

New Stuyahok

People and Place

Location

The community of New Stuyahok is situated on the Nushagak River. It is located about 12 miles upriver from Ekwok and 52 miles northeast of Dillingham. It has been constructed at two elevations: one is at 25 feet above the river level and one is about 40 feet above the level of the river. The community is located in the Dillingham Census Area and makes up 32.6 square miles of land and 2.0 square miles of water.

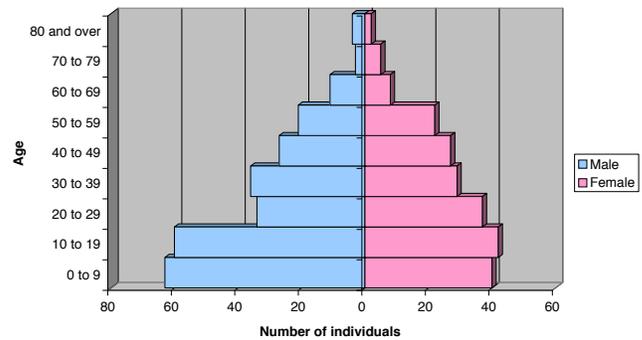
Demographic Profile

There were 471 inhabitants of the community of New Stuyahok in 2000 and of those 55.0% were male and 45.0% were female. Since a population was first recorded for the community at its present location by the 1950 Census, the population has continued to grow from the 88 residents reported in 1950 to the 479 in 2002 as established by a State Demographer. In 2000 about 92.8% of the population of New Stuyahok was American Indian and Alaska Native, 3.8% were White, and 3.4% were of two or more races. A total of 96% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 1.3% of the population was Hispanic in 2000. The median age for the community was 24.4 years of age, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. There were a total of 107 housing units with two having been vacant and one of those vacant due to seasonal use at the time of the Census. No one in the city lived in group quarters. Out of the population age 25 and over, about 67.5% had graduated from high school or higher and 10.3% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately 25.9% of the inhabitants age 25 and over had completed less than 9th grade at the time of the 2000 Census.

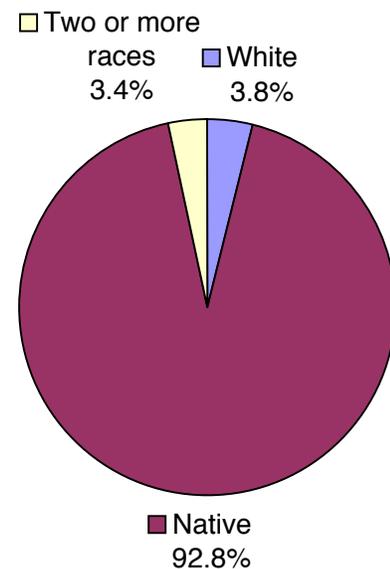
History

The current site of New Stuyahok is the third location of the village that community members can remember. In 1918 the village moved downriver from the "Old Village" to the Mulchatna area. The community was involved in herding reindeer for the U.S. government in the 1920s and 30s, but by 1942 the herd had dwindled down to nothing. In addition to the diminishing herd, the village site was too far inland at that time to receive barge service and the village had

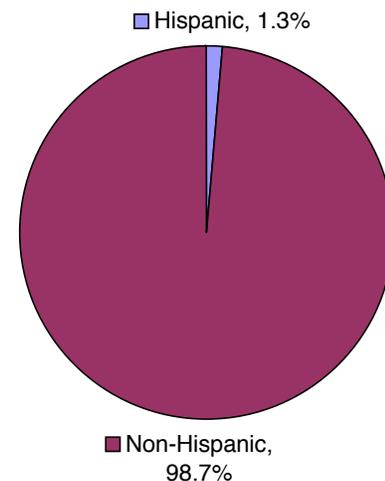
**2000 Population Structure
New Stuyahok**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Racial Structure
New Stuyahok**
Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
New Stuyahok**
Data source: US Census



been exposed to flooding, therefore the village moved downriver in 1942 to its present location. The name Stuyahok fittingly means “going downriver place.” In 1961 the first school was built in New Stuyahok, in addition a post office was built in the same year, and soon after an airstrip was built. In the decade of the 1960s the community experienced a 40% increase in its population. In 1972 the City became incorporated. The city of New Stuyahok is a southern Yup’ik community with a lifestyle of fishing and subsistence. Russian Orthodox influences are visible.

