

## **Skwentna (SKWENT-nuh)**



### **People and Place**

#### *Location*<sup>1</sup>

Skwentna lies in the Yentna River Valley, on the south bank of the Skwentna River at its junction with Eight Mile Creek. The community is located 70 air miles northwest of Anchorage in the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Borough. Skwentna is in the Anchorage Recording District and the Matanuska-Susitna Census Area.

#### *Demographic Profile*<sup>2</sup>

In 2010, there were 37 inhabitants in Skwentna, making it the 310<sup>th</sup> largest of 352 total Alaskan communities with recorded populations that year. Overall the population has decreased since 1990, though the population rose in 2000 and then declined again according to the U.S. Decennial Census. The U.S. Decennial Census shows a much steeper rate of decline than Alaska Department of Labor estimate of permanent residents. The change in population from 1990 to 2010 is shown in Table 1. In a survey conducted by NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) in 2011, community leaders estimated that approximately 200 individuals come to Skwentna each year as seasonal workers or transients in addition to the population of permanent residents, and the population reaches its annual peak during the summer months.

In the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, 100% of Skwentna residents identified themselves as White. The percentage of residents identifying themselves as White increased by 7.2% between 2000 and 2010, with corresponding decreases in the percentage of the population identifying themselves as American Indian and Alaska Native and two or more races. Changes in racial and ethnic composition from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Figure 1.

In 2010, the average household size in Skwentna was 1.85, a decrease from 2.7 persons per household in 1990 and 2.22 in 2000. The total number of households decreased overall, from 31 in 1990 to 50 in 2000 to 20 in 2010. Of the 353 total housing units surveyed for the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, 18 were owner-occupied, two were renter occupied, and 333 were vacant, though 325 of the units reported as vacant are used seasonally. Throughout this period, no residents of Skwentna were reported to be living in group quarters.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

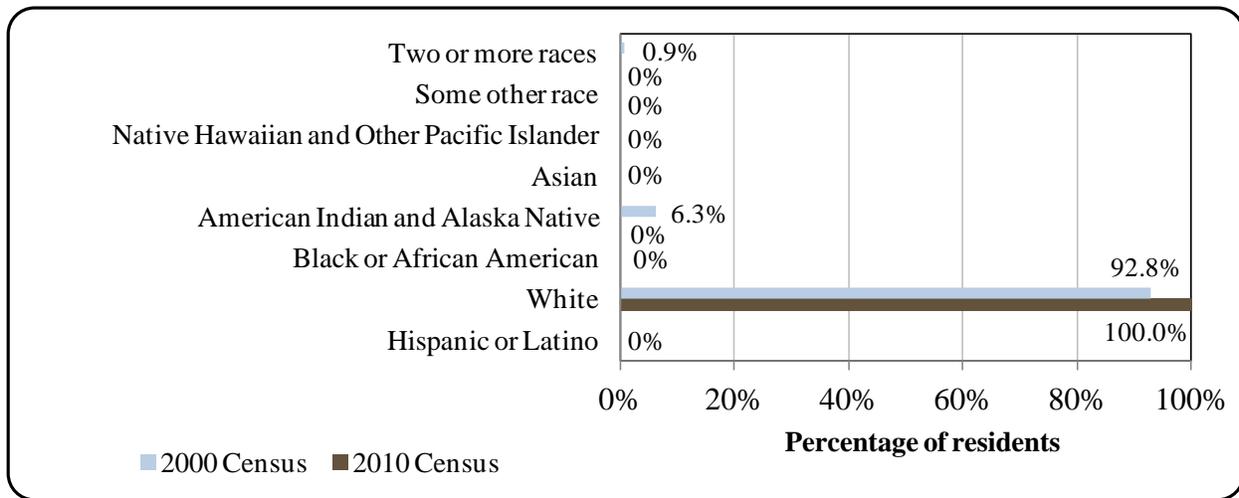
Table 1. Population in Skwentna from 1990 to 2010 by Source.

Year	U.S. Decennial Census <sup>1</sup>	Alaska Dept. of Labor Estimate of Permanent Residents <sup>2</sup>
1990	85	-
2000	111	-
2001	-	95
2002	-	88
2003	-	95
2004	-	82
2005	-	75
2006	-	73
2007	-	84
2008	-	79
2009	-	73
2010	37	-

<sup>1</sup> (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>.

