

# Raymond, Washington

## People and Place

### *Location*

Raymond is located on the northeast corner of Willapa Bay in Southwestern Washington at 46°41'12"N and 123°43'54"W.<sup>1</sup> The community lies on the Willapa River, which flows into Willapa Bay to the west. Raymond is nearly equidistant from the major metropolitan areas of Seattle, Washington, located approximately 125 miles to the northeast, and Portland, Oregon, located 137 miles to the southeast. Raymond occupies a land area of 3.8 square miles and a water area of 0.6 square miles.<sup>2</sup>

### *Demographic Profile*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Raymond had a population of 2975. The community displayed a relatively even gender balance, with 49% male and 51% female residents. The median age for both sexes in Raymond was 40.2, almost 5 years older than the national median age of 35.3.

The racial composition of Raymond in 2000 was slightly more diverse than that of Pacific County overall. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 78.6% of residents identified themselves as White, 7% as Asian, 2.4% as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 0.2% as Black or African American, and 0.2% as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. A total of 2.4% identified with two or more races. About 9.2% of Raymond residents indicated that they were of Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity. Larger Asian and Hispanic populations in particular set Raymond apart from other local communities. In 2000, only 2.1% of the population of Pacific County identified as Asian, 5% as Hispanic or Latino, and 90.5% as White.

Of the total population of Raymond, 12.4% indicated on the 2000 U.S. Census that they were foreign-born. Of these foreign-born residents, 41% were from Laos, 23.8% were from Mexico, 18.5% were from Europe (including the UK, Ireland, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands), 4.3% were from Thailand, and 3.3% were from Canada. Many immigrant and minority residents may be attracted to Raymond because of numerous employment opportunities in local oyster processors and canneries and the growing local industry in non-timber forest resources (greens harvested in forests for use in decorative bouquets and other products).<sup>3</sup> Recent research suggests that these immigrants have boosted the local economy by providing a significant portion of the labor for local industries and by opening small businesses in formerly vacant Raymond storefronts.<sup>4</sup>

Raymond's population in 2000 lived in 1192 households, with 80.7% of residents living in family households. About 72.8% of Raymond residents 18 and over had a high school diploma/equivalency or higher, 11.6% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 4.2% had completed a graduate or professional degree. The highest level of educational attainment for 35.9% of residents was a high school degree. These numbers fall below the national averages for educational attainment.

Raymond featured a population of 2901 residents in 1990, revealing a population growth rate of 2.6% between 1990 and 2000. The ethnic composition of the community also changed significantly between censuses, with a 207% net increase in the city's Hispanic population over the ten-year period.

### *History*

North Pacific County has historically been home to native peoples from the Chehalis, Chinook, and Willapa language groups.<sup>5</sup> The area near Raymond was inhabited predominately by the Chinook, whose overall territory included the region bordering the mouth of the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon and much of the area surrounding Willapa Bay.<sup>6</sup> Native groups depended heavily on fishing and coastal resources and developed extensive trade networks within the region. They harvested native oyster species in Willapa Bay and fished for salmon and sturgeon in the Columbia, the Willapa, and other area rivers. Starting in the 1850s, native populations throughout the region were devastated by introduced diseases and conflicts with White settlers. However, a substantial native community still resides in the Raymond area. Some people of native descent living in or near Raymond have membership in the Quinault or Shoalwater Bay Tribes, both of which have small reservations to the north, and others are members of the Chinook Nation, which is currently seeking federal recognition.

The contemporary community of Raymond began as a lumber town in the early 1900s. The city was located in the midst of thick stands of cedar, fir, hemlock, and spruce, but the swampy tidelands that dominated the area along the Willapa River delayed the development of a settlement at the site.<sup>7</sup> In 1903, Leslie V. Raymond, the town's namesake, formed the Raymond Land and Improvement Company with the help of his wife and key investors.<sup>8</sup> Raymond platted the town, worked diligently to attract new sawmills and industries to the area, and served as the community's first postmaster. The business and residential portions of Raymond were initially built on five and six-foot stilts above the marshy tidelands. Today, the community is protected from high waters by dikes. By 1913, Raymond's population reached 6000 and civic leaders began to market it as "The Empire City of Willapa Harbor." During the peak of Raymond's economic boom from 1912 to 1932, at least twenty sawmills and factories operated along the city's waterfront. A large sawmill operated by Weyerhaeuser dominates the contemporary Raymond waterfront, and although economic growth has slowed in the region, logging remains central to Raymond's history and contemporary economy.

