

Soldotna (soul-DAHT-nuh)



People and Place

*Location*¹

Soldotna is on the Kenai Peninsula, 150 highway mi south of Anchorage, at the junction of the Sterling and Kenai Spur Highways. It lies 10 mi inland from Cook Inlet and borders the Kenai River. Soldotna is located in the Kenai Recording District, the Kenai Peninsula Census Area, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The community encompasses 6.9 sq mi of land and 0.5 sq mi of water.

*Demographic Profile*²

In 2010, there were 4,163 residents in Soldotna, ranking it the 28th largest of 352 total Alaskan communities with recorded populations that year. Between 1990 and 2010, the population grew by 19.56%. Overall between 2000 and 2009, the population of Soldotna grew by 6.97%, with an average annual growth rate of 0.17%, indicating a slow rate of growth. Information regarding changes in Soldotna's population can be found in Table 1.

In 2010, a majority of Soldotna residents identified themselves as White (85.9%). Other ethnic groups present in Soldotna that year included two or more races (6.8%), some other race (0.8%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.3%), Asian (1.6%), American Indian and Alaska Native (4.3%), Black or African American (0.3%), and Hispanic or Latino (3.9%). The percentages of the population identifying themselves as White, American Indian and Alaska Native, and some other race decreased between 2000 and 2010, with corresponding increases in the percentages of the population identifying themselves as two or more races and Hispanic or Latino. Changes in racial and ethnic composition from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Figure 1.

The average household size in Soldotna in 2010 was 2.38, a decrease from 2.6 persons per household in 1990 and 2.53 in 2000. In that year, there were a total of 1,968 housing units, compared to 1,460 in 1990 and 1,670 in 2000. Of the households surveyed in 2010, 52% were owner-occupied, compared to 55% in 2000; 35% were renter-occupied, compared to 33% in 2000; and 13% were vacant or occupied seasonally, compared to 12% in 2000.

¹ Alaska Department of Community and Rural Affairs (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

² U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2000 (SF1 100% and SF3 sample data) and 2010 (Demographic Profile SF) Decennial Census and the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

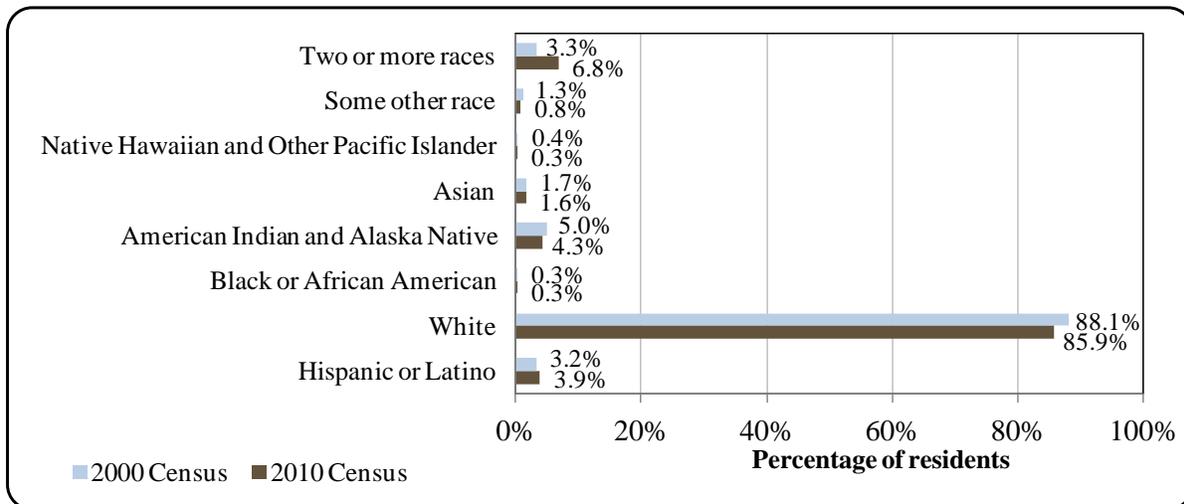
Table 1. Population in Soldotna from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census ¹	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents ²
1990	3,482	-
2000	3,759	-
2001	-	3,792
2002	-	3,851
2003	-	4,001
2004	-	3,778
2005	-	3,800
2006	-	3,762
2007	-	3,898
2008	-	3,926
2009	-	4,021
2010	4,163	-

¹ (1) U.S. Census Bureau (1990). *CP-1: General Population Characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/1990.html>. (2) U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2000 (SF1 100% and SF3 sample data) and 2010 (Demographic Profile SF) Decennial Census and the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

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

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

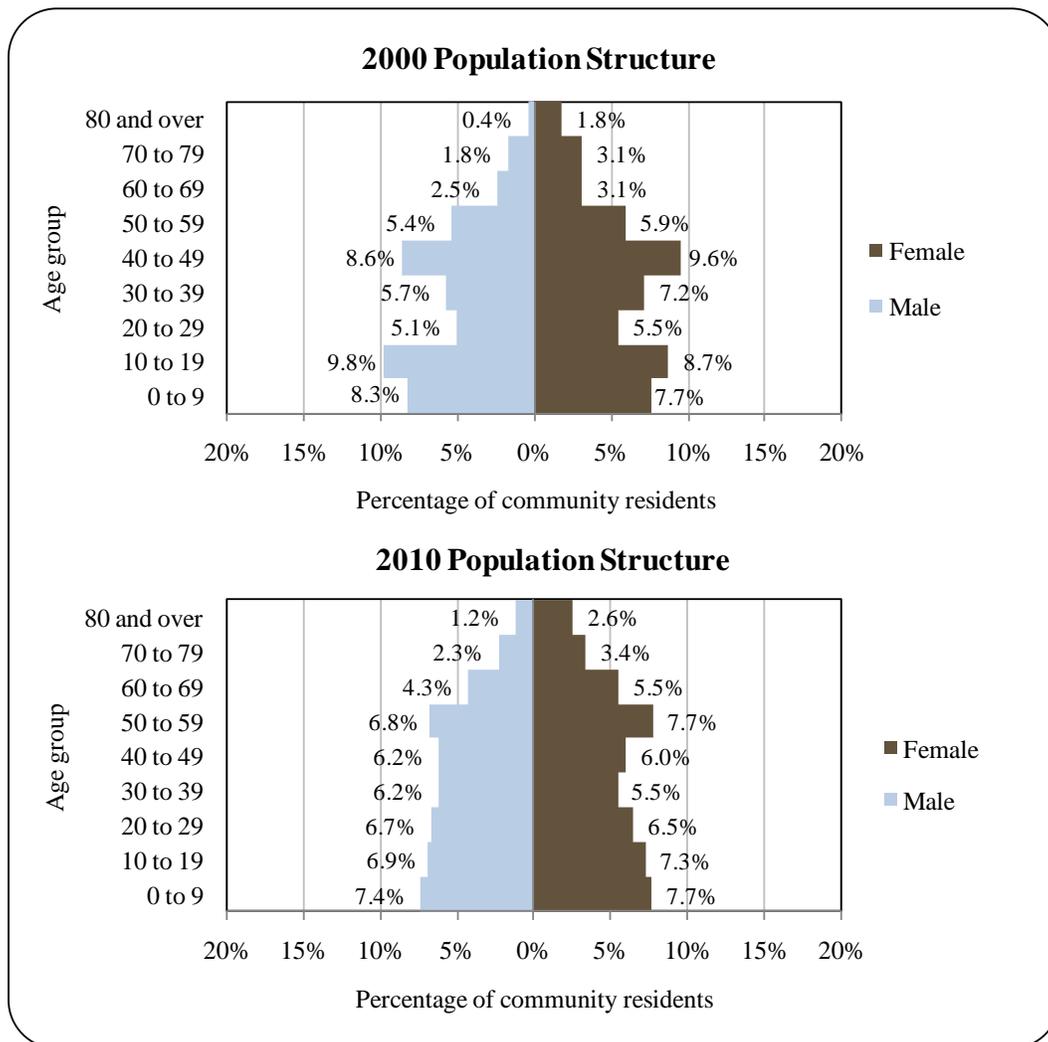


In 2010, the gender distribution in Soldotna was 47.8% male and 52.2% female, which was biased more towards females than the statewide distribution (52.0% male, 48.0% female), and similar to the distribution in 2000 (52.4% female, 47.6% male). In that year, the median age was 37 years, which was slightly older than both the statewide median of 34 and 2000 median of 35 years.

