

## **Whittier (WIT-ee-er)**



### **People and Place**

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

Whittier is on the northeast shore of the Kenai Peninsula, at the head of Passage Canal. It is on the west side of Prince William Sound, 60 miles southeast of Anchorage. The area encompasses 12.5 square miles of land and 7.2 square miles of water. Whittier was incorporated in 1969 and is now a Second-class city. It is located in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area, and is not under the jurisdiction of a borough.

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

In 2010 there were 220 residents ranking Whittier 185<sup>th</sup> of 352 communities in terms of population size. Between 1990 and 2010, the population declined by 9.5%. Between 2000 and 2009, the population declined by 12.6% with an average annual growth rate of -1.37%, which was much lower than the statewide average of 0.75% and indicative of steady decline. Information regarding population trends can be found in Table 1.

The racial composition of Whittier is predominately White, although there is some diversity. In 2010, 69.5% of residents identified themselves as White, compared to 79.1% in 2000; 13.2% identified themselves as two or more races, compared to 8.2% in 2000; 7.7% identified themselves as Asian, compared to 7.1% in 2000; 5.5% identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native, compared to 5.5% in 2000; 3.2% identified themselves as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, compared to 0% in 2000; 0.5% identified themselves as Black or African American, compared to 0% in 2000; and 0.5% identified themselves as some other race, compared to 0% in 2000. In addition, 5.0% of residents identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, compared to 1.1% in 2000 (Figure 1).

In 2010, the average household size was 1.93, which was a decrease from 2.10 in 1990 and 2.12 in 2000. In that year, there were a total of 280 housing units, compared to 265 in 1990 and 213 in 2000. Of the households surveyed in 2010, 15% were owner-occupied, compared to 16% in 2000; 25% were renter-occupied, compared to 24% in 2000; 22% were vacant, compared to 23%; and 37% were occupied seasonally, compared to 37% in 2000.

The gender distribution in 2010 was somewhat skewed at 56.8% male and 43.2% female, which was more uneven than the statewide distribution (52.0% male, 48.0% female) and distribution in 2000 (52.7% male, 47.3% female). The median age that year was 48.0 years, which was significantly older than the statewide median of 33.8 years and 2000 median of 39.3 years.

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

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

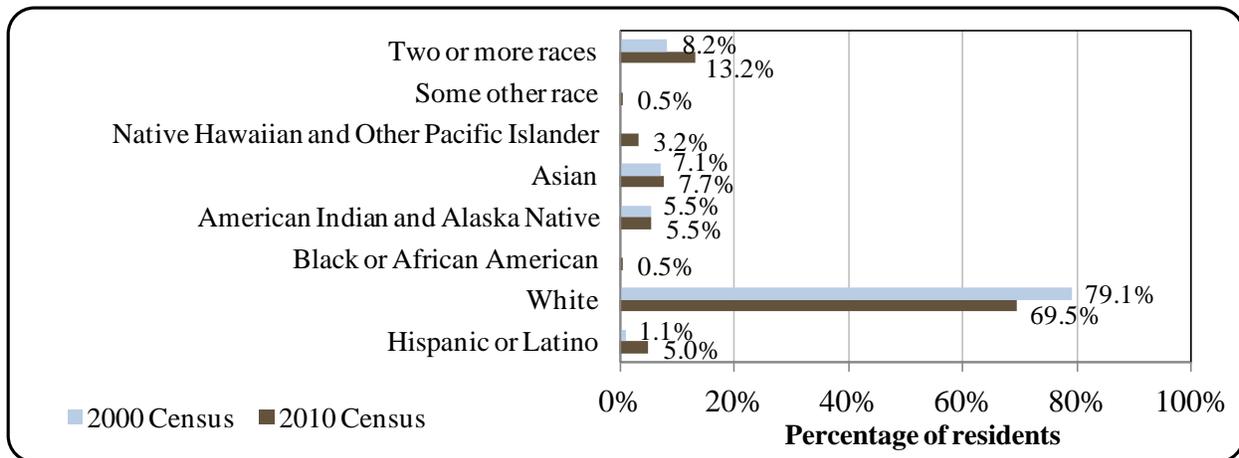
Table 1. Population in Whittier from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census <sup>1</sup>	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents <sup>2</sup>
1990	243	-
2000	182	-
2001	-	170
2002	-	161
2003	-	172
2004	-	172
2005	-	188
2006	-	189
2007	-	173
2008	-	159
2009	-	159
2010	220	-

