

# Port Lions

## People and Place

### Location

Port Lions is on the north coast of Kodiak Island in Settler Cove. The community is 247 air miles southwest of Anchorage and is located in the Kodiak Recording District. It is made up of 6.3 square miles of land and 3.7 square miles of water.

### Demographic Profile

There were 256 inhabitants of Port Lions in 2000, with 53.1% of the population male and 46.9% female. The population has remained relatively stable since the 1970 U.S. Census. In 2000, 34.8% of the population was White, 63.3% were American Indian and Alaska Native, and 2.0% were of two or more races. A total of 63.7% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian.

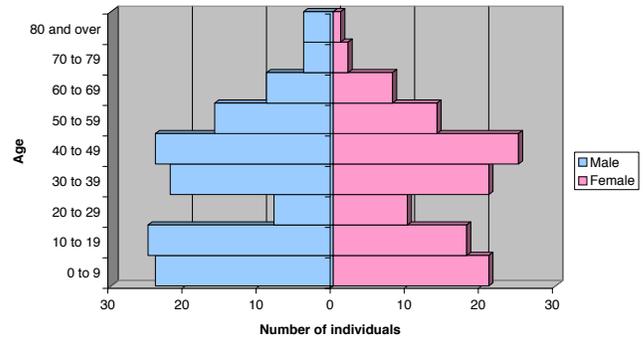
About 2.0% were Hispanic. The median age for the community was 35.6 years old, similar to the national age median of 35.3 years. About 33.2% of the population was under the age of 18 years old. There were a total of 106 housing units in Port Lions, and of those 17 were vacant and 12 of those which were vacant were vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Approximately 83.3% of the population age 25 years and over had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling, 19.5% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 2.3% had a graduate or professional degree.

### History

The history of Port Lions is intimately tied to the history of the city of Kodiak. The town of Port Lions was established in December, 1964 for the inhabitants of the village of Afognak after the Good Friday earthquake's tsunami destroyed their village. The new village was named in honor of the Lions Club because of the service group's support and help in rebuilding and relocating the village. Many members of the community still visit the old village of Afognak, and archeological excavation of the area commenced in 1999. In 1966, the city of Port Lions was incorporated. The Wakefield Cannery on Peregrebni Point existed in the community for many years, but burned down in 1975. The village corporation purchased the Smokwa, a 149 foot floating processor quickly after, which

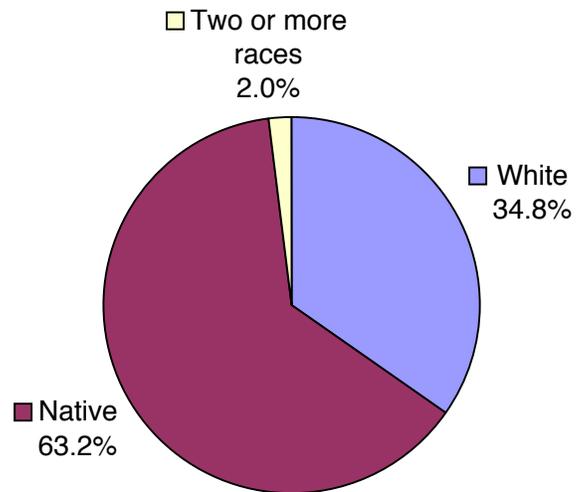
**2000 Population Structure  
Port Lions**

Data source: US Census



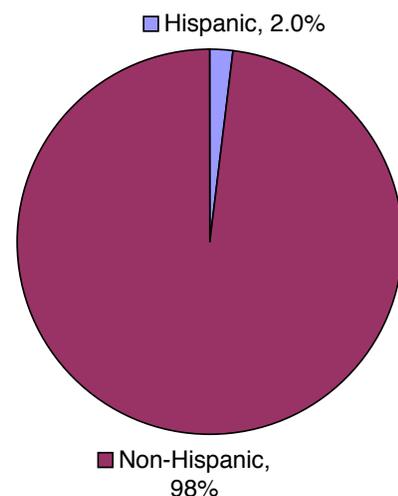
**2000 Racial Structure  
Port Lions**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity  
Port Lions**

Data source: US Census



processed crab between 1975 and 1980. There was also a small sawmill that operated until 1976 and was situated south of the community.

## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

Port Lions' economy is mainly based on commercial fishing, fish processing, and tourism. A total of 49 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Port Lions in 2000, and the community had 41 licensed crew members who were residents. Subsistence is very important to the community as well with all of the residents using subsistence resources. Of the population age 16 and over in 2000, 47.6% were employed, 2.1% were unemployed, and 50.3% were not in the labor force at the time of the Census. Of those which were reported as working, 62.6% were classified as government workers. A total of 29.7% of those working were categorized as being in the industries of education, health, and social services. The per capita income in the community in 2000 was \$17,492 with the median household income of \$39,107. A total of 12.1% of the population lived below the poverty level.

### Governance

Port Lions is a second-class city incorporated in 1966, and has a mayor form of government which includes the mayor, a seven person city council, a three person advisory school board, and various municipal employees including a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). There is no Sales Tax in the community, but there are taxes imposed by the Borough including 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax, 5% accommodations tax, and 0.925% severance tax. The community is part of the Kodiak Island Borough. 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 Afognak Native Corporation, the merged corporation of both Afognak and Port Lions. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council for the area is the Port Lions Traditional Tribal Council which is also merged from the Port Lions and Afognak councils. 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 Port Lions is reachable by both the air and water. Regular and charter 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 the Port Lions from Kodiak. There is a state-owned 2,200 foot gravel airstrip, and seaplanes can use the City dock. Between the months of May and October, the State Ferry runs bi-monthly from Kodiak. The boat harbor and breakwater hold a total of 82 boat slips. Barge service is offered from Seattle. There is one K-12 school in the community, the Port Lions School, which had a total of 48 students and six teachers in 2000. Accommodations are available at the Lions Den Lodge and the Port Lions Lodge & Charters. Health care is available at the Port Lions Health Clinic which is operated by KANA and owned by the City. Police services are provided by a State VPSO. The electric utility is the Kodiak Electric Association which is operated by REA Co-op with the main power source being diesel, although 91.4% of households in 2000 heated using kerosene. The water, sewer, and refuse systems are all operated by the City.

## Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

### Commercial Fishing

There were a total of 49 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Port Lions in 2000, and there were 41 licensed crew members from the community. There were five owners of vessels participating in federal fisheries and eight involved in the commercial fishing of salmon. Of the total 49 permits issued in 2000, only 27 were fished.

Two permits were issued to Port Lions residents for crab; one for Dungeness crab on a pot gear vessel under 60 feet westward (not fished), and one for king crab on a pot gear vessel over 60 feet in Bristol Bay (fished). There were 11 permits issued for halibut: seven for halibut in a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (4 fished), one for halibut using a mechanical jig statewide (one fished), and 3 for halibut in a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide. Seven permits were issued for herring in 2000, (one fished): one was issued for herring roe using a purse

seine in Cook Inlet (none fished), one for herring roe using a purse seine in Kodiak (none fished), two for herring roe using a purse seine in Bristol Bay (one fished), and three for herring roe using a gillnet in Kodiak (none fished). There were a total of 13 permits issued for other groundfish (6 fished): one was issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a hand troll statewide (none fished), 2 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish in a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished), 3 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished), 6 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (3 fished), and one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear in a vessel 60 feet or over statewide (one fished). One permit was issued to a community member for sablefish using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide and the permit was fished. There were 15 commercial fishing permits issued for salmon (10 fished): 12 permits were issued for salmon using a purse seine in Kodiak (8 fished), one for salmon using a beach seine in Kodiak (none fished), one for salmon using a set gillnet in Kodiak (one fished), and one for salmon using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (one fished).

There were no vessels delivering landings to Port Lions because as there is no processor located in the community. Landings are likely being delivered to nearby Kodiak. The community was recently allotted \$1,749 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted \$362,963. 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 quite a few sport fishing businesses in the community of Port Lions. There were 11 listings for saltwater guide businesses, eight for freshwater guide businesses, four for drop-off services, and five for full service guides in 2002. The Port Lions Lodge offers accommodations and sport fishing services such as float trips. There were a total of 18 sport fishing licenses sold in Port Lions to Alaskan residents in 2000, and 148 sold to non-residents.

### **Subsistence Fishing**

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence in 1993, 100% of households used all subsistence resources: 100% used salmon, 95.6% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, skates, sole, wolffish, char, grayling, pike, trout, and whitefish), 17.8% used marine mammals, and 53.3% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources in Port Lions was 331.46 lbs in 1993. The breakdown of that harvest was: 47.57% salmon, 19.22% non-salmon fish, 1.34% marine mammals, 9.12% marine invertebrates, 1.17% birds and eggs, 16.94% land mammals, and 4.65% vegetation. Also according to ADF&G there were 46 household subsistence salmon permits which were issued to residents of the community in 1999. Residents are also eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.