

Seattle, Washington

People and Place

Location

The City of Seattle is located between Elliot Bay and Lake Washington in King County. Located on Puget Sound, Seattle is approximately 113 miles south of the U.S.-Canadian border. Seattle, located at 47°36'23"N latitude and 122°19'51"W longitude, encompasses approximately 84 square miles of land and 59 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the City of Seattle had a population of 563,374. The gender composition was 49.9% male and 50.1% female. Between 1990 and 2000 the population of Seattle increased by approximately 8.4%. The racial composition of the population in 2000 was predominantly White (70.1%), followed by Asian (13.1%), Black (8.4%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.5%). Less than five percent (2.4%) identified with some other race and 4.5% were of two or more races. Approximately 5.3% of residents described themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

Slightly over fifteen percent (16.9%) of the population was foreign-born. Of the foreign-born population, over half were born in Asia (55.8%), primarily in South Eastern Asia (32.1%). About 18.8% of foreign-born individuals were born in the Americas, 16% were born in Europe, and about 7.8% were born in Africa. The highest percentage of those reporting ancestry in the 2000 U.S. Census were Germans (11.3%), followed by Irish (9.1%), English (8.1%), and Norwegians (5%).

The median age in Seattle in 2000 was 35.4, nearly equal to the national median age of 35.3 years. Of the population age 18 years and over, 88% had graduated from high school or continued on to higher education, 41.8% had received a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 15% had received a graduate or professional degree; as compared to the national averages of 79.9%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

History

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Puget Sound area was home to the Duwamish and Suquamish Native American groups.¹ The arrival of settlers brought conflicts over natural resources and disease. In the 1770s a smallpox epidemic ravaged the Native American populations living along the northwest coast of North America. In 1856 the Duwamish were removed from their central location, at the outlet of Lake Washington; the Tribe was moved to Bainbridge Island and later taken to Holderness point, on the west side of Elliot Bay, where the fishing grounds were more productive.² In 1862 another smallpox epidemic hit the area, killing 14,000 Northwest Coast Indians.³ Chief Seattle (Sealth), a member and leader of the Duwamish Tribe, died four years later, in 1866.

Following the smallpox epidemic of the 1770s the area was explored by Captain Vancouver who gave Puget Sound its name in 1792. The first post in the area was established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833. Almost twenty years later, in November of 1851, the Denny Party landed at Alki Beach; they claimed land the following February at the site of present-day Seattle. The following year Henry Yesler

and his party settled in Seattle and within a few years built a steam-powered sawmill, initiating Seattle's logging economy. King County was created shortly thereafter. In 1861 the Territorial University opened its door; the University later became the University of Washington. Three years later Asa Mercer arrived from New York with his first group of Mercer's Maidens, young women that would provide the largely Caucasian, male community with mates.⁴

In 1884 the Northern Railroad constructed a railroad spur from Tacoma to Seattle, following a battle won by Tacoma that designated the city as the railroad's western terminus. The railway linked Seattle to the rest of the United States. In 1891, despite a ravaging fire two years earlier that nearly destroyed Seattle, the size of Seattle doubled due to the annexation of communities north of downtown. With the arrival of the Portland in 1897, a steamship carrying gold from Klondike, Alaska, Seattle became a major jumping off point for those traveling north to Alaska to take part in the gold rush.^{5,6} Today, Seattle's participation in Alaska's commercial fishing mirrors to a large extent the situation of the gold rush of the late 1890s and 1900s, with many commercial fishermen traveling either from or through Seattle to reach lucrative fishing grounds in Alaska. Additionally, many fish processing companies headquartered in Seattle are major players in Alaskan fisheries.

In 1907 Seattle annexed six towns, including the town of Ballard.⁷ Ballard had drawn many Scandinavian immigrants to the area with the growing demand for salmon fishermen in the early 1900s. In addition, Scandinavians contributed considerably to the boat building industry whose success was built on Scandinavian designed wooden vessels.⁸ In 1913 Fishermen's Terminal, located in the contemporary neighborhood of Interbay, across from Ballard, was founded by the Puget Sound Fisheries Association Committee whose members were nearly all Norwegian.⁹ Today Ballard remains a popular hub for Seattle's commercial fishing industry and the newly developed recreational boating scene.

