Garibaldi

People and Place

Location

Garibaldi borders Tillamook Bay to the south and Miami Cove to the west in Tillamook County on Oregon’s northern coast. The town is 83 miles west of Portland. Garibaldi, situated on the north end, is considered the fishing center of Tillamook Bay. It covers 0.97 square miles of land and 0.34 square miles of water. Garibaldi’s geographic coordinates are lat 45°33′36″N and long 123°54′35″W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Garibaldi was 899. The population was 999 in 1980 and fluctuated significantly from 1980 to 2000. The gender composition was 50.1% female and 49.9% male. The median age of Garibaldi in 2000 was 49.2, significantly higher than the national median of 35.3. The percentage of Garibaldi’s population over 65 years of age was 25%, compared to 12.4% for that age group in the United States overall. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 85.7% had a high school diploma or higher, 8% had a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 4.3% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of Garibaldi’s population recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was white (94.8%), followed by people who identified with two or more races (2.4%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.8%), Asian (0.7%), people who identified with another race (0.2%) and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (0.1%). Ethnicity data indicate 1.3% identified as Hispanic. Approximately 1.8% were foreign-born.

In 2000 4.2% of the population lived in family households.

History

Long before Euro-Americans came to the Pacific Northwest, Native Americans, including the Tillamook, Nehalem, and Nestucca, inhabited Tillamook County. These peoples had a close relationship with the sea and the area’s waterways, which is evident in the boats they built. Dugout canoes ranged from small boats used for duck hunting to large canoes used for long distance travel to California. At one time the Tillamook people had a fishing village at the site of Garibaldi. The Indians died in large numbers because of the onset of European diseases. The population estimated at about 2,200 at the
turn of the nineteenth century declined to one-tenth that size by the middle of the 1800s.

Although Captain Robert Gray is 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 to the area. Gray’s stay in the area did not go well. Native Americans killed one of his crewmen after a quarrel. The entrance to the bay is recognized as challenging today and was identified as perilous in Gray’s time, described by a member of his crew as an awkwardly situated shoal with a narrow entrance and a strong tide.

In 1853 the Oregon Territorial Government created Tillamook County. Garibaldi’s first permanent Euro-American settler was Charley Farwell, a ship’s cook put ashore after a disagreement with his captain in the mid-1860s. B.A. Bayley was the town’s first developer, buying land from the federal government. He built a hotel and became the town’s first postmaster. He named a postmark after Giuseppe Garibaldi, an Italian soldier and fisherman remembered for his military contributions toward unifying Italy. Eventually the town came to be Garibaldi.

The county’s earliest industries were logging, shipping, fishing, farming, and dairy. Fishing played a key role as a major avenue for cash. Numerous canneries in the area canned fish caught in coastal waters, bays, and rivers. Middlemen bought the packaged fish and sold them in Willamette Valley. The funds brought to the area from fish sales supported development of other enterprises and aided the growth of Tillamook Bay’s communities.

Two industries developed alongside fishing, dairy and lumber. The dairy industry’s success came with the production of cheese that could withstand long storage periods for distribution. The lumber industry took off in the 1890s with production of 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. The lumber industry was robust in Garibaldi for approximately 50 years from 1918 to the 1970s; however, dwindling tree supplies eventually forced most mills to close. Fieldwork indicates logging (primarily alder) remains important to the area economy.

Garibaldi’s Miami Cove was historically popular for crabbing and clamming, and remains so today. Salmon was historically the big catch on Tillamook Bay. Concerns with overfishing arose in the early part of the 1900s. The designation of coho salmon as an endangered species in the 1990s and an increase in restrictions placed on harvesting bottomfish further limited the area’s commercial fishers. While some runs of salmon species, particularly coho, have declined significantly over the years, fieldwork indicates commercial fishing is currently experiencing an upturn due to healthy Chinook salmon runs and an increase in the price of wild-caught salmon.

Commercial clamming, oystering, and shrimping were relatively successful in the bay during the 1990s. In recent years the shrimp industry’s harvests have declined. The bay’s commercial oyster industry has oscillated over time, experiencing declines due largely to ongoing sedimentation and pollution. Fieldwork indicates the industry is slowly rebounding. Most processing occurs in Bay City. The bay’s sportfishing industry has enjoyed substantial growth. The tourism industry, specifically sportfishing, developed in part as an economic response to the area’s waning lumber and commercial fishing industries, and expanded during the 1980s.¹, ², ³, ⁴

**Infrastructure**

**Current Economy**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 48.6% of Garibaldi’s potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 4.2% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 7.9% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 47.2% were not in the labor force. The top employment sectors, in descending order, were entertainment and recreation, education and social services, and manufacturing. Government employed 9.7%. Natural resource jobs including agriculture, fishing, forestry, or hunting employed 5.6%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

Tillamook County’s principal industries are agriculture, lumber, tourism and recreation, fishing, and food processing. Major employers in the Garibaldi area

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¹, ², ³, ⁴
in 2000 included: Tillamook Country Smoker (snack products); McRae & Sons, Inc. (specialty hardwood products); Garibaldi Dry Dock, Inc. (boat building and repair); the Nehalem Telephone and Telegraph Company (telephone communications); and Nehalem Bay Ready Mix (concrete producer).

