

# Sequim

## People and Place

### Location

Sequim is in the Dungeness River Valley about 3 miles inland from Sequim Bay, a 4-mile long stretch of protected water on the north shore of the Olympic Peninsula. Situated in Clallam County, the community encompasses 5.3 square miles of land. The nearest major U.S. city is Seattle, a 70-mile ferry ride and drive southeast. Sequim's geographic coordinates are lat 48°04'47"N, long 123°06'02"W.

### Demographic Profile

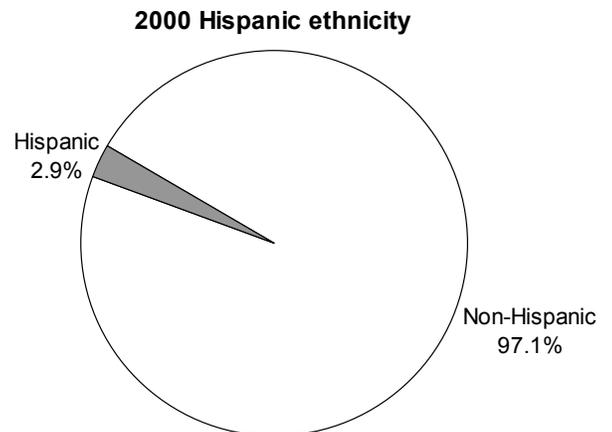
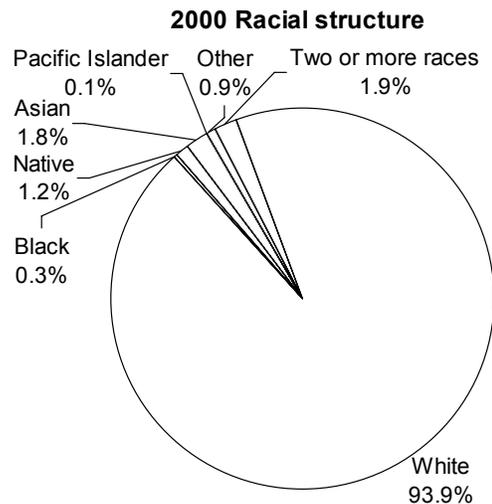
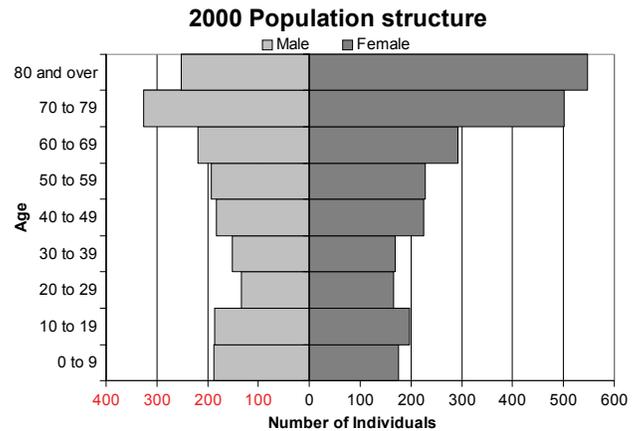
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Sequim's population was 4,334, an increase of 19.9% since 1990. The gender composition was 57.7% female and 42.3% male. The median age of 59.3 was higher than the national median of 35.3. In 2000 45% of the population was older than 65 years of age and 29.9% were between 25 and 60. Of the population older than 18 years of age, 80.3% had a high school education (including equivalency) or higher, 17.9% had received a bachelor's degree or higher, and 7.9% had attained a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The vast majority Sequim's racial structure recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was white (93.9%), followed by people who identified with two or more races (1.9%), Asian (1.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.2%), people who identified with another race (0.9%), black (0.3%), and Pacific Islander (0.1%). Ethnicity data indicate that 2.9% identified as Hispanic. In 2000 3.9% were foreign-born, with 19.9% from Canada, 14.3% from the United Kingdom, 9.3% from Japan, and 9.3% from Australia.

In 2000 67.3% of the Sequim population lived in family households.

