

Old Harbor

People and Place

Location

Old Harbor is situated off of the Gulf of Alaska on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island. The community is located 70 miles southwest of the City of Kodiak and 322 miles southwest of Anchorage. It makes up 21.0 square miles of land and 6.2 square miles of water, and is in the Kodiak Recording District.

Demographic Profile

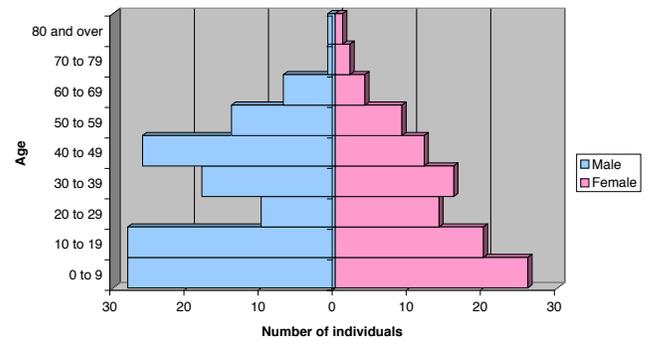
In 2000, Old Harbor had a total population of 237 as recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census. About 56.1% were male and 43.9% were female. It appears that in recent times the population of Old Harbor has been decreasing from 340 inhabitants in 1980 to 229 in 2002, as established by a State Demographer. Residents of a summer fish camp, Kaguyak, also live in the city of Old Harbor. In 2000, 13.1% of the population identified as White, 73.0% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 13.9% as two or more races. No one in the community identified as Hispanic. The median age of the residents of Old Harbor was 27.1 years, considerably younger than the national average of 35.3 years. There were a total of 111 housing units in the community, with 32 of vacant in 2000, and 13 vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters at the time of the census. Approximately 85.1% of the population age 25 and over had graduated from school and gone on to further schooling, 5.3% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 1.8% had a graduate or professional degree in 2000.

History

Old Harbor's history is closely tied to that of the city of Kodiak. The Old Harbor area is believed to have been inhabited for about 2,000 years by Alutiiq peoples. In 1784 a Russian named Gregorii Shelikof visited the area in his flagship the 'Three Saints' and his men founded a settlement at what was termed Three Saints Bay, near the site of what is today Old Harbor. At this settlement the Native population was forced to hunt sea otters. The men were "organized into work groups and forced to hunt at sea in large fleets of bidarkas, while women, old men, and children were made to work on shore" (Mason 1995). Prior to this, hundreds of Alutiiq Natives died jumping off a cliff on Refuge Rock near Sitkalidak Island attempting to escape from Shelikof's

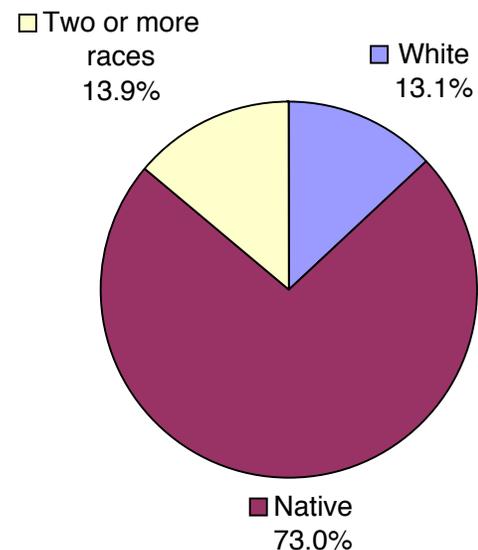
**2000 Population Structure
Old Harbor**

Data source: US Census



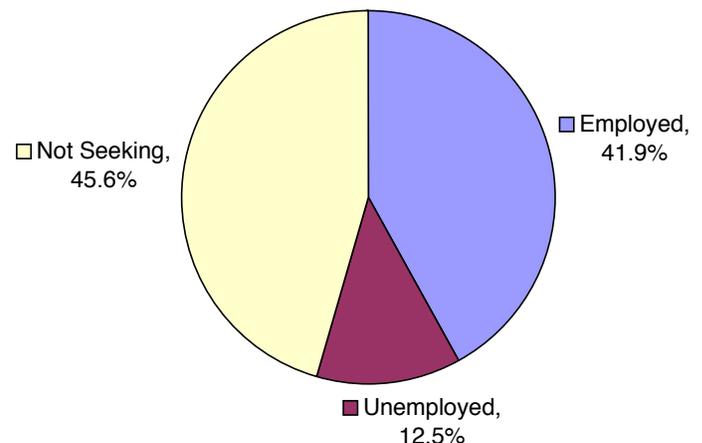
**2000 Racial Structure
Old Harbor**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Employment Structure
Old Harbor**

