

TOUR ALASKA'S COAST

A GLIMPSE INTO ALASKA'S COASTAL DISTRICTS



Front Cover photo by: Gordon Brower

MISSION OF THE ACMP

The Alaska Coastal Management Program provides stewardship for Alaska's rich and diverse coastal resources to ensure a healthy and vibrant Alaskan coast that efficiently sustains long-term economic and environmental productivity.

THE UNIQUENESS OF ALASKA'S COAST

With over 44,000 miles of coastline in the State of Alaska, there are so many unique and diversified places to explore. From the North Slope Borough all the way to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, all of the coastal districts have something special to offer Alaskans and visitors. Tour Alaska's Coast will help guide you through each coastal district, as you view beautiful photographs and learn interesting facts about each place.



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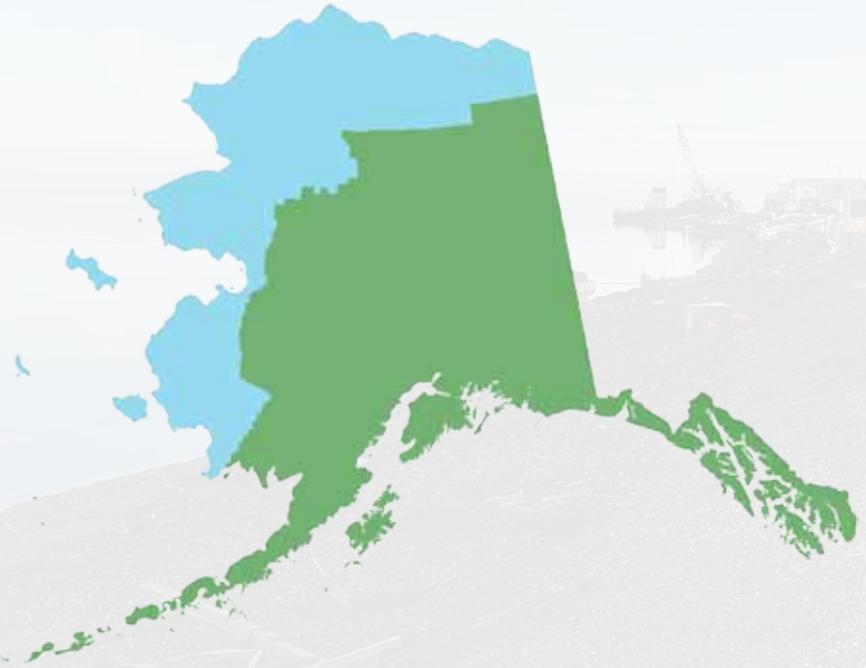
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WHAT IS A COASTAL DISTRICT AND WHAT'S THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ACMP?
The Alaska Coastal Management Act (AS 46.40.210(2)) allows for the formation of coastal districts in areas that contain a portion of Alaska's coastal area. Coastal districts can be formed either by local governments or, in the unorganized borough, coastal resource service areas (CRSAs). Coastal districts' participation in the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) is voluntary. Coastal districts are offered powerful incentives to gain their participation. Incentives include the ability to formally participate in the state review of coastal development projects and eligibility for federal funds that support coastal program activities.



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BERING STRAITS CRSA

Brief History: The Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA) includes both Iñupiat and Yup'ik Eskimos. There are approximately 21 groups of Eskimo Natives in this region separated by cultural, linguistic, and geographic factors. Traditionally, an extensive trading network allowed people in a village to harvest local resources that could be traded with other villages. Products from Siberia such as iron, tea, and tobacco reached the region long before Russians explored the area.

The locals were adaptable and moved whenever it was necessary to respond to changing animal migration patterns, flooding, landslides, and changing river courses. As caribou populations dwindled in the 1870s, most villagers moved to the coast. After a whaler found silver ore in Golovin Bay in the late 1870s, mineral interest in the region increased. By 1910, the most accessible mineral deposits were depleted, and few miners remained in area. Beginning in the 1960s, local residents began commercial fishing, and this activity continues today.



Photo by: Gina Shirey-Potts

Population (2007):	5,566
Shoreline:	3,263 miles
Coastal Area:	20,314 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	10-20"
Annual Snowfall:	30-60"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	20 hours, 5 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 17 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Bering Straits Native Corp
Legislative District:	39 T



Photo by: Randy Bates



Photo by: Randy Bates



CITY OF BETHEL

Brief History: The City of Bethel serves as the regional hub for 56 native villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Bethel is located at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River, 40 miles inland from the Bering Sea. The Yup'ik Eskimos who first settled called the village "Mumtrekhlogamute," meaning "Smokehouse People," named for the nearby fish smokehouse. Reindeer herding and fur farms were among the early industries in Bethel. By the early 1930s approximately 43,000 reindeer grazed along the Kuskokwim River. The population of reindeer gradually diminished and in 1946 only 600 remained.

Commercial fishing in the Kuskokwim area was reported as early as 1913, yet the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery remained virtually undeveloped prior to Alaska statehood in 1959. Bethel is also known as the starting point of the Kuskokwim 300 Dog Sled Race. Although many economic changes have occurred in Bethel, the traditional lifestyle and culture of the Yup'ik people remains visible today.



Photo By: Kevin Higgins

Population (2007):	5,471
Shoreline:	5 miles
Coastal Area:	51 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	16"
Annual Snowfall:	50"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	19 hours, 11 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	5 hours, 41 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Calista Corporation
Legislative District:	38 S



Photo By: Kevin Higgins



Photo by: Laura Whitehouse



CEÑALIULRIIT CRSA



Photo Courtesy: DCRA

Brief History: The Ceñaliulriit Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA) is composed of delta lands draining Alaska's largest rivers, the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. It provides salmon habitat, important migratory stopovers for birds, and marine resources. With over forty villages along those rivers, the coast, and Nunivak Island, Ceñaliulriit CRSA has more communities than any other coastal district. The population and heritage is largely Yup'ik Eskimo and many residents still speak English as a second language. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and plant gathering are priority activities for the people of the CRSA.

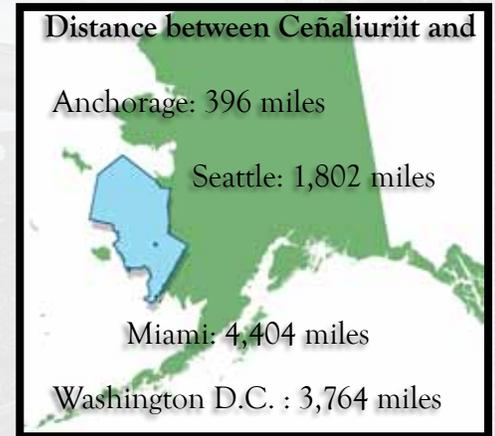
Pronunciation:	(Snah Ləɾeet)
Population (2007):	16,362
Shoreline:	8,993 miles
Coastal Area:	35,168 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	12-22"
Annual Snowfall:	38-79"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	19 hours, 31 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	8 hours, 26 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Calista Corporation
Legislative District:	6, 37, 38, 39, C, S, T



