

Sterling



People and Place

*Location*¹

Sterling is located on the Sterling Highway at the junction of the Moose and Kenai Rivers, 18 miles east of the City of Kenai. Sterling is located in the Kenai Recording District, the Kenai Peninsula Census Area, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

*Demographic Profile*²

In 2010, there were 5,617 inhabitants in Sterling, making it the 20th largest of 352 total Alaskan communities with recorded populations that year. The community grew by 13.67% between 2000 and 2009, with an average annual growth rate of 1.04% during this period. Overall since 1990, the population of Sterling grew by 32.3%. The change in population from 1990 to 2010 is provided in Table 1.

In 2010, a majority of Sterling residents identified themselves as White (89.8%). Other ethnic groups present in Sterling that year included American Indian and Alaska Native (4.4%), two or more races (4.3%), Hispanic or Latino (2.7%), Asian (0.8%), some other race (0.4%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.1%), and Black or African American (0.1%). Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of the population identifying themselves as White decreased by 2.9%, and the percentages of the population identifying themselves as Black or African American and some other race also decreased. During this period, there were corresponding increases in the percentages of the population identifying themselves as Hispanic or Latino, Asian, two or more races, and American Indian and Alaska Native. Changes in racial and ethnic composition from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Figure 1.

The average household size in Sterling in 2010 was 2.48, a decrease from 2.9 persons per household in 1990 and 2.8 in 2000. The total number of households in Sterling increased from 1,283 in 1990 to 1,676 in 2000 to 2,254 occupied housing units in 2010. Of the 3,347 total housing units surveyed for the 2010 Decennial Census, 1,865 were owner-occupied, 389 were renter-occupied, and 1,093 were vacant or used only seasonally. There were 14 residents of Sterling reported to be living in group quarters in 2000, and 19 in 2010.

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

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

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

Year	U.S. Decennial Census ¹	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents ²
1990	3,802	-
2000	4,705	-
2001	-	4,756
2002	-	4,781
2003	-	4,879
2004	-	4,924
2005	-	4,988
2006	-	5,059
2007	-	5,132
2008	-	5,179
2009	-	5,348
2010	5,617	-

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

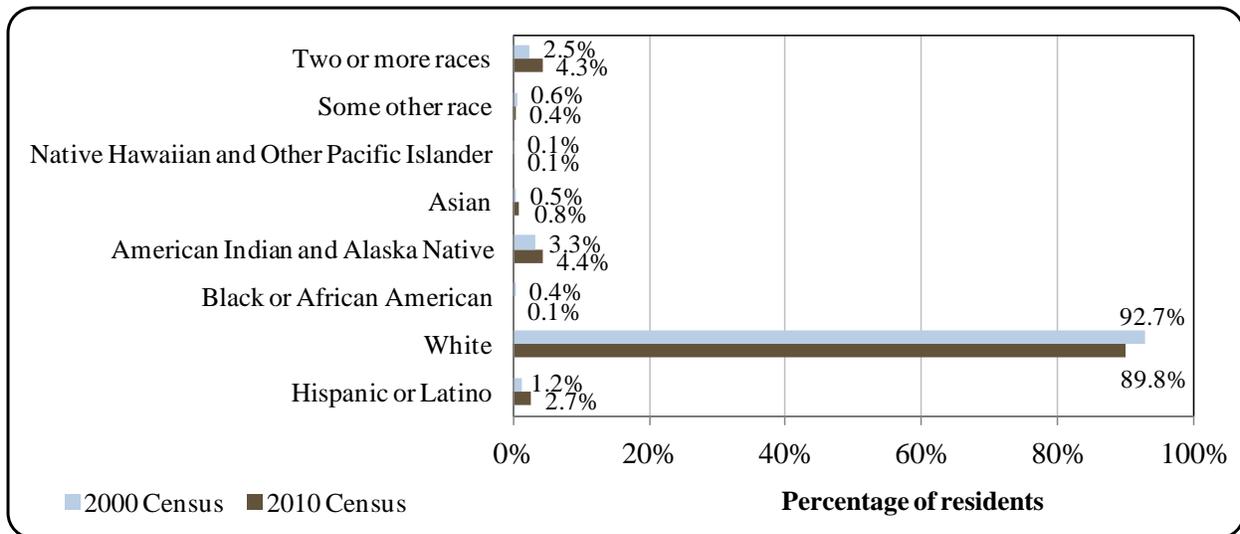
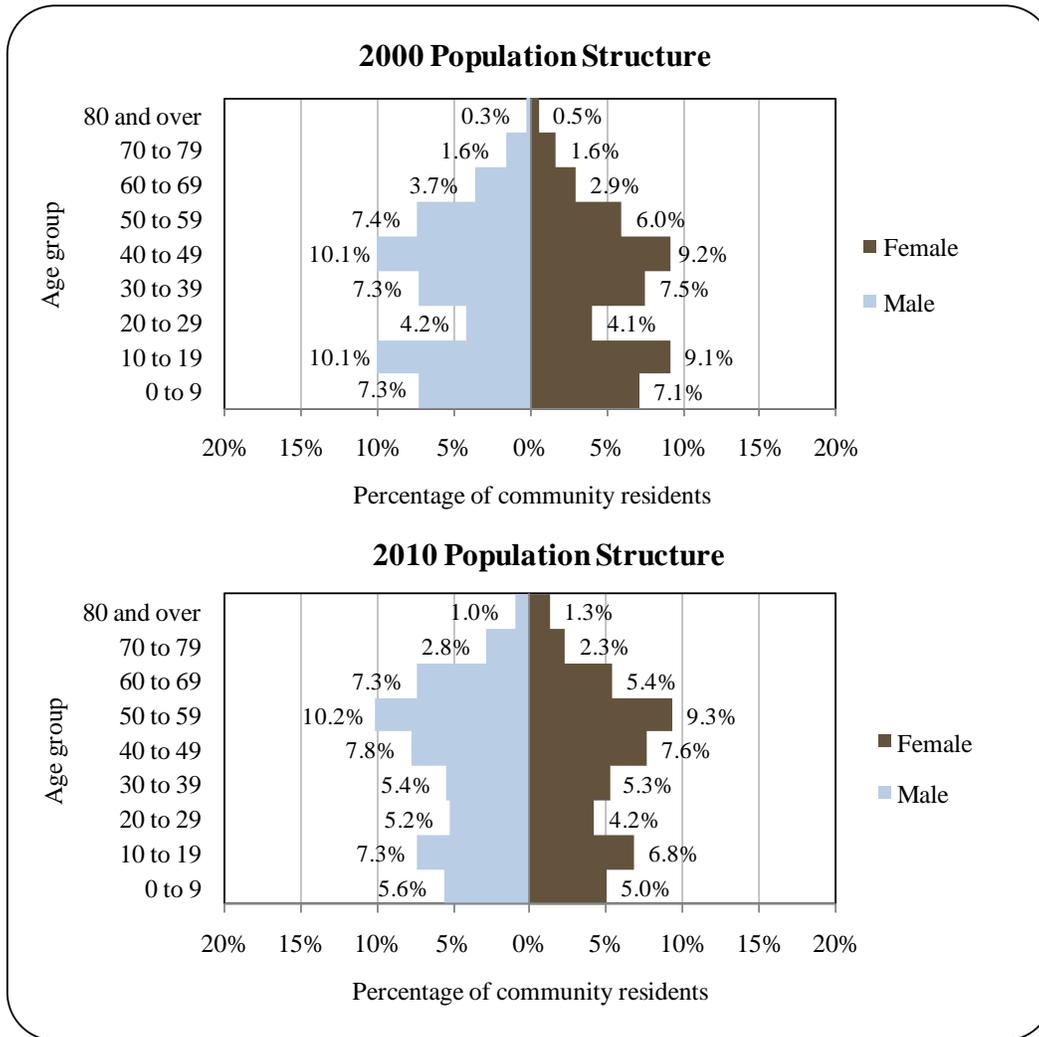


