

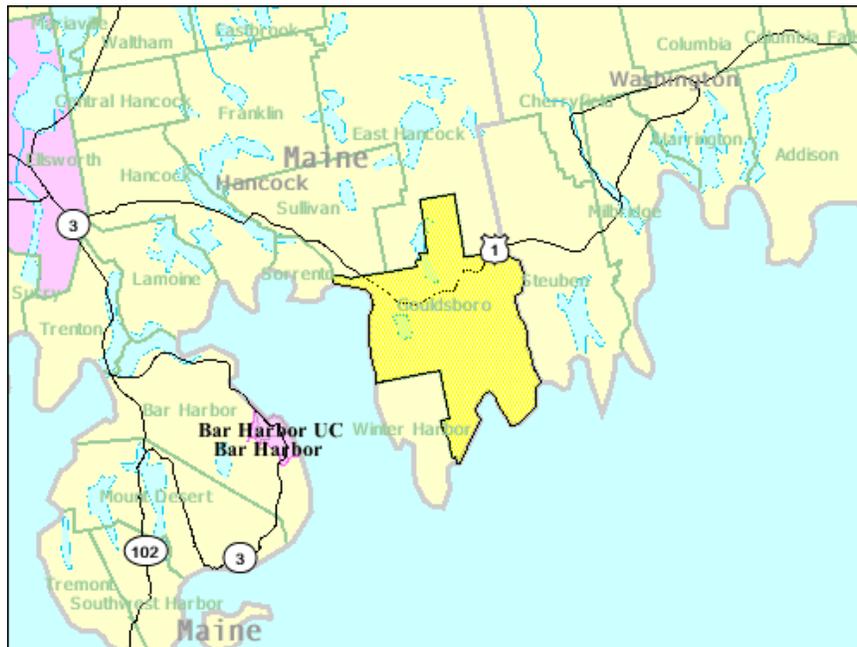
PROSPECT HARBOR (GOULDSBORO), ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Prospect Harbor (44.47° N and 68.07° W) is part of the Town of Gouldsboro, Maine located on the Schoodic Peninsula across Frenchman Bay from Bar Harbor. The town is 20 mi (32 km) east of Ellsworth. Gouldsboro includes the villages of South Gouldsboro, Birch Harbor, Prospect Harbor, and Corea (included in a separate profile), all of which are within three miles of one another. Gouldsboro occupies an area of 50.4 sq/miles and has a population density of 42/sq mile (State of Maine 2004).



Map 1. Location of Gouldsboro, 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. In Birch Harbor and Bunkers Harbor, most men made their living from fishing and lobstering. Corea, originally called “Indian Harbor,” was almost exclusively a lobstering village. Since Prospect Harbor was

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.”

deep and generally clear of major navigational obstacles, it became a popular birthing place for large schooners and home to many sea captains (Ellsworth American 2002).

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 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 (US Navy 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). Prospect Harbor remains the town center today and herring and lobster have been a way of life in Gouldsboro for generations (Porter 2003).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, Gouldsboro had a total population of 1,941, down 2.3% from the reported population of 1,986 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 51.6% were males and 48.4% were females. The median age was 42.3 years and 76.8% of the population was 21 years or older while 20.8% of the population was 62 or older.

Gouldsboro's age structure (Figure 1) shows the highest population levels in the middle years (30-59) and the lowest from 70 and up. This is unlike many small fishing communities where there is a large dip in the population of ages 20-29. Males predominate by a large margin through age 29 but then drop closer to the level of females, perhaps due to out-migration.

