

Grayland

People and Place

Location

Grayland is in the South Beach area of Grays Harbor in southwest Washington. In Grays Harbor County, the community encompasses 6.8 square miles. The largest major U.S. city is Seattle, a 132-mile drive northeast. Grayland's geographic coordinates are lat 46°48'37"N, long 124°05'31"W.

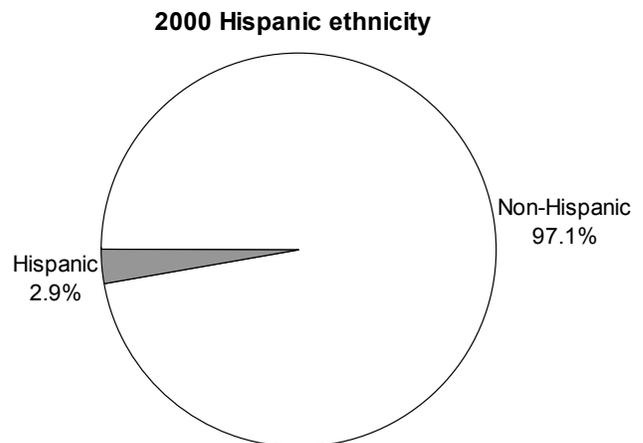
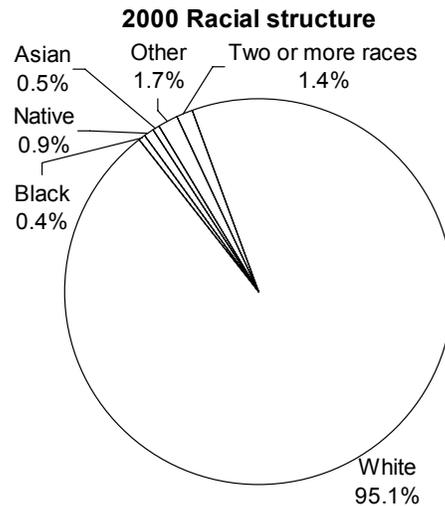
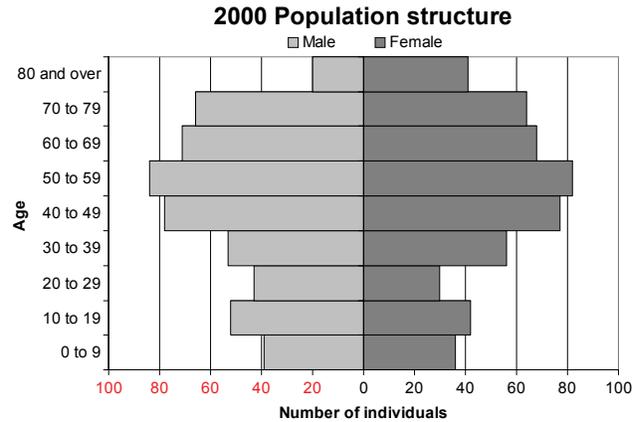
Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Grayland's population was 1,002. The gender composition was 50.5% male and 49.5% female. The median age of 49.6 was above the national average of 35.3. The age structure of Grayland also shows a marked aging trend with 33% older than 60 and only 19.9% younger than 25. This may reflect the absence of an institution of higher education in or near the community and a declining local economic outlook. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 80.7% had a high school education (including equivalency) or higher, 18.9% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, and 4.6% had attained a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The vast majority of Grayland's racial structure recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was white (95.1%), followed by people identified as another race (1.7%), people identified as two or more races (1.4%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.9%), Asian (0.5%), and black (0.4%). Ethnicity data indicate that 2.9% identified as Hispanic. In 2000 4.6% were foreign-born, with the majority from the Americas outside of the United States, followed by Asia.

History

Coastal Salish-speaking Indians have inhabited this region since before European contact. The Lower Chehalis people inhabited the area of present-day Grays Harbor and relied heavily on marine resources, including fish, seals, clams, and other shellfish. They traded up and down well-established trade routes throughout the coastal Pacific Northwest, although their primary village was located on Chehalis Point, the sand spit on the south entrance to Grays Harbor.¹ In 1853 90% of the Chehalis Tribe, including much of its culture, history, and heritage, was lost to the "big sick" epidemic, a disease characterized by extreme fevers.²



Grayland was named after Captain Robert Gray, the first American to circumnavigate the world. He “discovered” Grays Harbor during an expedition to explore the Northwest coast and establish the U.S. claim to the Oregon Country in 1792. In the mid-1800s, Finnish farmers brought cranberries to the Grayland area, planting them in low-lying bogs. Today Grayland has more than 80 cranberry growers who cultivate more than 1,000 acres of the fruit, earning this area “The Cranberry Coast” title.

