

Sausalito, California

People and Place

Location

The City of Sausalito is located on the southeastern tip of Marin County, approximately 10 miles north of San Francisco off of State Highway 101. Sausalito, encompassing 1.9 square miles of land and 0.3 square miles of surface water, lies at 37°57'38"N, 122°30'05"W.

Demographic Profile

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census the population of Sausalito was 7330. Between 1990 and 2000, U.S. Census data reports that the population of Sausalito increased 2.5%. In 2000 the percentage of males and females was 48.3% and 51.7% respectively. The racial composition of the population was predominantly White (91.7%), followed by Asian (4.2%), Black or African American (0.7%), American Indian and Alaskan Native (0.3%), and Pacific Islander (0.2%). A small percentage, 0.7%, identified themselves as belonging to some other race and 2.3% classified themselves as belonging to two or more races. Overall, 3.3% of the population recognized themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

The median age of the population in 2000 was 45.4 which was lower than the national median of 35.3 for the same year. In the same year approximately 72% of the population was between the ages of 25 and 59. Of the foreign-born population (15.7%), 15.6% were born in Germany, 9.6% in Canada, and 7.9% in the United Kingdom. A total of 54.6% of the population of Sausalito were living in family households in 2000. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 98% of the population of Sausalito over 18 years of age had received a high school degree or higher, 69.1% had received a bachelor's degree or higher, and 28.5% received a graduate or professional degree; as compared to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

History

The first inhabitants of the Sausalito area were the Miwok Indians. The Coastal Miwok, called Olamentke by early writers, are part of the Penutian language family.¹ The Miwok occupied the territory bounded on the north by Cosumnes River, on the east by the ridge of the Sierra Nevada, on the south by Fresno Creek, and on the west by the San Joaquin River.² The Miwok are known to be the largest "nation" in California and it is said that a "man of any of their tribes or settlements may travel from the Cosumnes to the Fresno and make himself understood without difficulty, so uniform is their language."³

The Coast Miwok inhabited about 885 square miles of Marin and southern Sonoma counties. At the beginning of the 19th century there were approximately 3000 Miwok in about 40 villages; each village consisted of 75-100 persons.⁴ In 1910 the Miwok population was estimated at 699.⁵ The Miwok traveled in boats made from tule reeds from which they traveled around the Bay and to Angel Island, the largest island in San Francisco Bay.⁶ The diet of the Miwok consisted primarily of nuts, pinole – a meal made of plant seeds, roots, fruit, jack-rabbit, deer, sea lions, seals, sea otters, and several kinds of fish and shellfish. Annual salmon spawning runs were made through Raccoon Strait, just offshore from Angel Island.⁷ Fish were taken by gorge-hook (made from bone) and spear, dip nets (bags of netting attached to wooden frames on a handle), by narcotization, and woven surf nets were used along the open beaches.^{8,9}

The first contact between the Miwok and Europeans occurred in 1579 when Sir Francis Drake, the first Englishman to sail around the world, was greeted upon his arrival by Indians in a

village near Tomales, approximately 50 miles northwest of Sausalito. Later, in 1775, Father Vincente, who arrived to claim San Francisco Bay with Captain Ayuala described the Coast Miwok as “humorous, with courteous manners.”¹⁰ During the Spanish Mission Era the Coast Miwok learned how to build with adobe and cultivate new food crops, which they in turn traded to the Spanish missions.¹¹ For decades the Coast Miwok resisted the Spanish and Mexicans but fell before European firepower. In 1953 Congress passed public law 280 which turned over law enforcement on California reservations to state and county agencies. By 1958, the federal government “terminated” the recognition of several tribes including the Coast Miwok.¹² In December 2000 legislation was signed granting The Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria, formerly known as the Federated Coast Miwok, full rights and privileges afforded federally recognized tribes. Today there are over 500 registered tribal members.¹³

In 1838 the Englishman William Richardson received a Mexican land grant which he called Rancho del Sausalito, meaning “Ranch of the Little Willow grove.” The property, in addition to raising cattle, contained a safe anchorage very close to the Golden Gate and nearby springs that provided Richardson with an abundant source of freshwater, which he sold to visiting whaling ships. Richardson sought power and wealth and soon he became Captain of the Port of San Francisco and married the daughter of the Commandant of the Presidio. But the gold rush brought hardship to the Rancho: Richardson’s land was squatted on, his cattle were stolen, and his Whaler’s Cove was bypassed in favor of Yerba Buena, a new port across the Bay. These events forced him to concede defeat and sell most of his beloved Rancho.¹⁴

Several ambitious businessmen and companies, interested in promising Sausalito real-estate, attempted to establish Sausalito as California’s next big city. But Sausalito, with no rail service, provided little opportunity for growth. But in 1871 the Sausalito Land and Ferry Company struck a deal with the North Pacific Coast Railroad, convincing them to extend their tracks into Sausalito. The railway brought merchants, workers, and the wealthy from San Francisco and soon a residential pattern was established – the rich lived in the hills and the workers lived in the lowlands. In 1893, to control the town’s development, residents decided to incorporate.¹⁵

