

Kake

People and Place

Location

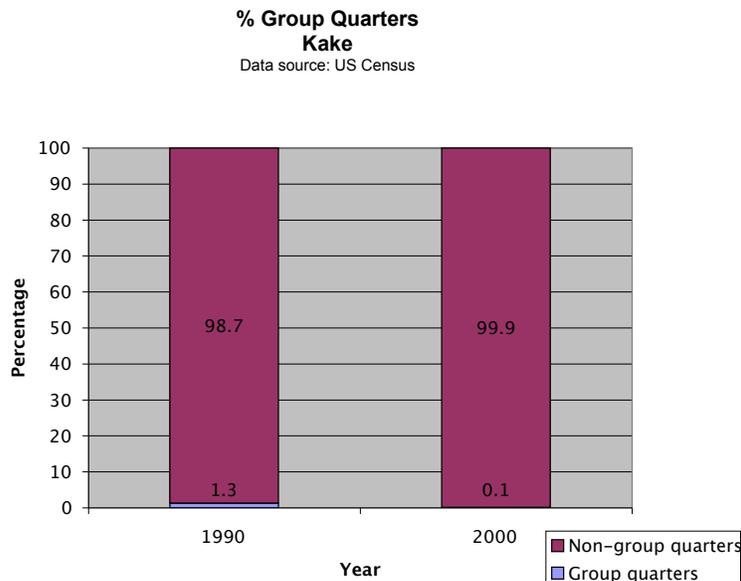
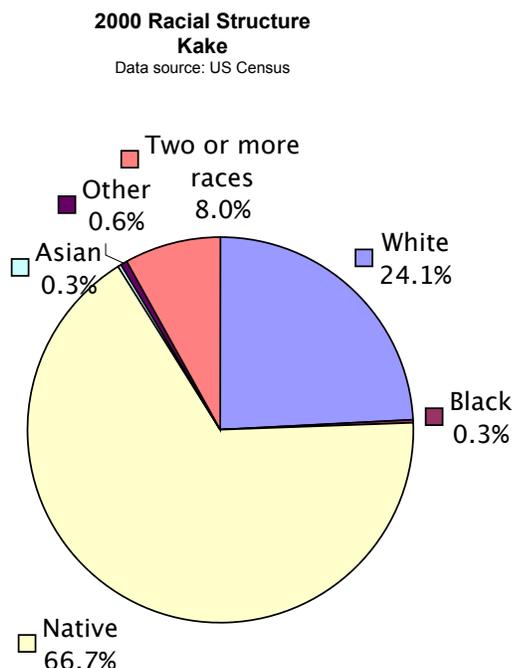
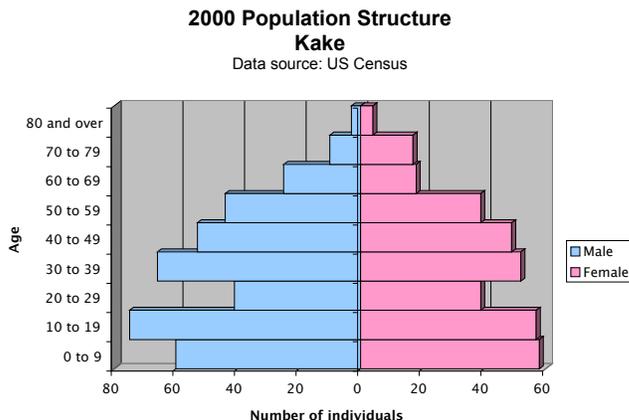
Kake lies on the northwest coast of Kupreanof Island along Keku Strait in southeast Alaska. The area encompasses 8.2 square miles of land and 6.0 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U. S. Census, the population of Kake was 710. Population numbers have increased steadily since the early 1900s. There were significantly more males (53.1%) than females (46.9%) in 2000 according to Census data. The racial composition of the population was predominantly American Indian and Alaska Native (66.8%), 24.1% White, only 0.3% Black or African American, 0.3% Asian, and 0.6% classified themselves as belonging to some other race. Overall, 8.0% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 74.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. A small number, 1.5%, of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 32.2 years, somewhat lower than the national median of 35.3 years. According to Census data, 35.2% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 15.5% of the population was over 55 years of age. There were 288 housing units in Kake, 42 of which were designated vacant in 2000, 12 vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 Census, none of the population lived in group quarters. A total of 85.0% of the population over 25 years of age had a high school diploma or higher, while 10.8% also had a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

