

Tillamook, Oregon

People and Place

Location

Tillamook covers 1.5 square miles of land and is located along the shores of Tillamook Bay and Highway 101, approximately 73 miles west of Portland. The geographic coordinates of Tillamook, Oregon, are: 45° 27' 23"N, 123° 50' 34"W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Tillamook was 4352, an 8.8% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census. In 2000 the gender structure was evenly divided with slightly more females (51.0%) than males (49.0%). The median age was 33.3, which is comparable to the national median of 35.3 for the same year. According to the same data, 29.2% of the population was age 17 or under and 44.9% was between the ages of 22 and 54. For the population 18 years and over, 81.4% had a high school education or higher, 13.1% had attained a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 2.4% earned a graduate or professional degree. The highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma or equivalency for 43% of the population. In 2000 approximately 82% of the population lived in family households.

The 2000 U.S. Census shows that the racial composition was predominantly White (92.6%), followed by American Indian and Alaskan native (1.2%). Black or African American (0.2%), Asian (0.7%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.2%) each constituted less than one percent of the population in 2000. Overall, 3.4% classified themselves as belonging to some other race and 1.8% of the population identified themselves with two or more races. A total of 11.1% identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino. Slightly over five percent (5.3%) of the population was foreign-born, with 72.5% born in Mexico.

History

Long before Euro-Americans came to the Pacific Northwest Native Americans inhabited Tillamook County. Groups such as the Tillamooks, Nehalem, 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. At one time the Tillamook people had a fishing village nearby Garibaldi's present location. 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 Gray's 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's success lied with the production of cheese which could withstand long storage periods for distribution. The lumber industry started to take off in the 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 all relatively successful in the Tillamook Bay area in 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 the Bay's 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

The State of Oregon Economic and Community Development Department lists Tillamook Co. Creamery Association (360 employees), Tillamook Lumber Co. (160 employees), and Trask River Lumber Co. (140 employees) as Tillamook's top three employers in 2003.³ According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 64.5% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 3.8% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Of the population over the age of 16, 32.9% were not in the labor force. Of the employed civilian population, 15.3% worked in 'Manufacturing,' 13.7% worked in both 'Retail trade' and 'Health care and social assistance,' and 9.8% worked in 'Accommodation and food 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. Of the employed civilian population over the age of 16, 9.4% was involved in 'Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting' according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Tillamook's per capita income in 1999 was \$15,160 and the median household income for the same year was \$29,875, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. In 1999 approximately 15.4% of the population was below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 1898 housing units in Tillamook, 92.6% of which were occupied and 7.4% were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, approximately 50.7% and 49.3% were owner and renter occupied respectively. Approximately half (51.4%) of the vacant housing units were 'For rent.'

Governance

In 1853 Tillamook County was created by an act of legislature and in 1891 the City of Tillamook was incorporated. As the largest city in Tillamook County, Tillamook is governed by

a City Council consisting of six Council members, each representing a Ward, and a Mayor. 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 69 miles south in Newport. There is also a Northwest Fisheries Science Center field station of the National Marine Fisheries Service located in Newport. A U.S. Coast Guard Station is located ten miles away in Garibaldi. The City of Portland, approximately 73 miles to the east, 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

Tillamook lies on Highway 101, a major corridor for travel along the Pacific Coast from Washington to California. The closest major airport lies 65 miles away in Astoria, while two smaller public use airports are nearby, one located in Tillamook and the other located 27 miles north in Manzanita. The nearest airport offering international service is located in Portland, the Portland International Airport. The community is also accessible over land by Amtrak rail and by Greyhound bus services. Tillamook is accessible via water through the Port of Tillamook.

Tillamook is located in the Tillamook School District, which administers four elementary schools, a junior high school, and two high schools. Water and sewer services are provided to Tillamook residents by the City's Public Works Department. The People's Utility District is the major electricity supplier for Tillamook. Tillamook County General Hospital services the community and surrounding area. The community's police force is contracted through the Tillamook County Sheriff Department; other emergency services are managed through the County's Office of Emergency. There are several options for overnight accommodations in Tillamook including motels, hotels, and bed and breakfasts.

