

Edmonds, Washington

People and Place

Location

The City of Edmonds is located about 14 miles north of Seattle in Snohomish County. The community, situated on the shore of Puget Sound, is located at 47°48'39"N and 122°22'34"W. Edmonds encompasses approximately 8.9 square miles of land and 9.53 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the City of Edmonds had a population of 39,515, with a gender composition of 47.3% male and 52.7% female. Between 1990 and 2000 the population of Edmonds increased by approximately 22.2%. According to the 2000 U.S. Census the racial composition of the population was predominantly White (87.7%), followed by Asian (5.6%), Black (1.3%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.8%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (0.3%). A small percentage (1.3%) identified with some other race and 3% were of two or more races. Under five percent (3.3%) of Edmond's residents identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

Over ten percent (11%) of the population was foreign-born; of the foreign-born population, 31.1% were born in Europe, 38.8% in Asia, and 25.1% in the Americas. The largest percentage of those reporting ancestry in the 2000 U.S. Census were Germans (12.6%), followed by English (11%), Irish (7.8%), and Norwegians (7.7%).

The median age in Edmonds in 2000 was 42, higher than the national median age of 35.3. Of the population age 18 years and over, 92.3% had received a high school degree or higher, 33.8% had received a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 11% had received a graduate or professional degree; as compared to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

History

The shoreline of Edmonds once served as a fishing ground to the Snohomish Tribe, who harvested fish as well as clams and oysters.¹ Edmonds, settled over 100 years ago as a logging camp,² was home to numerous shingle mills and a popular destination for steamships carrying timber. In 1876 George Brackett started a logging operation in what was later to become the City of Edmonds.³ In 1890 Edmonds incorporated and Brackett became the community's first mayor.⁴ A year later the Great Northern Railroad began service in Edmonds and brought further growth to the community.⁵ The timber industry remained an important component of the local economy until the 1950s, when the last shingle mill in Edmonds closed.⁶ Today Edmonds is known for its designated marine sanctuaries and an underwater park at Brackett's Landing that attracts divers from around the country.⁷

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census 62.1% of the potential labor force in Edmonds was employed and the unemployment rate was 3.6% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Approximately 35.6% of the population age

16 years and over was not in the labor force at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, compared to the national average of 36.1%.

A small percentage (0.7%) of Edmonds residents were employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, according to the 2000 U.S. Census; however this number most likely does not reflect all those involved in fishing. The top employment industries for residents at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census were: educational, health, and social services (20.5%); retail trade (13.5%); professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (11.4%); manufacturing (9.8%); professional, scientific, and technical services (7.6%); and construction (7.5%). Approximately 15.5% of employed residents worked for the local, state, or federal government.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the per capita income of Edmonds residents in 1999 was \$30,076 and the median household income was \$53,522. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that in 1999 the income of 4.6% of the population was below the poverty level. In the same year there were a total of 17,508 housing units in the community, of which 96.6% were occupied and 34.4% were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 68.1% were owner occupied and 31.9% were renter occupied.

Governance

The City of Edmonds, incorporated in 1890, is the oldest city in Snohomish County. It has a Mayor-Council form of government, comprised of an elected mayor and seven council members. Edmonds levies an 8.9% sales and use tax; a 2% lodging tax is in effect for establishments in Snohomish County.

Several taxes directly impact commercial and recreational fishermen. Vessels used part-time for commercial fishing are subject to a tax levied at 0.5% of their fair market value; however vessels used full-time for commercial fishing are subject to personal property tax at the state levy rate. An Enhanced Food, Fish, and Shellfish Tax, levied by Washington State, is paid by the first commercial processor of food fish or shellfish (Chinook salmon, 5.62%; sockeye salmon, 3.37%; oysters, 0.09%; sea urchins/cucumbers, 4.92%; other, 2.25%). Tuna, mackerel, and jackfish are exempt from this tax. Commercial fishermen operating in Washington waters are subject to a Business and Occupation tax at the rate of 0.48% of the selling price of the fish. Those operating outside of Washington waters but selling fish within Washington are subject to either the “wholesaling” or “retailing” rate of 0.47% and 0.48% respectively, unless the fish are sold in interstate or foreign commerce. Commercial fishermen who operate and sell their fish in the State of Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).⁸

