**Whale Pass**

**People and Place**

**Location**

The community of Whale Pass lies on the northeast coast of Prince of Wales Island (PWI). It is north of Whale Passage, on Forest Development Road (FDR) 25, about 64 road miles north of Klawock and 75 air miles northwest of Ketchikan. The area encompasses 35.6 square miles of land and 1.8 square miles of water. The community is located in the Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, is not incorporated into a municipality, and is not under the jurisdiction of a borough.

**Demographic Profile**

In 2010, there were 31 residents ranking Whale Pass 316th of 352 Alaskan communities. Between 1990 and 2010, the population declined by 58.7%. Between 2000 and 2009, the population grew by 3.5% with an average annual growth rate of -0.97%, which was lower than the statewide average of 0.75% and indicative of a variable population trend. In a survey conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) in 2011, community leaders estimated that there were 60 permanent and 10 seasonal or transient residents living in Whale Pass in 2010. On average, the community attracts seasonal workers from May through November with the population peaking between June and September. Peaks in population are mostly driven by employment in fisheries sectors. Information regarding population trends can be found in Table 1.

The racial composition of Whale Pass is predominately White. In 2010, 87.1% of residents identified themselves as White, compared to 96.6% in 2000; 9.7% identified themselves as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, compared to 0% in 2000; and 3.2% identified themselves as two or more races, compared to 1.7% in 2000. Hispanics and Latinos made up 3.2% of the population in 2010, compared to 6.9% in 2000. Information regarding racial and ethnic composition can be found in Figure 1.

In 2010, the average household size was 1.55, a decline from 2.60 in 1990 and 2.64 in 2000. In that year, there were a total of 61 housing units, compared to 40 in 1990 and 51 in 2000. Of the households surveyed in 2010, 30% were owner-occupied, compared to 37% in 2000; 3% were renter-occupied, compared to 6% in 2000; 16% were vacant, compared to 45% in 2000; and 51% were occupied seasonally, compared to 12% in 2000. No residents were reported living in group quarters between 1990 and 2010.

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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 Whale Pass from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>U.S. Decennial Census</th>
<th>Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>2002</td>
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<td>67</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

The gender distribution was significantly skewed in 2010 at 64.5% male and 35.5% female. This was substantially more uneven than the statewide distribution (52% male, 48% female) and distribution in 2000 (53.4% male, 46.6% female). In that year, the median age was 57.3 years, which was significantly older than the statewide median of 33.8 years and 2000 median of 37.0 years.

When compared with 2000, the population structure in 2010 was significantly more constricted, indicating an aging population. However, it should be noted that Whale Pass’ small population may preclude any meaningful discernment of a trend. In that year, 12.9% of residents...
were under the age of 20, compared to 29.3% in 2000; 41.9% were over the age of 59, compared to 6.8% in 2000; 42% were between the ages of 30 and 59, compared to 58.5% in 2000; and 3.2% were between the ages of 20 and 29, compared to 5.1% in 2000.

Gender distribution by age cohort was significantly less even in 2010 than in 2000 with notable male biases along most age ranges. In that year, the greatest absolute gender difference occurred in the 60 to 69 range (25.8% male, 9.7% female), followed by the 40 to 49 (9.7% male, 0% female) and 50 to 59 (12.9% female, 6.5% male) ranges. Of those three, the greatest relative gender difference occurred in the 40 to 49 range. It should be noted the because of the small and variable population, changes in gender distribution by age cohort were somewhat erratic making it difficult to discern a trend. Information regarding Whale Pass’ population structure can be found in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Population Age Structure in Whale Pass Based on the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Decennial Census.
In terms of educational attainment, the U.S. Census’ 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated that 85% of residents aged 25 and older held a high school diploma or higher degree in 2010, compared to an estimated 90.7% of Alaskan residents overall. Also in that year, an estimated 15% of residents had a ninth to twelfth grade education but no diploma, compared to an estimated 5.8% of Alaskan residents overall and an estimated 35% had some college but no degree, compared to an estimated 28.3% of Alaskan residents overall. No residents were estimated to have less than a ninth grade education or hold a post-secondary degree in 2010.

