaska Native, 1% Asian (0.2% Chinese, 0.8% other Asian), and 1.8% two or more races. A total of 87.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 0.4% was Hispanic. The median age of the community was 25.8 years, versus the national age median of 35.3 years. At the time of the 2000 Census there were a total of 186 housing units in Saint Mary's; 49 were vacant and, of those, 25 were vacant due to seasonal use. Ten individuals lived in group quarters. Of those age 25 years and over about 74.1% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling. About 15.2% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

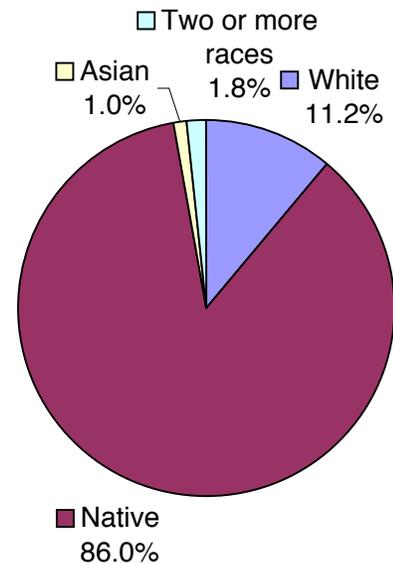
According to the National Park Service, the Arctic Small Tool Tradition, "one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP." Some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition "marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures" to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003).

Historically, the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Saint Mary's have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because "southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state," the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world

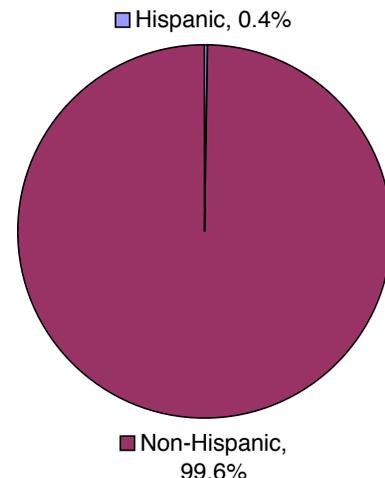
**2000 Population Structure
Saint Mary's**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Saint Mary's**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Saint Mary's**
Data source: US Census



until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000:115).

The village of Andreafsky was originally established in 1899 as a supply depot and the winter headquarters for the Northern Commercial Company's riverboat fleet. The name Andreafsky comes from a family which settled on the river and built a Russian Orthodox Church, the Andrea family. A mission was set-up by Jesuit missionaries in 1903 down the river 90 miles called "Akulurak," which means "in between place," as it was located on an island in a slough which connects the two arms of the Yukon River. The mission was established after the 1900-01 flu epidemics in order to educate and care for the children who had been orphaned. By 1915 the mission had 70 full-time students. The slough which surrounded Akulurak silted in severely and it was decided by the villagers to move the settlement to higher ground in 1948. A new mission and several homes were built at the new site using materials from an abandoned hotel which was built during the gold rush. Father Spills, a Jesuit priest, barged an unused 15x30 foot building as well as other building materials from Galena Air Force Station to Saint Mary's in 1949, and these materials, along with a borrowed tractor from Holy Cross, were used to build a school. Quite a few Yup'ik families moved to the Andreafsky area during the 1950s. In the 1960s dormitories and a large house were built for the Jesuits. The area which was adjacent to the mission was incorporated as the City of St. Mary's in 1967, whereas Andreafsky chose to remain independent. Andreafsky residents voted for annexation into the City in 1980. The Catholic Church closed the mission school in 1987. The community is also known as Algaaciq.

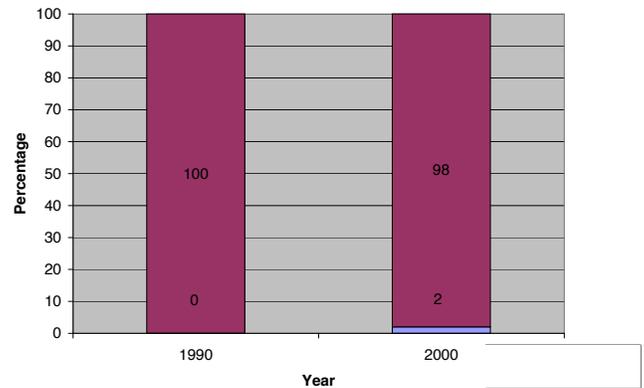
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Saint Mary's is very seasonal. In 2000 a total of 68 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents and 93 residents were licensed crew members. There is a cold storage facility located in the community. Subsistence activities as well as trapping help to supplement income for residents. Two general stores are located in the community, Alaska Commercial Company, and Yukon Traders. The construction of a

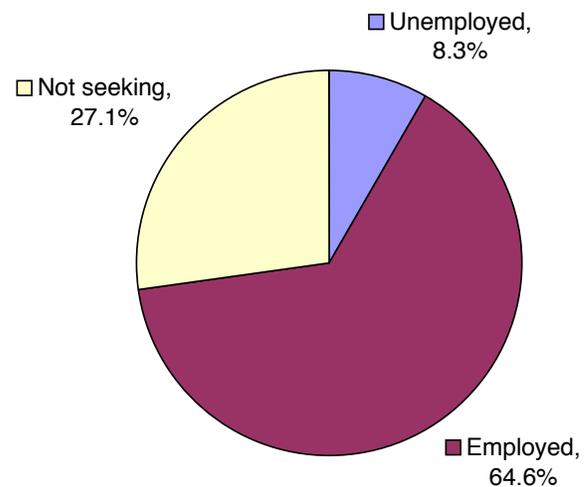
% Group Quarters Saint Mary's

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Saint Mary's

Data source: US Census



new regional Post Office was recently completed. Of those residents age 16 years and over, about 64.6% were employed, 8.3% were unemployed, and 27.1% were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work). Of those who were employed, about 45.7% were classified as government workers. The median annual per capita income was \$15,837 and the median household income was \$39,375 in 2000. About 20.4% of the population lived below the poverty level at the time of the Census.

Governance

Saint Mary's is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1967. It has a Manager form of government which includes a mayor, six-person city council, five-person school board, six-person planning commission, and various municipal employees

including three health aides and two police officers. The city implements a 3% sales tax; it has no other taxes. The city is not part of any organized borough. The city has its own school district, Saint Mary's School District. The regional Native corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation and the Native village corporation is Saint Mary's Native Corporation. The Village Council and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is called the Algaaciq Tribal Government. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in the city of Emmonak, but is a seasonal office, which is open from June 1st to August 31st, although an office is available year round in the community of Nome. The closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) is also located in Nome. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a larger office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Saint Mary's is accessible by both air and water transport and by road to some neighboring communities. A 6,000 foot state-owned gravel runway, as well as a 1,900 foot crosswind strip, are located in the community and provide year-round access. The large airfield is able to accommodate large jet aircraft; however, that service was discontinued in 1990. The approximate cost for individuals to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Saint Mary's is \$555. A twenty-two mile road connects Saint Mary's with Andrafsky, Pitka's Point, and Mountain Village. The road is not maintained during the winter months, but is used by snowmachines during that time. The only deep-water dock in the Delta is provided at Andrafsky River. Accommodations available for visitors include the bed and breakfast, St. Mary's Roadhouse, during the summer months. There is one school in Saint Mary, St. Mary's School, which teaches preschool through 12th grade. The school had a total of 170 students and 14 teachers in 2000. The school district is operated by the City. Health care is available at St. Mary's Sub-Regional Clinic which is operated and owned by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC). There is a new sub-regional clinic which is currently under construction. Police services are available from the City Police Department and the State Troopers Post. The electric utility for the area is AVEC, which is operated by REA Co-op and the City with a main power source of diesel. The water system, sewer system, and landfill are all operated by the City, which also collects

refuse. The City has a piped water and sewer system to which the majority of the city is connected. About 15 residences haul water and use honeybuckets. At Pitka's Point a washteria is available.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

In 2000 a total of 68 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Saint Mary's and 93 residents were licensed crew members. There was one resident who owned a vessel and was involved in the salmon fishery; however, no one in the community owned vessels which were involved in the federal fisheries in 2000. Out of the total of 68 permits issued to residents from Saint Mary's, 59 were fished.