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

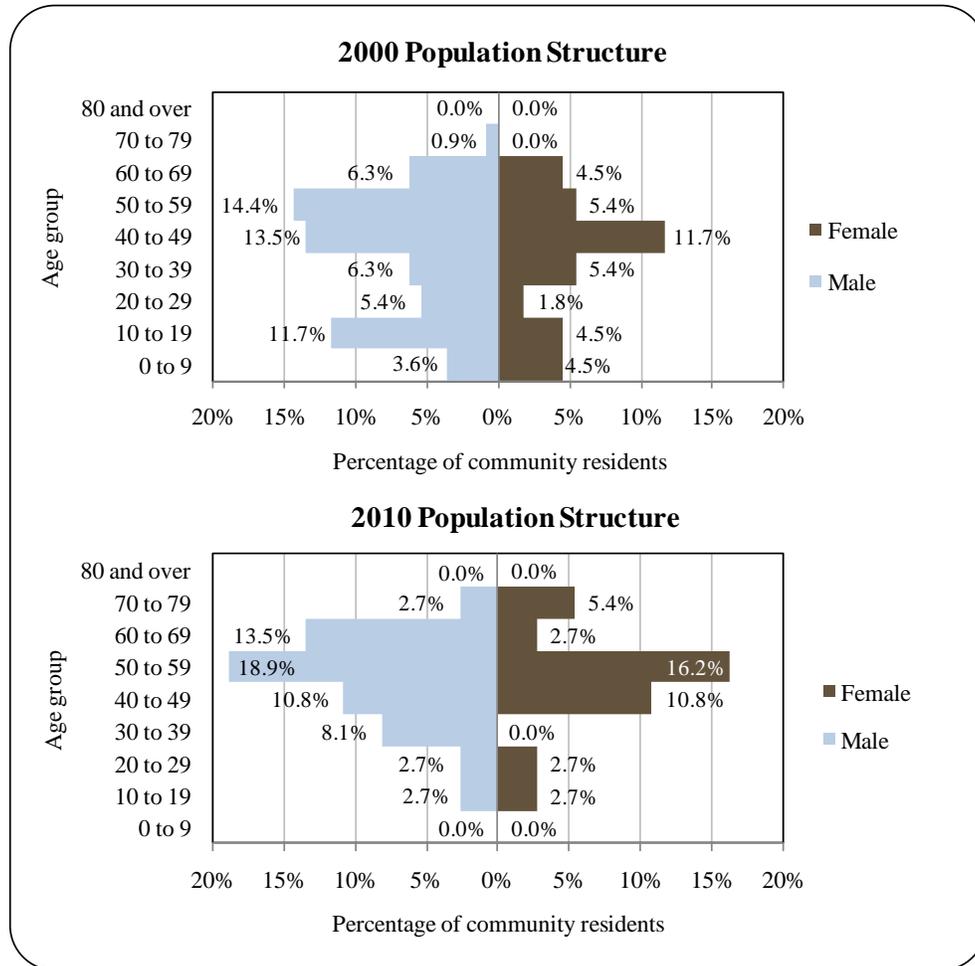
Figure 1. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Skwentna: 2000-2010 (U.S. Census).



The gender makeup in Skwentna in 2010 was 59.5% male and 40.5% female, more skewed than the state as a whole (52% male, 48% female). The median age was estimated to be 52.8 years, higher than both the U.S. national average of 36.8 years and the median age for Alaska, 33.8 years. In 2010 the largest percentage of residents fell within the age category 50 to 59 years old, while the next largest percentage fell within the age category 40 to 49 years old. There were no Skwentna residents under age nine or over age 80 in 2010. By comparison, in

2000 a greater percentage of the population was made up of residents under the age of 20 (24.3% in 2000 compared to 11.7% in 2010), and a lower percentage of the population was made up of individuals aged 60 or older (5% in 2000 compared to 24.3% in 2010). This shift could be related to the closure of the Skwentna school in 2000 (see the *Educational Opportunities* section). The overall population structure of Skwentna in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Population Age Structure in Skwentna 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 Skwentna in 2010. Although the U.S. Decennial Census recorded 37 individuals as permanent residents in Skwentna in 2010, the ACS estimated a population of zero.<sup>3,4</sup> Given the small population of Skwentna in 2010, it is useful to look back at

<sup>3</sup> 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>.

education statistics in the year 2000 as well, when the population was slightly higher (111 residents). Based on the 2000 U.S. Census,<sup>5</sup> 95% of Skwentna residents aged 25 and older held a high school diploma or higher degree, compared to 88.3% of Alaskan residents overall that year. Also based on the 2000 Census, 5% of Skwentna residents aged 25 and older had less than a ninth grade education, compared to 4.1% of Alaskan residents overall; 28.8% had a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 27.9% of Alaskan residents overall; 7.5% had some college but no degree, compared to 28.6% of Alaskan residents overall; 22.5% had an Associate's degree, compared to 7.2% of Alaskan residents overall; and 36.3% of Skwentna residents had a Bachelor's degree, compared to 16.1% of Alaskan residents overall. No Skwentna residents held graduate or professional degrees in 2000, compared to 8.6% of Alaskans overall.

### *History, Traditional Knowledge, and Culture*

Dena'ina Athabascans have fished and hunted along the Skwentna and Yentna Rivers for centuries. Dena'ina villages were occupied in the Yentna River Valley until the 1800s, and continued to be used as seasonal fishing and hunting camps by the Susitna Station and Kroto Creek Dena'ina until around 1930.<sup>6</sup> The gold rush of the late 1800s brought hundreds of prospectors to the Susitna River basin.<sup>7</sup> An extensive network of trails and wagon roads was established by early explorers, mining companies, and the Alaska Road Commission. Old Skwentna is located along the route of the Iditarod Trail.<sup>8</sup> Many roadhouses were constructed along the trail to the Innoko Mining District, including the Old Skwentna Roadhouse. Prospectors, trappers, and Natives often used sled dogs to transport goods over the trail. Max and Belle Shellabarger homesteaded and started a guide service in 1923 and later a flying service and weather station. A post office was opened in 1937. After World War II, Morrison-Knudson built an airstrip, and in 1950 the U.S. Army established a radar station at Skwentna and a recreation camp at Shell Lake, 15 air miles from Skwentna. In the 1960s, state land disposals increased settlement. Skwentna residents are scattered over a large area of land. The community has a number of seasonal-use homes. There is a small local store, and area residents use snowmobiles or aircraft to travel to the post office.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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). Retrieved November 1, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

