

# Hooper Bay

## People and Place

### Location

Hooper Bay is situated 20 miles south of Cape Romanzof and 25 miles south of Scammon Bay about two miles from the Bering Sea in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The community is located in the Wade Hampton Census Area and makes up 8.7 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

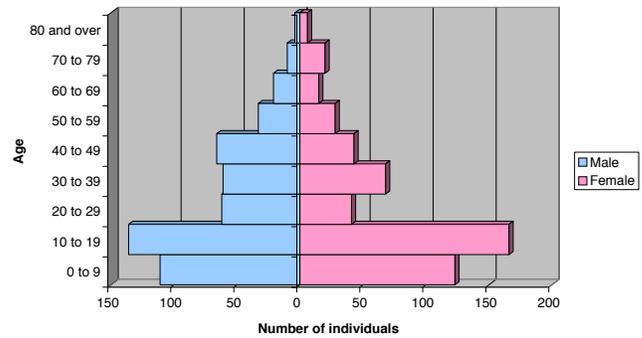
### Demographic Profile

Hooper Bay had a total of 1,014 inhabitants according to the 2000 U.S. Census, with 49.7% male and 50.3% female residents. Hooper Bay's population has risen steadily since 1930 when it was 209 people. The racial composition in 2000 was: 93.7% American Indian and Alaska Native, 4.2% White, and 2.1% two or more races. When taking into account race alone or in combination with one or more other races, about 95.8% of the population identified as American Indian and Alaska Native. About 0.1% of the population was Hispanic. The median age in Hooper Bay in 2000 was 18.4 years of age, much younger than the national average of 35.3 years. There were 239 housing units and of those 12 were vacant, one vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters in 2000. Of the residents of the community age 25 years and over, 72.0% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and 8.2% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

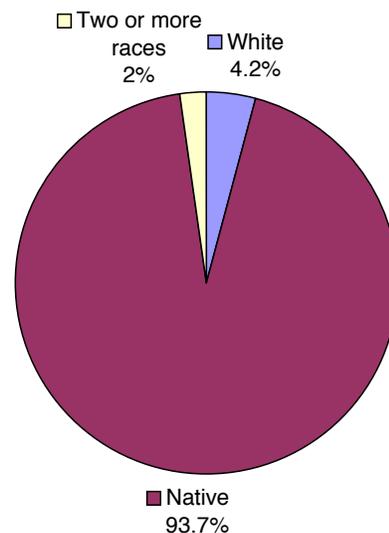
### History

According to the National Park Service "one of the most distinctive and widespread Arctic cultural traditions appeared around 4000 BP;" the Arctic Small Tool tradition, which is significant because "some investigators feel that the Arctic Small Tool tradition marks the arrival of the ancestral Eskimo cultures" to the Arctic area (National Park Service 2003). Historically, the Native Eskimo people present in the area of Hooper Bay have been the Yup'ik peoples. Because "southwestern Alaska lacked significant amounts of any of the commercially valuable resources that first drew non-Natives to other parts of the state", the Native people of the southwest region did not experience continual contact with the outside world

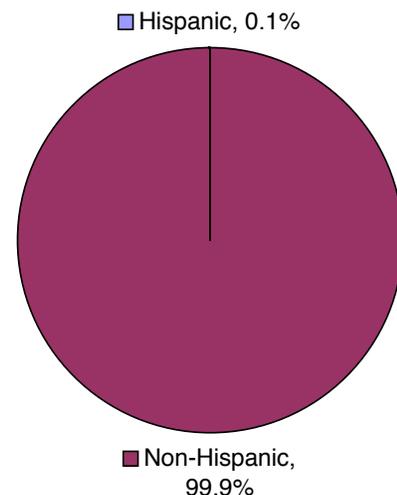
**2000 Population Structure  
Hooper Bay**  
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure  
Hooper Bay**  
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity  
Hooper Bay**  
Data source: US Census



until missionaries settled in the area beginning in the mid-1800's; initially with the Russian Orthodox, subsequently by the Moravians, and finally by the Jesuits (Fienup-Riordan 2000, p. 115).

The traditional Yup'ik name for the community of Hooper Bay was "Askinuk." In 1878 the village was first reported as Hooper Bay by E.W. Nelson of the U.S. Signal Service who named the village after the explorer Capt. Calvin Leighton Hooper (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994). At the time of the 1880 U.S. Census it was reported that the village had 175 inhabitants. A post office was established in 1934. A Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school was established in Hooper Bay in 1948 (Alaskool 1998-2002). The City government was incorporated in 1966. The present-day Yup'ik name referring to those from the community is "Naparyarmiut" which means "stake village people." The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is banned in the city. Residents of the village of Paimiut also live in Hooper Bay.

## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

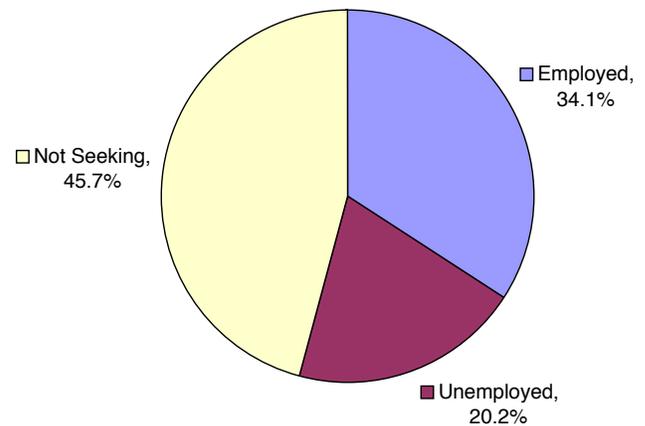
The employment of Hooper Bay is for the most part seasonal and there is little income-producing activity during the winter months. The community members' income is supplemented by subsistence activities. In 2000 there were 49 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Hooper Bay, and 84 residents which were licensed crew members. Some employment is provided by BLM fire fighting. Handicrafts including grass baskets and ivory objects are produced by community members. Residents are interested in developing the Naparyarmiut Arts & Crafts Cooperative. According to the 2000 Census, of the population age 16 years and over 34.1% were employed, 20.2% were unemployed, and 45.7% were not in the labor force. Of those employed, 53.0% were recorded as being government workers. The per capita income in Hooper Bay in 2000 was \$7,841 and the median household income was \$26,667. About 27.9% of the residents lived below the poverty level.

### Governance

Hooper Bay is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1966 with a mayor form of government which includes a mayor, a seven person city council, a five person advisory school board, and a variety of municipal employees including a fire chief and police

**2000 Employment Structure  
Hooper Bay**

Data source: US Census



chief. There is a 4% Sales Tax in the city. The city is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is the Calista Corporation. The Native village corporation is the Sea Lion Corporation which owns the Sea Lion Hotel, helping to promote tourism and the sale of Native-made baskets on their website (Sea Lion Corporation 2003). The Native Village of Hooper Bay is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council in the community. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) which the community of Hooper Bay is a part of is the Coastal Villages Region Fund whose offices are located in Bethel and Anchorage. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in the city of Emmonak, but is a seasonal office which is open from June 1st to August 31st, although an office is available year round in the community of Nome. The closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is also located in Nome. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel and a more main office is located in Anchorage.

### Facilities

Hooper Bay is accessible by both the air and water, although winter land trails are available to Scammon Bay, Chevak, and Paimiut. A State-owned 3,300 foot paved runway is present in the community. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Hooper Bay is \$476 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Bulk supplies and fuel are delivered by barge during the summer. Under

construction is a commercial fishing dock. Locals use skiffs during the summer for transportation. Accommodations are available at Qavartarvik Lodging and the Sea Lion Hotel. There is one K-12 school, Hooper Bay School, which had 391 students and 26 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Hooper Bay Health Clinic which is operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and owned by the City. Police services are provided by State VPSO and City Police. The electric utility in the community is AVEC which is operated by REA Co-op and the City with a main power source of diesel. In 2000 97.4% of households heated using kerosene. The water system is run by the City and school, but there is no piped water system. The City also operates the sewer system and the landfill, and individuals are responsible for their own refuse collection.

## **Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries**

### **Commercial Fishing**

A total of 49 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Hooper Bay in 2000, and a total of 84 licensed crew members lived in the community. There were no resident vessel owners participating in federal fisheries, but there was one vessel owner who was a resident and participated in the salmon fishery.

Of the 49 permits issued to community members, a total of 27 were fished. One permit was issued for halibut using a mechanical jig statewide which was fished in 2000. Forty three permits were issued for herring roe using gillnets off of Cape Romanzof (24 fished). Five permits were issued for salmon, two using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (one fished), one using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (not fished), and two using set gillnets in the Lower Yukon (one fished).

No vessels delivered landings to the community because a processor was not present in Hooper Bay. The city was allocated \$2,859 in federal salmon disaster funds in July 2003 because of the recent drop in salmon prices and loss in taxes generated.

### **Sport Fishing**

Sport fishing does not seem to attract tourists to the area as the infrastructure for sport fishing does not really seem to exist in the community. There was a total of 59 sport fishing licenses sold in the city of Hooper Bay in 2000, all to residents of the State of Alaska. According to the ADF&G there were no sport fishing guide businesses registered in Hooper Bay in 2002, and no business licenses were currently on file with the Department of Community and Economic Development for sport fishing businesses.

### **Subsistence Fishing**

Full subsistence data was not readily available for the community of Hooper Bay, although the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development declares that subsistence, along with commercial fishing, is a major means of support for community residents. According to estimation by the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence, the annual per capita harvest of wild food by residents is about 709.2 lbs. Also according to ADF&G, in 1999, 194 household subsistence salmon permits were issued in Hooper Bay and an estimated 10,387 salmon were harvested. Residents of the community have the right to apply for subsistence halibut registration certificates. 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.