

Adak

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

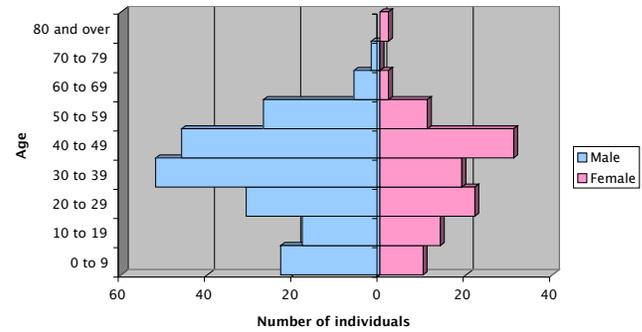
In 2000, the second-class city of Adak had a recorded population of 316 people: 64.9% male and 35.1% female. By 2002, the population had reduced to 149 people, according to a state demographer. The population of Adak has fluctuated quite extensively over the years due to changing military activities. 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.

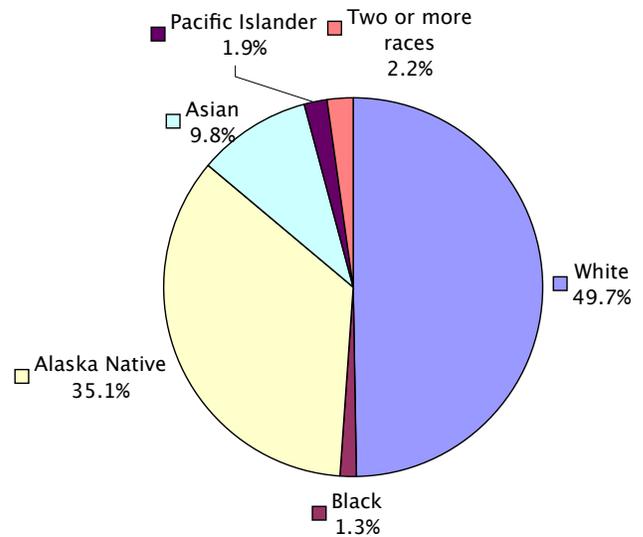
**2000 Population Structure
Adak**

Data source: US Census



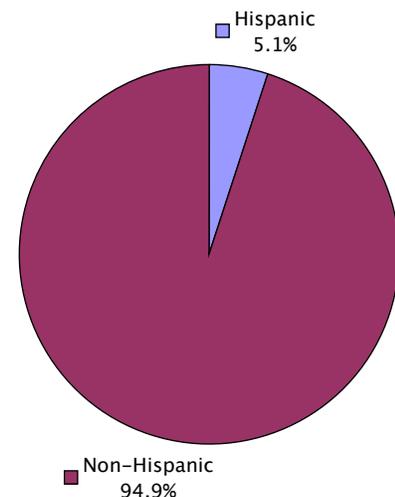
**2000 Racial Structure
Adak**

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).

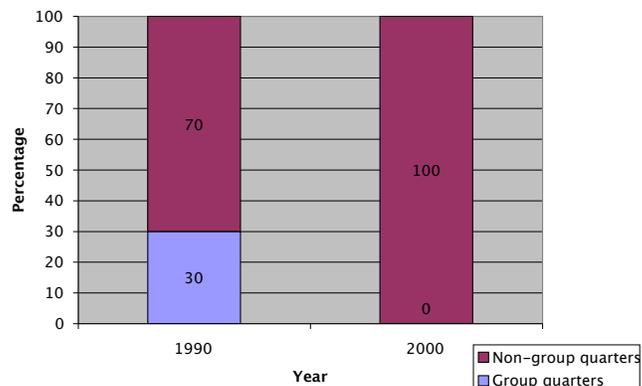
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Since the closure of the naval facilities at Adak there

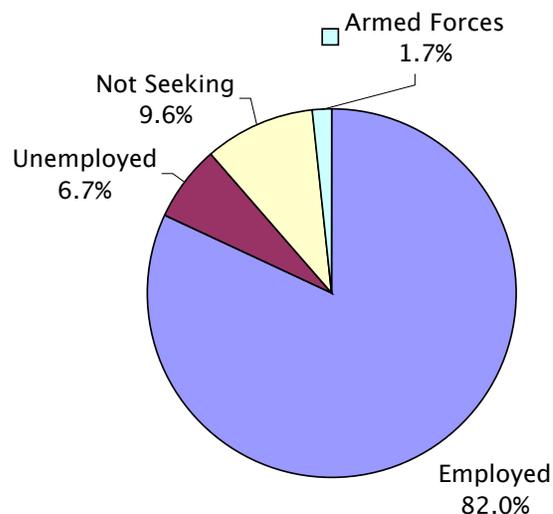
**% Group Quarters
Adak**

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.