

## **North Pole**



### **People and Place**

#### *Location*<sup>1</sup>

North Pole is located on the banks of the Tanana River, 14 miles southeast of Fairbanks on the Richardson Highway. It lies 386 miles north of Anchorage and 2,347 miles northwest of Seattle. North Pole is located in the Fairbanks Recording District and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Census Area. The City encompasses 4.2 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

#### *Demographic Profile*<sup>2</sup>

In 2010, there were 2,117 inhabitants in North Pole, making it the 44<sup>th</sup> largest of 352 total Alaskan communities with recorded populations that year. Overall between 1990 and 2010, the population of North Pole increased by 45.4%. According to Alaska Department of Labor estimates, between 2000 and 2009, the population of permanent residents increased by 40.1%, with an average annual growth rate of 2.79% (Table 1).

In 2010, a majority of North Pole residents identified themselves as White (79.6%), while 5.4% identified themselves as Black or African American, 4% as Asian, 3.4% as American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.1% as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 1% as ‘some other race’, and 6.4% identified with two or more races. In addition, 6.1% of North Pole residents identified themselves as Hispanic in 2010. The percentages of residents identifying as White and as American Indian or Alaska Native stayed relatively stable from 2000 to 2010. The percentage residents identifying as Asian in 2010 was 1.4% higher than in 2000, and the percentage of residents identifying as Hispanic was 2.3% higher (Figure 1).

Between 1990 and 2010, the average household size in North Pole remained stable with 2.58 persons per household in 1990, 2.5 in 2000, and 2.54 in 2010. The number of households in North Pole increased over time, from 564 households in 1990 and 605 in 2000, to 828 occupied housing units in 2010. Of the 916 total housing units surveyed for the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, 50% were owner-occupied, 40.4% were rented, and 9.6% were vacant or used only seasonally. In 1990, no residents were reported to be living in group quarters in North Pole. However, by 2000, 9 residents lived in group quarters, and 10 were reported to be living in group quarters in 2010.

In 2010, the gender makeup of North Pole’s population (50.6% male and 49.4% female) was more gender balanced than in the population of the State as a whole, which was 52% male and 48% female. The median age of North Pole residents was 30 years in 2010, slightly younger

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

than the national average of 36.8 years and the median age for Alaska, 33.8 years. That same year, 9.2% of North Pole’s population was age 60 or older. The overall population structure of North Pole in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 2.

Table 1. Population in North Pole from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census <sup>1</sup>	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents <sup>2</sup>
1990	1,456	-
2000	1,570	-
2001	-	1,469
2002	-	1,601
2003	-	1,602
2004	-	1,530
2005	-	1,601
2006	-	1,648
2007	-	1,977
2008	-	2,207
2009	-	2,200
2010	2,117	-

<sup>1</sup> (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>.

<sup>2</sup> 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, North Pole: 2000-2010 (U.S. Census).

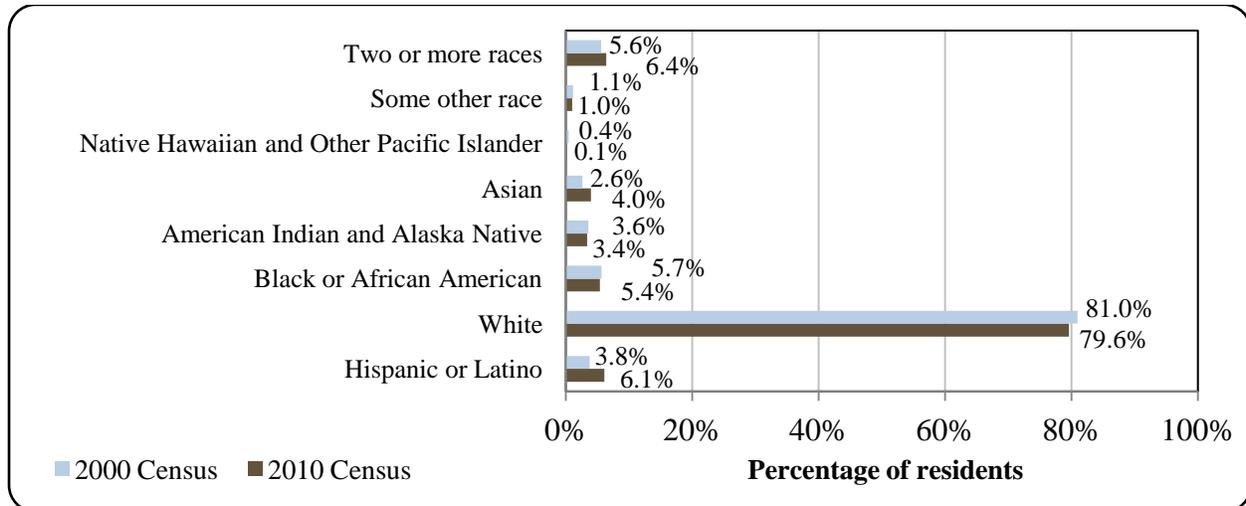
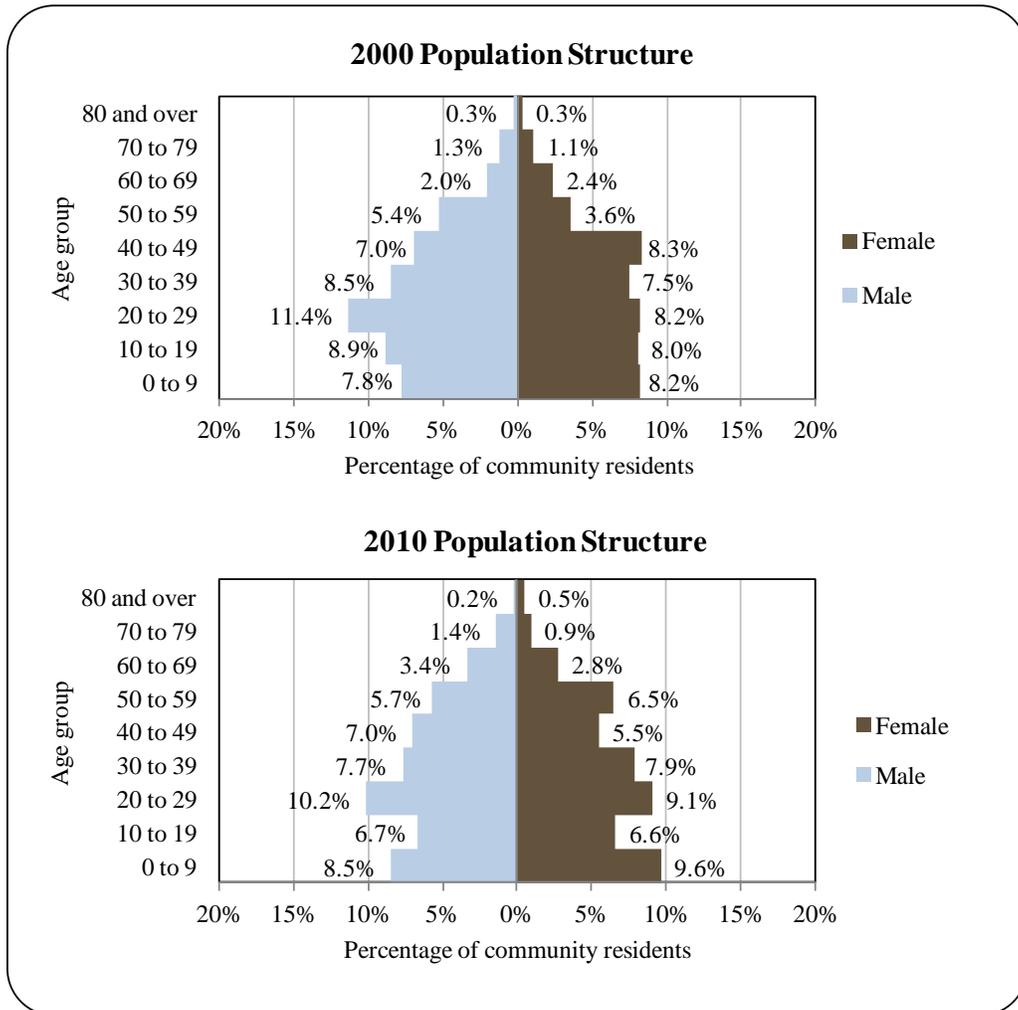