Photo Courtesy: DCRA



Photo Courtesy: DCRA



CITY OF NOME

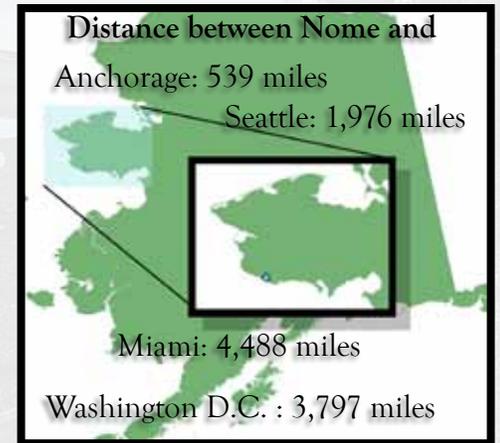
Brief History: Over 4,000 years ago Malemiut, Kauweramiut, and Unalikmiut Eskimos settled this area of the Seward Peninsula. Gold discoveries in the Nome area have been reported as far back as 1867, but it was a \$1500-to-the-pan gold strike on Anvil Creek in 1898 that brought thousands of miners to the area. By 1890 this isolated stretch of tundra fronting the beach was transformed into a tent and log cabin city of 20,000. Nome's gold fields have yielded \$136 million since the first strike on Anvil Creek.

The gold dredges shut down in the 1990s, but the Seward Peninsula still has a lot of gold and is the most highly mineralized area in the world. In 1925 the city faced devastation due to a deadly outbreak of diphtheria. Intense blizzard conditions prevented enough anti-toxin to reach the city so a relay of dog sled teams was organized to deliver the serum. The annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, which ends in Nome, commemorates this historic event.



Photo Courtesy: DCRA

Population (2007):	3,505
Shoreline:	6 miles
Coastal Area:	24.7 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	18"
Annual Snowfall:	56"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	21 hours, 30 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	3 hours, 54 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Bering Straits Native Corp
Legislative District:	39 T



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

Brief History: The North Slope Borough is the largest borough in Alaska. Temperatures in the borough can range from -56 to 78 °F. The North Slope has been inhabited by the Iñupiat people for centuries. Traditionally these people lived in small traveling groups going between hunting and fishing areas. By 1850 Europeans began traveling to the region in large numbers for whaling activities. Early whaling operations were ship based, so contact with local population was low. The demand for oil and ivory lead to declining whale and walrus populations by the 1860s. In the 1880s European explorers established shore based whaling operations, resulting in more regular contact with the Iñupiat. The discovery of oil in Prudhoe Bay in the 1960s resulted in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, built in the 1970s. Today the Borough's government is funded by oil tax revenues, and a strong Iñupiat culture still exists. While the way of small traveling groups has turned into permanent villages, many villages rely on subsistence hunting, and for many residents, English is a second language.



Photo by: Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik

Population (2007):	7,385
Shoreline:	8,031 miles
Coastal Area:	24,654 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	5"
Annual Snowfall:	20"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	24 hours, 0 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	0 hours, 0 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Arctic Slope Regional Corp
Legislative District:	40 T



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH

Brief History: The Northwest Arctic Borough is the second-largest borough in Alaska, covering approximately 39,000 square miles. This area has been occupied by Iñupiat Eskimos for at least 10,000 years. “Kikiktagruk” was the hub of ancient Arctic trading routes. Salmon has been a commercial product in the borough since 1909, when local Eskimos sold 21,366 pounds of it to a store, which resold it at five cents per pound. All five species of Pacific salmon are present in the region, with chum being the most abundant. Most cities in the borough developed as supply stations for interior gold mining and were settled around schools and churches. The Northwest Arctic Borough’s spectacular mountains, scenery, wildlife, and rivers are recognized by the federal designation of 7 protected areas in the borough. Located within the borough, the City of Kotzebue is the hub of Northwest Alaska and is the transfer point between ocean and inland shipping. It does not have a natural harbor, and is ice-free for only 3 months each year. Ninety miles north of Kotzebue, the Red Dog Mine is the world’s largest zinc and lead mine.



Photo by: Jim Evak

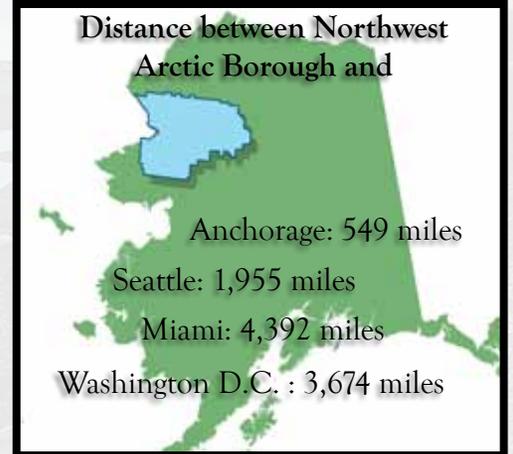
Population (2007):	7,208
Shoreline:	3,156 miles
Coastal Area:	39,000 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	9"
Annual Snowfall:	47"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	24 hours, 0 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	1 hour, 47 mins
Regional Native Corporation:	NANA Corporation
Legislative District:	3, 4, B



Photo by: Jim Evak



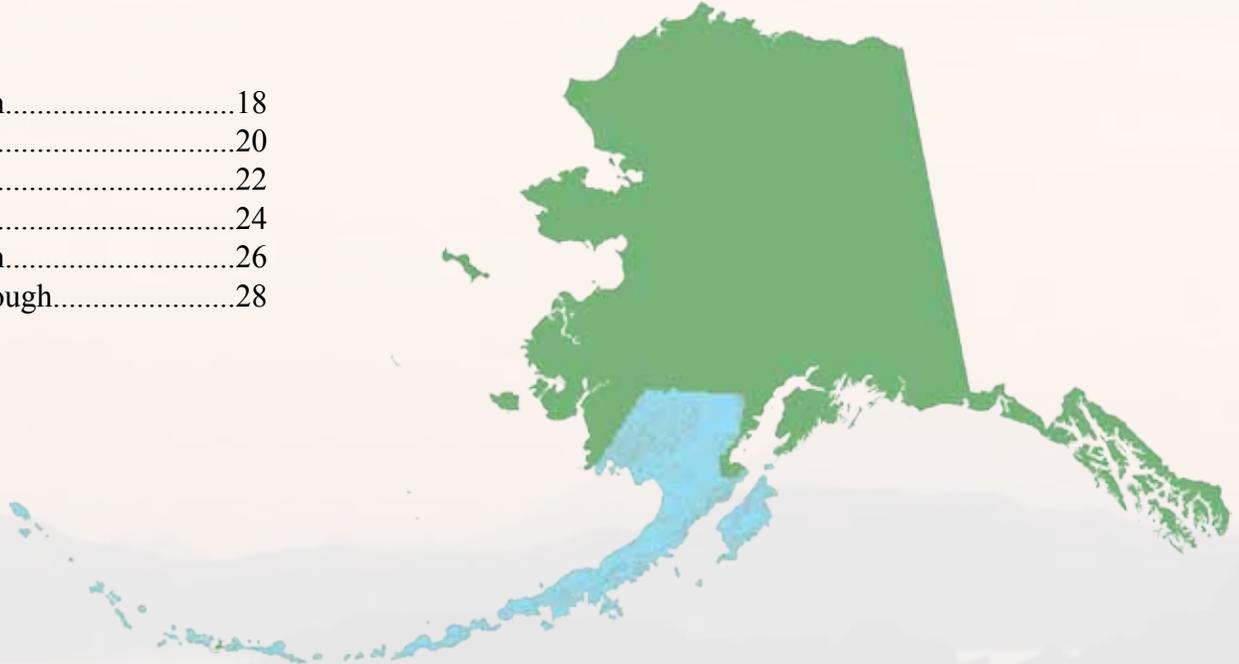
Photo by: Ukallaysaag Tom Okleasik





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ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH

Brief History: Bordered by Bering Sea and the Pacific Ocean, the historic Aleut, or Unangan, culture was highly dependent on the sea. Evidence of local Unangan culture dates back to the Ice Age and is prominent both archeologically and in today's community life. The presence of sea otters in these islands brought Russian fur traders to the area beginning at the end of the 1750s. By the 1800s the fur trade had expanded to include fur seals and foxes. Starting in the early 1900s Scandinavian and European fishermen developed whaling, fishing, and cannery operations. The area was also important to the military during the Aleutian Campaign of WWII. Today commercial fishing and subsistence activities form the backbone of the economy of the Borough's six communities of Sand Point, King Cove, False Pass, Cold Bay, Nelson Lagoon, and Akutan.



Photo Courtesy: DCRA

Pronunciation:	(uh-LOO-shuns)
Population (2007):	2,699
Shoreline:	2,547 miles
Coastal Area:	1,812 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	33"
Annual Snowfall:	52"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	17 hours, 27 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	7 hours, 6 min
Regional Native Corporations:	The Aleut Corp & Bristol Bay Native Corp.
Legislative District:	37 S



ALEUTIANS WEST CRSA

Brief History: The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA) encompasses most of the islands of the Aleutian Chain from Unalaska Island west to Attu Island, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles. The CRSA contains almost 200 named islands. It is believed that the first people to the Aleutians crossed the Bering Land Bridge some 10,000 to 15,000 years ago from Asia to North America. They called themselves Unangan or Unangas, meaning “people of the places.” When the Russians later arrived they called the native population Aleuts. Russian fur traders were drawn to the rich waters of the area but were known to treat local Unangan people badly. Violence escalated and within the first 75 years of contact the Native population was down to an estimated 20 percent of its original size. The military buildup in the Aleutians began in 1940. At the height of the campaign there were in excess of 150,000 troops in the Aleutians. With the Bering Sea to the north and Pacific Ocean to the south, commercial fishing, processing, and industry support are the backbone of the economy of the Western Aleutians.

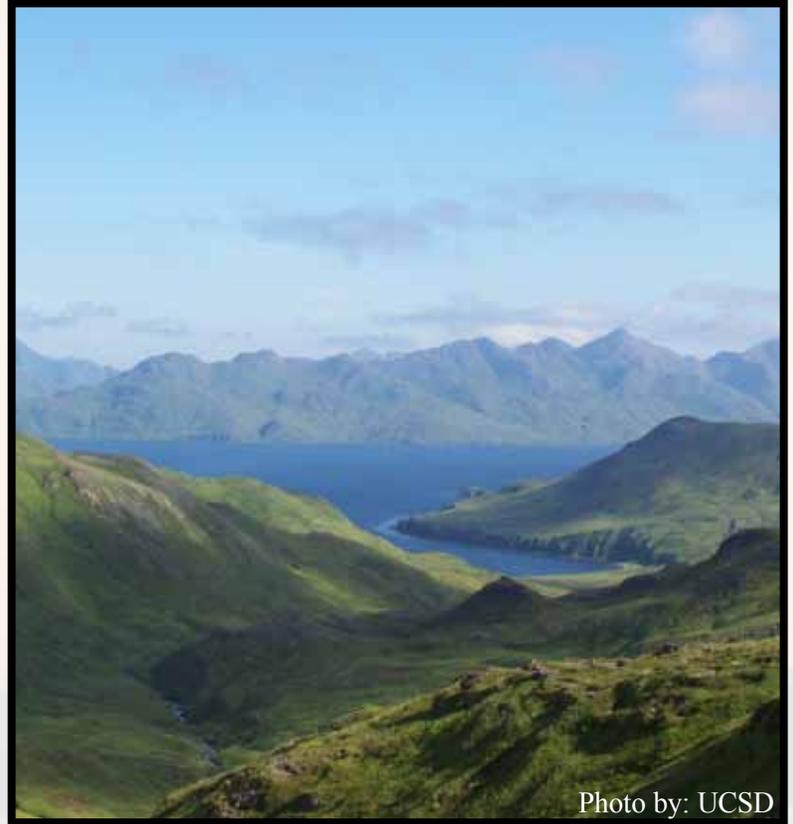


Photo by: UCSD

Pronunciation:	(uh-Loo-shuns)
Population (2007):	4,757
Shoreline:	3,700 miles
Coastal Area:	15,927 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	64"
Annual Snowfall:	100"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	17 hours, 8 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	7 hours, 27 min
Regional Native Corporation:	The Aleut Corp.
Legislative District:	37 S

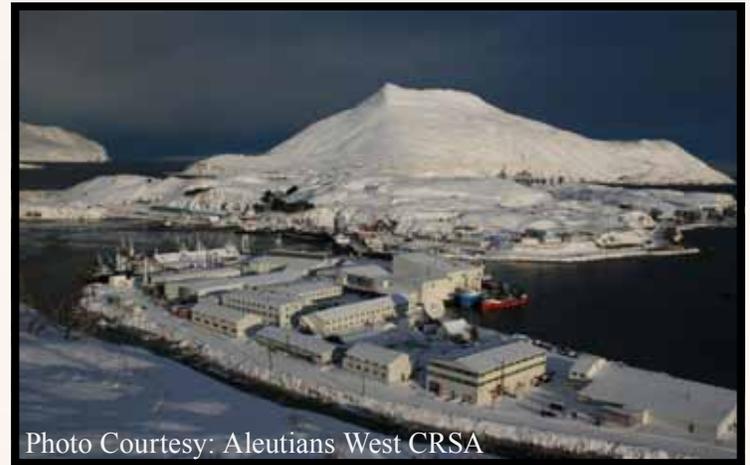
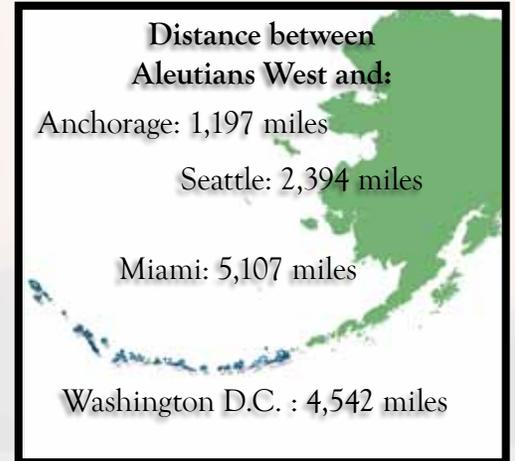


Photo Courtesy: Aleutians West CRSA



Photo Courtesy: Aleutians West CRSA



BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH



Photo Courtesy: DCRA

Brief History: The Bristol Bay Borough is centered around the Naknek River that flows west from King Salmon to Bristol Bay. The region was settled by Athabascan Indians, Central Yup'ik Eskimos, and Sugpiaq (Aleut-Russian) Eskimos. In the 19th century Russian settlers and Russian Orthodox missionaries entered the area. In the 20th century a military base was developed in King Salmon for WWII, and its airstrip is now used to bring jet service to the Borough. All five species of Pacific Salmon migrate to Bristol Bay from the Gulf of Alaska. Due to the outstanding commercial fishing opportunities, the Borough's population increases by several thousand during the red salmon season.

