Cloverdale

People and Place

Location

Cloverdale is located along the banks of the Nestucca River in south Tillamook County on U.S. Highway 101. It covers 0.8 square miles of land. Cloverdale is 104 miles from Portland and 58 miles from the state capitol, Salem. Cloverdale’s geographic coordinates are lat 45°12′22″N, long 123°53′27″W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Cloverdale’s population was 242. The gender composition was 50.4% female and 49.6% male. The median age was 44.3, considerably higher than the national median of 35.3. The census also found that 21.5% of the population was 17 years of age or younger and 38.4% was between the ages of 35 and 54. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 88.6% had a high school education or higher, 34.4% had a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 10.0% had a graduate or professional degree. The national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of the population of Cloverdale was white (97.5%), followed by American Indian/Native Alaskan (1.2%), people who identified with two or more races (0.8%), and black (0.4%). No residents identified themselves as Hispanic. Of the population, 1.7% (4 people) were foreign-born, all from Austria.

In 2000 83.5% of the population lived in family households.

History

Native Americans inhabited Tillamook County long before the arrival of Euro-Americans. Groups such as the Tillamooks, Nehalems, and Nestuccas fished and hunted throughout the coastal areas. These peoples had a close relationship with the sea and the area’s waterways, as evidenced by the boats they built. Their dugout canoes ranged from tiny vessels used for duck hunting to large canoes used for long distance travel to California. At one time the Tillamook people had a fishing village in nearby Garibaldi’s present location. The Indians of Tillamook Bay died in large numbers due to the onset of European diseases. Their population, estimated to be around 2,200 at the turn of the nineteenth century, declined to one-tenth of that size by the middle 1800s. Numerous mounds and artifacts indicate a large Indian community was located at the mouth of the Big Nestucca River.
Although Captain Robert Gray was credited with being the first Euro-American to land in Tillamook Bay in 1788, it wasn’t until the middle of the next century that white settlers came. The entrance to the bay is recognized as challenging today and was identified as perilous in Gray’s time. An account by a member of his crew tells of an awkwardly situated shoal, narrow entrance, and strong tide.

In 1853 the Territorial Government created Tillamook County. The county’s earliest industries were shipping, logging, fishing, farming, and dairy. Fishing played a key role in bringing cash into the area. Fish were caught in the area’s coastal waters, bays, and rivers, and canned in numerous canneries throughout the region. Middlemen bought the packaged fish and sold them nearby in the Willamette Valley. Funds brought into the area from the sale of fish enabled the development of other enterprises and aided the growth of Tillamook Bay communities.

Two industries developed alongside fishing, dairy and lumber. The dairy industry blossomed with the production of cheese that could withstand long storage periods for distribution. The lumber industry took off in the 1890s to meet the demand for containers for dairy, fish, and other products. In 1911 the Pacific Railway and Navigation Company constructed a railway from Portland to Tillamook. This reliable source of transportation facilitated the growth of the timber, dairy, and fishing industries.

Concerns with overfishing arose as far back as the early 1900s. The dory fleet declined alongside coho salmon runs, a fishery that has seen increasing restrictions in recent years. In response to decreasing salmon numbers, gillnet and trawl fishing were banned in the bay in 1961. In the 1990s, the designation of coho salmon as an endangered species and an increase in the restrictions placed on harvesting bottomfish limited the area’s commercial fishers. Commercial claming, oystering, and shrimping were all relatively successful in the Tillamook Bay area in the 1990s. In recent years shrimp harvests have declined along with the bay’s commercial oyster industry, the latter largely the result of the bay’s ongoing sedimentation and pollution. While the area’s commercial fishing industry has declined, the sportfishing industry has enjoyed substantial growth.

Alongside sportfishing, tourism has become an important economic driver in the community, an economic response to the area’s waning lumber and commercial fishing industries. Tourists visit Cloverdale to participate in numerous events including a blessing of the dory fleet that takes place in June. The event commemorates the community’s heritage and importance of dories in its fishing history and contemporary fishing.