Compared with 2000, the population structure was more stationary in 2010. In that year, 29.3% of residents were under the age of 20, compared to 34.5% in 2000; 19.3% were over the age of 59, compared to 12.7% in 2000; 38.4% were between the ages of 30 and 59, compared to 42.4% in 2000; and 13.2% were between the ages of 20 and 29, compared to 10.6% in 2000.

Gender distribution by age cohort was more even in 2010 than in 2000. In that year, the greatest absolute gender difference occurred in the 80 and over range (2.6% female, 1.3% male), followed by the 60 to 69 (5.5% female, 4.3% male) and 70 to 79 (3.4% male, 2.3% female) ranges. Of those three, the greatest relative gender difference occurred in the 80 and over range.

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



In terms of educational attainment,³ 90.5% of Soldotna residents aged 25 and over were estimated to hold a high school diploma or higher degree in 2010, compared to 90.7% of Alaska residents overall. Also in 2010, 3.5% of residents aged 25 and older were estimated to have less than a ninth grade education, compared to 3.5% of Alaska residents overall; 6.1% were estimated to have a ninth to 12th grade education but no diploma, compared to 5.8% of Alaska residents overall; 32% were estimated to hold a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 27.4% of Alaska residents overall; 31.9% were estimated to have some college but no degree, compared to 28.3% of Alaska residents overall; 5.1% were estimated to hold an Associate's degree, compared to 8% of Alaska residents overall; 11.3% were estimated to hold a Bachelor's degree, compared to 17.4% of Alaska residents overall; and 9.4% were estimated to hold a graduate or professional degree, compared to 9.6% of Alaska residents overall.

*History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture*⁴

The Kenai Peninsula has historically been the home of Kenaitze Indians and was developed by non-Natives for its rich resources, including fish, timber, and oil. Soldotna was named for a nearby stream. The name comes either from the Russian word for "soldier" or a Native word meaning "stream fork." The first homesteaders were World War II veterans who were given a 90-day preference over non-veterans in selecting and filing for property in 1947. That same year, the Sterling Highway right-of-way was constructed from Cooper Landing to Kenai. Soldotna was the site of the bridge crossing the Kenai River. A post office opened in 1949, with stores and a community center shortly thereafter. Soldotna continued to develop because of its strategic location at the Sterling-Kenai Spur Highway junction. In 1957, oil was discovered in the Swanson River region, bringing new growth and development. Soldotna was incorporated as a city in 1960.

The Kenai River offers top trophy king salmon fishing during June and July. A 97 pound 4 ounce world-record king salmon was taken from these waters in 1985, and catching king salmon of over 60 lbs is not uncommon here.

Natural Resources and Environment

Winter temperatures in Soldotna range from 6 to 24 °F (-14.4 to -4.4 °C); summers range from 45 to 66 °F (7.2 to 18.9 °C). Average annual precipitation is 17 inches.⁵

Soldotna is located near the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Refuge Manager is located in Soldotna. The following information is from the FWS informational website on the Refuge.⁶ The Kenai Peninsula in southcentral Alaska is a relatively "young" or recently exposed area in geologic terms. Ice and glaciers, which once covered the entire peninsula, melted from most of the peninsula only 10,000-14,000 yrs

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

⁴ Alaska Department of Community and Rural Affairs (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (n.d.). *Kenai National Wildlife Refuge*. Retrieved March 19, 2012 from <http://kenai.fws.gov/>.

ago. The remnant of this once widespread ice sheet can still be observed today as the Harding Icefield at high elevation in the eastern Kenai Mountains of the peninsula. At its greatest depth in the center, the Harding Icefield is thousands of feet thick.

As one leaves the ice and snow of the Harding Ice Field and descends to lower elevations, the first major habitats encountered are the treeless alpine and subalpine zones. These open, rocky, and windy habitats are the home of mountain goats, Dall sheep, caribou, wolverine, marmots, and ptarmigan. Just below the more shrubby subalpine habitat one begins to encounter trees of the boreal forest. Timberline averages about 1,800 ft above sea level on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

Most of the lower elevations on the Kenai Peninsula and the Refuge are covered by boreal forest and numerous lakes. The largest lake on the Kenai Peninsula is Tustumena Lake at nearly 74,000 acres. Boreal forests are the home of moose, wolves, black and brown bears, lynx, snowshoe hares and numerous species of neotropical birds such as olive-sided flycatchers, myrtle warblers and ruby-crowned kinglets.

Continuing down to lowest elevation at sea level, the refuge includes the last remaining, pristine major salt water estuary - the Chickaloon River Flats - on the Kenai Peninsula. It provides a major migratory staging area for thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl in the spring and fall and nesting habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds in the summer. The area is also used as a haul-out area by harbor seals and is used by beluga whales. Thousands of salmon migrate up the Chickaloon River system each year to spawn.

The subarctic stream and lake habitats and associated populations of salmon, trout, char, and other species are highly important resources of the Kenai NWR. Most of the aquatic habitats are in near-pristine condition and many of the fish species have significant recreational and commercial value. Several fish species are also important food resources for a variety of wildlife including loons, bald eagles, river otters, and black and brown bears. Welfare of the fish populations is dependent upon maintaining genetic variability, water quality, protection of critical rearing and spawning habitats, and escapement of sufficient spawning stocks. The national importance of these resources is particularly evident when they are compared to habitats and fish populations elsewhere in the nation, where many resources have been severely impacted by human expansion and development.

The shoreline of the Kenai Peninsula along Cook Inlet is located at the edge of the North American Plate, leading to frequent and often devastating earthquakes and volcanic activity in the area. Five active volcanoes are located within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, all situated on the west side of Cook Inlet. They are Fourpeaked, Augustine, Iliamna, Redoubt, and Mount Spurr. Major damage can also be caused by secondary earthquake hazards, including landslides, floods, avalanches, tsunamis, uplift, subsidence, infrastructure failures, and soil liquefaction.⁷ Other natural hazards threats in the Kenai Peninsula Borough include flooding, wildfire, snow and avalanche, seiche, severe weather, erosion, and drought.⁸

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, there is one active environmental remediation site located in Soldotna. A drycleaning facility located at the River Terrace RV Park exposed local groundwater and soils to hydrocarbon and perchloroethylene

⁷ Kenai Peninsula Borough (2010). *All-Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved January 26, 2012 from <http://www2.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency/hazmit/plan.htm>

⁸ State of Alaska (2002). *Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Retrieved February 8, 2012 from <http://biotech.law.lsu.edu/blaw/DOD/manual/.%5CFull%20text%20documents%5CState%20Authorities%5CAla.%20SHMP.pdf>.