<sup>6</sup> Fall, J. and D. Foster. 1987. *Fish and Game Harvest and Use in the Middle Susitna Basin*. Retrieved May 23, 2012 from <http://www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us/TechPap/tp143.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior. (2006). *Denali National Park and Preserve: Final South Denali Implementation Plan And Environmental Impact Statement*. Retrieved December 27, 2012 from [http://www.matsugov.us/denali/documents/proof\\_book\\_000.pdf](http://www.matsugov.us/denali/documents/proof_book_000.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Stanek, R.T. 1987. *Historical and Contemporary Trapping in the Western Susitna Basin*. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Technical Paper No. 134. Retrieved December 21, 2012 from <http://www.arlis.org/docs/vol1/A/20704265.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

## Natural Resources and Environment

January temperatures in Skwentna range from -30 to 33 °F (-34.4 to 0.6 °C), and July temperatures can vary from 42 to 83 °F (5.6 to 28.3 °C). Annual precipitation averages 28 inches, with 70 inches of snowfall.<sup>10</sup> In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that Skwentna's economy is reliant upon the following natural resource-based industries: mining, logging, fishing, ecotourism, and sport hunting/fishing.

Skwentna is located near Denali National Park and Preserve. The following information about Denali National Park and Preserve (National Park) is from the U.S. National Park Service. Denali, the "High One," is the name Athabascan native people gave the massive peak that crowns the 600-mile-long Alaska Range. Denali is also the name of an immense national park and preserve created from the former Mount McKinley National Park. In 1917, Mount McKinley National Park was established as a game refuge. The park, including North America's highest peak, were named for former senator - later President - William McKinley. In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) enlarged the boundary of the park by 4 million acres and redesignated it as Denali National Park and Preserve. The National Park exemplifies interior Alaska's character as one of the world's last great frontiers; its wilderness is largely unspoiled.<sup>11</sup>

More than 650 species of flowering plants as well as many species of mosses, lichens, fungi, algae, and others grace the slopes and valleys of the National Park. Only plants adapted to long, cold winters and short growing seasons can survive in this subarctic wilderness. Permafrost ground underlies many areas of the park, where only a thin layer of topsoil is available to support life. After the continental glaciers retreated from most of the park 10,000 to 14,000 years ago, hundreds of years were required to begin building new soils and revegetation. The dynamic glaciated landscape provides large rivers, countless lakes and ponds, and unique landforms which form the foundation of the ecosystems that thrive in the National Park.<sup>12</sup>

The National Park is well-known for its diversity of wildlife. There are 39 species of mammals, 169 species of birds, 14 species of fish, and one species of amphibian known to occur in the area. There are no reptiles recorded in the National Park. Animal life and activity is dictated by the seasons. Winter is the longest season and the animals that are year-round residents are well-adapted to life in the subarctic. The brief spring season brings the return of 80% of the National Park's bird life, the waking of hibernating bears, and an increase in activity levels of wildlife. Summer is a time for raising young and preparing for migration, hibernation, or survival during the winter. Summer also brings hordes of insects, including mosquitoes. In late summer, king and chum salmon run in the multitude of streams and rivers. In autumn, migrating birds fill the skies and bull moose gather their harems of cows for the mating season.<sup>13</sup>

Natural hazards that have been identified as highly likely to occur in the Mat-Su Borough include floods, wildfire, earthquake and volcanic activity. Avalanche and severe weather were rated a moderately likely to occur, and drought was rated at a low probability of occurrence.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. National Park Service. 2012. *Denali National Park and Preserve: Nature and Science*. Retrieved from <http://www.nps.gov/dena/naturescience/index.htm> on March 29, 2012.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Matanuska-Susitna Borough Dept. of Emergency Services. 2008. *All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, Phase One: Natural Hazards*. Retrieved May 24, 2012 from <http://ww1.matsugov.us/>.

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, there are no notable active environmental cleanup sites located in the Skwentna area as of December 2012.<sup>15</sup>

## Current Economy<sup>16</sup>

Historically, commercial trapping and personal use harvest of fish and wildlife have played important roles in the economy of western Susitna basin communities like Skwentna, and employment patterns have been seasonal.<sup>17,18</sup> Today, wage employment in Skwentna is also provided by local lodges, the post office, and the airstrip.<sup>19</sup>

Although the 2010 Decennial Census reported 37 residents age 16 or over in Skwentna in 2010, household surveys conducted for the 2006-2010 ACS did not provide similar coverage of local residents.<sup>20,21</sup> Given this, the civilian labor force figure provided by the 2006-2010 ACS was estimated to be zero, and no earnings were reported in Skwentna. Due to the lack of 2010 data, only 2000 income estimates are discussed here.

Based on the 2000 Decennial Census, in 2000, the per capita income in Skwentna was \$23,994 and the median household income was \$16,250. Taking inflation into account by converting the 2000 values to 2010 dollars,<sup>22</sup> the real per capita income in 2000 is shown to have been \$31,552, and the real median household income in 2000 was \$21,369. In the year 2000, Skwentna ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> of 344 Alaskan communities with per capita income data that year, and 322<sup>nd</sup> in median household income, out of 341 Alaskan communities with household income data. That year, 5.8% of Skwentna residents were below the poverty level, compared to 9.4% of Alaskan residents overall.