Population (2007):	1,257
Shoreline:	156 miles
Coastal Area:	855 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	20"
Annual Snowfall:	45"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 25 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 20 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Bristol Bay Native Corp.
Legislative District:	37 S



BRISTOL BAY CRSA

Brief History: Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area's (CRSA) largest city, Dillingham (Nushagak), became a trade center when Russians erected the Alexandrovski Redoubt (Post) in 1818. Two years later, the first Russian settlement was established, and, in 1837, the Russian Orthodox Mission was established at Nushagak. Bristol Bay, a 20 million-acre expanse of water, is estuarine in character, with salinity increasing toward its outer limits. The region contains thousands of rivers, streams, lakes, and tundra ponds. These drainages support huge runs of salmon, resident rainbow trout, char, grayling, and other fish. Beavers, muskrat, otters, and other small mammals also depend on these water bodies. The region's massive brown bears attain their large size by feeding on abundant salmon. Eagles also pluck migrating salmon and salmon carcasses from the streams. Migrating waterfowl and resident birds use the region's lakes for resting, breeding, and staging areas. These freshwater bodies sustain the region's subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries, which are the basis of the region's economy and lifestyle.

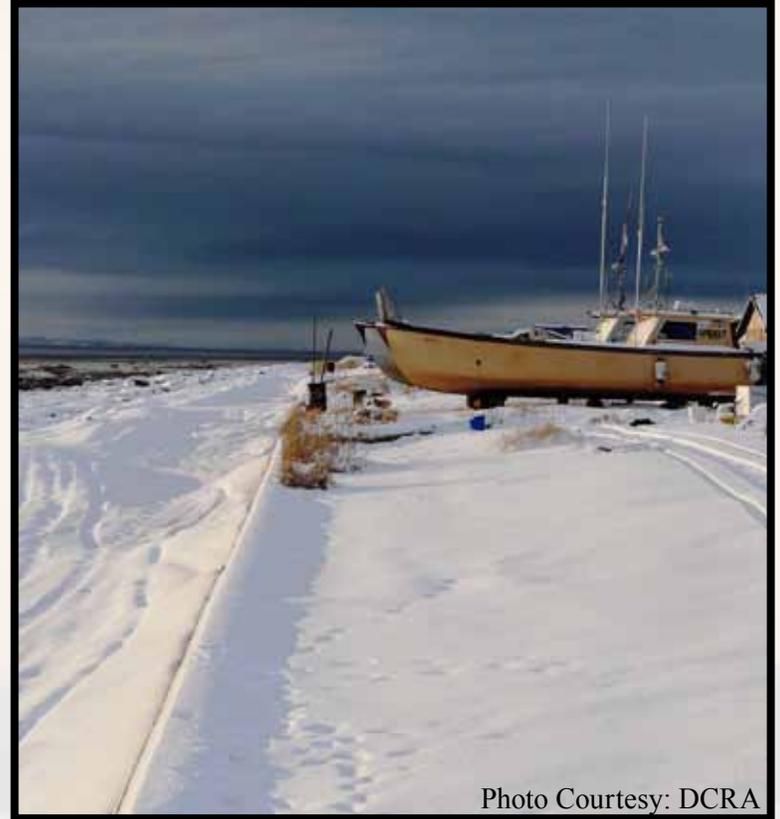


Photo Courtesy: DCRA

Population (2007):	4,755
Shoreline:	984 miles
Coastal Area:	9,462 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	26"
Annual Snowfall:	65"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 31 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 10 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Bristol Bay Native Corp.
Legislative District:	37 S



KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH

Brief History: Kodiak Island is the second largest island in the United States. The area consists of traditional lands of the Alutiiq people. Russian fur trappers arrived in 1792 seeking sea otter pelts and later established Kodiak as the first capital of Russian Alaska. Since the Aleutian Campaign of World War II, several branches of the U.S. military have maintained a presence in Kodiak. Today it is home of the largest U.S. Coast Guard base in the country. The 1960s brought growth in commercial fisheries and fish processing, which are still prevalent in the Borough's economy. In 1998 Kodiak Island became the new home to the Kodiak Launch Complex, a low-Earth orbit launch facility. Today, Kodiak's fishing port is the largest in the state and ranks third in the country. Through cultural center development and community efforts, there has been a resurgence in Alutiiq awareness and culture in the Borough.



Photo by: Bud Cassidy

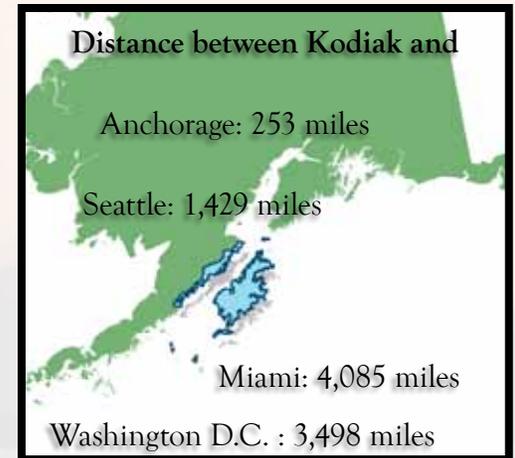
Pronunciation:	(KOH-dee-ack)
Population (2007):	13,373
Shoreline:	2,774 miles
Coastal Area:	17,415 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	40-60"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 24 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 15 min
Regional Native Corporations:	Bristol Bay Native Corp. & Koniag Inc.
Legislative District:	3, 4, B



Photo by: Bud Cassidy



Photo by: Bud Cassidy



LAKE & PENINSULA BOROUGH

Brief History: The Borough is influenced by resources of Bristol Bay, Gulf of Alaska, and Lake Iliamna. The Yup'ik Eskimos, Aleuts, Athabascan Indians, and Iñupiat people have jointly occupied the area for the past 6,000 years. Russian explorers came to the region during the late 1700s. The late 1800s brought the first influx of non-native fishermen and cannery operations. During WWII, numerous military facilities were constructed on the Alaska Peninsula including Fort Marrow at Port Heiden. Commercial fishing and fish processing are the most significant sectors of the economy within the Borough, which contains three of the State's most important salmon fishing districts: Egegik and Ugashik on Bristol Bay and Chignik on the Pacific coast. Fishing and three national parks- Lake Clark, Katmai, and Aniakchak-bring visitors to the region. Located within the Borough, Iliamna Lake is the 2nd largest freshwater lake in the U.S.



