

Demographics of Commercial Fishing Communities in Alaska

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Alaska Communities Most Involved in Commercial Fishing



Unalaska



Kodiak

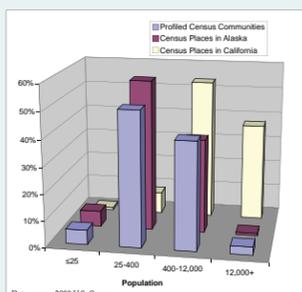


Sand Point

One hundred and thirty-six Alaskan communities were selected as the Alaska communities most involved in commercial fishing based on quantitative indicators of commercial fishing in the year 2000. Baseline socioeconomic profiles of these communities were compiled by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.* An analysis of these communities' demographics and their involvement in fishing shows that commercial fishing activities are most substantial in a small number of key hub communities with shoreside processing capacity. But many more communities, both large and small, have a significant level of fisheries involvement. Fishing activities (commercial, recreational and subsistence) help shape the people and their communities.

Community Size

Over half of the Alaska communities most involved in commercial fishing (of those that are recognized as U.S. Census places) had a population of fewer than 400. Ninety-seven percent had a population of fewer than 12,000. In Alaska a city must have at least 400 permanent residents to become incorporated as a First Class City; 25 voters are required for incorporation as a Second Class city.



The sizes of the profiled communities resemble the statewide distribution, which has many more small and very small communities than other states. California is shown for comparison.

Race and Ethnicity

The Alaska communities most involved in commercial fishing are largely Alaska Native and/or White in racial and ethnic make-up. On average they have low percentages of Black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Hispanic residents. Some communities with commercial fish processors tend to have a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minorities, particularly Asian or Hispanic community members (seen as the upper range boundary below). By contrast, many of the profiled Native communities have maintained relatively stable populations since the beginning of the U.S. Census data.

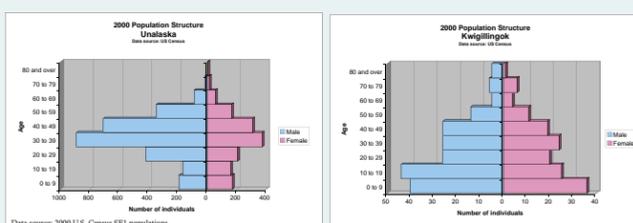
	Alaska (% of population)	Profiled Communities (Average % of community population)	Profiled Communities % Range
White	69.3	39.2	0 - 100
Black or African American	3.5	0.4	0 - 11.2
Alaska Native or American Indian	15.6	52.4	0 - 98.9
Asian	4.0	2.0	0 - 38.6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.5	0.2	0 - 3.1
Some Other Race Alone	1.6	0.7	0 - 18.2
Two or More Races	5.4	5.2	0 - 60
Hispanic	4.1	1.8	0 - 20.8

The Alaska communities most involved in commercial fishing have a much higher percentage of Alaska Native population than the state as a whole.

Age and Gender

Two most common characteristic population structures of the Alaska communities most involved in commercial fishing are:

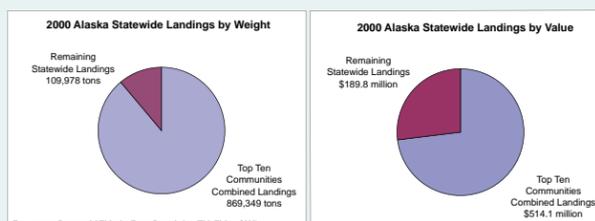
- the labor shape, which shows a bulge of working age (20-60) males, characteristic of communities with processors, and
- the family shape, which shows a family structure with a nearly equal number of men and women, and relatively more children and elders. This structure is common in Native communities of the Bering Sea.



The labor shape population structure (e.g., Unalaska) is characteristic of communities with processors. The family shape (e.g., Kwigillingok) is characteristic of Native communities, particularly in the Bering Sea.

Commercial Fishing

In the communities most involved in commercial fishing in the year 2000, the number of crew members residing in a community ranged from zero to 1388 crew members, with a mean of 38 crew members and an average of 102 crew members per community. The total number of registered commercial fishing permits held by community members ranged from zero to 1569 permits, with a median of 53 and an average of 143 permits per profiled community. 979,327 tons of fish worth \$703.9 million was landed in 54 of the communities which operated 131 processors. Almost 90% of this fish was processed in the top ten communities for landings: Dutch Harbor, Akutan, Kodiak, Sand Point, King Cove, Ketchikan, Cordova, Petersburg, Naknek, and Seward. The same ten communities top the list for value of landings.



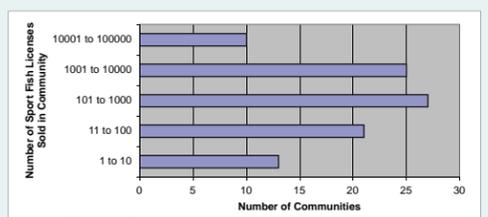
The top ten processing communities processed 89% of the statewide landings by weight and 73% by value.

Acknowledgments

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Sport Fishing

Ninety-six or 71% of the Alaska communities most involved in commercial fishing sold sport fishing licenses in the year 2000, with a range from 1 license sold (Egegik, Kongiganak, Manokotak, and Saint Paul) to 98,516 licenses sold (Anchorage) in a specific community. Licenses were sold to both tourists and residents. The licenses sold in the profiled communities equal approximately 94% of the licenses sold statewide.



Most licenses are sold in a few large communities (Anchorage, Ketchikan, Soldotna, Juneau, Homer), but many small communities have license sales.

Subsistence Fishing

The majority of Alaskan communities participate in subsistence harvesting to some degree. Detailed information on subsistence was available for only 95 (69.9%) of the communities profiled. The below table shows the top ten communities by per capita harvest of subsistence resources. Nine of the ten are located in Southwest Alaska, where communities are remote and further removed from the economic activities and commercial distribution networks of urban centers.

Rank	Community	Region	Amount (lbs)	Fish Species Commonly Harvested
1	Akiachak	Southwest	1,328.3	Salmon, blackfish, pike
2	Tununak	Southwest	1,092.6	Salmon, herring, smelt, halibut
3	Kokhanok	Southwest	1,013.3	Salmon, dolly varden, trout, pike
4	Livelock	Southwest	884.0	Salmon, blackfish, char, pike
5	Itanina	Southwest	847.8	Salmon, herring, founder, halibut
6	Kotigenek	Southwest	830.5	Salmon, herring, char, pike
7	Ugashik	Southwest	814.4	Salmon, herring, cod, halibut
8	Ekwok	Southwest	798.6	Salmon, herring, blackfish, pike
9	Galena	Interior	787.1	Salmon, blackfish, pike, trout
10	Quinhagak	Southwest	767.9	Salmon, smelt, cod, char

Data source: ADF&G Subsistence Division community database. This is given for the "most representative year" according to ADF&G records.

Nine of the top ten communities by per capita subsistence harvest occur in Southwest Alaska; however subsistence use is a statewide occurrence.

*Sepez, J., B. Tilt, C. Package, H. Lazrus, and I. Vaccaro. 2005. Community Profiles for North Pacific Fisheries – Alaska. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-AFSC-160.

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