

COREA, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Corea is part of the Town of Gouldsboro, Maine (44.40° N, 67.98° W), located in Hancock County on the Schoodic Peninsula across Frenchman Bay from Bar Harbor (see Map 1). Gouldsboro includes the villages of South Gouldsboro, Birch Harbor, Prospect Harbor, and Corea, all of which are within three miles of one another. Corea is bordered by Gouldsboro Bay to the east, West Bay to the north, and the Gulf of Maine to the south. Prospect Harbor and the rest of Gouldsboro are treated in a separate profile.



Map 1. Location of Corea, ME (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Gouldsboro was incorporated as a town on February 16, 1789; however people settled in the West Bay area around 1763. As the population increased Gouldsboro expanded and became a busy village with a grist mill, woolen mill, shipyard, post office and school. These early settlers were generally farmers, fishermen and later factory workers. Corea, originally called “Indian Harbor,” was almost exclusively a lobstering village (Ellsworth American 2002). The name was changed in 1896 when a post office was established here; at the time Corea was connected to the rest of Gouldsboro by only a footpath (Hartford 2007).

During the Revolutionary War this area of Maine had been attacked by the British on two different occasions. Both times, US forces were defeated and serious damage had been inflicted on the civilian population of the Penobscot. After the Revolutionary War this area of Maine

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.”

remained important, as it was the boundary between the United States and English territory. The United States government began a series of coastal fortifications in the area as a way to improve defenses. In anticipation of a conflict with Britain over Maine's border the Federal Government appropriated funds to begin construction in 1841 on Fort Knox. In 1843, monies were paid for the land where Fort Knox was eventually built. Actual construction of the Fort was begun in 1844 (Friends of Fort Knox 2007).

The Naval Security Group Activity Winter Harbor began as the Otter Cliffs Radio Station on Aug. 28, 1917, across Frenchman's Bay on Mt. Desert Island. John Rockefeller had the antennas moved from the island in the 1930s to the tip of the Schoodic Peninsula. A large portion of the Navy Base was found in Prospect Harbor where several antennas were constructed to receive broadcasts from across the Atlantic. During World War II it served as the "most important and most efficient station in the world," according to Navy documents (Urban 2002). The Naval Station was decommissioned in 2001, and the 100 acre site will revert back to the National Park Service. However, the Navy plans to retain the small antennae facility in Prospect Harbor (NPS 2007). Herring and lobster have been a way of life throughout the town of Gouldsboro for generations (Porter 2003).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, Corea had a total population of 331, down 35.0% from the reported population of 509 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this total in 2000, 46.2% were female and 53.8% were male. The median age for Corea was 43.1 years and 81.9% of the population was 21 years or older while 25.1% of the population was 62 or older.

Corea's population structure (see Figure 1) shows a large spike in the population of males age 20-29, with a smaller peak as well for males age 30-39. This probably reflects the Naval Station, which was active in 2000 and decommissioned in 2001. Corea appears to have a slightly aging population, with a relatively steady percentage of residents from age 50-79, and a much smaller percentage of children age 0-9.

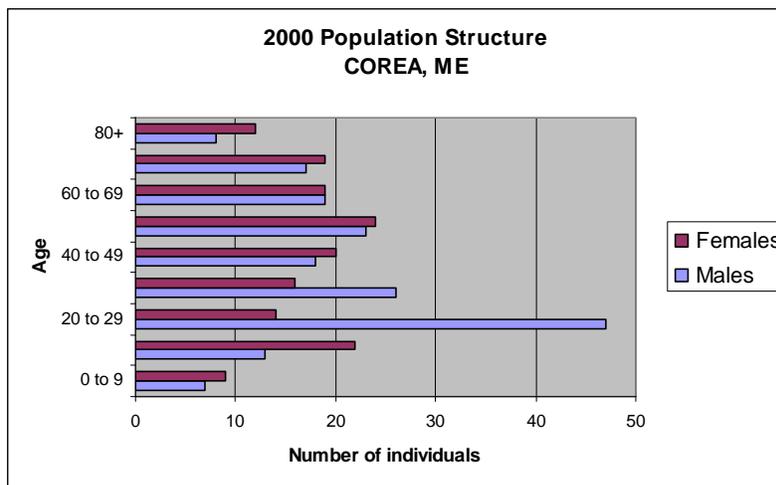


Figure 1. Corea's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

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.

