

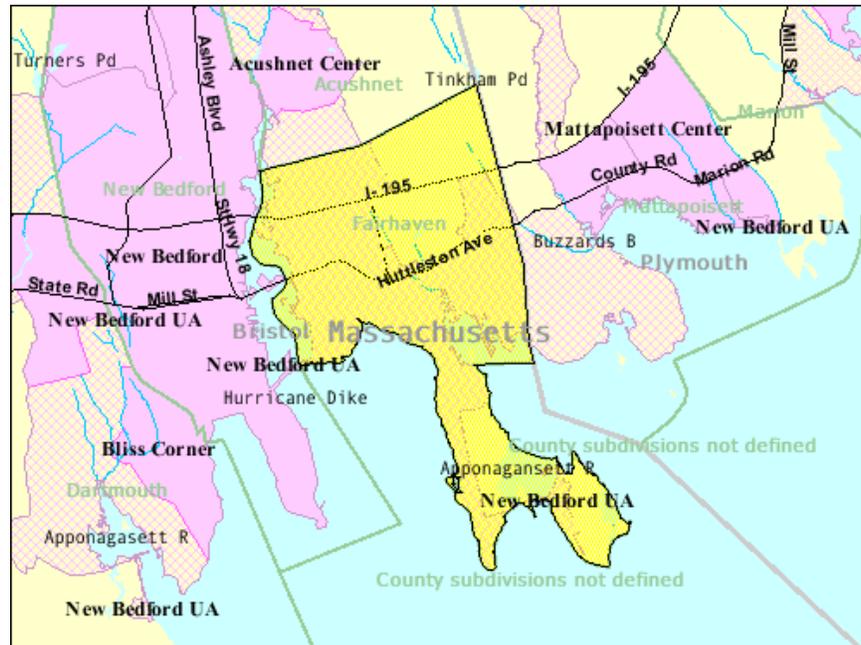
FAIRHAVEN, MA¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The Town of Fairhaven (41.66° N, 70.90° W) is located in southeastern Massachusetts, separated from the City of New Bedford by New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor, and along Buzzard's Bay (see Map) The town has 12.41 square miles of land area and 14.10 square miles of total area (State of Massachusetts 2007).



Map 1. Location of Fairhaven, MA (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

“The Town of Fairhaven is a suburban/fishing/resort community on Buzzard’s Bay. The town suffered both material damage and loss of life during the raids and battles of King Philip’s war and significant settlement took place only after the war. Until the middle of the 18th century, the town’s economy was agricultural. Beyond that point there is a shift toward maritime activities such as shipbuilding, whaling and foreign trade focusing on the town’s wharves. By 1838, Fairhaven was the second busiest whaling port in the country and at its peak the town boasted 46 ships and 1,324 men engaged in bringing back over \$600,000 worth of whale products annually. Discovery of oil in Pennsylvania coming on the heels of a national

¹ These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

² For purposes of citation please use the following template: “Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov.”

depression ended whaling and the town turned to such industries as tack making. In 1903, the American Tack Company's new plant was said to be the largest and best tack mill in the world. Prominent Fairhaven resident Henry Huttleston Rogers went to Pennsylvania to learn about the oil industry and after making himself an oil millionaire, Rogers re-made his home town. He donated the town hall, library, church, schools, streets and water system. The buildings make up the state's finest collection of public buildings, almost all designed by Boston architect Charles Brigham. The community began taking on the character of a suburban town in the late 1870s when the street railway connected Fairhaven to New Bedford. At the same time Fairhaven began to develop as a summer resort area with significant rural areas still the site of working farms” (State of Massachusetts 2007). Throughout its history, Fairhaven has been home to a number of boat yards and other local industries which have supported the fishing fleet and other maritime activities. Hathaway Machinery was a family-owned company which made winches found on a large percentage of fishing vessels in New England. The Steamship Authority maintenance facility currently occupies the former Hathaway-Brailey pier, site of the manufacturing plant.³

Demographics⁴

According to Census 2000 data, Fairhaven had a total population of 16,159, up 0.2% from the reported population of 16,132 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) . Of this total in 2000, 52.8% were female and 47.2% were male. The median age was 41.2 years and 75.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 22.2% were 62 or older.

