

Nikiski (nih-KISS-kee)



People and Place

*Location*¹

The community of Nikiski is located on the Kenai Peninsula, nine miles north of the City of Kenai, off of the Sterling Highway. Nikiski is also known as Port Nikiski and Nikishka. Nikiski is located in the Kenai Peninsula Borough Census Area and the Kenai Recording District. The community encompasses 69.6 square miles of land and 6.6 square miles of water.

*Demographic Profile*²

In 2010, there were 4,493 residents in Nikiski, ranking it as the 25th largest of 352 communities in Alaska with recorded populations that year. Overall between 1990 and 2010, the population of Nikiski increased by 63.8%. Most of this growth occurred between 1990 and 2000, although the population continued to grow more slowly through 2010. According to Alaska Department of Labor estimates, between 2000 and 2009, the population of permanent residents increased by 3.2% with an average annual growth of 0.35%, reflecting an overall positive population trend with small decreases in population in some years.

In 2010, the majority of the population of Nikiski identified themselves as White (85.6%), along with 7.7% that identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 1.1% as Asian, 0.4% as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 0.1% as Black or African American, 0.5% as ‘some other race’, and 4.6% identified with two or more races. In addition, 2.6% of Nikiski’s population identified themselves as Hispanic in 2010. The percentage of the population made up of individuals identifying as White decreased from 93% in 1990 to 87.2% in 2000, and then to 85.6% by 2010. At the same time the percentage identifying as American Indians and Alaska Natives increased from 6.1% in 1990 to 7.6% in 2000, and remained relatively stable through 2010 (7.7%). The change in population from 1990 to 2010 is provided in Table 1, and changes in racial and ethnic composition from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Figure 1.

Based on the U.S. Census, in 2010 the average household size in Nikiski was 2.65 persons per household, a decrease from 3.0 in 1990 and 3.31 in 2000. The number of households in Nikiski increased over time, from 1,045 households in 1990 and 1,514 in 2000, to 1,689 in 2010. Of the 1,998 housing units surveyed for the 2010 U.S. Census, 68.4% were owner-occupied, 16.1% were rented, and 15.5% were vacant or used only seasonally. In 1990, 13 Nikiski residents lived in group quarters. This number declined to zero by 2000, but rose again to 11 residents living in group quarters in 2010.

¹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

² U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2000 (SF1 100% and SF3 sample data) and 2010 (Demographic Profile SF) Decennial Census and the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

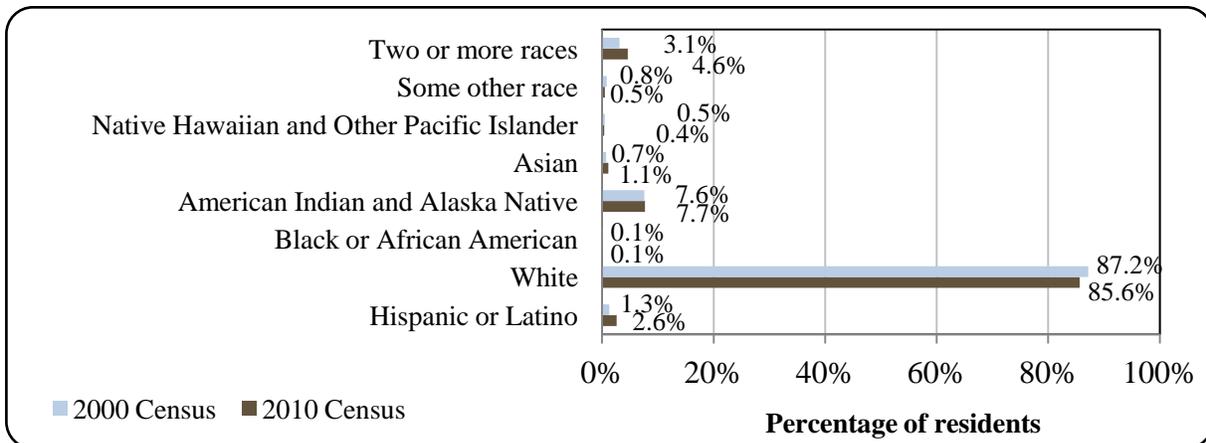
Table 1. Population in Nikiski from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census ¹	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents ²
1990	2,743	-
2000	4,327	-
2001	-	4,363
2002	-	4,362
2003	-	4,352
2004	-	4,293
2005	-	4,196
2006	-	4,212
2007	-	4,333
2008	-	4,413
2009	-	4,465
2010	4,493	-

¹ (1) U.S. Census Bureau (1990). *CP-1: General Population Characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/1990.html>. (2) U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2000 (SF1 100% and SF3 sample data) and 2010 (Demographic Profile SF) Decennial Census and the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

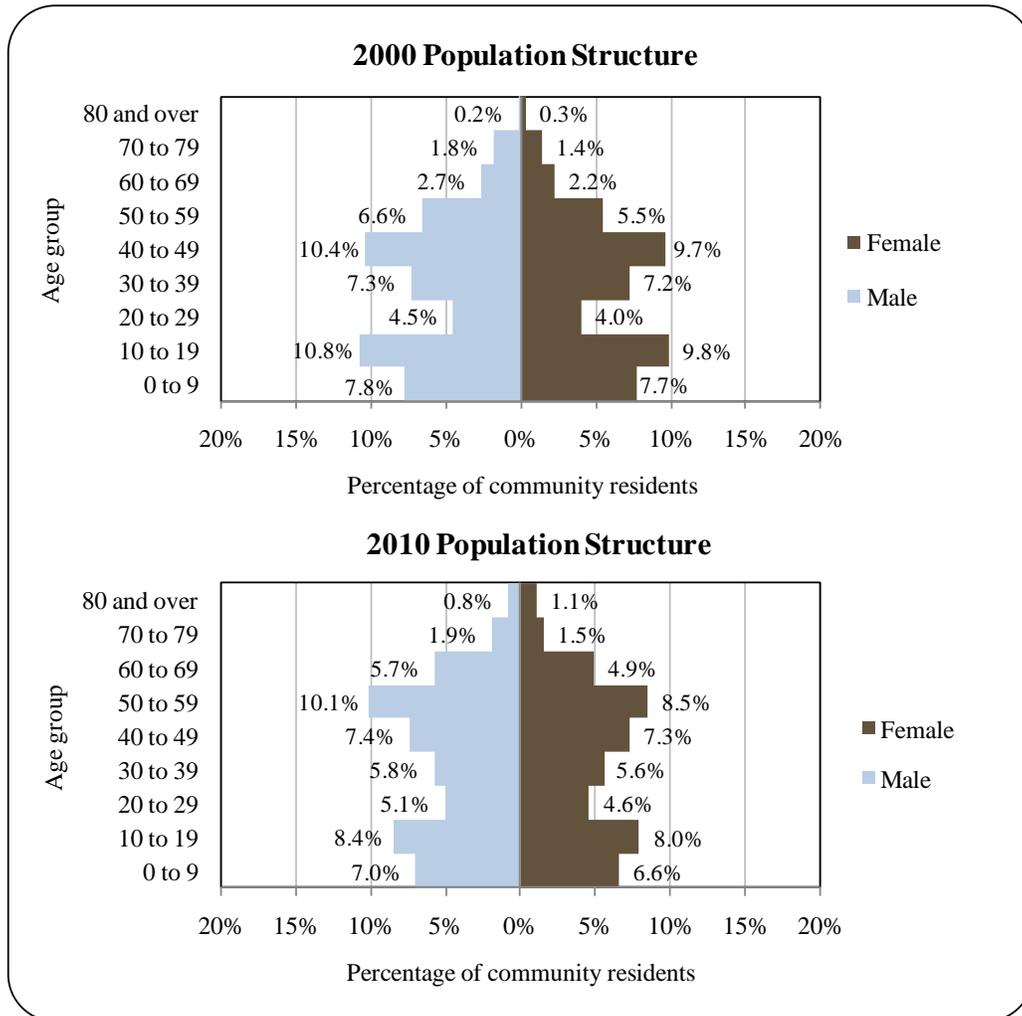
² Alaska Department of Labor. (2011). *Current population estimates for Alaskan Communities*. Retrieved April 15, 2011, from <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/pop/popest.htm>.