### History

Clallam County, named after the Indian word Clallam, meaning "strong people," was created by the Washington Territorial Legislature in 1854. Prior to European American settlement, the S'Klallam Indians occupied the area from the Hoko River near the Pacific Ocean to Puget Sound. Today there are three surviving groups of the S'Klallam—the Elwha, the Jamestown, and the Port Gamble S'Klallam. Historically the S'Klallam belonged to the Salish speaking people who lived from the central British Columbia coast to northwestern



Oregon. The S’Klallam lived in at least 15 villages along the south shore of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Their first contact with Europeans was in 1799 when English and Spanish explorers entered the Strait, followed by fur traders, missionaries, gold seekers, and settlers.<sup>1</sup> The Europeans brought with them smallpox, whooping cough, and measles that decimated the S’Klallam Tribe. It is estimated that the S’Klallam population dropped from approximately 2,400 in 1780 to 926 in 1855.<sup>2</sup>

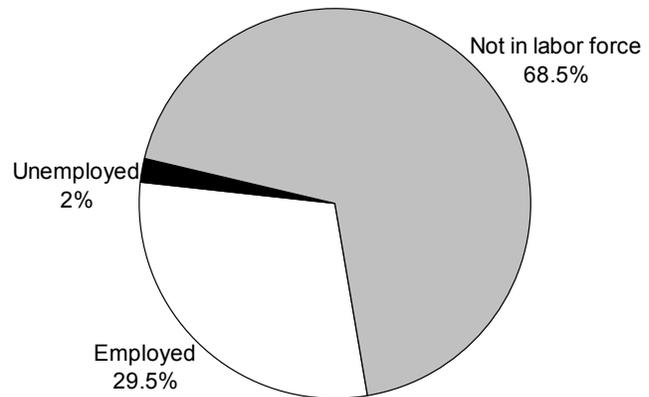
The Treaty of Point No Point, signed by the S’Klallam in 1855, secured the tribe’s right to fish at “usual and accustomed” grounds;<sup>3</sup> however the S’Klallam were assigned to the Skokomish Reservation approximately 150 miles away from their traditional fishing areas. The S’Klallam refused to relocate, preferring to coexist with the new settlements at Port Angeles, Port Townsend, and Port Gamble.<sup>4</sup> In 1874 the Klallam community pooled their funds and purchased 210 acres from a logging company. Upon federal recognition in 1981 the tribe gained 5 acres of trust land at Sequim Bay where the reservation is today.

Tribal membership now stands around 230, with 80 involved in fishing and the gathering of coastal resources.<sup>5</sup> The Fisheries Division of the Jamestown S’Klallam Natural Resource Department is responsible for managing the tribe’s fisheries by negotiating treaty fish and shellfish harvest opportunities, establishing fishing regulations, and tracking legal proceedings affecting treaty rights. Tribal conservation and enforcement officers monitor fishing and hunting activities in the area.

The history of Sequim and the Dungeness River Valley is closely tied to the history of the Dungeness River, which originates in the mountains of the Olympics and flows northward to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Ensign Manuel Quimper, exploring the Strait for Spain, sighted the Dungeness area in 1790. Two years later Captain George Vancouver sailed into the bay and named its sheltering sandspit New Dungeness, after its great resemblance to Dungeness in the British Channel. In the 1850s the first settlers came to the Dungeness area to harvest timber and float logs downriver, take up claims, and to clear land and plant crops. Today people remain attracted to the relatively dry climate of the area and several new businesses have taken root in the Sequim area. The city now boasts one of the largest Safeway grocery stores in Western Washington.

Today Sequim is known as the lavender capital of the world; purple flowers bloom and are available for U-pick from July to October. Sequim is also known for its strawberry and raspberry crops that are available from June to August. Visitors and residents enjoy the Sequim Open Aire Market—open spring, summer, and fall—

**2000 Employment structure**



where vendors sell local crafts, flowers, and produce. The City of Sequim and Sequim Bay are popular among tourists visiting the Olympic Peninsula. Sailing, bird watching, kayaking, bicycling, and fishing are just a few of the activities tourists enjoy when visiting the area. Several festivals occur annually in Sequim such as the Lavender Festival in July, the Irrigation Festival in early May, the Dungeness River Festival, and local salmon bakes.

## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 29.5% of Sequim’s potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 2% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 6.3% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). A seemingly high 68.5% were not in the labor force in 2000, compared to the national average of 36.1%. The major employment sectors were sales and office occupations (28.4%), service occupations (28.2%), management, professional, and related occupations (20.5%), and local, state, and federal governments (9.5%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 5.5%, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

The per capita income in 1999 was \$19,253 and the median household income in 1999 was \$27,880. In 1999 13.9% lived below the poverty level, compared to the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 there were 2,424 housing units in Sequim, with 59.9% owner occupied and 40.1% renter occupied. The housing unit vacancy rate was 10.8%, with 13% vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

## Governance

The City of Sequim was incorporated in 1913 and it is one of three incorporated cities, including Port Angeles and Forks, in Clallam County. The city has a council-manager form of government. The city council, comprised of seven elected members, hires the city manager. The council elects a mayor and a mayor pro tem from the council. Clallam County levies an 8.3% sales and use tax and a 2% lodging tax. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview sections for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in Washington.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service office are in Seattle. Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils are routinely held in the Seattle-Tacoma area. The nearest Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Region Office is 120 miles south in Montesano. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Group/Air Station in Port Angeles is home to several USCG cutters and a Dolphin helicopter. The station is responsible for marine safety westward to Pillar Point on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, north to the U.S.-Canada border, east to the western shore of Whidbey Island, and south through Admiralty Inlet to Olele Point.

