
**The Pribilof Islands:
Establishing a Socioeconomic Baseline
Technical Skill Survey**

Prepared for the Pribilof Island Collaborative

Sarah Kruse, Ph.D.
Henry Huntington Ph.D.
Astrid Scholz, Ph.D.
Max Malavansky Jr.
Aquilina Lestenkof

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721 NW Ninth Ave, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97209
www.ecotrust.org

TECHNICAL SKILLS SURVEY

One section of the Ecotrust survey asked individuals to look through a list of technical skills and check those in which they have “some experience” or are “skilled”. The survey included a list of 54 specific skills, including an “other” option at the end where respondents could write additional skills not included in the list.

Based on observations made while reviewing the surveys, we believe that these results may actually underestimate the overall skill level of respondents. For example, one individual who has been a commercial fisherman for more than a decade only gave a rating of “some experience” in fishing and fishing vessel operation.

St. Paul

Eighty-three of 90 St. Paul respondents completed this section of the survey. It is not clear why the other 7 respondents chose not to fill out this section of the survey.

The highest number of skills checked by an individual was 53, though it appears that this individual might have thought the exercise asked for an answer on every skill. The average respondent has 11 skills, four of which he/she is skilled in and 7 in which he/she has some experience. The median respondent has 9 skills. The skills most frequently cited were Cooking or Food Preparation (53), Computer Operations (47), Fishing (35), Administrative Skills (34), Accounting (33), Carpentry (33), and Subsistence Harvesting/Gathering (33). For a complete listing of skills and skill levels, see Table 2.

St. George

Forty-one of the 51 St. George respondents completed this section of the survey. No indication was given as to why the other 10 respondents chose to not fill out this section.

The highest number of skills checked by an individual was 39 and the lowest was one. The average respondent has 12 skills, five of which he/she is skilled in and 7 in which he/she has some experience. The median respondent has 10 skills. The skills most frequently cited were Fishing (24), Cooking or Food Preparation (20), Machine Operation (18), Construction (17), Subsistence Harvesting/Gathering (16) and Drywall/Tiling (16), Computer Operation (16), Bird ID (16) and Carpentry (16). For a complete listing of skills and skill levels, see Table 3.

Combined

As many of more frequently cited skills were common on both islands, it is not surprising that these same skills show up at the top of a list when responses from both islands are combined. The skills most frequently cited were Cooking or Food Preparation (73), Computer Operation (63), Fishing (59), Subsistence Harvest/Gathering (49), Carpentry (49) and Administrative Skills (49).

Additional skills listed by respondents from both islands are shown in the Table 1 below.

St. Paul	St. George
<input type="checkbox"/> Ivory carver	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher's assistant
<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing Aleut dresses	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and crafts
<input type="checkbox"/> Smoking meat and fish	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Laborer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Housewife	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Building miniature boats, airplanes, cars	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 1: Additional skills

