

Sequim, Washington

People and Place

Location

The City of Sequim is located in Clallam County in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. The City, located at 48°04'47"N, 123°06'02"W, is situated about 3 miles inland from Sequim Bay, a 4-mile long stretch of protected water on the north shore of the Olympic Peninsula. Sequim, located in the Dungeness River Valley, encompasses approximately 5.3 square miles of land and 0 square miles of surface water. Sequim is located approximately 70 miles northwest of Seattle via the Edmonds/Kingston Ferry and 153 miles southwest of Vancouver, British Columbia, via the Port Townsend/Keystone Ferry.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the population of Sequim was 4334. Between 1990 and 2000, U.S. Census data reports that the population of Sequim increased by 19.9%. In 2000 the percentage of males and females was 42.3% and 57.7% respectively. The racial composition of the population in 2000 was predominantly White (93.9%), followed by Asian (1.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.2%), Black or African American (0.3%), and Pacific Islander (0.1%). Few individuals (0.9%) classified themselves as belonging to some other race and 1.9% of the surveyed population identified themselves as belonging to two or more races. A small percentage of the surveyed population (2.9%) recognized themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

In 2000 the median age of the population was 59.3, which was higher than the national median of 35.3. In the same year approximately 45% of the population was over 65 years of age and 29.9% were between 25 and 60. A small percentage (3.9%) of the population was foreign-born. Of the foreign-born population the majority were born in Canada (19.9%), followed by the United Kingdom (14.3%), Japan (9.3%), and Australia (9.3%). Approximately 67.3% of the population of Sequim was living in family households in 2000. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 80.3% of the population over 18 years of age had received a high school degree or higher, 17.9% had received a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 7.9% received a graduate or professional degree; as compared to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

History

Clallam County, named after the Indian word Clallam, meaning "strong people," was created by the Washington Territorial Legislature in 1854. Prior to Euro-American settlement the S'Klallam Indians occupied the area from the Hoko River near the Pacific Ocean to Puget Sound. Today there are three surviving groups of the S'Klallam – the Elwha, Jamestown, and Port Gamble S'Klallam. Historically the S'Klallam belonged to the Salish speaking people who lived from the central British Columbia Coast to northwestern Oregon. The S'Klallam lived in at least 15 villages along the south shore of the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Their first contact with Europeans occurred in 1799 when English and Spanish explorers entered the Straits, followed by fur traders, missionaries, gold seekers, and settlers.¹ The Europeans brought with them smallpox, whooping cough, and measles which decimated the S'Klallam Tribe. It is estimated that the S'Klallam population dropped from approximately 2400 in 1780 to 926 in 1855.²

The Treaty of Point No Point, signed by the S'Klallam in 1855, secured the Tribe's right to fish at "usual and accustomed" grounds³; however the S'Klallam were assigned to the

Skokomish Reservation approximately 150 miles away from their traditional fishing areas. The S'Klallam refused to relocate, preferring to co-exist with the new settlements at Port Angeles, Port Townsend, and Port Gamble.⁴ In 1874 the Klallam community pooled their funds and purchased 210 acres from a logging company. Upon federal recognition in 1981 the Tribe gained 5 acres of trust land at Sequim Bay where the reservation is today.

Tribal membership now stands around 230 with 80 involved in fishing and the gathering of coastal resources.⁵ The Fisheries Division of the Jamestown S'Klallam Natural Resource Department is responsible for managing the Tribe's fisheries by negotiating treaty fish and shellfish harvest opportunities, establishing fishing regulations, and tracking legal proceedings affecting treaty rights. Tribal Conservation and Enforcement Officers monitor fishing and hunting activities in the area.

The history of Sequim and the Dungeness Valley is closely tied to the history of the Dungeness River, which originates in the mountains of the Olympics and flows northward to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Ensign Manuel Quimper, exploring the Strait for Spain, sighted the Dungeness area in 1790. Two years later, Captain George Vancouver sailed into the bay and named its sheltering sandspit New Dungeness, after its great resemblance to Dungeness in the British Channel. In the 1850s the first settlers came to the Dungeness area to harvest timber and float logs downriver, take up claims, and to clear land and plant crops. Today, people remain attracted to the relatively dry climate of the area, and several new businesses have taken root in the Sequim area. The city now boasts one of the largest Safeway grocery stores in western Washington.

