

Wasilla (WAH-sill-ah)



People and Place

*Location*¹

Wasilla is located midway between the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys, on the George Parks Highway. It lies between Wasilla and Lucille Lakes, 43 miles north of Anchorage. The area encompasses 13 sq mi of land and 0.7 sq mi of water. Residents of the community enjoy a rural lifestyle while in close proximity to the urban amenities of Anchorage. Wasilla was incorporated in 1974 as a Second-class city, and became a First-class city in 1984.

*Demographic Profile*²

Wasilla first appeared in the 1930 Census with a population of 51 and grew steadily in size over the next 40 years, reaching 300 residents in 1970. Over the next several decades, the community experienced rapid growth as a commuter suburb of Anchorage, with its population reaching 5,469 in 2000. From 2000 to 2010, the population grew by 43.19%, and the City's average annual growth rate from 2000 to 2009 was 1.46%. In 2010, Wasilla's population was 7,831, making the city the 12th largest community in Alaska out of 352 total communities. Information regarding trends in Wasilla's population size can be found in Table 1.

The racial and ethnic composition of Wasilla remained relatively unchanged between 2000 and 2010, as shown in Figure 1. In 2010, 83.4% of residents identified themselves as White, compared to 85.5% in 2000. Also in that year, 5.2% identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native, compared to 5.2% in 2000; 2.1% identified themselves as Asian, compared to 1.3% in 2000; 1.4% identified themselves as Black or African American, compared to 0.6% in 2000; 0.2% identified themselves as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, compared to 0.1% in 2000; 6.5% identified themselves as two or more races, compared to 5.9% in 2000; and 1.2% identified themselves as some "other" race, compared to 1.3% in 2000.

In 2010, the average household size in Wasilla was 2.61, representing a notable decrease from the 3.27 in 2000 and 2.80 in 1990. In that year, there were a total of 3,277 housing units, compared to 2,119 in 2000 and 1,723 in 1990. Of the households surveyed in 2010, 48% were owner-occupied, compared to 52% in 2000; 43% were renter-occupied, compared to 41% in 2000; 8% were vacant, compared to 5% in 2000; and 1% were occupied seasonally, compared to 2% in 2000. In addition, 95 residents were living in group quarters, compared to 5 in 2000.

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>.

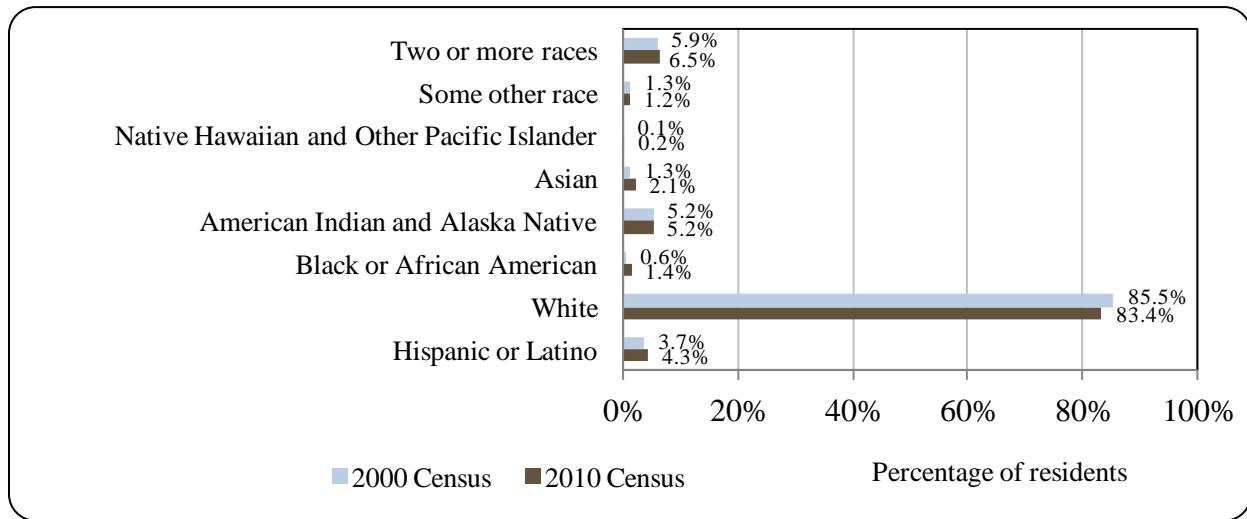
Table 1. Population in Wasilla from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census ¹	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimates of Permanent Residents ²
1990	4,028	-
2000	5,469	-
2001	-	5,516
2002	-	5,949
2003	-	6,381
2004	-	6,146
2005	-	6,372
2006	-	6,486
2007	-	6,927
2008	-	6,932
2009	-	7,245
2010	7,831	-

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>.

