

## **Nome**



### **People and Place**

#### *Location*<sup>1</sup>

Nome is located on the south coast of the Seward Peninsula, facing Norton Sound and the Bering Sea. It lies 539 air miles northwest of Anchorage, 102 miles south of the Arctic Circle, and 161 miles east of Russia. Nome is located in the Cape Nome Recording District and the Nome Census Area. The City encompasses 12.5 square miles of land and 9.1 square miles of water.

#### *Demographic Profile*<sup>2</sup>

In 2010, there were 3,598 residents in Nome, ranking it as the 30<sup>th</sup> largest of 352 communities in Alaska with recorded populations that year. Between 1990 and 2010, the population of Nome stayed relatively stable, increasing by 2.8% overall. According to Alaska Department of Labor estimates, between 2000 and 2009, the population of permanent residents decreased by 1.1%. However, the average annual growth rate over this period was slightly positive (0.12%), reflecting small increases and decreases from year to year and an overall slight upward population trend. According to a survey conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) in 2011, community leaders reported that an additional 500 individuals are present in Nome as seasonal workers or transients. The leaders indicated that these seasonal workers are present in Nome throughout the year, and that Nome's population typically peaks in July. They indicated that the peak is somewhat driven by employment in the fishing industry, and that seasonal workers are also employed in construction and gold mining industries, and at the local hospital. In addition to transient seasonal workers, community leaders estimated that 15-30 permanent residents work seasonally in the local shore-side seafood processing facility.

In 2010, over half of the population of Nome identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native (54.8%), along with 30.4% who identified as White, 2.2% as Asian, 0.5% as Black or African American, 0.3% as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.5% as "some other race", and 11.4% who identified with two or more races. In addition, 2.4% of Nome residents identified themselves as Hispanic in 2010. The percentage of the population that identified themselves as White decreased over time, from 45% in 1990 and 37.9% in 2000, to 30.4% in 2010. The percentage of the population that identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native decreased between 1990 and 2000, from 52.1% to 51%, and then increased again to 54.8% in 2010. The change in population from 1990 to 2010 is provided in Table 1, and changes in racial and ethnic composition from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Figure 1.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

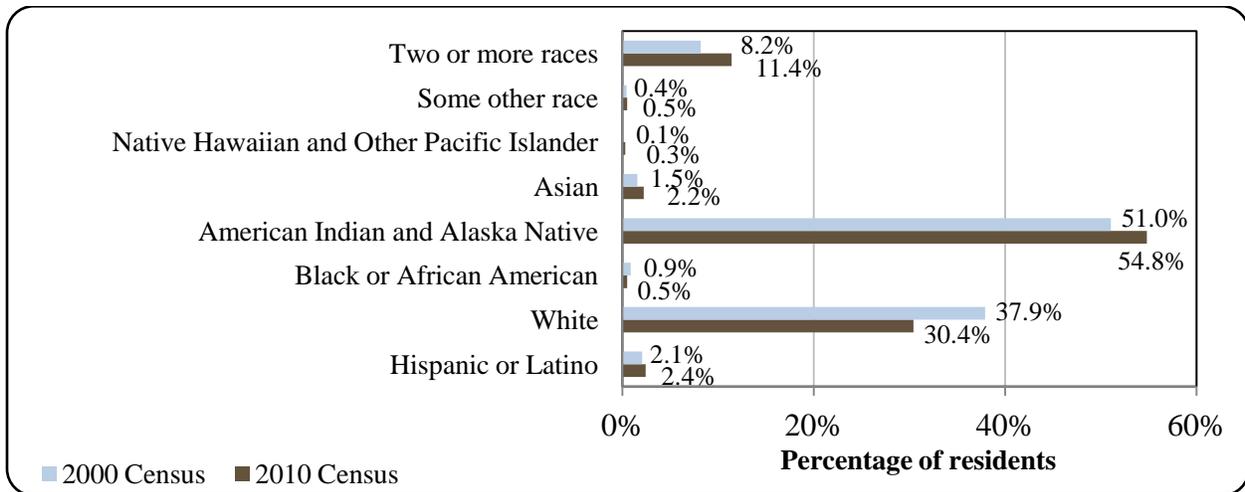
Table 1. Population in Nome from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census <sup>1</sup>	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents <sup>2</sup>
1990	3,500	-
2000	3,505	-
2001	-	3,485
2002	-	3,482
2003	-	3,412
2004	-	3,481
2005	-	3,512
2006	-	3,541
2007	-	3,481
2008	-	3,565
2009	-	3,468
2010	3,598	-

<sup>1</sup> (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>.

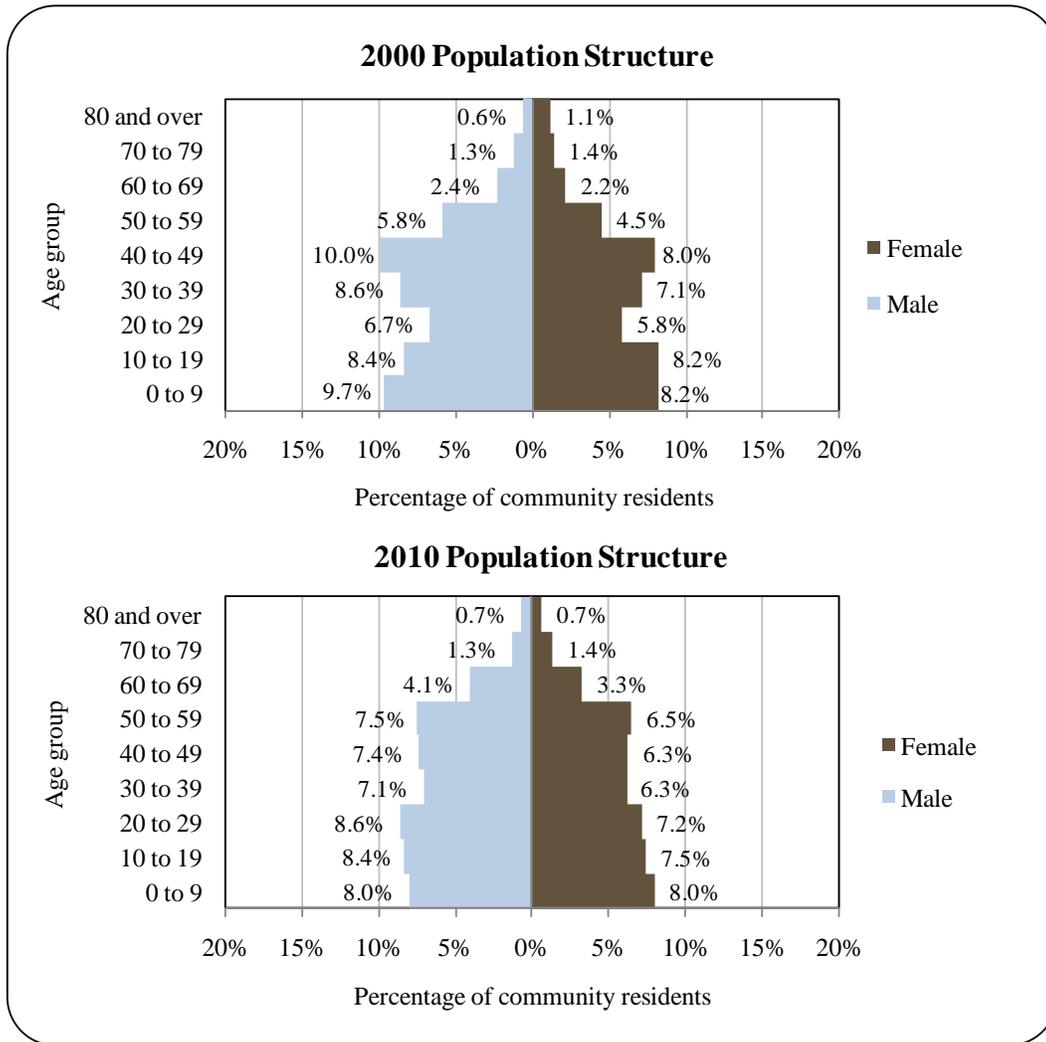
<sup>2</sup> Alaska Department of Labor. (2011). *Current population estimates for Alaskan Communities*. Retrieved April 15, 2011, from <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/pop/popest.htm>.

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



Based on household surveys conducted for the U.S. Census, the average household size in Nome was fairly consistent between 1990 and 2010, with 2.9 persons per household in 1990, 2.8 in 2000, and 2.8 in 2010. The number of households in Nome has increased over time, from 1,119 households in 1990 and 1,184 in 2000, to 1,216 in 2010. Of the total 1,503 housing units surveyed for the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, 37.1% were owner-occupied, 43.8% were rented, and 19.1% were vacant or used only seasonally. In 2010, 191 Nome residents were reported to be living in group quarters, up from 30 living in group quarters in 1990, but a slight decrease from 202 living in group quarters in the year 2000.

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



In 2010, the gender makeup of Nome’s population (53.1% male and 46.9% female) was more weighted toward males than the population of the state as a whole, which had 52% males and 48% females. The median age of Nome residents was 31.8 years in 2010, slightly younger than the national average of 36.8 years and the median age for Alaska, 33.8 years. That year, 11.4% of Nome’s population was age 60 or older. The overall population structure of Nome in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 2.

In terms of educational attainment, according to the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS),<sup>3</sup> 89.9% of Nome residents aged 25 and over were estimated to hold a high school diploma or higher degree in 2010, compared to 90.7% of Alaskan residents overall. Also in

<sup>3</sup> 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.