In August the Tierra del Mar Summer Faire and Festival is held, and the Outrigger Ocean Fest occurs in late September.

**Infrastructure**

**Current Economy**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 75.6% of the potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed and 24.4% were not in the labor force. Of those in the labor force, 100% were employed, resulting in a 0% unemployment rate. The top employment sector was educational, health, and social services (28.4%) with the majority of those under educational services. This was followed by state and local government (16.8%), manufacturing (13.5%), construction (11.6%), and accommodation and food services (9.0%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 14.2%, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data. Taylor Shellfish Farms and Green Diamond Lumber (formerly Simpson Lumber) are the two major employers in Cloverdale. The community is also known for Christmas trees and oysters.

The per capita income in 1999 was $17,325 and the median household income was $50,568. In 1999 6% of the population was below the poverty level. In 2000 Cloverdale had 106 housing units, of which 87.7% were occupied and 12.3% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 79.6% were by owner and 20.4% were by renter.

**Governance**

Cloverdale is an unincorporated Census Designated Place (CDP). The state of Oregon has no general sales tax but levies a 1% overnight lodging tax that funds the
Oregon Tourism Commission. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Resources Program, a NOAA Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center field station, and a U.S. Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat Station are based in Newport, 47 miles south of Cloverdale. Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils are held in Portland, which is also home for the district office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Facilities

Cloverdale is accessible by land and air. It lies on U.S. Highway 101, which serves as the major vehicular corridor along the Pacific Coast, from Washington to California. Two small airports, Pacific City State Airport and Tillamook Airport, are located within 15 miles of Cloverdale. Because of the community’s inland location, it is not accessible by water.

Cloverdale is located in the Nestucca Valley School District, which has an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school. Tillamook County General Hospital is 15 miles away in Tillamook. The community’s police force is contracted through the Tillamook County Sheriff Department; other emergency services are managed through the county’s Office of Emergency Management. The county also retains responsibility for other public facilities. There are a few options for overnight accommodations in Cloverdale; however, the surrounding area has several motels, hotels, and bed and breakfasts.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were no seafood processors operating in Cloverdale in 2000, and no West Coast fisheries landings were made in the town. Eight commercial vessels were owned by Cloverdale residents, four of which participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. Recorded data indicates the number of vessels owned by residents in 2000 that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/2/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/6/0, and shellfish 0/0/NA.2

According to available data, there were at least nine commercial fishing permits registered to Cloverdale residents in 2000, of which eight were registered state permits. The number of state permits held by residents in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/2/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/6/0, and shellfish 0/0/NA.3

Sportfishing

Cloverdale residents owned two sportfishing charter businesses in 2000; however, both operations were based out of Garibaldi. There were no sportfishing charter businesses operating out of Cloverdale in 2000, nor were there any sportfishing licensing agents. Fieldwork does indicate there may be river guides in the area leading salmon trips on the Nestucca River. There was one licensed charter vessel owned by a resident in 2000.

For the port complex around Cloverdale and Garibaldi, the 2000 recreational salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 1,117 Chinook and 552 coho salmon. The recreational nonsalmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was a total of 87,963 fish. The top species landed include black rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, canary rockfish, lingcod, and blue rockfish.

Subsistence

Subsistence harvest for marine species by tribal and nontribal fishermen may exist in the Coverdale area. Specific information on subsistence fishing in Cloverdale is not discussed in detail in this community profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

One Cloverdale resident owned a vessel that participated in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. It made landings in the North Pacific halibut and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries, but specific information (landings in metric tons/value of landings) is confidential.

Two community residents held federal permits for North Pacific fisheries in 2000, and one resident held a single groundfish License Limitation Program permit. Cloverdale residents held 458,015 halibut individual fishing quotas in 2000.

Six residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.
Sportfishing

Cloverdale residents purchased six Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.

2. See note 1.

3. See note 1.