

Harbor

People and Place

Location

Harbor is located in Curry County, south of Brookings and the Chetco River. Harbor covers 1.9 square miles of land and 0.4 square miles of water. The nearest major city is Portland, 343.6 miles to the northeast. The geographic coordinates of Harbor are lat 42°03'12"N, long 124°15'59"W.

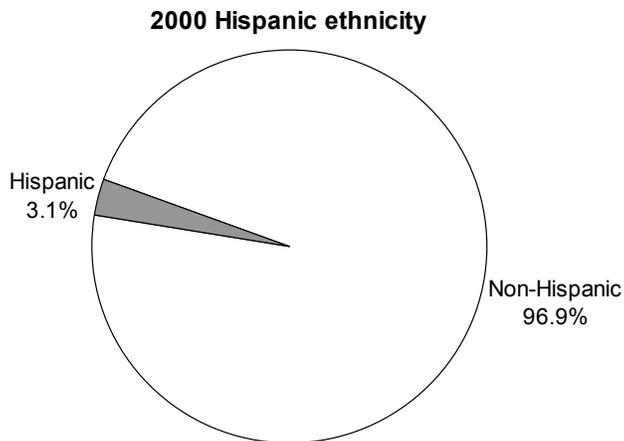
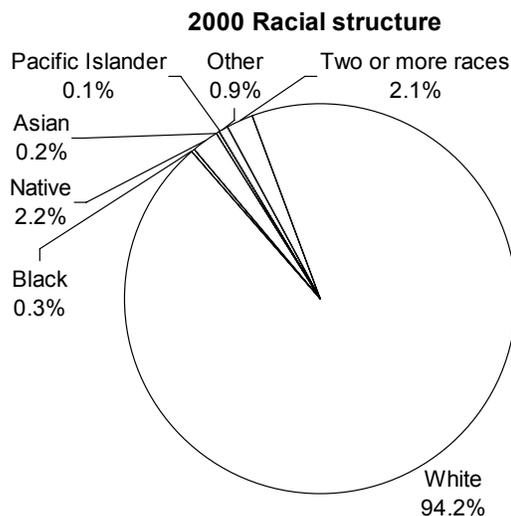
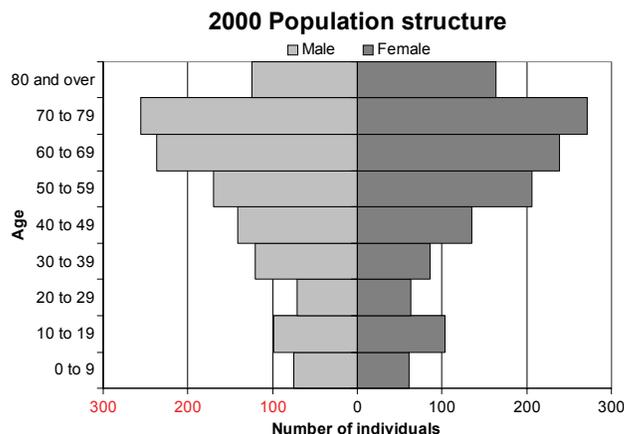
Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Harbor had a population of 2,622, a 22.4% increase over 1990. The gender composition was 50.7% female and 49.3% male. The median age of the community was 59.5, compared to the national median of 35.3. The 2000 U.S. Census revealed a significantly older population, with 57% of the community aged 55 and older, compared to the national average of 21.1%. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 74.9% had a high school degree or higher, 8.1% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 4.1% had a graduate or professional degree. The national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of Harbor's racial structure was white (94.2%), followed by Native American (2.2%), people who identified with two or more races (2.1%), people who identified with some other race (0.9%), black (0.3%), Asian (0.2%), and Pacific Islander (0.1%). Ethnicity data indicate 3.1% identified as Hispanic, a slight increase (1.1%) over 1990. Less than 5 percent (4.1%) were foreign-born, of which 20.6% were born in Australia, 20.6% in Mexico, and 38.3% in Canada. The community includes a large German population, with 28.6% regarding it as their first ancestry.

