

Fort Yukon



People and Place

*Location*¹

Fort Yukon is located at the confluence of the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers, about 145 air miles northeast of Fairbanks. Fort Yukon is located in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area and the Fairbanks Recording District. The area encompasses 7.0 square miles of land and 0.4 square miles of water.

*Demographic Profile*²

In 2010, there were 583 residents in Fort Yukon, ranking it the 102nd largest community in Alaska. Overall, between 1990 and 2010, the population has increased by 0.52%. However, between 2000 and 2009, the population declined by 1.7% with an average annual growth rate of -0.02%, which was below the statewide average of 0.75% and indicative of an almost flat population trend. Information regarding population trends can be found in Table 1.

The majority of Fort Yukon residents are Gwich'in Athabascan. In 2010, the majority (89.2%) of Fort Yukon residents identified themselves as American Indian or Alaskan Native, compared to 86.0% in 2000. Also in that year, 7.7% of residents identified themselves as White, compared to 11.0% in 2000; 0.5% identified themselves as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, compared to 0.0% in 2000; 0.5% identified themselves as Black or African American, compared to 0.0% in 2000; 0.2% identified themselves as Asian, compared to 0.0% in 2000; 1.7% identified themselves as two or more races, compared to 3.0% in 2000; and 0.2% identified themselves as some other race, compared to 0.0% in 2000. In addition, 0.3% identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, compared to 1.0% in 2000. As noted in Figure 1, even the most significant changes (increase in the Native population and decrease in the White population) are relatively minor overall. Further changes in racial and ethnic composition from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Figures 1.

In 2010, the average household size was 2.4, a slight decline from 2.8 in 1990 and 2.6 in 2000. There has been an increase of occupied households, from 205 in 1990 to 225 in 2000 to and 246. Of those occupied households surveyed in 2010, 72.7% were owner-occupied and of the 325 housing units reported in Fort Yukon, 24.3% were considered vacant. There were five residents living in group quarters in 2000, compared to two 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>.

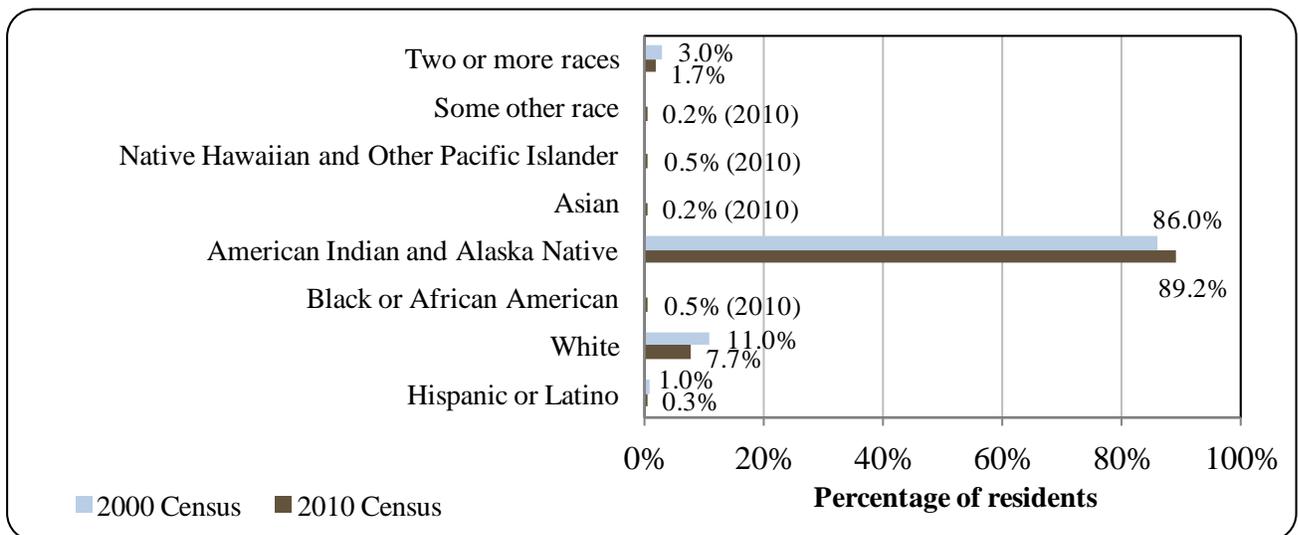
Table 1. Population in Fort Yukon from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census ¹	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents ²
1990	580	-
2000	595	-
2001	-	565
2002	-	569
2003	-	559
2004	-	593
2005	-	570
2006	-	595
2007	-	588
2008	-	585
2009	-	585
2010	583	-

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>.

