

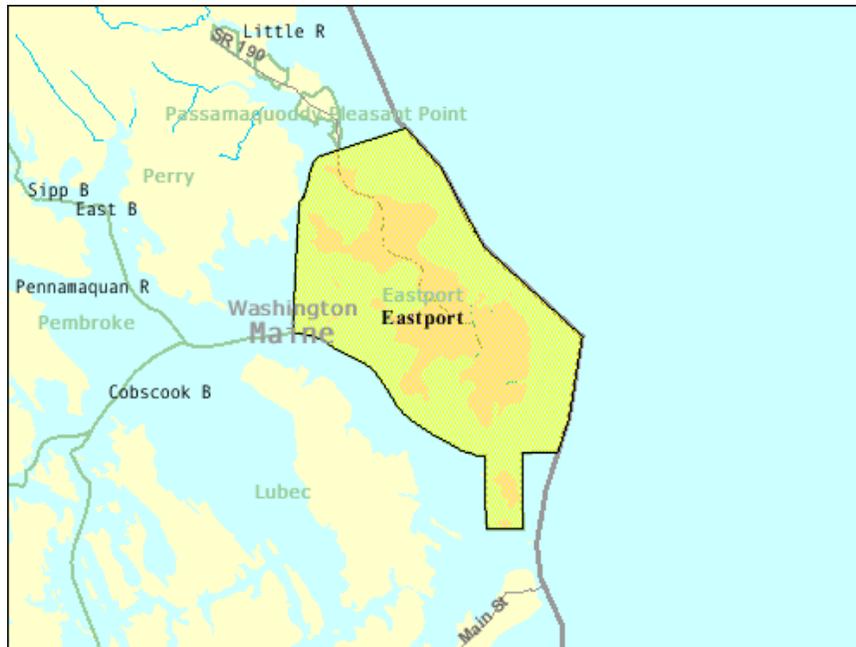
EASTPORT, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The city of Eastport (44.55°N, 67.03°W) is located in Cobscook Bay in Washington County on Moose Island in Downeast Maine. It is the eastern-most town in the United States with approximately 28 miles of coastline (State of Maine 2004). The Bay's deep water allows access to large cargo vessels.



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

Historical/Background

Eastport was founded in 1780 as Plantation 8. The city was occupied by the British during the War of 1812 and returned to the United States control in 1818. The boundary between the U.S. and Canada in the area was still disputed at the time, and finally settled by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty in 1842. Eastport is the easternmost deepwater port in the United States and one of the most isolated (Maine Coast Guide 2002). “Eastport represents an intra-regional port of the Downeast sub-region. Eastport has a history of mixed adaptations and economy, including boat building, lumbering, fishing, and shipping. In 1883, Eastport was the second busiest port in the US, with 1,820 entries of which 1,784 were foreign vessels. Shipping by water stalled in the 1940s with the end of the Eastern Steamer line during WWII.

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.”

However, since the 1970s, Eastport has attracted millions of dollars in state and federal funds to rebuild its waterfront area to accommodate large cargo vessels (Maine Coast Guide 2002). The success due to the construction of a wharf led to the construction of another large terminal recently built off Estes Head. Today, the Estes Head pier is used by ocean-going freighters to transport paper products to foreign ports.

In the 1970s, aquaculture was introduced with salmon pens. By 1983 Ocean Products opened a freezer plant for their salmon. This company was taken over by a British Columbian company in 1999 but aquaculture has now expanded to neighboring areas such as Deer Island (Canada), Machias Bay, Campobello, and New Brunswick.

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, Eastport had a total population of 1,640, down 16.5% from the reported population of 1,965 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.3% were males and 52.7% were females. The median age was 45.0 years and 77.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 25.2% was 62 or older.

Eastport's age structure (Figure 1) shows the highest percentage of the population between 40-59 years, and a low population of people between 0-9 years of age. This age structure coupled with an overall decrease in population may be due to a recent out-migration of high school graduating residents.