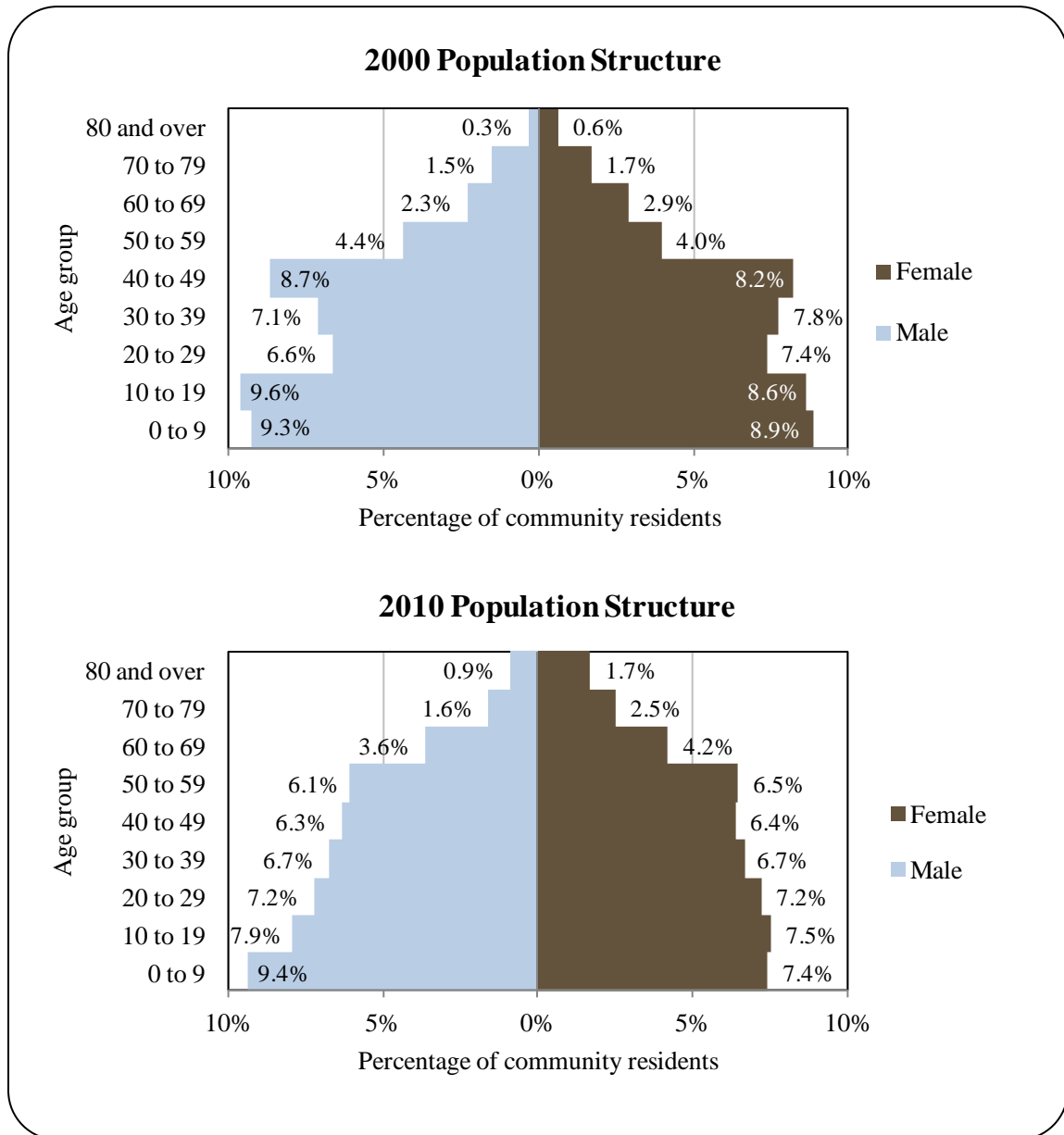
Figure 1. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Wasilla: 2000-2010 (U.S. Census).



Wasilla experienced population aging between 2000 and 2010 as the percentage of residents aged 50 and over increased from 17.8% to 27.1% of the population. The median age of Wasilla residents during this same period increased from 29.7 to 32.2 years, though the community’s 2010 median age was still lower than both the U.S. national median age of 36.5 years and Alaska’s state median age of 33.8 years. Wasilla’s gender composition in 2000 and 2010 was roughly equal, with females slightly outnumbering males in both years (50.1% to

49.9%). In 2010, gender distribution within the 20-29, 30-39, and 40-49 age groups were roughly equal, while the population aged 50 and over was skewed toward females and the population aged 19 and under, toward males. Females aged 50 and over made up 14.9% of Wasilla’s population, compared to the 12.2% represented by males in this age category. Males aged 19 and younger made up 17.3% of Wasilla’s population, compared to the 15.0% represented by females in this age category. Figure 2 shows the population and gender structure of Wasilla in 2000 and 2010.

Figure 2. Population Age Structure in Wasilla in 2000 and 2010.



In terms of educational attainment, the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS)³ estimated that 91.8% of Wasilla residents aged 25 had earned a high school diploma or higher degree in 2010, compared to an estimated 90.7% of Alaska residents overall. Also in that year, an estimated 2.6% had less than a 9th grade education, compared to an estimated 3.5% of Alaska residents overall; an estimated 5.6% had a 9th to 12th grade education but no diploma, compared to an estimated 5.8% of Alaska residents overall; an estimated 30.5% had some college but no degree, compared to an estimated 28.3% of Alaska residents overall; an estimated 7.6% held an Associate's degree, compared to an estimated 8.0% of Alaska residents overall; an estimated 16.0% held a Bachelor's degree, compared to an estimated 17.4% of Alaska residents overall; and an estimated 5.9% held a graduate or professional degree, compared to an estimated 9.6% of Alaska residents overall.

History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture^{4,5,6}

Wasilla is named after Chief Wasilla, a respected local Dena'ina Indian. In the Athabascan Indian dialect, "Wasilla" is said to mean "breath of air." However, other sources claim that, given the Russian trading post influences in the Lower Cook Inlet during the 18th and 19th centuries, Chief Wasilla may have actually derived his name from the Russian name "Vassily."

Prior to the founding of the Wasilla township, the Dena'ina Athabascan Indians who inhabited the area called it "Benteh," meaning "among the lakes." Ample fishing was available in nearby freshwater lakes and streams, and the area became a popular wintering ground for semi-permanent Native villages. These villages were connected by various trails to hunting grounds in the Susitna Valley and Talkeetna Mountains and to the Ahtna Indians residing east of the Matanuska Valley.

The founding and initial development of Wasilla owes much to the early twentieth Alaskan gold rush and mining boom. The town site was established in 1917 at the intersection of the Carle Wagon Road, now Wasilla-Fishhook Road, which linked the coastal community of Knik with the Willow Creek mining district, and the newly-constructed Alaska Railroad. Given its advantageous location, Wasilla quickly replaced the older settlement of Knik as the most important distribution point for mining activities in the Valley. Until the latter part of World War II, which brought the gold mining boom to a halt, Wasilla prospered as the self-proclaimed "Gateway to the Willow Creek Mining District."

Agriculture also helped to shape Wasilla's role in the region. The founding of the Matanuska Colony in 1935 under President Roosevelt's New Deal created the nearby town of Palmer and brought over 200 families from the Midwest to the region as colony homesteaders. Though several farms were located near Wasilla, Palmer emerged as the regional commercial center and remained so until the 1960s.

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

⁴ 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 City of Wasilla. (2011). *Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved November 28, 2011 from <http://www.cityofwasilla.com>.

⁶ City of Wasilla. (2011). *Wasilla History*. Retrieved November 28, 2011 from <http://www.cityofwasilla.com>.

Construction of the George Parks Highway through Wasilla in the early 1970s shifted population growth and development from the Palmer area to Wasilla and its surrounding area. The Parks Highway enabled workers to reside in Wasilla and commute to Anchorage for employment, thus bringing the first wave of the community's "suburbanite" settlement. The Alaska oil boom and pipeline construction in the 1970s and 80s brought an influx of oil workers and additional growth of the community. Since the mid-1980s, Wasilla has served as the retail and commercial hub of the central Matanuska-Susitna ("Mat-Su") Valley, the fastest growing region in Alaska. Wasilla was incorporated in 1974 as a second class city and became a first class city in 1984.