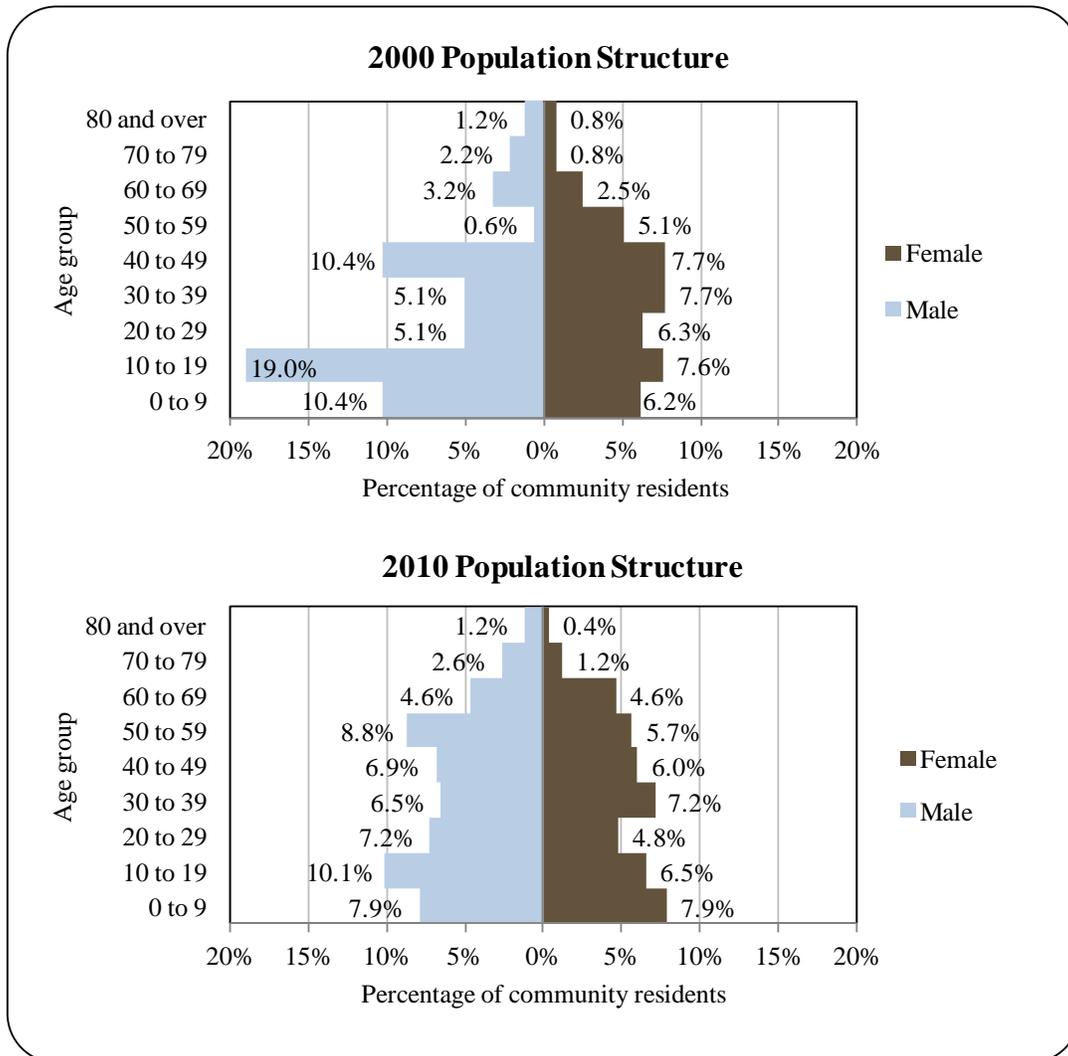
Figure 1. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Fort Yukon: 2000-2010 (U.S. Census).



In 2010, the gender makeup was 55.7% male and 44.2% female, and somewhat similar to the gender makeup of the state as a whole (52% male, 48% female; see Figure 2). In 2000, the gender makeup was 52.9% male and 47.1% female. The median age in 2010 was 33.7 years, which is slightly lower than both the U.S. national average of 36.8 years and the statewide average of 33.8 years.

The overall population structure of Fort Yukon in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 1. In 2010, there was a relatively even spread of males and females across each age category, though the 10 to 19 and 50 to 59 age groups show the greatest difference in the spread of males and females. For example, in 2010, the 10 to 19 age group was 10.1% males and 6.5% females, and the 50 to 59 age group was 8.8% males and 5.7% females. This represents a significant change from the population structure in 2000, when there were a significantly disproportionate percentage of males in the population than females in the 0 to 9, 10 to 19, and 40 to 49 age categories. In addition, in 2000, there were relatively few residents in the male 50 to 59 age range (0.6%), whereas in 2010, 8.8% of the males were in this age category.

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



In terms of educational attainment, the U.S. Census' 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS)³ estimated that 71% of residents aged 25 and over held a high school diploma or higher degree in 2010, slightly less than the 91% of Alaskan residents overall that held a high school diploma or higher degree. Also in 2010, 13% of the population had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 4% of Alaskan residents overall; 16% had a 9th to 12th grade education but no diploma, compared to 6% of Alaskan residents overall; 31% had some college but no degree, compared to 28% of Alaskan residents overall; 5% earned an Associate's degree, compared to 8% of Alaskan residents overall; 2% earned a Bachelor's degree, compared to 17% of Alaskan residents overall; and 2% earned a graduate or professional degree, compared to 10% of Alaskan residents overall.

