

# Long Beach, Washington

## People and Place

### *Location*

Long Beach is located in Pacific County of Southwestern Washington at 46°21'09"N and 124°03'11"W. The community lies approximately 112 miles north of Portland, Oregon, and 171 miles south of Seattle, Washington. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the community encompasses a total area of 1.26 square miles of land.

### *Demographic Profile*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Long Beach had a total population of 1283 people with a population density of 1018.7 people per square mile of land area. In 2000, the percentage of males was 44.8% to 55.2% females. The median age in 2000 was 47.4, which was higher than the national median of 35.3 years for the same calendar year. Approximately 80.4% of the population eighteen and over earned the equivalent of a high school diploma or higher, 14.9% earned at least a bachelor's degree, and 7.4% earned a graduate degree.

The 2000 U.S. Census indicates that 66.6% of Long Beach's population lived in family households. The racial composition was 89.9% White, 4.8% Hispanic or Latino, 1.1% American Indian and Alaska native, 1.4% Asian, and 11% Black or African American. A total of 6.0% of the population identified with two or more races and 0.6% with some other race. Approximately 6.2% of the population was foreign-born, with 1.9% from Mexico, followed by 0.9% from China, and 0.9% from Canada. Ancestries showed 14.8% of the population to be of German ancestry, 8.7% Irish, and 7.8% English.

### *History*

The area of Long Beach was first inhabited by Native American Indians, primarily of the Shoalwater Bay Tribe. The first nonnative peoples to come to the area were the English, Spanish, and French explorers seeking a "River to the West" or the "Northwest Passage" connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Some of the earliest explorers included Captain James Cook around 1778, John Meares around 1788, Captain George Vancouver in 1792, Captain Robert Gray in 1792, and Meriwether Lewis and William Clark around 1805.<sup>1</sup>

Euro-American settlers were attracted to the region due to reports from the Lewis and Clark expedition. The first White settlers were from the Midwest and the east coast, including foreign settlers primarily from Scandinavia; these individuals were drawn to the area for the lumber, land, ocean, hunting, and fur resources.<sup>2</sup> John Jacob Astor traveled through the area and eventually established the Pacific Fur Company across the Columbia River from Long Beach & Ilwaco in 1811. Missionaries were also drawn to surrounding areas during the 1830's.

By 1849 the area south of Long Beach, close to present-day Ilwaco, was founded by Dr. Elijah White. The settlement was called Pacific City and was envisioned to be a future port city at the mouth of the Columbia River. Pacific City had a County Seat, post office, sawmill, and a fine hotel.<sup>3</sup> The hotel was owned by J.D. Holman. By 1852, Pacific City was overtaken by the military when President Millard Fillmore ordered a military reservation to be developed, which is now referred to as Fort Canby. During this time J.D. Holman established a donation land claim which included beach areas and eventually developed a summer resort. The local school built in 1853 was attributed to the Holman Family.

In 1880, Henry Harrison Tinker purchased land in the Long Beach area, intending to develop a resort.<sup>4</sup> Tinker soon attracted travelers to the area by filling swamp areas, naming streets, by developing camping plots, cottages, and a hotel. Tinker advertised in Portland, Oregon, newspapers, which drew more visitors to the coast. The resort was commonly referred to as “Tinkerville” until a post office was established in the area; in 1887 the area became officially recognized as Long Beach. In the 1890s a railroad and station was built in a small subdivision at the north end of Long Beach. Over the next several years other small towns were established along the coasts, attracting visitors to the area with similar resort atmospheres.

In the 1940s, the military demand for food resources during World War II impacted the Long Beach Peninsula’s production of cranberries. As a result, increased research into developing more efficient harvesting methods and equipment, as well as breeding hardier cranberries helped meet market demand and contributed to some of the modern day methods for cranberry harvesting.<sup>5</sup> The area today is one of the nation’s largest producers of cranberries.

The Long Beach Peninsula offers many tourist attractions. Cape Disappointment State Park is located in the area of the historical military Fort Canby, with two lighthouses and several opportunities for hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing, beach coming, bird watching, horseback riding, and clam digging. Local museums include the Cranberry Museum and the World Kite Museum. The Washington State International Kite Festival, held in the late summer every year, draws kite flyers from all over the world. In late April or early May, the Blessing of the Fleet is held in Ilwaco in conjunction with Loyalty Day Celebrations. The annual Northwest Garlic Festival takes place in June and the Annual SandSations sand sculpture contest is held in July. Salmon derbies also take place throughout the year.