History

The earliest known inhabitants of the Brookings-Harbor area were members of the Chetco Tribe, an Athapascan linguistic group who lived along the Chetco River and regions of the lower Winchuck River north to Cape Ferrelo. Evidence suggests humans first moved south through the ice-free routes in central North America after crossing the land bridge from Siberia more than 10,000 years ago. Their descendants may have first come to western Oregon between 1,000 and 3,000 years ago. During the late 1800s, the Chetco were probably the most numerous of the 12 coastal tribes, but the population suffered severe declines following contact with Euro-American settlers.¹



Members of the Chetco Tribe utilized resources from their natural environment. They cooked by roasting over a fire or in pots, made airtight with grass and heated with hot stones. Fish, acorns, and elk and deer meat were principal sources of subsistence. Most marine resources, principally fish and mussels, were likely gathered in relatively close proximity to the coast as their boats were shallow, hollowed-out logs, and apparently awkward to manage on the open ocean. Cultural similarities likely were strong between the Chetco and their southern neighbors, the Tolowa, who shared the same customs regulating social relationships and frequently intermarried.²

Euro-American settlers became interested in the region in the mid-1800s when explorers discovered gold and other precious metals in the rivers and along the coastline of what is now Curry County. Initially settlement was concentrated along the coasts and transport was limited to waterways. Slow development of inland transportation routes kept the county relatively isolated well into the twentieth century. While there is still some mining in the Gasaquet Mountain area, the economy has largely reoriented to agriculture, timber, and fishing.³

Today, tourism is an increasingly important component of the local economy. Yearly festivals and events include the 10 kilometer Salmon Run, Chetco Village Chowder Cook-Off, Seafood Luncheon, Silver Salmon Golf Tournament, and the Fall Harvest Festival. The Southern Oregon Kite Festival & Regatta includes the Parade of the Fleet, and the Annual Regatta and Yacht Races.

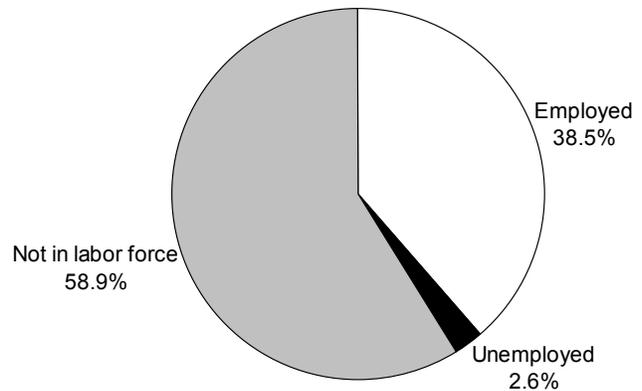
Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 38.5% of Harbor's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 2.6% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 6.3% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 58.9% were not in the labor force. The top employment sectors were educational, health, and social services (18.2%), accommodation and food services (15.4%), retail trade (12.1%), and government (10.5%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industries employed 5.1%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

The major industries in Harbor are recreation and tourism, fishing, and lumber. The four largest employers in the area are South Coast Lumber Co., Freeman Rock

2000 Employment structure



Enterprises Inc., Elenwood Cabinets, and Dick & Casey's Gourmet Seafood.⁴

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the per capita income was \$16,318 and the median household income was \$22,829. In 1999 14.8% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 1,691 housing units in Harbor, of which 78.8% were occupied and 26.9% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 80.4% were by owner and 19.6% were by renter. Nearly one-half (47.8%) of the vacant units were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Harbor is an unincorporated, Census Designated Place (CDP). 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.

Harbor is 206.1 miles from the National Marine Fisheries Service research station in Newport and 29.2 miles from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) field office in Gold Beach. The U.S. Coast Guard Chetco River Station is on Port of Brookings-Harbor property and operates a pair of 47-foot motor lifeboats.⁵ The nearest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office is in Portland. Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils are held in Portland.

Facilities

Harbor is accessible by ground and air. U.S. Highway 101 connects Harbor to neighboring communities. Greyhound provides bus service to nearby communities and metropolitan areas. The nearby Brookings airport serves small aircraft. The community is 356.7 miles from the Portland International Airport.

The Harbor and Brookings School districts consolidated in 1950. Local schools include two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. The Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative provides electricity to residents. The Harbor Water District and Harbor Sanitary District provide water and sewer services. The Curry County Sheriff Department administers local law enforcement. The closest health care facility is Sutter Coast Hospital in Crescent City (19 miles). Lodging accommodations at Harbor include bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels, campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks, and vacation rentals.

