

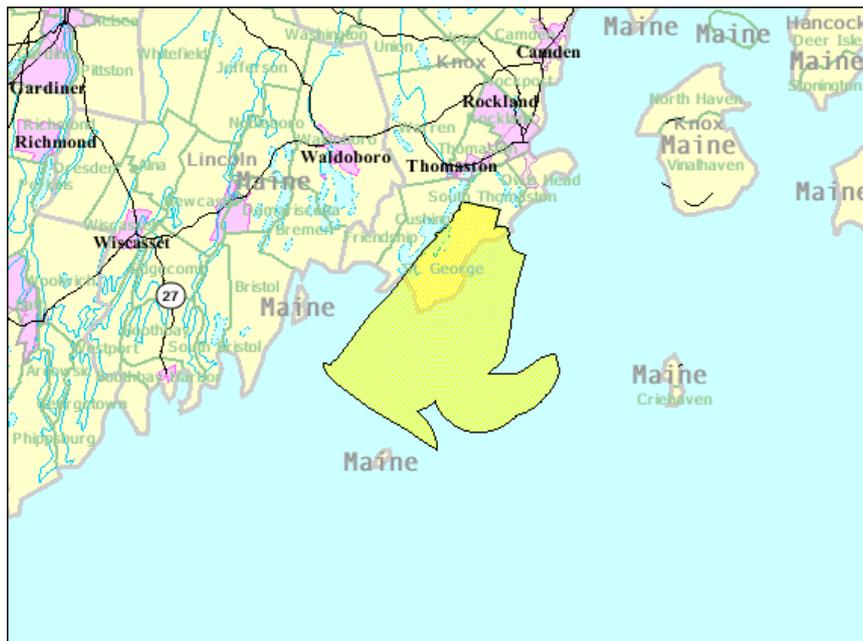
TENANTS HARBOR (ST. GEORGE), ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The village of Tenants Harbor, Maine (43.99°N, 69.21°W) is located in Knox County, in the town of St. George (State of Maine 2004). (Note: Spruce Head and Port Clyde, 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 (Skoglund, no date). "The fishing industry has always been a mainstay for the people of St. George, and the industry is still going strong and

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."

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” (Fall, no date).

The town is made up of several villages: Port Clyde, Martinsville, Tenants Harbor, Wildcat (Willardham), Long Cove, St. George (Wiley's Corner), Glenmere, Harts Neck (Elmore), Wallston (Gabbletown), Clark Island, and half of the Town of 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. The seat of the town government is located in Tenants Harbor, the largest and most centrally located of the villages (Fall, no date).

Demographics³

Census data is not available for Tenants Harbor; the data provided is for the town of St. George. According to Census 2000 data⁴, 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 (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.

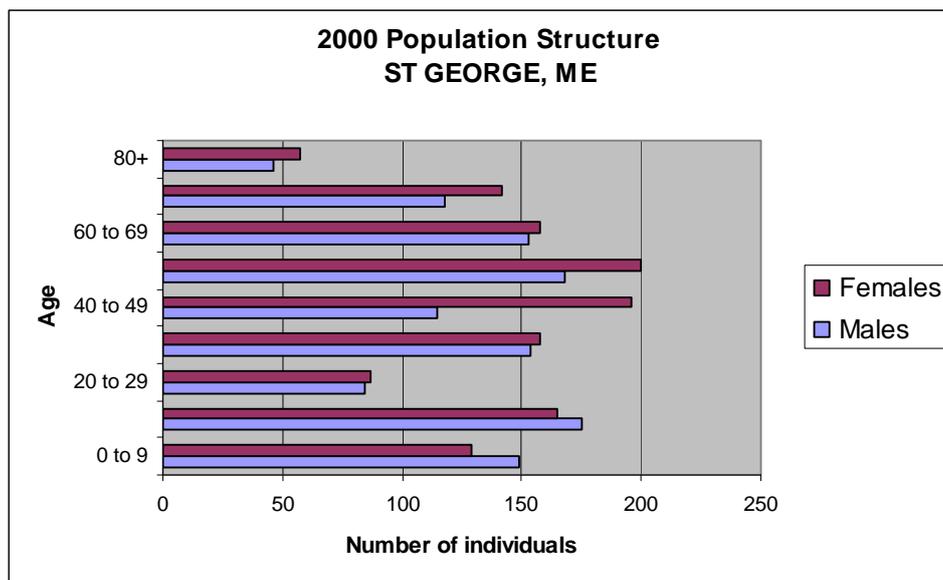


Figure 1. St. George’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

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

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 St. George town (cited Jul 2007)

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).