The most populous age group for both men and women in the 2000 Census (Figure 1) was the 40-49 year old grouping. The age structure shows a dip in population for both men and women in the 20-29 age bracket, perhaps indicating an out-migration of young people moving elsewhere to seek jobs. This dip is common in many fishing communities.

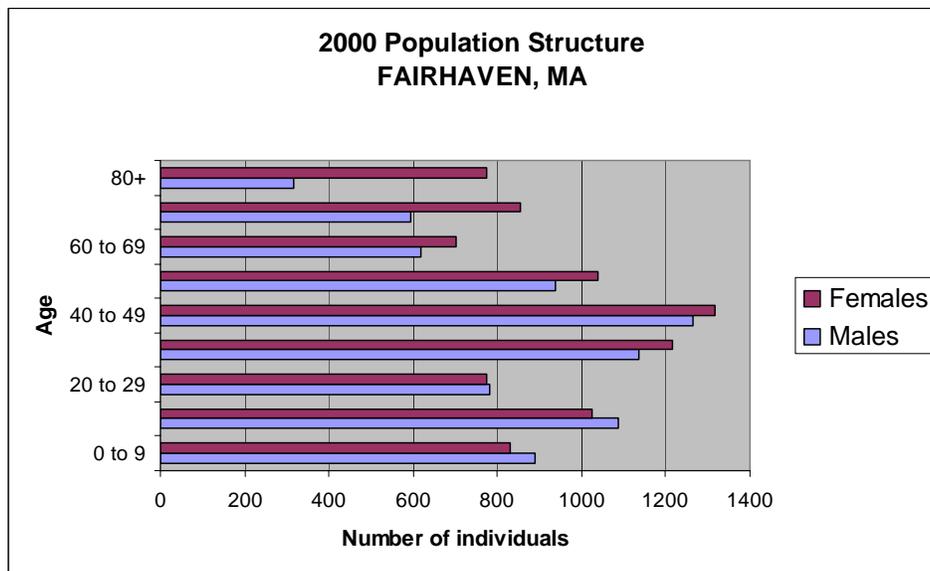


Figure 1. Fairhaven's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

³ Profile review comment, Vincent Malkoski, Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740, October 5, 2007

⁴ While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

The majority of the population of Fairhaven in 2000 was white (96.1%), with 0.9% of residents Black or African American, 0.6% Native American, 0.6% Asian, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.8% of the total population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their heritage to a number of different ancestries including: Portuguese (33.3%), English (17.1%), French (15.6%), and Irish (14.7%). With regard to region of birth, 83.8% were born in Massachusetts, 10.0% were born in a different state and 5.7% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.9% who were not United States citizens).