## Facilities

Sequim is accessible by ground, air, and water. The city is on U.S. Highway 101, 16 miles west off Port Angeles. Throughout the year the Victoria Express provides ferry service from Port Angeles to Victoria, British Columbia, and Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands. The Coho Ferry, operated by Black Ball Transport Inc., also provides service between Port Angeles and Victoria. The William R. Fairchild International Airport in Port Angeles, 27 miles northwest, is the nearest airport certified for carrier operations. The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is the closest major facility.

The Sequim School District has two elementary schools, one middle school, one public and one private high school, and one community school that offers special district and community programs for children, students, and adults. Peninsula College in Port Angeles has an enrollment of more than 2,300 students. The Public Utility District of Clallam County provides electricity and alternative energy systems. Sequim's Public Works Department supplies water, wastewater, and solid waste services. The Sequim Police Department administers public safety. The nearest hospital is Jefferson General Hospital, 31 miles east in Port

Townsend, while the Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles is the closest medical facility. There are several community businesses including the Museum and Arts Center, the Rainshadow Natural Science Foundation, several wineries and farms, parks, and places of worship. The tourism industry is well developed in Sequim, with more than 40 hotels, bed and breakfasts, and vacation rentals.

The John Wayne Marina, operated by the Port of Port Angeles, is located on the western shore of Sequim Bay at Pitship Point. The marina, built on land donated by the film star in 1975, provides 280 permanent and 22 transient moorage slips. Facilities at the marina include water, electricity, fuel, sewage pump-out, and garbage and oil disposal services. A restaurant, marine supply store, public meeting rooms, and a charter boat service are in an on-site service building. Nontribal fishermen and members of the Jamestown and Elwha tribes utilize the marina, however, several crab and salmon fishermen trailer their boats to and from the fishing grounds, increasing their mobility and decreasing their costs.<sup>6</sup>

The construction of the John Wayne Marina resulted in the loss of Pacific sand lance spawning sites and nearshore eel grass habitat, but there is no evidence that the marina currently affects water quality in Sequim Bay. The Clallam County Marine Resource Committee (MRC) believes that the herring stock, prevalent in the bay in the mid-1970s, might now be extinct. Surf smelt spawning habitat has been documented in Sequim Bay.<sup>7</sup>

Several Sequim residents serve on the Clallam County Marine Resources Advisory Committee, a 14-member group of citizen volunteers established in 1998 to advise county officials and address local issues related to marine resource management. The Clallam MRC has been involved in several projects centered round shellfish harvest in Dungeness Bay, the assessment of forage fish habitat, and the recovery of bottomfish and salmon. The MRC also works closely with local groups such as the Dungeness River Management Team, the Elwha-Morse Management Team, and the Sequim-Dungeness Clean Water Work Group. Sequim Bay remains an MRC shellfish priority area due to concerns over diminished water quality.<sup>8</sup>

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe is involved in clam, oyster, and geoduck aquaculture in Sequim and Dungeness bays. However the Dungeness Bay beds are threatened by growing pollution, much of which is linked to increasing development in Dungeness Valley.<sup>9</sup> The tribe operates the largest wild geoduck export operation on the Olympic Peninsula, selling approximately 150,000 to 200,000 pounds of geoducks to China and other Pacific Rim countries each year.<sup>10</sup> The tribe also is involved in finfish aquaculture. The WDFW's Hurd

Creek Hatchery, located near Sequim, supports the Elwha River and Dungeness River fall Chinook salmon programs and provides support for wild-stock chum salmon and coho salmon recovery efforts.

## **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

### **Commercial Fishing**

In 2000 there were at least two seafood processors operating in Sequim, Alder Springs Smoked Salmon and Jamestown Seafood. Jamestown Seafood, farming and processing since 1990, serves as a processor, wholesaler, and distributor. Owned and operated by the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Jamestown Seafood specializes in live geoduck, oysters, and Dungeness crab. Several seafood markets serve Sequim residents, including Jamestown Seafood Farm, the Crab Barn, and Macomber Seafood Specialties.

Of the 114 unique vessels that delivered landings to Sequim in 2000, 86 were tribal commercial, 17 were commercial, and 10 were personal use vessels. The remaining vessel types are confidential. Data indicate that landings in the community were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab 105 t/\$503,632/53; groundfish confidential/confidential/2; salmon 4 t/\$5,656/9; shellfish 133 t/\$232,314/27; shrimp 4 t/\$25,765/8; and other species confidential/confidential/1.