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 Gouldsboro town; Census data are only available for Gouldsboro as a whole and not for the individual villages (accessed August 3, 2007)

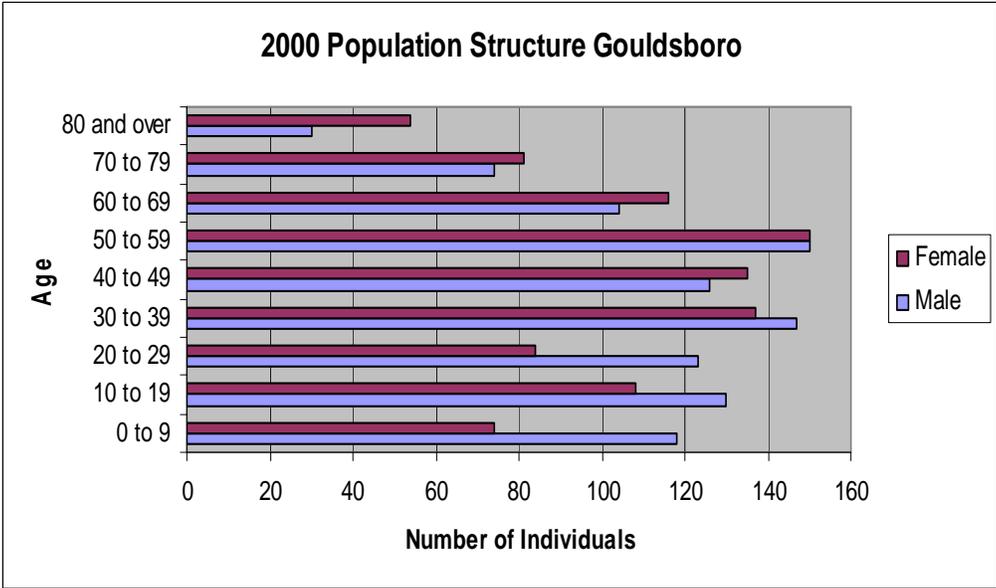


Figure 1. Gouldsboro's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (96.4%), with 0.7% black or African American, 0.2% Asian, 0.8% Native American, and 0.3% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 1.9% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (24.2%), Irish (11.3%), German (8%), Scottish (3.9%), Italian (2.1%), and Portuguese (0.4%). With regard to region of birth, 60.9% were born in Maine, 35.3% were born in a different state and 2.2% were born outside of the U.S. (including 0.7% who were not United States citizens).