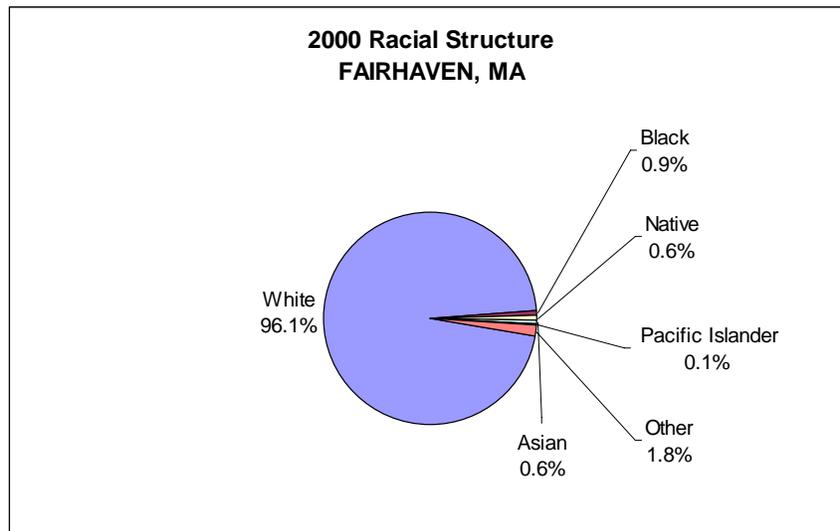


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

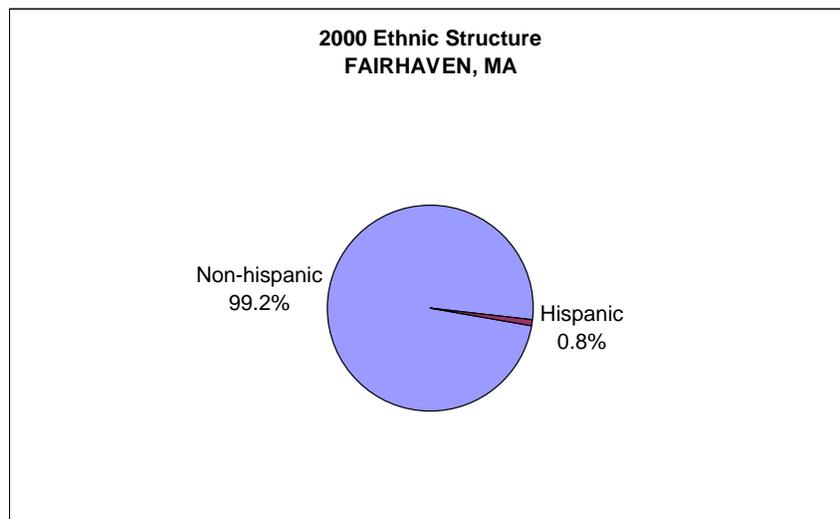


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 89.4% of the population 5 years old and higher in 2000, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 10.6% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and including 3.2% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well'.

Of the population 25 years and over, 76.8% were high school graduates or higher and 16.9% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 9.4% did not reach ninth grade, 13.8% attended some high school but did not graduate, 35.6% completed

high school, 17.9% had some college with no degree, 6.4% received their associate's degree, 11.4% earned their bachelor's degree, and 5.5% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious percentages are not available through the U.S. Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) in 2000 the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Bristol County was Catholic with 85 congregations and 268,434 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Jewish (5 with 11,600 adherents), United Church of Christ (19 with 5,728) and Episcopal (18 with 5,100 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 9.4% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Fairhaven struggles with a highly contaminated harbor and harbor sediment that it shares with New Bedford. New Bedford Harbor is contaminated with metals and organic compounds, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (US Department of Commerce. 2002). Because of the high concentrations of PCBs in the sediment, New Bedford Harbor was listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Superfund site in 1982 and cleanup is underway. Significant levels of these pollutants have accumulated in sediments, water, fish, lobsters, and shellfish in the Harbor and adjacent areas (BBNEP 1992). When Atlas Tack, once the town's largest employer, closed in 1985, the facility was designated a Superfund site, contaminated with heavy metals and PCBs. This contributes to the pollution in New Bedford Harbor and in salt marsh estuaries around the town, and poses a public health risk to residents (Sierra Club 2006).

In 2004, two fishing boats sank, one from Fairhaven and one owned by a Fairhaven man, killing seven men in total. The loss of the second of these, a scallop vessel, caused many to criticize scallop regulations for forcing fishermen to fish in rough weather (Abel 2004). In 2005, another Fairhaven-based vessel sank, killing two men on board.⁵

Cultural attributes

Of Fairhaven's many cultural activities, the longest running event is the annual Feast of Our Lady of Angels, which has been held since 1930. Begun by immigrants from the Azorean Island of St. Michael and their descendants, the weekend event features traditional Portuguese foods, music, and a religious procession. The town's history is remembered with a costume parade on the Fourth of July and by an historical Revolutionary War encampment by the Fairhaven Village Militia, a colonial re-enacting group, held each fall at Fort Phoenix. In 2007, Fairhaven celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the signing of a Sister City agreement with Tosashimizu, Japan. In 1987, the town was visited by Japan's Crown Prince Akihito, now the Emperor of Japan. The connection with Japan spans more than 150 years, from the time when Manjiro Nakahama, a Japanese fisherman, was rescued from an island in the Pacific Ocean by Capt. William Whitfield and was brought to Fairhaven, where he became the first Japanese person to live in America. Every other year the town holds a [Manjiro Festival](#) to continue the tie of friendship.