History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture

The indigenous peoples of the territory surrounding Fort Yukon are primarily descendants of the Yukon Flats, Chandalar River, Birch Creek, Black River, and Porcupine River Gwich'in Athabascan tribes. Originally known as *Gwicyaa Zhee* or "house on the flats", the modern community of Fort Yukon took shape around a Hudson Bay Company outpost in Russian territory built by Alexander Murray in 1847. The Fort became an important trade center for the Gwich'in Indians, who inhabited the vast lowlands of the Yukon Flats and River valleys. By 1862, a mission school had been established.⁴

Following the 1867 purchase of Alaska by the United States, in 1869 an American trapper named Moses Mercer with the Alaska Commercial Company took over operation of Fort Yukon from the Hudson Bay Company. American missionaries and trappers passed through Fort Yukon in the early years of American ownership, and the gold rush brought prospectors in the 1870s. In addition, some local economic activity was generated by the fur trade of the 1800s and whaling off the Arctic coast in the late 1800s and early 1900s. A post office was established in 1898. The Native population of the community was also impacted by major disease epidemics during this period. The first hospital was constructed in 1914 by the Episcopal Church, and the first plane landed in Fort Yukon in 1921. Much of the original settlement was destroyed in a large flood in 1949, and many residents and community buildings were moved to a new site on higher ground, east of the original town site. The U.S. Air Force built an aircraft control and warning site in Fort Yukon in 1955. Today, most residents of Fort Yukon are Gwich'in Indians.⁵ Subsistence harvest activities are important to the local culture.⁶

³ While ACS estimates can provide a good snap shot 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 City of Fort Yukon (1996). *Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved November 1, 2012 from <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/plans/pub/FortYukonPlan.pdf>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ 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.

Natural Resources and Environment

Fort Yukon lies above a large geologic basin, the Yukon Basin. Winters are long and harsh, and the summers short but warm. After freeze-up of the Yukon River, the plateau is a source of cold, continental arctic air. Daily minimum temperatures between November and March are usually below 0 °F, and extended periods of -50 to -60 °F are common. Summer high temperatures range from 65 to 72 °F, and a high of 97 °F has been recorded. Total annual precipitation averages 6.6 inches, with 43.4 inches of snowfall. The Yukon River is ice-free from the end of May through mid-September.⁷

Fort Yukon is located in the Yukon Flats, a 13,700-square-mile area of wetlands, forest, bog, and low-lying ground centered on the confluence of the Yukon River, Porcupine River, and Chandalar River in central Alaska. The area is characterized by meandering river channels, oxbow lakes, sloughs, alluvial fans, thaw lakes, sink holes, and sand dunes. Permafrost is present in the region, although discontinuous; the Yukon Flats region is a boundary zone between continuous permafrost to the north and areas of discontinuous permafrost to the south. The Yukon Flats lowland is bounded on the south by the Yukon-Tanana Upland Plateau, on the east by the Porcupine Plateau, on the north by the southern foothills of the Brooks Range, and on the northwest by the Hodzana Highland.⁸

Small deposits of gold were discovered between Fort Yukon and Fort Selkirk in the 1870s.⁹ However, according to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, there are no significant mineral deposits or mining activity in the Fort Yukon area.^{10,11}

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), no notable environmental remediation sites were active in Fort Yukon as of 2012.¹² However, it is important to note that the U.S. Air Force Long Range Radar site in Fort Yukon was the focus of a remedial investigation in the early 1990s because of concern over contaminated groundwater and soil at the site. A human health assessment concluded that the level of toxins at the site posed no public health risk and the DEC determined no further action at the site was required.¹³

Current Economy¹⁴

City, state, and federal agencies and the Native corporation are the primary employers in Fort Yukon. Specifically, the top employers in 2010¹⁵ included Yukon Flats School District, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Native Village of Fort Yukon, City of Fort Yukon

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ See footnote 4.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Alaska Department of Natural Resources (2011). *Mineral Resources of Alaska*. Map produced by the Division of Mining, Land, and Water, Abandoned Mine Lands Program. November 11, 2011.

¹¹ Szumigala, D.J., L.A. Harbo, and J.N. Adleman (2011). *Alaska's Mineral Industry 2010*. Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources and Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Special Report 65.

¹² Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (2012). *List of contaminated site summaries by region*. Retrieved July 31, 2012 from <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/list.htm>.

¹³ See footnote 4.

¹⁴ Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

¹⁵ Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (n.d.). *Alaska Local and Regional Information Database*. Retrieved June 15, 2012 from <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/alari/>.

Public Health Facility, City of Fort Yukon, Alaska Commercial Company, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Cruz Construction Inc., Gwandak Public Broadcasting Inc., and the Gwitchyaa Zhee Native Corporation. The school district is the largest employer. Winter tourism is becoming increasingly popular. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) operates an emergency firefighting base at the airport and the U.S. Air Force operates a White Alice Communications System in Fort Yukon. Trapping and Native handicrafts also provide income. Residents rely on subsistence foods – salmon, whitefish, moose, bear, caribou, and waterfowl provide most meat sources.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS)¹⁶ estimated 212 residents as employed in that time period. An estimated 68.0% of residents aged 16 years and over were part of the civilian labor force in 2010. In that year, unemployment was estimated at 14.6%, compared to 5.9% statewide; and an estimated 20.6% of residents were living below the poverty line, compared to an estimated 9.5% of Alaskan residents overall. Of those employed in 2010, an estimated 28.8% worked in the private sector and an estimated 71.2% worked in the public sector.

