

Portage Creek (a.k.a. Ohgsenakale)



People and Place

Location^{1,2}

Portage Creek is located near the confluence of Portage Creek and the eastern braid of the Nushagak River, known as the “Keefer Cutoff”. The community is located 29 miles southeast of Dillingham, 35 miles east of Clarks Point, and 300 miles southeast of Anchorage. Portage Creek is located in the Bristol Bay Recording District and Dillingham Census Area.

*Demographic Profile*³

In 2010, the U.S. Decennial Census recorded two year-round residents in Portage Creek, making it the 2nd smallest of 352 Alaskan communities with populations recorded that year, and the smallest populated village in the Dillingham Census Area. The first permanent residents settled in Portage Creek in 1961, and by the winter of 1964-64, 11 families resided there.⁴ The community first appeared in U.S. Census records in 1970 with a population of 60 individuals. The population remained relatively stable until 1980, but declined to five residents by 1990. The population rebounded to 26 residents in 2000. According to Alaska Department of Labor estimates, the population rose as high as 61 permanent residents in 2003, and then declined to 7 by 2009. Between 2000 and 2009, the population of permanent residents was estimated to decrease by 94.4%, and the average annual growth rate over this period was -80.56%. According to the Portage Creek Comprehensive Plan, many long-time residents who have moved away continue to return seasonally to the Village, and imagine a future in which they will be able to make their year-round residences there.⁵

In 2010, one of the two residents of Portage Creek identified as American Indian or Alaska Native (50% of the population) and the other resident identified as White (50%). In the year 2000, when 36 individuals resided in Portage Creek, 81.6% of the population identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native, and 13.9% as White. No Portage Creek residents identified themselves as Hispanic in 2000 or 2010. The change in population from 1990

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 Portage Creek Village Council, residents of Portage Creek, Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC, and Bristol Environmental & Engineering Services Corporation. 2006. *Portage Creek Indian Reservation Roads Program 2007 Long-Range Transportation Planning*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/PortageCreek-TP-2006.pdf>.

³ 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>.

⁴ See footnote 1.

⁵ Portage Creek Village Council, residents of Portage Creek, and Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC. 2006. *Portage Creek Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.agnewbeck.com/pages-portfolio/bristolbay/portagecreek-cp-lrtp.htm>.

to 2010 is provided in Table 1 below, and changes in racial and ethnic composition from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Figure 1.

In 2010, the average household size in Portage Creek was 2 persons per household, a sizeable decline from 5.14 persons per household in 2000, but an overall increase from 1.6 persons per household in 1990. The number of occupied households in Portage Creek increased from three in 1990 to seven in 2000, and then declined to one by 2010. Of the 12 total housing units surveyed for the 2010 Decennial Census, none were owner-occupied, and one (8.3%) was rented. The remaining 11 housing units were vacant due to seasonal use in 2010 (91.7%). Between 1990 and 2010, no residents of Portage Creek lived in group quarters.

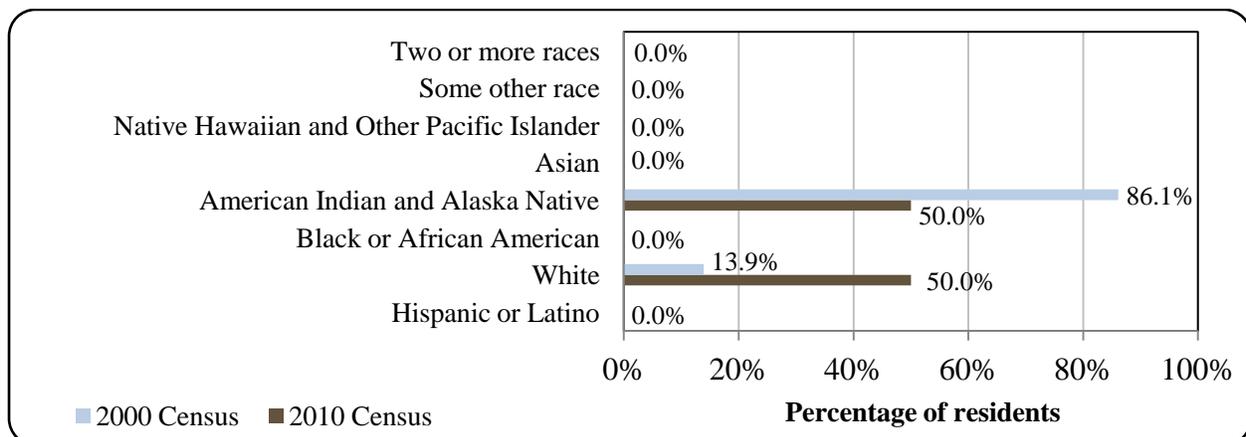
Table 1. Population in Portage Creek from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census ¹	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents ²
1990	5	-
2000	36	-
2001	-	47
2002	-	48
2003	-	61
2004	-	49
2005	-	37
2006	-	20
2007	-	9
2008	-	7
2009	-	7
2010	2	-

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>.

