

Everett, Washington

People and Place

Location

The City of Everett is located in Snohomish County on the shore of Puget Sound. The area encompasses approximately 32.5 square miles of land and 15.2 square miles of surface water. Everett, located about 29 miles north of Seattle and 90 miles south of Bellingham, lies at 47°58'45"N, 122°13'33"W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the population of Everett was 91,488. Between 1990 and 2000, U.S. Census data reports that the population of Everett increased by 30.8%. In 2000 the percentage of males and females was 50.9% and 49.1% respectively. The racial composition of the population in 2000 was predominantly White (81.1%), followed by Asian (6.3%), Black or African American (3.3%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.6%), and Pacific Islander (0.4%). Few individuals (3.1%) classified themselves as belonging to some other race. Overall, 4.2% of the population identified themselves as belonging to two or more races. A small percentage of the population (7.1%) described themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

The median age of the population in 2000 was 32.2, which was slightly lower than the national median of 35.3 for the same year. In 2000 there was an even age distribution between males and females. A small percentage (12.4%) of the population was foreign-born; of the foreign-born population 41.8% were born in Asian countries and 18.5% in Mexico. Approximately 74.8% of the population of Everett was living in family households in 2000. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 82.6% of the population over 18 years of age had received a high school degree or higher, 15.8% had received a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 4.6% received a graduate or professional degree; as compared to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

History

The area known today as Port Gardner Bay was once home to members of the Snohomish Tribe. Following the Indian Wars in the 1850s, the Snohomish and other local tribes restructured as the confederation known as Tulalip, were moved to a reservation established at Tulalip Bay.¹ Similar to other Washington State coastal communities, settlers arrived on homestead grants lured by the economic opportunities provided by local natural resources, particularly timber and ore. Wealthy east coast and regional investors, believing the area to be a west coast terminal for the Great Northern Railroad, began clearing the land in the 1890s to support the industrial town. Lumber and shingle mills, along with a nail factory, a paper mill, and a bargeworks sprung up in the late 1890s.

In 1893 Everett was incorporated and named after the son of an investor, Charles Colby. Designers set aside Everett's waterfront for industrial purposes that by the 1900s included shipbuilders, fisheries, and canneries alongside the lumber companies. The city's population tripled over the next decade and reached 24,000 in 1910.² Over the next two decades Everett's economy was dominated by the lumber-shingle trade and by the 1920s the city's importance as both a regional and international port was established. Everett was known as the "Lumber Capital of the World" in the early 1900s due to the Weyerhaeuser mill that employed over 1500 workers.³ Suffering from the Great Depression, Snohomish County and the City of Everett

welcomed the arrival of Boeing in the 1960s. Over the last 40 years the economy has diversified to include telecommunications, computer technology, electronics, health care, education, and tourism. Local residents and tourists enjoy several community events that are associated with the maritime industry, including Salty Sea Days and Jetty Island Days. Today Everett's working waterfront shares the shoreline with a Navy homeport, established during the 1990s.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 11.8% of the employed civilian population 16 years of age and over was employed within local, state, or federal governments. The top three employment sectors employing Everett's civilian population 16 years of age and over were "management, professional, and related occupations" (27.2%), "sales and office occupations" (25.9%), and "production, transportation, and material moving occupations" (17%). The economy of Everett also relies on its deep-water port, naval station, and tourism sector.⁴ Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 0.5% of the population in 2000. The city's top employers in 2001 were: Boeing Company (23,700), Providence Hospital (2500), Snohomish County (2478), and Verizon (1659).⁵ Several shipbuilding and repair companies are located in Everett, including Everett Shipyard, Hansen Boat Company, Nexus Marine Corporation, The Corner Boat Shop, and The Fishermen's Boat Shop, Inc.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census 63.5% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 7.7% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In 2000 approximately 31.2% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force as compared to the national average of 36.1% for the same year. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that in 1999 the income of 12.9% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in 1999 was \$40,100 and the per capita income was \$20,577. There were 38,512 housing units in the City of Everett in 2000. In the same year the percentages of occupied housing units that were owner versus renter occupied were 46% and 54% respectively. About 56.8% of the housing units were vacant, of which 3.4% were vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