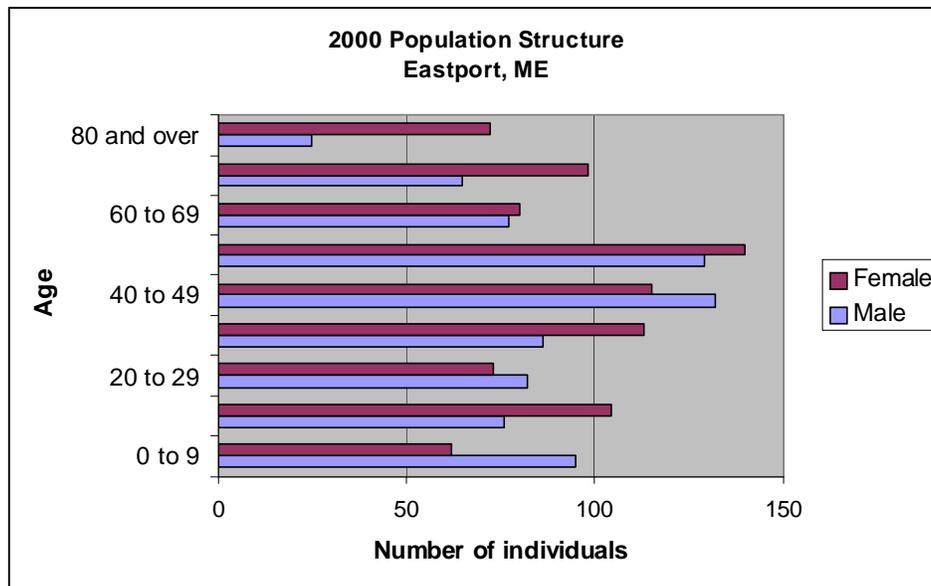


Figure 1. Eastport's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (94.6%) with 0.5% of residents black or African American, 0.3% Asian, 4.7% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.9% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/ Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including:

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 U.S. Census: American Factfinder 2000 <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>; census data used are for Eastport city (cited August 2, 2007)

English (33.5%), Irish (24.6%), French (10.4%), and Scottish (9.5%). With regard to region of birth, 66.7% were born in Maine, 29.5% were born in a different state and 1.3% were born outside of the U.S. (including 0.5% who were not United States citizens).