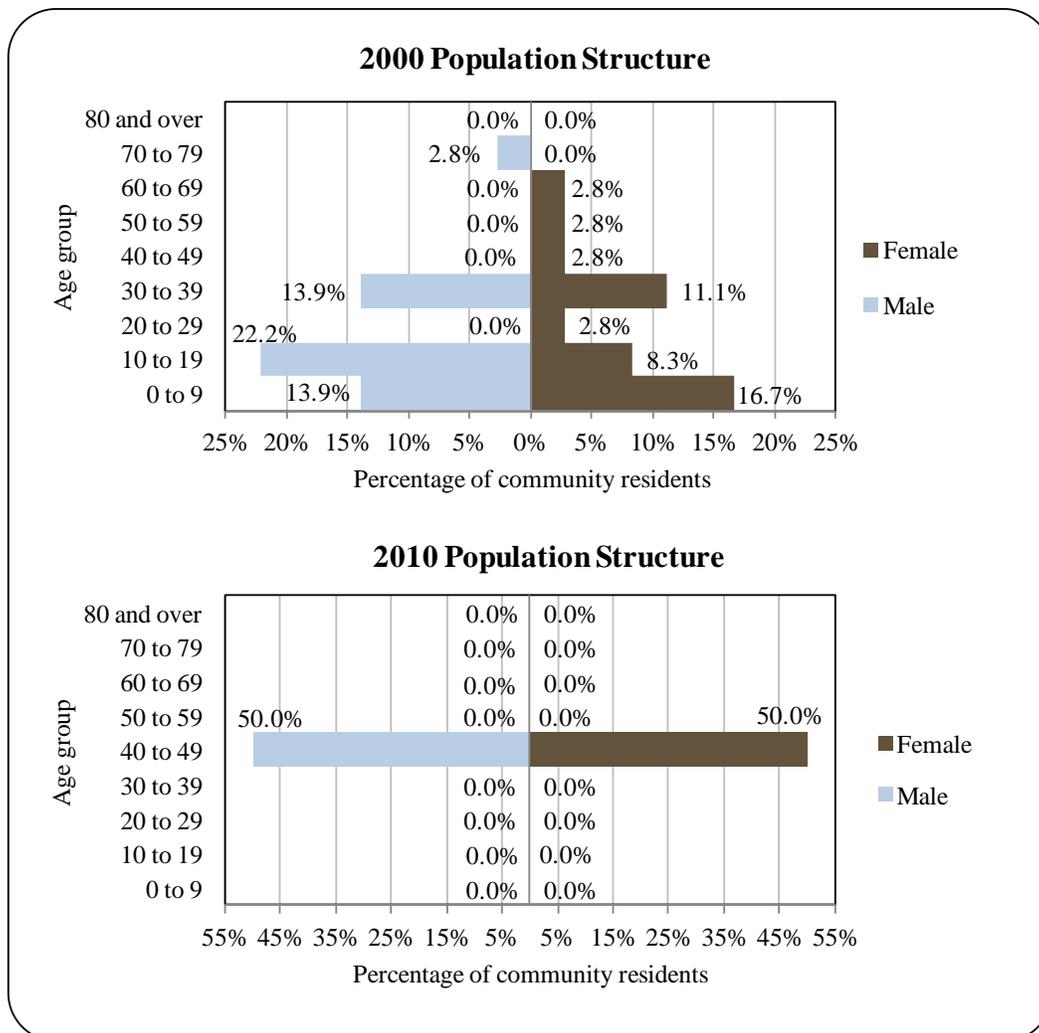
Figure 1. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Portage Creek: 2000-2010 (U.S. Census).



In 2010, one man and one woman were recorded as permanent residents in Portage Creek, making the gender balance evenly split at 50% male and 50% female, compared to a state population that was 52% male and 48% female. Both of Portage Creek’s permanent residents were between the ages of 45 and 49 in 2010, and their median age was 48.5 years, older than the national average of 36.8 years and the median age for Alaska, 33.8 years.

It is also useful to examine the population structure of Portage Creek in 2000, when the population was somewhat higher. In 2000, the gender ratio in the Portage Creek (52.8% male and 47.2% female) was slightly more weighted toward males than the state population as a whole, which was 51.7% male and 48.3% female. The age groups particularly skewed toward males included 10-19 and 70-79, while there were more females than males in the age groups 20-29 and 40 to 69. The median age in 2000, 14 years, was much younger than the 2000 national average of 36.5 years and the 2000 Alaska median age of 32.4 years. In 2000, 61.6% of the population was under the age of 20, and 5.4% of the population was age 60 or older. The population structure of Portage Creek in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 2.

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



The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) did not provide any information regarding educational attainment in Portage Creek in 2010. Although the U.S. Decennial Census recorded two individuals as permanent residents in Portage Creek in 2010, the ACS estimated a population of zero.⁶ Given the small population of Portage Creek in 2010, it is useful to look back at education statistics in the year 2000 as well, when the population (36 residents) was slightly higher than in 2010. In 2000, 4 Portage Creek residents were aged 25 or older. Of these, two (50%) held a high school diploma or higher degree, compared to 88.3% of Alaskan residents overall in 2000. Both of these residents had attended some college but had not received a degree, compared to 28.6% of Alaskan residents overall in 2000. The other 2 residents aged 25 or older (50%) had received a 9th to 12th grade education, and did not have a high school diploma, compared to 7.5% of Alaskan residents overall in the year 2000.