Historically, the Kake tribe of the Tlingits controlled the trade routes around Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands, defending their territory against other tribal groups in the region. Ventures into the region by early European explorers and traders resulted in occasional skirmishes with the Tlingit people. Tension between locals and outsiders had been escalating when, in 1869, a non-Native sentry at the settlement in Sitka shot and killed a Kake Native. In accordance with their traditional custom, the Kakes then killed two prospectors as retribution. In reprisal, the U.S. Navy sent the USS Saginaw to punish the Kakes by shelling



their villages, causing widespread destruction. The community subsequently dispersed, but over the following 20 years, the Kakes regrouped at the current village site. In 1891, a government school and store were built. A Society of Friends mission was established. A post office was built in 1904. In the early part of this century, Kake became the first Alaska Native village to organize under federal law, resulting in U.S. citizenship for community residents. In 1912, the first cannery was built near Kake. After WWII, timber harvesting and processing became a major local industry. The world's largest totem pole was commissioned by Kake and carved by Chilkats in 1967 for Alaska's Centennial celebration.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Government employment and opportunities in the fishing industry are the mainstays of Kake's economy. Logging operations, like Turn Mountain Timber (a joint venture between Whitestone Logging and Kake Tribal Corporation) also employs residents in logging tribal corporation lands. The City, school district, and Kake Tribal Corporation are the largest employers. A total of 111 commercial fishing permits were held by 67 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The non-profit Gunnuk Creek Hatchery has assisted in sustaining the salmon fishery. Kake Foods produces smoked and dried salmon and halibut. Subsistence remains an important part of the lifestyle.

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 50.5% of the potential labor force was employed with a 16.7% unemployment rate. A seemingly high 32.8% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force (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 \$39,643, and the per capita income was \$17,411.

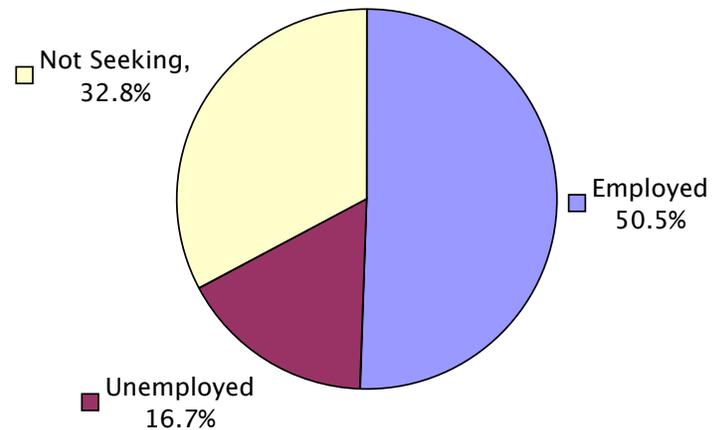
Governance

The City of Kake was incorporated in 1952 as a first-class city. The city is governed by a Council-mayor form of government. The mayor and six council members are elected officials. Kake is not located within an organized borough, so the city is responsible for many services. The City of Kake implements a 5%

2000 Employment Structure

Kake

Data source: US Census



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. Kake Tribal Corporation is the local village corporation and the Organized Village of Kake 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 Kake is entitled under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) amounts to about 23,040 acres.

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

Facilities

The community of Kake is accessible by air and sea. There are scheduled floatplane and air taxi flights from Petersburg, Juneau, Sitka, and Wrangell. Kake has a state-owned 4,000 foot paved runway west of town, and a seaplane base at the city dock. In most cases, it is least expensive to fly to Anchorage via Juneau. Roundtrip flights to Juneau cost around \$215 and a roundtrip flight between Juneau and Anchorage costs approximately \$200. State ferry and barge services are available. Facilities also include a small boat harbor, boat launch, deep water dock and State ferry terminal. A breakwater is currently under construction. There are about 120 miles of logging roads in the Kake area,

but no overland connections to other communities on Kupreanof Island.

