

Manokotak

People and Place

Location

Manokotak is situated on the Igushik River. The community is 25 miles southwest of Dillingham and 347 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is in the Dillingham Census Area and makes up 36.4 square miles of land and 0.9 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

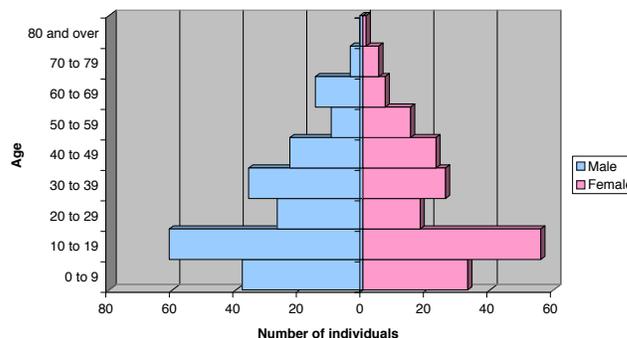
The community of Manokotak had a population of 399 at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, with 53.9% of the population male and 46.1% female. The community became a permanent settlement in 1946-47, and since the 1950 census the population has continued to rise from the 120 persons reported in 1950 to the 404 reported by the State Demographer in 2002. The racial composition in 2000 was as follows: 94.7% American Indian and Alaska Native, 4.8% White, 0.3% Black, and 0.3% two or more races. No one identified as Hispanic. The median age in Manokotak was 21.9 years of age versus the national median age of 35.3 years. There were a total of 106 housing units of which 13 were vacant at the time of the census, and two vacant due to seasonal use. No one lived in group quarters in the community. Out of the population 25 years of age and over, about 62.5% had graduated from high school or higher and about 10.8% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

The community of Manokotak is one of the newer villages in the region of Bristol Bay as it became a permanent settlement between 1946 and 1947. It was formed by the merging of Igushik and Tuklung, although people also joined the village from Kulukak, Togiak, and Aleknagik. In 1949 the school was in a church, but by 1958-59 a proper school had been built. The post office was built in 1960. Trapping has declined in the area since the 1960s, but had been a lure to Manokotak prior. In 1970 the City became incorporated. Residents of the community use Iguashik as a summer fish camp. The village of Manokotak is a Yup'ik community with a lifestyle based on fishing, trapping, and subsistence. The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is not allowed in the city.

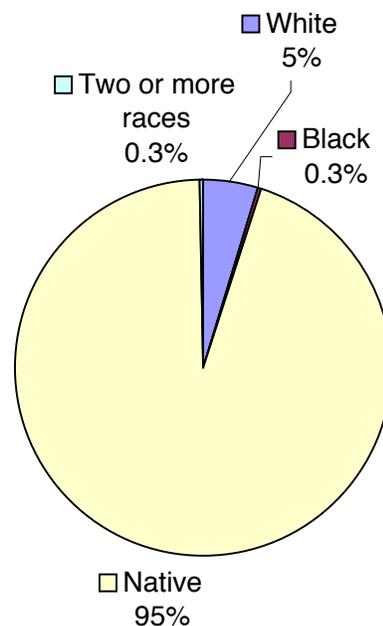
**2000 Population Structure
Manokotak**

Data source: US Census



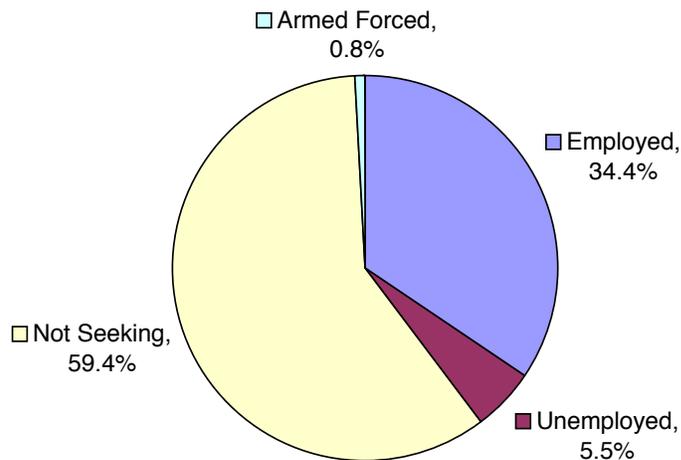
**2000 Racial Structure
Manokotak**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Manokotak**

Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Manokotak depends for the most part on commercial fishing, trapping, and subsistence activities. In 2000, 152 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community and 97 community members were licensed crew members. Many residents trap fox, beaver, mink, and otter. Residents rely heavily on subsistence and usually move to Igushik or Ekuk each summer. Reciprocal relationships exist between residents of Manokotak and several nearby villages, especially Togiak and Twin Hills. Of the population age 16 years and over, about 34.4% was employed, 5.5% was unemployed, 0.8% was in the armed forces, and 59.4% was not in the labor force. Of those employed, about 83.0% were classified as government workers. The per capita income was \$9,294 and the median household income was \$26,875. About 35.3% of residents lived below the poverty level in 2000.

