

Kongiganak (kahn-GIG-uh-nuk)



People and Place

*Location*¹

Kongiganak is located on the west shore of Kuskokwim Bay, west of the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. It lies 70 miles southwest of Bethel and 451 miles west of Anchorage. The community occupies 1.7 square miles of land and 0.2 square miles of water. Kongiganak is unincorporated, is located within the Bethel Census Area, and is not under the jurisdiction of a borough.

*Demographic Profile*²

In 2010, there were 439 inhabitants in Kongiganak, making it the 130st largest of 352 total Alaskan communities with recorded populations that year (Table 1). Overall between 1990 and 2010, the population increased by 49.3%. Between 2000 and 2009, the population grew by 29.5% with an average annual growth rate of 1.8%; which was higher than the statewide average of 0.75% and indicative of relatively robust growth. In a survey conducted by NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) in 2011, community leaders estimated that there were 10 temporary residents living in Kongiganak in 2010. Population peaks are somewhat driven by employment in fisheries sectors.

Kongiganak is a traditional Yup'ik Eskimo village. Racial and ethnic composition changed little between 2000 and 2010 (Figure 1). In 2010, 95.7% of residents identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native, compared to 95.8% in 2000; 2.1% identified themselves as White, compared to 2.8% in 2000; and 2.3% identified themselves as two or more races, compared to 1.4% in 2000. In addition, 1.8% of residents identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, compared to 1.7% in 2000.

In 2010, the average household size in Kongiganak was 4.67, compared to 4.90 in 1990 and 4.54 in 2000. In that year, there were a total of 102 housing units, compared to 67 in 1990 and 90 in 2000. Of the households surveyed in 2010, 42% were owner-occupied, compared to 50% in 2000; 50% were renter-occupied, compared to 38% in 2000; 7% were vacant, compared to 11% in 2000; and 1% were occupied seasonally, compared to 1% in 2000. No residents lived in group quarters between 1990 and 2010.

In 2010, the gender distribution was somewhat male biased at 54.0% male and 46.0% female. This was somewhat less even than the distribution statewide (52.0% male, 48.0% female), and similar to the distribution in 2000 (54.6% male, 45.4% female). The median

¹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

² U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2000 (SF1 100% and SF3 sample data) and 2010 (Demographic Profile SF) Decennial Census and the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

age that year was 23.9 years, which was significantly younger than the statewide median of 33.8 years and slightly older than the 2000 median of 21.8 years.

Table 1. Population in Kongiganak from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census ¹	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents ²
1990	294	-
2000	359	-
2001	-	372
2002	-	372
2003	-	404
2004	-	413
2005	-	426
2006	-	416
2007	-	434
2008	-	444
2009	-	465
2010	439	-

¹ (1) U.S. Census Bureau (1990). *CP-1: General Population Characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/1990.html>. (2) U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2000 (SF1 100% and SF3 sample data) and 2010 (Demographic Profile SF) Decennial Census and the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

² Alaska Department of Labor. 2011. Current population estimates for Alaskan Communities. Retrieved April 15, 2011, from <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/pop/popest.htm>.

Figure 1. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Kongiganak: 2000-2010 (U.S. Census).

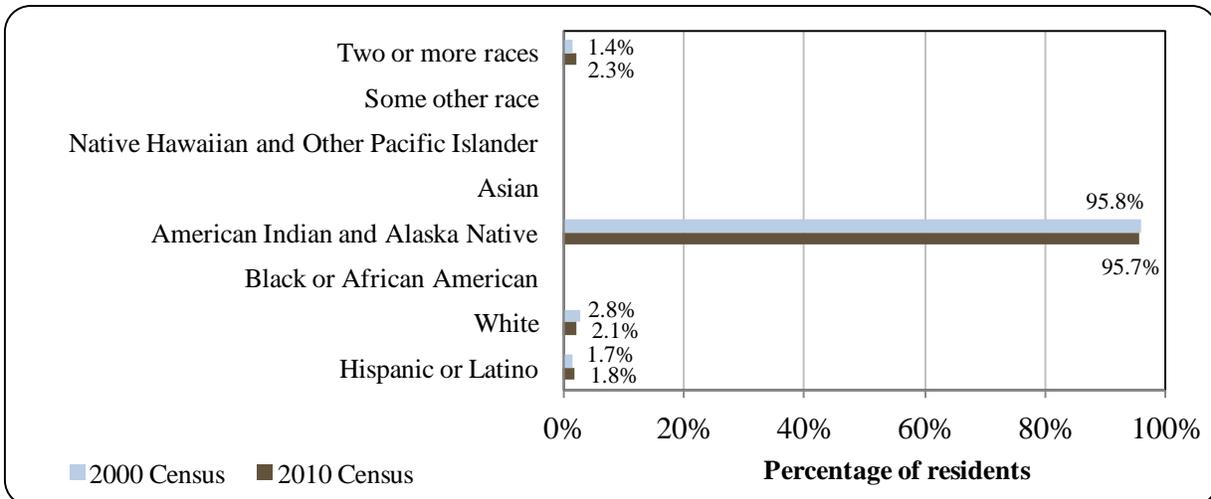
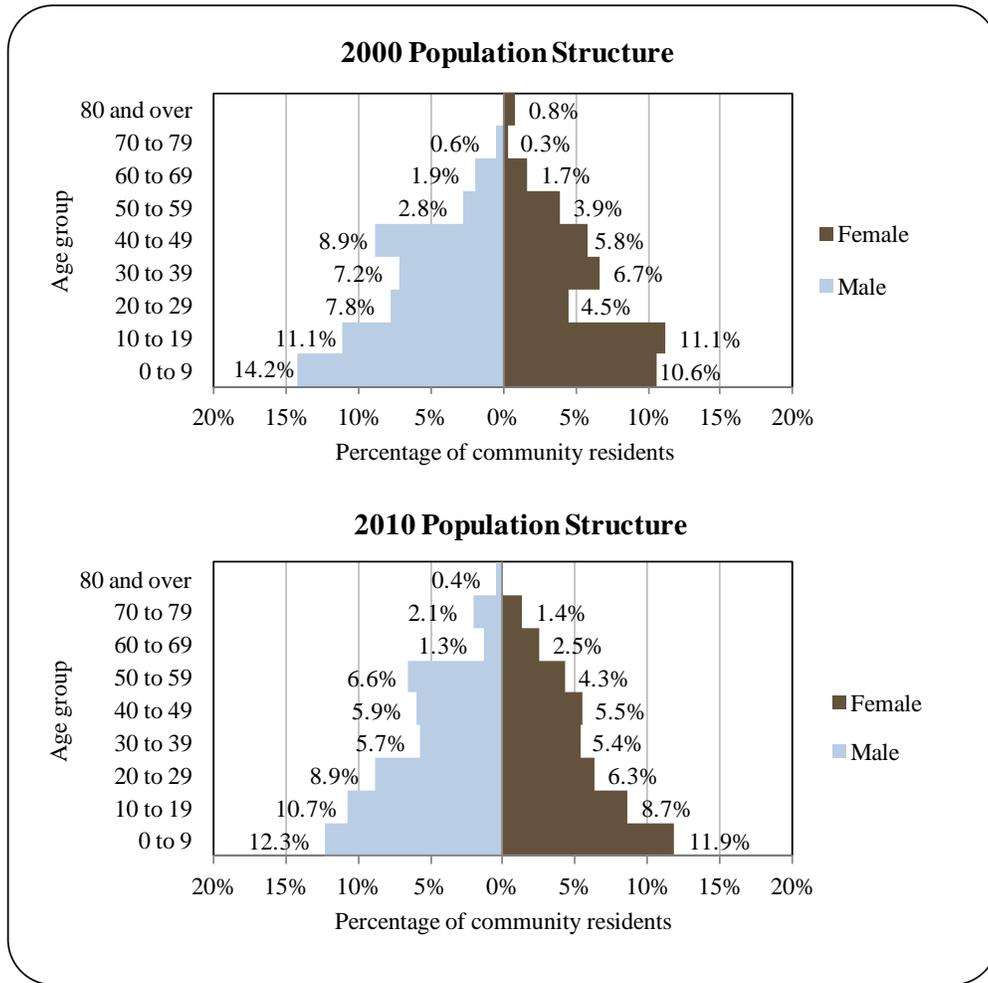


