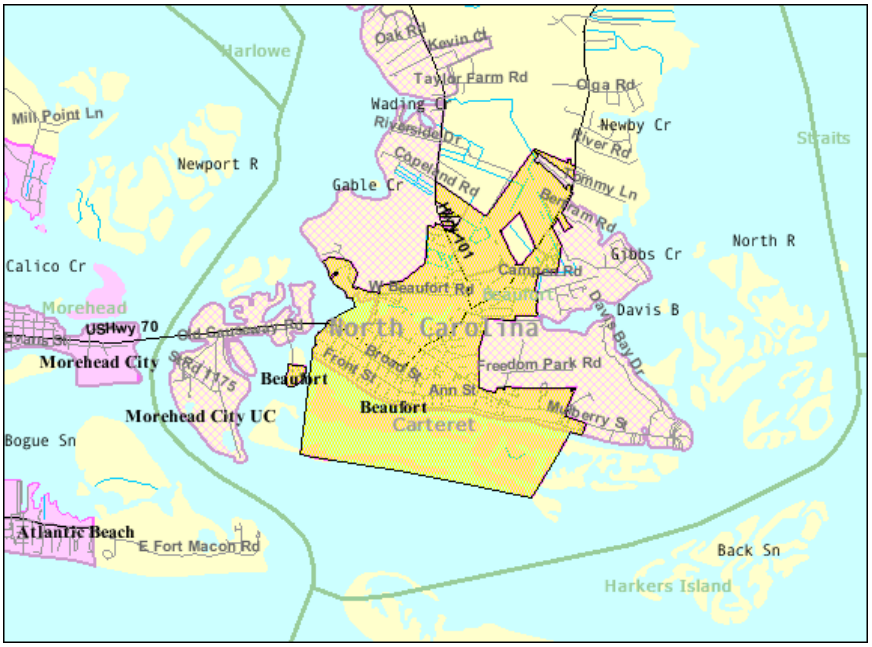
BEAUFORT, NC[1]
Community Profile[2]

PEOPLE AND PLACES
Regional orientation

Beaufort (34.72 N, 76.66 W) is located across from the Beaufort Inlet in Carteret County, in the middle of the state of North Carolina's coastline. It is roughly 4 miles from Morehead City and 150 miles from Raleigh (MapQuest). Beaufort has 90.47 square miles of land and 1.71 square miles of water surface (USGS 2008).



Map 1. Location of Beaufort, NC (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Founded in 1709, the town of Beaufort is the third oldest town in North Carolina. By the Act of 1723, the North Carolina colonial legislature established a "Port of Beaufort" (Town of Beaufort 2006). During the American Revolution, Beaufort was the third largest port in the state. Around that time, trade was centered mainly on lumber products. These items were shipped to the West Indies in exchange for things such as rum, coffee, glassware, furniture, and cloth. Following the Civil War, trade was still strong for a time with chief exports being barrel staves, molasses, rum, and lumber. Over time, Beaufort declined as a trade center and commercial fishing became the primary business. In 1997, remains of what is presumed to be

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[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."

Blackbeard's flagship, the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, were found two miles from Beaufort Inlet (Town of Beaufort 2006a).

Demographics[3]

According to Census 2000 data, Beaufort had a total population of 3,771, down 1.0% from the reported population of 3,808 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 46.5% were male and 53.5% were female. The median age was 42.7 years and 78.8% of the population was 21 years or older while 22.7% was 62 or older.

The age structure for Beaufort (Figure 1) is fairly average. The greatest numbers of both men and women were in the 40-49 age category, followed closely by the 30-39 and the 50-59 age groupings. From the 40-49 year old age range onward, females noticeably out-number the males.

