



Unalaska Community Profile

CITY OF UNALASKA
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The City of Unalaska and The International Port of Dutch Harbor

Located just 50 miles from the North Pacific Great Circle Route, the City of Unalaska is 800 miles southwest of Anchorage in the heart of the North Pacific and Bering Sea fisheries. Our community is a vibrant mix of industry and history connected by 40 miles of roads linking our port, harbors and private docks with local businesses and our thriving residential community. The City is located on the coast of Unalaska and Amaknak Islands and is home to one of the busiest and most prosperous stretches of coastline in Alaska.

Population

In 1759, more than 1,000 Unangan people lived in twenty four settlements on the islands of Unalaska and Amaknak. For the next two centuries, the population of the islands declined. In the 1980s this pattern changed with the rapid growth of finfish fisheries and related fishing support services. The 2012 population of Unalaska was 4,768 full time residents representing a variety of ethnicities and cultures from around the world. Our population swells during peak seasons of the year, bringing an additional 4-6,000 people to the island. Unalaska, incorporated in 1942, is the 12th largest incorporated city in the State of Alaska.

Economy

For more than 30 years, Unalaska's economy has been based primarily on commercial fishing, seafood processing, fleet services and marine transportation. The Port of Dutch Harbor is the only deep draft, year-round ice-free port from Unimak Pass west to Adak and north to the Bering Straits. Our Port has been designated a "Port of Refuge" and provides protection and repair for disabled or distressed vessels as well as ground and warehouse storage and transshipment opportunities for the thousands of vessels that fish or transit the waters surrounding the Aleutian Islands on a daily basis.

Unalaska is the anchor for commercial fishing activity in the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands. According to NOAA's report *Fisheries of the United States 2013*, Unalaska's Port of Dutch Harbor again led the nation with the greatest quantity of fish landed. During 2013, commercial fisherman delivered 753 million pounds of seafood at our port, valued at \$197 million dollars, ranking the Port of Dutch Harbor second in the nation in terms of value of the catch. Approximately 400 vessels fish the Aleutian Islands and the Bering Sea for various ground fish, halibut, salmon, herring and several species of crab. The fleet utilizes approximately 12,000 feet of City dock space with an



additional 10,000 feet of commercial dock space available within the community.

Unalaska is also the home of the western-most container terminal in the United States and is one of the most productive ports for transshipment of cargo in Alaska. In addition to product shipped domestically to and from this regional hub, product is shipped to ports around the world with weekly shipments headed to Europe and Asia by container ship and freighter. Three rail cranes are located in the community, two at the Unalaska Marine Center and one at a private commercial dock.

Unalaska is unique among Alaska's coastal communities in the support services provided. In addition to the five seafood processing facilities in Unalaska, the business community provides a wide range of support services including accounting and bookkeeping, banking, cold storage, construction and engineering, diesel sales and service, electrical service and marine electronics, equipment (forklifts, cranes, top picks), freight forwarding, gear replacement and repair, hydraulic services, logistical support, marine pilots and tugs, maritime agencies, stevedoring, trucking, vehicle rental, vessel repair, warehousing and welding. Because of the wide variety of services provided each and every day, no other community in the region has Unalaska's capacity to support commercial fishing in the Bering Sea.

The people of Unalaska take pride not only in the work they do, but in the quality of their schools, health care and their leisure and cultural opportunities.

Schools

With a current enrollment of approximately 450 students, the Unalaska City School District operates two schools that provide a well-rounded educational experience for students from pre-school through 12th grade. Unalaska City Schools have consistently ranked among the top schools in the state in academics and students are actively involved in a wide variety of activities including basketball, wrestling, volleyball, swimming, music, fine arts and language.

Recently, Unalaska City School (grades 7-12) added the prestigious 2011 National Blue Ribbon School Award to a growing list of accolades that include the U.S. News and World Report Magazine 2010 Bronze Medal for America's Best High Schools and Offspring Magazine's List of Top 100 School Districts for the Year 2000.

In December 2012, Eagle's View Elementary was nominated for the 2012 National Blue Ribbon School Award and the faculty received the Performance Incentive Program Award in 2007 for maintaining high levels of academic performance. Eagle's View Elementary also houses an innovative preschool program that prepares 3 and 4 year olds for kindergarten.



Unalaska City School District has excellent facilities, modern instructional technology and a wide variety of academic and co-curricular programs. Students represent a diverse community of young people and the faculty is focused on academic excellence for all students.

Educational opportunities do not stop with the public school system in Unalaska. The University of Alaska Aleutian/Pribilof Rural Center located in Unalaska offers internet courses, distance-learning courses and locally taught classes for college credit. The Center is also instrumental in awarding post high school certifications, Associate of Arts degrees and Bachelor degrees.

