

## South Beach, Oregon

### People and Place

#### *Location*

South Beach lies on Oregon's Northern Coast in Lincoln County. The northern portion of this unincorporated community lies within the City of Newport's boundaries. The history and workings of these two communities are closely intertwined. The City of Portland is the closest major metropolitan area to South Beach, lying 138 miles to the north. South Beach, located at 124°02'51"W and 44°36'46"N, encompasses a total land area of 16.89 square miles.

#### *Demographic Profile*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the total population of South Beach was 1109, with a gender distribution of 48.8% male and 51.2% female. The median age of South Beach's population in 2000 was 47.5 years, which was older than the national median age of 35.3. About 94.4% of the eighteen and over population earned the equivalent of a high school diploma or higher, 20.2% earned a bachelor's degree or higher, and 8.3% earned a graduate or professional degree. Approximately 82.5% of South Beach's population lived in family households in 2000.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, South Beach's population was 96.6% White, 0.09% Black, 0.63% American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.72 Asian, and 0.09 Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander. A total of 0.09% of the population identified with some other race, while 1.8% identified with two or more races. In addition, approximately 2% of the population was Hispanic or Latino. A total of 1% of the community's population was foreign-born. The five most common ancestries reported, in descending order, were English, German, United States or American, Irish, and European.

#### *History*

Well before Euro-American settlers came to Lincoln County several branches of the Salish Indians (e.g., Tillamook, Nehalem, and Siletz) inhabited the area. These groups hunted and fished throughout the region. Their access to the region's natural resources was increasingly limited from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by the U.S. government in effort to open up lands to White settlers. Many of these groups were forced onto reservations in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. See the Siletz and Newport Community Profiles for more information on Native American History in the region.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz is a consolidation of some 30 to 50 Indian groups whose reservation lies approximately 12 miles northeast of South Beach in Siletz. During the latter part of the historic era the Siletz peoples "...gathered a variety of plants, hooked and trapped lamprey, caught salmon, collected freshwater mussels, and hunted deer [for subsistence purposes]. However, recent declines in lamprey and salmon populations have reduced access to these two important traditional food sources."<sup>1</sup> The amount of land under tribal control has steadily declined since they were forced onto their reservation in 1855. Today the Tribe asserts that treaty rights give them fishing privileges on central Oregon's marine and freshwater bodies.<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup>

The first Euro-American to settle in South Beach for an extended period of time was Lemuel E. Davis in 1866. Davis was instrumental in bringing people to South Beach as he ran a ferry between there and Newport bringing tourists, campers, and sportfishers to the area. He rented boats to the public for fishing and touring. In the 1860s an oyster industry developed on Yaquina Bay. In time oysters would be shipped to populated areas on the West Coast, such as San Francisco. Yaquina Bay eventually spurred a strong fishing industry boosting the economies of many of the Bay's towns such as Newport and Toledo. Although no information could be found, it is likely that residents of South Beach landed fish in there during this time. Over the next several decades the community went through several growth-bust cycles. The construction of a jetty and a rail connection brought money and people to the area for a short time. This era of growth ended when the government withdrew funding for the jetty.<sup>7</sup>

Lincoln County was established on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1893. The key industries during the county's early years were logging, agriculture, dairy farming, and fishing. In 1910 and 1911 Lincoln became more accessible to outsiders as ports were created at Toledo, Newport, and Alsea, and a rail line was built between central Oregon's coastal communities and Portland. World War I brought activity to the area as the military stationed 100 men in the area to build a saw mill and a rail line. With the departure of the military after the war the community's economy fell into stagnation once again. Access to the area was increased in the following decades (1920s and 1930s) as several highways and bridges were constructed throughout the county. Economic growth occurred again during World War II, which prompted the construction of an airport by the federal government for defense purposes in 1943. In 1947 a Toledo lumber company built a dock at South Beach where lumber from barges could be off-loaded on to ships. The 1950s brought a movie theatre and several other service outlets and by the 1960s South Beach was considered an extension of Newport.<sup>8</sup> While the industries of logging, agriculture, dairy farming, and fishing have risen and fallen in their profitability over the years they remain cornerstones of the county's economy today. In the last two decades however, the tourism and leisure industries have grown to play a significant role in the economies of many communities throughout the county, including South Beach and nearby community of Newport. See the Newport Community Profile for additional historic and economic information on the region.

## **Infrastructure**

### *Current Economy*

Lincoln County's principal industries in 1998 were agriculture, lumber, recreation and tourism, and food processing. In 2000, the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food industries employed 20.2% of South Beach's employed civilian population 16 years and over, while the education, health, and social services industries employed 14.6%, and the retail trade industries employed 13.7%.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the unemployment rate for the community of South Beach was 4.1% in 2000 (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force), while 61.1% were employed, and 36.3% were not in the labor force. Approximately 22.9% of the employed civilian population 16 years of age and over was employed by the government. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the industries of agriculture, fishing, forestry and hunting employed 6% of the population. This statistic

may not be accurate as many of those who work in the natural resource industries are self employed and as a result are often undercounted by the U.S. Census.

In 1999 South Beach's per capita income was \$18,031, while the median household income was \$31,591. In comparison, the national per capita income for 1999 was \$21,587, while the national median household income was \$41,994. Approximately 13% of the city's population lived below the poverty level in 1999. There were 611 housing units in South Beach in 2000. Approximately 78.4% of South Beach's housing units were occupied, while 21.6% were vacant. A total of 79.7% and 20.3% of the occupied units were owner and renter occupied respectively. In addition, 70.5% of the vacancies were due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, while the national average (percentage of vacancies due to seasonal, recreational or occasional use) for the same year was 34.3%.