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

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

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

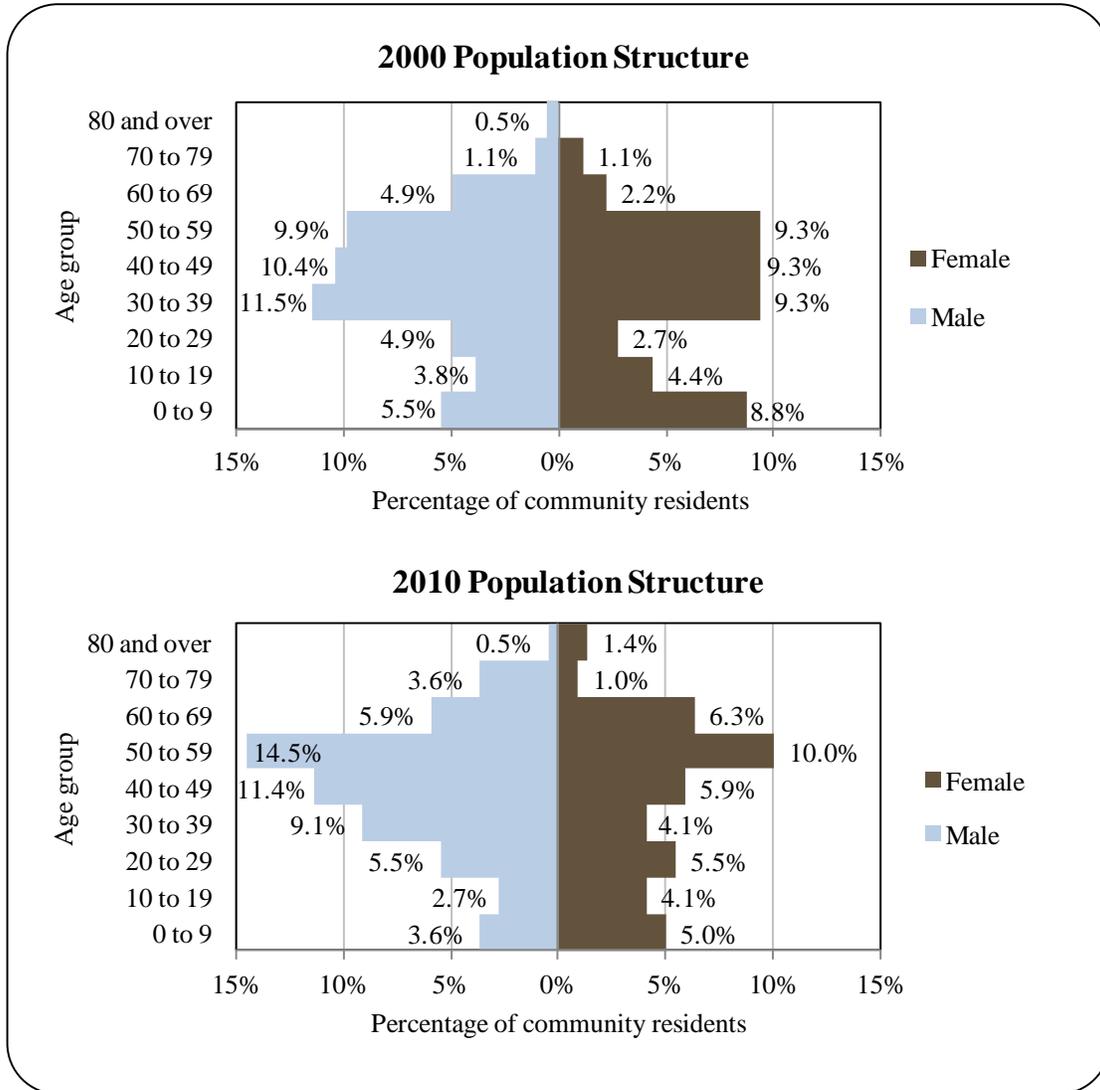


When compared to 2000, the population structure was somewhat less expansive in 2010 (Figure 2). In that year, 15.4% of residents were under the age of 20, compared to 22.5% in 2000; 18.7% were over the age of 59, compared to 9.8% in 2000; 55.0% were between the ages of 30 and 59, compared to 59.7% in 2000; and 11.0% were between the ages of 20 and 29, compared to 7.6% in 2000.

Gender distribution by age cohort was less even in 2010 and in 2000, with relatively equal numbers of male and female biases along age ranges. The greatest absolute gender

difference that year occurred in the 40 to 49 range (11.4% male, 5.9% female), followed by the 30 to 39 (9.1% male, 4.1% female) and 50 to 59 (14.5% male, 10% female) ranges. Of those three, the greatest proportional gender difference occurred in the 30 to 39 range. Information regarding Whittier’s population structure can be found in Figure 2.

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



In terms of educational attainment, the U.S. Census' 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS)<sup>3</sup> estimated that 95.7% of residents aged 25 and older held a high school diploma or higher degree in 2010, compared to an estimated 90.7% of Alaskan residents overall. Also in that year, an estimated 1.4% had less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education, compared to an estimated 3.5% of Alaskan residents overall; an estimated 2.9% had a 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade education but no diploma, compared to an estimated 5.8% of Alaskan residents overall; an estimated 30.6% had some college but no degree, compared to an estimated 28.3% of Alaskan residents overall; an estimated 7.7% held an Associate's degree, compared to an estimated 8.0% of Alaskan residents overall; an estimated 25.4% of residents held a Bachelor's degree, compared to an estimated 17.4% of Alaskan residents overall; and an estimated 3.3% held a graduate or professional degree, compared to an estimated 9.6% of Alaskan residents overall.

### *History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture<sup>4</sup>*

The Whittier townsite was platted by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1942 as a terminal for the Alaska Railroad. The U.S. Army selected Whittier as a focal point for several of its operations in Alaska and built a port and rail-tunnel in 1942 and 1943. These facilities were built for the purpose of transporting service-members and materials to Fort Richardson in Anchorage, and Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks.

In 1949, the Army constructed an extensive complex to provide long term support facilities for petroleum-rail operations as well as other military interests throughout Alaska. At the height of military activity in the late 1950s, there were approximately 1,000 people stationed in Whittier. At the time, the military complex there boasted the largest building in Alaska. The now vacant Buckner Building consisted of 1,000 apartments, a hospital, bowling alley, theater, library, two firing ranges, and a host of shops. The building was damaged and abandoned after the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and has since fallen into considerable disrepair. Other structures, most notably the Begich Towers, currently serve as housing and commercial space.

In 1960, the Army declared that Whittier was no longer necessary to its operations in Alaska. Most buildings were abandoned, although many were maintained until 1968.

The 1964 Good Friday earthquake caused considerable damage to Whittier. The ground shook for three to four minutes and land subsidence measured over eight feet. Three massive tsunamis, the largest being over 40 feet in height, struck the town. After it ended, 13 people had died and many port facilities were destroyed.

In 1969, the City was incorporated with a population of approximately 140. Shortly after incorporation, a small boat harbor was built and the newly formed city sought to acquire additional land for development. In 1973, the Shotgun Cove area was annexed to the city. In 1980, the small boat harbor was expanded, and in 1984, freight services in Whittier were improved.

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

<sup>4</sup> City of Whittier (1986). *City of Whittier Community Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved April 19, 2012 from: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/Whittier-CP-1986.pdf>.