⁴ These and all census data, unless otherwise referenced, can be found at <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>; Corea Census data based on zip code 04624

The majority of the population of Corea was white (90.3%), with 4.4% black or African American, 3.2% Native American, 0.9% Asian, and 0.6% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 3.9% of residents identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents traced their heritage to a number of different ancestries including: English (21.2%), French (14.0%), Scottish (11.3%), and Irish (8.2%). With regard to region of birth, 41.0% were born in Maine, 56.7% were born in a different state and 1.7% were born outside of the US (all of whom were United States citizens).

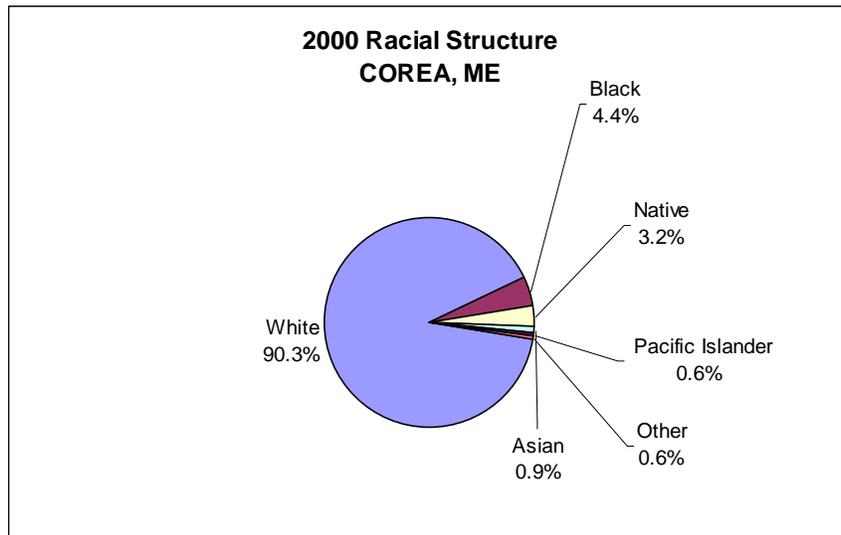


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

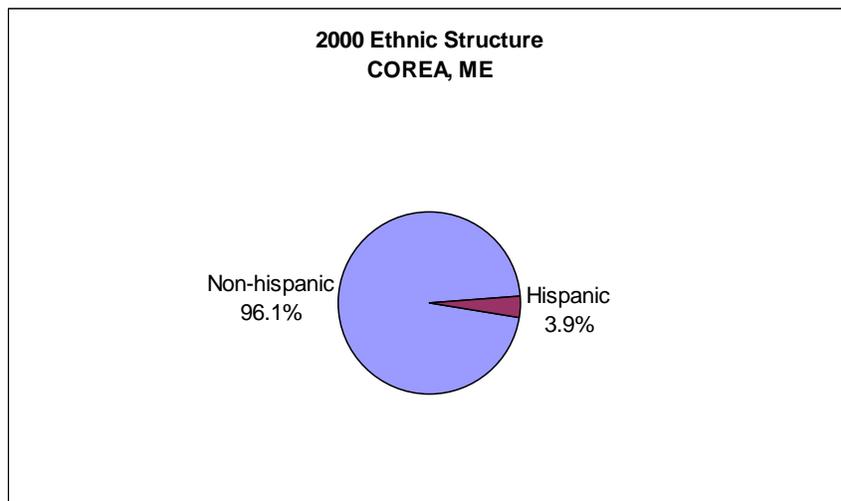


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 96.2% of the population 5 years old and higher, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 3.8% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 3.1% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 90.4% were high school graduates or higher and 37.1% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 0.0% did not reach ninth grade, 9.6% attended some high school but did not graduate, 25.7% completed