Figure 2. Population Age Structure in North Pole Based on the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Decennial Census.



In terms of educational attainment, according to the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS),<sup>3</sup> 90.8% of North Pole 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, 2.5% of the population was estimated to have less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education, compared to 3.5% of Alaskan residents overall; 6.7% were estimated to have a 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade education but no diploma, compared to 5.8% of Alaskan residents overall; 34.8% were estimated to have some college but no degree, compared to 28.3% of Alaskan residents overall; 9.8% were estimated to have an Associate’s degree, compared to 8% of Alaskan residents overall; 8% were estimated to have a Bachelor’s degree, compared to 17.4% of Alaskan residents overall; and

<sup>3</sup> 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.

6.4% were estimated to have a graduate or professional degree, compared to 9.6% of Alaskan residents overall.

### *History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture*

In 1944, Bon Davis homesteaded this area. Dahl and Gaske Development Company later bought the Davis homestead, subdivided it, and named it North Pole, hoping to attract a toy manufacturer that would advertise products as being made in North Pole.<sup>4</sup> Although no toy manufacturers came to the City, the spirit of Christmas is alive in North Pole through street names, decorations, and community events. In addition, in the 1950s, Con Miller named his trading post the Santa Claus House, and developed a reputation for playing Santa Claus to Native children in Alaskan villages during his bush trading trips.<sup>5</sup> The City was incorporated in 1953. Growth from Fairbanks and the nearby Eielson Air Force Base has increased development in North Pole over the years. Today, North Pole is renowned as the “home of Santa Claus.” Letters from children all over the world are mailed to North Pole at Christmas each year. The Santa Claus House is a year-round attraction.<sup>6</sup>

### **Natural Resources and Environment**

North Pole has a sub-arctic interior climate, characterized by extreme seasonal temperatures. Average January temperatures range from -19 to -2 °F, and average July temperatures range from 49 to 71 °F. Located at 64.75° N. latitude, North Pole also experiences extreme variation in daylight hours between summer and winter. North Pole receives moderate rainfall, and the air is dry. Annual precipitation averages 11.5 inches, with 68 inches of snowfall.<sup>7</sup>

North Pole is located less than 20 miles west of the Chena River State Recreation Area. The Area contains 397 square miles of forests, rivers, and alpine tundra, and offers opportunities for camping, backpacking, boating, swimming, and sportfishing. In winter months, ice fishing is a popular activity in the Recreation Area, along with ski touring and snow machining. Several dogsled races pass through the area. Wildlife in the Recreation Area includes moose, black and grizzly bears, and beavers. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) stocks Chena Lake annually with rainbow trout, coho salmon, and Arctic char. The Chena River is home to Arctic grayling, northern pike, whitefish, burbot, and an annual run of Chinook salmon.<sup>8,9</sup>

Segments of the Tanana Valley State Forest are located both southeast and west of the Fairbanks-North Pole area. In combination, these segments of the forest total 1.78 million acres and stretch along the Tanana River from near the Canadian border to Manley Hot Springs, approximately 100 miles west of North Pole. Almost 90% of the forest is covered by hardwood and hardwood-spruce type forests, with high representation of paper birch, quaking aspen,

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<sup>4</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>5</sup> North Pole Chamber of Commerce. (n.d.). *North Pole History & Economy*. Retrieved February 28, 2012 from <http://www.northpolechamber.us/NP-history.html>.

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 4.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. 2011. *Chena River State Recreation Area*. Retrieved February 28, 2012 from <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chena/>.