## Natural Resources and Environment

Winter temperatures range from 17 to 28 °F (-8 to -4 °C) and summer temperatures average 49 to 63 °F (9 to 17 °C). Average annual precipitation includes 197 inches of rain and 241 inches of snowfall. High winds are common.<sup>5</sup>

Whittier is located in the Chugach National Forest, which occupies 5.5 million acres of Southcentral Alaska. Subsurface geology consists mostly of slate and greywacke. Bedrock is overlain by unconsolidated glacial materials and stream gravel. Topography is characterized by steep relief slopes rising abruptly from sea level at 30-60% grades. Mountain altitudes range from 3,500 to 4,500 feet. The Bay Delta and Shotgun Cove areas provide the only shallow relief suitable for development. The Passage Canal connects Whittier to Prince William Sound (PWS). The deep-water port is ice free all year, although subject to strong winds, fog, and precipitation. Seas can reach six feet around the port during poor weather. Ground cover consists of a thick layer of topsoil. Vegetation is mostly comprised of mixed Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock stands. Undergrowth consists of lichens, grasses, wildflowers, and high-bush blueberries. Disturbed land is covered in scrub alder, blueberry, and salmonberry bushes.<sup>6</sup>

PWS and surrounding areas are home to a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Common fish include rockfish, flounder, all five species of Pacific salmon, lingcod, and Pacific halibut. Salmon sharks, crab, shrimp, and clams are also in the area. Marine mammals include whales, porpoises, seals, sea otters, and sea lions. Terrestrial mammals include black bears, wolves, coyotes, mountain goats, moose, snowshoe hares, porcupines, beavers, river otters, mink, marmots, squirrels, and weasels. Migratory birds such as geese, ducks and cranes frequent the Portage Pass.<sup>7</sup>

Fishery and recreational resources make up the majority of natural resources utilized locally. Timber is a potential resource; however, commercial timber leases in the PWS area have been halted in order to aid environmental recovery following the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.<sup>8</sup> As of 2011, there were no active mineral projects in the area; however, the Mineral King and Granite gold/arsenic mines occupy the east and west banks of College Fjord, north of Whittier.<sup>9</sup>

Environmental hazards present in the community include coastal flooding, wildfire, earthquake, snow avalanche, tsunami, severe weather, landslides, and erosion. Flooding and erosion are primarily caused by storm surges, although rainfall, snowmelt, and glacier outwash flooding contributes as well. In addition, there is the possibility of levee failure as the Whittier Creek Levee is over 50 years old and levee protection has eroded. The last major flooding event occurred in 2006. Severe weather can bring high winds, extreme cold and heavy snow. These hazards can potentially impact local infrastructure, particularly the local small boat harbor. Wildfire potential in the Whittier area has been determined as moderate, although there has been no history of catastrophic wildfires affecting the community. Whittier is located in a potentially damaging seismic area, as evidenced by the 1964 Good Friday earthquake. The area itself is

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<sup>5</sup> Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from [http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_BLOCK.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>6</sup> ASCG Inc. (2005). *Whittier Comprehensive Plan Update 2005*. Retrieved April 19, 2012 from: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/Whittier-CP-2005.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Forest Service (n.d.). *ROD for FEIS Revised Land and Resource Management Plan – Alaska Region*. Retrieved April 19, 2012 from: [http://www.fs.fed.us/outernet/r10/chugach/forest\\_plan/rod.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/outernet/r10/chugach/forest_plan/rod.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Alaska Department of Natural Resources (n.d.). *Minerals Development*. Retrieved April 19, 2012 from: <http://commerce.alaska.gov/ded/dev/minerals/mining.htm>.

prone to tsunami inundation, land subsidence, liquefaction, and landslides. Finally, high relief slopes combined with high levels of precipitation in forms of both rain and snow create hazardous conditions for landslides and avalanches on steep slopes behind the West Delta and partway out Shotgun Cove.<sup>10</sup>

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), there are no notable active environmental cleanup sites located in or around Whittier.<sup>11</sup>

## Current Economy<sup>12</sup>

Whittier's origins as a military outpost led to an emphasis on commercial-industrial port and railroad land uses and dense residential style housing. Although relatively diverse, the community's economy is focused on commercial and recreational fishing and boating in PWS. Tourism is another important industry and the community is connected to other regions of Alaska via the Anton Memorial Tunnel. Cruise ships and the Alaska Railroad bring visitors to the city each summer. Cruise ships dock in Whittier several times per week during summer months and visitors have a range of accommodations and attractions to choose from during their stay.<sup>13</sup> Top employers<sup>14</sup> in 2010 included: City of Whittier, Chugach School District, Anchor Inn, Southeast Stevedoring Corporation, Great Pacific Seafoods Inc., VMS Inc., State of Alaska, Begich Towers Condo Association Inc., Shoreside Petroleum Inc., and VECO Alaska Inc.

in 2010,<sup>15</sup> the estimated per capita income was \$37,135 and the estimated median household income was \$47,969, compared to \$25,700 and \$47,500 in 2000, respectively. However, after accounting for inflation by converting 2000 values into 2010 dollars,<sup>16</sup> the real per capita income (\$33,795) and real median household income (\$62,462) indicate that individual earnings grew while household earnings declined. In 2010, Whittier ranked 21<sup>st</sup> of 305 communities from which per capita income was estimated, and 142<sup>nd</sup> of 299 communities from which median household income was estimated.

Whittier's small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions.<sup>17</sup> 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 (DOLWD). According to the ALARI database, residents earned \$3.09 million in total wages in 2010,<sup>18</sup> resulting in a per capita income of \$14,024 when matched with the population in 2010. Overall, comparative differences between the ACS and ALARI estimates indicate significantly a lower per capita income than what was reported in both 2000 and 2010.

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<sup>10</sup> City of Whittier. (2008). *City of Whittier Local Hazards Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved April 19, 2012 from: [http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/planning/nfip/Hazard\\_Mitigation\\_Plans/Whittier\\_HMP.pdf](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/planning/nfip/Hazard_Mitigation_Plans/Whittier_HMP.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (n.d.). *Contaminated Sites Program*. Retrieved April 23, 2012 from: <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/list.htm#Kenai>.

<sup>12</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

<sup>13</sup> See footnote 10.

<sup>14</sup> Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (n.d.). *Alaska Local and Regional Information Database*. Retrieved April 23, 2012 from <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/alari/>.

<sup>15</sup> See footnote 3.