2010, 2.7% of the population was estimated to have less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education, compared to 3.5% of Alaskan residents overall; 7.4% were estimated to have a 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade education but no diploma, compared to 5.8% of Alaskan residents overall; 25.6% were estimated to have some college but no degree, compared to 28.3% of Alaskan residents overall; 4.1% were estimated to have an Associate's degree, compared to 8% of Alaskan residents overall; 17.4% were estimated to have a Bachelor's degree, the same as the percentage of Alaskan residents overall; and 6.9% were estimated to have a graduate or professional degree, compared to 9.6% of Alaskan residents overall.

### *History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture*

Approximately 10 to 25 thousand years ago, during the Pleistocene Ice Age, the level of the ocean was approximately 300 feet lower than present levels. At that time, the Seward Peninsula was connected to the Asian continent via the Bering Land Bridge, which formed a flat, grassy, treeless plain.<sup>4</sup> The land bridge is thought to have been a primary route by which humans migrated to the North American continent from Asia. Archaeologists have identified evidence of human inhabitation in the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve dating to 12,000 years before the present.<sup>5</sup> Malemiut, Kauweramiut, and Unalikmiut Eskimos settled on the Seward Peninsula approximately 4,000 years ago. Today, many Native residents of Nome trace their ancestry to these three distinct groups of Eskimo people, and currently identify with Inupiat culture.<sup>6</sup> The community is a mixture of Native and non-Native residents. Subsistence activities are important in the community. It is important to note that former villagers from King Island also live in Nome.<sup>7</sup>

The largest pre-contact settlements on the Western Seward Peninsula were located at sites with the greatest access to marine mammals, an important subsistence resource. Other communities were scattered along the coast, often used seasonally for access to fish and wildlife resources.<sup>8</sup> Until recently, Nome was not thought to have been a settlement site prior to Western contact and the discovery of gold in the area in the late 1800s. However, the 2005 discovery of the remains of a 300-year-old semi-subterranean house on the Snake River Sandspit in Nome provides evidence that the Native people lived here prior to the arrival of Westerners. A second semi-subterranean house and trash midden were discovered in 2006. Radio carbon dating of animal bones from the midden suggest that Inupiat Eskimos may have lived at the site as early as 1700 AD.<sup>9</sup> Russians were active in the area starting in the mid-late 1800s. A large-scale fur trade

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<sup>4</sup> National Park Service (2010). *Shared Beringian Heritage Program*. Retrieved February 22, 2012 from <http://www.nps.gov/akso/beringia/>.

<sup>5</sup> National Park Service (2009). *Bering Land Bridge National Preserve*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.nps.gov/bela/>.

<sup>6</sup> Nome Planning Commission (2003). *City of Nome Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.nwcommission.org/images/Nome-HZM-Plan.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>8</sup> Scientific Technical Committee, Norton Sound Steering Committee (2003). *Research and Restoration Plan for Norton Sound Salmon*. Retrieved February 21, 2012 from <http://69.93.224.39/~aykssi/wp-content/uploads/NS-RR-Plan-rev.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Richardson, P. May 23, 2007. Army Corps of Engineers Makes Important Archaeological Find. *U.S. Army*. Retrieved September 10, 2013 from <http://www.army.mil/article/3311/>.

was developed, and support services for whaling and trading ships increased trade activity in the Bering Strait region.<sup>10</sup>

The first reports of the discovery of gold in the area date to 1865, when Western Union surveyors entered the area seeking a route across Alaska and the Bering Sea. The Nome gold rush officially began with the \$1500-to-the-pan gold strike on tiny Anvil Creek in 1898 by three Scandinavians, Jafet Lindeberg, Erik Lindblom, and John Brynteson. This strike brought thousands of miners to the area, which was termed the “Eldorado.” Almost overnight, the isolated stretch of tundra fronting the beach was transformed into a tent-and-log cabin city of 20,000 prospectors, gamblers, claim jumpers, saloon keepers, and prostitutes. The gold-bearing creeks had already been almost completely staked when an entrepreneur discovered the “golden sands of Nome.” With nothing more than shovels, buckets, rockers and wheel barrows, thousands of idle miners descended upon the beaches. Two months later the golden sands had yielded one million dollars in gold (at \$16 an ounce). A narrow-gauge railroad and telephone line from Nome to Anvil Creek was built in 1900. The City of Nome was incorporated in 1901. By 1902, the more easily reached gold claims were exhausted and large mining companies with better equipment took over the mining operations. Since the first strike on tiny Anvil Creek, Nome’s gold fields have yielded a total of \$136 million. The gradual depletion of gold, a major influenza epidemic in 1918, the Great Depression, and World War II each influenced Nome’s population.<sup>11,12</sup> Nome’s role in war history was to serve as a station for troops and supplies during World War II.<sup>13</sup>

During the gold boom, the Seward Peninsula’s only link to the outside world was by dogsled. Until the early 1900s, all winter dogsled travel to Nome went via Valdez and Fairbanks. In 1908, Major Wilds Richardson ordered Walter Goodwin and a crew of three to blaze a more direct trail from Seward, through Cook Inlet country, and further on to Nome. The trail was made famous in 1925 when an epidemic of diphtheria broke out in Nome. Lacking sufficient serum to treat community members, a wire was sent for help. Twenty mushers carried the serum 674 miles in 127.5 hours. They were greeted as heroes, and the story is the inspiration for the modern day Iditarod competition.<sup>14</sup>

The first commercial airplane flight from Fairbanks to Nome took place in 1925, bringing the era of dogsleds as a primary means of long-distance transportation to an end. In 1934, a disastrous fire started in the Golden Gate Hotel. No one was killed, but 65 businesses and 90 homes were destroyed, leaving many people in danger of starvation as winter approached.<sup>15</sup>

## Natural Resources and Environment

Nome is located in a transitional climate zone, with maritime, continental, and arctic influences. January temperatures range between -50 and 11 °F, and July temperatures average between 44 and 65 °F. Average annual precipitation is 18 inches, along with 56 inches of

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<sup>10</sup> See footnote 8.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Nome Planning Commission (2003). *City of Nome Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.nwcommission.org/images/Nome-HZM-Plan.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (n.d.). *Historic Overview*. Retrieved December 14, 2011 from <http://www.iditarodnationalhistorictail.org/>.

<sup>15</sup> See footnote 12.

snowfall. Permafrost underlies the Nome area, although waterfront areas have thawed.<sup>16</sup> The landscape of the southern Seward Peninsula is characterized by a coastal plain dotted with lakes and ponds, rising to 200 feet at Anvil Mountain, 4.5 miles north of Nome. Several mountains of between 1,000 and 2,000 feet are located in the general vicinity, and the higher Kigluaik Mountains are located 35 miles north of the City. The Snake River crosses the coastal plain and enters Norton Sound at Nome, while the Penny and Nome Rivers have their outlets nearby.<sup>17</sup>

Nome is located approximately 75 miles south of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. The National Preserve was established with the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) with the purpose of habitat protection and archaeological and paleontological study of the process of plant and animal migration, including man, between North America and the Asian Continent. Populations of wildlife residing within the National Preserve include marine mammals, brown bears, moose, wolves, and muskoxen.<sup>18</sup> Muskoxen were reintroduced to the Seward Peninsula as part of an Alaska-wide recovery effort. In 1934, 34 muskoxen were captured in East Greenland and transported to Nunivak Island. By 1968, the Nunivak Island herd numbered 750, and was used as a seed population to reintroduce muskoxen to areas around northern Alaska. By 2000, the population of muskoxen on the Seward Peninsula numbered 1,800.<sup>19</sup> The Bering Strait region also provides essential habitat for rare migratory birds, including ducks, geese, swan, crane, eiders, murre, and auklets.<sup>20</sup>

The Norton Basin does not hold significant oil reserves, although it is estimated to contain valuable natural gas reserves. This area is rated as high to moderate in environmental sensitivity. No leases have been scheduled for the 2007-2012 or 2012-2017 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Programs.<sup>21,22</sup>

True to its rich gold mining history, several small gold mines are still present in the Nome area.<sup>23</sup> Operations at Rock Creek Mine, owned by the company NovaGold, were temporarily suspended in 2008.<sup>24</sup> As of 2010, the company was working to comply with clean water requirements and was looking for future ways to bring value from the property,<sup>25</sup> but as of

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Alaska Consultants (1986). *Nome Comprehensive Development Plan*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/Nome-CP-1968.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> National Park Service (2009). *Bering Land Bridge National Preserve*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.nps.gov/bela/>.

<sup>19</sup> Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (2008). *Muskox – Wildlife Notebook Series*. Retrieved December 15, 2011 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/education/wns/muskox.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> City of Nome. (2003). *Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Updated January 2003. Retrieved December 5, 2012 from <http://www.nwcommission.org/images/Nome-HZM-Plan.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> Minerals Management Service (2010). *Preliminary Revised Program Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program 2007-2012*. Retrieved January 6, 2012 from <http://www.boemre.gov/>.

<sup>22</sup> Minerals Management Service (2011). *Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program 2012-2017*. Retrieved February 16, 2012 from <http://www.boemre.gov/>.

<sup>23</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>24</sup> NovaGold Nome Operations, Rock Creek Mine. 2009. *Final Temporary Closure Plan, Alaska Gold Company. Final Version, February 20, 2009*. Retrieved September 10, 2013 from <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/rockcreek/pdf/closureplan2.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> NovaGold. July 13, 2010. *NovaGold Second Quarter Financial Results and Projects Update*. Retrieved September 10, 2013 from <http://novagold.mwnewsroom.com/press-release/NovaGold-Second-Quarter-Financial-Results-and-Projects-Update-TSX-NG-1289612>.