A number of fishing-related cultural events also take place in neighboring New Bedford. In September 2007, New Bedford will host the fourth annual Working Waterfront Festival, dedicated to the commercial fishing industry in New Bedford. This festival is a chance for the commercial fishing industry to educate the public about its role in the community and in

⁵ Profile review comment, Jeffrey Osuch, Fairhaven Town Hall, Town Hall 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719, October 17, 2007

providing seafood to consumers, through boat tours, demonstrations, and contests. The annual Blessing of the Fleet is held as part of the [Working Waterfront Festival](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the U.S. Census in 2000⁶, 63.3% (8,278 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 2.5% were unemployed, 0.4% were in the Armed Forces, and 60.4% were employed.

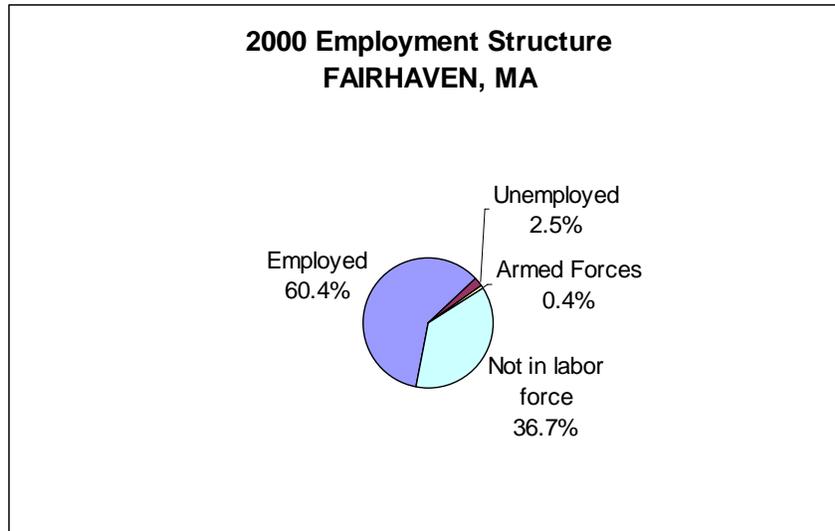


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The largest employer in Fairhaven is Acushnet Co., which manufactures golf equipment and supplies, including Titleist brand golf balls and Footjoy shoes and gloves, with 500 employees (SRPED 2002); other important employers within the town include South Coast Hospital (200 employees), Walmart (150 employees), Stop and Shop (145 employees), and Nye Lubricants (102 employees) (SRPED 2002). AT&T, one of the town's largest employers, in 2004 laid off 140 employees from its Fairhaven-based call center, maintaining 200 employees on staff there (Ortiz 2004). Large employers in neighboring New Bedford include Southcoast Health System (hospital – 2000 employees), New Bedford City Hall (1500 employees), and Acushnet Rubber Co. (Rubber manufacturers – 700 employees). About 33% of Fairhaven commuters are employed in New Bedford (SRPED 2002).

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 153 positions or 1.9% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 499 positions or 6.3% of jobs. Education, health, and social services (24.4%), manufacturing (15.0%), and retail trade (13.4%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Fairhaven was \$41,696 (up 38.5% from \$30,097 in 1990(US Census Bureau 1990a)) and per capita income was \$20,986. For full-time year round workers, men made approximately 28.5% more per year than women.