Governance

Manokotak is a second-class city incorporated in 1970 and has a Mayor form of government, including the mayor, a seven person city council, a five person advisory school board, and a few municipal employees. There is a 2% sales tax in the city, but no property tax. The city is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation in which the city is included 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 Manokotak Natives Ltd. and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional Council is the Manokotak Village Council. The Community Development Quota (CDQ) group in which the village is included is the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located in Dillingham. A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) field office is located in Bethel, and there are offices in Homer and Anchorage. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

The city of Manokotak is accessible by both air and water. A 2,740 foot lighted gravel airstrip which is owned by the State is located one mile north of the

community, and a 5,000 foot seaplane base is present. Flights are available from Dillingham; both regularly scheduled flights as well as charter. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from Manokotak is \$404 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). There are no docking facilities on the Igushik River and supplies are lightered each summer, and must be pulled up to the mud beach. Traveling by boat on the Igushik River can be difficult as the river is made up of many miles of meandering loops. In 1998 construction began on a 6.5 mile road to a barge landing area on the Snake River. Residents use ATVs, snowmachines, and some vehicles for transportation. During the winter months, snowmachines use the Manokotak Trail to travel to Dillingham to haul fuel. There are no visitor accommodations in the community. Manokotak School instructs grades K-12 and had 142 students and 17 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Manokotak Health Clinic which is owned by the Village Council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). The clinic has problems with water freezing and the community would like to construct a new facility. Police services are available from the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). The electric utility is the Manokotak Power Company which is operated by the Village Corporation with a main power source of diesel. The City operates the water system which consists of a piped water system that serves 68 households along with the piped sewer system. A duplex and two homes have individual wells. The City operates the sewer system and the landfill as well, although individuals are responsible for collecting their own refuse.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Manokotak is not located directly on the coast it still has a large tie to the commercial fishing industry and many members of the community hold commercial fishing permits. A total of 152 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of the community in 2000 and 97 residents were licensed crew members. There were 25 residents which owned vessels and participated in the commercial salmon fishery in 2000, although no resident vessel owners participated in federal fisheries.

Out of the 152 permits issued to Manokotak

residents, 75 were fished in 2000. Three permits were issued for halibut using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished). Seventy-five commercial permits were issued for herring (8 fished): 3 were issued for herring roe using a gillnet in Security Cove (none fished), 24 for herring roe using a gillnet in Bristol Bay (7 fished), 2 for herring roe using a gillnet in Goodnews Bay (one fished), and 46 for herring spawn on kelp harvested by diving or handpicked in Bristol Bay (none fished). One permit was issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (not fished). A total of 73 permits were issued for salmon (66 fished): 28 were issued using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (25 fished), 44 using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (41 fished), and one using a set gillnet in the Kuskokwim (not fished).

No landings were delivered to Manokotak in 2000 because no processors were in operation in the community.

The CDQ group in which Manokotak is included, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), was recently granted \$75,026 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 community does not seem to draw many tourists to the area for sport fishing as there are no

businesses present to support sport fishing or any hotels where tourists could lodge. In 2000 the ADF&G reported one sport fishing license sold in Manokotak to a resident of the State of Alaska. Also according to ADF&G, in 2002 there were no sport fishing businesses listed in Manokotak.

Subsistence Fishing

Residents of Manokotak are heavily dependent on subsistence harvests. Relationships exist with neighboring communities for sharing resources, especially Togiak and Twin Hills. According to the ADF&G for the most representative year, 1985, 100.0% of households used all subsistence resources: 100.0% salmon, 100.0% non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, flounder, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, trout, and whitefish), 83.3% marine mammals, and 88.9% marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest for Manokotak’s residents was 384.07 lbs of all subsistence resources of which 35.36% was salmon, 22.16% was non-salmon fish, 8.49% was marine mammals, 1.18% was marine invertebrates, 4.39% was birds and eggs, 24.73% was land mammals, and 3.68% was vegetation. In 1999 as reported by ADF&G, there were 18 household subsistence salmon permits issued for a total estimated harvest of 3,413 fish. Residents of Manokotak are eligible to apply for subsistence halibut certificates. 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.