The Port of Willapa was established in 1928, and Raymond remained a major shipping center for area lumber companies until the regional decline of the timber industry in the 1970s. Wood chips were still shipped from Raymond until the 1990s, when shifting shoals on the Willapa Bar made barge traffic into the port difficult. In 2000, a \$20 million reclamation project improved the channel between the Pacific Ocean and Willapa Bay, but most traffic into the port today consists of local fishing boats.<sup>9</sup> Commercial fishing has always contributed substantially to Raymond's economy. In the early 1900s, commercial fishing for salmon and sturgeon on local rivers and ocean fishing for finfish, shrimp, and crab provided a substantial number of jobs for area residents and supported numerous canneries. Today, the Port serves a greatly reduced number of gillnetters, shrimpers, and crab boats, and provides support facilities and services for the successful Willapa Bay oyster industry. Metal sculptures with fishing themes commissioned by the City of Raymond stand in prominent locations throughout the community and serve as symbols of the city's roots in the fishing industry.

## **Infrastructure**

### *Current Economy*

Raymond's contemporary economy depends heavily on a large sawmill operated by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, the community's largest employer. Other major employers include Willapa Bay Hardwoods, businesses and manufacturers located in the Port of Willapa Harbor Industrial Area, the Raymond School District, the City of Raymond, and numerous retail stores

and restaurants that serve Raymond and South Bend. Raymond residents may also commute to jobs at the Willapa Harbor Hospital or the two major fish and oyster processors located in South Bend (5 miles).

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 45.3% of the population 16 and older was employed in 2000 and another 49.8% did not participate in the labor force (were not actively seeking work). Raymond therefore displayed a 9.7% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force), which exceeded the national unemployment rate of 5.7%. Approximately 22.7% of the employed civilian population 16 years and over worked for the state or federal government in 2000. Only about 9.7% indicated that they worked in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen and lumber contractors are self-employed and are often underrepresented in these data. About 17.7% of residents were employed in education, health, and social services; 14.1% in manufacturing; 17.4% in arts, accommodation, entertainment, and food services; 11.1% in wholesale and retail trade; 9.5% in public administration; 5.6% in information services; and 4% in construction.

According to the U.S. Census, the per capita income in Raymond was about \$13,910 in 1999, compared to a national per capita income of \$21,587. The median household income in Raymond was about \$25,759, compared to a national median household income of \$41,994. Approximately 24.6% of residents were living below the poverty level in 1999, a value well in excess of the national poverty level of about 12.4%.

There were 1338 housing units in Raymond in 2000. Approximately 10.9% of these units were vacant at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, but 10.9% of these vacant units were intended for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. About 64.3% of occupied housing units were owner-occupied, compared to 66.2% ownership for occupied housing units in the U.S. overall.

### *Governance*

Incorporated in 1907, a Mayor and a seven-member City Council govern the City of Raymond. Raymond is one of only four incorporated cities located in Pacific County, which was organized in 1851. The Pacific County seat is located in nearby South Bend, approximately 5 miles southwest of Raymond along U.S.101. A 7.8% sales tax and a 9.8% hotel/lodging tax apply in the City of Raymond.<sup>10,11</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>12</sup> Those who both catch and sell fish in Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).<sup>13</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>14</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>15</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>16</sup>

Raymond lies within the jurisdiction of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and is approximately 137 driving miles from Council meetings in Portland and 125 miles from Seattle. The nearest U.S. Coast Guard Group and Air Station is located in Warrenton, Oregon (55 miles), and the Coast Guard operates the National Motor Lifeboat School (NMLB) in Ilwaco, Washington (46 miles).<sup>17</sup> Raymond is under the jurisdiction of the NMFS Northwest Regional Office located in Seattle and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Southwest Regional Office in Vancouver, Washington (128 miles).