In 2010, the estimated per capita income was \$15,350 and the estimated median household income was \$37,083, compared to \$13,360 and \$29,375 in 2000, respectively. After adjusting for inflation by converting 2000 values into 2010 dollars,¹⁷ the real per capita income (\$17,568) and real median household income (\$38,628) indicate that both individual earnings and household earnings increased slightly. In 2010, Fort Yukon ranked 165th of 305 communities from which per capita income was estimated, and 243rd of 299 communities from which median household income was estimated.

Fort Yukon's small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ According to the ALARI database, residents earned \$6.96 million in total wages in 2010.²⁰ When paired with the 2010 Decennial Census population, the per capita income is \$11,943, which was significantly less than the 2010 ACS estimate and suggests that caution is warranted when citing an increase in per capita income in Fort Yukon based on ACS data.

Fort Yukon's economy was relatively diverse in 2010. By industry, most (33.5%) employed residents were estimated to work in public administration sectors; followed by education services, health care, and social assistance sectors (26.9%); and construction sectors (10.8%) (Figure 3). Compared with 2000, significant proportional increases occurred in construction, transportation, warehousing, and utilities sectors. However, there was a significant

¹⁶ 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>.

¹⁷ Inflation was calculated using the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for 2010 (retrieved January 5, 2012 from the Alaska Department of Labor, <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/cpi/inflationcalc.htm>).

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ ALARI estimates based on wages reported for unemployment insurance purposes. Estimates do not include self-employed or federally employed residents.

²⁰ See footnote 15.

drop in the percentage of the workforce estimated to be employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining sectors from 4.2% in 2000, to an estimated 0.0% in 2010.

By occupation type, most (35.4%) employed residents were estimated to hold management or professional positions in 2010; followed by natural resources, construction, or maintenance positions (29.2%); sales or office positions (14.2%); service positions (13.7%); and production, transportation, and material moving positions (7.5%) (Figure 4). Compared to 2000, significant proportional decreases occurred in sales and office occupations, and significant proportional increases occurred in natural resource, construction, and maintenance occupations. According to ALARI estimates, in 2010, residents were mostly employed as construction workers (20.3%), laborers and freight, stock, and material movers (17.8%), and teachers (14.5%).²¹

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

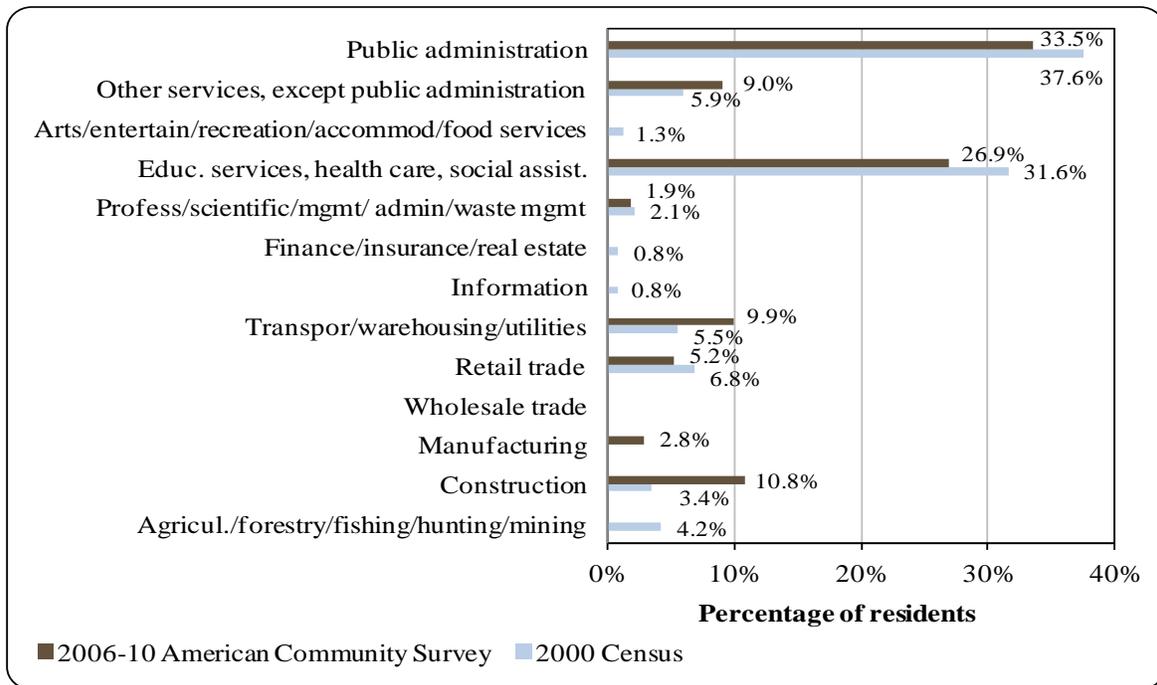
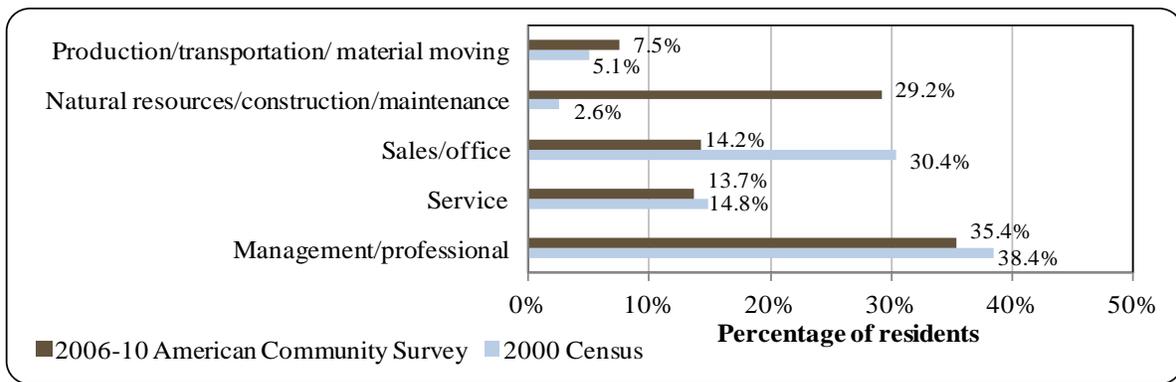


