

Hoonah

People and Place

Location

Hoonah is a Tlingit community which lies on the northeast shore of Chichagof Island in southeast Alaska. The area encompasses 6.6 square miles of land and 2.1 square miles of water.

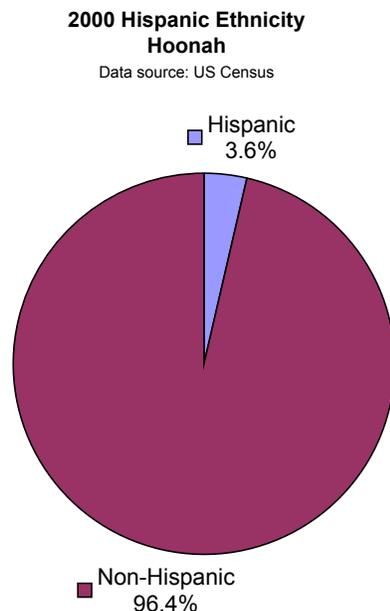
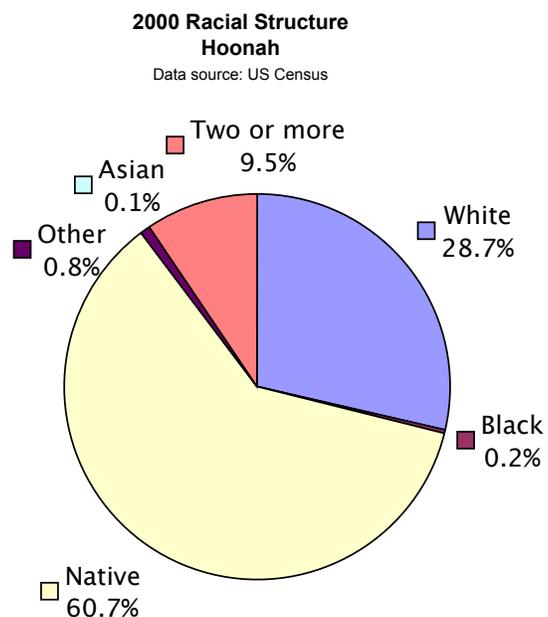
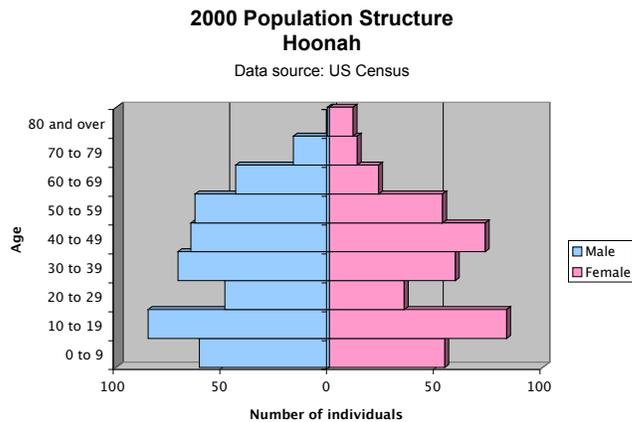
Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Hoonah was 860. Population numbers have risen steadily since the late 1800s, falling somewhat in the 1980s, but recovering the following decade and peaking in 2000. There were somewhat more males (53.0%) than females (47.0%) in 2000 according to Census data. The racial composition of the population in 2000 was predominantly American Indian and Alaska Native (60.6%), 28.7% White, 0.2% Black or African American, and 0.1% Asian. About 0.8% of the population classified themselves as belonging to some other race. Overall, 9.5% identified with two or more races. A total of 69.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. A small number (3.6%) of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 35.6 years which is slightly lower than the national median of 35.3 years for the same year. According to Census data, 32.9% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 18.5% of the population was over 55 years of age in 2000.