Health Care

The community's health is, for the most part, guarded by Iliuliuk Family & Health Services, Inc. (IFHS), which operates the local clinic that provides the community of Unalaska and the fishing fleet of the Bering Sea with comprehensive primary medical care, behavioral health care and dental care. IFHS provides a full range of primary care services which are augmented by a diagnostic laboratory, preventive health and dental care, urgent care and emergency services, alternative medicine options, mental health services, x-ray, ultrasound, prenatal care, postnatal home visits, domestic violence counseling and health education and outreach. IFHS's medical clinic is staffed with two family practice physicians, four physician assistants and a family nurse practitioner. The medical support staff includes four registered nurses, a registered nurse case manager, five medical assistants, a paramedic, three x-ray/lab technicians, and a physician assistant who works part-time as the school nurse and part-time at the clinic. Oral health care is provided by the clinic's dentist and dental assistant. The IFHS behavioral health counseling staff consists of two counselors who rotate call on a weekly basis. The clinic also has a physical therapist and a physical therapy clinic. All of the services provided by IFHS are on a sliding fee scale based on family size and household income.

In addition to the full-time dental care provided by the clinic's dentist, who lives and practices in Unalaska, two dentists visit the community each quarter. Two chiropractic clinics also provide services to the people of the community, and an optometrist comes to Unalaska on a regular basis to address the vision needs of the community. There is also a native clinic on the island staffed by a nurse practitioner.

Climate

We enjoy fairly moderate and uniform temperatures here in Unalaska. The average summer temperature range is °41-52 Fahrenheit and the average winter temperature range is °31-40 Fahrenheit. We have about 60 inches of precipitation each year and up to 90 inches of snow.



However, with our relatively warm winter temperatures the snow does not typically stay on the ground for long. In the summer our hills turn a vibrant green and are blanketed with beautiful wildflowers and berries.

Leisure Activities

Community Center, Aquatic Center & Parks: The City's Department of Parks, Culture & Recreation (PCR) operates the community center that includes a full-size gym, an indoor track, racquetball courts, a weight room, an aerobics room, a workout center with exercise machines and equipment and specialized rooms for art and ceramics, music, teen activities and child care. There is also an outside play area. The natatorium, or Aquatic Center, which is located in Unalaska City School, is an aquatic facility that includes a standard size pool with racing lanes, a warming pool, slide, sauna and restrooms with lockers, changing areas and showers. The Aquatic Center also features a workout room with cardio equipment, weights and a punching bag. The PCR is often the center of activity for many in the community. The staff organizes activities for teens and children, family movie nights, community garage sales, the Heart of the Aleutians community festival, Easter egg hunts, a Halloween party, Christmas celebration and countless community activities that vary through the years. Organized basketball, soccer and volleyball leagues take place in the community center gym, and when league play is not going on, open gym periods allow opportunities for pick-up games. Outside activities include softball leagues, hiking, half-marathons, triathlons, the annual run up Mount Ballyhoo, the Polar Bear Run, and a variety of other community-oriented activities. The PCR maintains eight community parks, including Ounalashka Park, the central focus of which is Kelty Field, a modern, fenced softball field with an electronic scoreboard. The park also includes a fitness track, an all-purpose court for activities like tennis and basketball, a play area for children, a protected picnic area and a concession stand.

Library: The Unalaska Public Library has been named a Star Library by the U.S. Institute for Museum and Library Services and the American Library Association every year since 2007. The library boasts a collection of 42,000 items including books, periodicals, videos, DVDs and audio books. The library is a member of the Circum-Polar Library Consortium and has Interlibrary Loan capability from any library listed in the OCLC WorldShare resource sharing system. The electronic Card Catalogs of the Unalaska Public Library and the Unalaska City School are linked so that all library materials in our community are available to all residents. The library provides 52 reader seats, 26 public access internet computers, WI-FI computer access with printing capability, video conferencing for groups, two public meeting rooms and a children's room with a reading area that is made for children and their parents to enjoy the exciting world of reading. The special Alaskana Collection located in the Ray



Hudson Room contains rare and unique items from the region and a holds the Aleutian Region Newspaper Collection, which includes all newspapers published in Nome, Dillingham, Kodiak, Bethel, and Aleutian Chain communities. Anyone can use library resources in-house and the Unalaska City Council has adopted a policy that serves and supports Unalaska's fishing fleet and fisheries support sectors. Any individual with a current, government issued identification may obtain a full-service library card.