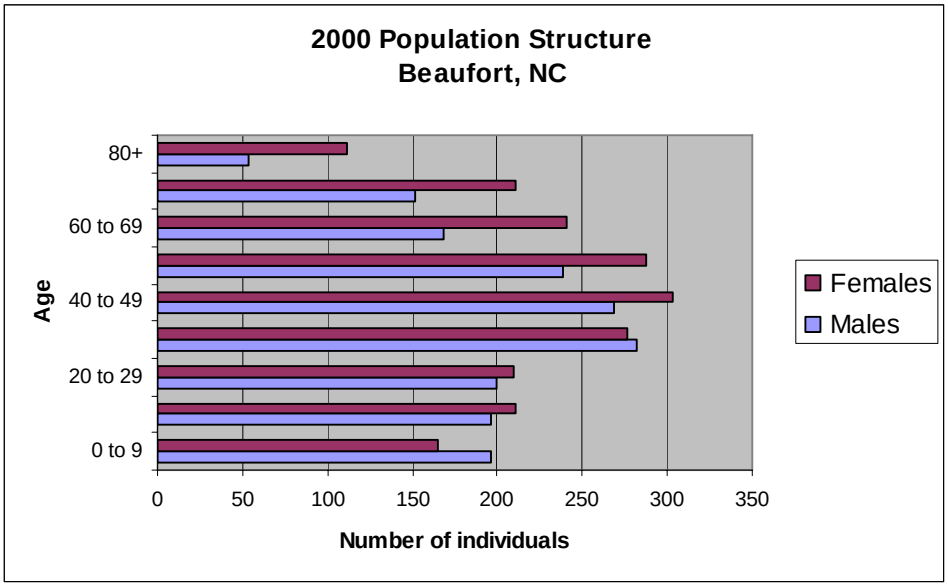

Figure 1. Beaufort's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (77.0%), with 19.2% of residents black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.6% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 3.8% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (22.0%), United States or American (10.7%), German (6.8%), and Irish (6.7%). With regard to region of birth, 58.7% were born in North Carolina, 36.3% were born in a different state and 4.3% were born outside of the U.S. (including 3.3% who were not United States citizens).

[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.

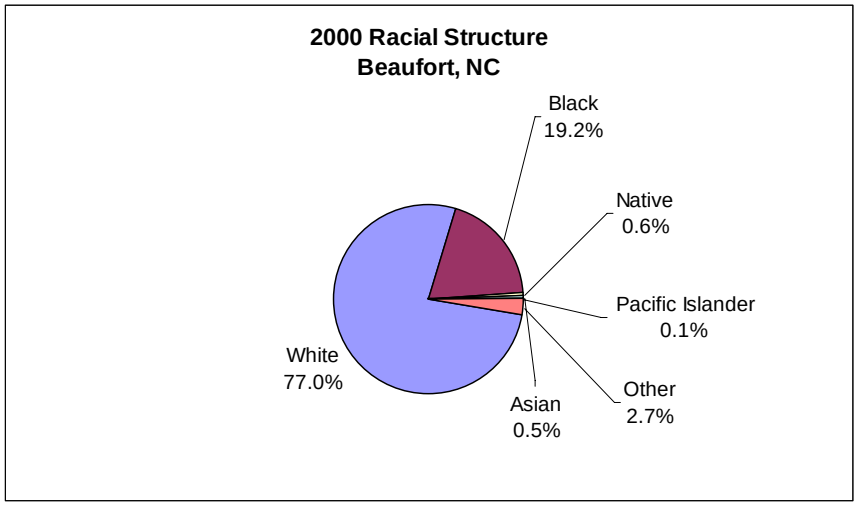

Figure 1. Racial Structure in 2000 (U.S. Census 2000)