Natural Resources and Environment

Located at a latitude of 61.58 °N, Wasilla has a climate that is transitional between the extreme weather of Interior Alaska and the wet maritime conditions of the coastal areas. The city is sheltered from extreme conditions by the Alaska Range and the Chugach and Talkeenta Mountains, although high winds in excess of 60 mph are a frequent occurrence in the region during the fall and winter months. The average annual precipitation is 17 inches, with 50 inches of snowfall, with temperatures ranging from -33 °F to 33 °F in January and from 42 °F to 83 °F in July. On average, Wasilla is frost-free in spring and summer for 115 days, with first frost usually arriving by September 1st.⁷

Wasilla's topography consists of undulating ridges of glacial till and flat benches of sand gravel, features left by glacial advances and retreats during the last ice age. Elevation varies from 300 ft to 500 ft above sea level within the city boundaries. Prominent water features in the community are Wasilla Lake and Lake Lucille; Cottonwood Creek, Lucille Creek, and several small streams traverse the city.⁸ Most vegetation communities are consistent with interior taiga. Lowland vegetation consists of mixed stands of willow, birch, cottonwood, and aspen.⁹

Terrestrial wildlife in the area include moose, small rodents, fox, rabbit, brown bear, black bear, coyote, mink, weasel, muskrat, and beaver. Wasilla's numerous water bodies provide habitat for all five species of Pacific salmon, as well as steelhead, Dolly Varden, and cutthroat trout.¹⁰

Gold mining in the Willow Creek mining district contributed to the growth of Wasilla from its founding in 1917 through the latter part of World War II. Independence Mine was actively mined from 1938 to 1943 and in its peak year employed over 200 workers and had gold production worth over \$17 million in 2010 dollars. Though the mine closed permanently in 1951 when gold mining became unprofitable, a state historical park was established at the site in the 1970s.¹¹ As of 2010, mining activities in the region included sand and gravel mining and exploratory drilling at the historic Lucky Shot gold mine property.¹²

⁷ Wasilla Planning Commission. (n.d.). *City of Wasilla Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved November 26, 2011 from <http://www.cityofwasilla.com>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ See footnote 5.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. (2010). *Independence Mine State Historical Park*. Retrieved November 28, 2011, from <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/indmine.htm>.

¹² Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys. (2011). *Alaska's Mineral Industry 2010*. Retrieved November 28, 2011 from <http://www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/pubs/id/22822>.

Natural hazards which have the potential to threaten Wasilla include earthquakes, high winds, severe weather, wildfire, volcanism, erosion, and flooding. Major fault zones in close proximity include the Castle Mountain fault to the north, the Bruin Bay fault to the northwest, and the Border Ranges fault along the south. Most fault structures in the area are of sufficient size to produce earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 and above. Wind events can produce localized gusts up to 100 mph. These events are associated with severe weather events, and are often associated with extreme cold (-40 to -60 °F). Winter storms can cause freezing fog and icing which carries the potential to damage property and public infrastructure. As with many areas influenced by interior Alaska's continental weather, frostbite and hypothermia pose public health risks. Wasilla is located within an area designated as *Critical Protection Level*, which carries a high level of suppression action in terms of wildland fires. Large wildland fire complexes occurred within the vicinity of Wasilla in 1979, 1980, and 1996. The most likely source of hazards related to volcanism come from Hays, Redoubt, and Mount Spurr. Heavy ashfall can produce thick layers of acidic silt which pose threat to property, infrastructure, and transportation systems. Impacts to local wildlife and vegetation can also be devastating. Active volcanoes are at a sufficient distance that impacts from debris flows and lateral blasts are unlikely. Most erosion in Wasilla is wind-driven, as exposed topsoils are removed by high winds. In addition, fugitive dust particles can reduce visibility and impact residents with sensitive respiratory systems. No major river systems lie within City boundaries, so potential flooding events are limited to rainfall runoff, rapid snowmelt, and groundwater saturation.¹³

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, no significant environmental remediation projects were active within Wasilla as of 2010.¹⁴

Current Economy¹⁵

Wasilla serves as the retail and commercial hub of the central Matanuska-Susitna Valley. In addition to a growing service and retail sector, the community's economy also supports such industrial activities as steel fabrication, agriculture, and manufacture of concrete and wood products. A significant percentage of Wasilla's labor force works outside the community: approximately 30% of the workforce of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough commutes to Anchorage; and in 2008, 8% of the Borough's residents worked on the North Slope and another 5% held jobs in other distant locations around the state.¹⁶ Mean travel time to work in 2009 for Wasilla's labor force was estimated at almost 30 minutes.¹⁷

In 2010,¹⁸ the estimated per capita income was \$28,449 and the estimated median household income was \$52,014; compared to \$21,127 and \$48,226 in 2000, respectively. After adjusting for inflation by converting 2000 values to 2010 dollars,¹⁹ the real per capita income

¹³ See footnote 7.

¹⁴ Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (n.d.). *Contaminated Sites Program*. Retrieved March 5, 2013 from: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/list.htm>.

¹⁵ Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

¹⁶ See footnote 5.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

¹⁹ 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>).

(\$27,782) and real median household income (\$63,417) indicate that while individual earnings changed little, household earnings dropped somewhat. In 2010, Wasilla ranked 74th of 305 communities from which per capita income was estimated, and 117th of 299 communities from which median household income was estimated.

It should be noted that Wasilla's small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions.²⁰ 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. According to the ALARI database,²¹ total wages based on state and private employers in 2010 was \$129 million.²² When compared with the 2010 Census population, the per capita income equals \$16,483, indicating an extreme decrease compared to the real per capita income values reported by the U.S. Census in 2000.²³ However, Wasilla was not determined to be "distressed" by the Denali Commission.²⁴

Based on 2006-2010 ACS estimates, 8.0% of the civilian labor force was unemployed, which represents a decrease from the 2000 unemployment rate of 11.2%. Additionally, an estimated 13.9% of individuals were below the poverty line, compared to an estimate 9.6% statewide. In 2010, an estimated 67.5% of residents aged 16 years and older were part of the civilian labor force. Of those employed in the civilian labor force, an estimated 71.8% were employed in the private sector, an estimated 20.8% were employed in the public sector, an estimated 7.0% were self-employed, and the remaining 0.4% were estimated to be unpaid family workers. Major industries in terms of employment were educational services, healthcare, and social assistance (an estimated 22.0% of workers); construction (an estimated 14.5%); retail trade (an estimated 14.1%); and public administration (an estimated 10.6%). The 2010 ALARI estimates provide similar estimates for educational and health services (16.8%) and construction (11.5%), but also indicate a high percentage of people employed in trade, transportation and utilities industries (22%).

