

Koliganek

People and Place

Location

The community of Koliganek is situated on the west bank of the Nushagak River. It is 65 miles northeast of Dillingham and is the most inland community in the Dillingham Census Area. The area makes up 12.5 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

There were a total of 182 inhabitants of Koliganek in 2000, 54.9% male and 45.1% female. Since the 1950 U. S. Census, the population of the community has continued to grow from the 90 in 1950 to 186 in 2002 as established by a State Demographer. The racial composition of Koliganek in 2000 follows: 87.4% American Indian and Alaska Native, 10.4% White, and 2.2% "Other." Approximately 2.2% of the population was Hispanic. The median age of Koliganek was 26.0 years versus the national age median of 35.3 years. There were 77 housing units with 24 vacant and two vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group housing at the time of the 2000 Census. Of the population age 25 years and over, about 76.8% had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling and 11.6% had obtained a bachelor's degree to higher.

History

The community of Koliganek is a Yup'ik Eskimo village that was first recorded as "Kalignak" in the 1880 U.S. Census. The name was also recorded in 1930 by the U.S. Geological Survey. Since the time of the survey the community has relocated four miles downstream of the original village site.

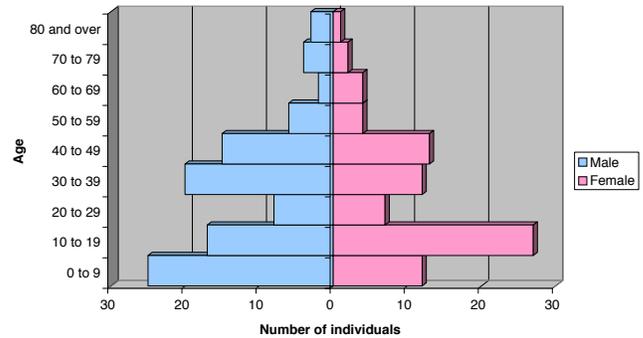
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Most year round employment in Koliganek is provided by the school and village. The economy is also based on commercial fishing, trapping, and subsistence practices. In 2000, 20 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents and 38 residents were licensed crew members. Of the population of Koliganek age 16 years and over, about 60.6% were employed, 9.2% were unemployed, and 30.3% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed,

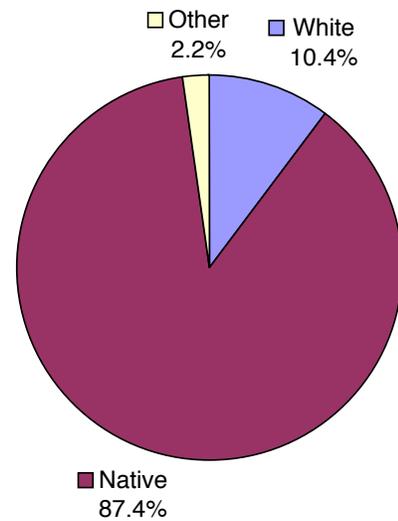
2000 Population Structure Koliganek

Data source: US Census



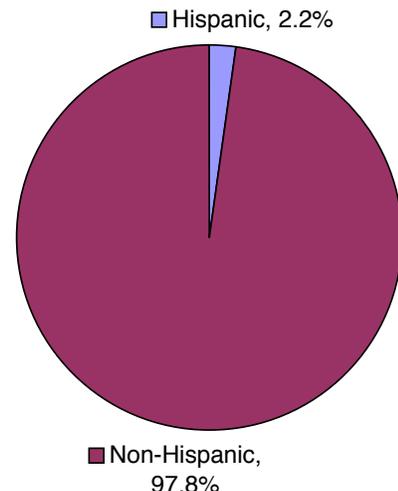
2000 Racial Structure Koliganek

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Koliganek

Data source: US Census



about 83.3% were classified as government workers. The per capita income in the community was \$13,242 and the median household income was \$44,583. About 19.3% of residents lived below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

