

# Craig

## People and Place

### Location

Craig is located on the west side of Prince of Wales Island. It is connected to Prince of Wales Island by a causeway. It lies 56 air miles northwest of Ketchikan and 220 miles south of Juneau. The area encompasses 6.7 square miles of land and 2.7 square miles of water.

### Demographic Profile

Craig's demographic characteristics have changed along with the commercial fishing industry, which has brought a steady influx of new people. Growth has been particularly swift in recent years; in the two decades between 1980 and 2000, Craig's population more than doubled.

In 2000, Craig had a total population of 1,397 and 523 households. A small segment of the population (1.6%) lived in group quarters. The racial composition of the community was as follows: White (67.1%), American Indian and Alaska Native (21.7%), Black (0.1%), Asian (0.6%), two or more races (10%) and other (0.6%). A total of 30.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 2.8% of residents were Hispanic. The gender makeup was significantly skewed, at 54.5% male and 45.5% female, due to the heavy presence of commercial fishing operations that employ mostly men. The median age of Craig was 33.8 years, slightly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 87.3% of residents aged 25 or older held a high school diploma or higher degree.

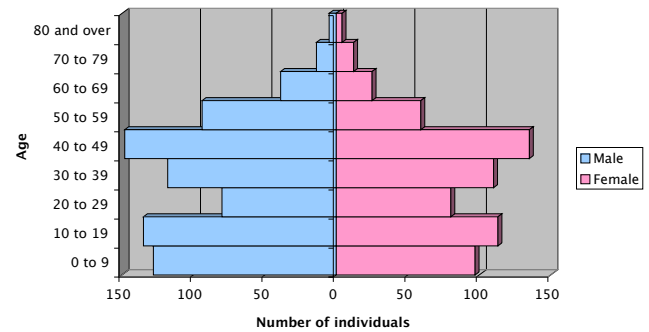
### History

Since prehistory, Prince of Wales Island has been occupied by Tlingit Indians. Starting in the 1700s, however, Haida Indians moved onto the island from Haida Gwaii (British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands). On Prince of Wales Island they established multiple settlements, taking advantage of the island's rich resources, including abundant sea otters. Diseases such as smallpox took a heavy toll on the island, however; by the time missionaries arrived in 1878, the Haida's numbers had dwindled from nearly 10,000 to just 800 (Halliday 1998: 25).

A fish saltery was built on nearby Fish Egg

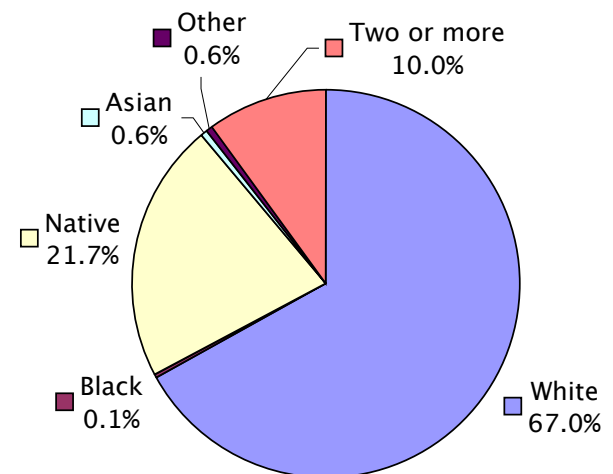
### 2000 Population Structure Craig

Data source: US Census



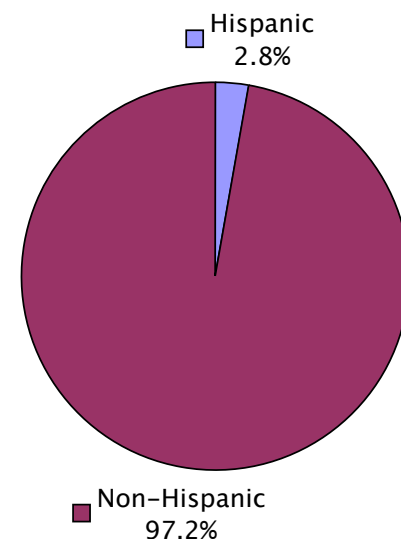
### 2000 Racial Structure Craig

Data source: US Census



### 2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Craig

Data source: US Census



Island in 1907 by Craig Miller, with the help of local Haidas. He also constructed a packing company and cold storage plant at the present site of Craig. A city government was established in 1922. The commercial fishing industry is responsible for Craig's large population; record pink salmon runs during the 1930s brought many new settlers. However, by the 1950s, the fishing industry had collapsed due to depleted salmon runs. A large sawmill was established in 1972 near Craig, providing a steady source of year-round employment. Today, Craig is a community that relies heavily on commercial fishing and fish processing, as well as the timber industry.

## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

Commercial fishing comprises the largest portion of Craig's economy. In addition, sawmill operations, a fish buying station, and a cold storage facility are all major local employers. The use of subsistence resources provides a supplement to the formal economy for most residents.

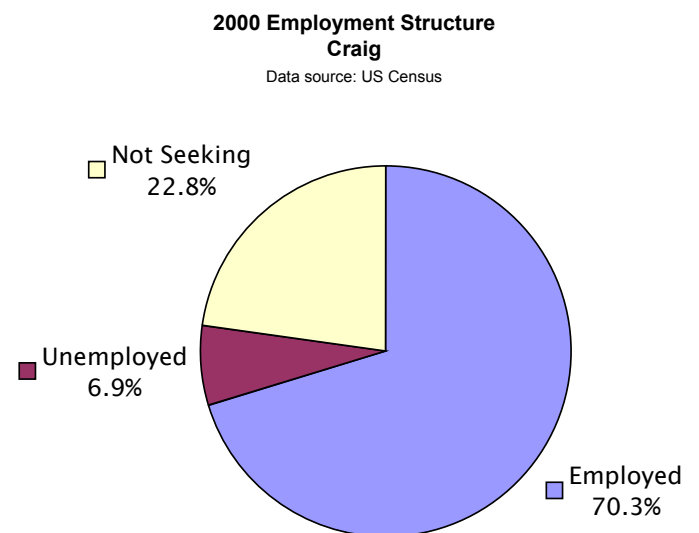
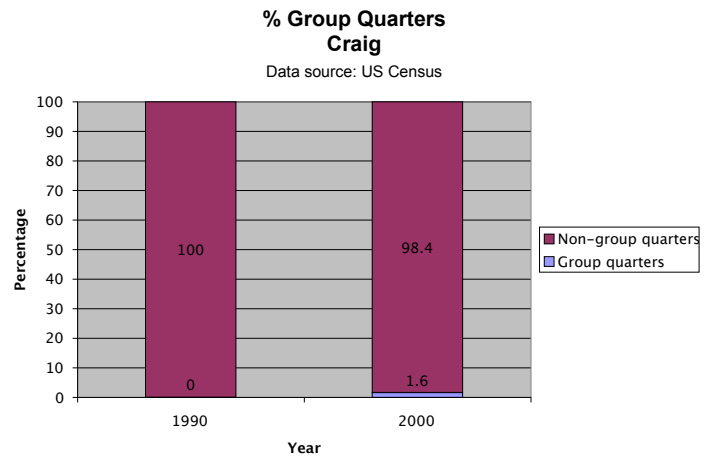
In 2000, the mean per capita income of Craig was \$20,176 and the mean household income was \$45,298. The unemployment rate was 6.9%, and 22.8% of residents aged 16 and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not seeking work). Approximately 9.8% of residents were living below the poverty level.

### Governance

Craig is an incorporated city and is not under the jurisdiction of a borough. All tax revenues are administered by the city, including a 5% sales tax, a 0.6% (6.0 mills) property tax, and a 6% liquor tax. The Craig Community Association, a federally recognized Native organization, is located in the community. In addition, there is a village corporation, Shaan-Seet, Inc. There is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game office located in Craig. The nearest office of the National Marine Fisheries Service is in Petersburg. The nearest U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Citizenship Services is located in Skagway.

### Facilities

Craig is accessible by air and sea. The nearby Klawock airport offers scheduled air transportation as well as charters. Most air travel to Craig is done by seaplane. The seaplane base is currently owned by



the state, but the City of Craig is in the final stages of negotiating a transfer of ownership to the city. Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, via Ketchikan, is approximately \$397. There is also a U.S. Coast Guard heliport located in the area. A small causeway connects Craig to Prince of Wales Island.

All houses are connected to a piped water and sewer system. Water for domestic use is supplied by a dam on North Fork Lake. Electricity is provided by the Alaska Power Company, which uses both hydroelectric and diesel power. There is a health clinic located in the community, the Craig Clinic, which is owned by the city. The city also provides police and emergency services. There are four schools located in Craig, with a total of 35 teachers and 860 students.

## Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

### Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon and halibut fisheries, is the backbone of Craig's economy. In 2000 there were 42 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 84 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries who resided in the community. There were 149 registered crew members. In addition, 199 local residents held a total of 437 commercial fishing permits. The following section contains a detailed description of permits issued to Craig residents in 2000.

