

## **Bandon, Oregon**

### **People and Place**

#### *Location*

Bandon is located in Coos County at 43°07'09"N and 124°24'26"W. The community is situated along the Southern Coast of Oregon at the mouth of the Coquille River. The nearest major metropolitan area is Portland, which is found 243.7 miles to the northeast. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Bandon encompasses a total area of 3.1 square miles, including 0.3 square miles of water and 2.8 square miles of land.

#### *Demographic Profile*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Bandon had a total population of 2833 people, with a population density of 1029.4 people per square mile of land. Bandon revealed a 27.9% gross population growth from years 1990 to 2000. About 92.5% of the inhabitants were White, 0.2% African American, 1.9% Native American, 0.6% Asian, and 0.1% Pacific Islander. A total of 1.0% identified with some other race and 3.7% with two or more races groups. Another 2.8% of the population identified themselves as having Hispanic or Latino origins. The ethnic composition of the community changed between 1990 and 2000, with a net percentage increase of 55.6% for those inhabitants who identified themselves as having Hispanic origins. The 2000 U.S. Census identified 4.5% of the inhabitants as foreign-born, of which 37.8% were born in Mexico.

In 2000, Bandon was composed of 45.2% males and 54.8% females. The median age of the community was 49.3 years compared to the national median age of 35.3 years. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 23.8% of the population was under 25 compared to the national average of 35.3%. The 55 and older age group represented 41.4% of the total population, while the national average for this age group was 21.1%. Over a quarter (29.4%) of the population was 65 and older, whereas the national average was 12.4%. The 2000 U.S. Census stated that 26.9% of the population 18 years and older received a high school degree as their highest educational attainment. In the community, 88% received a high school degree or higher, 17.5% received a bachelor's degree or higher, and 5.4% received a graduate degree or higher.

#### *History*

The area around Bandon, Oregon, was initially settled by the Coquille Indians who had villages along the Coquille River. In 1826 the Hudson Bay River Company visited the area and by 1851 gold was discovered by French Trappers, drawing miners and other entrepreneurs to the area.<sup>1,2</sup> The first settlement, named Averill, was established in 1853. By 1856 conflict between the Euro-American settlers and Indians resulted in the movement of the Coquille Indians to the Siletz Reservation. In 1859 the vessel *Twin Sisters* sailed up the Coquille River which initiated the trade of inland produce and resources. One year later the Coquille River mouth was surveyed for navigation. In the early to mid-1870s Lord George Bennett arrived and renamed the town Bandon, after his hometown of the same namesake in Ireland.

From the mid-1800s to the early 1900s the town of Bandon grew with the opening of a post office, cheese-making enterprises, a sawmill, Catholic church, a new school district, and a woolen mill. In 1888 the first ocean-going schooner was built in Bandon, and in 1896 the Bandon Lighthouse was constructed. This was followed by the creation of a jetty on the Coquille

River. By 1910, Bandon was popular tourist destination on the Oregon coast and was considered to be a principle port between San Francisco and Portland.

Disaster struck in 1914 when a fire destroyed the waterfront business district. This was followed by the Great Fire of 1936, a forest fire that destroyed the entire town, ending the town's role as a prominent port on the West Coast. Around this same time period, cranberry farming grew and cooperatives and factories were developed. The Bandon Electrical Company was established, and the town slowly rebuilt. The Cranberry Festival, held for the first time in 1947, is celebrated annually by community residents and visitors.

Through the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s the town population continued to grow. An airport was dedicated, a wastewater treatment plant was built, and Bandon City Hall was established. In the 1980s the Old Town area was re-developed with the addition of shopping, restaurants, and a new boat basin. Bandon has become a coastal tourist destination and still supports cranberries factories, fishing, cheese-making, and forest products.

