

Emmonak



Population: 774

Emmonak is located at the mouth of the Yukon River, 10 miles from the Bering Sea, on the north bank of Kwiguk Pass. It lies 120 air miles northwest of Bethel and 490 air miles from Anchorage. A maritime climate predominates in Emmonak. Temperatures range from -25 to 79 degrees F. Precipitation averages 19" per year with snowfall averages of 50 to 60" per year. Freeze-up occurs during November; break-up occurs in May.

Emmonak (Emanguk) a Yupik word meaning "black fish" was first reported by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1899. Commercial fishing is the major industry in the village.

The population of the community consists of 93.9% Alaska Native or part Native. Emmonak is a Yupik Eskimo village involved in commercial fishing, processing and subsistence activities. The city experiences a seasonal economy as a center for commercial fishing, purchasing, and processing on the lower Yukon River. Many residents hold commercial fishing permits. Subsistence activities, trapping and public assistance support income. The majority of the community travels to fish camps during the summer months to dry salmon for winter use. Moose, beluga whale, seal and waterfowl are also utilized.

Emmonak relies on air and water transportation. There are no connecting roads, but winter trails to Kotlik, Alakanuk and Nunam Iqua are accessible by snow machine. Skiffs and ATVs are used during the summer for local transportation.