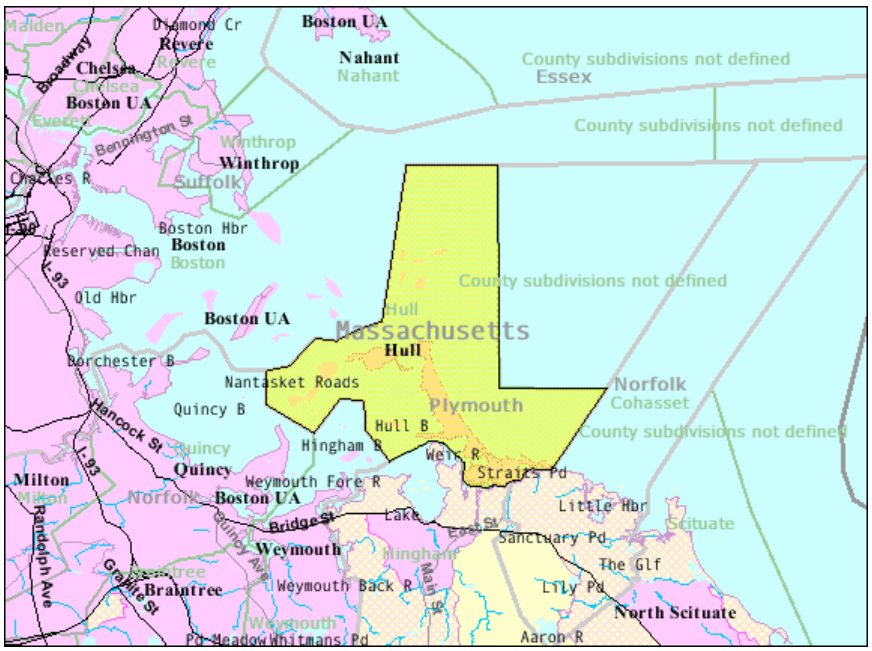
HULL, MA[1]
Community Profile[2]

PEOPLE AND PLACES
Regional orientation

The Town of Hull (42.30º N, 70.90º W) is located in the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy metro area, in Plymouth County (USGS 2008). It is located in eastern Massachusetts and forms a border between Hingham Bay and Massachusetts Bay (see Map 1). It is 18 miles southeast of Boston and has a total area of 28.21 sq. miles with only 2.97 sq. miles being land. Hull is a narrow peninsula almost entirely surrounded by water, with Boston Harbor to the West and Massachusetts Bay to the East.



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

Historical/Background

The peninsula that is now the town of Hull was originally used by Plymouth colonists to set up trading posts with Native Americans in 1621. In 1776 Fort Independence, famous for its star shape, was constructed to defend Boston Harbor from attacking British troops. In 1825 Paul Warrick built the Sportsman Hotel on Nantasket Avenue, where it still stands today as the only surviving hotel in Hull. By 1840 Hull had become a popular beach destination for those living in Boston with steamers making up to three trips a day between the two locations. Many boarding

---

[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."

houses and hotels were constructed to accommodate the influx of visitors. Early residents, in addition to fishing and farming, would salvage wrecks for additional income. A life-saving team was also established and saved thousands of vessels. Paragon Park was created to allow a safe family environment away from pick-pockets who had begun to make an appearance in Hull. The amusement park was closed in 1985 thus ending an era of the resort town of Hull and beginning a new era of suburbia (State of Massachusetts 2006). The Town of Hull was recently awarded the Department of Energy's Wind Power Pioneer Award for its municipal wind turbine which supplies much of the town's energy (US Department of Energy 2006).

Demographics[3]

According to Census 2000 data, Hull had a total population of 11,050, up 5.6% from the reported population of 10,466 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this total in 2000, 51.7% were female and 48.3% were male. The median age was 40.2 years and 75.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 14.8% were 62 or older.

Hull's population structure in 2000 (see Figure 1) was typical of a relatively young, family-oriented community. The most populous age bracket was 40-49, followed by 30-39, and there were also lots of children and teenagers. The population dipped for the 20-29 age bracket, as is common in many fishing communities when young people leave to go to college or to seek jobs. There were also more women than men in all age brackets past the age of 20, indicating that either men were leaving the town to go elsewhere or that women were migrating to Hull for jobs or for some other reason.

