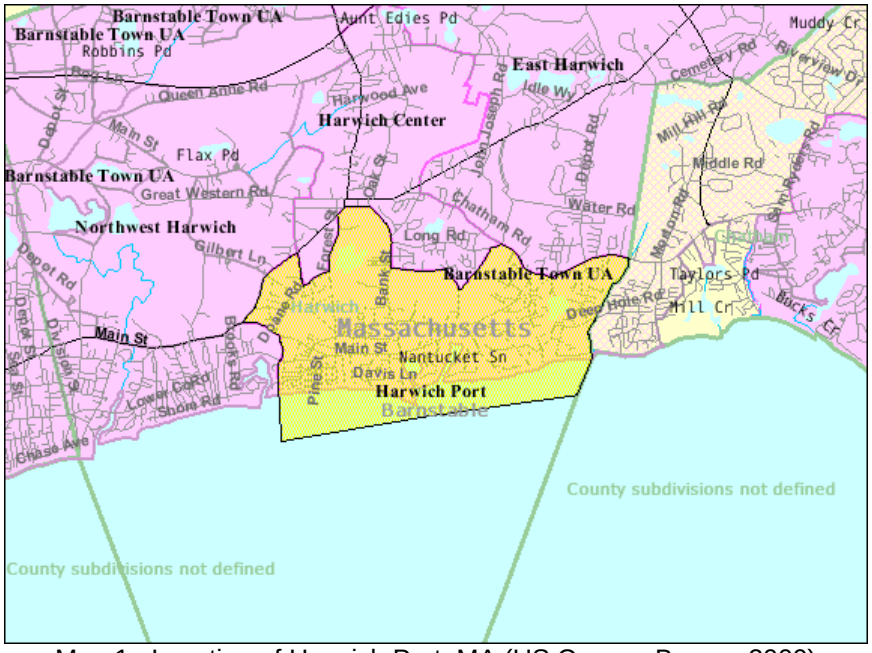
HARWICH PORT, MA[1]
Community Profile[2]

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Harwich Port (41.67°N, 70.08°W) is located in Barnstable County, 15 miles east of Hyannis along Highway 28, in the Barnstable Town metro area. The town of Harwich is made up of seven villages at the edge of Cape Cod. These include the North, South, East and West Harwiches, Harwich Center, Harwich Port and Pleasant Lake (Cape Cod Connection 2007).



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

Historical/Background

Harwich was settled around 1665 and was originally known as Satucket until it was incorporated as a town in 1694. After incorporation, the town was then named for the famous seaport in England. The commercial growth of cranberries began in the Pleasant Lake section of Harwich in 1844. Once a shipbuilding and whaling center, Harwich is now supported by the cranberry and tourism industries (capecodtravel.com 2005). When the whaling industry collapsed due to the discovery of terrestrial sources of oil, the community shifted its emphasis to cod fishing. By 1802, 15 to 20 ships were shore fishing. Another four ships were cod fishing in Labrador and Newfoundland. By 1851, there were 48 ships employing 577 men and bringing in

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[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."

thousands of tons of cod and mackerel. By the latter part of the 19th century, the decline of the fishing industry in Harwich was due to increases in the size of ships which surpassed the ability of the shallow port to house them. As a result, residents turned to the development of cranberry bogs and resorts for summer tourism, often working alongside Portuguese immigrants. The first resort opened in 1880 (State of Massachusetts 2007).

Cranberry farming continues to be the biggest industry in Harwich. The town's population triples during the summer season, with visitors arriving to enjoy local freshwater and saltwater beaches, fishing, bird watching, scuba diving, and sailing.

Demographics[3]

According to Census 2000 data, Harwich Port CDP had a total population of 1,809, up 3.8% from a reported population of 1,742 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 42.6% were males and 57.4% were females. The median age was 58.3 years and 87.2% of the population was 21 years or older while 44.9% were 62 or older.

Harwich Port's population structure (see Figure 1) clearly shows an aged population, with the largest percentage of residents between the ages of 70-79, followed by 60-69. There are also a large number of residents over the age of 80, particularly women who predominate in all three of these age categories. There appear to be few residents under the age of 30 in Harwich Port.