Water is derived from a dam on Gunnuck Creek before it is treated, stored and distributed to residents. A new dam on Alpine Lake is currently being built. The City also operates a piped sewer system and primary treatment plant, and almost all households are fully plumbed. Kake provides refuse collection, recycling, and hazardous waste disposal.

Electricity is supplied by the Tlingit-Haida Regional Electric Authority, a non-profit subdivision of the State, which operates three diesel-fueled generators in Kake. Health services are provided by the Kake Health Center which is owned and operated by the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC). Public safety is provided by a city-backed police department. Kake schools are within the Kake City School District, with two schools located in Kake itself. At Kake Elementary School, 65 students are instructed by 9 teachers, and at Kake High School, 88 students are instructed by 7 teachers. Kake does not have a highly developed tourism industry, but a few businesses, including four accommodations providers, operate in the community.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is important to the economy of Kake. According to the ADF&G, and reported by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC), 111 permits were held by 67 permit holders (45 permits fished) in Kake in 2000. There were 14 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 18 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and overall 73 crew members claiming residence in Kake in 2000. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Kake was involved in halibut (13 vessels), sablefish (one vessel), other groundfish (five vessels), and salmon (18 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 Kake for 2000 related to halibut, herring, sablefish, other groundfish, crab, other shellfish, and salmon.

Halibut: There were a total of 19 permits issued

for halibut in Kake in 2000 (17 fished). Permits for halibut pertained to two hand trolls (one permit fished), 15 longline vessels under 60 feet (14 permits fished), and two longline vessels over 60 feet. All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Herring: Of a total of three permits issued for the herring fishery in Kake in 2000 (none fished). These pertained to two permits for harvesting herring food/bait by pound in southeast waters (not fished), and one permit for harvesting herring spawn on kelp by pound in Prince William Sound (not fished).

Sablefish: Only two permits were issued in 2000 in Kake for sablefish, both of which were fished. Permits pertained to one longline vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters, and one longline vessel over 60 feet restricted to northern southeast waters.

Other groundfish: A total of eight permits were issued in 2000 for other groundfish in Kake, only one of which was actually fished. Permits pertained to two lingcod longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), four miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (one permit fished), one demersal shelf rockfish longline vessel under 60 feet in southeast waters (not fished), and one demersal shelf rockfish longline vessel over 60 feet in southeast waters (not fished).

Crab: A total of nine permits were issued in Kake for crab in 2000, (six fished). One permit pertained to 300 pots or 100% of maximum for Dungeness crab in southeast waters, two permits for 150 pots or 50% of maximum for Dungeness crab in southeast waters (one permit fished), two for 75 pots or 25% of maximum for Dungeness crab in southeast waters (one permit fished), three Tanner crab ring nets in southeast waters (two permits fished), and one permit for a Tanner crab pot gear vessel in southeast waters.

Other shellfish: Two permits were issued in Kake in 2000; both for shrimp pot gear in southeast waters, and both were fished.

Salmon: A total of 68 permits were issued in Kake in 2000 for the salmon fishery (18 fished). Salmon permits pertained to seven purse seine restricted to southeast waters (6 permits fished), 51 hand trolls in statewide waters (6 permits fished), and 10 power gurdy trolls in statewide waters (6 permits fished).

Kake's one seafood processing plant, Kake Foods, can process salmon, halibut, sablefish, and groundfish.

Sport Fishing

There were five saltwater sport fishing businesses registered in Kake in 2002, and two businesses licensed to provide freshwater recreational fishing according to the ADF&G. There was a total of 299 sport fishing licenses sold in Kake in 2000, 177 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 Kake. Records describe the subsistence patterns for 98.6% 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, all 98.6% used salmon and non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, shark, char, and trout). A fewer number, 47.9%, used marine mammals, and a high percentage, 86.3%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita subsistence harvest for the year 1996 was 179.10 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 24.37% salmon, 23.24% non-salmon fish, 29.05% land mammals, 5.76% marine mammals, 0.37% birds and eggs, 12.24% marine invertebrates, and vegetation made up 4.96%. The wild food harvest in Kake made up 116% 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 134 permits were held by households in Kake for subsistence fishing of salmon according to the ADF&G division of Subsistence records from 1999. Sockeye made up vast majority of the salmon harvest. Residents of Kake and members of the organized village of Kake 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.