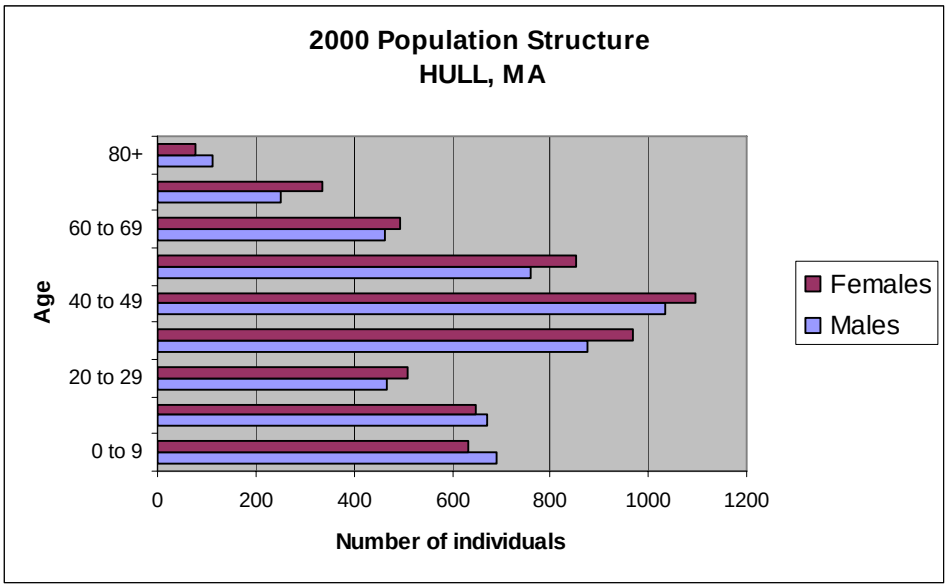


Figure 1. Hull's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population of Hull was white (96.8%), with 0.6% of residents black or African American, 0.6% Native American, 1.1% Asian, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 1.1% of residents identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see

[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.

Figure 3). Residents linked their heritage to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (36.1%), Italian (16.6%), English (12.8%), and German (7.0%). With regard to region of birth, 79.5% were born in Massachusetts, 15.4% were born in a different state and 4.7% were born outside of the U.S. (including 2.6% who were not United States citizens).