Figure 2. Population Age Structure in Sterling Based on the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Decennial Census.



The gender makeup in Sterling in 2010 was 52.8% male and 47.2% female, similar to the state as a whole (52% male, 48% female). The median age was estimated to be 44.1 years, 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 the population fell within the age group 50 to 59 years old, with the next largest percentage falling within the age group 40 to 49 years old. Relatively few individuals were age 80 or older. The overall population structure of Sterling in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 2.

According to the 2006-10 American Community Survey (ACS),³ in terms of educational attainment, 94.3% of Sterling residents aged 25 and over were estimated to hold a high school

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.

diploma or higher degree in 2010, compared to 90.7% of Alaskan residents overall. Also in 2010, 1.3% of residents aged 25 and older were estimated to have less than a ninth grade education, compared to 3.5% of Alaskan residents overall; 4.4% were estimated to have a ninth to 12th grade education but no diploma, compared to 5.8% of Alaskan residents overall; 31.4% were estimated to have a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 27.4% of Alaskan residents overall; 31% were estimated to have some college but no degree, compared to 28.3% of Alaskan residents overall; 7.8% were estimated to hold an Associate's degree, compared to 8% of Alaskan residents overall; 15.4% were estimated to hold a Bachelor's degree, compared to 17.4% of Alaskan residents overall; and 8.7% were estimated to hold a graduate or professional degree, compared to 9.6% of Alaskan residents overall.

*History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture*⁴

The Kenai Peninsula has been the home of the Kenaitze Indians for thousands of years. Sterling is a relatively recent settlement. It was formalized as a community in 1954 when a post office was established under that name. An archaeological site containing prehistoric Dena-ina house pits has been discovered at the Izaak Walton Campground in Sterling. Sterling residents are mostly non-Native. Sterling is known as a destination for the tourism, hunting, and sportfishing industries. Much of the population lives in the community seasonally.

Natural Resources and Environment

Winter temperatures range from 4 to 22 °F (-15.6 to -5.6 °C); Summer temperatures vary from 46 to 65 °F (7.8 to 18.3 °C). Average annual precipitation is 20 inches.⁵

Sterling is located near the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Refuge Manager is located in Soldotna. The following information is from the FWS informational website on Refuge.⁶ The Kenai Peninsula in southcentral Alaska is geologically a relatively “young” or recently exposed area. Ice and glaciers, which once covered the entire peninsula, melted from most of the peninsula only 10,000-14,000 years ago. The remnant of this once widespread ice sheet can still be observed today as the Harding Ice Field at high elevation in the eastern Kenai Mountains of the peninsula. At its greatest depth in the center, the Harding Ice Field is thousands of feet thick.

