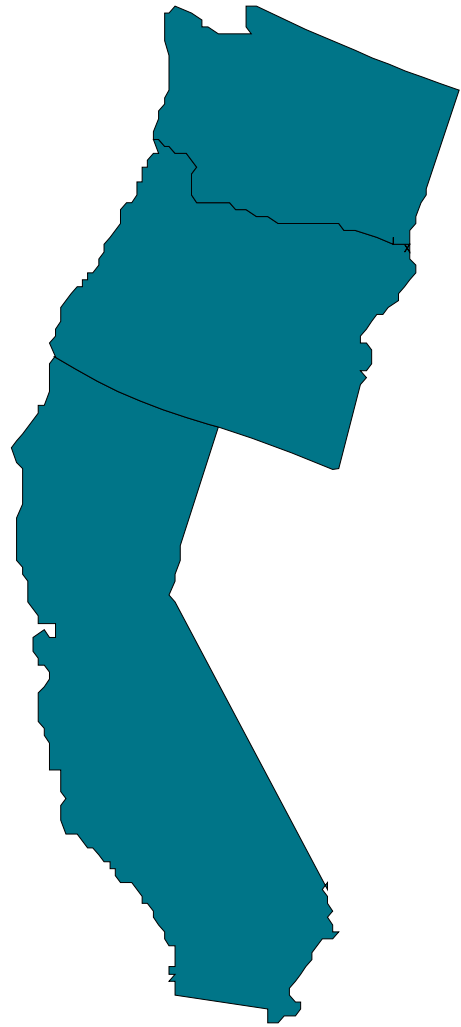


Pacific

- California
- Oregon
- Washington



Pacific Summary

Regional Context

The Pacific region includes the states of California, Oregon, and Washington which share 1,293 miles of coastline extending from the Canadian border in the north to the Mexican border in the south. California has 840 miles (65%) of this coastline, followed by Oregon (296 miles) and Washington (157 miles). These states also share 7,863 miles of tidal shoreline: California has 3,427 miles; Washington, 3,026 miles; and Oregon, 1,410 miles. Communities involved in marine fishing and harvesting are found along both the coastline and the tidal shoreline that includes Washington's Puget Sound and the region's largest inland waterway, the Columbia River. The Columbia River forms the boundary between Washington and Oregon.

The region's coastal mountain ranges, strong Pacific currents, and more than 16 degrees difference between its north and south latitudes help create diverse coastal ecological and climatic conditions. These range from Washington's temperate rainforest on the Olympic Peninsula in the north through Oregon's forested coastlines and California's Mediterranean climate around Monterey Bay, to southern California's semi-arid coastal hills and coastlines. Important species sought by commercial fishermen include Dungeness crab, Pacific sardines, Pacific whiting, California market squid, Chinook salmon, albacore tuna, and numerous groundfish species including rockfish, sablefish and halibut.

The attributes of fishing communities have changed over the last century along with related changes in the industry and the fish stocks. Historically most of the Pacific region's fishing communities were relatively small and isolated. Over the last century, ecological (including the degradation of fish stocks), demographic, technological, and commercial-industrial trends have resulted in the consolidation of fishing activities. Today, centers of marine commercial and recreational fishing include large cities like San Diego, California and Seattle, Washington, as well as subareas of major metropolitan areas like San Pedro, California, an area within Los Angeles.

Four of California's top commercial fishing communities are located in urban areas of more than 75,000 people. There is only one such fishing community in Washington and none in Oregon. Two of these California fishing communities have populations of over 750,000: San Francisco (776,733) and San Diego (1,223,341). Centers for fishing activity also include smaller cities like Bellingham and Olympia, Washington and Coos Bay, Oregon, as well as very small fishing communities with fewer than a thousand people in rural areas like Point Arena, California (474), Pacific City, Oregon (1,027), and La Push, Washington (371). Five of Washington's top commercial fishing communities have populations of fewer



Tomich Bros. offloading and icing, San Pedro, Los Angeles California

than 1,000, compared to three in California and none in Oregon.

Native Americans have harvested the region's marine life for millennia. Contemporary archaeology indicates that Native Americans arrived in the coastal areas as early as 13,000 years ago. Native peoples reliant on marine and aquatic species for a major portion of their diet were living in coastal and shoreline settlements when the earliest Europeans arrived between the 16th and 18th centuries. Native fishermen continue to harvest fish and other marine resources today for consumption and ceremonial purposes, and as commercial and recreational fishermen. The right to harvest marine and other aquatic resources on traditional fishing grounds is guaranteed under government-to-government treaties made between tribal groups and the United States in the 19th century, and reaffirmed by the 1974 Boldt Decision. Some fishing communities, for example, Neah Bay and La Push, Washington, are primarily Native American communities with their own distinctive governing and socioeconomic structure.

