

Albion, California

People and Place

Location

Albion is located in Mendocino County along U.S. Highway 1. The community lies approximately 148 miles north of San Francisco and 197 miles northwest of the state capital, Sacramento. The geographic coordinates of Albion, California are: 39°13'25"N, 123°46'03"W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Albion was 1035. In the same year the gender structure was evenly divided with slightly more females (52.2%) than males (47.8%). The median age was 47.6 in 2000, considerably higher the national median of 35.3 for the same year. According to the same data, 17.6% of the population was under the age of 18, 44.3% of the population was between the ages of 40 and 59, and 9.9% was age 70 or older. For the population 18 years and over, 93.5% had a high school education or higher, 50.1% had attained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 31.1% earned a graduate or professional degree. The highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma/equivalency for 15.2% of the population. In 2000, 68.5% of the population lived in family households.

The 2000 U.S. Census shows that the racial composition was predominantly White, (92.4%), followed by Asian (1.5%). The percentages of the Black or African American (2.5%) and American Indian and Alaskan native populations (0.5%) were both below one percent. Overall, one person was classified as belonging to some other race and 4.9% of the population identified themselves with two or more races. A total of 2.7% identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino. Approximately 4.6% of the population was foreign-born. A total of 55% of foreign-born residents were born in Czechoslovakia.

History

Archaeological findings suggest that this area of the north-central California coast has been inhabited by Native American groups for at least 10,000 years. Albion, located in Mendocino County, is situated in an area that was home to the Central and Western Pomo Indians and other native groups prior to European contact. The Pomo were known for their expertise in basket-making and lived a subsistence lifestyle that centered on marine resources.¹ The name "Mendocino" comes from Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the famous 16th century Spanish navigator, who led a voyage along the Pacific coast in 1542 and named the area in honor of Don Antonio de Mendoza, the first Viceroy of New Spain (Mexico). Even after such early expeditions, this area had no permanent European settlements for almost three centuries after contact.²

The City of Albion is located at the mouth of the Albion River. The origin of its name is somewhat in dispute. The famed English explorer Sir Francis Drake, who sailed his ship "The Golden Hind" around the world from 1577-1580, reportedly landed north of San Francisco, claiming the territory for the English crown and naming it "Nova Albion," meaning "New England" in Latin. To preserve the fragile peace with Spain, however, Queen Elizabeth I confiscated Drake's logs, charts and other writings, and the

details of his voyage and his claim on the west coast of America were not publicized until the 1590s.

The exact location of Drake's Pacific landing in America is in dispute, and no archaeological evidence exists that could provide a definitive answer.³ At a minimum, it seems clear that the Albion River, which flows through the area, was named in honor of Drake's claim to the California coast. The town of Albion grew at the mouth of the river. Permanent European settlement began in the early 19th century when another Englishman, William Anthony Richardson, was given a Mexican land grant that surrounded the Albion River, naming his property the "Albion Rancho Desino." Richardson's settlement played an important role in the timber industry and in maritime shipping during the 19th century.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 54.9% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 4.3% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Of the population over the age of 16, 42.6% were not in the labor force. Of the employed civilian population, 30.7% worked in 'Educational, health and social services', the vast majority of those working in 'Health care and social assistance,' while 21.7% worked in 'Accommodation and food services.' Approximately 5.0% of the employed civilian population over the age of 16 was involved in 'Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting' according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census Albion's per capita income in 1999 was \$26,731, while the median household income was \$40,491. In 1999, a total of 9.8% of the population was below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 627 housing units in Albion, 78.0% of which were occupied, 22.0% were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 65.6% and 34.4% were owner and renter occupied respectively. Over half (76.1%) of the vacant housing units were for 'seasonal, recreational, or occasional' use.

Governance

Albion residents, located in Mendocino County, are subject to a sales tax of 7.25%, based on the standard statewide rate. The annual property tax for Mendocino residents is approximately 1.11% of the property's assessed value, plus voter-approved special taxes or assessments.

California state law assesses commercial fishing vessels, charter boats, and oceanographic research vessels at 4% of their full cash value for tax purposes. Some commercial vessels are also subject to a Ballast Water Management Fee of about \$500 per voyage.⁴ California levies a fuel tax of \$0.18 per gallon, a portion of which goes toward marine safety and education programs and boating facility administration and development.⁵

The State of California levies landing taxes that must be paid by fishermen and fish processors involved in the retail sale of fish products. These taxes vary by species and range between \$.0013 and \$.0125 per pound of fish.⁶ The California Department of Agriculture also administers two commodity commissions, the California Salmon Council and the California Sea Urchin Commission, which charge fees for marketing and lobbying on behalf of fishermen involved in these specific fisheries.⁷

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service office is located in Ukiah, 54 miles east of Albion. For purposes of regulating fishing and hunting activities, Albion is located within the Central Coast Region 3 of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; the regional office is in Yountville, 122 miles southeast of Albion. The U.S. Coast Guard has a Surface Operations Station in Bodega Bay, 90 miles to the south, and the nearest office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is in San Francisco, 148 miles to the south. The nearest meetings of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council take place in Foster City, 169 miles south of Albion. And North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings are held in Portland, Oregon, approximately 564 miles to the north.