History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture

The Portage Creek village site was historically used by Yup'ik Eskimos as an overnight summer camp. The site received its name because it was used to portage boats from the Nushagak River to the Kvichak River. In this way, travelers could avoid the open waters of Bristol Bay and the long trip around Etolin Point. The village was permanently settled in 1961 by families from Koliganek and other villages up the Nushagak River. A Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school was established in 1963, and, during the winter of 1964-65, 11 families lived in Portage Creek. In 1965, the village was served by a local, scheduled air carrier. Through the mid-1980s, Portage Creek was an active community, but the population has since declined.⁷ According to the U.S. Decennial Census, there were two year-round residents in 2010.

Today, the village is a popular recreational fishing and camping site from May through July and a hunting location for Yup'ik residents.^{8,9} Locals enjoy fishing, ice-fishing, berry picking, swimming, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, ice skating on Portage Creek, hiking, maqiis (steam baths), visiting with friends and family from villages along the river, and team sports.¹⁰

Natural Resources and Environment

Portage Creek is located in a climatic transition zone. The primary influence is maritime, although a continental climate affects the weather. Average summer temperatures range from 30 to 66 °F, and winter temperatures range from well below 0 to 30 °F. Annual precipitation ranges from 20 to 35 inches. Fog and low clouds are common during the summer.¹¹ Portage Creek is located in the Bristol Bay lowlands, which are characterized by low hills of only several hundred

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Portage Creek Village Council, residents of Portage Creek, and Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC. 2006. *Portage Creek Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.agnewbeck.com/pages-portfolio/bristolbay/portagecreek-cp-lrtp.htm>.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ See footnote 7.

feet in elevation. The Nushagak River valley is covered by low shrubs and lichen tundra. Tidal action reaches approximately 40 miles upstream from the mouth of the Nushagak at Kanakanak, affecting the portion of the River at Portage Creek.¹² The river is ice-free from June through mid-November.¹³

Bristol Bay drainages produce the world's largest runs of sockeye salmon, and the area is productive for other species of salmon and marine fish as well.¹⁴ One of the largest runs of Chinook salmon in Alaska returns to the Nushagak River, but the run is not heavily harvested, partially due to low prices in the region.¹⁵ The largest aggregation of herring in Alaska spawns along the northern shore of Bristol Bay, near the Village of Togiak.¹⁶

Wood-Tilchik State Park lies northwest of the Nushagak River region. Wood-Tilchik is the largest State Park in the U.S., and includes a diversity of terrain and ecosystems. The Wood River and Tilchik lake systems are surrounded by rugged mountains and alpine valleys. The deep, fjord-like lakes and associated rivers host all five species of Pacific salmon, along with rainbow trout, grayling, lake trout, Arctic char, Dolly Varden char, 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 limited areas of the park. Small game present in the area include 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.¹⁷

Significant mineral resources are present in the Bristol Bay region, including the Pebble copper-gold-molybdenum deposit northeast of Portage Creek. The Pebble Mine site is located at the divide between the Koktuli River and Upper Talarik Creek, north of Iliamna Lake.¹⁸ Northern Dynasty Minerals Limited calls the Pebble deposit, "one of the greatest stores of mineral wealth ever discovered," and estimates that the deposit includes 80.6 billion pounds of copper, 107.3 ounces of gold, and 5.6 billion pounds of molybdenum, including both indicated (high confidence) and inferred (low confidence) deposits.¹⁹ Concern has been raised about the possible effects of acid mine drainage from development of the Pebble deposit on salmon. Iliamna Lake is the source of the Kvichak River System, the single most important salmon-producing watershed in the Bristol Bay area.²⁰ According to the Pebble Partnership, 95% of the

¹² Alaska Department of Natural Resources. April 2005. *Bristol Bay Area Plan for State Lands*. Retrieved January 4, 2012 from <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/bristol/index.htm>.

¹³ See footnote 7.

¹⁴ See footnote 12.

¹⁵ Clark, McGregor, Mecum, Krasnowski and Carroll. 2006. "The Commercial Salmon Fishery in Alaska." *Alaska Fisheries Research Bulletin* 12(1):1-146. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. Retrieved January 4, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1.pdf>.

¹⁶ 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>.

¹⁷ 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>.

¹⁸ Parker, Geoffrey Y., Francis M. Raskin, Carol Ann Woody, and Lance Trasky. 2008. "Pebble Mine: Fish, Minerals, and Testing the Limits of Alaska's Large Mine Permitting Process." *Alaska Law Review* 25:1.

¹⁹ Northern Dynasty Minerals Limited website. 2012. *The Pebble Deposit*. Retrieved January 13, 2012 from <http://www.northerndynastyminerals.com/ndm/Pebble.asp>.

²⁰ See footnote 12.

metal that would be produced by the Pebble Mine is copper. Dissolved copper is known to be toxic to fish.²¹ If the Pebble Mine is developed, Bristol Bay salmon fisheries could be affected.²²

Reserves of oil and natural gas are also thought to be present on the continental shelf in the Bristol Bay Basin, along the northern edge of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula.²³ However, given the importance of Bristol Bay fisheries to the Nation and the proximity of the Bristol Bay Basin to a number of protected areas, in March 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar removed the area from oil and gas leasing for the 2007-2012 program.²⁴ On March 31, 2010, President Obama withdrew the Bristol Bay area of the North Aleutian Basin from oil and gas leasing, whether for exploratory or production purposes, through 2017.²⁵