The following is a brief description of these permits. A total of two permits were issued to residents for herring roe using gillnets in Norton Sound (none fished). One permit was issued for other finfish, specifically for freshwater fish using a set gillnet statewide (not fished). A total of 65 permits were issued to residents for salmon using set gillnets in the Lower Yukon (59 fished).

There were no landings of any kind in the community in 2000 because no processor was present in the community. There is, however, a cold water storage facility.

Sport Fishing

In 2000 there were a total of 84 sport fishing licenses sold in Saint Mary's; 81 of these were sold to Alaska State residents. There were no registered businesses related to sport fishing in Saint Mary's in 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

Little data is available about subsistence hunting or fishing in Saint Mary's regarding species harvested or exact amounts. However, the Department of Economic and Community Development does mention that residents supplement their income with subsistence activities and that salmon, moose, bear, and waterfowl are harvested by community members. According to

*Commercial fishing permit data presented here is from the CFEC and is for the communities of Andrafsky and Saint Mary's combined.

the ADF&G it has been established that Saint Mary's community members harvest 667.2 lbs per person annually of wild food. The daily wild food harvest is 1.8 lbs per person. Also according to ADF&G, 118 household permits were issued for subsistence salmon to residents of Saint Mary's in 1999 for an estimated harvest of 10,160 total salmon, the majority of which were chum. Residents of Saint Mary's are not eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Scammon Bay [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Scammon Bay is located on the south bank of the Kun River and is about one mile away from the Bering Sea. It is in the Wade Hampton Census Area and is to the north of the Askinuk Mountains on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. It makes up a total of 0.6 square miles of land and 0.0 square miles of water.

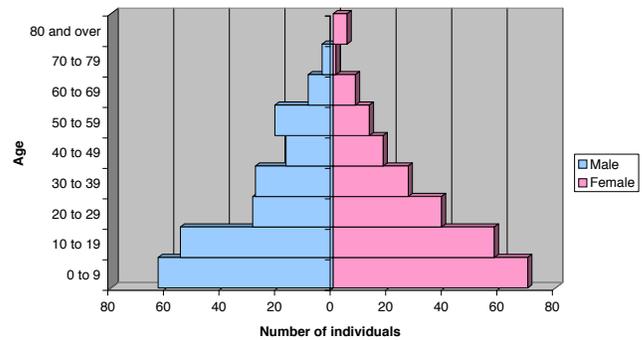
Demographic Profile

There were a total of 465 inhabitants in the community of Scammon Bay reported by the 2000 U.S. Census and of those 48.6% were male and 51.4% were female. Since a population was first documented by the Census in 1940, the population has continued to rise. The racial composition of Scammon Bay in 2000 was as follows: 96.1% American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.9% White, 0.2% Black, 0.2% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 0.2% "Other," and 1.3% two or more races. A total of 97.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 0.2% of the residents were Hispanic. The median age of the community was 18.3 years in 2000 versus the national median of 35.3 years of age. There were a total of 114 housing units with 18 having been vacant and none vacant due to seasonal use. No one lived in group housing at the time of the Census. Out of the population age 25 years and over 69.9% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and 12.2% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

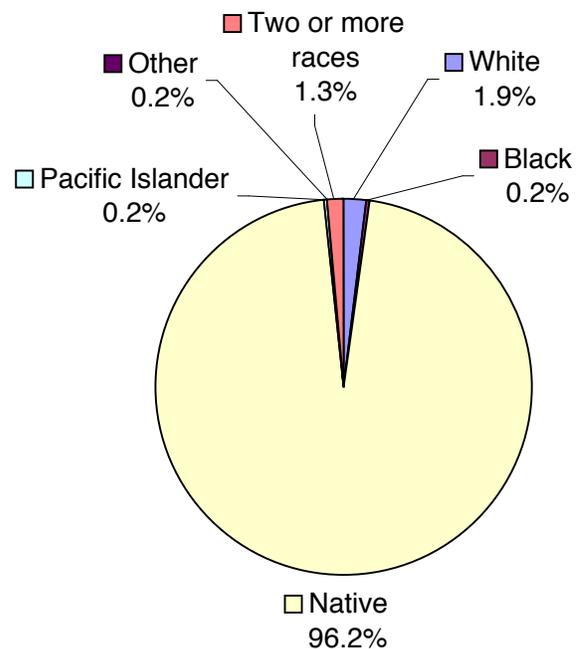
History

According to the National Park Service "one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP", the Arctic Small Tool tradition which is significant because "some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures" to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Scammon Bay have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because "southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state", the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world

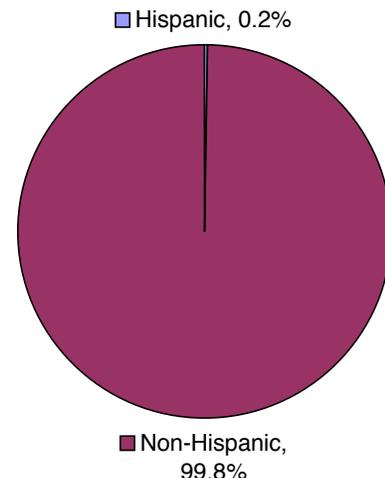
**2000 Population Structure
Scammon Bay**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Scammon Bay**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Scammon Bay**
Data source: US Census



until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

The village of Scammon Bay was known in Eskimo as "Mariak" and its residents were called "Mariagamiut." This village was established in about 1920 after there were recurring floods at the previous site of Keqqatmuit Village and it was moved to where Scammon Bay now stands. The name Scammon Bay was used to refer to the village in 1951 when a post office was established and given that name after Capt. Charles Scammon, who had served as marine chief of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition in 1856-1867 and who the nearby bay had already been named after. The city became incorporated in 1967. The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is not allowed in the city. Most inhabitants of Scammon Bay travel 50 miles to the north each summer to the Black River for fish camp.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

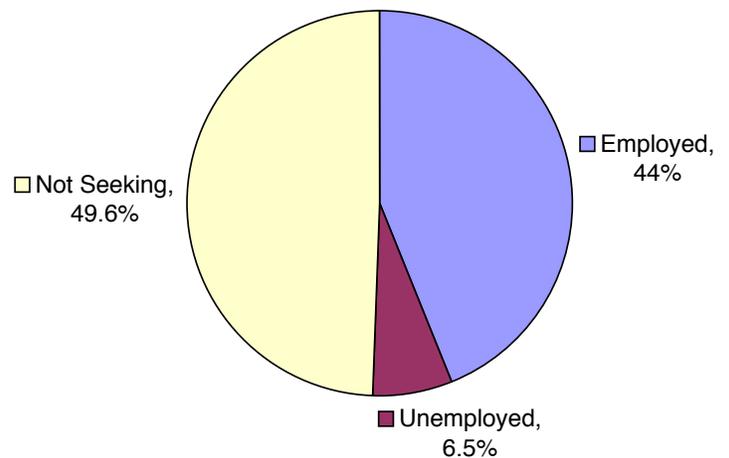
As is true of the other communities in the Wade Hampton Census Area, employment is very seasonal in Scammon Bay with most employment based on commercial fishing, but work also being available seasonally firefighting for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), working in construction, and making handicrafts. Subsistence is also very important to residents of the community. In 2000 there were 61 commercial fishing permits which were issued to those from Scammon Bay and 25 licensed crew members. In 2000 about 44.0% of the population of Scammon Bay age 16 years and over were employed, 6.5% were unemployed, and 49.6% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed 60.6% were considered government workers by the Census. The per capita income was \$7,719 and the median household income was \$25,625. About 37.4% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Scammon Bay is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1967. The city has a Manager form of government which includes a mayor, seven person city council, five person advisory school board, and five municipal employees including a public safety

**2000 Employment Structure
Scammon Bay**

Data source: US Census



officer and a police officer. There is a 2% sales tax. The city is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation and the Native village corporation is the Askinuk Corporation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council is the Scammon Bay Traditional Council. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group for the area is the Coastal Villages Region Fund. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in the city of Emmonak, but is a seasonal office which is open from June 1st to August 31st, although an office is available year round in the community of Nome. The closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) is also located in Nome. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a more main office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Scammon Bay is reachable by both the air and by water; in the winter there are land trails to Hooper Bay (32 mi.) and Chevak (25 mi.) as well. There is a 3,000 foot gravel airstrip which is owned by the State present in the community and a seaplane base on Kun River which is owned by the City. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Scammon Bay is \$633 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Each summer supplies are brought in bulk by barge. The chief means of local transportation are snowmachines and skiffs. Accommodations are

available at the High School or the Clinic. There is one school, the Scammon Bay School, teaching grades K-12. In 2000 there were a total of 175 students and 12 teachers. Health care is available at the Scammon Bay Health Clinic which is operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and is owned by the City; the clinic needs to be expanded. Police services are available by the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) and by the City Village Police Office (VPO). The electric utility is AVEC which is operated by REA Co-op and the City with the main power source of diesel, although 100% of households in the community heated using kerosene in 2000. The City operates the water system and piped water is available. The City also operates the sewer system as well as the landfill, although individuals are required to collect their own refuse.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 61 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Scammon Bay in 2000 and there were a total of 25 licensed crew members which were residents. No vessel owners which were residents of the community participated in the federal fisheries, although one vessel owner who was a resident of Scammon Bay in 2000 did participate in the salmon fishery.