An estimate of 2010 per capita income can be generated using economic data compiled by the Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) database maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). The ALARI database estimated that there were 65 residents age 16 and over in the civilian labor force in 2010. Of these, 16 residents were estimated to be employed that year.<sup>23</sup> If total wages reported in the ALARI database for 2010 are divided by the 2010 population reported by the U.S. Census, the resulting

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<sup>15</sup> 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>.

<sup>16</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all monetary data are reported in nominal values.

<sup>17</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

<sup>18</sup> Stanek, Ronald T. 1987. *Historical and Contemporary Trapping in the Western Susitna Basin*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 134. Retrieved December 31, 2012 from <http://www.arlis.org/docs/vol1/A/20704265.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> See footnote 17.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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>.

<sup>22</sup> 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>).

<sup>23</sup> Alaska Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development (n.d.). *Alaska Local and Regional Information*. Retrieved May 22, 2012 from: <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/alari/>.

per capita income estimate for Skwentna in 2010 is \$11,756.<sup>24</sup> In addition, an estimate based on the ALARI database indicates that the unemployment rate in 2010 was 7.7%, lower than the ALARI statewide unemployment rate estimate of 11.5%.<sup>25</sup>

The per capita estimate based on the ALARI database is lower than the real per capita income reported by the 2000 Census, providing evidence that per capita income may have decreased in Skwentna between 2000 and 2010. The possible decrease in per capita income is reflected in the fact that Skwentna met the Denali Commission’s criteria as a “distressed community” in 2010,<sup>26</sup> indicating that over 70% of residents aged 16 and older earned less than \$16,120 in 2010. However, given the different data sources used to generate the 2000 and 2010 statistics, caution should be used when considering this information. It should also be noted that both U.S. Census and DOLWD data are based on wage earnings, and these income figures do not take into account the value of subsistence within the local economy.

Also due to Skwentna’s small population size, the 2006-2010 ACS did not estimate employment statistics for 2010.<sup>27</sup> Due to the lack of information for 2010, Figure 3 presents employment by industry in the year 2000, and employment is broken down by occupation for the year 2000 in Figure 4. Of 80 Skwentna residents aged 16 or older in 2000, 59 (73.8%) were reported to be the civilian labor force that year, compared to 67.6% that were in the civilian labor force statewide. No Skwentna residents were reported to be unemployed, compared to a statewide unemployment rate of 6.1% in 2000. That year, all 59 employed individuals in Skwentna worked in the private sector. The majority of residents (67.8%) in 2000 worked in tourism related industries (e.g., food services, recreation, etc.) and service occupations (45.8%). An estimated 10.2% of residents worked in natural resource based industries, which includes fishing. However, the number of individuals employed in farming, fishing, and forestry industries may be underestimated in census statistics as fishermen may hold another job and may characterize their employment accordingly.

An alternative estimate of employment is provided by economic data compiled in the ALARI database, which indicate that there were 16 employed residents in 2010, of which 5 were employed in leisure and hospitality industries, 4 in trade, transportation, and utilities, 3 in professional and business services, 2 in construction, 1 in natural resources and mining, and 1 in information.<sup>28</sup> As with income statistics, it should also be noted that ACS and DOLWD employment statistics do not reflect residents’ activity in the subsistence economy.

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<sup>24</sup> See footnotes 20 and 23.

<sup>25</sup> See footnote 23.

<sup>26</sup> Denali Commission. 2011. *Distressed Community Criteria 2011 Update*. Retrieved April 16, 2012 from [www.denali.gov](http://www.denali.gov).

<sup>27</sup> See footnote 20.

<sup>28</sup> See footnote 23.