There were 348 housing units in Hoonah, 48 of which were designated vacant in 2000, and of these, 10 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of 2000 U.S. Census, only 1.2% of the population lived in group quarters. A total of 80.5% of the population over 25 years of age had a high school diploma or higher according to Census data while 15.4% also had a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

Hoonah, meaning 'village by the cliff,' is the principal village for the Huna, a Tlingit tribe which has occupied the Glacier Bay and Icy Strait areas since prehistory. Local legend tells of an original ancestral home in Glacier Bay that was destroyed by a glacial advance. The Northwest Trading Co. built the first store in Hoonah in 1880. In 1881, the Presbyterian Home Mission and school were built. A post office



was established in 1901. In 1912, the Hoonah Packing Co. built a large cannery one mile north of town. The Thompson Fish Company still operates today as Hoonah Cold Storage. In 1944, a fire destroyed much of the city as well as many cultural artifacts. The federal government assisted in rebuilding the community.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Hoonah is dependent on the fishing industry and government employment opportunities. Some employment occurs at the Hoonah Cold Storage plant. Whitestone Logging Inc. and Southeast Stevedoring (a sort-yard and timber transfer facility) are the two major private employers. The city and the school district are the main public sector employers. Subsistence activities are an important component of the lifestyle. A total of 208 commercial fishing permits were held by 116 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

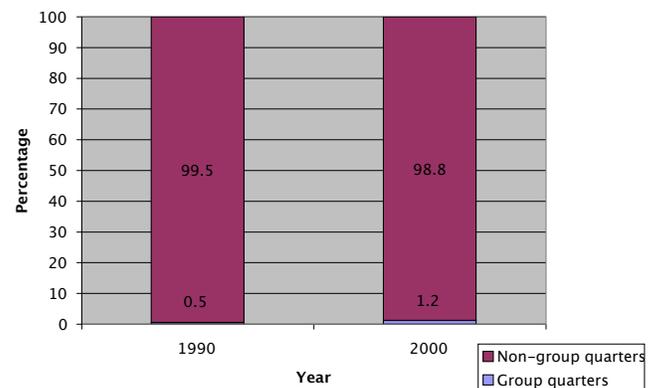
At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 48.3% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 12.5% unemployment rate. A seemingly high 39.2% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force, though this may be explained by the intensely seasonal nature of the fishing and tourism industries, and 16.6% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was \$39,028 and the per capita income was \$16,097.

Governance

The City of Hoonah was incorporated in 1946 as a first-class city. The city is governed by a Council-mayor form of government. The mayor and seven council members are elected officials. Hoonah is not located within an organized borough, therefore the city is responsible for many services. The City of Hoonah implements a 5% sales 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. Huna Totem Corporation is the local village corporation and Hoonah Indian Association is the village council which is federally recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by virtue of their status as an Indian tribe. The total land to which Angoon is

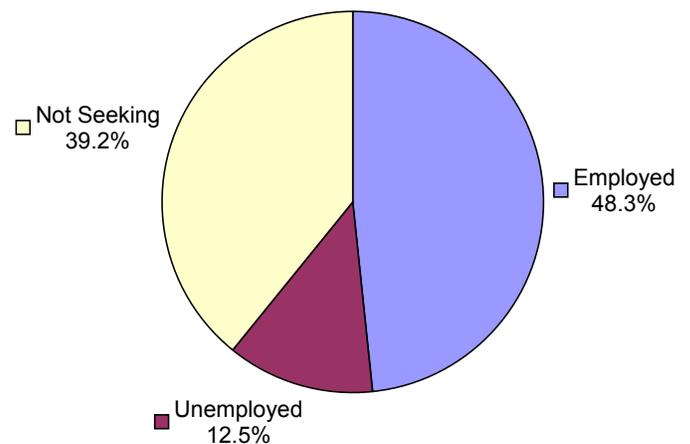
% Group Quarters Hoonah

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Hoonah

Data source: US Census



entitled under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) amounts to about 23,040 acres.

There is a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office as well as an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office located in the nearby state capital, Juneau. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) is located in Haines. Facilities

The community of Hoonah is accessible by and is dependent on air transportation for movement of small freight and passengers. Hoonah has a state-owned and operated 3,000 foot paved runway and a seaplane base. Both are served by scheduled small chartered aircraft from Juneau. In most cases, it is least expensive to fly to Anchorage via Juneau. Roundtrip flights to Juneau cost around \$170 and a roundtrip flight between Juneau and Anchorage costs approximately \$200. A State Ferry Terminal, as well as a harbor and dock area, are

available. Freight arrives by barge or plane. There is an extensive logging road system on northwest Chichagof Island.