**History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture**

Whale Pass was founded at the beginning of the twentieth-century as a community centered on the commercial fishing and timber industries. Logging thrived until the early 1980s when the local timber camp was closed. Whale Pass was permanently established through a land disposal sale around that time, and a homeowners association was created shortly thereafter. In 1980, the community was connected to the Prince of Wales road system. Today, Whale Pass primarily exists as a fishing town, participating in commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries. Logging activity in the area has been increasing as well.

**Natural Resources and Environment**

The area is dominated by a cool maritime climate. Summer temperatures range from 46 to 70 °F (8 to 21 °C); winter temperatures range from 15 to 42 °F (-9 to 6 °C).

Whale Pass is located in the Tongass National Forest, which covers 16.8 million acres of rainforest in southeast Alaska. Like all of southeast Alaska, PWI’s topography was sculpted by immense glaciations during the last ice age. Thousands of years of post-glacial ecological succession created one of the most biologically productive rainforests in the world. Vegetation is dominated by mixed spruce-hemlock stands with areas of red alder and cedar. Muskegs are found in depressions and shallow slopes where drainage is poor. The rainforests of Southeast Alaska are habitat to a wide range of wildlife. Terrestrial wildlife includes shrews, voles, marmots, ground squirrels, beaver, black bears, porcupine, Sitka black tail deer, marten, fishers, and river otter. Fish species include Pacific halibut, all five species of Pacific salmon, herring, Pacific lamprey, lingcod, Atka mackerel, Walleye pollock, black and yelloweye rockfish, sablefish, salmon sharks, smelt, cutthroat trout, steelhead trout, and Dolly Varden. Marine

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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.


5 See footnote 1.


mammals include porpoise, Steller sea lion, harbor seals, and several species of whale.\(^9\)

Timber and minerals make up the majority of natural resources present on PWI. Although the timber industry has been decline, the regional Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Native corporation, Sealaska, has active timber developments on the Island.\(^10\) In addition, the U.S. Forest Service allocated 5,500 million board feet of timber in the Whale Pass area for sale in 2014 as part of their 2011-2015 timber sale schedule.\(^11\) Mineral developments in the area include the Niblack and Bokan Mountain mineral projects. The Niblak project is a copper-zinc-silver prospect which was in the final stages of exploration as of 2011.\(^12\) Bokan Mountain mineral area is a source of uranium and rare earths on the southern portion of PWI. Formerly the site of the Ross-Adams mine, this site produced an estimated 94,500 tons of uranium ore from 1957 to 1971. Exploration for additional minerals in the area began again in 2007.\(^13\) A final natural resource is Whale Pass’s plentiful ecosystem services and scenic beauty. Local ecosystem services range from providing essential habitat for many forms of plants and animals, to providing recreational opportunities for residents and non-residents alike.

Whale Pass’ protected location reduces the impact of most natural hazards. Still, tsunami’s caused by earthquakes or landslides remain a potential hazard.\(^14\)

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), there are no notable active environmental remediation sites located in Whale Pass as of 2010.\(^15\)

**Current Economy\(^16\)**

According to a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that Whale Pass’ economy is dependent on eco-tourism and sportfishing and hunting. Logging operations and related services provide the only steady employment. Subsistence activities and public assistance payments supplement income. Several residents hold commercial fishing permits as well. Top employers\(^17\) in 2010 included: the Alaska Power & Telephone Company, Southeast Island School District, and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.

In 2010,\(^18\) the estimated per capita income was $12,232 and the estimated median household income was $18,611, compared to $24,040 and $62,083 in 2000, respectively. After

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\(^9\) Ibid.
\(^12\) Alaska Department of Natural Resources (n.d.). *Niblack Project.* (Retrieved February 14, 2012 from: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/niblack/.
\(^14\) Alaska Department of Natural Resources (n.d.). *Coastal Hazards.* Retrieved February 14, 2012 from: http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/ACMPGrants/EGS_05/pdfs/CoastalHazards.pdf.
\(^16\) Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.
\(^18\) U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska.* Datasets utilized include the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml.
accounting for inflation by converting 2000 values into 2010 dollars, \(^{19}\) the real per capita income ($31,612) and real median household income ($81,638) indicate a significant decline in both individual and household earnings. In 2010, Whale Pass ranked 238\(^{th}\) of 305 communities from which per capita income was estimated, and 283\(^{rd}\) of 299 communities from which median household income was estimated.