Figure 2. Population Age Structure in Kongiganak Based on the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Decennial Census.



The population structure was significantly expansive in both 2010 and 2000. In 2010, 43.6% of residents were under the age of 20, compared to 47% in 2000; 7.7% were over the age of 59, compared to 5.3% in 2000; 33.4% were between the ages of 30 and 59, compared to 35.3% in 2000; and 15.2% were between the ages of 20 and 29, compared to 12.3% in 2000.

Gender distribution by age cohort was slightly more even in 2010 than in 2000. In that year, the greatest absolute gender difference occurred within the 20 to 29 age range (8.9% male, 6.3% female), followed by the 10 to 19 age range (10.7% male, 8.7% female) and the 60 to 69 age range (6.6% male, 4.3% female). However, the difference in males and females in the 0 to 9 age range decreased to 0.4% in 2010 from 3.6% in 2000. Further information regarding trends in Kongiganak’s population structure can be found in Figure 2.

In terms of educational attainment, the U.S. Census’ 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS)³ estimated that 77.1% of residents aged 25 and over held a high school diploma or

³ While ACS estimates can provide a good snap shot estimate for larger populations, smaller populations can be misrepresented by ACS estimates if demographic information is not collected from a representative sample of the

higher degree in 2010, compared to an estimated 90.7% of Alaska residents overall. Also in that year, an estimated 10.6% of residents had less than a 9th grade education, compared to an estimated 3.5% of Alaska residents overall; an estimated 12.4% had a 9th to 12th grade education but no diploma, compared to an estimated 5.8% of Alaska residents overall; an estimated 16.5% had some college but no degree, compared to an estimated 28.3% of Alaska residents overall; 2.4% of resident held a Bachelor's degree, compared to an estimated 17.4% of Alaska residents overall; and no resident held a graduate or professional degree, compared to an estimated 9.6% of Alaska residents overall.

History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture

The Native people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region have followed a traditionally nomadic, subsistence lifestyle dating back centuries. Extensive trade networks throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta were established prior to contact with Russian explorers in the late nineteenth century, and by the time of contact the Native people in the region already had access to Eurasian goods from trade routes across the Bering Strait. *Pastuliarraq*, near present-day Kotlik, was a trading center which connected these routes with the lower Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region.⁴

The nineteenth century was a time of European expansion and development in the region and with it came waves of disease epidemics which had disastrous effects on the Native peoples in the area. In the early twentieth century, the influence of missionaries coinciding with the influenza epidemics of 1900 and 1912 drastically changed the social and cultural identity of an entire generation within the region.⁵

The area has been occupied historically by Yup'ik Eskimos. The village was permanently settled in the late 1960s by former residents of Kwigillingok, who were seeking higher ground to escape periodic flooding. Kongiganak has a fishing and subsistence lifestyle and culture. The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is banned in the village.⁶

Natural Resources and Environment

Kongiganak is located in a marine climate. Annual precipitation averages 22 inches, with 43 inches of snowfall annually. Summer temperatures range from 41 to 57 °F, and winter temperatures average 6 to 24 °F.

The entire Kuskokwim River system covers approximately 52,000 square miles of southwest Alaska, or 11 % of all the land area of Alaska. The river system originates on the northwest flank of the Alaska Range, where glacial streams merge to form the meandering, silt-laden Kuskokwim River which flows southwest between the high alluvial terraces. Fast, clear tributaries enter the river from the western Alaska Range. The river courses a broad valley, laden

population. This is especially problematic for Alaskan communities with small populations that have a low probability of being adequately sampled.

⁴ Association of Village Council Presidents. (2000). *2000 Yukon-Kuskokwim Strategic Plan*. Retrieved January 12, 2012 from: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/YukonKuskokwimDelta-EDP-2000.pdf>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

with tundra ponds and lakes, until finally emptying into the Bering Sea, at a point nearly 40 miles southwest of Bethel, Alaska.⁷

Kongiganak is part of the Lower Kuskokwim Resource Conservation and Development region which encompasses the area from the boundary of the Lower Kuskokwim Regional Educational Attendance Area (defined by the villages of Newtok on Baird Inlet, Kasigluk, and Nunapitchuk on the Johnson River and Tuluksak on the Kuskokwim River) including the villages of Chevak and Hooper Bay to the north; the Kuskokwim River downriver of Tuluksak to the east; the Ahklun and Kilbuck Mountains to the south; and the Bering Sea to the west. There are 27 communities located in this portion of southwest Alaska. The population is over 15,000, of which approximately 6,000 live in Bethel, the regional center. No roads connect any of the communities to each other—mechanized access is by air, boat, or snow-machine only. Most communities are located along the Kuskokwim River or near the Bering Sea. The area also includes Nunivak and Nelson Islands. There are no major agricultural or industrial enterprises on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta due to poor soil conditions and the area's remoteness from major markets in the rest of the state. Local residents use this remote area primarily for subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering purposes.⁸

