

Kasilof

People and Place

Location

Kasilof is located on the Kenai Peninsula, 12 miles south of the city of Kenai. Its area encompasses 10.4 square miles of land and 0.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, there were 471 residents in Kasilof living in 180 households. The racial makeup was as follows: White (92.4%), Alaska Native or American Indian (3.2%), Black (0.6%), Asian (0.2%), other (0.2%), and two or more races (3.4%). Residents of Hispanic origin comprised less than 0.2% of the population. The Alaska Native population, including those of mixed race, comprised 6.2% of the total population of Kasilof. The gender ratio was skewed towards males who comprised 51.8% of the population, whereas females made-up 48.2% of the population. The median age of Kasilof residents was 39.6 years, slightly older than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years.

All residents lived in households rather than group quarters, and the average household size was 2.6 people. Population growth has been steady in recent years, more than doubling since 1980. Approximately 85.3% of residents over age 25 have a high school diploma or higher educational attainment.

History

Archaeological surveys have revealed the presence of numerous Dena'ina Athabascan sites along the Kasilof River, suggesting that the area has been inhabited since the 18th century (Reger 1981). Kasilof itself is believed to have been an agricultural settlement of the Dena'ina, called "Kenaitze" by the early Russian traders who built a stockade there. European and American homesteaders started arriving and forming permanent settlements in the early 20th century.

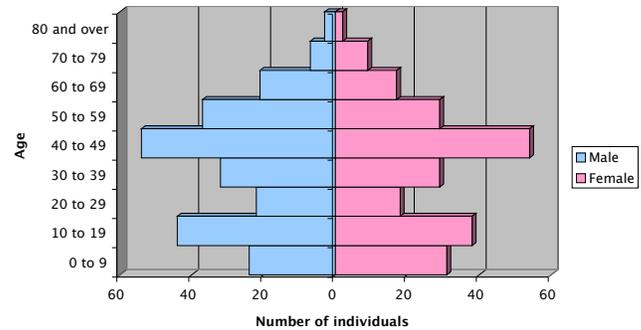
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Kasilof is largely focused on the fishing industry. Nearly one in three local residents holds a commercial fishing permit. Sport fishing is also a significant contributor to the local economy. Because of the town's close proximity to Kenai and

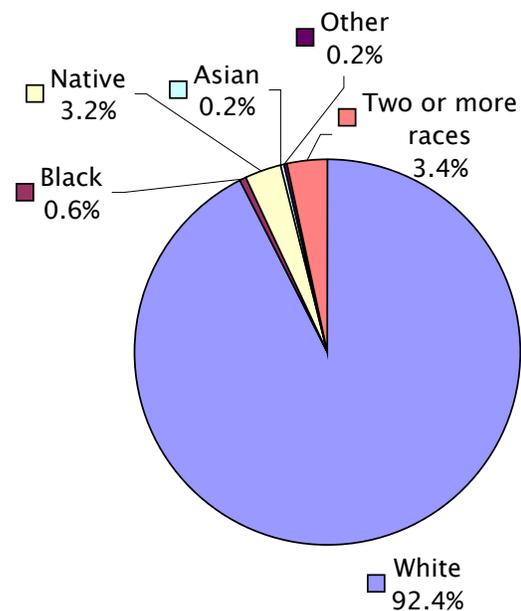
**2000 Population Structure
Kasilof**

Data source: US Census



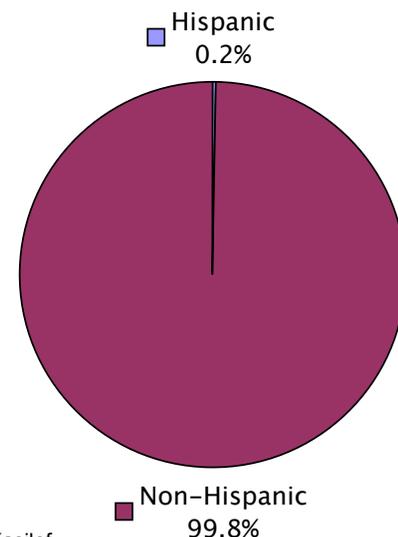
**2000 Racial Structure
Kasilof**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Kasilof**

Data source: US Census



Soldotna, many Kasilof residents work in these cities.

Approximately 26.4% of residents lived below the poverty level in 2000. The median per capita income was \$21,211 and the median household income was \$43,929. The 2000 U.S. Census reported no unemployment, but 48.1% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work).

Governance

Kasilof is an unincorporated city under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The borough administers a 2% sales tax and a 0.65% (6.5 mills) property tax.

There is an office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) located nearby in Kenai. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are both located in Anchorage.