Whale Pass’ small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying economic conditions. \(^{20}\) A potentially more accurate 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 (DOLWD). According to the ALARI database, residents earned $245,995 in total wages in 2010. \(^{21}\) When matched with the population in 2010, the per capita income equals $7,935, which is lower than the 2010 ACS estimate and suggests that caution should be used when comparing 2010 ACS and 2000 Decennial Census figures. \(^{22}\) In addition, the community was recognized as “distressed” by the Denali Commission indicating that over 70% of residents aged 16 and older earned less than $16,120 in 2010. \(^{23}\) However, it should be noted that American Community Survey and DOLWD data are based on wage earnings and does not take into account the value of subsistence within the local economy.

According 2006-2010 ACS estimates, no residents aged 16 and older were part of the civilian labor force in 2010. This estimate is likely inaccurate and conflicts with DOLWD reports which show positive employment for 2007 through 2010. Because ACS estimates were unable to capture conditions in 2010, ACS information on employment by industry and occupation type is unavailable for that year. According to DOLWD reports for 2010, \(^{24}\) 12 residents were employed in the civilian labor force. Of those employed, 25% worked in public administration sectors; 16.7% worked in natural resources or mining sectors; 16.7% worked in information sectors; 16.7% worked in educational or health service sectors; 8.3% worked in construction sectors; 8.3% worked in trade transportation, or utilities sectors; and 8.3% worked in professional or business sectors. Information regarding employment trends can be found in Figures 3 and 4.

\(^{19}\) 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).

\(^{20}\) See footnote 3.

\(^{21}\) ALARI estimates based on wages reported for unemployment insurance purposes. Estimates do not include self-employed or federally employed residents.

\(^{22}\) See footnote 17.


\(^{24}\) See footnote 17.
Figure 3. Local Employment by Industry in 2000-2010, Whale Pass (U.S. Census).

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

Governance

Whale Pass is unincorporated and not under the jurisdiction of a borough. The Whale Pass Community Association is the local governing entity. The community is not recognized under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and there is no U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized Native village council. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices are located in Petersburg, 48 miles northwest. The closest U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Ketchikan, 80 miles southeast.
Table 2. Selected Municipal, State, or Federal Revenue Streams for the Community of Whale Pass from 2000 to 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Municipal Revenue</th>
<th>Sales Tax Revenue</th>
<th>State/Community Revenue Sharing</th>
<th>Fisheries-Related Grants (State and Federal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$4,170</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>$3,707</td>
<td>$43,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>$3,681</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$3,631</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$54,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>$5,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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


Although Whale Pass does not keep a municipal budget, the community did receive revenue from State Revenue Sharing between 2000 and 2003. In 2003, Whale Pass received $3,631 in State Revenue Sharing, compared to $4,170 in 2000. State and federal fisheries-related grants awarded to Whale Pass between 2000 and 2010 included: $60,000 for a small boat harbor, $43,000 for a small boat launch, and $15,000 for dock upgrades. Information regarding municipal finances can be found in Table 2.

**Infrastructure**

*Connectivity and Transportation*

The community has access to the island road system. The state ferry terminal is located in Hollis. Float planes and boats are also prevalent means of transportation. The summer rate for roundtrip flights between Ketchikan and Whale Pass is $312 via Taquan Air.25 The Whale Pass Community Association operates the state-owned seaplane base, dock, boat slips, and launch ramp.26 In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that there is 200 feet of public dock space available for permanent moorage and 80 feet available for transient


moorage. Vessels up to 80 feet long can use moorage in Whale Pass.

