

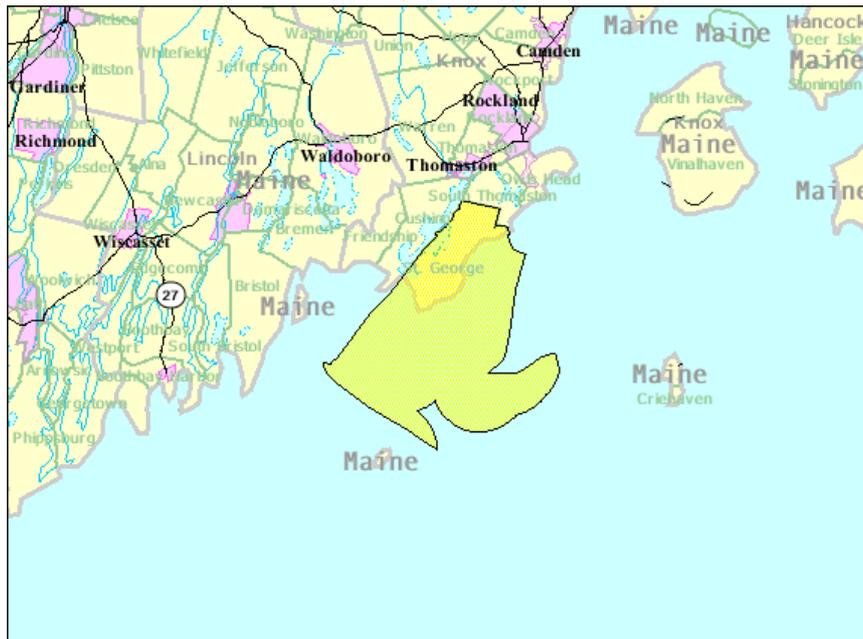
# PORT CLYDE (ST. GEORGE), ME<sup>1</sup>

## Community Profile<sup>2</sup>

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

The village of Port Clyde, Maine (43.92°N, 69.25°W) is located in Knox County, in the town of Saint George. Port Clyde is known as a small fishing village located at the end of St. George Peninsula, which is a point of land between the towns of Thomaston and Rockland (St. George, Maine, no date). (*Note:* Spruce Head and Tenants Harbor, also located in the town of St. George, are profiled separately.)



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

#### Historical/Background

In the spring of 1605, English explorer George Waymouth moored his boat, the *Archangel*, near the mouth of what is now known as the St. George River, to evaluate whether this area was suitable for settlement. He planted a garden on Allen's Island, the first known attempt by the English at agriculture in the New World. The first permanent European settlers in St. George arrived in the 1760s and 1770s, from neighboring Cushing. In 1789, St. George and Cushing were incorporated together as the Town of Cushing, but were divided again in 1803 by the General Court of Massachusetts along the river, which presented a natural dividing boundary between the two. The original industries here involved timber and small-scale farming, but soon there were numerous granite quarries here, employing hundreds of men. Many shipyards operated in the town as well, with over sixty vessels built during the nineteenth century (St. George, Maine, no date). "The fishing

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov)."

industry has always been a mainstay for the people of St. George, and the industry is still going strong and provides jobs for local residents. Summer visitors began coming to the area almost 100 years ago and today over half of the town is owned by non-residents” (Watts nd).

The town is made up of several villages: Port Clyde, Martinsville, Tenants Harbor, Willardham, Wildcat, Long Cove, St. George (Wiley's Corner), Glenmere, Elmore (Harts Neck), Wallston (Gabbletown), Clark Island, and Spruce Head. Most of its residents identify themselves with one of these communities, rather than with the town of St. George. St. George also has a considerable number of islands, contributing to the town’s total land size of 11,000 acres (Watts, no date). Port Clyde, located on the southern end of the peninsula, has several seasonal restaurants, a general store, and numerous galleries. The [ferry for Monhegan Island](#) leaves from Port Clyde. Port Clyde also at one time was home to an extensive seafood canning industry, including [sardines](#) which are no longer canned here today but still bear the Port Clyde name.

### Demographics<sup>3</sup>

Census data is not available for Port Clyde; the data provided is for the town of St. George. According to Census 2000 data<sup>4</sup>, St. George had a total population of 2,580, up 1.2% from the reported population of 2,261 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 49.1% were males and 50.9% were females. The median age was 44.5 years and 75.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 24.2% was 62 or older.