<sup>16</sup> Inflation was calculated using the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for 2010 (retrieved January 5, 2012 from the Alaska Department of Labor, <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/cpi/inflationcalc.htm>).

<sup>17</sup> See footnote 3.

<sup>18</sup> ALARI estimates based on wages reported for unemployment insurance purposes. Estimates do not include self-employed or federally employed residents.

According to 2006-2010 ACS estimates, 75.9% of residents aged 16 and older were part of the civilian labor force in 2010. In that year, unemployment was estimated at 13.2%, compared to an estimated 5.9% statewide; and an estimated 13.7% of residents were living below the poverty line, compared to an estimated 9.5% of Alaskan residents overall. Of those employed, an estimated 37.8% worked in the private sector, an estimated 46.9% worked in the public sector, and an estimated 15.4% were self-employed.

By industry, most employed residents were estimated to work in public administration sectors (23.8%) in 2010; followed by arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food service sectors (21.7%); and other services, except public administration (11.2%). By occupation type, most employed residents were estimated to hold management or professional positions (35%) that year; followed by service positions (26.6%); sales or office positions (18.2%); natural resources, construction, or maintenance positions (14.7%); and production, transportation, or material moving positions (5.6%). Overall, there was significant growth in public administration and other service, except public administration sectors. Most other sectors saw declines during those years. In addition, there was moderate growth in the number of employed residents estimated to hold service positions, while there was a decline in the number of employed residents estimated to hold production, transportation, and material moving positions. No residents were estimated to work in agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, or mining sectors in 2010. However, it should be noted that many resource based sectors, including commercial fishing, are seasonal or transient in nature. This makes tracking them by conventional ACS survey methods difficult in some instances. Information regarding employment trends can be found in Figures 3 and 4.

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

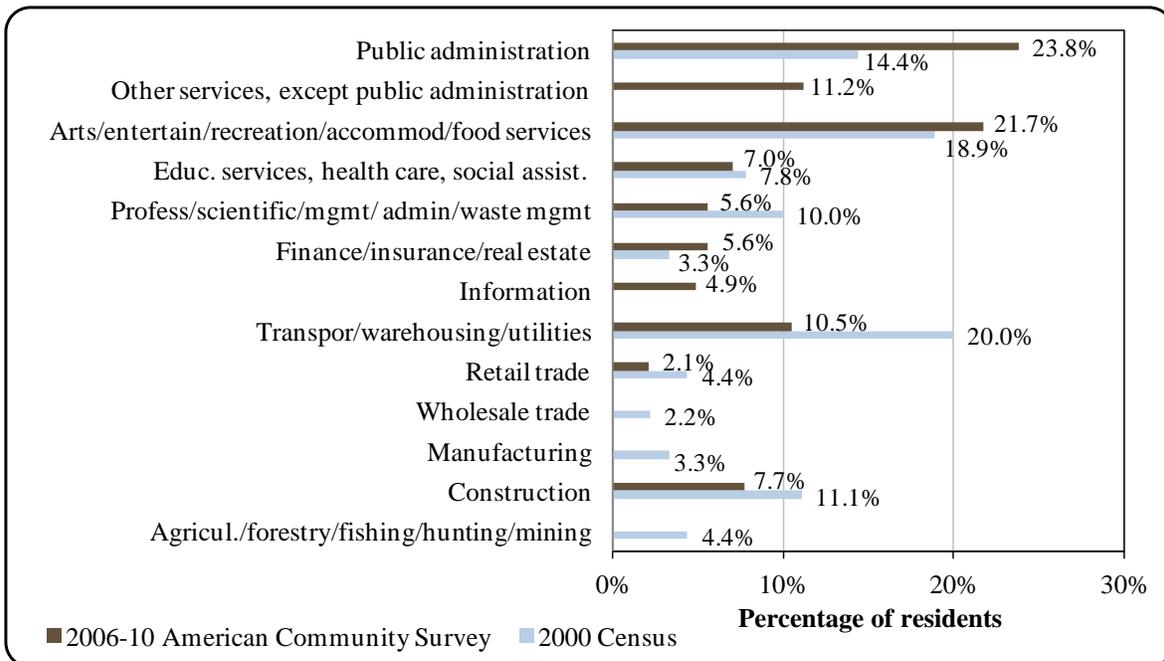
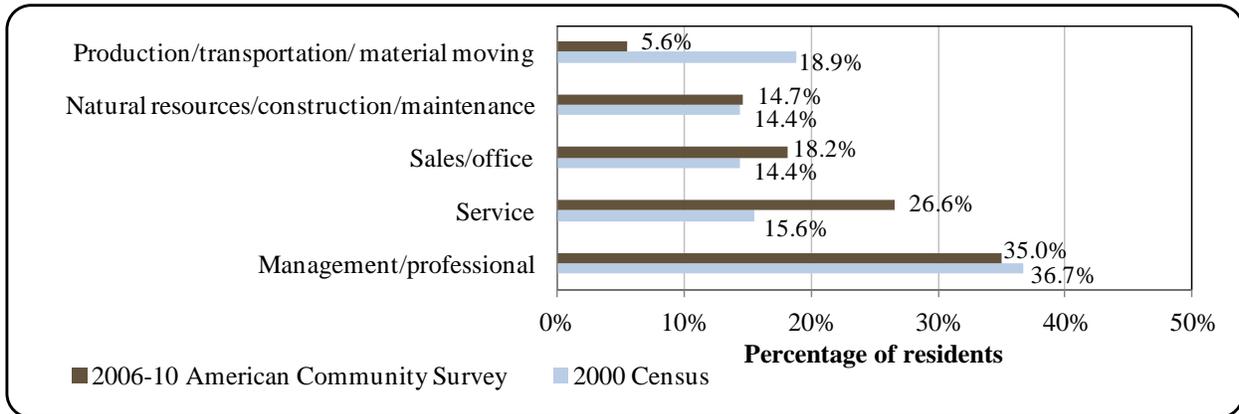


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Whittier (U.S. Census).



## Governance

Whittier is a Second-class city with a mayoral form of government. There is a seven-member city council, five-member school board, five-member planning commission, and six municipal employees. The community was not included in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and does not possess a U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Tribal council. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are located in Anchorage, 60 miles northwest.

