

Naknek

People and Place

Location

Naknek is situated on a 100-foot bluff overlooking the northern bank of the mouth of the Naknek River, at the northeastern end of Bristol Bay. It is 297 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 84.2 square miles of land and 0.7 square miles of water. Naknek lies about 20 miles from the western border of Katmai National Monument which encompasses Mt. Katmai, Mt. Novarupta, and the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes.

Demographic Profile

According to the U.S. Census, the population of Naknek was 678 with gender in the community skewed towards males (53.8%) versus females (46.2%). Total population numbers have been increasing steadily since the late 1800s. A major upsurge in the population occurred between 1960 and 1970, although not adequately reflected in census data because of the seasonal nature of the occupations of these new community members. The 1973, the Limited Entry Act passed by the Alaska State Legislature slowed the increase of out-of-state fishers here and elsewhere (Partnow 2001:11). Seasonal fluxes in the resident population can occur on the order of 2000 people, attracted to the most prolific sockeye salmon fishery in the world. For the most part, people reside on their boats, in tents on the beach, or in cannery bunkhouses.

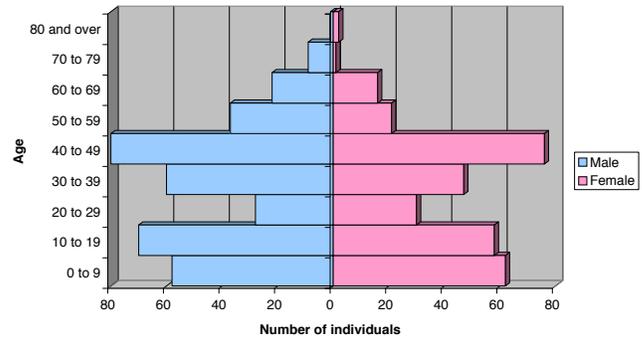
The racial composition of the population in 2000 was: 51.1% White, 45.3% Alaska Native or American Indian, 0.1% Asian, 0.7% Pacific Islander, and 2.4% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 47.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Less than 1% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic.

The median age was 34.4 years which is comparable to the national average of 35.3 years for the same year. About 37% of the population was 19 years and below while only about 10% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There were 40 housing units in Naknek, 18 of which were vacant in 2000. Of those, 2 were vacant due to seasonal use. None of the population lived in group quarters.

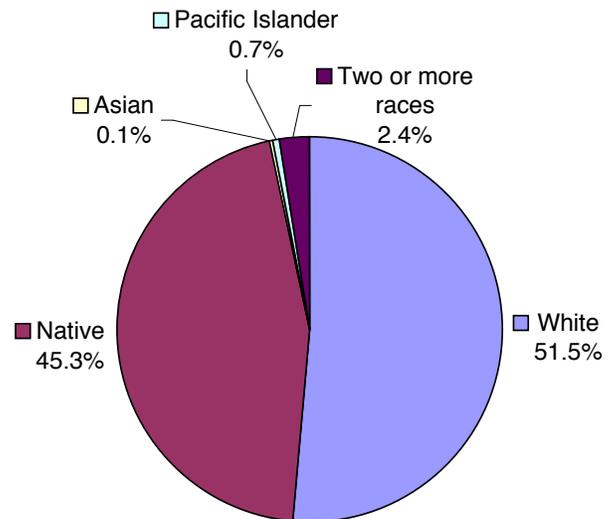
**2000 Population Structure
Naknek**

Data source: US Census



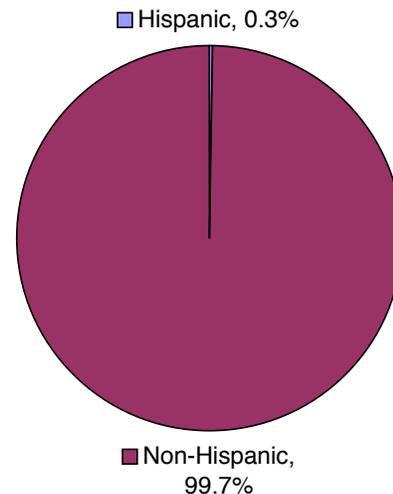
**2000 Racial Structure
Naknek**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Naknek**

Data source: US Census



According to 2000 census data, about 65% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, and about 17% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

The region around Naknek was settled by Yupik Eskimos and Athabascan Indians over 6000 years ago. Residents of villages in the area used rivers to interact with each other and for transport in pursuit of seasonal subsistence resources. In 1821, the original Eskimo village of "Naugeik" was noted by Capt. Lt. Vasiliev. By 1880, the village was called Kinuyak and later spelled Naknek by the Russian Navy. The Russians built a fort near the village and fur trappers inhabited the area for some time prior to the U.S. purchase of Alaska. The first salmon cannery opened on the Naknek River in 1890. The Homestead Act enabled canneries to acquire land for their plants, and also made land available to other institutions and individuals including the Russian Orthodox Church. Squatters built shelters on the church property and were eventually sold lots in what became the center of Naknek. Naknek has developed over the years as a major fishery center.