The Port of Brookings-Harbor was created in 1956 and is classified as shallow-draft. It covers an area of 400 square miles and represents more than 75% of the Curry County population base.⁶ According to the port, it is the busiest recreational port on the Oregon coast, with more than 95,000 anglers taking more than 31,000 trips. It is also one of the most active Chinook salmon harbors, and receives more than 5,000 commercial fishing vessels annually.

The port operates its own wireless telecommunications corporation and its own re-lending fund. It is one of only two Oregon ports with a license to perform its own construction and maintenance. The port also manages a 9,300-square-foot retail center, leases space to 34 businesses, and plans an additional 13,000 square feet of commercial space.⁷ Facilities include a full-service marina, six-lane launch ramp, 671 slips, two transient docks, fueling facility, launch services, and a full-service boat yard with a heavy lift. A recently constructed marina includes two basins; Basin One is mainly for recreational fishing, while Basin Two supports the commercial fishing industry.⁸ The nearest ODFW fish hatchery is the Elk River Hatchery, located North of Harbor along the Elk River in Port Orford.

A marine aquaculture business in Eureka has growing areas nearby in Crescent City. Products include bay and sea mussels; Eastern, European, and Pacific oysters; littleneck, Manila, and Quahog clams; rock scallops; ulva; nori; and tube worms.⁹ Local organizations involved in fisheries-related activities include the Brookings Harbor Commercial Fishermen's Wives Association and Oregon South Coast Fishermen.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Harbor had at least one processing plant in 2000. According to available data, there were no landings delivered to Harbor in 2000. Residents owned 25 vessels involved in West Coast fisheries, of which 10 participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery.

The number of vessels owned by Harbor residents in 2000 that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/12/8, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/1/NA, salmon 0/13/4, shellfish NA/2/NA, and shrimp NA/6/3.¹⁰

Six Harbor residents held five federal groundfish fishery permits in 2000. The number of residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 1/12/7, groundfish 0/0/1, highly migratory species NA/0/4, salmon 0/13/7, shellfish 0/2/NA, shrimp 0/6/4, and other species 0/2/2.¹¹

According to available data, 69 permits were registered to Harbor residents in 2000, including 64 state permits. The number of permits held by community members in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 1/12/7, groundfish 0/0/1, highly migratory species NA/0/3, salmon 0/13/11, shellfish 0/2/NA, shrimp 0/6/6, and other species 0/3/2.¹²

Sportfishing

In 2003 Harbor had at least one licensed charter vessel business, which used Brookings as its homeport. Internet fishing guide sources indicate at least two sportfishing businesses in Harbor. Presently the community has six sportfishing licensing vendors.

Subsistence

Many local community members engage in subsistence fishing. Both nontribal and tribal fishermen utilize marine and stream resources for subsistence means from the areas within and around Harbor. Specific information on subsistence fishing in Harbor 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 Harbor residents owned one vessel involved in North Pacific fisheries. One community member held a crew member license for North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

Harbor had one Alaskan sportfishing guide business in 2000. Residents purchased 20 sportfishing licenses for Alaskan fisheries.

Notes

1. Curry Coastal Pilot. 2004. First residents were the Chetco. Online at http://www.currypilot.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=1495 [accessed 17 January 2007].

2. See note 1.

3. Brookings-Harbor, Oregon. 2004. Curry County history. Online at <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cpcurryhome.html> [accessed 17 January 2007].
4. Oregon Economic & Community Development Department. 2004. Newport community profile. Online at <http://info.econ.state.or.us:591/FMPro?-db=Community.fp4&-Format=forms.htm&-lay=webpage&-op=eq&sort%20name=Brookings&-script=hit%20count&-Find> [accessed 17 January 2007].
5. Port of Brookings Harbor. 2003. About the port. Online at <http://www.port-brookings-harbor.org/?nav=about> [accessed 17 January 2007].
6. See note 5.
7. Port of Brookings Harbor. 2003. Fishing: recreational. Online at http://www.port-brookings-harbor.org/fishing_recreational.html [accessed 17 January 2007].
8. See note 7.
9. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2003. Registered marine aquaculture facilities.
10. 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.
11. See note 10.
12. See note 10.