

Klawock

People and Place

Location

Klawock is located on the west coast of Prince of Wales Island and on the deepest end of the Klawock Inlet, across from Klawock Island. It is 7 road miles north of Craig, 24 road miles from Hollis, and 56 air miles west of Ketchikan. The area encompasses 0.6 square miles of land and 0.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Klawock had 854 inhabitants that year. The majority of the community was Native: 50.9% were Alaska Native, 41% were White, 0.5% were Asian, 0.1% were Native Hawaiian, 0.1% identified themselves with other racial groups, and the remaining 7.4% of residents identified with more than one racial group. A total of 58.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 1.4% of the population claimed Hispanic origin. The whole community lived in households. No one lived in group quarters, although there were some vacant houses for seasonal use.

The gender ratio in the community is extremely unbalanced: 55.4% male and 44.6% female. The median age of 34.5 years is slightly younger than the national median of 35.3 years. Of those 25 years or age and over in Klawock, 80.8% had graduated from high school and went on to further schooling, 8.5% obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 19.2% of the population never graduated from high school.

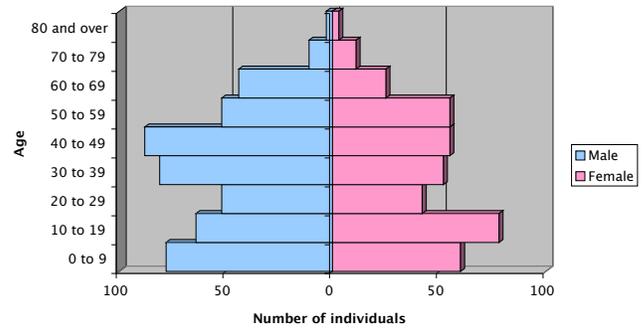
History

Prince of Wales Island is in the middle of the transition area between Haida and Tlingit cultural areas. These two Native American groups have historically occupied the island, sustaining themselves with a very elaborate economic system including fishing, hunting and harvesting practices as well as intricate trading networks.

The first settlers and missionaries to arrive in the area at the end of the 19th century encountered an almost completely depopulated island, though there was evidence of once blossoming Indian communities devastated by smallpox and measles. Haida and Tlingit populations are still present in many communities on the Island, including Klawock.