Of the 61 permits issued to community members, a total of 40 were actually fished. Twenty permits were issued for the commercial fishing of herring: one for herring roe using a gillnet in Cape Avinof (one fished) and 19 for herring roe using gillnets in Cape Ramonzof (12 fished). A total of 41 permits were issued to residents of Scammon Bay for salmon using a set gillnet in the Lower Yukon of which 27 were fished.

No vessels delivered landings to the community in 2000 because there was no processor in operation in Scammon Bay.

Sport Fishing

The infrastructure does not seem to exist in the community in order to support the sport fishing industry as there is no sport fishing related business or hotel present. There were a total of 34 sport fishing licenses which were sold in Scammon Bay to residents of the State of Alaska in 2000. No sport fishing licenses were sold in Scammon Bay to those from outside the State of Alaska. There was no sport fishing guide business registered in 2002 in Scammon Bay according to the ADF&G.

Subsistence Fishing

Unfortunately, in depth subsistence harvest information for the community of Scammon Bay was not available from ADF&G, although it is reported by the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development the community relies on subsistence activities which can also be seen by the per capita lbs harvested by residents. According to ADF&G in 1999 a total of 76 salmon subsistence household permits were issued to those from Scammon Bay and an estimated 4,457 fish were harvested using those permits. In 1983 approximately 787 lbs were harvested per capita in the community with about 74% of that having been made up of fish, 5% was land mammals, 12% was marine mammals, and about 9% was termed other which contains birds, marine invertebrates, and plant products (Wolfe and Walker 1987, p. 57 & 64). Residents of Scammon Bay are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Togiak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

The community of Togiak is situated at the head of Togiak Bay. It is in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and is the gateway to Walrus Island Game Sanctuary. It is 67 miles west of Dillingham. Togiak is located in the Dillingham Census Area and makes up 45.2 square miles of land and 183.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

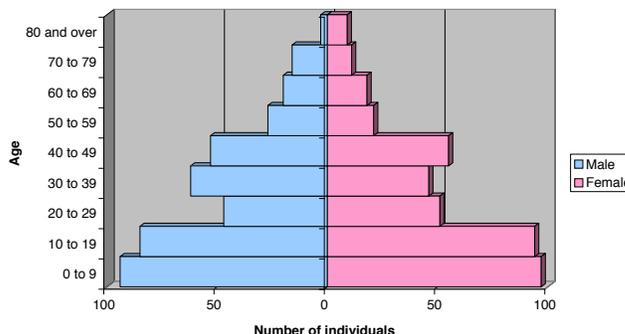
There were a total of 809 inhabitants of the city of Togiak in 2000 and of those 50.3% were male and 49.7% were female. The population of the community has continued to grow since about 1950 at which time there were a reported 108 inhabitants. Prior to that there was an influenza epidemic (1918 -1919) after which much of the population migrated south to the Togiak area; hence the increase in population in the village documented by the 1920 Census. The population of the community remains fairly stable year-round when compared to other fishing communities, except for during the herring fishery (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994, p. 136). The racial composition of Togiak in 2000 was as follows: 86.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, 6.9% White, 0.1% Black, 0.2% "Other," and 6.4% two or more races. A total of 92.7% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 1.1% of the inhabitants were Hispanic. The median age for the community in 2000 was 23.4 years of age, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. There were a total of 221 housing units in the city of which 19 were vacant with seven of those having been vacant due to seasonal use at the time of the Census. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Out of the population of Togiak age 25 and over, about 67.1% had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling and 7.0% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. About 19.6% of those age 25 and over had completed less than 9th grade.

History

For the most part, the Russian spread along Alaska's west coast missed the area of Togiak in the early 1800s and the Yup'ik inhabitants of the area were largely left alone, except for some contact with

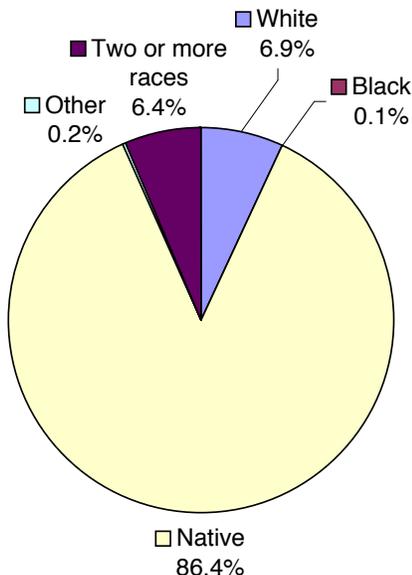
2000 Population Structure Togiak

Data source: US Census



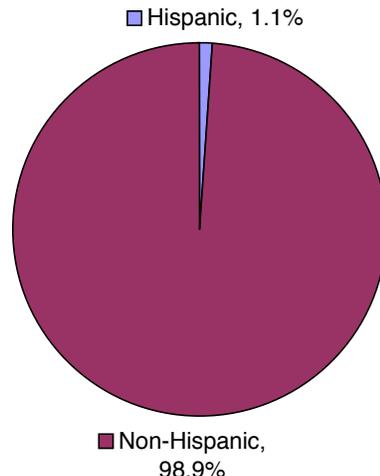
2000 Racial Structure Togiak

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Togiak

Data source: US Census



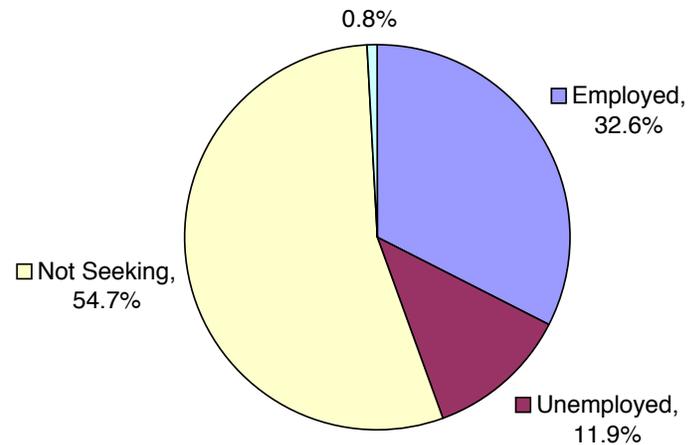
Russian immigrant trappers or traders (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994, p. 136). “Old Togiak” or “Togiagamute” was located across the Bay from the site of modern day Togiak in 1880, and had a population of 276 at that time. Wood-gathering was difficult at Old Togiak because of heavy snowfall and residents gradually settled on the opposite shore of the Bay at a new site where the chore was easier. After the influenza epidemic of 1918-19 many residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim region migrated south to the Togiak area. Many residents still have ties to communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim. During WWII, residents of Togiak began to work in the commercial salmon canneries because imported labor had become scarce (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994, p. 136). In 1950 a school was established in an old church in Togiak. A salmon cannery was built across the bay from the community in the 1950s, which created a demand for fish and the community blossomed into a salmon fishing village (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994, p. 136). In 1959 a National Guard Armory and a school building were built in the community. In 1964 Togiak was flooded and stores of gas, fuel oil, and stove oil, as well as racks of fish were destroyed. A few households left the community after the flood and settled the village of Twin Hills which is located upriver. The City of Togiak became incorporated in 1969. In the 1970s the commercial herring fishery was developed in the community (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994, p. 136). Today the village is a Yup’ik community with a lifestyle including fishing and subsistence. Alcohol is not allowed in the city with the sale, importation, and possession of it having been banned.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Togiak is based for the most part on commercial salmon, herring, and herring roe fisheries. In 2000 there were 392 commercial fishing permits which were issued to residents of the community and 136 licensed crew members which were residents. One on-shore processor is located in Togiak, North Pacific Processors Inc. which operates Togiak Fisheries and there are several floating processors near the community as well. A few community members trap and overall the community is very dependent upon subsistence harvests. Of the population age 16 years