(PCE) contaminates in the early 1990s. Soil excavations and treatment began in 1997, and groundwater treatment began in 2000. Two contaminant groundwater plums exist in the area, one of which flows into the Kenai River. Between 2000 and 2004, efforts were made to treat plums prior to reaching the Kenai, and monitoring between 2005 and 2010 indicated that treatment processes had mostly broken down PCE contaminates, although the area is still considered a public health threat.⁹

Current Economy¹⁰

The area's economy is diversified. Kenai and Soldotna residents are employed in natural gas drilling and exploration and other oil industry services for Cook Inlet oil. Other important economic sectors include sport, subsistence, and commercial fishing, fish processing, government, agriculture, transportation, construction, services, and retail trade. In 2010, 161 area residents held commercial fishing permits. Soldotna is the site of the Central Peninsula General Hospital, the Kenai Peninsula Community College, the State Troopers' Headquarters, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and the borough's administrative center and the school district's headquarters office.¹¹ Top employers for 2010 included: Kenai Peninsula Borough School, Central Peninsula General Hospital, State of Alaska, Fred Meyer Stores Inc., ASRC Energy Services O&M Inc., Kenai Peninsula Borough, VECO Alaska Inc., Frontier Community Services Inc., Peninsula Community Health Services Inc., and Safeway Inc.¹²

According to the 2006-10 American Community Survey (ACS), the per capita income in Soldotna was estimated to be \$28,559 and the median household income was estimated to be \$46,548, compared to \$21,740 and \$48,420 in 2000, respectively. Taking inflation into account by converting the 2000 values to 2010 dollars,¹³ the real per capita income in 2000 is shown to be \$28,588 and the real household income was \$63,672. This shows that per capita income decreased only slightly over the period, while there was a significant decrease in median household income. In 2010, Soldotna ranked 73rd of 305 Alaskan communities for which per capita income was estimated that year, and 154th of 299 Alaskan communities for which household income was estimated. However, Soldotna's small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions.¹⁴ Another understanding of per capita income is obtained through economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. According to the ALARI database, the per capita income in Soldotna in 2010 was

⁹ Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (2012). *River Terrace RV Park*. Retrieved April 10, 2013 from: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/sites/riverterrace.htm>.

¹⁰ Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

¹¹ Alaska Department of Community and Rural Affairs (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

¹² 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/>.

¹³ Inflation was calculated using the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for 2010 (retrieved October 18, 2011 from the Alaska Department of Labor, <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/cpi/inflationcalc.htm>).

¹⁴ While American Community Survey (ACS) estimates can provide a good snapshot estimate for larger populations, smaller populations can be misrepresented by ACS estimates if demographic information is not collected from a representative sample of the population. This is especially problematic for Alaskan communities with small populations that have a low probability of being adequately sampled.

\$19,169, which indicates a more significant decrease in per capita income than the 2006-10 ACS when compared to the real per capita income values reported by the U.S. Census in 2000.¹⁵

Based on the ACS, in the same year, 59.1% of the population was estimated to be in the civilian labor force, compared to an estimated statewide rate of 68.8%. The local unemployment rate was estimated at 6.9%, compared to an estimated statewide unemployment rate of 5.9%. An estimated 8.9% of local residents were living below the poverty line, compared to an estimated 9.6% of Alaskans overall. It should be noted that income and poverty statistics are based on wage income and other money sources; figures reported for Soldotna are not reflective of the value of subsistence to the local economy. In addition, these unemployment and poverty statistics are likely inaccurate given the population of Soldotna. A more accurate estimate is based on the ALARI database, which indicates that the unemployment rate in 2010 was 11.4%.

Based on household surveys conducted for the 2006-2010 ACS, the greatest percentage of workers were estimated to be employed in the private sector (79%), while an estimated 16.5% were employed in the public sector, 3.4% were self-employed, and 1% were unpaid family workers. Out of 1,819 people aged 16 and over that were estimated to be employed in the civilian labor force in 2010, the greatest percentage worked in education services, health care, and social assistance (27.6%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services (16.2%), retail trade (10.7%), and agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining (10.4%). Smaller percentages of the population were employed in public administration (6.3%), other services, except public administration (6%), professional, scientific, management, administration, and waste management (5.1%), finance, insurance, and real estate (5.3%), information (2.1%), transportation, warehousing, and utilities (1.5%), wholesale trade (5.5%), manufacturing (0.7%), and construction (2.7%). Between 2000 and 2010, a significant proportional increase in employment occurred within the education services, healthcare, and social assistance sectors. Conversely, a significant proportional decline occurred within the retail trade, transportation, warehousing, and utilities sectors (Figure 3).

In terms of employment by occupation type, most (29.9%) employed residents were estimated to hold service positions in 2010; followed by management or professional (25.7%); sales or office (24.6%); production, transportation, or material moving (7.0%); and natural resources, construction, or maintenance (4.4%) positions. Between 2000 and 2010, a significant proportional increase occurred in the estimated number of residents holding service positions. Conversely, a significant proportional decrease occurred in the estimated number of residents holding natural resources, construction, or maintenance positions (Figure 4).

Given the data reported in the *Commercial Fishing* section below, the number of individuals employed in farming, fishing, and forestry industries may be underestimated in census statistics as fishermen may hold another job and characterize their employment accordingly.

¹⁵ See footnote 12.

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

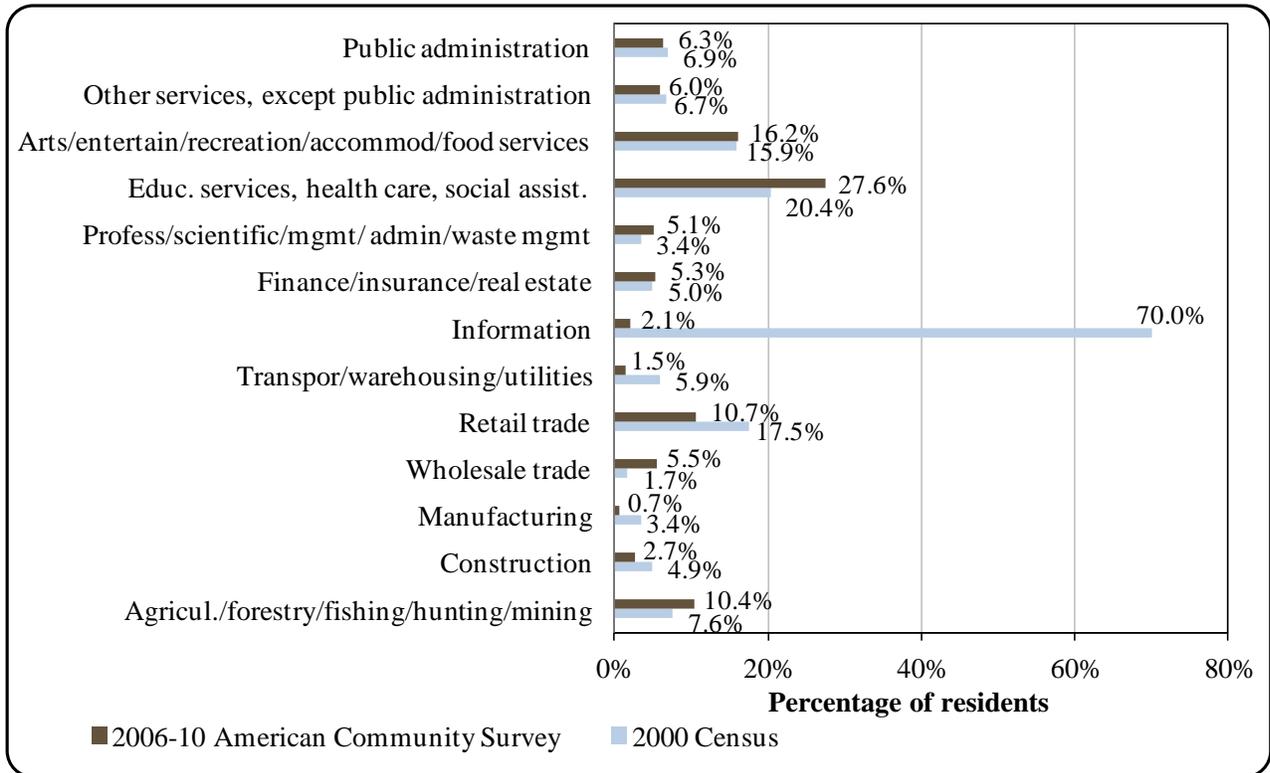
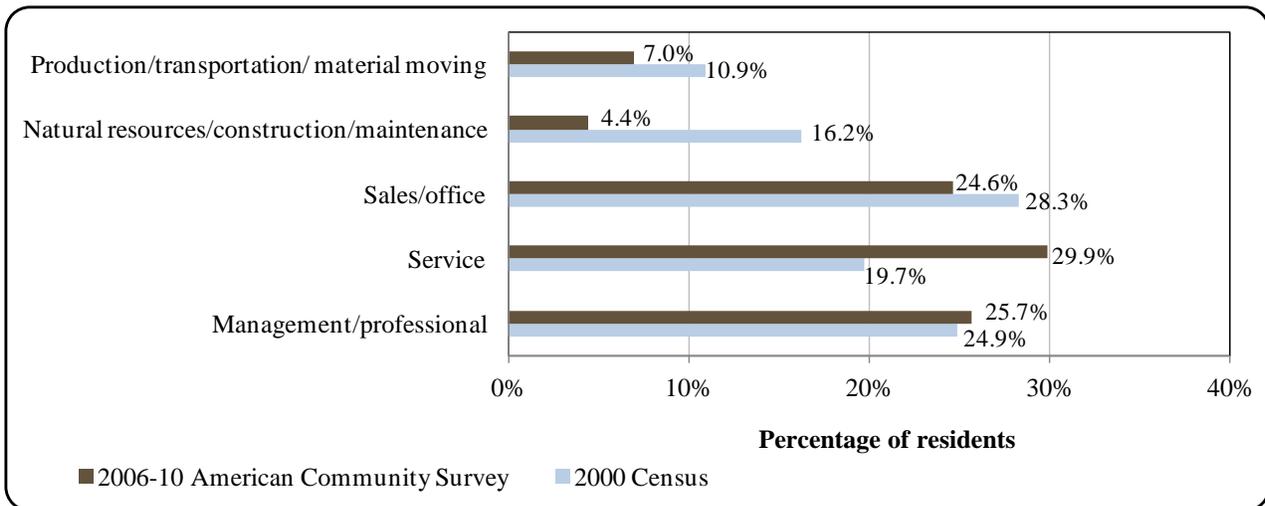