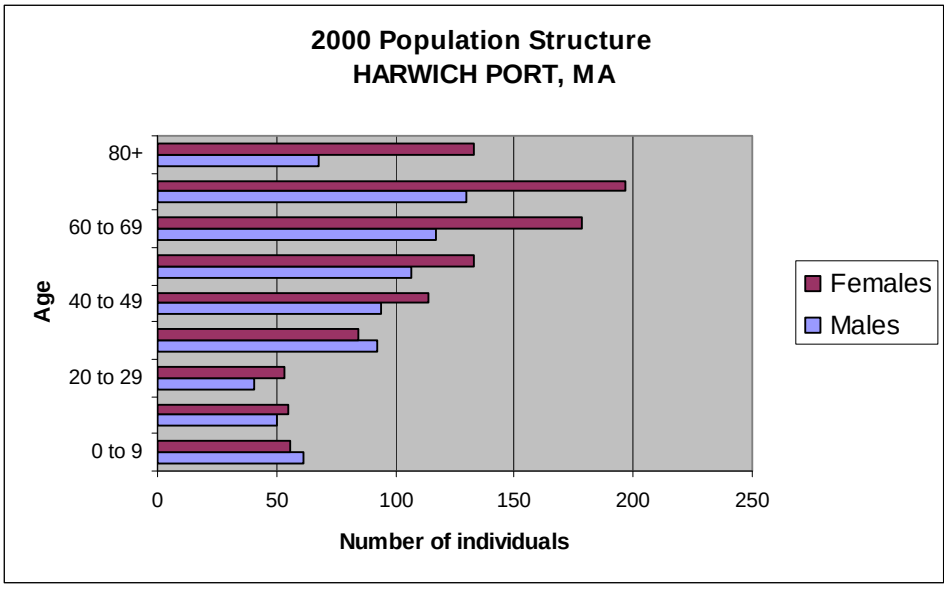

Figure 1. Harwich Port's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (97.5%), with 0.8% black or African American, 0.2% Asian, 0.2% Native American, 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 0.7% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (30.6%), Irish (25.4%), German (11.4%), Scottish (10.8%), and Italian (8.4%). With regard to region of birth, 61.4%

[3] 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.

were born in Massachusetts, 35.3% were born in a different state and 3.0% were born outside of the U.S. (including 0.7% who were not United States citizens).