In 2010, the city administered a 5% sales tax between April and September, a 5 mill property tax, and a \$2.50 Passenger Transportation Tax. Municipal revenue figures were taken from financial audits, and report total governmental funds.<sup>19</sup> When adjusted for inflation,<sup>20</sup> total municipal revenues increased by 36.4% between 2000 and 2010 from \$2.62 million, to \$4.63 million. In 2010, general funds accounted for 37.3% of total municipal revenues. In that year, most (62.7%) general funds were collected from local taxes, followed by rental and lease revenues (15.0%), state revenue sharing (8.0%), and federal revenues (5.9%). Cruise ship tax revenues accounted for 22.6% of total municipal revenues, while several capital projects accounted for 38.8%.

Sales taxes accounted for 12.1% of total municipal revenues in 2010, compared to 6.6% in 2000. In addition, state allocated Community Revenue Sharing accounted for 2.9% of revenues, compared to 2.5% from State Revenue Sharing in 2000. Between 2000 and 2010, Whittier was awarded over \$7.94 million in federal and state fisheries-related grants. These grants went to harbor and dock expansion and maintenance and a new breakwater. Information regarding community finances can be found in Table 2.

<sup>19</sup> Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from [http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF\\_FinRec.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

<sup>20</sup> Inflation calculated using Anchorage CPI from Alaska DOL: <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/cpi/cpi.htm>.

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

Year	Total Municipal Revenue <sup>1</sup>	Sales Tax Revenue <sup>2</sup>	State/Community Revenue Sharing <sup>3,4</sup>	Fisheries-Related Grants (State and Federal) <sup>5</sup>
2000	\$2,624,125	\$173,103	\$24,129	\$20,000
2001	\$1,130,183	\$182,867	\$23,260	\$31,994
2002	\$1,437,296	\$196,871	\$23,256	\$2,746,296
2003	\$1,211,161	\$176,461	\$23,377	\$2,522,100
2004	\$2,227,148	\$265,355	-	n/a
2005	\$2,485,148	\$321,797	-	n/a
2006	\$2,383,603	\$258,102	-	\$625,400
2007	\$4,631,466	\$422,755	-	\$1,000,000
2008	\$3,437,822	\$597,638	-	n/a
2009	\$4,052,992	\$512,365	\$107,080	n/a
2010	\$4,630,110	\$560,254	\$105,743	\$990,000

<sup>1</sup> Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Financial Documents Delivery System*.

Retrieved April 15, 2011 from [http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF\\_FinRec.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

<sup>2</sup> Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Econ. Dev. (n.d.). *Alaska Taxable (2000-2010)*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from [http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa\\_summary.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm).

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Funding Database*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from [http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_Grants.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm).

## Infrastructure

### *Connectivity and Transportation*<sup>21</sup>

Whittier has an ice-free port and two city docks (70-foot cargo dock and 60-foot floating passenger dock). A small boat harbor has slips for 360 fishing, recreation, and charter vessels. It is served by road, rail, the state ferry, boat, and aircraft. Since 2000, a tunnel has provided a road connection to Anchorage and the rest of the Alaska highway system. The Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel was reconstructed to accommodate both rail and road vehicles. The railway carries passengers, vehicles, and cargo 12 miles from the Portage Station east of Girdwood. The state-owned 1,480-foot long by 58-foot wide gravel airstrip accommodates charter aircraft, and a city-owned seaplane dock is available for passenger transfer.

### *Facilities*

Water is derived from wells and a reservoir. Water storage capacity is 1.2 million gallons. The entire community is served by a piped water and sewer system, and over 95% of homes are fully plumbed. Refuse is hauled out by a private contractor to Anchorage - the local landfill has been closed. An oil and hazardous waste recycling center is available. Electricity is provided by

<sup>21</sup> Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from [http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_BLOCK.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

hydroelectric and natural gas generators. Visitor accommodations include June’s Whittier Bed & Breakfast, The Anchor Inn, The Inn at Whittier, and Sportsman’s Inn. Public safety is provided by city police and state troopers based in Girdwood. Fire and rescue services are provided by city volunteer fire department, Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel Fire Department, and local Emergency Medical Services. Additional public facilities include a community hall, school gym, museum, and library. Communications services include local and long distance telephone, internet, and local and cable television.<sup>22</sup>

Most residents rent or own condominiums in the Begich Towers or Whittier Manor. The six-unit Anchor Annex and several single family homes contribute addition housing. Although most units in the Begich Towers are reserved for living space, several floors are zoned for commercial uses.

Whittier acts as a freight exchange hub for barge service between Alaska and the rest of the contiguous United States and Canada. Several barge services and transport agencies move freight through Whittier including Lynden Transport, Alaska Railroad Corporation, Alaska Railroad Marine Services, and Canadian National. As of 2010, berth capacity of public mooring facilities was insufficient, and unmet demand was estimated at between 1,500 and 2,000 berths for recreational vessels. A private marina was completed in 2004. Fisheries-related businesses and services include marine fuel, marine repair and welding, dry-dock storage, haulout facilities, self-storage facilities, and charter services. Cruise ship facilities include a dock and 20,000 square-foot terminal capable of accommodating one cruise ship visit per day. Whittier acts as a “turnaround” point for cruise ships rather than a port of call. Visitors embarking or disembarking rely on the Alaska Railroad for transportation to and from Anchorage. The airport is non-towered and not maintained in the winter. High winds and poor weather common to Whittier often make landing difficult and there is no scheduled air service.<sup>23</sup>

#### *Medical Services*<sup>24</sup>

The Whittier Medical Clinic is located in the Begich Towers. The facility provides basic health care and has a nurse practitioner and community health practitioner on staff. Emergency medical staff tends to a range of local and regional medical-related issues and are often tasked with addressing issues aboard cruise ships

#### *Educational Opportunities*<sup>25</sup>

Whittier Community School offers preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade instruction. In 2011, 19 students were enrolled and there were 4 teachers employed.