Yearly festivals include the Bandon Irish Fest and Blessing of the Fleet, formally Bandon's Wine and Food Festival. According to the Chamber of Commerce, Bandon shares much of its heritage with Bandon, Ireland. During Bandon's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, the Bandon Fisherman Association helps sponsor the annual Fish Fry.<sup>3</sup>

## **Infrastructure**

### *Current Economy*

The major industries in Bandon include wood products, fishing, tourism, and agriculture. The five largest employers in the area include Bandon Dunes Golf Course, Southern Coos Health District, School District #54C, Oregon Overseas Timber, and Hardin Optical.<sup>4</sup> The 2000 U.S. Census indicates that 1.2% of the employed civilian population 16 years and over worked in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industries. The percentage may not be indicative of the actual number of people in these professions as many are self-employed, especially in the fishing industry. Another 16.3% worked in retail and 17.9% worked in arts, entertainment recreation, and accommodation and food services. Additionally, 22.9% worked in educational, health and social services, while 17.7% were employed by the government. The 2000 U.S. Census states that the unemployment rate was 7.4% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). For the population 16 years and older, 53.1% were not in the labor force, while 43% were employed.

In 1999, median household income was \$29,492 and per capita income was \$20,051. About 16% of the population was living below poverty level in the same year. Of the 1535 housing units in 2000, 83.8% were occupied and 16.2% were vacant. Almost half (48.4%) of the vacant units were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of the occupied housing units, 60.1% were owner occupied, while 39.9% were renter occupied.

### *Governance*

Bandon is an incorporated city that operates under a Council-Manager charter. The state of Oregon has no general sales tax. The lodging tax is levied at 1% of the fee charged to the customer for overnight lodging and funds the Oregon Tourism Commission. Property tax is determined by a permanent rate set for the taxing district. The tax rate ranges from \$7 to \$15 per \$1000 of real market value. Assessed values are limited to a 3 percent annual growth rate.

Fishing businesses located in Oregon or deriving income from Oregon resources must pay a corporate excise or income tax totaling 6% of their net Oregon income. Wholesale fish

dealers, canners, and bait dealers pay a landing fee that is determined from a percentage of the value of the food fish purchased from commercial harvesters. Salmon and Steelhead Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) landing fees are \$0.05 per pound for round, \$.0575 per pound for dressed, and \$.0605 per pound for dressed with heads off. Other regular landing fees are based on value; salmon and steelhead are 3.15% of value (including eggs and parts); all other fish and shellfish are 1.09% of value, and near-shore species are 5% of value.

Vessel owners must pay registration and title fees, and marine fuel taxes that support boating facilities, marine law enforcement, and boating safety education. Fishing boats and equipment may be taxed as personal property if they are valued at less than \$1 million. If their value exceeds this amount, they are taxed as industrial property. In 2004, title transfer fees are \$30 and registration fees are \$3 per foot based on center length of vessel. Oregon levies a fuel tax of \$0.24 per gallon of gasoline and use fuel. The Oregon Department of Agriculture administers four commodity commissions, Oregon Albacore Commission, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Oregon Salmon Commission, and Oregon Trawl Commission. Fishermen pay fees to these commissions for marketing and lobbying on behalf of fishermen involved in these specific fisheries.

Bandon is 121.8 miles from the National Marine Fisheries Service research station in Newport, Oregon, and 21.8 miles from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Field Office in Charleston. The community is 23.9 miles from the nearest U.S. Coast Guard Unit in Coos Bay and 243.7 miles from the closest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office in Portland. The Pacific and North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings are held 243.7 miles away in Portland.

### *Facilities*

Bandon is accessible by a number of transportation options. Greyhound provides bus service to nearby communities and to greater metropolitan areas throughout the country. The local Bandon State Airport is a landing base for small planes. The community is also located 256.8 miles from the Portland International Airport. Major highways that intersect Bandon include Highways 101 and 42.

Local schools include an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school. Bandon also has two private primary schools. Electricity is provided to community residents by the City of Bandon Electric Company. Water and sewer services are supplied by the City of Bandon. The Bandon Police Department administers local law enforcement. The community is home to one major health care facility, Southern Coos General Hospital. Bandon lodging accommodations include bed-and-breakfasts, hotels, and motels, campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks, and vacation rentals.

