

Sitka (SIT-kuh)

People and Place

*Location*¹



Sitka is located on the west coast of Baranof Island fronting the Pacific Ocean, on Sitka Sound. A dormant volcano, Mount Edgecumbe, rises 3,200 ft above the community. Sitka is 95 air miles southwest of Juneau and 185 miles northwest of Ketchikan. Seattle, Washington, lies 862 air miles to the south. The City and Borough of Sitka is located in the Sitka Recording District and the Sitka Census Area. The City and Borough encompass 2,874 square miles of land and 1,937.5 square miles of water.

*Demographic Profile*²

In 2010, there were 8,881 residents in the Sitka, making it the 7th largest of 352 total Alaskan communities with recorded populations that year. According to Alaska Department of Labor estimates, the population of permanent residents increased by 1.8% between 2000 and 2006, and then declined by 4.1% between 2006 and 2009. Overall between 2000 and 2009, the population decreased by 2.4%. The average annual growth rate during this period was -0.41%, reflecting the fact that the population increased in some years and declined in others, with an overall decline. The change in population from 1990 to 2010 is provided in Table 1.

In a survey conducted by NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) in 2011, community leaders noted that Sitka has approximately 1,800 seasonal workers or transients each year, typically from April through September, and that this annual peak in population is mostly driven by employment in the fishing sectors.

In 2010, a majority of Sitka residents identified themselves as White (65.3%). Other ethnic groups present in Sitka that year included American Indian and Alaska Native (16.8%), two or more races (9.8%), Asian (6%), Hispanic or Latino (4.9%), some other race (1.3%), Black or African American (0.5%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.3%). Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of the population identifying themselves as White declined by 3.2% and the percentage of the population identifying themselves as American Indian and Alaska Native decreased by 1.8%. During that same period there were corresponding increases in the percentage of the population identifying themselves as Hispanic or Latino, two or more races, Asian, some other race, and Black or African American. Changes in racial and ethnic composition from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Figure 1.

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>.

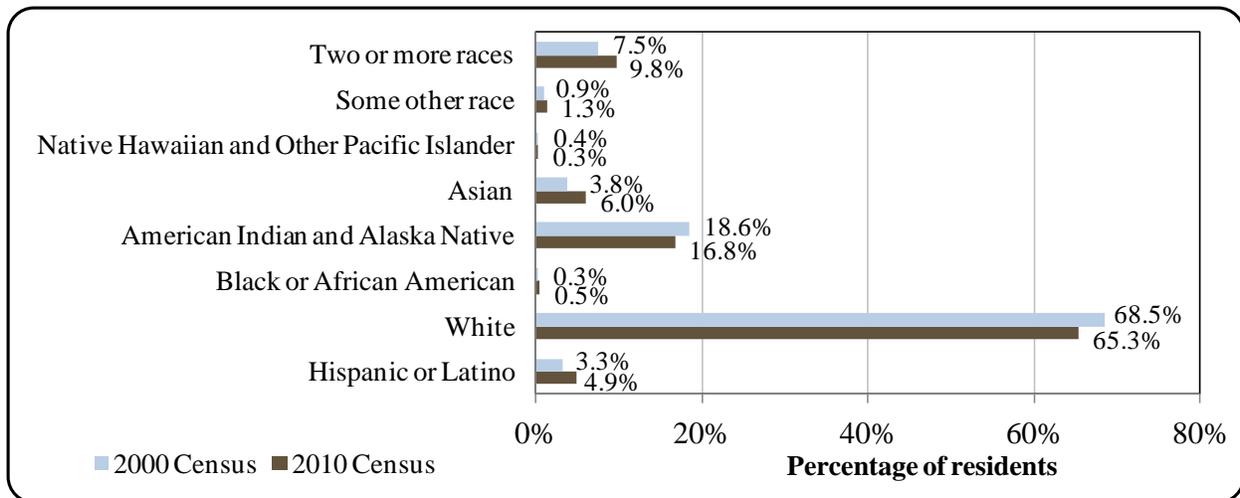
Table 1. Population in Sitka from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census ¹	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents ²
1990	8,588	-
2000	8,835	-
2001	-	8,727
2002	-	8,794
2003	-	8,892
2004	-	8,826
2005	-	8,948
2006	-	8,992
2007	-	8,621
2008	-	8,641
2009	-	8,627
2010	8,881	-

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, Sitka: 2000-2010 (U.S. Census).

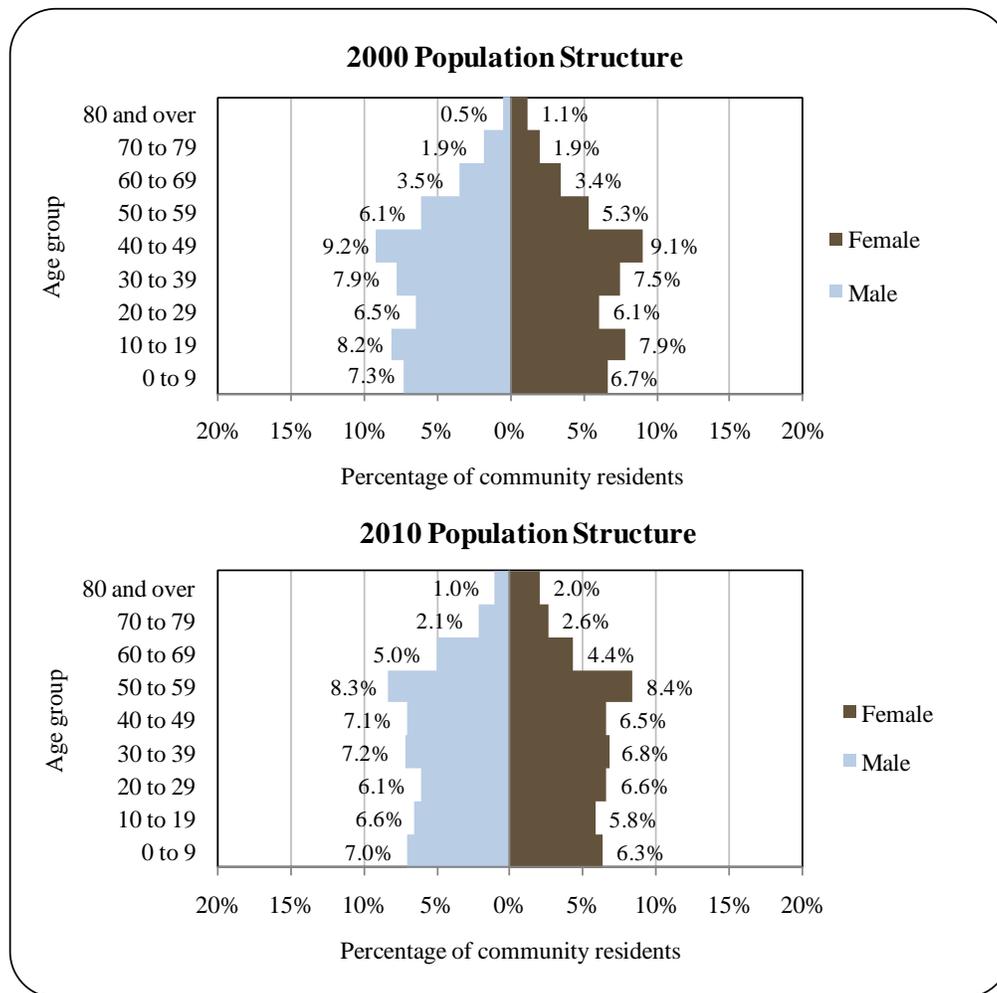


In 2010, the average household size in Sitka was 2.43, a slight decrease from 2.8 persons per household in 1990 and 2.61 in 2000. The total number of households in Sitka increased from 2,939 in 1990 and 3,278 in 2000 to 3,545 by 2010. Of the 4,102 total housing units surveyed for the 2010 Decennial Census, 2,050 (50%) were owner-occupied, 1,495 (36.4%) were renter-occupied, and 557 (13.6%) were vacant. Of these vacant housing units, 237 were vacant due to

seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. The number of Sitka residents estimated to be living in group quarters increased from 247 in 1990 to 271 in 2000, and then fell again to 255 in 2010.

In 2010, the gender makeup in Sitka was 50.5% male and 49.5% female, slightly less skewed than the state as a whole (52% male, 48% female). The median age was estimated to be 38.2 years, slightly higher than both the U.S. national average of 36.8 years and the median age for Alaska, 33.8 years. In 2010, the largest percentage of Sitka residents fell within the age category 40-59 years old, with males outnumbering females in every age category except 20-29 years old, 50-59 years old, and 70 years old and older. Relatively few residents were age 80 and over. The overall population structure of Sitka in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Population Age Structure in Sitka 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 92.3% of Sitka 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, 1.6% of residents aged 25 and older were estimated to have less than a ninth grade education, compared to 3.5% of Alaskan residents overall; 6.1% were estimated to have a ninth to 12th grade education but no diploma, compared to 5.8% of Alaskan residents overall; 26.2% were estimated to have a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 27.4% of Alaskan residents overall; 28% were estimated to have some college but no degree, compared to 28.3% of Alaskan residents overall; 9% were estimated to have an Associate's degree, compared to 8% of Alaskan residents overall; 18.1% were estimated to have a Bachelor's degree, compared to 17.4% of Alaskan residents overall; and 11% were estimated to have a graduate or professional degree, compared to 9.6% of Alaskan residents overall.

