

Angoon

People and Place

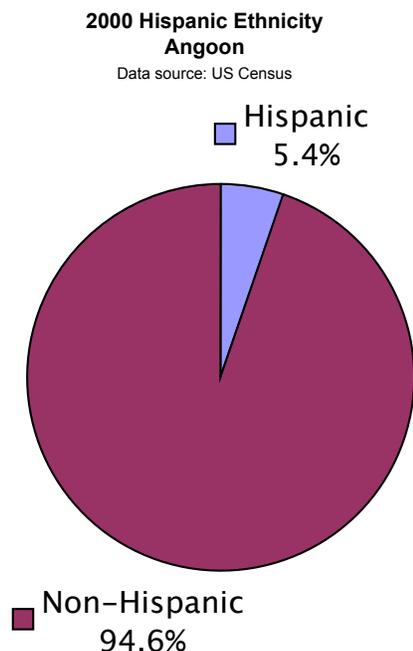
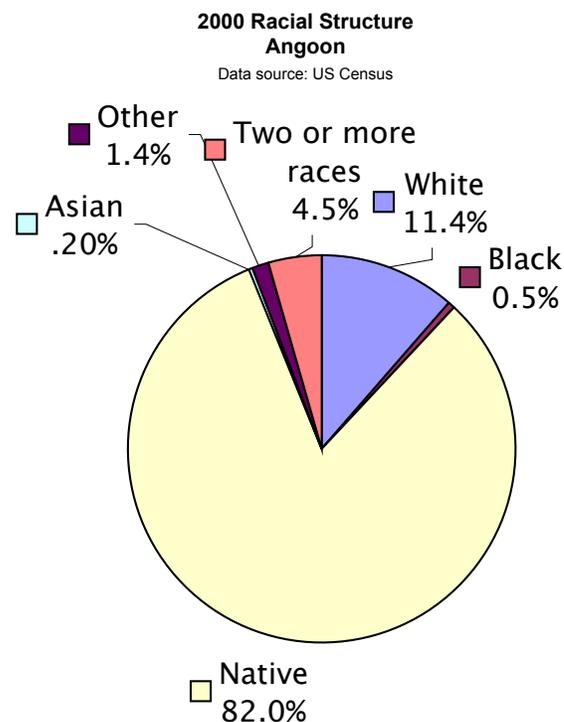
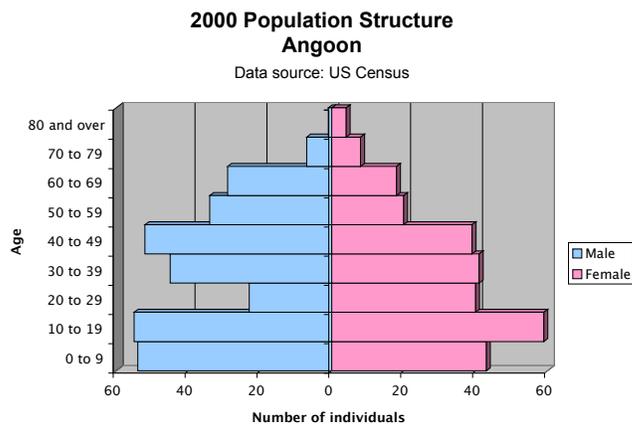
Location

Angoon, a Tlingit community, is the only permanent settlement on Admiralty Island and is located on the southwest coast at Kootznahoo Inlet surrounded by landmasses on all sides. Chatham Strait and the mountains of Baranof Island form a scenic backdrop to the west of the island, and to the east lay the tidal waters and intricate channels of Mitchell Bay. The area encompasses 22.5 square miles of land and 16.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U. S. Census, the population of Angoon was 572. Population numbers have risen steadily since the early decades of the 1900s, reaching a peak of well over 600 residents in the 1990s. There were slightly more males (52.4%) than females (47.6%) in 2000 according to U.S. Census data. The racial composition of the population in 2000 was predominantly American Indian and Alaska Native, 82.0%, 11.4% White, only 0.5% Black or African American and only 0.2% Asian. About 1.4% of the population classified themselves as belonging to some other race. Overall, 4.5% identified with two or more races. A total of 86.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. A small number, 5.4%, of the population identified themselves as Hispanic. The median age was 32.2 years, which is somewhat lower than the national median of 35.3 years for the same year. According to the Census data, 36.9% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 15.6% of the population was over 55 years of age in 2000.