As one leaves the ice and snow of the Harding Ice Field and descends to lower elevations, the first major habitats encountered are the treeless alpine and subalpine zones. These open, rocky, and windy habitats are the home of mountain goats, Dall sheep, caribou, wolverine, marmots, and ptarmigan. Just below the more shrubby subalpine habitat one begins to encounter trees of the boreal forest. Timberline averages about 1,800 feet above sea level on the Refuge.

Most of the lower elevations on the Kenai Peninsula and Refuge are covered by boreal forest and numerous lakes. The largest lake on the Kenai Peninsula is Tustumena Lake at nearly 74,000 acres. Boreal forests are the home of moose, wolves, black and brown bears, lynx,

⁴ 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.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *Kenai National Wildlife Refuge*. Retrieved from <http://kenai.fws.gov/> on March 19, 2012.

snowshoe hares and numerous species of neotropical birds such as olive-sided flycatchers, myrtle warblers and ruby-crowned kinglets.

Continuing down to lowest elevation at sea level, the refuge includes the last remaining, pristine major salt water estuary - the Chickaloon River Flats - on the Kenai Peninsula. It provides a major migratory staging area for thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl in the spring and fall and nesting habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds in the summer. The area is also used as a haul-out area by harbor seals and is used by beluga whales. Thousands of salmon migrate up the Chickaloon River system each year to spawn.

The subarctic stream and lake habitats and associated populations of salmon, trout, char, and other species are highly important resources of the Refuge. Most of the aquatic habitats are in near-pristine condition and many of the fish species have significant recreational and commercial value. Several fish species are also important food resources for a variety of wildlife including loons, bald eagles, river otters, and black and brown bears. Welfare of the fish populations is dependent upon maintaining genetic variability, water quality, protection of critical rearing and spawning habitats, and escapement of sufficient spawning stocks. The national importance of these resources is particularly evident when they are compared to habitats and fish populations elsewhere in the Nation, where many resources have been severely impacted by human expansion and development.

Current Economy⁷

The community caters to the sportfishing industry and summer influx of recreational enthusiasts. The economy of the Kenai area is diverse; oil and gas processing, timber, fishing, government, retail, and tourism-related services provide employment.⁸ Top employers in 2010⁹ included Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Central Peninsula General Hospital, State of Alaska, ASRC Energy Services O&M Inc., Kenai Peninsula Borough, Fred Meyers Stores Inc., BP Exploration Alaska Inc., Peak Oilfield Service Co., Frontier Community Services Inc., and VECO Alaska Inc.

According to the 2006-2010 ACS,¹⁰ the per capita income in Sterling was estimated to be \$32,672 and the median household income was estimated to be \$64,545, compared to \$20,741 and \$47,700 in 2000, respectively. Taking inflation into account by converting the 2000 values to 2010 dollars,¹¹ the real per capita income in 2000 is shown to have been \$27,274 and the real household income was \$62,725. This shows that both per capita and household income increased between 2000 and 2010. In 2010, Sterling ranked 48th of 305 Alaskan communities with per capita income that year, and 62nd out of 299 Alaskan communities with household income data.

⁷ Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

⁸ See footnote 4.

⁹ 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/>.

¹⁰ 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>.

¹¹ 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>).

However, Sterling's small population size may have prevented the American Community Survey from accurately portraying economic conditions.¹² An alternative estimate of per capita income is provided by economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). If total wages reported in the ALARI database for 2010 are divided by the 2010 population reported by the U.S. Census, the resulting per capita income estimate for Sterling in 2010 is \$19,222.¹³ This estimate is lower than both the 2000 Census and 2006-2010 ACS per capita income estimates, suggesting that caution is warranted when citing an increase in per capita income in Sterling between 2000 and 2010.

Based on the 2006-2010 ACS, in 2010, 63.4% of the population age 16 and older was estimated to be in the civilian labor force, compared to the statewide rate of 68.8%. Approximately 5.8% of local residents were living below the poverty line, compared to 9.6% of Alaskans overall. The local unemployment rate was 3.6%, slightly lower than the statewide unemployment rate of 5.9%. An alternative estimate based on the ALARI database indicates that the unemployment rate in 2010 was 12.1%, slightly higher than the statewide estimate of 11.5%.¹⁴ It should be noted that income and poverty statistics are based on wage income and other money sources; figures reported for Sterling 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 (66.2%), while 20.7% were employed in the public sector, 12.8% were self-employed, and 0.3% was unpaid family workers. Out of 2,610 people aged 16 and over that were estimated to be employed in the civilian labor force in 2010, the greatest percentage worked in educational services, health care, and social assistance (24.8%), construction (15.7%), agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining (10.8%), retail trade (8.9%), and public administration (7.5%). The occupations in which the greatest percentages of the workforce were employed were estimated to be management, business, science, and arts (32%), sales and office (21.2%), and natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (20.5%). As with income and poverty statistics, it should also be noted that these employment statistics do not reflect residents' activity in the subsistence economy. Information about employment by industry is presented in Figure 3, and employment is broken down by occupation in Figure 4.

It is also important to note that, although employment in natural resource-related industries and occupations appears high in these statistics, these figures do not reflect not fishing employment. A breakdown of the natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupation category reveals that only four individuals (less than 1% of the civilian labor force) were estimated to work in fishing, forestry, and farming occupations, while the remaining 532 individuals worked in either construction or maintenance occupations. However, fishing-related employment is likely higher than indicated by census statistics, as fishermen may hold another job and characterize their employment accordingly.

¹² 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.

¹³ See footnotes 9 and 10.

¹⁴ See footnote 9.