History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture

The Tlingit people first settled in the Sitka area an estimated 10,000 years ago. The name Sitka is an English derivation of *Sheet'ká*, a contraction of the full name *Shee At'iká*, meaning “People on the Outside of Shee” (Baranof Island). The full name for Baranof Island in Tlingit is *Sheet'ka X'aát'*. When a Russian expedition led by Vitus Bering arrived in 1741, a Tlingit settlement was recorded at the present site of Sitka, and the high value of the location and surrounding resource base was noted. In 1799, members of the Russian American Company, led by Alexander Baranov, returned to Sitka. St. Michael's Redoubt trading post and fort were built near the Tlingit village. The Russians called the site, “New Archangel.”⁴

With escalating conflict between the Native peoples of Southeast Alaska and the Russians, an unprecedented war alliance formed across Tlingit and Haida clans and communities, from Yakutat in the north to the Kaigani Haida in the south. Three coordinated attacks on Russian positions were carried out by the alliance 1802, including destruction of the Russian fort at Sitka on June 15, an attack on a Russian party led by Urbanov near Kake, and fighting with Kuskov near Yakutat. Baranov was unable to retaliate immediately due to a shortage of manpower. However, in 1804, Baranov returned to Sitka with a fleet of seven vessels and an Aleut sea-otter hunting party of 400 baidarkas. The army destroyed the villages of Kake and Kuiu in retaliation for their participation in the 1802 attacks, and then sailed to Sitka. The Sitka Tlingit had built a fort on Indian River. Although both the Tlingit and the Russians suffered casualties during the battle that ensued, the Tlingit were outnumbered, and fled during the night on an overland route across Baranof Island to Angoon. The Russians declared victory, having taken the Tlingit Fort.⁵ After the evacuation of the Tlingit, they did not return to Sitka until around 1822. The 1804 battle was the last major stand by the Tlingits against the Russians. By 1808, Sitka was the capital of Russian America, which extended from northern Alaska south to

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.

⁴ Sitka Economic Development Association. (n.d.). *Culture & History*. Retrieved November 21, 2012 from <http://www.sitka.net/sitka/culturehistory.html>.

⁵ Dauenhauer, Nora Marks, Dauenhauer, Richard L., Black, Lydia T. (2008). *Anóoshi Lingít Aaní Ká. Russians in Tlingit America: The Battles of Sitka 1802 and 1804*. Sealaska Heritage Institute. University of Washington Press, Seattle.

Fort Ross, California.⁶ Alexander Baranov was Governor of Russian America from 1790 to 1818.⁷

In the mid-1800s, Sitka was the major port on the north Pacific coast, with the first boatyard, a lighthouse, sawmill, several foundries, and a flour mill. Between 1806 and 1867, a number of large ships were built at Sitka, including steamships, steam launches, and many sailing vessels. Ships called from many nations, bringing supplies to the Russians, and leaving with exports including furs, salmon, lumber, and ice.⁸

Following the purchase of Alaska by the United States in 1867, Sitka remained the capital of the Alaska Territory until the seat of government was transferred to Juneau in 1906.⁹ In 1878, Sitka became the site of one of the first canneries in Alaska, although the Sitka cannery closed after only two seasons of operation.¹⁰ Also in 1878, a Presbyterian missionary named Sheldon Jackson started a school in Sitka to be used as an Industrial and Training School for Alaska Natives. In 1911, additional buildings were constructed, and the training college turned into Sheldon Jackson School. It became a junior college in 1944, and began offering 4-year degrees in 1967. In 2007, the college was closed due to insufficient enrollment and lack of funding.¹¹

Sitka's growth was also fueled by gold mining activity in the early 1900s. The City was incorporated in 1913. Additional development took place during World War II, when the town was fortified and the U.S. Navy built an air base on Japonski Island, a small island located across a narrow channel from Sitka's harbor. Approximately 30,000 military personnel and over 7,000 civilians were stationed there during the war. After the war, some military buildings were converted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) into a boarding school. Today, Mt Edgecumbe High School is located at this campus, and the U.S. Coast Guard maintains the air station and other facilities on the Island.¹² In 1959, Alaska Pulp Corporation began producing wood fiber at a pulp mill at Silver Bay near Sitka. The pulp mill employed a maximum of 450 people in Sitka at one time. The mill closed in 1993. In 1999, the City and Borough of Sitka took ownership of the site and is currently working to develop the Sawmill Cove Industrial Park.¹³ The facility is envisioned to be a deep water port intermodal facility, featuring a multi-purpose dock and a bulkhead cargo and freight dock.¹⁴ The City and Borough governments were unified in 1971.¹⁵

⁶ See footnote 4.

⁷ Southeast Conference. (n.d.). *Community Profile: Sitka City and Borough*. Retrieved November 28, 2012 from <http://www.seconference.org/sitka>.

⁸ Alaska History and Cultural Studies. (2012). *Other Economic Activity*. Retrieved November 28, 2012 from <http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=160>.

⁹ See footnote 4.

¹⁰ Alaska History and Cultural Studies. (2012). *Southeast Alaska: 1873-1900 Developing Southeast Alaska*. Retrieved November 28, 2012 from <http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=71>.

¹¹ Sitka Economic Development Association. (n.d.). *Sheldon Jackson College*. Retrieved November 28, 2012 from <http://www.sitka.net/SJC/SJCAbout.html>.

¹² 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.

¹³ Sawmill Cove Industrial Park. (2010). *The Evolution of a Marine Industrial Park*. Retrieved November 28, 2012 from <http://www.sawmillcove.com/history.html>.

¹⁴ City and Borough of Sitka. (2012). *Legislative Priorities, Fiscal Year 2013*. Retrieved November 28, 2012 from http://www.cityofsitka.com/government/documents/FinalCompletePacket_000.pdf.

¹⁵ See footnote 12.

Today, Tlingit and Russian cultural influences remain evident in Sitka. Residents enjoy a diverse economy, and year-round access to outdoor recreation in the Gulf of Alaska and Tongass National Forest.¹⁶

Natural Resources and Environment

January temperatures range from 23 to 35 °F (-5 to 1.7 °C), while summers vary from 48 to 61 °F (8.9 to 16.1 °C). Average annual precipitation is 96 inches, including 39 inches of snowfall.¹⁷ City and Borough lands are surrounded by the Tongass National Forest (Tongass). **The Tongass** is the largest unit in the national forest system, at almost 17 million acres. The U.S. Forest Service works to balance multiple uses of the forest resources. The Tongass has healthy fish and wildlife populations, clean water, trees to support local industry, and recreational opportunities unique to Alaska. The roads that exist in Southeast Alaska have been developed from forest roads that were originally built to reach timber. Though home to the world's largest temperate rain forest, almost half of the Tongass is covered by ice, water, wetlands and rock. Few places in the world have the geologic and climatic variations that sculpt this landscape. The snow and ice of the 1,500-square-mi Juneau Ice Field are less than eight miles from the salt water in Gastineau Channel.¹⁸

The Tongass is home to numerous plant species, including ferns, dwarf dogwood, false lily of the valley, marsh marigold, skunk cabbage, western hemlocks, Sitka spruce, sub-alpine fir, yellow cedar, and hardwoods such as alder. The largest known concentrations of bald eagles gather each year in the National Forest, and thousands of shorebirds use the forest as a resting place during their annual migrations. Marine mammals such as sea otters, whales, porpoises, and seals utilize marine waters in the area. Terrestrial species that inhabit Baranof Island include Sitka black-tailed deer, brown bears, mountain goats, beaver, fox, and porcupines. All five species of Pacific salmon (chum, coho, Chinook, pink, and sockeye) can be found in rivers and streams of the Tongass, along with Dolly Varden, rainbow trout, steelhead trout, and cutthroat trout.¹⁹

Marine resources have long been the basis of life in the region. For an estimated 10,000 years,²⁰ Tlingit and Haida peoples have fished for salmon and herring and gathered berries and other plants. Each generation shares its knowledge of the land with the next.²¹ In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that Sitka's economy today relies on natural resource-based industries such as fishing, ecotourism (e.g. whale watching, kayaking), and sport hunting and fishing. The waterways of Southeast Alaska are an important resource for the tourism industry and the lifestyle of local residents alike, providing opportunity for sailing, motorboating, kayaking, and fishing. Today, many rural residents continue to participate in subsistence harvest of marine resources.²²

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ U.S. Forest Service (n.d.). *Introduction to the Tongass*. Retrieved March 8, 2012 from http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/forest_facts/faqs/intro.shtml.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Sitka Economic Development Association. (n.d.). *Culture & History*. Retrieved November 21, 2012 from <http://www.sitka.net/sitka/culturehistory.html>.

²¹ See footnote 18.

²² Ibid.

Natural hazards with likelihood of occurring in the City and Borough of Sitka include earthquake, snow avalanche, tsunami, severe weather, ground failure, and flood/erosion. Of these, the hazards with the greatest probability of occurring are earthquake, snow avalanche, and tsunami.²³ According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, there are no notable active environmental cleanup sites located in the Sitka area as of March 2013.²⁴

Current Economy²⁵

The economy is diversified with fishing, fish processing, tourism, government, transportation, retail, and healthcare services. Cruise ships heavily stimulate the local tourism industry. In 2010, 563 residents held commercial fishing permits, and fish processing provides seasonal employment. The seafood industry is a major employer. Regional healthcare services, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard also employ residents. Moreover, in 2011, 191 Coast Guard personnel were stationed in Sitka.²⁶

Based on the 2006-2010 ACS,²⁷ in 2010, per capita income in Sitka was estimated to be \$29,982 and the median household income was estimated to be \$62,024, compared to \$23,622 and \$51,901 in 2000, respectively. Taking inflation into account by converting the 2000 values to 2010 dollars,²⁸ the real per capita income in 2000 is shown to have been \$31,063 and the real 2000 median household income was \$68,249. This shows that per capita and household incomes both decreased between 2000 and 2010. However, Sitka's small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions.²⁹ Another understanding of per capita income is obtained through economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. 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 Sitka in 2010 is \$13,634.^{30,31} This provides support for an overall decrease compared to the real per capita income values reported by the U.S. Census in 2000.

Based on 2006-2010 ACS estimates, in 2010, Sitka ranked 63rd of 305 Alaskan communities with per capita income that year, and 70th of 299 Alaskan communities with

²³ City and Borough of City, WHPacific, and Bechtol Planning & Development. (2010). *City & Borough of Sitka Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan - FEMA Preapproved Plan*. Retrieved March 5, 2013 from <http://sitka.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=911913&GUID=7E149260-28B5-46D9-B8EC-BBE046A17B52>.

²⁴ Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (n.d.). *List of Contaminated Sites by Region*. Retrieved March 5, 2012 from <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/list.htm>.

²⁵ Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

²⁸ Inflation was calculated using the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for 2010 (retrieved October 18, 2011 from the Alaska Department of Labor, <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/cpi/inflationcalc.htm>).

²⁹ 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.