Facilities

Most homes draw untreated water from a creek and have individual water tanks. Privies and septic tanks are used for sewage disposal. Almost all houses have complete plumbing. One-third of the homes are used only seasonally. The community’s landfill is no longer in operation. Electricity is provided regionally by diesel generator. Visitor accommodations include the Bear Valley Lodge and the Alaska Fish Tales Lodge. Public safety services are provided by state troopers based in Ketchikan. Fire and rescue services are provided by Whale Pass Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and PWI Area EMS. Communications services include local and long distance telephone, local radio, and local television.27

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that infrastructure projects completed since 2000 included a fish cleaning station, barge landing area, additional dock space, dock access improvements, new pilings, broadband internet access, road improvements, a community center/library, improvements to EMS, improvements to fire services, improvements to schools, improvements to telephone services, and improvements to mail services. Projects in progress as of 2010 included improvements to dock structure. Planned projects include dockside water and electric utilities, dockside fuel storage, a new breakwater, and harbor dredging. Fisheries-related businesses and services located in Whale Pass include fish lodges. Residents typically go to Craig, Wrangell, and Coffman Cove for businesses and services not available locally.

Medical Services28

Beyond local EMS, no medical services are available in Whale Pass. Seaview Medical Center in Craig or Ketchikan General Hospital are relied on for medical services.

Educational Opportunities29

Whale Pass School offers kindergarten through twelfth grade instruction. As of 2012, there were 12 students in attendance.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

History and Evolution of Fisheries

Whale Pass was built on the timber and fishing industry, and when logging declined in the area, commercial, recreation, and subsistence fishing helped to sustain the community. The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association has leased state land to develop a coho salmon enhancement recovery projects at the outlet of Neck Lake. Northeastern Whale Passage adjoining Kashevarof Passage is an important salmon trolling area for residents of Whale Pass.

27 Ibid.
28 Ibid.
The area is also used by residents for personal use harvests and local sportfishing businesses. Neck Lake is a population recreation area and is accessible by road.  

Whale Pass is located in Federal Reporting Area 659, International Pacific Halibut Commission Regulatory Area 2C, and the Eastern Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Sablefish Regulatory District. According to a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that since 2005, the community has seen an increase in the number of charter, pleasure, and commercial fishing vessels in the community. There have also been increased visits from vessels under 60 feet in length. Whale Pass participates in the fisheries management process in Alaska through regional advocacy organizations.

The community is eligible to participate in the Community Quota Entity (CQE) program. The impetus for the CQE program followed the implementation of the halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program in 1995. The IFQ program restructured fixed gear halibut and sablefish fisheries into a catch share program which issued transferable quota shares that allocated and apportionment of the annual Total Allowable Catch to eligible vessels. Although the IFQ program resulted in many benefits to fishermen, processors, and support businesses, and unintended consequence was that many quota holders in smaller Alaskan communities either transferred quota outside the community or moved out themselves. In addition, as quota became increasingly valuable, entry into halibut or sablefish fisheries became difficult. In many cases, it was more profitable for small-scale operators to sell or lease their quota rather than fish it due to low profit margins and high quota value. These factors lead to decreased participation in communities traditionally dependent on the halibut or sablefish fisheries. To address this issue, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council implemented the CQE program in 2005. Under the program, eligible communities could form a non-profit corporation to purchase and manage quota share on their behalf.  

As of 2013, 45 communities were considered eligible for the CQE program. Only two CQE non-profits had purchased commercial halibut IFQ and were actively leasing it to eligible community residents. Both of these CQE non-profits were located in the Kodiak area: Cape Barnabas, Inc. in Old Harbor and the Ouzinkie Company Holding Corporation in Ouzinkie.

The Whale Pass Community Association is the CQE non-profit entity which represents Whale Pass. As of Fall 2013, the Association had not purchased any commercial IFQ. However, the non-profit did have four halibut charter permits available for lease to community members.

**Processing Plants**

According to ADF&G’s 2010 Intent to Operate list, Whale Pass does not have a registered processing plant. The closest seafood processor is located in Wrangell.
Fisheries-Related Revenue

With the exception of port/dock usage fees, the community of Whale Pass does not collect any fisheries-related revenue. In 2010, $2,000 was collected in dock fees. Information regarding fisheries-related revenue trends can be found in Table 3.