**2000 Employment Structure
Togiak**
Data source: US Census



and over in 2000 about 32.6% were employed, 11.9% were unemployed, 0.8% were in the armed forces, and 54.7% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed, about 58.6% were classified as government workers. The per capita income in Togiak was \$9,676 in 2000 with the median household income having been \$23,977. About 29.9% of residents lived below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

Togiak is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1969 and has a Mayor form of government which includes the mayor, a seven person city council, five person advisory school board, and various municipal employees. The City imposes a 2% sales tax and a 2% raw fish tax. The city is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation which the community is a part of is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation with the regional non-profit for the area being the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Native village corporation is the Togiak Natives Corporation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is the Togiak Traditional Council. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group which the village is included in is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Togiak is accessible for the most part by air, but also by water. A 4,200 foot lighted gravel airstrip is present with a 1,090 foot crosswind airstrip and navigation aids and is owned by the State. Flights are available to the community from Dillingham as either regularly scheduled flights or by charter. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Togiak is \$512 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Cargo is either flown in or barged and lightered to shore. No docking facilities are available in the community. Local residents use skiffs, autos, ATVs, and snowmachines as modes of transportation. Accommodations are available at the Haul-out Inn and the Togiak River Lodge. There is one school, the Togiak School which teaches grades K-12. In 2000 the school had 229 students and 17 teachers. Health care is available at the Togiak Sub-Regional Clinic which was newly constructed. The clinic is owned by the City and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). Police services are available from the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) and from the City Police Department. The electric utility for the area is AVEC which is operated by the REA Co-op and the City, with a main power source of diesel. A piped water system is present which is operated by the City and those which are not connected use private wells. The sewer system is operated by the City, as is the collection of the refuse and the operation of the landfill which is also operated by North Pacific Processors. A total of 210 homes are fully plumbed with piped water and sewer and a total of 14 are not fully plumbed.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

The commercial fishing in Togiak focuses for the most part on herring, herring roe, and salmon. A total of 392 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Togiak in 2000 and 136 residents were licensed crew members. Sixteen residents which were owners of vessels participated in the federal fisheries and 62 residents which were owners of vessels participated in the commercial fishing of salmon.

Out of the total of 392 permits issued to residents in 2000, 151 were fished. Thirty-one permits were issued for halibut (14 were fished): 30 using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (13 fished) and one

using longline on a vessel over 60 feet statewide (one fished). The most permits were issued to residents of Togiak for fishing herring of which there were 228 permits issued in 2000 (22 fished): one permit was issued for herring roe using a purse seine in Bristol Bay (one fished), 10 for herring roe using gillnets in Security Cove (one fished), 30 for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay (8 fished), one for herring roe using a gillnet in Cape Avinof (not fished), 17 for herring roe using gillnets in Goodnews Bay (12 fished), and 169 for herring spawn on kelp gathered by diving or handpicked in Bristol Bay (none fished). For salmon, 133 permits were issued and of those 115 were fished: 72 permits were issued for salmon using drift gillnets in Bristol Bay (62 fished), 60 using set gillnets in Bristol Bay (53 fished), and one using a set gillnet in the Lower Yukon (not fished).

Thirty-eight vessels delivered salmon landings to Togiak. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable, most likely because there was only one shore-based processor which processed salmon in 2000 in the community, Togiak Fisheries, which is operated by North Pacific Processors, Inc. Several floating processors also are in operation. No landings were delivered to the community for any other fisheries.

The City of Togiak was recently granted \$256,787 in federal salmon disaster funds because of the loss of salmon taxes and resulting loss of services. The CDQ group in which Togiak is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003). In addition, because of its high dependency on the local herring fishery, Togiak has been hit hard in recent years by the decline in herring roe prices on the international market.

Sport Fishing

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that “some of the finest salmon and trout sport fishing waters in Alaska are on Togiak National Wildlife Refuge” which gives an idea of the capabilities of the area and draw for tourists. In 2000, as reported by the ADF&G, there were 29 sport fishing licenses which were sold in Togiak to residents of the State of

Alaska. A total of 129 sport fishing licenses were sold in Togiak to residents of the State of Alaska, foreign residents, and U.S. residents from other states. In 2002 according to ADF&G as well there was one listing for a freshwater guide business in Togiak.

Subsistence Fishing

As reported by the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, “the entire community...” of Togiak “depends heavily on subsistence activities.” According to the ADF&G for the most representative year of 1994 in the community of Togiak 96.0% of households used smelt, 30.0% used blackfish, 18.0% used burbot, 92.0% used char, 10.0%

used grayling, 54.0% used pike, 48.0% used trout, and 48.0% used whitefish. Information on all subsistence resources and other animals was not available for the community. The total per capita harvest in Togiak for all the animals listed above in 1994 was 38.26 lbs. As reported by ADF&G for the year 1999, 73 household subsistence salmon permits were issued to those from the community. Residents of Togiak are eligible to apply for subsistence halibut certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Toksook Bay [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Toksook Bay is situated on Nelson Island and is one of three villages present on the island. It is across the water from Nunivak Island on Kangirlvar Bay and is 115 miles northwest of Bethel. The community of Tununak is approximately eight miles northwest of Toksook Bay. It is located in the Bethel Census Area and makes up 33.1 square miles of land and 40.9 square miles of water.

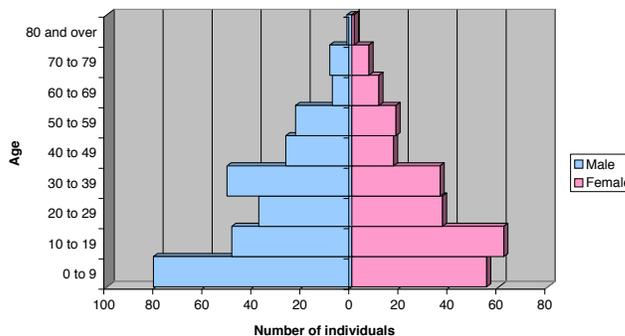
Demographic Profile

There were a total of 532 inhabitants of Toksook Bay at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census and of those 54.1% were male and 45.9% were female. No population was recorded for the community until 1970 at which time it was recorded as having 257 inhabitants. This number has continued to grow by about 100 every 10 years since 1970. In 2000 about 94.4% of the residents of Toksook Bay were American Indian and Alaska Native, 2.4% were White, and 3.2% were of two or more races. A total of 97.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. No one in the community was Hispanic. The median age in Toksook Bay was 22.5 years of age, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. There were a total of 110 housing units in the community of which four were vacant at the time of the Census. No one lived in group quarters in the community. Of the population of the community age 25 years and over, 59.0% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and about 9.2% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. About 25.1% had completed less than 9th grade.

