

# Raymond

## People and Place

### Location

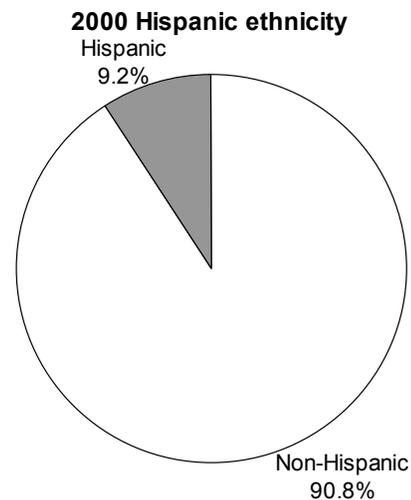
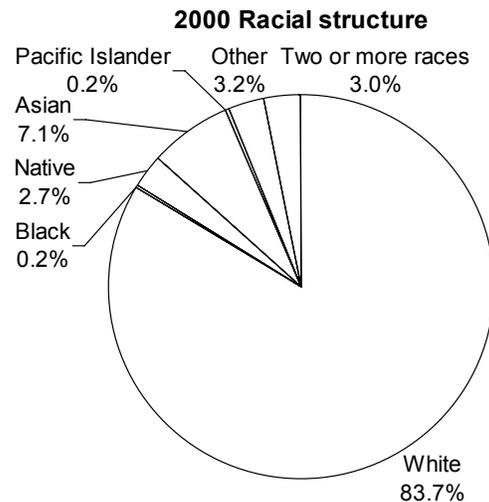
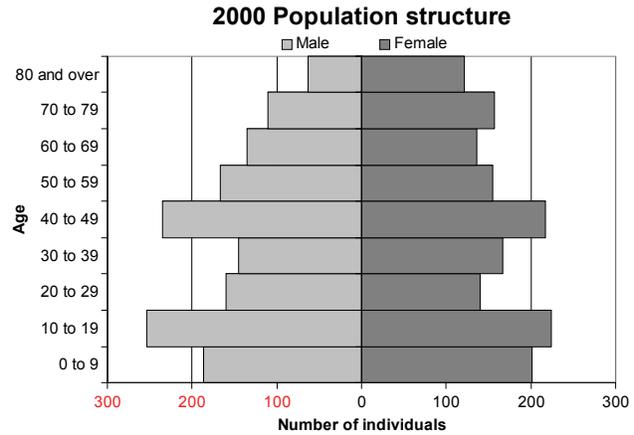
Raymond is in the southwestern corner of Washington on the Willapa River, which flows into Willapa Bay. Situated in Pacific County, the city encompasses 3.8 square miles of land and 0.6 square miles of water. The nearest major U.S. city is Seattle, a 125-mile drive northeast. Raymond's geographic coordinates are lat 46°41'12"N, long 123°43'54"W.

### Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Raymond's population was 2,975, an increase of 2.6% from 2,901 residents in 1990. The gender composition was 51% female and 49% male. The median age of 40.2 was almost 5 years older than the national median age of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 72.8% of Raymond's residents had a high school education (including equivalency) or higher, 11.6% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, and 4.2% had attained a graduate or professional degree. The highest level of education attained for 35.9% of residents was a high school degree. These numbers fall below the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The vast majority of the Raymond's racial structure recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was white (83.7%), followed by Asian (7.1%), people who identified with another race (3.2%), people who identified with two or more races (3.0%), American Indian or Alaskan Native (2.7%), black (0.2%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0.2%). Ethnicity data indicate that 9.2% identified as Hispanic. Raymond's ethnic composition also changed significantly from 1990 to 2000, with a 207% net increase in the city's Hispanic population. The larger Asian and Hispanic populations in particular set Raymond apart from other local communities in Pacific County. In 2000 in Pacific County, 2.1% were Asian, 5% were Hispanic, and 90.5% were white.

In 2000 12.4% were foreign-born, with 41% from Laos, 23.8% from Mexico, 18.5% from Europe (including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands), 4.3% from Thailand, and 3.3% from Canada. Many immigrant and minority residents may be attracted to Raymond because of numerous employment opportunities in local oyster processors and canneries and the growing local industry in nontimber forest resources (greens harvested in forests for use in decorative bouquets and other products).<sup>1</sup> Recent research suggests that these immigrants have



boosted the local economy by providing a significant portion of the labor for local industries and by opening small businesses in formerly vacant Raymond storefronts.<sup>2</sup>

In 2000 80.7% of Raymond's population lived in family households.