It should be noted that 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 a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that King salmon seasons typically run from May through June, halibut seasons typically run from May through November, coho salmon seasons typically run from June through October, and Dungeness crab seasons typically run from May through October.

In 2010, three area residents, or 9.7% of the population, held three permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). In 2000, one resident held one CFEC permit. Of the CFEC permits issued that year, 67% were for salmon, compared to 100% in 2000; and 33% were for other shellfish, compared to 0% in 2000. Between 2000 and 2010, no area residents held Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP) or License Limitation Program (LLP) groundfish or crab permits. No area residents held halibut quota in 2010, compared to 4,289 shares held by one account in 2000. No area residents have held sablefish or crab quota since the programs began.

No Whale Pass area residents held commercial crew licenses between 2001 and 2010. Area residents held majority ownership of three vessels in 2010, compared to one in 2000. While there were landings reported in Whale Pass between 2000 and 2010, details regarding poundage and value of landings is considered confidential. In addition, landings reported by individual residents of Whale Pass are considered confidential as well. Information regarding commercial fishing trends can be found in Tables 4 through 10.

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34 ADF&G commercial fishery statistics are reported in aggregate for the communities of Whale Pass, Port Protection, Tokean, Tuxekan, and Noyes Island. Given this, the Whale Pass and Port Protection profiles report combined numbers for commercial fishery data, as well as recreational and subsistence information.
Table 3. Known Fisheries-Related Revenue (in U.S. Dollars) Received by the Community of Whale Pass: 2000-2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue source</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raw fish tax</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Fisheries Business Tax(^1)</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries Resource Landing Tax(^1)</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulk fuel transfers(^1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boat hauls(^2)</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harbor usage(^2)</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port/dock usage(^2)</td>
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Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.
*Source: AFSC 2011 Alaskan Community Survey.
\(^3\) 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.

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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.]


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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.]


5 Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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Table 7. Sablefish Catch Share Program Participation in the Whale Pass Area: 2000-2010.

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*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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<tr>
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<tr>
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**Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)**

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

Recreational fishing is a popular activity in Whale Pass and the tourism industry continues to grow in the community. There are several lodges which provide sportfishing guide and accommodations services. In addition, there are a number of cabins throughout the area available for rent. Neck Lake, Whale Passage, and Kashevarof Passage are all popular recreational fishing areas.

In 2010, there were two active sport fish guide businesses and six sport fish guides located in Whale Pass, compared to none in 2000. In addition, residents held 13 sportfishing licenses, compared to six in 2000. In 2010, ADF&G charter log records indicate that 21 coho
salmon, 91 halibut, 21 rockfish, and 6 unspecified salmon were taken.\textsuperscript{36} No sportfishing licenses were sold in the Whale Pass area between 2000 and 2010, indicating that private anglers participating in local sportfishing are obtaining their licenses elsewhere.

Whale Pass is located within the Prince of Wales ADF&G Harvest Survey Area which includes all waters and drainages from Cape Chacon to Sumner Strait and from Clarence Island westward. In 2010 there was a total of 51,312 saltwater angler days fished, compared to 49,074 in 2000. In that year, non-Alaskan residents accounted for 74.4\% of angler days fished, compared to 67.3\% in 2000. In terms of freshwater, there was a total of 15,138 angler days fished in 2010, compared to 19,654 in 2000. In that year, non-Alaskan residents accounted for 70.4\% of angler days fished, compared to 45.9\% in 2000.

According ADF&G Harvest Survey records,\textsuperscript{37} local private anglers target coho salmon, cutthroat trout, Pacific halibut, rockfish, smelt, Dungeness crab, hardshell clams, and other finfish and shellfish. Local sportfishing is done by charter and private vessels owned by both Alaskan and non-Alaskan residents. In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that local private anglers also target pink, chum, and Chinook salmon, and shrimp. Information regarding recreational fishing trends can be found in Table 11.