St. George’s age structure (see Figure 1) shows the highest percentage of the population is between 50-59 years. The 20 to 29 years age group is smaller than the 10 to 19 years and the 30 to 39 years age groups showing that young people are leaving the community after high school. Among the 40 to 49 years and the 50 to 59 years age groups, the number of females is dominant. The 60-69 and 70-79 age groups are also significant, which indicates that St. George may serve as a retirement community.

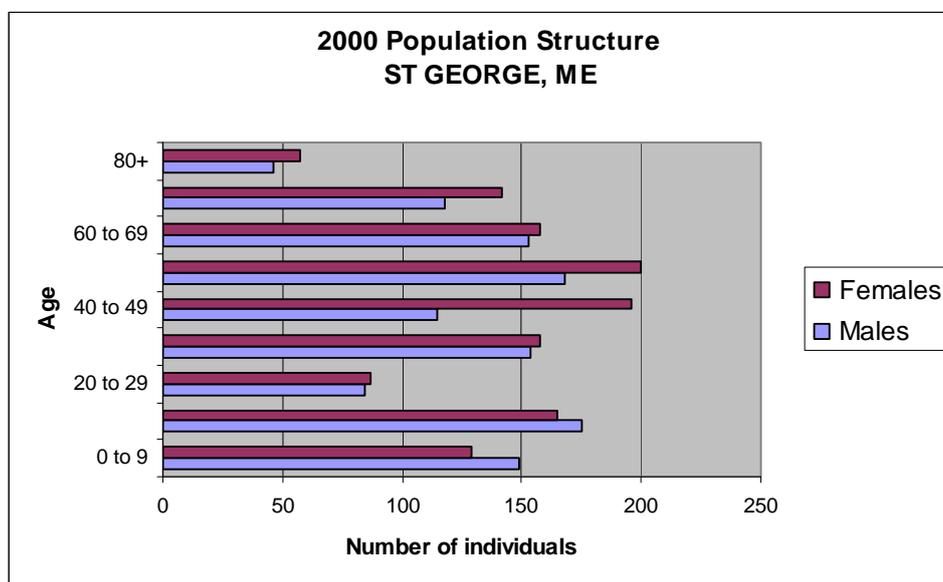


Figure 1. St. George’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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>; data used are for St. George town (cited Jul 2007)

The majority of the population was white (98.6%), with 0.3% of residents black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.5% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.2% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (26.6%), Irish (11.9%), and German (9.1%). With regard to region of birth, 62.0% were born in Maine, 36.4% were born in a different state and 1.6% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.0% who were not United States citizens).