Table 2: Technical skills of St. Paul residents

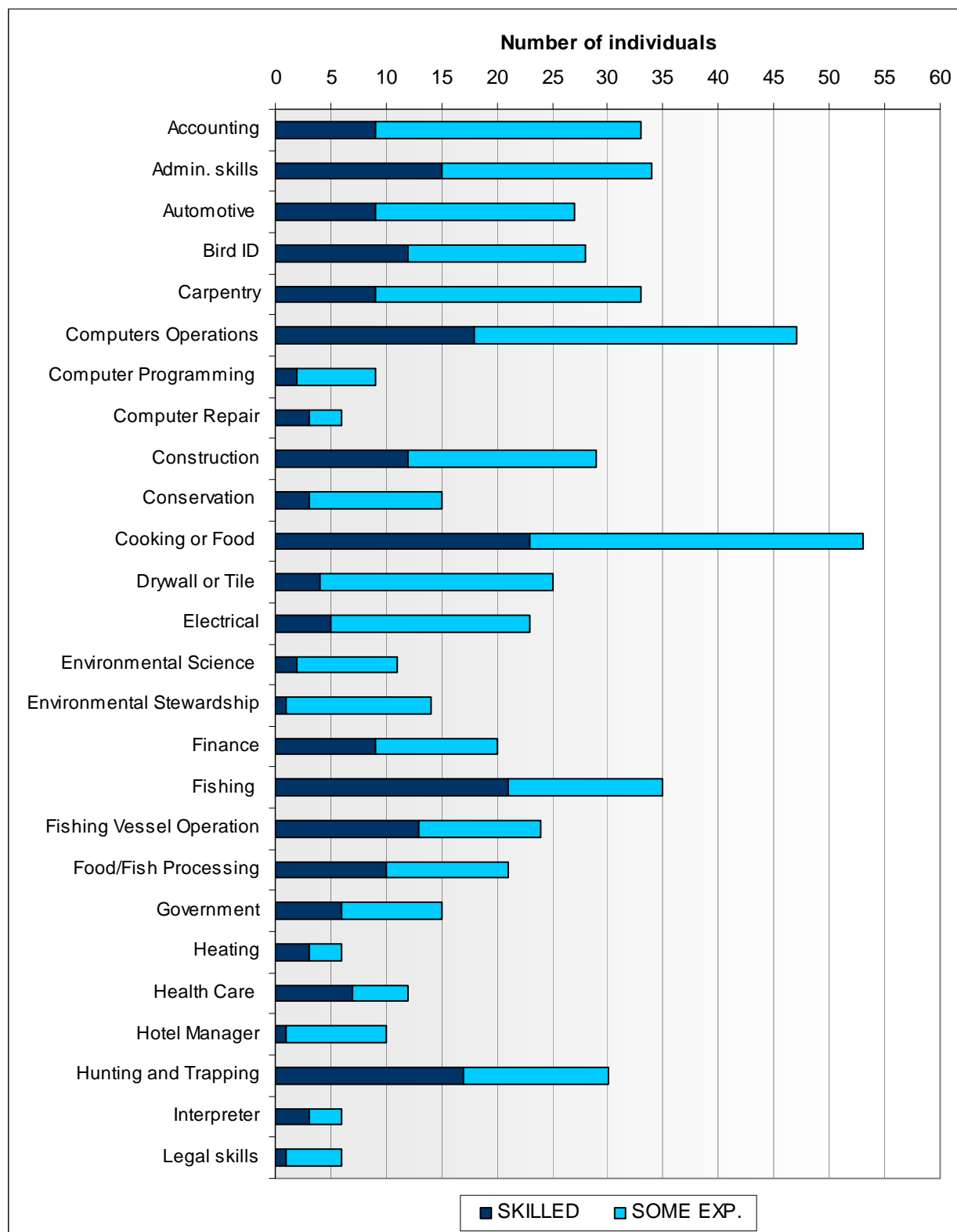


Table continued on the next page

Table 2: St. Paul technical skills continued

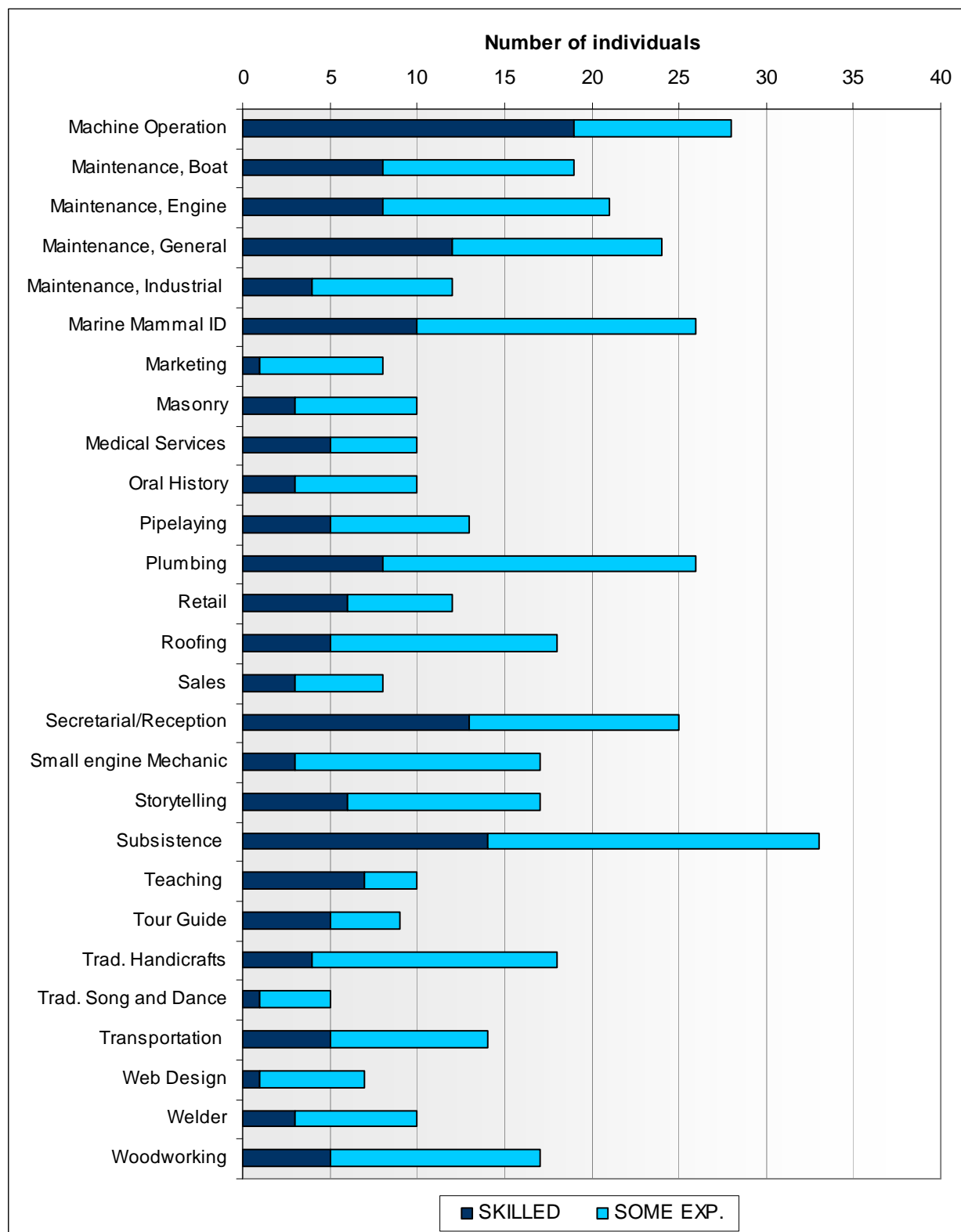