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

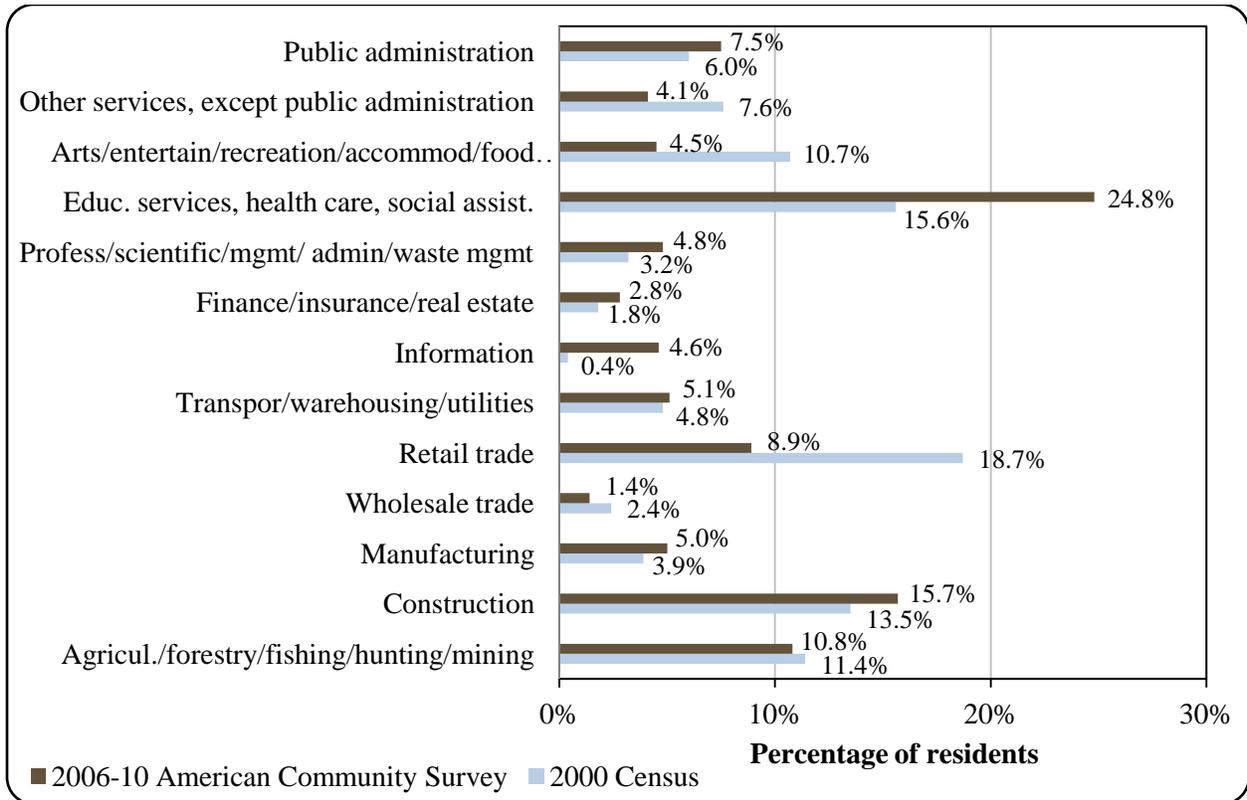
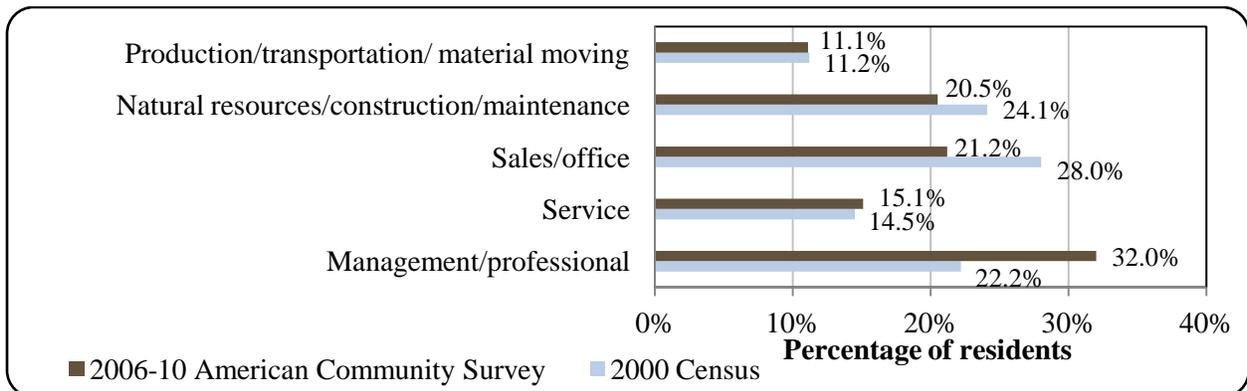


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Sterling (U.S. Census).



Governance

Sterling is an unincorporated town located in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Because of Sterling’s unincorporated status, no municipal taxes were administered between 2000 and 2010. Sterling did not receive any fisheries-related grants between 2000 and 2010 (Table 2).

Sterling was not included in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and no federally recognized Tribe is based in the community. The nearest offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) are located in Soldotna. The nearest offices of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are located in Anchorage.

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

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

¹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.

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

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

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

⁵ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). Community Funding Database. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm.