high school, 19.8% had some college with no degree, 7.8% received an associate's degree, 21.6% earned a bachelor's degree, and 15.6% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although the religion percentages are not available through U.S. Census data, the majority of Gouldsboro's residents are most likely Methodist and Baptist since there are only two Methodist Churches and one Baptist Church in Gouldsboro (Ellsworth American 2002). Further, according to the Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) in 2000 the religion with the highest number of congregations in Hancock County was the United Church of Christ, with 19 congregations and 1,957 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Methodist (17 with 1,074 adherents), American Baptist USA (17 with 1,774 adherents) and Catholic (10 with 6,292 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 25.2% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Cianbro, a Maine corporation, previously announced plans to pursue the development of an LNG terminal on Navy-owned land in Corea. To build the terminal 600 construction workers would be hired, which could offer up to 100 year-round positions. Residents of Gouldsboro were unanimously opposed to this project. "This is the most asinine thing that has come down the pike on the coast of Maine," said Colby Young, Corea's harbormaster. "The fishing industry as we know it today will be totally devastated" (Hoey 2004). Cianbro decided to voluntarily withdraw the proposal after it met with strong objections from residents (Olson 2004).

Not unlike most Northeastern fishing ports waterfront access for the fishing industry and high property taxes associated with those properties is an issue (Hoey 2004). The waterfront access issue is exacerbated by the growing number of retirees who have moved to town for its coastal scenery and beauty (Turler 2004). In fact a lawsuit by non-fishing industry residents recently demanded out-of-state fishermen "be told to cease and desist of all commercial fishing and leave the landing, the moorings and the bay to the residence [sic] of Gouldsboro Point IMMEDIATELY" (Dinsmore 2003).

Because Gouldsboro has no public pier but nearly 200 fishermen, the town has begun plans to build one in Prospect Harbor. Gouldsboro sees the new pier as a way to ensure commercial access to the waterfront. There were questions about why the pier would be built in Prospect Harbor as opposed to Corea or any of the other fishing villages in Gouldsboro; land was donated to the town in Prospect Harbor, driving the decision to build it here (Levitt 2004). This was due to recognition that the area has become an increasingly popular tourist destination; vacation home sites have begun to take root and commercial access to the shore has become more and more limited (Levitt 2004a). Others voiced concern about loss of access to fishing areas, damage to lobster habitat and destruction of gear. The increase demand for ocean front property can be seen in the 15.1% increase in property tax county-wide and 16.1% in Gouldsboro (Straub 2004).

The Stinson Cannery in Gouldsboro is the only cannery remaining in the state. They recently partnered with a Massachusetts-based firm to allow a group of pair trawlers to harvest herring for the plant. Residents are concerned that this may mean Stinson has plans to close down the plant. Lobstermen are also concerned that the trawlers may tear up their gear on their way in and out of the harbor (Rappaport 2006).

In 2006, the State of Maine passed the Working Waterfront Tax Law, to address the problem of working waterfront property being heavily taxed based on its projected market value. The goal of this tax is "to encourage the preservation of working waterfront land and to prevent

the conversion of working waterfront land to other uses as the result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of that land for purposes of property taxation.” The law requires the tax assessor to value the property based on what it is worth as working waterfront land, rather than what its market value would be if it were sold and converted to residential or other uses (State of Maine 2005).

Cultural Attributes

While Corea does not host any fishing related events, numerous events take place in other nearby communities, such as Winter Harbor and Bar Harbor (Maine Resource Guide 2007). A 1947 documentary entitled “Lobstertown” focused on life in Corea (Ellsworth American 2007).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Lobster fishing accounts for about 60 percent of revenue in town, said Brad Vassey, Gouldsboro's town manager. Stinson Foods is the major employer in Gouldsboro and reported \$918.1 million in revenue for 2003 (Porter 2004); 150 employees pack sardines and fish steaks (Turler 2004). [Young Brothers and Co., Inc.](#) is a lobster boat builder located in Corea which employs 10 people.

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 68.6% (168 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 2.3% were unemployed, 35.5% were in the Armed Forces, and 27.7% were employed.