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> ASCG Inc. (2005). *Whittier Comprehensive Plan Update 2005*. Retrieved April 19, 2012 from: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/Whittier-CP-2005.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

## Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

### *History and Evolution of Fisheries*

Whittier's history as a military and transportation hub predates its involvement in North Pacific fisheries and much of PWS's extensive fisheries history is tied to Cordova and the Copper River. However, after military operations ceased the community became increasingly dependent on commercial and recreational fishing. Today, Whittier is one of the most popular sportfishing communities in the state as evidenced by the overcrowding of small vessel berths and constant summer influx of tourists.

Fish targeted in Whittier include all five species of Pacific salmon, cod, halibut, herring, rockfish, eel, trout, char, king crab, tanner crab, and Dungeness crab. Great Pacific Seafoods constructed a commercial seafood processor and in 2003, 11 million pounds of seafood was processed at the facility. Fish are pumped from tenders at the Alaska Railroad Corporation dock. Minimally processed fish is primarily transported to Anchorage for secondary processing. All five species of Pacific salmon from the Copper River and PWS make up the majority of landings. The remainder includes halibut and black cod. Most of Whittier's commercial fishing fleet consists of gillnetters, followed by purse-seiners and long-liners.

Built in 1985, the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery is the closest hatchery to Whittier; located 20 miles east in Lake Bay. The hatchery is the largest pink salmon production facility in North America. In 2001, 7.2 million pink and 2.4 million chum salmon returned to the facility. Additional PWS hatcheries are located in Valdez, Main Bay, Sawmill Bay, and Cannery Creek.

Whittier is located in Federal Reporting Area 649, International Pacific Halibut Commission (IHPC) Regulatory Area 3A, and the Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Sablefish Regulatory District. As of 2010, Whittier was ineligible for participation in the Community Quota Entity (CQE) program for GOA communities.

### *Processing Plants*

According to ADF&G's 2010 Intent to Operate list, there are two active shore-based processing plants in Whittier. Fee's Custom Seafoods provides custom processing for sport fishermen in Whittier. The plant began operations in 2003.<sup>26</sup> The facility, located "on the Triangle" in Whittier, is open during the summer in conjunction with the Prince William Sound salmon (sockeye, coho, chum) runs. Fee's Custom Seafoods also processes halibut, spot prawns and side stripe shrimp.<sup>27</sup> Employees are on an "on call" basis and the plant processes mostly for charter businesses.<sup>28</sup>

Great Pacific Seafoods was founded in 1977 and has a small seafood processing facility in Whittier that began operations in 1993.<sup>29</sup> Its salmon season is from May to September, during which it employs up to 130 workers.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> This information is based on the results of a processing plant survey conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in 2011.

<sup>27</sup> Fee's Custom Seafoods. (n.d.). *Fee's Custom Seafoods*. Retrieved from: <http://www.feescustomseafoods.com/>.

<sup>28</sup> See footnote 26.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

### *Fisheries-Related Revenue*

Whittier receives fisheries-related revenue from both Shared Fisheries Business Taxes and harbor usage fees. In 2010, \$1.17 million was collected in fisheries-related revenue, compared to \$776,566 in 2001. Fisheries-related revenue totals are incomplete for 2000 and 2005 because of missing harbor fees data. Fisheries-related revenue peaked in 2009 at \$1.25 million. Information regarding fisheries-related revenue trends can be found in Table 3. It should be noted that 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.

### *Commercial Fishing*

In 2010, 12 residents, or 5.5% of the population, held 18 permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). In 2000, 9 residents held 18 CFEC permits. Of the CFEC permits held in 2010, 17% were for salmon, compared to 11% in 2000; 17% were for groundfish, compared to 61% in 2000; 6% were for sablefish, compared to 6% in 2000; 6% were for halibut, compared to 6% in 2000; and 56% were for other shellfish, compared to 17% in 2000. Of the CFEC permits held in 2010, 61% were actively fished, compared to 11% in 2000. This varied by fishery from 100% of salmon, sablefish, and halibut permits; to 50% of other shellfish and 33% of groundfish permits. Fifty-percent of FFP were actively fished and 0% of LLP were fished in 2010. Fisheries prosecuted by Whittier residents in 2010 included: statewide longline halibut, statewide hand troll ling cod, PWS pot shrimp, PWS fixed gear sablefish, PWS drift gillnet salmon, and Cook Inlet drift gillnet salmon.<sup>31</sup>

In addition, two residents held two Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP) and three residents held three License Limitation Program (LLP) groundfish permits that year. Residents held 8,474 shares of halibut quota on two accounts in 2010, compared to 77,054 shares held on four accounts in 2000. No residents held sablefish or crab quota between 2010 and when the programs began.

Residents held 27 commercial crew licenses in 2010, compared to 17 in 2000. In addition residents held majority ownership of 13 vessels, compared to 13 in 2000. In 2010, 330 vessels landed 15.94 million pounds of fish valued at \$10.10 million in Whittier, compared to 5.30 million pounds valued at \$3.67 million landed by 326 vessels in 2000. Salmon landings totaled 15.65 million pounds valued at \$9.34 million in 2010, compared to 4.85 million pounds valued at \$2.65 in 2000; a decrease of approximately \$0.15 per pound landed after adjusting for inflation<sup>32</sup> and without considering the species composition of landings. Halibut landings totaled 78,990 pounds valued at \$320,445 in 2010, compared to 303,961 pounds valued at \$787,381 in 2000; an increase of approximately \$0.50 per pound after adjusting for inflation.<sup>33</sup> Shrimp landings totaled 68,855 pounds valued at \$321,664 in 2010. Sablefish landings totaled 11,662 pounds valued at \$59,059 in 2010, compared to 29,957 pounds valued at \$70,183 in 2003; an increase of \$1.79 per

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<sup>31</sup> Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska commercial fishing permits, permit holders, and vessel licenses, 2000 – 2010. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

<sup>32</sup> Inflation calculated using the 2010 Producer Price Index for unprocessed and packaged fish, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/ppi/#data>.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

pound after adjusting for inflation.<sup>34</sup> Other groundfish landings totaled 36,573 pounds valued at \$20,375, compared to 29,526 pounds valued at \$19,555 in 2000. All other 2010 landings in Whittier are considered confidential. In addition, landings by Whittier residents between 2000 and 2010 are considered confidential for most years. However, in 2010 residents landed 3,006 pounds of Pacific cod valued at \$23,973 and 180,990 pounds of salmon valued at \$148,038. Information regarding commercial fishing trends can be found in Tables 4 through 10.