<sup>9</sup> Chena Lake Recreation Area. 2008. *Homepage*. Retrieved February 28, 2012 from <http://www.chenalake.com/>.

balsam poplar, black and white spruce, and tamarac. Almost 7% of the forest is shrub land, covered primarily in willow.<sup>10</sup>

Natural hazards in the vicinity of North Pole include flooding, wildfire, earthquakes and volcanic activity, severe weather, and erosion. Shallow earthquakes in the Fairbanks area would be considered ‘intraplate’ earthquakes, which can have a magnitude of up to 7.0 on the Richter scale. There have been three magnitude 7.0 earthquakes in the Fairbanks area in the past 90 years.<sup>11</sup>

Interior Alaska is dotted with mineral deposits. The Fairbanks area historically had world-class gold deposits. Today, the greater Tanana-Fairbanks region has deposits of gold, copper, silver, tin, tungsten and antimony. As of 2010, the Fairbanks North Star Borough reported an average of between 400 and 500 mining and support activity jobs. The Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. was the third-largest private employer in the Borough that year.<sup>12</sup> Usibelli Coal Mine has been producing coal since the 1940s.<sup>13</sup>

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, one active environmental cleanup site was located in the vicinity of North Pole as of May 2012. Between 1954 and 1973, the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline was used to transport petroleum products from a deep-water port in Haines to various military facilities, including Eielson Air Force Base, which is located approximately 10 miles southeast of North Pole. Between 2001 and 2005, investigations were carried out into possible ground contamination from petroleum products, as well as possible dioxin residues from pesticide application along the pipeline. Results of dioxin sampling found no evidence of contamination in soils, and the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) does not currently plan to conduct further testing. As of 2005, a petroleum sampling plan was being developed, and the COE intended to identify areas of contamination and work with landowners to resolve issues of concern.<sup>14</sup>

## Current Economy<sup>15</sup>

Given North Pole’s close proximity to Fairbanks, residents have access to employment in the greater Fairbanks area. Employment is diverse.<sup>16</sup> In 2010, top employers of local residents included the Fairbanks North Star School District, the State of Alaska, the University of Alaska, health services, retail businesses, Borough government, and an investment company.<sup>17</sup> In addition, some residents are employed by the military or the oil industry. Flint Hills Resources

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<sup>10</sup> Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. 2001. “Introduction.” *Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan: 2001 Update*. Retrieved January 12, 2012 from [http://forestry.alaska.gov/management/tvsf\\_final\\_plan.htm](http://forestry.alaska.gov/management/tvsf_final_plan.htm).

<sup>11</sup> 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>.

<sup>12</sup> Szumigala, D.J., L.A. Harbo, and J.N. Adleman. *Alaska’s Mineral Industry 2010*. Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources and Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Special Report 65.

<sup>13</sup> Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. website. (n.d.). *UCM History*. Retrieved January 10, 2012 from [http://www.usibelli.com/History\\_KD.asp](http://www.usibelli.com/History_KD.asp).

<sup>14</sup> Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (n.d.). *List of Contaminated Sites*. Retrieved April 17, 2012 from <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/list.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

<sup>16</sup> See footnote 4.

<sup>17</sup> 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/>.

oil refinery, located in North Pole, produces jet fuel, heating oil, gasoline and diesel from North Slope crude oil. Another company, Petro Star, also operates a small distillery. Several North Pole residents also participate in commercial fishing activities. It is also important to note that every Christmas season Santa’s helpers are hired to respond to the thousands of letters mailed to North Pole.<sup>18</sup>

Based on household surveys conducted for the 2006-2010 ACS,<sup>19</sup> in 2010, the per capita income in North Pole was estimated to be \$26,596 and the median household income was estimated to be \$61,225. This represents an increase from the per capita and median household incomes reported in the year 2000 (\$21,426 and \$44,583, respectively). When inflation is taken into account by converting the 2000 values to 2010 dollars,<sup>20</sup> a real increase is still observed in median household income, from real median household income of \$58,626 in 2000. However, a real decrease is revealed in per capita income, from a real per capita income of \$28,175 in 2000. In 2010, North Pole ranked 90<sup>th</sup> of 307 Alaskan communities with per capita income data that year, and 73<sup>rd</sup> in median household income, out of 305 Alaskan communities with household income data.

North Pole’s small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions.<sup>21</sup> An alternative estimate of per capita income is provided by economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database 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 North Pole in 2010 is \$12,796.<sup>22</sup> This estimate is lower than the 2000 per capita income reported in by the U.S. Census, This supporting the decreasing per capita income trend suggested by the 2010 ACS estimate. Despite decreases in per capita income, North Pole was not recognized as a “distressed” community by the Denali Commission in 2011.<sup>23</sup> 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 similar percentage of North Pole residents were estimated to be in the civilian labor force (68.2%) compared to population in the civilian labor force statewide (68.8%). In the same year, 9.2% of local 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 6.7%, slightly higher than the statewide unemployment rate of 5.9%. An additional estimate of unemployment is based on the ALARI database, which indicates that the

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<sup>18</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>19</sup> 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>.

<sup>20</sup> 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>).

<sup>21</sup> 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.