Much of Grayland’s recent history is connected to the growth of the tourism industry in nearby Westport (6 miles north). By the late 1870s the area was discovered to be a potential recreational area. Hotels were built, land was platted, and the harbor side was named Westport Beach. Because a Washington town in Lewis County had already claimed the name Chehalis City, Chehalis Point became known as Peterson’s Point in the 1870s and in 1890 was renamed Westport.³ Today Grayland, along with the nearby City of Westport, is a popular recreation destination, offering whale watching, sportfishing, camping, and other activities.

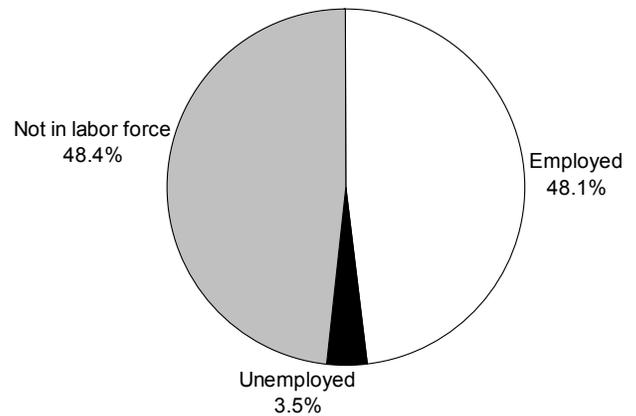
Infrastructure

Current Economy

At the time of 2000 U.S. Census, 48.1% of Grayland’s potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 3.5% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 6.7% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 48.4% of the potential work force was not in the labor force, compared to the national average of 36.1%. The main employment sectors were management, professional, and related occupations (27.8%), sales and office occupations (27%), and local, state and federal governments (16.3%). Natural resources jobs, including agriculture, fishing, and forestry, employed 13.6%, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data. The Weyerhaeuser Company mill in Aberdeen was Grays Harbor County’s largest employer, employing and contracting more than 2,000 workers.⁴

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the per capita income in 1999 was \$21,723 and the median household income was \$25,776. In 1999 19.3% lived below the poverty level, compared to the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 there were 902 housing units in Grayland, with 72.5% owner occupied and 27.5% renter occupied. The housing unit vacancy rate was 44.3%, with 80% due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

2000 Employment structure



Governance

Grayland is an unincorporated census-designated place in Grays Harbor County. The community relies on nearby Westport for many administrative and public works services. The Westport-Grayland Chamber of Commerce also plays an important role in developing and promoting local businesses in Grayland. Grays Harbor County levies an 8.3% sales tax and a 3% lodging tax. See the Overview subsection (page 43) in the Governance section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in Washington.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Office are in Seattle. Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils are routinely held in the Seattle-Tacoma area. The nearest Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Regional Office is 33 miles northeast in Montesano. The U.S. Coast Guard Station (USCG) Grays Harbor is in Aberdeen (23 miles northeast) at the entrance to Grays Harbor and oversees Grays Harbor bar, one of the most hazardous bars in the Pacific Northwest. The USCG station has four vessels and is responsible for marine safety between Queets River and Ocean Park and from Preacher’s Slough to 50 nautical miles offshore.

Facilities

Grayland is accessible by ground, sea, and air. The main roads connecting Grayland to neighboring communities include Washington Highway 105 east to Aberdeen and south to Raymond (28 miles southeast). Grayland does not have port or harbor facilities; for marine activities, residents of Grayland rely on the City of Westport. During the spring and summer months, a passenger-only ferry capable of holding 95 passengers

operates between Westport and Ocean Shores on the north side of Grays Harbor. The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is the closest major facility.

Grayland is in the Ocosta School District, headquartered in Westport. The district has an elementary school and a junior-senior high school. Grays Harbor Community College is in Aberdeen. South Puget Sound Community College and Evergreen State College (both 80 miles east in Olympia) are the nearest colleges with more than 2,000 students. Grays Harbor Public Utility District is the primary electricity supplier for the city. The City of Westport's Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Department provide sewer and water services. Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office and the Grayland Fire Department administer public safety. Westport has a medical center, but Grays Harbor Community Hospital in Aberdeen is the nearest major facility. Four hotels and motels provide lodging in Grayland, and Westport offers a variety of lodging facilities. Just outside Grayland is Grayland Beach State Park, a 412-acre marine camping park with 7,449 feet of oceanfront land.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were zero fish processors operating in the community. Landings data for Grayland were recorded as part of the Other Washington Coastal Port (OWCP) Group that includes the communities of Grayland Beach, Long Beach, Quillayute, Taholah, Queets, Moclips, Hoh, and Kalaloch. Of the 68 unique vessels that delivered nonconfidential landings to the OWCP Group in 2000, 44 were commercial vessels, 11 were tribal commercial vessels, and 12 were for personal use. Reported landings for this port group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab confidential/confidential/2; groundfish confidential/confidential/2; salmon 349 t/\$513,894/43; and other species 63 t/\$271,917/28.