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta is an alluvial flood plain. The Kuskokwim River is the second largest drainage area in the state of Alaska. The glacially turbid mainstem is approximately 900 miles long, originating from the interior headwaters of the Kuskokwim Mountains and the shadows of the Alaska Range. The Kuskokwim River flows in a southwest direction to the Bering Sea. The sparsely populated Kuskokwim drainage has population centers at Bethel, Aniak, and McGrath, in addition to numerous villages along its length, including Kwigillingok.⁹

Kongiganak is located within the boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The Yukon Delta NWR was established “to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity, including, but not limited to shorebirds, seabirds, tundra swans, emperor, white-fronted and Cackling Geese, black brant and other migratory birds, salmon, muskoxen, and marine mammals; to fulfill treaty obligations; to provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses; and to ensure water quality and necessary water quantity.” Most of the Refuge is a vast, flat wetland/tundra complex dotted by countless ponds, lakes, and meandering rivers. Approximately half of the Yukon Delta NWR is covered by water. Many streams and sloughs are former tributaries of the two major rivers. Some forest habitat is present along rivers and in the Kilbuck Mountains, located in the southeastern part of the Refuge. Moose, caribou, brown bear and black bear can be found in this mountain range, which rises to between 2,000 and 4,000 feet in elevation.¹⁰

Kongiganak is also approximately 50 miles across the Kuskokwim Bay from the Togiak NWR and the Wood-Tikchik State Park. Togiak NWR covers 4.7 million acres, of which the northern 2.3 million acres are designated as Togiak Wilderness Area. Like the Yukon Delta NWR, the Togiak NWR protects the habitat of a wide array of birds, fish and mammals. East of

⁷ Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council. (June 2006). *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy & Area Plan*. Retrieved May 16, 2012 from <http://www.lkedc.org/ARDPLAN1.pdf>.

⁸ Association of Village Council Presidents. (2000). *2000 Yukon-Kuskokwim Strategic Plan*. Retrieved January 12, 2012 from: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/YukonKuskokwimDelta-EDP-2000.pdf>.

⁹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. *Kuskokwim Management Area: Overview*. Retrieved May 17, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=ByAreaInteriorKuskokwim.moreoverview>.

¹⁰ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. *Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Homepage*. Retrieved December 8, 2011 from <http://yukondelta.fws.gov/>.

Togiak NWR, Wood-Tikchik is the largest state park in the United States. The Togiak NWR includes a diversity of terrain and ecosystems. The Wood River and Tilchik systems host all five species of Pacific salmon, along with rainbow trout, grayling, lake trout, Arctic char, Dolly Varden and northern pike. Tilchik Lake is an important site for whitefish subsistence harvest. Moose, caribou and brown bear are common in the park, along with black bear in a limited area of the park. Small game present in the area includes beaver, muskrat, otter, fox, wolverine, mink and porcupine. Ground squirrels and marmots are abundant, along with a variety of resident and migratory waterfowl and land birds.¹¹

Current Economy¹²

As a region, western Alaska is characterized by the lowest per capita income and highest unemployment rate in the state. Obstacles to local economic development are complex. Unemployment and underemployment are chronic problems and wage employment opportunities are rare and often restricted to seasonal work. The poverty rate approaches elevated levels in most villages, and many residents rely on public assistance. Subsistence activities are adopted not only as way to supplement income, but as a way of life which combats social stressors associated with high wage unemployment. Subsistence activities are interwoven into the social and cultural fabric of western Alaska communities and are imperative to cultural identity as much as to village survival. The economic value of subsistence is very difficult to calculate. Most food and goods harvested cannot be sold so value is derived from substitute goods. However, many goods are without an obvious market substitute, so even this proves difficult.¹³

In 2010,¹⁴ the estimated per capita income was \$7,842 and the estimated median household income was \$33,542, compared to \$9,881 and \$33,250 in 2000. After adjusting for inflation by converting 2000 values into 2010 dollars,¹⁵ the real per capita income (\$12,993) and real median household income (\$43,723) indicate a significant decline in both personal and household earnings. In 2010, Kongiganak ranked 297th of 305 communities from which per capita income was estimated, and 226th of 299 communities from which median household income was estimated. This ranks Kongiganak among communities with the lowest per capita income in the state.

Kongiganak's small population size may have prevented the American Community Survey from accurately portraying economic conditions.¹⁶ Another way of understanding of per capita income is obtained through economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce

¹¹ Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources. (n.d.) Wood-Tilchik State Park website. Retrieved December 6, 2011 from <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/woodtik.htm>.

¹² Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

¹³ See footnote 8.

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). *Profile of selected social, economic and housing characteristics of all places within Alaska*. Datasets utilized include the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

¹⁵ Inflation was calculated using the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for 2010 (retrieved January 5, 2012 from the Alaska Department of Labor, <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/cpi/inflationcalc.htm>).

¹⁶ While American Community Survey (ACS) estimates can provide a good snapshot estimate for larger populations, smaller populations can be misrepresented by ACS estimates if demographic information is not collected from a representative sample of the population. This is especially problematic for Alaskan communities with small populations that have a low probability of being adequately sampled.

Development (DOLWD). According to the ALARI database, residents earned \$2.47 million in total wages in 2010.^{17,18} When matched with the 2010 Decennial Census population, the per capita income equaled \$5,629, which was less than the 2010 ACS estimate and suggests that caution should be used when comparing 2010 ACS and 2000 Decennial Census figures. This is supported by the fact that the community was recognized as “distressed” by the Denali Commission indicating that over 70% of residents aged 16 and older earned less than \$16,120 in 2010.¹⁹ However, it should be noted that American Community Survey and DOLWD data are based on wage earnings and does not take into account the value of subsistence within the local economy.

According to 2006-2010 ACS estimates,²⁰ 56.1% of residents aged 16 and older were part of the civilian labor force in 2010. In that year, unemployment was estimated at 21.1%, compared to 5.9% statewide; and an estimated 30.2% of residents lived below the poverty level, compared to an estimated 9.5% of Alaska residents overall. Again, Kongiganak’s small population size may have prevented the ACS from accurately portraying unemployment. Based on 2010 ALARI estimates, which were based on unemployment insurance claimants, the unemployment rate (27.2%) was approximately one and a quarter times that of the ACS estimate.

Of those employed, an estimated 31.3% worked in the private sector, an estimated 65.0% worked in the public sector, and an estimated 3.8% were self-employed. By industry, most (39.9%) employed residents were estimated to work in education services, health care, and social assistance sectors; followed by public administration (25.1%) and retail trade sectors (10.4%) (Figure 3). Between 2000 and 2010, there were significant proportional declines in arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, food services, agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining sectors. Conversely, there were significant proportional gains in public administration and other service sectors. According to 2010 ALARI estimates, most (44.2%) employed residents worked in local government sectors; followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (21.4%) and financial service sectors (9.3%).

