

Karluk

People and Place

Location

The community of Karluk is situated on the Karluk River on the west side of Kodiak Island. The community is 88 air miles southwest of Kodiak and 301 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is in the Kodiak Recording District and the Kodiak Island Borough. Karluk includes 57.7 square miles of land and 2.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census there were 27 residents of Karluk. The population has fluctuated extremely since 1890 when there were a reported 1,123 inhabitants. Since approximately 1930 the population has steadily decreased. Males made up 55.6% of the population in 2000, and females made up 44.4%. About 96.3% of the residents were American Indian or Alaska Native and 3.7% (one resident) was Asian. No one in the community was Hispanic. The median age in Karluk in 2000 was 30.3 years. There were a total of 24 housing units in the community; however, 15 were vacant, 6 due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 years and over, 77.8% had graduated from high school and gone on to higher schooling. About 27.8% had attended some college, but had not obtained a degree.

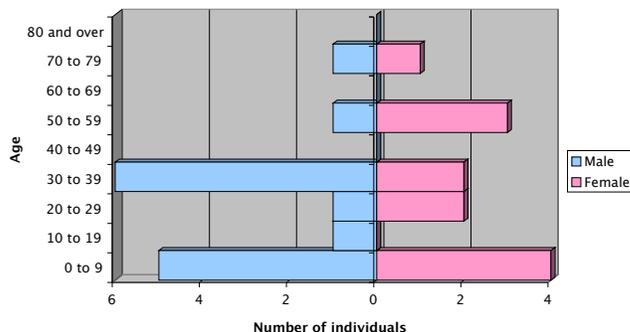
History

The history of Karluk is intimately tied to the history of the City of Kodiak described in detail in the Kodiak profile. For more than 7,000 years it is believed that the area around the mouth of the Karluk River has been occupied by Alutiiq native peoples. There are 36 registered archaeological sites existent in the area. In 1786, Russian hunters established a trading post; however, at that time the settlement was situated in the area of Karluk Lagoon, on both sides of the Karluk River.

Numerous canneries, salteries, and tanneries were established in the area from 1790 to 1850, and by 1800 Karluk had a reputation for having the greatest salmon stream in the world as well as the largest cannery. In 1892 the post office was established. The Alaska Packers Association constructed canneries in the area in the early 1900s, but because of over-fishing the

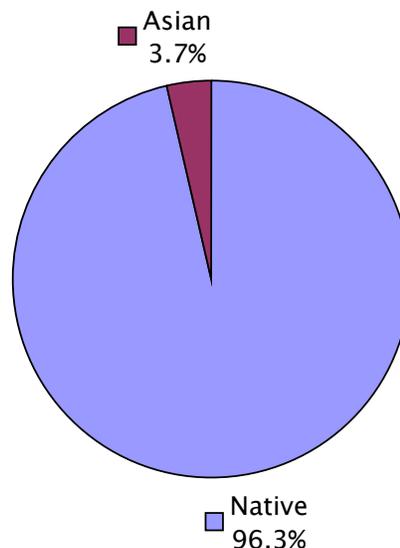
**2000 Population Structure
Karluk**

Data source: US Census



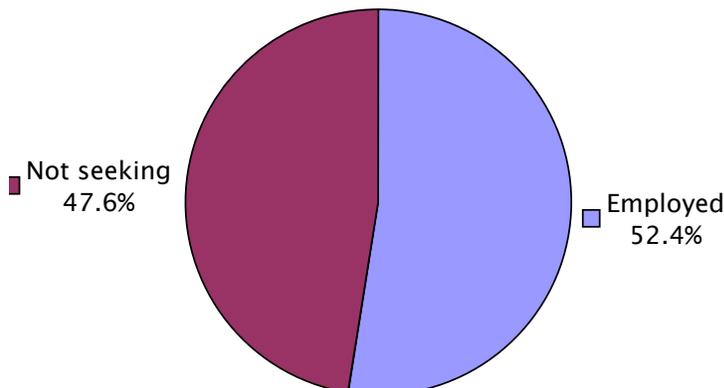
**2000 Racial Structure
Karluk**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Karluk**

Data source: US Census



canneries were forced to close in the late 1930s.

The village council decided to relocate the community in January of 1978 to its present site after a severe storm including “gale-force winds and high seas” (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994). The new site was situated upstream from the old site, on the south side of the lagoon. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) constructed 23 houses at the new site.