Infrastructure

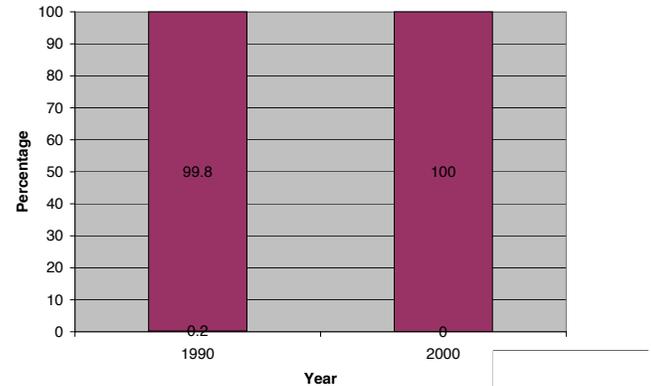
Current Economy

Naknek, as the political and economic seat of the Bristol Bay Borough, is the business center for the Bay. The local economy of Naknek, driven by the fishing industry, relies heavily on associated services including government employment, and is supplemented to some degree by subsistence practices. Naknek's economy is highly sensitive to the seasonality of the fishing industry and to the huge sockeye salmon fishery in Bristol Bay in particular. Several thousand people typically flood the area during the fishing season. A total of 154 commercial fishing permits were held by 115 permit holders in 2000 according to ACFEC. Millions of pounds of salmon are trucked over Naknek-King Salmon road each summer, where jets transport the salmon around the world. Trident Seafoods, North Pacific Processors, Ocean Beauty, and six other fish processors operate facilities in Naknek.

In 2000, 71.1% of the potential labor force was employed, with a 6.7% unemployment rate in Naknek. A total of 28.9% of the population over 16 years of age were not in the labor force and 3.7% of the population

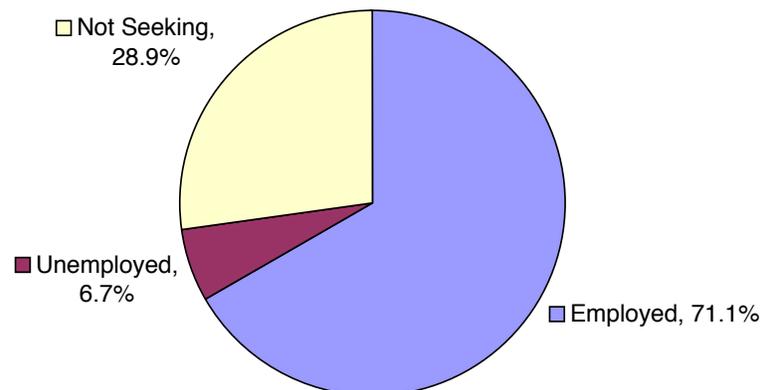
**% Group Quarters
Naknek**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Naknek**

Data source: US Census



lived below the poverty level. The government is a significant employer in Naknek where 51.2% of the potential labor force worked for the government. The median household income in the same year was \$53,393 and the per capita income was \$21,182.

Governance

Naknek is an unincorporated city within the Bristol Bay Borough. The Bristol Bay Borough functions as the chief governing body for the communities of Naknek, South Naknek, and King Salmon. However, because of Naknek's status as an unincorporated city there are no city or borough officials or finances associated with the city. Bristol Bay Native Association is the regional no-profit organization. The Naknek Village Council is federally recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Naknek is a member of the regional for-profit Bristol Bay Native Corporation under the Alaska

Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Paug-Vik, Inc., Limited is the local Native village corporation. The total land entitlement under ANCSA is about 130,000 acres. Naknek is involved in a Community Development Quota program under the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Unalaska, as is the nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), and there is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office located in Naknek.

Facilities

Naknek is accessible both by air and by sea and is connected to King Salmon overland by road. The cost of a round trip flight from Naknek to Anchorage, via King Salmon, is \$357 plus the cost of a charter flight between King Salmon and Naknek (based on the closest available date to 1 September, 2003). Two airports, one state owned and one private, are located just outside of Naknek. The Borough operates the cargo dock at Naknek, which is the Port of Bristol Bay; however, no commercial docking facilities are available at the canneries, although the development of a fisherman's dock, freight dock, and Industrial Park are regional priorities. The majority of public and private buildings have individual wells and are fully plumbed including a collective sewage network operated by the Borough. Other waste facilities are shared with the nearby community of King Salmon. Electricity is provided by Naknek Electric Association.