## **Infrastructure**

### *Current Economy*

Based on the 2000 U.S. Census, “accommodation and food services” was the top occupational field, employing 21.1% of the employed population 16 years and older. This was followed by “health care and social assistance” with 20.3% and “retail trade” with 9.5%. The “agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting” occupations represented 4.8% of the employed population. The unemployment rate was 6.3% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force), slightly higher than the national average of 5.7%. The percent employed was 48.7%, slightly lower than the national average of 50.5%. In 2000 a total of 48% were not in the labor force, which was higher than the national average of 36.1% for the same year. Approximately 17.7% of the labor force was employed by either local, state, or federal governments and 1.1% was employed by the armed forces.

Long Beach’s per capita income in 1999 was \$21,266, compared to the national average of \$21,587 for the same year. The median house hold income in 1999 was \$23,611, significantly lower than the national average was \$41,944. For whom poverty status was determined, 18.7% of the city’s population was living below the poverty line in 1999, higher than the national average of 12.4%. In 2000, there were 1155 housing units in Long Beach, of which 57.1% were occupied and 42.9% were vacant. Of the occupied units 53.9% were owner occupied, while 46.1% were renter occupied. A high percentage of vacant units, 77.6%, was for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

### *Governance*

Long Beach is a municipal corporation that was originally incorporated in 1922.<sup>6</sup> There are five City Council members and a Mayor.<sup>7</sup> In addition to the Council members, the city maintains a Municipal Judge, a City Attorney, and City Administrator. Pacific County was organized in 1851 and levies a 7.8% sales tax and a 9.8% hotel/lodging tax.<sup>8,9</sup>

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.<sup>10</sup> Those who both catch and sell fish in Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).<sup>11</sup>

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.”<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Region 6 (Coastal Washington) has offices approximately 73 miles north of Long Beach in Montesano, and also maintains the Willapa Bay Field Station at Ocean Park approximately 10 miles north of Long Beach.<sup>15</sup> The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service, Point Adams Research Station, is located in Hammond, Oregon, approximately 25 miles south. Long Beach falls under the jurisdiction of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and is approximately 112 miles from the closest meeting location in Portland, Oregon. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) operates out of the Station Cape Disappointment, located in Ilwaco, operating under the USCG Group/Air Station Astoria.<sup>16</sup> The Cape Disappointment Station is the largest USCG search and rescue station on the Northwest Coast and also operates the USCG National Motor Lifeboat School. The closest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office is located in Portland, Oregon.<sup>17</sup>

### *Facilities*

Long Beach may be reached via Highway 101. The Port of Ilwaco Airport, approximately 6 miles south, is open to the public as an unattended paved runway. The closest international airport is located approximately 112 miles south in Portland, Oregon.

The public school system in Long Beach falls within the Ocean Beach School District and supports an elementary school and an alternative high school. Ilwaco Junior/Senior High School supports eleventh and twelfth grades while the Long Beach Elementary School houses kindergarten through third grades. The Hilltop Elementary School, located in Ilwaco, falls under the Ocean Beach School District, contains fourth through sixth grades. The Ilwaco Junior High School supports seventh and eighth grades and Ilwaco Senior High School supports ninth through twelfth grades. The three closest two-year colleges include Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, Washington, Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington, and Centralia College in Centralia, Washington. The three closest four-year colleges include Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington State University-Vancouver Campus, and the University of Washington-Tacoma Campus, all located in Washington State.

Water and sewer services are provided to Long Beach residents by the municipality, while electric power is provided by the County Public Utility District #2.<sup>18</sup> Public safety is administered by the Long Beach Police Department and emergency services are provided by the Long Beach Fire Department. The closest hospital is the Ocean Beach Hospital in Ilwaco, followed by Willapa Harbor Hospital in South Bend, Washington, and Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, Oregon. There are multiple hotels, motels, resorts, and bed and breakfast facilities in Long Beach and the closely neighboring Ilwaco community, as well as various state and private campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks.

There is no port in Long Beach proper, but the Ilwaco Harbor on Long Beach Peninsula, just south of Long Beach, supports recreational and commercial fisheries, along with tourism. As of June 2005, the harbor supports approximately 54 commercial fishing vessels, and approximately 610 pleasure craft, which includes charter vessels.<sup>19</sup> The harbor offers a boatyard with hoist services, a fuel dock, boat launches, and guest moorage.<sup>20</sup>

## **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

According to available data, no vessels delivered landings to Long Beach in 2000 and there were no processors operating in the community. Long Beach residents owned 21 vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, including 14 that participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. Recorded data indicates that the number of vessels owned by Long Beach residents in 2000 that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/0), crab (9/4/0), groundfish (1/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (4/7/1), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/3/0), and other species (6/0/0).<sup>21</sup>