There were 221 housing units in Angoon, 37 of which were designated vacant in 2000, and of these, 25 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, none of the population lived in group quarters. A total of 77.0% of the population over 25 years of age had a high school diploma or higher according to the 2000 Census data while 10.9% also had a bachelor's degree or higher.



History

Admiralty Island has long been the home of the Kootznoowoo Tlingit tribe. Kootznoowoo means “fortress of bears.” Fur trading was an important source of income in the early 19th century, and by 1878 a whaling station, herring processing plant and trading post had been established on nearby Killisnoo Island which were significant sources of employment. The establishment of a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school and a Russian Orthodox Church around that time attracted many Tlingits to Killisnoo; however, after a fire destroyed many facilities in 1928, many Tlingits returned to Angoon. The same year, a post office was established and Angoon became an incorporated city 35 years later, in 1963.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Angoon is highly seasonal and depends strongly on fishing activities and other forms of recreational tourism; however, low salmon prices have adversely affected income. A total of 88 commercial fishing permits were held by 56 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. A shellfish farm was recently funded by state and federal grants. The Chatham School District is the primary employer. Logging operations on Prince of Wales Island provide occasional jobs and subsistence remains an important part of the lifestyle.

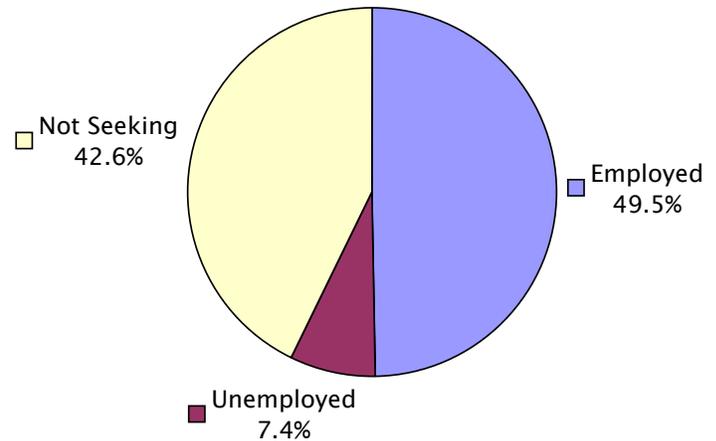
At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 49.5% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 7.4% unemployment rate. A seemingly high 42.6% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force, though this may be explained by the intensely seasonal nature of the fishing and tourism industries, and 27.9% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was \$29,861 and the per capita income was \$11,357.

Governance

The City of Angoon was incorporated in 1963 as a second-class city. The city is governed by a Council-mayor form of government. The mayor and seven council members are elected officials. Angoon is not located within an organized borough; therefore, the city is responsible for many services. The City of Angoon implements a 3% sales tax and a 3% accommodations

**2000 Employment Structure
Angoon**

Data source: US Census



tax. The city belongs to the for-profit regional Native Corporation, Sealaska Corporation, as well as to the regional Native non-profit, Central Council Tlingit and Haida tribes of Alaska. Kootznoowoo, Inc. is the local village corporation and Angoon Community Association is the village council. The total land to which Angoon is entitled under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) amounts to about 23,040 acres.

There is a National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office as well as an Alaska Department of Fish and Game office located in Angoon. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services office is located in Haines.

Facilities

The community of Angoon is accessible only by seaplane or boat. Scheduled and charter seaplane services are available from the State-owned seaplane base on Kootznahoo Inlet. In most cases, it is least expensive to fly to Anchorage via Juneau where possible. Roundtrip flights to Juneau cost around \$170 and a roundtrip flight between Juneau and Anchorage costs approximately \$200. Angoon’s facilities also include a deep draft dock, a small boat harbor with 45 berths, and a State ferry terminal. Freight arrives by barge and ferry.