Today Sequim is known as the lavender capital of the world; purple flowers bloom and are available for U-pick from July to October. Sequim is also known for its strawberry and raspberry crops that are available from June to August. Visitors and residents enjoy the Sequim Open Air Market – open spring, summer, and fall – where vendors sell local crafts, flowers, and produce. The City of Sequim and Sequim Bay are popular among tourists visiting the Peninsula. Sailing, birdwatching, kayaking, bicycling, and fishing are just a few of the activities tourists enjoy when visiting the area. Several festivals occur annually in Sequim such as the Lavender Festival in July, the Irrigation Festival in early May, the Dungeness River Festival, and local salmon bakes.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census 9.5% of the employed civilian population 16 years of age and over was employed within local, state, or federal governments. The majority of Sequim's employed civilian population 16 years of age and over was employed in "sales and office occupations" (28.4%), "service occupations" (28.2%), and "management, professional, and related occupations" (20.5%) in 2000. In the same year natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 5.5% of the population.

According to 2000 U.S. Census 29.5% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 6.3% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). A seemingly high 68.5% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force in 2000 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 13.9% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in 1999 was \$27,880 and the per capita income was \$19,253. In 2000 there were 2424 housing units in Sequim. The percentages of occupied housing units that

were owner versus renter occupied were 59.9% and 40.1% respectively. About 10.8% of the housing units were vacant, of which 13% were vacant due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

The City of Sequim was incorporated on 31 October 1913. Sequim is one of three incorporated cities, including Port Angeles and Forks, in Clallam County. The City utilizes the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council, comprised of seven elected members, hires the City Manager. The Council elects a Mayor and a Mayor Pro Tem from the Council. Clallam County levies an 8.3% sales tax and a 2% 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.⁶ Those who both catch and sell fish in Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).⁷

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.”⁸ 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.⁹ 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.¹⁰

Several organizations and services are based approximately 70 miles southeast in Seattle, Washington, including a National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service offices, and meetings of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Offices for the Department of Fish and Game are located about 120 miles south in Montesano, Washington. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Group/Air Station in Port Angeles is home to several USCG cutters and a Dolphin Helicopter. The Station is responsible for marine safety westward to Pillar Point on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, north to the Canadian border, east to the western shore of Whidbey Island, and south through Admiralty Inlet to Olele Point.

Facilities

The City of Sequim is accessible by ground via U.S. Highway 101 west to Port Angeles and southeast to Olympia. Throughout the year the Victoria Express provides ferry service from Port Angeles to Victoria, British Columbia, and Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands. Port Angeles is a short 16 mile drive from the City of Sequim. The Coho Ferry operated by Black Ball Transport, Inc. also provides service between Port Angeles and Victoria. The nearest airport certified for carrier operations is located in Port Angeles, the William R. Fairchild International Airport, serviced by San Juan Airlines and Kenmore Air Express. The Sea-Tac International Airport, approximately 100 miles to the southeast in Sea Tac, Washington, is the closest airport offering international service to destinations other than Canada.

The Sequim School District offers 2 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 public and private high school, and 1 community school, offering special district and community programs for children, students, and adults. Peninsula College, located in Port Angeles, has an enrollment of over 2300 students. Sequim's Public Works Department is responsible for providing water, wastewater, and solid waste services to City residents. The Public Utility District of Clallam County provides electricity and alternative energy systems to community residents. Public safety is administered by the Sequim Police Department. The nearest medical center is located in Port Angeles, the Olympic Medical Center, and the closest hospital is Jefferson General Hospital, situated 31 miles east in Port Townsend. There are several community businesses including the Museum and Arts Center, the Rainshadow Natural Science Foundation, several wineries and farms, parks, and places of worship. The tourism industry is well developed in Sequim with over 40 hotels, bed and breakfasts, and vacation rentals located in the City.