In 2000, a single federal groundfish fishery permit was held by one community member. Recorded data indicates that the number of Long Beach residents holding permits in each said fishery in 2000 by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/0), crab (11/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (2/6/1), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (4/1/0), and other species (1/0/0).<sup>22</sup>

According to available data, 33 permits were registered to Long Beach residents in 2000, including 32 registered state permits and 1 federal permit. 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 (0/1/0), crab (18/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (3/0/2), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (4/3/0), and other species (1/0/0).<sup>23</sup>

### *Sportfishing*

Sport fishermen in Long Beach are involved in both West Coast and Alaskan fisheries. According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife there is one licensed agent selling fishing permits in Long Beach. In 2003 there were 5044 sportfishing license transactions in the community, valuing \$70,171. In 2000 one salmon charter fishing operator serviced sport fishermen and tourists in the area. See the Ilwaco Community Profile for additional information about sportfishing in the area.

### *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, obtaining fishery resources from the waters surrounding Long Beach. 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, there were four vessels owned by Long Beach residents that participated in North Pacific fisheries. Nine residents worked as crewmembers aboard vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries in the same year.

Long Beach residents held nine permits, with two individuals holding a federal permit and six individuals holding a state permits in 2000. These individuals held 1 groundfish License Limitation program (LLP) permit, 4 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) permits, 1 CFEC halibut permit, 2 CFEC salmon permits, 1 CFEC shellfish permit, and 369,552 halibut individual fishing quota shares.

### *Sportfishing*

Fishermen based in Long Beach purchased 25 sportfishing licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> Microsoft Encarta. 2005. Washington State, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://encarta.msn.com@1997-2005>. Microsoft Corporation. All Rights Reserved. (access date - June 2005).

<sup>2</sup> City of Ilwaco. 2005. City of Ilwaco, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ilwacowashington.com/pages/history.html> (access date June 2005).

<sup>3</sup> Pacific County Historical Society. 2001. *The Sou'wester*. Vol. 36(2) Summer, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw2001\\_2.htm](http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw2001_2.htm) (access date - June 2005).

<sup>4</sup> Pacific County Historical Society. 1989. *The Sou'wester*. Vol. 24 (1-4) Centennial Edition, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw1989> (access date - August 2005).

<sup>5</sup> Pacific County Historical Society. 2004. *The Sou'wester*. Vol. 39(1) Spring, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw2004\\_1.htm](http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw2004_1.htm) (access date - August 2005).

<sup>6</sup> Pacific County. 2005. Pacific County, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/map%20and%20cities/longbeach.htm> (access date - May 2005).

<sup>7</sup> City of Long Beach. 2005. City of Long Beach, [Online]. Available URL: <http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/map%20and%20cities/longbeach.htm> (access date - May 2005)

<sup>8</sup> Washington State Department of Revenue. 2004. Local Sales & Use Tax Rates and Changes, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/forms/Excstx/LocSalUseTx/LocalSIsUseFlyer\\_Quarterly.pdf](http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/forms/Excstx/LocSalUseTx/LocalSIsUseFlyer_Quarterly.pdf) (access date - May 2005).

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- <sup>9</sup> Washington State Department of Revenue. 2003. Lodging Tax Rates by Location, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://dor.wa.gov/docs/forms/excstx/locsalusetx/lodgingrates\\_03\\_a.pdf](http://dor.wa.gov/docs/forms/excstx/locsalusetx/lodgingrates_03_a.pdf) (access date - May 2005).
- <sup>10</sup> 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).
- <sup>11</sup> 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).
- <sup>12</sup> 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).
- <sup>13</sup> 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).
- <sup>14</sup> 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).
- <sup>15</sup> Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2005. WDFW, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/> (access date - May 2005).
- <sup>16</sup> U.S. Coast Guard. 2005. No title, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/units/gruastoria/cd.htm> (access date - May 2005).
- <sup>17</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. 2005. No title, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://uscis.gov/graphics/fieldoffices/distsub\\_offices/index.htm](http://uscis.gov/graphics/fieldoffices/distsub_offices/index.htm) (access date - May 2005).
- <sup>18</sup> Long Beach Peninsula. 2005. No Title, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.funbunch.com/relocation/html#industry> (access date - June 2005).
- <sup>19</sup> Wiegadt, Cindy. Port of Ilwaco. 2005. Pers. commun. 6 June 2005.
- <sup>20</sup> Port of Ilwaco. 2005. Port of Ilwaco, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.portofilwaco.com/index.htm> (access date - June 2005).
- <sup>21</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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