Facilities

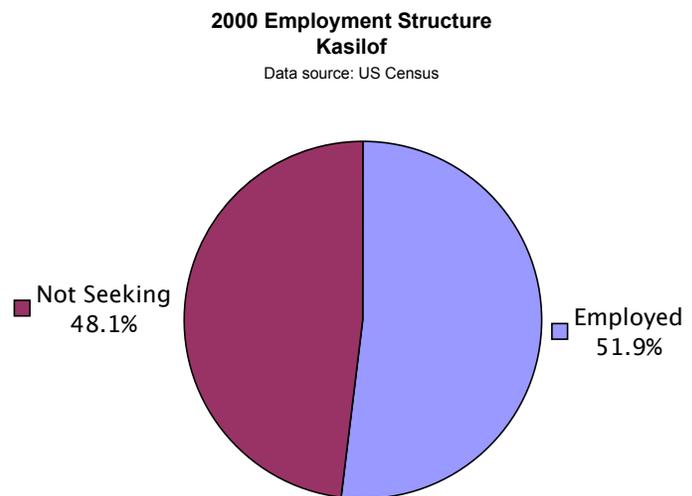
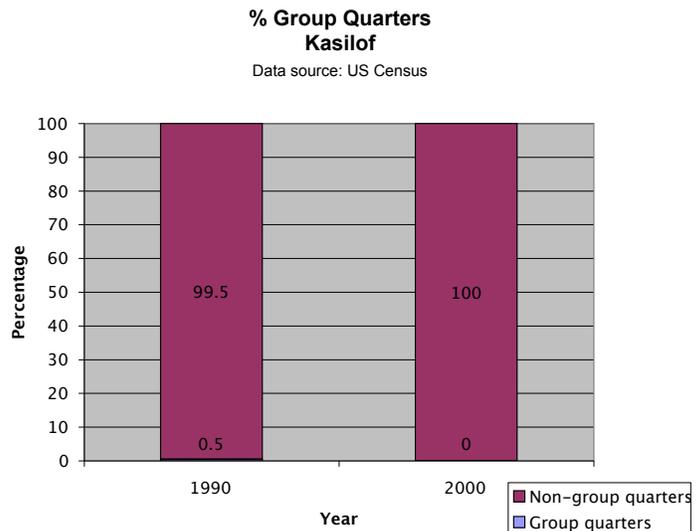
Kasilof is accessible by air and by road via the Sterling Highway. The state operates a 2,165 foot air strip in town. Roundtrip airfare from the nearby Kenai airport to Anchorage is \$134. There is also a boat launch on the Kasilof River. Most residents operate their own wells for water and their own septic tanks. Electricity in Kasilof comes from the Homer Electric Association and is generated by a hydroelectric station and a natural gas generator. There is one elementary school in Kasilof, with 14 teachers and 229 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the nearby Cook Inlet salmon fishery, is very important in Kasilof. In 2000, there were 8 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 51 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries who resided in Kasilof. There were 142 registered crew members. There were 154 residents who held a total of 208 commercial fishing permits; this constitutes significant involvement in Alaska fisheries, despite the community's relatively small size. The following section contains detailed information about commercial permits issued to Kasilof residents in 2000.

Crab and Other Shellfish: One resident held a



king crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in length, but this permit was not fished. One resident held one clam shovel permit for statewide waters, but this permit was also not fished.

Halibut: Twenty residents held a total of 20 commercial permits for the halibut fishery, and 12 of these permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: 13 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (6 fished), and 7 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (6 fished).

Herring: Twenty-three residents held a total of 28 commercial permits for the herring fishery, and 12 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one herring roe purse seine permit for the southeast region (none fished), 2 herring roe purse seine permits for Prince William Sound (none fished), 2 herring roe purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), 2 herring roe purse seine

permits for Bristol Bay (2 fished), 11 herring roe gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (8 fished), 5 herring roe gillnet permits for the Kodiak fishery (one fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Security Cove (none fished), 2 herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (one fished), and 2 herring roe gillnet permits for Norton Sound (none fished).

Other Groundfish: Eight residents held a total of eight permits for the groundfish fishery, but only one permit was fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one lingcod longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), and three miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (one fished).

Salmon: One hundred forty-five residents held a total of 150 permits for the salmon fishery, and 112 of these were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: 4 salmon purse seine permits for Prince William Sound (2 fished), 7 salmon purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), one salmon purse seine permit for Kodiak (none fished), one salmon purse seine permit for the Chignik fishery (one fished), one salmon beach seine permit for Kodiak (none fished), 3 salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (3 fished), 32 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (30 fished), one salmon drift gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), 4 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (4 fished); 91 salmon set gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (67 fished), 4 salmon set gillnet

permit for Bristol Bay (4 fished), and one salmon set gillnet permits for Kotzebue (none fished).

In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received \$810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received \$623,295 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate the community for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Kasilof.

Sport Fishing

The sport fishing industry is an important part of the Kasilof economy. The area is a major destination for sport fishermen around the world who come to fish in Cook Inlet as well in the Kenai River, the most heavily fished river in Alaska. The major sport fish species include halibut, chinook, coho, pink and sockeye salmon, rainbow trout, steelhead, and Dolly Varden.

In 2000, a total of 1,794 sport licenses were sold in Kenai—935 to Alaska residents and 859 to non-residents. There were 24 freshwater sport fishing guides and 10 saltwater sport fishing guides registered in Kasilof in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

Under federal subsistence regulations, Kasilof is not designated as “rural” and therefore its residents are not eligible to harvest subsistence resources from federally managed land or waters. In 1999, five households in Kasilof held subsistence salmon harvesting permits. There is no detailed information available from the ADF&G regarding specific subsistence activities in Kasilof.