In recent years, due to low enrollment, the school in Karluk was closed, including the 1999/2000 and 2002/2003 school years. There are a few high school students who attend Mount Edgecumbe School in Sitka.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Karluk is based on fish processing. Kodiak Salmon Packers, Inc. is co-owned by the Karluk, Larsen Bay, and Old Harbor village corporations. Residents of the community use subsistence resources. Of the population aged 16 years and over, 52.4% were employed and 47.6% were not in the labor force in 2000. Of those who were employed about 81.8% were classified as government workers. The high percentage of the population not in the labor force could possibly reflect those involved in seasonal fish processing who were not in the labor force at the time of the Census. The median per capita income in Karluk was \$13,736 in 2000, whereas the median household income was \$19,167. No one in the population was below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 census.

Governance

Karluk is unincorporated and therefore no city or borough officials are present in the community. Karluk is included in the Kodiak Island Borough. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Recognized IRA Council/Village Council for the village is the Native Village of Karluk, which operates many of the services usually run by the city, such as the wash system, sewer system, and health clinic. The regional Native corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc., and the non-profit is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). Karluk does not have an individual village corporation. Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) land was appropriated to Koniag, Inc. The closest National Marine Fisheries

Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the city of Kodiak.

Facilities

Karluk is reachable by both the air and water. A 2,000 foot State-owned gravel airstrip is located in the community and a seaplane base is located at Karluk Lake. There are regular and charter flights which travel to the community from the City of Kodiak. Regular flights are available for around \$263 from Anchorage to Kodiak, according to Expedia and Travelocity websites (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Then there is the additional cost to fly into Karluk from Kodiak by charter plane. Twice a month there is barge service from Kodiak and the goods are lightered by skiff to shore. There is currently no dock; however, funds have been requested for the construction of a dock. Accommodations for visitors are available in the Karluk Lodge. The local school has not been open in recent years because of low enrollment. Karluk is part of the Kodiak Island Borough School District and students possibly attend another nearby school. Some high school students attend Mount Edgecumbe School in Sitka. Health care is available at the Karluk Health Clinic, which is owned and operated by the Village Council. In 1994 the clinic was renovated, but recently funds have been given to construct a new clinic. There are no police services in Karluk. The electric utility for the area is the Alutiiq Power Company, which is operated by the Village Council with diesel as the main power source. Refuse collection is up to the individuals and the landfill is operated by the Village Council; however, the landfill is on a temporary unpermitted site. All the houses which are occupied in Karluk are equipped with full plumbing. The Village Council operates the water system and sewer system as well.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

No residents of Karluk held commercial fishing permits in 2000, but six residents were licensed crew members (22.22% of the population). There were no vessel owner residents of Karluk that were involved in either the federal fisheries or in the salmon fishery in 2000. No vessels delivered landings to the community

because there was no processor located in Karluk.

The Kodiak Island Borough was recently allotted \$362,963 in federal salmon disaster funds which will most likely be applied to projects within the borough. The salmon disaster funds have been awarded because of the recent drop in salmon prices attributed to competition with foreign farmed salmon. The Kodiak Island Borough was also recently granted \$69,687 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the United States government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing seems to be quite prevalent in Karluk for a community which has a comparatively small population. In 2000 there was a total of 87 sport fishing licenses sold in Karluk and of those 79 were sold to non-residents of Alaska. According to the ADF&G there were a few sport fishing businesses present in the community in 2002; one was listed as

a saltwater guide business, four listed as freshwater guide businesses, one listed as a saltwater fishing charter service, and two lodge/resort listings.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G Division of Subsistence in Karluk in 1991, 100% of all households used some type of subsistence resources. All households used salmon (100%), 100% used non-salmon fish (herring, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, skates, sole, char, and trout), 38.5% used marine mammals, and 84.6% of all households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 268.71 lbs in the community in 1993. The breakdown of that harvest was 71.53% salmon, 11.17% non-salmon fish, 0.35% marine mammals, 1.61% marine invertebrates, 0.42% birds and eggs, 11.09% land mammals, and 3.82% vegetation. In addition, one household permit was issued for subsistence salmon to a resident of Karluk in 1999 for an estimated harvest of 77 total salmon, of which the majority was sockeye. Residents of Karluk have the right to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.