The City of Everett was incorporated in 1893. The Mayor is elected by city voters and heads the Office of Administration. Six additional individuals serve in the Office of Administration, providing support and guidance to the City Council. The Everett City Council has seven members and provides policy direction to the administrative branch of the city government. Snohomish County levies an 8.3% sales tax and a 2% hotel/motel tax.^{6,7}

Several taxes directly impact commercial and recreational fishermen. Commercial fishermen operating in Washington waters are subject to the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax under the "extraction" classification (0.48%); those fishing outside of Washington waters but selling fish within Washington are subject to the tax under either the "wholesaling" or "retailing" classifications (0.48% and 0.47% respectively), unless the fish are sold in interstate or foreign commerce.⁸ Those who both catch and sell fish in Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).⁹

Washington State levies a Food, Fish, and Shellfish Tax paid by the first commercial processor of food fish or shellfish including: Chinook, coho, and chum salmon or eggs (5.62%);

sockeye and pink salmon or eggs (3.37%); oysters (0.09%); sea urchins/cucumbers (4.92%); and shellfish and other food fish or eggs (2.25%). Tuna, mackerel, and jackfish are exempt from this tax. Additionally, there is an Enhanced Food Fish Tax, which applies to the “first possession of enhanced food fish by an owner in Washington State” and is based on the “value of the enhanced food fish at the point of landing.”¹⁰ The rate of the tax depends upon the species of fish or shellfish.

Vessels used for commercial fishing purposes part-time are subject to an annual Washington State Watercraft Excise Tax levied at 0.5% of the fair market value of the boat. Vessels used for commercial fishing purposes full-time are subject to personal property taxes at the base rate levied by the state. Washington also levies 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 to fund sportfish restoration programs.¹¹ Washington State levies a tax of \$0.28 per gallon on motor vehicle fuel. Since most of this tax is used to maintain terrestrial roadways, 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.¹²

There is a National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office located approximately 30 miles south in Seattle. The nearest North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting also takes place in Seattle. There is a Department of Fish and Game office located about 12 miles south in Mill Creek, Washington. The nearest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is located in Seattle. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) maintains one vessel in the City of Everett and 28 active personnel. The *Henry Blake* and her crew are charged with ensuring the waterways are safe and navigational instruments are functional. In addition they perform search and rescue operations, maritime law enforcement, and marine environmental protection. The USCG Bellingham Station, home to six vessels, is also responsible for the Everett area. The Bellingham Station’s area of responsibility includes the San Juan Islands north to the Canadian border and south to Admiralty Inlet.

Facilities

Everett is accessible by ground and air. The main road connecting Everett to neighboring communities is Interstate Five north to Bellingham and south to Seattle and Olympia. The city provides local bus transportation to nearby towns, the Seattle area, and Vancouver, British Columbia. Commuter rail service operates daily between Everett and the Seattle. Additionally there is an Amtrak station in Everett providing connections throughout the country. The nearest airport certified for carrier operations is located in Everett, the Snohomish County Airport-Paine Field. The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, approximately 50 miles to the south in Sea Tac, Washington is the closest airport offering international service to destinations other than Canada.

The Everett Public School District offers 16 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 4 high schools. Everett Community College, located within the city, serves over 8000 students. The Pilchuck Glass School, founded in 1971 by artist Dale Chihuly, is also located nearby in Stanwood. Everett’s Public Works Department is responsible for providing electricity, water, wastewater, and solid waste services to city residents. Public safety in Everett is provided by the City of Everett’s Police Department. Everett supports one hospital, the Providence Everett Medical Center. The tourism industry in Everett is fairly developed with over 20 hotels in the city. There are several community businesses including the Everett Public Library, the Everett

Center for the Arts, the Snohomish County Museum, the Children's Museum, and several places of worship.