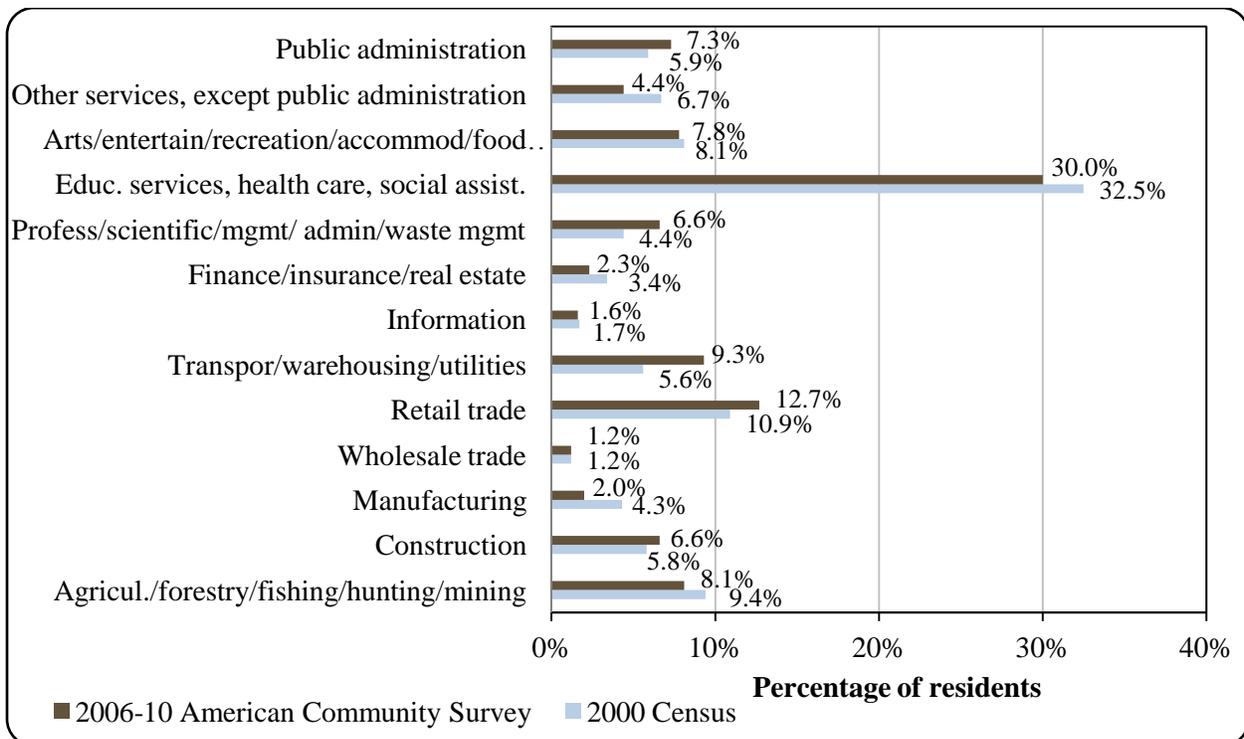
³⁰ See footnote 27.

³¹ 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/>.

household income data. In the same year, 70.4% of the population aged 16 and older was estimated to be in the civilian labor force, compared to the statewide rate of 68.8%. The local unemployment rate was 6.9%, compared to the statewide unemployment rate of 5.9%. Another estimate of unemployment based on the ALARI database indicates that unemployment in 2010 was 9.3%.³² ACS estimates suggest that 7% of local residents were estimated to be living below the poverty line, compared to an estimated 9.6% of Alaskans overall. It should be noted that income and poverty statistics are based on wage income and other money sources; figures reported for Sitka are not reflective of the value of subsistence to the local economy.

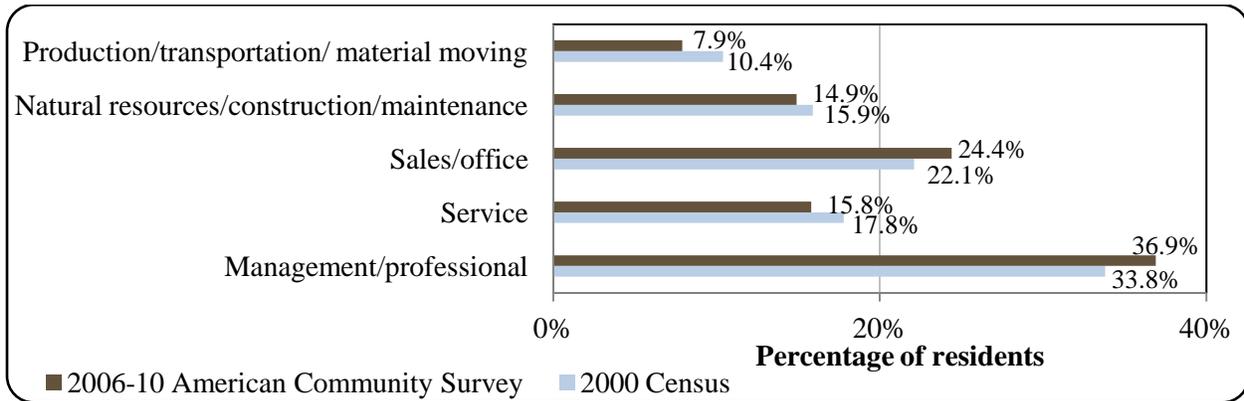
Based on household surveys conducted for the 2006-2010 ACS, the greatest percentage of workers was employed in the private sector (61.7%), while 28.1% of workers were employed in the public sector and 10.1% were self-employed. Out of 4,692 people aged 16 and older that were estimated to be employed in the civilian labor force in 2010, the greatest percentage worked in education services, health care, and social assistance (30%), retail trade (12.7%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (9.3%). The most common occupations were estimated to be management/professional (36.9%) and sales/office occupations (24.4%). An estimated 5.9% of the workforce characterized themselves as working in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations (a sub-category of natural resource/construction/maintenance occupations). Based on the high commercial fishing participation reported in the *Commercial Fishing* section below, the number of individuals employed by fishing may be underestimated in census statistics; fishermen may hold another job and characterize their employment accordingly. 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, Sitka (U.S. Census).



³² Ibid.

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



Governance

Sitka is a Unified Home Rule Municipality and has been referred to as the City and Borough of Sitka since the city and borough governments were unified in 1971. The City and Borough administer a sales tax that varies seasonally, from 5% between October and March to 6% between April and September. In addition, a 6.0 mills property tax, 6% bed tax, and 5% tobacco tax are administered.³³

The amount of annual municipal revenue received by Sitka increased between 2000 and 2010, and the years of 2008 and 2009 were the highest during this period. Revenue received from sales tax also increased overall between 2000 and 2010, though sales tax revenue in 2010 was lower than sales tax revenue from 2006 to 2009. Outside revenue sources in Sitka included shared revenues from and grants from the State of Alaska and federal agencies. State shared revenues included contributions from the State Revenue Sharing program from 2000 to 2003 and the Community Revenue Sharing program in 2009 and 2010. Fisheries-related grants from both state and federal sources were received during the 2000-2010 period. The grants were obtained for multiple projects including a pulp dock warehouse upgrade, a ferry shuttle vessel for the Alaska marine highway system, harbor pre-construction and feasibility and design, harbor construction, upgrades to and purchase of equipment for fish processing and aquaculture, a fisheries/hatchery training facility, a cove lift station replacement, Swan Lake dock and pedestrian improvements, and commercial passenger vessel lightering facility improvements. Information about selected aspects of Sitka’s community revenue is presented in Table 2.

Sitka was included under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), and the federally authorized traditional entity is the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. The local Native village corporation is Shee Atika, Incorporated. Sitka is also a member of the Sealaska Corporation, a regional Native corporation. Sealaska is a Native Corporation owned by over 20,000 tribal member shareholders and guided by the traditions of environmental stewardship and positively impacting their communities. Sealaska is made up of legendary traders who are deeply connected to their lands and have successfully adapted to constantly changing environments and global economies. Sealaska brings together the wisdom and foresight of their combined heritage to

³³ 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.

create an enduring corporation that provides business opportunities, benefits and cultural strength for their people. Today Sealaska is the largest private landowner and the largest for-profit private employer in Southeast Alaska. Sealaska is a diverse company with investments in forest products, construction aggregates, machining and fabrication, environmental remediation, information technology, plastics injection molding and manufacturing, global logistics, wood products and financial markets. Sealaska’s status as a Minority Business Enterprise and Small Disadvantaged Business add to their strength as a government contractor and commercial diversity supplier.³⁴

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Forest Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) all have offices located in Sitka. The nearest location of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is in Juneau. The nearest office of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services is located in Ketchikan.

Table 2. Selected Municipal, State, or Federal Revenue Streams for the Community of Sitka 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	\$44,457,473	\$6,006,740	\$206,992	n/a
2001	\$46,765,433	\$6,377,699	\$199,602	\$3,801,169
2002	\$47,508,174	\$6,593,998	\$197,703	\$4,784,500
2003	\$47,149,199	\$7,119,114	\$195,172	\$2,500,000
2004	\$50,479,347	\$7,527,857	n/a	\$234,170
2005	\$51,491,494	\$8,866,834	n/a	n/a
2006	\$54,893,881	\$9,277,571	n/a	n/a
2007	\$58,454,975	\$9,800,634	n/a	\$1,200,000
2008	\$64,821,369	\$9,901,347	n/a	\$155,300
2009	\$68,890,719	\$9,761,477	\$919,488	\$100,000
2010	\$51,601,720	\$8,645,781	\$912,658	\$2,000,000

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.

³⁴ Sealaska (n.d.). 2012. *Who We Are*. Retrieved on May 9, 2012 from http://www.sealaska.com/page/who_we_are.html.