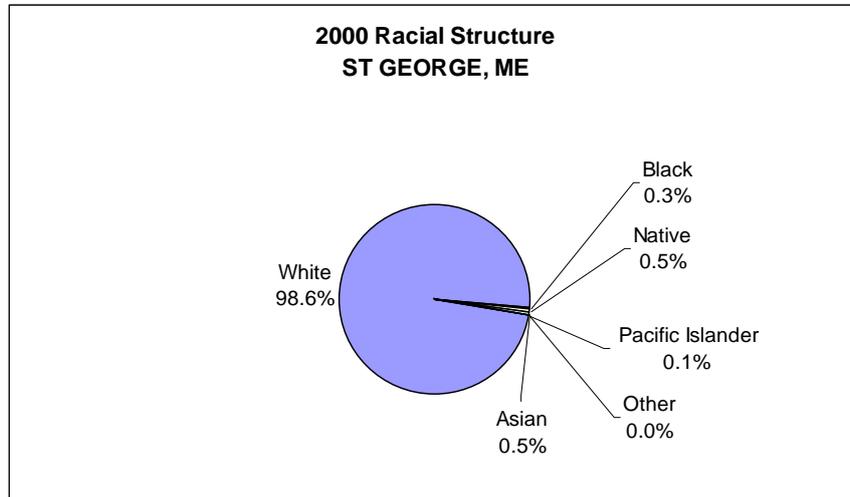


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

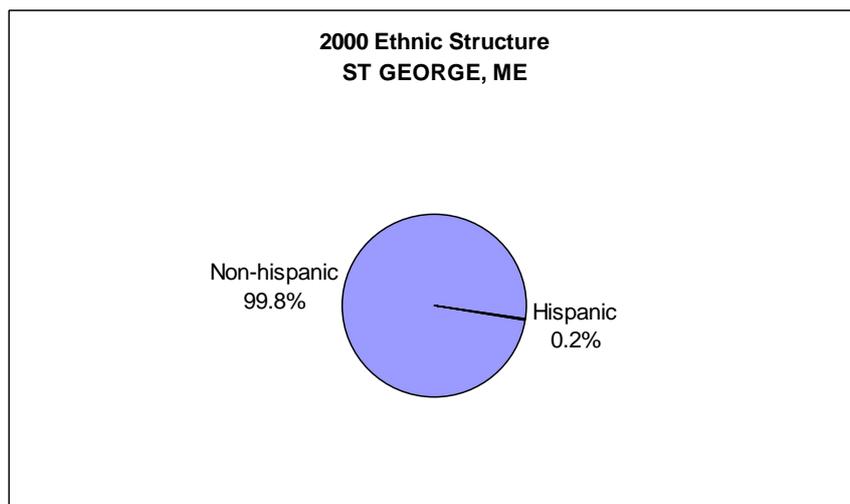


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

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 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).

In the early 1990s, Tenants Harbor was found to have a severely polluted water source from leaking heating oil and gasoline storage tanks, which affected over 100 wells. The village now has a public water supply, courtesy of the state (Goad 2004). Tenants Harbor Water District created and funded, along with Federal funds, a superfund clean-up site. The State of Maine was responsible for disbursing those funds.⁵

Cultural attributes

Tenant Harbor 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 (D’Entremont 1997).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The [William 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 2000⁶, 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.

⁵ Community Review Comments, David Schmanska, Harbormaster, Town of St. George, 3 School Street, PO Box 131, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. September 4, 2007

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.

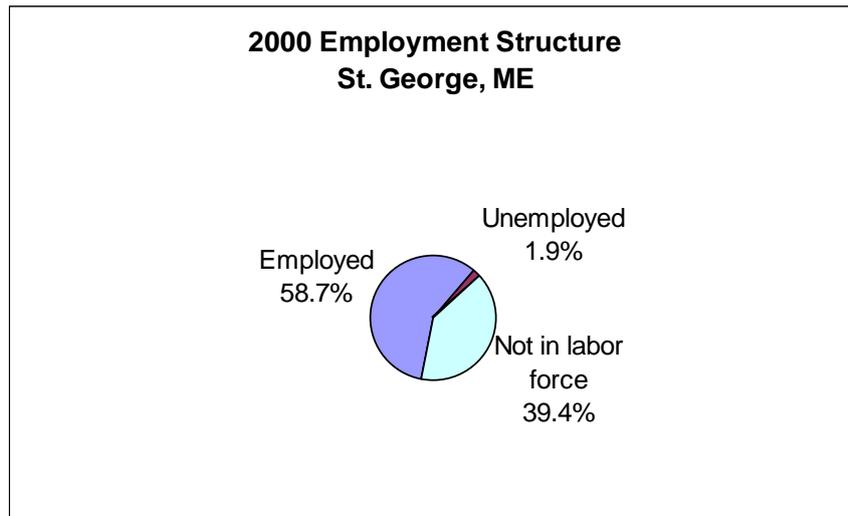


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 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 200a]). 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 Town Manager/Selectmen form of government (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 (Town of Cushing 2004). St. George also has a harbormaster.