Sequim residents owned 21 vessels in 2000, including 9 vessels that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Sequim residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 1/0/0, crab 4/0/0, groundfish 5/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 3/1/1, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/0/0, and other species 6/0/0.<sup>11</sup>

Four Sequim residents each held one federally managed groundfish fishery permit in 2000. The number of Sequim residents holding permits in each state fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 7/0/0, groundfish 2/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 5/1/3, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 5/0/0, and other species 6/0/0.<sup>12</sup>

Sequim residents held 38 state and 4 federal registered permits in 2000. The number of permits held by these community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 10/0/0, groundfish 5/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 5/0/4, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 5/0/0, and other species 9/0/0.<sup>13</sup>

## **Sportfishing**

Sport fishermen in Sequim are involved in West Coast and Alaskan fisheries. In 2000 at least one nonsalmonid charter fishing operator serviced sport fishermen and tourists in Sequim. At least three salmonid charter fishing businesses operated in Sequim in 2003.

There are five licensed vendors selling sportfishing permits in the community. A total of 6,858 sportfishing license transactions valued at \$99,023 were made in Sequim in 2003. In Catch Record Card Area 6 (east Juan de Fuca Strait) the 2000 sport salmon catch, based on catch record cards, was 4,334 fish including 1,138 Chinook salmon and 3,196 coho salmon. Marine anglers made 26,777 trips in the sport salmon fishery. Sport fishermen caught 9 steelhead and the 5,340 coastal bottomfish. The recreational harvest of clams (pounds) and oysters (number) for Area 6 in 2000 was estimated to be 23,015 and 24,993 respectively; harvest occurred over an estimated 3,996 user trips.

### **Subsistence**

Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities are fundamental to the way of life of some coastal community members. Tribal and nontribal individuals participate in subsistence fishing. Jamestown S’Klallam tribal members are engaged in subsistence harvesting for butter, littleneck, horse, and Manila clams.<sup>14</sup> Subsistence fishing is not discussed in detail in this community profile due to the lack of available data.

## **Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries**

### **Commercial Fishing**

In 2000 Sequim residents owned 21 vessels that were involved in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year community members landed fish in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish confidential/confidential/1, Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish confidential/confidential/3, other finfish confidential/confidential/1, halibut confidential/confidential/2, herring 353 t/\$74,480/4, salmon 326 t/\$446,960/11, and shellfish confidential/confidential/1.

In 2000 Sequim residents held 45 state and federal permits, including 18 individuals who held registered state permits and 15 who held registered federal permits (note: it is possible for individuals to hold more than one permit at a time). Community members held 6 groundfish License Limitation Program permits and 4 crab, 1 GOA groundfish, 6 BSAI groundfish, 4 halibut, 6

herring, 12 salmon, and 2 shellfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits. Residents held 491,300 halibut and 422 sablefish individual fishing quota share in 2000.

In 2000 30 Sequim residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries.

## Sportfishing

Sequim residents purchased 223 Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000. At least one sportfishing business in Sequim participated in Alaskan fisheries in 2000.

## Notes

1. Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. No date. Culture and history. Online at [http://www.pgst.nsn.us/content/culture\\_history/pride\\_heritage.htm](http://www.pgst.nsn.us/content/culture_history/pride_heritage.htm) [accessed 31 January 2007].
2. Hands on the land. No date. Olympic National Park, Elwha Valley. Online at [http://www.handsontheland.org/classroom/2002serv\\_learn/olym/nativeamericans.htm](http://www.handsontheland.org/classroom/2002serv_learn/olym/nativeamericans.htm) [accessed 31 January 2007].
3. Point No Point Treaty Council. 2002. Treaty of Point No Point, 1855. Online at [http://www.pnptc.org/treaty\\_of\\_point\\_no\\_point.htm](http://www.pnptc.org/treaty_of_point_no_point.htm) [accessed 31 January 2007].
4. See note 1.
5. Discover Olympic. No date. Tribes of the Olympics, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Online at <http://www.nps.gov/olym/edprehis.htm> [accessed 31 January 2007].
6. Field notes, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Sequim, WA, 16 August 2004.
7. Clallam County Marine Resource Committee. No date. The MRC and what it does. Online at <http://www.clallammrc.org/CCMRC/allframes.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].
8. See note 7.
9. J. Chew. 2004. Peninsula: Geoduck aquaculture in area's future? Peninsula Daily News, Port Angeles, WA. 2 May 2004.
10. Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Washington Sea Grant. 2002. Red tides. Online at [http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/hab/outreach/pdf\\_files/RedTides2002.pdf](http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/hab/outreach/pdf_files/RedTides2002.pdf) [accessed 31 January 2007].
11. 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.
12. See note 11.
13. See note 11.
14. See note 10.