Infrastructure

Connectivity and Transportation

The state-owned Rocky Gutierrez Airport on Japonski Island has a 6,500 ft long by 150 ft wide paved and lighted runway. In addition to daily jet service, several scheduled air taxis, air charters, and helicopters are available.³⁵ In June 2012, round-trip airfare between Sitka and Anchorage was \$441.³⁶

The City and Borough of Sitka operates five small boat harbors with 1,347 stalls and a seaplane base on Sitka Sound.³⁷ There is a breakwater at Thompson Harbor but no deep draft dock. A boat launch, haul-out, boat repairs, and other services exist. Cruise ships anchor in the harbor and lighter visitors to shore. The Alaska Marine Highway System (state ferry) has a docking facility approximately 6 miles north of town. The ferry serves Sitka several times a week. Freight arrives by barge and cargo plane.³⁸

Facilities

Water is drawn from a reservoir on Blue Lake and Indian River and is treated, stored, and piped to nearly all homes in Sitka. The maximum capacity is 8.6-million gallons per day, with 197-million gallons of storage capacity. Ninety-five percent (95%) of homes are connected to the piped sewage system, which receives primary treatment. Refuse is collected and shipped to the State of Washington. The community participates in annual hazardous waste disposal events. The City and Borough own hydroelectric facilities at Blue Lake and Green Lake and a diesel-fueled generator at Indian River. Law enforcement services are provided by the borough police department and a local state troopers post. Fire and rescue services are provided by the Sitka Fire Department/Ambulance/Rescue, the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Air Medical, and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station/Medevac. The State Superior Court administers a State Magistrate and a State Jail that is operated through a contract to the City of Sitka. The Sitka Teen Resource Center is operated by the Boys and Girls Club and the community has several community halls. Senior services are provided by the Sitka Senior Center and the Pioneer Home Center for Community. Sitka is home to a movie theater, five museums, one public library, five school libraries, and one special library.³⁹

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that there are 1,326 slips (though the total number of ft available is unknown) available for permanent vessels to moor in Sitka, and approximately 2,970 ft of dock space available for mooring of transient vessels. Community leaders noted that vessels up to 300 ft long can use moorage in Sitka, including rescue vessels, cruise ships, ferries, and fuel barges. In the same survey, community leaders indicated that the following infrastructure projects have been completed within the past ten years: fish cleaning station, construction of new dock space, improvements to existing dock structure, electricity and roads serving the dock, pilings, a breakwater, an Environmental

³⁵ 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.

³⁶ Airfare was obtained on the travel website <http://www.travelocity.com> for a round-trip ticket for travel from June 1 to June 8, 2012. Retrieved on December 1, 2011.

³⁷ Information provided by Sitka community leaders during a review of the draft community profile in July, 2012.

³⁸ See footnote 35.

³⁹ Ibid.

Protection Agency-certified boat cleaning station, broadband internet access, roads, water and sewer pipelines, and improvements to emergency response, fire department, school, and telephone services. In addition, community leaders noted that the following infrastructure projects are in progress: construction of new dock space, fuel tanks at dock, breakwater, roads, a runway extension at the airport/seaplane base, water treatment, alternative energy, and improvements to school and telephone services. Community leaders noted that projects planned for completion in the next ten years include: construction of new dock space, pilings, breakwater, haul out facilities, roads, seaplane base, water treatment, alternative energy, expansion of the community center and library, and improvements to school and telephone services.

*Medical Services*⁴⁰

Sitka has two hospitals, the Mt. Edgecumbe/SEARHC Hospital and the Sitka Community Hospital, in addition to a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Air Station. The hospitals are owned by the US Public Health Service and the City, respectively, and are operated by the SEARHC. The hospitals are both qualified Acute Care facilities, while the USCG Air Station provides emergency support, medevac services, and is a qualified Emergency Care Center. Long term care is provided by the Sitka Pioneers' Home, with specialized care provided by Aurora's Watch (operated by the Shee Atika Corporation) and the Sitka Council on Alcoholism. Emergency services have limited highway, marine floatplane, and airport access and are provided by 911 telephone service volunteers and the military. Alternate health care is provided by the Sitka Fire Department/Ambulance/Rescue, SEARHC Air Medical, and the USCG Air Station/Medevac.

*Educational Opportunities*⁴¹

Instruction is provided to students in Sitka at seven schools. Baranof Elementary school provides instruction to students in pre-school through first grade, and in 2011 the school had 222 students and 21 teachers. Keet Gooshi Heen elementary school provides instruction to students in grades two through five, and in 2011 the school had 409 students and 29 teachers. Blatchley Middle School provides instruction to students in grades six through eight, and in 2011 the school had 258 students and 22 teachers. The Sitka Correspondence School provides instruction via correspondence to students in Kindergarten through 12th grade, and in 2011 the school had 89 students and one teacher. There are three high schools in Sitka, each providing instruction to students in grades nine through 12. In 2011, the Pacific High School had 37 students and six teachers, Sitka High School had 373 students and 25 teachers, and Mt. Edgecumbe High School, a boarding school, had 400 students and 25 teachers.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

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

The Tlingit people living in Sitka and surrounding settlements historically utilized a wide variety of subsistence resources. Fish traps, as well as gaffs and spears, were traditionally used to catch salmon, one of the most important subsistence resources for the Tlingit people. Steelhead, herring, herring eggs, ooligans (eulachon), and Dolly Varden were also caught and eaten. The Tlingit also utilized marine mammals (e.g., seal), deepwater fish (e.g., halibut), marine invertebrates (e.g., ‘gumboot’ chitons), and sea plants (e.g., seaweed, beach asparagus and goose tongue). A system of property ownership was in place over harvesting places, including streams, halibut banks, berry patches, hunting areas, intertidal areas, and egg harvesting sites.^{42,43}

During the Russian occupation of the region, these resources continued to be used primarily for subsistence purposes. Commercial fisheries began to develop after the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.⁴⁴ The first Salmon cannery in Alaska opened in Klawock on Prince of Wales Island in 1878. In the same year, a cannery was also built at Old Sitka, but it closed after only two seasons in operation.⁴⁵ Sitka didn’t have another fish plant until 1913 when Booth Fisheries Cold Storage opened. It became Sitka Cold Storage in 1930.⁴⁶ Today the Shee Atiká Totem Square Inn stands on the site.⁴⁷ The Pyramid Packing cannery opened a few years later in 1918. It is still standing as the Murray Pacific building. Canneries in Peril Strait and at Sitkoh Bay (Chatham Cannery) also employed Sitkans. Seining and later traps supplied the fish for canning.⁴⁸

Today, Southeast Alaska salmon fisheries utilize purse seine, drift gillnet, troll, and set gillnet gear. The highest volume of salmon landings in the region are harvested by purse seine gear, although the species harvested are typically pink and chum, the salmon species with lowest ex-vessel value. Other salmon fisheries target the higher value species (i.e., sockeye, coho, and Chinook). Because of Southeast Alaska’s proximity to British Columbia, as well as many trans-boundary rivers that cross from Canada into Alaskan waters, salmon management in the region is governed to a large degree by the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Treaty was originally negotiated in 1985, and renegotiated in 1999 with increased emphasis on implementation of abundance-based management strategies.⁴⁹

Bait herring fisheries take place during the winter each year in Southeast Alaska, while roe is harvested in the spring. Bait and sac roe fisheries use purse seine and set gillnet gear. One

⁴² Alaska Native Heritage Center. 2008. *Eyak, Tlingit, Haida & Tsimshian: Who We Are*. Retrieved November 23, 2011 from www.alaskanative.net/en/main_nav/education/culture_alaska/eyak.

⁴³ Brock, Mathew, Philippa Coiley-Kenner and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. 2009. *A Compilation of Traditional Knowledge about the Fisheries of Southeast Alaska*. ADF&G Technical Paper No. 332. Retrieved March 30, 2012 from <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fisheries/reports/04-652Final.pdf>.

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.ADF&G.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1.pdf>.

⁴⁵ Alaska History and Cultural Studies. (2012). *Southeast Alaska: 1873-1900 Developing Southeast Alaska*. Retrieved November 28, 2012 from <http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=71>.

⁴⁶ The Sitka Maritime Heritage Society. (2012). *A Short Maritime History of Sitka, Alaska*. Retrieved on May 9, 2012 from <http://www.sitkamaritime.org/sitka-maritime-history.html>.

⁴⁷ Information provided by Sitka community leaders during a review of the draft community profile in July, 2012.

⁴⁸ See footnote 46.

⁴⁹ See footnote 44.

of the two exclusively purse seine sac roe fisheries takes place in Sitka Sound. Roe is also harvested in spawn-on-kelp closed-pound fisheries.⁵⁰ A “closed-pound” is a single, floating, rectangular frame structure with suspended webbing that is used to enclose herring long enough for them to spawn on kelp included in the enclosure.⁵¹

A state-managed sablefish fishery currently takes place in waters inland of Baranof Island (Chatham and Clarence Straits). Pacific halibut fisheries in Southeast Alaska are managed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). Pacific cod and lingcod are also harvested in Southeast Alaska under state regulations, independent of federal fisheries for these species. Halibut and Pacific cod fisheries utilize longline gear, while the Southeast Alaska lingcod fishery uses dinglebar troll gear, a salmon power troll gear modified with a heavy metal bar to fish for groundfish. Management of the Southeast Alaska lingcod fishery includes a winter closure for all users (except longliners) to protect nest-guarding males. Demersal rockfish are caught as bycatch in the halibut longline and trawl fisheries. A small directed fishery for flatfish (other than halibut) has also taken place in Southeast inside waters in recent decades, but effort has declined since 1999. Crab fisheries in Southeast Alaska target red, golden and blue king crab, Tanner crab, and Dungeness crab. Dive fisheries for sea cucumber and sea urchin began to grow in Southeast Alaska in recent decades.⁵²

Sitka is located in Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 2C and Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 650. The closest federal Sablefish Regulatory Area is “Southeast Outside.” Sitka is not eligible to participate in the Community Quota Entity (CQE) program or the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program. According to a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that Sitka participates in the fisheries management process in Alaska through a paid staff member that attends North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings and/or Board of Fisheries meetings, a representative that sits on regional fisheries advisory and/or working groups run by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and through a representative that participates in the Federal Subsistence Board or Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council process.

Processing Plants

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

Absolute Fresh Seafoods Inc. was founded in 2003 and is a family-owned operation based in Sitka. Absolute Fresh as a company processes salmon (Chinook, coho), crab (king, Dungeness), spot prawns, and scallops.⁵³

Big Blue Fisheries LLC is a small smokehouse and processing plant located in Sitka. The plant began operations in 2001 and employs between 3 and 10 people each year.⁵⁴ They

⁵⁰ 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.ADF&G.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/sp05-09.pdf>.

⁵¹ Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. (2011). *2011 Southeast Alaska Herring Spawn-On-Kelp Pound Fishery Management Plan*. Regional Information Report No. 1J11-01. Retrieved April 2, 2012 from <http://www.sf.ADF&G.state.ak.us/FedAidpdfs/RIR.1J.2011.01.PDF>.

⁵² See footnote 50.

