

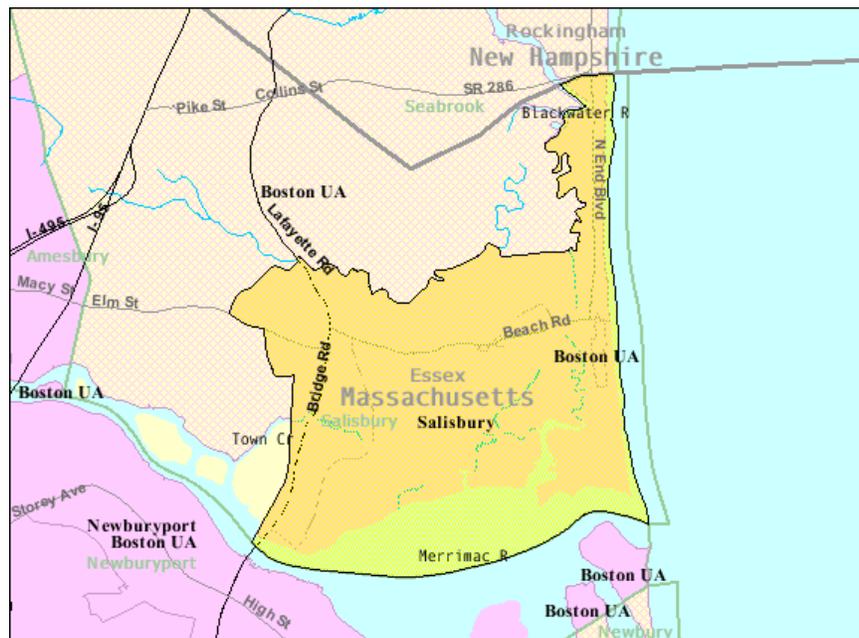
SALISBURY, MA¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional Orientation

The Town of Salisbury (42.84°N, 70.86°W) is a part of Essex County in Massachusetts. Salisbury sits on the northern shore of the Merrimack River, opposite the city of Newburyport and borders New Hampshire to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and Amesbury to the west. The town has a total area of 17.9 mi², of which 2.4 mi² (13.5%) of it is water. “Salisbury encompasses sixteen miles of farms, beach, marshlands and both residential and commercial space” (State of Massachusetts 2007).



Map 1. Location of Salisbury CDP (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/ Background

Salisbury began in 1638 when Simon Bradstreet, Secretary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and eleven other men were granted the right to begin a plantation north of the Merrimack River including what is today Salisbury, Amesbury and Merrimack as well as several towns in New Hampshire. Salisbury was originally called Colchester, and was incorporated as Salisbury in 1640 (MVPC 2007). Salisbury was farming and fishing community early on, and there were also a number of boat builders located there. Harvesting hay from local salt marshes

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.”

was also an important early industry. Salisbury was the last town in Massachusetts to be a “proprietorship in common;” until 1896 all of the property in town was held by the Commoners of Salisbury (Salisbury by the Seashore 2007). When a railroad was built between Newburyport and Portsmouth, Salisbury became a prominent vacation destination for an emerging middle class, and a resort developed around Salisbury’s beach. Salisbury is divided into four distinct parts: Salisbury Beach; Salisbury Farms, made up of farms and suburban homes; Salisbury Square, the colonial village and municipal center, and Ring’s Island, once a colonial fishing village where Salisbury’s marine businesses are located (Town of Salisbury 2007). Today over two hundred thousand visitors each year come to Salisbury Beach State Reservation, a four-mile beach which is the busiest in Massachusetts (MVPC 2007).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data (US Census Bureau 2000), Salisbury CDP has a total population of 4,484, up 21.4% from the reported population of 3,695 in 1990. Of this total population in 2000, 50.8% were female and 49.2% were male. The median age was 39.4 years and 75.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 16.8% was 62 years or older.

Salisbury has one of the lowest populations per square mile in Massachusetts (Salisbury by the Seashore 2007). The population structure (see Figure 1) shows the highest percentage of residents to be in the 30-39 and 40-49 age categories. There are also a number of children in the community. Salisbury shows a slight decline in the population of 20-29 year old residents but not to the extent seen in many other fishing communities.