Several salmon species, including Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), and chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*), have been important commercial species and continue to have cultural significance to the region. Local festivals can be found in several communities that memorialize and celebrate the salmon. The issues surrounding the continued existence, harvest, and protection of the species are complex. This iconic species continues to draw broad attention throughout the region.

Recreational fishing is an important part of Pacific Coast recreational culture and contributes to the tourism economy in many locations. Opportunities for recreational fishing vary widely within the region. Washington's Puget Sound offers an array of inner coastal waters as well as opportunities to fish the Pacific Ocean. Oregon

and California both offer coastal fishing opportunities for marine species like salmon and tuna. Communities with a reputation for good fishing also tend to be linked to the tourism industry in general with more tourism infrastructure such as lodging, restaurants, and other amenities. Examples of fishing communities with important recreational fishing sectors include Westport, Washington, Monterey, California, and Gold Beach, Oregon. Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan De Fuca, Washington are home to an active whale watching tourism industry.

Fishing Communities Facts

- Many West Coast communities start their fishing seasons with spring time blessings of the fleet festivals and celebrations.
- In 2000, 1,004 communities in states across the country had some link to Pacific West Coast fisheries. These links included fishing permits, landings, and vessel ownership.
- Although they are thousands of miles away from some of Alaska's fisheries, West Coast communities like Seattle and Bellingham serve as hubs for North Pacific fishermen, crew, vessels, and companies.
- The community of Astoria, Oregon hosts a Fisher Poets Annual Gathering which features original poetry and songs written by participants in the fishing industry.

Fishing ports

- The port of Los Angeles is a major Pacific Coast port, landing 164.5 million pounds of fish in 2006.
- In 2000, Seattle was the homeport for 1,012 fishing vessels that were registered to participate in Alaskan state water fisheries.

Native Americans

- There are 50 federally-recognized Native American tribes in the Pacific region: 29 in Washington, 10 in Oregon, and 11 in California.
- Tribal rights to harvest marine resources are significant features of the fisheries in the Northwest. Twenty Native American tribes are included within the purview of U.S. treaties assuring these rights

Protected species

- Twenty-eight evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) of West Coast salmon and steelhead species have been listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). All of these are of traditional, recreational, and/or commercial value to the communities of the region.

Oceanographic conditions

- The 'California Current' along the length of the Pacific West Coast is linked to an upwelling of nutrients supporting abundant seabirds, marine mammals, and fisheries. Productive fisheries allowed for the development of marine-dependent communities including those of historical and literary note such as Monterey, California and its famed Cannery Row.

Fishing Communities

Overall, 125 fishing communities have been profiled by NMFS social scientists because of the nature of their links with commercial and/or recreational fishing in the Pacific region: 53 in California, 32 in Oregon, and 40 in Washington. In 2006, eleven of the U.S. top fifty ports by pounds landed were located on the West Coast. They are: Crescent City, Eureka, Los Angeles, Moss Landing, and Port Hueneme-Oxnard-Ventura, California; Astoria, Coos Bay-Charleston, and Newport, Oregon; and Bellingham, Ilwaco-Chinook, and Westport, Washington. On average, California, Oregon, and Washington accounted on average for 9.5% of U.S. landings from 1997-2006 and 10% of U.S. landings revenue during this period.¹

Neither Washington nor Oregon has major metropolitan cities located directly on their marine coastline. However, Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia, Washington are located on Puget Sound. California, the U.S.'s most populous state based on the 2000 U.S. Census, has several coastal cities with links to marine fisheries including San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Several of the Pacific region's fishing communities are home ports for fishing vessels that split their fishing year between Alaska's North Pacific regional waters and those off Washington, Oregon, and California. The owners and crew of these fishing vessels hold both Pacific and North Pacific region permits. Seattle and Bellingham, Washington are typical examples of these ports. Vessels also come from communities in Oregon such as Newport, and places in California, including communities like Eureka and San Francisco. Seattle is home to large seafood companies with very large fishing vessels that focus almost exclusively on Alaskan fishing, and some Alaskan fishing vessels also come south to the Pacific region to fish. These patterns create networks of fishing activity over a vast expanse of U.S. territorial waters off the Pacific Coast, the Gulf of Alaska, and the Bering Sea far to the north.

Community, Resiliency, Growth, Marine Health and Well Being

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 9.2% of families in the U.S. live below the poverty line, the median income level is \$42,000, and 18% of residents over five years of age speak a language other than English at home. The poverty rates, median income levels, and residents older than five who speak a language other than English at home vary across the states of the Pacific region and their fishing communities. More information on these and other factors that may affect community resiliency are discussed in the following sections.

¹Landings and landings revenue from offshore processors are excluded from this estimate.

