

Egegik

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.

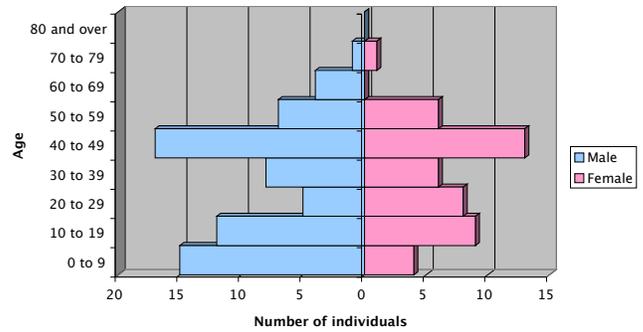
Demographic Profile

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.

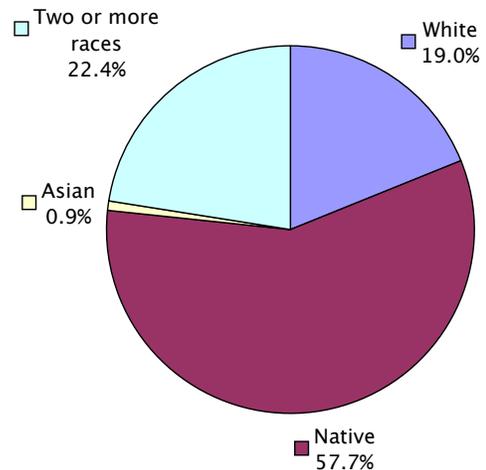
2000 Population Structure Egegik

Data source: US Census



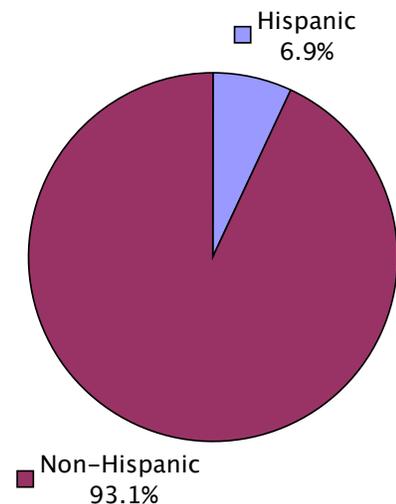
2000 Racial Structure Egegik

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.

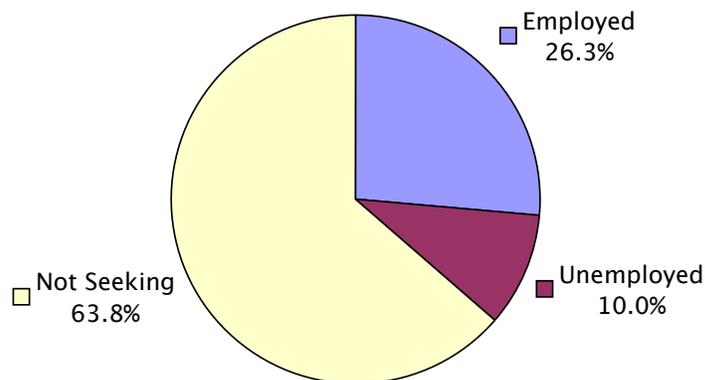
Infrastructure

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.