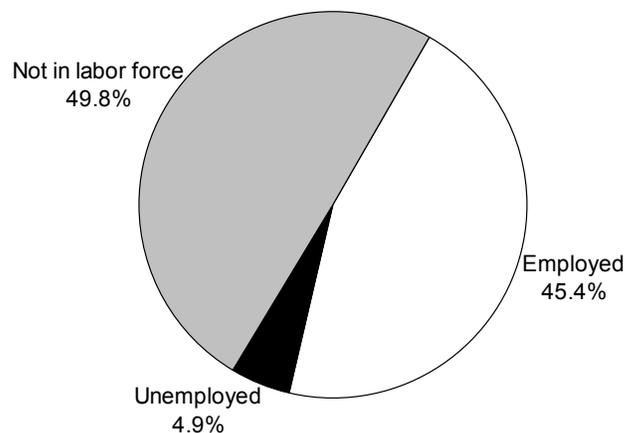
## History

The northern portion of Pacific County has historically been home to native people from the Chehalis, Chinook, and Willapa language groups.<sup>3</sup> The area near Raymond was inhabited predominately by the Chinook, whose overall territory included the region bordering the mouth of the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon and much of the area surrounding Willapa Bay.<sup>4</sup> Native groups depended heavily on fishing and coastal resources and developed extensive trade networks within the region. They harvested native oyster species in Willapa Bay and fished for salmon and sturgeon in the Columbia, the Willapa, and other area rivers. In the 1850s native populations throughout the region were devastated by introduced diseases and conflicts with white settlers. However, a substantial native community still resides in the Raymond area. Some people of native descent living in or near Raymond have membership in the Quinault or Shoalwater Bay tribes, both of which have small reservations to the north, and others are members of the Chinook Nation, which is currently seeking federal recognition.

The contemporary community of Raymond began as a lumber town in the early 1900s. The city was located in the midst of thick stands of cedar, fir, hemlock, and spruce, but the swampy tidelands that dominated the area along the Willapa River delayed the development of a settlement at the site.<sup>5</sup> In 1903 Leslie V. Raymond, the town's namesake, formed the Raymond Land and Improvement Company with the help of his wife and key investors.<sup>6</sup> Raymond platted the town, worked diligently to attract new sawmills and industries to the area, and served as the community's first postmaster.

The business and residential portions of Raymond were initially built on five- and six-foot stilts above the marshy tidelands. Today the community is protected from high waters by dikes. By 1913 Raymond's population reached 6,000 and civic leaders began to market it as "The Empire City of Willapa Harbor." During the peak of Raymond's economic boom from 1912 to 1932, at least 20 sawmills and factories operated along the city's waterfront. A large sawmill operated by Weyerhaeuser dominates the contemporary Raymond waterfront, and although economic growth has slowed in

**2000 Employment structure**



the region, logging remains central to Raymond's history and contemporary economy.

The Port of Willapa was established in 1928, and Raymond remained a major shipping center for area lumber companies until the regional decline of the timber industry in the 1970s. Wood chips were still shipped from Raymond until the 1990s, when shifting shoals on the Willapa Bar made barge traffic into the port difficult. In 2000 a \$20 million reclamation project improved the channel between the Pacific Ocean and Willapa Bay but most traffic into the port today consists of local fishing boats.<sup>7</sup> Commercial fishing has always contributed substantially to Raymond's economy.

In the early 1900s commercial fishing for salmon and sturgeon on local rivers and ocean fishing for finfish, shrimp, and crab provided a substantial number of jobs for area residents and supported numerous canneries. Today the port serves a greatly reduced number of gillnetters, shrimpers, and crab boats, and provides support facilities and services for the successful Willapa Bay oyster industry. Metal sculptures with fishing themes commissioned by the City of Raymond stand in prominent locations throughout the community and serve as symbols of the city's roots in the fishing industry.

## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 45.4% of Raymond's population 16 years of age and older were employed, 4.9% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 9.7% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 49.8% did not participate in the labor force, considerably higher than the national average of 36.1%. The major employment sectors were local, state, and federal governments (22.7%), education, health, and social

services (17.7%), arts, accommodation, entertainment, and food services (17.4%), manufacturing (14.1%), wholesale and retail trade (11.1%), public administration (9.5%), information services (5.6%), and construction (4%). Natural resource job including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 9.7%, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen and lumber contractors are self-employed and are often underrepresented in these data.

Raymond's contemporary economy depends heavily on a large sawmill operated by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, the community's largest employer. Other major employers include Willapa Bay Hardwoods, businesses and manufacturers located in the Port of Willapa Harbor Industrial Area, the Raymond School District, the City of Raymond, and numerous retail stores and restaurants that serve Raymond and South Bend. Raymond residents may also commute to jobs at the Willapa Harbor Hospital or the two major fish and oyster processors located in South Bend (5 miles west).

The per capita income was \$13,910 in 1999, and the median household income was \$25,759. In 1999 24.6% lived below the poverty level, almost double the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 there were 1,338 housing units in Raymond, with 64.3% owner occupied and 35.7% renter occupied. The housing unit vacancy rate was 10.9%, with 10.9% due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

## Governance

Incorporated in 1907, Raymond has a mayor-city council form of government. There are seven city council members. Raymond is one of only four incorporated cities in Pacific County, which was organized in 1851. The City of Raymond levies a 7.8% sales and use tax and a 9.8% lodging tax. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview 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 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 (WDFW) Regional Office is 23 miles northeast in Montesano. The nearest U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Group/Air Station is located in Warrenton, Oregon, 55 miles south, and the USCG operates the National Motor Lifeboat School in Ilwaco, 46 miles south.<sup>8</sup>

## Facilities

Raymond is accessible by land, air, and water. Raymond is on Highway 101, which runs north-south along Washington's coast. Astoria (Oregon) Regional Airport, 52 miles south, is the nearest airport facility certified for carrier operations, and the Willapa Harbor Airport in Raymond provides a paved runway that is open to the public. The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is the nearest major facility.

The Raymond School District 116 offers an elementary school and a junior/senior high school.<sup>9</sup> Public Utility District No. 2 of Pacific County administers electricity service. The City of Raymond provides water and sewer services. The Raymond Police Department, the Pacific County Sheriff's Office, the Raymond Fire Department and the Raymond Volunteer Fire Department administer public safety. Willapa Harbor Hospital in South Bend is the closest major health-care facility. There are a several motels, campgrounds, and recreational vehicle parks located in the Raymond area.

Boating facilities in Raymond include the Port of Willapa, which features a 600-foot high dock wharf, 750 feet of floats, electricity, fresh water, moorage space for smaller boats, and a 5,000-pound capacity dock crane. The port also includes an industrial area, with several large industrial buildings. In 2004 the tenants of the Port of Willapa industrial area included Airgas Nor-Pac Inc., Jackpot Industries (a maintenance facility for six commercial fishing vessels ranging from 80–110 feet and active in West Coast and Alaska fisheries), Pedigree Cats (a company specializing in the construction of fiberglass catamaran yachts), Tri-District Aquaculture (a regional technology classroom center operated by the Raymond, South Bend, and Valley School districts), and Vanson HaloSource (a company that extracts chitosan from shellfish for use in dietary supplements and other products).<sup>10</sup>

## Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

### Commercial Fishing

In 2000 276 unique vessels, including 209 commercial vessels, 18 tribal commercial vessels, 6 aquaculture vessels, and 43 personal vessels, delivered landings in Willapa Bay. Landings data for Raymond were recorded as part of the Willapa Bay Port Group that includes the communities of Bay Center, Nahcotta, Naselle, South Bend, and Tokeland. 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):

coastal pelagic confidential/confidential/1; crab 444.9 t/\$1,941,008/44; groundfish 4.6 t/\$3,889/6; salmon 122.5 t/\$178,084/71; shellfish 26.8 t/\$73,534/63; shrimp 399.9 t/\$397,143/8; and other species 13.1 t/\$31,242/51. See the Naselle, South Bend, and Tokeland community profiles for additional information about these communities.

