

## **Silvana, Washington**

### **People and Place**

#### *Location*

Silvana lies near the mouth of the Stillaguamish River in Snohomish County. Located about 8 miles southeast of Stanwood, the area encompasses approximately 1.5 square miles of land and 0 square miles of surface water. Silvana is situated approximately 45 miles north of Seattle and 20 miles south of Mount Vernon, at 48°12'09"N, 122°15'09"W.

#### *Demographic Profile*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census the population of Silvana was 97. In 2000 the percentage of males and females was 49.5% and 50.5% respectively. The racial composition of the population in 2000 was predominantly White (93.8%), followed by American Indian and Alaska Native (2.1). Few individuals (4.1%) classified themselves as belonging to some other race. A small percentage of the population (6.2%) identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

The median age of the population was 38.3, which was slightly higher than the national median of 35.3 for the same year. In 2000 there was an even age distribution between males and females, with 66% of the population between the ages of 18 and 60. There were zero Silvana residents that were foreign-born in 2000. Approximately 82.5% of the population of Silvana was living in family households in 2000. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 96% of the population over 18 years of age had received a high school degree or higher, 0% had received a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 0% received a graduate or professional degree; as compared to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively. However in 2000 35.4% of the population over 18 years of age held an associate degree.

#### *History*

The area surrounding Silvana was home to Native Americans primarily of the Stillaguamish and Skagit Tribes. The Stillaguamish Tribe is composed of descendents of the 1855 Stoluck-wa-mish River Tribe which resided on the main branch, and north and south forks of the river.<sup>1</sup> Historically tribal members made their living fishing for salmon, hunting for deer, and gathering berries and roots. The Tribe was party to the Treaty of Point Elliot in January of 1855. There were no separate reservations established for the Stillaguamish Indians at the time of the Treaty. Some tribal members have moved to the Tulalip Reservation but the majority live in the aboriginal area along the Stillaguamish River. In 1970 the Tribe was granted 58,600 acres from the Federal Government in northern Snohomish County. Tribal headquarters, including their Natural Resource Department, are located in Arlington, Washington, about 7 miles east of Silvana. There are 237 individuals enrolled as tribal members. For information on the Skagit Tribe see the La Connor Community Profile.

The first White settlers to arrive in the Stanwood and Silvana areas came in the 1850s and were primarily homesteaders from Utsalady on the north end of Camano Island. In 1864 the first logging camps and farms were established around a trading post named Florence, located about 9 miles northwest of Silvana, on the Stillaguamish River. Over the next 10 years Florence competed with another trading post to the north, named Stanwood. Eventually Stanwood became the largest community at the mouth of the Stillaguamish River, home to two lumber mills and canneries. Meanwhile settlers established several other small but thriving communities with their own stores, churches, and schools including the community of Silvana, a largely Scandinavian

farming community. Farmers sold their oats, hay, and shingles for cash. In the late 1890s the area was one of the largest settlements of Norwegian immigrants in the west.<sup>2</sup> The Old Silvana General Store and the Bricky Brack 'n Bait Shop are located in the oldest building in town, built in 1896 by a Norwegian immigrant.

Silvana, located along Pioneer Highway in the Stillaguamish River delta, is surrounded by farmland and heavily affected by the flooding of both the Skagit and Stillaguamish Rivers. The town was named after the Roman god Silvanus, the god of forests and the protector of homesteads, herds, and flocks. Silvana boasts the Little White Church on the Hill that overlooks the scenic Stillaguamish River Valley. The church was built in 1890 with funds raised by the ladies aid of the congregation which formed in the early 1880s.

Silvana was once popular for rock 'n' roll dances at the Viking Hall in the 1950s and '60s, seasonal floods in the fall, and a well ingrained Scandinavian agricultural heritage. But today it has been suggested that the town is becoming the "car-culture capital of Snohomish County."<sup>3</sup> Visitors are drawn to the town for the salmon runs and over the summer months for community events. In May the Old Silvana General Store sponsors the Old Silvana Motorcycle and Car Show. The Silvana Bridge beach is popular with locals during the summer months and in July visitors come to the town for the annual Silvana Community Fair.