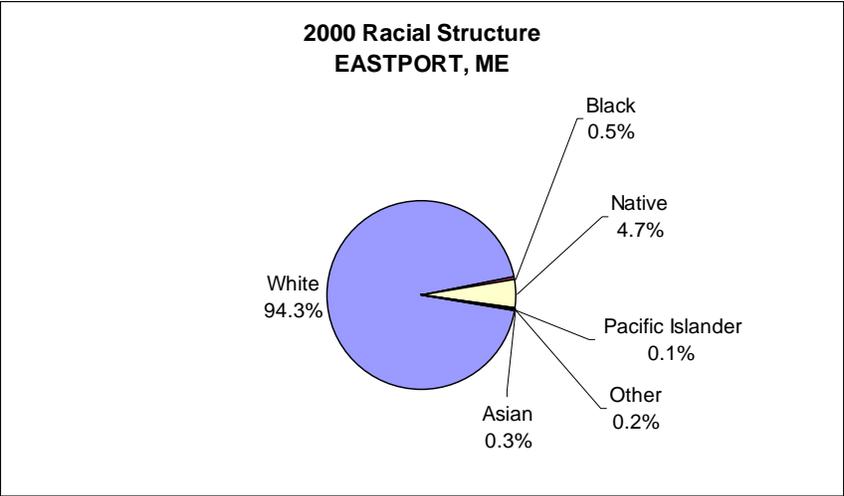


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

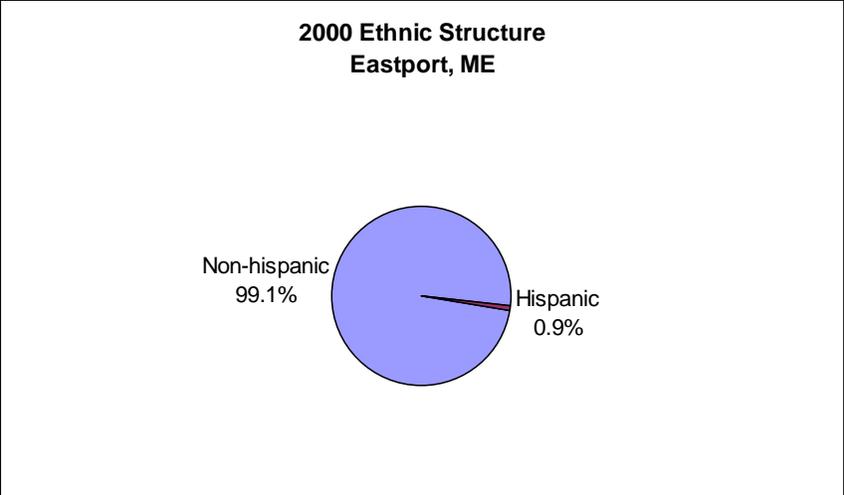


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 95.8% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 4.2% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 4.2% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 78.0% were high school graduates or higher and 18.5% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 6.4% did not reach ninth grade, 15.6% attended some high school but did not graduate, 35.7% completed high school, 18.4% had some college with no degree, 5.4% received an associate’s degree, 11.0% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 7.5% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the U.S. Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest

number of congregations and adherents in Washington County was Catholic with 12 congregations and 4,551 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Methodist (15 with 1,301 adherents), and United Church of Christ (9 with 577 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 3.2% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Similar to many fishing communities in Maine, Eastport suffers from increased competition for waterfront access from both tourism and recreational use. Although Eastport's commercial shipping wharves are periodically renovated and much state and federal money is given to support this industry, waterfront access for fishermen is hindered by the deterioration of its fishing wharves and infrastructures (Sheehan and Copperthwaite 2002). Eastport struggles with little industry and high unemployment and many look to Calais 28 miles away for entertainment and income. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has recently named Eastport as one of its "Main Street Programs in Maine" which will try to stimulate economic development.

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

Eastport Salmon Festival is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and is celebrated annually the weekend after Labor Day. These festivities celebrate the history of the fishing industry and the more recent advent of the Atlantic salmon aquaculture industry. Celebrating the Fourth of July for several days has also been an important tradition for Eastport for more than a century. This festival involves many activities that celebrate Eastport's marine heritage such as water sports and a codfish relay (Maine Coast Guide 2002). Eastport's Quoddy Maritime Museum has a large focus on the fishing history of Eastport (Maine Archives and Museums 2006). A new institution, The Tides Institute and Museum of Art, builds and exhibits cultural collections, creates new cultural works, and strengthens cultural ties within the greater Passamaquoddy region, between New England and the Atlantic Provinces, and to the wider world.⁵

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Eastport has some employment including in fisheries-related activities. Windjammer cruises, outdoor adventure activities, and arts and cultural activities are attracting increasing numbers of visitors to the area.

Other than medical centers, schools, banks, and government, the major employers in the Machias-Eastport Labor Market Area (LMA) are Marshall Nursing Services, Inc. (101-125 employees), Hannaford Bros Co (76-100 employees), Creative Apparel Associates (76-

⁵ Community Review Comment, Will Hopkins, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Eastport ME, October 25, 2007

100), and Cooke Aquaculture Inc. (51-75 employees). Other businesses within the top 25 employers of this LMA include more schools, as well as senior living facilities and a trucking company. Cooke Aquaculture Inc. operated six salmon farms in Cobscook Bay from their Eastport headquarters with over 3 million fish to be harvested in 2007/08.⁶

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁷, 56.3% (1,329 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 15.6% were unemployed, 0.4% were in the Armed Forces, and 47.6% were employed.