Table 3: Technical skills of St. George residents

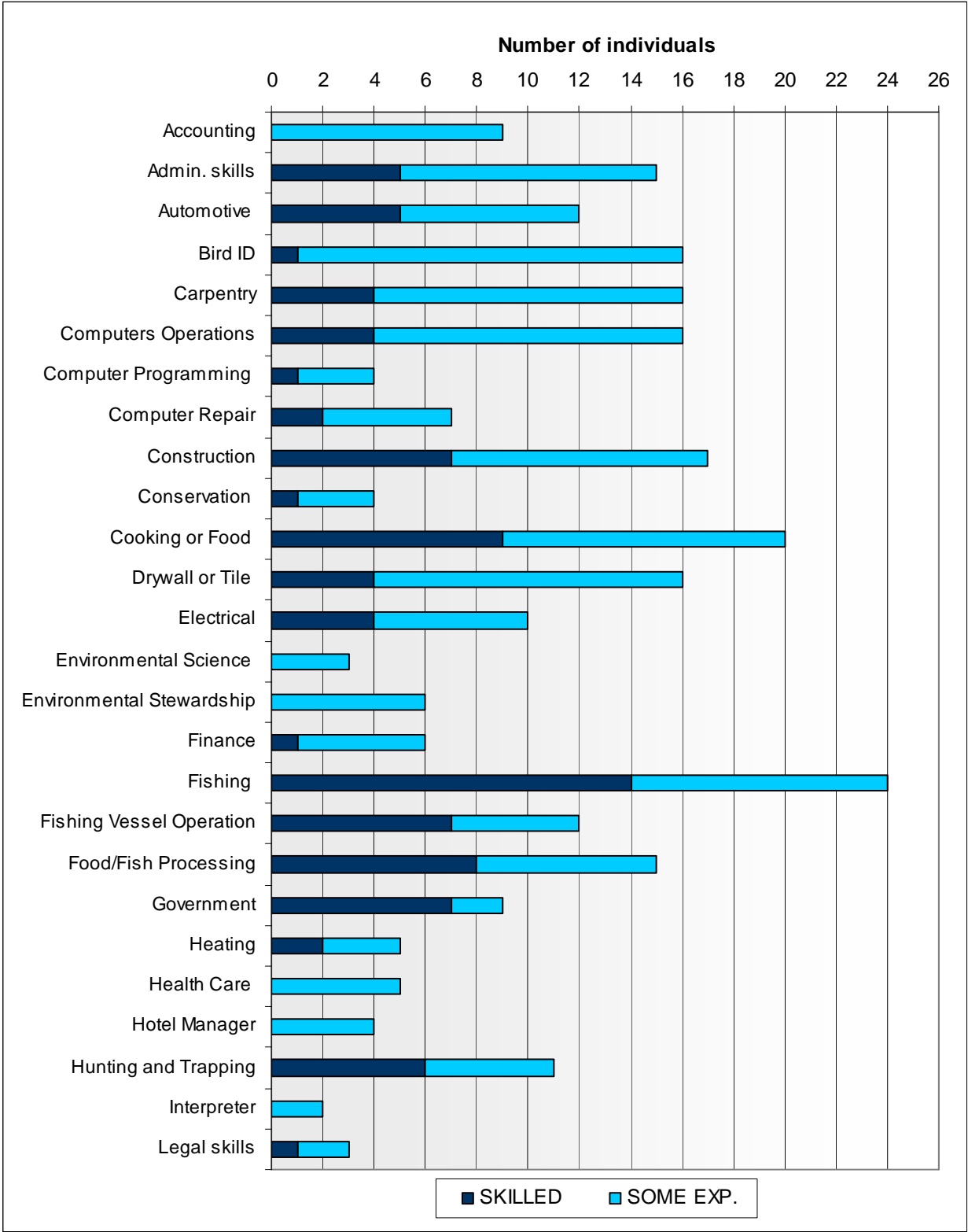


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Table 3: St. George technical skills continued