By occupation type, most (54.6%) employed residents were estimated to hold management or professional positions; followed by natural resources, construction, or maintenance positions (14.2%); sales or office positions (13.1%); service positions (9.3%); and production, transportation, or material moving positions (8.7%) (Figure 4). Between 2000 and 2010, there were significant proportional gains in the number of residents employed in management and professional positions. Conversely, there were significant proportional declines in the number of residents holding service positions.

No individuals characterized themselves as working in natural resource based industries that include fishing in 2010. However, given the data reported in the *Commercial Fishing* section below, the number of individuals employed in the farming, fishing, and forestry industries may be underestimated by census statistics as fishermen may hold another job and characterize their employment accordingly.

¹⁷ ALARI estimates based on wages reported for unemployment insurance purposes. Estimates do not include self-employed or federally employed residents.

¹⁸ Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (n.d.). *Alaska Local and Regional Information Database*. Retrieved April 23, 2012 from <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/alari/>.

¹⁹ Denali Commission. 2011. *Distressed Community Criteria 2011 Update*. Retrieved April 16, 2012 from: www.denali.gov.

²⁰ See footnote 16.

Figure 3. Local Employment by Industry in 2000-2010, Kongiganak (U.S. Census).

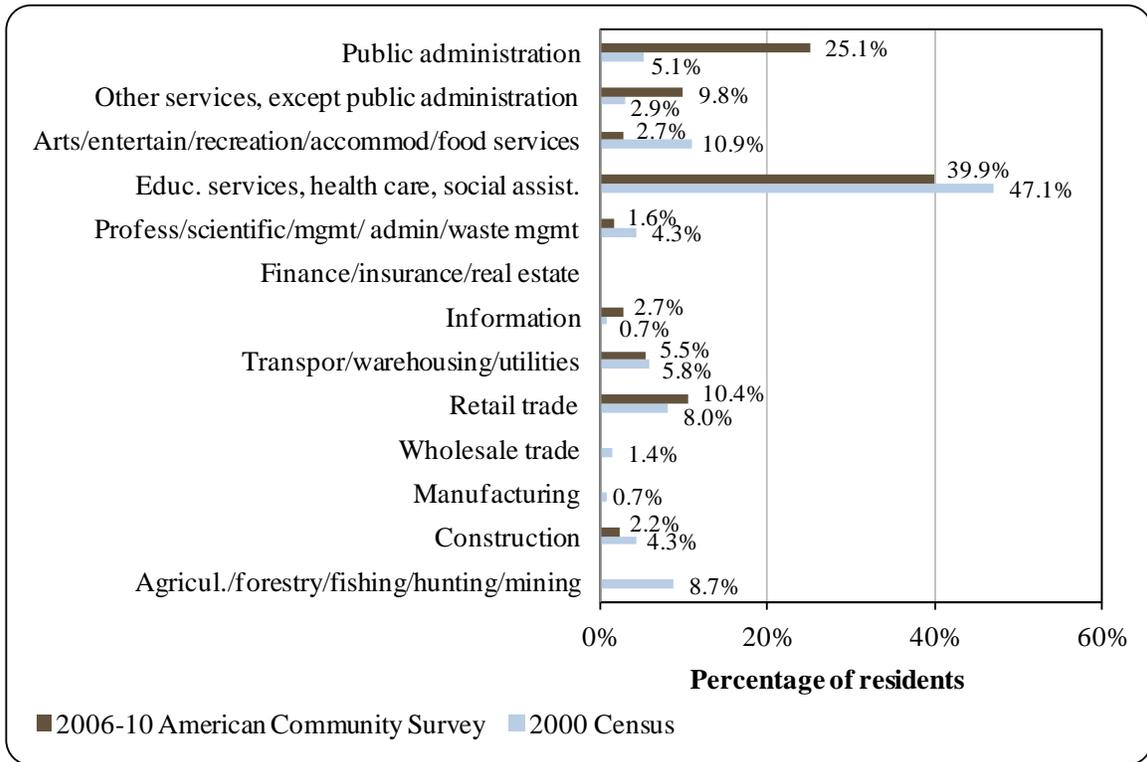
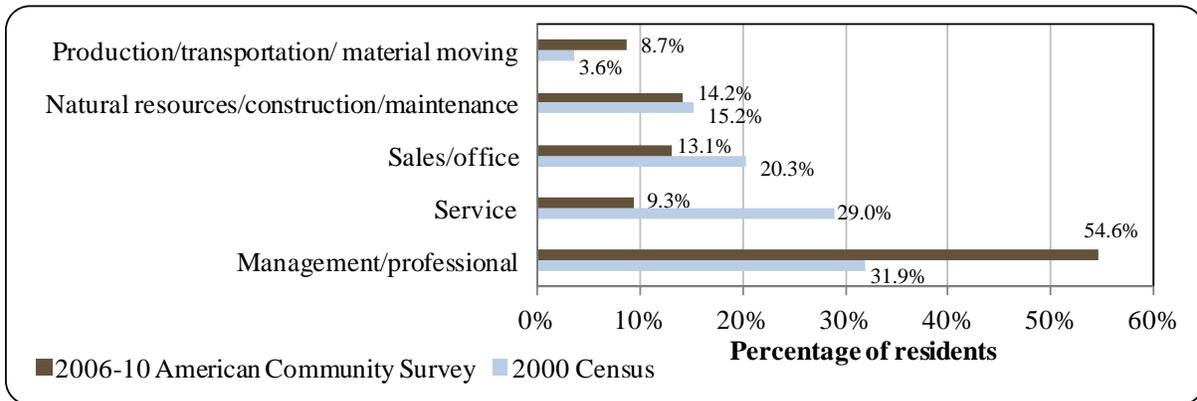


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Kongiganak (U.S. Census).



Governance

Kongiganak is an unincorporated community and is not located within an organized borough. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) chartered regional corporation representing Kongiganak is the Calista Corporation, and the local ANCSA chartered non-profit is the Association of Village Council Presidents. The ANCSA chartered village corporation is Qemirtalek Coast Corporation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs recognized traditional council for Kongiganak is the Kongiganak Traditional Council. Kongiganak is also a member of the Bering

Sea Elders Advisory Group (BSEAG), whose mission is “to bring together elders as one voice to protect our traditional ways of life, the ocean web of life that supports the resources we rely on, and our children’s future.”²¹ The BSEAG was established in 2007 due to the elders’ concerns about the proximity of bottom trawling to some of their villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim and Bering Strait regions, and the potential movement of industrial fisheries into northern Bering Sea Waters.

Kongiganak is unincorporated and unable to administer taxes or collect local fees. However, between 2000 and 2003, traditional council received State Revenue Sharing funds totaling \$15,189. Information regarding municipal finances can be found in Table 2.