⁵³ Absolute Fresh Seafoods, Inc. (n.d.). *Who we are*. Retrieved April 15, 2012 from <http://www.absolutefreshseafoods.com/Pages/whoweare.html>.

specialize in processing and smoking troll-caught Chinook and coho salmon. Big Blue Fisheries also processes halibut, lingcod, rockfish, shrimp, scallops, snapper, and Dungeness crab. The facility also custom processes fish caught by sport fishermen.⁵⁵ The plant does charter processing in the summer months.⁵⁶

North Pacific Seafoods, Inc. plant in Sitka has always been known as Sitka Sound Seafoods despite the fact that North Pacific Seafoods purchased the plant from Sitka Sound in 1997. The plant began operating under Sitka Sound Seafoods in the 1960's. The plant typically operates from March until the end of October. During this time the plant processes all species of salmon from all gear types, as well as halibut, sablefish, rockfish, herring, sea cucumbers, lingcod, Pacific cod, shrimp and Dungeness crab. The peak season for the facility is from June 15 until the end of September during the Southeast Alaska salmon season. During peak season the plant employs nearly 200 workers. In 2010, the plant employed a maximum of 185 workers during the peak season (June through August). A company bunkhouse located ¼ mi from the plant facility and provides accommodations (which include shower and laundry facilities) to fish processing workers, although such accommodations are limited in number. Meals are provided from a company galley. Air transportation from and to Anchorage or Seattle is provided for processing workers.⁵⁷

Quality Processing is a small processing company established in 1999 and is located in Sitka. Quality Processing sells halibut, scallops, spot tail shrimp, Chinook, and coho salmon. It also offers smoked salmon (Chinook and coho) and sablefish.⁵⁸

Established in 1944, Seafood Producers Cooperative is a cooperative of over 500 hook-and-line fishermen. The current plant in Sitka began operations in 1980.⁵⁹ Seafood Producers processes Chinook salmon and lingcod all year, and halibut, sablefish and Pacific cod from March through November. It also processes coho salmon (July through September), yelloweye (all year except February), and albacore (June through October). The peak season is from June to the end of August in conjunction with the salmon season. In 2010, the plant employed between 20 and 108 workers.⁶⁰ Seafood Producers provides bunkhouse accommodations for up to 44 non-resident employees during the processing season. The provided housing includes meals, a TV room, and shower and laundry facilities.⁶¹

Silver Bay Seafoods LLC began operations in 2007. The company processes salmon, crab, halibut, and herring at its Sitka facility. It is a predominantly fishermen-owned company with facilities located at the Sawmill Cove Industrial Park.⁶² During the 2010 salmon season, Silver Bay employed 200 workers for fish processing and facility maintenance. Unlike companies that segregate job tasks, all SBS employees perform a variety of tasks.⁶³

⁵⁴ This information is based on the results of a survey of processing plant managers conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in 2011.

⁵⁵ Big Blue Fisheries, LLC (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved April 15, 2011
http://alaskasmokedfish.com/index.php?main_page=page&id=4&zenid=c76258c8cad4447f9d58164f3de9a921.

⁵⁶ This information is based on the results of a survey of processing plant managers conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in 2011.

⁵⁷ North Pacific Seafoods (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved April 15, 2012 from
http://northpacificseafoods.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39&Itemid=51.

⁵⁸ Quality Processing (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved April 15, 2012 from <http://qualityprocessingsitka.com/>.

⁵⁹ See footnote 56.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Seafood Producers Cooperative (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved April 15, 2012 from <http://spcsales.com>.

⁶² See footnote 54.

⁶³ Silver Bay Seafoods (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved April 15, 2012 from <http://silverbayseafoods.com>.

Fisheries-Related Revenue

Between 2000 and 2010, Sitka received fisheries-related revenue from the Shared Fisheries Business Tax, the Fisheries Resource Landing Tax, and harbor usage fees. Revenue received from the Shared Fisheries Business Tax increased during this period, while revenue received from the Fisheries Resource Landing Tax was highly variable from year to year. Revenue received from harbor usage also increased substantially between 2000 and 2010. Total fisheries-related revenue received by Sitka increased between 2000 and 2010. Information on known fisheries-related revenue received by the community of Sitka from 2000 to 2010 is presented in Table 3.⁶⁴

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that the following public services are at least partially supported by fisheries-related revenue such as raw fish tax, the Shared Fisheries Business Tax, the Fisheries Resource Landing Tax, or marine fuel sales tax: harbor maintenance, social services, and other services such as the hatchery and science center. In addition, community leaders noted that Sitka has local fishing-related fee programs charged to the fishing industry that specifically support public services and infrastructure, such as the 3% fishery enhancement tax that goes to the hatchery, the fish box tax that goes to non-profits, and the sales tax that goes to the City of Sitka.

Commercial Fishing

Sitka was among the top ports in Alaska in landings and ex-vessel revenue in 2010, ranking 6th in landings and 5th in ex-vessel revenue out of 67 Alaskan communities that received commercial fisheries landings in that year. In 2010, there were 750 Sitka residents holding 1,323 permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Between 2000 and 2010, the total number of CFEC permits held decreased, even as the total number of permit holders increased. Also in 2010, 814 (62%) of CFEC permits were reported as actively fished – a number that decreased overall between 2000 and 2010, while the percentage of permits reported as actively fished increased during the same period. Sitka residents held CFEC permits in 2010 for the commercial harvest of crab, other shellfish, halibut, herring, sablefish, groundfish, and salmon.

The number of salmon and herring CFEC permits and permit holders increased between 2000 and 2010, as did the number of those permits reported as fished. The majority of the salmon CFEC permits issued in 2010 were for the statewide hand troll and power gurdy troll fisheries, with the remainder issued for the southeast, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Chignik, and Peninsula-Aleutians purse seine fisheries; the southeastern, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, and Bristol Bay drift gillnet fisheries; the Yakutat, Kodiak, and Bristol Bay set gillnet fisheries; the Lower Yukon and Kuskokwim gillnet fisheries; and the southeastern special harvest area (hatchery) fishery. Herring CFEC permits issued in 2010 were mainly for the southeastern purse seine fishery, with the remainder issued for the Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet purse seine fisheries, the southeast gillnet fishery, the Goodnews Bay roe herring gillnet fishery, the Norton Sound gillnet fishery, the southeast purse seine fishery for bait/food, the southeastern pound fishery for bait/food, and the northern southeast and southern southeast herring spawn on kelp pound fisheries.

⁶⁴ 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.

For groundfish, halibut, other shellfish, and crab CFEC permits, the number of permits and permit holders, as well as the number of permits reported as actively fished, decreased between 2000 and 2010. Groundfish CFEC permits issued in 2010 were mostly for the statewide lingcod dinglebar troll fishery, with permits also issued for the statewide lingcod hand troll and mechanical jig fisheries. Permits by the CFEC in 2010 for the following miscellaneous saltwater finfish fisheries: statewide and Gulf of Alaska hand troll, statewide and Gulf of Alaska longline fisheries using vessels under 60 ft, the statewide pot gear fishery using vessels under 60 ft, the statewide and Gulf of Alaska dinglebar troll fisheries, the statewide and Gulf of Alaska mechanical jig fisheries, the statewide and Gulf of Alaska longline fisheries using vessels between 60 and 90 ft, and the Gulf of Alaska otter trawl fishery using vessels under 60 ft. There were also groundfish CFEC permits issued for the southeast demersal shelf rockfish fisheries using vessels under 60 ft and vessels 60 ft or over. Nearly all the halibut CFEC permits issued in 2010 were for the statewide longline fishery using vessels under 60 ft, with the remainder issued for the statewide hand troll, dinglebar troll, mechanical jig, and longline (using vessels 60 ft or over) fisheries. The majority of the other shellfish CFEC permits issued in 2010 were for the southeast shrimp pot fishery and the southeast sea cucumber diving gear fishery. Additional other shellfish permits were issued in 2010 for the southeast shrimp otter trawl and beam trawl fisheries, the Kodiak sea cucumber diving gear fishery, the southeast geoduck clam diving gear fishery, and the southeast sea urchin diving gear fishery. Crab CFEC permits issued in 2010 were for the southeastern Dungeness crab fisheries using 300 pots (100% of max), 225 pots (75% of max), 150 pots (50% of max), and 75 pots (25% of max). Crab CFEC permits were also issued in 2010 for the southeast brown king crab, red/blue king/Tanner crab, and king and Tanner crab pot gear fisheries, the Peninsula-Aleutians Tanner crab pot fishery using vessels under 60 ft, the southeastern Tanner crab ring net fishery, and the southeast Tanner crab pot fishery.

The number of CFEC permits, permit holders, and permits reported as fished for sablefish remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2010. The majority of the sablefish CFEC permits issued in 2010 were for the statewide longline fishery using vessels under 60 ft, with the remainder issued for the northern southeast longline fishery, the statewide longline fishery using vessels 60 ft or over, and the southern southeast longline fishery.

The number of Federal Fisheries Permits held (and the number of individuals holding Federal Fisheries Permits) increased slightly between 2000 and 2010, though the number of those permits reported as actively fished increased substantially during the same period with a peak between 2003 and 2004. For permits issued under the License Limitation Program (LLP), in 2010 Sitka residents held both crab and groundfish LLP permits. Only one individual held one crab LLP permit between 2002 and 2010, though that permit was not reported as fished between 2004 and 2010. There were 183 permit holders that held 200 groundfish LLP permits in 2010, both of which represent a slight decrease from the number of permits and permit holders in 2000. However, the number and percentage of those permits reported as fished both decreased between 2000 and 2010. Information about permits and permit holders by species is reported in Table 4.

In 2010 there were 674 crew license holders in Sitka, an increase from 650 in 2000. There were also 115 fish buyers in Sitka in 2010, a decrease from 147 in 2000, though the lowest number of fish buyers in Sitka during this period occurred in 2003 and the number increased slightly between 2003 and 2010. There were five shore-side processing facilities in 2010, a number that decreased overall between 2000 and 2010. Both the number of vessels owned primarily by Sitka residents and the number of vessels homeported in Sitka decreased during this period. However, the number of vessels landing catch in the community increased during that

same period after a substantial decrease between 2002 and 2004. Both the total net lbs landed in Sitka and the ex-vessel value of those landings increased overall (though both experienced declines during this period), with the ex-vessel value of landings increasing much more dramatically than the total net lbs landed during this period. Characteristics of the commercial fishing sector in Sitka from 2000 to 2010 are presented in Table 5.