The John Wayne Marina, operated by the Port of Port Angeles, is located on the western shore of Sequim Bay at Pitship Point. The Marina, built on land donated by the film star in 1975, provides 280 permanent and 22 transient moorage slips. Facilities at the Marina include water, electricity, fuel, sewage pumpout, and garbage and oil disposal services. A restaurant, marine supply store, public meeting rooms, and a charter boat service are also located in an on-site service building. Both nontribal fishermen and members of the Jamestown and Elwha Tribes utilize the marina, however several crab and salmon fishermen trailer their boats to and from the fishing grounds, increasing their mobility and decreasing their costs.¹¹

The construction of the John Wayne Marina resulted in the loss of Pacific sand lance spawning sites and nearshore eel grass habitat but there is no evidence that the Marina currently affects water quality in Sequim Bay. The Clallam County Marine Resource Committee (MRC) believes that the Herring stock, prevalent in the Bay in the mid-1970s, might now be extinct. Surf smelt spawning habitat has been documented in Sequim Bay.¹²

Several Sequim residents serve on the Clallam County Marine Resources Advisory Committee, a 14-member group of citizen volunteers established in 1998 to advise county officials and address local issues related to marine resource management. The Clallam MRC has been involved in several projects centered around shellfish harvest in Dungeness Bay, the assessment of forage fish habitat, and the recovery of bottomfish and salmon. The MRC also works closely with local groups such as the Dungeness River Management Team, the Elwha-Morse Management Team, and the Sequim-Dungeness Clean Water Work Group. Sequim Bay remains an MRC shellfish priority area due to concerns over diminished water quality.¹³

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe is involved in clam, oyster, and geoduck aquaculture in Sequim and Dungeness Bays. However the Dungeness Bay beds are threatened by growing pollution, much of which is linked to increasing development in Dungeness Valley.¹⁴ The Tribe operates the largest wild geoducks export operation on the Olympic Peninsula, selling

approximately 150,000 to 200,000 pounds of geoducks to China and other Pacific Rim countries each year.¹⁵ The Tribe is also involved in finfish aquaculture. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Hurd Creek Hatchery, located near Sequim, supports the Elwha and Dungeness fall Chinook programs and provides support for wild-stock chum and coho recovery efforts.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

A total of 114 unique vessels delivered landings to Sequim in 2000 including: 86 tribal commercial, 17 commercial, and 10 personal use vessels. The remaining vessel types are confidential. In the same year recorded data indicates that 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 (105 t/\$503,632/53), groundfish (confidential/confidential/2), salmon (4 t/\$5656/9), shellfish (133 t/\$232,314/27), shrimp (4 t/\$25,765/8), and other species (confidential/confidential/1).

Sequim residents owned 21 vessels in 2000. Community members owned nine vessels that participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Sequim residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (1/0/0), crab (4/0/0), groundfish (5/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (3/1/1), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/0/0), and other species (6/0/0).¹⁶

Four Sequim residents each held one Federally Managed Groundfish fishery permit in 2000. In the same year recorded data indicates that the number of Sequim residents holding permits in each state fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (7/0/0), groundfish (2/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (5/1/3), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (5/0/0), and other species (6/0/0).¹⁷

A total of 38 state and four federal permits were registered to Sequim residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by these community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab (10/0/0), groundfish (5/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (5/0/4), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (5/0/0), and other species (9/0/0).¹⁸

In 2000 there were at least two seafood processors operating in Sequim, Alder Springs Smoked Salmon and Jamestown Seafood. Jamestown Seafood, farming and processing since 1990, serves as a processor, wholesaler, and distributor. Owned and operated by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, they specialize in live geoduck, oysters, and Dungeness crab. Several seafood markets serve Sequim residents including Jamestown Seafood Farm, the Crab Barn, and Macomber Seafood Specialties.

Sportfishing

Sportfishermen in Sequim are involved in both West Coast and Alaskan fisheries. In 2000 at least one non-salmonid charter fishing operator serviced sportfishermen and tourists in Sequim. At least three salmonid charter fishing businesses operated in Sequim in 2003.