Infrastructure

*Connectivity and Transportation*¹⁵

The Sterling Highway provides access to Alaska's road system. There are several private airstrips in the Sterling area, and a private seaplane base at Scout Lake which is approximately three miles from the center of Sterling. There are two privately-operated boat launches. Nearby Kenai and Soldotna offer airports for charter services and local air traffic, as well as docking facilities. Sterling does not have a municipal airport, and nearby Soldotna does not offer regularly scheduled air service between Soldotna and Anchorage. However, Anchorage is accessible from Sterling by road and is approximately 135 miles away.

*Facilities*¹⁶

Occupied houses use individual water wells and septic tank systems and are fully plumbed. The school operates its own well-water system. Many homes in this area are used only seasonally. The Kenai Peninsula borough provides a refuse transfer facility at mile 85 Sterling Highway. Law enforcement services are provided by state troopers in Soldotna. Fire and rescue services are provided by Central Emergency Services. Sterling has a senior center and a school library.

*Medical Services*¹⁷

The nearest medical facility is the Central Peninsula General Hospital, located in Soldotna, approximately 11 miles away. Alternate health care is provided by Central Emergency Services. Emergency services have high way and helicopter access and are within 30 minutes of a higher-level satellite health care facility. Emergency services are provided by a 911 telephone service and volunteers.

Educational Opportunities

The Sterling Elementary School provides instruction to students in pre-school through sixth grade. In 2011 the school had 167 students and 14 teachers.¹⁸ Sterling is also a Head Start site.¹⁹

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

¹⁹ 2010 Rural Alaska Community Action Program 2010 Annual Report. Retrieved from www.ruralcap.com on December 20, 2011.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

History and Evolution of Fisheries

Sterling is located in the traditional territory of the Kenaitze people, a branch of Athabascan Native Americans. Historically, the Kenaitze had summer fish camps along the rivers and shores of Cook Inlet. They harvested all five salmon species using dip nets, weirs, dams, and fish traps.²⁰ The Soldotna area was homesteaded in the 1940s and grew along with the oil industry, which continues to be the primary economic driver in the community.²¹ In addition, some Soldotna residents became involved in commercial fisheries that had developed in the region following the purchase of Alaska by the U.S. in 1867. Commercial harvest of salmon in Cook Inlet began in 1882²² with the development of a cannery at the mouth of the Kasilof River, in English Bay. An additional 17 canneries had been built in central Alaska by 1890.²³

Commercial exploitation of halibut and groundfish first extended into the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) in the 1920s after development of diesel engines, which allowed fishing vessels to undertake longer trips.²⁴ In the 1920s, herring had become increasingly valued for oil and meal, and a number of reduction plants were built. Commercial crab fisheries began to develop in the GOA in the 1930s. Historically, a sizable spawning biomass of herring was found in western Cook Inlet, and Lower Cook Inlet also supported commercial fisheries for Dungeness, king, and Tanner crab. However, crab and herring fisheries are currently closed due to low stock abundance.^{25,26}

Today, ADF&G manages the Cook Inlet salmon fishery. Lower Cook Inlet is divided into the Southern, Outer, Eastern, and Kamishak Bay fishing districts, and Upper Cook Inlet is divided into the Central and Northern fishing districts. Set gillnet is the only gear allowed in the Northern District, while set and drift gillnet and purse seine gear use is permitted in the Central District. However, seine gear use is limited to the Chinita Bay sub-district, which is open only sporadically. Purse seine gear is used throughout the Lower Cook Inlet management area, and set gillnets are limited to the Kachemak Bay sub-district.²⁷

Groundfish and crab fisheries that occur within 3 nautical miles (nm) of the coast or in inland waters are under the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska, and fisheries that take place

²⁰ Kenaitze Indian Tribe. (n.d.). *Home Page: Raven's People*. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from <http://www.kenaitze-nsn.gov/RavensPeople.html>.

²¹ See footnote 15.

²² Clark, McGregor, Mecum, Krasnowski and Carroll. 2006. "The Commercial Salmon Fishery in Alaska." *Alaska Fisheries Research Bulletin* 12(1):1-146. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. Retrieved January 4, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1.pdf>.

²³ Cook, Linda, and Frank Norris. 1998. *A Stern and Rock-bound Coast: Kenai Fjords National Park Historic Resource Study*. National Park Service Alaska Support Office, Anchorage. Retrieved January 25, 2012 from http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/kefj/hrs/hrs.htm.

²⁴ Thompson, William F. and Norman L. Freeman. 1930. *History of the Pacific Halibut Fishery*. Report of the International Fisheries Commission. Number 5. Retrieved June 1, 2012 from <http://www.iphc.int/publications/scirep/Report0005.pdf>.

²⁵ Woodby, Doug, Dave Carlile, Shareef Siddeek, Fritz Funk, John H. Clark, and Lee Hulbert. 2005. *Commercial Fisheries of Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 05-09. Retrieved December 29, 2011 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/sp05-09.pdf>.

²⁶ Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. 2012. *Commercial Fisheries Overview: Lower Cook Inlet Management Area*. Retrieved June 19, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=commercialbyarealci.main>.

²⁷ See footnote 22.

beyond 3 nm in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are under federal jurisdiction. Pacific halibut fisheries are managed under the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Cook Inlet is located in Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 630, Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 3A, and the Central GOA federal Sablefish Regulatory Area.