When the Golden Gate Bridge was built in the 1930s a direct roadway was established from Sausalito to the bridge. The construction of the bridge brought increased land prices in Marin County and a flood of people from the Bay area. The railway and ferries were soon dismantled and by 1941 Sausalito was on the decline. But World War II brought new industries to the Sausalito area. With an increased need for merchant ships, The Bechtel Company chose to locate on North Sausalito’s waterfront. The area soon became known as Marinship. Marinship employed approximately 70,000 workers from all over the world and operated around the clock. By the end of World War II, Marinship had constructed 93 vessels in only three and a half years.¹⁶

Change came slowly to Sausalito during the post-war years. Tourism arrived in the area during the 1960s and the Marinship area became home to tourist shops, small businesses, and arts and crafts. Today Sausalito residents and visitors enjoy numerous community events including: the Sausalito Art Festival, Art Festival at Sea, the Annual Chili Cook-off, the Annual Floating Homes Showcase Tour, the Farmers Market, and Opera by the Bay.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the top three occupations in Sausalito in 2000 for the eligible labor force 16 years of age and over were “management, professional and related occupations” (66.9%), “sales and office occupations” (20.9%), and “service occupations” (7.4%). At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 6.4% of the city’s eligible labor force was employed within local, state, or federal governments, all working outside of natural resource industries (agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining). The 2000 U.S. Census reports that only 0.2% of Sausalito’s population was employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.

According to 2000 U.S. Census 75.2% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 2.1% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Of the population of Sausalito over 16 years of age, 23.2% was not in the labor force, which is slightly less than the national average of 36.1%. For whom poverty status was determined, 5.1% of the City’s population was living below the poverty line in 1999. The median household income in 1999 was \$87,469 and the per capita income was \$81,040. In 2000 there were 4511 housing units in Sausalito. The percentage of occupied housing units that were owner versus renter occupied were 49.1% and 50.9% respectively. The percent of vacant housing units was 5.7%, of which 41.2% were vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Sausalito, incorporated in 1893, is located just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. The City operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The 5-member City Council consists of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and three Council members. Sausalito levies a 7.25% sale and use tax on regular purchases and a 10% transient lodging tax.^{17,18} Under Proposition 13 the maximum property tax rate for Marin County is 1% of the property’s net taxable value.¹⁹

California state law assesses commercial vessels, charter boats, and oceanographic research vessels at 4% of their full cash value.²⁰ Vessels registered in California with either the Department of Motor Vehicles or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are assessed property taxes by the county tax collector where it is moored.²¹ Some commercial vessels are also subject to a Ballast Water Management Fee of about \$500 per voyage.²² 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.²³

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.²⁴ 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.²⁵

The National Marine Fisheries Service’s (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center has laboratories located 81 miles south in Santa Cruz and there is a NMFS Regional Office located approximately 421 miles south in Long Beach. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has a marine field office located about 32 miles south in Belmont. The nearest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is 10 miles south in San Francisco. Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held approximately 31 miles south in Foster City. Sausalito falls under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Francisco Bay, one of the largest and busiest marine safety units in the Coast Guard.

Facilities

Sausalito is accessible by ground and water transportation. The major roads connecting Sausalito to neighboring cities are State Highway 101 south to San Francisco and north to Santa Rosa. The town is accessible by bus via Golden Gate Transit. The Golden Gate Sausalito Ferry Terminal is located in downtown Sausalito and provides nine trips daily to San Francisco. The San Francisco International Airport is located 10 miles south of Sausalito and is home to several commercial carriers.

The Sausalito Marin City School District boasts three elementary schools; high school students attend classes in the Tamalpais Union High School District. There are also several private and non-profit schools in Sausalito. The College of Marin, located 10 miles north in Kentfield, serves approximately 8000 students each semester. The Marin Municipal Water District serves the southern Marin area, including Sausalito. The City's Public Works Department is responsible for the town's storm water, drainage, and sanitary sewer collection systems. Electricity and natural gas are supplied to community residents by Pacific Gas and Electric. Public safety in the City is administered by the Sausalito Police Department. Additional local facilities include the Bay Area Discovery Museum, numerous city parks and recreational opportunities, a public library, the Sausalito Historical Society, the Sausalito and Golden Gate Tall Ships Societies, the Marine Mammal Center, and several others.