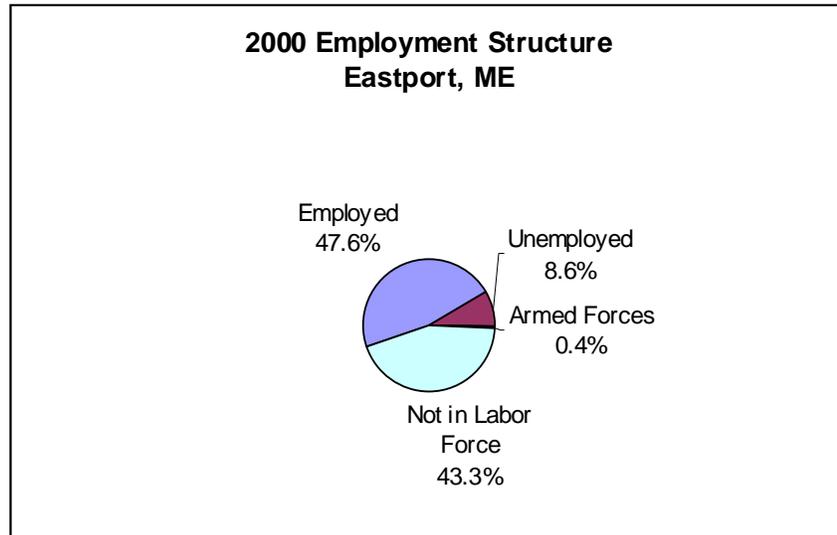


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 64 positions or 9.8% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 65 positions or 10.0% of jobs. Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (30.3%), manufacturing (16.7%) and retail trade (10.3%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Eastport was \$23,488 (up 35.9% from \$17,282 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$14,864. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 21.7% more per year than females.

The average family in Eastport consisted of 2.69 persons. With respect to poverty, 11.2% of families (down from 12.6% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 17.2% of individuals earned 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 2000a]). In 2000, 54.6% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Eastport had a total of 1,061 housing units of which 70.7% were occupied and 73.4% were detached one unit homes. Approximately two-thirds (66.4%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 5.7% of the total housing units; 99.6% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this

⁶ Community Review Comment, Will Hopkins, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Eastport ME, October 25, 2007

⁷ 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.

area was \$51,600. Of vacant housing units, 9.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 33.8% were renter occupied.

Government

Eastport was founded in 1780, incorporated as a town in 1798, and then incorporated as a city in 1893. The city is run by a city manager who is elected by a five person city council. Each member serves a three year term. By charter, the Waterfront Management Council and the Boat School Waterfront Management Council must have a representative of the commercial fishing industry on each.⁸

Fishery involvement in the government

The town of Eastport has a Harbormaster and Assistant Harbormaster (City of Eastport 2007).

Institutional

Fishing associations

Fishermen in the Eastport area are represented by the Cobscook Bay Fishermen's Association, whose purpose is the conservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of the marine resources of Cobscook Bay. To be eligible for membership in the Association, a person must: 1) Reside in one of the following communities; Lubec, Trescott, Whiting, Edmunds, Dennysville, Pembroke, Perry, Pleasant Point, Eastport, Robbinston, or Calais; and 2) Either hold a current and valid commercial marine resource harvesting license from the State of Maine, or work as crew on a vessel owned by a member who holds a current and valid commercial marine resource harvesting license from the State of Maine AND be sponsored for membership by that member/licenseholder, provided however, that no member/licenseholder shall be permitted to sponsor more than two crew members for membership in the Association.

Cobscook area fishermen are also represented by the Downeast Fixed Gear Association, the [Maine Lobstermen's Association](#) (MLA) and Downeast Lobstermen's Association (DELA).⁹ The 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.