2013 the mine remained in “care and maintenance” status.<sup>26</sup> In 2010, Cedar Mountain Exploration Inc. staked almost 150 gold mining claims on the Seward Peninsula, NANA<sup>27</sup> Regional Corporation conducted exploration of a zinc-lead-silver prospect, and at least 28 individuals or other companies reported to have engaged in placer mining efforts for gold, tin, and polymetallic mineralization in the area.<sup>28</sup>

Historical gold mining activity on the Seward Peninsula has had a significant impact on fisheries resources in the area. Some type of mining occurred on nearly every stream on the Seward Peninsula, causing long-term habitat changes in and near Norton Sound salmon streams. Habitat has also been damaged by road building and gravel extraction, likely reducing salmon populations. The rapid increase in human population that coincided with the gold rush likely also impacted salmon stocks. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, salmon were used as the primary source of feed for sled dogs. With the Alaska Board of Fish’s Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (adopted April 2000), several area salmon stocks were listed as stocks of concern, including chum salmon stocks in the Nome, Golovin Bay, and Moses Point subdistricts of the Norton Sound District.<sup>29</sup>

Natural hazards identified in Nome include flooding, wildfires, earthquakes, tsunamis, severe weather, and erosion. Storm surges have historically been a source of significant damage to the City, contributing to shoreline erosion. Steel bulkheads were constructed several decades ago to maintain the position of the Snake River mouth. Jetties were constructed between 1919 and 1935 to prevent sand transport, although this resulted in catastrophic beach erosion further down the beach, and required the construction of a seawall. Nome is located near several fault lines, and the immediate area is at risk of earthquakes measuring 3 – 4.5 on the Richter scale. Severe winter weather is also a primary hazard in the Nome area.<sup>30</sup>

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), one active environmental cleanup site was present in the Nome area as of May 2012. The West Nome fuel tank farm has been operated by a variety of owners since the 1950s, and the current property owner is the U.S. Air Force. Substantial petroleum releases have entered the soil at the site, and contamination has spread underground to property bordering the site. ChevronTexaco and Nome Joint Utilities System are coordinating construction of a product recovery system. Contaminated soil will be excavated. Some will be disposed of at Nome’s landfill, and some will be treated.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Information provided by a Nome city official during community review of this profile. Feedback received July 24, 2012.

<sup>27</sup> The name of the regional Native corporation for the Northwest Arctic was originally derived from a pre-existing non-profit organization known as the Northwest Alaska Native Association (NANA). To avoid confusion, the non-profit was renamed Mauneluk, and later the Manillaq Association, and the corporation is known as NANA Regional Corporation. Source: Manillaq Association website (2003). *Company Information*. Retrieved February 2, 2012 from <http://www.maniilaq.org/companyInfo.html>.

<sup>28</sup> Szumigala, D.J., L.A. Harbo, and J.N. (2011) Adleman. *Alaska’s Mineral Industry 2010*. Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources and Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Special Report 65.

<sup>29</sup> Scientific Technical Committee, Norton Sound Steering Committee (2003). *Research and Restoration Plan for Norton Sound Salmon*. Retrieved February 21, 2012 from <http://69.93.224.39/~aykssi/wp-content/uploads/NS-RR-Plan-rev.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> City of Nome. (2003). *Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Updated January 2003. Retrieved December 5, 2012 from <http://www.nwcommission.org/images/Nome-HZM-Plan.pdf>.

<sup>31</sup> Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (n.d.). *List of Contaminated Sites by Region*. Retrieved April 17, 2012 from <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/list.htm>.

## Current Economy<sup>32</sup>

Nome serves as the regional center of supply, services, and transportation in the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region. Many government offices are located in Nome. State and local government services, the school district, retail businesses, utilities, transportation, mining, medical, and other businesses provide local year-round employment opportunities. As of 2010, the top three local employers in Nome were the Norton Sound Health Corporation, the State of Alaska, and Kawerak, Inc., the Native non-profit organization serving the Bering Strait region.<sup>33,34</sup> In addition, many residents engage in commercial fishing, and subsistence activities contribute to the local diet.<sup>35</sup> According to a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that the most important natural resource-based industries in Nome include mining, commercial fishing, sport hunting and fishing, and ecotourism.

Based on household surveys conducted for the 2006-2010 ACS,<sup>36</sup> in 2010, the per capita income in Nome was estimated to be \$33,726 and the median household income was estimated to be \$67,231. This represents an increase from the per capita and median household incomes reported in the year 2000 (\$23,402 and \$59,402, respectively). If inflation is taken into account by converting the 2000 values to 2010 dollars,<sup>37</sup> per capita income is revealed to have had a small increase, from a real per capita income of \$30,773 in 2000. In contrast, the real median household income in 2000 (\$78,113) is significantly higher than the 2010 figure, revealing a decrease in real household income over the decade. In 2010, Nome ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 305 Alaskan communities with per capita income data that year, and 53<sup>rd</sup> in median household income, out of 299 Alaskan communities with household income data.

However, Nome's small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions.<sup>38</sup> An alternative estimate of per capita income is provided by economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). If total wages reported in the ALARI database for 2010 are divided by the 2010 population reported by the U.S. Census, the resulting per capita income estimate for Nome in 2010 is \$20,472.<sup>39</sup> This estimate is slightly lower than the 2000 per capita income reported in by the U.S. Census, suggesting that caution is warranted when citing an increase in per capita income in Nome between 2000 and 2010. As of 2010, the Denali Commission did not consider Nome a

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<sup>32</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

<sup>33</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>34</sup> 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/>.

<sup>35</sup> See footnote 33.

<sup>36</sup> 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>.

<sup>37</sup> 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>).

<sup>38</sup> 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.

<sup>39</sup> See footnotes 34 and 36.

“distressed” community.<sup>40</sup> It should be noted that both ACS and DOLWD data are based on wage earnings, and these income statistics do not take into account the value of subsistence within the local economy.

Based on the 2006-2010 ACS, in 2010, a larger percentage of Nome’s population (75.7%) was estimated to be in the civilian labor force in 2010 compared to the percentage of the statewide population in the civilian labor force (68.8%). That same year, 5.7% of Nome residents were estimated to be living below the poverty line, compared to 9.5% of Alaskan residents overall, and the unemployment rate in Nome was estimated to be 7.7%, compared to a statewide unemployment rate of 5.9%. An additional estimate of unemployment is based on the ALARI database, which indicates that the unemployment rate in 2010 was 9.9%, compared to a statewide unemployment rate estimate of 11.5%.<sup>41</sup>

Also based on the 2006-2010 ACS, the majority of Nome’s workforce was estimated to be employed in the private sector (62.8%), along with 31.6% in the public sector and 5.7% that were estimated to be self-employed. Of the 1,834 people aged 16 and over that were estimated to be employed in the civilian labor force, the greatest number of workers were estimated to be employed in educational services, health care, and social assistance (30.7%), public administration (16.6%), retail trade (15.8%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (10.5%). An estimated 3.6% of the population identified themselves as working in agricultural, forestry, fishing, hunting or mining industries. However, the number of individuals employed in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations and industries may be underestimated in census statistics as fishermen may hold another job and characterize their employment accordingly. This information about employment by industry is presented in Figure 3, and employment is broken down by occupation in Figure 4.

An alternative estimate of employment is provided by economic data compiled in the ALARI database, which indicate that there were 1,778 employed residents in Nome in 2010, of which 27.2% were employed in educational and health services, 22.3% in trade, transportation, and utilities, 14.5% in local government, 11.4% in state government, 7.9% in leisure and hospitality, 5.7% in construction, 3.7% in financial activities, 1.8% in natural resources and mining, 1.6% in professional and business services, 0.9% in information, 0.1% in manufacturing, 0.6% in unknown industries, and 2.4% in other industries.<sup>42</sup> As with income statistics, it should also be noted that ACS and DOLWD employment statistics do not reflect residents’ activity in the subsistence economy.

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<sup>40</sup> Denali Commission (2011). *Distressed Community Criteria 2011 Update*. Retrieved April 16, 2012 from [www.denali.gov](http://www.denali.gov).

<sup>41</sup> See footnote 34.

<sup>42</sup> 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/>.