The Port of Bay Ocean was incorporated in 1911 and expanded to include the Tillamook Naval Air Station in 1953 which housed two of the 17 blimp hangers constructed in various ports across the nation by the U.S. Navy for war efforts in 1942. The aggregated facilities were re-named The Port of Tillamook Bay. In addition to the naval facilities, the Port retains control over

the Navy's railroad which connects to the Southern Pacific Railroad, of which it now owns 80 miles and connects Tillamook to the Portland area. The Port is now the Portland area's largest fully serviced industrial park with over 1600 acres zoned for industrial and airport and use. The Port is located within the Tillamook County Economic Development Council Enterprise Zone and offers an attractive three year property tax exemption for new and expanding non-retail businesses. The Port of Tillamook offers shipping terminal facilities, commercial and sport boat moorages, and support services. The County plans to make improvements to the Tillamook Bay entrance and complete a harbor facility in Tillamook.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 West Coast landings were delivered to Tillamook by 103 commercial vessels. Landings data for Tillamook were recorded as part of the Tillamook/Garibaldi Port Group. Reported landings for this Group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels delivering landings): crab (177.3 t/\$863,228/19), groundfish (110.2 t/\$140,155/34), highly migratory species (134.1 t/\$262,623/18), salmon (48.2 t/\$174,609/50), shellfish (45.7 t/\$31,044/12), shrimp (188.1 t/\$211,429/9), and other species (5.3 t/\$27,532/16). See the Garibaldi Community Profile for additional information about this community.

There were 22 commercial vessels owned by Tillamook residents in 2000, four of which participated in the federal groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Tillamook residents participating in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/3/0), groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (0/24/1), shellfish (NA/0/NA), and shrimp (NA/0/0).⁴

In 2000 there were zero federal groundfish permits held by Tillamook community members. In the same year, recorded data indicates that the number of Tillamook residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/2/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/16/1), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (0/1/0).⁵

According to available data at least 25 state commercial fishing permits were registered to Tillamook residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of state permits held by Tillamook residents in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (0/2/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/20/2), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (0/1/0).⁶

As Tillamook is one of several Tillamook Bay communities – Rockaway Beach, Bay City, and Garibaldi – whose economies are intertwined it is useful to look at the combined landings for the Tillamook Bay area to gain an understanding of the significance of commercial fishing in Tillamook. That year, landings of crab in the Tillamook Bay area were worth an estimated ex-vessel value of \$580,000. Shrimp were worth \$421,000; groundfish, \$165,000; albacore, \$219,000; and Chinook salmon, \$59,000. Fish processing plants in the Tillamook Bay area...process shrimp, crab, salmon, albacore, sole thornyheads, sablefish, lingcod, and other rockfish."⁷

Sportfishing

Available data indicates that 16 registered outfitters or guides are based out of Tillamook. In 2000 there were six licensed charter vessels owned by Tillamook residents. In the same year a total of nine sportfishing licensing agents were based in Tillamook selling 4675 sportfishing licenses at a value of just over \$63,984.

For the Tillamook/Garibaldi Port Group the 2000 recreational salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 1117 Chinook and 552 coho salmon. The recreational non-salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was a total of 87,963 fish. The top five fish caught, in descending order, were black, yellowtail, and canary rockfish, lingcod, and blue rockfish.

Subsistence

Local community members, both tribal and nontribal, may engage in subsistence fishing for marine and stream resources in Tillamook 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 Tillamook is not discussed in detail in this profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there was one vessel owned by a Tillamook resident that participated in North Pacific fisheries. While zero residents held North Pacific permits or individual fishing quota shares, two Tillamook residents served as crewmembers on vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries in the same year.

Sportfishing

While charter boats in Tillamook primarily target West Coast fisheries, sportfishermen in Tillamook are also involved in Alaskan fisheries. In 2000 a total of 73 Tillamook residents purchased Alaska sportfishing licenses and at least one charter business based in Tillamook offered fishing excursions in Alaska.

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

² Guardino III, M. Constance, and Rev. Marilyn A. Riedel. No date. 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 State of Oregon. 2004. Oregon Economic & Community Development: Tillamook Community Profile, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://info.econ.state.or.us:591/FMPPro?-db=Community.fp4&-Format=forms.htm&-lay=webpage&-op=eq&sort%20name=Tillamook&-script=hit%20count&-Find> (access date - November 2004).

⁴ '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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⁷ Gilden, Jennifer, ed. 1999. Oregon's Changing Coastal Fishing Communities, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs/o99001.html> (access date - August 2004).