

# Beaver

## People and Place

### Location

Beaver, located along U.S. Highway 101 just south of Tillamook, covers 0.4 square miles of land. Situated in Tillamook County, Beaver is 87.5 miles west of Portland. Beaver's geographic coordinates are lat 45°16'37"N, long 123°49'31"W.

### Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Beaver was 145, a 0.7% (one individual) decrease from the 1990 Census. The gender composition was 52.4% female and 47.6% male. The median age of 40.1 was slightly higher than the national median of 35.3. The population had an uneven age distribution with 42.1% between the ages of 30 and 59 and 25.5% age 17 or younger. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 83.8% had a high school education or higher, 23.1% had some college but no degree, and 3.4% had earned an associate's degree. There were no bachelor's or graduate/professional degrees held by community members in 2000. The national averages were 79.7% with a high school education or higher, 22.3% with a bachelor's degree or higher, and 7.8% with a graduate or professional degree.

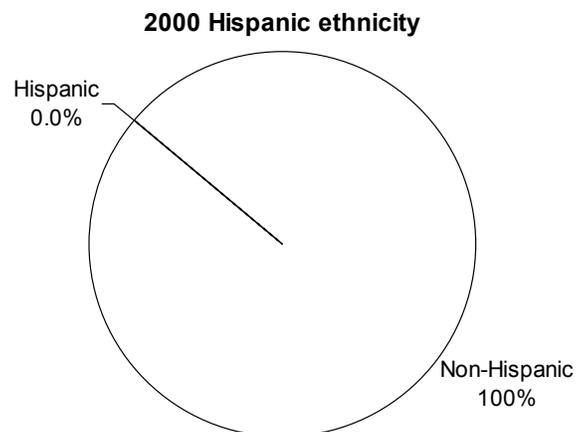
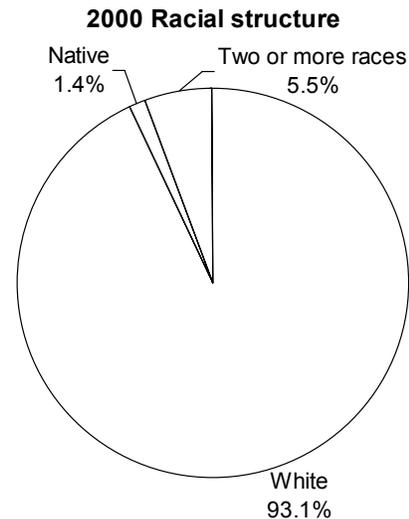
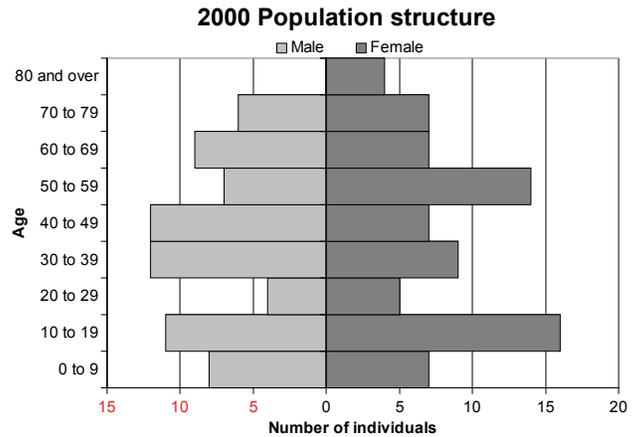
Most of Beaver's racial composition recorded in the 2000 U.S. Census was white (93.1%), followed by people who identified with two or more races (5.5%) and American Indian and Alaskan native (1.4%). No residents identified themselves as Hispanic.

In 2000 87.6% of the population lived in family households.

### History

Long before Euro-Americans came to the Pacific Northwest, Native Americans inhabited this area including the Tillamook, Nehalem, and Nestucca. These peoples had a close relationship with the sea and the area's waterways, as evidenced by their boats. Dugout canoes ranged from tiny vessels used for duck hunting to large canoes used for long distance travel to California. The Indians of Tillamook Bay died in large numbers due to European diseases. Their population, estimated to be around 2,200 at the turn of the nineteenth century, declined to one-tenth that size by the middle of the 1800s.

Although Captain Robert Gray was credited with being the first Euro-American to land in Tillamook Bay



in 1788, it was not until the middle of the next century that white settlers came to the area. The entrance to the bay is recognized as challenging today and was identified as perilous during Gray's time. An account by a member of his crew tells of an awkwardly situated shoal, narrow entrance, and strong tide.

The Oregon Territorial Government created Tillamook County in 1853. The county's earliest industries were shipping, logging, fishing, farming, and dairy. Fishing played a key role as the major avenue for bringing cash into the area. Fish were caught in the area's coastal waters, bays, and rivers, and canned in numerous canneries throughout the area. Middlemen bought the packaged fish and sold them in the Willamette Valley. The funds enabled the development of other enterprises and aided the growth of Tillamook Bay communities.

Two industries developed alongside fishing: dairy and lumber. The dairy industry advanced with the production of cheese that could withstand long storage periods for distribution. The lumber industry also prospered during the 1890s. In 1911 the Pacific Railway and Navigation Company constructed a railway from Portland to Tillamook. This reliable source of transportation further facilitated the growth of the timber, dairy, and fishing industries.