## **Infrastructure**

### *Current Economy*

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census 48.8% of the employed civilian population 16 years of age and over was employed for the state government in health care support occupations. The top three employment sectors employing the civilian population 16 years of age and over were "health care support occupations" (67.7%, females only), "office and administrative support occupations" (32.3%, females only), and "installation, maintenance, and repair occupations" (27.9%, males only). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 0% of the population in 2000. Local businesses include the Old Silvana General Store, Bricky Brack 'n Bait, Silvana Meats, Gabe Gile's Aggressive Offroad, Willow and Jim's Country Café, an antique mall, and gift shops.

According to 2000 U.S. Census data 44.8% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 0% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Approximately 55.2% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force as compared to the national average of 36.1%. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that in 1999 0% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in 1999 was \$33,274 and the per capita income was \$21,070. In 2000 there were 42 housing units in Silvana. The percentages of occupied housing units that were owner versus renter occupied were 65.8% and 34.2% respectively. About 9.5% (4) of the housing units in Silvana were vacant in 2000.

### *Governance*

Silvana is a census defined place and therefore has no formal government structure. Snohomish County levies an 8.3% sales tax and a 2% hotel/motel tax.<sup>4,5</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>6</sup> Those who both catch and sell fish in Washington are eligible for a Multiple Activities Tax Credit (MATC).<sup>7</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>8</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>9</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>10</sup>

There is a National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office located approximately 45 miles south in Seattle. The nearest North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting also takes place in Seattle. There is a Department of Fish and Game office located about 30 miles south in Mill Creek, Washington. The nearest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is located in Seattle. The United States Coast Guard Station Bellingham, home to six vessels, is responsible for the Silvana area. The Bellingham Station’s area of responsibility includes the San Juan Islands north to the Canadian border and south to Admiralty Inlet.

### *Facilities*

Silvana is accessible by ground. The small town is located on State Highway 530, just two miles west of Interstate Five at the Arlington exit. Interstate Five connects Silvana to the neighboring communities of Marysville and Everett to the south and Mount Vernon to the north. There is no public transportation in Silvana, residents travel to Stanwood or Arlington to utilize county bus services. The nearest airport certified for carrier operations is located in Everett, the Snohomish County Airport - Paine Field. The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, approximately 70 miles to the south in Sea Tac, Washington is the closest airport offering international service to destinations other than Canada.

Students in Silvana attend schools in both Arlington and Stanwood. Together the districts serve over 5000 students. The Stanwood-Camano School District operates five elementary schools, one high school, and one alternative high school for students who benefit from a non-traditional educational experience. The Arlington School district consists of five elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, one alternative high school, and a support center for home-schooling families. Columbia College, located about 13 miles south in Marysville, was founded in 1980 and offers associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. Additionally Everett

Community College, located approximately 18 miles south, serves over 8000 students. The Pilchuck Glass School is located in Stanwood, founded in 1971 by artist Dale Chihuly.

The Snohomish County Public Utility District is responsible for providing electricity and water services to Silvana residents. Puget Sound Energy is the natural gas provider for Snohomish County. Silvana has a fire station but no local police department. Public safety is provided by the state patrol and police from the nearby towns of Stanwood and Arlington who occasionally drive through Silvana. The nearest medical facilities are located in Stanwood (Stanwood Camano Medical Center) and Arlington (Cascade Valley Hospital).

Currently there are no hotels or motels located in Silvana, however there is one local park for recreational vehicles (RVs). There are two primary community centers in Silvana, Viking Hall and the Peace Lutheran Church.

There are several environmental groups active in Snohomish County and the Silvana area in particular. The Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC), based in Seattle, is active in the Silvana region. CLC has negotiated several conservation easements with landowners along the Stillaguamish River and is working to restore hydrologic connectivity to stream segments north of the town of Silvana. The Stillaguamish Implementation Review Committee, concerned with issues regarding salmon recovery, water quality, and watershed restoration efforts, meets regularly at the Peace Lutheran Church in Silvana. The Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force, based in Everett, is also active in the Silvana region through a channel rearing habitat restoration project along Glade Bakken.

The Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC), based in Everett, is an 11-member group of citizen volunteers established in 1999 to address local issues related to marine resource management and advise county officials. Of the Northwest Straits counties, Snohomish County is the most populous and has the largest amount of modified shoreline (99 miles of a total 133 miles), which is mainly due to the railroad bed that has been in existence for over a century. The Snohomish MRC has been involved in several projects including: a Dungeness crab stewardship plan for Snohomish County, nearshore restoration projects, juvenile crab habitat projects, as well as numerous public involvement and education activities.<sup>11</sup>

## **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

Recorded data indicates that in 2000 there were zero West Coast fishery landings in the community. Additionally, there were no vessels owned by Silvana residents in the same year. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Silvana residents in 2000 that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), shellfish (NA/0/NA), and shrimp (NA/0/0).<sup>12</sup>

Recorded data indicates that in 2000 the number of Silvana residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (1/0/0), and shellfish (0/0/NA).<sup>13</sup>

According to recorded data the number of permits held by Silvana community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (1/0/0), and shellfish (0/0/NA).<sup>14</sup>

According to the Boldt Decision,<sup>15</sup> the usual and accustomed fishing grounds of the Stillaguamish Tribe, based in Arlington, include the entire Stillaguamish watershed. Though the Tribe has rights “there is little participation [in commercial fishing] because of the [poor] market

prices.”<sup>16</sup> The Stillaguamish Tribe does not have a fish processor. The Tribe operates a hatchery and a smolt trapping system on the Stillaguamish River; the smolt trap is located in Silvana.

### *Sportfishing*

There is one licensed agents selling fishing permits in Silvana. In 2003 there were four sportfishing license transactions valuing \$56.00. In Catch Record Card Area 8.2 (Port Susan and Gardner) the 2000 license year (1 April – 31 March) sport salmon catch, based on catch record cards, was 12,798, including: 3208 Chinook, 9574 coho, 4 chum, and 12 pink salmon. In the same area there were approximately 33,536 marine angler trips in the 2000 sport salmon fishery. In the same year 70 sturgeon were caught in Area 8-2. In 2000 a total of 1449 bottomfish were caught by boat-based anglers in Puget Sound within Areas 8.1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island, and Skagit Bay) and 8.2. There was no recreational harvest estimate of clams and oysters for Area 8-2 in 2000.

### *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. Members of the Stillaguamish Tribe are engaged in subsistence fishing for salmon and shellfish in the Stillaguamish River near Silvana.<sup>17</sup> 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*

In 2000 Silvana residents owned one vessel that was involved in North Pacific fisheries. In the same year Silvana residents made zero landings in North Pacific fisheries.

Two Silvana residents served as crewmembers in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. In the same year one community resident held a registered state permit and three residents held federal permits.

One state permit was registered to a resident of Silvana in 2000. The state permit was a salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit. The halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota shares for people residing in the community were 1,112,115 and 478,316, respectively.

### *Sportfishing*

Four Alaska sportfishing licenses were purchased by Silvana community members in 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service. 2003. Stillaguamish Tribe, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/Portland/portland-tribe-stillaguamish.asp> (access date - October 2004).

<sup>2</sup> Stanwood Area Historical Society. No date. A Short History of Stanwood and Camano Island, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.sahs-fncc.org/sahshistory2.html> (access date - October 2004).

<sup>3</sup> Whitely, P. 2004. Revving the engine of commerce. The Seattle Times, May 12.

<sup>4</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 - July 2004).

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- <sup>5</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 - July 2004).
- <sup>6</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>7</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>8</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>9</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>10</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>11</sup> Snohomish County Marine Resource Committee. 2003. The Role of the Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee in the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, [Online]. Available: URL: [http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/03\\_proceedings/PAPERS/ORAL/10b\\_johns.pdf](http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/03_proceedings/PAPERS/ORAL/10b_johns.pdf) (access date - September 2004).
- <sup>12</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>13</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>14</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>15</sup> Center for Columbia River History. No date. Boldt Decision, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.ccrh.org/comm/river/legal/boldt.htm> (access date - October 2004).
- <sup>16</sup> Fishery Biologist, Stillaguamish Tribe, Arlington, WA. Pers. commun., 28 October 2004.
- <sup>17</sup> Fishery Biologist, Stillaguamish Tribe, Arlington, WA. Pers. commun., 28 October 2004.