The Boeing Airplane Company, developed by William Boeing in 1917, has played a significant role in Seattle's economy. Shortly after the U.S. entered World War I, Boeing sold an order for 50 Model C training seaplanes to the U.S. Navy. By 1928, "with 800 employees, Boeing was one of the largest aircraft manufacturers in the country."¹⁰ The Boeing Company, a major employer in the Seattle area, has contributed a great deal towards the history of aircraft and space travel and the development of the City of Seattle. In 2001 the company announced the relocation of its headquarters to Chicago, Illinois. Today the economy of the Seattle area is dominated by international trade and technology firms such as Microsoft.¹¹

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to 2000 U.S. Census, 66.5% of the potential labor force in Seattle was employed and there was an unemployment rate of 5.1% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Approximately 29.9% 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%.

About 0.3% of employed Seattle residents worked 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 employed residents at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census were: education, health, and social services (21.6%); professional, scientific, and technical services (12.3%); retail trade (11.1%); arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (9.9%); and manufacturing (8.3%). Approximately 15.6% of employed residents worked within the local, state, or federal government.

There are several major business in Seattle including: the Bon Marche, City of Seattle, Four Seasons Hotel, Harborview Hospital, METRO-King County Government, Nordstrom, Pike Place Market, Port of Seattle, Providence Hospital, Swedish Hospital, the Boeing Company, the Hilton Hotel, the Westin Hotel, and the University of Washington.¹² Microsoft, a major business in the Seattle area, employs numerous Seattle residents however the corporate headquarters are located in the nearby community of Redmond, with additional office locations in the neighboring communities of Bellevue and Issaquah.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the per capita income in Seattle in 1999 was \$30,306 and the median household income was \$45,736. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that in 1999 the income of 11.8% of the population was below the poverty level. In 2000 there were a total of 270,524 housing units in the community, of which 95.6% were occupied and 4.4% were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 48.4% were owner occupied and 51.6% were renter occupied.

Governance

Seattle, incorporated in 1869, is the oldest city in King County. The City is governed by a charter form of government comprised of a mayor, a nine-member City Council, and a City Attorney. The Municipal Court is run by eight judges that are elected by Seattle City voters. Seattle levies an 8.8% sales and use tax and a 7% lodging 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.¹³ Those who both catch and sell fish in Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).¹⁴

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.”¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷

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, about 22 miles north of the city. Seattle is home to several other events and offices including: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) District Office, and the headquarters of the 13th U.S. Coast Guard District.

Facilities

Seattle is accessible by ground, sea, and air. The city is located on Interstate Five, State Route 520, and State Route 90. An Amtrak train station is located in the community with destinations as far north and south as Vancouver, B.C. and Eugene, Oregon, respectively. Sea-Tac International Airport is located approximately 14 miles south of downtown Seattle in Sea Tac, Washington. The Washington State Ferry offers service from Pier 50 and 52 in Seattle to Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, and Vashon Island.

There are 106 schools in the Seattle School District including: 1 headstart school, 61 elementary schools, 9 K-8 schools, 12 middle schools, and 23 high schools. In addition, there are 93 private schools. The city is home to 26 colleges, with the largest being the University of Washington – Seattle Campus (32,742), Seattle University (4743), Shoreline Community College (4526), Seattle Community College – Central Campus (4386), Seattle Community College – North Campus (3489), Seattle Community College – South Campus (3013), Seattle Pacific University (2992), and the Art Institute of Seattle (2313).

Seattle Public Utilities provides water, drainage and wastewater, and solid waste services through three separate utilities to Seattle residents. Electricity is provided by Seattle City Light. Public security is administered by the Seattle Police and Fire Departments; Seattle has five police precincts and 33 fire stations. There are at least 12 hospitals and medical centers located within the City of Seattle. At least 59 hotels and motels are located within downtown Seattle. In addition at least 20 accommodations are found in North Seattle and 44 in the South Seattle/Sea Tac area.