Top employers in 2010 were the Mat-Su Borough Schools; the State of Alaska; Wal-Mart; and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Energy Services, an oil and gas service company headquartered in Anchorage. Occupations in farming and natural resource extraction (fishing and hunting, forestry, and mining) accounted for 5.2% of employment in Wasilla.²⁵ However, the number of individuals employed in the fishing industry is probably underestimated in Census statistics given the seasonality of commercial fishing activities; individuals often combine other employment with fishing. Figures 3 and 4 below show additional statistics on employment by industry and by occupation.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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/>.

²² ALARI estimates based on wages reported for unemployment insurance purposes. Estimates do not include self-employed or federally employed residents.

²³ U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include 2000 (SF1 100% and SF3 sample data) and 2010 (Demographic Profile SF) Decennial Census. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

²⁴ Denali Commission. 2011. Distressed Community Criteria 2011 Update. Retrieved April 16, 2012 from: www.denali.gov.

²⁵ See footnote 23.

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

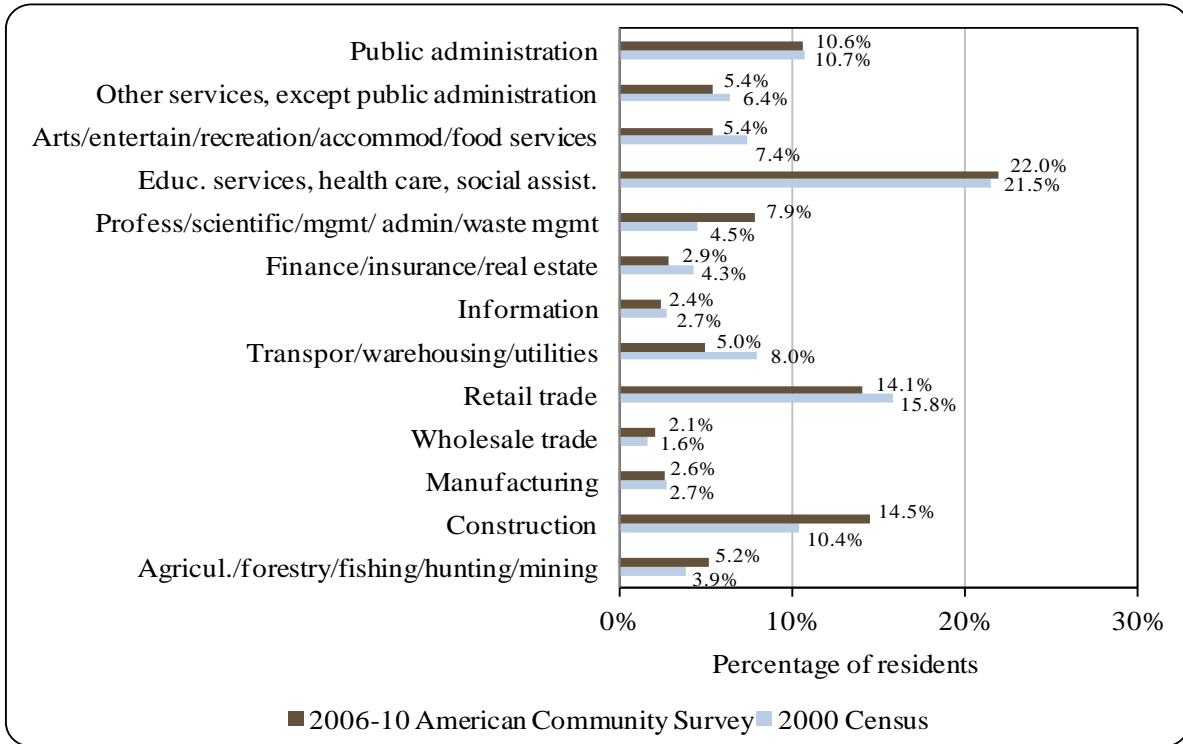
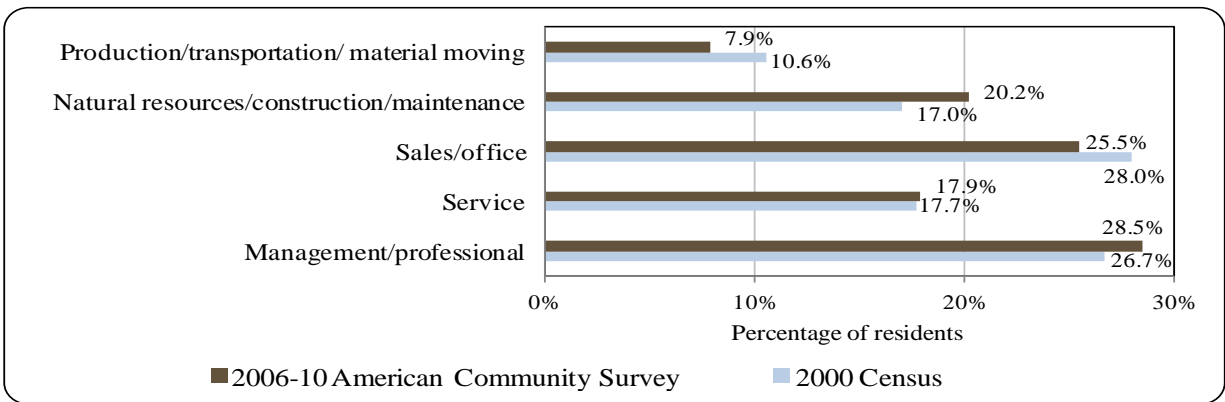


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Wasilla (U.S. Census).



Governance

Wasilla is a First-class city located in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The City was not included in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, and is not represented by a Native Traditional Council or ANCSA chartered village corporation. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices are located in Anchorage and Palmer, while the regional NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offices are located in Anchorage. Wasilla residents can access some institutions that have offices in neighboring Palmer, including headquarters for the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Borough and a USDA Rural Development office.

The City of Wasilla Police Department was established in 1993 and currently employs 24 commissioned officers.²⁶ The local detachment of Alaska State Troopers is headquartered in Anchorage.