*Crab:* Seven local residents held nine permits in the crab fishery. These permits included the following: two Dungeness crab pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in Cook Inlet (none was actually fished); one Dungeness crab permit for 150 pots or 50% of maximum in the southeast region (one was actually fished); three Dungeness crab permits for 75 pots or 25% of maximum in the southeast region (two were actually fished); and three Tanner crab ring net permits for the southeast region (one was actually fished).

*Other Shellfish:* Fifty-six local residents held a total of 100 commercial permits for other shellfish. These permits included the following: 11 geoduck clam diving gear permits for the southeast region (10 were fished); two shrimp beam trawl permits for the southeast region (one was fished); 28 shrimp pot gear permits for the southeast (17 were fished); 34 sea cucumber diving gear permits for the southeast region (30 were fished); and 24 sea urchin diving gear permits for the southeast region (11 were fished).

*Halibut:* Fifty-five local residents held a total of 56 commercial permits in the halibut fishery. These permits included the following: two halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (one was fished); 40 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (37 were fished); one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none was fished); and 13 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (12 were actually fished).

*Herring:* Seventy-three local residents held a total of 83 commercial permits in the herring fishery. These included the following: one herring roe gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one was fished); one purse seine permit for food/bait herring in the southeast region (none was actually fished); seven permits to harvest herring roe spawn on kelp in the northern part of the

southeast region (five were fished); and 73 permits to harvest herring roe spawn on kelp in the southern part of the southeast region (no permits were fished).

*Sablefish:* Ten local residents held a total of 10 commercial permits in the sablefish fishery. These permits included the following: seven sablefish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (four were fished); and three sablefish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (three were fished).

*Other Groundfish:* Twenty-seven local residents held a total of 49 commercial permits in the groundfish fishery. These permits included the following: one miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (none was fished); two demersal shelf rockfish hand troll permits for the southeast region (none was actually fished); 13 demersal shelf rockfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in the southeast region (seven were fished); two demersal shelf rockfish mechanical jig permits for the southeast region (one was fished); four demersal shelf rockfish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in the southeast region (none was fished); six ling cod dinglebar troll permits for statewide waters (none was fished); two ling cod mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (one was fished); one miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permit for statewide waters (none was fished); 11 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none was fished); three miscellaneous saltwater finfish dinglebar troll permits for statewide waters (none was actually fished); and four miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (none was fished).

*Salmon:* One hundred nineteen local residents held a total of 130 commercial permits in the salmon fishery. These permits included the following: eight salmon purse seine permits for the southeast region (three were fished); five salmon drift gillnet permits for the southeast region (three were fished); three salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (three were fished); one salmon set gillnet permit for Kodiak (one was fished); 53 salmon hand troll permits for statewide waters (22 were fished); 60 salmon power gurdy troll permits for statewide waters (53 were fished).

In 2000 there were two commercial fish processors located in Craig. Detailed information about landings, however, is unavailable in accordance with confidentiality laws. In 2003 the city of Craig received

\$31,887 in federal funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. The City of Craig was the first coastal Gulf of Alaska community to organize a Community Quota Entity (CQE) that is eligible to purchase halibut and sablefish quota share under a new Community Quota Purchase Program (50 CFR 679). The City of Craig has expressed enthusiasm for this program and intends to purchase community-held quota in the near future.

### **Sport Fishing**

In 2000, sport fishing license sales in Craig totaled 3,405; the majority of these (2,590 licenses) were sold to non-residents of Alaska. In 2002 there were 36 registered saltwater sport fishing guides and 15 registered freshwater fishing guides. In addition, peripheral business such as airplane charter services and hotels rely on the presence of sport fishermen. Major sport species in the area include all five Pacific salmon, steelhead, trout, and halibut.

### **Subsistence Fishing**

Subsistence resources are an important supplement to the formal economy in Craig. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of

Subsistence reports that in 1997 98.8% of households in Craig used subsistence resources. Approximately 88.4% of households used subsistence salmon, and 90.8% used non-salmon subsistence fish (especially halibut, rockfish, and herring roe). Approximately 8.7% of households used marine mammals (mostly harbor seals) for subsistence and 80.3% of households used marine invertebrates (especially crabs, clams, and shrimp).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Craig in 1997 was 230.7 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (28.0%), non-salmon fish (27.1%), land mammals (20.2%), marine mammals (4.4%), birds and bird eggs (0.4%), marine invertebrates (12.4%), and vegetation (8.1%).

Residents of Craig who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.