According to the Bristol Bay Coastal Management Plan, the Portage Creek area is at risk of earthquakes and volcanic activity, landslides and avalanches, flooding and erosion, storm surges and sea ice. A majority of earthquake activity takes place to the south of the Alaska Peninsula, in the Aleutian Trench. As a result, communities located on the south side of the Peninsula are more vulnerable to tsunamis than communities inside the Bay. Soils in Bristol Bay are made up largely of glacial till left behind in moraines, and depending on slope, saturation, loading, or earthquake activity, these soils have a potential to slide. Floods are a potential hazard on almost every river in the Bristol Bay region. They can be caused by spring snowmelt and breakup, river ice jams, and heavy rainfall. Coastal flooding and erosion is affected by wind, site exposure and sea ice conditions. The management plan notes the potential for climate change to augment erosion, as coastal areas of Alaska are freezing later in the season, leaving coastal areas more vulnerable to fall storms and storm surges. Changing temperatures also have the potential to shift distribution of fish and wildlife, with possible consequences for commercial and subsistence activities.²⁶

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, there were no notable active environmental cleanup sites in the Portage Creek area as of May 2012.²⁷

Current Economy²⁸

All Portage Creek residents depend to some degree on subsistence activities. Salmon, moose, caribou, duck, geese, and berries are primary food sources. Most families have fish camps at Ekuk or Lewis Point. An exchange relationship exists between Portage Creek and

²¹ See footnote 18.

²² Pg. 36 in Duffield, John., Christopher Neher, David A. Patterson, and Oliver S. Goldsmith. 2007. *Economics of Wild Salmon Ecosystems: Bristol Bay, Alaska*. USDA Forest Service Proceedings RMRS-P-49. Retrieved December 21, 2011 from http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_p049/rmrs_p049_035_044.pdf.

²³ See footnote 12.

²⁴ U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Minerals Management Service. March 2010. *Preliminary Revised Program Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007-2012*. Retrieved January 6, 2012 from <http://www.boemre.gov/5-year/PDFs/PRP2007-2012.pdf>.

²⁵ The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. March 31, 2010. *Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior: Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition*. Retrieved January 6, 2012 from <http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/energy/ocs/upload/2010alaska-mem-rel.pdf>.

²⁶ Glenn Gray and Associates. 2008. *Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area Coastal Management Plan*. Retrieved February 7, 2012 from http://alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/DistrictPlans_Final/BBCRSA/BB_Final_Plan_Amendment.pdf.

²⁷ Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (n.d.). *List of Contaminated Sites by Region*. Retrieved April 17, 2012 from <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/list.htm>.

²⁸ Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

coastal communities in the region. Walrus, seal, and herring roe are sought in exchange for inland subsistence resources harvested by Portage Creek residents. Businesses in the community include the Portage Creek General Store and Lodge, which operates during summer months.²⁹ Additional businesses in Portage Creek in the last decade have included babysitting, lodging opportunities, and guiding services.³⁰ No information was available from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development regarding top employers in Portage Creek between 2007 and 2010.³¹

Although the U.S. Decennial Census reported two residents age 16 or over in Portage Creek in 2010, household surveys conducted for the 2006-2010 ACS estimated that no residents lived in the community.^{32,33} The civilian labor force was thus estimated to be zero. An alternative labor force estimate is provided by economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). According to the ALARI database, there were three residents in Portage Creek aged 16 and over, but none of these residents were estimated to be employed, lending support for the ACS estimate of a civilian labor force of zero.³⁴ Portage Creek was recognized as “distressed” by the Denali Commission in 2011, indicating that over 70% of residents aged 16 and older earned less than \$16,120 in 2010.³⁵ It is important to note that both ACS and DOLWD data are based on wage earnings, and do not take into account the value of subsistence within the local economy.

Although no income and employment data were reported in 2010, information was reported for the year 2000, when 36 individuals resided in the community. In 2000, the per capita income in Portage Creek was \$8,010 and the median household income was \$41,250. Taking inflation into account by converting the 2000 values to 2010 dollars,³⁶ the real per capita income in 2000 is shown to have been \$10,533, and the real median household income in 2000 was \$41,250. Because no income information was reported for Portage Creek in 2010, the community’s earnings were not ranked against other communities that year. Previously, in the year 2000, Portage Creek had ranked 305th of 344 Alaskan communities with per capita income data that year, and 141st in median household income, out of 341 Alaskan communities with household income data.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ Portage Creek Village Council, residents of Portage Creek, and Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC. 2006. *Portage Creek Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.agnewbeck.com/pages-portfolio/bristolbay/portagecreek-cp-lrtp.htm>.

³¹ Alaska Dept. of Labor and Workforce Dev. (n.d.). *Alaska Local and Regional Information*. Retrieved May 22, 2012 from: <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/alari/>.

³² 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>.

³³ 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.

³⁴ See footnote 31.

³⁵ Denali Commission. 2011. *Distressed Community Criteria 2011 Update*. Retrieved April 16, 2012 from: www.denali.gov.

³⁶ 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>).

According to the U.S. Census, of 7 Portage Creek residents aged 16 or older in 2000, 4 were in the civilian labor force, with an unemployment rate of 0%. Both of the individuals employed in Portage Creek in 2000 reported working in the public sector, in the educational, health and social services industry, and neither were employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries (Figures 3 and 4). The number of individuals employed in farming, fishing, and forestry industries is probably underestimated as fishermen may hold another job and characterize their employment accordingly. As with income statistics, it should be noted that these employment statistics do not reflect residents' activity in the subsistence economy.