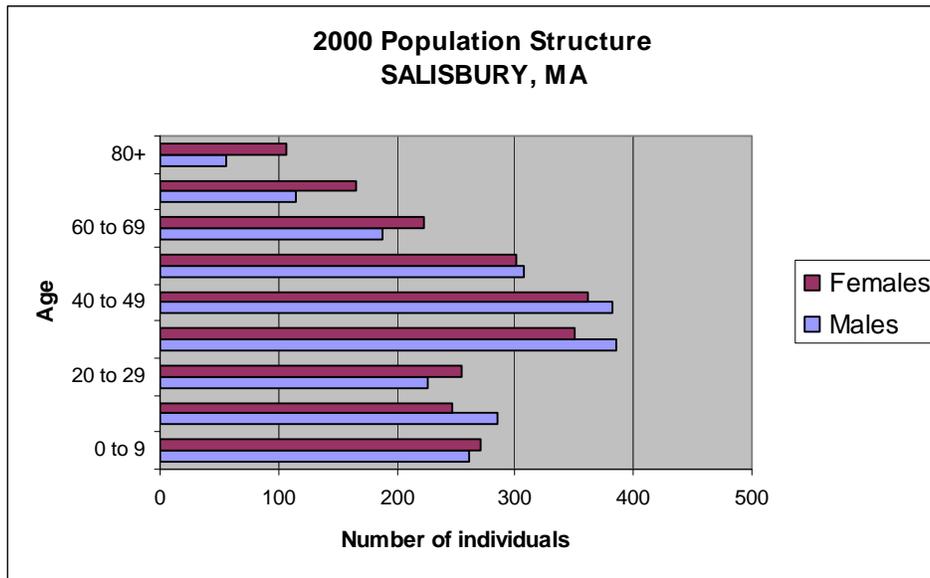


Figure 1. Salisbury’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population in Salisbury is white (97.2%), 0.8% are black or African American, 0.6% are American Indian or Alaskan Native, 0.7% are Asian, and 0.2% are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (see Figure 2). Only 1.5% of the population identified themselves

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.

as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (22.3%), French (19.8%), English (15.1%), Italian (13.6%), and French Canadian (7.2%). With regard to region of birth, 79.8% were born in Massachusetts, 14.1% were born in a different state and 5.0% were born outside the U.S. (including 2.7% who were not United States citizens).