In addition to federal groundfish fisheries that take place in the GOA, state groundfish fisheries take place in the inland and near-coastal waters of Cook Inlet for Pacific cod, sablefish, and rockfish. The Cook Inlet Pacific cod fishery is managed as a parallel fishery, which takes place at the same time as the federal Pacific cod fishery. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set by NMFS applied to both fisheries. Beginning in 1997, an additional ‘state-waters fishery’ for Pacific cod was initiated in Cook Inlet. Management plans for state-waters fisheries are approved by the Alaska Board of Fish, and guideline harvest limits (GHL) are set by ADF&G. Typically, state-waters fisheries are opened once federal and parallel fisheries close. In addition to Pacific cod fisheries, a Cook Inlet open access sablefish fishery is managed by ADF&G under a GHL, and the State also manages directed mechanical jig fisheries for lingcod and rockfish in Cook Inlet.²⁸

Sterling is located in Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 630, Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 3A, and the Central Gulf of Alaska Sablefish Regulatory Area. Sterling is not eligible to participate in either the Community Development Quota or Community Quota Entity programs.

Processing Plants

According to ADF&G’s 2010 Intent to Operate list, Sterling does not have a registered processing plant. The nearest processing plant is located in Soldotna.

Fisheries-Related Revenue

Sterling did not receive any known fisheries-related revenue between 2000 and 2010 (Table 3).

Commercial Fishing

In 2010, 15 Sterling residents held a total of 20 commercial fishing permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) for halibut, herring, and salmon. The total number of CFEC permits and permit holders, as well as the number of CFEC permits reported as fished, increased and then decreased between 2000 and 2010. The number of halibut CFEC permits and permit holders, as well as the number of permits reported as fished, varied slightly but decreased overall between 2000 and 2010. The majority of halibut CFEC permits issued in 2010 were for the statewide longline fishery using vessels under 60 feet, with the remainder for the statewide hand troll fishery. None of the herring CFEC permits that were issued between 2000 and 2010 were reported as fished, and all were issued for the roe herring gill net fishery in Kodiak. The number of salmon CFEC permits, permit holders, and permits reported as fished increased and then decreased between 2000 and 2010. Of the salmon CFEC permits issued in 2010, the majority were for the drift gill net fishery in Cook inlet, with the remainder issued for

²⁸ See footnote 25.

the set gill net fishery in Cook Inlet and the beach seine fishery in Kodiak. Information on permits and permit holders by species is presented in Table 4.

There were 33 crew license holders in Sterling in 2010, though the number of crew license holders varied considerably between 2000 and 2010. There were no fish buyers in Sterling between 2000 and 2010, and the only years in which Sterling had a shore-side processing facility were 2008 and 2009. The number of commercial fishing vessels owned primarily by Sterling residents declined substantially between 2000 and 2010, from 94 to 11, as did the number of vessels homeported in Sterling, which declined from 69 to two during this same period. There were no vessels landing catch in the community between 2000 and 2010, and as such there were no landings or associated ex-vessel revenue to report during this period. Information on the characteristics of the commercial fishing sector between 2000 and 2010 is presented in Table 5.

There were four groundfish License Limitation Program (LLP) permits issued to four permit holders in each year between 2000 and 2010, and in each year between zero and two of those permits were reported as fished. There were four Federal Fisheries Permits (FFPs) issued to three permit holders in 2010, both of which represent a decrease from the number of permits and permit holders in 2000. However, none of those permits were reported as fished until 2004. The number of permits reported as fished varied between one and two between 2004 and 2010. Information on the permits and permit holders by species between 2000 and 2010 is provided in Table 4.

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of halibut quota share account holders declined between 2000 and 2010, as did the number of halibut quota shares held and the halibut Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) allotment (in pounds) (Table 6). There was one sablefish quota share account holder in Sterling between 2000 and 2010, and that account holder held 10 sablefish quota shares in each year during this period. However, those sablefish quota shares translated to only one pound of sablefish IFQ allotment in each year between 2003 and 2006, with no sablefish IFQ allotment in other years during this period (Table 7). There were no crab share account holders or quota shares held by Sterling residents between 2005 and 2010 (Table 8).

As previously stated there were no commercial landings or associated ex-vessel value reported in Sterling between 2000 and 2010 (Table 9). Landings and ex-vessel revenue by Sterling residents between 2000 and 2010 are considered confidential for all species and all years due to the small number of participants, with the exception of halibut in 2000 and 2001 and salmon from 2000 to 2010. While landings of halibut increased slightly between 2000 and 2001, the associated ex-vessel revenue decreased during the same period. Landings and associated ex-vessel revenue for salmon landed by Sterling residents were highly variable between 2000 and 2010. Information on landed pounds and ex-vessel revenue by species by Sterling residents between 2000 and 2010 is provided in Table 10.