Washington State levies a tax of \$0.28 per gallon on motor vehicle fuel. Since most of this tax is used to maintain roadways, as opposed to waterways, Washington boaters are entitled to a refund of about \$0.17 per gallon. The difference includes state sales tax and a penny per gallon contribution to a Coastal Protection Fund. Most diesel fuel sold at docks has already had this tax removed.⁹ In addition, there is a Sport Fish Restoration Program Tax which includes a 10% excise tax on fishing equipment, a three percent tax on electric motors and sonar fish finders, and import duties on tackle and pleasure boats.¹⁰

The nearest federal fisheries enforcement office is located in Seattle and is the Northwest Enforcement Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The closest regional office for state fisheries, the North Puget Sound Region Office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is located in Mill Creek. Seattle is the nearest option for several services including: North Pacific Fisheries Management and Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Office, and the 13th U.S. Coast Guard District Office.

Facilities

Edmonds is accessible by ground or sea. The community is located on Interstate 5 and Highway 99. It is also reachable by Amtrak train with destinations between Vancouver, British Columbia and Eugene, Oregon. Washington State Ferries links Edmonds to Kingston, Washington, directly west across Puget Sound. Edmonds is located approximately 29 miles north of Sea-Tac International Airport, in Sea Tac Washington.

The Edmonds School District serves the communities of Edmonds, Brier, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, and Woodway. The District covers 35 schools, including: 20 elementary schools, 1 home school program, 1 highly capable program, 4 K-8 schools, 4 middle schools, and 5 high schools. Additionally there are three private schools located in Edmonds.

Electricity is provided to Edmonds residents by the Snohomish County Public Utilities District; sewer and water services are provided by the City of Edmonds. Public safety is administered by the Edmonds Police and Fire Departments. Stevens Hospital is located in the community of Edmonds and three additional hospitals are located within 10 miles of the community. Visitors to Edmonds can choose between two bed and breakfast establishments and three hotels.

The Port of Edmonds operates the largest covered moorage facility on the West Coast and provides both wet and dry storage for 1200 boats up to 55-feet. Additional services include fueling facilities, a live bait shop, and overnight moorage.¹¹ Until recently Edmonds was home to the largest charter fishing fleet in Puget Sound.¹² The Port also operates a boat repair facility, permitting vessel owners to work on their own vessels or to utilize local vendors.¹³

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Recorded data indicates that there were zero landings delivered to Edmonds in 2000. In the same year there were no known processors operating in the community. In 2000 a total of 24 vessels were owned by Edmonds residents; nine vessels participated in the federal groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Edmonds residents in 2000 that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (1/0/1), crab (5/1/0), groundfish (2/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (11/2/2), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/0/0), and other species (8/0/0).¹⁴

In 2000 two federal groundfish fishery permits were held by two community members. Recorded data indicates that in 2000 the following number of Edmonds residents held permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA): coastal pelagic (1/0/4),

crab (4/1/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (21/3/1), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (8/0/0).¹⁵

A total of 52 permits were registered to Edmonds residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that in 2000 the number of permits held by community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (1/0/5), crab (5/1/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (24/3/2), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (11/0/0).¹⁶

Sportfishing

In 2000 there was at least one salmonid charter fishing business operating in Edmonds. The closest Catch Record Card Area to Edmonds is Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet: all waters inside and south of the Partridge Point-Point Wilson line, south and west of a line from Possession Point 110° true to shipwreck, north of the Hood Canal Bridge, and north of the Apple Cove Point-Edwards Point line). In Area 9 the 2000 sport salmon catch, based on catch record cards, was 12,608 fish, including: 4351 Chinook, 8253 coho, and 4 chum salmon. In the same year there were approximately 43,629 marine angler trips in the sport salmon fishery. In Area 9 a total of 1745 bottomfish were caught by boat-based anglers in 2000. The recreational harvest of clams (lbs) and oysters (#) for the same area was estimated to be 84,233 and 6091 respectively; harvest occurred over an estimated 14,151 user trips in 2000. There were a total of 18 sturgeon caught by sportfishermen during 2000-2001. The public saltwater fishing pier in Edmonds is open year round and provides marine sportfishing for residents without watercraft.

