

Ouzinkie

People and Place

Location

Ouzinkie is located on Spruce Island and is adjacent to Kodiak Island. The community is northwest of the City of Kodiak and is 247 air miles southwest of Anchorage. It makes up 6.0 square miles of land and 1.7 square miles of water. Ouzinkie is located in the Kodiak Recording District.

Demographic Profile

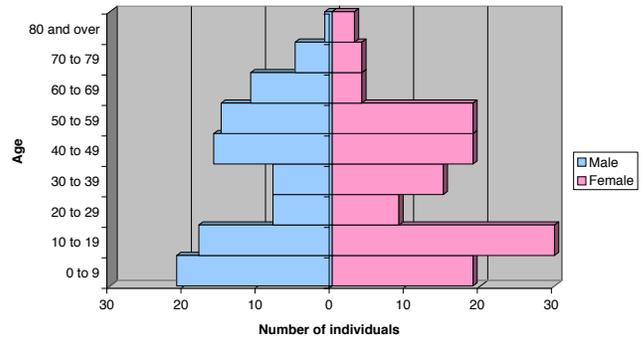
In 2000, Ouzinkie had a total population of 225, with 45.8% male and 54.2% female. Since the 1880 U.S. Census, the population has fluctuated from no inhabitants at the city’s lowest point (1900 and 1910) to 253 inhabitants at the highest point (in 1940). Since 1930 the population has remained relatively stable, close to 200 inhabitants. In 2000, 11.1% of Ouzinkie’s population was White, 80.9% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 8.0% were of two or more races. A total of 87.6% of the residents identified as being American Indian and Alaska Native either alone or in combination with one or more other races. About 4.4% of the population was Hispanic. The median age in the community was 32.8 years old compared to the national average of 35.3 years. There were 86 housing units, and of those 12 were vacant, with 6 vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. About 76.6% of the residents age 25 and over had graduated from high school or went on to further schooling, 11.3% had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 1.6% had a graduate or professional degree.

History

The history of Ouzinkie is intimately tied to the history of the city of Kodiak mentioned in the previous section. The community of Ouzinkie was established in the early 1800’s as a retirement community for the Russian American Company. Ouzinkie takes its name from the Russian word “uzen’kii,” meaning “rather narrow.” Narrow Strait, on which Ouzinkie is located, is the present name of the passage between Spruce and Kodiak Islands. The Royal Packing Company built a cannery in Ouzinkie in the year 1889 and soon after the American Packing Company built a cannery there as well. A Russian Orthodox Church was constructed in the community in 1890. In 1898 the Church of the

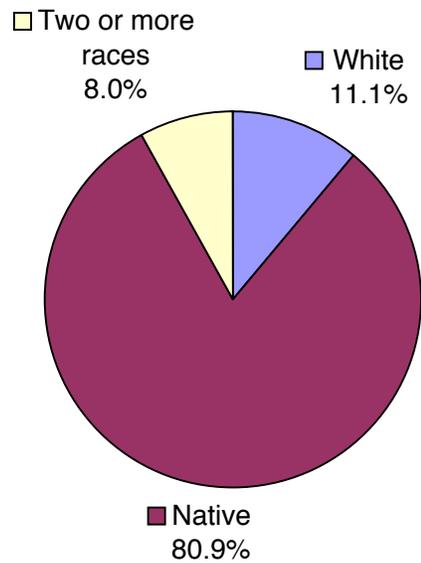
**2000 Population Structure
Ouzinkie**

Data source: US Census



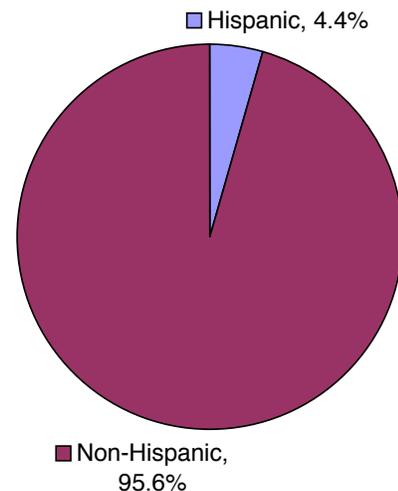
**2000 Racial Structure
Ouzinkie**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Ouzinkie**

Data source: US Census



Nativity was built. In the early 1900's cattle ranching was popular in Ouzinkie and in 1927 a post office was founded. The Good Friday earthquake in 1964 and the tsunamis caused by the earthquake seriously damaged the village and destroyed the Ouzinkie Packing Company cannery. After the earthquake, the remains were purchased by Columbia Ward who rebuilt the store and dock, but did not rebuild the cannery. The city was incorporated in 1967. The Ouzinkie Seafoods cannery was built in the late 60's and was sold to Glacier Bay in 1976, but burned down quickly after the sale. There have been no canneries in operation in the community since 1976.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