Photo Courtesy: DCRA

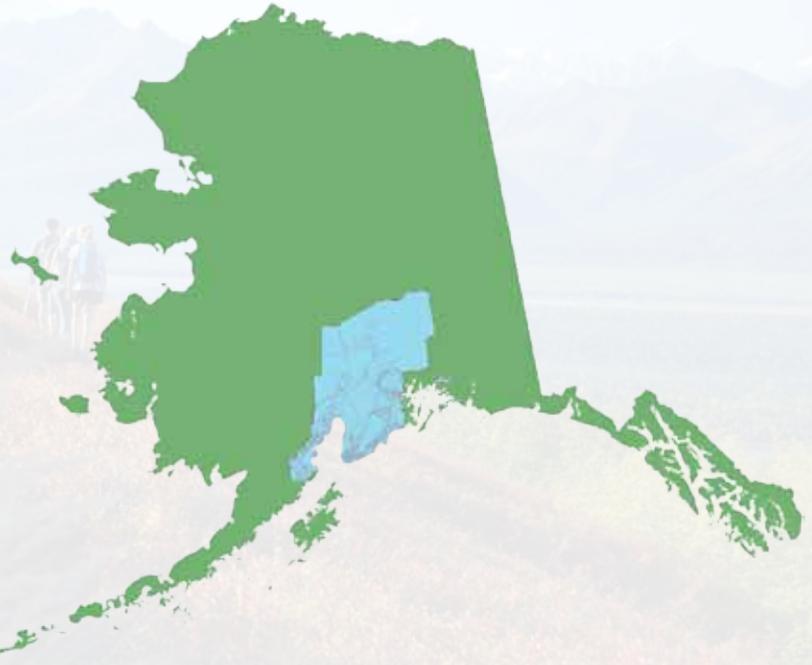
Population (2007):	1,552
Shoreline:	1,824 miles
Coastal Area:	11,363 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	24"
Annual Snowfall:	50"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 7 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 30 min
Regional Native Corporations:	Bristol Bay Native Corp. & Koniag Inc.
Legislative District:	3, 4, B





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MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Brief History: In 1741 Russian sailors, led by Vitus Bering, came upon Alaska's mainland. They were followed by British, Spanish, and American explorers, including Captain James Cook in 1778. The discovery of gold in 1887 sparked development in the area. Construction began in 1914 on a federal railroad from the port of Seward, 126 miles south of Anchorage, through the coal fields of Interior Alaska, to the gold claims near Fairbanks, 358 miles to the north. The midpoint construction headquarters was Anchorage, and, by July of 1915, thousands of job seekers and opportunists had poured into the area, living in a tent city on the banks of Ship Creek near the edge of the present downtown. Anchorage has a history of cultural diversity. Residents participate in nearby recreational and subsistence activities. It also is the center of commerce for the state. Oil and gas industries, finance and real estate, transportation, communications, and government agencies are headquartered in Anchorage. Several thousand military personnel are stationed at Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base.



Photo by: Lisa Fleischer

Pronunciation:	(ANG-kuh-ridge)
Population (2007):	284,994
Shoreline:	186 miles
Coastal Area:	494 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	16"
Annual Snowfall:	59"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	19 hours, 22 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	5 hours, 35 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Cook Inlet Region INC & Chugach Alaska Corp
Legislative District:	19 - 32, J - P



CITY OF CORDOVA

Brief History: The area of Cordova was originally inhabited by Chugach Eskimos and the Eyak Indians. Both groups relied heavily on marine resources, and villages were spread out along the coastline. The Russians, interested in harvesting fur resources, established a trading post in Nuchek which became an important Russian establishment. In the late 1800s Americans became active in the area, interested in exploring for gold and copper. By the 1890s their interest turned to commercial fishing and several canneries were established near Cordova. By 1900 the local native population had relocated to one village, now known as Cordova. Cordova's economic prosperity continues to be strongly influenced by its strategic location on the productive fishing grounds of Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta. In 2000, Cordova had almost 2,500 permanent residents. During fishing season the number of residents doubles with an influx of fishermen, cannery laborers, and support industry workers.



Photo by: Tom Cohenour

Population (2007):	2,454
Shoreline:	41 miles
Coastal Area:	67 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	167"
Annual Snowfall:	80"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	19 hours, 5 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	5 hours, 48 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Chugach Alaska Corp
Legislative District:	5 C



Photo by: Tom Cohenour



Photo by: Tom Cohenour



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Brief History: Kenai Peninsula Borough includes a number of public lands: Chugach National Forest, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Kenai Fjords National Park, and portions of the Lake Clark and Katmai National Parks. Historically the Borough was occupied by Kenaitze Indians (Dena'ina). The City of Kenai was founded as a Russian fur trading post. In the early 1900s, cannery operations and construction of the railroad spurred development in the borough. The Kenai Peninsula was the site of the first major Alaska oil strike in 1957 and has been a center for exploration and production since that time. Natural beauty and recreational activities have led to a growing tourism industry with a well-developed list of attractions including the world famous Kenai River, the Alaska SeaLife Center, the Challenger Learning Center, art galleries, and millions of acres of public forests.



Photo by: Gary Williams

Pronunciation:	(KEY-nigh)
Population (2007):	52,990
Shoreline:	2,536 miles
Coastal Area:	11,202 square miles
Annual Snowfall:	61"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 44 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	5 hours, 59 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Cook Inlet Regional
Legislative District:	6, 32, 33, 34, 35, C, P, Q, R

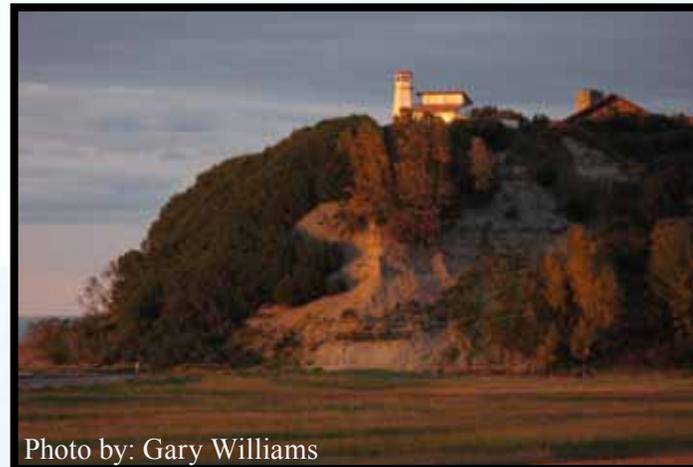
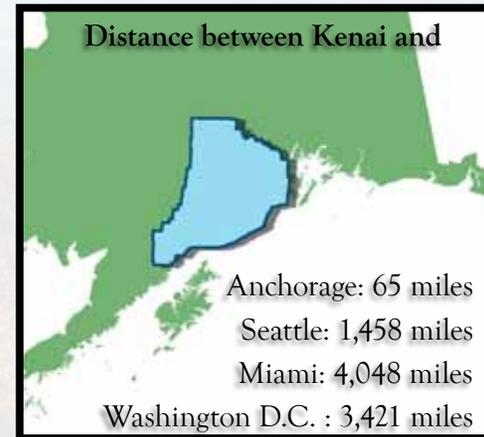


Photo by: Gary Williams



Photo by: Donald E. Gilman River Center



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH



Photo by: Frankie Barker

Brief History: Located in the heart of southcentral Alaska, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is the third largest borough in Alaska, encompassing 24,000 square miles. By 1920, mining for gold and coal and construction of the Alaska railroad sustained the local population. During the depression the Federal Emergency Relief Administration established the Matanuska Colony, settled by homesteaders who led an agricultural lifestyle. Construction of the statewide road system and rich farmlands fueled population growth. Today, borough residents enjoy a more rural lifestyle close to metropolitan Anchorage. The landscape is comprised of mountain ranges and valleys, glaciers, rivers, and lakes, wetlands, tundra, and boreal forest. Gravel reserves found in the borough's coastal zone are its most important current mineral exports.

