



Unalaska Community Profile

CITY OF UNALASKA
43 Raven Way · P. O. Box 610 · Unalaska, Alaska 99685
Tel: 907.581.1251 www.ci.unalaska.ak.us

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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 the 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 24 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 population of Unalaska is roughly 4,432 full-time residents representing a variety of ethnicities and cultures from around the world. Our population swells during peak fishing and seafood processing seasons, 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 50 years, Unalaska's economy has been based 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 Strait. 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 daily.

Unalaska is the anchor for commercial fishing activity in the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands. According to NOAA's *Fisheries of the United States 2022*, the most recent data available, Unalaska's Port of Dutch Harbor is once again the #1 Commercial Fishing Port in the U.S. with the greatest quantity of fish and shellfish harvested for the 26th consecutive year. In 2022, commercial fishermen delivered 613.5 million pounds of seafood at our port, valued at 160 million dollars. That compares to 745 million pounds crossing the docks valued at \$249 million the previous year. The region with the highest volume and revenue was the North Pacific with 4.8 billion pounds landed and \$2.1 billion in revenue. Approximately 400 vessels fish the Aleutian Islands and the Bering Sea for various groundfish, cod, 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 westernmost container terminal in the United States and is one of the most productive ports for the transshipment of cargo in Alaska. In addition to products shipped domestically to and from this regional hub, the product is shipped to ports around the world with weekly shipments headed to Europe and Asia by container ship and freighter. Two rail cranes are located in the community, one 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 four 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 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, leisure, and cultural opportunities.

EDUCATION

With a current enrollment of approximately 345 students, the Unalaska City School District operates two schools that provide a well-rounded educational experience for students from preschool 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.

Unalaska City School, grades 7-12, was awarded the prestigious 2011 National Blue Ribbon School Award for academic excellence. Other awards include Top High School in Alaska for 2016 by *Niche*, a company that researches and compiles information on all schools; *U.S. News and World Report Magazine's* 2010 Bronze Medal for America's Best High Schools; and *Offspring Magazine's* List of Top 100 School Districts for the Year 2000.

Eagles View Elementary was nominated for the 2012 National Blue Ribbon School Award and faculty received the Performance Incentive Program Award in 2007 for maintaining high levels of academic performance. Eagles View Elementary operates 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 faculty are focused on academic excellence for all students.

Educational opportunities do not stop with the public school system in Unalaska. The University of Alaska Fairbanks Bristol Bay Campus (UAF BBC) Unalaska Learning Center offers distance delivery and in-person courses for college credit. UAF BBC offers a variety of courses as well as Occupational Endorsements. The Unalaska Learning Center is instrumental in connecting residents to the larger University through dual credit, general education courses, and continuing education credits.

HEALTH CARE

The community's health care services are provided by Iliuliuk Family & Health Services, Inc. (IFHS). IFHS is a Community Health Center that serves the year-round residents of Unalaska and the fishing fleet of the Bering Sea. IFHS provides comprehensive primary medical care that is augmented by a diagnostic laboratory, preventive health care, urgent care, emergency services, alternative medicine options, mental health services, x-rays, ultrasounds, prenatal care, postnatal home visits, domestic violence counseling, health education, and outreach. IFHS provides emergency room services 24/7/365 for the island and coordinates with EMS and public safety for emergency response outside the facility.

IFHS's medical clinic is staffed by family practice physicians, physician assistants, and family nurse practitioners. The medical support staff includes registered nurses, a case management team, medical assistants, emergency medical technicians/paramedics, and imaging/lab technicians. Oral health care is provided through referrals to local dental providers. IFHS collaborates with local behavioral health counseling services to address community behavioral health needs. Primary Care services provided by IFHS are on a sliding fee scale based on family size and household income.

In addition to the services provided by IFHS, two dentists visit the community regularly throughout the year. Two chiropractic clinics also provide services to the people of the community, and an optometrist comes to

Unalaska regularly to address the vision needs of the community. There is also a native clinic on the island, Oonalaska Wellness Center, staffed by a physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

There are two air ambulance companies providing services in Unalaska, with one company having a base located on the island.