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

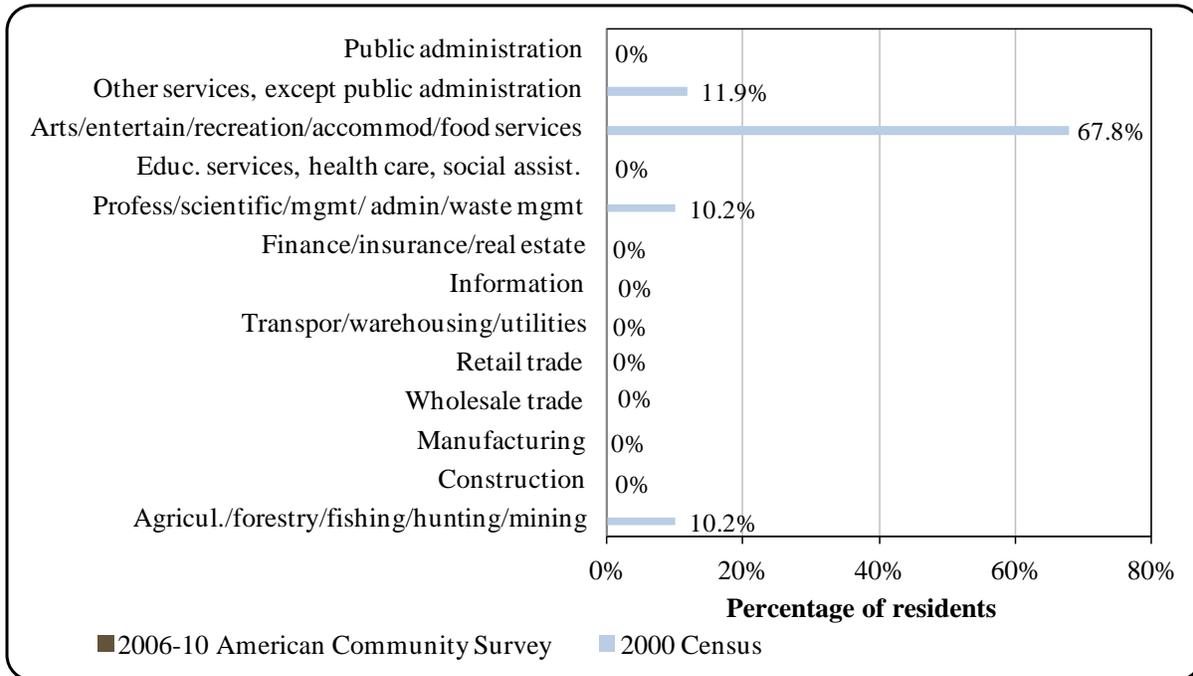
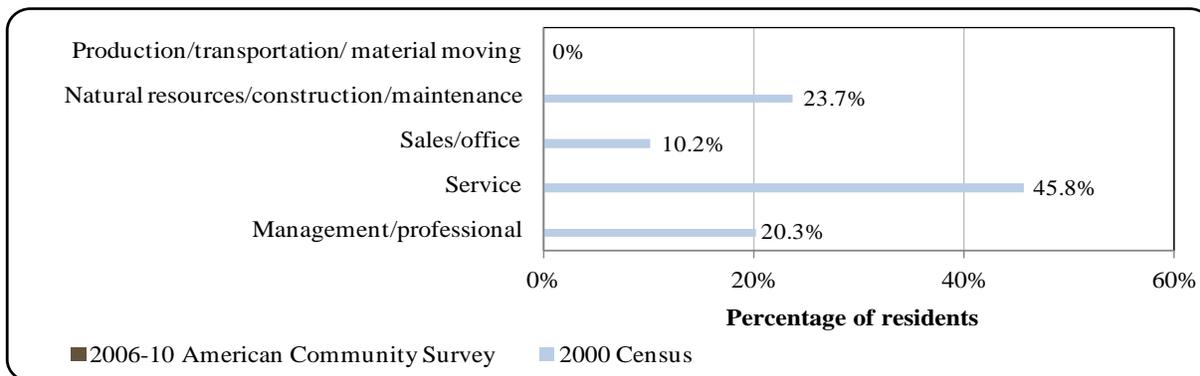


Figure 4. Local Employment by Occupation in 2000-2010, Skwentna (U.S. Census).



## Governance

Skwentna is an unincorporated community located in the Mat-Su Borough.<sup>29</sup> The community is represented by the Skwentna Community Council, but this body has been inactive in recent years. Since it is unincorporated, Skwentna does not maintain a municipal budget with community revenue and expenditures. Between 2000 and 2010, Skwentna did not receive State or Community Revenue Sharing contributions or any state or federal fisheries-related grants (Table 2). A federally-recognized tribe is not present in Skwentna.

<sup>29</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm).

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

Year	Total Municipal Revenue <sup>1</sup>	Sales Tax Revenue <sup>2</sup>	State/Community Revenue Sharing <sup>3,4</sup>	Fisheries-Related Grants (State and Federal) <sup>5</sup>
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

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm).

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm).

The nearest offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Department of Natural Resources are located in Palmer. The nearest offices of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are located in Anchorage.

## Infrastructure

### *Connectivity and Transportation*

There is no road access between Skwentna and the nearest state highway system, the George Parks Highway corridor, located approximately 40 miles east of the community. Residents are dependent upon air travel and snowmobiles.<sup>30</sup> In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders also indicated that water taxi service is available in the area. A state-owned 3,400 ft long by 75 ft wide gravel airstrip is available. There is also a private airstrip and float plane access, located at Alexander Lake, 15 miles to the southeast. Regularly scheduled commercial air service is not available to the Skwentna airport. Residents must reach Anchorage via private or charter aircraft.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

### *Facilities*

A number of homes in Skwentna have individual water wells and septic systems, but very few homes are fully plumbed. Outhouses are the primary means of sewage disposal. There is no central electric system, and residents provide power via individual generator sets. A community refuse incinerator is available at an unpermitted dump site near the airport, operated by the borough. The site is currently being used by several families, but most residents burn and bury their own refuse. Law enforcement services are provided by state troopers in Talkeetna and fire and rescue services are provided by the Lake Creek/Skwentna First Responders.<sup>32</sup>

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders reported that, in the last ten years, Skwentna has completed a new landfill/solid waste site and a new post office. With regard to fisheries-related infrastructure, community leaders indicated that, although no dock space is available for permanent or transient vessels to moor, there is shore moorage available in the river for vessels up to 100 ft long, and Skwentna is equipped to handle fuel barges, landing craft, and water taxis. They noted that vessels basing in Skwentna are typically under 60 ft in length, and local boat traffic is primarily comprised of charter boats, private pleasure boats, barges, and landing craft. Fisheries-related services available in Skwentna include sale of boat fuel and fishing gear and tackle, boat repair (electrical, welding, and mechanical services), dry dock storage, and fishing lodges. For fisheries-related businesses and services not available in Skwentna, community leaders indicated that residents travel to Willow, Wasilla, or Anchorage.

### *Medical Services*<sup>33</sup>

Medical care is available at the Valley Hospital located in Palmer (approximately 80 miles from Skwentna). Alternate health care is provided by the Lake Creek/Skwentna First Responders. Emergency services have highway and river access and are provided by the 911 telephone service and volunteers.