The closest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices are located in Bethel, 70 miles northeast. The closest U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services office is located in Anchorage, 451 miles east.

Table 2. Selected Municipal, State, or Federal Revenue Streams for the Community of Kongiganak from 2000 to 2010.

Year	Total Municipal Revenue ¹	Sales Tax Revenue ²	State/Community Revenue Sharing ^{3,4}	Fisheries-Related Grants (State and Federal) ⁵
2000	n/a	n/a	\$4,170	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	\$3,707	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	\$3,681	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	\$3,631	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.

² Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Econ. Dev. (n.d.). *Alaska Taxable (2000-2010)*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm.

³ Alaska Dept. of Rev. (n.d.). *(2000-2009) Taxes and Fees Annual Report*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from <https://www.tax.state.ak.us>.

⁴ The State Revenue Sharing program ceased in 2003 and was replaced by the Community Revenue Sharing program starting in 2009.

⁵ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Funding Database*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm.

²¹ Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group (n.d.). *Homepage*. Retrieved May 18, 2012 from <http://www.beringsealders.org/>.

Infrastructure

*Connectivity and Transportation*²²

Residents of Kongiganak utilize air, water, and land travel to reach other communities. A state-owned 1,885-foot long by 35-foot wide gravel airstrip is available, and charter flights are available from a variety of providers including ERA Alaska, Grant Aviation, Ryan Air Service, and Yute Air. As of June 2012, roundtrip airfare from Anchorage to Kongiganak cost \$674.

Snowmobiles, boats, and skiffs provide local transportation to Bethel and other area villages. Winter trails exist to Kwigillingok (11.1 miles) and Tuntutuliak (29 miles). There are no docking facilities in Kongiganak; barges deliver cargo once or twice each summer.

Facilities

Electricity in Kongiganak is provided by a diesel powerhouse owned by the Puvurnaq Power Company. The Village Council provides disposal bunkers for honeybuckets and operates both a pre-treatment plant and a sewage lagoon for waste disposal. Kongiganak homes and facilities use treated surface water hauled from the washeteria operated by the Village Council. No homes have complete plumbing. Some residents use rain catchment during the summer and ice melt in the winter. Water is filtered and chlorinated by the village council before distribution from a central watering point or through water truck delivery.²³ A multipurpose, community hall is available in Kongiganak.

The nearest Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) is stationed in Kongiganak,²⁴ and the nearest state trooper post is in Bethel.²⁵ A volunteer fire department in Kongiganak provides fire protection services. Kongiganak does not have a post office, but telephone service and internet access are provided by United Utilities Inc. and AT&T.

With regard to fisheries-related infrastructure, the DOLWD community profile of Levelock states there are no docking facilities in Kongiganak.²⁶ Community leaders declined to elaborate on fishing-related infrastructure and businesses operating in Kongiganak in the 2011 AFSC survey.

Medical Services

The Lillian E. Jimmy Memorial Health Clinic operated by the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation provides residents with basic medical services. Emergency Services have coastal and air access. Emergency service is provided by a health aide. The closest hospital services are located in Bethel.

²² Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.). *Community Database Online*. Retrieved October 17, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Dept. of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers. *Active VPSO's by Village, December 2011*. Retrieved December 12, 2011 from <http://www.dps.alaska.gov/>.

²⁵ Alaska Dept. of Public Safety. 2012. *Alaska State Trooper Detachments*. Retrieved June 1, 2012 from <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/detachments.aspx>.

²⁶ Ibid.

Educational Opportunities

Ayagina'ar Elitnaurvik offers preschool through 12th grade instruction. As of 2011, there were 144 students enrolled and 12 teachers.²⁷

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

History and Evolution of Fisheries

Harvest of marine resources has been important to residents of the Kongiganak area since prehistory. Yup'ik Eskimo people were historically very mobile, following the migration and seasonal availability of subsistence resources.²⁸ Subsistence salmon harvest continues to be a primary economic activity along the Kuskokwim River. In addition to salmon, spring harvest of herring roe on kelp or hemlock boughs is an important subsistence resource for coastal Alaskan communities.²⁹

Commercial harvest of salmon first took place in the Kuskokwim area in 1913, although in the early years it was a quasi-commercial fishery with limited distribution. Catch was dried and sold as food for sled dogs during the 1930s when dog teams were the primary means of hauling freight to villages in Western Alaska. At the time of statehood, commercial fishing districts were defined along the Kuskokwim River. In the 1960s and 1970s, commercial salmon fisheries in the Kuskokwim were still considered experimental, and management efforts focused on increasing commercial use while ensuring continued supply for subsistence use. Harvest levels continued to increase until the mid-1990s, after which time fishing effort, harvest levels and salmon prices decreased. Current state dictated management is focused on sustainability of salmon runs, ensuring subsistence needs are met, and with a precautionary approach, providing opportunity for commercial harvest of available surpluses.³⁰

Commercial catch of herring for bait began in Alaska around 1900, and herring sac roe fisheries developed in the late 1970s.³¹ The largest aggregation of herring in Alaska spawns along the northern shore of Bristol Bay, near the village of Togiak and to the south of Kongiganak. Spawning herring are harvested using purse seines and gillnets in the Togiak sac roe fishery. A spawn-on-kelp harvest is also taken, primarily by local residents. Along the Yukon/Kuskokwim coast there are six commercial gillnet sac roe districts: Security Cove, Goodnews Bay, Cape Avinof, Nelson Island, and Cape Romanzof. Harvests in these areas have been declining in recent years, in part due to lack of processing capacity in the region.³²

²⁷ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

²⁸ Alaska Native Heritage Center. (n.d) Yup'ik & Cup'ik - Who We Are website. Retrieved December 8, 2011 from http://www.alaskanative.net/en/main_nav/education/culture_alaska/Yup'ik/.

²⁹ Woodby, Doug, Dave Carlile, Shareef Siddeek, Fritz Funk, John H. Clark, and Lee Hulbert. 2005. *Commercial Fisheries of Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 05-09. Retrieved December 29, 2011 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/sp05-09.pdf>.

³⁰ Clark, McGregor, Mecum, Krasnowski and Carroll. 2006. "Kuskokwim Commercial Salmon Fishery." In *The Commercial Salmon Fishery in Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Pgs. 105-146. Retrieved December 28, 2011 from http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1_p4.pdf.

³¹ See footnote 29.

³² Ibid.

Kongiganak is located in Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 514, Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 4E, and the Bering Sea Sablefish Regulatory Area. The community is not eligible for the Community Quota Entity program. Kongiganak participates in the Community Development Quota program through the Coastal Villages Regional Fund (CVRF), which promotes training and employment opportunities for residents, provides community and development programs for member villages, and offers loans to facilitate involvement of locals in Bering Sea crab and groundfish fisheries.