Raymond residents owned 32 vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, including nine that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Raymond residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 6/0/0, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 6/2/0, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/0/0, and other species 1/0/0.<sup>11</sup>

No individuals living in Raymond in 2000 held federal groundfish fishery permits. The number of Raymond residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 2/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 13/2/0, shellfish 15/0/NA, shrimp 3/0/0, and other species 3/0/0.<sup>12</sup>

Raymond residents held 41 state permits in 2000. The number of permits held by these community members in each said state fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 3/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 16/0/0, shellfish 15/0/NA, shrimp 3/0/0, and other species 4/0/0.<sup>13</sup>

There are no major processors located in Raymond, but two processing facilities that receive landings delivered by Raymond residents are in South Bend. Hilton's Coast Seafoods operates an oyster processing facility and the Dungeness Development Corporation operates a facility that specializes in the processing of crab, shrimp, canned fish, and caviar. These processors employ several Raymond residents. The Port of Willapa industrial area also houses Vanson HaloSource.

## Sportfishing

A number of Raymond residents engage in sportfishing or operate sportfishing businesses in Willapa Bay and along the nearby Pacific Coast. According to the WDFW, there is one sportfishing license vendor located in Raymond. In 2003 and 2004, no Raymond residents owned or operated charter boats in Washington State.

Catch Record Card Area 2-1 (Willapa Bay) is the closest marine area to Raymond. The 2000–2001 sport catch, based on catch record cards, was 870 fish including 468 Chinook salmon, 354 coho salmon, and 48 jack salmon (immature males). The total catch is down from 2,137 salmon recorded in the 1999–2000 season. The number of trips made by marine anglers in Area 2-1

is not available. The 2000–2001 sport sturgeon catch was 96 fish.

## Subsistence

Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities are fundamental to the way of life of some coastal community members. Tribal and nontribal individuals participate in subsistence fishing. Today members of the Chinook Tribe and other nontribal subsistence fishermen may obtain fishery resources from waters near Raymond, particularly from the Willapa River, nearby tributaries, and Willapa Bay; however 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

Twelve vessels based in Raymond participated 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): herring confidential/confidential/1 and salmon 185.7 t/\$284,420/10.

In 2000 Raymond residents held 17 registered permits, including 13 individuals who held state permits and 3 who held federal permits (note: it is possible for individuals to hold more than one permit at a time). Community members held 1 groundfish License Limitation Program permit and 2 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish, 2 halibut, and 10 salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits. Raymond residents held 107,842 halibut individual fishing quota shares in 2000.

Thirty Raymond residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

### Sportfishing

Raymond residents purchased 45 Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

## Notes

1. Field notes, Pacific County Historical Society Museum, South Bend, WA, 4 September 2004.

2. C. McGann. 2002. Immigrants fill up local labor pool. *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Seattle, 10 December 2002. Online at [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/99233\\_immigrant10.shtml](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/99233_immigrant10.shtml) [accessed 31 January 2007].

3. Willapa Bay Organization. 2004. Communities in north Pacific County, Washington. Online at <http://www.visit.willapabay.org/pages/communities.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].

4. University of Oregon. 2004. Chinook Tribes. University of Oregon, Dept. Linguistics, Eugene. Online at <http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/oregon/chtribes.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].
5. M. Nicholson. 2002. Raymond: Empire city of Willapa Harbor. The Sou'wester, Pacific County Historical Society, South Bend, WA., Vol. 37, Special edition, 7-47. Online at [http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw2002\\_1.htm#7](http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw2002_1.htm#7) [accessed 31 January 2007].
6. L. J. Weathers. 1989. Place names of Pacific County. The Sou'wester, Pacific County Historical Society, South Bend, WA., Vol. 34, No. 4:19-68. Online at [http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw1989\\_4.htm#54](http://www.pacificcohistory.org/sw1989_4.htm#54) [accessed 31 January 2007].
7. Port of Willapa Harbor. No date. History. Online at <http://www.portofwillapaharbor.com/pages/history.html> [accessed 31 January 2007].
8. U.S. Coast Guard. 2005. U.S. Coast Guard. Online at <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/units/gruastoria/cd.htm> [accessed 31 January 2007].
9. Raymond School District. 2002. Home page. Online at <http://raymondschools.org/> [accessed 31 January 2007].
10. Port of Willapa Harbor. No date. Home page. Online at [http://portofwillapaharbor.com/pages/fac\\_main.html](http://portofwillapaharbor.com/pages/fac_main.html) [accessed 31 January 2007].
11. 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.
12. See note 11.
13. See note 11.