Figure 1. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Nikiski: 2000-2010 (U.S. Census).



In 2010, the gender makeup of Nikiski’s population (52.1% male and 47.9% female) was almost the same as the gender balance of the state as a whole, which was made up of 52% males and 48% females. The median age of Nikiski residents was 39.4 years, slightly older than the national average of 36.8 years and the median age for Alaska, 33.8 years. In 2010, the age group most heavily skewed toward males was 50-59 years, while there was a relatively even spread of males and females across other age categories in Nikiski. There were relatively few people in the 20 to 39 age cohorts compared to the younger and older cohorts in both 2000 and 2010. In 2010, 15.9% of Nikiski’s population was 60 or older. The overall population structure of Nikiski in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Population Age Structure in Nikiski Based on the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Decennial Census.



In terms of educational attainment, according to the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS),³ 93% of Nikiski residents aged 25 and over were estimated to hold a high school diploma or higher degree in 2010, compared to 90.7% of Alaskan residents overall. Also in 2010, 0.6% of the population was estimated to have less than a 9th grade education, compared to 3.5% of Alaskan residents overall; 6.4% were estimated to have a 9th to 12th grade education but no diploma, compared to 5.8% of Alaskan residents overall; 35.7% were estimated to have some college but no degree, compared to 28.3% of Alaskan residents overall; 6.8% were estimated to have an Associate’s degree, compared to 8% of Alaskan residents overall; 7.6% were estimated to have a Bachelor’s degree, compared to 17.4% of Alaskan residents overall; and 6.7% were estimated to have a graduate or professional degree, compared to 9.6% of Alaskan residents overall.

³ While American Community Survey (ACS) estimates can provide a good snapshot estimate for larger populations, smaller populations can be misrepresented by ACS estimates if demographic information is not collected from a representative sample of the population. This is especially problematic for Alaskan communities with small populations that have a low probability of being adequately sampled.

History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture

Nikiski is located in traditional Kenaitze Indian territory. Around 1000 A.D. these Dena'ina Athabascan people arrived in the area and replaced the Kachemak Eskimos who had occupied the region starting around 1000 B.C. This cultural shift may have been driven by climatic changes influencing salmon abundance in the North Pacific Ocean.⁴ The Native people of the area were called Kenaitze by the Russians which meant 'the people who live along the Kenai River', although "the Kenaitze, however, called themselves *Kahthuht'ana*, an Athabascan word meaning 'the people of the Kenai'."⁵ Between 1786 and 1791, Russian fur traders came to the Kenai area and established settlements. Around 1795 Russian Orthodoxy was introduced into the area by Father Juvenaly.⁶ In the year 1838 there was a smallpox epidemic and approximately fifty percent of the Dena'ina people died from the disease. The Native population was hit again in the years 1918 to 1920 during the worldwide influenza epidemic.⁷

The first cannery in Kenai was built in 1888 by the Northern Packing Company. Alaska Railroad upgrades in the region were completed in 1923.⁸ The area of Nikiski was homesteaded in the 1940s. The region grew with the discovery of oil on the Kenai Peninsula in 1957. Oil-related industries had located to the area by 1964, including Tesoro, Chevron, Phillips 66, and Unocal. Nikiski is located close to the City of Kenai, where many residents travel to purchase goods and services.⁹

Natural Resources and Environment

The Cook Inlet basin is located in a transitional climate zone, in the rain shadow of the Kenai Mountains. Temperatures are more extreme because the area is somewhat sheltered from the moderating effects of the Gulf of Alaska, and cold air occasionally pushes south from interior Alaska in winter months.¹⁰ Winter temperatures in Nikiski range from 14 to 27 °F, and summer temperatures vary from 45 to 65 °F. Average annual precipitation is 24 inches.¹¹ The landscape in and around Nikiski is characterized by boreal forest and numerous lakes. Moving inland, the Kenai Mountains rise to mountains rise to 3,000-5,000 feet above sea level, hosting the Harding Ice Field.¹²

⁴ Fall, J.A., R.T. Stanek, B. Davis, L. Williams and R. Walker (2004). *Cook Inlet Customary and Traditional Subsistence Fisheries Assessment*. Final Report for Study No. FIS 03-045.

⁵ Halliday, Jan. 1998. *Native Peoples of Alaska: A Traveler's Guide to Land, Art, and Culture*. Sasquatch Books, Seattle.

⁶ Oleksa, Father Michael (2005). *Another Culture / Another World*. Association of Alaska School Boards.

⁷ Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (2010). *Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Development Strategy*. Retrieved January 25, 2012 from <http://commerce.alaska.gov/ded/home.htm>.

⁸ Cook, L., and F. Norris (1998). *A Stern and Rock-bound Coast: Kenai Fjords National Park Historic Resource Study*. National Park Service Alaska Support Office, Anchorage. Retrieved January 25, 2012 from http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/kefj/hrs/hrs.htm.

⁹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

¹⁰ Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Management Program (1990). Final Coastal Management Plan. Retrieved September 7, 2012 from <http://www2.borough.kenai.ak.us/coastal/CMP-Final.htm>.

¹¹ See footnote 9.

¹² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2011). *Kenai National Wildlife Refuge*. Retrieved January 26, 2012 from <http://kenai.fws.gov/>.

Nikiski is located near the western border of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), and only a few miles southwest of the Captain Cook State Recreational area. The NWR covers 1.92 million acres, half of which was designated as the Kenai Wilderness. The NWR was originally established by President Roosevelt in 1941 as the Kenai National Moose Range. In 1980, with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the name and purpose of the area were changed to manage all animal species as a NWR. All five salmon species return to rivers and lakes to spawn, and a full spectrum of sub-Arctic freshwater fish species are found in the NWR. In addition, terrestrial animals living in the NWR include moose, caribou, Dall sheep, mountain goat, black and brown bear, wolf, coyote, red fox, lynx, and many small mammals. The wood frog is the only amphibian found in the Kenai NWR.¹³

The Captain Cook State Recreation Area offers visitors opportunities for beachcombing, canoeing and boating, recreational fishing (including ice fishing), and wildlife viewing. Visitors to the park are cautioned to pay attention to tides when walking on the mudflats, as they move very quickly and can be dangerous.¹⁴