As of 2010, the city administered a 2.5% sales tax, while the Borough administered a 5.5% tobacco excise tax and a 5% bed tax. Property taxes included a 1.42 mill (0.14%) fire service area tax administered by the City of Wasilla and a 9.65 mill (0.96%) tax administered by the Borough.²⁷ Municipal revenue figures were taken from financial audits.²⁸ Total revenues increased at a steady rate between 2000 and 2010. When adjusted for inflation,²⁹ total municipal revenues increased by 45.4% from \$9.19 million in 2000, to \$17.28 million in 2010. In 2010, most (74.9%) general fund revenues were collected from local taxes; followed by intergovernmental revenues (11.9%) and service charges (9.6%). In total, general fund revenues accounted for 87.3% of total municipal revenues for Wasilla. Other sources included capital project funds (2.9%) and non-major funds (9.9%). In that year, sales taxes accounted for 5.8% of total municipal revenues, compared to 5.8% in 2000. In addition, state allocated Community Revenue Sharing and State Revenue Sharing accounted for less than one-percent of total revenues in both 2010 and 2000, respectively. Information regarding municipal finances can be found in Table 2.

Fisheries-related grants received by Wasilla between 2000 and 2010 are also shown in Table 2. In 2003, Wasilla was awarded \$50,000 to restore juvenile fish passage and habitat in Swiftwater Creek.³⁰ In 2010, the Wasilla Soil & Conservation District was awarded approximately \$26,000 for urban salmon habitat restoration projects undertaken as part of the Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership.³¹

²⁶ City of Wasilla. (2011). *Police*. Retrieved November 28, 2011 from <http://www.cityofwasilla.com>.

²⁷ Alaska Dept. of Comm. And Econ. Dev. (2011). *Alaska Taxable 2010*.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ Inflation calculated using Anchorage CPI from Alaska DOL: <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/cpi/cpi.htm>.

³⁰ 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.

³¹ Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District. (2011). Annual Report. Retrieved December 2011 from <http://www.wasillaswd.org/linked/2011%20annual%20report.pdf>.

Table 2. Selected Municipal, State, or Federal Revenue Streams for the Wasilla Municipal Government 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	\$9,190,997	\$529,535	\$74,738	n/a
2001	\$8,974,430	\$557,810	\$65,962	n/a
2002	\$9,231,543	\$573,876	\$66,679	n/a
2003	\$9,745,658	\$688,496	\$65,426	\$50,000
2004	\$12,487,572	\$754,994	--	n/a
2005	\$14,722,717	\$827,909	--	n/a
2006	\$14,212,673	\$893,218	--	n/a
2007	\$14,254,770	\$912,455	--	n/a
2008	\$15,704,300	\$952,296	--	n/a
2009	\$15,937,928	\$981,573	\$103,009	n/a
2010	\$17,284,820	\$998,206	\$103,040	\$25,954

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

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

As with most of the communities located at the end of the Knik Arm, Wasilla is well connected by road to surrounding communities. The George Parks Highway and Glenn Highway connect Wasilla to Anchorage, Fairbanks, Denali National Park, and Palmer, as well as a number of smaller communities. The Alaska Railroad serves Wasilla on the Anchorage to Fairbanks route, while Mat-Su Valley Public Transportation provides bus service between Wasilla, Palmer, and Anchorage.

Commercial air service is available at Anchorage International Airport, located 45 miles away. Wasilla's municipal airport, which has a paved 3,700 ft long by 75 ft wide runway, provides scheduled commuter and air taxi services. Numerous additional private airstrips also operate in the vicinity. Float planes land at Wasilla Lake, Jacobsen Lake, and Lake Lucille.

Facilities

The majority of homes in Wasilla use individual water wells and septic systems, although the city operates a piped water and sewer system. Water is provided by a well at Spruce Avenue and two wells at Iditarod School; there is a 2.3 million gal storage capacity. Refuse collection is provided by a private company for disposal in the borough landfill. Residents also drop refuse at

the borough landfill in Palmer. Matanuska Electric Association is part owner of the Alaska Electric Generation & Transmission Cooperative, Inc., which purchases electricity from Chugach Electric and the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project. Piped natural gas, provided by Enstar, is used to heat homes. Wasilla provides an array of visitor accommodations and visitor attractions. Local public safety services are provided by the Wasilla Police Department. Fire and rescue services are provided by borough fire department, Wasilla Lake Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and Wasilla Ambulance Service. Additional public facilities include local youth center, community hall, senior services, swimming pool, local arena, movie theater, three museums, and 15 libraries. Communication services include local and long distance telephone, broadband internet, local and cable television, and local radio.³²

Medical Services

A variety of medical care services are available at the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center (MSRMC), a privately-owned, qualified Acute Care facility located between Palmer and Wasilla. Opened in 2006 to replace the aging Valley Hospital, MSRMC contains 50 medical/surgical beds and eight each of intensive, care, progressive, and obstetric beds. Urgent care services are also available at a MSRMC outpatient clinic in Wasilla.

Educational Opportunities

Wasilla is served by the Mat-Su borough School District. As of 2011, there are 21 schools located within the community, including 8 elementary schools, 4 high schools, and 3 each of K-12, middle, and mixed-grade schools. There are a total of 10,106 students and 550 teachers in Wasilla schools.

Matanuska-Susitna College, located between Palmer and Wasilla, is part of the University of Alaska Anchorage system and offers two-year associate degree programs. Total enrollment is approximately 1,650 students. Wasilla also hosts a campus of Charter College, an independently-accredited private college offering both associate and bachelor degree programs.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

History and Evolution of Fisheries

Extensive populations of freshwater fish, as well as of all five salmon species, are supported in the waters of the Mat-Su basin, which include the Matanuska, Knik, and Little Susitna Rivers, as well as the Nancy Lake Recreational Area and numerous river drainages and smaller lakes. Historically, the abundance of fish locally made the area a popular wintering ground for Dena'ina Athabaskan Indians. Today, the area around Wasilla provides diverse opportunities for recreational freshwater fishing. The Susitna River, a popular salmon sportfishing location, supports the fourth largest run of Chinook salmon in the state.³³ Additionally, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) oversees an aggressive lake

³² 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.

