

Natural Resources



"Blue Lake Reflections" photo by Don Kluting, Sitka

Bulk Water Export

The City & Borough of Sitka has 9.5 billion gallons (29,000 acre feet) per year of fresh, untreated water available for bulk export. Blue Lake, shown above, is fed by snowmelt and abundant rainfall and is the source of the high quality water being offered for sale. For more information go to: www.sawmillcove.com or call SEDA, 907-747-2660.

Seafood Harvest - 2008

Sitka ranked as the 13th largest port by value and 18th largest by volume for seafood harvest in the United States. Total pounds landed 52.7 million. Total value \$48.2 million. (2008)
Source: NOAA Fisheries "Fisheries of the United States 2008"

2008	Pounds Harvested	Ex-Vessel Value
Salmon	52,873,853 lbs	\$44,136,580
Halibut	2,955,602 lbs	\$12,716,799
Herring	29,936,927 lbs	\$12,976,349
Sablefish	3,373,399 lbs	\$16,057,943
Other	1,310,232 lbs	\$ 1,183,038

Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Commercial Fisheries

Sitka Resident Commercial Fishing Permit Holders (2008)

Resident commercial fishing permit holders	550
Resident commercial fishing crew	547
Total seafood pounds harvested	21,998,992
Total gross earnings	\$38,266,057

Source: Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Sitka Seafood Processing Industry - 2008

Seafood processing workers	827
First wholesale value of seafood processed in Sitka	\$119,000,000
Sitka fisheries business tax revenues	\$911,793

Source: 2010 McDowell Group "State of Sitka's Economy"

Charter Fishing	2008	2009
Businesses	117	104
Guides	219	193
Logbooks Issued	415	321
Gross Business Sales	\$29 million	\$19.7 million

Source: Alaska ADF&G Sport Fishing Department

Subsistence

Sitka maintains rural status that allows residents to hunt, fish, and gather food on Federal public lands. Commonly harvested foods are: fish (salmon, halibut, lingcod, rockfish, and herring), deer, mountain goat, bear, shellfish, mushrooms, berries and seaweeds.

History and Culture

The Tlingit people have lived on this land, now called Sitka, for over ten thousand years. A temperate climate, and an abundance of wildlife and edible plants, allowed for development of a rich culture in one of the most beautiful landscapes on earth.

In 1741, the Vitus Bering expedition recorded the location of the Tlingit settlement. Recognizing the value of Sitka's location and resources, the Russians returned in 1799, built a fort and trading post and named the site "New Archangel." In 1802 the Tlingit destroyed the Russian outpost, and the Russians retaliated in 1804 by destroying the Tlingit fort in the Battle of Sitka. By 1808, Sitka was the capital of Russian-America, which extended from northern Alaska, south to Fort Ross, California.

During the mid-1800s, Sitka, known as the "Paris of the Pacific," was the largest, most industrious city on the Pacific Rim, with Canton China and San Francisco, California following behind. Ships from many nations visited the port. Furs, salmon, lumber and ice were exported to Hawaii, Mexico and California. There was an active shipyard and foundery. After the purchase of Alaska by the U.S. in 1867, Sitka remained the capital of the Territory until 1906, when it was moved to Juneau.

During World War II, the town was fortified and the U.S. Navy built an air base on Japonski Island across the harbor, with 30,000 military personnel and over 7,000 civilians. The U.S. Coast Guard now maintains an air station and other facilities on the Island.



The Sitka Traditional Canoe Club (Kaduکشáki Yís) paddles its Tlingit warrior canoe Kaasadá Heeni Yaakw' (Canoe From Indian River) during the 2007 inaugural Sitka Sound Ocean Adventure Race.
Photo by Charles Bingham - Sitka.

Quality of Life - Contemporary Sitka

Sitka has the services and amenities of a much larger city, all within a compact area. Residents of the borough have one of the shortest average daily commutes in the United States at only 13.51 minutes. This leaves time to do other things. With the long daylight hours in summer you can even go salmon fishing, play a round of golf or take a hike after work.

Sitka in the Spotlight

Nominated to the list of 2010 Dozen Distinctive Destinations by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The National Geographic Society named Sitka as one of the world's top historic destinations in 2008.

Sitka is a designated "Preserve America Community."

Sitka is one of the "12 Great Places You've Never Heard Of" - Mother Earth News (Aug-Sep 2006)

Sitka has been featured on Good Morning America, and in *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Gourmet*, *Sunset*, *Mother Earth News*, and *Dining Out* Magazines.



VISITOR INFORMATION
Sitka Convention & Visitors Bureau
 PO Box 1226, Sitka, AK 99835
 Ph: (907) 747-5940 Fax: (907) 747-3739
www.sitka.org

RELOCATION INFORMATION
Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce
 PO Box 638, Sitka, AK 99835
 Ph: (907) 747-8604 Fax: (907) 747-7413
www.sitkacoc.com

Sitka Economic Development Association
 329 Harbor Drive, Suite 212
 Sitka, AK 99835
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Sitka, Alaska

Community Profile 2010-2011



Information about living and doing business in Sitka, Alaska.

Sitka Economic Development Association
www.sitka.net