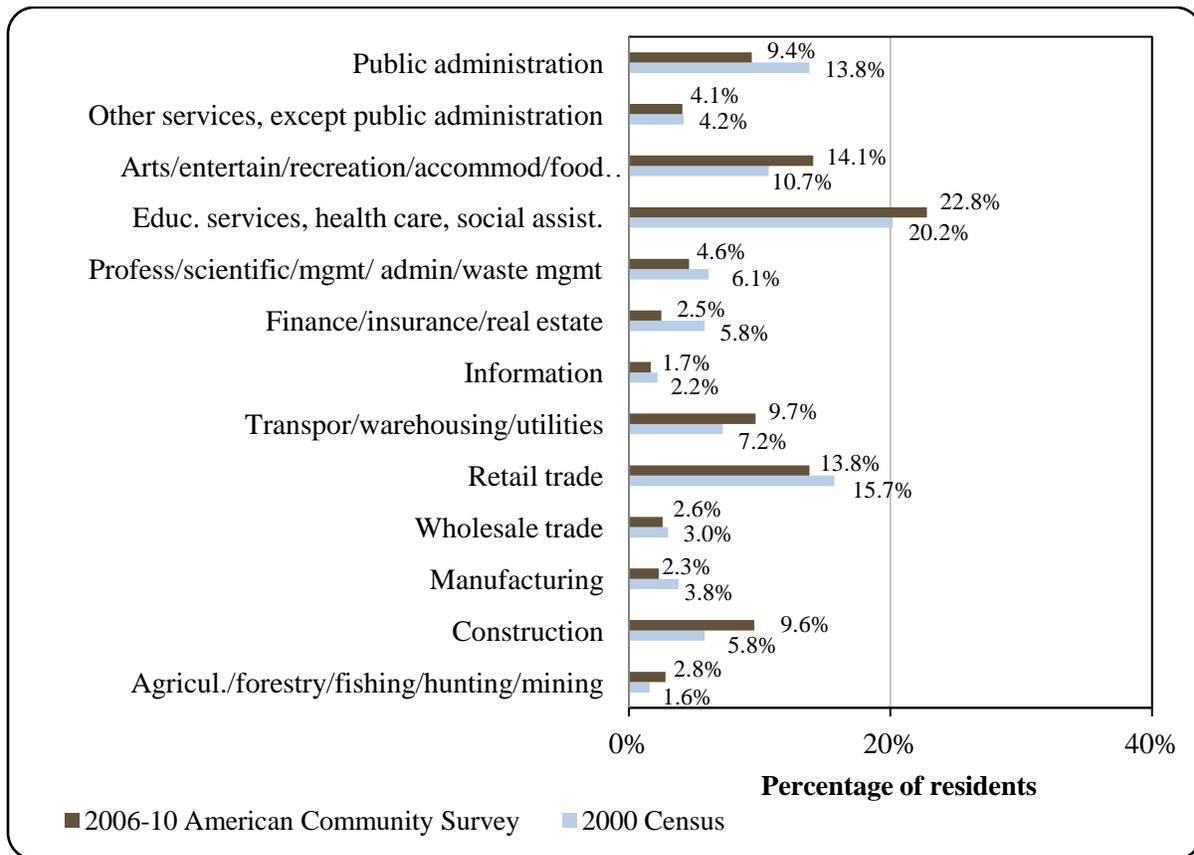
<sup>22</sup> See footnotes 17 and 19.

<sup>23</sup> Denali Commission. 2011. *Distressed Community Criteria 2011 Update*. Retrieved April 16, 2012 from [www.denali.gov](http://www.denali.gov).

unemployment rate in 2010 was 9.3%, compared to a statewide unemployment rate estimate of 11.5%.<sup>24</sup>

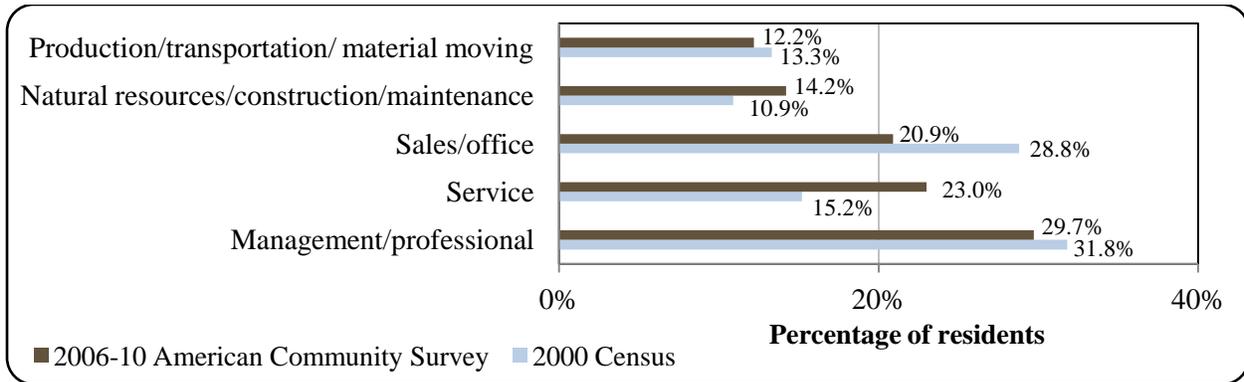
Also based on the 2006-2010 ACS, the greatest number of workers was estimated to be employed in the private sector (68.1%), along with 27.4% in the public sector, and 4.5% estimated to be self-employed. Of the 1,089 people aged 16 and over that were estimated to be employed in the civilian labor force, the majority was estimated to be working in educational services, health care, and social assistance (20.2%), retail trade (15.7%), public administration (13.8%), and arts, entertainment, accommodation, and food services (10.7%). Only 1.6% of the civilian labor force was estimated to be working in agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining in 2010. However, the number of individuals employed in farming, fishing, and forestry industries is potentially underestimated in census statistics; fishermen may hold another job and characterize their employment accordingly. This information about employment by industry is presented in Figure 3, and employment is broken down by occupation in Figure 4.

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



<sup>24</sup> 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/>.

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



An alternative estimate of employment is provided by economic data compiled in the ALARI database, which indicate that there were 797 employed residents in North Pole in 2010, of which 25% were employed in trade, transportation, and utilities, 12.2% in leisure and hospitality, 11.5% in education and health services, 10.9% in local government, 8.3% in professional and business services, 8.3% in state government, 7.7% in construction, 5.3% in financial activities, 3.5% in natural resources and mining, 2.5% in manufacturing, 0.8% in information, 0.4% in unknown industries, and 3.8% in other industries.<sup>25</sup> As with income statistics, it should also be noted that ACS and DOLWD employment statistics do not reflect residents’ activity in the subsistence economy.