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Fort Yukon (U.S. Census).



²¹ Ibid.

Governance

Fort Yukon is a 2nd Class City governed by a manager, or “Strong Mayor”, form of government. There are seven city council members including the Mayor, seven school board members, and five municipal employees. The City administers a 3% sales tax. It was incorporated in 1959 and is not located in an organized borough.²² The total municipal revenue increased over the decade, from \$1.8 million in 2000 to \$2.6 million in 2010. In addition to sales tax revenues, other locally-generated income sources in Fort Yukon during the 2000-2010 period included charges for city services such as water and sewer, construction, and the liquor store, rental revenue, gaming proceeds, and investment earnings. Outside revenue sources included various sources of shared revenue from the State of Alaska as well as state and federal grants. Shared revenue programs State Revenue Sharing (2000-2003) and Community Revenue Sharing (2010 and 2009). Although sizeable intergovernmental grant funding was received in Fort Yukon each year, none were reported to be fisheries-related. See Table 2 below for more details on selected revenue streams for Fort Yukon from 2000 to 2010.

Table 2. Selected Municipal, State, or Federal Revenue Streams for the Community of Fort Yukon 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	\$1,753,370	\$102,733	\$16,220	n/a
2001	\$1,740,886	\$100,048	\$19,768	n/a
2002	\$1,669,725	\$115,408	\$19,825	n/a
2003	\$1,630,250	\$99,279	\$10,000	n/a
2004	\$1,605,794	\$113,899	\$40,000	n/a
2005	\$2,106,972	\$130,162	n/a	n/a
2006	\$2,211,445	\$131,094	n/a	n/a
2007	\$2,590,947	\$98,715	n/a	n/a
2008	\$2,642,001	\$104,104	n/a	n/a
2009	\$2,446,426	\$140,318	\$126,457	n/a
2010	\$2,556,682	\$143,316	\$125,945	n/a

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 at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm. Data retrieved April 15, 2011.

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

³ Alaska Dept. of Rev. (n.d.). *(2000-2009) Taxes and Fees Annual Report*. Accessed at www.tax.state.ak.us. Data retrieved April 15, 2011.

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 at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm. Data retrieved April 15, 2011.

²² 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.

Fort Yukon was included under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), and is federally recognized as a Native village. The authorized traditional entity, recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), is the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwitch'in Tribe (formerly known as the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwitch'in Tribe).²³ The local village Native corporation is Gwichyaa Zhee Corporation, which manages 214,479 acres of land. The regional Native corporation to which Fort Yukon belongs is Doyon, Limited. In addition, offices of the Canyon Village Traditional Council and the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Incorporated are located in Fort Yukon. The Canyon Village Traditional Council was included under ANCSA, but has not yet received a land conveyance.²⁴

The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwitch'in Tribe and Canyon Village Traditional Council are both members of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, a tribal 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in Fairbanks. It is a consortium of 42 villages of Interior Alaska that works to meet “the health and social service challenges for more than 10,000 Alaska Natives spread across a region of 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska.” The non-profit provides health and tribal development services, as well as educational and employment services to individuals of member tribes.²⁵ The Tanana Chiefs Conference is one of the 12 regional Alaska Native non-profit organizations that were identified under ANCSA and charged with naming incorporators to create regional for-profit corporations. Today, these regional Native associations receive federal funding to administer a broad range of services to villages in their regions.²⁶ In addition, Both Gwichyaa Zhee and Canyon Village Tribal Councils are members of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), a grassroots organization founded in 1985 to promote tribal self-governance. CATG provides health and education services to communities, and its Natural Resources Department manages “self-governance Annual Funding Agreements” with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management.²⁷

The closest offices of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, and U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services are located in Fairbanks. Anchorage hosts the nearest office of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Infrastructure

Connectivity and Transportation

Fort Yukon is accessible by air year-round and by barge on the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers during the summer months. Heavy cargo is brought in by barge from the end of May through mid-September. There is a barge off-loading area but no dock. Riverboats and skiffs are used for recreation, hunting, fishing, and other subsistence activities. A state-owned 5,810 foot

²³ Gwichyaa Zhee Gwitch'in Tribal Government (2010). *Welcome to the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwitch'in Tribal Government*. Retrieved November 1, 2012 from <http://www.fortyukon.org/index.html>.