Pacific Summary

California

Based upon the 2000 Census, the percentage of family households below the poverty level was 10.6% in California. Crescent City (33.7%), Point Arena (24.1%), San Pedro (13.2%), Fort Bragg (11.9%), and San Diego (10.6%) had the highest poverty rates across California's top fishing communities. The poverty rate in the other five fishing communities was below the national rate. The percentage of residents over five years of age who spoke a language other than English was 39.5% for the state, more than twice the national rate. Four of the top fishing communities, including San Francisco (45.7%) and San Pedro (40.0%), had comparably high rates. Only Crescent City (13.9%), Point Reyes (14.9%), and Bodega Bay (18.4%) had rates at or lower than the national rate.

At the state level, indicators show that since 1997, population has grown 13.2%, annual building permit issuance increased 46.5%, and the unemployment rate fell 23.4%. Building permit issuance fell 21.7% from 2005-2006. There were 13 disaster declarations during the 1997-2006 time period and two emergency declarations.

Oregon

In 2000, the percentage of family households below the poverty level in Oregon was 7.9%. With the exception of Depoe Bay (5.5%) and Port Orford (16.1%), the family household poverty rates in Oregon's top fishing communities ranged from 8.4% to 12.7%. The median income levels in the fishing communities were markedly lower than the state median income level (\$41,000), averaging \$31,000. The percentage of residents speaking English at home was 12.1% at the state level but less than 10% in all of the top fishing communities.

The state population grew 14.1% between 1997 and 2006. In contrast, the number of building permits issued decreased 1.4% during this period, largely due to a 14.2% decline in building permits issued in 2006 from 2005 levels. The unemployment rate (5.3% in 2006) decreased 5.4% during this period. There were six disaster declarations and one emergency declaration from 1997-2006.

Washington

In Washington, the percentage of family households below the poverty line was 7.3%. Neah Bay (26.3%) and La Push (20.9%) had the highest poverty rates among Washington's top fishing communities. The median income level in Neah Bay was less than half the state median income level. In Washington's other top fishing communities, the family household poverty rate ranged from 6% to 13.2%, and median income levels in these communities ranged from

\$30,000 to \$42,000. The median education level was some college for all communities except La Push (high school graduate).

The state population grew 14.1% between 1997 and 2006. The unemployment rate (4.9% in 2006) ranged from 4.8% in 1998 and 1999, to 7.4% in 2003. The issuance of building permits increased 22% between 1997 and 2006. There were 10 disaster declarations and one emergency declaration during the 1997-2006 time period.

List of Fishing Communities & Ports

The following list contains fishing communities and ports that have been identified by NMFS social science staff as having ties to commercial and/or recreational fisheries in the Pacific region. Communities that also have strong involvement in Alaska fisheries are identified with an asterisk (*). Profiles of these fishing communities are available to the public in *Community Profiles for West Coast and North Pacific Fisheries - Washington, Oregon, California, and Other U.S. States* at <http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/publications/displayallinfo.cfm?docmetadataid=6718>.

Washington

Aberdeen
Anacortes*
Bay Center
Bellingham*
Blaine
Bothell*
Cathlamet*
Chinook*
Edmonds*
Everett*
Ferndale
Fox Island
Friday Harbor
Gig Harbor
Grayland
Ilwaco
La Conner
La Push
Lakewood*
Long Beach
Lopez
Mount Vernon
Naselle
Neah Bay
Olympia
Port Angeles
Port Townsend
Raymond
Seattle*
Seaview
Sedro-Woolley

Sequim
Shelton
Silvana*
South Bend
Stanwood
Tacoma
Tokeland
Westport
Woodinville*

Oregon

Astoria*
Bandon
Beaver
Brookings
Charleston
Clatskanie
Cloverdale
Coos Bay
Depoe Bay
Florence
Garibaldi
Gold Beach
Hammond
Harbor
Logsdon
Monument
Newport*
North Bend
Pacific City
Port Orford
Reedsport

Rockaway Beach
Roseburg
Seaside
Siletz
Sisters*
South Beach
Tillamook
Toledo
Warrenton
Winchester Bay

California

Albion
Arroyo Grande
Atascadero
Avila Beach
Bodega Bay
Corte Madera
Costa Mesa
Crescent City
Culver City
Dana Point
Dillon Beach
El Granada
El Sobrante
Eureka
Fields Landing
Fort Bragg
Half Moon Bay
Kneeland
Lafayette
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Los Osos
Marina
McKinleyville
Monterey
Moss Landing Morro Bay
Novato
Oxnard
Pebble Beach
Point Arena
Port Hueneme
Princeton
San Diego
San Francisco
San Jose
San Pedro
Santa Ana
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz
Santa Rosa
Sausalito
Seaside
Sebastopol
Sunset Beach

Tarzana
Terminal Island
Torrance
Trinidad
Ukiah
Valley Ford
Ventura

New Jersey

Pleasantville*

Virginia

Seaford*