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Soldotna (U.S. Census).



Governance

Soldotna is a First-class city located in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Soldotna administers a 3% sales tax. Total municipal revenue increased overall between 2000 and 2010, though the years of highest municipal revenue during this period were 2008 and 2009. Sales tax revenue also increased overall during this period. Soldotna received revenue from state/community revenue sharing between 2000 and 2003 and in 2009 and 2010. In 2004, Soldotna received grants from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development’s Division of Community and Regional Affairs for value-added seafood processing equipment at Peninsula Processing and Smokehouse, equipment upgrades at Sea Products, LLC, and salmon marketing at Peninsula Processing. Municipal revenue totals given in Table 2 pertain to general fund revenues, and do not include operating revenues for utilities or the airport.

Soldotna was not included in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and is not federally recognized as a Native village. However, Soldotna is a member of a regional Native corporation, Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated.

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

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

Year	Total Municipal Revenue ¹	Sales Tax Revenue ²	State/Community Revenue Sharing ^{3,4}	Fisheries-Related Grants (State and Federal) ⁵
2000	\$5,287,411	\$4,694,733	\$73,473	n/a
2001	\$5,432,609	\$4,827,209	\$65,768	n/a
2002	\$5,773,015	\$5,100,316	\$65,784	n/a
2003	\$6,319,577	\$5,232,283	\$65,881	n/a
2004	\$7,231,110	\$5,694,134	n/a	\$179,700
2005	\$7,193,617	\$5,910,189	n/a	n/a
2006	\$8,209,324	\$6,348,529	n/a	n/a
2007	\$8,809,182	\$6,807,184	n/a	n/a
2008	\$9,540,085	\$7,447,481	n/a	n/a
2009	\$9,073,100	\$7,717,581	\$303,169	n/a
2010	\$8,323,283	\$7,236,738	\$297,660	n/a

¹ Alaska Department of Community and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.

² Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development (n.d.). *Alaska Taxable (2000-2010)*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm.

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

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

⁵ Alaska Department of Community and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). Community Funding Database. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm.

Infrastructure

Connectivity and Transportation

The Soldotna Municipal Airport provides facilities for charter services and local air traffic. The main runway is 5,000 ft long by 132 ft wide. The nearby Kenai Municipal Airport, located 10 mi away, offers scheduled flights and float plane facilities. Seaplanes can also land at Mackeys Lakes. There are four additional private landing strips in Soldotna and a heliport for medical emergencies at Central Peninsula General Hospital. The Sterling Highway provides access to Alaska's road system.¹⁶ While Soldotna has an airport, there are no regular commercial flights available between Soldotna and Anchorage. In June 2012, round-trip airfare between Kenai (10 mi from Soldotna) and Anchorage was \$171.¹⁷

*Facilities*¹⁸

The City of Soldotna operates a piped water and sewer system. All homes in Soldotna are completely plumbed. Water is derived from 4 wells and is treated and stored in a 1 million-gallon steel tank along with a second 500,000-gallon tank. Piped sewage receives secondary treatment with an activated sludge process; effluent discharges into the Kenai River. Individual wells and septic tanks are used by a few households outside of the core residential area. A private company provides refuse collection services to the community. Garbage is disposed of in the Borough's Class-1 regional landfill and baling facility at mile 98.5 Sterling Highway in Soldotna. Recycling and hazardous waste disposal are available. Electricity in the community is provided by Homer Electric Association which operates the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project and is part owner of the Alaska Electric Generation & Transmission Cooperative. The Cooperative operates a gas turbine plant in Soldotna. The community also purchases electricity from Chugach Electric. For home heating, most residents use natural gas from Enstar.

Law enforcement services are provided by the City Police Department and state troopers located in Soldotna. Fire and rescue services are provided by the Borough/Central Emergency Services (CES) Fire/Rescue/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). A youth center is run by the City and the Soldotna Peninsula Sports Center Boys and Girls Club, and a community hall is available at the Soldotna City Hall. Senior services are provided by Soldotna Area Senior Citizens, Inc. and the Senior Center at Frontier Community Services. The Central Peninsula Sports Center provides an ice rink, racquetball courts, weight room, and meeting facilities. Other community facilities include two swimming pools, a movie theater, a historical society and museum, two academic libraries, seven school libraries, and one public library.

¹⁶ Alaska Department of Community and Rural Affairs (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

¹⁷ Airfare was obtained on the travel website <http://www.travelocity.com> for a round-trip ticket for travel from June 1 to June 8, 2012. Retrieved on December 1, 2011.

¹⁸ See footnote 16.

*Medical Services*¹⁹

Medical care in Soldotna is provided by the Central Peninsula General Hospital and the Central Peninsula Health Center. These facilities are owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough and operated by the Central Peninsula Hospital. The hospital is a qualified Acute Care facility and provides Critical Care Air Ambulance Service. Alternate health care is provided by Central Emergency Services. Long term care is provided by Heritage Place, while specialized care is provided by the Frontier Training Center and Family Recovery Center. Emergency Services have highway, airport, and floatplane access and are provided by a 911 telephone service and a paid Emergency Medical Service.