### *Facilities*

Raymond lies along U.S. Highway 101, which runs the length of the Pacific Coast from Seattle, Washington, to Los Angeles, California. The major international airport closest to Raymond is located in Seattle (129 miles). Astoria Regional Airport (52 miles) is the nearest airport facility certified for carrier operations, and the Willapa Harbor Airport in Raymond provides a paved runway that is open to the public.

The community lies within the Raymond School District 116.<sup>18</sup> The District offers an elementary school and a junior senior high school, both of which are located in Raymond. Public Utility District No. 2 of Pacific County, Washington provides electricity to Raymond residents. The community's water supply and sewer services are supplied by the City of Raymond. Law enforcement services are administered by the Raymond Police Department and the Pacific County Sheriff's Office. Fire safety services are provided by the Raymond Fire Department and the Raymond Volunteer Fire Department. The closest major health care facility is the Willapa Harbor Hospital, which is located in neighboring South Bend (5 miles). There are a several motels, campgrounds, and recreational vehicle parks located in the Raymond area.

Boating facilities in Raymond include the Port of Willapa, which features a 600-foot high dock wharf, 750 feet of floats, electricity, fresh water, moorage space for smaller boats, and a 5000-pound capacity dock crane. The Port also includes an industrial area, with several large industrial buildings. In 2004, the tenants of the Port of Willapa Industrial Area included Airgas Nor-Pac, Inc., Jackpot Industries (a maintenance facility for six commercial fishing vessels ranging from 80'-110' and active in West Coast and Alaska Fisheries), Pedigree Cats (a company specializing in the construction of fiberglass catamaran yachts), Tri-District Aquaculture (a regional technology classroom center operated by Raymond, South Bend, and Valley School Districts), and Vanson HaloSource (a company that extracts chitosan from shellfish for use in dietary supplements and other products).<sup>19</sup>

## **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

2000, a total of 276 unique vessels, including 209 commercial, 18 tribal commercial, 6 aquaculture, and 43 personal vessels, delivered landings in Willapa Bay. Landings data for Raymond were recorded as part of the Willapa Bay Port Group that includes the nearby communities of Bay Center, Nahcotta, Naselle, South Bend, and Tokeland. 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): coastal pelagic (confidential/confidential/1), crab (444.9 t/\$1,941,008/44), groundfish (4.6 t/\$3889/6), salmon (122.5 t/\$178,084/71), shellfish (26.8 t/\$73534/63), shrimp (399.9 t/\$397143/8), and other species (13.1 t/\$31,242/51). See the Naselle, South Bend, and Tokeland Community Profiles for additional information about these communities.

Raymond residents owned 32 vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, including nine that participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Raymond residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (6/0/0), groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (6/2/0), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/0/0), and other species (1/0/0).<sup>20</sup>

No individuals living in Raymond in 2000 held federal groundfish fishery permits. In the same year recorded data indicates that the number of Raymond residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (2/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (13/2/0), shellfish (15/0/NA), shrimp (3/0/0), and other species (3/0/0).<sup>21</sup>

According to available data, 41 state permits were registered to Raymond residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by these community members in each said state fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (3/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (16/0/0), shellfish (15/0/NA), shrimp (3/0/0), and other species (4/0/0).<sup>22</sup>

There are no major processors located in Raymond, but nearby South Bend (5 miles) hosts two processing facilities that receive landings delivered by Raymond residents. Hilton's Coast Seafoods operates an oyster processing facility and the Dungeness Development Corporation operates a facility that specializes in the processing of crab, shrimp, canned fish, and caviar. These processors employ several Raymond residents. The Port of Willapa Industrial Area also houses Vanson HaloSource, a company that manufactures products using chitosan, a compound extracted from shellfish.

### *Sportfishing*

A number of Raymond residents engage in sportfishing or operate sportfishing businesses in Willapa Bay and along the nearby Pacific Coast. According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, there is one sportfishing license vendor located in Raymond. In 2003 and 2004, no Raymond residents owned or operated charter boats in Washington State.

Catch Record Card Area 2-1 (Willapa Bay) is the closest Marine Area to Raymond. The 2000-2001 sport salmon catch for this area was 870, including: 468 Chinook, 354 coho, and 48 jacks. Data for Area 2-1 is based on catch record cards. The total catch is down from 2137 salmon recorded in the 1999-2000 season. In 2000 the number of marine angler trips in the sport salmon fishery is not available. The 2000-2001 sport sturgeon catch was recorded at 96 fish.