The Port of Seattle is the fifth largest container port in the U.S. and the 20th largest in the world; the Port also ranks as the top U.S. port in container tonnage exports to Asia.¹⁸ Piers 90 and 91 contain six berths per pier and provide moorage for barges and factory trawlers, in addition to the transportation of foodstuffs. Commercial moorage is also available at the Bell Street Pier, Maritime Industrial Center, Terminal 30, and Fishermen's Terminal. Fishermen's Terminal on the Lake Washington Ship Canal includes moorage for over 700 workboats and commercial fishing vessels, lineal moorage of 2500 feet, and 371 stalls. Fishermen's Terminal has historically been the home to a large portion of the North Pacific commercial fishing fleet. In 2002, amidst controversy,

Fishermen's Terminal began allowing for the moorage of pleasure craft as well as fishing vessels. The Fishermen's Memorial sculpture, located at the Terminal, is inscribed with the names of over 500 individuals lost at sea; the sculpture stands as "a place of reverence, reflection and healing for people in the fishing industry and their families."¹⁹ In addition, the Port of Seattle operates the Shilshole Bay Marina; Shilshole contains berths for 1500 recreational boats, a guest dock, and a fishing pier. The 400-foot Elliott Bay Fishing Pier is also located in downtown Seattle.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 West Coast fisheries landings in Seattle were delivered by 909 unique vessels, including: 253 commercial, 498 tribal commercial, and 158 personal use vessels. Recorded data indicates 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 (275 t/\$1,421,148/143), groundfish (109 t/\$489,914/9), highly migratory species (17 t/\$33,168/4), salmon (701 t/\$1,036,861/346), shellfish (264 t/\$3,198,531/387), shrimp (26 t/\$230,201/27), and other species (170.2 t/\$873,983/33).

Seattle residents owned a total of 170 vessels in 2000. In the same year 74 vessels participated in the federal groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Seattle residents in 2000 participating in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (9/1/4), crab (31/3/0), groundfish (27/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (88/17/5), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/1/0), and other species (61/0/0).²⁰

Thirty-six federal groundfish fishery permits were held by 35 individual community members in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of Seattle residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (6/2/6), crab (13/4/0), groundfish (7/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (120/16/9), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (48/5/0).²¹

According to available data 355 state and federal permits were registered to Seattle 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 (9/2/7), crab (18/6/0), groundfish (19/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (138/0/15), shellfish (0/0/NA), and other species (64/41/0).²²

At least seven processors were operating in Seattle in 2000: Independent Packers, Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Pacific Salmon Co. Inc., Sea Blends, Svendsen Brothers Fish Inc., Trident Seafoods Corp., and True World Foods International. Approximately 717 people were employed by these processors in 2000. Reported data indicates that the total pounds processed by these companies in 2000 was 43,336,155 lbs, valuing approximately \$115,446,360. Processed items included a variety of products such as, approximately: \$42,915,021 (7,104,500 lbs) of crab including cooked claws, legs, sections, and cakes; \$19,635,046 (5,980,415 lbs) of halibut including fillets, steaks, and batter coated portions; \$20,844,856 (18,185,900 lbs) of pollock including blocks, breaded/cooked, fillets, and surimi; and \$15,260,736 (5,207,560 lbs) of salmon including cured, salted, fillets, breaded cakes, steaks, and patties. Processed items also included catfish fillets; cod including fillets, portions, and nuggets; dolphin fillets; flounder fillets; haddock

fillets; lobster tails; oysters breaded; rockfish fillets; sablefish salted; scallops shucked or breaded; shrimp breaded or peeled; swordfish steaks; and albacore tuna steaks.

Sportfishing

In 2000 there were at least eight salmonid charter fishing businesses and one non-salmonid charter fishing business in Seattle. There are 15 licensed vendors in Seattle selling fishing permits. In 2003 a total of 39,263 sportfishing license transactions, valuing \$68,101, were made in the community.

In Catch Record Card Area 10 (South from the Apple Cove Point-Edwards Point line to a line projected true east-west through the north tip of Vashon Island) the 2000 sport salmon catch, based on catch record cards, was 15,681 fish, including: 4042 Chinook, 11,568 coho, 58 chum, and 13 sockeye salmon. In the same year there were approximately 49,865 marine angler trips in the sport salmon fishery. In Area 10 a total of 7022 bottomfish were caught by boat-based anglers in 2000. The recreational harvest of clams (lbs) and oysters (#) for the same area in 2000 was estimated to be 6936 and 26,200 respectively; harvest occurred over an estimated 2745 user trips.

Recreational fishing in Seattle occurs in both salt and freshwater, along Seattle's shoreline and in numerous lakes, rivers, and streams. Many public fishing piers are located in Seattle, including: 7 in north Seattle, 6 in central Seattle, and 7 in south Seattle.