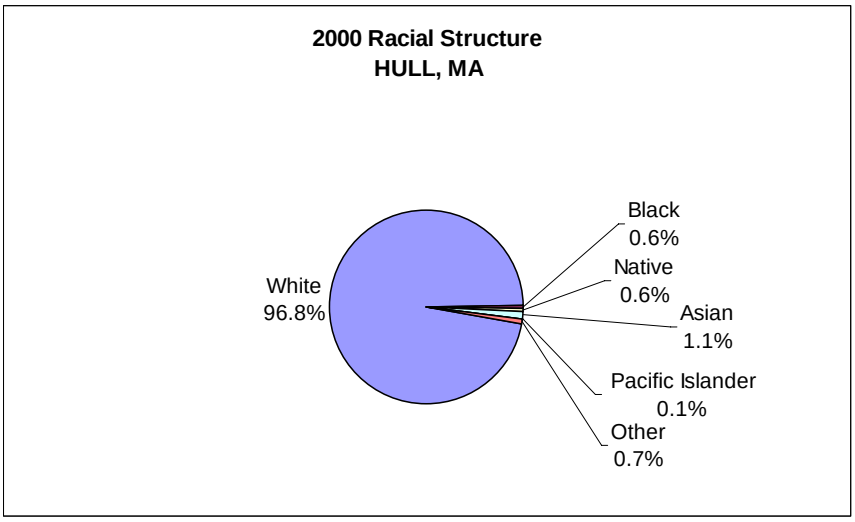


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

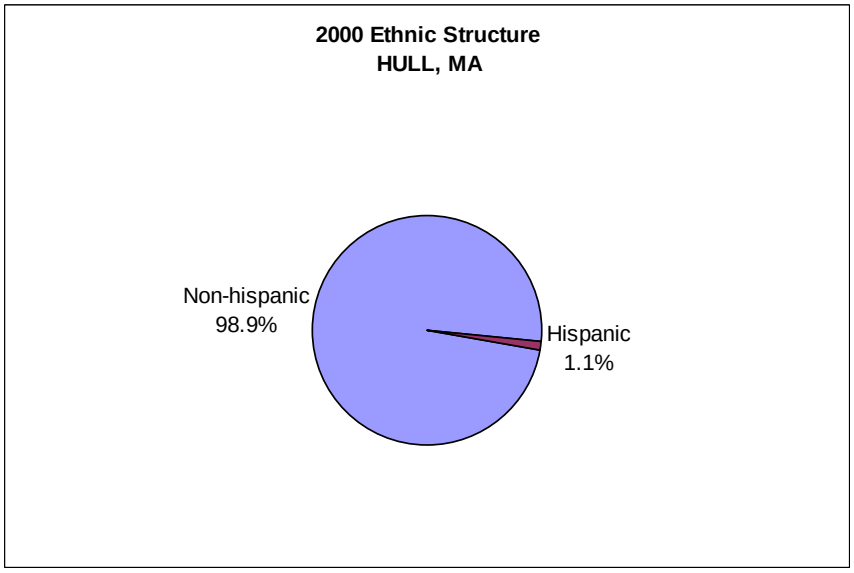


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 12000)

For 92.4% of the population 5 years old and higher, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 7.6% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.7% of the population who spoke English less than "very well."

Of the population 25 years and over, 90.1% were high school graduates or higher and 30.1% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.2% did not reach ninth grade, 7.7% attended some high school but did not graduate, 27.6% completed high school, 24.8% had some college with no degree, 7.7% received an associate's degree, 19.5% earned a bachelor's degree, and 10.6% received 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 Plymouth County was Catholic with 40 congregations and 205,060 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Jewish (8 with 23,600 adherents), United Church of Christ (25 with 9,491 adherents) and Episcopal (15 with 6,894 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 36.1% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Four wind turbines are planed to be built 1.6 miles off the coast of Hull. The town has been approved for a $1.7million loan to pay for the construction (Patriot Ledger 2006).

Cultural attributes

There is an annual soup and chowder festival held each February in Hull in conjunction with the "Drowned Hogs Swim" (named after ground hogs, as the swim takes place the first weekend in February), a winter swim held at Nantasket Beach as a fundraiser (Hull Nantasket Beach Chamber of Commerce 2006). The Hull Lifesaving Museum promotes the area's maritime culture and lifesaving tradition through collections, exhibits, education, research, and other programs. They sponsor lifeboat races and lectures among other events. Hull also hosts an annual Endless Summer Waterfront Festival each September featuring live music, hot dog eating and sandcastle building contests, and food, shopping, and boat access.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the U.S. Census 2000[4], 69.1% (6,132 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.7% were unemployed, 0.1% were in the Armed Forces, and 66.3% were employed.

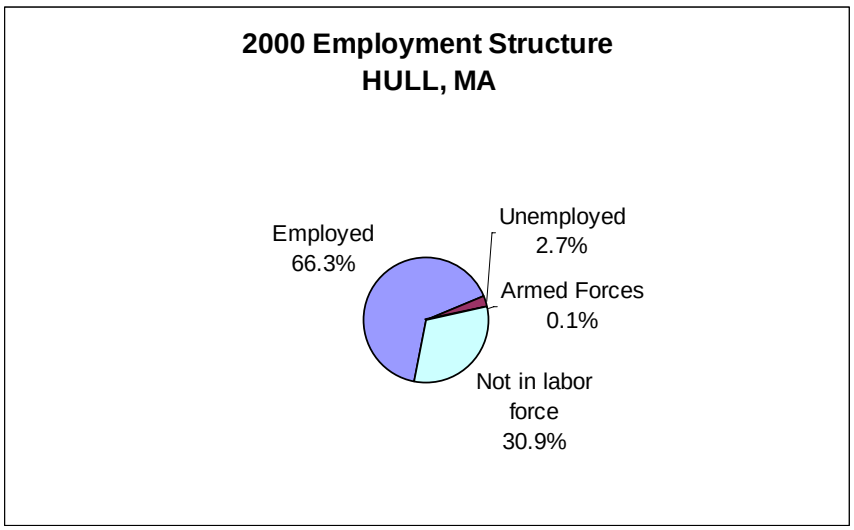


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

[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.