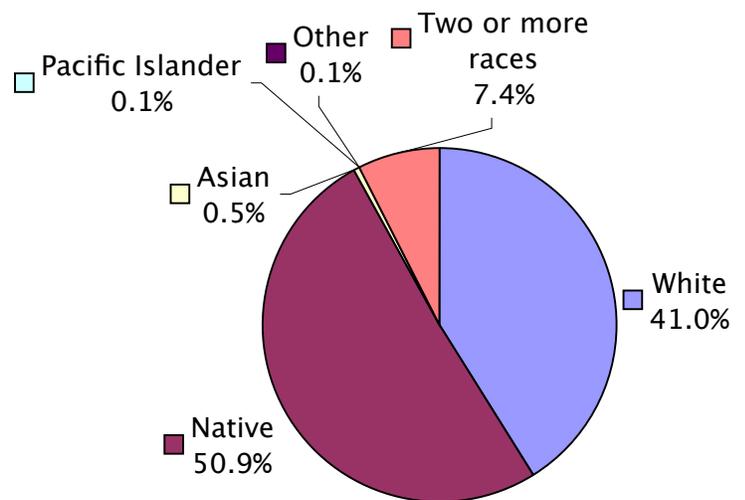
2000 Population Structure Klawock

Data source: US Census



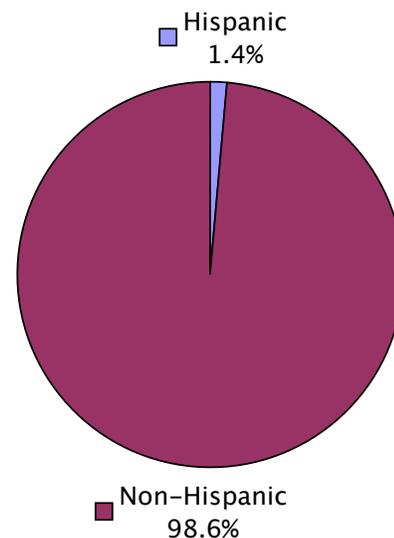
2000 Racial Structure Klawock

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Klawock

Data source: US Census



Originally Klawock was a summer fishing camp of Tuxekan, a Tlingit village. Its location facilitated the installation of a trading post and a salmon saltery in 1868, and some of the earliest canneries of Alaska a decade later. Many of these canneries were operated under contract with Chinese laborers. A hatchery was also functioning in Klawock Lake between 1897 and 1917. Residents from nearby towns and beyond were attracted to the economic opportunities Klawock presented, building up the population of the town. The town was officially incorporated in 1929. In 1971 the Alaska Timber Corporation built a local sawmill. Soon after, the Klawock-Heenya Village Corporation, the Shaan Seet Corporation of Craig, and Sealaska Timber Corporation expanded area facilities with a log sort-yard outside of Klawock and a deep-water dock on Klawock Island. The State constructed a salmon hatchery on Klawock Lake in 1978, very near the former hatchery site. Logging activities continue to have great importance in the area.

Infrastructures

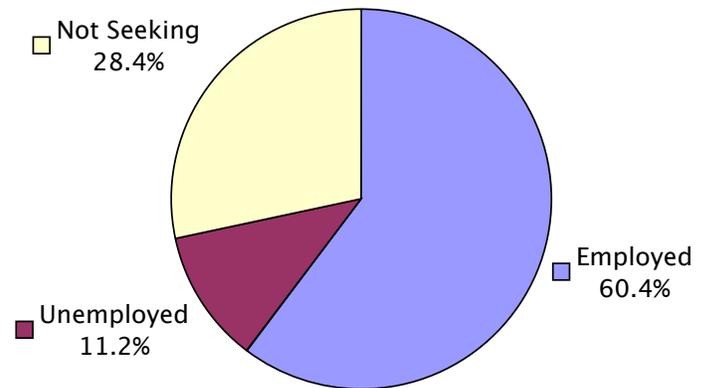
Current Economy

Klawock's economy depends predominantly on two major sectors: the fishing industry and logging. The former, although still currently present in the village with a state-owned hatchery and 47 residents holding commercial fishing permits, has somewhat diminished in scale. In the past, Klawock had several canneries important to the industry and most of the population depended exclusively on the fishing industry. Presently, the town has only a few small processing operations. These canneries closed down in the late 1980s. The Native corporations of the area have identified logging as the local development incentive. The timber industry provides employment in logging and ship loading activities. Subsistence activities are very important to the local economy. Harvested foods include deer, salmon, halibut, shrimp and crab.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the employment structure of the community shows that 60.4% of the total potential labor force was employed that year. About 11.2% of the total potential labor force was unemployed and 28.4% of the adult workforce was not searching for employment. In 2000 the average per capita income in Klawock was \$14,621 and the median household income was \$35,000. A total of 14.2% of the population lived below poverty levels.

**2000 Employment Structure
Klawock**

Data source: US Census



Governance

Klawock was incorporated in 1929 as a first-class city with a "strong mayor" form of government, including a six-member council. The city, located in an unorganized area, has 5.5% taxes on sales. Klawock Heenya Native Corporation is the local Native corporation that manages approximately 23,040 acres of land under ANCSA. The regional Native for-profit corporation, with its headquarters in Juneau, is the SeaAlaska Native Corporation. The closest ADF&G office is nearby in Craig. The nearest BCIS office is in Ketchikan. NMFS has its closest office in Petersburg.

Facilities

Klawock, as with many of the communities of the area, is heavily dependent on Ketchikan as the economic center of the area. Klawock has the only paved airstrip on Prince of Wales Island (5000 feet in length). A seaplane base is operated by the State on the Klawock River. The cost of a roundtrip flight to Anchorage, with a connection in Ketchikan, is approximately \$526.

To reach the community by sea it is necessary to have access to private transport as the closest ferry stop is Hollis, 23 miles away. The communities are connected by the Prince of Wales Island road system. Klawock has a small boat harbor and boat launch ramp. A deep draft dock is located at Klawock Island, which is primarily used for loading timber. Freight arrives by cargo plane, barge, and truck.