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

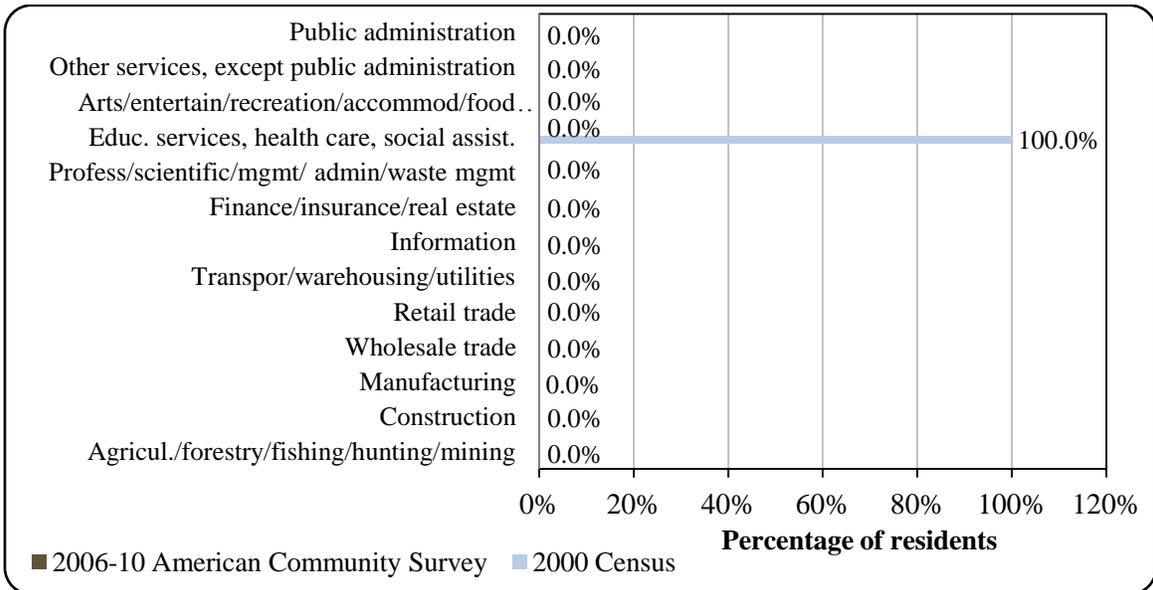
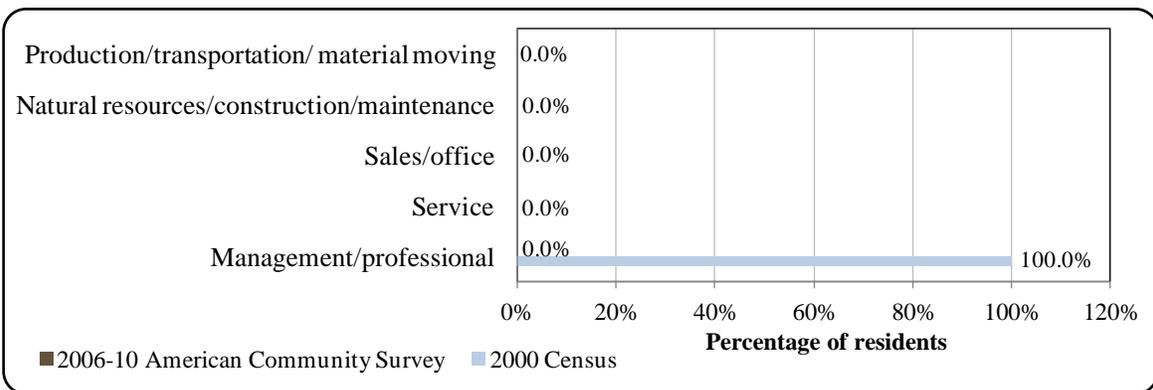


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Portage Creek (U.S. Census).



Governance

Portage Creek is an unincorporated community, and is not located in an organized borough. No taxes are administered locally,³⁷ and no municipal revenue was reported between 2000 and 2010. In addition, no information was reported regarding State and Community Revenue Sharing contributions or fisheries-related grants received by the Portage Creek between 2000 and 2010 (Table 2).

Table 2. Selected Municipal, State, or Federal Revenue Streams for the Community of Portage Creek 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	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	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.

³⁷ 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.

Portage Creek was included under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), and is federally recognized as a Native village. The authorized traditional entity, recognized by the BIA, is the Portage Creek Village, also known as the Ohgsenakale Tribe. In the 1980s, the Native village corporation, the Portage Creek Association, merged with Choggiung, Limited, the Native village corporation for Dillingham.³⁸ The Portage Creek Association remains Portage Creek's "appropriate village entity," a representative group that speaks for the Village on matters concerning ANCSA lands,³⁹ while Choggiung, Limited manages 130,673 acres of land on behalf of the Portage Creek Association, in addition to managing its original 175,506-acre land entitlement. The regional Native corporation to which Portage Creek belongs is the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC).⁴⁰

Portage Creek is a member of the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), a regional non-profit organization headquartered in Dillingham that provides social, economic, cultural, and educational opportunities and initiatives for the benefit of the Tribes and the Native people of Bristol Bay.⁴¹ The BBNA is one of the 12 regional Alaska Native 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that were identified under ANCSA and charged with naming incorporators to create regional for-profit corporations. Today, these regional Native Associations receive federal funding to administer a broad range of services to villages in their regions.⁴²

The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development are located in Dillingham. Kodiak hosts an Alaska Department of Natural Resources Parks and Outdoor Recreation office, a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office, research laboratories, and enforcement office, and office of the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, although the Anchorage offices of these agencies may be more accessible to people from the Portage Creek area.