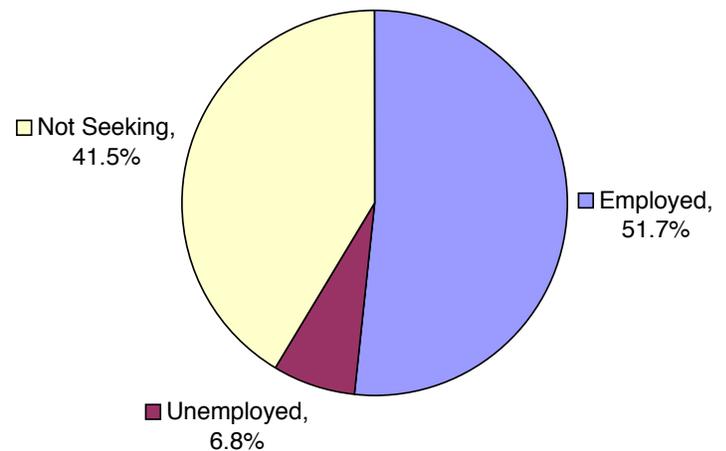
The economy of the community of Ouzinkie is based for the most part on commercial salmon fishing. In 2000 a total of 48 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents, and of those many were issued for salmon. Permits were also issued for halibut, herring, other groundfish, and sablefish. There were 35 residents who were licensed crew members in Ouzinkie in 2000. Subsistence activities are also very important to residents of the community with almost all depending on subsistence to some extent. In 2000, about 51.7% of the population of Ouzinkie was employed, 6.8% were unemployed, and 41.5% were not in the labor force. Of those employed 60.5% reported as being government workers. The per capita income in the community was \$19,324 and the median household income having was \$52,500. About 6.0% of the population lived below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

Ouzinkie is a second-class city incorporated in 1967. The city has a mayor form of government which includes the mayor, a seven person city council, a five person advisory school board, and a variety of municipal employees. Ouzinkie is included in the Kodiak Island Borough and has a 3% sales tax, 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax, 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 Ouzinkie Corporation and the Bureau of Indian

**2000 Employment Structure
Ouzinkie**

Data source: US Census



Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council for the area is the Ouzinkie Tribal Council. The Native Village of Ouzinkie and the Ouzinkie Tribal Council recently received a grant in the amount of \$186,577 from the Rasmuson Foundation in 2002 for the “construction of [a] multi-purpose cultural center” (Rasmuson Foundation 2003). 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

Ouzinkie is reachable by both air and water. The 2,085 foot gravel airstrip is owned by the State, and there is a floatplane landing area present at the Ouzinkie Harbor. 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 Ouzinkie from Kodiak by charter plane. Charter plane services are available from Island Air. A breakwater, small boat harbor, and dock are also present in the community. The Corps of Engineers are currently designing a new small boat harbor and breakwater. Cargo delivery is available by barge from both Seattle and Kodiak. Accommodations are available at City apartment, the Native Village Corporation apartment, and the B&B. One school is present in the community, Ouzinkie School, which

teaches 2-12th grade and had 50 students 6 teachers in 2000. The school has a gym which is available for community use. Health care is available at the Ouzinkie Health Clinic, operated by KANA, and owned by the City, although a new clinic is under construction. There are no police present in the community and fire/rescue is provided by the City Volunteer Fire Department and the U.S. Coast Guard. The electric utility for the area is the City of Ouzinkie with the main power source being hydro with a diesel backup, although in 2000 about 94.4% of the households in the village heated with kerosene. The city also operates the water system, sewer system, refuse collection, and landfill operation.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were a total of 48 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Ouzinkie, and there were 35 licensed crew members in the community. Fourteen vessel owners participated in the commercial fishing of federal species, and 6 vessel owners participated in salmon commercial fishing. Of the 48 permits issued in 2000, 27 were fished that year.

There were 14 permits issued for halibut: 12 for halibut with a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (11 fished), and 2 for halibut using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide (2 fished). Two permits were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Kodiak (none fished). Eighteen permits were issued for other groundfish (6 fished): 4 permits for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a hand troll statewide (none fished), 5 permits for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide, one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet statewide (none fished), 7 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using mechanical jig statewide (2 fished), and one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide (one fished). One permit was issued for sablefish using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide, and it was fished that year. There were 13 permits issued for salmon, (7 fished): 10 were issued for salmon using a purse seine in Kodiak (4 fished), and 3 were issued for salmon using a set

gillnet in Kodiak (3 fished).

No vessels delivered to landings to Ouzinkie in 2000 as there was not a processor in the community. Landings were most likely delivered to the processors at nearby Kodiak. The community of Ouzinkie was recently allotted \$500 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted \$362,963 as well which will most likely be used for Borough projects and receded into the general fund. 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 are two sport fishing businesses in Ouzinkie listed by the ADF&G as both saltwater and freshwater guide businesses. There were a few other companies licensed in 2000 as charter businesses. A total of 46 sport fishing licenses were sold in Ouzinkie to Alaska residents, and a total of 55 licenses were sold to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence, in the community of Ouzinkie in 1997 (the most representative subsistence year), 100% of all households in the community used all subsistence resources: 95.7% used salmon, 97.9% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, wolffish, char, grayling, pike, sturgeon, trout, and whitefish), 59.6% used marine mammals, and 61.7% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest for all subsistence resources was 263.95 lbs in Ouzinkie in 1997. The breakdown of that harvest was: 47.94% salmon, 24.78% non-salmon fish, 5.18% marine mammals, 2.82% marine invertebrates, 4.70% birds and eggs, 10.85% land mammals, and 3.73% vegetation. According to the ADF&G there were 32 household subsistence salmon permits which were issued to residents of Ouzinkie in 1999. Residents are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.