The Port of Bandon offers shipping terminal facilities, commercial and sport boat moorages, and support services. Facilities include a boat ramp, crab dock, charter fishing dock, berths for commercial and sportfishing vessels, and a guest dock. According to the Port of Bandon, the City of Bandon “has survived the downturn of its three major support industries—logging, fishing, and cranberry production...due to the visionary and progressive development of its port facilities as a base for vacation recreation, sport fishing and nature conservancy.” The Port, funded by the ODFW Restoration and Enhancement Program, is currently restoring tidal functions to a portion of a former lagoon basin located on the Coquille River’s ocean spit.<sup>5</sup> The ODFW Bandon Fish Hatchery is located Southeast of Bandon along Ferry Creek. The Oregon Coast Sportfishing Association is a local organization in Bandon.

## **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

In 2000 a total of 17 vessels, all commercially registered, delivered landings to Bandon. Landings in the community were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab (0.7 t/\$3207/4), groundfish (0.4 t/\$726/7), highly migratory species (confidential/confidential/2), salmon (12 t/\$46,083/6), and other species (confidential/confidential/2). Sources utilized in our research did not provide current or 2000 data on West Coast fisheries processors for Bandon.

Bandon residents owned 31 vessels in 2000, of which 12 participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Bandon residents in 2000 that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/11/0), groundfish (0/2/NA), highly migratory species (NA/1/NA), salmon (0/23/0), shellfish (NA/0/NA), and shrimp (NA/5/0).<sup>6</sup>

Three Federally Managed Groundfish fishery permits were held by three Bandon residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of individual community members holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/8/5), groundfish (0/1/0), highly migratory species (NA/1/1), salmon (0/19/11), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (0/3/2), and other species (1/3/0).<sup>7</sup>

According to available data, 115 permits were registered to Bandon residents in 2000, of which 112 were registered state permits. Recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/18/5), groundfish (0/1/0), highly migratory species (NA/1/1), salmon (0/21/16), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (0/8/4), and other species (1/36/0).<sup>8</sup>

### *Sportfishing*

Bandon had at least two outfitter guide businesses in 2003. Three licensed charter vessel businesses were located in the community in the same year. And one licensed charter vessel business from Merrill used Bandon as its homeport.

Presently, Bandon has four licensing vendors. In 2000, the number of licenses sold by active agents was 1082 at a value of \$18,778. For the community of Bandon, the 2000 recreational salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 1328 Chinook salmon and 104 coho salmon. The recreational non-salmonid catch was a total of 14,206 fish. The top species landed include black rockfish, blue rockfish, canary rockfish, china rockfish, vermillion rockfish, and lingcod.

### *Subsistence*

Many local community members engage in subsistence fishing. Both nontribal and tribal fishermen, including members of the Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw, utilize marine and stream resources for subsistence means from the areas within and surrounding Bandon. Under the trust doctrine, the federal government is charged to protect tribal resources and by constitutional mandate to protect natural resources. The government-to-government agreements made between tribal groups and the United States through treaties guarantee fishing rights on traditional grounds. Specific information on

subsistence fishing in Bandon 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, Bandon residents owned one vessel that was involved in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year four community members served as crewmembers aboard vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries. Five Bandon residents held registered state permits in 2000.

A total of seven permits were registered to individuals in Bandon in 2000. Bandon community members held two Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish, one halibut, two Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish, one shellfish, and four salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits.

### *Sportfishing*

Bandon residents purchased 16 sportfishing licenses for Alaskan fisheries in 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> Gildea, Jennifer, editor. 1999. Oregon's Changing Coastal Fishing Communities, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs/o99001.html> (access date - March 2005).

<sup>2</sup> Bandon Historical Society. 2005. Bandon, Oregon, A Listing of Historic Events, [Online]. Available URL: <http://www.harborside.com/~bandonhm/bandtime> (access date - March 2005).

<sup>3</sup> Bandon Chamber of Commerce. 2004. Bandon festivals, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.bandon.com/webfront/stories/?page\\_id=21](http://www.bandon.com/webfront/stories/?page_id=21) (access date - October 2004).

<sup>4</sup> Oregon Economic & Community Development Department. 2004. Bandon community profile, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://info.econ.state.or.us:591/FMPro?-db=Community.fp4&-Format=forms.htm&-lay=webpage&-op=eq&sort%20name=Bandon&-script=hit%20count&-Find> (access date - October 2004).

<sup>5</sup> Port of Bandon. 2001. On Oregon's South coast, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.portofbandon.com> (access date - October 2004).

<sup>6</sup> '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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