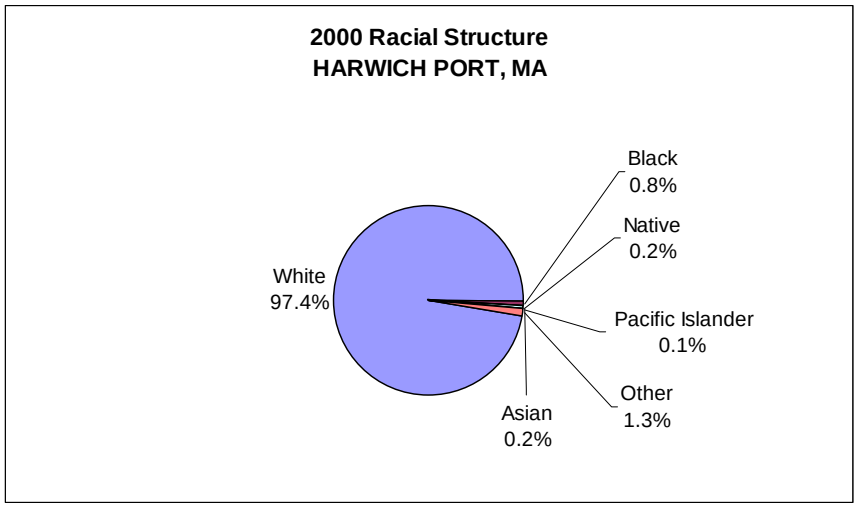

Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

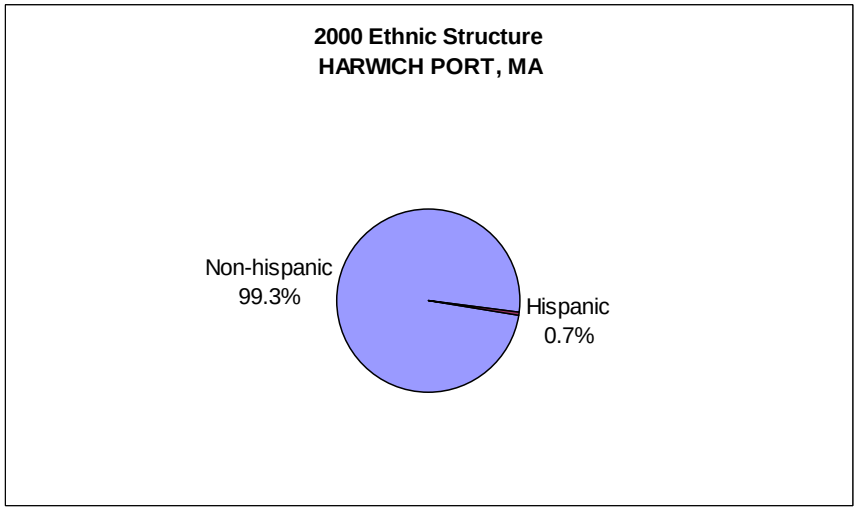

Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 92.7% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 7.3% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.3% of the population who spoke English less than "very well" according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 95.7% were high school graduates or higher and 36.8% had a bachelor's degree. Again of the population 25 years and over, 1.2% did not reach ninth grade, 3.1% attended some high school but did not graduate, 29.0% completed high school, 18.5% had some college with no degree, 11.3% received their associate's degree, 19.0% earned a bachelor's degree, and 17.8% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through U.S. Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations in Barnstable County was Catholic, with 29 congregations and 63,729. Other prominent congregations were Episcopal (11 with 7,093 adherents), the United Church of

Christ (17 with 6,141 adherents), and the United Methodist Church (15 with 4,241 adherents). The total numbers of adherents to any religion was down 20.7% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Like many fishing communities in the Northeast, increasingly stringent fishing regulations jeopardize the viability of Harwich as a fishing port. Rigid fishing regulations adversely affect the small-boat fishery and have negative consequences for Cape Cod after the summer tourists and visitors depart. There are a significant number of people directly involved in small-boat fishing in Harwich Port. In addition to the fishermen, the local fleet supports baiters, boatyards, shopkeepers, gear suppliers and repairers, fuel suppliers, fish markets, consumers, marine insurance agents, etc. Restrictions on the local fleet affect all of Harwich, either directly or indirectly. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires fishery managers to consider social and economic issues when regulating fisheries. Fishery managers must also take into account the significance of fishery resources to the fishing communities with the intention of minimizing unfavorable economic impacts on these communities (NMFS 1996).

Harwich is an area without many other identifiable industries operating all year. There is little besides tourism and fishing to support the local economy. Unemployment has continued to be a problem during Cape Cod winters, and strict regulations exacerbate this in addition to social distress. Despite an external appearance of wealth, some residents of Harwich experience economic and social suffering due to stringent fishing regulations.

Cultural attributes

Historic Harwich Center and Harwich Port offer band concerts during the summer months. Harwich is famous for its world class Cranberry Harvest Festival, which takes place every September. It's the largest small-town festival in America, a week-long extravaganza of craft fairs, a parade, and a spectacular, multimedia fireworks show. There is also a 23-mile bicycle trail runs through the town (Capecodtravel.com 2005).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

While fishing and cranberry farming are still core occupations, the current economy in Harwich is primarily supported by tourism which drastically increases the population during the summer months. The town of Harwich offers shopping, historic sites, sports recreation, dining establishments, golf, charter fishing, bike trails and galleries. The restaurants in Harwich cover a range of settings from take-out to elegant with fresh Atlantic seafood attracting diners year-round. The galleries showcase works of fine arts, and the Brooks Academy Museum displays historic artifacts local to Harwich. Entertainment includes music at the Town Band Concerts, performing arts at the Harwich Junior Theater, and outdoor art shows organized by the local Art Guild (Cape Cod Connection 2005).

Also due to the large tourism industry, Harwich has an extensive selection of Bed & Breakfast host homes, old-fashioned country inns and restored antique houses. Many of the lodgings provide private, self-contained cottages and cabins for weekly rental. In addition, there is quite a selection of motels, motor courts, hotels, and resorts, supporting the town in the summer months.