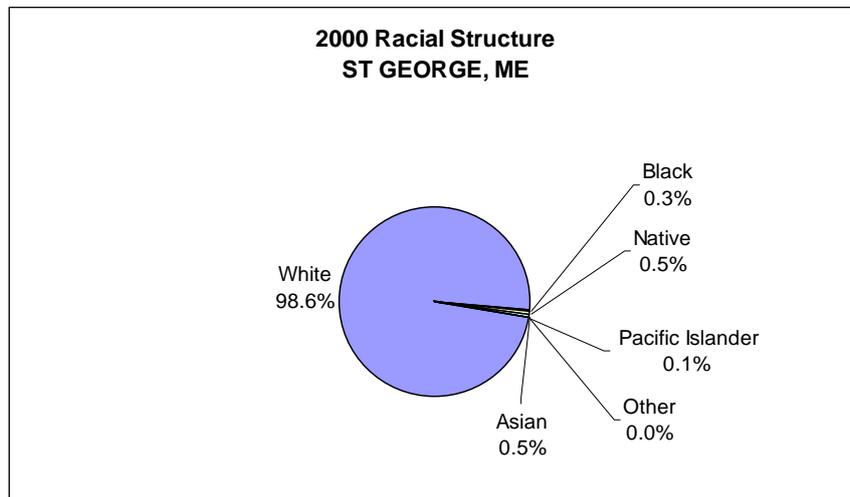


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

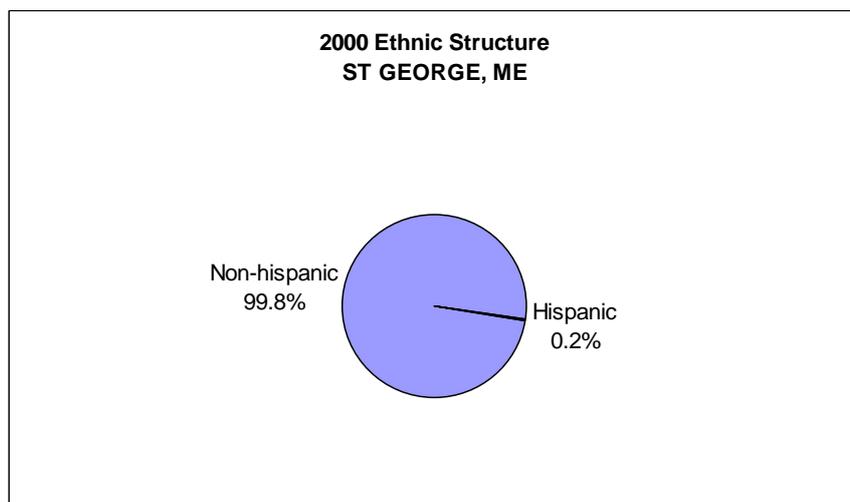


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 97.5% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 2.5% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.7% of the population who spoke English less than ‘very well’ according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 89.8% were high school graduates or higher and 30.0% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 3.7% did not reach ninth grade, 6.5% attended some high school but did not graduate, 36.5% completed high school, 15.9% had some college with no degree, 7.4% received an associate’s degree, 17.8% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 12.2% 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 Knox County was Catholic with 5 congregations and 4,274 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the American Baptist Church (11 with 1,490 adherents), and the United Methodist Church (7 with 1,138 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 1% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

### **Issues/Processes**

Despite having 120 miles of coastline, access to the waterfront is an ongoing issue throughout the town of St. George. There are only five private and public facilities within the town dedicated to fishing, meaning that the remaining 92% of access points are on private residences. Parking in Port Clyde and Tenants Harbor by waterfront access areas is also very limited (Snyder 2003).

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**

Port Clyde is close to Marshall Point Light, “one of the most photographed places in Maine.” The former lightkeeper’s house is now a historical museum open to the public. Port Clyde is also within two hours of Acadia National Park and near the hiking trails of Camden Hills. The town has many art galleries, shops and restaurants, and visitors can buy lobsters directly from the lobstermen at the docks (Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce 2008).

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Current Economy**

The [Atwood Lobster Company](#), located in Spruce Head, is the largest lobster distributor in the state of Maine, selling about four million pounds of lobsters each year. Clients include Red Lobster and European restaurants and grocery stores in addition to many restaurants and stores in the United States. [Great Eastern Mussel Farms](#), a mussel aquaculture company based in Tenants Harbor, employs 50 people year round.

According to the U.S. Census 2000<sup>5</sup>, 60.6% (1,252 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 1.9% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 58.7% were employed.

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<sup>5</sup> 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.



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 170 positions or 14.0% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 288 positions or 23.7% of jobs. Educational, health, and social services (17.1%), retail trade (11.5%), manufacturing (10.9%), and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (10.4%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in St. George was \$41,211 (up 66.0% from 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$23,272. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 33.4% more per year than females.

The average family in St. George consisted of 2.77 persons. With respect to poverty, 3.8% of families (down from 8.3% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 8.6% of individuals earn 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, 32.5% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, St. George had a total of 1,777 housing units of which 63.0% were occupied and 89.6% were detached one unit homes. More than one-third (39.0%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, vans, and boats accounted for 7.0% of the total housing units; 92.2% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$130,800. Of vacant housing units, 34.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 15.2% were renter occupied.

## Government

St. George has a Board of Selectmen with a Town Manager (State of Maine 2004). The seat of the town government is located in Tenant's Harbor, the largest and most centrally located of the villages.

### *Fishery involvement in government*

St. George is a part of the Georges River Regional Clam Management Plan in conjunction with the towns of Cushing, Thomaston, South Thomaston, and Warren. The Management Program provides for the regional management and sustainable harvest of the shellfish resources shared by each of these communities (Cushing Shellfish Management Committee 2004). St. George also has a harbor master.

