

Grayland, Washington

People and Place

Location

Grayland is located near Westport in the South Beach Area of Grays Harbor, approximately 23 miles southwest of Aberdeen and 132 miles southwest of Seattle. Grayland encompasses 6.8 square miles of land in Grays Harbor County. The geographic coordinates of Grayland are 46°48'37"N, 124°05'31"W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Grayland was 1002. The gender distribution in Grayland was fairly even with 50.5% males and 49.5% females. The median age of the population in 2000 was 49.6 years, older than the national average of 35.3 for the same year. The age structure of Grayland also shows a marked aging trend, 33% of residents are over 60 years old and only 19.9% of the population is under 25 years old. This may reflect both the absence of an institution of higher education in or near the community, and a declining local economic outlook.

The majority of the population of Grayland recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was White (95.1%). Other racial categories with which people identified were Black or African American (0.4%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.9%), and Asian (0.5%). Additionally, a portion of the population identified with some other race alone (1.7%) or with two or more races (1.4%). Of the total population in 2000, 2.9% identified as Hispanic or Latino.

A sample of Grayland's population surveyed by the 2000 U.S. census indicates that 4.6% of the population was foreign-born. The majority of the foreign-born population was from the Americas outside of the United States, followed by Asia. Of the surveyed population 18 years and older, 80.7% had a high school education (including equivalency) or higher, 18.9% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, and 4.6% had attained a graduate or professional degree.

History

Coastal Salish-speaking Indians have inhabited this region since before European contact. The Lower Chehalis people inhabited the area of present-day Grays Harbor and relied heavily on marine resources, including fish, seals, clams and other shellfish. They traded up and down well-established trade routes throughout the coastal Pacific Northwest, although their primary village was located on Chehalis Point, the sand spit on the south entrance to Grays Harbor.¹ In 1853, 90% of the Chehalis Tribe, including much of their culture, history, and heritage, was lost to the "big sick" epidemic, a disease characterized by extreme fevers.²

Captain Robert Gray, for whom Grayland was named, was the first American to circumnavigate the world. He "discovered" Grays Harbor during an expedition to explore the Northwest Coast and establish the U.S. claim to the Oregon Country in 1792. In the mid-1800s, Finnish farmers brought cranberries to the Grayland area, planting them in low-lying bogs. Today Grayland has more than 80 cranberry growers who cultivate more than 1000 acres of the fruit, earning this area of Washington the title "The Cranberry Coast."

Much of Grayland's recent history is connected to the growth of the tourism industry in nearby Westport. By the late 1870s the area was discovered to be a potential recreational area. Hotels were built, land was platted, and the harbor side was named Westport Beach. Because another town in Lewis County had already claimed the name Chehalis City, Chehalis Point

became known as Peterson's Point in the 1870s and in 1890 was renamed Westport.³ Today Grayland, along with the nearby city of Westport, is a popular recreation destination, offering whale watching, sportfishing, camping, and other activities.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 48.1% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 6.7% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 48.4% of the potential labor force was not in the labor force; this figure is higher than the U.S. national average of 36.1% and reflects the comparatively old age structure of Grayland. In 2000, 16.3% of the employed civilian population 16 years of age and over was employed within the local, state, or federal government. The largest employment sector was "management, professional and related occupations," accounting for 27.8% of the employed civilian population 16 years of age and over, followed by "sales and office occupations," which accounted for 27% of jobs. Grayland's economy also relies on commercial and charter fishing, shellfish harvesting, seafood processing, tourism, and wood processing. The "farming, fishing and forestry occupations" sector accounted for 13.6% of the employed civilian population 16 years of age and over. The Weyerhaeuser Company, located in Aberdeen, is Grays Harbor County's largest employer, employing and contracting over 2000 workers.⁴

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 19.3% of Grayland's population in 1999 lived below the poverty level. The median household income in 1999 was \$25,776 and the per capita income was \$21,723. In 2000 there were 902 housing units in Grayland. Of all occupied housing units, 72.5% and 27.5% were owner and renter occupied respectively. Approximately 44.3% of all housing units in 2000 were vacant, of which 80% were vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Grayland is an unincorporated Census-Designated Place (CDP) in Grays Harbor County. The community relies on the nearby city of Westport for many administrative and public works services. The Westport-Grayland Chamber of Commerce also plays an important role in developing and promoting local businesses in Grayland. Grays Harbor County levies an 8.3% sales tax and a 3% hotel/motel tax.

