

Gustavus

People and Place

Location

Gustavus lies on the north shore of Icy Passage at the mouth of the Salmon River in the St. Elias Mountains. The community is surrounded by Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve on three sides and the waters of Icy Passage to the south on the fourth side. The area encompasses 37.7 square miles of land but no water area.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U. S. Census, the population of Gustavus was 429. The initial community population was just over 100 in the 1960s. Total population numbers are currently at a maximum, having risen from 258 in the 1990s. There were more males (56.2% of the population) than females (43.8% of the population) in Gustavus according to data from the 2000 Census. The racial composition of the population in 2000 was predominantly White (89.3%) with Alaska Native or American Indian (4.2%), Asian (0.2%), Hawaiian Native or other Pacific Islander (0.2%), and 'other' (1.6%). Overall, 4.4% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 8.2% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 1.4% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 40.3 years which is somewhat higher than the national median of 35.3 for the same year. According to the 2000 U.S. Census 27.3% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 15.7% of the population was over 55 years of age in 2000.

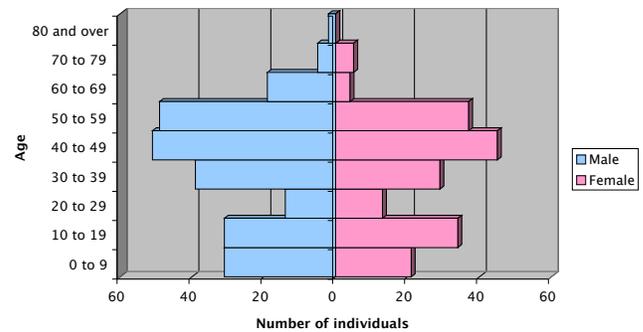
There were 345 housing units in Gustavus, 146 of which were vacant in 2000 and of these, 60 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, none of the population lived in group quarters. About 91.8% of the population over 25 years of age had a high school diploma or higher according to the 2000 Census data while 40.4% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

Gustavus began as an agricultural homestead in 1914. Previously, and as recently as 1794 when Captain George Vancouver sailed through Icy Strait, Glacier Bay had been completely covered by the Grand Pacific Glacier. By 1916, it had retreated 65 miles from the

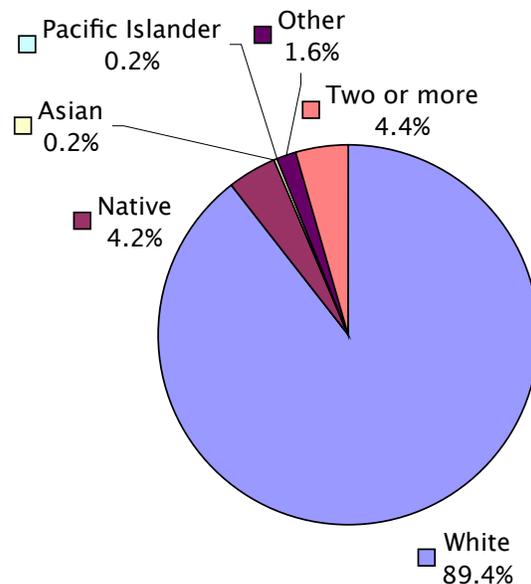
**2000 Population Structure
Gustavus**

Data source: US Census



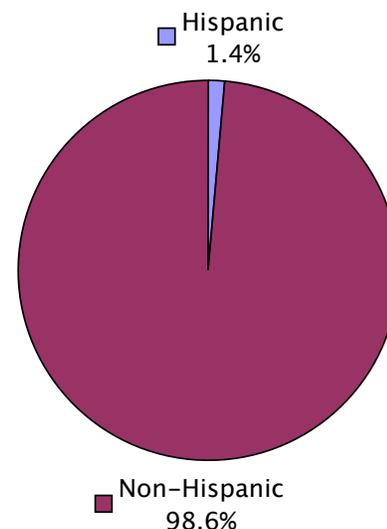
**2000 Racial Structure
Gustavus**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Gustavus**

Data source: US Census



position observed by Vancouver in 1794. The current name was derived from Point Gustavus, which lies 7 miles to the southwest.