³³ Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership. (2008). *Conserving Salmon Habitat in the Mat-Su Basin*. Retrieved November 28, 2011 from <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/MatSuSalmon>.

stocking program in the Northern Cook Inlet Sport Fishing Management Area, with over 90 area lakes stocked with rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, arctic char, landlocked coho, and Chinook salmon.³⁴

Rapid growth and development in the last two decades have stressed the region's fish habitats, especially those in urban waters. In 2010, Lake Lucille and Cottonwood Creek in Wasilla were classified as "impaired" by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.³⁵ The Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District represents the community within the Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, which formed in 2005 to address increasing impacts of salmon from human use and development in the Mat-Su basin. With respect to federal fisheries regulatory areas, Wasilla is located nearest to Federal Reporting Area 630 (Central Gulf of Alaska), Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 3A, and the Central Gulf of Alaska Sablefish Regulatory Area. With respect to State of Alaska fisheries management, the community is located nearest to the ADF&G Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries management area and within the Northern Cook Inlet sport and subsistence fisheries management area. Wasilla is not eligible to participate in either the Community Development Quota or the Community Quota Entity Program.

Processing Plants

As of 2011, at least two businesses in Wasilla were involved in fish processing activities. Smoked Alaska Seafoods, a family-owned business that has been in operation over 30 years, produces smoked sockeye, coho, and Chinook salmon products.^{36, 37} Mat Valley Meats is located on the East Palmer-Wasilla highway and began operations in 2008, specializing in custom processing for game hunters and sport fishermen.³⁸

Fisheries-Related Revenue

Wasilla earned little to no revenue from fisheries-related sources between 2000 and 2010. As shown in Table 3, a negligible amount of the community's revenue was derived from the Shared Fisheries Business Tax from 2006 to 2009.

Commercial Fishing

As Wasilla is an inland community, its involvement in North Pacific commercial fisheries stems primarily from the numerous residents who own, operate, and crew on vessels in the North Pacific fishery fleet, in addition to those holding quota in federal individual fishing quota (IFQ) fisheries.

From 2000 to 2010, the number of crew license holders indicating Wasilla as their community of residence increased from 199 to 265. During the same time period, there was a

³⁴ Alaska Department of Fish & Game. (2011). *Northern Cook Inlet Management Area*. Retrieved December 2, 2011 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=ByAreaSouthcentralNorthCookInlet.main>.

³⁵ Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation. (2010). *Alaska's impaired waters – 2010*. Retrieved November 28, 2011 from <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/>.

³⁶ Smoked Alaska Seafoods (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved from: <http://www.smokedalaska.com/about.htm>.

³⁷ Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. 2011. *Directory of Alaska Seafood Suppliers*. Retrieved December 12, 2011 from <http://www.alaskaseafood.org/industry/suppliers/index.cfm>.

³⁸ AFSC Processing Plant Survey 2011.

decrease in the number of vessels owned primarily by Wasilla residents and the number of vessels homeported in the community, with a sharp decline between 2004 and 2005. Table 5 presents 2000 to 2010 data on crew and fleet statistics.

In 2010, 219 residents of Wasilla held a total of 279 permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). This represents an increase from the 141 residents holding 185 permits in 2000. Salmon permits made up the majority of CFEC permits issued to Wasilla residents from 2000 to 2010—from 65% in 2000 to 71% in 2007 and 2009. Most salmon permits held by Wasilla residents are for Bristol Bay-area fisheries; permits for Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet salmon fisheries are held in smaller amounts.³⁹ A small number of residents also participate in federal groundfish and crab limited license permit (LLP) program fisheries. Table 4 shows CFEC and federal fishing permits issued to Wasilla residents from 2000 to 2010. Holdings by Wasilla residents in the three catch share fisheries (sablefish, halibut, and crab) have increased significantly from 2000 to 2010. In 2010, 24 Wasilla residents held halibut quota shares amounting to an allocation of 235,998 lbs. Sablefish and crab quota share holdings by Wasilla residents in the same year amounted to approximately 40,000 and 30,000 lbs, respectively. Tables 6 to 8 present quota holdings by Wasilla residents in the three catch share programs over the 2000 to 2010 period.

In spite of a decline from 2000 to 2010 in the number of commercial vessels owned primarily by Wasilla residents, the volume and real ex-vessel value of landings by residents' vessels has more than doubled during this period. In 2010, commercial fishery landings by Wasilla vessels totaled 12.5 million lbs and had an ex-vessel value of \$11.0 million; in 2000 dollars, ex-vessel value in 2000 was \$3.6 million.⁴⁰ Salmon accounts for the largest volume of landings out of all species landed by Wasilla vessels. This species group is also the most lucrative for Wasilla vessels, accounting for 68% of total ex-vessel value from 2000 to 2010. Other species landed by Wasilla's fleet between 2000 and 2010 were sablefish, pollock, Pacific cod, crab, herring, halibut, and other shellfish. Table 10 presents 2000-2010 commercial fishery landing statistics for vessels owned by community residents.

³⁹ Alaska Commercial Fishery Entry Commission. (2011). Fishery Statistics – Participation & Earnings. Permit & Fishing Activity by Year, State, Census Area or Alaskan City. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/fishery_statistics/earnings.htm.

⁴⁰ Inflation was adjusted using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index for processed unprocessed and packaged fish, retrieved December 1, 2011 from <http://www.bls.gov/ppi/#data>.

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

Revenue source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Raw fish tax ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shared Fisheries Business Tax ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$5	\$103	\$128	\$29	n/a
Fisheries											
Resource Landing Tax ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fuel transfer tax ²	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 ²	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 ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Boat hauls ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Harbor usage ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Port/dock usage ²	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 ³	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 ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total fisheries-related revenue ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$5	\$103	\$128	\$29	n/a
Total municipal revenue (in millions of dollars) ⁵	\$9.19 M	\$8.97 M	\$9.23 M	\$9.75 M	\$12.49 M	\$14.72 M	\$14.21 M	\$14.25 M	\$15.70 M	\$15.94 M	\$17.28 M

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 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.