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, per capita income in 1999 was $18,075 and the median household income was $28,945. In 1999 11.6% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 Garibaldi had 584 housing units, of which 74.7% were occupied and 25.3% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 72.9% were by owner and 27.1% were by renter. Of the vacancies 68.9% were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

The City of Garibaldi, incorporated in 1946, is governed by a mayor and a five-member city council. The State of Oregon has no general sales tax but levies a 1% tax on overnight lodging. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processor in Oregon.

An office of the National Marine Fisheries Service is 56 miles away in Astoria. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is headquartered in Salem; however, there is a marine resources program 78 miles away in Newport and a fish divisions program based in Astoria. A U.S. Coast Guard Station is located in Garibaldi. Portland, 83 miles away, has a district office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services, and is the nearest location for meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils.

Facilities

Garibaldi lies on U.S. Highway 101. The closest major airport is 56 miles away in Astoria, while two smaller public use airports are located within 13 miles in Manzanita and Tillamook. The nearest airport offering international service is Portland International Airport.

Garibaldi is in the Neah-kah-nie School District. The district has one senior/junior high school and two elementary schools, one based in Garibaldi. The Tillamook Public Utility District provides electrical service. The City of Garibaldi supplies water to the community and provides wastewater treatment. Garibaldi currently has no storm drainage system. The community contracts for police services with the Tillamook County Sheriff Department. Tillamook County General Hospital is 11 miles away in Tillamook and Providence Seaside Hospital is 27 miles away in Seaside. There are about eight overnight accommodations, including inns, bed and breakfasts, and vacation rentals in Garibaldi and nearby Rockaway Beach.

The Port of Garibaldi is a shallow-water port, which operates as an industrial park, picnic area, campground, shipping terminal, launch ramp, wet/dry moorage, and land leases. The port has duel jetties and is guarded by U.S. Coast Guard personnel. Marinas in the port and the surrounding area rent boats and equipment to fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There was at least one processing company located in Garibaldi in 2000. Landings data for Garibaldi were recorded as part of the Tillamook/Garibaldi Port Group. In 2000 landings for this port group were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of landings/number of vessels delivering landings): crab 177.3 t/$863,228/19; groundfish 110.2 t/$140,155/34; highly migratory species 134.1 t/$262,623/18; salmon 48.2 t/$174,609/50; shellfish 45.7 t/$31,044/12; shrimp 188.1 t/$211,429/9; and other species 5.3 t/$27,532/16. See the Tillamook community profile for additional information.

Garibaldi residents owned 35 vessels in 2000 that participated in the region’s fisheries, 17 of which participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. According to recorded data, the number of vessels owned by residents that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/3/0, crab 0/9/0, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/1/NA, salmon 0/14/0, shellfish NA/6/NA, and shrimp NA/6/0.

Garibaldi residents held three federal permits in 2000. The number of residents holding state permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/2/0, crab 0/9/0, highly migratory species NA/1/0, salmon 0/14/0, shellfish 0/2/NA, and shrimp 2/5/0.

At least eight fishing permits were registered to Garibaldi residents in 2000; of which five were registered state permits. The number of permits held by community members for each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/2/0, crab 0/9/0, highly migratory species NA/1/0, salmon 0/15/0, shellfish 0/3/NA, and shrimp 2/6/0.

As Garibaldi is one of several Tillamook Bay communities (Rockaway, Bay City, and Tillamook) whose economies are intertwined, it is useful to look at the combined landings for the Tillamook Bay area for an understanding of the significance of commercial fishing in Garibaldi. Commercial fishing contributed $4.1 million in personal income to the Tillamook Bay area economy in 1997. That year, landings of crab in the area
were worth an estimated ex-vessel value of $580,000. Shrimp were worth $421,000, groundfish $165,000, albacore $219,000, and Chinook salmon $59,000. Fish processing plants in the area process shrimp, crab, salmon, albacore, sole, sablefish, lingcod, thornyheads, and other rockfish.9

Sportfishing

Garibaldi supports a strong sportfishing industry. In 2000 there were 2 registered outfitter businesses and 12 sportfish license vendors operating in Garibaldi. Five charter operations had their business offices located in Garibaldi and all moored their vessels in the community. In addition, 19 other charter operations harbored their vessels in Garibaldi, while their business offices were outside the community in Bay City, Beavercreek, Boring, Clackamas, Cloverdale, Gresham, Hillsboro, Hubbard, Milwaukee, Nehalem, Portland, Rockaway, Tigard, and Tillamook. Garibaldi also houses the business office of one charter business that moors its vessel in Oregon City.

In 2000 sport fishermen caught 1,117 Chinook and 552 coho salmon. Oceangoing sport fishermen also caught more than 40 nonsalmonid species of fish for a total catch of 87,963. The top five species caught, in descending order, were black rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, canary rockfish, lingcod, and blue rockfish. Clamming and crabbing are also popular.

Subsistence

Local community members, both tribal and nontribal, may engage in subsistence fishing for marine and stream resources in Garibaldi and the surrounding area. Specific information on subsistence fishing in Garibaldi is not discussed in detail in this community profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 Garibaldi residents were scarcely involved in North Pacific commercial fisheries. Community members held one federal permit for North Pacific fisheries in 2000 and owned one vessel that fished in the region that year. Community members also held one groundfish License Limitation Program permit. In addition, one resident held a crew member license for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

Sportfishing

Garibaldi residents purchased four licenses to fish in Alaska in 2000.

Notes

5. See note 1.
6. 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.
7. See note 6.
8. See note 6.