\textit{Subsistence Fishing}\textsuperscript{38}

Although not a traditional subsistence based community, residents of Whale Pass rely on subsistence and personal use resources to supplement diets and incomes. In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that residents rely on coho salmon and halibut for subsistence. Specific data on subsistence participation by household and subsistence harvest of marine invertebrates, non-salmon/halibut fish and marine mammals is unavailable. However, the ADF&G \textit{Community Subsistence Information System}\textsuperscript{39} reports that non-salmon/halibut species used or harvested by residents include abalone, cockles, chitons, blue king crab, box crab, brown king crab, butter clams, Dungeness crab, geoducks, green sea urchin, horse clams, limpets, octopus, oyster, Pacific littleneck clams, purple sea urchins, razor clams, red chitons, red king crab, red sea urchin, rock scallops, shrimp, squid, Tanner crab, mussels, sea cucumber, fur seal, harbor seal, Steller sea lion, black rockfish, brook trout, sculpin, cutthroat trout, dogfish, Dolly Varden, euclachon, grayling, herring, lingcod, Pacific cod, Pacific tom cod, rainbow trout, Irish lord, red rockfish, rock greenling, sablefish, sea perch, silver smelt, skates, steelhead, flounder, shark, sole, and walleye pollock.

Data on subsistence salmon and halibut harvests are limited. In 2004, the last year for

\textsuperscript{36} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{38} Community-level subsistence fishery statistics reported for Whale Pass are the same as those reported in the profile of Port Protection. Subsistence data are aggregated for these communities to be consistent with ADF&G commercial fishery statistics, which are reported in aggregate for the communities of Whale Pass, Port Protection, Tokean, Tuxekan, and Noyes Island.
which salmon harvest data are available, area residents reported harvesting 123 salmon of which 86 were sockeye. Reports of subsequent harvests are unavailable. In 2010, 10 area residents held Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC) issued by NMFS, compared to three in 2000. In that year, an estimated 235 pounds of halibut was harvested on six SHARC, a significant declined from 959 harvested pounds reported the prior year. Information regarding subsistence trends can be found in Tables 12 through 15.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses</th>
<th>Sport Fish Guide Licenses</th>
<th>Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents</th>
<th>Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Whale Pass</th>
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<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Angler Days Fished – Non-residents</td>
<td>Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents</td>
<td>Angler Days Fished – Non-residents</td>
<td>Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents</td>
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<td>13,896</td>
<td>10,660</td>
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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.]


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Households Participating in Salmon Subsistence</th>
<th>% Households Participating in Halibut Subsistence</th>
<th>% Households Participating in Marine Mammal Subsistence</th>
<th>% Households Participating in Marine Invertebrate Subsistence</th>
<th>% Households Participating in Non-Salmon Fish Subsistence</th>
<th>Per Capita Subsistence Harvest (pounds)</th>
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**Note:** n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.


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

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<th>Subsistence Salmon Permits Issued</th>
<th>Salmon Permits Returned</th>
<th>Chinook Salmon Harvested</th>
<th>Chum Salmon Harvested</th>
<th>Coho Salmon Harvested</th>
<th>Pink Salmon Harvested</th>
<th>Sockeye Salmon Harvested</th>
<th>Lbs of Marine Inverts</th>
<th>Lbs of Non-Salmon Fish</th>
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**Note:** n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.


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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>SHARC Issued</th>
<th>SHARC Cards Fished</th>
<th>SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested</th>
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Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.


<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th># of Beluga Whales</th>
<th># of Sea Otters</th>
<th># of Walrus</th>
<th># of Polar Bears</th>
<th># of Steller Sea Lions</th>
<th># of Harbor Seals</th>
<th># of Spotted Seals</th>
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Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.


Additional Information

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that the dock water and electricity upgrades is the most pressing issue facing the portion of Whale Pass’ economy that based on fishing.

When asked to describe effects fisheries policy or management actions have had on Whale Pass, community leaders reported charter fishing rules regarding halibut limits have been
beneficial for Whale Pass, as there has already been a local effort to release larger “breeder” fish.

When asked which past or current fisheries policy or management action affected Whale Pass the most, community leaders expressed concern over commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Whale Passage and its effect on local transportation. Specifically, there is concern over how pot buoys are affecting residents as they community by skiff.

When asked about potential future fisheries policy or management actions which concern Whale Pass the most, community leaders reported that Whale Pass supports closing commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Whale Passage.