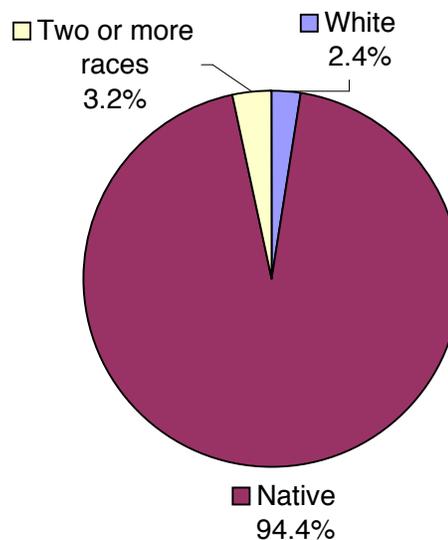
History

According to the National Park Service “one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP;” the Arctic Small Tool tradition which is significant because “some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures” to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Toksook Bay have been the Yup’ik peoples. Because “southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources

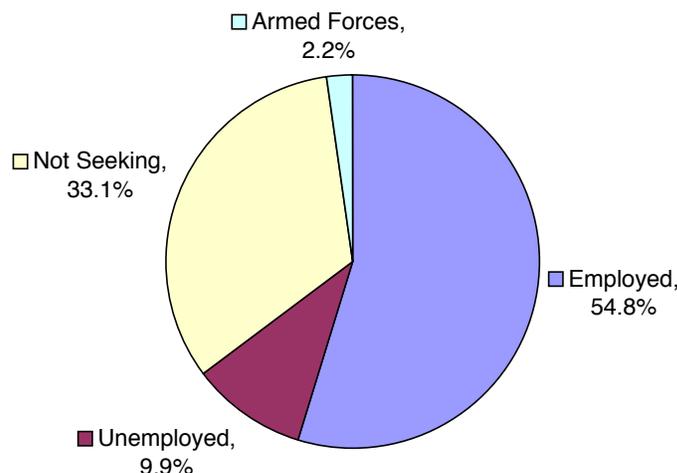
**2000 Population Structure
Toksook Bay**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Toksook Bay**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Toksook Bay**
Data source: US Census



that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state,” the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800’s; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

The community of Toksook Bay was established in 1964 by half the residents of Nightmute who “hitched up their plywood houses to 100-dog teams and mushed them across the ice” (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994). The earliest inhabitants of the community were Cyril Chanar, Tom Sunny, and Nasquaq Tangkaq. The village was settled in order to be more accessible to the yearly freighter that traveled to the area, the North Star. In 1972 the City was incorporated. In 1996 the Yup’ik mask exhibit, Agayuliyararput (Our Way of Making Prayer) which had taken three years of collaboration between Yup’ik peoples and the shipping of masks from many museums, traveled to Toksook Bay where elders described the meanings of the masks to those visiting them (Fienup-Riordan 2000). Alcohol is not allowed in the city with the sale, importation, and possession of it having been banned.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The income producers in Toksook Bay are for the most part commercial fishing, the school, the City, and Tribal Council. A processor, Coastal Villages Seafood, Inc. is present in the community. In 2000, 153 commercial fishing permits were issued to community members and there were a total of 82 residents which were licensed crewmen. Subsistence is also very important as it supplements income and provides essential food sources. In 2000, of the population of Toksook Bay age 16 years and over, about 54.8% were employed, 9.9% were unemployed, 2.2% were in the armed forces, and 33.1% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed, 64.4% were considered government workers by the Census. The per capita income was \$8,761 in the city with the median household income having been \$30,208. About 27.3% of the population was below the poverty level.

Governance

Toksook Bay is a second-class city which was

incorporated in 1972. The city has a mayor form of government which includes a mayor, six person city council, five person school advisory board, and many municipal employees including a police officer. The city has a 2% sales tax and is not part of any organized borough. The Native regional corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation and the Native village corporation is the Nunakuiak Yupik Corporation (NYC). The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is the Nunakuyarmiut Tribe. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group in which Toksook Bay is included is the Coastal Villages Region Fund. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

The community of Toksook Bay is accessible by both air and water and is also reachable in winter on trails by snow machine to Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, and Cheforak. A 1,788 foot gravel airstrip which is owned by the state is present and provides both scheduled and chartered flights to the city year round. The airport is currently undergoing major improvements. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Toksook Bay is \$600 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible) with five airline services providing passage to the community. No docking facilities are available, but boat haul-out services are available in Toksook Bay. Goods are delivered in the summer by barge. Local travel is accomplished by fishing boat, skiffs, snow machines, and ATVs. Limited guest quarters are available from the Village Corporation, Nunakuiak Yupik Corporation. There is one school, Nelson Island Area School, which teaches grades K-12. In 2000 it had 191 students and 14 teachers. Health care is available at the Toksook Bay Health Clinic which is owned by the Tribal Council and is operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation under a building lease agreement. A new clinic is currently being built and is very near completion. Police services are available from the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), Tribal Police Officers, and by the City Public Safety facility. The electric utility is AVEC which is operated

by REA Co-op and the City with the main power source of diesel, although kerosene was still used to heat by 100.0% of households in the community in 2000. The City is the water system operator with the Tribal Council being the Washeteria operator. A piped water system is present in the community. The City is also the operator of the sewer system, the refuse collector, and the landfill operator.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were a total of 153 commercial fishing permits which were issued to residents of Toksook Bay in 2000 and a total of 82 licensed crew members which were residents. There were 41 vessel owners which were residents of the community and were involved in the federal fisheries in 2000 and 14 involved in the salmon fishery.

Of the 153 permits issued in 2000, a total of 101 were fished. Sixty-nine permits were issued for the commercial fishing of halibut: 23 using a hand troll statewide (16 fished), 36 using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (27 fished), and 10 using mechanical jig statewide (10 fished). A total of 67 permits were issued for herring: 58 for herring roe using gillnets around Nelson Island (33 fished), 2 for herring roe using gillnets in Security Cove (none fished), 3 for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay (one fished), 3 for herring roe using gillnets around Nunivak Island (2 fished), and one permit was issued for herring roe using a gillnet in Goodnews Bay (not fished). One permit was issued for freshwater fish using a set gillnet statewide which was not fished in 2000. Two permits were issued for other groundfish (none fished): one was issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide and one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using other gear statewide. Fourteen permits were issued for salmon using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay of which 11 were fished. No permits were issued to residents of Toksook

Bay for salmon using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay at the beginning of the year, although at the end of the year one permit had been fished by a resident on that specific permit type.

No reported landings were delivered to the community in 2000, although a processor is present. Coastal Villages Seafood, Inc. processes halibut and salmon in Toksook Bay. The plant is a subsidiary of the CDQ group Coastal Villages Region Fund. The City of Toksook Bay was recently allotted \$663 in federal salmon disaster funds because of the recent loss due to the falling salmon prices.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing does not seem to be a main activity in the community and the infrastructure to support tourist sport fishers is not really present in the city. According to the ADF&G there was no sport fishing guide businesses in Toksook Bay which were listed in 2002. In 2000 there were 19 sport fishing licenses sold in Toksook Bay to residents of the State of Alaska and none which were sold to anyone from other states or countries.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G for the most representative year of 1990 in the community of Toksook Bay, 100.0% of all households used subsistence herring sac roe. The per capita harvest by residents was 210.44 lbs of herring sac roe, although also according to ADF&G is it estimated that the per capita harvest of wild foods in Toksook Bay is 716.4 lbs therefore other species must be being utilized. In 1999, 133 subsistence salmon household permits were issued to those from the community for an estimated harvest of 1,009 salmon. Residents of Toksook are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Tuntutuliak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Tuntutuliak is located on the Qinaq River. It is about 3 miles from the confluence of the Qinaq and Kuskokwim Rivers and is about 40 miles from the Bering Sea coast. The community is about 40 miles southwest of Bethel and 440 miles west of Anchorage. It is in the Bethel Census Area and makes up 119.2 square miles of land and 0.2 square miles of water.

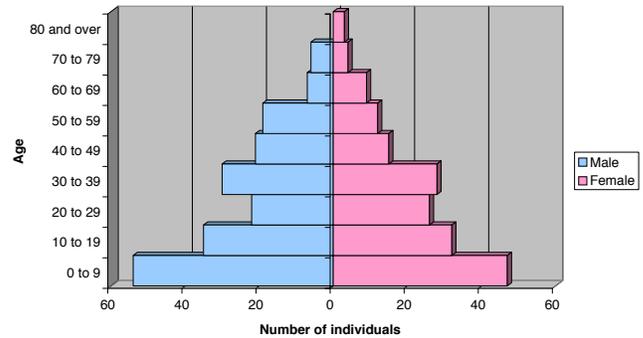
Demographic Profile

There were 370 inhabitants in Tuntutuliak in 2000. About 52.4% were male and 47.6% were female. Since about the time of the 1950 Census the population of Tuntutuliak has continued to rise from the 68 residents reported in 1950 to the 377 as established by a State Demographer in 2002. In 2000 about 98.9% of the population was American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.8% was White, and 0.3% was of two or more races. A total of 98.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. No one identified as Hispanic. The median age in the community was 22.9 years versus the national age median was 35.3 years. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census there were a total of 97 housing units in the community and of those 13 were vacant. All of the population lived in households and no one in the community lived in group quarters. Of the population of Tuntutuliak age 25 years and over about 62.9% had graduated from high school or higher and about 5.7% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately 25.7% had completed less than 9th grade.