*Educational Opportunities*²⁰

There are 10 schools in Soldotna. The Soldotna Elementary School provides instruction to students in pre-school through sixth grade, and in 2011 had 295 students and 20 teachers. The Soldotna Montessori Charter School provides instruction to students in kindergarten through sixth grade, and in 2011 had 167 students and 11 teachers. The Redoubt Elementary School provides instruction to students in kindergarten through sixth grade, and in 2011 had 393 students and 26 teachers. The Aurora Borealis Charter School provides instruction to students in kindergarten through eighth grade and in 2011 had 193 students and 12 teachers. The Soldotna Middle School provides instruction to students in grades seven and eight, and in 2011 had 408 students and 25 teachers. The Soldotna High School provides instruction to students in grades nine through 12, and in 2011 had 521 students and 33 teachers. The Skyview High School also provides instruction to students in grades nine through 12, and in 2011 had 375 students and 20 teachers. Connections school provides instruction to students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and in 2011 had 871 students and 11 teachers. Kenai Alternative High School provides instruction to students in pre-school through 12th grade, and in 2011 had 88 students and 6 teachers. River City Academy provides instruction to students in grades 7 through 12, and in 2011 had 73 students and five teachers.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

History and Evolution of Fisheries

Soldotna is located in the traditional territory of the Kenaitze people, a branch of Athabascan Native Americans. Historically, the Kenaitze had summer fish camps along the rivers and shores of Cook Inlet. They harvested all five salmon species using dip nets, weirs, dams, and fish traps.²¹ The Soldotna area was homesteaded in the 1940s and grew along with the oil industry, which continues to be the primary economic driver in the community.²² In addition, some Soldotna residents became involved in commercial fisheries that had developed in the

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

²¹ Kenaitze Indian Tribe (n.d.). *Home Page: Raven's People*. Retrieved January 24, 2012 from <http://www.kenaitze-nsn.gov/RavensPeople.html>.

²² See footnote 16.

region following the purchase of Alaska by the U.S. in 1867. Commercial harvest of salmon in Cook Inlet began in 1882²³ with the development of a cannery at the mouth of the Kasilof River, in English Bay. An additional 17 canneries had been built in central Alaska by 1890.²⁴

Commercial exploitation of halibut and groundfish first extended into the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) in the 1920s after development of diesel engines, which allowed fishing vessels to undertake longer trips.²⁵ In the 1920s, herring had become increasingly valued for oil and meal, and a number of reduction plants were built. Commercial crab fisheries began to develop in the GOA in the 1930s. Historically, a sizable spawning biomass of herring was found in western Cook Inlet, and Lower Cook Inlet also supported commercial fisheries for Dungeness, king, and Tanner crab. However, crab and herring fisheries are currently closed due to low stock abundance.^{26,27}

Today, ADF&G manages the Cook Inlet salmon fishery. Lower Cook Inlet is divided into the Southern, Outer, Eastern, and Kamishak Bay fishing districts, and Upper Cook Inlet is divided into the Central and Northern fishing districts. Set gillnet is the only gear allowed in the Northern District, while set and drift gillnet and purse seine gear use is permitted in the Central District. However, seine gear use is limited to the Chinita Bay sub-district, which is open only sporadically. Purse seine gear is used throughout the Lower Cook Inlet management area, and set gillnets are limited to the Kachemak Bay sub-district.²⁸

Groundfish and crab fisheries that occur within 3 nautical mi (nm) of the coast or in inland waters are under the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska, and fisheries that take place beyond 3 nm in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are under federal jurisdiction. Pacific halibut fisheries are managed under the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Cook Inlet is located in Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 630, Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 3A, and the Central GOA federal Sablefish Regulatory Area.

In addition to federal groundfish fisheries that take place in the GOA, state groundfish fisheries take place in the inland and near-coastal waters of Cook Inlet for Pacific cod, sablefish, and rockfish. The Cook Inlet Pacific cod fishery is managed as a parallel fishery, which takes place at the same time as the federal Pacific cod fishery. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set by NMFS applied to both fisheries. Beginning in 1997, an additional ‘state-waters fishery’ for Pacific cod was initiated in Cook Inlet. Management plans for state-waters fisheries are approved by the Alaska Board of Fish, and guideline harvest limits (GHL) are set by ADF&G. Typically, state-waters fisheries are opened once federal and parallel fisheries close. In addition to Pacific cod fisheries, a Cook Inlet open access sablefish fishery is managed by ADF&G under a GHL,

²³ Clark, J. H., A. McGregor, R. D. Mecum, P. Krasnowski, and A. M. Carroll. 2006. The Commercial Salmon Fishery in Alaska. *Alaska Fisheries Research Bulletin* 12(1):1-146. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Retrieved January 4, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1.pdf>.

²⁴ Cook, L., and F. Norris. 1998. *A Stern and Rock-bound Coast: Kenai Fjords National Park Historic Resource Study*. National Park Service Alaska Support Office, Anchorage. Retrieved January 25, 2012 from http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/kefj/hrs/hrs.htm.

²⁵ Thompson, W. F. and N. 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>.

²⁶ Woodby, D., D. Carlile, S. Siddeek, F. Funk, J. H. Clark, and L. Hulbert. 2005. *Commercial Fisheries of Alaska*. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 05-09. Retrieved December 29, 2011 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/sp05-09.pdf>.

²⁷ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2012. *Commercial Fisheries Overview: Lower Cook Inlet Management Area*. Retrieved June 19, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=commercialbyarealci.main>.

²⁸ See footnote 23.

and the State also manages directed mechanical jig fisheries for lingcod and rockfish in Cook Inlet.²⁹

Soldotna is located 10 mi inland from Cook Inlet along the Kenai river. The community is nearest to Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 630, Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 3A, and the Central Gulf of Alaska Sablefish Regulatory Area. Soldotna is not eligible for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) or Community Quota Entity (CQE) programs.

Processing Plants

According to ADF&G's 2010 Intent to Operate list, there were two processing facilities in operation in Soldotna. Information about these facilities is presented below.

Echo Lake Superior Meat & Processing LLC has been custom processing seafood (primarily King salmon) and game meat since 1976. Their facility is located off K-Beach Road in Soldotna on the Kenai Peninsula. Their small facility processes fish caught by sport fishermen in summer as well as some commercially caught salmon. In addition, the plant owns a retail store in Soldotna, and Echo Lake sells salmon products on the Internet.³⁰ In 2010, the plant employed between 15 and 35 workers.³¹

According to ADF&G's 2010 Intent to Operate list, Peninsula Processing & Smokehouse operates a seafood processing facility in Soldotna. Peninsula Processing & Smokehouse offer the following products for sale on their website: salmon (Chinook, sockeye, silver, cedar plank), crab (king and Dungeness), lobster, shrimp, prawns, scallops, clams, halibut, Chilean sea bass, ling cod, Black cod, Pacific cod, rockfish.³²

Fisheries-Related Revenue

Between 2000 and 2010, Soldotna received fisheries-related revenue from the Shared Fisheries Business Tax and the Fisheries Resource Landing Tax. Amounts received from both sources were variable during this time period, as was the total fisheries-related revenue received. During this period, the percentage of total municipal revenue received from fisheries related sources was minimal compared to total municipal revenue, ranging from a low of \$3,765 in 2008 to a high of \$6,205 in 2001.³³ Information about fisheries-related revenue received by Soldotna between 2000 and 2010 is presented in Table 3.

²⁹ See footnote 26.

³⁰ Echo Lake Superior Meat and Processing (n.d.). *About us*. Retrieved November 1, 2011, from <http://www.echolakemeats.com/aboutus.htm>.

³¹ This information is based on the results of a survey of processing plant managers conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in 2011.

³² Peninsula Processing and Smokehouse (n.d.). *Company website*. Retrieved November 1, 2011, from <http://great-alaska-seafood.com/>.

³³ 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.