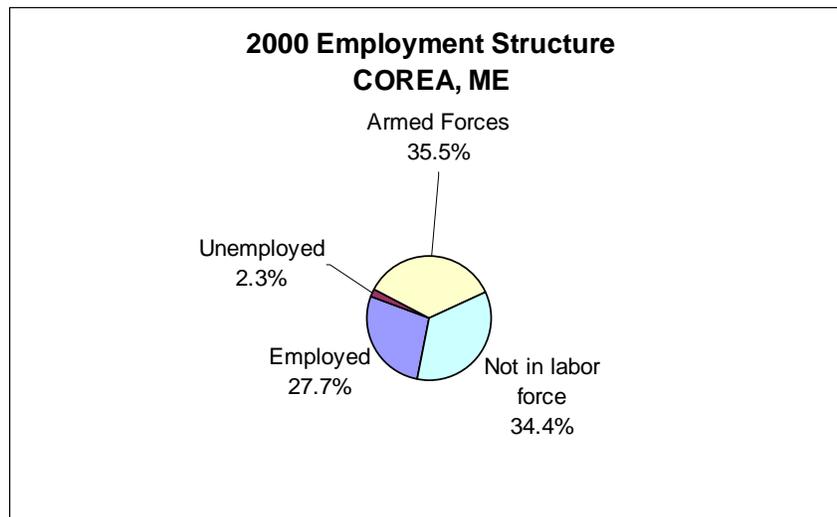


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 14 positions or 19.7% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 17 positions or 23.9% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (23.9%), public administration (15.5%),

⁵ 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.

manufacturing (14.1%), and finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (11.3%) were the primary industries.

The median household income in 2000 was \$33,125 (up by 8.9% from \$30,417 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$20,723. For full-time year round workers, females made approximately 9.6% more per year than males.

The average family in Corea consisted of 2.52 persons. With respect to poverty, 9.8% of families (up from 4.1% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 14.1% 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, 37.2% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Corea had a total of 271 housing units of which 43.3% were occupied and 94.1% were detached one unit homes. Almost one quarter (24.7%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, vans, etc. accounted for 5.1% of the total housing units; 93.4% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$128,800. Of vacant housing units, 94.9% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 17.6% were renter occupied.

Government

Gouldsboro's government comprises a chairperson, town manager, and four selectmen.

Fishery involvement in government

According to Bill Crowe, managing editor of the Fishermen's Voice (see below for more information), there is no official interaction between the local government and the fishing industry.⁶ There is a harbor master in Gouldsboro.

Institutional

Fishing associations

The [Maine Lobstermen's Association](#) (MLA) was founded in 1954, and works to protect the lobster resource and the lobstermen's way of life. The association was founded by lobstermen with a goal of empowering Maine's lobster industry by representing lobstermen with a united front. The MLA is the largest commercial fishing industry group on the east coast, and represents the interests of 1200 lobstermen. The [Corea Lobster Cooperative](#) is located in Gouldsboro and besides affording a drop off for lobsters, provides fuel and supplies to fishermen.

Fishing assistance centers

The Working Waterfront Coalition is a statewide collaboration of various industry associations, non-profits, and government agencies with the goal to support Maine's working waterfronts. The [Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program](#), administered by the Department of Marine Resources, provides money to applicants such as municipalities, fishing co-ops, private commercial fisheries businesses and more, ranging from \$7,000 to \$475,000. The intention of the program is to preserve commercial fisheries working waterfronts and to help secure property for these businesses. As of December 2007, the \$2 million pilot program has reportedly supported over 400 jobs, 194 boats, and assured access to clam flats, parking, wharfage and

⁶ Personal Communication, Bill Crowe, managing editor, Fishermen's Voice, P.O. Box 253, Gouldsboro, Maine 04607, (207) 963-7467, June 2005

fisheries in six towns (Maine DMR 2005). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007. According to Dwight Rogers of the Corea Lobster Cooperative no fishery assistance centers exist in Gouldsboro, Maine.⁷

Other fishing related institutions

The Fishermen's Voice, also located in Gouldsboro, is a monthly newspaper that covers issues pertinent to the fishing industry in Maine. The Maine Fishermen's Forum was founded in 1976, and its goal is to provide continuous opportunities to educate the public and the fishing industry about marine resource issues and fisheries, as well as to provide a platform for discussion and decision making. The Forum also holds an annual three day event which focuses awareness on issues that affect the commercial fishing industry (Maine Fishermen's Forum 2007).

Physical

Downeast Transportation runs public buses throughout the Schoodic Peninsula. Corea is approximately 7 miles from Winter Harbor, 28 miles from Ellsworth, and 54 miles from Bangor. Corea is on Route 195, and is accessibly by Maine's coastal Route 1. From Gouldsboro people can use a year round ferry service that runs out of nearby Winter Harbor and connects to Bar Harbor (Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce 2007). Corea is located about 7 miles from the entrance to the Schoodic Peninsula section of Acadia National Park (Hartford 2007). The nearest airports to Corea are the Hancock County-Bar Harbor Airport (34 miles), the Bangor International Airport (54 miles), and the Augusta State Airport (130 miles; MapQuest 2007).

