

Eureka

People and Place

Location

Eureka is the county seat of Humboldt County in northern California on Humboldt Bay south of Redwood National Park. San Francisco is 272.3 miles south. Eureka encompasses 9.5 square miles of land and 5 square miles of water. Its geographic coordinates are lat 40°48'08"N, long 124°09'45"W.

Demographic Profile

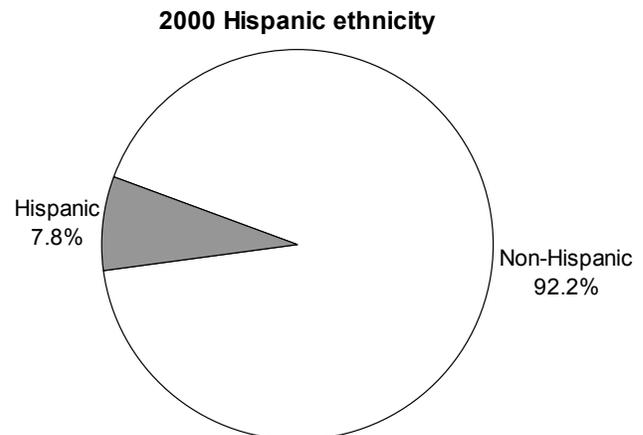
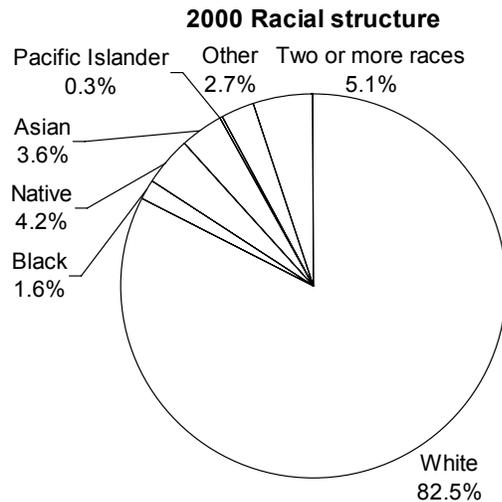
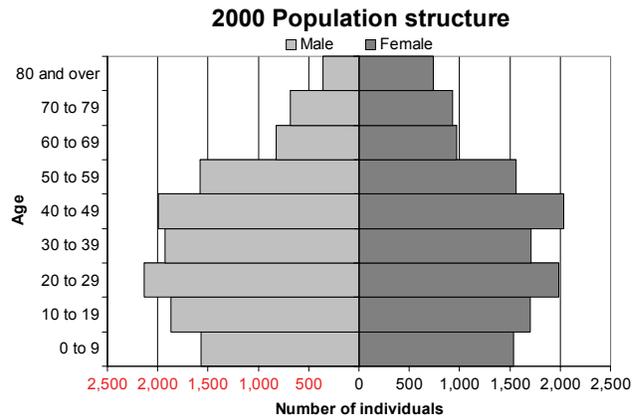
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Eureka had a population of 26,128, a 3.3% decrease from 1990. The gender composition was 50.5% female and 49.5% male. The median age was 36.6, compared to the national average of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 80.8% had a high school education or higher, 14.6% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 4.6% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of the racial structure was white (82.5%), followed by individuals who identified with two or more races (5.1%), Native American and Alaska Native (4.2%), Asian (3.6%), individuals who identified with some other race (2.7%), black (1.6%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.3%). Ethnicity data indicate 7.8% identified as Hispanic. Approximately 5.5% of the population was foreign-born. The community has experienced a significant change in its ethnic composition. In the decade following 1990, the percentage identifying as Hispanic increased by 62.5%.

History

Before the arrival of Euro-American settlers, what is now known as Humboldt County was occupied by several diverse Indian nations. The Wiyot, Yurok, Hupa, Karuk, Chilula, Whilkut, and southern Athabascans occupied specific territories, spoke individual languages, and shared similar yet distinct cultural systems.¹ Eureka is within the original territory of the Wiyot. They utilized local resources for food, medicine, and basketry, including wildlife, salmon, and roots. Across Humboldt Bay from Eureka is Indian Island, "the center of the Wiyot People's world" and home of the ancient village of Tuluwat.² Beneath the village site is a 6-acre clamshell midden estimated to be 1,000 years old.

Today many of the Wiyot people live on 88 acres called the Table Bluff Reservation, 16 miles south of Eureka. In 2004 the Eureka City Council formally



transferred a part of Indian Island to the Wiyot Tribe.³ A portion of the land had been a shipyard repair facility from 1870 to the 1980s. The tribe plans to clean up debris and pollution from the old shipyard, restore natural waterways, and construct a cultural center.⁴

In 1806 employees of the Russian-American Company from Sitka, Alaska, made the first recorded entrance into Humboldt Bay. The Gregg-Wood party arrived by land in 1849 and by 1850 the first ships arrived in the bay bringing prospectors for gold. Eureka was founded in 1856 and settled as a point of arrival and a supply center for the gold mines. As the gold rush subsided, the economy shifted to natural resources, primarily timber, salmon, and agriculture. The area was a prime exporter of agricultural products from 1857 to 1900.⁵