²⁴ See footnote 22.

²⁵ Tanana Chiefs Conference (2007). *History*. Retrieved January 9, 2012 from <http://www.tananachiefs.org/>.

²⁶ U.S. Government Accountability Office (2005). *Alaska Native Villages: Report to Congressional Addressees and the Alaska Federation of Natives*. Retrieved February 7, 2012 from <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05719.pdf>.

²⁷ Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (Spring 2012). *Unity Newsletter*. Retrieved November 1, 2012 from <http://www.catg.org/UNITY/Unity-2012-Spring.pdf>.

long by 150 foot wide lighted gravel airstrip is available.²⁸ As of June 2012, roundtrip airfare from Anchorage to Fort Yukon costs \$599.²⁹ Hospital Lake, adjacent to the airport, is used by floatplanes. There are 17 miles of local roads and over 100 automobiles and trucks. The city transit bus system provides transport throughout the town. Snowmobiles and dog sleds are used on area trails or the frozen river, which becomes an ice road to nearby villages during winter.³⁰

Facilities

Electricity in Fort Yukon is provided by Gwitchyaa Zhee Utilities, which is operated by the Village corporation. Water is derived from two wells and is treated and stored in a 110,000-gallon tank. A combination of piped water, water delivery, and individual wells serve households. A flush/haul system, septic tanks, honey buckets, and outhouses are used for sewage disposal. Approximately half of all homes are plumbed. The piped water system and household septic tanks were installed in 1984. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) operates an emergency firefighting base at the airport and the U.S. Air Force operates a White Alice Communications System in Fort Yukon. The City also has a youth center and a community center gym. In addition, a tribal council hall is under construction. The City maintains its own police force, fire department, and has an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Rescue Squad.³¹

Medical Services

Medical services in Fort Yukon include the Fort Yukon Public Health Office and the Yukon Flats Health Center, both of which are operated by the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments. The Yukon Flats Health Center is a qualified emergency care center. As an isolated town/sub-regional center, Fort Yukon is part of the Interior Emergency Medical Services Region. Emergency Services include river and air access and are within 30 minutes of a higher-level satellite health care facility. Emergency service is provided by 911 telephone service volunteers and a health aide. The nearest hospital is located in Fairbanks.

Educational Opportunities

The city of Fort Yukon has one school, which offers a pre-school through 12th grade education. As of 2011, the Fort Yukon School had 117 students and 14 teachers. In that same year, the Yukon Flats School District had a total of 7 schools, 31 teachers, and 264 students. The student/teacher ratio was 9.6, and 95% of students were Alaska Native.³²

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ Airfare was calculated using lowest fare. <http://www.travelocity.com> (retrieved November 22, 2011).

³⁰ See footnote 28.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

History and Evolution of Fisheries

Fishing in Fort Yukon is shaped by a deep history of salmon fishing along the Yukon River. Historically, salmon was harvested for subsistence purposes by indigenous people living along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers, as well as for food for sled dogs. The first recorded commercial harvest of salmon in the Yukon River fishery took place in 1918, and early harvests were relatively large. Concerns about providing sufficient salmon resources for subsistence harvest led to limitations on commercial salmon fishing during several periods, including a complete commercial fishing closure between 1925 and 1931. In the 1980s, concerns about possible overharvest of Chinook runs led to reduced commercial fisheries in the late 1980s and 1990s along the Yukon River. Poor returns in the late 1990s and early 2000s resulted in restrictive management of the commercial fishery and complete closure in 2001 to ensure subsistence resources.³³ Yukon River Chinook runs showed signs of improvement for several years following the 2001 commercial closure, but low returns required restricted commercial harvest in 2008 and complete closure of Chinook harvest in 2009. A fishery disaster was declared that year.³⁴ A fishery disaster was again declared for the 2012 season, when the commercial Chinook salmon fishery was closed and subsistence fishery was significantly restricted. ADF&G, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, and constituents are working together to develop a conservation plan that restricts Chinook harvest while allowing for greater harvest of more abundance species, including gear and other management restrictions.³⁵

Like Yukon Chinook salmon runs, chum salmon runs have seen poor returns since 1998. A relatively strong run in 2007 led to some effort to redevelop the Yukon chum fishery, but this process is challenged by the need to reduce incidental harvest of co-migrating Chinook salmon. Further, beginning in 2008, the fall chum salmon run has not been large enough to provide for commercial opportunity. From 2008 to 2010, management actions have been taken to delay commercial fishing to provide for escapement and subsistence use.³⁶

In years when commercial salmon fishing is open, fishing is allowed along the entire 1,200 miles of the main stem of the Yukon River, as well as 225 miles of the Tanana River. There are 7 fishing districts, 10 subdistricts, and 28 statistical areas. Fort Yukon is located in the Upper Yukon Area of the Yukon Salmon Fishery, in Subdistrict 5d. Chinook, chum, and coho are the three species of salmon that have significant runs far into Interior Alaska and Canada. Fishing in the Upper Yukon Area takes place using drift gillnets and fish weirs.³⁷ Participation

³³ 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>.