According to the U.S. Census 2000[4], 45.6% (729 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure), of which 1.4% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 44.2% were employed.

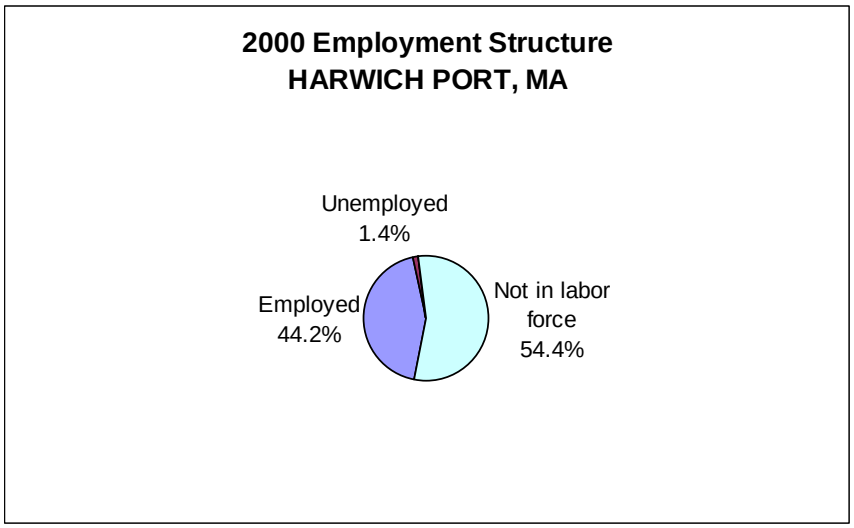

Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 5 positions or 0.7% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 108 positions or 15.3% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (27.6%), retail trade (17.4%), finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (9.5%), and professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services (8.4%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Harwich Port was $29,583 (up 17.1% from $25,250 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was $25,058. For full-time year round workers, females made approximately 6.3% more than males.

The average family in Harwich Port consisted of 2.49 persons. With respect to poverty, 9.9% of families (up from 8.9% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 14.6 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, 55.4% of all families (of any size) earned less than $35,000 per year.

In 2000, Harwich Port had a total of 2,279 housing units of which 43.9% were occupied and 78.9% were detached one-unit homes. Only one quarter (23.8%) of these homes were built before 1940. No mobile homes or boats were reported as housing units; 90.6% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area is $275,000. Of vacant housing units, 50.4% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 10.1% were renter occupied.

[4] 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.

Government

Harwich follows the traditional New England pattern of open Town Meeting, held in May. The Town is governed by a Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. Numerous committees guide the town in various decision making processes (Harwich Chamber of Commerce 2005).

Fishery involvement in government

The town's Department of Natural Resources replenishes the town's shellfish flats every year with about 2 million baby clams grown at the department's Shellfish Lab (Boston Globe 2006). Harwich collaborates with the town of Brewster to share this facility (Town of Harwich 2006). There is also a Shellfish and Marine Water Quality Commission in town, as well as several volunteer Shellfish Constables who oversee the town's shellfish programs (Town of Harwich 2006). Harwich also has a harbormaster. Barnstable County's Cape Cod Cooperative Extension has a Marine Program whose goal is "to establish, develop and carry out education programs in marine resource development, to assist with problems concerning coastal industries and the management of coastal resources, and to transfer technological innovations, educational and informational materials to public officials, educators, and marine users groups."

Institutional

Fishing associations

Harwich is the home of the Cape Cod Fish and Game Club, as well as the Cape Cod Fish and Game Association. The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fisherman's Association in Barnstable County works to promote sustainable fisheries for the future, to educate citizens and lawmakers about the complexity of preserving a small scale commercial fishing business and encourages collaborations between scientists and fishermen in order to maximize participation in the management process

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

Fishing assistance centers

The Fishing Family Assistance Center was located in Hyannis and provided job training and employment assistance for those looking to leave the fishing industry and start new careers. Services included career counseling and workshops, occupational training, job development, and remedial/GED instruction. Funding for this program ended in 2006 due to state budget cuts. Many of the fishermen utilizing these services, trained for jobs and careers in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, commercial driving, or computer fields.