Glacier Bay National Monument (including Gustavus) was established by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925. After many appeals the homesteaders were able to keep their land and the Gustavus area was excluded from the monument. It became a National Park in 1980 with the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Infrastructure

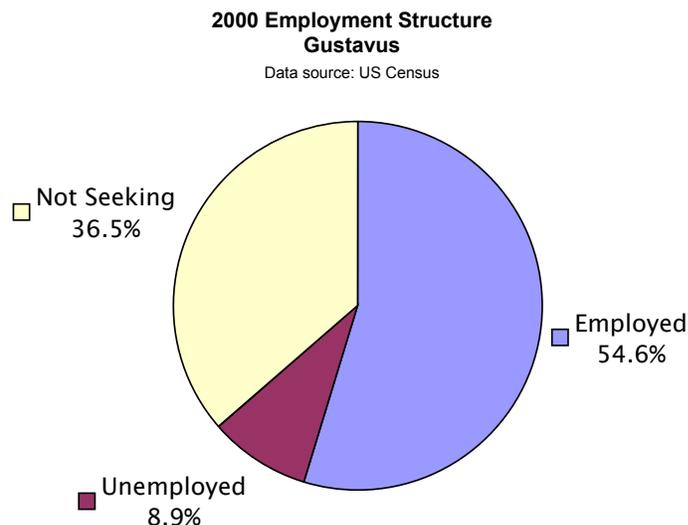
Current Economy

The economy of Gustavus is highly seasonal and depends strongly on fishing activities and other forms of recreational tourism; Glacier Bay National Park attracts a large number of tourists and recreation enthusiasts during the summer months. Over half of the labor force is employed by the National Park Service. Several adventure sports businesses are in operation and there is a nine-hole golf course. Approximately 60,000 tourists visit or pass through this small community annually. The lodge, airport, school, and small businesses also offer employment. A total of 65 commercial fishing permits were held by 32 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 54.6% of the potential labor force was employed and there was an 8.9% unemployment rate. A seemingly high 36.5% 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 14.6% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was \$34,786 and the per capita income was \$21,089.

Governance

Gustavus is an unincorporated city which does not lie within an organized Alaskan borough. For official purposes, Gustavus is located in the Sitka recording district. Because of Gustavus'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. Gustavus is not a member of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). It therefore has no land allotment under the Act, and is not a federally recognized Native village,



nor does it have a Native village corporation or belong to a regional Native corporation.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office is in Juneau, as is the nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services is located in Skagway.

Facilities

The community of Gustavus is accessible by sea and air. Gustavus has a State-owned airport which can accommodate jets. The airport has two asphalt runways of 6,700 feet and 3,000 feet. In most cases, it is least expensive to fly to Anchorage via Juneau where possible. Roundtrip flights to Juneau cost around \$160 and a roundtrip flight between Juneau and Anchorage costs approximately \$200. There is a 10-mile local road connecting Bartlett Cove with the airport. Freight arrives by barge. Small boats and small ferry boats regularly use the Gustavus Dock in the summer. Regulations limit the number of boats entering Glacier Bay to protect humpback whale habitat and National Park Service permits are required for boaters between June 1 and August 31. Because of the large number of tourists who arrive by boat or plane in the area, Gustavus is considered the gateway to Glacier Bay National Park.

Half of all year-round homes have individual water wells and septic tank systems and full plumbing. A community well with water treatment is available. Concerns have been raised about water safety due to shallow wells and individual septic systems. The school currently purchases water from the National

Park Service. The community has a permitted landfill and uses a balefill system. A study is underway to examine sewage disposal alternatives.

The Gustavus Electric Company supplies electricity to the community. There is no police force, but both Gustavus Emergency Response and Glacier Bay National Park ensure public safety. Health services are provided by the Gustavus Community Clinic which is owned and operated by the Gustavus Community Association. Gustavus is within the Chatham School District and there is one school in Gustavus itself. At Gustavus School four teachers instruct 45 students. In addition, approximately 15 students are home-schooled. There are numerous facilities available for tourists, including several options for accommodation, guided tours, and transportation.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is important to the economy of Gustavus. According to the Department of Fish and Game, and reported by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, 65 permits were held by 32 permit holders but only 27 permits were actually fished in Gustavus in 2000. There were nine vessel owners in the federal fisheries, nine vessel owners in the salmon fishery and overall 17 crew members claiming residence in Gustavus in 2000. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to

Gustavus was involved in halibut (nine vessels), sablefish (one vessel), and salmon (14 vessels) fisheries in 2000 (in accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community is unavailable).