Infrastructure

Connectivity and Transportation

Portage Creek is inaccessible by road, although a local road system connects the Village to the airport, boat launch and landfill. In addition, a network of summer and winter trails exists around the Village.⁴³ Locals commonly use ATVs and snowmobiles for overland travel. Skiffs and other watercraft are used for fishing and general transportation.⁴⁴

³⁸ Portage Creek Village Council, residents of Portage Creek, and Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC. 2006. *Portage Creek Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.agnewbeck.com/pages-portfolio/bristolbay/portagecreek-cp-lrtp.htm>.

³⁹ Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. 2012. *Getting Started on 14(c)(3): A Basic Guide for City and Village Councils*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://commerce.alaska.gov/dca/pub/14c3GettingStarted2012.pdf>.

⁴⁰ See footnote 37.

⁴¹ Bristol Bay Native Association. (n.d.). *BBNA homepage*. Retrieved November 16, 2011 from www.bbna.com.

⁴² U.S. Government Accountability Office. 2005. *Alaska Native Villages: Report to Congressional Addressees and the Alaska Federation of Natives*. Retrieved February 7, 2012 from <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05719.pdf>.

⁴³ Portage Creek Village Council, residents of Portage Creek, Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC, and Bristol Environmental & Engineering Services Corporation. 2006. *Portage Creek Indian Reservation Roads Program 2007 Long-Range Transportation Planning*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/PortageCreek-TP-2006.pdf>.

⁴⁴ See footnote 37.

Chartered air transport is the most frequent mode of transportation used to reach Portage Creek. There is a state-owned 1,470 feet long by 60 feet wide gravel airstrip, maintained only during summer months, and seaplanes also land on the Nushagak River. Mail and cargo are delivered by air or by barge. Cargo goods delivered by barge are lightered to the beach since there are no docking facilities in Portage Creek.⁴⁵ Until the mid-2000s, Peninsula Airways offered weekly scheduled flights to Portage Creek, but since the decline of the local population, regularly scheduled service has been discontinued. As of May 2012, a one-way charter flight with Shannon's Air Taxi from Dillingham to Portage Creek cost \$420 (for up to six passengers).⁴⁶ Additional companies that provide charter air service to Portage Creek include Bristol Bay Air and Mulchatna Air.⁴⁷ As of early June 2012, roundtrip airfare between Dillingham and Anchorage cost \$452.⁴⁸

Facilities

There are no central facilities currently in operation in Portage Creek. The central well is rusty, and most residents haul water from downriver. Some residents also have individual wells. Honeybuckets and outhouses are used for sewage disposal. There is no functioning central electric system, and residents use individual generators. The landfill is unpermitted, and no refuse collection services are provided. Police services are provided by state troopers stationed in Dillingham, and no fire or rescue services are available locally. Internet service is available at the school only. Telephone service is provided by Nushagak Telephone Co-op Inc. and AT&T Alascom. No cable service provider operates in Portage Creek.⁴⁹ As of 2006, community facilities included a school, a health clinic building in need of major renovations, and a Village Council building which also needs upgrades.⁵⁰

Medical Services

Although a clinic building is present in Portage Creek, consistent medical services have not been provided in the community since the 1980's, and at present the building is old and unsafe. During years in which the school is in operation, a Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation dentist and nurse visit the Village once each year to provide dental work and general check-ups to local students as well as other residents. The school has been closed since the 2005-2006 school year, and as of 2012, no health care service was provided locally.^{51,52} The nearest hospital is located in Dillingham.⁵³

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Personal communication, Shannon's Air Taxi representative, May 22, 2012.

⁴⁷ See footnote 43.

⁴⁸ Airfare was calculated using lowest fare. Retrieved November 22, 2011, from <http://www.travelocity.com>.

⁴⁹ See footnote 43.

⁵⁰ Portage Creek Village Council, residents of Portage Creek, and Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC. 2006. *Portage Creek Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.agnewbeck.com/pages-portfolio/bristolbay/portagecreek-cp-lrtp.htm>.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² 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.

⁵³ Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation website. 2006. *Kanakanak Hospital*. Retrieved June 3, 2012 from <http://www.bbahc.org/kanakanak.html>.

Educational Opportunities

As of the 2011 school year, no students were enrolled in Portage Creek. The school last operated during the 2004-2005 school year, when seven students were enrolled.⁵⁴

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

History and Evolution of Fisheries

Subsistence fishing activities have been important to residents of the Portage Creek area for thousands of years. The Nushagak region was historically inhabited by a coastal population that combined fishing and hunting of marine mammals and an interior population that focused on hunting and fishing with frequent trips to the coast, especially during summer months.⁵⁵ Today, permanent residents of Portage Creek, as well as area residents who come to the Village during summer months, continue to rely on subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife resources.⁵⁶ In some years during the 2000-2010 period, Portage Creek residents also held state commercial permits in fisheries for salmon and herring. The number of permits declined over the period, and no permits were held from 2007 to 2010 (Table 4).