Other fishing related organizations

Information on other fishing related organizations in Harwich is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Physical

Harwich is located midway between the Cape Cod Canal and Provincetown. A ferry boat leaves from Saquatucket Harbor which goes to Nantucket, and the saltwater beaches along the Nantucket Sound. Harwich is roughly 15 miles from Hyannis, 38 miles from Provincetown, and 83 miles from Boston. Nearby Chatham and Hyannis have municipal airports (MapQuest nd).

Harwich claims to have "three harbors and one port:" Wychmere Harbor, Saquatucket Harbor, and Allen Harbor. Harwich has a town pier located in Wychmere Harbor; this is where the commercial fishing fleet is located. The town's main clam flats, and the town's Shellfish Lab, are also located here. Harwich also has a town-owned marina, the Saquatucket Marina. There is another town dock in Allen Harbor, and the town maintains several boat ramps for public use (Town of Harwich 2005).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES[5]

Commercial

There are approximately 735 boats either moored or docked within Herring Creek, Allens Harbor, Wychmere Harbor and Saquatucket Harbor. Of these 735 boats approximately 35-40 are commercial fishing vessels, mostly 38 feet and under, and there is an estimated transient population of 68 vessels. Almost all are involved in single day hook fishing trips, mostly for groundfish (such as cod and haddock). The long line fishery has also provided quality fish to Cape Cod for hundreds of years and is considered by many to be one of the more environmentally sustainable gear types. Wychmere Harbor is used by both commercial and recreational shell fishermen for the harvest of clams, quahogs, oysters, and bay scallops. Saquatucket Harbor is also used by both commercial and recreational shell fishermen for the harvest of clams, quahogs, and oysters. It is also the site of Harwich's commercial aquaculture operations (EPA 1998). The bluefin tuna fishery is also important in Harwich. Most boats fishing for tuna offload their catch to one of a number of buyers who come to Saquatucket Harbor to purchase the fish (Town of Harwich 2005).

All of the landings are conducted within the port of Harwich Port (see Table 1), but all of the vessels list Harwich as their home port (see Table 2**Error! Reference source not found.**). The most valuable landings in Harwich Port were from the "other" species grouping, followed by groundfish. The landings of both of these groups was considerably less in 2006 than the average landed values for the period 1997-2006. Landings in Harwich Port reached their peak in 2001. The number of home ported vessels in Harwich increased from 55 in 1998 to 65 in 2002, and then fell again to 48 in 2006. The number of vessels with city owners in Harwich showed a similar trend, but with fewer vessels, indicating that many vessels ported in Harwich have owners in other communities.

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[5] 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.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Other[6]	1
Largemesh Groundfish[7]	2
Scallop	3
Lobster	4
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	5
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	6
Bluefish	7
Dogfish	8
Monkfish	9
Skate	10
Smallmesh Groundfish[8]	11

(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.)

Vessels by Year[9]

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	57	30
1998	55	29
1999	56	33
2000	60	37
2001	64	40
2002	65	45
2003	58	37
2004	59	41
2005	55	38
2006	48	38

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport,
 # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence[10])

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[6] "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

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

[8] Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

[9] 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.

[10] 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.

Recreational

Harwich marine waters also support a sizable recreational fishing sector. While accurate data on this component is lacking, a number of charter fishing companies exist in the Harwich Port area. For example, Maverick Charters Ltd. offers sportfishing for stripers, blues, tuna and shark on the 38' boat. Other Harwich charters include Action Sportfishing on Cape Cod, Booby Hatch Fishing Charters, Fishtale Sportfishing, Magellan Sportfishing Charters, and Sportfishing on the Sue-Z. Between 2001- 2005, there were 28 charter and party vessels making 1,435 total trips registered in logbook data by charter and party vessels in Harwich Port carrying a total of 19,708 anglers (NMFS VTR data). Recreational shellfishing is also a popular activity in Harwich, which has numerous productive clam flats (Boston Globe 2006).

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in Harwich Port is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

Despite the efforts of the town to keep shellfishing a viable industry and a recreational activity here, clammers feel the popularity of this activity is diminishing and that young people will not be interested in digging their own clams (Boston Globe 2006).

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