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

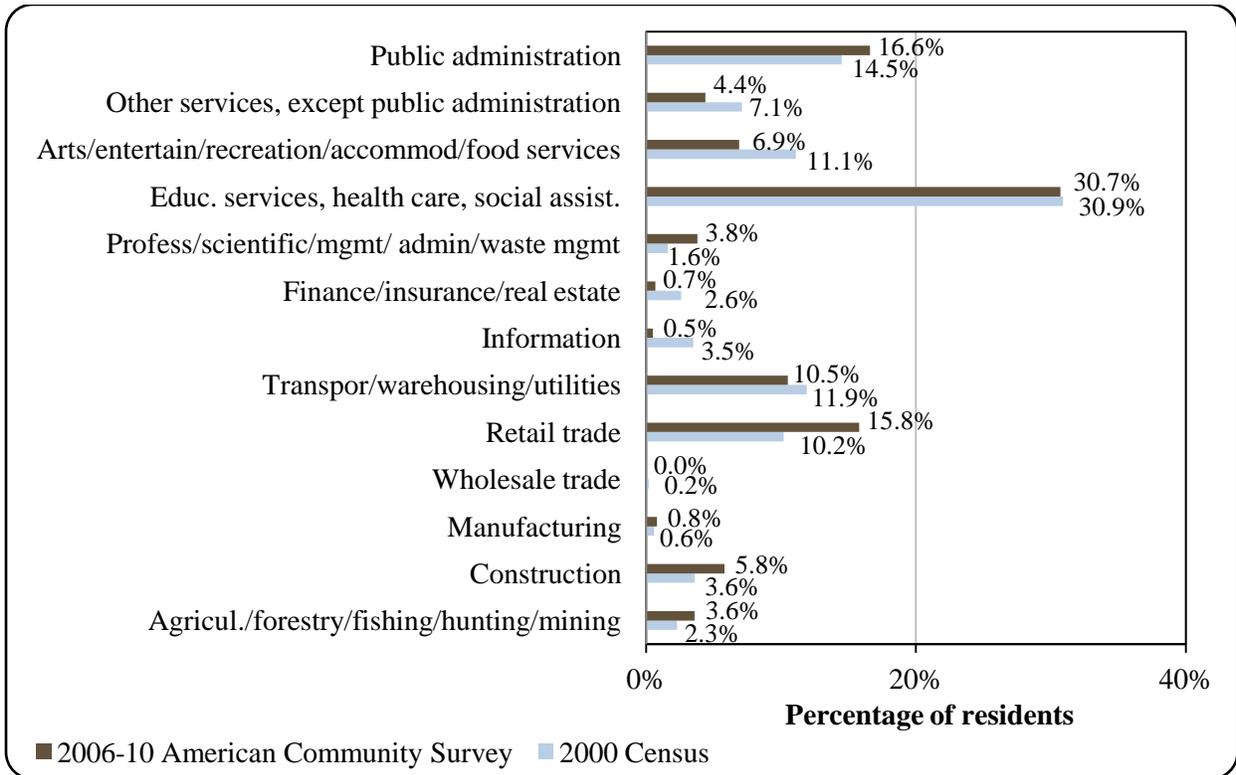
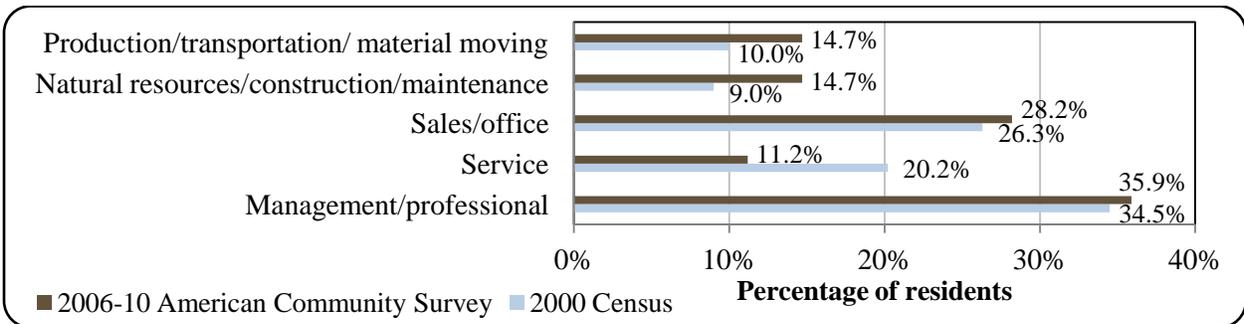


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Nome (U.S. Census).



## Governance

Nome is a 1<sup>st</sup> Class City, and is not located in an organized borough. The City was incorporated in 1901. It has a strong manager form of government. The Mayor is the Chief Executive Officer, and works closely with the appointed City Manager and a six-person city council. Nome has a five-member public school board, a five-person joint utilities board, seven-member planning commission, seven-member planning commission, five-member port commission, and nine-member library commission. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor

and approved by the city council. As of 2012, the city administered a 6% sales tax, 11.0 mills property tax, and 6% bed tax<sup>43</sup>

Nome’s total municipal revenue in 2010 was \$10,228,045, including \$4,427,911 in sales tax revenue. Municipal revenue increased by almost 70% between 2000 and 2010. The sales tax rate increased from 4% to 5% between 2003 and 2004, reflected in the significant increase in sales tax revenue between these years. It is also important to note that, from 2000 to 2003, Nome received State Revenue Sharing contributions of between \$126,457 and \$160,489 per year, and also received Community Revenue Sharing contributions of approximately \$270,000 per year in 2009 and 2010. In addition, Nome received fisheries-related grants in 2000-2004 and 2007. These grants included \$344,000 in 2000 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) for harbor maintenance dredging, \$10,000 in 2001 from the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) for construction of a harbormasters office, \$970,000 in 2002 from DCRA for a port construction project and harbor and dock construction and renovation, \$10 million in 2002 and \$36 million in 2003 from COE for harbor improvements and construction, \$1.6 million in 2003 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for harbor and dock construction, \$194,691 in 2003 from COE for Maintenance Dredging, and \$1 million in 2007 from the Denali Commission for a low-level dock float.<sup>44</sup> Information about selected aspects of revenue sources in Nome are presented in Table 2.

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

Year	Total Municipal Revenue <sup>1</sup>	Sales Tax Revenue <sup>2</sup>	State/Community Revenue Sharing <sup>3,4</sup>	Fisheries-Related Grants (State and Federal) <sup>5</sup>
2000	\$6,065,595	\$2,236,862	\$160,489	\$344,000
2001	\$6,176,718	\$2,535,440	\$131,307	\$10,000
2002	\$6,649,699	\$2,484,733	\$124,655	\$10,970,000
2003	\$7,065,869	\$2,608,876	\$126,457	\$37,645,882
2004	\$7,950,812	\$3,476,217	n/a	n/a
2005	\$8,427,890	\$3,822,330	n/a	n/a
2006	\$8,192,353	\$3,658,511	n/a	n/a
2007	\$8,554,367	\$4,198,571	n/a	\$1,000,000
2008	\$9,722,818	\$4,275,997	n/a	n/a
2009	\$10,893,945	\$4,629,834	\$278,121	n/a
2010	\$10,228,045	\$4,427,911	\$269,926	n/a

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm).

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm).

<sup>43</sup> Information provided by a Nome city official during community review of this profile. Feedback received July 24, 2012.

<sup>44</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm). Data retrieved April 15, 2011.

Four federally-recognized Tribes are located within the City of Nome. The Nome Eskimo Community, Solomon Tribal Council, King Island Native Community, and the Council Traditional Council all have their Tribal government offices in the community, and many of their members reside in Nome. The self-governing Tribe for Nome, recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is the Nome Eskimo Community (NEC).<sup>45</sup> The NEC was included under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). In addition to acting as the local tribal governing body, NEC offers social services and programs, including family services, tribal services, tribal youth programs, a tribal housing program, and a tribal resources program, which seeks to educate tribal members about local and broader environmental issues.<sup>46</sup> The Native village corporation associated with NEC is the Sitnasuak Native Corporation, which manages 242,626 acres of land. The regional Native corporation to which NEC and other three Tribes located in Nome belong is the Bering Strait Native Corporation.<sup>47</sup>

NEC and the three other Tribes located in Nome are also member villages of Kawerak Inc., a tribal non-profit organization with a mission to “assist, promote and provide programs and services to improve the social, economic, educational, cultural and governmental self-sufficiency for the betterment of the Native people within the region, and to preserve the traditional culture, languages and values.”<sup>48</sup> Kawerak, Inc. is one of the 12 regional Alaska Native 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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.<sup>49</sup> Kawerak, Inc. offers children and family services, community services, and education, employment and training opportunities for residents of the 18 member villages located in the Bering Straits region. The non-profit also includes a Natural Resources Division, which incorporates the Eskimo Walrus Commission, Land Management Services, Reindeer Herders Association and Subsistence Resources Division.<sup>50</sup>

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

## **Infrastructure**

### *Connectivity and Transportation*

Nome is a regional center of transportation for surrounding villages. The Port of Nome plays an essential role in regional transportation infrastructure. Nome is primarily accessible by air, although heavier supplies arrive by water during summer months.<sup>51</sup> Two state-owned airports

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<sup>45</sup> See footnote 43.

<sup>46</sup> Nome Eskimo Community (n.d.). Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.necalaska.org/>.

<sup>47</sup> See footnote 44.

<sup>48</sup> Kawerak, Inc. (n.d.). Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.kawerak.org/>.

<sup>49</sup> 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>.

<sup>50</sup> See footnote 48.