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

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

Revenue source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Raw fish tax <sup>1</sup>	n/a	n/a	\$87,608	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shared Fisheries Business Tax <sup>1</sup>	\$74,790	\$63,716	\$87,608	\$70,903	\$79,913	\$76,978	\$61,016	\$93,517	\$79,337	\$130,050	\$130,006
Fisheries Resource Landing Tax <sup>1</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$78	\$61	\$46	n/a
Fuel transfer tax <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Extraterritorial fish tax <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bulk fuel transfers <sup>1</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Boat hauls <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Harbor usage <sup>2</sup>	n/a	\$712,850	\$727,000	\$777,936	\$815,000	n/a	\$1.09 M	\$1.03 M	\$1.02 M	\$1.12 M	\$1.04 M
Port/dock usage <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fishing gear storage on public land <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Marine fuel sales tax <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Total fisheries-related revenue<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>\$74,790</i>	<i>\$776,566</i>	<i>\$902,216</i>	<i>\$848,839</i>	<i>\$894,913</i>	<i>\$76,978</i>	<i>\$1.15 M</i>	<i>\$1.13 M</i>	<i>\$1.10 M</i>	<i>\$1.25 M</i>	<i>\$1.17 M</i>
<i>Total municipal revenue<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>\$2.62 M</i>	<i>\$1.13 M</i>	<i>\$1.44 M</i>	<i>\$1.21 M</i>	<i>\$2.23 M</i>	<i>\$2.49 M</i>	<i>\$2.38 M</i>	<i>\$4.63 M</i>	<i>\$3.44 M</i>	<i>\$4.05 M</i>	<i>\$4.63 M</i>

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> A direct comparison between fisheries-related revenue and total municipal revenue cannot reliably be made as not all fisheries-related revenue sources are included in the municipal budget.

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	5	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	3
	Active permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	25%	33%	33%	0%
	Total permit holders	5	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	3
Crab (LLP) <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Active permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fisheries Permits <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	% of permits fished	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%
	Total permit holders	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Crab (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other shellfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	10
	Fished permits	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	% of permits fished	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	50%
	Total permit holders	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	10
Halibut (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	1	1
	Fished permits	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	2	1	1
	% of permits fished	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Total permit holders	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	1	1
Herring (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
	Fished permits	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	50%	0%	100%	n/a	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Total permit holders	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Groundfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	11	14	7	8	2	2	3	2	2	2	3
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	50%	50%	0%	33%
	Total permit holders	6	9	5	6	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
Other Finfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	3
	Fished permits	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	3
	% of permits fished	50%	100%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a	n/a	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Total permit holders	2	2	3	3	0	0	0	1	2	2	3
<i>Total CFEC Permits<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>18</i>
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>11</i>
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>86%</i>	<i>86%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>61%</i>
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>

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

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

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

Year	Crew License Holders <sup>1</sup>	Count of All fish Buyers <sup>2</sup>	Count of Shore-Side Processing Facilities <sup>3</sup>	Vessels Primarily Owned by Residents <sup>4</sup>	Vessels Homeported <sup>4</sup>	Vessels Landing Catch in Whittier <sup>2</sup>	Total Net Pounds Landed in Whittier <sup>2,5</sup>	Total Ex-Vessel Value of Landings in Whittier <sup>2,5</sup>
2000	17	20	2	13	42	326	5,298,212	\$3,672,639
2001	18	19	2	14	40	335	8,145,909	\$4,544,962
2002	17	17	2	12	44	377	9,504,882	\$4,779,782
2003	15	26	2	15	49	248	12,687,901	\$4,484,097
2004	14	22	2	11	43	374	7,795,375	\$4,004,739
2005	9	17	2	3	23	281	14,190,996	\$4,379,854
2006	9	14	2	6	21	229	8,728,698	\$5,227,804
2007	9	10	2	4	22	184	14,439,711	\$7,237,001
2008	11	11	2	5	20	285	11,402,482	\$8,029,641
2009	14	12	2	4	24	249	9,532,993	\$5,491,971
2010	27	26	2	13	42	330	15,939,417	\$10,098,779

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

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders</b>	<b>Halibut Quota Shares Held</b>	<b>Halibut IFQ Allotment (pounds)</b>
2000	4	77,054	7,629
2001	4	157,765	18,677
2002	5	206,697	34,781
2003	5	158,169	19,355
2004	5	254,088	44,657
2005	5	254,088	40,464
2006	5	314,166	49,154
2007	5	309,212	45,512
2008	2	8,474	1,109
2009	2	8,474	994
2010	2	8,474	916

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

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders</b>	<b>Sablefish Quota Shares Held</b>	<b>Sablefish IFQ Allotment (pounds)</b>
2000	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0

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

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

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

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

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

	<i>Total Net Pounds<sup>1</sup></i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	303,961	294,016	331,283	293,435	292,446	263,808	220,738	206,862	204,053	173,275	78,990
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	29,526	18,829	26,070	17,761	144,154	18,899	18,361	20,033	16,795	--	36,573
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	68,855
Pacific Cod	51,196	18,759	33,018	2,058	--	--	1,481	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	29,957	20,969	--	10,337	19,370	16,789	--	11,662
Salmon	4,849,220	7,764,599	--	12,299,388	7,275,157	--	--	--	11,109,820	9,268,021	15,650,990
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>5,233,903</i>	<i>8,096,203</i>	<i>390,371</i>	<i>12,642,599</i>	<i>7,732,726</i>	<i>282,707</i>	<i>250,917</i>	<i>246,265</i>	<i>11,347,457</i>	<i>9,441,296</i>	<i>15,847,070</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	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	\$787,381	\$545,699	\$725,238	\$883,079	\$905,074	\$811,940	\$809,430	\$890,735	\$940,909	\$532,399	\$320,445
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	\$19,555	\$11,077	\$17,617	\$8,142	\$35,026	\$12,536	\$14,239	\$12,900	\$10,541	--	\$20,375
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$321,664
Pacific Cod	\$20,434	\$7,129	\$11,371	\$732	--	--	\$828	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	\$70,183	\$41,892	--	\$31,063	\$53,397	\$62,708	--	\$59,059
Salmon	\$2,645,564	\$3,826,627	--	\$3,389,145	\$2,839,946	--	--	--	\$6,822,998	\$4,682,953	\$9,343,674
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>\$3,472,933</i>	<i>\$4,390,531</i>	<i>\$754,225</i>	<i>\$4,351,282</i>	<i>\$3,821,938</i>	<i>\$824,476</i>	<i>\$855,559</i>	<i>\$957,032</i>	<i>\$7,837,155</i>	<i>\$5,215,351</i>	<i>\$10,065,217</i>