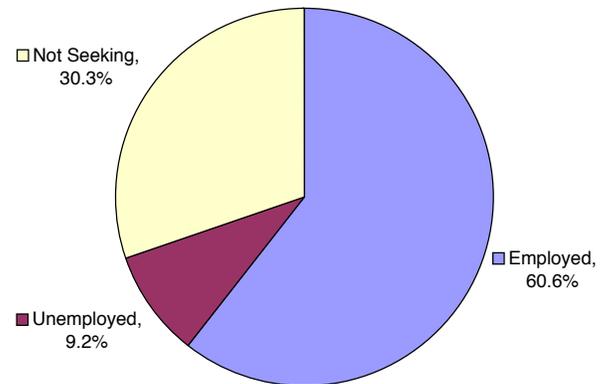
Koliganek is unincorporated and is not part of any organized borough; there are no city or borough officials in the community. The regional Native corporation for Koliganek is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the regional non-profit for the area is the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Native village corporation is Koliganek Natives Ltd. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council for the village is the New Koliganek Village Council, also known as New Koliganek Village. Since the community is not incorporated, the Council appears to be responsible for many services usually provided by the city. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to the community is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, an office is located in Homer, and a main office is located in Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Koliganek is accessible by air, water, and snow machine in the winter. A 3,000 foot State-owned runway is available and is new to the community. The approximate cost to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Koliganek is \$464 according to Travelocity and Expedia (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). During the summer, travel is usually by boat and all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Residents travel south down the river to New Stuyahok frequently. No docking facilities are available in the community and goods are lightered from Dillingham. Accommodations are available at the Ketok Lodge, Marantha Lodge, and High Cache Lodge. There is one school in the village, Koliganek School which teaches grades K-12. In 2000 the school had 79 students and 7 teachers. Health care is available at the Koliganek Health Clinic which is owned by the Village Council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). At present, a new clinic is under construction. Police services are offered by the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The

**2000 Employment Structure
Koliganek**

Data source: US Census



electric utility is the Koliganek Village Council which is operated by the Village Council and School and the main power source is diesel. According to a sample by the 2000 Census, about 70.4% of households heated using kerosene and 25.9% heated using wood. A little more than half of the homes in the community are connected to a community septic tank and piped water system and the remaining homes use individual septic systems and wells or haul water and have honeybuckets. The sewer system is operated by the Village Council as is the water system and the operation of the landfill. Individuals are responsible for the collection of their own refuse.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Koliganek is located relatively far inland, the community is still involved in commercial fishing not only of salmon, but also of herring and halibut. A total of 20 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community of Koliganek in 2000 and 38 residents were licensed crew members. Nine resident vessel owners in Koliganek participated in the salmon fishery, and no resident vessel owners participated in the federal fisheries.

Out of the total of 20 permits which were issued to residents, 13 were fished in 2000. Three permits were issued for the commercial fishing of halibut to Koliganek residents (none fished). Two were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay and one for herring roe using a gillnet in Norton Sound. Seventeen

permits were issued for salmon (13 fished): 14 were issued using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (10 fished) and 3 using set gillnet in Bristol Bay (3 fished).

No landings were delivered in Koliganek in 2000 as no processors were in operation in the community

Sport Fishing

Salmon can be caught on the Nushagak River in addition to other species, and on this Koliganek appears to have built the beginnings of a sport industry. In 2000, according to the ADF&G, 10 sport fishing licenses were sold in Koliganek to residents of the State of Alaska and 13 were sold to non-residents. One business in Koliganek was listed with ADF&G for 2002 as a freshwater guide business as well as a lodge/resort service.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence is very important to residents of the community. According to the ADF&G, for the most representative year of 1987 in Koliganek, 100.0% of households used all subsistence resources: 83.3% salmon, 92.9% non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, flounder, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, sucker, trout, and whitefish), 71.4% marine mammals, and 14.3% marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest for community members was 830.47 lbs: 43.64% salmon, 11.47% non-salmon fish, 0% marine mammals, 0.16% marine invertebrates, 1.39% birds and eggs, 40.88% land mammals, and 2.51% vegetation. In 1999 a total of 18 household subsistence permits were issued to residents of Koliganek by ADF&G for a total estimated harvest of 2,772 fish.