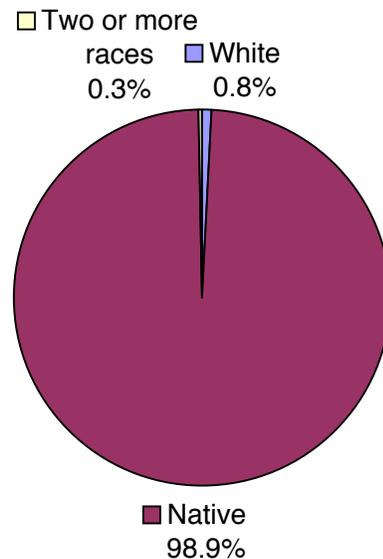
History

According to the National Park Service “one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP,” the Arctic Small Tool tradition which is significant because “some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures” to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Tununak have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because “southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state,”

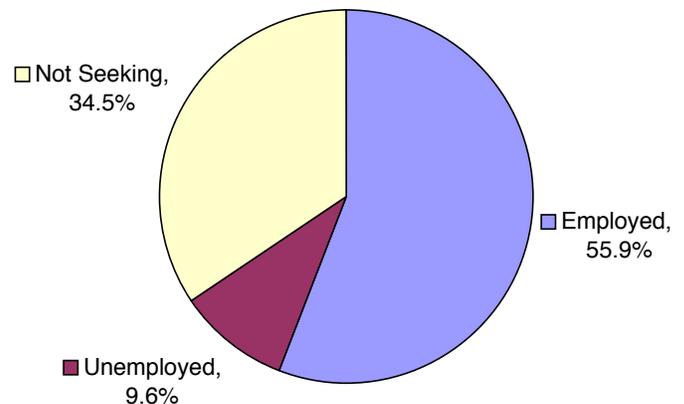
**2000 Population Structure
Tuntutuliak**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
Tuntutuliak**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Tuntutuliak**
Data source: US Census



the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

The Yup'ik name of the village, Tuntutuliak means "place of many reindeer." The village was historically called Qinaq and was situated four miles to the east of the current site. Edward Nelson noted the location of Qinaq in 1879 at which time he documented 175 inhabitants. The village was visited by a Moravian missionary in 1908 who found that there were 130 villagers. A Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school was established in 1909. The first teacher at the school was respected, but succeeding teachers did not have the confidence of the community and thus the school was closed and the building moved to Eek in 1917. It is believed that some of the villagers may have moved to Eek with the school in order that their children could attend. The first Moravian Chapel was established in 1923 with the lumber and support having come from the community of Eek. John Johnson opened a trading post and store in Qinaq in the late 1920s. In 1945 the village moved to its present site which is located on higher ground and at that time it was renamed Tuntutuliak. A school was built by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in 1957 and a post office was opened in 1960. Today the village is a Yup'ik community with a lifestyle which includes fishing and subsistence. Alcohol is not allowed in the city with the sale, importation, and possession of it having been banned.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Tuntutuliak is dependent on commercial fishing and fish processing as well as employment by the school and services. In 2000 there were 75 commercial fishing permits which were issued to those from the community and 47 residents which were licensed crew members. In addition cash is provided by trapping, basket weaving, making skin-sewn products, and by the production of other Native handicrafts. The village is very dependent on subsistence with the foods making up a large part of the diet. Of the population age 16 years and over in 2000 about 55.9% were employed, 9.6% were unemployed, and 34.5% were not in the labor force. The per capita

income was \$7,918 with the median household income having been \$25,500 in 2000. About 23.0% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Tuntutuliak is unincorporated and is not part of any organized borough, therefore no city or borough officials are present in the community. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council for the community is the Tuntutuliak Traditional Council. The Native regional corporation in which the village is included is the Calista Corporation. The Native village corporation is Tuntutuliak Land Limited which was formerly the Qinararmiut Corporation. Tuntutuliak is part of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) group called the Coastal Villages Region Fund. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Tuntutuliak relies for the most part on air transportation, but is also reachable by water and by land on trails in the winter which connect the village to Kipnuk, Toundra, and Kongiganak. A 1,800 foot gravel runway which is State-owned is present as well as a public seaplane base on the Qinaq River. Relocation plans are in the works for the airport at this time. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Tuntutuliak is \$320 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). About six times a year supplies are delivered by barge. Locals use boats and snowmachines as modes of travel. Accommodations in the community are available at either the school or the community hall. There is one school in Tuntutuliak, the Lewis Angapak Memorial School, which teaches grades K-12. The school had 103 students and eight teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Kathleen Daniel Memorial Hospital which is owned by the Village Council and operated by the Yukon- Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC). The clinic currently uses a pail toilet and hauls water for the facility. Police services are available from the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The electric utility for the area is the Tuntutuliak Community

Service Association which is privately operated by the non-profit arm of the Village Council and whose main power source of diesel. None of the homes in the community have functioning plumbing and community members use honeybuckets. The Village Council and individuals are in charge of the operation of the sewer system. Currently a flush/haul system is under construction which will include household plumbing. Refuse collection is not available. The landfill is operated by the Village Council. Recently a new landfill, sewage lagoon, and 4-mile sanitation boardwalk were constructed.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing in Tuntutuliak is based for the most part on the fishing for salmon and herring roe. In 2000 there were a total of 75 commercial fishing permits which were issued to residents of Tuntutuliak and 47 licensed crew members which were residents of the community. There were no vessel owners which participated in federal fisheries and lived in the community, however there were five vessel owners which were residents of Tuntutuliak and participated in the salmon fishery.

Of the 75 commercial fishing permits issued to those from Tuntutuliak, 52 were fished. A total of 11 permits were issued for halibut (none fished): 6 were issued for halibut using a hand troll statewide and 5 were issued for halibut on a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide. With regard to herring roe, 21 permits were issued to community members: 6 using gillnets in Cape Avinof (3 fished) and 15 using gillnets in Goodnews Bay (6 fished). The largest group of permits issued was for salmon for which there were 43 issued and all 43 were fished: one was issued using a drift

gillnet in Bristol Bay and 42 were issued using set gillnets on the Kuskokwim.

No landings were delivered to Tuntutuliak in 2000 as there was no processor in operation.

Sport Fishing

There is little evidence of sport fishing in Tuntutuliak and the services necessary for such an industry, such as a lodge or sport fishing related businesses, do not exist. According to the ADF&G, in 2000 no sport fishing licenses were sold in the community of Tuntutuliak and there were no sport fishing businesses which were listed in the village in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

Limited survey subsistence data was available for Tuntutuliak, although as reported by the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development “subsistence foods comprise a majority of the diet, and about one-half of families go to fish camp each summer.” In addition, seal is an important resource. In the words of the Tuntutuliak Tribal Council Vice President Adolph Lupie in September of 2002, “this village is traditionally a subsistence community, and we’ve been hunting any game throughout any kind of season” (The Associated Press 2002). According to the ADF&G, in 1999 there were 74 household subsistence salmon permits issued to those from Tuntutuliak for an estimated harvest of 7,886 fish. Also reported by ADF&G is that the estimated per capita wild food harvest for community members is 713.8 lbs, for a daily wild food harvest of 1.956 lbs per person. Residents are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates. Traditional subsistence issues appear to be a very sensitive topic in this area with incongruity amongst federal, state, and traditional laws.

Tununak [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Tununak is located on the northeast coast of Nelson Island on a small bay. The community is 115 miles northwest of Bethel and 519 miles northwest of Anchorage. It is in the Bethel Census Area and is made up of 60.5 square miles of land and 0.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

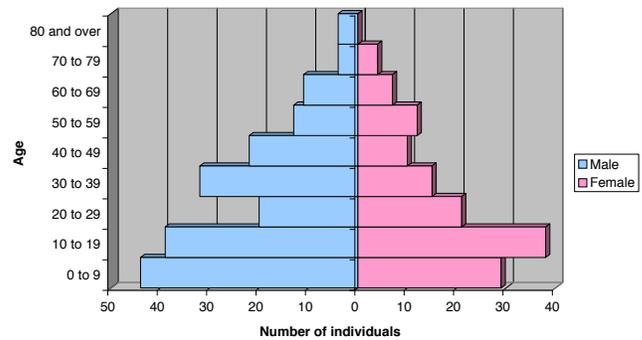
There were a total of 325 inhabitants in the community of Tununak in 2000, of which 58.2% were male and 41.8% were female. Since the 1950s, when the population changed to a somewhat more sedentary lifestyle, the population has continued to rise from 112 inhabitants in 1950, to 298 in 1980, to the 325 reported by in 2000. The residents of the community in 2000 were about 94.8% American Indian and Alaska Native, 3.1% White, and 2.2% of two or more races. A total of 96.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. No one in the community was Hispanic. The median age of those in Tununak was 22.8 years versus the national age median was 35.3 years. There were a total of 93 housing units in the community with 11 vacant and 5 of those vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the population lived in group quarters. Out of the population of Tununak 25 years of age and over, 65.8% had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling by the year 2000 and 3.4% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. About 28.1% of the population 25 and over had completed less than 9th grade.