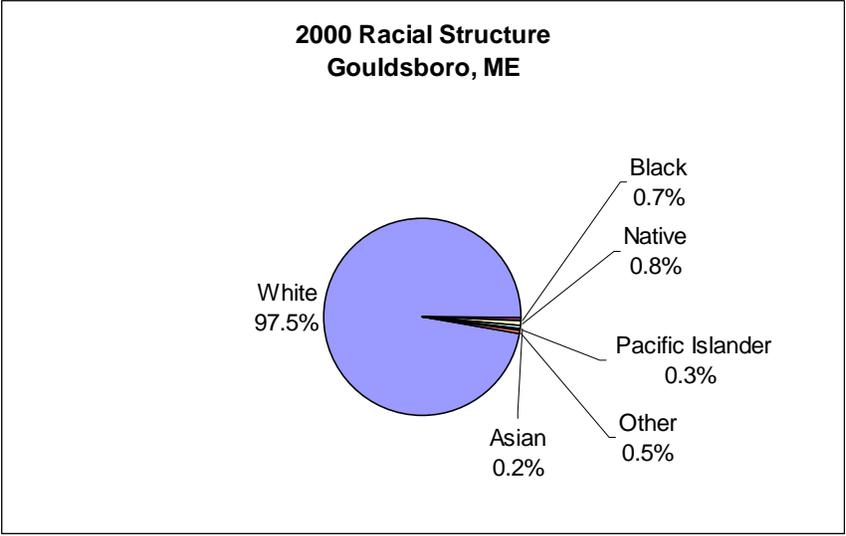


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

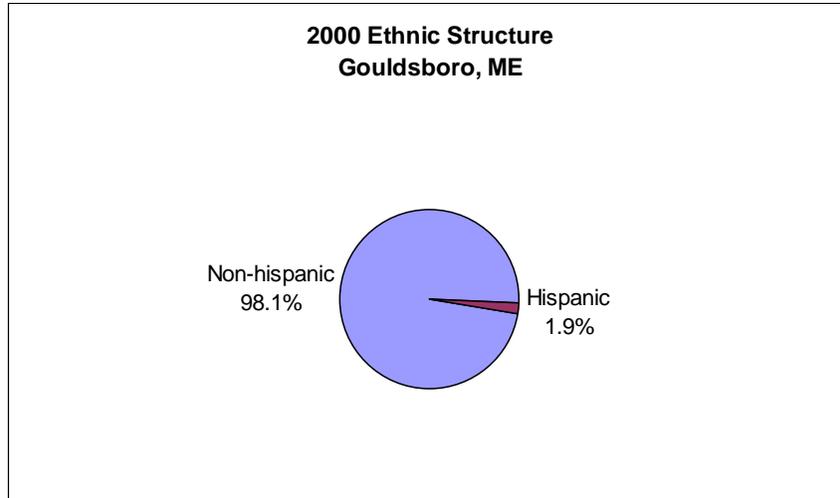


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (U.S. Census 2000)

For 96.0% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 4.0% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.9% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 88.6% were high school graduates or higher and 14.7% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 3.4% did not reach ninth grade, 8% attended some high school but did not graduate, 88.6% completed high school, 16.4% had some college with no degree, 7.1% received an associate’s degree, 14.7% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 7.7% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although the religion percentages are not available through US 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 Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Hancock County was 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

Presently, the main issue in Gouldsboro is a proposal to construct a Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal in Prospect Harbor. One resident noted “The fishermen are dead set against this. What most people don't realize is the amount of (fishing) gear that would be cut by these tankers” (Hoey 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 (Turkel 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).

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).

Because Gouldsboro has no public pier but nearly 200 fishermen, the town has begun plans to build one. Gouldsboro sees the new pier as a way to ensure commercial access to the waterfront (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).

Cultural attributes

While Gouldsboro itself does not host any fishing related events, numerous events take place in other communities close by, such as Winter Harbor and Bar Harbor (Maine Resource Guide 2007).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Lobster fishing accounts for about 60 percent of revenue in town, according to 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 (Turkel 2004). Gouldsboro also has the [Young Brothers Company](#) that builds lobster boats that are marketed nationally; they employ approximately 10 people. Young Brothers noted that there has been no noticeable loss of business over the last 5 years. However, because of low catches in 2004 some orders for new vessels were cancelled.⁵

According to the US Census 2000⁶, 60.5% (1,598 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 2.1% were unemployed, 6.9% were in the Armed Forces, and 51.6% were employed.

⁵ Phone conversation (800) 887-3754 (11/14/2008).

⁶ 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.

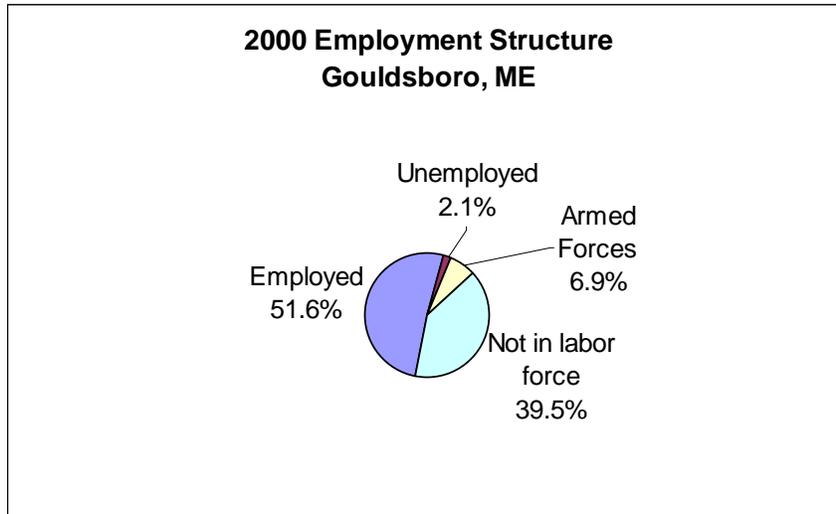


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 108 positions or 13.1% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 208 positions or 25.2% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (16.7%), manufacturing (15.7%), retail trade (10%), construction (8.3%) and entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (6.9%) were the primary industries.

The median household income Gouldsboro was \$36,542 (up 48.4% from \$24,617 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$18,203. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 21.9% more per year than females.