The commercial salmon fishery began to develop in Bristol Bay in the 1890s, and today is one of the most important commercial salmon fisheries in the world. Harvest primarily consists of sockeye salmon returning to spawn in the many lakes of the Bristol Bay region, although several other species are harvested in lower volumes. One of the largest runs of Chinook salmon in Alaska occurs in the Nushagak River.⁵⁷ The largest aggregation of herring in Alaska spawns along the northern shore of Bristol Bay, southwest of Nushagak River near the village of Togiak. Commercial catch of herring for human consumption began in 1878 in Alaska, while harvest of herring for bait began around 1900, and herring sac roe fisheries developed in the late 1970s.⁵⁸

Portage Creek is located on the Nushagak River which empties into Bristol Bay. This marine area is encompassed by the Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 514, Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 4E, and Bering Sea Sablefish Regulatory Area. Portage Creek participates in the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program as a member of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). The community is not eligible for the Community Quota Entity program.

⁵⁴ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

⁵⁵ VanStone, James W. 1968. "An Annotated Ethnographic Bibliography of the Nushagak River Region, Alaska." *Anthropology*, v. 54, no. 2. Field Museum of Natural History. Chicago.

⁵⁶ 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.

⁵⁷ Clark, McGregor, Mecum, Krasnowski and Carroll. 2006. "The Commercial Salmon Fishery in Alaska." *Alaska Fisheries Research Bulletin* 12(1):1-146. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. Retrieved January 4, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/PDFs/afrb/clarv12n1.pdf>.

⁵⁸ 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>.

Processing Plants

The ADF&G's 2010 Intent to Operate list does not list a registered processing plant in Portage Creek. However, several processing facilities were registered in nearby communities throughout Bristol Bay, including Dillingham, Egegik, and Naknek.

Fisheries-Related Revenue

No information was reported between 2000 and 2010 regarding fisheries-related revenue earned in the community of Portage Creek (Table 3).

Commercial Fishing

Between 2000 and 2006, Portage Creek residents participated in state fisheries as permit holders, crew members, and vessel owners. The number of vessels homeported in Portage Creek declined from 10 in the year 2000 to 1 in 2005 and 2006, and no vessels were reported as homeported in Portage Creek between 2007 and 2010. Similarly, the number of vessels primarily owned by Portage Creek residents declined from two in 2000 to one by 2005-2006, and none were reported as owned between 2007 and 2010. The number of crew license holders varied from one to six between 2000 and 2007, with two crew licenses held by Portage Creek residents in 2007. Between 2008 and 2010, no residents were issued commercial crew licenses. This information about the Portage Creek commercial fishing sector is presented in Table 5.

In 2000 and 2001, two residents held a total of three commercial fishing permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Two of these permits were held in the Bristol Bay drift gillnet salmon fishery, both of which were actively fished in 2000 and 2001. The third permit was held in the Bristol Bay roe herring gillnet fishery, and was not actively fished during these two years. No herring permits were held from 2002 to 2010. The number of Bristol Bay salmon permits held in Portage Creek declined to one between 2002 and 2006. It was actively fished in each of these years. Between 2000 and 2010, no Federal Fisheries Permits (FFP) or federal License Limitation Program permits (LLP) were issued to Portage Creek residents, and no quota share accounts or quota shares were held in federal catch share fisheries for halibut, sablefish, or crab during the decade. Information about permits held in Portage Creek is presented in Table 4, and information about federal catch share participation is presented in Tables 6 through 8.

No fish-buyers or shore-side processing facilities were present in Portage Creek from 2000 to 2010 (Table 5), and no information was reported regarding fisheries landings and ex-vessel revenue generated in the community (Table 9). Local vessel owners made landings between 2000 and 2006, but information about these landings and ex-vessel revenue generated by Portage Creek vessel owners is considered confidential due to the small number of participants (Table 10).

Table 3. Known Fisheries-Related Revenue (in U.S. Dollars) Received by the Community of Portage Creek: 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 revenue⁴</i>	<i>n/a</i>										
<i>Total municipal revenue⁵</i>	<i>n/a</i>										

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 cont'd. Permits and Permit Holders by Species, Portage Creek: 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon (CFEC) ²	Total permits	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Fished permits	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
	% of permits fished	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Total CFEC Permits²</i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

¹National 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.]

²Alaska 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 Portage Creek: 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 Portage Creek ^{2,5}	Total Net Pounds Landed In Portage Creek ^{2,5}	Total Ex-Vessel Value Of Landings In Portage Creek ^{2,5}
2000	2	0	0	2	10	0	0	\$0
2001	1	0	0	2	9	0	0	\$0
2002	2	0	0	2	9	0	0	\$0
2003	4	0	0	2	9	0	0	\$0
2004	6	0	0	2	9	0	0	\$0
2005	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	\$0
2006	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	\$0
2007	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2010	0	0	0	0	0	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 Portage Creek: 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 Portage Creek: 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 Portage Creek: 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.]

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

	<i>Total Net Pounds¹</i>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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>										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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>

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 Portage Creek 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Halibut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Other Groundfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	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
Finfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Halibut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Groundfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pacific Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sablefish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$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.