Processing Plants

According to ADF&G's 2010 Intent to Operate list, Kongiganak does not have a registered processing plant. The closest seafood processor is located in Goodnews Bay, 68 miles southeast.

Fisheries-Related Revenue

Between 2000 and 2010, there was no known fisheries-related revenue received by the community of Kongiganak.

Commercial Fishing

Most residents in Kongiganak fish from within the Kuskokwim River drainage and from local drainages that drain into Kuskokwim Bay. Chinook salmon enter the Kuskokwim River in late May, while chum and sockeye salmon begin their entry in mid-June. Chinook and sockeye salmon runs decline rapidly in early July. Chum salmon run entry begins to decline in late July when coho salmon runs begin. Coho salmon run through August and September. Kuskokwim River Chinook are primarily harvested for subsistence purposes, although commercial Chinook fisheries do occur in Kuskokwim Bay.³³

The Kuskokwim Area commercial fishery was generally stable from 1985 to 1996. Beginning in 1997, the value of salmon, particularly chum salmon, began to decline. This led to decreased fishing effort and number of fish harvested. Furthermore, poor Chinook and chum salmon returns from 1999 through 2001 resulted in increased fishery restrictions. Chinook and chum abundances rebounded in the mid-2000s; however, poor market conditions continued along with limited seafood processing capacity. The opening of a new fish processor in Platinum in 2009 led to local market improvements.³⁴

In 1984, commercial herring fishing was initiated in the Nunivak Island District by emergency order. Kuskokwim area herring fisheries developed rapidly in response to strong herring sac roe markets. However, by 1990, stocks began to decline from increased pressure on the fishery. In response, harvest levels were reduced until recruitment levels increased in the late 1990s. After stocks peaked in 1997-1999, market conditions began to falter, and effort was reduced through the 2006 season. The decline in markets for herring sac roe continued through 2010, with no commercial herring harvests occurring in the Kuskokwim area since 2006.³⁵

³³ Brazil, C., Bue, D., Carroll, H., and Elison, T. (2011). *2010 Kuskokwim Area Management Report*. Retrieved August 24, 2012 from: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidpdfs/FMR11-67.pdf>.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of commercial fishing permits held within the community followed a declining trend. In 2010, 26 residents, or 5.9% of the population, held 26 commercial fishing permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). In 2000, 31 residents held 38 CFEC permits. Most notably, there was a significant decline in CFEC permits between 2000 and 2003 before leveling off. Of the permits held in 2010, 81% were for salmon, compared to 68% in 2000; 15% were for herring, compared to 18% in 2000; and 4% were for halibut, compared to 13% in 2000. Both halibut and herring permit ownership and activity was in steady decline during those years as the fisheries became less popular locally. Between 2000 and 2010, no residents held Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP) or License Limitation Program (LLP) permits. In addition, no residents held federal halibut, sablefish, or crab quota shares between 2000 and 2010.

Residents held 24 commercial crew licenses in 2010, compared to 38 in 2000; which was also the year that resident held commercial crew licenses peaked. Also in 2010, residents held majority ownership of 13 vessels, compared to 24 in 2000; which was also the year that local vessel ownership peaked. Of the CFEC permits held in 2010, 54% were actively fished, compared to 55% in 2000. This varied by fishery from 67% of salmon permits, to 0% of halibut and herring permits. Herring permits were actively fished in 2000, 2001, and 2003. Halibut permits were actively fished in 2000 and 2008. Overall permit activity peaked in 2000. Fisheries prosecuted in 2010 by Kongiganak residents included: Bristol Bay drift gillnet salmon and Kuskokwim gillnet salmon.³⁶

Between 2000 and 2010, no landings were reported in Kongiganak. Landings reported by residents are confidential with the exception of salmon landings between 2000 and 2003. In 2003, residents landed 122,225 pounds of salmon valued at \$59,923 ex-vessel, compared to 180,998 valued at \$116,599 in 2000; a decrease of \$0.15 per pound landed after adjusting for inflation,³⁷ and without considering the species composition of landings. Information regarding commercial fishing trends can be found in Tables 4 through 10.

³⁶ Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. *Alaska commercial fishing permits, permit holders, and vessel licenses, 2000 – 2010*. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

³⁷ Inflation calculated using 2003 Producer Price Index for unprocessed and packaged fish, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/ppi/#data>.

Table 3. Known Fisheries-Related Revenue (in U.S. Dollars) Received by the Community of Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Revenue source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Raw fish tax ¹	n/a										
Shared Fisheries Business Tax ¹	n/a										
Fisheries Resource Landing Tax ¹	n/a										
Fuel transfer tax ²	n/a										
Extraterritorial fish tax ²	n/a										
Bulk fuel transfers ¹	n/a										
Boat hauls ²	n/a										
Harbor usage ²	n/a										
Port/dock usage ²	n/a										
Fishing gear storage on public land ³	n/a										
Marine fuel sales tax ³	n/a										
<i>Total fisheries-related revenue</i> ⁴	n/a										
<i>Total municipal revenue</i> ⁵	n/a										

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

¹ Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Econ. Dev. (n.d.) *Alaska Taxable (2000-2010)*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 from http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm.

² Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.) *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.

³ Reported by community leaders in a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011.

⁴ Total fisheries related revenue represents a sum of all known revenue sources in the previous rows.

⁵ Total municipal revenue represents the total revenue that the City reports each year in its municipal budget. Alaska Dept. of Comm. and Rural Affairs. (n.d.) *Financial Documents Delivery System*. Retrieved April 15, 2011 at http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm.

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Table 4. Permits and Permit Holders by Species, Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) ¹	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Active permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crab (LLP) ¹	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Active permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fisheries Permits ¹	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crab (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other shellfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halibut (CFEC) ²	Total permits	5	4	4	1	2	2	6	7	1	1	1
	Fished permits	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	% of permits fished	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
	Total permit holders	5	4	4	1	2	2	6	7	1	1	1
Herring (CFEC) ²	Total permits	7	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	4
	Fished permits	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	43%	50%	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total permit holders	7	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	4

Table 4 cont'd. Permits and Permit Holders by Species, Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groundfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Finfish (CFEC) ²	Total permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	n/a										
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon (CFEC) ²	Total permits	26	23	23	22	22	23	21	21	21	21	21
	Fished permits	17	15	8	5	8	12	8	10	10	8	14
	% of permits fished	65%	65%	35%	23%	36%	52%	38%	48%	48%	38%	67%
	Total permit holders	25	22	22	22	21	22	21	20	20	22	22
<i>Total CFEC Permits²</i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>54%</i>
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>

