

Long Beach, California

People and Place

Location

Long Beach, covering 50.44 square miles of land and 15.43 square miles of water, is located just south of Los Angeles along U.S. Highway 1 near the Los Angeles Harbor. The community is situated in Los Angeles County at 33°46'01"N, 118°11'18"W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Long Beach was 461,522, a 7.5% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census. In 2000 the gender structure was evenly divided with slightly more females (50.9%) than males (49.1%). The median age of the population in 2000 was 30.8, slightly lower than the national median of 35.3 for the same year. According to the same data, 49.2% of the population was between the ages of 22 and 54, and 29.2% were age 17 or below. For the population 18 years and over, 71.9% had a high school education or higher, 21.2% had attained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 7.0% earned a graduate or professional degree. The highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma/equivalency for 19.9% of the population. In 2000, 79.8% of the population lived in family households.

The 2000 U.S. Census shows that the racial composition was predominantly White (45.2%), followed by Black or African American (14.9%), Asian (12.0%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (1.2%). American Indian and Alaskan native represented less than one percent at 0.8%. Overall, 20.6% classified themselves as belonging to some other race and 5.3% of the population identified themselves with two or more races. A total of 35.8% identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino. Approximately 28.6% of the population was foreign-born, with 51.0% born in Mexico and 10.3% in the Philippines.

History

The Chumash are one of the earliest peoples to inhabit the greater Los Angeles metropolitan and surrounding areas. They first settled there sometime between 5000 and 2000 B.P.^{1,2} They relied heavily on a maritime economy for centuries (e.g., gathering and fishing). By 500 AD, the Tongva Indians arrived in Southern California from the Mojave Desert. At the onset of European migration into North America it is estimated there were 300,000 Native Americans in California. This number was drastically reduced as European diseases killed off approximately two-thirds of the native population during the colonial era³. Today the Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribe is headquartered within the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area in San Gabriel. They have sought federal recognition since 1994 and may obtain federally recognized fishing rights as their historic use of marine resources is well known. In 1542, before the Spaniard Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo landed on the California coast he was met by Tongva Indians on their boats. Cabrillo was the first European to enter what would be the Los Angeles area.^{4,5}

After growing as a seaside resort – subsequent to its history as a prime ranching region throughout the 1800s – Long beach became a booming port town. Long Beach is now California's fifth largest city. The optimum combination of strategic location, excellent climate, shoreline beauty, and Southern California lifestyle has attracted high levels of trade, tourism and industry. The community's fishing history is intimately linked to that of Los Angeles, the urban hub of the region. Significant regional networks exist between Long Beach and other communities that satellite the metropolitan area, such as Long Beach's once large Japanese-American population who worked in fish canneries on Terminal Island.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The City of Long Beach community development department lists Long Beach Unified School District, Boeing, the City of Long Beach, California State University – Long Beach, and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center as the city's top five major employers.⁶ According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 55.9% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 9.4% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). Of the population over the age of 16, 38.3% were not in the labor force. Of the employed civilian population, 21.1% worked in "Educational, health and social services," 14.4% worked in "Manufacturing," 10.3% worked in "Retail trade," and 8.6% worked in "Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services." The local, state, or federal government employed a total of 15.9% of the employed civilian population in 2000; however less than one percent (0.1%) were reported as working for the government in the "Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining" industries. Less than one percent (0.1%) of the employed civilian population over the age of 16 was involved in "Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting" according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Long Beach's per capita income in 1999 was \$19,040 according to the U.S. Census, while the median household income was \$37,270. In 1999 a total of 22.8% of the population was below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 171,632 housing units in Long Beach, 95.0% of which were occupied and 5.0% were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 41.1% were owner occupied and 59% were renter occupied. Of the vacant housing units, 49.1% were "For rent" and 17.3% were "For sale only."

Governance

Long Beach is a Charter City with a Mayor-Council form of government. The Mayor is elected at-large and there are nine Council members, each elected to represent a district. Long Beach has an 8.25% sales and use tax rate. Los Angeles County uses a 12.0% Transient Lodging tax rate, which earned \$10,202,899 in revenue for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.⁷

California state law assesses commercial vessels, charter boats, and oceanographic research vessels at 4% of their full cash value.⁸ Vessels registered in California with either the Department of Motor Vehicles or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are assessed property taxes by the county tax collector where it is moored.⁹ Some commercial vessels are also subject to a Ballast Water Management Fee of about \$500 per voyage.¹⁰ California levies a fuel tax of \$0.18 per gallon, a portion of which

goes toward marine safety and education programs and boating facility administration and development.¹¹