Subsistence

Tribal and nontribal community members may be engaged in subsistence fishing in the area. Subsistence fishing 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 Edmonds residents owned 97 vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year community members landed fish in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab (800 t/\$5,077,160/8), Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish (53,249 t/\$18,357,830/12), other finfish (0.9 t/\$240/6), Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish (455 t/\$808,650/5), halibut (203 t/\$1,134,430/4), herring (447 t/\$125,760/6), and salmon (3853 t/\$2,825,440/46).

One hundred and thirty-four Edmonds residents held crewmember licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000. In the same year the number of residents holding federal and state commercial fishing permits was 77 and 80 respectively.

In 2000 a total of 224 permits were held by Edmonds residents. Community members also held 5,113,740 halibut and 6,581,698 sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) shares. A total of 26 crab and 44 groundfish License Limitation Program (LLP) permits were registered to residents in 2000. In the same year 19 crab, 1 GOA groundfish, 29 BSAI groundfish, 9 halibut, 12 herring, 49 salmon, and 1 shellfish

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits were registered to Edmonds residents.

Sportfishing

Residents of Edmonds purchased a total of 422 Alaskan sportfishing licenses in 2000.

¹ City of Edmonds. 2004. Vistor's Guide, Edmonds' Past: Character for the Future, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.ci.edmonds.wa.us/vg_past.stm (access date - January 2005).

² City of Edmonds. 2004. Welcome to the City of Edmonds, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ci.edmonds.wa.us/> (access date - December 2004).

³ Key to the City. No Date. Edmonds, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.usacitiesonline.com/wacountyedmonds.htm> (access date - December 2004).

⁴ City of Edmonds. 2004. Vistor's Guide, Edmonds' Past: Character for the Future, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.ci.edmonds.wa.us/vg_past.stm (access date - January 2005).

⁵ Key to the City. No Date. Edmonds, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.usacitiesonline.com/wacountyedmonds.htm> (access date - December 2004).

⁶ Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society. No Date. About the Edmonds Historical Museum, Available: URL: <http://www.historicedmonds.org/museum/about.html> (access date - January 2005).

⁷ Snohomish County. No Date. Edmonds, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.snohomish.org/communities/cities/edmonds/html> (access date - December 2004).

⁸ Washington State Department of Revenue. 2002. Information on Washington's Tax Structure: Fish Taxes, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://dor.wa.gov/content/taxes/industry/fish/default.aspx> (access date - July 2004).

⁹ Washington State Department of Licensing. 2003. Fuel Tax Frequently Asked Questions, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vs/ft-faq.htm> (access date - July 2004).

¹⁰ National Conference of State Legislatures. 2004. Environment, Energy, and Transportation Program: Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/esnr/FISHHUNTWILD.htm> (access date - July 2004).

¹¹ Greater Edmonds Chamber of Commerce. 2004. About Edmonds, the Waterfront, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.edmonds.wa.com/Edmonds/Waterfront/index.html> (access date - January 2005).

¹² Greater Edmonds Chamber of Commerce. 2004. About Edmonds, the Waterfront, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.edmonds.wa.com/Edmonds/Waterfront/index.html> (access date - January 2005).

¹³ Greater Edmonds Chamber of Commerce. 2004. About Edmonds, the Waterfront, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.edmonds.wa.com/Edmonds/Waterfront/index.html> (access date - January 2005).

¹⁴ "NA" refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of the fishery in 2000.

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