

# Larsen Bay

## People and Place

### Location

Larsen Bay is located on the northwest coast of Kodiak Island on Larsen Bay. The community is 60 miles southwest of the City of Kodiak and 283 miles southwest of Anchorage. It makes up 5.4 square miles of land and 2.2 square miles of water and is in the Kodiak Recording District.

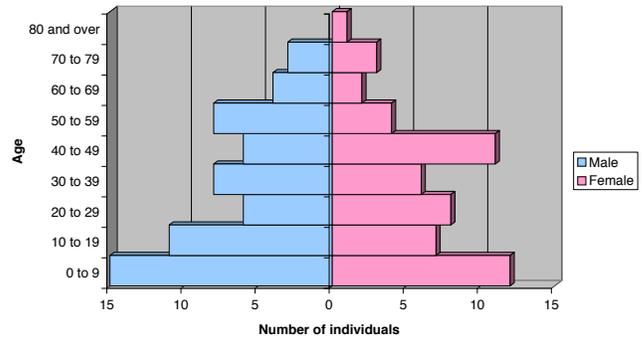
### Demographic Profile

Larsen Bay had a total population of 115 as recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census, with 53% of the inhabitants were male and 47% were female. According to the Census, in 1880 there were no recorded inhabitants of Larsen Bay, and in 1890 there were 20 recorded inhabitants. The population was recorded as zero again for the years 1900 through 1930, but then climbed until 1980 to 168 inhabitants, again declining a bit to the reported population in 2000. In 2000, 20.9% of the population identified as White, 78.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 0.9% as two or more races. Ninety-one percent of the population were all or part American Indian and Alaska Native. No one in the community identified as Hispanic. The median age of those in the community was 29.3 years versus the national average of 35.3 years. About 61.7% of the population was 18 years of age and over. There were 70 total housing units in Larsen Bay in 2000, with 30 units vacant, and 28 of those vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the population lived in group quarters when the 2000 Census was conducted. Nearly 80.7% of the population age 25 years and older had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling, and 15.8% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

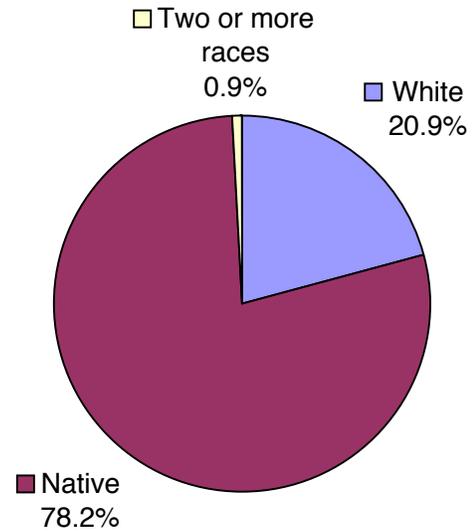
### History

The history of Larsen Bay is intimately tied into the history of the city of Kodiak mentioned in the previous section. The area of Larsen Bay is believed to have been inhabited for at least 2,000 years. Hundreds of artifacts have been uncovered in the community, which attest to the fact that an Aleut or more recently termed Alutiiq community lived in the area for about 2,000 years prior to the first contact with Russian explorers in the mid-1700s when fur traders began to frequent the islands. A tannery was present at Uyak Bay during the early 1800s. Peter Larsen was an Unga

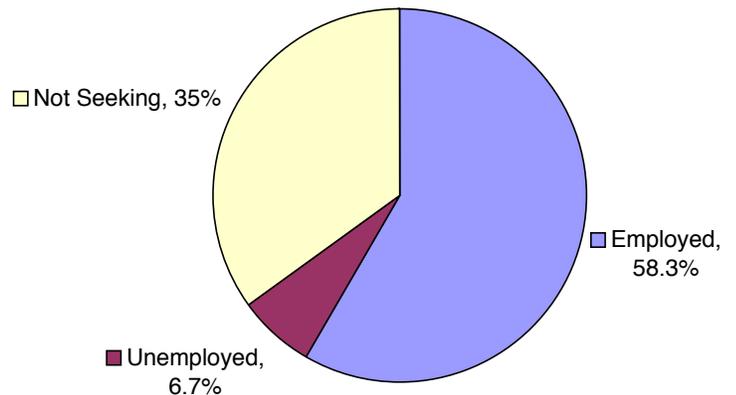
**2000 Population Structure  
Larsen Bay**  
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure  
Larsen Bay**  
Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure  
Larsen Bay**  
Data source: US Census



Island furrier, hunter, and guide during the late 1800s, and at the time of the 1890 Census the Native village of Uyak, which was situated on the west shore of the bay, was renamed Larsen Bay after the furrier (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994). The community was recorded as having 20 occupants at that time. A cannery was built in the village in 1911 by the Alaska Packers Association. Larsen Bay was incorporated in the year 1974. The city gained national attention in 1991 because the Smithsonian Institution repatriated the remains of 756 Alutiiq people who had been taken 50 years earlier according to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The remains were given a Russian Orthodox reburial and interned in a mass grave. This was the largest repatriation of Native remains carried out by the Smithsonian.

## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

The economy of Larsen Bay is largely based on commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing. In 2000 there were a total of 22 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Larsen Bay, and 29 licensed crew members. There are a small number of year-round employment positions in the community. Five lodges are present in the city, providing tour-guide services, and a large number of residents are dependent on subsistence hunting. There was numerous sport fishing guide businesses present in the city. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 58.3% of the population age 16 and over were employed, 6.7% were unemployed, and 35.0% were not in the labor force. Of those working; 37.1% were private wage and salary workers, 60.0% were classified as government workers, and 2.9% were self-employed. The per capita income was \$16,227 with the median household income was \$40,833. About 20.5% of the population lived below the poverty level.

### Governance

Larsen Bay is a second-class city, incorporated in 1974, and has a manager form of government with a mayor, a seven person city council, advisory school board, and four municipal employees (airport/utilities manager, city clerk/water & sewer, librarian, and

public safety person). The city is part of the Kodiak Island Borough and has a 3% sales tax, a 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax imposed by the Borough, a 5% accommodations tax from the Borough, and a 0.925% severance tax also imposed by the Borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc., and the non-profit half of the corporation is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). The Native village corporation for the community is Anton Larsen, Inc. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council for the community is the Native Village of Larsen Bay, which is also a tribal government contractor. 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

The community is accessible by both the air and water. There are both regularly scheduled and charter flights available from 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 Larsen Bay from Kodiak by charter plane. A 2,700 foot gravel airstrip, owned by the State, is present in the community as well as a seaplane base. A breakwater and boat harbor was recently finished in 2002 and docking facilities are available in Larsen Bay. Every six weeks a cargo barge arrives from Seattle. There are several hotels that provide accommodations; the Larsen Bay Lodge, Wick's Adventure Lodge, Panamaroff Lodge, Uyak Bay Lodge, and the Kodiak Lodge. There is one school in the community, the Larsen Bay School, a K-12th grade with 25 students and 2 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Larsen Bay Health Clinic which is run by the Village Council, although the clinic is in need of major renovations. Police services are provided by a Village Public Safety Official (VPSO). Electricity is available from the Larsen Bay Utility Company and is owned and operated by the city with the main power source of hydroelectric with a diesel backup. The city also operates the sewage system, the refuse collection and landfill, and the water service. All 40 homes in the community are connected to the piped water system.

## **Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries**

### **Commercial Fishing**

There were 22 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Larsen Bay in 2000 and there were 29 licensed crew members from the community. Four vessel owners participated in the federal commercial fisheries and three participated in the commercial salmon fishery. Out of the 22 permits issued, 20 permits were fished in 2000. Eight permits were issued for other groundfish: three for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (three fished), one for miscellaneous salt water finfish using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished), and four were issued for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (three fished). One permit was issued for octopi/squid using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished). Thirteen permits were issued for salmon (12 fished): 7 were issued for salmon with a set gillnet in Kodiak (7 fished), 2 for salmon using a beach seine in Kodiak (none fished), and 4 were issued to residents of the community and recorded at the end of the year using a purse seine in Kodiak (5 fished).

No vessels delivered landings to Larsen Bay in 2000 because there were no processors in operation in the community. Local landings were likely delivered to the city of Kodiak or to the processor at Alitak Bay. The Kodiak Salmon Packers cannery is located in the community of Larsen Bay and has been in operation again since 2000, but was not open during that particular year due to low salmon prices. The Kodiak Island Borough, of which Larsen Bay is a part, was recently allotted \$362,963 in federal salmon disaster funds which will most likely be used for borough projects and to partially replace revenues which would have been gathered from the fish tax. The Borough was also 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 U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

### **Sport Fishing**

The Kodiak Island Official Visitors Guide reported that Larsen Bay “lodges lure anglers from around the world for some of the best fishing in the archipelago.” There were a large number of sport fishing businesses in Larsen Bay with 10 listings for saltwater guide businesses, 10 for freshwater, 3 drop-off services listings, and 6 full service guiding business listings for 2002. There were 75 sport fishing licenses sold in Larsen Bay to Alaska residents in 2000, and a total of 497 licenses were sold to non-residents.

### **Subsistence Fishing**

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence in Larsen Bay for 1997 (the most representative subsistence year): 96.2% of all households used all subsistence resources, 96.2% used salmon, 76.9% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, skates, sole, wolffish, char, grayling, pike, sturgeon, trout, and whitefish), 23.1% used marine mammals, and 61.5% of all households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources in Larsen Bay in 1997 was 370.48 lbs. The breakdown of that harvest was: 57.62% salmon, 21.36% non-salmon fish, 0.57% marine mammals, 3.44% marine invertebrates, 0.38% birds and eggs, 14.97% land mammals, and 1.64% vegetation. According to the ADF&G there were a total of 10 household subsistence salmon permits issued to residents of Larsen Bay in 1999 for an estimated total of 556 salmon harvested. Residents of Larsen Bay have the right to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.