

Hobart Bay

People and Place

Location

Hobart Bay is on the southeast mainland on the east shore of Stephens Passage. The area encompasses 117.4 square miles of land and 12.4 square miles of water. The community receives much less precipitation than is typical of Southeast Alaska.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Hobart Bay was three, although according to the State Demographer's estimate in 2002, the community is no longer inhabited. In 1990 the recorded population was 187. The 2000 population were all adults, two males and one female, and two people classified themselves as white and one as Alaska Native or American Indian. The median age was 44.5. There were 17 housing units in Hobart Bay, only 2 of which were occupied in 2000. All residents had completed a high school education and one had also achieved a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

Hobart Bay was given its contemporary name in 1889 by Lt. Cmdr. Mansfield of the U.S. Navy. At that time the site was a logging camp. Hobart Bay continued as a logging camp operated by Goldbelt, Inc. until it was recently closed. Goldbelt, Inc. is an industrial Juneau-based Native Corporation owning nearly 23,000 acres in the area and is involved in logging operations. At the operation's peak, 90% of the logging was done by helicopter. The work force has been scaled back considerably since 1990. The school was closed for the 1998-99 school year.

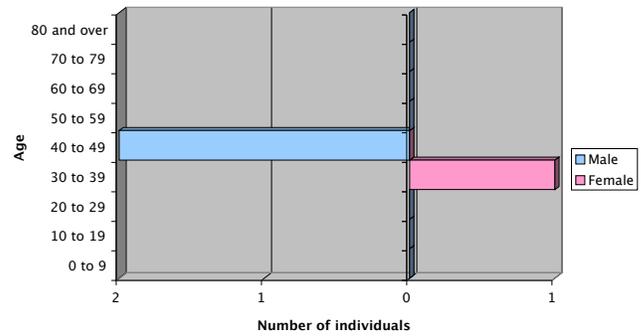
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Hobart Bay was based on logging until the local industry was scaled back and the Goldbelt, Inc. logging camp closed in the late 1990s. Employment is currently limited to the caretaking of the facilities. A total of six commercial fishing permits were held by four permit holders in 2000 according to the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, and one resident was a licensed crew member.

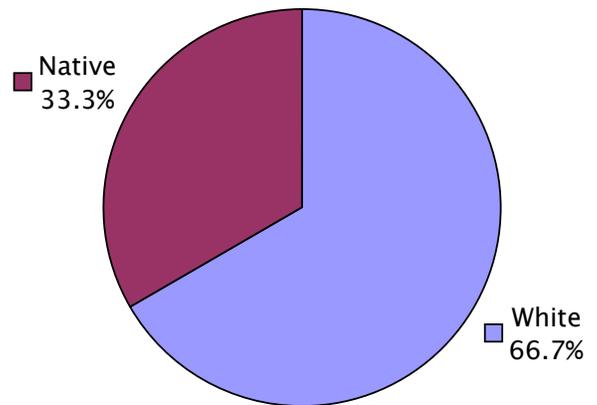
**2000 Population Structure
Hobart Bay**

Data source: US Census



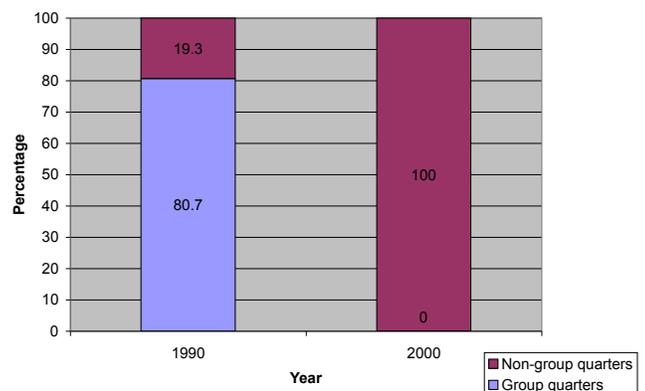
**2000 Racial Structure
Hobart Bay**

Data source: US Census



**% Group Quarters
Hobart Bay**

Data source: US Census



At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, all residents were employed in the civil labor force. The per capita income was \$34,900 with the median household income having been \$68,750.

Governance

The City of Hobart Bay is unincorporated and therefore there are no city or borough officials in the community. There are no local organizations in Hobart Bay and the community does not belong to any regional organizations, although Goldbelt, Inc., is a Native-owned corporation which owns approximately 23,000 acres in the area.

The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in Juneau as is the closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office. The nearest office of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) is located in Ketchikan which is a satellite interviewing and processing office.

Facilities

The community of Hobart Bay is primarily accessible only by floatplane or boat, for which a public dock is available. No information was available regarding the prices of flights to Hobart Bay from Anchorage or from Juneau; however, the approximate cost to fly roundtrip to Juneau from Anchorage according to Travelocity and Expedia is \$250 and an additional fare would be added on for the trip from Juneau to Hobart Bay. All homes are plumbed and a central distribution system provides water to homes. Both a community septic tank and outhouses are used. All heating comes from burning wood. Individual generators are available for electricity. No schools are in operation in Hobart Bay. There is no clinic in the community nor are there any police services.

Hobart Bay is a fairly isolated community relative to other tourist destinations in southeast Alaska, and does not have the industry to support tourism.

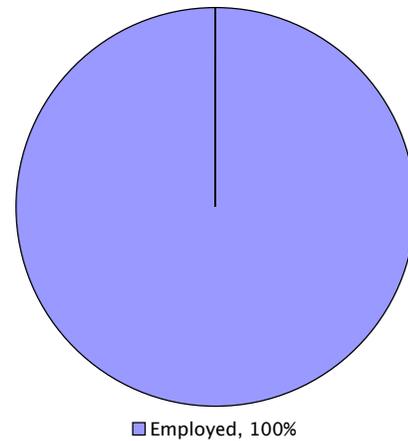
Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

Commercial fishing was not the most important economic endeavor in Hobart Bay when the logging company was in operation, but as logging operations were downscaled over the course of the 1990s, fishing became increasingly important to the viability of the

**2000 Employment Structure
Hobart Bay**

Data source: US Census



community. According to the ADF&G, and reported by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, six permits were held by four permit holders but only four permits were fished in Hobart Bay in 2000. There were no vessel owners, and only one crew member registered in the community. There are no fish processing facilities in Hobart Bay, therefore no fish landings were made.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Hobart Bay for 2000 related to one halibut longline vessel over 60 feet in statewide waters, one herring roe gillnet in southeast waters, one permit for herring harvests on kelp in northern southeast waters (not fished), two salmon drift gillnets in southeast waters, and one salmon hand troll in statewide waters (not fished).

Sport Fishing

No sport fishing businesses were in operation in Hobart Bay in 2002 and no sport fishing licenses were sold in the community in 2000.

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. However, no data is available in this respect from the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence.

* Commercial fishing permit data presented here is from the CFEC and is for the communities of Hobart Bay, Idaho Inlet, and Skagway combined.