Commercial Fishing

In 2010, there were 161 permit holders that held 195 commercial fishing permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) for other shellfish, halibut, herring, sablefish, groundfish, other finfish, and salmon (Table 4). The total number of CFEC permits, permit holders, and permits reported as fished decreased overall between 2000 and 2010. There were between one and two permit holders with between two and four crab CFEC permits between 2005 and 2007. The number of other shellfish CFEC permits and permit holders was variable between 2000 and 2010, and other shellfish CFEC permits were only reported as fished in 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2010. In 2010, other shellfish CFEC permits were issued for the Prince William Sound shrimp pot fishery using vessels under 60 ft and the statewide clam shovel fishery. The number of halibut CFEC permits and permit holders, as well as the number of permits reported as fished, decreased between 2000 and 2010. In 2010, 22 of the 23 halibut CFEC permits issued were for the statewide longline fishery using vessels under 60 ft, with one permit issued for the statewide hand troll fishery. The number of herring CFEC permits, permit holders, and permits reported as fished was also variable during this period, and herring CFEC permits were reported as fished only in 2000-2002, 2005-2006, and 2009. Herring CFEC permits were issued in 2010 for the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Goodnews Bay roe herring gillnet fisheries and the Norton Sound herring gillnet fishery, as well as the Bristol Bay herring spawn on kelp hand-picking fishery. The number of sablefish permits, permit holders, and number of permits fished was variable between 2000 and 2010, while the number of groundfish permits, permit holders, and permits reported as fished decreased during this period. In 2010, sablefish CFEC permits were issued for the statewide longline fishery using vessels under 60 ft and the Prince William Sound fixed gear fishery using vessels with a maximum length of 50 ft. Groundfish CFEC permits issued in 2010 were for the statewide lingcod longline vessel fishery using vessels under 60 ft, the statewide lingcod dinglebar troll fishery, the statewide and Gulf of Alaska miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline fisheries using vessels under 60 ft, and the Gulf of Alaska miscellaneous saltwater finfish dinglebar troll fishery.

Since 2007, there have been two other finfish permit holders and permits, though those permits have not yet been reported as fished. In 2010, both of these other finfish CFEC permits were issued for the statewide freshwater fish set gillnet fishery. The number of salmon CFEC permits, permit holders, and permits reported as fished also decreased between 2000 and 2010. Of the salmon CFEC permits issued in 2010, the majority were for the Cook Inlet drift gillnet and set gillnet fisheries. The remainder of the salmon CFEC permits issued in 2010 were for the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik purse seine fisheries, the southeastern, Prince William Sound, Peninsula-Aleutians, and Bristol Bay drift gillnet fisheries, the Bristol Bay set gillnet fishery, the Kuskokwim and Norton Sound gillnet fisheries, and the statewide hand troll fishery.

Also in 2010, there were seven Federal Fisheries Permit holders that held eight permits (Table 4). While the number of Federal Fisheries permits and permit holders decreased between 2000 and 2010, none of those permits were reported as fished until 2005. Since that time, the number of Federal Fisheries Permits reported as fished has varied between one and three. There were six groundfish License Limitation Program (LLP) holders in Soldotna in 2010, with represents a small overall increase since the year 2000, though the number of those permits reported as fished remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2010. In 2009 and 2010, there

was one crab LLP permit held by one individual, though that permit was only reported as fished in 2009.

In 2010, there were 199 crew license holders in Soldotna, a decrease from 255 in 2000. While there have been no fish buyers located in Soldotna since 2004, there are two shore-side processing facilities located in the community, which represents an overall decrease between 2000 and 2010. The number of vessels owned primarily by Soldotna residents declined substantially between 2000 (434 vessels) and 2010 (72 vessels), as did the number of vessels homeported in Soldotna between 2000 (315) and 2010 (21). Between 2000 and 2010, there was one vessel landing catch in Soldotna in 2001 and one vessel landing catch in 2004. However, because only one vessel landed catch in the community in those years, the landings and ex-vessel revenue data for those years are considered confidential. Information on the characteristics of the commercial fishing sector in Soldotna between 2000 and 2010 is presented in Table 5.

The number of halibut quota share account holders decreased between 2000 and 2010, though the total number of quota shares held and the associated amount of halibut Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) allotment (in pounds) increased during the same period (Table 6). The number of sablefish quota share account holders also decreased between 2000 and 2010, while the number of quota shares held and the amount of sablefish IFQ allotment experienced an increase followed by a decrease during this period (Table 7). The number of crab quota share account holders increased from one to two between 2005 and 2010, but the number of quota shares held and the amount of crab IFQ allotment increased substantially during this period (Table 8).

While there were commercial landings and associated ex-vessel revenue reported in Soldotna in 2001 and 2004, the landings and ex-vessel revenue in those years are considered confidential due to the small number of participants. There were no commercial landings or ex-vessel revenue reported in the other years between 2000 and 2010 (Table 9). Landings reported by Soldotna residents (and associated ex-vessel revenue), irrespective of location, were recorded for halibut in 2000 to 2007 and 2009 to 2010, herring in 2000, other groundfish in 2000 to 2005, Pacific cod in 2000 to 2002 and 2006, and salmon between 2000 and 2010. Landings and ex-vessel revenue for species and years not listed here are considered confidential due to a small number of participants. Landings and ex-vessel value for halibut were variable from year to year, though landings experienced an overall decrease and ex-vessel value experienced an overall increase between 2000 and 2010. Landings and ex-vessel revenue for salmon were also variable from year to year between 2000 and 2010. Information regarding landed pounds and ex-vessel revenue by species for Soldotna residents is presented in Table 10.

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

Revenue source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Raw fish tax ¹	n/a										
Shared Fisheries Business Tax ¹	\$4,568	\$5,940	\$3,350	\$4,562	\$3,876	\$4,566	\$4,140	\$5,360	\$3,631	\$4,880	\$5,101
Fisheries Resource Landing Tax ¹	\$292	\$264	\$506	\$389	\$58	\$123	\$117	\$88	\$133	\$64	n/a
Fuel transfer tax ²	n/a										
Extraterritorial fish tax ²	n/a										
Bulk fuel transfers ¹	n/a										
Boat hauls ²	n/a										
Harbor usage ²	n/a										
Port/dock usage ²	n/a										
Fishing gear storage on public land ³	n/a										
Marine fuel sales tax ³	n/a										
<i>Total fisheries-related revenue⁴</i>	<i>\$4,860</i>	<i>\$6,205</i>	<i>\$3,856</i>	<i>\$4,951</i>	<i>\$3,935</i>	<i>\$4,689</i>	<i>\$4,256</i>	<i>\$5,448</i>	<i>\$3,765</i>	<i>\$4,944</i>	<i>\$5,101</i>
<i>Total municipal revenue⁵</i>	<i>\$5,287,411</i>	<i>\$5,607,290</i>	<i>\$5,773,015</i>	<i>\$5,874,850</i>	<i>\$6,178,711</i>	<i>\$6,423,483</i>	<i>\$7,275,581</i>	<i>\$7,588,807</i>	<i>\$9,540,085</i>	<i>\$9,073,100</i>	<i>\$8,323,283</i>

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

¹ Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development (n.d.) *Alaska Taxable (2000-2010)*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm.

² Alaska Department of Community and Rural Affairs. (n.d.) *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.

³ Reported by community leaders in a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011.

⁴ Total fisheries related revenue represents a sum of all known revenue sources in the previous rows.

⁵ Total municipal revenue represents the total revenue that the city brings in each year from all sources, including fisheries-related revenue streams. Alaska Department 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.