The State of California levies landing taxes that must be paid by fishermen and fish processors involved in the retail sale of fish products. These taxes vary by species and range between \$.0013 and \$.0125 per pound of fish.¹² The California Department of Agriculture also administers two commodity commissions, the California Salmon Council and the California Sea Urchin Commission, which charge fees for marketing and lobbying on behalf of fishermen involved in these specific fisheries.¹³

There is a California Department of Fish and Game Marine Region Field Office located approximately 12 miles away in Los Alamitos. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Southwest Regional office is located in Long Beach. Eight Coast Guard vessels are stationed at the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office/Group Los Angeles – Long Beach located in San Pedro. Del mar and San Diego, the nearest cities that hold Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings, are approximately 92 miles and 110 miles away respectively. There is a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Office located in Los Angeles.

Facilities

Long Beach lies south of Los Angeles and is accessible by several highways. Long Beach Airport, situated midway between Los Angeles and Orange County, is a general aviation airport, which also serves privately owned aircraft. A full array of aviation support, manufacturing and business services is readily available.

The Long Beach Unified School District serves the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Signal Hill, and Avalon on Catalina Island, and encompasses a total of 95 schools. The District employs more than 8000 people, making it the largest employer in Long Beach.¹⁴ Public safety is provided by the Long Beach Police Department and Long Beach Health and Human Services provides comprehensive health services. The City of Long Beach Public Works Department administers gas, water, sewer, and refuse services. Long Beach has an extensive tourism industry with a well-established infrastructure, including accommodations, catering to a multitude of tourism activities.

The Long Beach Harbor Department, which operates under the direction of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, is the city agency responsible for management of the Port of Long Beach, the largest port on the West Coast. Nearly \$100 billion in international trade of commercial goods, 90% coming from East Asian trade, moves through the Port each year. Funding for port development and maintenance is sourced from the lease of shipping terminals to private firms; taxpayers do not fund port operations. The Port of Long Beach, established in 1911, now encompasses over 3000 acres of land and has plans of expansion that will alleviate pressures at the nearby Port of Terminal Island. The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has adopted a wide-ranging policy, the Green Port Policy, making environmental protection a top priority at the Port of Long Beach.¹⁵ The Port's Small Business Enterprise Program is being inaugurated with the signing of an agreement so the Port and the Metropolitan Water District can share small business contractor information. The MWD has operated one of the regions most successful small business outreach programs with more than 2000 businesses participating.¹⁶

The Long Beach Marina accommodates recreational vessels ranging from 18 to 90 feet. Commercial vessel up to 200 feet may also utilize the Long Beach Marina. Most of the slips in Long Beach are constructed of wood and come with a private dock box, water, and power. Eight launch ramps are available for a fee of \$8.00 per day. Extensive drydock facilities are also available. Both the marina slips and drydocks usually have long waiting lists.¹⁷

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 landings were delivered to Long Beach by 32 vessels, all of which were commercially registered. In 2000, landings in Long Beach were made in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): groundfish (confidential/confidential/3), highly migratory species (3.8 t/\$18,453), and other species (3.2 t/\$14,080/6).

There were 23 commercial vessels owned by Long Beach residents in 2000, eight of which participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. Recorded data indicates that the number of vessels owned by Long Beach residents in 2000 that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (0/0/1), shellfish (NA/0/NA), shrimp (NA/0/2), and other species (0/0/2).¹⁸

In 2000, there were no federal groundfish permits held by community members. In the same year, recorded data indicates that the number of Long Beach residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/0/1), groundfish (0/0/12), highly migratory species (NA/0/6), salmon (0/0/3), shellfish (0/0/NA), shrimp (0/0/7), and other species (0/0/53).¹⁹

According to available data, there were at least 123 commercial fishing permits, all state registered, held by Long Beach residents in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of state permits held by Long Beach residents in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/0/3), groundfish (0/0/15), highly migratory species (NA/0/8), other species (0/0/83), salmon (0/0/4), shellfish (0/0/NA), and shrimp (0/0/10).²⁰

There were at least three seafood processors operating in Long Beach in 2000. They primarily produced salmon steaks, halibut steaks, tuna fillets, and sea urchin roe. However, specific information (estimated pounds of product/value of product) is confidential.