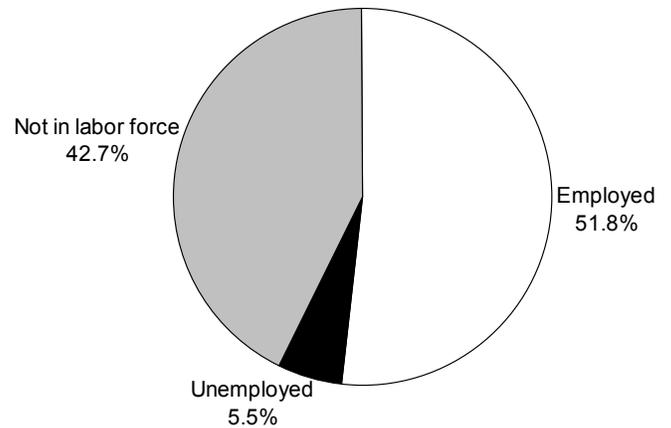
Development around the bay led to the displacement of the Wiyot and increased tensions between groups. During the 1860 World Renewal Ceremony on Indian Island, a group of armed settlers paddled to the island during the night and killed the sleeping Wiyot. Two other village sites were raided the same night. The few remaining Wiyot people were moved to Fort Humboldt for their protection and from there to a series of reservations. The fort was built in 1853 to assist in resolving conflicts between Indians and settlers. An Indian Candlelight Vigil is held each February to remember the 200 lives lost in the massacre.⁶

In the 1880s docks were built in Eureka for shipping redwood and other timber. When the Northwestern Pacific Railroad was extended into the area in 1900, it functioned as a dike and enabled tidal marshes to be converted to agricultural lands. The construction of U.S. Highway 101 in 1927 also created fill, allowing most of the marshes to be drained and diked.⁷

After World War II, a new Douglas fir and plywood industry brought in many loggers and mill workers. The timber industry dominated life in the community into the 1970s. The next era brought a more diverse economy. New groups of people began to arrive, primarily Hispanics and Vietnamese.⁸ A large revitalization project began in the 1960s to revive Eureka's Old Town and restore many old commercial buildings.⁹

Humboldt Bay is one of the largest bays on the West Coast. Diking, drainage, and filling have reduced the historic 27,000 acres of bay and wetlands to about 13,000 acres. The bay includes a variety of complex habitats that support 95 species of fish, at least 180 species of invertebrates, and 30 species of clams, oysters, and mussels. The economic health of Eureka continues to be "tied to the bay, the resources it provides, and the natural resources around it."¹⁰

2000 Employment structure



Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 51.8% of Eureka's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 5.5% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 9.7% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 42.7% were not in the labor force. The top employment sectors were local, state, or federal government (18.5%) and health care and social assistance (17.5%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, and fishing employed 3.2%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

The economic base of Eureka was founded on fishing and timber. Commercial fishing has downsized in recent years and now the major industries are tourism and timber.¹¹ Major employers in Eureka include the College of the Redwoods, Humboldt County, Humboldt County Office of Education, and St. Joseph Hospital.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Eureka's per capita income in 1999 was \$16,174, the median household income was \$25,849, and 23.7% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 Eureka had 11,637 housing units, of which 94.2% were occupied and 5.8% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 46.5% were by owner and 53.5% were by renter.

Governance

Eureka is an incorporated city that operates under a council-manager charter. The sales tax is 7.25% based on the standard statewide rate. The county's transient lodging tax rate is 10%. See the governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed

discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in California.

Eureka has a California Department of Fish and Game field office and is 5 miles from the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Humboldt Bay. Eureka is 272.3 miles from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Center in San Francisco. Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held in Foster City, 293.8 miles from Eureka.

Facilities

Eureka has a number of transportation options. Amtrak and Greyhound provide rail and bus service respectively. San Francisco International Airport is 272.3 miles away. U.S. Highway 101 intersects Eureka.

Eureka has 11 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 3 private primary schools, and 7 high schools, of which 5 are alternative schools and 1 is private. Pacific Gas and Electric provides electricity, and Cal-American Water Company provides water and wastewater services. The Eureka Police Department provides local law enforcement. The closest health care facility is St. Joseph Hospital. Eureka accommodations include bed and breakfasts, a recreational vehicle park, and several hotels and motels. Additional lodging is available in nearby communities.¹²

Eureka is located within the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District and the Port of Humboldt. Humboldt Bay is the only deep water port between Coos Bay, Oregon, and San Francisco. Four shipping terminals operate out of Eureka: Fairhaven Terminal includes one berth with a 500-foot wooden pile dock; Fields Landing Terminal includes one berth with a 900-foot dock; Schneider Dock has one berth with a 400-foot concrete, unlimited load dock; and Sierra Pacific Industries has one berth with a 475-foot wooden dock.¹³ The Woodley Island Marina is located in Eureka and is the home base for the Port of Humboldt District. The marina has 237 slips.¹⁴