Subsistence

Tribal and nontribal community members may be engaged in subsistence fishing in the Seattle area however little information is available. The Muckleshoot Tribe, located southeast of Seattle, in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is involved with a sockeye salmon counting program on Lake Washington.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

The Seattle area plays a major role in North Pacific commercial fisheries, both in terms of participation by Seattle residents as fishermen and crew members and in the processing arena, with the headquarters of many major inshore and offshore North Pacific processors located in Seattle. For example, many North Pacific catcher-processors hire processing workers out of their Seattle-based administrative offices. In most cases these catcher-processors employ over one hundred people per vessel; the contribution can be substantial considering companies such as American Seafoods, that fish in the Bering Sea, own nine catcher-processors. Additionally, many employees hired by onshore processors are filtered through Seattle on their way to Alaska. The number of processing workers engaged in North Pacific fisheries is not represented in the data below; however anecdotal evidence demonstrates that Seattle is an important hub for North Pacific processing activity. Also headquartered in Seattle are other support services, such as shipping companies, which provide supplies to rural Alaskan fishing communities.

Historically Seattle has been home to the majority of the North Pacific commercial fishing fleet. In 2000 Seattle residents owned 741 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 (8324 t/\$46,176,490/110), Bering Sea and

Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish (1,145,213 t/\$337,750,710/177), other finfish (8 t/\$620/44), Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish (38,626 t/\$29,028,360/100), halibut (1906 t/\$10,701,550/39), herring (610 t/\$211,760/18), salmon (12347 t/\$9,704,170/169), shellfish (115 t/\$739,450/24), and scallops (confidential/confidential/2).

Seven hundred and fifty-eight Seattle 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 636 and 308 respectively.

In 2000 a total of 1515 permits were held by Seattle residents. Community members also held 21,654,228 halibut and 71,771,911 sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) shares. A total of 206 crab and 379 groundfish License Limitation Program (LLP) permits were held by community members in 2000. In the same year 90 crab, 3 finfish, 3 GOA groundfish, 156 BSAI groundfish, 44 halibut, 32 herring, 167 salmon, 1 scallop, and 9 shellfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits were held by Seattle residents.

Sportfishing

In 2000 there were seven sportfishing businesses in Seattle involved in Alaskan fisheries. In the same year a total of 3461 Alaskan sportfishing licenses were purchased by Seattle residents.

¹ Duwamish Tribal Services. No Date. Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center, Seattle's First People: The Duwamish Tribe [Brochure].

² Access Genealogy. 2005. Duwamish Indian Tribe History, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/salish/duwamishhist.htm> (access date - October 2005).

³ HistoryLink.org. 2004. Seattle and King County Milestones, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.historylink.org> (access date - November 2004).

⁴ Morgan, Murray C. 1960. Mercer's Maidens. The Viking Press 58-66.

⁵ HistoryLink.org. 2004. Seattle and King County Milestones, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.historylink.org> (access date - November 2004).

⁶ Lonely Planet. No Date. Seattle, History, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/north_america/seattle/history.htm (access date - January 2005).

⁷ HistoryLink.org. 2004. Seattle and King County Milestones, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.historylink.org>. (access date - November 2004).

⁸ Ballard Chamber of Commerce. 2003. Ballard: An Important Part of Washington's History, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ballardchamber.com/ballard.shtml> (access date - January 2005).

⁹ Eskenazi, Stuart. 2001. Familiar landscape lured Scandinavians. The Seattle Times, November 4.

¹⁰ Boeing. No Date. A Brief History, the beginnings: 1903-1938, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.boeing.com/history/boeing/biplanes.html> (access date - January 2005).

¹¹ Lonely Planet. No Date. Seattle, History, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/north_america/seattle/history.htm (access date - January 2005).

¹² Economic Development Council of Seattle & King County. 2004. King County Profiles, The City of Seattle, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.edc-sea.org/Research_Data/CityProfileView.cfm?CityID=33 (access date - December 2004).

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- ¹³ 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).
- ¹⁴ 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).
- ¹⁵ 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).
- ¹⁶ 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).
- ¹⁷ 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).
- ¹⁸ City of Seattle. 2004. Port of Seattle, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.seattle.gov/tour/port.htm> (access date - January 2005).
- ¹⁹City of Seattle. No Date. Port of Seattle, Parks and Programs, Fishermen's Memorial, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.portseattle.org/community/resources/fishermensmemorial.shtml> (access date - August 2005).
- ²⁰ "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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