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

Halibut: There were a total of 10 permits issued for halibut in Gustavus in 2000, 8 of which were fished. Permits for halibut pertained to six longline vessels under 60 feet (four permits were fished) and four longline vessels over 60 feet. All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Sablefish: A total of five sablefish permits were issued in 2000 in Gustavus, four of which were fished. Permits pertained to one longline vessel under 60 feet

in statewide waters, one longline vessel over 60 feet in northern Southeast waters, and three longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters.

Other groundfish: A total of 11 permits were issued in 2000 for other groundfish in Gustavus, only one of which was fished. Permits pertained to one lingcod longline vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished), one ling cod dinglebar troll in statewide waters (not fished), one lingcod mechanical jig (not fished), three miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig in statewide waters (none fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one permit was fished), one demersal shelf rock longline vessel under 60 feet in Southeast waters (not fished), demersal shelf rockfish mechanical jig (not fished) and one demersal shelf rockfish longline vessel over 60 feet in Southeast waters (not fished).

Crab: A total of 14 permits were issued in Gustavus for crab in 2000, four of which were actually fished. Three permits pertained to 300 pots or 100% of the maximum for Dungeness crab in Southeast waters (none fished). Two permits pertained to 225 pots or 75% of the maximum for Dungeness crab in Southeast waters (none fished). One permit pertained to 150 pots or 50% of the maximum for Dungeness crab in Southeast waters (none fished). One permit pertained to 75 pots or 25% of the maximum for Dungeness crab in Southeast waters. One permit pertained to red, blue, and brown King crab pot gear in Southeast waters and seven permits pertained to Tanner crab ring nets in Southeast waters (two permits were fished).

Other shellfish: Five permits for other shellfish were issued in Gustavus in 2000, two of which were actually fished. Permits were for one goeduck clam diving gear permit in Southeast waters (not fished), two sea cucumber diving gear permits in Southeast waters, and two sea urchin diving gear permits in Southeast waters (neither fished).

Salmon: A total of 20 permits were issued in Gustavus in 2000 for the salmon fishery, 8 of which were actually fished. Salmon permits pertained to 14 handtroll in statewide waters (five permits were fished), and six power gurdy trolls in statewide waters (three permits were fished).

Adolphus Seafoods processing plant was in operation in 2000 and had the capability of processing

halibut, salmon, and sablefish. Another small plant, Pep's Packing had an 'intent to operate' in 2003. Gustavus did not receive federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes.

Sport Fishing

There were 14 saltwater sport fishing businesses registered in Gustavus in 2002 and 12 businesses licensed to provide freshwater recreational fishing according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. There was a total of 1,877 sport fishing licenses sold in Gustavus in 2000, 297 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 1987 compiled on behalf of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Gustavus. Records describe the subsistence patterns for 100% of households which participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing and consuming of resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Of the total population, 91.8% used salmon and 95.9% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, cod, flounder, halibut, rockfish, and char); many fewer households, only 5.9%, used

marine mammals and a high percentage, 90.0%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita harvest for 1987 was 240.80 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 22.92% salmon, non-salmon fish made up 33.85%, land mammals 26.62%, marine mammals 0%, birds and eggs accounted for only 0.69% of the total subsistence harvest, marine invertebrates for 11.82% and vegetation made up 4.10%. The wild food harvest in Gustavus made up 156% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1987 (corresponding to a daily allowance of 49 g of protein per day or 0.424 lbs. of wild food per day) (Wolfe, Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game).

A total of six permits were held by households in Gustavus for subsistence fishing of salmon according to ADF&G Division of Subsistence records from 1999. Sockeye salmon made up the largest proportions of the salmon harvest, followed by pink salmon. Residents of Gustavus 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.