<sup>51</sup> City of Nome (2003). *Nome Comprehensive Plan, Phase I*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/Nome-CP-2005.pdf>.

are located in the community. The Nome Airport, located one mi northwest of the City, has two paved runways. Nome City Field, less than one mi north of the City, offers an additional gravel strip. Scheduled jet flights are available, as well as charter and helicopter services.<sup>52</sup> The price of a roundtrip ticket by plane from Nome to Anchorage in early June of 2012 was \$450.<sup>53</sup> Regional travel is facilitated by a network of 230 miles of gravel roads between Nome and the communities of Teller, Solomon, and Council. A traditional network of winter trails is the only link with outlying communities during winter months.<sup>54</sup>

### *Facilities*

Water in Nome is derived from a well located at Moonlight Springs. The water is treated with chlorine at the Snake River Power Plant and stored in a 50,000-gallon tank. A million-gallon back-up tank is also available. The Nome Joint Utility System operates a piped water system. A utilidor<sup>55</sup> is used to heat and deliver water to homes. Delivery of water by truck is also available. Most homes are also connected to the City-operated sewer system. A sewage lagoon is used for sewage treatment. Over 95% of residences currently have complete plumbing. Some homes still haul their own honeybuckets and have water delivered to home tanks. Refuse collection services are provided by a contractor that hauls trash to a landfill on Beam Road. Electricity is provided in Nome by a diesel generator, operated by Nome Joint Utility Systems.<sup>56</sup> Public safety services are provided the City of Nome Police Department and state troopers stationed in Nome.<sup>57</sup> A Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) post is also located in Nome.<sup>58</sup> The VPSO post is managed by Kawerak, Inc., and provides VPSOs to surrounding villages.<sup>59</sup>

Additional community facilities and services include a State Superior Court, State Correctional Center, a city recreational center, community center, Boys and Girls club, City Hall, a senior center, a public pool, a City Museum, and three libraries (one public and two located within schools). A private laundromat is also available in the community. Visitor services are available in Nome, including taxi service, car rentals, and a variety of hotels and guest houses. Internet, telephone, and cable service are available in Nome.<sup>60</sup> In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders also noted the presence of a food bank, a soup kitchen, job placement services, and publicly subsidized housing in Nome.

With regard to fishing-related infrastructure, community leaders reported in the 2011 AFSC survey that 300 feet of public dock space is available for permanent vessel moorage, along with 2,500 feet for transient vessel moorage. They indicated vessels up to approximately 400 feet in length can moor at Nome docking facilities. Moorage is available for commercial and recreational vessels, and the port can accommodate rescue vessels (i.e. Coast Guard), cruise

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<sup>52</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>53</sup> This price was calculated on November 21, 2011 using kayak.com.

<sup>54</sup> See footnote 51.

<sup>55</sup> An aboveground, insulated conduit used for general utility service, especially in Arctic climates. (Definition retrieved from Merriam-Webster online on February 17, 2012.)

<sup>56</sup> See footnote 52.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Dept. of Public Safety (n.d.). *Active VPSO's by Village, December 2011*. Retrieved December 12, 2011 from <http://www.dps.alaska.gov/>.

<sup>59</sup> Information provided by a Nome city official during community review of this profile. Feedback received July 24, 2012.

<sup>60</sup> See footnote 52.

ships, fuel barges, as well as hazardous material cargos (HAZMAT), depending on the material type. They noted that foreign vessels engaged in seismic studies also moor in Nome.

Community leaders also reported that new dock space and improvements to existing dock infrastructure were completed in 2007. The dock facilities are served by water and electricity, and a fish cleaning station is available. They indicated that a barge landing area, pilings, and a breakwater were all completed within the last 10 years, and that the harbor is dredged annually. Community leaders also reported presence of a fish processing plant, boat repair services (electrical, welding, mechanical, machine shop and hydraulics), dry dock, haulout facilities and tidal grids for small vessels (under 60 tons), commercial cold storage facilities, fishing gear storage, and boat fuel, ice, and tackle sales in Nome. Finally, community leaders reported that Nome residents commonly travel to Anchorage or Fairbanks to access fisheries-related businesses and services not available in Nome. They may also travel to Dutch Harbor, or bring in qualified personnel to Nome. In addition, residents may travel to Seattle, WA for services, or use facilities and services there to maintain or fix their vessels independently.

### *Medical Services*

Nome Health Center and the Norton Sound Regional Hospital are both located in Nome, and operated by the Norton Sound Health Corporation. The hospital is a qualified Acute Care facility and offers Medevac Service. The hospital offers long term care at the Quyaana Care Center, and specialized care of elderly citizens is available at the XYZ Senior Center. Nome also has a volunteer ambulance department. Emergency Services have limited highway, coastal, and airport access. Emergency service is provided by 911 Telephone Service and volunteers.<sup>61</sup>

As of May, 2011, construction of a new hospital in Nome was over half way completed.<sup>62</sup> The new facility will expand and enhance existing medical services, including Acute Care Nursing, Labor and Delivery, Dental, Eye, Ambulatory Care, Public Health Programs, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Emergency and Urgent Care, Diagnostic, and Support Services. In addition, several new services are anticipated to be offered at the new facility. These include Adult Residential Alcoholism Treatment and Inpatient Mental Health Services.<sup>63</sup>

### *Educational Opportunities*

There are five schools offering elementary and secondary education in the Nome Public School District. Of these, one is a correspondence school. Extensions Correspondence School serves Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and as of 2011 had 1 teacher and 14 students participating in the correspondence program. Nome Elementary serves preschool-aged students through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and as of 2011 was attended by 396 students and had 29 teachers. Anvil City Science Academy serves grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, and as of 2011 had 3 teachers and 44 students. Nome Youth Facility serves grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>, and as of 2011 had one teacher and 10

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<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Norton Sound Health Corporation (2011). *New Hospital Construction Updates*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.nortonsoundhealth.org/newhospital.html>.

<sup>63</sup> City of Nome (2003). *Nome Comprehensive Plan, Phase I*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/Nome-CP-2005.pdf>.

students. Finally, Nome-Beltz Junior High School serves grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>, and as of 2011 had 21 teachers and 224 students.<sup>64</sup>

In addition to K-12 education, the Nome Preschool Association provides preschool in the community, and Kawerak, Inc. operates a Head Start program.<sup>65</sup> Post-secondary education is available at the Northwest Campus (NWC) of the University of Alaska system, which is located in Nome. Originally a community college, NWC maintains its mission of providing vocational and community education in the Bering Strait region, in addition to academic programs.<sup>66</sup> Vocational training is also available in Nome through NACTEC, or the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center. NACTEC is a joint-venture regional vocational training center that provides high school students with the resources and skills necessary to find successful employment, pursue post-secondary education, and secure independent living skills. Available instruction includes career and technical training, career exploration assistance, life skills training, and work readiness skills training.<sup>67</sup>

## **Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries**

### *History and Evolution of Fisheries*

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, subsistence hunting and fishing was the basis of the economy for people living on the Seward Peninsula. Settlements on the west coast of the peninsula targeted marine mammals, and other people moved between seasonal settlements to access fish and wildlife resources. Today, residents of Nome are active in commercial and subsistence fisheries, and recreational fishing is growing in the area as well.<sup>68</sup>

Commercial salmon fisheries began to develop shortly after the purchase of Alaska by the U.S. in 1867. However, the Norton Sound commercial salmon fishery developed later than in other regions of the State. In 1959 and 1960, biologists from the Division of Commercial Fisheries conducted an inventory of salmon resources and determined that harvestable surpluses were present in several Norton Sound river systems. They encouraged processors to develop the fishery after statehood as part of an effort to bring economic benefits to this area of rural Alaska. The first commercial harvest occurred in 1961, and salmon markets in the area have been sporadic since that time. Harvests increased through the 1990s, and have declined since then.<sup>69</sup>

Commercial catch of herring for human consumption began in 1878 in Alaska, while harvest of herring for bait began around 1900, and herring sac roe fisheries developed in the late

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<sup>64</sup> Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

<sup>65</sup> See footnote 59.

<sup>66</sup> Northwest Campus, University of Alaska (n.d.). *About UAF Northwest Campus*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/>.

<sup>67</sup> NACTEC. (n.d.). *About Our Program*. Retrieved September 10, 2013 from <http://www.nacteonline.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=2>.

<sup>68</sup> Scientific Technical Committee, Norton Sound Steering Committee (2003). *Research and Restoration Plan for Norton Sound Salmon*. Retrieved February 21, 2012 from <http://69.93.224.39/~aykssi/wp-content/uploads/NS-RR-Plan-rev.pdf>.

<sup>69</sup> Clark, McGregor, Mecum, Krasnowski, and Carroll (2006). *The Commercial Salmon Fishery in Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Pgs. (105-146. Retrieved December 28, 2011 from [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1\\_p4.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1_p4.pdf).

1970s.<sup>70</sup> Commercial exploitation of halibut and groundfish first extended into the Bering Sea region in 1928 after development of diesel engines, which allowed fishing vessels to undertake longer trips.<sup>71</sup> King crab fisheries developed in the Bering Sea beginning in the 1950s, and Norton Sound is one of the historical centers of this fishery.<sup>72</sup>

Norton Sound has the northernmost fisheries for both Pacific herring and red king crab. Although the Norton Sound herring spawning biomass has been relatively stable in recent times, the market for herring roe has declined due to decreasing consumption of herring roe in Japan. Processor interest in the Norton Sound sac roe fishery has declined more than in other areas of the State, largely due to the timing of the fishery, which takes place later than sac roe fisheries elsewhere in the State and conflicts with the opening of the first salmon fisheries of the season. In addition, ice floes are often present in Norton Sound during the herring season.<sup>73</sup> In contrast, the Norton Sound red king crab stock has shown an increasing trend since a population low in the 1990s, and today provides small summer and winter fisheries. NMFS and ADF&G jointly manage Bering Sea king crab stocks.<sup>74</sup> Nome king crab fishermen hold both state-issued king crab permits, as well as permits in the Community Development Quota (CDQ) king crab fishery. The CDQ program “allocates a percentage of all Bering Sea and Aleutian Island quotas for groundfish, prohibited species, halibut, and crab to eligible communities.”<sup>75</sup>

Nome is located in Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 4E and the Bering Sea Sablefish Regulatory Area. With regard to salmon fisheries, Nome is located in Subdistrict 1 of six Norton Sound salmon subdistricts.<sup>76</sup> The City is a member of the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), the regional CDQ group that promotes training and employment opportunities for residents, community and development programs for member villages, and offers loans to facilitate involvement of locals in Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries. The NSEDC operates a shore-side processing plant in Nome.<sup>77</sup> The City is not eligible to participate in the Community Quota Entity (CQE) program.