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

Port Clyde has a Fisherman's Co-op. The co-op owns land on the harbor, allowing fishermen, for the time being, to retain their access to the waterfront (Snyder 2003). Several groundfishermen also formed the Midcoast Fishermen's Association, with the goals to restore groundfish stocks along the Maine coast, improve management, and strengthen the community. The organization also works to create local branding of "Port Clyde Fish" and improve the commercial wharf (in conjunction with the Port Clyde Fishermen's Co-op) (Midcoast Fishermen's Association, no date). There is also the Port Clyde Draggerman's Co-op that is undertaking several projects and adopts a proactive stance in the groundfish industry.<sup>6</sup>

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 1,200 lobstermen (MLA 2007).

### *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 fisheries in six towns (Maine DMR 2005). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007.

### *Other fishing related organizations*

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**

Despite being in the same town, Port Clyde is about a 12 mile drive from Spruce Head. Port Clyde is roughly 17 miles from Rockland, 54 miles from Bath, and 88 miles from Portland (MapQuest 2006). The drive on Route 131 to Port Clyde "is beautiful, with soothing country scenes and tiny fishing villages all along the way". Port Clyde is considered the stepping off point for boats to Monhegan Island, which has been a lobster plantation and art colony since the late 1800s. Ferries are available to visit other nearby islands (Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce 2008). The nearest airport is the Knox County Municipal Airport in Owl's Head, 17 miles from Port Clyde.

Fishermen in Port Clyde bring their catch either to the Port Clyde Fishermen's Co-op, or to St. George Marine, both of which provide facilities for unloading as well as distribution

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<sup>6</sup> Community Review Comments, Kim Libby, Midcoast Fishermen's Association, PO Box 91 Port Clyde, ME 04855, October 17, 2007

(Robicheau 2002). St. George Marine is a private company with an arrangement with the fishermen to provide water access in exchange for marketing the vessel's catch. The Port Clyde Fisherman's Co-op also allows members a cooperative vehicle for accessing the waterfront and for selling their catch (Penobscot Bay Watch 2003). Groundfish are landed at St. George Marine, the Co-op, and "cold storage", a privately owned wharf leased by fishermen in the area. Lobsters are landed at the Co-op, St. George Marine, Simmon's Wharf, and the Port Clyde Lobster Wharf (formerly Bay Lobster).<sup>7</sup> Fishermen in Port Clyde likely make use of infrastructure located in Spruce Head and Tenants Harbor as well.

## **INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>8</sup>**

### **Commercial**

Despite the fact that lobsters make up a far larger percentage of the catch in Port Clyde than any other species category, Penobscot Bay Watch notes that, "Port Clyde has successfully positioned itself as the principal remaining homeport for draggers in the region because it is at least an hour closer to the primary fishing grounds than is Rockland" (Penobscot Bay Watch 2003).

Lobster was by far the most significant fishery Port Clyde in 2006 and averaged for 1997-2006. Largemouth groundfish had the second highest landed value averaged for the ten-year period; however, herring landings in 2006 far exceeded those of groundfish (Table 1). The level of landings in Port Clyde increased considerably between 1997 and 2003, with the 2003 landings values almost three times the 1997 landings values, and then declining subsequently. The level of home port fishing remained relatively static during the same period, and the number of home ported vessels increased only slightly, indicating that this increase is a result of vessels from other communities landing their catch in Port Clyde (Table 2). Please also see the community profiles for Tenants Harbor and Spruce Head, each profiled separately, as there is likely to be some interdependence in fishing activity among these communities.

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<sup>7</sup> Community Review Comments, David Schmanska, Harbormaster, Town of St. George, 3 School Street, PO Box 131, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. September 4, 2007

<sup>8</sup> In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

## Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

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

(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)

## Vessels by Year<sup>12</sup>

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	23	16
1998	25	15
1999	26	16
2000	29	16
2001	31	19
2002	27	17
2003	29	18
2004	31	20
2005	30	20
2006	25	17

(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<sup>13</sup>)

## Recreational

[Sea Venture Charters](#) in Port Clyde offers charter sportfishing trips specializing in bluefin tuna and sharks.

<sup>9</sup> Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

<sup>10</sup> "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

<sup>11</sup> Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

## **Subsistence**

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

## **FUTURE**

The Port Clyde Co-op has recently been awarded a \$250,000 grant to expand the wharf and use by groundfish vessels. Funding is provided by the Working Waterfront Access Program and allocated through the Land for Maine's Future Board.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Community Review Comments, David Schmanska, Harbormaster, Town of St. George, 3 School Street, PO Box 131, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. September 4, 2007