Recreational Fishing

The Nushagak and Mulchatna River drainage supports vibrant recreational fisheries. Within the drainage, the lower Nushagak River near the Village of Portage Creek is one area of concentrated sportfishing effort for coho and Chinook salmon.⁵⁹ Portage Creek is a popular sportfishing site from May through July.⁶⁰ Many seasonal residents come to fish camps in Portage Creek during summer months to participate in sportfishing activity. The General Store and Lodge sells products to boaters and fishers along the river, provides lodging facilities, boat storage, hauling, and rentals.⁶¹

No active sport fish guide businesses were present in Portage Creek from 2000 to 2010. However, there was one licensed sport fish guide in the community from 2000 to 2002, and again in 2004. Between 2000 and 2010, a greater number of sportfishing licenses were sold in Portage Creek (50 per year on average) than were sold to local residents (3 per year on average, irrespective of point of sale), indicating that Portage Creek attracts sport fishermen from the surrounding region or beyond. This information about the local sportfishing industry in Portage Creek is presented in Table 11.

The Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey,⁶² conducted by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010, did not provide information regarding species targeted by private anglers in Portage Creek. However, the survey did note species targeted by anglers in nearby Dillingham: in freshwater, Dillingham recreational fishermen targeted all five salmon species, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, whitefish, Arctic grayling, and northern pike. In saltwater, Dillingham anglers targeted Pacific halibut, rockfish, and smelt. No kept/release log book data were reported for sportfishing charters out of Portage Creek between 2000 and 2010.⁶³

Portage Creek is located within Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey Area T – Nushagak, Wood River and Togiak. Information is available about both saltwater and freshwater sportfishing activity at this regional scale. Overall between 2000 and 2010, there were more non-Alaska resident than Alaska resident angler days fished, and there was significantly greater freshwater harvest than saltwater. Between 2000 and 2010, the non-Alaska resident anglers fished between 15,676 and 33,089 freshwater angler days and between 81 and 767 saltwater angler days per year. Alaska resident anglers fished between 7,356 and 19,980 freshwater angler days and between 31 and 921 saltwater angler days per year. This information about the sportfishing sector in and near Portage Creek is displayed in Table 11.

⁵⁹ Dunaway, D. O. and S. Sonnichsen. 2001. *Area Management Report for the Recreational Fisheries of the Southwest Alaska Sport Fish Management Area, 1999*. ADF&G Fishery Management Report No. 01-6. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FedAidpdfs/Fmr01-06.pdf>.

⁶⁰ 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.

⁶¹ Portage Creek Village Council, residents of Portage Creek, and Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC. 2006. *Portage Creek Comprehensive Plan*. Retrieved May 14, 2012 from <http://www.agnewbeck.com/pages-portfolio/bristolbay/portagecreek-cp-lrtp.htm>.

⁶² 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).

⁶³ Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2011. *Alaska sport fish charter logbook database, 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.]

Table 11. Sport Fishing Trends, Portage Creek: 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 Portage Creek ²
2000	0	1	3	58
2001	0	1	5	63
2002	0	1	4	103
2003	0	0	1	45
2004	0	1	5	69
2005	0	0	4	52
2006	0	0	3	54
2007	0	0	1	50
2008	0	0	2	21
2009	0	0	2	35
2010	0	0	1	0

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	246	183	31,290	11,793
2001	652	599	31,489	10,779
2002	665	31	20,011	11,911
2003	321	464	26,783	13,419
2004	767	61	25,203	19,980
2005	81	246	33,089	15,662
2006	365	196	28,840	14,858
2007	326	921	28,541	13,762
2008	113	103	27,066	7,356
2009	107	38	22,444	7,805
2010	0	44	15,676	7,709

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

Residents of Portage Creek depend on subsistence resources as food sources. Most families have fish camps at Ekuk or Lewis Point. Salmon, moose, caribou, duck, geese, and berries are the primary foods harvested. An exchange relationship exists between Portage Creek and coastal communities in Bristol Bay. Walrus, seal, and herring roe are sought in exchange for inland foods harvested near Portage Creek.⁶⁴

Between 2000 and 2010, no data were available from ADF&G regarding per capita subsistence harvest or the percentage of Portage Creek households utilizing various marine resources for subsistence purposes (Table 12). However, information is available from ADF&G between 2000 and 2008 regarding annual subsistence salmon harvest. For those years in which data were reported, an average of one salmon permit was issued to Portage Creek households. The salmon species most heavily harvested was Chinook, with an average of 75 salmon harvested per year, for those years in which information was reported. Some chum and sockeye salmon harvest was also reported between 2000 and 2008 (Table 13).

No information was reported by management agencies between 2000 and 2010 regarding total subsistence harvest of non-salmon fish, marine invertebrates, or various species of marine mammals (Tables 13 through 15).

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Portage Creek: 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).

⁶⁴ 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.

Table 13. Subsistence Fishing Participation for Salmon, Marine Invertebrates, and Non-Salmon Fish, Portage Creek: 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	3	2	117	15	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	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	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	1	1	78	7	n/a	n/a	12	n/a	n/a
2005	1	1	78	9	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	n/a
2006	1	1	87	12	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	n/a
2007	1	1	37	6	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	n/a
2008	1	1	53	3	n/a	n/a	2	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, Portage Creek: 2003-2010.

Year	SHARC Issued	SHARC Cards Fished	SHARC Halibut Lbs Harvested
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	n/a	n/a	n/a

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, Portage Creek: 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	n/a	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	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	n/a	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	n/a
2005	n/a	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	n/a
2007	n/a	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	n/a
2009	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

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.