CLIMATE

We enjoy fairly moderate and uniform temperatures here in Unalaska. The average summer temperature range is °41-56 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 tasty berries.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Department of Parks, Culture, and Recreation (PCR): PCR’s mission is to enrich the diverse Unalaska community by providing exemplary, accessible, and safe cultural, leisure, and recreation facilities and services that nurture youth development and inspire people to learn, play, and engage with Unalaska’s unique and welcoming environment. Considered the center for recreation and leisure activities in Unalaska, PCR is a comprehensive small-town park and recreation department affiliated with the Alaska Recreation and Park Association and National Recreation and Park Association. PCR’s recreation professionals manage and lead services and programs in aquatics, arts and culture, fitness/sports/wellness, kids and teen programming, leisure activities, library services, and special events. Ongoing PCR happenings include:

- Races of varying distances from 2 miles to a marathon
- Youth and adult sports leagues
- Arts and culture classes and events including Missoula Children’s Theater, Camp Adgayux, and various fine arts and craft classes
- After-school and summer children’s programming and camps
- Holiday special events and the Heart of the Aleutians Festival

PCR publishes all information about programs and services on its website www.unalaskaPCR.com and through its app “PCRUnalaska” which is available through the iTunes App Store and the Google Play Store. For best results in using the app and to receive the latest information about PCR programming and services users should turn on push notifications in the app settings section.

PCR operates the Aquatics Center, Burma Road Chapel, Community Center, Library, and eight parks. The Aquatics Center, located in the Unalaska City School, includes a six-lane, 25-yard pool with a two-story slide, warming pool, sauna, locker rooms, and snack bar. The Aquatics Center also features a multipurpose room and fitness center with cardio equipment, hand weights, and a punching bag. The Burma Road Chapel facility is a multipurpose space used for fitness classes, instructional classes, birthday parties, and small community events.

Library: The Unalaska Public Library was renovated and reopened to the public in May of 2023. The library’s collection includes a wide variety of books, periodicals, movies, and audiobooks. With the Unalaska Public Library card, you can also borrow eBooks and eAudio titles for free through the Alaska Digital Library and access books and movies throughout the state and nation through interlibrary loans. The library provides reader seating and study tables, 15 public access internet computers, free Wi-Fi, video conferencing, three public meeting rooms, a teen room, two private study rooms, and a children’s room. Additional services include passport application acceptance, notary, and exam proctoring. The special Alaskan Collection located in the Ray Hudson Room

contains rare and unique items as well as historical newspapers from the region. The library hosts Unalaska's book club, as well as storytimes, author visits, and other programs for a wide range of ages and interests. Anyone may use library resources in-house, and any individual with current, government-issued identification may obtain a full-service library card.

Museum & WWII Historical Area: Unalaska's Museum of the Aleutians opened its doors in August 1999 with a mission to collect, preserve, and share the rich cultural legacy of the Aleutian Islands Region. The museum's permanent exhibit gallery showcases the breadth of Aleutian history with an extensive collection of Unanga, Russian, and American artifacts. The museum's changing gallery is used throughout the year to display a variety of exhibits, as well as for special events and presentations. Each year, the museum provides a variety of programs for the community, including community archaeology, lectures by visiting researchers and hosting school groups from all over the region. The museum collections are professionally cared for in a secure, climate-controlled environment, accessible by appointment to both researchers and the general public.

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.

Outdoor Activities: Ounalashka Corporation is the major landowner 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. For non-shareholder visitors to the island, a Land Use Permit is required, and certain activities are not allowed or may be restricted to specific areas. The use of the Ounalashka Corporation land without a permit is considered trespassing.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

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

- The **Ballyhoo Lions Club** is a service organization that provides help to those in need and provides scholarships to young people and 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 **Qawalangin Tribe** is a tribal government that keeps alive the cultural traditions of the indigenous people and maintains the environmental stewardship of their traditional lands. Each year, the tribe hosts a culture camp that is designed to bring Unangan elders, Unangan mentors, and Western science biologists together with younger generations 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 on how to recognize victimization and how to avoid becoming a victim.
- **Unalaska Community Broadcasting (KUCB)** is a non-profit community media organization. Our mission is to

inform, educate, entertain, and engage. We began over 30 years ago as a local access television station and have since developed into a provider of Channel 8 Television, KUCB 89.7 FM Radio (a full-service local radio station), repeater service for KSKA 91.1 FM, and a multi-media website. Our services provide news and information to the community and region, including events information, coverage of municipal meetings, newscasts, job and for sale/rent listings, and educational programming.

