

Beaver, Oregon

People and Place

Location

Beaver, Oregon, located along Highway 101 just south of the community of Tillamook, covers 0.4 square miles of land. Situated in Tillamook County, Beaver is approximately 87.5 miles west of Portland, Oregon. The geographic coordinates of Beaver, Oregon are 45° 16' 37"N, 123° 49' 31"W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Beaver was 145 in 2000; a 0.7% (one individual) decrease from the 1990 census. In 2000 the gender structure was evenly divided with slightly more females (52.4%) than males (47.6%). The median age in 2000 was 40.1, slightly higher than the national median of 35.3 for the same year. According to the same data, 42.1% of the population was between the ages of 30 and 59, and 25.5% were age 17 or younger. For the population 18 years and older, 83.8% had a high school education or higher, 23.1% had some college but no degree, and 3.4% earned an associate's degree. There were no bachelor's or graduate/professional degrees held by community members in 2000. The highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma/equivalency for 57.3% of the population. In 2000, 87.6% of the population lived in family households.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the racial composition was predominantly White, (93.1%), followed by American Indian and Alaskan native (1.4%). Overall, 5.5% of the population identified themselves with two or more races and zero residents identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

History

Long before Euro-Americans came to the Pacific Northwest Native Americans inhabited Tillamook County. Groups such as the Tillamooks, Nehalems, and Nestuccas fished and hunted throughout Tillamook County's coastal areas. These peoples had a close relationship with the sea and the area's waterways, as evidenced by the boats they built. Their 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 the onset of European diseases. Their population was estimated to be around 2200 at the turn of the 19th century and declined to one tenth of 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 as an account by a member of his crew tells of an awkwardly situated shoal, narrow entrance, and strong tide. In 1853 Tillamook County was created by the Territorial Government. The county's earliest industries were shipping, logging, fishing, farming, and dairy. Fishing played a key role as it was 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 Willamette Valley. The funds

brought into the area from the sale of fish enabled the development of other enterprises and aided the growth of Tillamook Bay's communities.

Two sectors that developed alongside fishing were the dairy and lumber industries. The dairy industry advanced with the production of cheese which could withstand long storage periods for distribution. The lumber industry prospered during 1890s as containers for dairy, fish, and other products became necessary. In 1911 the Pacific Railway and Navigation Company constructed a railway from Portland to Tillamook. This reliable source of transportation facilitated the growth of the timber, dairy, and fishing industries.

Concerns with overfishing arose as far back as the early part of the last century. Salmon, particularly coho salmon, have declined significantly over the years. Gillnet and trawl fishing were banned in the 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 further burden the area's commercial fishers. Commercial clamming, oystering, and shrimping were relatively successful in the Bay during the 1990s. In recent years the shrimp industry's 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 the several of the area's commercial fisheries, the Bay's sportfishing industry has enjoyed substantial growth. The tourism industry (specifically in regards to sportfishing) developed in part as an economic response to the area's waning lumber and commercial fishing industries, and expanded significantly in the 1980s.^{1,2}

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 58.2% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 5.7% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Of the population over the age of 16, 38.3% were not in the labor force. Of the employed civilian population, retail trade (28%) and accommodation and food services (23.2%) were the top employment industries. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 22% of the employed civilian population over the age of 16 according to the 2000 U.S. Census. According to the same data, zero Beaver residents were employed by the local, state, or federal government in 2000.

Beaver's per capita income in 1999 was \$17,284 according to the 2000 U.S. Census, while the median household income was \$34,286. In 1999 approximately 7.9% of the population was below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 73 housing units in Beaver, 82.2% of which were occupied and 17.8% were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 75% and 25% were owner and renter occupied respectively. Almost half (46.2%) of the vacant housing units were for sale.

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.

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.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Resources Program is based approximately 54 miles south in Newport. Also located in Newport are a National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Northwest Fisheries Science Center field station and a U.S. Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat Station. Portland, approximately 88 miles away, holds both Pacific and North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings and is home to the district office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Facilities

Beaver lies on Highway 101, the major vehicular corridor along the Pacific Coast, from Washington to California. 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 contains an elementary school, middle school, and high school. Tillamook County General Hospital lies 15 miles away in Tillamook. Tillamook County provides utility services and the community's police force is contracted through the County's Sheriff's Department. Other emergency services are managed through the County's Office of Emergency Management. 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. In the same year there were no landings made in Beaver. However, there were six commercial vessels owned by Beaver residents in 2000, none of which participated in the federal groundfish fishery. Recorded data indicates that the number of vessels owned by Beaver residents in 2000 that participated in said 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).³

In 2000, no federal groundfish permits were held by community members. In the same year, recorded data indicates that the number of Beaver residents holding permits in each said 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).⁴

According to available data, there were at least nine commercial fishing permits registered to Beaver residents in 2000, all were registered state permits. Recorded data indicates that the number of state permits held by Beaver residents in each said 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).⁵

Sportfishing

In 2000 there was zero sportfishing charter businesses located within Beaver or owned by Beaver residents. However, Beaver had two sportfishing licensing agents in 2000. In the same year, they sold 76 sportfishing licenses at a value of just over \$1284. There were no licensed charter vessels owned by a Beaver resident in 2000.

For the port complex around Pacific City, the 2000 recreational salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 88 Chinook salmon and 1463 coho salmon. The recreational non-salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was a total of 13,066 fish. The top species landed, in order, include: 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 the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there was no involvement by Beaver residents in North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

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

¹ Gilden, J, ed. 1999. Oregon's Changing Coastal Fishing Communities, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgps/onlinepubs/o99001.html> (access date - August 2004).

² Guardino III, M. Constance, and Rev. Marilyn A. Riedel. Sovereigns of Themselves: A Liberating History of Oregon and Its Coast, Volume III, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www2.wi.net/~census/lesson36.html> (access date - August 2004).

³ '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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