Infrastructure

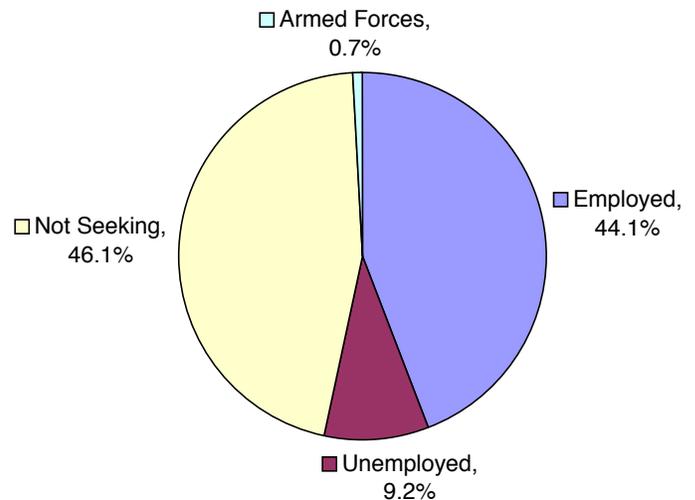
Current Economy

The economy of New Stuyahok is based for the most part on the salmon fishery, including both commercial and subsistence fishing. In 2000 there were 61 commercial fishing permits which were issued to residents of the community and a total of 96 licensed crew members who claimed residency. Many community members are involved in trapping and the whole community is dependent upon subsistence harvesting. Oftentimes, subsistence resources are traded between neighboring communities. Of the population age 16 years and over in New Stuyahok about 44.1% were employed, 9.2% were unemployed, 0.7% were in the armed forces, and 46.1% were not in the labor force. Of those which were employed about 67.7% were classified as having been government workers. The per capita income was \$7,931 with the median household income having been \$26,042. About 31.7% of residents were below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

New Stuyahok is a second-class city which was incorporated in 1972 and has a Mayor form of government which includes the mayor, an eight person city council, five person advisory school board, and various municipal employees including a police officer and a public safety officer. There are no taxes imposed by the City and New Stuyahok is not part of any organized borough. The regional Native corporation in which the community is included is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation with the regional non-profit for the area being the Bristol Bay Native Association. The Native village corporation is Stuyahok Limited. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Traditional

**2000 Employment Structure
New Stuyahok**
Data source: US Census



Council is the New Stuyahok Village Council. 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

New Stuyahok is accessible for the most part by air. From Dillingham both charter and regularly scheduled flights are available. The approximate cost according to Travelocity and Expedia to travel by air roundtrip to Anchorage from New Stuyahok is \$449 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). A 1,800 foot lighted, State-owned gravel airstrip is available, although it is located on a hill and conditions are often windy enough to prevent landing. Funds have been requested by the community to build a crosswind landing strip. No docking facilities are available at the City. During the summer months, goods are lightered frequently. Locals normally use skiffs, ATVs, and snow machines as modes of transportation. Accommodations are reportedly available at the clinic, City office, and at the school. One school is located in New Stuyahok, Chief Ivan Blunka School, which teaches grades K-12. In 2000 the school had a total of 166 students and 8 teachers. Health care is available at the New Stuyahok Health Clinic which is owned by the Village Council and operated by the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC). The clinic

needs to be expanded and experiences problems with the water freezing. Police services are provided by the State Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), City Village Police Officer (VPO), and by the City Public Safety Building. The electric utility is AVEC which is operated by the REA Co-op and the City with a main power source of diesel. The water system is operated by the City and those which are not hooked up to the piped water system are responsible for their own water and use individual wells. The washteria is operated by the Village Council and the Splish Splash Washout Center. A greater part of the homes are connected to the piped water and sewer system. The sewer system, landfill operation, and refuse collection are all the responsibility of the City.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although the city of New Stuyahok is located inland on the Nushagak River, the community is still active in the commercial fishing industry, mostly in salmon, but also taking part in the fishing of halibut and herring roe. A total of 61 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of New Stuyahok in 2000 and 96 residents were licensed crew members. Twenty-six vessel owners which were residents of the community participated in the harvesting of salmon, although no residents which were vessel owners participated in the federal fisheries.

Out of the total of 61 permits which were issued to residents, 40 were fished in 2000. One permit was issued for halibut using longline on a vessel over 60 feet statewide, although it was not fished. Nineteen permits were issued for herring, and 5 were fished: 4 were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Security Cove (2 fished), 13 for herring roe using gillnets in Bristol Bay (3 fished), and 2 were issued for herring spawn on kelp gathered by diving or handpicked in Bristol Bay (none fished). Forty-one permits were issued for salmon of which 35 were fished: one was issued for salmon using a purse seine in Kodiak (not fished), 33 using drift gillnets in Bristol Bay (26 fished), and 7 using set gillnets in Bristol Bay (9 fished).

No vessels delivered landings to New Stuyahok because no processors were in operation in 2000.

The CDQ group in which New Stuyahok 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

There is little evidence of sport fishing around the New Stuyahok area and the facilities, such as a hotel or related businesses do not presently exist in the community for this industry. According to the ADF&G, in 2000 no sport fishing licenses were sold in New Stuyahok and in the year 2002 no businesses were listed as being sport fishing services in the community.

Subsistence Fishing

Community members are very dependent on subsistence harvests and often trade items with other villages. According to the ADF&G, for the most representative year of (1987), 100.0% of households used all subsistence resources, 90.0% used salmon, 100.0% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, flounder, blackfish, burbot, char, grayling, pike, sucker, trout, and whitefish), 77.5% used marine mammals, and 15.0% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of community members was 700.42 lbs of which 58.34% was salmon, 5.14% was non-salmon fish, 0.08% was marine mammals, 0.06% was marine invertebrates, 0.56% was birds and eggs, 33.86% was land mammals, and 1.96% was vegetation. Also reported by ADF&G is that 47 household subsistence salmon permits were issued to those from the community in the year 1999. Residents of New Stuyahok do not appear to be eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.