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](#) (WWAPP), 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

⁸ Personal Communication, Dean Pike, owner, Moose Island Marine, Chairman of Eastport Port Authority, 5 Sullivan Street, Eastport ME 04631, 207-853-6058, July 2004

⁹ Community Review Comment, Will Hopkins, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Eastport ME, October 25, 2007

million pilot program has reportedly supported over 400 jobs, 194 boats, and assured access to clam flats, parking, wharfage and fisheries in six towns (Maine DMR 2005). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007.

Other fishing related organizations

The Cobscook Bay Resource Center, based in Eastport, was founded in 1998 to encourage and strengthen community-based approaches to resource management and sustainable economic development in the Cobscook Bay region, the Bay of Fundy, and the Gulf of Maine. The Resource center monitors water quality and phytoplankton blooms in the Bay, provides support to fishermen and marine researchers, hosts an annual Cobscook Bay conference, and maps the currents of the bay.¹⁰

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.

Physical

Eastport is located on several islands of which the principal two are Moose Island and Carlow Island in the junction of Cobscook Bay and Passamaquoddy Bay. The Islands are connected to the mainland by means of a causeway on which Route 190 travels. Eastport is linked to a coastal bus route that runs along Route 1 and connects to Bangor, Maine. During the summer there is a ferry that provides access to Deer Island, in Canada. The ferry has the capability of carrying approximately ten automobiles.¹¹

In terms of its infrastructure, Eastport has two available piers for fishing and cargo vessels, and more than 75,000 square feet of covered storage. Because the port is naturally deep (Estes Head Terminal is 64 feet at low tide), no dredging is needed, keeping maintenance costs lower relative to other ports.

Federal Marine Terminals conducts all stevedoring cargo operations at the port. Labor to process cargo is provided by the Northeastern Longshoreman's Association (NELA). Federal Marine Terminals maintains the gear necessary to safely handle the cargo.

The Port of Eastport operates two piers, making three berthing spaces available simultaneously. There are 77 slots for boat access (sum of moorings, berthings, slips, and tie ups), of which 91% of these are used by commercial fishermen. The Estes Head pier, built in 1998, is 634 feet and 100 feet wide. Its outer berth can accommodate a ship up to 900 feet in length, while its inner berth can hold ships up to 500 feet long. The Port's downtown pier is 420 feet long with a low tide depth of 42 feet, allowing it to accommodate ships up to 750 feet in length. This pier has served the Port of Eastport since 1988. There are several warehouses run by the Marine Industrial Park and the downtown pier (Eastport Port Authority 2007).

According to the Coastal Enterprises report (Sheehan and Copperthwaite 2002), there were 47 commercial harvesters in Eastport. Shore side services such as haul outs, marine electric repair, hull repair, are handled exclusively by Moose Island Marine. Moose Island

¹⁰ Community Review Comment, Will Hopkins, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Eastport ME, October 25, 2007

¹¹ Personal communication, Maggie Hunter, Maine Department of Marine Resources, 21 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0021, 2/2/2006

Marine also boasts the largest marine supply store in the region.¹² Cobscook Bay Boatworks also handled shore side services but recently went out of business.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹³

Commercial

Residents of Eastport never solely depended on one commercial fishery for their economy, but some may have depended on catches of several species. Since the collapse of cod, strict regulations on all groundfish, and decline in other fish stocks, the community of Eastport is even less dependent on fishing than in the past.

Whether fishing or fish farming, shipping or tourism, marine related jobs are mainstays of the Cobscook Bay economy. An estimated 155,000 pounds of Cobscook scallops were landed in 2004-2005, valued at \$1 million (Athean 2005). Sea urchin landings sold in the Cobscook Bay area (Lubec, Dennysville, and Eastport) in 2002-03 were 1.5 million pounds valued at \$1.9 million (Maine DMR 2007). Another way of illustrating the importance of commercial fisheries in the Bay is to look at the number of marine resource harvesting licenses issued by the State of Maine. These licenses reflect the biological, social, and market realities that are unique to Cobscook Bay. In 2005, 318 people from nine towns around Cobscook Bay held 699 State of Maine marine harvesting licenses (Maine DMR 2007).