Sportfishing

A number of charter vessels operate out of Long Beach targeting sea bass, rockfish, and flatfish among others. Many of these charter vessels also offer seasonal whale watching tours. In 2002, at least nine charter businesses serviced sport fishermen and tourists in Long Beach. There are ten license agents selling sportfishing licenses in Long Beach. In 2000 Los Angeles County residents purchased: 76,385 resident sportfishing licenses, 59 non-resident sportfishing licenses, 164 sport salmon punch cards, and 174 abalone report cards. In the port group consisting of Seal Beach, Long Beach, and San Pedro a total of 54 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 148,977 anglers in 2000. These vessels reported 883,806 landings composed of more than two

dozen species. Sea bass (various species), barracuda, flatfishes (unspecified), and rockfishes (unspecified) accounted for 47.6%, 14.1%, 10.4%, and 9.2% of the landings respectively.

Subsistence

Local tribal and nontribal community members might be engaged in subsistence fishing in the Long Beach area. However, specific information on subsistence fishing in Long Beach is not discussed in detail in this Community Profile due to the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game uses the term “recreational” to refer to fishermen that do not earn revenue from their catch but rather fish for pleasure and/or to provide food for personal consumption. Therefore information on subsistence fishing in California is captured, to some degree, within the above sportfishing data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were no vessels owned by Long Beach residents that participated in North Pacific fisheries. However, eight Long Beach residents worked as crewmembers aboard vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. In the same year, one community resident held a single state permit, a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission salmon permit.

Sportfishing

While the majority of the sport fishermen in Long Beach target West Coast fisheries, 314 Long Beach community members purchased Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

¹ The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. 2002. Chumash Indian Life, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.sbnature.org/research/anthro/chumash/index.htm> (access date - July 2004)

² Los Angeles Almanac. 2004. Los Angeles County – Pre-History to 1799, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/History/hi01a.htm> (access date - July 2004).

³ United States Geological Survey. 2004. Regional Trends in Biological Resources: California, [Online]. *In* Status and Trends of the Nations Biological Resources. Available: URL: <http://biology.usgs.gov/s+t/SNT/noframe/ca162.htm> (access date - July 2004).

⁴ Los Angeles Almanac. 2004. Where did the name Los Angeles come from, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.losangelesalmanac.com/topics/History/hi03a.htm> (access date - July 2004).

⁵ Gabrieleno/Tongva. 2004. Gabrieleno/Tongva, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.tongva.com/> (access date - July 2004)

⁶ City of Long Beach. 2004. Community Development Department: Economic Development, [Online]. Available URL: http://www.longbeach.gov/e cd/attraction/smart_location/fast_facts/major_employers.asp (access date - November 2004).

⁷ State of California. 2004. California Counties Transient Lodging Tax Revenue, [Online]. Available URL: <http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard/local/locrep/adhoc/county/0001cotranslodgtax.pdf> (access date - July 2004).

⁸ State of California Board of Equalization. No date. Property Tax Rules, Rule 151. Vessels Subject to the Four Percent Assessment, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/pdf/r151.pdf> (access date - July 2004).

⁹ California Department of Motor Vehicles. 2003. How to register a vessel, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/boatsinfo/boatreg.htm#how> (access date - July 2004).

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- ¹⁰ State of California Board of Equalization. 2004. Ballast Water Management Fee, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/bllstweb12.htm> (access date - July 2004).
- ¹¹ U.S. Department of Transportation. 2001. Provisions Governing the Distribution of State Motor Fuel Tax Receipts: California, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/hwytaxes/2001/california.htm> (access date - July 2004).
- ¹² State of California. No date. Fish and Game Code Section 8040-8070, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycod?section=fgc&group=08001-8070> (access date - July 2004).
- ¹³ State of California Department of Agriculture. 2004. List of Marketing Programs, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.cdafa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/mktbrds.html> (access date - July 2004).
- ¹⁴ Long Beach Unified School District. No date. About the District, [Online] Available: URL: <http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/district/AboutLBUSD.asp> (access date - February 2005)
- ¹⁵ The Port of Long Beach. 2005. Board Adopts Sweeping Environmental Policy: Guidelines Formalize Long Beach as "Green Port," [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.polb.com/html/1_about/news5.html (access date - February 2005).
- ¹⁶ The City of Long Beach California. No Date. 'Port Reaches Out to Small Businesses' [Online] Available: <http://www.longbeach.gov/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=867>. (access date - February 2005)
- ¹⁷ City of Long Beach California. No date. Long Beach Marine Bureau, [Online] Available: URL: <http://www.longbeach.gov/park/marine.asp> (access date - February 2005).
- ¹⁸ 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
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