Data source: US Census



party (Mason 1995). The settlement of Three Saints Bay became the first Russian colony in Alaska, but in 1788 the settlement was destroyed by a tsunami. The community experienced two more earthquakes and relocated to the northeast coast of the island in 1793 to 'Saint Paul's' which is today the city of Kodiak. In 1884 a community was reestablished again at Three Saints Harbor. The town was documented as 'Staruigayan' or 'Old Harbor' when translated from Russian. In 1932 the Old Harbor post office opened. The Good Friday earthquake in 1964 and the tsunami caused by it practically destroyed the whole community of Old Harbor with only the church and two homes remaining in the aftermath. The community was rebuilt and in 1966 the city became incorporated.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial and subsistence fishing, as well as subsistence hunting are all very important to the community of Old Harbor. The city also has numerous sport fishing guide businesses. In 2000, 72 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Old Harbor and 63 residents were licensed crew members. Most community residents are dependent to an extent on subsistence activities including the harvesting of animals such as bear, rabbit, salmon, halibut, seal, and deer. In 2000, of those age 16 and over, approximately 41.9% were employed, 12.5% were unemployed, and 45.6% were not in the labor force. Of those employed, about 43.9% were employed by the government and 14.0% were self-employed. About 42.1% of those working were employed in management, professional, and related occupations. The per capita income in the community in 2000 was \$14,265 with the median household income of \$32,500. About 29.5% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Old Harbor is a second-class city that was incorporated in 1966. The city has a manager form of government which includes a mayor, a seven person city council, a six person advisory school board, and six municipal employees, including a health officer and a Village Public Safety Officer. The city is part of the Kodiak Island Borough and the City has a 3% sales tax. The Borough imposes 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax as well as a 5% accommodations tax and a

0.925% severance tax. 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 is the Old Harbor Native Corporation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council is the Village of Old Harbor. 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 of Old Harbor is reachable by both air and water. Flight are available from Kodiak to the community on both regularly scheduled and charter flights. Old Harbor has a 2,750 foot state-owned gravel runway as well as a seaplane base. 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 Old Harbor from Kodiak by charter plane. A harbor is present with docking facilities for 55 boats. Local barge services and barge service from Seattle are available. Accommodations are available at the Bay View Bed and Breakfast, the Ocean View Lodge, and the Kodiak Sportsman Lodge. There is one school in the community, Old Harbor School, a K-12th grade, with 62 students and 7 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Old Harbor Health Clinic and is operated by KANA, but owned by the city. Police services are available by the State VPSO. The electric utility is AVEC and is operated by REA Co-op and the city with the main power source being diesel, although as of 2000, 100% of the households heated with kerosene. There is no refuse collection available, and the city operates the landfill and the water and sewer systems.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were 72 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Old Harbor, and 63 licensed crew members living in the community. There were 12 vessel owners who were residents of the community and who participated in the commercial fishing of federal species; 11 vessel owners participated in the

commercial salmon fishery. Of the 72 permits issued to residents in 2000, 39 were fished.

Four permits were issued for halibut to residents of Old Harbor (4 fished): one permit was issued for halibut using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide and three were issued for using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide. A total of 16 permits were issued for herring (5 fished). Six permits were issued for herring roe using a purse seine in Kodiak (four fished), one for herring roe using a purse seine in the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), three for herring roe using a purse seine in Bristol Bay (none fished), four for herring roe using a gillnet in Kodiak (none fished), one for herring food/bait using a purse seine in Kodiak (none fished), and one for herring food/bait using a purse seine in the Alaska Peninsula (one fished). There were 21 permits issued in 2000 for other groundfish (12 fished): 7 were issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet statewide (6 fished), 12 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (6 fished), and one was issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear on a vessel 60 feet or over statewide (none fished). Six permits were issued for other shellfish (four fished): five were for octopi/squid using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet statewide (four fished), and one was for shrimp using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet westward (none fished). Twenty-five were issued for the commercial fishing of salmon to the residents of Old Harbor (14 fished): 22 were issued for salmon using a purse seine in Kodiak (10 fished), one for salmon using a beach seine in Kodiak (none fished), and two which were issued to residents of the community and recorded at the end of the year using a set gillnet in Kodiak (four fished).

No vessels delivered landings to the community in 2000 because there was no processor in the community. Landings were most likely delivered to the community of Kodiak or to the processor at Alitak Bay. Old Harbor was recently allotted \$1,604 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted

\$362,963 which will most likely be used for borough projects. 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

There were quite a few sport fishing businesses present in the community of Old Harbor with listings in 2002 - seven saltwater guide businesses and five freshwater guide businesses. There were 17 sport fishing licenses sold in Old Harbor in 2000 to Alaska residents, and a total of 101 licenses sold to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence, in the community of Old Harbor in 1997 (the most representative subsistence year), 100% of all households in the community used all subsistence resources: 97.7% used salmon, 97.7% 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), 69.8% used marine mammals, and 93.0% of households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources in Old Harbor in 1997 was 300.36 lbs. The breakdown of that harvest was: 36.79% salmon, 17.17% non-salmon fish, 14.36% marine mammals, 6.39% marine invertebrates, 3.69% birds and eggs, 19.61% land mammals, and 1.99% vegetation. According to the ADF&G there were 18 household salmon subsistence permits issued to residents of Old Harbor in 1999 for an estimated total of 1,119 salmon harvested during the year. Residents of Old Harbor have the right to apply for subsistence halibut certificates.