⁶ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

The average family in Fairhaven in 2000 consisted of 2.98 persons. With respect to poverty, 6.5% of families (up from 4.5% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990a)) and 19.0% of individuals were below the U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 29.7% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Fairhaven had a total of 7,266 housing units of which 91.1% were occupied and 72.6% were detached one unit homes. Nearly 40% (38.8%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, and vans accounted for 0.5% of the total housing units; 93.6% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$132,400. Of vacant housing units, 64.1% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 27.5% were renter occupied.

Government

Fairhaven has a Town Meeting form of government with a Board of Selectmen. The town was incorporated in 1812.

Fishery involvement in government

Fairhaven has a Shellfish Department which issues commercial and recreational licenses for shellfishing. The department also has a program transplanting or purchasing seed to develop shellfish beds within certain areas of the community.⁷ The town also has a harbor master.

Institutional

Fishery associations

Several fishing associations aid the fishing industry in New Bedford, such as the American Dogfish Association, the American Scallop Association, and the Commercial Anglers Association. New Bedford also is home to a Fishermen's Wives Association which began in the early 1960s. Additionally, New Bedford has the Offshore Mariner's Wives Association which includes a handful of participants who organize the Blessing of the Fleet.

The Massachusetts Fisherman's Partnership focuses on issues for fishermen in different ports in Massachusetts. The Partnership responded to the need of health care for fishermen and their families by developing the Fishing Partnership Health Insurance Plan with federal and state aid. This plan has been in place since 1997 and reduces the amount of money that fishermen's families have to pay to be covered by health insurance (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

Fishery Assistance Centers

Shore Support has been the primary fishing assistance center in New Bedford since 2000 (Hall-Arber et al. 2001), though the New Bedford Fishermen and Families Assistance Centers are also available, as is the Trawlers Survival Fund.

Other fishing-related organizations

Several other fishing related organizations and associations are vital to the fishing industry, such as the Fisheries' Survival Fund in Fairhaven, the New Bedford Fishermen's

⁷ Personal Communication, Gary Golas, Fairhaven Harbormaster, Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Centre Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719, 8/2/05

Union, the New Bedford Seafood Coalition, the New Bedford Seafood Council, the Offshore Mariner's Association, and the Northeast Maritime Institute.

Physical

“Fairhaven is about 15 miles southeast of Fall River; 55 miles south of Boston; 35 miles southeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and 208 miles from New York City” (State of Massachusetts 2007). Interstate 195 and Route 6 run through the town, connecting it to Cape Cod, Providence, and beyond. The Southeastern Regional Transit Authority operates in Fairhaven, providing buses to New Bedford. The closest airport is the New Bedford Municipal Airport; additionally, T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, RI is roughly 40 miles away.

Fairhaven has two large shipyards which service not only its own fishing fleet but also much of New Bedford's fleet. The [D.N. Kelley and Son Shipyard](#) is the oldest operating shipyard in the United States, in operation since 1864, and for many years has specialized in repairing and refitting commercial fishing vessels from New Bedford, expanding in the 1980s to service large yachts and commercial vessels of all kinds. Other boats are serviced at the [Fairhaven Shipyard](#), in business since 1879, which also specializes in commercial fishing vessels and other large boats. Fairhaven Shipyard also has a marina which services primarily recreational vessels. Union Wharf is the town-owned dock where many of the commercial vessels tie up. Many of the commercial fishing vessels are also based out of the shipyards. There were once two facilities in town where fish are unloaded, MacLean's Seafood, a wholesaler, on Union Wharf (which went bankrupt)⁸, and the recently built Harbor Blue Seafood, but neither of these is involved with processing.⁹ [Earl's Marina](#), located on Long Island at the southern tip of Fairhaven, primarily houses recreational vessels, providing easy access to Buzzard's Bay (Fairhaven Public Schools nd). Fairhaven has a total of six marinas, and three public boat ramps. [Athearn Marine Agency](#) is a fishing vessel brokerage agency located in Fairhaven.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹⁰

Commercial

Fairhaven's fishing industry is so closely linked to that of New Bedford as to often be considered one and the same. Most of Fairhaven's vessels unload and sell their fish in New Bedford, while vessels from both communities haul out in Fairhaven (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