## Governance

North Pole is a Home Rule City which was incorporated in 1953. It is located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The City has a Strong Mayor form of government, with a seven-person city council including the Mayor, a seven-person advisory school board, and five municipal employees. The City administers a 4% sales tax, 8% bed tax, 5% alcohol tax, and 8% tobacco tax. Together, the City and Borough administer a 15.445 mills property tax.<sup>26</sup>

In addition to tax revenues, other locally-generated revenue sources in North Pole between 2000 and 2010 included permit and business license fees, charges for services such as ambulance, and investment income. Outside revenue sources included various shared revenue programs as well as state and federal grant funding. North Pole received contributions from the State Revenue Sharing program from 2000 to 2003 of between \$14,000 and \$34,000 per year and Community Revenue Sharing program contributions of approximately \$200,000 per year in 2009 and 2010. Other sources of shared revenue included state telephone and electric co-op tax refunds and fish tax refunds in some years (see the *Fisheries-Related Revenue* section). No information was reported regarding fisheries-related grants received by North Pole between 2000 and 2010. Information about selected aspects of North Pole’s municipal revenue is presented in Table 2.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

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

Year	Total Municipal Revenue <sup>1</sup>	Sales Tax Revenue <sup>2</sup>	State/Community Revenue Sharing <sup>3,4</sup>	Fisheries-Related Grants (State and Federal) <sup>5</sup>
2000	\$2,801,117	\$1,219,624	\$14,000	n/a
2001	\$5,115,286	\$1,388,770	\$23,612	n/a
2002	\$3,468,594	\$1,344,710	\$23,612	n/a
2003	\$5,195,843	\$1,563,306	\$23,715	n/a
2004	\$3,999,341	\$1,589,859	n/a	n/a
2005	\$5,111,667	\$2,182,822	n/a	n/a
2006	\$4,333,161	\$2,666,932	n/a	n/a
2007	\$5,157,034	\$2,351,143	n/a	n/a
2008	\$5,227,035	\$2,432,917	n/a	n/a
2009	\$5,067,738	\$2,398,544*	\$196,287	n/a
2010	\$5,367,772	\$2,793,448*	\$203,079	n/a

\* Note: Sales tax revenue was not reported separate from alcohol and bed taxes this year. This number includes total revenue from alcohol and bed taxes in addition to local sales tax.

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm).

<sup>3</sup> Alaska Dept. of Rev. (n.d.). (2000-2009) *Taxes and Fees Annual Report*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from <https://www.tax.state.ak.us>.

<sup>4</sup> The State Revenue Sharing program ceased in 2003 and was replaced by the Community Revenue Sharing program starting in 2009.

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm).

North Pole was not included under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), and is not federally recognized as a Native village. The closest offices of the ADF&G, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services are located in Fairbanks, 14 miles from North Pole by road. Anchorage has the nearest office of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

## Infrastructure

### *Connectivity and Transportation*

North Pole is connected to nearby communities via the Alaska Railroad, which runs through the city center, and via the interior Alaska highway system. Fairbanks International airport is located approximately 19 miles away by road, on the far side of the City of Fairbanks. The price of a roundtrip ticket by plane from Fairbanks to Anchorage in early June of 2012 was \$247.<sup>27</sup> In addition, one public and six private airstrips are present in North Pole, although these

<sup>27</sup> This price was calculated on November 21, 2011 using kayak.com.

facilities are not served by scheduled commercial flights.<sup>28</sup>

### *Facilities*

Water in North Pole is derived from community and private wells. Water is filtered and chlorinated before entering the City-operated piped water system. The City also operates a piped sewer system, and collected sewage is treated in an aerated lagoon. Some homes use private septic tanks. The City does not operate its own landfill. Refuse collection services are provided by a private company, Drake's Refuse. The Golden Valley Electric Association provides electricity in North Pole using natural gas. Police services are provided by the North Pole City Police Department.<sup>29</sup> The nearest state trooper post is located in Fairbanks.<sup>30</sup> Fire and rescue services are provided by the North Pole Fire Department and ambulance, as well as the North Star and Moose Creek Volunteer Fire Departments and ambulance services. Additional community facilities include a Boys and Girls Club, a City Hall Annex, senior housing, one public and three school libraries, and a swimming pool. An RV park and campground is available for North Pole visitors. Several taxis are based in the City, and car rentals are available in Fairbanks. Telephone, internet, and cable services are available in North Pole.<sup>31</sup>

### *Medical Services*

Health care is provided for North Pole residents at the Fairbanks Hospital, 15 miles away by road, as well as several local health clinics. Emergency Services include highway, airport, and floatplane access, and are provided by 911 telephone service volunteers and paid emergency medical services. Alternate health care is provided by the North Pole Fire Department ambulance and North Star Volunteer Fire Department.<sup>32</sup>

### *Educational Opportunities*

Six schools are located in North Pole, including three elementary schools (preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade), one middle school (grades 6 through 8), one high school (grades 9 through 12) and one additional secondary school (grades 7 through 12). As of 2011, Badger Road Elementary School had 592 students and 32 teachers, North Pole Elementary School had 484 students and 26 teachers, and Ticasuk Brown Elementary School had 548 students and 31 teachers. That year, North Pole Middle School had 582 students and 40 teachers, North Pole High School (grades 9 through 12) had 783 students and 45 teachers, and Star of the North Secondary School (grades 7 through 12) had 192 students and 12 teachers.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Airport information retrieved February 27, 2012 from [www.airnav.com](http://www.airnav.com).

<sup>29</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>30</sup> Alaska Dept. of Public Safety. 2012. *Alaska State Trooper Detachments*. Retrieved June 1, 2012 from <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/detachments.aspx>.

<sup>31</sup> See footnote 29.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> 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*

North Pole is located along a portion of the Tanana River included in District 6 of the Yukon Commercial Salmon Fishery. Several North Pole residents held permits in the Upper Yukon gillnet and fish wheel fisheries between 2002 and 2010, although a majority of salmon permits were held in fisheries executed elsewhere in the state (see *Commercial Fishing* section).