Unlike the rest of the Maine coast, there are very few lobsters in Cobscook Bay. The Bay does however, have the last good sea scallop grounds in Maine. The Cobscook Bay Resource Center worked with the Cobscook Bay Fishermen's Association to protect the scallop resource by developing significant scallop conservation and management plans. Cobscook fishermen went to the Maine Legislature and convinced them to impose a daily catch limit on anyone fishing for scallops in the Bay region, in hopes of establishing a more sustainable fishery. There are now more scallops in the Bay than have been seen in many years. Cobscook scallops are caught by a small-boat fleet that goes out onto the Bay in the morning and returns in the afternoon, with no more than three five-gallon containers of fresh scallops per boat per day. The changes in management have also brought about a number of changes in the marketplace, including: 1) A higher quality product; smaller catches allowing better handling of fresher product that can be sold for higher prices, and 2) A more localized market; more fishermen are selling directly to friends and neighbors and to local restaurants at prices higher than fishermen might get from a seafood dealer and at prices lower for the consumer than what they might pay at a supermarket.¹⁴

¹² Personal Communication, Dean Pike, owner, Moose Island Marine, Chairman of Eastport Port Authority, 5 Sullivan Street, Eastport ME 04631, 207-853-6058, July 2004

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Community Review Comment, Will Hopkins, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Eastport ME, October 25, 2007

As of 1998, most of the commercial fishery in Eastport is based on scallops, urchin, clams, and sea cucumbers (“other” category in Table 1; Hall-Arber et al. 2001). Scallops are sold to several dealers and sold directly to consumers. Sea urchins are shipped to Asian markets. The most dominant commercial industry in Eastport at the time of the Hall Arber et al. report was scallops. While no federal landings of scallops are reported since the year 2000, an estimated 155,000 pounds of Cobscook scallops were landed in 2004-05 valued at \$1 million (Athearn 2005).

Because the Passamoquoddy and Cobscook Bays are not productive habitat for lobster there is little investment in this fishery relative to other parts of Maine’s coast. The number of vessels home ported in Eastport was greater for all ten years listed than the number of vessels whose owner’s city was listed as Eastport, with a high of 11 vessels in 2001 (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
Other ¹⁵	2
Scallop	3
Herring	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 Year¹⁶

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	10	4
1998	8	3
1999	6	2
2000	7	2
2001	11	4
2002	8	2
2003	7	2
2004	8	2
2005	7	2
2006	10	2

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁷)

¹⁵ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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

There are two businesses listed as fishing charters in Eastport and one that provides fishing rental gear. Captain Butch Harris runs Eastport Windjammers which offers day charters for fishing and whale-watching trips. Recreational fishing in the Eastport area includes clams, mackerel, and flounder.¹⁸

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

Currently, a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal is being proposed in Eastport. Fishermen, the Eastport City Manager George "Bud" Finch, and the City Council object to the proposal because they believe that it will have a negative effect on boating and fishing (Conkling 2005).

Three projects are being proposed to generate electricity using tidal power in the Cobscook region. Tidewalker Associates is proposing to build a 1,200 foot dam and power facility at Half Moon Cove. The Passamaquoddy Tribe is studying two sites for tidal power. Ocean Renewable Power Company is proposing to place a submersible prototype turbine in the Western Passage.¹⁹

Like most Maine fishing communities the primary concern, other than fishing regulations, is the increasing taxes and competition for waterfront property. Some shore side businesses, such as Moose Island Marine, have avoided purchasing waterfront property in anticipation of more increases in waterfront property tax. A solution to this problem was proposed by Maine's Working Waterfront Coalition to propose allowing properties related to commercial fishing to be taxed on their current use, rather than their "highest and best" use as required under Maine law. State law has been changed to allow current-use taxation on commercial properties (Cartwright 2003).²⁰

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¹⁸ Community Review Comment, Will Hopkins, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Eastport ME, October 25, 2007

¹⁹ Community Review Comment, Will Hopkins, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Eastport ME, October 25, 2007

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