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

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

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

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

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

	<i>Total Net Pounds<sup>1</sup></i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,006
Pacific Cod	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmon	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	180,990
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	183,996
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$23,973
Pacific Cod	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmon	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$148,038
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$172,011

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

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

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

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

### *Recreational Fishing*

Whittier's position as an embark/disembark port for cruise ships contributes substantially to its recreational fishing industry, as does the City's access to Alaska's highway system. As of 2005, fishing and hunting guide businesses outnumbered all other local tourism related businesses at 15 providers. Sightseeing came second at 10 providers.<sup>35</sup> The Whittier Chamber of Commerce listed 15 local charter, guide service, and cruise service companies as of 2012.<sup>36</sup> In 2010, there were five registered sport fish guide businesses active, compared to two in 2000. In addition, five sport fish guide licenses were held that year, compared to three in 2000. Charter log records kept by ADF&G report that in 2010, charter operators in Whittier kept 1,428 coho salmon, 4,497 halibut, 571 lingcod, 1,271 rockfish, one shark, 16 sablefish, and 276 unidentified salmon.<sup>37</sup>

In 2010, 76 sportfishing licenses were sold to Whittier residents and 1,072 were sold in the community, compared to 78 and 812 in 2000, respectively. Sportfishing license sales in the community peaked in 2002 at 1,360. Whittier is located in North Gulf Coast/PWS Statewide Harvest Survey Area which includes all drainages from east of Cape Suckling, through PWS to Gore Point. In 2010, there were a total of 212,793 saltwater angler days fished in the region, compared to 122,459 in 2000, representing a 74% increase. Non-Alaskan residents made up 30.4% of total saltwater angler days fished in 2010 in the region, compared to 32.3% in 2000. Regional saltwater angler days fished peaked at 300,205 in 2007. Total freshwater angler days fished was 22,979 in 2010, compared to 12,108 in 2000; an increase of 90%. Non-Alaskan residents made up 57% of freshwater angler days fished in 2010 in the region, compared to 26% in 2000. Total freshwater angler days fished in the region peaked in 2010. Information regarding these sportfishing trends can be found in Table 11. According to ADF&G Harvest Survey data,<sup>38</sup> local private anglers target all five species of Pacific salmon, Pacific halibut, rockfish, lingcod, Pacific cod, shark, and shrimp.

### *Subsistence Fishing*

Subsistence harvesting is not widely practiced by residents of Whittier. Although ADF&G subsistence harvest data is limited, reports show limited involvement. Information on subsistence participation by household and sea mammal subsistence harvesting is unavailable. Of the species listed by ADF&G in Table 13, sockeye salmon was the only species residents reported harvesting between 2003 and 2008. During those years, residents reported harvesting 85 total salmon. In 2010, two residents held Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC), compared to one in 2003. However, between 2003 and 2010 no halibut harvests were reported. Information regarding subsistence trends can be found in Tables 12 through 15.

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<sup>35</sup> ASCG Inc. (2005). *Whittier Comprehensive Plan Update 2005*. Retrieved April 19, 2012 from: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/Whittier-CP-2005.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> Whittier Chamber of Commerce (n.d.). *Whittier Chamber of Commerce*. Retrieved April 25, 2012 from: <http://www.whittieralaskachamber.org/cruises-charters.htm>.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Alaska Department of Fish and Game (2011). *Alaska Sport Fishing Survey results, 2000 – 2010*. ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey project. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/> (Accessed September 2011).

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

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses <sup>1</sup>	Sport Fish Guide Licenses <sup>1</sup>	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents <sup>2</sup>	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Whittier <sup>2</sup>
2000	2	3	78	812
2001	3	7	83	1,319
2002	4	7	98	1,360
2003	4	12	97	904
2004	3	6	94	1,115
2005	4	6	94	1,058
2006	3	3	80	1,084
2007	3	6	74	914
2008	3	4	72	1,196
2009	3	4	72	1,102
2010	5	5	76	1,072

Year	Saltwater		Freshwater	
	Angler Days Fished – Non-residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Non-residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents <sup>3</sup>
2000	39,551	82,908	3,168	8,940
2001	66,450	135,248	8,587	8,610
2002	67,698	133,508	5,132	8,126
2003	70,549	150,086	10,657	10,235
2004	76,173	184,492	9,199	10,349
2005	87,033	165,559	6,894	6,187
2006	79,313	157,194	8,886	5,655
2007	90,002	210,203	8,446	9,944
2008	67,410	181,381	8,056	5,489
2009	59,505	189,563	8,730	10,938
2010	64,776	148,017	13,118	9,861

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Year	Subsistence Salmon Permits Issued <sup>1</sup>	Salmon Permits Returned <sup>1</sup>	Chinook Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Chum Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Coho Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Pink Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Sockeye Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Lbs of Marine Inverts <sup>2</sup>	Lbs of Non-Salmon Fish <sup>2</sup>
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	6	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	n/a
2004	3	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	n/a
2005	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	n/a	n/a
2006	3	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	n/a	n/a
2008	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

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

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

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

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	1	n/a	n/a
2004	2	n/a	n/a
2005	2	n/a	n/a
2006	1	n/a	n/a
2007	1	n/a	n/a
2008	3	n/a	n/a
2009	3	n/a	n/a
2010	2	n/a	n/a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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