Historically, salmon was harvested for subsistence purposes by indigenous people living along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers, as well as for food for sled dogs. The first recorded commercial harvest of salmon in the Yukon River fishery took place in 1918, and early harvests were relatively large. Concerns about providing sufficient salmon resources for subsistence harvest led to limitations on commercial salmon fishing during several periods, including a complete commercial fishing closure between 1925 and 1931. In the 1980s, concerns about possible overharvest of Chinook runs led to reduced commercial fisheries in the late 1980s and 1990s along the Yukon River. Poor returns in the late 1990s and early 2000s resulted in restrictive management of the commercial fishery and complete closure in 2001 to ensure subsistence resources.<sup>34</sup> Yukon River Chinook runs showed signs of improvement for several years following the 2001 commercial closure, but low returns required restricted commercial harvest in 2008 and complete closure of Chinook harvest in 2009. A fishery disaster was declared that year.<sup>35</sup> A fishery disaster was again declared for the 2012 season, when the commercial Chinook salmon fishery was closed and subsistence fishery was significantly restricted. ADF&G, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, and constituents are working together to develop a conservation plan that restricts Chinook harvest while allowing for greater harvest of more abundance species, including gear and other management restrictions.<sup>36</sup>

Like Yukon Chinook salmon runs, chum salmon runs have seen poor returns since 1998. A relatively strong run in 2007 led to some effort to redevelop the Yukon chum fishery, but this process is challenged by the need to reduce incidental harvest of co-migrating Chinook salmon. Further, beginning in 2008, the fall chum salmon run was not large enough to provide for commercial opportunity. From 2008 to 2010, management actions were taken to delay commercial fishing to provide for escapement and subsistence use.<sup>37</sup>

In years when commercial salmon fishing is open, fishing is allowed along the entire 1,200 miles of the main stem of the Yukon River, as well as 225 miles of the Tanana River. There are 7 fishing districts, 10 subdistricts, and 28 statistical areas. Chinook, chum, and coho are the three species of salmon that have significant runs far into Interior Alaska and Canada. Fishing in the Upper Yukon Area takes place using drift gillnets and fish weirs.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> 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>.

<sup>35</sup> Upton, Harold F. 2010. *Commercial Fishery Disaster Assistance*. Congressional Research Service Report for Congress. Retrieved October 3, 2012 from <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34209.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. 2012. *2012 Alaska Chinook Salmon Fishery Disaster – FAQ*. Retrieved October, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hottopics.federalChinookdisaster>.

<sup>37</sup> Wolfe, R.J. and C. Scott. (2010). *Continuity and Change in Salmon Harvest Patterns, Yukon River Drainage, Alaska*. Final Report for Study 07-253, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

<sup>38</sup> See footnote 34.

North Pole is not eligible to participate in the Community Development Quota (CDQ) or the Community Quota Entity (CQE) programs.

### *Processing Plants*

The 2010 Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Intent to Operate list does not list a registered processing plant in North Pole. However, Fairbanks-based Interior Alaska Fish Processors, also known as “Santa’s Smokehouse” has an additional processing facility in North Pole. The Fairbanks plant processes commercially-caught halibut and all five species of salmon. In addition, Interior Alaska Fish Processors provides custom processing services on sport-caught fish and meats.<sup>39</sup>

### *Fisheries-Related Revenue*

According to information provided in North Pole’s annual municipal budget between 2000 and 2010, fisheries-related revenue was not an important source of income for the City. Between \$48 and \$319 were reported in earnings from the Shared Fisheries Business Tax in 5 years during the 2000-2010 period. Refer to Table 3 for details on selected aspects of fisheries-related revenue during this period.<sup>40</sup>

### *Commercial Fishing*

Between 2000 and 2010, North Pole residents participated in commercial fisheries as crew members, vessel owners, permit holders, and quota share account holders. In 2010, 20 North Pole residents held a total of 25 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) salmon permits (Table 4). Of these, 10 were actively fished in 2010. A majority of these permits, including 9 of the 10 active permits, were held in a variety of salmon fisheries around the state. Salmon fisheries in which North Pole residents held permits in 2010 included: Kodiak purse seine (two held, zero active in 2010); Bristol Bay drift gillnet (three held, three active); Bristol Bay set gillnet (seven held, six active); Upper Yukon gillnet (two held, zero active); Kotzebue gillnet (one held, zero active); statewide hand troll (two held, zero active); and Upper Yukon fish wheel (three held, zero active). The number of salmon CFEC permits held in North Pole increased between 2000 and 2010, although the percentage of salmon permits fished declined slightly.

Also in 2010, three CFEC permits were held in ‘other shellfish’ fisheries and two were held in herring fisheries (Table 4). All three ‘other shellfish’ permits were held in Prince William Sound shrimp fisheries, including two for use of pot gear on vessels under 60 feet (one permit active in 2010), and one for pot gear on vessels over 60 feet (not active in 2010). 2010 was the first year between 2000 and 2010 that ‘other shellfish’ CFEC permits were held by residents of North Pole. Regarding herring CFEC permits, in 2010, one was held in the Goodnews Bay roe herring, spawn on kelp fishery, and the other in the Bristol Bay spawn on kelp, hand-picking fishery. Neither of these herring permits was actively fished in 2010. During the 2000-2010 period, North Pole residents held herring permits from 2005 to 2010, and the percentage of

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<sup>39</sup> Santa’s Smokehouse. (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved June 20, 2012 from <http://santassmokehouse.com/>.

<sup>40</sup> A direct comparison between fisheries-related revenue and total municipal revenue cannot reliably be made as not all fisheries-related revenue sources are included in the municipal budget.

permits actively fished declined over time. Although no other CFEC permits were held in North Pole in 2010, it is important to mention that CFEC permits were held by earlier in the decade in fisheries for crab, halibut, sablefish, and groundfish. In addition, one Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) was held in North Pole between 2000 and 2002, but was not actively fished.

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of quota share accounts held by North Pole residents in the federal halibut catch share fishery decreased from four in 2000-2003 to one in 2008-2010. The number of quota shares held increased from 17,573 to 18,151, before declining to 99 shares held in 2008-2010. The annual halibut individual fishing quota (IFQ) allotment increased slightly between 2000 and 2006, when the pounds allotted per quota share was 4% higher than 2000 levels. Between 2008 and 2010, however, IFQ allotment had fallen to 11% below 2000 levels. Also between 2000 and 2010, no quota share accounts or quota shares were held by North Pole residents in federal catch share fisheries for sablefish or crab. Information about federal catch share participation is presented in Tables 6 through 8.

In 2010, 15 North Pole residents held commercial crew licenses, 6 residents were the primary owner of a fishing vessel, and one fishing vessel was recorded as homeported in North Pole. Crew license numbers stayed stable between 2000 and 2010, although the number of vessels owned by residents and the number of vessels homeported declined substantially over the period. Additionally, since no fish buyers or shore-side processing facilities were located in North Pole between 2000 and 2010, no landings or ex-vessel revenue were generated in the community. This information about the commercial fishing sector is presented in Table 5.

