

Hydaburg

People and Place

Location

Hydaburg is located on the southwest coast of Prince of Wales Island, 45 air miles northwest of Ketchikan and approximately 200 miles southeast of Juneau. The area encompasses 0.3 square miles of land.

Demographic Profile

Hydaburg is a predominantly Haida Indian village. In 2000, there were 382 residents in 133 households. All relatives lived in households rather than group quarters. The racial composition was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (85.1%), White (9.4%), Black (0.5%), Asian (0.5%), and two or more races (4.5%). A total of 89.5% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. The gender makeup of the community was somewhat skewed, at 52.9% male and 47.1% female. The median age was 31.8 years, slightly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 76.8% of residents aged 25 years or older held a high school diploma.

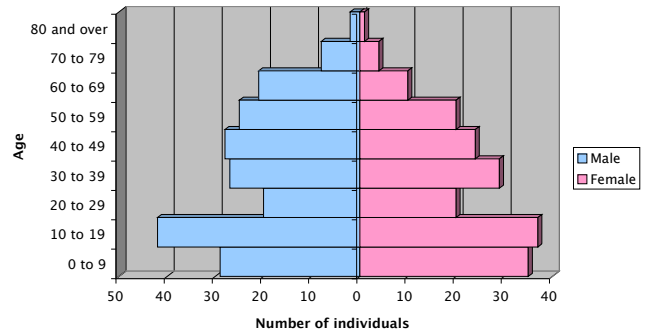
History

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

Hydaburg, an Anglicization of "Haida," was established in 1911, when three Haida villages combined in order for their children to attend school. The village became the Hydaburg Indian Reservation in 1912. At the villagers' request, however, the land was restored to its former status as part of the Tongass National Forest and the reservation was disbanded in 1926. When the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) was amended in 1936 to include Alaska Natives, Hydaburg became the first village in Alaska to form an IRA-recognized village council. Today, Hydaburg is a

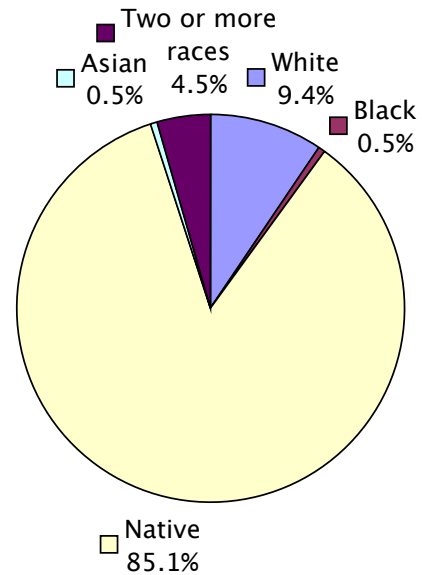
2000 Population Structure Hydaburg

Data source: US Census



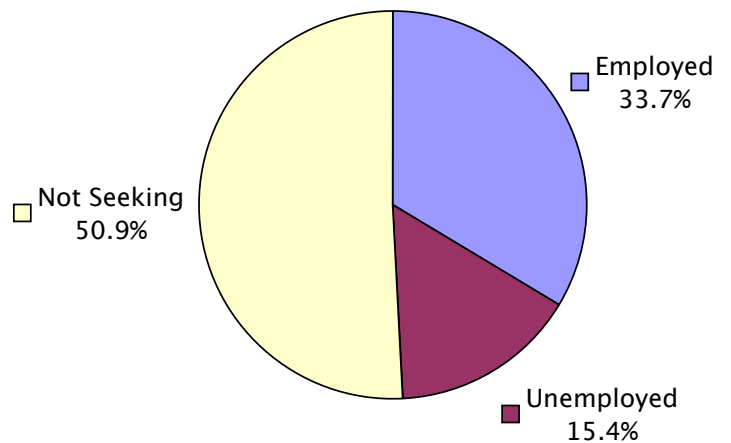
2000 Racial Structure Hydaburg

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Hydaburg

Data source: US Census



predominantly Haida village with an economy based on commercial and subsistence fishing.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Hydaburg's economy is based on commercial and subsistence fishing, as well as the timber industry. Many residents hold commercial fishing permits. There is a timber storage facility in Hydaburg, where many residents work, shipping and loading lumber. The city government, school, and Native corporation are other important employers.