The shoreline of the Kenai Peninsula along Cook Inlet is located at the edge of the North American Plate, leading to frequent and often devastating earthquakes and volcanic activity in the area. Five active volcanoes are located within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, all situated on the west side of Cook Inlet. They are Fourpeaked, Augustine, Iliamna, Redoubt, and Mount Spurr. Major damage can also be caused by secondary earthquake hazards, including landslides, floods, avalanches, tsunamis, uplift, subsidence, infrastructure failures, and soil liquefaction.¹⁵ Other natural hazards that have also been identified as threats in the Kenai Peninsula Borough include flooding, wildfire, snow and avalanche, tsunami and seiche, severe weather, landslides, erosion and drought.¹⁶

The Kenai Peninsula and Cook Inlet oil and gas industry is very active, with a number of new wells being drilled each year. As of 2010, there were 28 producing oil and gas fields on and off shore in the area. Oil production has declined from a peak in 1970 of 230,000 barrels per day. In 2010, only 12,000 barrels were produced per day. Cook Inlet natural gas production has also been declining in recent years.¹⁷

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), one active environmental cleanup sites was located near Nikiski as of May 2012. The Tesoro Alaska Refinery is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Nikiski along North Kenai Road. The facility has been in operation since 1970, and refines crude oil to produce fuel oil, diesel, jet fuel, gasoline, and propane. In 1980, a study found that wastes from crude oil storage tanks and separators had been buried in three pits on the Tesoro property. Both soil and groundwater in the area is contaminated. The contamination plume has traveled through neighboring industrial properties and is approaching a bluff over Cook Inlet. Tesoro is currently engaged in groundwater monitoring and product recovery to prevent seepage into Cook Inlet. Following

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Alaska Department of Natural Resources (n.d.). *Captain Cook State Recreation Area*. Retrieved January 26, 2012 from <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/captcook.htm>.

¹⁵ Kenai Peninsula Borough (2010). *All-Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved January 26, 2012 from <http://www2.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency/hazmit/plan.htm>

¹⁶ State of Alaska (2002). *Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved February 8, 2012 from <http://biotech.law.lsu.edu/blaw/DOD/manual/.%5CFull%20text%20documents%5CState%20Authorities%5CAla.%20SHMP.pdf>.

¹⁷ Resource Development Council (n.d.). *Alaska's Oil and Gas Industry*. Retrieved January 26, 2012 from <http://www.akrdc.org/issues/oilgas/overview.html>.

successful removal of product from groundwater, Tesoro will be required to develop a plan to address soil contamination.¹⁸

Current Economy¹⁹

The economy of Nikiski is heavily tied to the oil industry. A Tesoro Alaska oil refinery is located just north of the community, where Cook Inlet and some North Slope crude oil is processed into jet fuel, gasoline, and diesel. British Petroleum has a natural-gas-to-liquid-fuel pilot plant in Port Nikiski. Alaska Petroleum Contractors and Natchiq, Inc. are building portable modules that will be shipped to the Alpine oil field on the North Slope. In addition, several hundred Nikiski residents work in a fertilizer plant at Port Nikiski, owned by Agrium, Inc., that produces urea and ammonia.²⁰

In addition to the oil industry, top employers in Nikiski in 2010 included the Kenai Peninsula School District, state and borough government, Wal-Mart, and the Central Peninsula General Hospital in Soldotna,²¹ as well as retail businesses and tourism-related services.²² In addition, some local residents were involved in the commercial fishing industry between 2000 and 2010. In 2000, the number of Nikiski residents holding state Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits was equivalent to 1.4% of the total local population.

Based on household surveys conducted for the 2006-2010 ACS,²³ in 2010, the per capita income in Nikiski was estimated to be \$28,347 and the median household income was estimated to be \$66,208. This represents an increase from the per capita and median household incomes reported in the year 2000 (\$20,128 and \$51,176, respectively). If inflation is taken into account by converting the 2000 values to 2010 dollars,²⁴ the increase is revealed to be very slight, from a real per capita income of \$26,468 and real median household income of \$67,296 in 2000. In 2010, Nikiski ranked 75th of 305 Alaskan communities with per capita income data that year, and 57th in median household income, out of 299 Alaskan communities with household income data.

However, Nikiski's small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions.²⁵ An alternative estimate of per capita income is provided by economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database

¹⁸ Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (2012). *List of Contaminated Site Summaries By Region*. Retrieved April 17, 2012 from <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/list.htm>.

¹⁹ Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

²⁰ World Port Source website (2012). *Port of Nikiski*. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from http://www.worldportsource.com/ports/USA_AK_Port_of_Nikiski_4141.php.

²¹ Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (n.d.). *Alaska Local and Regional Information Database*. Retrieved April 23, 2012 from <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/alari/>.

²² Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

²³ U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2000 (SF1 100% and SF3 sample data) and 2010 (Demographic Profile SF) Decennial Census and the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

²⁴ Inflation was calculated using the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for 2010 (retrieved January 5, 2012 from the Alaska Department of Labor, <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/cpi/inflationcalc.htm>).

²⁵ While American Community Survey (ACS) estimates can provide a good snapshot estimate for larger populations, smaller populations can be misrepresented by ACS estimates if demographic information is not collected from a representative sample of the population. This is especially problematic for Alaskan communities with small populations that have a low probability of being adequately sampled.

maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). If total wages reported in the ALARI database for 2010 are divided by the 2010 population reported by the U.S. Census, the resulting per capita income estimate for Nikiski in 2010 is \$17,979.²⁶ This estimate is slightly lower than the 2000 per capita income reported in by the U.S. Census, suggesting that caution is warranted when citing an increase in per capita income in Nikiski between 2000 and 2010. As of 2010, the Denali Commission did not consider Nikiski a “distressed” community.²⁷ It should be noted that both ACS and DOLWD data are based on wage earnings, and these income statistics do not take into account the value of subsistence within the local economy.

Based on the 2006-2010 ACS, in 2010, a smaller percentage of Nikiski’s population (62.8%) was estimated to be in the civilian labor force than was estimated to be in the statewide civilian labor force that year (68.8%). Also in 2010, 10.2% of Nikiski residents were estimated to be living below the poverty line, compared to 9.5% of Alaskan residents overall, and the unemployment rate was estimated to be 5.6%, compared to a statewide unemployment rate of 5.9%. An additional estimate of unemployment is based on the ALARI database, which indicates that the unemployment rate in Nikiski in 2010 was 13.2%, compared to a statewide unemployment rate estimate of 11.5%.²⁸

Also based on the 2006-2010 ACS, the majority of Nikiski’s workforce was estimated to be employed in the private sector (69.2%), along with 20.6% in the public sector, and 10.4% that was self-employed. Of the 2,144 people aged 16 and over that were estimated to be employed in the civilian labor force, the greatest number of workers were estimated to be employed in educational services, health care, and social assistance (23.5%) and agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining (21.8%). Information about employment by industry is presented in Figure 3, and employment is broken down by occupation in Figure 4.

An alternative estimate of employment is provided by economic data compiled in the ALARI database, which indicate that there were 1,930 employed residents in Nikiski in 2010, of which 19.6% were employed in natural resources and mining, 18.5% in trade, transportation, and utilities, 13.1% in local government, 11.1% in education and health services, 9.1% in leisure and hospitality, 6.1% in construction, 6.1% in manufacturing, 6% in professional and business services, 3.8% in state government, 2.1% in financial activities, 1.1% in information, and 3.4% in other industries.²⁹ As with income statistics, it should also be noted that ACS and DOLWD employment statistics do not reflect residents’ activity in the subsistence economy.