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.⁵ Those who both catch and sell fish in Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).⁶

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.”⁷ 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.⁸ 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.⁹

There is a National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office located approximately 132 miles to the northeast in Seattle. Seattle is also home to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and meetings of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings are routinely held in both Seattle and Tacoma. There is a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) office located about 33 miles east in Montesano, Washington. The U.S. Coast Guard Station (USCG) located 22 miles away in Aberdeen at the entrance to Grays Harbor, guards Grays Harbor bar, one of the most hazardous bars in the Pacific Northwest. The USCG station at Aberdeen has four vessels and is responsible for marine safety between Queets River and Ocean Park and from Preacher’s Slough to 50 nautical miles offshore.

Facilities

Grayland is accessible by ground, sea, and air. The main roads connecting Grayland to neighboring communities include state highway 105 east to Aberdeen and 105 south to Raymond. Grayland does not have port or harbor facilities; for marine activities, residents of Grayland rely on the City of Westport, located six miles to the north. During the spring and summer months, a passenger-only ferry capable of holding 95 passengers operates between Westport and Ocean Shores, on the north side of Grays Harbor. Sea-Tac International Airport, approximately 110 miles to the northeast in Sea Tac, is the closest airport offering international service.

The Ocosta School District, headquartered in Westport, offers an elementary school and a junior/senior high school. The nearest colleges with over 2000 students are South Puget Sound Community College and Evergreen State College, both located approximately 80 miles east in Olympia. Grays Harbor Public Utility District is the primary electricity supplier for the city. The City of Westport’s Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Department provide Grayland residents and businesses with sewer and water services. Public safety in Grayland is administered by the Grays Harbor County Sheriff’s Office. The Grayland Fire Department provides fire and emergency response services. Nearby Westport has a local medical center, but the nearest hospital is Grays Harbor Community Hospital, located 23 miles east in Aberdeen. Four hotels and motels provide lodging in Grayland. In addition, the nearby city of Westport offers a variety of lodging facilities. Just outside of town is Grayland Beach State Park, a 412-acre marine camping park with 7449 feet of oceanfront land.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Available data indicates that there were zero fish processors operating in the community in 2000. A total of 894 unique vessels delivered landings to Westport in 2000, including 298 commercial vessels, 75 tribal commercial vessels, 73 for personal use, and one for aquaculture. Landings data for Grayland were recorded as part of the Other Washington Coastal Port Group which includes the nearby communities of Grayland Beach, Long Beach, Quillayute, Taholah, Queets, Moclips, Hoh, and Kalaloch. Reported landings for this port group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab (confidential/confidential/2), groundfish (confidential/confidential/2), salmon (349 t/\$513,894/43), and other species (63 t/\$271,917/28). See the Long Beach Community Profile for additional information about this community.

Grayland residents owned 26 vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, including 10 vessels that participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Grayland residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (1/0/0), crab (16/1/1), groundfish (4/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (12/2/0), shellfish (NA/1/NA), shrimp (NA/1/0), and other species (5/0/0).¹⁰

Recorded data indicates that the number of Grayland residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (3/0/0), crab (11/1/1), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (7/2/0), shellfish (9/0/NA), and shrimp (2/1/1).¹¹

According to available data, 43 state permits were registered to Grayland residents in 2000. In the same year recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by these community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (18/0/0), crab (0/1/1), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (9/2/0), shellfish (9/0/NA), and shrimp (2/0/1).¹²