⁸ Community Review Comments, John Mahoney, NMFS Port Agent, January 22, 2007

⁹ Personal Communication, Gary Golas, Fairhaven Harbormaster, Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Centre Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719, 8/2/05

¹⁰ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

The [Whaling City Seafood Display Auction](#) in New Bedford, opened in 1994, services New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Southern New England, and allows fishermen to get fair market price for their catch. The majority of Fairhaven’s fleet is made up of scallop vessels, many of which are operated by Norwegians (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). The town Shellfish Department has issued 25 commercial shellfishing licenses within the town in 2007, indicating that shellfishing is also important to Fairhaven’s fishing industry (Town of Fairhaven 2007).

The highest landings in Fairhaven were for lobster, followed closely by scallops and to a lesser extent, “Other” (Table 1). Judging by the fact that the level of home port fishing in Fairhaven is much higher than the level of landings in the town, and by the fact that Fairhaven had zero landings in 1997-1999, it is clear that most landings are done in New Bedford. Overall, the number of vessels, both those with their home port in Fairhaven and those whose owners live in Fairhaven, did not change considerably over the period from 1997-2006. The number of vessels whose owner’s city was Fairhaven was higher in all ten years than the number of vessels home ported in Fairhaven (Table 2).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

| Species | Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006 |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Lobster | 1 |
| Scallop | 2 |
| Other ¹¹ | 3 |
| Monkfish | 4 |
| Red Crab | 5 |
| Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass | 6 |
| Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog | 7 |
| Skate | 8 |
| Largemesh Groundfish ¹² | 9 |
| Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish | 10 |
| Dogfish | 11 |
| Tilefish | 12 |
| Bluefish | 13 |

(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)

¹¹ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹² Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

Vessels by Year¹³

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

| Year | # Vessels (home ported) | # Vessels (owner's city) |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1997 | 47 | 66 |
| 1998 | 49 | 70 |
| 1999 | 42 | 65 |
| 2000 | 47 | 64 |
| 2001 | 46 | 62 |
| 2002 | 46 | 63 |
| 2003 | 44 | 60 |
| 2004 | 42 | 63 |
| 2005 | 42 | 64 |
| 2006 | 40 | 59 |

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁴)

Recreational

Fairhaven has a few charter fishing companies specializing in striped bass such as [Fanta Sea Fishing Charters](#) and [MacAtac Sportfishing](#). Shellfishing is a popular recreational activity here; the town's Shellfish Department issued 922 recreational shellfishing licenses in 2007.¹⁵

Subsistence

Subsistence fishing is known to occur in Fairhaven, but as much of this activity is likely done illegally – taking undersized fish and shellfish, harvesting in closed areas, and harvesting regulated species without a permit – the extent of such fisheries cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.¹⁶

FUTURE

In 2004 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Seaport Council granted \$5 million to dredge New Bedford Harbor, in an attempt to improve the infrastructure for New Bedford and Fairhaven and to support the commercial fishing industry (State of Massachusetts 2007). While New Bedford has an area on the harbor zoned specifically for marine industrial use, Fairhaven does not have this sort of zoning and is at risk for loss of waterfront access from

¹³ Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

¹⁴ The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

¹⁵ Profile review comment, Jeffrey Osuch, Fairhaven Town Hall, Town Hall 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719, October 17, 2007

¹⁶ Profile review comment, Vincent Malkoski, Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740, October 5, 2007

development.¹⁷ The Harbor Trustee Council may be awarding the Regional Shellfish Restoration Committee funding to improve shellfish propagation programs, helping to keep fisheries going for commercial and recreational fishermen in Fairhaven.¹⁸

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¹⁷ Personal Communication, Stephen Smith, Executive Director, Southeastern Regional Planning (SRPEDD), 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780, 7/29/05

¹⁸ Profile review comment, Jeffrey Osuch, Fairhaven Town Hall, Town Hall 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719, October 17, 2007