History

According to the National Park Service “one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP,” the Arctic Small Tool tradition which is significant because “some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures” to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Tununak have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because “southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state,”

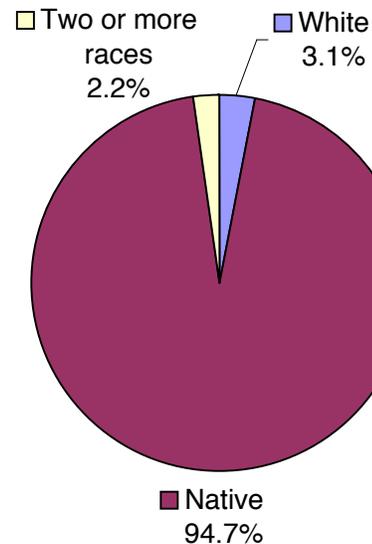
**2000 Population Structure
Tununak**

Data source: US Census



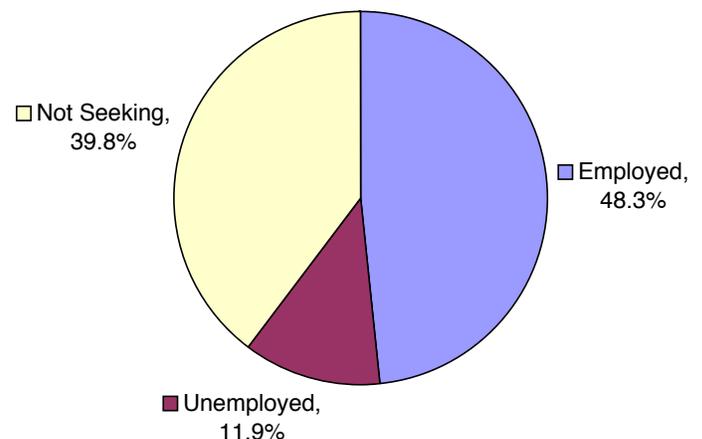
**2000 Racial Structure
Tununak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Tununak**

Data source: US Census



the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

In 1878 Nelson Island was named after Edward Nelson, a Smithsonian naturalist. Nelson noted that there were six people living in Tununak at that time including one non-Native trader. The Jesuits established a school and small chapel in Tununak in 1889. The mission closed in 1892 most likely because the Native people of the area were difficult to convert as they were migratory, and because shaman still held much power. A government school was built in the community in 1925 and in 1929 a Northern Commercial Co. store opened. A missionary by the name of Father Deshout lived on the island between the years of 1934 to 1962 and had much influence over the people. Many islanders experienced their first contact outside their communities in the 1950's with their involvement with the Territorial Guard, work in fish canneries, high schools, and health care treatment for tuberculosis which all brought vast changes to their ways of life. Evidence of these vast changes can be seen by the events leading up to the 1970s including the replacing of dog teams with snowmobiles and the abandoning of the last qasgiq (men's community houses). In 1975 the City became incorporated, although the incorporation was dissolved in 1997 and the community is governed by a traditional council. Alcohol is not allowed in the city with the sale, importation, and possession of it having been banned.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Tununak is based on commercial fishing, employment with the school district and village council, and income generated from trapping and crafts. Subsistence is very important to residents of the community with staples of their diet including herring, seal oil, and seal meat, but other animals are harvested for subsistence purposes as well. A lottery is held to hunt musk-ox on Nelson Island or Nunivak Island. In 2000, 78 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community and a total of 23 residents were licensed crew members. A processor, Coastal Villages Seafood, Inc. processes halibut and

salmon in the community and most likely provides some employment to residents. Of the population age 16 years and over in 2000, about 48.3% were employed, 11.9% were unemployed, and 39.8% were not part of the labor force. Of those which were employed about 69.4% were classified as government workers. The per capita income in Tununak was \$7,653 in 2000 with the median household income having been \$25,000. About 30.8% of the residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

The community of Tununak is unincorporated and therefore there are no city or borough officials present in the community. The village has been governed by a traditional council since the city's incorporation was dissolved in 1997. The Tununak Traditional Council is the traditional council which was elected to represent the village, although it is not recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The BIA-recognized IRA Village Council is the Native Village of Tununak, although it, in turn, does not represent the village. The Native regional corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation and the Native village corporation is the Tununmiut Rinit Corporation. Tununak is part of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) group of the Coastal Villages Region Fund. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Bethel. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Tununak is accessible by both air and water, although the community is very reliant on air transportation for mail and cargo service as well as passenger transportation. Present in the village is a 2,010 foot gravel airstrip which is State-owned. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Tununak is \$601 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Air services are provided by Era Aviation. About two to four times each summer season goods are delivered to the village by barge. Locals travel using boats, ATVs, and snow machines. There are no accommodations for visitors to the village. One school is present, Paul T. Albert Memorial School, which teaches grades K-12 and had 110 students

and 8 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Tununak Health Clinic which is operated by the Yukon- Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and owned by the Village Council, although the clinic is in need of major renovations. Police services are available from the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The electric utility is AVEC which is operated by REA Co-op with the main power source of diesel. There is no piped water in the village. The water system operator is the Traditional Council and the school and washeria are operated by the Traditional Council as well. Residents are dependent on the washeria for bathing and laundry. The sewer system is operated by the Traditional Council and by individuals. Thirteen honeybucket hoppers are situated down the length of the village and serve 66 houses. Some homes are serviced by the flush/haul system. Refuse is collected by the Council and the landfill is also operated by the Traditional Council.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 78 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Tununak in 2000 and there were 23 licensed crew member residents. Twenty-eight vessel owners which were residents of the community participated in the federal fisheries and two vessel owners participated in the salmon fishery.

Out of the 78 permits issued to community members, 50 were fished in 2000. A total of 41 permits were issued for the commercial fishing of halibut: 22 using a hand troll statewide (15 fished), 10 using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (8 fished), and 9 using mechanical jig statewide (7 fished). With regard to herring, 33 permits were issued for the harvesting of herring roe: 31 using a gillnet around Nelson Island (16 fished), one using a gillnet around Nunivak Island (one fished), and one was issued using a gillnet in Cape Avinof (not fished). One permit was issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a hand

troll statewide and it was fished in 2000. Three permits were issued for salmon using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay and of those two were fished.

No vessels delivered landings to the community of Tununak in 2000, though a processor is present. Coastal Villages Seafood, Inc. processes halibut and salmon. The plant was built during the 1980s and was operated by the Tununak Elders Traditional Council, but today is operated by Coastal Villages Seafoods which is a subsidiary of the CDQ group, Coastal Villages Region Fund (Knapp et, al. 2001).