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 19 positions or 0.3% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 487 positions or 12.9% of jobs. Education, health, and social services (22.2%), finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (11.6%), retail trade (11.6%), professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (10.6%), and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (7.7%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Hull was $52,377 (up 36.2% from $37,683 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was $26,331. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 23.9% more per year than females.

The average family in Hull consisted of 3.06 persons. With respect to poverty, 10.7% of families (down from 1.4% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 16.4% of individuals earned below the official U.S. Government poverty line, while 20.8% of families in 2000 earned less than $35,000 per year (US Census Bureau 2000b).

In 2000, Hull had a total of 5,366 housing units, of which 84.3% were occupied and 72.3% were detached one unit homes. Nearly half (48.4%) of these homes were built before 1940. There were no reported mobile homes in this area; 88.9% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was $185,600. Of vacant housing units, 81.4% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 27.4% were renter occupied.

Government

The Town of Hull is has an open town meeting form of government run by a town manager and a Board of Selectmen (Town of Hull 2006).

Fishery involvement in government

Hull has a Harbor Master and a Harbor Management Committee that meets twice monthly (Town of Hull 2006).

Institutional

Fishing associations

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).

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishery assistance centers in Hull is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

Other fishing related organizations

The Weir River Watershed Association in Hull is committed to promoting stewardship and awareness of the Weir River Watershed, which encompasses Hull. The Weir River Watershed provides drinking water to Hull, Hingham, Cohasset, and Norwell. The Nantasket Beach Salt Water Club is an organization with facilities adjacent to the Town Pier in Allerton Harbor. The original purpose of the club was to promote interest in salt-water fishing and hunting, as well as to encourage younger people in these sports so as to become better sportsmen. The club has

evolved into an active social organization that also offers many activities for boaters, such as nautical classes, historical lectures, dances, and dock parties

Physical

The principal highway in Hull is State Route 228. Hull is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA). Although there is no direct access provided to Hull on the T, the Braintree and Quincy stops on the Red Line are only about 30 minutes away. The Greenbush Commuter Rail Line of the MBTA began service in October 2007, with a Nantasket Junction stop in Hingham, only a few miles from Hull. The RIDE is a bus service offered to the elderly and disabled (State of Massachusetts 2006). The MBTA operates a year-round commuter ferry between Pemberton Pier in Hull and Logan Airport as well as Long Wharf in Boston Hull is approximately 26 miles from Boston by land.

Pemberton is the name for the very end of the Hull peninsula; Allerton Harbor is located inside of the peninsula (Town of Hull 2006). There is one bait and tackle shop located in Hull, Pemberton Bait and Tackle. There is a fishing pier located here, along with a boat ramp. There are three marinas listed for Hull, Donahue's Waveland Marina, Kelly's Sunset Marina, and Steamboat Wharf Marina. Additionally, there are two boat service companies, South Shore Marine and The Boat Hauler.[5] Waveland Marina offers hauling, launching, storage, and service, as well as fuel and moorings. Steamboat Wharf Marina is another full service marina.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES[6]

Commercial

By far the most valuable species in Hull is lobster, with landings in Hull in 2006 of greater value than the average landings for 1997-2006 (see Table 1). The number of vessels home ported in Hull during this time period was variable, increasing to 26 in 2002, and then falling again to a low of 16 in 2005 (see table 2). The number of vessels with owners residing in Hull (city owner vessels) displayed a similar trend, with the number of home ported vessels equal to the number of city owner vessels in many years. This indicates that most vessels home ported in Hull are likely owned by residents. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries reported 16 commercial lobstermen fishing out of Hull in 2006. Hull was ranked 14th in the state in catch (pounds) for state landings.[7]

---

[5] Profile review comment, Jay Fleck, Harbor Management Committee, Hull Town Hall, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, MA 02045, October 26, 2007

[6] 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.