Young Brothers Company, which builds lobster boats and sport fishing boats that are marketed nationally, is located in Corea. The Corea Lobster Co-op sells wholesale lobsters, fuel, and marine supplies (MPA 2005). The co-op has a wharf and also provides moorings, both to lobster boats and to visiting boats (Duncan and Fenn 2002).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁸

Commercial

Herring and Lobster have been a way of life for Gouldsboro for generations. And while the once-booming fishery and attendant sardine industry play a minor role in most Maine communities now, Gouldsboro is an exception to that rule. Stinson Foods, the sole cannery remaining in Maine, buys herring from 12 to 15 separate vessels in the course of a year. For the most constant of these suppliers, the real benefit is the stability of a 12-month demand for their catch (Porter 2003). Between Stinsons and Connors, tuna alone contributed 59 percent of total

⁷ Personal communication, Dwight Rogers, Corea Lobster Cooperative via phone (207 963-7467), 2007 May 9

⁸ 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.

revenue. Herring and sardines, Connors' specialty, accounted for only 16 percent of revenues. Two varieties of salmon made up 11 percent and specialty seafood products made up the remainder (Porter 2004). Most commercial fishermen, however, land their catch at Portland and Rockland (Stripers 247 2005).

The Corea Lobster Co-op sells wholesale and retail lobsters and crabs (MLA 2007). The vast majority of landings in Corea on average were of lobster, followed in a much smaller value by "Other", Surf Clam and Ocean Quahogs, and scallops (Table 1). In most years, landings of federally managed groups in Corea were low; however, in 2004 the landings for Corea were significantly higher than any other year. The number of home ported vessels in Corea varied from 1997-2006, and generally increased over the ten year time period. The number of vessels with owners in Corea varied from 1997-2006, with a high of 19 in 2005 (Table 2). There are likely to be significant linkages between fishing activity in Corea and fishing activity in Prospect Harbor and the rest of Gouldsboro (see Prospect Harbor profile for additional information).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Other⁹	2
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	3
Scallop	4

(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 Year¹⁰

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	19	14
1998	18	13
1999	21	16
2000	21	16
2001	20	12
2002	18	12
2003	22	14
2004	23	16
2005	26	19
2006	27	16

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹¹)

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

¹⁰ 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.

Recreational

The Gouldsboro area, especially Prospect Harbor and Corea, are focal points for a significant portion of Maine's recreational fishing. Much of the saltwater sport fishing in Maine occurs in these waters and out of this area (Stripers 247 2005).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

A project called the Gulf of Maine Aquaculture Business Park is planned for the former US Navy Communications Center in Corea. The area is owned by Acadia Capital Corp., which in 2007 intends to bring 10 land-based commercial aquaculture businesses to the site. They have received a grant to subsidize the construction of the large seawater circulation system necessary for the aquaculture projects. The hope is that this development will create badly needed jobs in the town (Walsh 2006). One tenant will be Maine Halibut Farms, who in collaboration with the University of Maine have successfully raised juvenile halibut on land (Baldwin 2007).

The Stinson company recently purchased Bumble Bee Tuna, which may have a negative effect on Gouldsboro's economy (Porter 2003). MacLeod said Bumble Bee gets what sardines it produces from "offshore" sources, cans them and sends them to market. In a merger with Connors, he noted, the new company will be able to produce all its sardine brands from one source and draw its herring from Bumble Bee's offshore sources instead of Stinson's Maine and New Brunswick operations (Porter 2004b).

"Very dismal," was how Marine Patrol Lt. Alan Talbot described the turnout for this year's fishery. He recalled when just six years ago, 175 boats came out for the first day of the season in Cobscook Bay, and 50 were working the waters of Gouldsboro Bay. This year, those bays drew about 30 and 10 boats respectively for opening day. Since then, the fleets have thinned more, he said. "The resource is just in such short supply in Maine," he said. He recalled the opening days of seasons in the late 1990s when 7,000 and 8,000 pounds of scallops came through the door. That's just not happening now" (Porter 2004).

The Stinson canning plant has a positive outlook on the future. It believes that good communications and solid relationships with fishermen guarantee the plant as steady a flow of herring as the fishery can provide (Porter 2003).

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¹¹ 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.

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