### *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. Today, members of the Chinook Tribe and other nontribal subsistence

fishermen may obtain fishery resources from waters near Raymond, particularly from the Willapa River, nearby tributaries, and Willapa Bay, however 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*

Twelve vessels based in Raymond participated in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. In the same year community members landed fish in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): herring (confidential/confidential/1) and salmon (185.7 t/\$284,420/10).

Thirty Raymond residents worked as crewmembers on vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. In the same year, fishermen from Raymond held a total of 17 North Pacific permits, with three individuals holding federal permits and 13 individuals holding state permits. These community members held 1 groundfish License Limitation Program (LLP) permit, 2 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish permits, 2 CFEC halibut permits, and 10 CFEC salmon permits. Raymond fishermen held 107,842 individual fishing quota shares in 2000.

### *Sportfishing*

According to state records, Raymond residents purchased a total of 45 sportfishing licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

---

<sup>1</sup> Unites States Geological Survey. 2004. Geographic Names Information System, [Online]. Available: URL: [Hhttp://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis/web\\_query.gnis\\_web\\_query\\_formH](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis/web_query.gnis_web_query_formH) (access date - June 2004).

<sup>2</sup> United States Census. 2000. American Fact Finder, [Online]. Available: URL: [Hhttp://www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) (access date - July 2004).

<sup>3</sup> Weilepp, Bruce. 2004. Director, Pacific County Historical Society Museum. Pers. commun., 4 September.

<sup>4</sup> McGann, Chris. 2002. Immigrants Fill up Local Labor Pool. Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 10 December.

<sup>5</sup> Willapa Bay Organization. 2004. Communities in North Pacific County, Washington, [Online]. Available: URL: [Hhttp://www.visit.willapabay.org/pages/communities.html](http://www.visit.willapabay.org/pages/communities.html) (access date - August 2004).

<sup>6</sup> University of Oregon Department of Linguistics. 2004. Chinook Tribes, [Online]. Available: URL: [Hhttp://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/oregon/chtribes.html](http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/oregon/chtribes.html) (access date - June 2004).

<sup>7</sup> Nicholson, Med. 2002. Raymond: Empire City of Willapa Harbor. The Sou'wester, Volume XXXVII, Special Edition: 7-47.

<sup>8</sup> Weathers, Larry J. 1989. Place Names of Pacific County. The Sou'wester of the Pacific County Historical Society and Museum, XXIV(1-4): 19-68.

<sup>9</sup> Port of Willapa Harbor. No Date. History, [Online]. Available: URL: [Hwww.portofwillapaharbor.com/pages/history.html](http://www.portofwillapaharbor.com/pages/history.html) (access date - September 2004).

<sup>10</sup> Washington State Department of Revenue. 2004. Local Sales & Use Tax Rates and Changes, [Online]. Available: URL: [Hhttp://dor.wa.gov/Docs/forms/Excstx/LocSalUseTx/LocalSlUseFlyer\\_Quarterly.pdf](http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/forms/Excstx/LocSalUseTx/LocalSlUseFlyer_Quarterly.pdf) (access date - July 2004).

<sup>11</sup> Washington State Department of Revenue. 2003. Lodging Tax Rates by Location, [Online]. Available: URL: [Hhttp://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 - July 2004).

- 
- <sup>12</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>13</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>14</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>15</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>16</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>17</sup> United States Coast Guard. 2004. Pacific Northwest Unit List, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.uscg.mil/d13/ipa/pacific\\_northwest\\_unit\\_alpha.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/d13/ipa/pacific_northwest_unit_alpha.htm) (access date - July 2004).
- <sup>18</sup> Raymond School District. 2002. Home Page, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://raymondschools.org/> (access date - September 2004).
- <sup>19</sup> Port of Willapa Harbor. No Date. Home Page, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://portofwillapaharbor.com/pages/fac\\_main.html](http://portofwillapaharbor.com/pages/fac_main.html) (access date - September 2004).
- <sup>20</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.
- <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.
- <sup>22</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.