The average family in Gouldsboro consisted of 2.78 persons. With respect to poverty, 7.0% of families (down from 8.3% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 10.4% 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, 38.0% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Gouldsboro had a total of 1,329 housing units of which 60.3% were occupied and 82.7% were detached one unit homes. A little under one-third (28.9%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes and boats accounted for 13.3% of housing units; 90.1% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$98,600. Of vacant housing units, 35.5% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 19.1% were renter occupied.

Government

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

Fishery involvement in government

According to Bill Crowe, the managing editor of the Fishermen's Voice, there is no official interaction between the local government and the fishing industry.⁷ However, Gouldsboro does have a harbor master.

Institutional

Fishing associations

The Corea Lobster Cooperative is located in Gouldsboro and besides affording a drop off for lobsters, provides fuel and supplies to fishermen.

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.

Fishing assistance centers

According to Dwight Rogers of the Corea Lobster Cooperative, no fishing assistance centers exist in Gouldsboro.⁸

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 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.

Physical

Prospect Harbor is the last point on the Schoodic Scenic Byway that leads from Sullivan, ME, along U.S. Route 1 to Route 186 going south to Winter Harbor. From here the Scenic Byway goes south through Acadia National Park then veers north and arrives at Prospect Harbor.

⁷ Personal Communication, Bill Crowe, managing editor, Fishermen's Voice, P.O. Box 253, Gouldsboro, Maine 04607, (207) 963-7467, June 2005

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The village is about 5 miles from the entrance to the Schoodic Peninsula section of Acadia National Park and only about 2 miles from the Park's exit (Hartford 2007). Prospect Harbor Light is at the tip of Prospect Harbor Point. The lighthouse is part of US Naval Communications Center (D'Entremont 1997). Gouldsboro does not have a town center (Hartford 2007).

From Gouldsboro people can use a year round Ferry service that runs out of nearby Winter Harbor and connects to Bar Harbor (State of Maine nd).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁹

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 Stinson and Connors, tuna alone contributed 59 percent of the total 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 lobsters, fuel, and marine supplies (MPA 2005).

Landings, ranked by importance, combine landings for both Prospect Harbor and Birch Harbor (see Table 1), with lobster the most important species landed in both ports. Landings data for Corea are included in a dedicated Corea profile. Table 2 combines vessel data for Prospect Harbor, Birch Harbor, and South Gouldsboro. The number of home ported vessels was highest in 2004 at 26. In all years there were more vessels with owners living here than there were home ported vessels. There are likely to be significant linkages between fishing activity in Prospect Harbor and the rest of Gouldsboro and fishing activity in Corea (please also see the Corea profile for additional information).

⁹ 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
Herring	2
Other ¹⁰	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 Year¹¹

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006 for Prospect Harbor, Birch Harbor, South Gouldsboro

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	18	25
1998	18	25
1999	18	23
2000	23	29
2001	20	29
2002	20	27
2003	21	29
2004	26	27
2005	25	27
2006	25	27

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹²)

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 Gouldsboro is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

Cianbro, a Maine corporation, announced plans to pursue the development of an LNG terminal on Navy-owned land in Corea – a Gouldsboro fishing village. To build the terminal, 600 construction workers would be hired, which could offer up to 100 year-round positions.

¹⁰ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹¹ Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

¹² The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

Residents of Gouldsboro are 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).

The Downeast Coastal Access Initiative Project is not unique to Gouldsboro alone but seeks to overcome the waterfront access and infrastructure related issues in communities such as Gouldsboro (SCEC 2005). Plans for a 120-foot steel-and-concrete pier became official at a special town meeting on Sept. 29, 2004 when a roomful of fishermen and other residents voted in favor of spending \$150,000 of the town's surplus money to match a federal grant. If all goes as planned, the pier will be built in the summer of 2005 on land donated to the town by Connors Bros. (Stinson Foods), which runs the sardine cannery in town (Levitt 2004). To attract additional revenues to Gouldsboro, the town is seeking to locate an L.L. Bean call center in Gouldsboro. Both the city of Ellsworth and the town of Gouldsboro have their sights set on the full-time and seasonal jobs such a facility would create (Olson and Walsh 2004).

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 2004a).

“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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