Pronunciation:	(mat-uh-NOO-skuh) (soo-SIT-nuh)
Population(2007):	82,515
Shoreline:	75 miles
Coastal Area:	4,149 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	16.5"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	19 hours, 33 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	5 hours, 19 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Athna Inc., Doyon Ltd., Cook Inlet Regional Inc.
Legislative District:	8, 12, 14, 15, D, F, G, H



CITY OF VALDEZ



Photo by: Laura Robertson

Brief History: The Port of Valdez was named in 1790 by Don Salvador Fidalgo for the celebrated Spanish naval officer Antonio Valdes y Basan. Due to its ice-free port, a town developed in 1898 as a debarkation point for men seeking a route to the Eagle Mining District and Klondike gold fields. Valdez soon became the supply center of its own gold mining region and incorporated as a city in 1901. On March 27, 1964, an 8.6 magnitude earthquake struck Alaska. The epicenter of the quake was 45 miles west of Valdez and 14 miles under the earth's crust. As with many other areas along the coast of the Gulf of Alaska, damage caused by the 1964 earthquake severely disrupted Valdez. Due to the earthquake, much of the town was destroyed by an underwater landslide and subsequent sea wave. City fathers decided to move the town four miles west to a safer site. During the 1970s, construction of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline terminal and other cargo transportation facilities brought rapid growth to Valdez. In March 1989, Valdez was the center for the massive oil-spill cleanup after the "Exxon Valdez" oil spill.

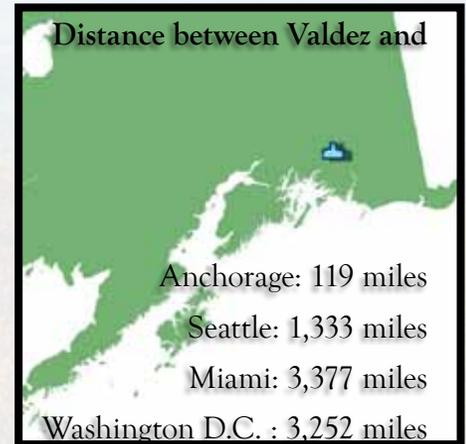
Pronunciation:	(val-DEEZ)
Population(2007):	3,635
Shoreline:	71 miles
Coastal Area:	173 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	62"
Annual Snowfall:	325" (27 feet)
Hours of Daylight Summer:	19 hours, 20 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	5 hours, 24 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Chugach Alaska Corp.
Legislative District:	12 F



Photo by: Laura Robertson



Photo by: Laura Robertson



CITY OF WHITTIER

Brief History: This area originally was part of the portage route for the Chugach Indians of Prince William Sound traveling to fish the Turnagain Arm. Later Russians, Americans, and prospecting miners during the gold rush utilized it as the quickest passage from the Sound to the Cook Inlet and interior regions. A military facility was established by the U.S. Army during WWII and became the entrance for U.S. soldiers into Alaska. Whittier was incorporated into a city in 1969. In 2000 the WWII railroad tunnel underwent major conversion to serve both rail and highway traffic. Its 2.5 miles makes it the longest highway tunnel in North America. The city continues to serve as a linking port for the southeast and the southwest Alaska Marine Highway ferry routes. It also serves as a rail stop on the Glacier Discovery route of the Alaska Railroad.



Photo by: Nina Brudie

Pronunciation:	(WIT-ee-er)
Population(2007):	161
Shoreline:	19 miles
Coastal Area:	19 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	197"
Annual Snowfall:	241"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	19 hours, 11 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	5 hours, 42 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Cook Inlet Regional INC & Chugach Alaska Corp.
Legislative District:	32 P



Photo by: Mark St. Amour



Photo by: Mark St. Amour

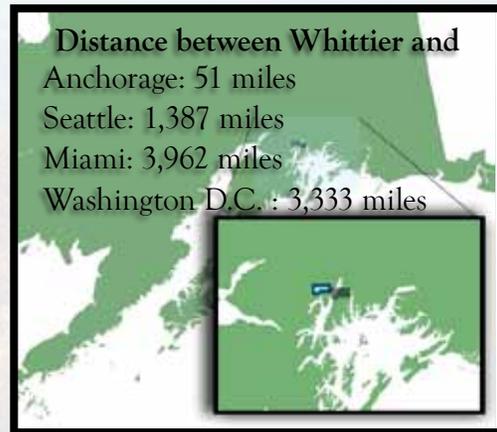
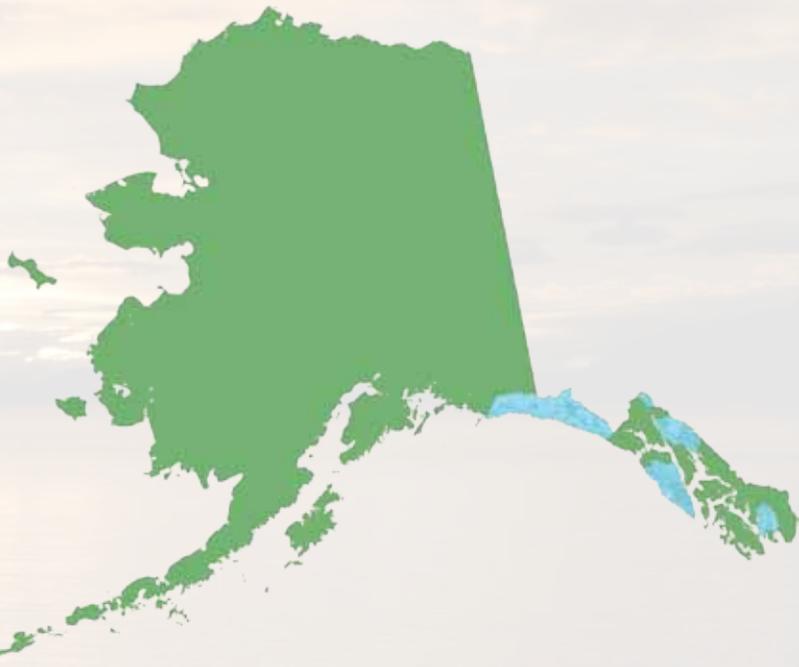




Photo by: Jackie Brock
State of Alaska

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CITY OF CRAIG



Photo by: Joyce Mason

Brief History: Originally Tlingit and Haida people inhabited the area of Craig with villages and fish camps. In 1907 with the help of the local Haida people, Craig Miller built a fish saltery on nearby Fish Egg Island. In 1908 he established a cold storage and cannery facility in the area. The growth of the community through 1923 is due in part to excellent pink salmon runs. Craig was incorporated in 1922 as a second-class city under the laws of the territory of Alaska; it became a first-class city in 1973. Over the past twenty years Craig has diversified, and many residents work in logging, retail, and service related activities.