³⁴ Upton, Harold F. 2010. *Commercial Fishery Disaster Assistance*. Congressional Research Service Report for Congress. Retrieved October 3, 2012 from <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34209.pdf>.

³⁵ Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. 2012. *2012 Alaska Chinook Salmon Fishery Disaster – FAQ*. Retrieved October, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hottopics.federalChinookdisaster>.

³⁶ Wolfe, R.J. and C. Scott. (2010). *Continuity and Change in Salmon Harvest Patterns, Yukon River Drainage, Alaska*. Final Report for Study 07-253, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

³⁷ See footnote 33.

rates by commercial fishermen on the middle and upper Yukon River have been much lower and more variable than on the lower Yukon River.³⁸

The history and present involvement of Fort Yukon in commercial fishing is minimal, yet residents do engage in recreational and subsistence fishing. For example, in 2010, residents held a total of 176 sportfishing licenses and many residents were engaged in subsistence fishing, with salmon species being the most targeted for subsistence fishing, with 174 subsistence salmon permits issued in 2007 (see the *Recreational Fishing* and *Subsistence Fishing* sections of this profile). In 2010, one commercial salmon permit was issued, with one permit holder (see the *Commercial Fishing* section). In short, Fort Yukon is proof that communities of Alaska's interior rely on fishing, especially salmon resources, to thrive, even if their engagement in the commercial fishing sector is minimal.

Given that Fort Yukon is more than 400 miles from the coast, no federal fisheries regulatory areas are located within the immediate vicinity. Fort Yukon is not eligible for the Community Quota Entity program or the Community Development Quota program.

Processing Plants

According to ADF&G's 2010 Intent to Operate list, Fort Yukon does not have a registered shore-side processing plant. The nearest processing plant is in Fairbanks.

Fisheries-Related Revenue

Based on the best available data and reporting system, Fort Yukon yielded no fisheries-related revenue between 2000 and 2010 (Table 3).

Commercial Fishing

While commercial salmon fishing is allowed along the entire 1,200-mile length of the mainstem Yukon River, Fort Yukon's involvement in commercial fishing is minimal. Between 2000 and 2010, one resident held one Upper Yukon salmon permit issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). However, that permit was not actively fished during those years. No residents held Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP) or License Limitation Program (LLP) permits between 2000 and 2010. In addition, no residents held quota share accounts in federal catch share fisheries for halibut, sablefish, or crab between 2000 and 2010. No commercial landings were reported in Fort Yukon between 2000 and 2010, nor did any residents of Fort Yukon report any commercial landings during this time period. Information regarding commercial fishing trends can be found in Tables 4 through 10.

³⁸ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (n.d.). *Commercial Fisheries Overview: Yukon Management Area*. Retrieved July 31, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=commercialbyareayukon.main>.

Table 3. Known Fisheries-Related Revenue (in U.S. dollars) Received by the Community of Fort Yukon: 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>	n/a										
<i>Total municipal revenue⁵</i>	\$1,753,370	\$1,740,886	\$1,669,725	\$1,630,250	\$1,605,794	\$2,106,972	\$2,211,445	\$2,590,947	\$2,642,001	\$2,446,426	\$2,556,682

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.

Table 4. Permits and Permit Holders by Species in Fort Yukon: 2000-2010.

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (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
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	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
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	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
Halibut (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
Herring (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

Table 4 cont'd. Permits and Permit Holders by Species in Fort Yukon: 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	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 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	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total permit holders	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Total CFEC Permits²</i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>1</i>										
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>0</i>										
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>0%</i>										
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>1</i>										

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

¹National 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, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

²Alaska 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 Fort Yukon: 2000-2010.

Year	Crew Licenses 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 Fort Yukon ²	Total Net Pounds Landed in Fort Yukon ^{2,5}	Total Ex-Vessel Value of Landings in Fort Yukon ^{2,5}
2000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2001	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2003	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2010	0	0	0	0	0	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 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.]

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 Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 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 Fort Yukon: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0
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 7. Sablefish Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Fort Yukon: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Holders	Sablefish Quota Shares Held	Sablefish IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0
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 8. Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Crab Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Fort Yukon: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Crab Quota Share 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 Fort Yukon: 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 Fort Yukon 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	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.

Recreational Fishing

Between 2000 and 2010, there were no active sport fish guide businesses or licensed sport fish guides present in Fort Yukon. However, a large number of Fort Yukon residents participated in sportfishing activities during this period. In 2010, a total of 176 Fort Yukon residents were issued sportfishing licenses (irrespective of point of sale), which represents approximately 30% of the population in that year. In most years between 2000 and 2010, fewer sportfishing licenses were sold in Fort Yukon than were issued to Fort Yukon residents, suggesting that some local residents travel elsewhere to undertake recreational fishing activities. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of sportfishing permits issued to Fort Yukon residents has ranged from 21 to 176, and the number of sportfishing licenses sold in the community during this same ranged from 0 to 155.