Two marine aquaculture businesses are located in Eureka with growing areas in Crescent City, Harbor, and Arcata Bay. Products include bay and sea mussels; Eastern, European, Kumamoto, and Pacific oysters; littleneck, Manila, and Quahog clams; rock scallops; ulva; nori; tube worms; gracillaria; and blood worms.¹⁵

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 all of the 159 vessels that delivered landings to Eureka were commercially registered. The community had at least one processing plant in 2000, however,

specific data on pounds of fish processed, revenue generated, and number of employees are confidential. Landings in the community were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of landings/number of vessels landing): coastal pelagic 2 t/\$909/8; crab 391 t/\$1,784,671/92; groundfish 2,522 t/\$3,287,433/73; highly migratory species 355 t/\$693,107/32; salmon 240 t/\$618,440/66; shellfish 4 t/\$6,734/4; shrimp 90 t/\$84,713/12; and other species 417 t/\$329,382/39.

Eureka residents owned 68 vessels, of which 16 participated in the Groundfish Vessel Buyback Program. Community members owned 53 vessels that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Eureka residents that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 2/0/56, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 0/6/40, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/2/11, and other species 1/0/0.¹⁶

In 2000 18 Eureka residents held 17 federal groundfish fishery permits. The number of individual community members holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/1, crab 2/0/56, groundfish 0/0/14, highly migratory species NA/0/1, salmon 0/5/65, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 0/2/16, and other species 1/0/20.¹⁷

According to available data, Eureka residents held 268 permits in 2000, of which 251 were registered state permits. The number of permits held by these community members in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/2, crab 4/0/60, groundfish 0/0/17, highly migratory species NA/0/1, salmon 0/5/113, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 0/3/23, and other species 1/0/22.¹⁸

Sportfishing

Eureka had at least two sportfishing vessel permits in 2003. The community, which is part of the Fort Bragg, Eureka, Crescent City port complex, received 49,983 commercial passenger fishing vessel landings from 11,574 anglers in 2000. The majority of landings were rockfishes, Chinook salmon, and Pacific and jack mackerel. Internet fishing guide sources indicate at least two sportfishing businesses operated within the community.¹⁹

Subsistence

The California Department of Fish and Game captures fishermen who do not earn revenue from fishing, but use it for personal consumption, under “recreational” data. Specific information on subsistence fishing in Eureka is not discussed in detail due to the lack of available data.

Nontribal and tribal fishermen, including members of the Wiyot Tribe, utilize marine and stream resources for subsistence within and surrounding Eureka. Under the trust doctrine, the federal government is charged to protect tribal resources and by constitutional mandate to protect natural resources. Government-to-government agreements made between tribal groups and the United States through treaties guarantee fishing rights on traditional grounds.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 Eureka residents owned five vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries. Inhabitants landed fish in the following fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): halibut confidential/confidential/1, salmon confidential/confidential/2, and scallop confidential/confidential/3.

In 2000 12 Eureka residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries. Four residents held registered state permits and four held registered federal permits.

Seven permits were registered to individuals in Eureka in 2000. Eureka residents held two groundfish License Limitation Program permits, one halibut permit, and three salmon Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits. The halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota shares for Eureka residents were 96,990 and 486, respectively.

Sportfishing

In 2000 residents purchased 106 Alaska sportfishing licenses.

Notes

1. S. Van Kirk. 1999. Humboldt County: A briefest of histories. Online at <http://www.humboldthistory.org/> [accessed 16 February 2007].

2. Wiyot Tribe. No date. History and culture: Indian Island. Online at <http://www.wiyot.com/history.htm> [accessed 16 February 2007].

3. City of Eureka. 2004. Eureka City Council and Wiyot Tribal Council, May 18, 2004. Online at <http://www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/default.asp> [accessed 16 February 2007].

4. Wiyot Tribe. 2004. Environmental restoration. Online at http://www.wiyot.com/Island_environmental.html [accessed 16 February 2007].

5. 2001. Humboldt Bay trails feasibility study: Humboldt Bay area history.

6. See note 2.

7. See note 5.

8. See note 1.

9. Victorian Inn. No date. Sights and activities in Eureka, CA. Online at http://www.a-victorian-inn.com/eureka_california.html [accessed August 2004].

10. See note 5.

11. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2004. California state counties. Online at http://www.psmfc.org/efin/docs/communities_2004/communities_pages65_84.pdf [accessed 16 February 2007].

12. The Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce. 2003. Lodging. Online at <http://eurekachamber.com/Directory/index.cfm?Category=Lodging&dID=4> [accessed 16 February 2007].

13. Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District. No date. Port of Humboldt Bay: Shipping terminals. Online at <http://www.humboldt-bay.org/portofhumboldt-bay/terminals/> [accessed 16 February 2007].

14. Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District. No date. Woodley Island Marina: Facilities. Online at <http://www.humboldt-bay.org/woodleyislandmarina/> [accessed 16 February 2007].

15. State of California Department of Fish and Game. 2003. Registered marine aquaculture facilities.

16. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.

17. See note 16.

18. See note 16.

19. Sportsmen's Resource.Com. No date. Sportsmen's resource.com. Online at <http://humguide.com> [accessed 16 February 2007] and <http://www.sportsmansresource.com> [accessed 16 February 2007].