### *Educational Opportunities*

Through the 1999-2000 school year, the Mat-Su Borough administered a small school in Skwentna that offered grades kindergarten through high school, but since the school has been closed since the fall of 2000 due to lack of sufficient enrollment.<sup>34,35</sup> As of 2012, the nearest elementary schools are Trapper Creek Elementary and Talkeetna Elementary, and the nearest Junior/Senior high school is Su-Valley High School, located near Talkeetna along the George Parks Highway. Some students may also be homeschooled through correspondence programs such as Mat-Su Central School, or other state, federal, or church correspondence programs.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Stanek, Ronald T. 1987. *Historical and Contemporary Trapping in the Western Susitna Basin*. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Technical Paper No. 134. Retrieved December 21, 2012 from <http://www.arlis.org/docs/vol11/A/20704265.pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development. (2012). *Statistics and Reports*. Retrieved April 24, 2012 from <http://eed.alaska.gov/stats/>.

<sup>36</sup> Personal communication, Mat-Su Borough School District administrator. July 13, 2012.

## Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

### *History and Evolution of Fisheries*

Historically, residents of Skwentna have mainly participated in recreational and subsistence fishing and have had limited participation in commercial fishing.<sup>37,38</sup> The area drained by the Skwentna and Yentna rivers has many lakes and small streams that support all five species of salmon in Alaska. A number of fly-in fishing lodges are present in the area to taking advantage of the fine fishing opportunities. Most are located on the Talachulitna River, Lake Creek, and Fish Creek. Guests target Chinook salmon from June to mid-July, pink and sockeye salmon in July and early August, and coho salmon from August to early September. Rainbow trout, grayling, Dolly Varden, and northern pike are also important sport species.<sup>39</sup> Local residents also participate in a state-managed subsistence fish wheel fishery for salmon, which has taken place in main stem of the Yentna River since 1998. Season limits of 25 salmon per head of household plus 10 salmon for each dependent are in place for the fishery, as well as a 2,500 total season limit. All Chinook salmon and rainbow/steelhead trout must be returned alive to the water.<sup>40,41</sup> For more information about the fish wheel fishery, see the *Subsistence Fishing* section below.

No commercial fisheries take place in the immediate vicinity of Skwentna. The community is located approximately 50 miles inland, north of Cook Inlet, the nearest marine area. A number of state-managed commercial fisheries take place in Cook Inlet, including fisheries for salmon, Pacific halibut, and scallops, as well as commercial harvest of razor clams along the shoreline.<sup>42,43</sup> Gulf of Alaska (GOA) waters beyond Cook Inlet are encompassed by Federal Statistical and Reporting Area 630, Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulatory Area 3A, and the Central GOA Sablefish Regulatory Area.

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders indicated that Skwentna actively participates in fisheries management processes in Alaska. The community participates through sending a representative to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council committees or advisory groups and Board of Fisheries meetings, a representative that sits on regional fisheries advisory and/or working groups run by the ADF&G, and through a representative that participates in the Federal Subsistence Board or Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council process. Skwentna is also the meeting location of the Mt. Yenlo Fish and Game Advisory

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<sup>37</sup> See footnote 34.

<sup>38</sup> Fall, James and Dan Foster. 1987. *Fish and Game Harvest and Use in the Middle Susitna Basin*. Retrieved May 23, 2012 from <http://www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us/TechPap/tp143.pdf>.

<sup>39</sup> Official State of Alaska Vacation and Travel Information. 2012. *Southcentral: Skwentna Overview*. Retrieved on May 9, 2012 from <http://www.travelalaska.com/Destinations/Communities/Skwentna.aspx>.

<sup>40</sup> Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. 2009. *Alaska Subsistence Salmon Fisheries, 2007 Annual Report*. Retrieved July 10, 2012 from <http://www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us/techpap/TP346.pdf>.

<sup>41</sup> Holen, David and James Fall. 2011. *Overview of Subsistence Salmon Fisheries in the Tyonek Subdistrict and Yentna River, Cook Inlet, Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Special Publication No. BOF 2011-01. Retrieved December 31, 2012 from [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/specialpubs/SP2\\_SP2011-001.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/specialpubs/SP2_SP2011-001.pdf).

<sup>42</sup> 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>.

<sup>43</sup> 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>.

Committee. Advisory committees are formed by local community members as forums to discuss fish and wildlife issues and provide recommendations to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Board of Game.<sup>44</sup>

When asked to describe challenges facing Swentna's fishing economy, community leaders reported in the 2011 AFSC survey that declines in Chinook and sockeye salmon populations in the Swentna and Yentna Rivers are a serious concern, and have led to restrictions in both sport and subsistence salmon harvests in the area. They expressed the opinion that restoration of sockeye, chum, coho, and Chinook salmon runs in the Skwentna area will require reduced interception of salmon by commercial net fisheries in Cook Inlet. They also expressed the belief that salmon by-catch in the offshore pollock fishery is detrimental to Chinook salmon runs bound for the Skwentna River. Community leaders also observed positive results from management efforts to control northern pike populations, which they felt allowed salmon stocks to rebound.

### *Processing Plants*

According to the ADF&G's 2010 Intent to Operate list, Skwentna does not have a registered shore-based processing plant. The nearest processing plant is located in Anchorage.

### *Fisheries-Related Revenue*

According to the 2011 AFSC survey, community leaders reported that no revenues were received from fisheries-related taxes or fees in Skwentna in 2010. Likewise, Alaska state agencies reported no fisheries-related revenue in Skwentna between 2000 and 2010 (Table 3).