¹ National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Data on License Limitation Program, Alaska Federal Processor Permits (FPP), Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP), and Permit holders. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

² Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska commercial fishing permits, permit holders, and vessel licenses, 2000 – 2010. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 5. Characteristics of the Commercial Fishing Sector in Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	Crew License Holders ¹	Count of All Fish Buyers ²	Count of Shore-Side Processing Facilities ³	Vessels Primarily Owned by Residents ⁴	Vessels Homeported ⁴	Vessels Landing Catch in Kongiganak ²	Total Net Pounds Landed in Kongiganak ^{2,5}	Total Ex-vessel Value of Landings in Kongiganak ^{2,5}
2000	38	0	0	24	17	0	0	\$0
2001	27	0	0	20	16	0	0	\$0
2002	15	0	0	16	10	0	0	\$0
2003	6	0	0	11	5	0	0	\$0
2004	17	0	0	10	4	0	0	\$0
2005	26	0	0	14	7	0	0	\$0
2006	16	0	0	11	9	0	0	\$0
2007	15	0	0	15	13	0	0	\$0
2008	25	0	0	8	6	0	0	\$0
2009	19	0	0	10	8	0	0	\$0
2010	24	0	0	13	9	0	0	\$0

¹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish and crew license holders, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska fish ticket data. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

³ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (2011). Data on Alaska fish processors. ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

⁴ Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska commercial fishing permits, permit holders, and vessel licenses, 2000 – 2010. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

⁵ Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Table 6. Halibut Catch Share Program Participation in Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders	Halibut Quota Shares Held	Halibut IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Alaska Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit data. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 7. Sablefish Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders	Sablefish Quota Shares Held	Sablefish IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2000	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Alaska Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit data. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 8. Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Crab Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	Number of Crab Quota Share Account Holders	Crab Quota Shares Held	Crab IFQ Allotment (Pounds)
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. Alaska Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit data. NMFS Alaska Regional Office. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

Table 9. Landed Pounds and Ex-vessel Revenue, by Species, in Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

	<i>Total Net Pounds¹</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halibut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Groundfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Shellfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Cod	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pollock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sablefish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total²</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Finfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Halibut	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Herring	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Groundfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Shellfish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pacific Cod	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pollock	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sablefish	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Salmon	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Total²</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>

Note: Cells showing – indicate that the data are considered confidential.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska fish ticket data. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

¹ Net pounds refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Table 10. Landed Pounds and Ex-vessel Revenue, by Species, by Kongiganak Residents:
 2000-2010.

	<i>Total Net Pounds¹</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Groundfish											
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pacific Cod	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmon	180,998	134,930	85,703	122,225	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<i>Total²</i>	<i>180,998</i>	<i>134,930</i>	<i>85,703</i>	<i>122,225</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	<i>Ex-vessel Value (nominal U.S. dollars)</i>										
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Crab	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Finfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Halibut	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Herring	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Groundfish											
Other Shellfish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pacific Cod	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pollock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sablefish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salmon	\$116,599	\$54,548	\$40,935	\$59,293	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<i>Total²</i>	<i>\$116,599</i>	<i>\$54,548</i>	<i>\$40,935</i>	<i>\$59,293</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Note: Cells showing -- indicate that the data are considered confidential.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. 2011. Alaska fish ticket data. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

¹ Net pounds refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

² Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Recreational Fishing

Local information on sportfishing is limited, and Kongiganak’s remote location likely limits the amount of tourism-based sportfishing occurring within the community. In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that there is no recreational fishing taking place locally.

Most recreational fishing that does occur in the area takes place in clear-water tributaries of the Kuskokwim River, and sportfishing effort likely originates from other communities. Depending on conditions and time of year, private anglers target several species of Pacific salmon, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, northern pike, and sheefish.³⁸

In 2010, residents held 29 sportfishing licenses and 26 sportfishing licenses were sold in the community, compared to 7 and 6 in 2000, respectively. Between 2000 and 2010, there were no sport fish guide business nor any sport fish guide licenses issued.

Kongiganak is located within Alaska Sport Fishing Survey Area V – Kuskokwim River and Bay Drainages. Information is available about both saltwater and freshwater sportfishing activity at this regional scale. Between 2000 and 2010, saltwater sportfishing activity was minimal, with between zero and 28 non-resident angler days fished per year, and between zero and 108 Alaska resident angler days fished per year. A majority of sportfishing activity occurred in freshwater. In 2010, there were 19,455 total angler days fished, compared to 19,990 in 2000. Total freshwater angler days fished peaked in 2004 at 25,391. Non-Alaska residents accounted for 72.1% of freshwater angler days fished in 2010, compared to 67.0% in 2000. Information regarding sportfishing trends can be found in Table 11.

Table 11. Sport Fishing Trends, Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses ¹	Sport Fish Guide Licenses ¹	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents ²	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Kongiganak ²
2000	0	0	7	6
2001	0	0	21	11
2002	0	0	24	11
2003	0	0	29	11
2004	0	0	21	7
2005	0	0	19	16
2006	0	0	11	8
2007	0	0	23	23
2008	0	0	37	35
2009	0	0	43	47
2010	0	0	29	26

³⁸ Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. (n.d.). *Kuskokwim River Management Area*. Retrieved August 24, 2012 from: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?ADFG=ByAreaInteriorKuskokwim.moreoverview>.

Table 11. Sport Fishing Trends, Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	Saltwater		Freshwater	
	Angler Days Fished – Non-Residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Non-Residents ³	Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents ³
2000	27	13	13,388	6,602
2001	0	0	16,437	4,236
2002	0	0	14,583	6,062
2003	28	63	16,923	7,355
2004	0	15	16,239	9,152
2005	19	18	13,725	5,685
2006	0	0	14,773	7,616
2007	0	0	13,390	7,816
2008	0	108	17,582	8,172
2009	0	0	12,625	5,166
2010	0	0	14,033	5,422

¹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish guide licenses and businesses, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska sport fish and crew license holders, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Administrative Services. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. [URL not publicly available as some information is confidential.]

³ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Alaska Sport Fishing Survey results, 2000 – 2010. ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey project. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/> (Accessed September 2011).

Subsistence Fishing

The subsistence salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim region is one of the largest and most important in the State. As of 2010, approximately 1,700 households in the Kuskokwim area annually harvest for salmon. Households that do not directly participate in subsistence harvests, often participate through cutting, drying, smoking, and other preservation activities.³⁹

Along the lower Kuskokwim River, subsistence Chinook fishing begins by June 1, and is concluded by mid-July. Drift gill nets, set gill nets, fishwheels, and rod and reel are used for harvesting Chinook in Kuskokwim drainages.⁴⁰ Historically, Kuskokwim River chum and sockeye salmon have been primarily harvested for commercial use. However, elevated subsistence harvests occur when Chinook are limited. Kuskokwim river coho are harvested in the late summer following Chinook; however, coho salmon are primarily harvested for commercial

³⁹ Brazil, C. D. Bue, H. Corroll, and T. Elison, .2011. *2020 Kuskokwim Area Management Report*. Fishery Management Report No. 11-67. Retrieved August 27, 2012 from: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidpdfs/FMR11-67.pdf>.