There are eight marinas and harbors in Sausalito, primarily serving recreational boaters and sailors. Clipper Yacht Harbor, founded in the 1950s, boasts over 730 slips. Offering a fuel dock, over 80 dry storage units, and Salty's Bait and Tackle, Clipper's is the homeport of several charter vessels and hundreds of recreational fishing boats. Gaililee Harbor is home to one of the last original houseboat communities. Cass's Marina, located by Dunphy Park, provides rental sailboats to the public. At the old Marine Ways Shipyard, where Menotti Pasquinucci built Monterey fishing boats, there are several wooden boats on display. The Pelican Yacht Harbor, once owned by Donlon Arques – the founder of the Arques School of Traditional Boat Building – is home to the largest collection of classic wooden boats on the Sausalito waterfront. The Sausalito Yacht Harbor was founded in 1940 when three log steamers were filled with mud and left to sink on the north end of the new harbor. Schoonmaker Point Marina, known as one of the most prestigious marinas in the Bay area, boasts wet berths and side ties, guest moorage, dry storage, commercial and light industrial rental space. Schoonmaker offers boat slips from 35- to 75-feet and side ties for yachts up to 220-feet. The Richardson Bay Marina, formerly Kappas Marina, is also located in Sausalito.

Several fishing organizations are based in Sausalito including the California Herring Association (commercial) and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association, representing 26 commercial fishing and port associations from San Diego to Alaska. The Golden Gate Fishermen's Association, founded in 1948, is based nearby in San Rafael.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 landings in Sausalito were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): coastal pelagic (364 t/\$249,538/31), crab (22 t/\$103,891/9), groundfish (3 t/\$7641/15), highly migratory species (17 t/\$31,449/10), other species (9 t/\$7463/11), and salmon (180 t/\$730,075/82).

Sausalito residents owned nine vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, four of which participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. One hundred and thirty commercial vessels delivered landings to Sausalito in the same year. According to recorded data

the number of vessels owned by Sausalito residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (0/0/2), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/0/0), and other species (0/0/1).²⁶

Recorded data for 2000 indicates that the number of Sausalito residents that held permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/0/5), crab (0/0/2), groundfish (0/0/2), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/0/15), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (0/0/2), and other species (1/0/3).²⁷

According to available data, 47 state permits were registered to Sausalito residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by these community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/0/12), crab (0/0/2), groundfish (0/0/2), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/0/24), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (0/0/2), and other species (2/0/3).²⁸

Sportfishing

The livelihoods of many community residents depend on Sausalito's sportfishing industry.²⁹ In Sausalito sportfishermen are involved in both West Coast and Alaskan fisheries. Numerous marinas in Sausalito cater primarily to recreational fishermen and charter vessels and there is one license agent based in the community. Internet resources indicate that there are at least six sportfishing business based in Sausalito. There were zero Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels licensed in Sausalito 2002 and 2003.

Subsistence

Specific information on subsistence fishing in Sausalito 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 El Sobrante residents were scarcely involved in North Pacific fisheries. In 2000, residents owned zero vessels that were involved in North Pacific fisheries and available data indicates that zero landings were made by community members in the same year.

In 2000 one Sausalito resident served as crewmember in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year one community residents held a single registered state permit, a salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit.

Sportfishing

A total of 39 Alaska sportfishing licenses were purchased by Sausalito community members in 2000.

¹ Curtis, Edward. 1924. The Miwok, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.yosemite.ca.us/history/curtis/> (access date - January 2005).

² Access Genealogy. 2004. California Indian Tribes, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/californiatribes.htm> (access date - January 2005).

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- ³ Access Genealogy. 2004. California Indian Tribes, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/californiatribes.htm> (access date - January 2005).
- ⁴ Rohnert Park Historical Society. 2000. Miwok Villages, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.rphist.org/html/miwok.html> (access date - January 2005).
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- ⁷ Angel Island Association. 2003. Miwok Information, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.angelisland.org/miwok.htm> (access date - January 2005).
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- ⁹ Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. No date. History of the Coast Miwok at Point Reyes, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.pointreyesvisions.com/NewFiles/Science_Folder/Coast_Miwok.html (access date - January 2005).
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- ¹² Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. No date. History of the Coast Miwok at Point Reyes, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.pointreyesvisions.com/NewFiles/Science_Folder/Coast_Miwok.html (access date - January 2005).
- ¹³ Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. No date. History of the Coast Miwok at Point Reyes, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.pointreyesvisions.com/NewFiles/Science_Folder/Coast_Miwok.html (access date - January 2005).
- ¹⁴ City of Sausalito. 1997. Sausalito History, [Online]. <http://www.ci.sausalito.ca.us/shs/saus-hist/Sausalito%20History.htm> (access date - January 2005).
- ¹⁵ City of Sausalito. 1997. Sausalito History, [Online]. <http://www.ci.sausalito.ca.us/shs/saus-hist/Sausalito%20History.htm> (access date - January 2005).
- ¹⁶ City of Sausalito. 1997. Sausalito History, [Online]. <http://www.ci.sausalito.ca.us/shs/saus-hist/Sausalito%20History.htm> (access date - January 2005).
- ¹⁷ California State Board of Equalization. 2004. California City and County Sales and Use Tax Rates, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub71.pdf> (access date - July 2004).
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- ²⁷ '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.
- ²⁸ '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.
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