The number of individuals holding quota share accounts for halibut decreased from 2000 to 2010, while the number of halibut quota shares held remained relatively stable during that same period. The total halibut Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) allotment decreased between 2000 and 2010 (Table 6). The number of sablefish quota share account holders increased slightly between 2000 and 2010, while the number of sablefish quota shares held decreased, as did the annual sablefish IFQ allotment (Table 7). There was only one year from 2005 to 2010 in which there was one crab quota share account held, in 2006 (Table 8).

There were no crab landings reported for Sitka between 2000 and 2010. Landings for finfish between 2000 and 2008 and landings for pollock between 2000 and 2010 are considered confidential due to the small number of participants. Landings for finfish in 2009 and 2010 were small, as were the associated ex-vessel values for finfish landed in Sitka in those years. Between 2000 and 2010, landings for halibut and salmon decreased, while ex-vessel value of those landings increased. Landings of other groundfish also decreased during that same period, though the ex-vessel value also decreased. Landings and ex-vessel value for herring, other shellfish, Pacific cod, and sablefish both increased during this period. Information on landed lbs and ex-vessel revenue by species in Sitka between 2000 and 2010 is presented in Table 9.

When landings and ex-vessel value are viewed in terms of landings reported by Sitka vessel owners, including all delivery locations, the landings and ex-vessel value for crab, other groundfish, Pacific cod, and sablefish decreased between 2000 and 2010. While landings for halibut decreased during that same period, the ex-vessel value of those landings increased. Landings and ex-vessel value for herring and salmon increased between 2000 and 2010, and while landings for other shellfish remained relatively stable during this period, the ex-vessel value of those landings increased. Landings and ex-vessel value for finfish in 2001, 2003, 2008, and 2009 and landings for pollock from 2001 to 2010 are considered confidential due to the small number of participants. Landings for finfish, though relatively small, decreased slightly between 2000 and 2010 after an increase in 2004 and 2005, while ex-vessel value increased slightly between 2000 and 2010, with the peak in 2004 and 2005. Information on landed lbs and ex-vessel revenue by species by Sitka residents is presented in Table 10.

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that there has been a slight increase in commercial fishing boats in Sitka in the last five years, perhaps due to a rise in market prices for fish. Community leaders also noted that the following gear types are used by commercial fishing boats that use Sitka as their base of operations during the fishing season: trawl, pots, longline, gillnet, purse seine, troll, ring net, and diving. In the same survey, community leaders indicated that commercial fishing boats under 125 ft use Sitka as their base of operations during the fishing season.

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Table 3. Known Fisheries-Related Revenue (in U.S. Dollars) Received by the Community of Sitka: 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	\$479,048	\$57,282	\$622,899	\$525,929	\$384,817	\$510,527	\$709,031	\$716,450	\$834,650	\$950,929	\$1,168,685
Fisheries resource landing tax ¹	\$901	\$265	\$800	\$3,057	\$2,959	\$542	\$594	\$3,187	\$247	\$971	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	\$1,224,900	\$1,406,900	\$1,481,420	\$1,576,580	\$1,454,270	\$1,463,250	\$1,603,900	\$2,069,620	\$2,422,750	\$2,579,400	\$2,588,990
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 revenue⁴</i>	<i>\$1,704,849</i>	<i>\$1,464,447</i>	<i>\$2,105,119</i>	<i>\$2,105,566</i>	<i>\$1,842,045</i>	<i>\$1,974,319</i>	<i>\$2,313,526</i>	<i>\$2,789,257</i>	<i>\$3,257,648</i>	<i>\$3,531,300</i>	<i>\$3,757,675</i>
<i>Total municipal revenue⁵</i>	<i>\$44.5M</i>	<i>\$46.8M</i>	<i>\$47.5M</i>	<i>\$47.2M</i>	<i>\$50.5M</i>	<i>\$51.5M</i>	<i>\$54.9M</i>	<i>\$58.5M</i>	<i>\$64.8M</i>	<i>\$68.9M</i>	<i>\$51.6 M</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.

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) ¹	Total permits	204	202	206	202	196	201	205	201	201	199	200
	Active permits	80	79	80	80	82	77	72	70	70	72	66
	% of permits fished	39%	39%	38%	39%	41%	38%	35%	34%	34%	36%	33%
	Total permit holders	190	187	189	187	181	185	188	184	185	183	183
Crab (LLP) ¹	Total permits	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Active permits	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Federal Fisheries Permits ¹	Total permits	157	161	167	158	161	166	131	178	186	163	166
	Fished permits	1	1	1	122	119	110	95	97	95	97	95
	% of permits fished	1%	1%	1%	77%	74%	66%	73%	54%	51%	60%	57%
	Total permit holders	153	156	161	154	157	160	127	172	180	155	157
Crab (CFEC) ²	Total permits	47	59	58	46	33	30	25	29	28	29	34
	Fished permits	37	44	40	28	14	19	15	20	22	20	21
	% of permits fished	79%	75%	69%	61%	42%	63%	60%	69%	79%	69%	62%
	Total permit holders	44	56	55	44	30	28	24	27	28	25	30
Other shellfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	166	195	147	138	137	134	130	131	129	129	129
	Fished permits	91	93	78	72	65	69	55	56	54	48	59
	% of permits fished	54%	47%	53%	52%	47%	51%	42%	42%	41%	37%	45%
	Total permit holders	120	129	123	116	113	109	111	113	107	110	111
Halibut (CFEC) ²	Total permits	264	254	251	254	236	238	231	219	216	220	219
	Fished permits	214	207	210	221	201	207	209	195	189	189	191
	% of permits fished	81%	81%	84%	87%	85%	87%	90%	89%	88%	86%	87%
	Total permit holders	256	248	246	250	234	236	231	218	213	218	218
Herring (CFEC) ²	Total permits	40	36	35	43	44	51	48	41	43	49	48
	Fished permits	29	20	22	28	32	29	25	23	28	32	30
	% of permits fished	73%	56%	63%	65%	73%	57%	52%	56%	65%	65%	63%
	Total permit holders	29	29	24	27	28	31	32	34	29	34	33

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	141	137	129	129	134	135	143	137	130	135	143
	Fished permits	135	133	127	125	132	133	138	132	127	130	136
	% of permits fished	96%	97%	98%	97%	99%	99%	97%	96%	98%	96%	95%
	Total permit holders	118	115	111	110	111	119	122	119	117	122	126
Groundfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	344	310	261	246	246	188	137	133	154	173	143
	Fished permits	112	87	74	76	65	27	18	29	43	47	36
	% of permits fished	33%	28%	28%	31%	26%	14%	13%	22%	28%	27%	25%
	Total permit holders	190	170	157	152	154	122	97	92	99	114	98
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	536	551	555	558	567	566	562	560	572	590	607
	Fished permits	311	309	294	268	302	294	302	308	316	346	341
	% of permits fished	58%	56%	53%	48%	53%	52%	54%	55%	55%	59%	56%
	Total permit holders	525	532	529	541	538	538	539	534	539	565	568
<i>Total CFEC Permits²</i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>1,538</i>	<i>1,542</i>	<i>1,436</i>	<i>1,414</i>	<i>1,397</i>	<i>1,342</i>	<i>1,276</i>	<i>1,250</i>	<i>1,272</i>	<i>1,325</i>	<i>1,323</i>
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>929</i>	<i>893</i>	<i>845</i>	<i>818</i>	<i>811</i>	<i>778</i>	<i>762</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>779</i>	<i>812</i>	<i>814</i>
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>62%</i>
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>714</i>	<i>731</i>	<i>722</i>	<i>733</i>	<i>724</i>	<i>733</i>	<i>724</i>	<i>722</i>	<i>721</i>	<i>754</i>	<i>750</i>

¹National 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.]

²Alaska 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 Sitka: 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 Sitka ²	Total Net Pounds Landed In Sitka ^{2,5}	Total Ex-Vessel Value Of Landings In Sitka ^{2,5}
2000	650	147	10	756	692	904	90,524,003	\$45,817,665
2001	659	101	10	751	689	903	72,566,961	\$35,304,607
2002	524	97	10	756	706	681	70,903,957	\$29,326,684
2003	525	78	8	762	701	476	36,641,467	\$28,645,532
2004	610	95	8	768	713	771	56,669,652	\$48,788,925
2005	597	83	9	591	553	884	70,775,067	\$52,933,923
2006	601	96	10	567	541	1,006	73,226,237	\$60,547,852
2007	622	115	9	568	569	936	87,527,904	\$69,090,792
2008	631	104	8	597	597	1,083	79,783,063	\$84,842,960
2009	604	121	5	618	600	1,005	111,273,049	\$76,990,520
2010	674	115	5	616	604	949	94,250,416	\$75,702,739

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. Individual Fishing Quota, Halibut, Sitka: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	288	18,087,132	2,539,671
2001	294	19,347,914	2,934,482
2002	298	18,930,898	2,839,549
2003	295	18,695,070	2,753,928
2004	272	17,899,000	3,000,148
2005	265	17,898,126	3,039,922
2006	265	18,270,895	2,998,766
2007	255	17,285,718	2,492,399
2008	243	17,969,839	2,194,642
2009	246	19,102,190	2,001,772
2010	237	18,673,731	1,763,397

Source: (NMFS) 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. Individual Fishing Quota, Sablefish, Sitka: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders	Sablefish Quota Shares Held	Sablefish IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	113	33,407,542	3,468,534
2001	115	33,219,207	3,296,817
2002	110	31,707,752	3,068,520
2003	114	31,850,395	3,550,234
2004	110	31,814,180	3,819,987
2005	110	30,300,540	3,452,530
2006	108	28,657,444	3,121,127
2007	108	27,824,275	2,912,278
2008	115	28,316,459	2,789,026
2009	117	30,399,799	2,568,982
2010	117	29,734,443	2,331,889

Source: (NMFS) 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. Individual Fishing Quota, Crab, Sitka: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Crab Quota Share Account Holders	Crab Quota Shares Held	Crab IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2005	0	0	0
2006	1	382,422	10,013
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0

Source: (NMFS) 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.]