²⁶ See footnotes 21 and 23.

²⁷ Denali Commission (2011). *Distressed Community Criteria 2011 Update*. Retrieved April 16, 2012 from www.denali.gov.

²⁸ See footnote 21.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

Figure 3. Local Employment by Industry in 2000-2010, Nikiski (U.S. Census).

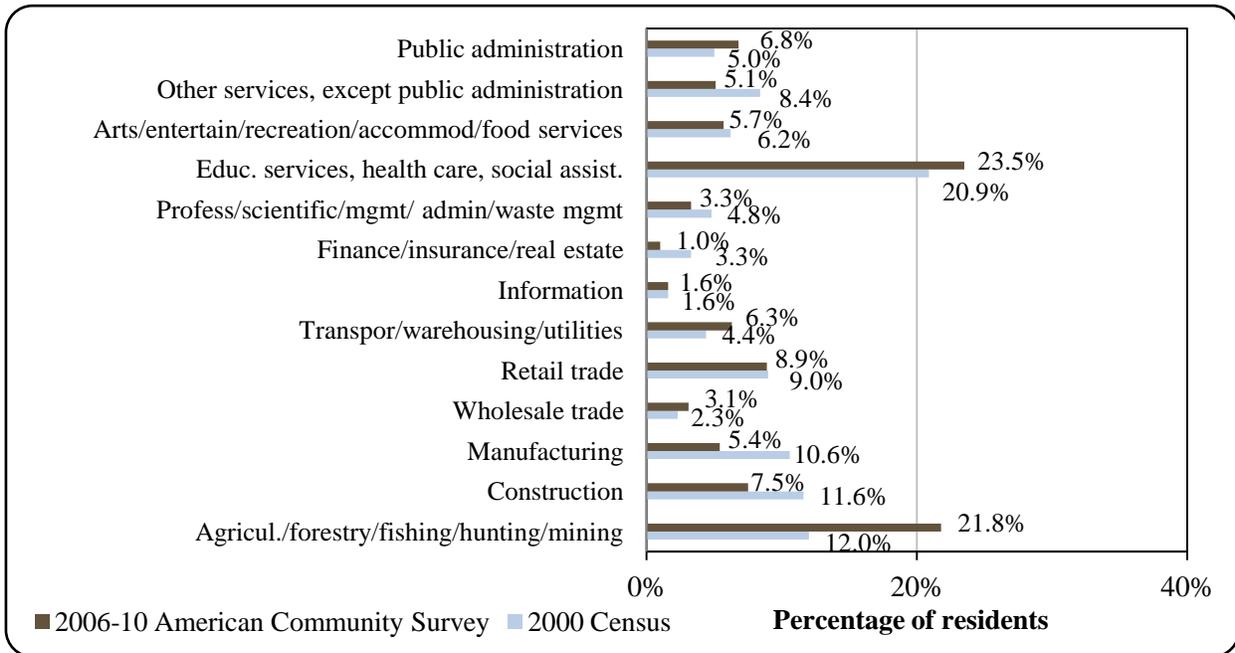
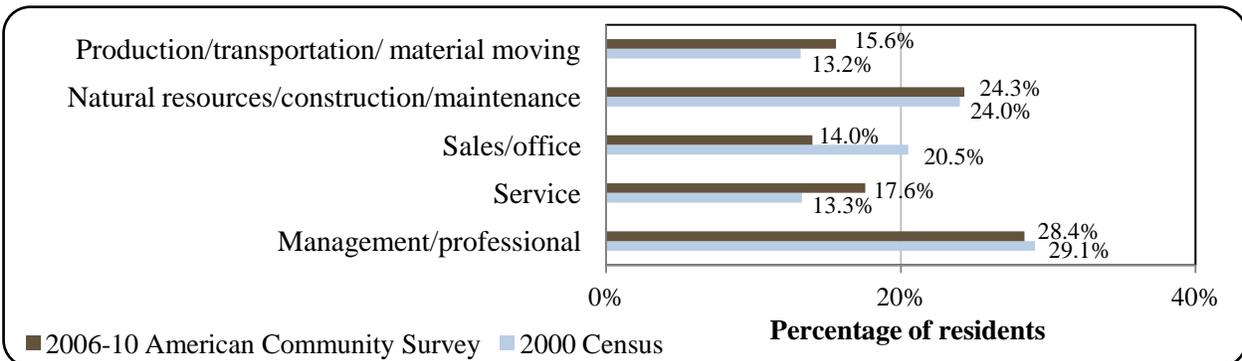


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Nikiski (U.S. Census).



Governance

Nikiski is an unincorporated community in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The community does not administer any local taxes, although the Borough does administer a 3% sales tax and 4.5 mills property tax.³⁰ Given that Nikiski is not incorporated, there was no municipal revenue or municipal sales tax revenue between 2000 and 2010. No information was reported regarding State or Community Revenue Sharing contributions or fisheries-related grants received by the community between 2000 and 2010. This information about selected aspects of community revenue is presented in Table 2.

³⁰ Alaska Dept. of Comm. And Rural Affairs (n.d.). *Community Information Summaries*. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_CIS.htm.

Nikiski was not included under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), and is not federally recognized as a Native village.³¹ The nearest offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Alaska Department of Natural Resources are located in Soldotna. The closest offices of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are located in Homer and Anchorage. Anchorage also has the closest offices of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Table 2. Selected Municipal, State, or Federal Revenue Streams for the Community of Nikiski from 2000 to 2010.

Year	Total Municipal Revenue ¹	Sales Tax Revenue ²	State/Community Revenue Sharing ^{3,4}	Fisheries-Related Grants (State and Federal) ⁵
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.
² Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Econ. Dev. (n.d.). *Alaska Taxable (2000-2010)*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm.
³ Alaska Dept. of Rev. (n.d.). *(2000-2009) Taxes and Fees Annual Report*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from <https://www.tax.state.ak.us>.
⁴ The State Revenue Sharing program ceased in 2003 and was replaced by the Community Revenue Sharing program starting in 2009.
⁵ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Funding Database*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm.

Infrastructure

Connectivity and Transportation

Nikiski is connected to the Sterling Highway, which provides road access to Anchorage. The nearest commercial airport is located in the City of Kenai, 15 miles away by road. The price of a roundtrip ticket by plane from Kenai to Anchorage in early June of 2012 was \$179.³² There are also two private airstrips in the vicinity of Nikiski,³³ one of which is owned by Shell Oil.³⁴

³¹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

³² This price was calculated on November 21, 2011 using kayak.com.

³³ See footnote 31.