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) ¹	Total permits	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6
	Active permits	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1
	% of permits fished	40%	40%	25%	25%	-	20%	20%	20%	20%	33%	16%
	Total permit holders	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6
Crab (LLP) ¹	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Active permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Federal Fisheries Permits ¹	Total permits	16	17	17	13	13	14	13	13	14	8	8
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	3	3
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	7%	23%	15%	14%	38%	38%
	Total permit holders	15	16	16	12	12	13	13	13	14	7	7
Crab (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	-	-	-	-	-	50%	100%	100%	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Other shellfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	6	2	4	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	5
	Fished permits	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
	% of permits fished	33%	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	100%	-	20%
	Total permit holders	5	1	4	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	5
Halibut (CFEC) ²	Total permits	42	43	40	34	35	32	29	26	27	23	23
	Fished permits	30	31	33	25	28	29	21	21	21	21	18
	% of permits fished	71%	72%	83%	74%	80%	91%	72%	81%	78%	91%	78%
	Total permit holders	41	43	39	34	35	32	29	26	27	23	23
Herring (CFEC) ²	Total permits	17	9	8	10	8	11	8	10	11	9	12
	Fished permits	5	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
	% of permits fished	29%	11%	13%	-	-	9%	25%	-	-	11%	-
	Total permit holders	15	9	8	10	8	11	8	10	11	9	12

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	4	2	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	2
	Fished permits	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	2
	% of permits fished	25%	50%	67%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Total permit holders	4	2	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	2
Groundfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	11	10	9	11	8	10	8	6	9	6	6
	Fished permits	4	2	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	0
	% of permits fished	36%	20%	44%	27%	38%	10%	13%	17%	11%	-	-
	Total permit holders	9	9	8	9	7	8	6	4	7	4	4
Other Finfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
	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	2	2	2	2
Salmon (CFEC) ²	Total permits	153	155	148	143	145	146	136	140	144	147	145
	Fished permits	124	113	100	107	104	113	98	108	101	97	101
	% of permits fished	81%	73%	68%	75%	72%	77%	72%	77%	70%	66%	70%
	Total permit holders	157	157	153	146	146	146	137	146	143	147	144
<i>Total CFEC Permits²</i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>195</i>
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>122</i>
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>63%</i>
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>161</i>

¹ 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.]

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

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

Year	Crew License Holders ¹	Count Of All Fish Buyers ²	Count Of Shore-Side Processing Facilities ³	Vessels Primarily Owned By Residents ⁴	Vessels Homeported ⁴	Vessels Landing Catch In Soldotna ²	Total Net Pounds Landed In Soldotna ²	Total Ex-Vessel Value Of Landings In Soldotna ²
2000	255	0	4	434	315	0	0	\$0
2001	240	1	5	441	319	1	--	--
2002	153	0	5	435	321	0	0	\$0
2003	211	0	4	442	314	0	0	\$0
2004	239	3	3	434	330	1	--	--
2005	234	0	2	97	29	0	0	\$0
2006	181	0	2	81	26	0	0	\$0
2007	201	0	2	86	25	0	0	\$0
2008	198	0	2	80	26	0	0	\$0
2009	193	0	2	70	18	0	0	\$0
2010	199	0	2	72	21	0	0	\$0

Note: Cells showing “--” indicate that the data are considered confidential.

¹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish and crew license holders, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska fish ticket data. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

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

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

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

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (pounds)
2000	57	1,785,453	182,300
2001	59	1,879,150	223,335
2002	57	2,049,767	251,809
2003	53	2,125,378	260,977
2004	50	2,049,342	278,410
2005	50	2,069,115	285,488
2006	43	1,867,541	254,584
2007	37	1,832,118	259,591
2008	36	1,960,341	256,767
2009	33	1,995,209	234,143
2010	32	2,019,722	218,343

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 Soldotna: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders	Sablefish Quota Shares Held	Sablefish IFQ Allotment (pounds)
2000	4	721	65
2001	5	18,098	1,351
2002	4	16,574	1,500
2003	4	16,574	2,238
2004	4	16,574	2,246
2005	4	65,737	7,526
2006	3	65,483	7,095
2007	3	65,483	7,074
2008	3	65,483	6,445
2009	2	49,483	3,899
2010	2	49,483	3,524

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 Soldotna: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Crab Quota Share Account Holders	Crab Quota Shares Held	Crab IFQ Allotment (pounds)
2005	1	286,797	8,279
2006	1	320,684	8,045
2007	1	320,684	13,285
2008	1	320,684	12,348
2009	2	2,733,598	88,534
2010	2	2,424,553	81,841

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 Soldotna: 2000-2010.

	<i>Total Net Pounds¹</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finfish	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halibut	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herring	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Groundfish	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Shellfish	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Cod	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pollock	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sablefish	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total²</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Finfish	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Halibut	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Herring	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Groundfish	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Shellfish	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pacific Cod	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pollock	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sablefish	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Salmon	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	--	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Total²</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</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.]

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

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

	<i>Total Net Pounds¹</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	153,666	215,334	213,715	193,170	183,935	268,534	213,672	105,515	--	88,262	93,676
Herring	352,094	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	3,531	3,818	4,618	6,564	2,348	9,540	--	--	--	--	--
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pacific Cod	3,601	4,958	2,884	--	--	--	2,944	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmon	2,934,537	2,714,488	2,999,765	3,142,378	3,837,423	4,650,491	1,384,709	3,654,628	2,113,377	1,915,193	3,329,354
<i>Total²</i>	<i>3,447,429</i>	<i>2,938,598</i>	<i>3,220,982</i>	<i>3,342,112</i>	<i>4,023,706</i>	<i>4,928,565</i>	<i>1,601,325</i>	<i>3,760,143</i>	<i>2,113,377</i>	<i>2,003,455</i>	<i>3,423,030</i>
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	\$395,205	\$425,189	\$474,611	\$559,020	\$567,566	\$821,320	\$806,257	\$480,486	--	\$275,507	\$432,215
Herring	\$33,468	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Groundfish	\$2,080	\$2,207	\$4,265	\$4,140	\$1,575	\$4,715	--	--	--	--	--
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pacific Cod	\$1,188	\$1,222	\$745	--	--	--	\$49	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmon	\$1,364,319	\$1,081,693	\$1,099,299	\$1,214,370	\$1,769,212	\$2,084,534	\$848,430	\$1,999,601	\$1,431,007	\$1,490,444	\$2,877,873
<i>Total²</i>	<i>\$1,796,260</i>	<i>\$1,510,310</i>	<i>\$1,578,920</i>	<i>\$1,777,530</i>	<i>\$2,338,353</i>	<i>\$2,910,570</i>	<i>\$1,654,737</i>	<i>\$2,480,087</i>	<i>\$1,431,007</i>	<i>\$1,765,951</i>	<i>\$3,310,088</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.]

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

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Recreational Fishing

The Kenai River is the most heavily fished river in Alaska and also supports the largest sockeye sport fishery in the state. The Sterling Highway Bridge in Soldotna marks the beginning of the “Lower River.” This final 21-mile section is gentler than the upper portion of the river, and the river winds its way to empty in Cook Inlet near the City of Kenai. There are about 40 unique species of fish in the Kenai River. There are resident fish, which spend their entire life cycle in the river; anadromous fish, which spend part of their life in the river and part in salt water; and fish which are common to the intertidal area, which is a mixture of both fresh and salt water.³⁴

The North Kenai Peninsula Management Area has two personal use sockeye salmon dip net fisheries which are open to Alaska-residents only. The Russian River sockeye salmon fishery is the second largest sockeye fishery in Alaska. Annual harvests in the Russian River regularly exceed 50,000 fish and have come close to 200,000 fish in some years. The Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik Rivers also support large Chinook salmon runs from late May through mid-July. Coho salmon arrive in the area early August through mid-September; and Dolly Varden can be found mid-May through mid-July. Many lakes on the Kenai Peninsula are stocked with rainbow trout and salmon to support the large sportfishing economy.³⁵

In 2010, there were 141 sport fish guide businesses in Soldotna, of which only 28 were active. This represented a decrease from the number of active businesses in previous years between 2000 and 2009. The number of active sport fish businesses peaked in 2007 at 43. In addition, 177 individuals held sport fish guide licenses in 2010; a decline from 216 in 2000. Also in 2010, there were 6,419 sport fish guide licenses sold to Soldotna residents (irrespective of the location of the point of sale), a number which increased steadily between 2000 and 2010. In the same year, there were 32,797 sportfishing licenses sold within the community, indicating the potential that visitors to Soldotna are participating in recreational fishing activities. The number of sportfishing licenses sold in Soldotna increased substantially between 2000 and 2010 (Table 11).