Grayland residents owned 26 vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, including 10 vessels that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Grayland residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 1/0/0, crab 16/1/1, groundfish 4/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 12/2/0, shellfish NA/1/NA, shrimp NA/1/0, and other species 5/0/0.⁵

The number of Grayland residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal

pelagic 3/0/0, crab 11/1/1, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 7/2/0, shellfish 9/0/NA, and shrimp 2/1/1.⁶

Grayland residents held 43 state permits in 2000. The number of permits held by these community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 18/0/0, crab 0/1/1, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 9/2/0, shellfish 9/0/NA, and shrimp 2/0/1.⁷

Several tribes along the West Coast participate in commercial fishing; however scant data exists on tribal commercial fishing in the Grayland area. Pacific Coast treaty Indian tribes include the Hoh, Makah, and Quileute Indian, and the Quinault Indian Nation. The closest treaty Indian nation to Grayland is the Quinault and its tribal center is approximately 70 miles north in Taholah. According to the Boldt Decision,⁸ the Quinault's usual and accustomed fishing area includes the following rivers and streams: Clearwater, Queets, Quinault, Raft, Moclips, and Copalis rivers and Salmon and Joe creeks. Ocean fisheries are utilized in the waters adjacent to their territory, between Destruction Island and Point Chehalis, 6 miles north of Grayland.⁹ The closest nontreaty Indian tribe is the Shoalwater Bay, located 11 miles south in Tokeland, on the north end of Willapa Bay in Pacific County. To help pay for tribal natural resource management programs, tribes collect taxes from tribal members who sell fish and shellfish. The nearby tribes of Shoalwater Bay and the Quinault Indian Nation most likely compete for similar fishery resources as nontribal fishermen fishing out of Grayland.

Sportfishing

Sport fishermen in Grayland are involved in the West Coast and Alaskan fisheries. In 2000 there were two salmonid charter licenses held by Grayland residents. In 2003 and 2004 two salmonid charter-fishing operators serviced sport fishermen and tourists out of Grayland. There are two licensed agents selling fishing permits in the community. In 2003 there were 2,083 sportfishing license transactions in Grayland valued at \$22,682.

In Catch Record Card Area 2 (Westport-Ocean Shores) the 2000–2001 sport catch, based on creel survey estimates, was 34,636 fish, including 6,254 Chinook salmon and 28,382 coho salmon. Marine anglers made 19,895 trips in the sport salmon fishery. Sport fishermen caught eight steelhead in Area 2. The coastal bottomfish catch for Area 2 was 152,675 and the Pacific halibut catch for Area 1-2 (Ilwaco-Grayland-Ocean Shores) was 2,341. In addition to halibut and salmon, sport fishermen in the Grayland area harvest rock and Dungeness crab, razor clams, sea bass, greenling, perch, lingcod, and a variety of freshwater species.

Subsistence

Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities are fundamental to the way of life of some coastal community members. Today members of the Quinault Nation, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, and other nontribal subsistence fishermen obtain fishery resources from the waters surrounding Grayland. While tribal and nontribal individuals participate in subsistence fishing, tribal catches are reserved for tribal use only. Subsistence fishing is not discussed in great detail in this community profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Grayland residents owned seven vessels that were involved in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. Community members landed fish in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/ value of said landings/number of vessels landing): salmon 126 t/\$101,900/4 and shellfish confidential/confidential/1.

Grayland residents held 10 state and federal registered permits in 2000, including 7 individuals who held state permits and 2 individuals who held federal permits. Residents held two groundfish License Limitation Program permits. Residents held two Bering Sea Aleutian Island groundfish, five salmon, and one shellfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits. Residents held zero halibut or sablefish individual fishing quota shares.

In 2000 21 Grayland residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

Grayland community members purchased 26 Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis. No date. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis. Online at <http://www.chehalis-tribe.org/index.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].

2. R. McCausland. 1998. Washington's Grayland. The Donning Company Publishers, Virginia Beach, VA.

3. Chehalis River Council. 2004. Selective chronology of the Chehalis Basin. Online at <http://www.crcwater.org/issues2/chronicle.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].

4. Grays Harbor Economic Development Council. No date. Grays Harbor County manufacturing. Online at <http://www.ghedc.com/ghmanuf.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].

5. 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.

6. See note 5.

7. See note 5.

8. Center for Columbia River History. No date. Boldt Decision. Online at <http://www.ccrh.org/comm/river/legal/boldt.htm> [accessed 31 January 2007].

9. Pacific Fishery Management Council. 2004. Groundfish bycatch programmatic DEIS. Online at <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gfbdpeis/apdx.pdf> [accessed 31 January 2007].