According to a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that Nome participates actively in fisheries management processes in Alaska. They indicated that Nome-based organizations participate by submitting comments and attending fisheries management meetings in person, and Nome also relies on regional organizations to provide information on fisheries management issues. Community leaders also noted political tension between subsistence salmon fisheries and the pollock industry and expressed concern that salmon returns are diminishing due to interception by pollock trawlers in the Bering Sea.

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<sup>70</sup> Woodby, Doug, Dave Carlile, Shareef Siddeek, Fritz Funk, John H. Clark, and Lee Hulbert (2005). *Commercial Fisheries of Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 05-09. Retrieved December 29, 2011 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/sp05-09.pdf>.

<sup>71</sup> Thompson, William F. and Norman L. Freeman (1930). *History of the Pacific Halibut Fishery*. Report of the International Fisheries Commission. Number 5. Retrieved June 1, 2012 from <http://www.iphc.int/publications/scirep/Report0005.pdf>.

<sup>72</sup> See footnote 70.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (2012). *Red King Crab Species Profile*. Retrieved June 20, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=redkingcrab.main>.

<sup>75</sup> NOAA Fisheries (n.d.). *Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program*. Retrieved June 20, 2012 from <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/cdq/default.htm>.

<sup>76</sup> See footnote 69.

<sup>77</sup> Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (2003). *Homepage* Retrieved February 21, 2012 from <http://www.nsedc.com/>.

### *Processing Plants*

According to ADF&G’s 2010 Intent to Operate list, one processing facility was in operation in Nome. Norton Sound Seafood Products is a subsidiary of the NSEDC. Norton Sound Seafood Products was established in 1995 and processes red king crab (mid-June to late August), salmon (mid-July to mid-September), and halibut (August to mid-October). Norton Sound Seafood prides itself as providing an alternative to mass-produced food, in that it provides “exclusive offerings of hand-caught... seafood products.”<sup>78,79</sup>

### *Fisheries-Related Revenue*

According to information provided in annual municipal budgets, Nome received between \$140,000 and \$4.8 million per year in fisheries-related revenue between 2000 and 2010. In the 2011 AFSC survey, community leaders reported several additional fisheries-related funding sources that were not reported in annual budgets. The primary sources of fisheries-related revenue in Nome were shared revenues from the state raw fish tax and Shared Fisheries Business Tax, along with fees for harbor usage, fishing gear storage, and leasing of public lands. In 2010, Nome received \$5,000 in shared revenue from the state raw fish tax and \$23,169 from the Alaska Department of Revenue’s Shared Fisheries Business Tax. In addition, the Port & Harbor Division of the City of Nome reported that \$18,989 was received in 2010 from harbor usage fees, as well as \$16,085 in fees for fishing gear storage and \$34,479 in revenue from leasing of public land.<sup>80</sup> Information about fisheries-related revenue is presented in Table 3.<sup>81</sup>

It is also important to note that the NSEDC uses fisheries revenue from the CDQ program to provide fishery loan assistance, education, employment and training, and other community programs, as well as managing the shore-side processing plant in Nome (see *Processing Plants* section), and development of alternative energy sources in member communities.<sup>82</sup> In the 2011 AFSC survey, community leaders reported receiving \$100,000 in funding or grants from the NSEDC in 2010.

### *Commercial Fishing*

According to a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that commercial fishing is one of the most important local resource-based industries in Nome, with major fisheries including king crab, salmon, Pacific halibut, and herring. They indicated that king crab is fished between January and April and again between June and September, the halibut seasons goes from July to October, herring is fished in May and June, coho and sockeye salmon are harvested in July and August, and the chum salmon season takes place between July and September. Between 2000 and 2010, Nome residents participated in commercial fisheries as crew members, vessel owners, and permit holders. There were 7 fish buyers operating in Nome

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<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> Norton Sound Seafood Products (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved August, 2012 from <http://nortonsoundseafoodproducts.com>.

<sup>80</sup> Personal communication, Port & Harbor Division of the City of Nome, October 17, 2013.

<sup>81</sup> A direct comparison between fisheries-related revenue and total municipal revenue cannot reliably be made as not all fisheries-related revenue sources are included in the municipal budget.

<sup>82</sup> See footnote 77.

that year, down from a peak of 26 buyers in 2001. In 2010, there was one shore-side processing plant located in Nome (see *Processing Plants* section above).

In 2010, 52 Nome residents held a total of 89 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits, including 34 crab permits (king crab, pot gear, vessels under 60 feet), 26 salmon permits (Kotzebue, Lower Yukon, and Norton Sound gillnet fisheries, and the Cook Inlet and Bristol Bay drift gillnet fisheries), 12 halibut permits (statewide, longline vessel under 60 feet), 8 herring permits (Norton Sound roe and food/bait gillnet fishery), 6 groundfish permits (statewide fisheries using hand troll, longline vessel under 60 feet and mechanical jig, and Gulf of Alaska beach seine), 2 ‘other finfish’ permits (statewide fisheries for fresh water fish, using beach seine and set gillnet), and 1 ‘other shellfish’ permit (Southeast Alaska sea cucumber using diving gear).

Of the total 89 CFEC permits, only 42 (47%) were actively fished in 2010. The king crab fishery was the most active in 2010, in terms of both the number and percentage of CFEC permits actively fished. The percentage of king crab permits that were active increased over the decade, from 44% in 2000 to 76% in 2010. The next most active CFEC fishery in 2010 was halibut, with 8 permits actively fished out of a total of 12 held that year. A total of 26 salmon CFEC permits were held in 2010, but only 3 (12%) of these were actively fished that year. Crab, halibut, and salmon permit numbers remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2010. The percentage of crab and halibut permits fished increased over the period, while the percentage of salmon permits fished decreased slightly between 2000 and 2010. Three of six total groundfish CFEC permits, one of eight herring permits, and one of two ‘other finfish’ permits were active in 2010. In addition, one ‘other shellfish’ CFEC permit was held but not actively fished in 2010. The number of herring permits held was relatively stable between 2000 and 2010, but the number fished varied greatly. There was great variance in both the number of permits held and the percentage of permits actively fished in CFEC fisheries for groundfish, ‘other finfish’, and ‘other shellfish’.

Nome residents were also highly engaged in federal fisheries, holding 20 crab License Limitation Program permits (LLPs) and 5 groundfish LLPs in 2010. Of these, eight crab LLPs and three groundfish LLPs were actively fished that year. In addition, four Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP) were held by Nome residents in 2010, and two were actively fished. Information about state and federal permits held by Nome residents is presented in Table 4.

In addition to permits, several Nome residents held quota share accounts in the federally managed catch share fisheries for halibut, sablefish, and crab. The number of halibut quota share account holders varied between one and three between 2000 and 2010, and the amount of quota held varied between 57 shares in 2000-2005 and 224,965 shares in 2009. Sablefish quota share accounts were held between 2005 and 2009, with 1 held between 2005 and 2008, and 2 in 2009. Between 2005 and 2008, 416 sablefish quota shares were held. In 2009, the sablefish quota shares held in Nome jumped dramatically, to 2,866,629 shares held. One crab quota share account was held in one year (2009). That year, 23,033,204 crab quota shares were held in Nome.

The annual halibut individual fishing quota (IFQ) allotment increased by 25% over 2000 levels in 2004, then declined to close to 2000 levels in 2007 before sinking to 90% below 2000 levels in 2010. In the sablefish fishery, the annual IFQ allotment decreased steadily between 2005 and 2009, with 30% less pounds/quota share in 2009 than 2005 levels. Given that crab shares were held in only one year in Nome between 2000 and 2010, no trends in IFQ allotment are visible. Information about federal catch share participation is presented in Tables 6 through 8.

In 2010, a total of 58 Nome residents held commercial crew licenses, a significant increase from 13 crew licenses in 2000. The number of fishing vessels owned by Nome residents, homeported in Nome, and landing catch in Nome remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2010. In 2010, 20 vessels were primarily owned by Nome residents, 20 were homeported there, and 22 vessels landed catch in the community. Between 2000 and 2010, one shore-side processing facility operated each year. In contrast, the number of fish buyers varied dramatically during the period, with 26 buyers present in 2001, declining precipitously to between 4 and 8 from 2004 to 2010. Interestingly, while the number of fish buyers decreased, the total landings and ex-vessel revenue generated in Nome increased, from 42,886 net pounds landed in 2000, valued at \$144,256, to 479,007 net pounds landed in 2010, valued at \$1,707,319. Information about the commercial fishing sector in Nome is presented in Table 5. Information about landings in specific fisheries is considered confidential between 2000 and 2010 due to the small number of participants (Table 9). Overall landings and ex-vessel revenue figures ranked Nome at 42<sup>nd</sup> in landings and 36<sup>th</sup> in ex-vessel revenue out of 67 Alaskan communities that received commercial fisheries landings in 2010.