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

	<i>Total Net Lbs¹</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	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	42	71
Halibut	2,335,686	2,555,355	2,305,128	2,872,717	3,717,755	3,789,824	3,922,720	3,556,280	2,871,941	2,209,332	2,021,764
Herring	9,184,234	24,204,200	20,271,930	14,317,841	13,029,593	24,102,603	21,265,952	24,265,878	30,210,784	31,000,316	36,530,513
Other	1,286,964	1,090,193	1,003,602	1,056,360	1,147,218	809,800	859,167	810,967	992,046	847,800	640,841
Groundfish											
Other	195,405	340,349	272,180	195,155	173,028	128,871	253,717	253,761	250,725	224,718	263,333
Shellfish											
Pacific Cod	167,658	112,918	111,577	182,484	208,353	14,690	147,022	273,338	391,286	373,401	462,198
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	3,800,570	2,999,632	2,747,554	3,476,939	4,019,153	3,921,965	4,887,315	4,913,280	4,825,108	4,099,049	3,894,196
Salmon	73,492,262	41,032,486	44,023,850	14,382,018	34,224,832	37,834,192	41,542,934	53,063,992	39,950,482	71,913,748	49,816,762
<i>Total²</i>	<i>90,462,779</i>	<i>72,335,133</i>	<i>70,735,821</i>	<i>36,483,514</i>	<i>56,519,932</i>	<i>70,601,945</i>	<i>72,878,827</i>	<i>87,137,496</i>	<i>79,492,372</i>	<i>110,668,406</i>	<i>93,629,678</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	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$15	\$40
Halibut	\$6,091,611	\$5,295,580	\$5,062,474	\$8,482,066	\$11,344,830	\$11,587,571	\$14,688,018	\$15,767,579	\$12,243,580	\$6,842,163	\$8,350,746
Herring	\$3,171,477	\$6,855,826	\$6,279,427	\$4,293,020	\$4,470,429	\$7,444,171	\$3,716,353	\$10,274,867	\$16,225,690	\$15,274,651	\$13,812,229
Other	\$1,182,419	\$978,165	\$949,595	\$976,077	\$1,122,568	\$690,559	\$747,222	\$645,920	\$885,404	\$735,755	\$513,544
Groundfish											
Other	\$504,447	\$647,788	\$443,260	\$373,197	\$485,314	\$422,270	\$713,811	\$809,204	\$681,179	\$625,645	\$937,372
Shellfish											
Pacific Cod	\$68,264	\$38,766	\$36,865	\$63,687	\$79,842	\$3,890	\$81,847	\$156,755	\$249,487	\$177,758	\$222,900
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	\$12,300,188	\$8,618,450	\$8,313,965	\$11,848,906	\$11,869,421	\$12,776,127	\$13,623,485	\$11,376,214	\$13,323,767	\$12,177,497	\$13,402,410
Salmon	\$22,398,290	\$12,370,678	\$7,959,835	\$2,340,940	\$19,177,197	\$19,756,199	\$26,445,202	\$29,205,786	\$40,555,628	\$40,093,537	\$37,560,868
<i>Total²</i>	<i>\$45,716,695</i>	<i>\$34,805,252</i>	<i>\$29,045,421</i>	<i>\$28,377,893</i>	<i>\$48,549,601</i>	<i>\$52,680,786</i>	<i>\$60,015,939</i>	<i>\$68,236,325</i>	<i>\$84,164,735</i>	<i>\$75,927,019</i>	<i>\$74,800,109</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 lbs refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

	<i>Total Net Lbs¹</i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	1,203,764	1,091,356	1,035,325	608,895	525,688	383,046	401,567	316,571	298,211	392,315	337,108
Finfish	54	--	55	--	291	147	60	31	--	--	37
Halibut	2,974,851	3,115,133	3,337,492	3,119,879	3,551,933	3,827,792	3,674,967	3,018,181	2,620,882	2,553,361	2,629,416
Herring	1,900,274	2,301,234	2,164,519	1,475,510	2,391,738	2,418,550	1,985,279	2,892,607	2,495,731	3,669,993	6,422,209
Other	1,188,308	1,052,813	1,028,527	905,309	1,004,981	650,593	618,950	571,373	672,856	589,757	561,566
Groundfish											
Other	338,744	370,128	359,204	351,257	299,422	314,950	286,026	304,114	228,074	301,763	321,619
Shellfish											
Pacific Cod	1,548,984	171,060	975,442	1,214,442	472,288	175,138	113,001	171,662	256,910	658,338	1,428,404
Pollock	286,957	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	3,361,080	3,014,537	3,056,565	3,257,590	3,599,787	3,095,214	3,466,563	3,548,874	3,477,714	3,079,460	2,920,924
Salmon	18,197,104	22,189,029	15,426,049	16,622,390	24,931,382	23,090,799	16,000,357	18,357,068	10,894,169	16,452,791	18,939,150
<i>Total²</i>	<i>31,000,120</i>	<i>33,305,290</i>	<i>27,383,178</i>	<i>27,555,272</i>	<i>36,777,510</i>	<i>33,956,229</i>	<i>26,546,770</i>	<i>29,180,481</i>	<i>20,944,547</i>	<i>27,697,778</i>	<i>33,560,433</i>
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	\$2,590,458	\$2,307,374	\$2,019,078	\$1,376,911	\$1,261,130	\$655,028	\$665,399	\$696,488	\$679,817	\$738,808	\$573,326
Finfish	\$19	--	\$24	--	\$131	\$66	\$32	\$15	--	--	\$22
Halibut	\$7,657,498	\$6,307,585	\$7,304,927	\$9,095,623	\$10,745,113	\$11,675,442	\$13,773,033	\$13,339,798	\$11,214,889	\$7,780,634	\$11,629,786
Herring	\$429,601	\$500,147	\$390,331	\$585,615	\$1,060,912	\$663,682	\$577,183	\$1,147,528	\$1,608,449	\$1,898,938	\$2,461,863
Other	\$1,051,589	\$906,621	\$944,877	\$823,220	\$1,007,924	\$564,578	\$564,654	\$471,856	\$600,612	\$487,089	\$453,734
Groundfish											
Other	\$906,296	\$722,852	\$573,433	\$634,413	\$738,362	\$794,534	\$747,724	\$878,392	\$609,090	\$833,633	\$1,104,827
Shellfish											
Pacific Cod	\$541,017	\$57,035	\$232,655	\$362,052	\$129,210	\$53,574	\$51,756	\$94,538	\$152,717	\$232,394	\$472,240
Pollock	\$33,087	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	\$11,437,083	\$8,870,682	\$9,477,020	\$11,087,526	\$10,581,785	\$10,088,083	\$10,397,962	\$8,917,450	\$10,152,555	\$9,658,972	\$10,836,373
Salmon	\$8,641,682	\$8,754,994	\$5,663,325	\$6,025,408	\$12,067,466	\$10,988,675	\$13,376,654	\$12,677,996	\$14,830,634	\$11,669,590	\$15,974,911
<i>Total²</i>	<i>\$33,288,329</i>	<i>\$28,427,290</i>	<i>\$26,605,669</i>	<i>\$29,990,768</i>	<i>\$37,592,032</i>	<i>\$35,483,662</i>	<i>\$40,154,397</i>	<i>\$38,224,062</i>	<i>\$39,848,763</i>	<i>\$33,300,058</i>	<i>\$43,507,081</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 lbs refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Recreational Fishing

Tourism, including a large sportfishing charter industry, is vital to the economy of Sitka and other communities in the region.⁶⁵ The number of sportfishing licenses sold to Sitka residents (irrespective of the point of sale) averaged just over 3,000 per year from 2000 to 2010. Over the same period, the number of sportfishing licenses sold in Sitka increased substantially, from just over 8,000 in 2000 to a high of more than 20,000 in later years in the decade. These high license sale numbers are evidence of the importance of sportfishing as an attraction for visitors in Sitka (Table 11).

In 2010, 78 active sport fish guide businesses and 132 individuals with sport fish guide licenses catered to the high demand for sportfishing charters in Sitka. Both of these numbers represent a decrease from 2000, when there were 98 active sport fish guide businesses and 177 licensed sport fish guides in Sitka (Table 11). The declining trend in sport fish guide numbers may be related to rule changes in the Southeast Alaska halibut charter industry. Due to concerns related to allocation between the commercial and sport halibut fisheries as well as localized overfishing of the resource, the Alaska Board of Fish (BOF) and North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) began discussing a moratorium on new charter licenses in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska in the 1990s.⁶⁶ In 2007, the NPFMC approved a motion to implement a limited entry program for halibut charter fleets in Areas 2C and 3A (Southeast and Southcentral Alaska) and a daily halibut bag limit for each charter vessel angler of two halibut of any size per day per person.^{67,68} Allocation decisions between the charter halibut industry and commercial halibut interests remain extremely controversial.⁶⁹

The Sitka Sport Fishing Management Area (Sport Fish Survey Area D) includes saltwater adjacent to and all freshwaters of Baranof, Yakobi, and western Chichagof Islands from Column Point in the north to Point Hayes in the south. Looking at the regional scale of Sport Fishing Survey Area D, between 2000 and 2010, there was significantly greater saltwater sportfishing activity than freshwater, although both were important. In saltwater, non-Alaska resident anglers fished a greater number of angler days on average than Alaska resident anglers, and the opposite was true in freshwater. On average, non-Alaska resident anglers fished 51,348 saltwater angler days and 1,762 freshwater angler days per year, while Alaska resident anglers fished an average of 25,151 saltwater days and 2,252 freshwater days per year (Table 11).

⁶⁵ ADF&G. (2012). *Sport Fishing: Sitka Management Area Overview*. Retrieved July 13, 2012 from <http://www.ADF&G.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADF&G=ByAreaSoutheastSitka.main>.

⁶⁶ Dean, M. R. and A. L. Howe. 1999. *Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Sportfishing Guide and Business Registration and Saltwater Sportfishing Charter Vessel Logbook Program, 1998*. ADF&G Special Publication No. 99-1. Retrieved May 2, 2012 from <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/fedaidpdfs/Sp99-01.pdf>.

⁶⁷ North Pacific Fishery Management Council. April 2007. *News and Notes* Volume 2-07. Retrieved May 2, 2012 from <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/PDFdocuments/newsletters/NEWS407.pdf>.