Water is derived from Shotter, Dalton, and Spud Creeks, and is treated and piped to all homes and facilities. A new water treatment facility was completed in October 1998. Piped sewage is processed in a sewage treatment plant. Ninety-eight percent of homes are fully plumbed. The City provides garbage collection services twice weekly. Electricity is supplied by the Tlingit-Haida Regional Electric Authority, a non-profit subdivision of the State, operates three diesel-fueled generators in Hoonah. Health services are provided by the Hoonah Medical Clinic which is owned and operated by the Hoonah Indian association. Public safety is provided by a city-backed police department and state troopers. Hoonah schools are within the Hoonah City School District, with two schools located in Hoonah itself. At Hoonah Elementary School 71 students are instructed by seven teachers and at Hoonah Junior and Senior High School, 121 students are instructed by nine teachers. Hoonah is developing a tourism industry and there are several enterprises including at least eight businesses providing accommodations and guided tours to visitors.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is important to the economy of Hoonah. According to the ADF&G, and reported by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, 208 permits were held by 116 permit holders but only 106 permits were actually fished in Angoon in 2000. There were 20 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 52 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and overall 120 crew members claiming residence in Hoonah in 2000. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Hoonah was involved in halibut (20 vessels), sablefish (4 vessels), other groundfish (11 vessels), and salmon (52 vessels) fisheries in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable.

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

Halibut: There were a total of 33 permits issued for halibut in Hoonah in 2000, 26 of which were actually fished. Permits for halibut pertained to three hand trolls (one permit fished), 26 longline vessels under 60 feet (22 permits fished) and four longline vessels over 60 feet (3 permits fished). All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Herring: There were two permits issued for herring in Hoonah in 2000, both of which were fished. One permit pertained to herring roe gill nets in Security Cove and in Bristol Bay.

Sablefish: A total of 11 sablefish permits were issued in 2000 in Hoonah (9 permits fished). Permits pertained to six longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (5 permits fished), 3 longline vessels over 60 feet long in statewide waters (2 permits fished), and 2 longline vessels over 60 feet in southern southeast waters.

Other groundfish: A total of 36 permits were issued in 2000 for other groundfish in Hoonah (9 permits fished). Permits pertained to 2 lingcod longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished), 27 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (8 permits fished), six demersal shelf rock fish under 60 feet (one permit fished), and one demersal shelf rock fish (not fished).

Crab: Seven permits were issued in Hoonah for crab in 2000, all of which were fished. One permit pertained to 150 pots or 50% of maximum for Dungeness crab in southeast waters, 2 permits pertained to pot gear for red, blue, and brown king and Tanner crab in southeast waters, and 4 permits for Tanner crab ring nets in southeast waters.

Other shellfish: Only one permit that had been issued in Hoonah in 2000 was fished. This permit pertained to one shrimp pot gear vessel under 60 feet in southeast waters.

Salmon: A total of 118 permits were issued in Hoonah in 2000 for the salmon fishery (52 permits fished). Salmon permits pertained to six purse seine restricted to southeast waters (4 permits fished), one permit for a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay, 83 permits for hand trolls in statewide waters (23 permits fished), and 29 power gurdy trolls in statewide waters (24 permits fished).

Hoonah's only processing plant, Hoonah Cold Storage, has the capability to process salmon, including high-seas salmon, halibut, sablefish, and

other groundfish.

It was announced in July 2003 that Hoonah would receive \$40,739 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. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by depleted salmon resources. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for allocating the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient.

Sport Fishing

There were eight saltwater sport fishing businesses registered in Hoonah in 2002 and six businesses licensed to provide freshwater recreational fishing according to the ADF&G. There was a total of 877 sport fishing licenses sold in Hoonah in 2000, 530 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 ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Hoonah. Records describe the subsistence patterns for 97.4% of households in the community which participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming, illustrating the importance

of subsistence to life in the community. Of the total population, 85.7% used salmon, 83.1% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, char, and trout), 55.8% used marine mammals, and a high percentage, 77.9%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita subsistence harvest for the year 1996 was 3,723.04 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 resource categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 30.41% salmon, 17.97% non-salmon fish, 21.67% land mammals, 6.06% marine mammals, 0.19% birds and eggs, 15.68% marine invertebrates, and 8.03% vegetation. The wild food harvest in Hoonah made up 239% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1996 (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, ADF&G).

A total of 50 permits were held by households in Hoonah for subsistence fishing of salmon according to ADF&G's Division of Subsistence records from 1999. Chum made up the vast majority of the salmon harvest. Residents of Hoonah and members of Hoonah 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.