Population (2007):	1,117
Shoreline:	9 miles
Coastal Area:	10 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	120"
Annual Snowfall:	40"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	17 hours, 29 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	7 hours, 10 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	5 C



Photo by: Brian L. Templin



Photo by: Joyce Mason



HAINES BOROUGH

Brief History: Haines Borough is surrounded by the rich waters of the Chilkat and Chilkoot rivers and the salt waters of Lynn Canal. Native Alaskans of the Tlingit culture originally settled the Haines area. These first people traveled to the area along the Northwest Coast after the receding glaciers, or came down the mountain valleys from the Interior. The original Native name for Haines was Deishu, meaning “end of the trail.” The town was heavily involved in the Klondike Gold Rush as a supply and entry point. Its strategic location resulted in the first permanent U.S. military installation in Alaska, Fort William H. Seward. Today, Haines is a major trans-shipment point because of its ice-free deep water port and dock and year-round road access to Canada and Interior Alaska. During the late fall Haines Borough is home to the largest concentration of bald eagles in the world, hosting 1,500 to 3,500 eagles. There are also over 100 year-round nesting sites recorded in the area.



Photo by: David Gann

Pronunciation:	(HAYNZ)
Population (2007):	2,310
Shoreline:	8 miles
Coastal Area:	15 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	60"
Annual Snowfall:	132"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 36 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 6 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	5 C

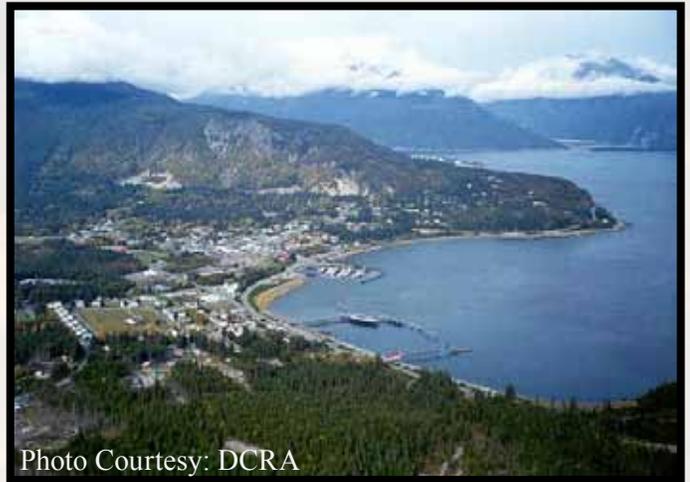


Photo Courtesy: DCRA



Photo by: David Gann



CITY OF HOONAH

Brief History: Hoonah is a Tlingit community located on the northeast shore of Chichagof Island, 40 air miles west of Juneau. It is the largest Tlingit village in Alaska and is the principal village for the Huna, a Tlingit tribe which has occupied the Glacier Bay/Icy Strait area since prehistory. Hoonah means “village by the cliff.” The Northwest Trading Co. built the first store in Hoonah in 1880. In 1881, the Presbyterian Home Mission and School were built. By 1887, 450 to 500 people were wintering in the village. A post office was established in 1901. In 1912, the Hoonah Packing Co. built a large cannery one mile north of town. The Thompson Fish Company still operates today as Hoonah Cold Storage. In 1944, a fire destroyed much of the city and many priceless Tlingit cultural objects. The federal government assisted in rebuilding the community. Commercial fishing and logging have supported the population, and most residents maintain a subsistence lifestyle.



Photo Courtesy: DCRA

Pronunciation:	(HOO-nah)
Population (2007):	823
Shoreline:	7 miles
Coastal Area:	8.5 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	100"
Annual Snowfall:	71"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 13 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 32 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	3, 4, B

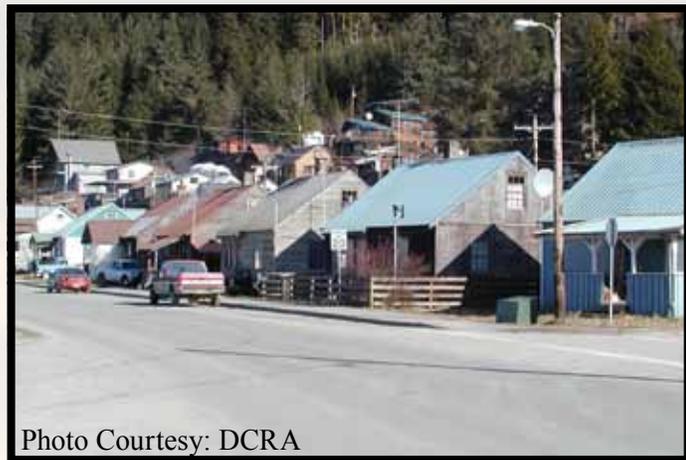
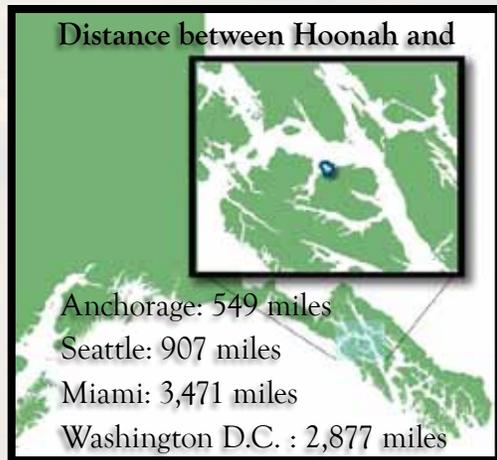


Photo Courtesy: DCRA



Photo Courtesy: DCRA



CITY & BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

Brief History: In 1880 Chief Kowee of the Auk Tribe led two prospectors to Gold Creek, which was originally a fish camp. These two prospectors, Joe Juneau and Richard Harris, found gold deposits upstream, staked off 160 acres, and named the area Harrisburg. The area was later renamed and the City of Juneau formed in 1900. Six years later it was named the capital of Alaska. When gold deposits in streams started running out, the then booming town shifted to large-scale hard-rock mining. After opening its doors in Douglas in 1882, the Treadwell Mine had produced \$66 million in gold before a cave-in and flood shut it down in 1917. Across the channel, the Alaska-Juneau mine opened in 1916 and was the largest operation of its kind in the world. In 1944 it closed after producing a total of over \$80 million in gold. Juneau is now the third largest city of Alaska and is home to the largest silver mine in North America, the Kennecott Green's Creek Mine, which produces gold, silver, lead, and zinc.



Photo by: Jackie Brock

Pronunciation:	(JOO-noh)
Population (2007):	30,427
Shoreline:	685 miles
Coastal Area:	1,812 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	92"
Annual Snowfall:	101"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 18 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 26 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	3, 4, B



Photo by: Kathy Ward



Photo by: Stacy Stout



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH



Photo by: Carrie Dolwick

Brief History: Tongass and Cape Fox Tlingits used Ketchikan Creek as a fish camp, which they called kitschk-hin, meaning creek of “the thundering wings of an eagle.” In 1885, Mike Martin bought 160 acres from Chief Kyan, which later became the township. The first cannery opened in 1886 and by 1936, seven canneries were in operation, producing 1.5 million cases of salmon. Nearby, gold and copper discoveries briefly brought activity to Ketchikan as a mining supply center. The Ketchikan Spruce Mills opened in 1903, and operated for over 70 years. Spruce was in high demand during World War II, and Ketchikan became a supply center for area logging. A \$55 million pulp mill was constructed at Ward Cove near Ketchikan in 1954. Its operation fueled the growth of the community, but the pulp mill closed in March 1997. Today, the Borough’s economy is dependent upon tourism, fishing, fish processing, the wood products industry, and government.

