

Hammond, Oregon

People and Place

Location

Hammond is located in Clatsop County, in the northwest corner of the Washington State. Hammond lies west of Astoria at the juncture of the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of the Columbia River, approximately 94 miles northwest of Portland and 182 miles southwest of Seattle, Washington. The geographic coordinates of Hammond, Oregon are: 46°12'01" N, 123°57'01" W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Hammond was 1151. In 2000 the gender structure was evenly divided with slightly more males (50.4%) than females (49.6%). The median age was 34.5, comparable to the national median of 35.3 for the same year. According to the same data, 27.8% of the population was under the age of 18, 48.5% of the population was between the ages of 25 and 59, and 7.6% was age 70 or older. For the population 18 years and over, 89.6% had a high school education or higher, 18.6% had attained a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 9.2% earned a graduate or professional degree. The highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma/equivalency for 24.8% of the population. In 2000, 86.3% of the population lived in family households.

The 2000 U.S. Census shows that the racial composition was predominantly White, (92.0%), followed by Asian (1.1%). American Indian and Alaskan Native and Black or African American each constituted less than one percent (0.7% and 0.2% respectively) of the population. Overall, 2.2% of residents classified themselves as belonging to some other race and 3.8% of the population identified themselves with two or more races. A total of 3.3% identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino. A small percentage (2.3%) of the population was foreign-born; the majority (73%) was born in Canada.

History

The history of Hammond and surrounding areas is linked with the geography and ecology of the region. Chinook, Clatsop, and Kathlamet Indians have made their homes along the lower reaches of the Columbia River since long before European contact, using abundant cedar trees to build longhouses and canoes, and living off the plentiful stocks of salmon, shellfish, deer, and other wildlife. The Clatsop Indian village of Neahkstowt was located near present-day Hammond at the mouth of the Columbia River.¹ The mouth of the Columbia also attracted exploration by Bruno de Heceta in 1775, by Captain Robert Gray in 1792, and by Lewis and Clark in 1805.

By the 1880s salmon canneries began springing up in the area, attracting thousands of workers and their families. Fort Stevens, located just outside Hammond, began operations during the Civil War and remained an active military base until the end of World War II. The Fort, leased to the state of Oregon in 1976, now houses a military museum and a 3700-acre state park.²

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 71.1% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 0.9% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Of the population over the age of 16, 28.3% were not in the labor force. Of the employed civilian population, 18% worked in 'Retail trade' while 17.7% worked in 'Educational, health and social services.' A total of 12.0% of the employed civilian population was employed by the government at some level (local, state, or Federal); however none were reported as working for the government in the 'Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining' industries. Only 1.6% 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.

Hammond's per capita income in 1999 was \$17,652 according to the 2000 U.S. Census, while the median household income was \$41,071. In 1999, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, 16.0% of the population was below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 533 housing units in Hammond, 85.2% of which were occupied, and 14.8% of which were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 59.0% and 41.0% were owner and renter occupied respectively. Of the vacant housing units, 35.4% were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Hammond is located in Clatsop County. In November 1991 Hammond voted to dis-incorporate and on 5 December 1991, merged into the City of Warrenton.³ 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 following government agencies have offices in Astoria, approximately nine miles from Hammond: the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Oregon Department of Fish

and Wildlife. The closest Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings are held in Portland, approximately 94 miles southeast of Hammond.

Facilities

By road, Hammond is accessible via U.S. Highway 101 from the north and south, and Highway 26 from the east. Several nearby airports are accessible to general aviation, serving primarily small planes: the Clatsop County Airport (Warrenton), the Astoria Regional Airport, and the Seaside State Airport. The nearest major commercial airport is located in Portland, 94 miles southeast of Hammond. Bus service connects Hammond to Seaside, Warrenton, and Astoria.

Local schools include a Christian pre-school and a Christian K-12 school.⁴ Water services are supplied by the Astoria Public Works Department. Local law enforcement in Hammond is administered by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office. There are small hospitals located nearby in Astoria and Seaside. A variety of lodging options are available in the nearby communities of Warrenton, Astoria, and Cannon Beach. In addition, there are several small bed and breakfasts located in Hammond.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

No vessels delivered landings to Hammond in 2000. At least one seafood processor operating in Hammond in 2000; however specific information (estimated pounds of product/value of product) is confidential. In the same year a total of nine commercially registered vessels were owned by Hammond residents; six vessels participated in the federal groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Hammond residents in 2000 that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/11/0), groundfish (0/4/NA), highly migratory species (NA/1/NA), salmon (0/4/0), shellfish (NA/0/NA), and shrimp (NA/0/0).⁵

In 2000 a total of eight federal groundfish permits were held by five community members. In the same year, recorded data indicates that the number of Hammond residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/0), crab (2/6/0), groundfish (0/1/0), highly migratory species (NA/1/1), salmon (1/4/0), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (1/0/0), and other species (1/0/0).⁶

According to available data at least 39 commercial fishing permits were registered to Hammond residents in 2000, including 31 registered state permits. Recorded data indicates that the number of state permits held by Hammond residents in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/0), crab (3/12/0), groundfish (0/4/0), highly migratory species (NA/1/3), salmon (1/5/0), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (1/0/0), and other species (1/0/0).⁷

Sportfishing

Internet resources indicate that at least one sportfishing charter business and at least two registered outfitters or guides are based out of Hammond. There were at least two licensed charter vessels owned by Hammond residents in 2000. One sportfishing licensing agent was located in Hammond in the same year; however it recorded no license sales.

For the port complex around Astoria, which is the nearest port reported in the 2000 Oregon recreational catch reports, the 2000 recreational salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 766 Chinook salmon and 13,712 coho salmon. The recreational non-salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery totaled 1533 fish. The top species landed was black rockfish (82.8%).

Subsistence

Subsistence harvest by both tribal and nontribal fishermen for marine species may exist in the Hammond area. 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 Hammond is not discussed in detail in this profile due to the lack of available data on both state and federal levels.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were four vessels owned by Hammond residents that participated in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year seven Hammond residents served as crew members on vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries. One community resident held a state permit for Alaska fisheries and four Hammond residents held eight federal permits for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

Hammond residents held 4027 quota shares for the North Pacific sablefish in the same year. In 2000 Hammond residents held one Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits. There were also three crab License Limitation Program (LLP) permits and two groundfish LLP permits held by Hammond residents in the same year.

Sportfishing

While charter boats in Hammond primarily target West Coast fisheries, recreational anglers in Hammond are also involved in Alaskan fisheries. Available data indicates that at least one Hammond-based charter business offers fishing excursions in Alaska and in 2000 approximately one Hammond resident purchased an Alaska sportfishing license.

¹ Access Genealogy Indian Tribal Records. No date. Oregon Tribes, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/oregon/> (access date - April 2005).

² Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. No date. Fort Stevens State Park, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_179.php (access date - April 2005).

³ Oregon Cities. No Date. Hammond, Oregon, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.oregoncities.us/hammond/> (access date - November 2005).

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics. No date. Search for Schools, Colleges, and Libraries, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/> (access date - April 2005).

⁵ '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.

⁶ '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.

⁷ '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.