### *Commercial Fishing*

Between 2000 and 2010, no Skwentna residents held Federal Fisheries Permits, federal License Limitation Program permits, or state-issued Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits (Table 4). In addition, there were no crew license holders, fish buyers, shore-side processing facilities, or vessels landing catch in Skwentna between 2000 and 2010. From 2000 to 2004, the number of vessels primarily owned by Skwentna residents varied between 28 and 32, and the number of vessels registered as homeported in the community ranged from 43 to 51. However, between 2005 and 2010, zero vessels were primarily owned by Skwentna residents or homeported there. Information about the characteristics of the commercial fishing sector in Skwentna is presented in Table 5. There were no Skwentna residents holding halibut (Table 6) or sablefish (Table 7) quota share accounts or quota shares in federal catch share fisheries between 2000 and 2010. There were also no Skwentna residents holding crab share accounts or quota shares between 2005 and 2010 (Table 8). There were no landings or associated ex-vessel revenue reported in Skwentna between 2000 and 2010 (Table 9), nor were there any landings or associated ex-vessel revenue reported by Skwentna residents during this period (Table 10).

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<sup>44</sup> Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. 2012. *Advisory Committees*. Retrieved December 20, 2012 from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.advisory>.

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/osa_summary.cfm).

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

<sup>3</sup> Reported by community leaders in a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dcra/commfin/CF_FinRec.cfm).

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Groundfish (LLP) <sup>1</sup>	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crab (LLP) <sup>1</sup>	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total permit holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fisheries Permits <sup>1</sup>	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
Crab (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	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 shellfish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	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
Halibut (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	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
Herring (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	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

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

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sablefish (CFEC) <sup>2</sup>	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) <sup>2</sup>	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) <sup>2</sup>	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) <sup>2</sup>	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
<i>Total CFEC Permits<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Permits</i>	<i>0</i>										
	<i>Fished permits</i>	<i>0</i>										
	<i>% of permits fished</i>	<i>-</i>										
	<i>Permit holders</i>	<i>0</i>										

<sup>1</sup>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.]

<sup>2</sup>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 Skwentna: 2000-2010.

Year	Crew License Holders <sup>1</sup>	Count Of All Fish Buyers <sup>2</sup>	Count Of Shore-Side Processing Facilities <sup>3</sup>	Vessels Primarily Owned by Residents <sup>4</sup>	Vessels Homeported <sup>4</sup>	Vessels Landing Catch in Skwentna <sup>2</sup>	Total Net Lbs Landed in Skwentna <sup>2,5</sup>	Total Ex-Vessel Value of Landings in Skwentna <sup>2,5</sup>
2000	0	0	0	29	51	0	0	\$0
2001	0	0	0	32	50	0	0	\$0
2002	0	0	0	31	44	0	0	\$0
2003	0	0	0	28	43	0	0	\$0
2004	0	0	0	31	46	0	0	\$0
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2007	0	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

<sup>1</sup> 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.]

<sup>2</sup> 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.]

<sup>3</sup> 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.]

<sup>4</sup> 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.]

<sup>5</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

Table 6. Halibut Catch Share Program Participation by Residents of Skwentna: 2000-2010.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Halibut Quota Share Account Holders</b>	<b>Halibut Quota Shares Held</b>	<b>Halibut IFQ Allotment (Pounds)</b>
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 Skwentna: 2000-2010.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Sablefish Quota Share Account Holders</b>	<b>Sablefish Quota Shares Held</b>	<b>Sablefish IFQ Allotment (Pounds)</b>
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 Skwentna: 2000-2010.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Crab Quota Share Account Holders</b>	<b>Crab Quota Shares Held</b>	<b>Crab IFQ Allotment (Pounds)</b>
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 Skwentna: 2000-2010.

	<i>Total Net Lbs<sup>1</sup></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>Total<sup>2</sup></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>Total<sup>2</sup></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.]

<sup>1</sup> Net lbs refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

<sup>2</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

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

	<i>Total Net Lbs<sup>1</sup></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>Total<sup>2</sup></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>Total<sup>2</sup></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.]

<sup>1</sup> Net lbs refers to the landed weight recorded in fish tickets.

<sup>2</sup> Totals only represent non-confidential data.

### *Recreational Fishing*

Although between 4 and 13 active sport fish guide businesses were registered in Skwentna between 2000 and 2010, none were active during this period. The number of licensed sport fish guide present varied between 7 and 26 per year. In 2010, 52 sportfishing licenses were sold to Skwentna residents (irrespective of the point of sale), a decline from 71 licenses sold to community residents in 2010. The number of sportfishing licenses sold in Skwentna also declined over the period, from 315 in 2000 to 70 in 2010. The fact that a greater number of licenses were sold locally than the number of residents that purchased licenses suggests that sportfishing activities attract visitors to the Skwentna area.

Recreational fishing is a popular activity in the region generally. Skwentna is located within Alaska Sport Fishing Survey Area M – Susitna River drainage. Information is available about freshwater sportfishing only at this regional level. Between 2000 and 2010, non-Alaska resident anglers fished an average of 57,330 days per year, while Alaska resident anglers fished an average of 118,222 days per year. This information about sportfishing trends in Skwentna and the Susitna River drainage is presented in Table 11.