Museums & WWII Historical Area: The community's state-of-the-art Museum of the Aleutians opened its doors in August of 1999. The primary mission of the Museum of the Aleutians is to promote public awareness of the rich cultural legacy of the people of the Aleutian Islands. The museum's permanent exhibit gallery showcases 9,000 years of life in the Aleutian Islands with relics found through archeological excavations, purchased by the museum and donated as gifts. The museum's changing exhibit gallery is used throughout the year for temporary and traveling exhibits, as well as for special events and presentations. Each year, historical and cultural objects arrive at the museum, often from outside sources, and the museum houses thousands of locally recovered archeological artifacts. All are professionally cared for in a secure, climate-controlled environment.

The Aleutian World War II National Historic Area and the related Visitor Center, operated by the Ounalashka Corporation, tell the story of the men and women who were stationed in the Aleutians during World War II and the native people who were removed from their homes during the conflict. The historic area is a 134 acre tract of land on Amaknak Island and houses the military ruins of Fort Schwatka, the highest coastal battery ever constructed in the United States. The Visitor Center contains many artifacts and photographs of the era and is located near the airport in Unalaska.

Nature: Ounalashka Corporation is the major land owner on Unalaska, Amaknak and Sedanka Islands and graciously opens their land, within reason, for use in subsistence and recreational activities including salmon fishing, gathering foods in the intertidal zone (such as clams, mussels, sea urchins, chitons, seaweeds, etc.), collection of greens and herbs, berry picking, hiking and wildlife viewing. Hiking along the miles of World War II roads, and trails once traveled by ancient peoples, allows Unalaskans the opportunity to get away from it all by wandering through history that is hidden in the most exquisite beauty nature has to offer – and no bears! Residents and visitors alike enjoy year round outdoor activities.

Community Services

Several non-profit agencies and other businesses provide services to the community and enrich the lives of visitors and the people of Unalaska:



- The **Aleutian Arts Council** is a non-profit group that has been active in Unalaska for more than a quarter of a century. The group's goal is to foster local arts through sponsorship of workshops and performances. The Arts Council not only encourages local artists, it also invites outstanding artists from around the state, the nation and the world to perform or display their works in Unalaska, and to spend time with the young people in the schools to encourage their appreciation of and participation in the arts.
 - The **Ballyhoo Lions Club** is a service organization that provides help to those in need and provides scholarships to young people and to non-traditional students. The Lions Club sponsors many community services including Operation Smoke Detector, the Senior Fishing Trip, Easter Breakfast, Operation Santa, public benches and bus shelters, the annual Memorial Day Service and assisting needy community members with the cost of medical and vision care.
 - The mission of the **Qawalangin Tribe**, another of the community's non-profits, is to keep alive the cultural traditions of the indigenous people and to maintain the environmental stewardship of their traditional lands. Each year, the tribe hosts a culture camp which is designed to bring Unangan elders, Unangan mentors and Western science biologists together with younger generations in order to teach traditional subsistence ways and to encourage cultural and environmental stewardship.
 - **Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence (USAFV)** provides a safe haven for victims of sexual assault and family violence, and USAFV plays an active role in educating the public in how to recognize victimization and how to avoid becoming a victim.
 - The **Unalaska Senior Citizens** group focuses on providing a balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle for the elders who live in the community. They provide the meals-on-wheels program and a nutritious, balanced diet through the senior lunch program, regular transportation to and from the post offices, the grocery stores, the clinic and special events and exercise programs for seniors.
 - Nonprofit **Unalaska Community Broadcasting** provides local community radio at 89.7 FM, including local and statewide news. UCB also airs KSKA public radio at 91.1 FM. Channel 8 TV features *Flash Unalaska*, a weekly news and community events program, live on Wednesday nights and repeated several times during the week. Additionally, Channel 8 broadcasts programming produced locally and elsewhere, including City Council meetings, community events and select PBS programs. Channel 8's community bulletin board has a variety of local information, including job postings and upcoming events, as well as nonprofit, individual and business announcements. UCB is a repeater station for ARCS television, seen on Channel 4, for those who
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do not have cable television. UCB's website may be found at www.kucb.org, and includes news, community events, classifieds and the local Police Blotter.

- There are two local **newspapers**: *The Dutch Harbor Fisherman* covers regional events on a weekly basis and the community is also kept informed with an online news service, *The Dutch Harbor Telegraph*.
- Unalaska has two relatively large **grocery stores** and two wholesale grocers, and these businesses provide many specialty and ethnic foods.
- Unalaska has several excellent **restaurants**: fine dining at the Chart Room in the Grand Aleutian Hotel and several restaurants and cafes, some specializing in pizza, Mexican and Asian cuisines, as well as a sushi bar.
- **Accommodations** are provided by The Grand Aleutian Hotel, which is a modern hotel with amenities that rival luxury hotels in any city of the state. Simpler rooms are also available at the Harborview Inn, with reservations made through the Grand Aleutian.
- The City's **Department of Public Safety** operates two fire stations, one on each island, with three professional, full-time firefighters and a squad of 40 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians. The police department employs 25 officers, communications and administrative staff.
- **Churches**: The community of Unalaska is perhaps most recognized by the beautiful domes and spires of the historic Russian Orthodox Cathedral, the Church of the Holy Ascension. Dedicated in 1820 and still an active community church, it is the oldest Russian Orthodox church in Alaska and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. Unalaska also boasts active congregations at St. Christopher by-the-Sea Catholic Mission, the Unalaska Methodist Church, the Unalaska Christian Fellowship, the Aleutian Bible Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Baha'i Faith.