- The **Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor Convention & Visitors Bureau** is a non-profit organization that has been a part of the community for 22 years. They work to promote and encourage tourism as well as support the development of sustainable tourism infrastructure in the region. The UPDHCVB partners with local businesses, individuals, other non-profits, and the community as a whole. They produce and distribute visitor guides to an average of 12,000 people a year, produce tourism rack cards about Unalaska, create fundraising coupon books, create and distribute maps for visitors, host an annual wine-tasting event, and volunteer at as many events as possible. The UPDHCVB is a great resource for visitors to the island.
- 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, grocery stores, the Clinic, special events, and exercise programs for seniors.
- Local **newspaper**: *The Bristol Bay Times/Dutch Harbor Fisherman* covers regional events every week.
- Unalaska has two **grocery stores** and one wholesale grocer, 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 and burgers, 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 hotels in any city of the state. Simpler rooms are also available at the Harborview Inn, with reservations made through the Grand Aleutian.
- **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 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Unalaska Reformed Church, and the Baha'i Faith.
- The City's **Department of Public Safety** operates the police department, DMV, and jail. Staff includes 13 full-time law enforcement officers, as well as corrections, communications, animal control, and administrative staff.
- The City's **Fire Department** is a combination department that operates out of two stations, one on each island. The department is a combination of both professional paid firefighters and volunteers. Members' certifications range from basic firefighter certifications to advanced-level pre-hospital provider licenses. The Unalaska Fire Department provides advanced life support (ALS) transport service and operates on all hazards within city limits. The department has 2 – ALS ambulances, 2 – Engines, 1 – Tower Ladder, 1 – Technical Rescue, and 3 Command Vehicles.

PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION

Aleutian Airways provides regularly scheduled commercial passenger services with direct flights between Unalaska and Anchorage. Charter services are also available. The charter companies of which we are aware are

Dena'ina Air Transit, Security Aviation, Alaska Air Transit, Kenai Aviation, and Ace Cargo. The City of Unalaska makes no recommendations about these charter companies and has no agreements with them.

The Alaska Marine Ferry, *M.V. Tustumena*, is making one stop per month in Unalaska between Early June and early September, transporting both vehicles and passengers, visit the Alaska Marine Highway System website for dates and times. 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 (Unalaska 99685; Dutch Harbor 99692), as well as other package delivery services including UPS and FedEx deliveries. We also have Grant Aviation, and ACE 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 Matson, Coastal Transportation, Samson Tug & Barge, and Alaska Marine Lines (AML). These companies provide dependable, scheduled service and are year-round for supplies, equipment, and materials needed by our residents, businesses, and industries.

GOVERNMENT

The council is responsible for the legislative functions of the City, developing the 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, tobacco excise tax - \$2 per pack of cigarettes and 40% of the wholesale price of tobacco products, and a hotel-motel room tax, at the following rates:

Property: 10.5 mills	Raw Seafood: 2%
Sales: 3%	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 diesel-generating plants with a total installed capacity of 20.6 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 credit on their electrical costs 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: \$8.49 per month; energy charge \$0.2483 per kWh; plus COPA; less PCE.
- Small General Service (non-residential with 20 kW of demand or less): \$10.61 per month; energy charge \$0.2180 per kWh; plus COPA.
- Large General (demand exceeding 20-100 kW for a minimum of six months per year): \$53.07 per meter per month; plus Demand charge of \$7.11 per kW; plus Energy charge of \$0.1846 per kWh; plus COPA.
- Industrial (demand exceeding 100 kW for a minimum of six months per year): \$106.13 per meter per

month; plus Demand charge of \$8.49 per kW; plus Energy charge of \$0.1527 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 the disinfection of viruses and bacteria. Residential users pay a flat monthly rate of \$36.87 and metered water users pay a fixed monthly charge depending on meter size plus \$2.60 per 1,000 gallons.

Wastewater: Single residential users pay a flat monthly rate of \$144.38 per month. Metered Commercial users pay \$26.42 per month plus \$22.52 per 1,000 gallons. Metered Industrial users (holding individual NPDES permits) pay \$104.35 per month plus \$5.65 per 1,000 gallons.

Solid Waste: The City operates a Solid Waste Baling facility and a lined Landfill, processing approximately 7,500 tons of waste each year. Property owners pay a monthly solid waste disposal fee of \$37.20. Additional landfill fees 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.