In 2000 the median per capita income was \$11,401 and the median household income was \$31,625. The unemployment rate was 15.4%, and 50.9% of residents aged 16 and over were not in the labor force (i.e. not seeking work). Approximately 24.1% of local residents were living below the poverty level.

Governance

Hydaburg is a first-class city, but is not located within an organized borough. It was incorporated in 1927. It has a strong mayor form of government. The city administers a 4% sales tax. The Hydaburg Cooperative Association, the local village council, is recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). In addition, Hydaburg has a Native village corporation, the Haida Corporation, which was granted a land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in Craig. The nearest U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) is located in Ketchikan. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office is located in Petersburg.

Facilities

Hydaburg is accessible by air, sea, and land. There is a state-owned seaplane base, with scheduled flights to Ketchikan, as well as an emergency heliport. Roundtrip airfare from the Klawock airport, on the western side of Prince of Wales Island, to Anchorage is approximately \$397. There is also a city-owned small boat harbor; the community has plans to construct a breakwater and boat launch. A road leads to Craig, Klawock, and Hollis, where there is a state ferry dock.

Most homes in Hydaburg have plumbing, with a piped water and sewer system owned by the city. The Alaska Power Company, a private utility operator, provides diesel-generated electricity to the community. There is a health clinic owned by the city and operated in conjunction with the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC). The state provides a village public safety officer. There is one elementary school and one junior/senior high school with a combined total of 10 teachers and 94 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon fishery, is a major part of the economy of Hydaburg. There were 5 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 13 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries who resided in the community. In addition, there were 42 registered crew members. There were 38 local residents who held a total of 68 commercial fishing permits, primarily in the salmon, herring, and halibut fisheries. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Hydaburg residents in 2000.

Halibut: Nine local residents held a total of nine permits in the halibut fishery. These permits included: 8 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (5 permits fished); and one halibut longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one permit fished).

Herring: Seventeen local residents held a total of 17 commercial permits in the herring fishery. All 17 were to collect herring spawn on kelp by the pound in the southern southeast region (none fished).

Other (Non-Crab) Shellfish: Eleven residents held a total of 15 commercial permits for other shellfish. The permits included the following: eight shrimp pot gear permits for the southeast region (seven permits fished); three sea cucumber diving gear permits for the southeast region (three permits fished); and three sea urchin diving gear permits for the southeast region (none fished).

Salmon: Twenty-six residents held a total of 27 commercial permits in the salmon fishery. These included the following: three salmon purse seine permits for the southeast region (2 permits fished), one salmon drift gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (none

fished), 15 salmon hand troll permits for statewide waters (5 permits fished), and 8 salmon power gurdy troll permits for statewide waters (7 permits fished).

In 2000 there were no commercial fish processors in Hydaburg and therefore no landings. In 2003 Hydaburg received \$7,210 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate the community for falling salmon prices.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing opportunities in Hydaburg are limited in comparison to larger communities in southeast Alaska. A total of 11 sport fishing licenses were sold in Hydaburg in 2000 - 8 to Alaska residents and 3 to non-residents. In 2002 there were two registered saltwater sport fishing guides in Hydaburg. The major sport species in the area include halibut and all five species of Pacific salmon.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence resources are an important supplement to the formal economy in Hydaburg. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1997, 100% of households in Hydaburg used subsistence resources. Approximately 96.1% of households used subsistence

salmon, and 100% used non-salmon subsistence fish (especially halibut, herring roe, and rockfish). Approximately 15.7% of households used marine mammals (mostly harbor seals and sea otters) for subsistence and 96.1% of households used marine invertebrates (especially crabs, clams, and shrimp).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Hydaburg in 1997 was 384.1 lbs and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (30.4%), non-salmon fish (28.4%), land mammals (9.0%), marine mammals (0.8%), birds and bird eggs (0.2%), marine invertebrates (26.3%), and vegetation (4.9%).

The residents of Hydaburg who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003. The ADF&G reports that, in 1999, 28 households held subsistence salmon permits, and a total of 1,354 salmon (mostly sockeye) were harvested.