Information is also available regarding landings and ex-vessel revenue in individual fisheries generated by vessel owners residing in Nome, independent of the location of their deliveries. Data were reported in all years between 2000 and 2010 for crab and halibut fisheries, and in three years (2006, 2007, and 2010) for Pacific cod landings and revenue. Information regarding landings and ex-vessel revenue in other fisheries, and other years in the Pacific cod fishery, is considered confidential due to the small number of participants. Crab and halibut landings by Nome residents increased over the period. Crab landings grew from 57,318 net pounds in 2000 to 296,265 net pounds landed in 2010, valued at \$197,463 and \$1,077,917, respectively. Halibut landings grew from 16,411 net pounds in 2000 to 139,910 net pounds in 2008, before declining to 62,894 net pounds in 2010. These landings were valued at \$28,621, \$535,016, and \$220,776, respectively. In 2010, 2,808 net pounds of Pacific cod were landed by Nome residents, generating \$2,218 in ex-vessel revenue. This information about landings and ex-vessel revenue generated by Nome vessel owners is presented in Table 10.

According to the 2011 AFSC survey, community leaders reported that fishing boats using Nome as their base of operation typically use pot, longline, and/or gillnet gear. When asked to describe changes in the fleet over time, they noted that there were more commercial fishing boats of all sizes in 2011 compared to five years prior, with a particularly noticeable increase in the number of smaller vessels (under 35 feet in length).

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

Revenue source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Raw fish tax <sup>1</sup>	\$600	\$285	\$500	\$800	\$300	\$5,000	\$750	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Shared Fisheries Business Tax <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	\$2,043	\$8,988	\$10,034	\$13,901	\$18,978	\$17,276	\$19,607	\$28,894	\$23,169
Fisheries Resource Landing Tax <sup>1</sup>	n/a	n/a									
Fuel transfer tax <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a									
Extraterritorial fish tax <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a									
Bulk fuel transfers <sup>1</sup>	n/a	n/a									
Boat hauls <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a									
Harbor usage <sup>4</sup>	\$11,321	\$11,432	\$12,335	\$13,084	\$15,162	\$16,485	\$16,661	\$16,540	\$17,476	\$18,601	\$18,934
Port/dock usage <sup>4</sup>	n/a	n/a									
Fishing gear storage on public land <sup>4</sup>	\$12,748	\$12,285	\$12,325	\$13,116	\$14,708	\$1,490	\$14,671	\$14,936	\$15,062	\$15,324	\$15,041
Leasing public/tribal land to members of fishing industry <sup>4</sup>	\$15,715	\$15,715	\$15,715	\$15,715	\$15,715	\$15,715	\$34,479	\$34,479	\$34,479	\$34,479	\$34,479
Marine fuel sales tax <sup>4</sup>	n/a	n/a									
<i>Total fisheries-related revenue<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>\$41,068</i>	<i>\$40,290</i>	<i>\$41,694</i>	<i>\$45,043</i>	<i>\$55,175</i>	<i>\$49,475</i>	<i>\$81,367</i>	<i>\$95,636</i>	<i>\$94,673</i>	<i>\$98,290</i>	<i>\$102,694</i>
<i>Total municipal revenue<sup>6</sup></i>	<i>\$6,065,595</i>	<i>\$6,176,718</i>	<i>\$6,649,699</i>	<i>\$7,065,869</i>	<i>\$7,950,812</i>	<i>\$8,427,890</i>	<i>\$8,192,353</i>	<i>\$8,554,367</i>	<i>\$9,722,818</i>	<i>\$10,893,945</i>	<i>\$10,228,045</i>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm).

<sup>2</sup> Alaska Dept. of Revenue, Tax Division. *Revenue Sources Books and Forecasts*. Retrieved October 28, 2013 from <http://www.tax.alaska.gov/programs/sourcebook/>.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

<sup>4</sup> Reported by the Port & Harbor Division of the City of Nome. Personal communication, October 17, 2013.

<sup>5</sup> Total fisheries related revenue represents a sum of all known revenue sources in the previous rows.

<sup>6</sup> Total municipal revenue represents the total revenue that the city reports each year in its financial statements. 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	2	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Active permits	0	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
	% of permits fished	0%	50%	50%	40%	40%	40%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%
	Total permit holders	2	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Crab (LLP) <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	14	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	20	20	20
	Active permits	1	6	5	5	5	7	8	8	9	8	8
	% of permits fished	7%	33%	27%	27%	26%	36%	42%	42%	45%	40%	40%
	Total permit holders	10	14	14	17	16	16	15	15	16	16	16
Federal Fisheries Permits <sup>1</sup>	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	4	4
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	2
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	75%	75%	50%
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	3
Crab (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	34	38	40	35	31	30	33	29	25	25	34
	Fished permits	15	17	24	19	16	22	23	23	21	18	26
	% of permits fished	44%	45%	60%	54%	52%	73%	70%	79%	84%	72%	76%
	Total permit holders	30	33	32	30	26	23	23	20	18	20	25
Other shellfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	0	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Fished permits	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	0%	25%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total permit holders	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Halibut (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	14	15	16	12	11	11	11	12	11	15	12
	Fished permits	3	0	10	7	7	7	8	9	9	12	8
	% of permits fished	21%	0%	63%	58%	64%	64%	73%	75%	82%	80%	67%
	Total permit holders	14	15	16	12	11	11	11	12	11	15	12
Herring (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	4	3	4	3	6	6	4	4	5	6	8
	Fished permits	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
	% of permits fished	25%	0%	0%	33%	33%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%
	Total permit holders	5	3	4	3	7	6	4	4	5	6	8

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	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) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	4	6
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	3
	% of permits fished	0%	0%	0%	0%	-	-	100%	100%	50%	75%	50%
	Total permit holders	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	3	5
Other Finfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	% of permits fished	0%	-	-	-	-	-	100	0%	-	-	50
	Total permit holders	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Salmon (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	Total permits	31	34	30	32	34	34	32	32	33	29	26
	Fished permits	9	4	2	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	3
	% of permits fished	29%	12%	7%	9%	15%	12%	9%	13%	12%	14%	12%
	Total permit holders	31	34	30	30	32	32	30	30	32	29	25
<i>Total CFEC Permits<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Permits</i>	86	95	95	87	86	82	83	80	77	80	89
	<i>Fished permits</i>	28	21	37	30	32	34	36	37	35	37	42
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	33%	22%	39%	34%	37%	41%	43%	46%	45%	46%	47%
	<i>Permit holders</i>	63	66	62	60	57	52	50	49	47	51	52

<sup>1</sup>National Marine Fisheries Service. (2011). Data on License Limitation Program, Alaska Federal Processor Permits (FPP), Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP), and Permit holders. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

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

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

Year	Crew License Holders <sup>1</sup>	Count Of All Fish Buyers <sup>2</sup>	Count Of Shore-Side Processing Facilities <sup>3</sup>	Vessels Primarily Owned by Residents <sup>4</sup>	Vessels Homeported <sup>4</sup>	Vessels Landing Catch in Nome <sup>2</sup>	Total Net Pounds Landed in Nome <sup>2,5</sup>	Total Ex-Vessel Value of Landings in Nome <sup>2,5</sup>
2000	13	20	1	22	20	9	42,886	\$144,256
2001	16	26	1	27	23	26	194,824	\$695,096
2002	14	16	1	24	18	32	357,795	\$1,736,913
2003	21	15	1	17	16	24	345,389	\$1,251,016
2004	23	7	1	20	20	26	390,367	\$1,160,354
2005	26	5	1	20	21	29	406,871	\$1,352,240
2006	26	4	1	19	16	25	463,643	\$1,153,386
2007	35	8	1	14	17	27	420,911	\$1,218,035
2008	40	6	1	14	14	18	541,945	\$1,926,825
2009	44	7	1	17	16	26	533,506	\$1,569,132
2010	58	7	1	20	20	22	479,007	\$1,707,319

<sup>1</sup> 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.]

<sup>2</sup> 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.]

<sup>3</sup> 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.]

<sup>4</sup> 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.]

<sup>5</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	1	57	8
2001	1	57	8
2002	1	57	8
2003	1	57	8
2004	1	57	10
2005	2	76,521	11,512
2006	2	76,521	11,324
2007	2	76,749	10,867
2008	2	76,749	9,455
2009	3	224,965	38,083
2010	1	285	4

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 Nome: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account 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	1	416	49
2006	1	416	48
2007	1	416	46
2008	1	416	44
2009	2	2,866,629	233,894
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 Nome: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Crab Quota Share Account Holders	Crab Quota Shares Held	Crab IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	1	23,033,204	1,380,657
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 Nome: 2000-2010.

	<i>Total Net Pounds<sup>1</sup></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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Groundfish											
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shellfish											
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Groundfish											
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shellfish											
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	\$0	\$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 Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

<sup>1</sup> Net pounds refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

<sup>2</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

	<i>Total Net Pounds<sup>1</sup></i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	57,318	97,794	84,153	87,445	116,290	153,664	213,301	158,151	205,647	231,799	296,265
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	16,411	66,238	97,579	48,651	45,801	24,560	37,398	96,143	139,910	122,979	61,894
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Groundfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,499	3,238	-	-	2,808
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>73,729</i>	<i>164,032</i>	<i>181,732</i>	<i>136,096</i>	<i>162,091</i>	<i>178,224</i>	<i>252,198</i>	<i>257,532</i>	<i>345,557</i>	<i>354,778</i>	<i>360,967</i>
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (Nominal U.S. Dollars)</i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Crab	\$197,463	\$357,579	\$503,472	\$339,279	\$342,489	\$513,380	\$519,177	\$440,426	\$718,116	\$707,824	\$1,077,917
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	\$28,621	\$131,217	\$175,642	\$139,634	\$132,593	\$72,354	\$125,166	\$386,976	\$535,016	\$345,307	\$220,776
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Groundfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$650	\$1,622	-	-	\$2,218
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>\$226,084</i>	<i>\$488,797</i>	<i>\$679,115</i>	<i>\$478,912</i>	<i>\$475,082</i>	<i>\$585,734</i>	<i>\$644,993</i>	<i>\$829,024</i>	<i>\$1,253,132</i>	<i>\$1,053,131</i>	<i>\$1,300,912</i>

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Net pounds refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

<sup>2</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

### *Recreational Fishing*

Although no active sport fish guides were registered in Nome between 2000 and 2010, several licensed sport fish guides were present in the community in most year of the period. In 2010, Nome residents purchased 942 sport fishing licenses (irrespective of point of sale), and 1,217 sport fishing licenses were sold in the City of Nome (Table 11). The fact that a larger number of licenses were sold in Nome than were purchase by residents indicates that Nome serves as a center of outfitting for the region, and possibly attracts sport fishing-related tourism as well.