Water is derived from Tillinghast Lake reservoir; it is treated and piped throughout the community. Funds have been allocated to provide additional water treatment at Favorite Bay Creek. Over 95% of residences receive piped water. Piped sewage is processed at a secondary treatment plant which flows to an ocean outfall. The City collects refuse and hauls

it to the landfill, located approximately two miles from Angoon.

Electricity is supplied by the Tlingit-Haida Electric Company, a non-profit subdivision of the State which operates three diesel-fueled generators. Health services are provided by the Angoon Health Clinic which is owned by the city and operated by Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC). Public safety is provided by city-backed police. Angoon is within the Chatham School District and there is one school in Angoon itself. At Angoon School 125 students are instructed by 11 teachers. Angoon is a fairly isolated community relative to other tourist destinations in southeast Alaska and does not have a major tourism industry. At least three businesses operate to provide visitor accommodations.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is important to the economy of Angoon. According to the ADF&G, and reported by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, 88 permits were held by 56 permit holders but only 46 permits were actually fished in Angoon in 2000. There were 18 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, another 28 vessel owners in the salmon fishery and overall 23 crew members claiming residence in Angoon in 2000. There are no fish processing facilities in Angoon, so no fish landings were made in the community.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type and fishing area. Permits issued in Angoon for 2000 related to halibut, sablefish, other groundfish, crab, other shellfish, and salmon.

Halibut: There were a total of 25 permits issued for halibut in Angoon in 2000, 23 of which were actually fished. Permits for halibut pertained to 24 longline vessels under 60 feet (22 permits were actually fished) and one longline vessel over 60 feet. All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Sablefish: There were two sablefish permits issued in 2000 in Angoon, one of which was fished. One permit pertained to a longline vessel under 60 feet and the other to a mechanical jig (not fished). Both were for statewide waters.

Other groundfish: A total of eight permits were issued in 2000 for other groundfish in Angoon, only

one of which was actually fished. Permits pertained to one miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessel (one permit fished), one demersal shelf rockfish hand troll in southeast waters (not fished), and three demersal shelf rockfish logline vessel under 60 feet in southeast waters (no permits fished).

Crab: Two permits were issued in Angoon for crab in 2000, all of which were actually fished. One permit pertained to 75 pots or 25% of maximum for Dungeness crab in southeast waters and one ring net for Tanner crab in southeast waters.

Other shellfish: The one permit issued in Angoon in 2000 was fished. This permit pertained to an octopi/squid pot gear vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters.

Salmon: A total of 50 permits were issued in Angoon in 2000 for the salmon fishery, 19 of which were actually fished. Salmon permits pertained to one purse seine restricted to southeast waters, one set gillnet in Yakutat, 40 hand trolls in statewide waters (13 permits fished), and eight power gurdy trolls in statewide waters (four permits fished).

It was announced in July 2003 that Angoon would receive \$500 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. 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 when fish taxes become insufficient.

Sport Fishing

There were seven saltwater sport fishing businesses registered in Angoon in 2002 and four businesses licensed to provide freshwater recreational fishing according to the ADF&G. There was a total of 976 sport fishing licenses sold in Angoon in 2000, 156 of which were sold to Alaska residents.

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 1996 compiled on behalf of the Division of Subsistence of the ADF&G provides useful

information about subsistence practices in Angoon. Records describe the subsistence patterns for 97.3% of households in the community which 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, 79.7% used salmon and 82.4% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, char, grayling, and trout). Many fewer households, 32.4%, used marine mammals and a high percentage, 89.2%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita subsistence harvest for 1996 was 224.45 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 36.5% salmon, non-salmon fish made up 21.20%, land mammals 22.86%, marine mammals 4.02%, birds and eggs accounted for only 0.08% of

the total subsistence harvest, marine invertebrates for 13.41% and vegetation made up 1.94%. The wild food harvest in Angoon made up 144% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1996 (corresponding to a daily allowance of 49 grams of protein per day or 0.424 lbs. of wild food per day) (Wolfe 2000).

A total of 54 permits were held by households in Angoon for subsistence fishing of salmon according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence records from 1999. Sockeye made up the largest proportions of the salmon harvest. Residents of Angoon and members of Angoon Community Association, 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.