Facilities

Water in Nikiski is derived from wells. A majority of homes use individual wells, and a community well is also in use. Those homes without wells haul or have water delivered. Most homes are fully plumbed and use individual septic tank systems, and the remaining residences use outhouses. The Kenai Peninsula Borough operates a transfer facility on Poolside Avenue, and refuse collection services are provided by Peninsula Sanitation. Alaska Electric G&T Homer Electric Association provides electricity in Nikiski using natural gas.³⁵

Safety services are provided by state troopers stationed in Kenai. Fire and rescue services are provided by the Nikiski Fire Department / Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Borough Central Emergency Services (CES) Fire / Rescue / Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Community facilities in Nikiski include a Boys and Girls Club, senior services, the Nikiski pool, and two school libraries. Phone, internet, and cable are available in Nikiski.³⁶

Regarding fisheries related infrastructure, docks at Port Nikiski are privately-owned and utilized for servicing offshore drilling platforms only.³⁷ The nearby City of Kenai has a city dock and boat ramp, as well as a number of private commercial fish processing docks. Moorage is also available using buoys anchored in the Kenai River.³⁸

Medical Services

A full range of medical services are provided at the Central Peninsula General Hospital, located 25 miles away by road in Soldotna. A smaller range of services, including diagnostic imaging and lab services, are available at the Kenai Health Center, located 15 miles south of Nikiski in the City of Kenai.³⁹ Alternative health care in Nikiski is provided by the Nikiski Fire Department. Emergency services have highway, coastal, and helicopter access, and are provided by 911 Telephone service and paid EMS service.⁴⁰

Educational Opportunities

Two schools are present in Nikiski. The Nikiski North Star Elementary School serves pre-school through 6th grade. As of 2011, North Star Elementary had 421 students and 29 teachers. The Nikiski Middle/Senior High School serves grades 7 through 12. As of 2011, 393 students were in attendance and the school had 25 teachers.⁴¹

³⁴ World Port Source website (2012). *Port of Nikiski*. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from http://www.worldportsource.com/ports/USA_AK_Port_of_Nikiski_4141.php.

³⁵ See footnote 31.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ World Port Source website (2012). *Port of Nikiski*. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from http://www.worldportsource.com/ports/USA_AK_Port_of_Nikiski_4141.php.

³⁸ See footnote 31.

³⁹ Central Peninsula Hospital (n.d.). *Kenai Health Center*. Retrieved June 14, 2012 from <http://www.cphg.org/body.cfm?id=65>.

⁴⁰ See footnote 31.

⁴¹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

History and Evolution of Fisheries

Nikiski is located in the traditional territory of the Kenaitze people, a branch of Athabascan Native Americans. Historically, the Kenaitze had summer fish camps along the rivers and shores of Cook Inlet. They harvested all five salmon species using dip nets, weirs, dams, and fish traps.⁴² The Nikiski area was homesteaded in the 1940s and grew along with the oil industry, which continues to be the primary economic driver in the community.⁴³ In addition, some Nikiski residents became involved in commercial fisheries that had developed in the region following the purchase of Alaska by the U.S. in 1867. Today a significant number of Nikiski residents are engaged in the commercial and sportfishing industries, and several also participate in subsistence activities (see the *Commercial Fishing*, *Recreational Fishing*, and *Subsistence Fishing* sections of this profile below).

Commercial harvest of salmon in Cook Inlet began in 1882⁴⁴ with the development of a cannery at the mouth of the Kasilof River, in English Bay. An additional 17 canneries had been built in central Alaska by 1890.⁴⁵ Commercial exploitation of halibut and groundfish first extended into the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) in the 1920s after development of diesel engines, which allowed fishing vessels to undertake longer trips.⁴⁶ In the 1920s, herring had become increasingly valued for oil and meal, and a number of reduction plants were built. Commercial crab fisheries began to develop in the GOA in the 1930s. Historically, a sizable spawning biomass of herring was found in western Cook Inlet, and Lower Cook Inlet also supported commercial fisheries for Dungeness, king, and Tanner crab. However, crab and herring fisheries are currently closed due to low stock abundance.^{47,48}

Today, ADF&G manages the Cook Inlet salmon fishery. Lower Cook Inlet is divided into the Southern, Outer, Eastern, and Kamishak Bay fishing districts, and Upper Cook Inlet is divided into the Central and Northern fishing districts. Set gillnet is the only gear allowed in the Northern District, while set and drift gillnet and purse seine gear use is permitted in the Central District. However, seine gear use is limited to the Chinita Bay sub-district, which is open only

⁴² Kenaitze Indian Tribe (n.d.). *Home Page: Raven's People*. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from <http://www.kenaitzen-sn.gov/RavensPeople.html>.

⁴³ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

⁴⁴ Clark, McGregor, Mecum, Krasnowski and Carroll (2006). The Commercial Salmon Fishery in Alaska. *Alaska Fisheries Research Bulletin* 12(1):1-146. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. Retrieved January 4, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1.pdf>.

⁴⁵ Cook, Linda, and Frank Norris (1998). *A Stern and Rock-bound Coast: Kenai Fjords National Park Historic Resource Study*. National Park Service Alaska Support Office, Anchorage. Retrieved January 25, 2012 from http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/kefj/hrs/hrs.htm.

⁴⁶ Thompson, William F. and Norman L. Freeman (1930). *History of the Pacific Halibut Fishery*. Report of the International Fisheries Commission. Number 5. Retrieved June 1, 2012 from <http://www.iphc.int/publications/scirep/Report0005.pdf>.

⁴⁷ Woodby, Doug, Dave Carlile, Shareef Siddeek, Fritz Funk, John H. Clark, and Lee Hulbert (2005). *Commercial Fisheries of Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 05-09. Retrieved December 29, 2011 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/sp05-09.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (2012). *Commercial Fisheries Overview: Lower Cook Inlet Management Area*. Retrieved June 19, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=commercialbyarealci.main>.

sporadically. Purse seine gear is used throughout the Lower Cook Inlet management area, and set gillnets are limited to the Kachemak Bay sub-district.⁴⁹

Groundfish and crab fisheries that occur within 3 nautical miles (nm) of the coast or in inland waters are under the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska, and fisheries that take place beyond 3 nm in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are under federal jurisdiction. Pacific halibut fisheries are managed under the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Cook Inlet is located in Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 630, Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 3A, and the Central GOA federal Sablefish Regulatory Area.

In addition to federal groundfish fisheries that take place in the GOA, state groundfish fisheries take place in the inland and near-coastal waters of Cook Inlet for Pacific cod, sablefish, and rockfish. The Cook Inlet Pacific cod fishery is managed as a parallel fishery, which takes place at the same time as the federal Pacific cod fishery. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set by NMFS applied to both fisheries. Beginning in 1997, an additional ‘state-waters fishery’ for Pacific cod was initiated in Cook Inlet. Management plans for state-waters fisheries are approved by the Alaska Board of Fish, and guideline harvest limits (GHL) are set by ADF&G. Typically, state-waters fisheries are opened once federal and parallel fisheries close. In addition to Pacific cod fisheries, a Cook Inlet open access sablefish fishery is managed by ADF&G under a GHL, and the State also manages directed mechanical jig fisheries for lingcod and rockfish in Cook Inlet.⁵⁰

Nikiski is not eligible to participate in either the Community Development Quota program or the Community Quota Entity program.

Processing Plants

According to ADF&G’s 2010 Intent to Operate list, two processing facilities were in operation in Nikiski. Information about and the history of these facilities is presented below.

Ocean Beauty Seafoods LLC was founded in 1910 as Washington Fish & Oyster in Seattle, and it began its operations in Alaska in 1930. Ocean Beauty has a freezer plant located on the Kenai Peninsula about 15 miles north of the town of Nikiski. The Nikiski plant processes fresh and frozen coho, chum, pink, sockeye, and Chinook salmon, salmon roe, halibut, and cod. Operating seasons typically run from the beginning of April thru the end of October, during which time the plant employs approximately 150 people. Ocean Beauty provides work-related clothing such as gloves, aprons, and rain gear to its seafood processing workforce.⁵¹

Pacific Alaska Shellfish originated in Portland, Oregon in 1941. Today Pacific Alaska is the “largest vertically-integrated, independently-owned seafood company in North America.” Its Nikiski facility focuses solely on processing of Alaskan razor clams, with a season that runs from May through August.⁵² According to a survey of plant managers conducted by the AFSC in 2011, the plant began operations in 1985 and employs up to 30 workers from May through August.