⁴⁰ Andrews, E. and M. Coffing.1986. *Kuskokwim River Subsistence Chinook Fisheries: An Overview*. Technical Paper No. 146. Retrieved August 27, 2012 from: <http://www.arlis.org/docs/vol1/A/17360821.pdf>.

use, accounting for over half of the District 1 (Lower Kuskokwim River) ex-vessel value in 2009.⁴¹

Pacific herring is an extremely important subsistence fishery for residents of Kongiganak. Harvest data specific to the community was gathered between 1976 and 1985. In 1976, residents harvested an estimated 11 tons of subsistence herring, while only harvesting a small fraction (1 ton) the next year. Subsistence herring harvests peaked in 1980 and 1982 at an estimated 13.2 tons in both years. In 1985, the most recent survey year, residents harvested an estimated 4.6 tons of subsistence herring.⁴² More recent data pertaining to nearby Nelson Island villages estimates herring harvests at approximately 110 tons annually.⁴³ In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that salmon, seal, and walrus were the three most important aquatic subsistence resources to local residents.

Recent ADF&G subsistence data is limited, and information regarding local subsistence participation by household is unavailable. Of these species listed by ADF&G in Table 13, residents reported harvesting chum salmon most often, followed closely by Chinook, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon. In 2008, residents reported harvesting 6,915 salmon, compared to 5,277 in 2000. Reported salmon harvests peaked in 2008. In that year, Chinook salmon accounted for 37.1% of reported salmon harvests and chum accounted for 29.1%. In 2010, 6 residents held Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC) issued by NMFS, compared to 12 in 2003. In that year, an estimated 150 pounds of halibut was harvested using 1 SHARC, compared to an estimated 1,602 pounds using 12 SHARC in 2000. Estimated halibut harvests peaked in 2004 at 2,958 pounds harvested on 10 SHARC. Information on marine mammal harvests is limited. Data regarding marine mammal harvests are limited. However, information available highlights a significant use of walrus compared with many western Alaska communities. Between 2000 and 2010, an estimated 13 walruses were harvested, with one to two harvested almost every year. Further information regarding known subsistence harvesting trends can be found in Tables 12 through 15.

⁴¹ Brazil, C.; Bue, D.; Corroll, H.; and Elison, T. (2011). *2020 Kuskokwim Area Management Report*. Fishery Management Report No. 11-67. Retrieved August 27, 2012 from: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidpdfs/FMR11-67.pdf>.

⁴² Pete, M.C. (1991). *Subsistence Herring Fishing in the Eastern Bering Sea Region: Nelson Island, Nunivak Island, and Kuskokwim Bay*. Technical Paper No. 192. Retrieved August 27, 2012 from: <http://www.subsistence.ADFG.state.ak.us/TechPap/tp192.pdf>.

⁴³ Brazil, C.; Bue, D.; Corroll, H.; and Elison, T. (2011). *2020 Kuskokwim Area Management Report*. Fishery Management Report No. 11-67. Retrieved August 27, 2012 from: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidpdfs/FMR11-67.pdf>.

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	% Households Participating in Salmon Subsistence	% Households Participating in Halibut Subsistence	% Households Participating in Marine Mammal Subsistence	% Households Participating in Marine Invertebrate Subsistence	% Households Participating in Non-Salmon Fish Subsistence	Per Capita Subsistence Harvest (pounds)
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). ADF&G Division of Subsistence. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

Table 13. Subsistence Fishing Participation for Salmon, Marine Invertebrates, and Non-Salmon Fish, Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	Subsistence Salmon Permits Issued ¹	Salmon Permits Returned ¹	Chinook Salmon Harvested ¹	Chum Salmon Harvested ¹	Coho Salmon Harvested ¹	Pink Salmon Harvested ¹	Sockeye Salmon Harvested ¹	Lbs of Marine Inverts ²	Lbs of Non-Salmon Fish ²
2000	73	62	1,299	1,850	339	n/a	1,789	n/a	n/a
2001	77	61	1,454	1,998	925	n/a	1,460	n/a	n/a
2002	81	51	808	1,965	596	n/a	774	n/a	n/a
2003	84	36	1,386	970	768	n/a	637	n/a	n/a
2004	84	37	1,478	1,587	551	n/a	876	n/a	n/a
2005	87	33	1,508	1,519	781	125	987	n/a	n/a
2006	92	69	1,429	1,990	530	42	1,191	n/a	n/a
2007	92	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	87	22	2,568	2,014	614	n/a	1,719	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

¹ Fall, J.A., C. Brown, N. Braem, J.J. Simon, W.E. Simeone, D.L. Holen, L. Naves, L. Hutchinson-Scarborough, T. Lemons, and T.M. Krieg. 2011, revised. Alaska subsistence salmon fisheries 2008 annual report. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 359, Anchorage. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

² Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). ADF&G Division of Subsistence. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/> (Accessed February 2011).

Table 14. Subsistence Halibut Fishing Participation, Kongiganak: 2003-2010.

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	12	12	1,602
2004	12	10	2,958
2005	13	5	638
2006	9	10	1,125
2007	9	4	224
2008	6	6	394
2009	7	3	117
2010	6	1	150

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

Source: Fall, J.A. and D. Koster. 2011. Subsistence harvests of Pacific halibut in Alaska, 2009. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 357, Anchorage. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

Table 15. Subsistence Harvests of Marine Mammal Resources, Kongiganak: 2000-2010.

Year	# of Beluga Whales ¹	# of Sea Otters ²	# of Walrus ²	# of Polar Bears ²	# of Steller Sea Lions ³	# of Harbor Seals ³	# of Spotted Seals ³
2000	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: n/a indicates that no data were reported for that year.

¹ Frost, K.J., and R.S. Suydam. 2010. Subsistence harvest of beluga or white whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) in northern and western Alaska, 1987–2006. *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 11(3): 293–299. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Marking, Tagging and Reporting Program data bases for northern sea otter, Pacific walrus and polar bear. Office of Marine Mammals Management. Anchorage, Alaska. Data compiled by Alaska Fisheries Information Network for Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle.

³ Wolfe, R.J., Fall, J.A. and M. Riedel. 2009. The subsistence harvest of harbor seals and sea lions by Alaska Natives in 2008. Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 347, Anchorage.