Pronunciation:	(KETCH-ih-kan)
Population (2007):	13,166
Shoreline:	526 miles
Coastal Area:	1,699 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	162"
Annual Snowfall:	32"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	17 hours, 28 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	7 hours, 9 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	1 A



Photo by: Carrie Dolwick



Photo by: Jim Lewis



CITY OF PELICAN

Brief History: Southeast Alaska has been occupied as far back as 10,000 years ago. At the time of European exploration, the Tlingit people of both Sitka and Hoonah inhabited the area of Pelican. Although unrecorded in history, the founders of a colony at the site now known as Sunnyside were survivors of a Russian ship that sunk in the then uncharted waters of Cross Sound. By 1938 the colony had perished and Finlander Kalle Raatikainen drove his claim stakes one mile southeast of Sunnyside naming the place Pelican after his fish-packing vessel. Raatikainen settled in Pelican to build a cold storage plant close to the fishing grounds. The first buildings in Pelican were a Finnish sauna and the Raatikainen home. A sawmill was established to build wooden fish shipment boxes and was operational until 1957. Today, most people in Pelican still make their living from commercial fishing.



Photo Courtesy: DCRA

Pronunciation:	(PEL-ih-kun)
Population (2007):	113
Shoreline:	0.8 miles
Coastal Area:	0.4 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	120"
Annual Snowfall:	127"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 10 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 28 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	2 A



Photo Courtesy: DCRA



Photo Courtesy: DCRA



CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA

Brief History: Sitka has a rich and exciting history of human habitation that is still much in evidence in the community today. Tlingit Indians still live in the same area where their 18th century village stood, and St. Michael's Russian Orthodox cathedral, destroyed by fire in 1966, has been rebuilt exactly as it was in 1848. Archeological research has indicated that humans inhabited Baranof Island and southeast Alaska from approximately 10,000 years ago. The very coastal resources that attracted the Russians to establish their original trading post at Old Sitka have sustained the Sitka Kwaan of the Tlingits for centuries, and the bloody confrontations that followed the coming of the Russian traders continued until the superior Russian force was able to prevail. Alexander Baranov, manager of the powerful Russian-American Company, went on to make Sitka the headquarters of the vast Alaskan fur trading business.



Photo by: Sarai Timothy

Pronunciation:	(SIT-kuh)
Population (2007):	8,615
Shoreline:	1,627 miles
Coastal Area:	4,185 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	57"
Annual Snowfall:	39"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 5 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 45 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	2 A



Photo by: Norval Nelson, III



Photo by: Norval Nelson, III



MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY

Brief History: Skagway was originally known by the Tlingits as Skagua, meaning “windy place;” it was used by the Chilkoot and Chilkat Tlingit for hunting and fishing. In 1896, Skagway acted as a key departure point for the Klondike Gold Rush and later became the first incorporated city in Alaska. It served as a major staging area again during the construction of the Alcan Highway during WWII. State ferry traffic, Klondike Gold Rush Historical Park, and White Pass and Yukon Railroad bring tourism to Skagway. In addition to tourism, Skagway continues its heritage as a link to the interior and the Yukon, as a transshipment terminal for mineral ore, timber, and other goods. During the Gold Rush era the Yukon Railroad was built. After the prosperous Gold Rush years had passed for Skagway, the population and economy stabilized around the railroad industry. Today, the tourism industry is Skagway’s economic mainstay.



Photo by: Jed Greenstreet

Pronunciation:	(SKAG-way)
Population (2007):	846
Shoreline:	63 miles
Coastal Area:	154 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	26"
Annual Snowfall:	39"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 40 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 7 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	5 C



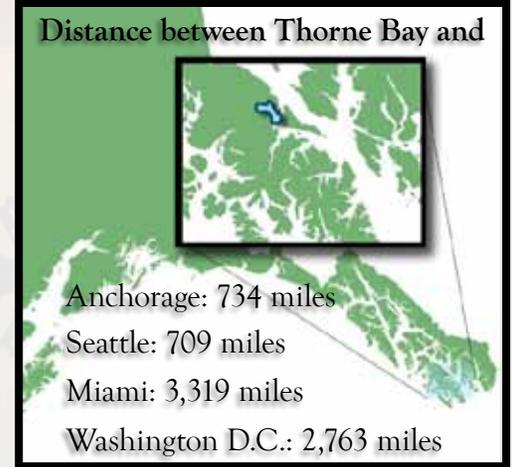
CITY OF THORNE BAY

Brief History: Thorne Bay was originally claimed by the Tlingit Kiks'adi people. The area was a summer village with many smokehouses in the area for smoking salmon. Recent history is closely tied to logging and mining activities. The region was once an active mining area with copper, gold, silver, and palladium minerals. The inactive Haida Mine in South Thorne Bay, also named the Mammoth Mine, was discovered in the early 1900s and once produced copper. Between 1900 and World War II, there were many operational copper mines in the area. Logging of spruce began during World War I. In the early 1960s Thorne Bay changed with the logging industry when Ketchikan Pulp Company's timber harvest began with a floating logging camp that eventually moved upland. In the 1960s it became the largest logging camp in the world with a population of over 600 people. Ketchikan Pulp Company eventually closed in March of 1997.



Photo by: Meredith Sornsin

Population (2007):	440
Shoreline:	20 miles
Coastal Area:	28 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	80"
Annual Snowfall:	40"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	17 hours, 18 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	7 hours, 14 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	1 A



CITY & BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT

Brief History: The Yakutat area is strategically located between the Interior and southeast Alaska. The local native people apparently used the area to trade copper, furs, and tanned skins from the Athabaskans for shells, slaves, Haida canoes, and Tsimshian carvings. There is a rich history of multiple Native cultures and languages, including Athabaskan, Eyak, and inland and coastal Tlingit, with influence from the Chugach Eskimo and others. It is not known when the first Native peoples settled in the Yakutat area. Attracted by sea otter hunting, the Russian American Co. built a fort in the area in 1805. The Russians refused to pay for the land they were using and would not allow Tlingits access to their traditional fisheries. As a result, in 1805 the fort was destroyed leaving only a few survivors. Relations with settlers improved and by 1886 the black sand beaches in the area were being mined for gold. In 1903 a sawmill, cannery, store, and railroad were constructed. Most residents moved closer to the cannery inhabiting the current site of Yakutat.



Photo by: Bill Lucey

Pronunciation:	(YACK-uh-tat)
Population (2007):	592
Shoreline:	685 miles
Coastal Area:	2,479 square miles
Annual Precipitation:	132"
Annual Snowfall:	219"
Hours of Daylight Summer:	18 hours, 43 min
Hours of Daylight Winter:	6 hours, 0 min
Regional Native Corporation:	Sealaska Corporation
Legislative District:	5 C



Photo by: Bill Lucey



Photo by: Greg O'Correy-Crowe



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