Sport Fishing

There is no real evidence of sport fishing in Tununak as no sport fishing licenses were sold in the community in 2000 and according to the ADF&G no sport fishing guide businesses were listed in 2002, although the southwest area is supposed to be known for its sport fishing so the community might have the opportunity to enter in the industry if desired.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence harvesting is very important to residents of Tununak with the annual per capita harvest of subsistence resources being one of the largest in Alaska. According to the ADF&G, for the most representative year of 1986, 100.0% of households used all subsistence resources, 100.0% used salmon, 100.0% used non-salmon fish (herring, smelt, cod, eel, flounder, halibut, sculpin, stickleback, wolffish, blackfish, burbot, char, pike, sheefish, and whitefish), 100.0% used marine mammals, and 97.0% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest by community members was 1092.58 lbs of all subsistence resources of which 10.42% was salmon, 60.70% was non-salmon fish, 20.16% was marine mammals, 0.46% was marine invertebrates, 2.92% was birds and eggs, 1.88% was land mammals, and 3.47% was vegetation. Also according to ADF&G there were 109 household subsistence salmon permits issued to Tununak residents in 1999. Community members are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Twin Hills [\(return to communities\)](#)

People and Place

Location

Twin Hills is situated near the mouth of the Twin Hills River, a tributary of the Togiak River. The community is in the Dillingham Census Area and is 386 miles southwest of Anchorage. It makes up 21.8 square miles of land and 0.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

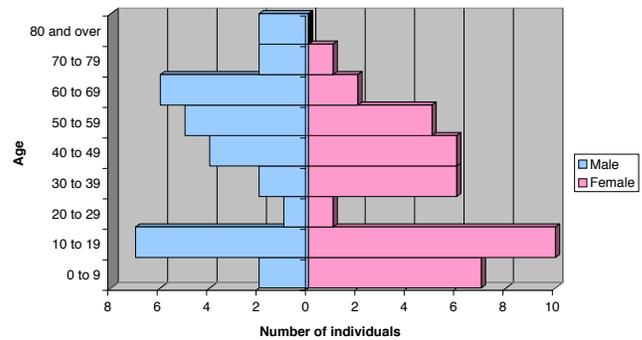
Twin Hills had a total population of 69 in 2000. The gender ratio of the population was very irregular, skewed heavily towards females, who made up 55.1% of the population. The population of Twin Hills has remained relatively constant since it was first recorded in 1970. In 2000 about 5.8% of the population was White, 84.1% was American Indian and Alaska Native, and 10.1% were of two or more races. A total of 94.2% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. No one in the population was Hispanic. The median age of the community was 38.5 years of age, which is close to the United States age median of 35.3 years. There were 33 total housing units in Twin Hills in 2000; however, nine were vacant, one due to seasonal use. No one in the population lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 years and over about 56.7% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher education and about 20.0% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately 30.0% had completed less than 9th grade.

History

The region has been inhabited by people since prehistory. "Yup'ik and Athabascan people settled the region; know as Naugeik, more than 6,000 years ago" (inAlaska.com). The village of Twin Hills was established in 1965 by families who moved from Togiak in order to avoid the reoccurring flooding there. Many of the ancestors of the residents of Twin Hills migrated to Togiak from the Yukon-Kuskokwim region after the 1918-19 influenza epidemics, and there are still strong ties with the region because of this. In 1967-68 school was first conducted in the church. In 1972 a school building was built; however, it burned in 1976 and in 1978 a new school was built. Around 1977 a post office was established in the community, but there have been some interruptions in service.

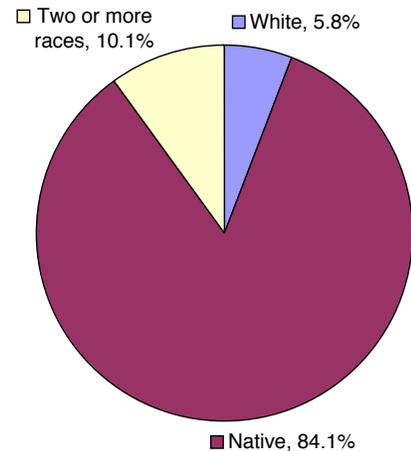
**2000 Population Structure
Twin Hills**

Data source: US Census



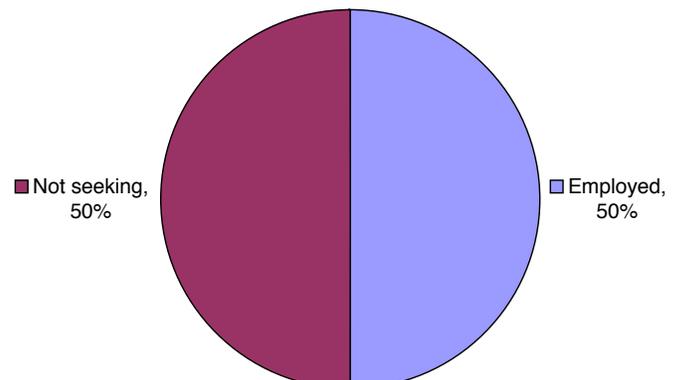
**2000 Racial Structure
Twin Hills**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Twin Hills**

Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

For residents of Twin Hills, stable employment is limited to employment by the Village Council and Post Office. In 2000 there were 18 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Twin Hills and 13 residents who were licensed crew members. A market for the fishermen is provided by Togiak Fisheries and by other cash buyers. Residents are very dependent upon subsistence harvesting. Exchange relationships are in place between the community, Togiak, and Manokotak where seal oil is exchanged for blackfish. Incomes are also supplemented by handicrafts. In 2000, of those age 16 years and over in Twin Hills about 50.0% were employed and 50.0% were not in the labor force. Of those who were employed, about 60.0% were classified as government workers. The median annual per capita income was \$16,856 and the median household income was \$29,375. About 27.9% of the population lived below the poverty level at the time of the Census.

Governance

The community of Twin Hills is unincorporated and is not part of any organized borough, so there are no city or borough employees in the community. The Twin Hills Village Council is the Village Council for the community and is a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council. The Village Council appears to operate many facilities that are normally operated by a city, including the washteria, sewer system, landfill, and electric utility. The Native village corporation for the community is the Twin Hills Native Corporation. The Native regional corporation is Bristol Bay Native Corporation and the regional non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group in which the village is included is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, an office is located in Homer, and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Twin Hills is accessible for the most part by air

or by water. A 3,000 foot state-owned lighted gravel runway is located east of the village on a ridge. Both regular and charter flights are available from Dillingham. The approximate cost to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Twin Hills is \$484. Most cargo is delivered by air. A boat landing is present in the community, but there are no docking facilities, so bulk goods must be lightered to shore. Local residents travel by autos, ATVs, and snowmachines. In order to access Togiak Fisheries cannery, residents drive along the beach.

There are no hotels present in Twin Hills or any accommodations for visitors. There is one school, Twin Hills School, teaching third through eighth grade. The school had a total of 13 students and two teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Twin Hills Health Clinic which is operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) and owned by the Village Council. There are no police services in Twin Hills. The electric utility is the Twin Hills Village Council which is operated by the Village Council with a main power source of diesel. The washteria is operated by the Village Council. The water system is operated by the Village Council and a separate one is operated by the school. The sewer system is operated as well by the Village Council, as is the landfill. The piped water and sewer systems were installed in 1977. Currently 22 occupied houses have piped services along with complete plumbing and recently in March of 2003 the HUD built seven new housing units with individual wells and septic tanks.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were a total of 18 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Twin Hills in 2000. In addition, 13 members of the community were licensed crew members. Three residents owned vessels which were involved in the salmon fishery; no residents owned vessels which were involved in the federal fisheries.

Of the 18 permits issued to those from Twin Hills, only 8 were fished. One permit was issued for halibut using a hand troll in statewide waters, but it was not fished. Seven permits were issued for herring (none fished). Three permits were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Goodnews Bay (none fished), and four were issued for herring spawn on kelp gathered by diving or hand picked in Bristol Bay (none fished).

A total of 10 permits were issued for salmon, but only eight were fished. Seven were issued for salmon using drift gillnets in Bristol Bay (five fished), two using set gillnets in Bristol Bay (two fished), and one using a set gillnet in the Kuskokwim (one fished). Many Twin Hills fishermen use special flat-bottomed boats for the waters of Togiak Bay which are very shallow.

No landings were delivered to Twin Hills in 2000 because no processor was present in the community. An onshore processor, Togiak Fisheries, is present in the nearby community of Togiak and is operated by North Pacific Processors, Inc. In addition, a few floating processors operate in the area.

The CDQ group in which Twin Hills is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), was recently granted \$75,026 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There is no evidence of sport fishing in Twin Hills. No sport fishing licenses were sold in 2000 and no sport fishing guide businesses or support services were present in the community in 2002 according to ADF&G.

Subsistence Fishing

Little data is available from the ADF&G regarding subsistence in Twin Hills. However, according to the Department of Community and Economic Development, the community is very dependent on subsistence activities and utilizes seal, sea lion, walrus, whale, salmon, clams, geese, and ducks. A subsistence exchange relationship is in place between Twin Hills, Togiak, and Manokotak where seal oil is exchanged for blackfish. According to a report issued by ADF&G, one household permit was issued for subsistence salmon to a resident of Twin Hills in 1999 for an estimated harvest of 109 total salmon. Residents of Twin Hills are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.