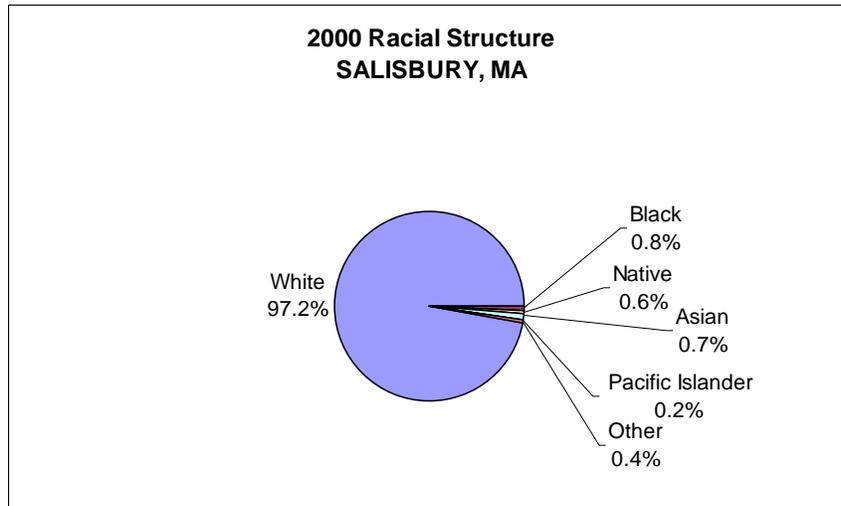


Figure 2. Salisbury's Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

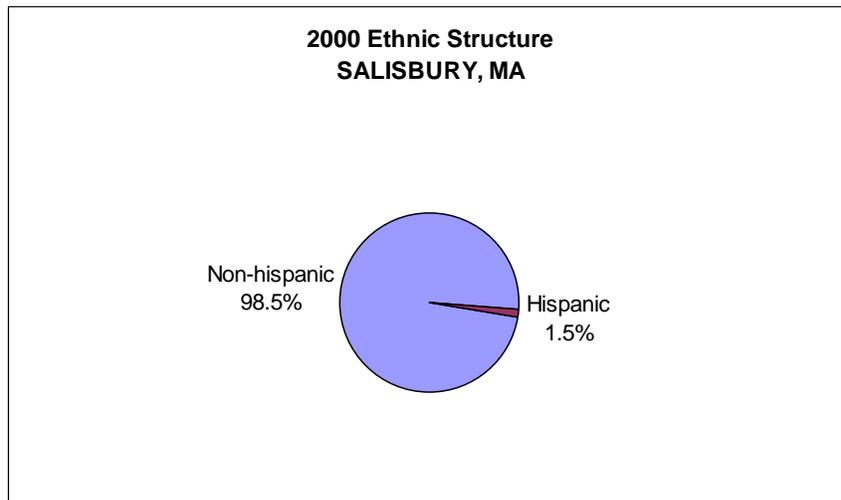


Figure 3. Salisbury's Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 89.8% of the population 5 years old and higher, only English is spoken in the home, leaving 9.2% in homes where a language other than English is spoken, and including 2.4% of the population who speak English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and older, 82.7% are high school graduates or higher and 18.6% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again, of the population 25 years and over, 4.6% did not reach ninth grade, 12.7% attended some high school but did not graduate, 37.3% completed high school, 16.8% had some college with no degree, 9.9% received an associate’s degree, 12.5% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 6.1% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although the 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 and adherents in Essex County was Catholic with 70 congregations and 362,900 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (49 with 15,358 adherents), United Methodist (31 with 8,713 adherents), Jewish (29 with 21,700 adherents), Episcopal (28 with 14,064 adherents) and American Baptist (24 with 5,291 adherents). The number of adherents to any religion was up 4.1% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/ Processes

The Merrimack River flats, closed to clamming for many years because of pollution, were recently reopened conditionally. The flats still have numerous pollution problems, mostly from sewage from a rapidly expanding population in the area. Even when clams are allowed to be taken, they will still need to be purified at a Newburyport plant for four days (Wacker 2005).

Cultural Attributes

Information on cultural attributes in Salisbury is unavailable through secondary data collection.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Salisbury has an Economic Development Commission which is currently working to expand the town's commercial and industrial base (MVPC 2007).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁴, 61.6% (2,223 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 1.4% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 60.2% were employed.



Figure 4. Salisbury's 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 include agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 23 positions or 1.1% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounts for 159 positions or 7.3% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (19.3%), manufacturing (16.6%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (11.3%), and retail trade (10.9%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Salisbury was \$41,961 (up 32.3% from \$31,708 since 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$21,345. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 29.4% more per year than females.

The average family in Salisbury consists of 3.05 persons. With respect to poverty, 4.7% of families (up from 4.3% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 8.0% of individuals earn below the official US Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239-35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 30.7% of all families (any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Salisbury had a total of 2,927 housing units of which 64.4% were occupied and 49.1% were detached one unit homes. More than one quarter (28.3%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, and vans accounted for 2.4% of housing units; 90.7% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$174,300. Of vacant housing units, 23.7% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 40.5% were renter occupied.

Government

Salisbury is run by a five-member Board of Selectmen (Town of Salisbury 2007).

Fishery Involvement in Government

Salisbury is a member of “[Eight Towns and a Bay](#)”, a collaboration among communities along Ipswich Bay which address issues of growth planning, wetland restoration, and clam flats, among others. Salisbury also has a Harbormaster (Town of Salisbury 2007).

Institutional

Fishing associations

There are nine charter boats in Salisbury listed as members of the [Northeast Charter Boat Captain’s Association](#). They exchange information among operators and address issues pertinent to small passenger vessels.