Several tribes along the west participate in commercial fishing, however scant data exists on tribal commercial fishing in the Grayland area. Pacific Coast treaty Indian tribes include the Hoh, Makah, and Quileute Indian Tribes, and the Quinault Indian Nation. The closest treaty Indian nation to Grayland is the Quinault, whose tribal center is located approximately 70 miles north in Taholah, Washington, in Grays Harbor County. According to the Boldt Decision,¹³ the Quinault's usual and accustomed fishing area includes the following rivers and streams: Clearwater, Queets, Salmon, Quinault, Raft, Moclips, Copalis, and Joe Creek. Ocean fisheries are utilized in the waters adjacent to their territory, between Destruction Island and Point Chehalis, 6 miles north of Grayland.¹⁴ The closest nontreaty Indian tribe is the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, located 11 miles south in Tokeland, on the north end of Willipa Bay in Pacific County. Tribes collect taxes from tribal members who sell fish and shellfish to help pay for tribal natural resource management programs. The nearby tribes of Shoalwater Bay and the Quinault Indian Nation most likely compete for similar fishery resources as nontribal fishermen fishing out of Grayland.

Sportfishing

Sportfishermen in Grayland are involved in both West Coast and Alaskan fisheries. In 2000 there were two salmonid charter licenses held by Grayland residents. In 2003 and 2004 approximately two salmonid charter-fishing operators serviced sportfishermen and tourists. There are two licensed agents selling fishing permits in Grayland. In 2003 there were 2083

sportfishing license transactions in Grayland valuing \$22,682. In Catch Record Card Area 2 (Westport-Ocean Shores) the 2000-2001 sport salmon catch, based on creel survey estimates, was 34,636, including 6254 Chinook and 28,382 Coho. In 2000 there were approximately 19,895 marine angler trips in the sport salmon fishery. In the same year eight steelhead were caught by sportfishermen in Area 2. In 2000 the coastal bottomfish catch for the same area was 152,675 and the pacific halibut catch for Areas 1-2 (Ilwaco-Grayland-Ocean Shores) was 2341. In addition to halibut and salmon, sport fishermen in the Grayland area harvest rock and Dungeness crab, razor clams, sea bass, greenling, perch, lingcod, and a variety of freshwater species.

Subsistence

Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities are fundamental to the way of life of some coastal community members. Today, members of the Quinault Nation, the Shoalwater Bay tribe, and other nontribal subsistence fishermen obtain fishery resources from the waters surrounding Grayland. While tribal and nontribal individuals participate in subsistence fishing, tribal catches are reserved for tribal use only. Subsistence fishing is not discussed in great detail in this Community Profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, Grayland residents owned seven vessels that were 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): salmon (126 t/\$101,900/4) and shellfish (confidential/confidential/1).

In 2000 a total of 21 Grayland residents served as crewmembers in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year seven community residents held registered state permits and two held registered federal permits.

A total of 10 state and federal permits were registered to individuals in Grayland in 2000. In the same year residents of Grayland held two groundfish License Limitation Program permits. In 2000 Grayland residents held 2 Bering Sea Aleutian Island groundfish, 5 salmon, and 1 shellfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits. Grayland residents held zero halibut or sablefish individual fishing quota shares.

Sportfishing

While the majority of the charter boats generally target West Coast fisheries, Grayland community members purchased 26 Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000. There were no sportfishing businesses in Grayland that participated in Alaskan fisheries in the same year.

¹ The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis. No date. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.chehalisribes.org/index.html> (access date - May 2005).

² McCausland, R. 1998. Washington's Grayland. The Donning Company Publishers, Virginia Beach, VA. 192 p.

³ The Chehalis River Council. 2004. Selective chronology of the Chehalis Basin, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.crcwater.org/issues2/chronicle.html> (access date - July 2004).

⁴ Grays Harbor Economic Development Council. No date. Grays Harbor County manufacturing, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ghedc.com/ghmanuf.html> (access date - June 2004).

⁵ 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).

⁶ 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).

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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).

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 '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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¹² '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.

¹³ Center for Columbia River History. No date. Boldt Decision, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ccrh.org/comm/river/legal/boldt.htm> (access date - October 2004).

¹⁴ Pacific Fishery Management Council. 2004. Groundfish Bycatch Programmatic DEIS, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gfbdpeis/apdx.pdf> (access date - October 2004).