### *Governance*

South Beach is an unincorporated area. The community falls under the jurisdiction of Lincoln County, which is governed by a board of three commissioners. 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.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has a Fisheries Science Center field station located nearby in Newport. South Beach is 138 miles from the closest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office in Portland. Also located in Portland are meetings of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The nearby community of Newport is home to an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife field office, as well as their Marine Resources Program, and a U.S. Coast Guard Unit.

### *Facilities*

South Beach is accessible by ground, sea, and air. The community is connected to the neighboring cities of Newport and Seal Rock by U.S. Highway 101, that runs along the coast from Washington to California. The Newport Municipal airport for non-commercial planes lies in South Beach and the Portland International Airport lies 138 miles northeast of the community.

Students in South Beach, located in the Lincoln County School District, attend primary and secondary school in Newport. The closest regional hospital lies 54 miles away in Corvallis, Oregon, while several smaller hospitals lie nearby in Newport and Lincoln City (46 miles). The Newport Police Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department administer local law enforcement. The main electric supply is provided by Central Lincoln People's Utility District. Water and sewer services are supplied by the City of Newport. The South Beach-Newport area has over 100 bed-and-breakfasts, condos, hotels, and motels, campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks, and vacation rentals.

### **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

#### *Commercial Fishing*

Available data indicates that no commercial landings were made in South Beach in 2000, however community members did participate in the West Coast's commercial fisheries in that year. According to the available data for 2000, South Beach's residents owned 19 vessels that participated in West Coast fisheries, 13 of which participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. Recorded data indicates that the number of vessels owned by South Beach residents in 2000 that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic species (0/1/0), crab (0/15/0), groundfish (0/1/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (0/18/1), shellfish (NA/1/NA), and shrimp (NA/3/0).<sup>9</sup>

Four Federally Managed Groundfish fishery permits were held by five South Beach residents in 2000. According to recorded data the number of community members holding state permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic species (0/2/0), crab (0/2/0), groundfish (0/1/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/16/0), shellfish (0/1/NA), shrimp (0/3/1), and other species (2/0/0).<sup>10</sup>

According to the available data, at least 13 permits were registered to community members in 2000, including nine state registered permits. Recorded data indicates that the number of state permits held by community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/2/0), crab (0/2/0), groundfish (0/1/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (0/0/2), and other species (2/0/0).<sup>11</sup>

#### *Sportfishing*

In 2000, the community of South Beach housed one registered outfitter guide business. In 2004 there were two sportfishing license vendors operating in South Beach. In 2000, the number of licenses sold by active agents in the community was 809, for a total value of \$12,049.

### *Subsistence*

Local community members may be engaged in subsistence fishing. Both tribal and nontribal fishermen can utilize marine and stream resources for subsistence means in South Beach and the surrounding 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 South Beach is not discussed in detail in this Community Profile due to the lack of available data.

### **Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries**

#### *Commercial Fishing*

Available data indicates that community members owned at least two vessels that participated in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. Residents landed fish in the following fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): other finfish (confidential/confidential/1), and GOA groundfish (confidential/confidential/1), halibut (confidential/confidential/1), and salmon (confidential/confidential/1).

In 2000 a total of five community members worked as crewmembers aboard vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year seven community members held federal permits, and three held state permits.

In 2000, a total of 11 permits (state and federal) were registered to community members. South Beach community members held one crab and three groundfish License Limitation Program permits (LLP). Residents also held three Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Permits. The number of halibut individual fishing quota shares held by community members in 2000 was 4121.

#### *Sportfishing*

In 2000, a total of eight sportfishing licenses were purchased by residents for Alaskan fisheries.

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<sup>1</sup> Garono, R., and L. Brophy. 1999. Rock Creek (Siletz) Watershed Assessment Final Report, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.earthdesign.com/rockcreek/DRAFT.PDF> (access date - October 2004).

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Historical County Records Guide. No date. Lincoln County History, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cplincolnhome.html> (access date - August 2004).

<sup>3</sup> Guardino III, M. Constance, and Rev. Marilyn A. Riedel. *Sovereigns of Themselves: A Liberating History of Oregon and Its Coast, Volume IV*, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www2.wi.net/~census/lesson37.html> (access date - August 2004).

<sup>4</sup> Siletz Tribe Fish and Wildlife Officer, Oregon. Pers. commun. August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. 2003. Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.npaihb.org/profiles/tribal\\_profiles/Oregon/Confederated%20Tribes%20of%20Siletz%20Indians%20Tribal%20Profile.htm](http://www.npaihb.org/profiles/tribal_profiles/Oregon/Confederated%20Tribes%20of%20Siletz%20Indians%20Tribal%20Profile.htm) (access date - August 2004)

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<sup>6</sup> The Confederated Tribes of Siletz. No date. Confederated Tribes of Siletz – History and Culture, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/WhoWeAre/history\\_\\_\\_culture.html](http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/WhoWeAre/history___culture.html) (access date - August 2004).

<sup>7</sup> Wyatt, Steve. 2000. South Beach: A Hard Scrabble History. The Bayfront, Vol. X, No. 9.

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<sup>9</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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