⁶⁸ Federal Register. March 22, 2012. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, 50 CFR Part 300, Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan. Retrieved May 2, 2012 from <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/77fr16740.pdf>.

⁶⁹ Meyer, S. October 2010. "Changes Coming for Alaska's Charter Halibut Fishery." Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game website. Retrieved October 8, 2012 from http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=wildlifeneews.view_article&articles_id=482&issue_id=91.

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

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses ¹	Sport Fish Guide Licenses ¹	Sportfishing Licenses to Residents ²	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Sitka ²
2000	98	177	3,517	8,425
2001	100	177	3,491	10,729
2002	104	180	3,082	12,519
2003	95	180	3,120	13,980
2004	91	191	3,179	18,095
2005	102	179	3,332	20,939
2006	104	192	3,346	21,520
2007	104	176	3,086	21,808
2008	99	166	2,905	20,887
2009	87	142	3,017	15,685
2010	79	132	3,006	15,117

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	46,485	38,117	1,742	4,547
2001	56,533	31,124	1,991	2,742
2002	39,772	23,589	2,003	2,392
2003	46,777	19,460	1,524	2,082
2004	50,721	27,597	2,003	1,310
2005	58,394	25,770	1,970	2,356
2006	67,692	18,512	1,920	1,173
2007	64,443	24,728	1,350	1,860
2008	56,022	25,722	1,676	2,924
2009	37,759	18,661	1,664	2,382
2010	40,227	23,382	1,541	1,002

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.ADF&G.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/> (Accessed September 2011).

The Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey, conducted by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010, noted the following species targeted by private anglers in Sitka: all five species of salmon, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, brook trout, Arctic grayling, Pacific halibut, rockfish, lingcod, Pacific cod, smelt, steelhead, Dungeness crab, Tanner crab, razor clam,

hardshell clam, shrimp, other fish, and other shellfish.⁷⁰ Charter logbook data reported that Chinook salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, halibut, lingcod, other rockfish, other salmon, pink salmon, pelagic rockfish, sablefish, shark, sockeye salmon, and yelloweye rockfish were kept/released by anglers on charter vessels operating out of Sitka between 2000 and 2010.⁷¹

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that recreational fishing in Sitka takes place from charter/party boats, private boats owned by local residents, private boats owned by non-residents, and via shore-based or dock fishing by local residents and by non-residents. Community leaders also noted that Chinook, coho and sockeye salmon, halibut, rockfish, crab, sablefish, shrimp, and clams are targeted by recreational fishermen that based in Sitka and that there are a lot more charter boats/party boats, private/pleasure boats, and boats shorter than 35 ft in Sitka compared to five years ago. Community leaders also noted that unregulated charter halibut businesses for 10 to 15 years depleted local stock and, that while the reduction in charter fishing has a negative effect on the local economy in the short-term, the imposition of limits on charter fishing is overall good management of fish stocks.

Subsistence Fishing

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that the three most important subsistence marine or aquatic resources to residents of Sitka are salmon (all types), other fish (all types, such as halibut, rock fish, and lingcod), and traditional foods (including fish, seaweeds, herring eggs). Community leaders also noted that “the current management of the Sitka Sac Roe Herring Fishery has had a negative impact on the subsistence herring egg harvest. The frequency and intensity of test fishing and commercial openings just prior to major spawning events [have] disrupted traditional spawning patterns.”

Data were not available on the percentage of subsistence participation by household and species between 2000 and 2010, with the exception of data showing that between 88% and 99% of households participated in non-salmon fish subsistence (not including halibut) in 2004, 2005, and 2007 (Table 12). Data for subsistence salmon fishing participation show an overall decrease in both the number of subsistence salmon permits issued to Sitka households and the number reported as fished between 2000 and 2008 (the most recent year for which data were available). Harvest numbers show that sockeye salmon was the most heavily harvested species in each year during the period, along with smaller harvests of pink, chum, Chinook, and coho salmon each year. The data also show a substantial decrease in the number of sockeye salmon harvested each year. Data were also available regarding total harvest of non-salmon fish (not including halibut) for 2004, 2005, and 2007 (Table 13).

Data regarding subsistence harvest of halibut show that, despite a relatively consistent number of Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) cards issued to Sitka residents between 2003 and 2010, the number of SHARC cards actively fished declined over the period. The total lbs harvested per active SHARC card also declined. In 2000, when 821 cards were

⁷⁰ ADF&G. (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.ADF&G.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/> (Accessed September 2011).

⁷¹ ADF&G. (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]

actively fished, an average of 213 lbs of halibut was harvested per SHARC. In 2010, an average of 152 lbs of halibut were harvested on the 480 total cards fished (Table 14).

Data were also available regarding harvest of some marine mammal species between 2000 and 2010. The number of sea otters harvested for subsistence use varied between 81 and 205 per year, and the number of harbor seals harvested for subsistence varied between 23 and 277. In 2002, six Steller sea lions were harvested for subsistence purposes in Sitka, and one walrus was reported harvested in 2003. Data were not reported by management agencies regarding harvest of beluga whale or spotted seals. Information about subsistence harvest marine mammals in Sitka between 2000 and 2010 is presented in Table 15.

While no data were reported in Table 13 regarding harvest of marine invertebrates by Sitka residents during the 2000-2010 period, information is available from an earlier household subsistence survey conducted by the ADF&G Division of Subsistence. In 1996, the following species of marine invertebrates were reportedly used for subsistence in Sitka: abalone, basket cockles, black (small) chitons, blue king crab, blue mussels, brown king crab, butter clams, Dungeness crab, geoducks, green sea urchin, heart cockles, horse clams (gaper), limpets, octopus, Pacific littleneck clams (steamers), purple sea urchins, razor clams, red (large) chitons, red king crab, red sea urchin, rock scallops, shrimp, squid, starfish, Tanner crab, unknown clams, unknown cockles, unknown crab, unknown king crab, unknown mussels, unknown scallops, unknown sea cucumber, unknown sea urchin, unknown Tanner crab, weathervane scallops, and yein sea cucumber.

The 1996 ADF&G subsistence survey also noted species of marine mammals and non-salmon fish (not including halibut) harvested for subsistence use that year. Marine mammal species included fur seal, harbor seal, harbor seal (saltwater), and Steller sea lion. Non-salmon fish reported as harvested for subsistence use included: black rockfish, brook trout, buffalo sculpin, capelin (grunion), cutthroat trout, dogfish, Dolly Varden, eulachon (hooligan candlefish), grayling, herring, herring roe on hair seaweed, herring roe on hemlock branches, herring roe/unspecified, herring spawn on kelp, lingcod, Pacific cod (gray), Pacific tom cod, rainbow trout, red Irish lord, red rockfish, rock greenling, sablefish (black cod), salmon shark, sea bass, sea perch, silver smelt, skates, steelhead, unknown bass, unknown cod, unknown flounder, unknown perch, unknown rockfish, unknown sculpin, unknown shark, unknown sole, and walleye pollock.⁷²

⁷² 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.ADF&G.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

Additional Information

In 2005, Sitka was the site of a workshop that gathered approximately 40 American and Canadian practitioners, fishermen, and community leaders to discuss issues, strategies, and next steps in community-based fisheries management (CBFM). The workshop was a follow-up meeting to one held in October 2004 in Maine. One outcome of this meeting was the “Sitka Declaration,” endorsing CBFM approach, and proposing addressing issues of access to fisheries resources through the following means:

- Endow communities with access privileges and the authority to make subsequent allocations;
- If used, individual access rights are defined for a finite period (not in perpetuity);
- Discourage absentee ownership;
- Recognize the specific rights of, and honor prior commitments to, First Nations, treaty tribes, and indigenous peoples;
- Management structures and practices be transparent;
- Recognize all users, including aboriginal and customary and traditional users, commercial and recreational sectors;
- Promote active participation by 2nd generation access privilege holders;
- Provide affordable entry level opportunities for coastal community residents;
- Provide incentives for conservation practices;
- Protect access privileges of crew and skippers;
- Prohibit processing shares or linkages;
- Ensure that the privilege of access shall be complemented by a clearly defined and binding schedule of enforcement;
- The design of limited access programs should not disadvantage those who fished conservatively (including not fishing at all for conservation and economic reasons).^{73,74}

⁷³ Ecotrust. 2005. *Sitka Declaration*. Retrieved July 13, 2012 from http://www.ecotrust.org/cbfm/Sitka_Declaration_2005.pdf.

⁷⁴ Ecotrust. 2005. *Sitka Workshop*. Retrieved July 13, 2012 from http://www.ecotrust.org/cbfm/Sitka_Workshop_2005.pdf.

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Sitka: 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 (lbs)
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	97%	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	99%	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88%	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.ADF&G.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

Table 13. Subsistence Fishing Participation for Salmon, Marine Invertebrates, and Non-Salmon Fish, Sitka: 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	1,205	1,166	20	92	18	138	25,062	n/a	n/a
2001	1,039	1,012	12	170	10	716	29,722	n/a	n/a
2002	1,127	998	44	172	128	242	38,624	n/a	n/a
2003	1,500	1,432	18	104	56	412	37,531	n/a	n/a
2004	783	748	36	134	28	273	18,484	n/a	381,226
2005	680	669	6	27	127	373	11,484	n/a	79,063
2006	817	785	6	47	87	187	19,989	n/a	n/a
2007	800	429	14	30	34	332	15,776	n/a	87,211
2008	612	583	13	75	606	126	9,219	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.ADF&G.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

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

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	1,639	821	174,880
2004	1,871	904	221,965
2005	1,974	814	144,561
2006	1,895	915	163,372
2007	1,954	921	142,049
2008	1,662	845	109,581
2009	1,731	844	97,424
2010	1,635	480	73,139

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, Sitka: 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	155	n/a	n/a	n/a	277	n/a
2001	n/a	114	n/a	n/a	n/a	241	n/a
2002	n/a	99	n/a	n/a	6	170	n/a
2003	n/a	83	1	n/a	n/a	220	n/a
2004	n/a	81	n/a	n/a	n/a	141	n/a
2005	n/a	104	n/a	n/a	n/a	23	n/a
2006	n/a	104	n/a	n/a	n/a	141	n/a
2007	n/a	252	n/a	n/a	n/a	128	n/a
2008	n/a	130	n/a	n/a	n/a	141	n/a
2009	n/a	141	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	205	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.