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

Revenue source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Raw fish tax ¹	n/a										
Shared Fisheries Business Tax ¹	n/a										
Fisheries Resource Landing Tax ¹	n/a										
Fuel transfer tax ²	n/a										
Extraterritorial fish tax ²	n/a										
Bulk fuel transfers ¹	n/a										
Boat hauls ²	n/a										
Harbor usage ²	n/a										
Port/dock usage ²	n/a										
Fishing gear storage on public land ³	n/a										
Marine fuel sales tax ³	n/a										
<i>Total fisheries-related revenue⁴</i>	<i>n/a</i>										
<i>Total municipal revenue⁵</i>	<i>n/a</i>										

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) ¹	Total permits	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Active permits	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1
	% of permits fished	50%	50%	25%	25%	25%	50%	25%	25%	-	25%	25%
	Total permit holders	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Crab (LLP) ¹	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Active permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fisheries Permits ¹	Total permits	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	4	4
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	20%	17%	20%	20%	20%	50%	25%
	Total permit holders	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	3
Crab (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other shellfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	3	4	4	6	5	5	5	6	6	4	0
	Fished permits	3	4	4	5	5	5	0	0	3	0	0
	% of permits fished	100%	100%	100%	83%	100%	100%	-	-	50%	-	-
	Total permit holders	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	4	0
Halibut (CFEC) ²	Total permits	7	7	6	7	7	7	7	9	5	5	6
	Fished permits	6	6	4	4	5	5	5	6	3	3	4
	% of permits fished	86%	86%	67%	57%	71%	71%	71%	67%	60%	60%	67%
	Total permit holders	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	7	4	4	5
Herring (CFEC) ²	Total permits	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (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
Groundfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67%	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Other Finfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon (CFEC) ²	Total permits	14	15	15	20	24	22	23	22	19	16	13
	Fished permits	11	10	8	15	21	19	19	17	15	13	10
	% of permits fished	79%	67%	53%	75%	88%	86%	83%	77%	79%	81%	77%
	Total permit holders	14	16	15	21	22	22	21	21	19	16	13
<i>Total CFEC Permits²</i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>70%</i>
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>

¹ 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.]

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

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

Year	Crew License Holders ¹	Count Of All Fish Buyers ²	Count Of Shore-Side Processing Facilities ⁴	Vessels Primarily Owned by Residents ⁵	Vessels Homeported ⁵	Vessels Landing Catch in Sterling ²	Total Net Pounds Landed in Sterling ^{2,3}	Total Ex-Vessel Value of Landings in Sterling ^{2,3}
2000	48	0	0	94	69	0	0	\$0
2001	37	0	0	102	75	0	0	\$0
2002	35	0	0	95	75	0	0	\$0
2003	29	0	0	95	73	0	0	\$0
2004	49	0	0	92	65	0	0	\$0
2005	54	0	0	20	6	0	0	\$0
2006	50	0	0	15	4	0	0	\$0
2007	46	0	0	14	4	0	0	\$0
2008	42	0	1	14	4	0	0	\$0
2009	40	0	1	12	3	0	0	\$0
2010	33	0	0	11	2	0	0	\$0

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 Totals only represent non-confidential data.

⁴ 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.]

⁵ 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 6. Halibut Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Sterling: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	11	303,462	30,047
2001	12	304,433	36,040
2002	12	304,433	37,265
2003	11	199,175	24,373
2004	12	347,963	47,152
2005	12	252,856	34,829
2006	12	252,856	34,459
2007	10	195,696	27,728
2008	8	118,255	15,489
2009	7	118,255	13,877
2010	7	117,284	12,679

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 Sterling: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders	Sablefish Quota Shares Held	Sablefish IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	1	10	0
2001	1	10	0
2002	1	10	0
2003	1	10	1
2004	1	10	1
2005	1	10	1
2006	1	10	1
2007	1	10	0
2008	1	10	0
2009	1	10	0
2010	1	10	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 Sterling: 2000-2010.

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

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

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

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

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

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

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

	<i>Total Net Pounds¹</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	55,847	64,010	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pacific Cod	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmon	349,863	837,236	361,107	386,987	1,224,408	1,301,125	583,899	720,156	159,243	156,473	270,449
<i>Total²</i>	<i>405,710</i>	<i>901,246</i>	<i>361,107</i>	<i>386,987</i>	<i>1,224,408</i>	<i>1,301,125</i>	<i>583,899</i>	<i>720,156</i>	<i>159,243</i>	<i>156,473</i>	<i>270,449</i>
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	\$146,175	\$127,119	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pacific Cod	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmon	\$136,722	\$201,090	\$161,795	\$220,048	\$384,117	\$527,299	\$249,556	\$348,470	\$167,432	\$167,952	\$414,744
<i>Total²</i>	<i>\$282,897</i>	<i>\$328,209</i>	<i>\$161,795</i>	<i>\$220,048</i>	<i>\$384,117</i>	<i>\$527,299</i>	<i>\$249,556</i>	<i>\$348,470</i>	<i>\$167,432</i>	<i>\$167,952</i>	<i>\$414,744</i>

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

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

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

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Recreational Fishing

The Kenai River is the most heavily fished river in Alaska and also supports the largest sockeye personal use fishery in the state. The Sterling Highway Bridge in Soldotna marks the beginning of the “Lower River.” This final 21-mile section is gentler than the upper portion of the river, and the river winds its way to empty in Cook Inlet near the City of Kenai. There are about 40 unique species of fish in the Kenai River. There are resident fish, which spend their entire life cycle in the river; anadromous fish, which spend part of their life in the river and part in salt water; and fish which are common to the intertidal area, which is a mixture of both fresh and salt water.²⁹

The North Kenai Peninsula Management Area has two personal use sockeye salmon dip net fisheries which are open to Alaska-residents only. The Russian River sockeye salmon fishery is the second largest sockeye fishery in Alaska. Annual harvests in the Russian River regularly exceed 50,000 fish and have come close to 200,000 fish in some years. The Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik Rivers also support large Chinook salmon runs from late May through mid-July. Coho salmon arrive in the area early August through mid-September; and Dolly Varden can be found mid-May through mid-July. Many lakes on the Kenai Peninsula are stocked with rainbow trout and salmon to support the large sportfishing economy.³⁰

In 2010, there were 4 active sport fish guide businesses registered in Sterling. This represents a decrease from the 12 sport fish guide businesses that were registered in 2000. A greater number of licensed sport fish guides were present throughout the period, varying between 32 and 55 guides present in Sterling each year. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of sportfishing licenses sold to Sterling residents (irrespective of the point of sale) increased to a total of 1,438 in 2010, representing 25.6% of the total population. During the same period, the number of sportfishing licenses sold in Sterling increased overall from 932 in 2000 to 1,146 in 2010 (Table 11). However, the number of sportfishing licenses sold in Sterling was smaller than the number of sportfishing licenses sold to community residents in all but three years during this period, indicating the potential that Sterling residents may pursue recreational fishing activities in other communities.

The Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey,³¹ conducted by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010, noted the following species targeted by private anglers in Sterling: Chinook salmon, coho salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, whitefish, Arctic grayling, northern pike, Pacific halibut, rockfish, lingcod, Pacific cod, shark, smelt, other fish, razor clams, hardshell clams, shrimp, and other shellfish. No kept/released log book data were reported for fishing charters out of Sterling between 2000 and 2010.³²

²⁹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Division of Sport Fish. Southcentral Region. (n.d.). *Kenai Peninsula Recreational Fishing Series: The Kenai River*. Retrieved on May 9, 2012 from www.adfg.alaska.gov/static-sf/Region2/pdfpubs/kenairiver.pdf.

³⁰ Kenai Peninsula Borough. (2005). *Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved on July 9, 2012 from: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/KenaiPeninsulaBorough-CP-2005.pdf>.

³¹ 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).

³² Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish charter logbook database, 2000-2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Sterling is located within the Kenai Peninsula Alaska Sport Fishing Survey Area. Information is available from ADF&G about both saltwater and freshwater sportfishing activity at this regional scale. Between 2000 and 2010, sportfishing activity in this region was variable from year to year, though the total number of angler days fished in the region decreased overall during this period. There were considerably more angler days fished in freshwater than in saltwater in this region between 2000 and 2010. During this period, the percentage of angler days fished by non-Alaska residents in saltwater increased only slightly, from 23% to 28%, as did the percentage of angler days fished by non-Alaska residents in freshwater, which increased from 42% to 47%. The percentage of angler days fished by non-Alaska residents was higher in freshwater than in saltwater between 2000 and 2010. Information on sportfishing trends in Sterling between 2000 and 2010 is presented in Table 11.

Subsistence Fishing

Sterling residents appear to engage in limited subsistence fishing activity. No data were reported regarding the percentage of households participating in subsistence for various species, or per capita subsistence harvest between 2000 and 2010 (Table 12). However, data were reported regarding salmon subsistence harvest totals, as well as halibut subsistence.

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of subsistence salmon permits issued to Sterling households varied between two and seven per year, and between two and five of those permits were reported as fished each year. The two salmon species reported to have been harvested using these subsistence permits were sockeye and Chinook. Information on subsistence harvest of marine invertebrates and non-salmon fish (excluding halibut) was not reported during this period. Information about salmon, marine invertebrates, and non-salmon fish is reported in Table 13.

Between 2003 and 2010, the number of Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC) issued to Sterling residents varied between four and six per year. The only years in which data indicate that SHARC cards were returned were 2009 and 2010. In 2009, two SHARC cards were reported to have been returned, and total halibut harvest was 132 pounds. In 2010, one card was reported returned, and total harvest was slightly higher (200 pounds). Information on subsistence halibut fishing participation is presented in Table 14.

Between 2000 and 2010, no information was reported regarding subsistence harvest of beluga whale, sea otter, walrus, polar bear, Steller sea lion, harbor seal, or spotted seal (Table 15).

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

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses ¹	Sport Fish Guide Licenses ¹	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents ²	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Sterling ²
2000	12	50	1,333	932
2001	13	47	1,334	704
2002	12	48	1,321	853
2003	6	49	1,305	1,216
2004	8	51	1,435	1,656
2005	10	55	1,400	1,409
2006	7	53	1,364	1,095
2007	7	47	1,435	1,191
2008	3	46	1,420	1,640
2009	3	41	1,591	1,284
2010	4	32	1,438	1,146

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	42,157	139,737	242,224	333,118
2001	28,245	69,053	202,305	269,047
2002	26,479	83,335	199,512	299,839
2003	35,299	80,368	205,810	273,743
2004	39,009	83,478	251,002	297,877
2005	37,309	91,489	281,942	270,164
2006	33,988	76,100	229,520	268,434
2007	31,105	89,061	281,832	313,012
2008	28,780	70,285	234,826	295,184
2009	24,959	77,945	203,584	299,194
2010	28,294	71,555	222,375	247,239

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

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

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

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Sterling: 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, Sterling: 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	4	3	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	44	n/a	n/a
2001	4	3	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	n/a	n/a
2002	3	4	50	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	n/a	n/a
2003	4	6	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	21	n/a	n/a
2004	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	4	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a
2007	7	5	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	73	n/a	n/a
2008	6	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	142	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

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

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

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

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	4	n/a	n/a
2004	4	n/a	n/a
2005	4	n/a	n/a
2006	4	n/a	n/a
2007	6	n/a	n/a
2008	5	n/a	n/a
2009	5	2	132
2010	4	1	200

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, Sterling: 2000-2010.

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

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

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

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

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