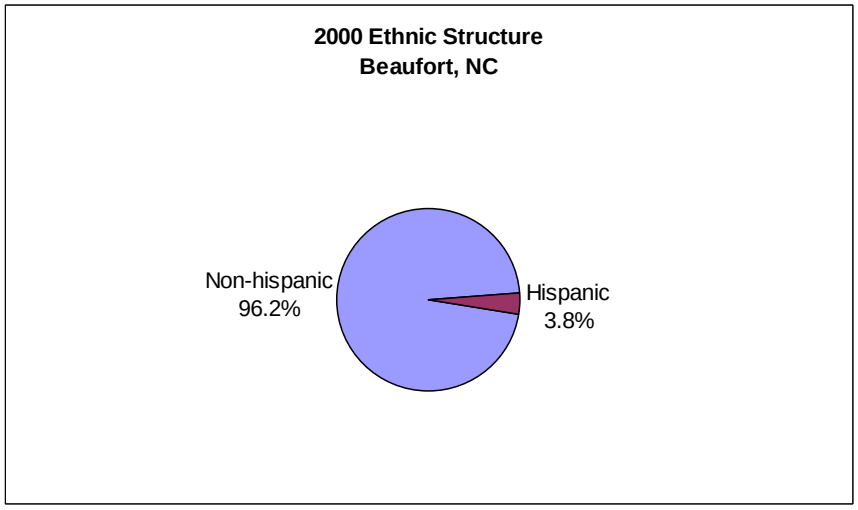

Figure 2. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (U.S. Census 2000)

For 93.0% of the population, only English is spoken in the home, leaving 7.0% in homes where a language other than English is spoken, and including 2.7% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 78.9% were high school graduates or higher and 21.7% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 6.2% did not reach ninth grade, 14.8% attended some high school but did not graduate, 26.7% completed high school, 24.7% had some college with no degree, 5.9% received an associate's degree, 14.2% 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 Carteret County was Southern Baptist Convention with 20 congregations and 7,079 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Methodist (22 with 6,057 adherents), Catholic (1 with 1,798 adherents), and Original Free Will Baptists (13 with 1,662 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 1.0% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

The North Carolina coast has experienced several natural disasters in the past years. In 2005, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services distributed more than $645,000 to assist with commercial fishing losses associated with hurricane damage in 2004.

The subject of menhaden fishing has been a hot issue in the past couple years around Beaufort. In August 2005, a bill was presented to the North Carolina General Assembly to study the effects of commercial fishing to "consider whether it would be a good idea to ban commercial menhaden fishing off New Hanover and Brunswick counties." This would have affected Beaufort, once the location of the last menhaden processing plant in North Carolina. The Beaufort Fish House (the Menhaden plant) has closed and the site is now a planned Real Estate development.[4] About eighty people worked at the plant at the season's height (Star News Staff 2005). However, some local fishing clubs are glad to see the plant close, as they believe recreational fishing brings in more revenue to the city. Also, with increasing stocks of menhaden, some comment that recreational activity will increase and infuse the area and the local economy with more income.[5] As of October 2007, a ban on menhaden purse seining off Brunswick County won legislative approval, despite opposition from North Carolina fisheries managers (West 2007).

The big issues in Beaufort and Morehead City relates to the loss of working waterfront for commercial fishermen. Regulations on the fishing industry and the shuffling of the fleet to different docks have put the snapper-grouper fleet's future in question. The two fish houses on Radio Island, (technically Beaufort but located on the causeway separating Beaufort/ Morehead City) are the last remaining companies. These companies are Luther Smith and Sons and Homer Smith. T.B. Smith, located next door to these fish houses, is the largest marine railways in the area for boat haul-outs. The two large trawl vessels owned by Luther Smith have been sold and that fish house many soon be gone.[6]

Shrimp fishermen along the North Carolina coast have suffered because of decreasing prices of shrimp, resulting from an increase of foreign farmed shrimp on the market. North Carolina shrimp fishermen are working to promote their wild-caught shrimp to create a niche market and higher prices for their product (NCSG 2005). The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries was discussing minimum size limits for the shrimp that could be taken by trawlers, noting that foreign imports have cornered the market on small shrimp (Smith 2005).