The Port of Everett, situated on Port Gardner Bay at the mouth of the Snohomish River, was created in 1918. The Port District has jurisdiction over a large portion of western Snohomish County, including the City of Everett and half of the City of Mukilteo, located 7 miles southwest of the Everett. The Port currently operates eight berths, a 4000-ton refrigerated warehouse, and additional cold storage space. The Port of Everett Marina is a full-service marina, providing moorage space for approximately 2050 vessels. Though the marina is predominantly recreational there is moorage space available for commercial fishing vessels ranging from 32 to 65 feet in length. The commercial fishing vessel rate is \$4.49/foot/month. There are numerous amenities at the port including: restaurants, showers, laundry, a fuel dock, and stores where fishing licenses, bait, tackle, charts, and ice are available. The Port of Everett Boat Yard located within the marina offers haul out services and local boat businesses can provide mechanical, electrical, and structural repair assistance. The Port is served by the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad.

There are several fishery-related organizations in the area including the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club and the Snohomish Sportsmen's Club. The Snohomish Club sponsors the Annual Everett Coho Derby on the waters of north central Puget Sound in September. These clubs and the Mukilteo Saltwater Anglers are also active in youth programs such as The Salmon and Plants for Kids Program which encourages schoolchildren to plant and monitor native vegetation along salmon streams in the area.

Several Everett residents serve on the Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC), an 11-member group of citizen volunteers established in 1999 to address local issues related to marine resource management and advise county officials. Of the Northwest Straits counties, Snohomish County is the most populous and has the largest amount of modified shoreline (99 miles of a total 133 miles), which is mainly due to the railroad bed that has been in existence for over a century. The Snohomish MRC has been involved in several activities including: juvenile crab habitat projects, a Dungeness crab stewardship plan for Snohomish County, nearshore restoration projects, as well as numerous public involvement and education activities.¹³

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Fishing has long been an important activity for Everett residents, dating back to the early 1900s. Although fishing is not as economically significant to the economy as it was in the past, residents still participate in crabbing and fishing for bottomfish, salmon, and other species.¹⁴

In 2000 394 unique vessels delivered landings to Everett: 160 commercial, 157 tribal commercial, and 77 personal use vessels. Landings in the community were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab (185 t/\$915,210/98), groundfish (confidential/confidential/2), salmon (494 t/\$795,325/313), shellfish (confidential/confidential/2), shrimp (21 t/\$70,585/8), and other species (59 t/\$333,197/7).

Everett residents owned 32 vessels in 2000. Community members owned 17 vessels that participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. Recorded data indicates that the number of vessels owned by Everett residents participating in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (2/0/2), crab (4/0/0), groundfish (5/0/NA), highly migratory

species (NA/0/NA), salmon (19/1/0), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/0/0), and other species (6/0/0).¹⁵

Recorded data indicates that in 2000 the number of Everett residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/3), crab (6/0/0), groundfish (1/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (35/1/1), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (2/0/1).¹⁶

According to available data, 58 state permits were registered to Everett residents in 2000. In the same year recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/3), crab (8/0/0), groundfish (3/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (38/0/2), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (2/0/1).¹⁷

There was at least one seafood processor operating in Everett in 2000. Quality Seafood Services LLC, founded in 1998, serves as a processor and cold storage plant for seafood products primarily from Puget Sound and Alaskan fisheries. During halibut and salmon season they pack primarily fresh fish but the company also specializes in filleting, vacuum-packing, and freezing salmon, halibut, black cod, and crab (F. Jahns¹⁸). Located within the Port of Everett, Quality Seafood Services provides off-loading services for local vessels. Additionally there are several businesses in the community engaged in seafood retail such as the Waterfront Fish Company, located at the Port of Everett.

As seen above in the number of tribal commercial vessels delivering to Everett, the tribal commercial fishery plays a significant role in the Everett commercial fishing industry. Tulalip tribal members living on the Tulalip Reservation, bordered to the east by the City of Marysville and the Snohomish River to the south, are engaged in both commercial and subsistence fishing in the Everett area. For more information on the Tulalip's natural resources see the Marysville, Washington Community Profile.