Although no landings or ex-vessel revenue were reported in North Pole between 2000 and 2010 (Table 9), some information is available regarding landings and ex-vessel revenue generated by North Pole fishermen, irrespective of the location of their deliveries (Tables 9 and 10). Most of this information is considered confidential between 2000 and 2010 due to the small number of participants, although salmon landings and ex-vessel revenue could be reported between 2004 and 2007. In 2007, the last year for which data are reported regarding salmon landings, North Pole vessel owners landed 88,663 net pounds of salmon, valued at \$67,697, a decrease in both landings and ex-vessel revenue from the previous 3 years.

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

Revenue source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Raw fish tax <sup>1</sup>	n/a										
Shared Fisheries Business Tax <sup>1</sup>	\$48	\$319	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$82	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$266	\$96
Fisheries Resource Landing Tax <sup>1</sup>	n/a										
Fuel transfer tax <sup>2</sup>	n/a										
Extraterritorial fish tax <sup>2</sup>	n/a										
Bulk fuel transfers <sup>1</sup>	n/a										
Boat hauls <sup>2</sup>	n/a										
Harbor usage <sup>2</sup>	n/a										
Port/dock usage <sup>2</sup>	n/a										
Fishing gear storage on public land <sup>3</sup>	n/a										
Marine fuel sales tax <sup>3</sup>	n/a										
<i>Total fisheries-related revenue<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>\$48</i>	<i>\$319</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$82</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$266</i>	<i>\$96</i>
<i>Total municipal revenue<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>\$2,801,117</i>	<i>\$5,115,286</i>	<i>\$3,468,594</i>	<i>\$5,195,843</i>	<i>\$3,999,341</i>	<i>\$5,111,667</i>	<i>\$4,333,161</i>	<i>\$5,157,034</i>	<i>\$5,227,035</i>	<i>\$5,067,738</i>	<i>\$5,367,772</i>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm).

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

<sup>3</sup> Reported by community leaders in a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Active 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
Crab (LLP) <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Active 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
Federal Fisheries Permits <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crab (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other shellfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33%
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Halibut (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	1	0	0
	Fished permits	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	0	0
	% of permits fished	33%	50%	50%	50%	100%	67%	67%	100%	100%	-	-
	Total permit holders	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	1	0	0
Herring (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	1	3	2
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	100%	50%	50%	0%	0%	33%	0%
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Groundfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	0%	-	-	100%	100%	0%	-	0%	0%	-	-
	Total permit holders	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Other Finfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	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) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	11	11	13	14	17	19	22	23	18	14	20
	Fished permits	7	8	5	6	10	10	11	11	6	2	9
	% of permits fished	64%	73%	38%	43%	59%	53%	50%	48%	33%	14%	45%
	Total permit holders	11	11	13	13	17	19	23	22	17	13	17
<i>Total CFEC Permits<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>25</i>
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>40%</i>
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>20</i>

<sup>1</sup>National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Data on License Limitation Program, 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.]

<sup>2</sup>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 North Pole: 2000-2010.

Year	Crew Licenses Holders <sup>1</sup>	Count Of All Fish Buyers <sup>2</sup>	Count Of Shore-Side Processing Facilities <sup>3</sup>	Vessels Primarily Owned by Residents <sup>4</sup>	Vessels Homeported <sup>4</sup>	Vessels Landing Catch in North Pole <sup>2</sup>	Total Net Pounds Landed in North Pole <sup>2,5</sup>	Total Ex-Vessel Value of Landings in North Pole <sup>2,5</sup>
2000	13	0	0	24	10	0	0	\$0
2001	12	0	0	19	9	0	0	\$0
2002	9	0	0	23	11	0	0	\$0
2003	9	0	0	21	9	0	0	\$0
2004	9	0	0	21	7	0	0	\$0
2005	11	0	0	7	2	0	0	\$0
2006	10	0	0	6	1	0	0	\$0
2007	12	0	0	6	1	0	0	\$0
2008	11	0	0	4	1	0	0	\$0
2009	6	0	0	2	1	0	0	\$0
2010	15	0	0	6	1	0	0	\$0

<sup>1</sup> 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.]

<sup>2</sup> 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.]

<sup>3</sup> 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.]

<sup>4</sup> 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.]

<sup>5</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	4	17,573	1,947
2001	4	17,573	2,222
2002	4	17,573	2,250
2003	4	17,573	2,249
2004	3	17,255	2,539
2005	3	17,255	2,602
2006	4	18,151	2,682
2007	4	18,151	2,577
2008	1	99	12
2009	1	99	11
2010	1	99	10

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 North Pole: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders	Sablefish Quota Shares Held	Sablefish IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0
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.]

Table 8. Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Crab Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of North Pole: 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.]

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

	<i>Total Net Pounds<sup>1</sup></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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halibut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Groundfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Shellfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Cod	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pollock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sablefish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Finfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Halibut	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Herring	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Groundfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Shellfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pacific Cod	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pollock	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sablefish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Salmon	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>

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.]

<sup>1</sup> Net pounds refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

<sup>2</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

	<i>Total Net Pounds<sup>1</sup></i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Groundfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	121,864	183,645	202,752	88,663	-	-	-
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>121,864</i>	<i>183,645</i>	<i>202,752</i>	<i>88,663</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Groundfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	\$72,348	\$126,284	\$133,772	\$67,697	-	-	-
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$72,348</i>	<i>\$126,284</i>	<i>\$133,772</i>	<i>\$67,697</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</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.]

<sup>1</sup> Net pounds refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

<sup>2</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

### *Recreational Fishing*

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of active sport fish guide businesses present in North Pole varied between 8 and 5, with a slight decreasing trend over time. The number of licensed sport fish guides residing in North Pole also decreased over the period, from 27 in 2000 to 9 in 2010. An increasing number of sportfishing licenses were sold in North Pole each year, from 2,427 in 2000 to 3,449 in 2010. North Pole residents purchased between two and three times as many sportfishing licenses as were sold locally, totaling between 5,047 and 6,508 per year between 2000 and 2010.

The Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey,<sup>41</sup> conducted by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010, noted the following species as targeted by private anglers in North Pole. In freshwater, anglers

<sup>41</sup> 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).

targeted Arctic grayling, burbot, all five Pacific salmon species, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout, northern pike, and whitefish. The survey specifically noted that North Pole anglers targeted stocks of landlocked salmon. In saltwater, anglers targeted all five salmon species, Dolly Varden, lingcod, Pacific cod, Pacific halibut, rockfish, shark, and smelt. The survey also noted harvest of hardshell clams and shrimp by residents of North Pole. No kept/release log book data were reported for fishing charters out of North Pole between 2000 and 2010.<sup>42</sup>

North Pole is located within Alaska Sport Fishing Survey Area U – Tanana River Drainage. This Survey Area does not include saltwater areas, reflected in the lack of saltwater angler days reported in Table 11. Freshwater fishing activity was very high in the region between 2000 and 2010. Alaska resident anglers fished significantly more angler days in the Tanana River drainage (71,461 - 110,256 angler days per year) than non-Alaska resident anglers (7,415 – 11,853 per year). This information about fishing trends in North Pole is presented in Table 11.

*Subsistence Fishing*

Residents of North Pole were active in subsistence fisheries for salmon and halibut between 2000 and 2008. The number of subsistence salmon permits issued to North Pole households varied between 655 and 837 per year over the period. Sockeye salmon were the most heavily harvested species in all years, averaging 12,287 fish per year between 2000 and 2008. Chinook and coho were the next most important salmon species, averaging 447 and 388 fish harvested per year, respectively. Information about subsistence harvest of chum and pink salmon was also reported in some years during the period. A relatively high number of chum salmon were reported harvested in one year during the period (932 fish in 2004). Information about subsistence salmon harvest is presented in Table 13.

Table 11. Sport Fishing Trends, North Pole: 2000-2010.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Sport Fish Guide Licenses<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in North Pole<sup>2</sup></b>
2000	8	27	5,047	2,427
2001	8	26	5,089	2,662
2002	8	30	5,104	2,765
2003	7	30	5,413	3,349
2004	6	33	5,466	3,333
2005	6	17	5,666	3,369
2006	5	14	5,514	3,337
2007	7	20	6,046	3,300
2008	6	15	5,764	3,124
2009	5	9	6,048	3,284
2010	6	9	6,508	3,449

<sup>42</sup> 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. Cont'd. Sport Fishing Trends, North Pole: 2000-2010.

Year	Saltwater		Freshwater	
	Angler Days Fished – Non-Residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Non-Residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents <sup>3</sup>
2000	0	0	11,517	110,246
2001	0	0	10,744	80,391
2002	0	0	9,733	98,884
2003	0	0	7,502	92,432
2004	0	0	11,853	104,633
2005	0	0	11,335	82,063
2006	0	0	8,216	71,461
2007	0	0	9,327	91,629
2008	0	0	7,613	64,722
2009	0	0	7,415	85,082
2010	0	0	9,025	87,834

<sup>1</sup> 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.]

<sup>2</sup> 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.]

<sup>3</sup> 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).

Between 2003 and 2010, for years in which information was reported, the number of Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC) issued to North Pole residents varied between three and four. No additional information was reported regarding the number of SHARC cards fished or the poundage of halibut harvested for subsistence purposes in those years. This information is presented in Table 14.

No information is reported by ADF&G regarding the percentage of households in North Pole participating in subsistence harvest or use of various resources or per capita subsistence harvest in the community between 2000 and 2010 (Table 12). Neither is information reported regarding subsistence use of marine invertebrates and non-salmon fish (not including halibut) (Table 13). Likewise, no information is available from management agencies regarding marine mammal subsistence harvest by residents of North Pole between 2000 and 2010 (Table 15).

### Additional Information

The Santa Claus House in North Pole offers a ‘Letters from Santa’ service. “These personalized letters are filled with more than good wishes from Saint Nick: they’re filled with the promise of Christmas, and all its secrets and magic. And, a Santa letter can set many a worried mind at ease, as each reader learns that he or she is, indeed, on Santa’s ‘good list’!”<sup>43</sup>

<sup>43</sup> [Santaclaushouse.com](http://www.santaclaushouse.com). 2010. *The Original Letter from Santa*. Retrieved February 28, 2012 from <http://www.santaclaushouse.com/santaletters.asp>.

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

Year	Subsistence Salmon Permits Issued <sup>1</sup>	Salmon Permits Returned <sup>1</sup>	Chinook Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Chum Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Coho Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Pink Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Sockeye Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Lbs of Marine Inverts <sup>2</sup>	Lbs of Non-Salmon Fish <sup>2</sup>
2000	693	651	496	n/a	204	5	9,682	n/a	n/a
2001	773	688	455	26	183	n/a	12,835	n/a	n/a
2002	655	562	453	40	202	n/a	9,201	n/a	n/a
2003	689	596	486	20	569	n/a	9,429	n/a	n/a
2004	781	636	717	932	1,655	n/a	12,884	n/a	n/a
2005	828	675	323	1	143	5	16,027	n/a	n/a
2006	837	635	352	2	192	1	14,727	n/a	n/a
2007	837	712	421	n/a	109	n/a	16,182	n/a	n/a
2008	757	630	320	n/a	236	n/a	9,614	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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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, North Pole: 2003-2010.

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	4	n/a	n/a
2005	4	n/a	n/a
2006	3	n/a	n/a
2007	3	n/a	n/a
2008	4	n/a	n/a
2009	4	n/a	n/a
2010	4	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, North Pole: 2000-2010.

Year	# of Beluga Whales <sup>1</sup>	# of Sea Otters <sup>2</sup>	# of Walrus <sup>2</sup>	# of Polar Bears <sup>2</sup>	# of Steller Sea Lions <sup>3</sup>	# of Harbor Seals <sup>3</sup>	# of Spotted Seals <sup>3</sup>
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.*

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.