There are five licensed vendors selling sportfishing permits in Sequim. A total of 6858 sportfishing license transactions, valuing \$99,023, were made in Sequim in 2003. In Catch Record Card Area 6 (East Juan de Fuca Strait) the 2000 sport salmon catch based on catch record cards was 4334, including 1138 Chinook and 3196 coho. In 2000 there were approximately 26,777 marine angler trips in the sport salmon fishery in the same area. In the same year nine steelhead were caught in the sportfishery in Area 6 and the coastal bottomfish catch for the same

area was 5340. The recreational harvest of clams (lbs) and oysters (#) for Area 6 in 2000 was estimated to be 23,015 and 24,993 respectively; harvest occurred over an estimated 3996 user trips.

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. Jamestown S'Klallam tribal members are engaged in subsistence harvesting for butter, littleneck, horse, and manila clams.¹⁹ Subsistence fishing is not discussed in detail in this Community Profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 Sequim residents owned 21 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): Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish (confidential/confidential/1), Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish (confidential/confidential/3), other finfish (confidential/confidential/1), halibut (confidential/confidential/2), herring (353 t/\$74,480/4), salmon (326 t/\$446,960/11), and shellfish (confidential/confidential/1).

In 2000 30 Sequim residents served as crewmembers in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year 18 community residents held registered state permits and 15 held registered federal permits.

A total of 45 state and federal permits were registered to individuals in Sequim in 2000. In the same year residents of Sequim held six groundfish License Limitation Program permits. 2000 Sequim residents held 4 crab, 1 GOA groundfish, 6 BSAI groundfish, 4 halibut, 6 herring, 12 salmon, and 2 shellfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits. The halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota shares for people residing in the community were 491,300 and 422 respectively.

Sportfishing

While the majority of Sequim anglers generally target West Coast fisheries, 223 Alaska sportfishing licenses were purchased by community members in 2000. In the same year at least one sportfishing business in Sequim participated in Alaskan fisheries.

¹ Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. No date. Culture and History, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.pgst.nsn.us/content/culture_history/pride_heritage.htm (access date - November 2004).

² Hands on the land. No date. Olympic National Park, Elwha Valley, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.handsontheland.org/classroom/2002serv_learn/olymp/nativeamericans.htm (access date - November 2004).

³ Point No Point Treaty Council. 2002. Point No Point Treaty Council: Treaty of Point No Point, 1855, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.pnptc.org/treaty_of_point_no_point.htm (access date - October 2005).

⁴ Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. No date. Culture and History, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.pgst.nsn.us/content/culture_history/pride_heritage.htm (access date - November 2004).

⁵ Discover Olympic. No date. Tribes of the Olympics, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.nps.gov/olymp/edprehis.htm> (access date - November 2004).

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- ⁶ 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).
- ⁷ 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).
- ⁸ 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).
- ⁹ 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).
- ¹⁰ 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).
- ¹¹ A. Erickson, Shellfish Biologist, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Sequim, WA. Pers. commun., 16 August 2004.
- ¹² Clallam County Marine Resource Committee. No date. The MRC and what it does. Available: URL: <http://www.clallammrc.org/CCMRC/allframes.html> (access date - November 2004).
- ¹³ Clallam County Marine Resource Committee. No date. The MRC and what it does. Available: URL: <http://www.clallammrc.org/CCMRC/allframes.html> (access date - November 2004).
- ¹⁴ Chew, J. 2004. Peninsula: Geoduck aquaculture in area's future? Peninsula Daily News, May 2.
- ¹⁵ Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Washington Sea Grant. Autumn 2002. Red Tides, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/hab/Outreach/pdf_files/RedTides2002.pdf (access date - November 2004).
- ¹⁶ '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.
- ¹⁷ '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.
- ¹⁸ '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.
- ¹⁹ Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Washington Sea Grant. Autumn 2002. Red Tides, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/hab/Outreach/pdf_files/RedTides2002.pdf (access date - November 2004).