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

Information on fishery assistance centers in Salisbury is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related institutions

[The Merrimack River Watershed Council](#) is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 1973, dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting the wise use of the land and water of the Merrimack River through education and scientific education

Physical

Salisbury sits at the mouth of the Merrimack River and is bordered by New Hampshire to the north, Newburyport to the south, and Amesbury to the west. The town is 20 miles south of Portsmouth, 41 miles north of Boston, 69 miles south of Portland, and 251 miles from New York City (State of Massachusetts 2007). Route 1 and Interstates 95 and 495 run through Salisbury, giving it easy access to other New England cities. The closest airport is Pease International Airport in Newington, NH, which is 17 miles away. Logan International Airport is 34 miles away, and Manchester Airport is 30 miles from Salisbury. [The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's commuter rail](#) runs between Newburyport and Boston, and also connects Newburyport with Gloucester and Salem Buses run by the [Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority](#) connect Salisbury with other communities in the region

Salisbury's marine-related businesses are located on Ring's Island, which is a colonial fishing village (Town of Salisbury 2007). [Ring's Island Marina](#) is located on the island as well. There is a town pier located on the Merrimack River, which has recently been revamped (Town of Salisbury 2007). [The Clipper Fleet](#) is docked at the Bridge Marina in Salisbury, as well as a number of other charter boats. [Jocelyn Marine](#) in Salisbury provides hauling and service Carr Island Marina and Cove Marina are two other marinas located here (Salisbury Chamber of Commerce 2007). [Crossroads Bait and Tackle](#), in Salisbury provides supplies for both fresh and saltwater fishing. [Hudson Outboards](#) sells boats, boating supplies, and bait and tackle, including fly fishing supplies Other prominent fishing supply stores are: Elm Street Bait and Tackle; Bridge Road Bait and Tackle; Tim's Bait and Tackle; and Beach Road Bait and Tackle (Stateparks.com nd).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁵

Commercial

[David's Fish Market and Lobster Pound](#) in Salisbury provides seafood to restaurants on the North Shore and New Hampshire's seacoast. Hunt's Seafood processing plant and wholesaler deals with fresh and frozen seafood in Salisbury (Salisbury Chamber of Commerce 2007).

Salisbury has limited commercial fishing. The Federally managed species with the highest average dollar value in terms of landings between the 1997 and 2006 in Salisbury were

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.

lobster, dogfish, and “other” species. All of these had very low landings values (see Table 1). The value of home port fishing exceeded the landings values in every year, meaning Salisbury vessels are landing their catch elsewhere. The number of vessels whose home port is Salisbury fluctuated between 17-35 over 1997-2006. The number of vessels whose owner’s city is Salisbury also fluctuated over the 10-year average but not as strikingly, ranging from 10-16 vessels. The small number of owner’s city vessels compared with the number of home ported vessels indicates that many of the vessels ported in Salisbury are owned by people residing elsewhere.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Dogfish	2
Other ⁶	3
Scallop	4
Largemesh Groundfish ⁷	5

(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 Year⁸

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	21	11
1998	17	10
1999	19	10
2000	21	11
2001	28	15
2002	35	16
2003	33	13
2004	30	12
2005	26	11
2006	22	11

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence⁹)

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 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.

⁹ 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

[The Clipper Fleet](#) in Salisbury has two boats, one of which offers full-day trips and one of which runs ¾ day trips. These boats can also be chartered for large parties. They target largely cod and haddock on Jeffrey's Ledge. [Ring's Island Charters](#) runs half- and full-day inshore trips and full-day offshore trips. They often fish up the Merrimack River for stripers, or fish for groundfish on Jeffrey's Ledge. [FishFinder Charters](#), located at Bridge Marine, also travels to Jeffrey's Ledge for ground fishing. [Finicky Charters](#) is also located at Bridge Marine, and targets stripers and bluefish. [Hogg Tide Charters](#) offers half- and full-day trips for stripers, bluefish, cod, haddock, tuna, and sharks. Salisbury Beach State Reservation is a popular spot for fishing (State of Massachusetts 2006). A total of nine charter boats are listed as members of the [Northeast Charter Boat Captains Association](#). Between the years 2001-2005 there were a total of 17 charter and party boats which logged trips in Salisbury, carrying a total of 37,013 anglers on 1,622 different trips.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

According to the comprehensive plan for Salisbury, the community plans to revitalize the beach commercial district, preserve the town's rural character, limit the impact of new development, as well as other objectives. The town is also committed to preserving public access to the waterfront (Town of Salisbury 2007).

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