Facilities

Albion is accessible primarily by road; it is located three miles north of State Route 128 on the Pacific Coast Highway. The nearest airports available for public use are located nearby in Little River (Mendocino County Airport) and Gualala (Ocean Ridge Airport). The closest major airport is located in San Francisco, approximately 148 miles south of Albion.

There is only one elementary school located in Albion and middle and high school students attend schools nearby in Mendocino.⁸ Water services are provided to Albion residents by the Albion Mutual Water Company. Law enforcement in Albion is administered by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, headquartered in Ukiah. The Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department is a first-response unit that is responsible for fire protection within the two communities. Redwood Coast Fire District, headquartered in Manchester City, provides fire and emergency services to Albion residents.⁹ There are no hospitals or medical clinics in Albion; a regional hospital is located in Ukiah, the seat of Mendocino County. Lodging accommodations include one bed-and-breakfast; in addition, there are a variety of hotels located in the nearby communities of Mendocino and Fort Bragg.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Comercial landings were delivered to Albion by 33 vessels in 2000. In the same year landings in Albion were made in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab (confidential/confidential/1), groundfish (7.6 t/\$67,193/18), salmon (confidential/confidential/2), and other species (368 t/\$736,177/23). According to available data, there were no seafood processors in Albion in 2000.

There were 23 commercial vessels owned by Albion residents in 2000, 5 of which participated in the Federal Managed Groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Albion residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/0/2), groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (0/1/5), and shellfish (NA/0/NA).¹⁰

In 2000, one federal groundfish permit was held by an Albion community member. In the same year, recorded data indicates that the number of residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/0/2), crab (0/0/2), groundfish (0/0/10), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/1/13), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (0/0/23).¹¹

According to available data at least 67 commercial fishing permits, 66 of which were state registered, were held by Albion residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of state permits held by residents in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/0/3), crab (0/0/2), groundfish (0/0/12), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/1/20), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (0/0/28).¹²

Sportfishing

A number of charter vessels operate out of Albion targeting albacore tuna, rock cod, ling cod, salmon, and other species. In 2002, at least eight charter business serviced sport fishermen and tourists in Albion. Six such businesses were in operation in 2003. There is one license agent selling sportfishing licenses in Albion. According to available data, 8838 resident sportfishing licenses, 64 non-resident sportfishing licenses, 382 sport salmon punch cards, and 8864 abalone report cards were sold in Mendocino County in 2000. The nearest commercial passenger fishing vessels port complex consists of Fort Bragg, Eureka, and Crescent City. In 2000, at this port complex, 15 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 11,574 anglers in 2000. These vessels reported 49,983 landings composed of at least nine species. Rockfish (unspecified) and Chinook salmon accounted for 81.2% and 16.1% of the landings respectively.

Subsistence

Specific information on subsistence fishing in Albion is not discussed in detail in this Community Profile due to the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game uses the term “recreational” to refer to fishermen that do not earn revenue from their catch but rather fish for pleasure and/or to provide food for personal consumption. Therefore information on subsistence fishing in California is captured, to some degree, within the above sportfishing data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, there was no involvement in North Pacific fisheries by residents of Albion.

Sportfishing

While the majority of the charter boats in Albion target West Coast fisheries, four Albion community members purchased Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000. In the same year there were no sportfishing businesses in Albion that participated in Alaskan fisheries.

¹ Kroeber, Alfred L. 1953. *Handbook of the Indians of California: The Pomo*. Berkeley: California Book Company.

² County of Mendocino. “History of Mendocino County,” [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/history.htm> (access date - April 2005).

³ Wikipedia.com. No date. Wikipedia.com, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.answers.com/topic/new-albion> (access date - May 2005). See also Bawlf, R. Samuel. 2003. *The Secret Voyage of Sir Francis Drake, 1577-1580*. New York: Walker and Company.

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- ⁴ State of California Board of Equalization. 2004. Ballast Water Management Fee, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/bllstweb12.htm> (access date - July 2004).
- ⁵ U.S. Department of Transportation. 2001. Provisions Governing the Distribution of State Motor Fuel Tax Receipts: California, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/hwytaxes/2001/california.htm> (access date - July 2004).
- ⁶ California Fish and Game. No date. California Fish and Game Code, Sections 8040-8070, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=fgc&group=08001-09000&file=8040-8070> (access date - January 2006).
- ⁷ State of California Department of Agriculture. 2004. List of Marketing Programs, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/mktbrds.html> (access date - July 2004).
- ⁸ National Center for Education Statistics. [Online]. Available: URL: <http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/> (access date - April 2005).
- ⁹ Mendocino County, 2002. "Mendocino County Grand Jury Final Report: Point Arena City Government," [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/01-02/08-Point_Arena_City_Government.pdf (access date - April 2005).
- ¹⁰ 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
- ¹¹ 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
- ¹² 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.