Health care is provided by the Alicia Roberts Medical Center. Alternative health care is provided by

Klawock's EMS and Prince of Wales Island EMS. A local police department and state trooper post provide public security. The town has centralized water and sewer systems managed by the city. Most houses of Klawock (90%) are connected to the water and sewage systems operated by the city. Power is provided by the Tlingit-Haida Regional Electric Authority (THREA) which purchases electricity from Alaska Power & Telephone. THREA also owns four standby diesel generators in Klawock. The Klawock City School has 157 students and 13 teachers.

Involvement with North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In the context of Prince of Wales Island, Klawock is a mid-sized community. Relative to the area, it has a significant involvement with the North Pacific fisheries. In 2000, 47 residents of the community held 65 commercial fishing permits (47 permits fished that year). The village also had 3 owners of vessels involved in federal fisheries, 10 owners of salmon fishing boats and one owner of a vessel dedicated to herring. In addition, the community had 26 residents registered as crewmen.

Salmon: The bulk of Klawock's fished permits were devoted to salmon. The village had 21 permits (12 fished). Ten were statewide permits for hand trollers (four fished), six statewide permits for power gurdy troll (four fished), four fished permits to use purse seine in the southeast, and one non-fished permit to use set gillnet in Cook Inlet.

Herring: The residents of Klawock held 26 permits to catch herring (3 fished). There were 25 permits to harvest herring spawn on kelp/pound: 24 for southern southeast waters (none fished), and one for northern southeast waters. There was also one fished permit to catch herring roe with purse seine in southeast waters.

Other Groundfish: The community was issued nine permits for groundfish other than halibut (six fished): two permits to catch miscellaneous saltwater finfish with a longline vessel under 60 feet, and one permit to catch finfish with a hand troller (not fished). There were also two permits to catch demersal shell rockfish: one permit for a hand troller (not fished) and one permit for a longliner under 60 feet, both in southeast waters.

Other Shellfish: There were five permits to catch shrimp with pot gear in the southeast (two fished). There were four fished permits to harvest sea cucumbers with diving gear in the southeast.

Sablefish: Two fished permits to use pot gear in southern southeast waters.

Halibut: There were two issued and fished statewide permits to catch halibut in 2000, both for longliners, one under 60 feet, and the other over 60 feet.

Although there are no records of landings in Klawock, the town has three local processing facilities: Jody's Seafood Specialties, Wildfish Company, and Sea Fresh Seafoods.

The municipality received a direct allocation of \$1,705.22 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for losses due to prices plummeting in the international salmon market.

Sport Fishing

In 2000 this community issued 1,742 sport fishing licenses: 529 of them were bought by Alaska residents. In 2002, the village had 13 licensed fishing guide businesses related to sport fishing as a tourist activity: 2 of them focused on freshwater activities while 11 worked in saltwater fisheries. The high number of outside visitors combined with the existence of so many businesses dedicated to sport fishing is evidence of the importance of this economic sector for the community.

Subsistence Fishing

A survey of subsistence practices in Klawock conducted in 1997 demonstrated the significance of such practices for traditional Alaskan communities. All households participated in the use of harvested resources. In relation to the main marine resources: 87.7% used subsistence salmon, 94.3% used other types fish (herring, smelt, bass, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, char, and trout), 19.8% marine mammals, and 76.4% marine invertebrates. The results reflect that the inhabitants of the community harvested 320.36 lbs per person that year. The daily per capita harvest of wild food was 0.7 lbs.

The relative importance of each resource is illustrated by a break-down of the composition of the harvest: salmon (32.74%), other fish (24.32%), land mammals (16.71%), marine mammals (6.67%), birds

and eggs (0.36%), marine invertebrates (11.65%), and vegetation (7.57%).

In 1999, Klawock held 84 Alaska salmon household subsistence permits; the catch was mainly sockeye (2,600 fishes). In addition, the inhabitants of this community (rural residents or members of an Alaska Native tribe) 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.