[7] Data provided by William Adler, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066, September 5, 2007

There is a lobster pound located at Pemberton Pier in Hull. Jake's Seafood Restaurant and Market is has its own HACCP seafood buyer and a refrigerated truck to purchase seafood from around the area. Lobster Express is a wholesale seafood dealer that purchases lobster and seafood directly from fishermen and distributes to restaurants and the public through facilities at Steamboat Wharf.[8]

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

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

(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[11]

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	23	23
1998	21	21
1999	25	21
2000	23	20
2001	25	23
2002	26	24
2003	19	21
2004	17	17
2005	16	17
2006	18	18

(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[12])

Recreational

Charter fishing is available in Hull aboard the *Ariel*, which departs from Hull Gut and targets striped bass, bluefish, and cod. They also have lobster boats for larger fishing parties.

---

[8] Profile review comment, Jay Fleck, Harbor Management Committee, Hull Town Hall, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, MA 02045, October 26, 2007

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

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

[11] 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.

[12] 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.

From the Town Pier in Allerton Harbor, fishing charters and sight-seeing tours are available aboard the Triple-J-BE, First Light, and Windmere.[13] Pemberton Pier in Hull is a popular recreational fishing spot; access to the pier is free. Pemberton Bait and Tackle is located here.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

Hull is planning to build the nation's first offshore wind farm which will provide additional sustainable energy for the community. The farm will consist of four turbines 1.6 miles off Hull's Nantasket Beach. Although the $1.7 million dollar loan to build the farm was approved, the town is still waiting for the aid as of late 2006 (Patriot Ledger Staff 2006). The town is currently working with the state Public Access Board to build a new boat launch ramp adjacent to the Hull Yacht Club in Allerton Harbor. There are also plans to rebuild the launch ramp at Steamboat Wharf to upgrade access for canoes and kayaks to the Weir River and to build a dedicated fishing pier at James Avenue in the village section of town located on Hull Bay.[14]

REFERENCES

Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) 2000. Interactive Maps and Reports, Counties. [cited December 2006]. Available from:http://www.thearda.com/

Hall-Arber M, Dyer C, Poggie J, McNally J, Gagne R. 2001. New England's Fishing Communities. Cambridge (MA): MIT Sea Grant 01-15. Available at: http://seagrant.mit.edu/cmss/

Hull Nantasket Beach Chamber of Commerce. 2006. Events. Available at: http://www.hullchamber.com/

Patriot Ledger. 2006. Hull tilts toward more turbines. Town wants to put 4 windmills 2 miles off shore. Patriot Ledger, 2006 Sept 19.

State of Massachusetts. 2006. Hull, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, DHCD Community Profiles. Available at: http://mass.gov

Town of Hull. 2006. Web site [cited Dec 2006]. Available at: http://www.town.hull.ma.us/

US Census Bureau. 1990. Decennial Census [cited Dec 2006]. Available at: http://factfinder.census.gov

US Census Bureau. 2000a. Hull town. Demographic Profile Highlights. [cited December 2006] Available from: http://factfinder.census.gov

US Census Bureau: 2000b. Poverty threshold [cited Nov 2005]. Available at: http://www.census.gov

US Department of Energy (DOE). 2006. Hull Massachusetts wins DOE Wind Power Pioneer Award: Boston suburb has a long history of using wind power. 2006 November 7. Available from: http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov

US Geological Survey. Geographical Names Information System (GNIS). Feature Detail Report Hull, MA. Available from:http://geonames.usgs.gov

[13] Profile review comment, Jay Fleck, Harbor Management Committee, Hull Town Hall, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, MA 02045, October 26, 2007

[14] Profile review comment, Jay Fleck, Harbor Management Committee, Hull Town Hall, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, MA 02045, October 26, 2007