Concerns with overfishing arose as far back as the early 1900s. Salmon, particularly coho, have declined significantly over the years. Gillnet and trawl fishing were banned in Tillamook Bay in 1961. The designation of coho salmon as an endangered species in the 1990s and an increase in the restrictions placed on harvesting bottomfish have limited the area's commercial fishers. Commercial clamming, oystering, and shrimping were relatively successful in the bay during the 1990s. In recent years shrimp harvests have declined. The bay's commercial oyster industry has also declined, largely as a result of ongoing sedimentation and pollution.

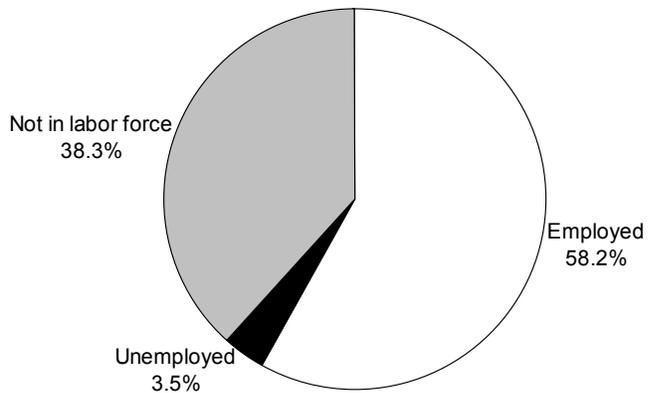
Despite the recent downturn in several of the area's commercial fisheries, the bay's sportfishing industry has enjoyed substantial growth. The tourism industry, specifically sportfishing, developed in part as an economic response to the area's waning lumber and commercial fishing industries, and expanded significantly in the 1980s.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 58.2% of Beaver's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 3.5% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 5.7% (calculated by dividing the

**2000 Employment structure**



unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 38.3% were not in the labor force. The top employment sectors were retail trade (28%) and accommodation and food services (23.2%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 22%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

Beaver's per capita income in 1999 was \$17,284, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, and the median household income was \$34,286. In 1999 7.9% lived below the poverty level, lower than the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 there were 73 housing units in Beaver, of which 82.2% were occupied and 17.8% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 75% were by owner and 25% were by renter.

### Governance

Beaver is an unincorporated Census Designated Place (CDP). The State of Oregon has no general sales tax but levies a 1% tax on overnight lodging that funds the Oregon Tourism Commission. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in Oregon.

NOAA Fisheries Services' Northwest Fisheries Science Center field station and a U.S. Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat Station are based about 54 miles south of Beaver in Newport. Also located in Newport are the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Resources Program. Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils are held in Portland, which is also home to the district office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

## Facilities

Beaver is accessible by ground and air. It lies on U.S. Highway 101, the major vehicular corridor along the Pacific Coast. Two small airports are located within 15 miles of Beaver, Pacific City State Airport and Tillamook Airport. Because of the community's inland location, it is not accessible by water.

Beaver is located in the Nestucca Valley School District, which has an elementary school, middle school, and high school. Tillamook County General Hospital is 15 miles away in Tillamook. Tillamook County provides utility services and the county sheriff's department provides police services through a contract. The county's Office of Emergency Management manages other emergency services. While there are limited options for overnight accommodations in Beaver itself, the surrounding region has several motels, hotels, and bed and breakfasts.

## Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

### Commercial Fishing

According to available data, there were no seafood processors operating in Beaver in 2000. There were also no landings made in Beaver. However, there were six commercial vessels owned by Beaver residents in 2000, none of which participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. Recorded data indicates the number of vessels owned by Beaver residents in 2000 that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/1/0, crab 0/3/0, groundfish 0/1/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 0/7/0, shellfish NA/0/NA, and shrimp NA/0/0.<sup>3</sup>

In 2000 community members held no groundfish permits. The number of Beaver residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/2/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/4/0, and shellfish 0/0/NA.<sup>4</sup>

Available data indicates there were at least nine commercial fishing permits registered to Beaver residents in 2000, all registered as state permits. The number of state permits held by Beaver residents in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/3/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/6/0, and shellfish 0/0/NA.<sup>5</sup>

### Sportfishing

In 2000 there were no sportfishing charter businesses located within Beaver or owned by Beaver residents. Fieldwork indicates there may be river guides in the area leading salmon fishing trips on the Nestucca River. Beaver had two sportfishing licensing agents in

2000 who sold 76 sportfishing licenses at a value of just over \$1,284. There were no licensed charter vessels owned by Beaver residents in 2000.

For the port complex around nearby Pacific City, the 2000 recreational salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 88 Chinook salmon and 1,463 coho salmon. The recreational nonsalmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was a total of 13,066 fish. The top species landed, in descending order, were: black rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, blue rockfish, and canary rockfish.

## Subsistence

Local community members, both tribal and nontribal, may engage in subsistence fishing for marine and stream resources in the Beaver area. Specific information on subsistence fishing in Beaver is not discussed in detail in this community profile due to a lack of data.

## Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

### Commercial Fishing

There was no involvement by Beaver residents in North Pacific commercial fisheries in 2000.

### Sportfishing

While the majority of the sportfishermen in Beaver target West Coast fisheries, six Beaver community members purchased Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

## Notes

1. J. Gilden (ed). 1999. Oregon's changing coastal fishing communities. Online at <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs/o99001.html> [accessed 9 January 2007].
2. M. Guardino and Rev. M. Riedel. Sovereigns of themselves: A liberating history of Oregon and its coast. Vol. III. Online at <http://www2.wi.net/~census/lesson36.html> [accessed 9 January 2007].
3. 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.
4. See note 3.
5. See note 3.