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) ¹	Total permits	7	7	8	11	12	13	13	14	13	14	12
	Active permits	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	3	3
	% of permits fished	28%	28%	25%	18%	25%	23%	15%	7%	7%	21%	25%
	Total permit holders	7	7	7	9	10	11	11	12	11	12	10
Crab (LLP) ¹	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Active permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% of permits fished	--	--	--	--	--	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Federal Fisheries Permits ¹	Total permits	7	8	9	8	9	10	10	10	11	9	9
	Fished permits	0	0	0	2	3	2	6	5	6	5	5
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	25%	33%	20%	60%	50%	55%	56%	56%
	Total permit holders	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	9	10	8	8
Crab (CFEC) ²	Total permits	3	1	2	3	4	11	9	8	7	8	10
	Fished permits	1	0	1	2	3	5	2	4	4	2	4
	% of permits fished	33%	0%	50%	67%	75%	45%	22%	50%	57%	25%	40%
	Total permit holders	3	1	2	3	3	7	8	7	6	7	9
Other shellfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	2	1	2	2	4	4	6	5	5	5	12
	Fished permits	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	2	4
	% of permits fished	50%	100%	50%	50%	50%	25%	50%	20%	40%	40%	33%
	Total permit holders	2	1	2	2	4	4	5	4	4	4	11
Halibut (CFEC) ²	Total permits	16	17	20	19	17	19	19	22	19	18	20
	Fished permits	13	14	18	19	15	17	19	22	18	17	20
	% of permits fished	81%	82%	90%	100%	88%	89%	100%	100%	95%	94%	100%
	Total permit holders	16	17	20	19	15	18	18	21	18	17	20
Herring (CFEC) ²	Total permits	11	9	9	6	6	7	7	9	9	10	11
	Fished permits	4	3	3	1	0	3	1	1	1	1	1
	% of permits fished	36%	33%	33%	17%	0%	43%	14%	11%	11%	10%	9%
	Total permit holders	7	5	5	4	6	5	6	8	8	9	10

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	8	11	6	9	11	9	10	12	12	10	14
	Fished permits	4	7	5	8	10	4	10	11	11	10	14
	% of permits fished	50%	64%	83%	89%	91%	44%	100%	92%	92%	100%	100%
	Total permit holders	7	8	6	7	9	8	9	11	10	8	11
Groundfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	25	18	13	17	17	16	11	12	17	14	16
	Fished permits	10	4	3	8	5	5	5	5	8	8	11
	% of permits fished	40%	22%	23%	47%	29%	31%	45%	42%	47%	57%	69%
	Total permit holders	15	14	12	12	12	12	9	10	15	13	15
Other Finfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0%	--	--
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Salmon (CFEC) ²	Total permits	120	126	122	123	135	136	148	165	163	158	196
	Fished permits	94	88	64	74	84	92	101	116	111	100	130
	% of permits fished	78%	70%	52%	60%	62%	68%	68%	70%	68%	63%	66%
	Total permit holders	125	126	125	128	136	141	153	172	169	161	191
Total CFEC Permits ²	Permits	185	183	174	179	194	202	210	233	233	223	279
	Fished permits	127	117	95	113	119	127	141	160	155	140	184
	% of permits fished	69%	64%	55%	63%	61%	63%	67%	69%	67%	63%	66%
	Permit holders	141	145	146	152	159	163	177	199	196	184	219

¹ National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Data on Limited Liability Permits, 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 (AFSC), 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 the AFSC, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

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

Year	Crew License Holders ¹	Count Of All Fish Buyers ²	Count Of Shore-Side Processing Facilities ³	Vessels Primarily Owned By Residents ⁴	Vessels Homeported ⁴	Vessels Landing Catch In Wasilla ²	Total Net Lbs Landed In Wasilla ^{2,5}	Total Ex-Vessel Value Of Landings In Wasilla ^{2,5}
2000	199	0	1	180	54	0	0	\$0
2001	172	0	0	178	60	0	0	\$0
2002	129	0	1	171	62	0	0	\$0
2003	158	0	0	150	55	0	0	\$0
2004	181	1	0	135	52	--	--	--
2005	177	0	0	64	16	0	0	\$0
2006	203	0	2	82	15	0	0	\$0
2007	245	0	1	97	15	0	0	\$0
2008	263	0	1	94	13	0	0	\$0
2009	267	0	1	89	15	0	0	\$0
2010	265	0	1	106	18	0	0	\$0

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

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 the AFSC, 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 the AFSC, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

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

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

⁵ Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (lbs)
2000	30	1,546,948	175,580
2001	30	1,452,584	194,766
2002	31	1,240,373	163,687
2003	28	1,607,141	220,084
2004	25	1,648,660	247,317
2005	29	1,812,022	269,389
2006	28	1,921,575	275,691
2007	26	2,583,338	379,924
2008	25	2,200,949	339,989
2009	25	2,066,982	262,189
2010	24	2,066,232	235,998

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year. 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 AFSC, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

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

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders	Sablefish Quota Shares Held	Sablefish IFQ Allotment (lbs)
2000	3	11,214	892
2001	4	12,471	1,045
2002	2	7,115	733
2003	4	40,881	4,292
2004	4	40,881	4,819
2005	4	37,709	4,362
2006	5	51,979	5,248
2007	6	631,682	68,292
2008	4	35,857	3,354
2009	4	494,095	43,169
2010	4	494,095	40,111

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year. 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 AFSC, 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 Wasilla: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Crab Quota Share Account Holders	Crab Quota Shares Held	Crab IFQ Allotment (lbs)
2005	1	105,222	2,514
2006	1	139,200	2,365
2007	1	139,200	3,365
2008	1	139,200	3,163
2009	2	1,282,241	30,399
2010	2	1,282,241	30,283

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year. 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 AFSC, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

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

	Total Net Pounds ¹										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finfish	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halibut	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herring	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Groundfish	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Shellfish	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Cod	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pollock	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sablefish	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total ²	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Finfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Halibut	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Herring	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Groundfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Shellfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pacific Cod	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pollock	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sablefish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Salmon	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total ²	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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 the AFSC, Seattle.

[URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

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

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

	Total Net Pounds¹										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	114,488	116,617	126,932	123,397	42,105	54,825	169,627	276,407	290,157	606,399	641,435
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	4,385	5,019	5,353	10,016	1,865	1,535	3,317	19,275	34,945	25,668	156,451
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	53,162	--	--	--	51,400
Pacific Cod	251,455	202,575	388,318	19,355	25,735	--	721,474	847,222	1,114,459	1,916,415	4,629,569
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,546
Sablefish	--	11,874	--	--	--	--	35,091	142,512	194,718	168,322	225,912
Salmon	5,437,045	5,354,672	3,495,257	2,659,008	3,529,949	3,956,577	5,252,055	7,787,589	7,282,150	7,685,767	6,755,456
Total²	5,807,373	5,690,757	4,015,860	2,811,776	3,599,654	4,012,937	6,234,726	9,073,005	8,916,429	10,402,571	12,467,769
Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	\$284,876	\$233,468	\$277,663	\$351,632	\$127,008	\$167,935	\$638,398	\$1,216,284	\$1,243,906	\$1,614,590	\$2,936,226
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	\$2,222	\$2,088	\$2,856	\$5,785	\$1,353	\$999	\$1,305	\$9,466	\$17,730	\$13,690	\$60,111
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$295,710	--	--	--	\$193,797
Pacific Cod	\$77,230	\$51,217	\$81,853	\$5,065	\$6,759	--	\$264,200	\$403,571	\$637,739	\$525,597	\$1,288,405
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$661
Sablefish	--	\$37,676	--	--	--	--	\$91,929	\$391,037	\$605,218	\$583,649	\$954,293
Salmon	\$2,259,535	\$1,705,063	\$1,239,186	\$1,153,289	\$1,840,523	\$2,296,569	\$3,051,943	\$4,360,923	\$4,731,505	\$4,563,103	\$5,539,095
Total²	\$2,623,863	\$2,029,511	\$1,601,558	\$1,515,771	\$1,975,643	\$2,465,503	\$4,343,485	\$6,381,281	\$7,236,097	\$7,300,628	10,972,589