⁴⁹ See footnote 44.

⁵⁰ See footnote 47.

⁵¹ Ocean Beauty Seafood, LLC. (n.d.). *Employment Information – Nikiski Facility*. Retrieved January 25, 2012 from http://www.oceanbeauty.com/employment/info_CIP.htm.

⁵² Pacific Seafood (2011). *Pacific Alaska Shellfish*. Retrieved January 25, 2012 from <http://www.pacseafood.com/default.aspx?page=1>.

Fisheries-Related Revenue

Between 2000 and 2010, no data were reported about fisheries-related revenue received in Nikiski (Table 3).

Commercial Fishing

Although the oil industry dominates Nikiski's economy, the community is located in close proximity to abundant fishing grounds, and the commercial fishing industry has a strong presence. Between 2000 and 2010, Nikiski residents participated in state and federal fisheries as crew members, vessel owners, and permit and quota share holders. Several fish buyers and fish processors were also active in the community between 2000 and 2010.

In 2010, 51 Nikiski residents held commercial fishing crew licenses and 23 fishing vessels were primarily owned by residents (Table 5). Also in 2010, 46 Nikiski residents held a total of 49 CFEC permits. A majority of the CFEC permits (43) were held for salmon drift and set gillnet fisheries in both Cook Inlet and Bristol Bay. Of these, 77% were actively fished in 2010. The number of salmon permit holders and total salmon permits decreased by approximately 20% between 2000 and 2010, from 56 permit holders and 56 permits in 2000 to 45 permit holders and 43 permits held in 2010, while the percentage of salmon permits that were actively fished did not change substantially over this period.

Other CFEC permits held in 2010 included three herring permits held by three individuals in three different herring fisheries (Cook Inlet herring roe gillnet, Kodiak herring roe gillnet, and Norton Sound herring roe and food/bait gillnet fisheries), and three halibut permits held by three permit holders, all in the statewide halibut longline fishery using vessels under 60 feet. In 2010, the Cook Inlet herring permit and two halibut permits were actively fished. The number of halibut permits declined steadily between 2000 and 2010, from 11 to 3. The number of herring permits increased from five in 2000 to eight in 2005, and then declined again to three by 2010. Nikiski residents also held permits in federal fisheries, including three groundfish License Limitation Permits (LLP), one crab LLP, and two Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP). None of these LLPs or FFPs were actively fished in 2010. Information about CFEC, LLP, and FFP permits is presented in Table 4.

In 2000, there were 12 quota share account holders in the federal halibut catch share fishery, declining to 5 by 2010. Total quota shares held remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2010, however, increasing from 353,146 total shares in 2000 to 394,609 shares held in 2004 and 2005, then declining slightly to 325,174 shares held in 2010. The annual halibut individual fishing quota (IFQ) allotment increased by 43% between 2000 and 2007, and then declined by 2010 to a level only 9% higher than the 2000 allotment. In addition, between 2000 and 2010, one quota share account was held each year in the federal sablefish catch share fishery. The total number of sablefish quota shares held remained constant over the period (1,643). Sablefish IFQ allotment fluctuated somewhat, increasing by 28% between 2000 and 2004, and eventually declining to 21% less than the 2000 allotment by 2010. No quota share accounts or quota shares were held by Nikiski residents in federal crab catch share fisheries during this period. Information about federal catch share participation is presented in Tables 6 through 8.

It is important to note that, in the earlier and middle years of the 2000-2010 period, several Nikiski residents also held groundfish and sablefish CFEC permits. Between 2002 and 2005, one sablefish permit was held in the Prince William Sound fixed gear fishery (maximum

vessel length of 50 feet). Between 2000 and 2005, a varying number of permits were held each year in groundfish fisheries, including permits for the statewide lingcod mechanical jig fishery, and miscellaneous statewide saltwater finfish fisheries using hand troll, pot gear on vessels under 60 feet, and mechanical jig. The last year during the decade in which a groundfish CFEC permit was actively fished was 2000, and the last year a sablefish CFEC permit was actively fished was 2005. In the early years of the decade, Nikiski residents also held salmon permits for Prince William Sound purse seine and drift gillnet and Kodiak set gillnet fisheries. In 2000 and 2001, halibut permits were also held for statewide fisheries using mechanical jig and longline vessels over 60 feet. Finally, between 2004 and 2006, several herring permits were held by Nikiski in the Bristol Bay herring roe fishery (Table 4).

Nikiski ranked 27th out of 67 Alaskan ports that received commercial fisheries landings in 2010. That year, nine fish buyers operated in Nikiski. A total of 5,082,990 net pounds of salmon were landed, generating \$7,825,859 in ex-vessel revenue. In most other years there were fewer fish buyers in operation, and landings and ex-vessel revenue information in Nikiski is considered confidential due to the small number of buyers, with the exception of 2005. That year, nine fish buyers were present in Nikiski, and vessels delivered 34,629 net pounds of herring for an ex-vessel value of \$22,320. Information about landings and ex-vessel revenue generated in Nikiski is presented in Table 9, and the number of fish buyers and shore-side processors operating in the community each year is presented in Table 5.

Information about salmon harvest by Nikiski vessel owners, including all delivery locations, was reported for all years between 2000 and 2010, while halibut and ‘other groundfish’ landings were only reported for some years. Nikiski vessel owners landed an average of 580,625 net pounds of salmon per year, valued at \$424,140 in ex-vessel revenue on average. In 2000, 90,774 net pounds of halibut and 1,596 net pounds of groundfish were landed, for ex-vessel values of \$233,938 and \$843, respectively. In 2001, 100,364 net pounds of halibut were landed by Nikiski vessel owners, valued at \$206,419, reflecting a decrease in value per pound of halibut between 2000 and 2001. Finally, in 2003, 1,197 net pounds of groundfish were reported as landed by Nikiski vessel owners, for an ex-vessel revenue of \$629. Information about landings and ex-vessel revenue for other years is considered confidential due to the small number of participants. See Table 10 for landings and ex-vessel revenue generated by Nikiski vessel owners between 2000 and 2010.

Table 3. Known Fisheries-Related Revenue (in U.S. Dollars) Received by the Community of Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Revenue source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Raw fish tax ¹	n/a										
Shared Fisheries Business Tax ¹	n/a										
Fisheries Resource Landing Tax ¹	n/a										
Fuel transfer tax ²	n/a										
Extraterritorial fish tax ²	n/a										
Bulk fuel transfers ¹	n/a										
Boat hauls ²	n/a										
Harbor usage ²	n/a										
Port/dock usage ²	n/a										
Fishing gear storage on public land ³	n/a										
Marine fuel sales tax ³	n/a										
<i>Total fisheries-related revenue</i> ⁴	<i>n/a</i>										
<i>Total municipal revenue</i> ⁵	<i>n/a</i>										

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

¹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Econ. Dev. (n.d.) *Alaska Taxable (2000-2010)*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm.

² Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.) *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.

³ Reported by community leaders in a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011.

⁴ Total fisheries related revenue represents a sum of all known revenue sources in the previous rows.