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

Year	Active Sport Fish Guide Businesses <sup>1</sup>	Sport Fish Guide Licenses <sup>1</sup>	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold to Residents <sup>2</sup>	Sport Fishing Licenses Sold in Skwentna <sup>2</sup>	Freshwater Angler Days Fished – Non-Residents <sup>3</sup>	Freshwater Angler Days Fished – Alaska Residents <sup>3</sup>
2000	0	23	71	315	64,141	177,316
2001	0	22	54	288	71,249	128,658
2002	0	20	62	220	59,863	126,516
2003	0	17	53	234	56,844	131,687
2004	0	16	54	279	56,934	130,366
2005	0	11	42	163	68,753	100,803
2006	0	7	43	128	63,255	109,462
2007	0	18	48	115	58,471	115,578
2008	0	26	44	114	49,911	98,827
2009	0	24	49	92	40,797	99,404
2010	0	19	52	70	40,414	81,821

<sup>1</sup> 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.]

<sup>2</sup> 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.]

<sup>3</sup> 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).

The Alaska Statewide Harvest Survey, conducted by ADF&G between 2000 and 2010, noted the following species targeted by private anglers in Skwentna: Chinook salmon, coho salmon, sockeye salmon, rainbow trout, burbot, and northern pike.<sup>45</sup> No kept/release log book data were reported for fishing charters out of Skwentna between 2000 and 2010.<sup>46</sup>

In a survey conducted by the AFSC in 2011, community leaders noted that recreational fishing in Skwentna takes place from charter boats or party boats, private boats owned by local residents, private boats owned by non-residents, shore-based or dock fishing by local residents, and shore-based or dock fishing by non-residents. Community leaders also reported that the following species are targeted by recreational fishermen that use boats based in Skwentna: all five species of salmon, Dolly Varden char, and smelt.

<sup>45</sup> 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).

<sup>46</sup> 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.]

### *Subsistence Fishing*

Subsistence harvest activities play an important role for Skwentna-area residents. According to research by ADF&G in past decades, subsistence harvests are generally higher in remote areas of the Mat-Su Borough such as Skwentna compared to communities located along road networks.<sup>47</sup> In the 2011 AFSC survey, community leaders indicated that subsistence fishing resources utilized most heavily by Skwentna residents include salmon, northern pike, whitefish, trout, and burbot. They also noted the importance of beaver and mink as local subsistence resources.

Between 2000 and 2010, no information was reported by management agencies regarding per capita subsistence harvest in Skwentna or the percentage of households utilizing various marine resources for subsistence purposes (Table 12). Likewise, no information was reported during this period regarding halibut (Table 14) or marine mammal harvests (Table 15). However, some information was reported between 2000 and 2008 regarding subsistence salmon permits issued to Skwentna households.

A personal use fish wheel fishery began in 1996 in the Upper Yentna and Skwentna Rivers. In 1998, the fishery transitioned to a subsistence designation, following a lawsuit that required the Alaska Board of Fisheries to revisit Skwentna residents' subsistence fishery proposal, and to consider new evidence of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources by residents of the Skwentna area.<sup>48</sup> In 2008, the most recent year for which data were available, seven subsistence salmon permits were issued to Skwentna households, an overall decline from 12 subsistence salmon permits issued in 2000. All seven of the permits issued in 2008 were reported to have been fished. While the amount of each species of salmon harvested under subsistence permits was variable from year to year during the 2000-2008 period, sockeye salmon were consistently harvested in greater numbers than other species. Data were not available regarding harvest of marine invertebrates and non-salmon fish between 2000 and 2010. This information regarding salmon, marine invertebrates, and non-salmon fish is presented in Table 13.

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<sup>47</sup> Fall, James and Dan Foster. 1987. *Fish and Game Harvest and Use in the Middle Susitna Basin*. Retrieved May 23, 2012 from <http://www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us/TechPap/tp143.pdf>.

<sup>48</sup> Holen, David and James Fall. 2011. *Overview of Subsistence Salmon Fisheries in the Tyonek Subdistrict and Yentna River, Cook Inlet, Alaska*. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Special Publication No. BOF 2011-01. Retrieved December 31, 2012 from [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/specialpubs/SP2\\_SP2011-001.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/specialpubs/SP2_SP2011-001.pdf).

Table 12. Subsistence Participation by Household and Species, Skwentna: 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 (lbs)
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, Skwentna: 2000-2010.

Year	Subsistence Salmon Permits Issued <sup>1</sup>	Salmon Permits Returned <sup>1</sup>	Chinook Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Chum Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Coho Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Pink Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Sockeye Salmon Harvested <sup>1</sup>	Lbs of Marine Inverts <sup>2</sup>	Lbs of Non-Salmon Fish <sup>2</sup>
2000	12	12	n/a	3	61	4	227	n/a	n/a
2001	10	9	n/a	1	28	7	309	n/a	n/a
2002	10	9	n/a	13	46	3	242	n/a	n/a
2003	11	9	n/a	6	64	n/a	331	n/a	n/a
2004	20	16	n/a	6	116	46	430	n/a	n/a
2005	11	11	n/a	25	34	24	155	n/a	n/a
2006	11	11	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007	9	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	7	7	n/a	2	43	15	125	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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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, Skwentna: 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, Skwentna: 2000-2010.

Year	# of Beluga Whales <sup>1</sup>	# of Sea Otters <sup>2</sup>	# of Walrus <sup>2</sup>	# of Polar Bears <sup>2</sup>	# of Steller Sea Lions <sup>3</sup>	# of Harbor Seals <sup>3</sup>	# of Spotted Seals <sup>3</sup>
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.*

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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