Soldotna is located within the Kenai Peninsula Alaska Sport Fishing Survey Area. Information is available about both saltwater and freshwater sportfishing activity at this regional scale. Between 2000 and 2010, sportfishing activity in this region was variable from year to year, though the total number of angler days fished in the region decreased overall during this period. There were considerably more angler days fished in freshwater than in saltwater in this region between 2000 and 2010. During this period, the percentage of angler days fished by non-Alaska residents in saltwater increased only slightly, from 23% to 28%, as did the percentage of angler days fished by non-Alaska residents in saltwater, which increased from 42% to 47%. The percentage of angler days fished by non-Alaska residents was higher in freshwater than in saltwater between 2000 and 2010. Information on sportfishing trends in Soldotna between 2000 and 2010 is presented in Table 11.

³⁴ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Division of Sport Fish. Southcentral Region. (n.d.). Kenai Peninsula Recreational Fishing Series: The Kenai River. Retrieved on May 9, 2012 from www.adfg.alaska.gov/static-sf/Region2/pdfpubs/kenairiver.pdf.

³⁵ Kenai Peninsula Borough. (2005). Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan. Retrieved on July 9, 2012 from: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/KenaiPeninsulaBorough-CP-2005.pdf>.

The Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey,³⁶ conducted by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010, noted the following species targeted by private anglers in Soldotna: all five species of salmon, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, whitefish, burbot, Arctic grayling, Northern pike, Pacific halibut, rockfish, lingcod, Pacific cod, smelt, other fish, Dungeness crab, Tanner crab, razor clam, hardshell clam, shrimp, and other shellfish. No kept/release log book data were reported for fishing charters out of Soldotna between 2000 and 2010.³⁷

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence fishing activity by Soldotna residents appears limited. Data were not available regarding subsistence participation by household and species (Table 12), subsistence harvest of marine invertebrates and non-salmon fish (Table 13), or subsistence harvest of marine mammal resources (Table 15) between 2000 and 2010. However, data are available regarding subsistence salmon and halibut harvesting. The number of subsistence salmon permits issued in Soldotna between 2000 and 2008 was highly variable, as was the number of those permits reported as fished during this period. Although harvests were limited, sockeye salmon were the most commonly harvested subsistence species under the subsistence salmon permits, followed by Chinook salmon (Table 13). The number of Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) cards issued to residents increased steadily between 2003 and 2010, though the number of those permits reported as fished and the amount of halibut harvested under those permits was variable from year to year during this period. In 2009 (the last year estimates were available), an estimated 3,473 pounds of halibut were harvested using 18 SHARC. This estimate vastly exceeded previous years, when estimated harvests ranged between 225 and 1,872 pounds (Table 14).

Additional Information

As of March 2012, Soldotna (also known as “Alaska’s Kenai River City”) was home to the World Record King Salmon, which weighed 97 lbs, four oz.³⁸

³⁶ 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).

³⁷ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish charter logbook database, 2000-2020. 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.]

³⁸ Soldotna Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Information Center. Visit Soldotna. Retrieved from <http://www.visitsoldotna.com/> on March 20, 2012.

Table 11. Sport Fishing Trends, Soldotna: 2000-2010.

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses ¹	Sport Fish Guide Licenses ¹	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents ²	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Soldotna ²
2000	34	216	5,799	10,087
2001	37	210	5,917	10,341
2002	33	222	5,914	11,712
2003	34	225	6,114	30,489
2004	33	231	6,342	35,386
2005	37	192	6,167	38,084
2006	41	227	6,091	37,639
2007	43	235	6,182	38,672
2008	30	221	6,351	37,411
2009	27	194	6,640	34,396
2010	28	177	6,419	32,797

Year	Saltwater		Freshwater	
	Angler Days Fished – Non-residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Non-residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents ³
2000	42,157	139,737	242,224	333,118
2001	28,245	69,053	202,305	269,047
2002	26,479	83,335	199,512	299,839
2003	35,299	80,368	205,810	273,743
2004	39,009	83,478	251,002	297,877
2005	37,309	91,489	281,942	270,164
2006	33,988	76,100	229,520	268,434
2007	31,105	89,061	281,832	313,012
2008	28,780	70,285	234,826	295,184
2009	24,959	77,945	203,584	299,194
2010	28,294	71,555	222,375	247,239

¹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish guide licenses and businesses, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish and crew license holders, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

³ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska Sport Fishing Survey results, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey project. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/> (Accessed September 2011).

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Soldotna: 2000-2010.

Year	% Households Participating In Salmon Subsistence	% Households Participating In Halibut Subsistence	% Households Participating In Marine Mammal Subsistence	% Households Participating In Marine Invertebrate Subsistence	% Households Participating In Non-Salmon Fish Subsistence	Per Capita Subsistence Harvest (Pounds)
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). ADF&G Division of Subsistence. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

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

Year	Subsistence Salmon Permits Issued ¹	Salmon Permits Returned ¹	Chinook Salmon Harvested ¹	Chum Salmon Harvested ¹	Coho Salmon Harvested ¹	Pink Salmon Harvested ¹	Sockeye Salmon Harvested ¹	Lbs of Marine Inverts ²	Lbs of Non-Salmon Fish ²
2000	14	14	20	4	n/a	n/a	351	n/a	n/a
2001	20	29	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	309	n/a	n/a
2002	10	19	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	118	n/a	n/a
2003	13	23	8	n/a	106	n/a	152	n/a	n/a
2004	34	33	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	143	n/a	n/a
2005	24	23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	129	n/a	n/a
2006	11	8	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	191	n/a	n/a
2007	12	9	13	n/a	n/a	n/a	203	n/a	n/a
2008	26	26	55	n/a	6	n/a	153	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

¹ Fall, J.A., C. Brown, N. Braem, J.J. Simon, W.E. Simeone, D.L. Holen, L. Naves, L. Hutchinson-Scarborough, T. Lemons, and T.M. Krieg. 2011, revised. Alaska subsistence salmon fisheries 2008 annual report. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 359, Anchorage. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). ADF&G Division of Subsistence. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

Table 14. Subsistence Halibut Fishing Participation, Soldotna: 2003-2010.

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	7	4	225
2004	13	n/a	n/a
2005	18	3	497
2006	16	10	1,439
2007	23	8	1,872
2008	24	3	783
2009	39	18	3,473
2010	44	7	n/a

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

Source: Fall, J.A. and D. Koster. 2011. Subsistence harvests of Pacific halibut in Alaska, 2009. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 357, Anchorage. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

Table 15. Subsistence Harvests of Marine Mammal Resources, Soldotna: 2000-2010.

Year	# of Beluga Whales ¹	# of Sea Otters ²	# of Walrus ²	# of Polar Bears ²	# of Steller Sea Lions ³	# of Harbor Seals ³	# of Spotted Seals ³
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

¹ Frost, K.J., and R.S. Suydam. 2010. Subsistence harvest of beluga or white whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) in northern and western Alaska, 1987–2006. *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 11(3): 293–299. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Marking, Tagging and Reporting Program data bases for northern sea otter, Pacific walrus and polar bear. Office of Marine Mammals Management. Anchorage, Alaska. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

³ Wolfe, R.J., Fall, J.A. and M. Riedel. 2009. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2008. Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 347, Anchorage.