Naknek is within the Bristol Bay Borough School District. There are two schools in Naknek itself. Twelve teachers instruct 114 students at Bristol Bay High School and 8 teachers instruct 109 students at Naknek Elementary School. Public security is provided by the borough. Local health care is provided at Camai Clinic run by the Bristol Bay Borough. There are several facilities to accommodate tourists in Naknek.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

The fishing industry in Naknek is dominated by the salmon fishery which is very significant to the community's economy. According to ACFEC figures for 2000, 154 permits were held by 115 permit holders (123 fished). There was one vessel owner in the federal fisheries, 39 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and

161 crew members claiming residence in Naknek.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Naknek was involved in halibut (27 vessels) and salmon (900 vessels) fisheries. In 2000, there were 11,493.62 tons of salmon landed at the docks in Naknek. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for other species in the community are unavailable.

Salmon: A total of 110 permits were issued for the salmon fishery in 2000 (103 fished). Permits for salmon pertained to one drift gillnet confined to the Alaska Peninsula, 38 drift gillnets confined to Bristol Bay (39 fished), and 71 set gillnets confined to Bristol Bay (63 fished).

Halibut: There were a total of 16 permits issued for the halibut fishery (three fished). Permits issued in Naknek for halibut pertained to 14 longline vessels under 60 feet (three fished) and two permits were issued for longline vessels over 60 feet (none fished), both with statewide range.

Herring and groundfish: Permits issued for herring roe pertained to 2 purse seine limited to Bristol Bay, 7 gillnets in Security Cove (2 fished), 15 gillnets in Bristol Bay (12 fished), and 3 gillnets in Norton Sound (one fished). There was also one permit issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig with statewide range which was not actually fished in 2000.

Naknek is a significant node in Alaska's fishing industry with several processors and numerous processor-supported port facilities. The harbor and dock are well equipped to deal with the demand driven by the seasonally intense harvest in Alaska's fisheries. Many landings cross the docks in Naknek which are subsequently transported to processors both within Naknek and the nearby communities of South Naknek and King Salmon.

Bristol Bay is home to the largest sockeye salmon run in North America. The majority of fish processed in Naknek is salmon, at least nine processors have this capacity, but halibut and herring are also processed. There at least 11 processing plants in Naknek altogether, including Trident Seafoods Corporation, Ocean Beauty Seafoods Inc., and Alaska General Seafoods. The Wards Cove processing facility, which included a community grocery store, was sold to Seattle-based Yardarm Knot in the spring for 2003. The outward

movement of Wards Cove Packing Company from numerous Alaskan communities has not happened without significant economic and social stress.

It was announced in July 2003 that the Bristol Bay Borough, in which Naknek is located, would receive \$1,739,411 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices due to competition with foreign aquaculture fish. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002 the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), to which Naknek belongs, received \$140,062 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

A total of 365 sport fishing licenses were sold in Naknek in 2000, 170 of which were sold to Alaska residents. Four sport fishing businesses are currently operating in Naknek. Naknek river drainage system provides optimum opportunities for freshwater salmon fishing, although several regulations restrict where and when sport fishing can be conducted in the area.

Subsistence Fishing

Numerous social, economic, and technological changes have influenced life in Alaskan fishing communities, and subsistence harvests and practices continue to provide fishing communities with important nutritional, economic, social, and cultural requirements. Data from 1983 compiled on behalf of

the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Naknek. A high percentage of households participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. About 92.3% of the total population in that year used both salmon and non-salmon fish resources (smelt, char, grayling, pike, and trout). Approximately 15.4% of the population used marine mammals and 34.6% used marine invertebrates. The total per capita harvest for the year was 188.18 lbs.

The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resources categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 54.44% salmon, 9.89% non-salmon fish, 35.11% land mammals, and marine mammals accounted for only 0.55% of the total harvest. The harvest quantities for birds and eggs, marine invertebrates, and vegetation were not recorded in the Division of Subsistence database. The wild food harvest in Naknek made up 122% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1983 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or .424 lbs of wild food per day) (Wolfe, division of Subsistence, ADF&G).

According to records from 1999, 111 permits were held by households in Naknek for subsistence fishing of salmon. Sockeye made up the vast majority of the subsistence salmon harvest. Residents of Naknek and members of Naknek Native Village 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.