Institutional

Fishing associations

Although there do not appear to be any fishing associations in Tenants Harbor specifically, 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 2006). 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 (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 (Vote 4 Maine 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 (Maine Fishermen's Forum 2007).

Physical

Tenants Harbor is located between Port Clyde and Spruce Head, and all are within the town of St. George. 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 (PBRCC 2008). The nearest airport is the Knox County Municipal Airport in Owl's Head, 17 miles from Port Clyde.

In Tenants Harbor, there are docks at Art's Lobsters and Witham's Lobsters where lobstermen can unload their catch, and can purchase gas and diesel at Witham's Lobsters (Maine Coast Guide 2002). The William Atwood Lobster Company has two docks, one in Spruce Head and one in Tenants Harbor, where lobstermen sell their catch.⁷ Tenants Harbor Boatyard used to specialize in rebuilding wooden boats (Maine Coast Guide 2002) but is now run by Lyman/Morse out of Thomaston and works with aluminum, fiberglass, and composite materials. [Cod End](#) in Tenants Harbor has a wharf with gas, diesel, ice, water, as well as moorings for rent, and also has a retail seafood market. Cod End now lands lobsters as a

⁷ Personal communication, Karen, William Atwood Lobster Co., 278 Island Road, South Thomaston, ME 04858, 1/24/06

buyer and wholesaler.⁸ Fishermen in Port Clyde likely make use of infrastructure located in Spruce Head and Port Clyde as well.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁹

Commercial

[Great Eastern Mussel Farms](#) in Tenants Harbor has mussel rafts that are used for growing mussels located up and down the Maine coast. The facility in Tenants Harbor processes mussels as well as mahogany clams. Lobster wholesalers and retailers in Tenants Harbor include: Atwood's Lobster, Witham's Lobster, Art's Lobster, and Cod End.¹⁰ The William Atwood Lobster Company buys many of their lobsters from the vessels in Tenants Harbor, providing the boats with herring for bait.¹¹ Both Art's Lobsters and Witham's Lobsters in Tenants Harbor purchase lobsters from local fishermen and have wholesale and retail facilities. [Cod End](#) in Tenants Harbor is a retail seafood facility which purchases catch from local boats.

Lobster is by far the most valuable species in Tenants Harbor, with landings in 2006 far above the average landing values for 1997-2006. Other important species landed in 2006 were largemouth groundfish and monkfish, which were also worth more than the ten-year average values (see Table 1). However, according to the Harbormaster, there were no landings of groundfish in Tenants Harbor. While some boat owners live in Tenants Harbor, fish is offloaded in Port Clyde or Portland.¹² The level of landings in Tenants Harbor generally showed an increasing trend between 1997-2006, while the level of home port fishing was variable and much lower. The data for many years show no home port fishing at all in Tenants Harbor, which is inconsistent with an increasing number of home ported vessels, from 12 in 1997 to 26 in 2006 (see Table 2). This could indicate that many fishermen are coming from other communities to land their catch in Tenants Harbor. Overall, the number of owner's city vessels in Tenants Harbor was higher than the number of home ported vessels, meaning many vessel owners residing here keep their vessels in other communities. Please also see the community profiles for Port Clyde and Spruce Head, each profiled separately, as there is likely to be some interdependence in fishing activity among these communities.

⁸ Community Review Comments, David Schmanska, Harbormaster, Town of St. George, 3 School Street, PO Box 131, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. September 4, 2007

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.

¹⁰ Community Review Comments, David Schmanska, Harbormaster, Town of St. George, 3 School Street, PO Box 131, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. September 4, 2007

¹¹ Personal communication, Karen, William Atwood Lobster Co., 278 Island Road, South Thomaston, ME 04858, 1/24/06

¹² Community Review Comments, David Schmanska, Harbormaster, Town of St. George, 3 School Street, PO Box 131, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. September 4, 2007

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 ¹³	2
Largemesh Groundfish ¹⁴	3
Monkfish	4
Scallop	5
Skate	6
Dogfish	7
Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁵	8

Vessels by Year¹⁶

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	12	19
1998	19	27
1999	16	25
2000	19	31
2001	20	31
2002	22	31
2003	22	31
2004	21	31
2005	23	33
2006	26	35

(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)

Recreational

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

¹³ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹⁴ Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹⁵ Smallmesh Multi-species : red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

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.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

St. George is currently investigating alternative public access points for boat launching, parking, and establishing mooring fields in Wheeler Bay and St. George River.¹⁸

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¹⁸ Community Review Comments, David Schmanska, Harbormaster, Town of St. George, 3 School Street, PO Box 131, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. September 4, 2007