Sportfishing

In 2000 and 2003 there was at least one salmonid charter fishing operator in Everett. There are nine licensed agents selling fishing permits in Everett. In 2003 there were 47,481 sportfishing license transactions valuing \$474,413. In Catch Record Card Area 8.2 (Port Susan and Gardner) the 2000 license year (1 April – 31 March) sport salmon catch, based on catch record cards, was 12,798, including: 3208 Chinook, 9574 coho, 4 chum, and 12 pink salmon. In the same area in 2000 there were approximately 33,536 marine angler trips in the sport salmon fishery. In the same year 70 sturgeon were caught in the sportfishery in Area 8.2. In 2000 a total of 1449 bottomfish were caught by boat-based anglers in Areas 8.1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island, and Skagit Bay) and 8.2. There was no recreational harvest estimate of clams and oysters for Area 8-2 in 2000.

Subsistence

Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities are fundamental to the way of life of some coastal community members. Both tribal and nontribal individuals participate in subsistence fishing. Tulalip Tribal members are highly engaged in subsistence fishing for fin and shellfish however specific data is unavailable.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 Everett residents owned 109 vessels that were involved in the 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): Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish (confidential/confidential/1), other finfish (confidential/confidential/3), Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish (confidential/confidential/2), halibut (135 t/\$754,640/4), herring (263 t/\$61,820/9), salmon (1787 t/\$1,985,640/40), and shellfish (confidential/confidential/2).

In 2000 134 Everett residents served as crewmembers in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year 67 community residents held registered state permits and 37 held registered federal permits.

A total of 131 state and federal permits were registered to individuals in Everett in 2000. In the same year residents of Everett held one crab and eight groundfish License Limitation Program permits. Everett residents held 12 crab, 16 BSAI groundfish, 11 halibut, 18 herring, 55 salmon, and 2 shellfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits in 2000. The halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota shares for people residing in the community were 2,476,296 and 4,966,915, respectively.

Sportfishing

While the majority of the anglers generally target West Coast fisheries, 487 Alaska sportfishing licenses were purchased by Everett community members in 2000.

¹ The City of Everett. No Date. A Brief History of Everett, Washington, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.everettwa.org/visitor/default.asp?sectionid=5&parentid=1> (access date - September 2004).

² The City of Everett. No Date. A Brief History of Everett, Washington, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.everettwa.org/visitor/default.asp?sectionid=5&parentid=1> (access date - September 2004).

³ Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2004. West Coast Marine Fishing Community Descriptions, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.psmfc.org/efin/docs/communities_2004/ (access date - August 2004).

⁴ The City of Everett. No date. Community Profile, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.everettwa.org/Business/default.asp?sectionid=7&parentid=2> (access date - September 2004).

⁵ The City of Everett. 2001. Major Employers, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.everettwa.org/business/default.asp?sectionid=7&parentid=2&subid=1> (access date - September 2004).

⁶ Washington State Department of Revenue. 2004. Local Sales & Use Tax Rates and Changes, [Online]. Available: URL: http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/forms/ExcsTx/LocSalUseTx/LocalSlsUseFlyer_Quarterly.pdf (access date - July 2004).

⁷ Washington State Department of Revenue. 2003. Lodging Tax Rates by Location, [Online]. Available: URL: http://dor.wa.gov/docs/forms/excstx/localusetx/lodgingrates_03_a.pdf (access date - July 2004).

⁸ Washington State Department of Revenue. 2004. Commercial fishing, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://dor.wa.gov/content/taxes/Industry/Fish/default.aspx> (access date - July 2004).

⁹ 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).

¹⁰ Washington State Department of Revenue. 2001. Commercial Fishing [Online]. Available: URL: <http://dor.wa.gov/content/taxes/Industry/Fish/default.aspx#enhanced> (access date - July 2004).

¹¹ 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).

¹² 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).

¹³ Snohomish County Marine Resource Committee. 2003. The Role of the Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee in the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/03_proceedings/PAPERS/ORAL/10b_johns.pdf (access date - September 2004).

¹⁴ Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2004. West Coast Marine Fishing Community Descriptions, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.psmfc.org/efin/docs/communities_2004/ (access date - August 2004).

¹⁵ '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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¹⁸ F. Jahns, President, Quality Seafood Services, Everett, WA. Pers. commun., 22 September 2004.