Note: Not Reported indicates that no data were reported for that year. 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 the AFSC, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

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

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Recreational Fishing

Wasilla residents actively participate in Alaska recreational fisheries as anglers and guides. As shown in Table 11, there were a total of 6 registered sport fish guide businesses active in 2010, compared to 8 in 2000. Overall, the number of active sport fish guide businesses remained steady between 2000 and 2010, peaking in 2001 at 9, and bottoming out in 2006 at 4. The number of sport fish guide licensees held within the community declined between 2000 and 2010, from 106 to 66. The number of sport fish guide licenses held peaked in 2003 at 126 and was at its lowest in 2005 at 56. Though the numbers of sport fish guide businesses and licenses in the community have generally declined since 2000, the number of Wasilla residents purchasing licenses (irrespective of location of purchase) steadily increased from 12,417 in 2000 to 18,789 in 2010. Sportfishing licenses sold in Wasilla also increased significantly from 13,216 in 2000 to 28,511 in 2010.

With respect to recreational fishing in the surrounding Knik Arm region, survey data on private anglers indicate that fished species include Chinook, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon, as well as smelt and Dolly Varden.⁴¹ As shown in Table 11, in 2009 an estimated 33,865 private anglers fished in the region for a total of 122,299 estimated fishing days; freshwater recreational fishing accounted for nearly all of the activity reported (122,140 estimated days).⁴² Resident anglers in 2009 accounted for 76% of estimated saltwater fishing days and 91% of estimated freshwater fishing days. No kept/released log book data was reported for fishing charters out of Wasilla between 2000 and 2010⁴³, although a number of guides in the community offer charter fishing opportunities in the surrounding Mat-Su Valley region.

⁴¹ 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).

⁴² Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska Sport Fishing Survey results database. ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey project. Retrieved November 28, 2011 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/>.

⁴³ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish charter logbook database, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 11. Sport Fishing Trends, Wasilla: 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 Wasilla ²
2000	8	106	12,417	13,216
2001	9	110	12,723	13,113
2002	6	122	13,224	13,615
2003	4	126	14,063	18,512
2004	7	113	14,874	19,163
2005	6	56	15,777	19,689
2006	4	61	16,340	19,648
2007	7	67	17,211	19,231
2008	8	66	17,473	24,028
2009	7	63	18,840	25,730
2010	6	66	18,789	28,511

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	130	317	13,308	106,880
2001	345	277	14,933	94,862
2002	464	754	17,367	106,163
2003	49	386	15,626	87,000
2004	33	151	11,681	101,663
2005	378	424	14,284	100,677
2006	89	234	12,239	107,233
2007	117	473	13,524	106,567
2008	17	308	14,080	122,167
2009	37	122	10,678	111,462
2010	n/a	124	10,872	95,285

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

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 the AFSC, 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 the AFSC, 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 the AFSC, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/> (Accessed September 2011).

Subsistence Fishing

Wasilla is legally designated a non-subsistence area for the purpose of state and federal subsistence fisheries management. Residents, however, may participate in state subsistence fisheries located outside the community; and residents who are members of certain Alaska Native Tribes are eligible to harvest halibut for subsistence purposes.

Of the marine species documented by the ADF&G Division of Subsistence, sockeye salmon is estimated to account for a significant majority of subsistence harvest by Wasilla’s residents; Chinook and coho salmon are estimated to be harvested in smaller amounts. In 2008, the most recent year for which data is available, Wasilla residents harvested an estimated 16,180 sockeye salmon, down from the estimated high of 22,799 fish in 2005 as well as from the 2000-2007 estimated average of 18,000 fish. Average estimated harvests of Chinook and coho salmon from 2000 to 2008 were 650 and 325 fish, respectively.

For the small number of Wasilla residents who hold a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), estimated harvest of subsistence halibut from 2003 to 2009 averaged 2,093 lbs annually. However, reported halibut harvests declined significantly in 2010 to 80 pounds on two SHARC; a relatively small number of active permits compared to total SHARC held. Residents of Wasilla have not been documented as harvesting any marine mammal species for subsistence purposes. Tables 12 through 15 show additional statistics on participation by Wasilla residents in subsistence fishing activities.

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Wasilla: 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, Wasilla: 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	854	822	689	7	411	n/a	15,722	n/a	n/a
2001	913	833	625	n/a	319	1	18,350	n/a	n/a
2002	654	582	722	7	285	15	13,890	n/a	n/a
2003	611	541	517	n/a	136	2	12,318	n/a	n/a
2004	829	709	765	10	472	7	17,316	n/a	n/a
2005	886	761	412	n/a	246	n/a	22,799	n/a	n/a
2006	930	794	685	14	432	24	21,719	n/a	n/a
2007	957	832	1,204	43	311	n/a	26,616	n/a	n/a
2008	971	836	728	33	174	58	16,180	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, Wasilla: 2003-2010.

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	18	4	761
2004	26	11	3,428
2005	28	3	1,069
2006	24	6	3,988
2007	37	7	2,225
2008	37	6	1,016
2009	33	6	2,169
2010	43	2	80

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, 2010. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 357, Anchorage. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for the AFSC, Seattle.

Table 15. Subsistence Harvests of Marine Mammal Resources, Wasilla: 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.

Additional Information

Wasilla is home to the annual 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome. The community served as the official starting location of the race until 2008, when urban growth and lack of snow forced officials to permanently move the start location north to Willow.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ White, Rindi. 2008. Iditarod home more than just restart point. *Alaska Daily News*. Retrieved December 2, 2011 from <http://www.adn.com/2008/01/28/296206/itarod-home-more-than-just-restart.html>.