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that recreational fishing activity in Nome includes boat and dock-based fishing by both resident and non-resident anglers, and targets all five salmon species, Pacific halibut, crab, tom cod, and burbot. The Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey,<sup>83</sup> conducted by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010, noted freshwater sport harvest of coho, sockeye, and pink salmon, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, and northern pike, and saltwater harvest of all five salmon species, Pacific halibut, rockfish, and Pacific cod. Recreational harvest of razor clams was also noted in the area. No kept/release log book data were reported for fishing charters out of Nome between 2000 and 2010.<sup>84</sup>

Nome is located within Alaska Sport Fishing Survey Area W – Seward Peninsula – Norton Sound. Information is available about both saltwater and freshwater sport fishing activity at this regional scale. Between 2000 and 2010, there was significant sport fishing activity in both saltwater and freshwater, although freshwater sport fishing was more important in the region. Alaska resident anglers consistently fished more angler days in both freshwater and saltwater (34 – 2,663 saltwater and 6,199 to 17,579 freshwater angler days) than non-Alaska residents (0 – 204 saltwater and 2,087 – 8,307 freshwater angler days) during the period. This information about the sport fishing sector in and near Nome is displayed in Table 11.

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<sup>83</sup> 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).

<sup>84</sup> 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, Nome: 2000-2010.

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses <sup>1</sup>	Sport Fish Guide Licenses <sup>1</sup>	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents <sup>2</sup>	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Nome <sup>2</sup>
2000	0	6	1,121	1,449
2001	0	10	916	1,368
2002	0	6	578	779
2003	0	4	807	1,058
2004	0	4	1,003	1,428
2005	0	0	907	1,260
2006	0	2	749	994
2007	0	2	751	1,002
2008	0	3	725	1,054
2009	0	5	739	930
2010	0	3	942	1,217

Year	Saltwater		Freshwater	
	Angler Days Fished – Non-Residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Non-Residents <sup>3</sup>	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents <sup>3</sup>
2000	196	2,663	3,789	11,795
2001	64	988	2,087	7,816
2002	94	1,650	4,321	12,260
2003	30	1,530	3,632	7,211
2004	204	497	4,183	8,439
2005	56	1,940	8,307	6,764
2006	90	1,400	3,547	12,535
2007	49	530	3,688	12,400
2008	0	655	3,761	17,579
2009	133	897	4,198	11,995
2010	43	34	4,334	6,199

<sup>1</sup> 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.]

<sup>2</sup> 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.]

<sup>3</sup> 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/sport\\_fishingsurvey/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sport_fishingsurvey/) (Accessed September 2011).

### *Subsistence Fishing*

Nome has a mixed cash and subsistence economy. Compared to more remote communities in the region, residents of Nome are less engaged in subsistence harvest activities,<sup>85</sup> although subsistence resources continue to make up an important part of the local diet. Some Nome residents use seasonal fish camps, such as nearby Council, for summer subsistence food gathering activities.<sup>86</sup> In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, Nome community leaders said that a wide range of sea life is used by Nome residents for subsistence purposes, including salmon – particularly chum and coho – seal, walrus, crab, whale, halibut, and herring.

No information is available from ADF&G regarding per capita subsistence harvest or the percentage of households utilizing various marine resources for subsistence purposes between 2000 and 2010 (Table 12). However, some data are available from management agencies regarding salmon, halibut, and marine mammal subsistence during the 2000-2010 period. The available data are presented below. It is important to note that, during community review of this profile, Nome officials were concerned about the minimal data available regarding subsistence given the subsistence priority in both state and federal management systems. One Tribal official emphasized that subsistence is Nome Eskimo Community's top priority, not commercial fisheries, and urged the AFSC to expand the years for which subsistence data are reported in these community profiles to include information from the 1980s and 1990s.

For the 2000-2010 period, between 134 and 877 Nome households per year were issued subsistence salmon permits. Of harvests that were reported, pink was the most heavily harvested salmon species over time, with an average harvest of 7,567 fish per year. Sockeye, coho, and chum salmon were the next most heavily harvested species, with an average of 3,133 sockeye, 1,723 coho, and 1,570 chum harvested per year. A small number of Chinook were also harvested by Nome residents each year. No information was reported regarding subsistence harvest of marine invertebrates and non-salmon fish (not including halibut). Information about salmon, marine invertebrates, and non-salmon fish is presented in Table 13.

Nome residents were issued between 10 and 25 Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC) each year between 2003 and 2010. In 2010, 23 SHARC cards were issued, 7 were fished, and 941 pounds of halibut were harvested. This information about the Nome subsistence halibut fishery is presented in Table 14.

Data were available regarding harvest of walrus, polar bear, and beluga whale by Nome residents during the 2000-2010 period. Data reported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) indicate that walrus were harvested by Nome residents each year from 2000 to 2007, with total harvest ranging from 4 to 56 animals per year. FWS data also indicates that polar bear were harvested in 2 years of the decade, with harvest of two bears reported in 2001, and one bear taken in 2007. Data reported by the NMFS show beluga harvest by Nome residents in some years of the period as well. It is important to note that beluga harvest numbers are reported for Nome alone until 2006, while 2007-2010 harvest numbers reflect a combined harvest for the communities of Nome and Brevik. No information was available from management agencies regarding harvest of sea otters, Steller sea lions, harbor seals, or bearded seals in Nome during the period. Information about subsistence harvest of marine mammals is presented in Table 15.

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<sup>85</sup> City of Nome (2003). *Nome Comprehensive Plan, Phase I*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/Nome-CP-2005.pdf>.

<sup>86</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

## Additional Information

As in many areas of Alaska, salmon are very important to local culture and economy in Nome. During the gold rush era of the early 1900s, dried salmon was even used as local currency!<sup>87</sup>

The Bering Land Bridge formed the centerpiece of a region known as Beringia. Today, Beringia is defined as “the land and maritime area bounded on the west by the Lena River in Russia; on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada’s British Columbia; on the north by 72 degrees north latitude; and on the south by the tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula.” Native peoples currently residing on both sides of the Bering Strait remain united by common language, tradition and environment. The area surrounding the land bridge is currently the site of extensive research, including geological, biogeographical, archaeological, and anthropological studies.<sup>88,89</sup>

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Nome: 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).

<sup>87</sup> Scientific Technical Committee, Norton Sound Steering Committee (2003). *Research and Restoration Plan for Norton Sound Salmon*. Retrieved February 21, 2012 from <http://69.93.224.39/~aykssi/wp-content/uploads/NS-RR-Plan-rev.pdf>.

<sup>88</sup> National Park Service (2010). *Shared Beringian Heritage Program*. Retrieved February 22, 2012 from <http://www.nps.gov/akso/beringia/>.

<sup>89</sup> National Park Service (2009). *Bering Land Bridge National Preserve*. Retrieved February 17, 2012 from <http://www.nps.gov/bela/>.

Table 13. Subsistence Fishing Participation for Salmon, Marine Invertebrates, and Non-Salmon Fish, Nome: 2000-2010.

Year	Subsistence Salmon Permits Issued <sup>1</sup>	Salmon Permits Returned <sup>1</sup>	Chinook Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Chum Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Coho Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Pink Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Sockeye Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Lbs of Marine Inverts <sup>2</sup>	Lbs of Non-Salmon Fish <sup>2</sup>
2000	134	103	18	394	827	2,778	163	n/a	n/a
2001	151	126	9	872	576	121	324	n/a	n/a
2002	187	151	28	1,159	763	3,752	250	n/a	n/a
2003	268	219	126	712	388	860	1,538	n/a	n/a
2004	877	866	168	1,141	1,909	21,272	4,081	n/a	n/a
2005	358	356	81	1,903	1,506	8,672	5,575	n/a	n/a
2006	352	352	65	1,864	3,821	12,900	6,041	n/a	n/a
2007	329	328	47	4,709	1,618	1,120	6,176	n/a	n/a
2008	458	450	75	1,375	4,097	16,626	4,066	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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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, Nome: 2003-2010.

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	10	5	n/a
2004	14	7	n/a
2005	15	9	n/a
2006	10	n/a	n/a
2007	11	1	n/a
2008	17	7	1,145
2009	25	8	1,281
2010	23	6	941

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, Nome: 2000-2010.

Year	# of Beluga Whales <sup>1</sup>	# of Sea Otters <sup>2</sup>	# of Walrus <sup>2</sup>	# of Polar Bears <sup>2</sup>	# of Steller Sea Lions <sup>3</sup>	# of Harbor Seals <sup>3</sup>	# of Spotted Seals <sup>3</sup>
2000	2	n/a	56	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	42	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	3	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	2	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	2*	n/a	4	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	11*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	4*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	5*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

Note: \* indicates a combined harvest total for the communities of Nome and Brevik.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.