

Goodnews Bay

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.

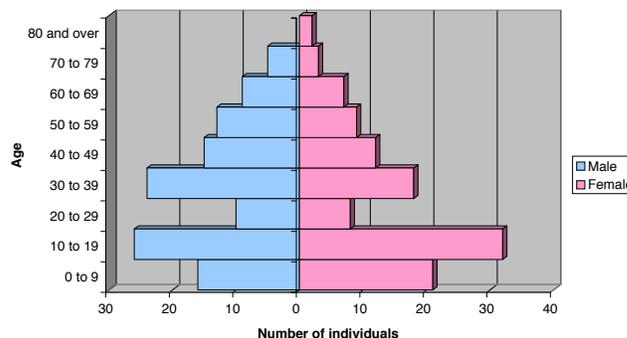
Demographic Profile

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.

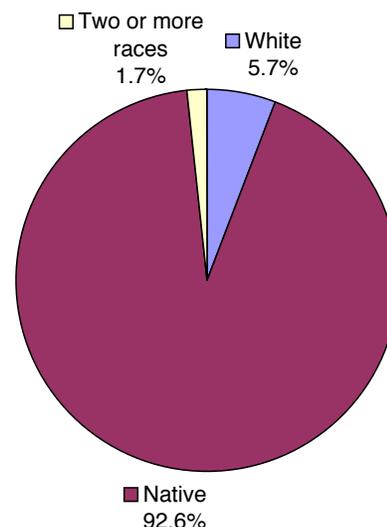
History

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.

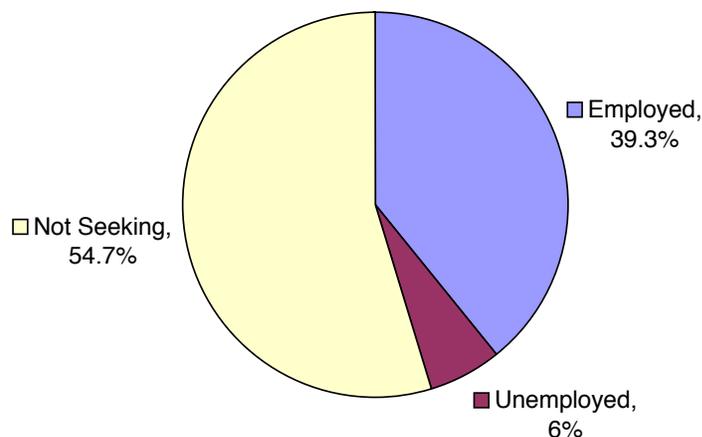
**2000 Population Structure
Goodnews Bay**
Data source: US Census



**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.