⁵ Total municipal revenue represents the total revenue that the city reports each year in its municipal budget. Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.) *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.

NOAA-TM-AFSC-259 – Volume 9
Community Profiles for North Pacific Fisheries – Alaska: Nikiski

Table 4. Permits and Permit Holders by Species, Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) ¹	Total permits	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
	Active permits	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
	% of permits fished	25%	0%	25%	25%	25%	25%	33%	33%	33%	33%	0
	Total permit holders	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Crab (LLP) ¹	Total permits	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Active permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total permit holders	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Federal Fisheries Permits ¹	Total permits	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	0
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	100%	100%	33%	50%	0%
	Total permit holders	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Crab (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other shellfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halibut (CFEC) ²	Total permits	11	9	7	6	7	5	5	5	4	4	3
	Fished permits	6	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	3	3	2
	% of permits fished	55%	56%	71%	67%	71%	80%	80%	80%	75%	75%	67%
	Total permit holders	9	8	7	6	7	5	5	5	4	4	3
Herring (CFEC) ²	Total permits	5	5	4	4	6	8	7	5	5	4	3
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	14%	20%	20%	25%	33%
	Total permit holders	5	5	4	4	6	8	7	5	5	4	3

Table 4 cont'd. Permits and Permit Holders by Species, Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	100%	100%	0%	100%	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Groundfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	5	4	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	40%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	4	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other Finfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon (CFEC) ²	Total permits	56	57	58	52	55	53	55	52	51	44	43
	Fished permits	45	44	48	41	43	45	42	41	39	34	33
	% of permits fished	80%	77%	83%	79%	78%	85%	76%	79%	76%	77%	77%
	Total permit holders	56	60	61	53	57	55	54	53	50	46	45
<i>Total CFEC Permits²</i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>49</i>
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>36</i>
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>73%</i>
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>46</i>

¹ National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Data on Limited Liability Permits, Alaska Federal Processor Permits (FPP), Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP), and Permit holders. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

² Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska commercial fishing permits, permit holders, and vessel licenses, 2000 – 2010. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 5. Characteristics of the Commercial Fishing Sector in Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Year	Crew License Holders ¹	Count Of All Fish Buyers ²	Count Of Shore-Side Processing Facilities ³	Vessels Primarily Owned By Residents ⁴	Vessels Homeported ⁴	Vessels Landing Catch In Nikiski ²	Total Net Pounds Landed In Nikiski ^{2,5}	Total Ex-Vessel Value Of Landings In Nikiski ^{2,5}
2000	92	1	1	37	14	0	-	-
2001	63	2	1	40	15	84	-	-
2002	56	3	2	44	23	79	-	-
2003	59	1	2	46	24	0	-	-
2004	59	3	2	48	23	74	-	-
2005	60	9	2	28	8	13	406,024	\$250,668
2006	55	2	2	29	11	0	-	-
2007	59	0	3	27	9	0	0	\$0
2008	53	0	2	28	13	0	0	\$0
2009	55	3	2	25	14	148	-	-
2010	51	9	2	23	13	231	5,164,599	\$7,876,457

Note: Cells showing – indicate that the data are considered confidential.

¹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish and crew license holders, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska fish ticket data. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

³ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (2011). *Data on Alaska fish processors*. ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

⁴ Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska commercial fishing permits, permit holders, and vessel licenses, 2000 – 2010. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

⁵ Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Table 6. Halibut Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (pounds)
2000	12	353,146	34,967
2001	11	335,301	39,695
2002	11	316,424	38,732
2003	10	387,080	47,367
2004	10	394,609	53,473
2005	10	394,609	54,354
2006	9	375,121	51,121
2007	8	367,592	52,083
2008	8	375,346	49,163
2009	6	367,168	43,088
2010	5	325,174	35,153

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Alaska Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit data. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 7. Sablefish Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders	Sablefish Quota Shares Held	Sablefish IFQ Allotment (pounds)
2000	1	1,643	148
2001	1	1,643	140
2002	1	1,643	140
2003	1	1,643	167
2004	1	1,643	189
2005	1	1,643	188
2006	1	1,643	165
2007	1	1,643	160
2008	1	1,643	142
2009	1	1,643	129
2010	1	1,643	117

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Alaska Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit data. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 8. Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Crab Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Crab Quota Share Account Holders	Crab Quota Shares Held	Crab IFQ Allotment (pounds)
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Alaska Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit data. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

NOAA-TM-AFSC-259 – Volume 9
Community Profiles for North Pacific Fisheries – Alaska: Nikiski

Table 9. Landed Pounds and Ex-vessel Revenue, by Species, in Nikiski: 2000-2010.

	<i>Total Net Pounds¹</i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	0
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Halibut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	34,629	-	0	0	-	-
Other Groundfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	5,082,990
<i>Total²</i>	-	-	-	-	-	34,629	-	0	0	-	5,082,990
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	-	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	-
Halibut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	-
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	\$22,320	-	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Groundfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	-
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	-
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	-	\$7,825,859
<i>Total²</i>	-	-	-	-	-	\$22,320	-	\$0	\$0	-	\$7,825,859

Note: Cells showing – indicate that the data are considered confidential.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska fish ticket data. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

¹ Net pounds refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Table 10. Landed Pounds and Ex-vessel Revenue, by Species, by Nikiski Residents: 2000-2010.

	<i>Total Net Pounds¹</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	90,774	100,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Groundfish	1,596	-	-	1,197	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	352,514	501,967	750,465	507,363	907,972	916,775	583,951	633,586	429,454	473,452	329,376
<i>Total²</i>	<i>444,884</i>	<i>602,331</i>	<i>750,465</i>	<i>508,560</i>	<i>907,972</i>	<i>916,775</i>	<i>583,951</i>	<i>633,586</i>	<i>429,454</i>	<i>473,452</i>	<i>329,376</i>
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	\$233,938	\$206,419	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Groundfish	\$843	-	-	\$629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	\$242,646	\$303,165	\$360,468	\$338,738	\$572,369	\$725,220	\$395,972	\$526,936	\$359,440	\$430,779	\$409,802
<i>Total²</i>	<i>\$477,427</i>	<i>\$509,584</i>	<i>\$360,468</i>	<i>\$339,367</i>	<i>\$572,369</i>	<i>\$725,220</i>	<i>\$395,972</i>	<i>\$526,936</i>	<i>\$359,440</i>	<i>\$430,779</i>	<i>\$409,802</i>

Note: Cells showing – indicate that the data are considered confidential.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska fish ticket data. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

¹ Net pounds refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Recreational Fishing

There is a high level of recreational fishing activity on the Kenai Peninsula overall. The recreational fishing industry is a large employer in Nikiski, along with tourism-related services in general.⁵³ Although few sport fish guide businesses were active in Nikiski during the 2000-2010 period, there were between 4 and 11 licensed sport fish guides present in the community each year from 2000 to 2008. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of Nikiski residents that purchased sportfishing licenses (irrespective of point of sale) varied between 732 and 922 per year. The number of fishing licenses sold in Nikiski was much smaller, varying between 100 and 302 per year. Many residents likely travel to nearby Kenai and other larger communities in the area to purchase licenses and fishing gear. Information about sportfishing activity in Nikiski is presented in Table 11.

The Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey,⁵⁴ conducted by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010, noted the species that are known to be targeted by private anglers in Nikiski. In freshwater, anglers targeted Chinook, coho, sockeye, pink, and chum salmon, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, and northern pike. In saltwater, anglers pursued Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, Pacific halibut, rockfish, lingcod, Pacific cod, and sablefish. The survey also noted sport harvest of razor clams, hardshell clams, and shrimp by Nikiski residents. No kept/release log book data were reported for fishing charters out of Nikiski in 2010.⁵⁵

Nikiski is located within Alaska Sport Fishing Survey Area P, including saltwater fishing in Cook Inlet and freshwater fishing on the Kenai Peninsula. Between 2000 and 2010, saltwater and freshwater sportfishing at this regional level was substantial. In 2010, Alaska residents logged 47,656 saltwater angler days and 28,294 freshwater angler days, while non-Alaska residents logged 20,292 saltwater angler days and 71,555 freshwater angler days. Typically, Alaska residents took part in saltwater sportfishing at greater rates than non-Alaska resident anglers, and the opposite was true of freshwater sportfishing. For both Alaska resident and non-Alaska resident anglers in both freshwater and saltwater, the number of angler days fished per year decreased between 2000 and 2010. This information about regional sportfishing activity in Nikiski is presented in Table 11.

⁵³ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

⁵⁴ Alaska Department of Fish and Game (2011). *Alaska Sport Fishing Survey results, 2000 – 2010*. ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey project. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/> (Accessed September 2011).

⁵⁵ Alaska Department of Fish and Game (2011). *Alaska sport fish charter logbook database, 2000 – 2010*. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 11. Sport Fishing Trends, Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses ¹	Sport Fish Guide Licenses ¹	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents ²	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Nikiski ²
2000	0	4	932	302
2001	0	7	976	218
2002	0	9	964	183
2003	0	11	922	169
2004	0	11	869	252
2005	1	10	770	150
2006	1	6	763	100
2007	1	9	793	100
2008	0	4	732	177
2009	0	0	791	107
2010	0	0	756	139

Year	Saltwater		Freshwater	
	Angler Days Fished – Non-residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Non-residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents ³
2000	68,928	40,179	42,157	139,737
2001	62,340	22,585	28,245	69,053
2002	53,537	22,745	26,479	83,335
2003	49,366	24,522	35,299	80,368
2004	57,167	24,224	39,009	83,478
2005	65,997	27,827	37,309	91,489
2006	67,259	23,225	33,988	76,100
2007	67,556	24,465	31,105	89,061
2008	54,136	21,762	28,780	70,285
2009	41,925	21,446	24,959	77,945
2010	47,656	20,292	28,294	71,555

¹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game (2011). Alaska sport fish guide licenses and businesses, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game (2011). Alaska sport fish and crew license holders, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

³ Alaska Department of Fish and Game (2011). Alaska Sport Fishing Survey results, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey project. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/> (Accessed September 2011).

Subsistence Fishing

Nikiski is located in the traditional territory of the Kenaitze people, a branch of Athabascan Indians. Historically, the Kenaitze had summer fish camps along the rivers and shores of Cook Inlet. They harvested all five salmon species using dip nets, weirs, dams, and fish traps.⁵⁶ Today, the economy of Nikiski is driven by the oil industry. Subsistence activity is not a primary economic driver, although a number of Nikiski residents engage in subsistence harvest.⁵⁷

No information was reported by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010 regarding per capita subsistence harvest or the percentage of households in Nikiski participating in subsistence harvest activities (Table 12). However, information was available about subsistence harvest levels of salmon and halibut. Between 2000 and 2008, the number of subsistence salmon permits issued to Nikiski households varied between one and eight. In some years, several hundred sockeye and coho salmon were harvested for subsistence purposes by Nikiski households (Table 13). Between 2003 and 2009, the number of Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC) issued to Nikiski residents fluctuated between 3 and 12. In 2009, 10 SHARC cards were issued, 5 were returned, and a total of 2,007 pounds of halibut were reported harvested for subsistence purposes. Nine SHARC cards were issued in 2010, but no information was reported regarding the number returned or pounds harvested. Information about subsistence harvest of halibut is presented in Table 14.

No information was reported by ADF&G regarding total pounds of marine invertebrates or non-salmon fish harvested in Nikiski between 2000 and 2010 (Table 13). In addition, no information was reported by management agencies regarding subsistence harvest of marine mammals by residents of Nikiski during this period (Table 15).

⁵⁶ Kenaitze Indian Tribe (n.d.). *Home Page: Raven's People*. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from <http://www.kenaitzen-sn.gov/RavensPeople.html>.

⁵⁷ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Year	% Households Participating in Salmon Subsistence	% Households Participating in Halibut Subsistence	% Households Participating in Marine Mammal Subsistence	% Households Participating in Marine Invertebrate Subsistence	% Households Participating in Non-Salmon Fish Subsistence	Per Capita Subsistence Harvest (pounds)
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). ADF&G Division of Subsistence. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

Table 13. Subsistence Fishing Participation for Salmon, Marine Invertebrates, and Non-Salmon Fish, Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Year	Subsistence Salmon Permits Issued ¹	Salmon Permits Returned ¹	Chinook Salmon Harvested ¹	Chum Salmon Harvested ¹	Coho Salmon Harvested ¹	Pink Salmon Harvested ¹	Sockeye Salmon Harvested ¹	Lbs of Marine Inverts ²	Lbs of Non-Salmon Fish ²
2000	1	1	n/a	n/a	12	n/a	26	n/a	n/a
2001	4	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
2002	1	4	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	n/a	n/a
2003	1	5	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
2004	8	6	6	4	12	n/a	161	n/a	n/a
2005	6	6	6	1	22	1	135	n/a	n/a
2006	4	4	3	3	100	6	67	n/a	n/a
2007	7	7	62	15	55	2	399	n/a	n/a
2008	4	4	n/a	2	28	n/a	93	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

¹ Fall, J.A., C. Brown, N. Braem, J.J. Simon, W.E. Simeone, D.L. Holen, L. Naves, L. Hutchinson-Scarborough, T. Lemons, and T.M. Krieg. 2011, revised. Alaska subsistence salmon fisheries 2008 annual report. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 359, Anchorage. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). ADF&G Division of Subsistence. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

Table 14. Subsistence Halibut Fishing Participation, Nikiski: 2003-2010.

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	3	n/a	n/a
2004	7	5	499
2005	7	1	464
2006	8	4	1,556
2007	10	5	2,290
2008	12	5	1,401
2009	10	5	2,007
2010	9	n/a	n/a

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

Source: Fall, J.A. and D. Koster. 2011. Subsistence harvests of Pacific halibut in Alaska, 2009. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 357, Anchorage. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

Table 15. Subsistence Harvests of Marine Mammal Resources, Nikiski: 2000-2010.

Year	# of Beluga Whales ¹	# of Sea Otters ²	# of Walrus ²	# of Polar Bears ²	# of Steller Sea Lions ³	# of Harbor Seals ³	# of Spotted Seals ³
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

¹ Frost, K.J., and R.S. Suydam. 2010. Subsistence harvest of beluga or white whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) in northern and western Alaska, 1987–2006. *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 11(3): 293–299. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Marking, Tagging and Reporting Program data bases for northern sea otter, Pacific walrus and polar bear. Office of Marine Mammals Management. Anchorage, Alaska. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

³ Wolfe, R.J., Fall, J.A. and M. Riedel. 2009. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2008. Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 347, Anchorage.