Some good news for the seafood industry is the "Carteret Catch", a marketing program designed to promote local seafood. In addition, NC legislators passed legislation that enables fish house owners to apply for Present Use Value taxation, like farmers, rather than taxes based on real estate values. The state also set aside $20 million towards the enhancement of public access and working waterfront. Director Louis Daniel at the Division of Marine Fisheries is overseeing the program. In 1997, the state also passed the Fisheries Reform Act that mandated fisheries management plans for all important recreational and commercial species, establishing an extensive citizen advisory system. North Carolina is often referred to as having one of the best fisheries data collection programs along the east coast of the US.[7]

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[4] Community Review comments, Capt. Dale Britt, F/V Sensation, 2012 Shepard Street, Morehead City Waterfront, Morehead City, NC 28557, October 22, 2007

[5] Community Review Comments, Lt Cmdr Bruce Gay, Jr., 206 Yaupon Drive, Cape Cartaret, NC 28584, Oct 30, 2007

[6] Community Review Comments, Barbara Garetty Blake, Marine Fisheries Commission, 3441 Arendell Street - Morehead City, NC 28557, September 28, 2007

[7] Community Review Comments, Barbara Garetty Blake, Marine Fisheries Commission, 3441 Arendell Street - Morehead City, NC 28557, September 28, 2007

Cultural attributes

The North Carolina Maritime Museum is located in Beaufort and states its mission is to "preserve and interpret all aspects of North Carolina's rich maritime heritage through educational exhibits, programs and field trips." It is home to hundreds of items "relating to the state's strong link to the sea."

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Beaufort Fisheries is called the oldest existing industry in the area. It is now the only menhaden plant operating in the state, and is now one of only two operating along the Atlantic seaboard. The menhaden are processed into fish meal and oil. Fish meal can be used as a protein component in many animal feeds. Fish oil is used in such products as cosmetics, margarine, and paints. Beaufort Fisheries employs 55 people (Insiders.com 2006). There are other commercial fishing companies, such as McIntosh Seafood and T. B. Smith Seafood.

Atlantic Veneer Corporation is the largest manufacturer of hardwood veneers in North America. It exports about half of its products. Atlantic Veneer also operates a local retail outlet, which is an important source of lumber and hardwoods for boat builders and cabinet makers. It is the county's largest private employer, with about 327 employees. Other large employers in Carteret County are: the Carteret County Public School System, 1,100 employees; Carteret General Hospital, 830 employees; and Wal-Mart, 500 employees (Insiders.com 2006). The Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station is about 20 miles north of Beaufort, and employs 1,770 Carteret County residents, or about 30% of the civilian population, in addition to the roughly 7,500 marines and sailors stationed there.

According to the U.S. Census 2000[8], 56.3% (1,737 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure), of which 2.6% were unemployed, 0.6% were in the Armed Forces, and 53.0% were employed.

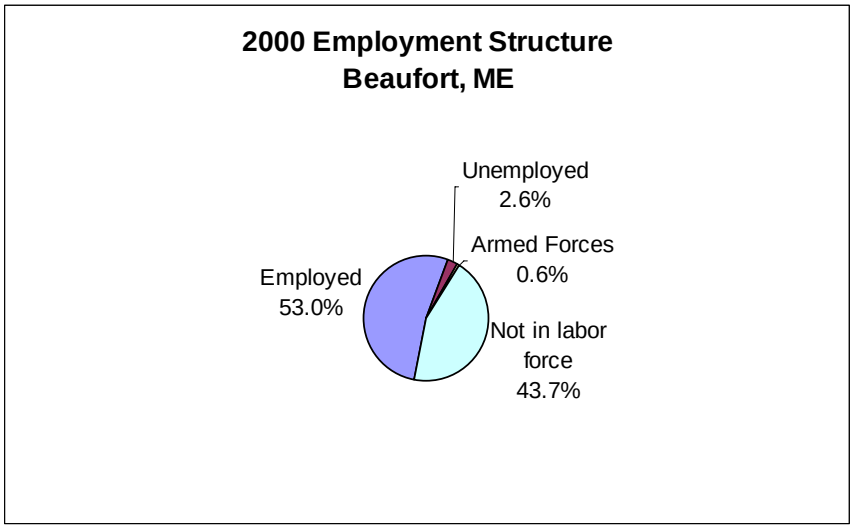

Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

[8] 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.