Fort Yukon is located within the Yukon River Drainage Alaska Sport Fishing Survey Area. Saltwater fishing in the region was minimal. There were no saltwater angler days fished reported in this survey area between 2004 and 2010. Between 2000 and 2004, the number of saltwater angler days fished by non-Alaska residents decreased from 81 in 2000 to 17 in 2004, but was minimal nonetheless. The number of saltwater angler days fished by Alaska residents was also minimal and was highly variable between 2000 and 2003, and there were no saltwater angler days fished by Alaska residents between 2004 and 2010. Freshwater fishing in the region was much more significant. Between 2000 and 2010, freshwater angler days fished varied considerably for both Alaska residents and non-Alaska residents. Alaska residents fished consistently more angler days in freshwater in this region between 2000 and 2010, averaging 7,355 angler days fished per year compared to an average of 3,861 angler days fished by non-Alaska residents. Further information about the sportfishing sector in and near Fort Yukon is presented in Table 11.

Table 11. Sport Fishing Trends, Fort Yukon: 2000-2010.

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses¹	Sport Fish Guide Licenses¹	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents²	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Fort Yukon²
2000	0	0	21	0
2001	0	0	96	109
2002	0	0	107	93
2003	0	0	122	103
2004	0	0	69	72
2005	0	0	74	82
2006	0	0	85	69
2007	0	0	153	120
2008	0	0	158	127
2009	0	0	164	155
2010	0	0	176	148

Table 11. Cont. Sport Fishing Trends, Fort Yukon: 2000-2010.

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	81	45	3,345	7,878
2001	29	14	4,063	6,454
2002	0	89	5,761	9,194
2003	0	17	3,344	5,756
2004	17	0	5,479	7,613
2005	0	0	4,182	4,783
2006	0	0	3,607	7,816
2007	0	0	3,168	8,226
2008	0	0	2,573	10,400
2009	0	0	2,969	7,639
2010	0	0	3,983	5,151

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).

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence fishing by residents of Fort Yukon is heavily focused on salmon on the Yukon River, and non-salmon fish also play an important role. Summer salmon subsistence activities are usually in full swing by June and early July as Chinook salmon begin to arrive and are harvested using set gill nets and fish wheels. The Chinook salmon run is followed by the chum salmon in mid-August. Northern pike and Arctic grayling are harvested with rod and reel, while sheefish are harvested in nets along with salmon. Fish wheels are used mainly in the late summer and fall for the late chum run, whereas nets are preferred for Chinook salmon. Freshwater fish species continue to be harvested throughout the winter. Along with the species noted above, common freshwater fish species utilized by Fort Yukon residents include several species of whitefish, cisco, burbot, and longnose sucker.³⁹

Limited information is available from ADF&G regarding the participation of Fort Yukon households in subsistence harvest: 29% of households were estimated to participate in subsistence harvest of non-salmon fish in 2005, but no estimates were available regarding other

³⁹ Sumida, V. A., and D. B. Anderson., (1990). *Patterns of Fish and Wildlife Harvest for Subsistence in Fort Yukon, Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Technical Paper No. 179. Retrieved November 1, 2012 from <http://www.arlis.org/docs/vol11/A/31109074.pdf>.

subsistence resources (Table 12). However, detailed information is available regarding subsistence harvest of salmon. Between 2000 and 2008, the number of subsistence salmon permits issued to Fort Yukon households ranged from 151 to 174. In 2008, the year for which the most recent data were available, Fort Yukon residents were estimated to have harvested 1,991 Chinook salmon, 14,482 chum salmon, 1,618 coho salmon, and 196 pink salmon, compared to 2000 when 976 Chinook salmon, 331 chum salmon, 120 coho salmon, and four sockeye salmon were harvested (Table 13).

According to ADF&G *Community Subsistence Information System* (CSIS) data, Fort Yukon residents have historically harvested or used non-salmon fish species including burbot, cisco, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, whitefish, trout, lamprey, northern pike, sheefish, and longnose sucker. The only official documentation of harvests of these species between 2000 and 2010, however, was in 2005, when harvest of almost 16,000 lbs of non-salmon fish was reported (Table 13).

No data were reported by management agencies regarding subsistence harvest of halibut (Table 14) or marine mammal species (Table 15) during the 2000-2010 period.

Additional Information

Fort Yukon is situated 8 miles north of the Arctic Circle, and is home to the largest Athabascan Village in the Interior. Many Native residents belong to the Gwich'in Indian Tribe. Fort Yukon rests on the most northern point of the Yukon River and visitors can find air services and tours to the Arctic Circle.

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Fort Yukon: 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	29%	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, Fort Yukon: 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	171	28	976	331	120	n/a	4	n/a	n/a
2001	174	46	2,361	2,498	972	n/a	69	n/a	n/a
2002	166	47	2,348	5,355	14	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	164	56	4,004	10,137	244	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	161	45	4,430	8,489	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	151	57	3,591	8,155	394	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,954
2006	152	47	3,144	7,343	35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	152	47	3,144	7,343	35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	174	71	1,991	14,482	1,618	196	n/a	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, Fort Yukon: 2003-2010.

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a

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, Fort Yukon: 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.