Passenger Transportation

Alaska Airlines provides 3 to 9 daily flights from Anchorage dependent on load, provided by partner Pen Air. The Alaska Marine Ferry, *M.V. Tustumena*, makes two stops per month in Unalaska between late April and early October, transporting both vehicles and passengers. Once on the island, there are two options for vehicle rentals as well as many taxi cab services.



Shipping and Cargo

The City is served by two U.S. Postal Service offices, one on each island, as well as other package delivery services including UPS and FedEx. We also have Pen Air Cargo, ACE Cargo, Desert Air and Northern Air Cargo landing on a daily, weekly and as needed basis. Unalaska has regularly-scheduled, weekly surface transportation North and Southbound from Seattle and Anchorage provided by Horizon Lines, Coastal Transportation, Samson Tug & Barge and Northland. These companies provide dependable, scheduled service year round for supplies, equipment and materials needed by our residents, businesses and industries.

Government

Unalaska has a Council-City Manager form of government. The elected Mayor and City Council are responsible for the legislative functions of the City, developing overall vision, establishing policy, passing local ordinances and voting on budget appropriations. The City Council appoints a professional City Manager who has broad authority to oversee the administrative operations of the municipality, implement policies and advise the Mayor and City Council. The City is not part of an organized borough.

Taxes

The City levies and collects the following taxes: real and personal property tax, sales tax, raw seafood tax and a hotel-motel room tax, at the following rates:

- Property: 10.5 mills
- Sales: 3%
- Raw Seafood: 2%
- Hotel-Motel Room: 5%

Utilities

The City of Unalaska is the service provider for utilities in Unalaska including Water, Wastewater, Electric Generation and Distribution and Solid Waste services. The Department of Public Utilities operates under the authority of the State of Alaska and the Alaska Public Utilities Commission. The responsibilities of the Department of Public Utilities are further defined in Title X of the City of Unalaska Ordinances.



Electricity: The City generates power using two diesel-generating plants with a total installed capacity of 17.6 megawatts, delivering electric service to residential, commercial and industrial customers. Base power rates are upward adjusted based on the Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA), which recovers the cost of fuel used in the power generation process. Residential customers enjoy a credit on their electrical cost with the State-subsidized Power Cost Equalization credit (PCE) which provides a percentage credit on the first 500 kWh used. COPA and PCE rates are adjusted regularly. Service rates are:

- Residential: \$8 per month; plus \$.23395 per kWh; plus COPA; less PCE.
- Small General Service (non-Residential with 20 kW of demand or less): \$10 per month; plus \$.20545 per kWh; plus COPA.
- Large General (demand exceeding 20-99 kW for a minimum of six months per year): \$50 per meter per month; plus Demand charge \$6.70 per kW; plus Energy charge of \$.17395 per kWh; plus COPA.
- Industrial (demand exceeding 100 kW for a minimum of six months per year): \$100 per meter per month; plus Demand charge \$8.00 per kW; plus Energy charge of \$.14385 per kWh; plus COPA.

Water: The City's water source is surface water from the Icy Creek Watershed in Pyramid Valley and two groundwater well sites consisting of four wells in Unalaska Valley. Our water is chlorinated for disinfection of viruses and bacteria. Residential users pay a flat monthly rate of \$31.02 and metered water users pay a fixed monthly charge depending on meter size plus \$2.19 per 1,000 gallons.

Wastewater: The City is in the initial phase of constructing a new wastewater treatment plant. Presently, single residential users pay a flat monthly rate of \$75.66 per month. Metered Commercial users pay \$13.85 per month plus \$11.81 per 1,000 gallons and Metered Industrial users (holding individual NPDES permits) pay \$13.85 per month plus \$.75 per 1,000 gallons.

Solid Waste: The City operates a landfill and baling facility, processing approximately 8,500 tons of waste each year. Property owners pay a monthly solid waste disposal fee of \$19.19. Additional landfill fees and charges apply to non-household waste, large loads and various types of waste.

For a complete list of utility and other charges, please refer to the City of Unalaska Schedule of Fees and Charges.