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 40 positions or 2.4% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 281 positions or 17.2% of jobs. Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (18.0%), retail trade (15.0%), and educational, health and social services (13.2%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Beaufort was $28,763 (up 33.6% from $21,532 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was $19,356. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 34.4% more per year than females.

The average family in Beaufort consists of 2.65 persons. With respect to poverty, 13.3% of families (down from 14.2% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 16.6% of individuals earn below the official U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is $8,794 for individuals and ranges from $11,239 through $35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 44.3% of all families (of any size) earned less than $35,000 per year.

In 2000, Beaufort had a total of 2,187 housing units, of which 81.4% were occupied and 64.7% were detached one unit homes. Nearly twenty percent (18.8%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 6.2% of the total housing units; 96.1% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was $119,200. Of vacant housing units, 11.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 43.9% were renter occupied.

Government

Beaufort functions under a Council/Manager form of government. It consists of five commissioners and the mayor. The commissioners are elected to alternating four year terms, while the mayor is elected for a two year term (Town of Beaufort 2000b). Major issues currently (October 2007) being addresses by the local government include: planning for future housing developments, pollution effects on shellfish areas, increased traffic, high property values, and water access.[9]

Fishery involvement in the government

Carteret County has a Division of Marine Fisheries Advisory Board. Carteret Country also has a full time civilian working for the Coast Guard to provide safety exams for commercial fishermen to make sure fishing vessels meet all Federal requirements for safety at sea. Beaufort has a harbor master.

Institutional

Fishing associations

The North Carolina Fisheries Association has been supporting fishing families since 1952, with the goal "to celebrate and preserve commercial fishing families, heritage, and seafood" in North Carolina. This is achieved through lobbying federal, state, and local legislators and through public awareness projects. The Carteret County Fisherman's Association, located in Davis, NC, is a member organization of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, and is more geared towards supporting fishermen.

[9] Community Review Comments, Lt Cmdr Bruce Gay, Jr., 206 Yaupon Drive, Cape Cartaret, NC 28584, Oct 30, 2007

Fishing assistance centers

The Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAA) program has provided business education to shrimpers in the state to assist them in recent changes in the market of shrimp, and also provided some training to shrimpers to exit the business if they chose (Smith 2005).

Other fishing related organizations

The Carteret County Sportfishing Association is dedicated to protecting the interests of sportfishermen in Carteret County and educating the public about the wildlife of Carteret County. The association gives two scholarships annually to Carteret County residents enrolled in a marine studies program at Carteret County Community College (State of North Carolina 2006).

Physical

Beaufort is located on the southern tip of the Outer Banks, near the end of Interstate 70. From Interstate 70, it is about 150 miles west to Raleigh (MapQuest). The Michael J. Smith field airport, located in town, mainly caters to private and charter planes. The closest airport with commercial flights, Craven Regional Airport, is located 40 miles north in New Bern.

There are about 10 marinas in Beaufort; the largest being Beaufort Docks which has 100 slips and can accommodate boats up to 250 feet in length. Also, some fishing companies, such as Beaufort Fisheries, have private docks.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES[10]

Commercial

Carteret County consistently leads the rest of North Carolina in seafood landings, (Carteret County Economic Development Council 2005) with 46.3% of landed weight on average between the years 1994-2001. Of this total weight, 75% on average was Atlantic menhaden (Bianchi 2003). Beaufort Fisheries is the only Menhaden processing plant in North Carolina and one of only two along the Atlantic seaboard. The fish is caught by the company vessels and then brought to the docks along side Taylors Creek. The menhaden are then processed into fish meal and oil. Beaufort Fisheries' annual production is estimated at 10,000 tons of meal and 300,000 to 450,000 gallons of oil. The company employs 55 people and operates two menhaden boats (Insiders.com 2006).

Many of the fishermen who work out of Beaufort are from Down East communities such as Cedar Island, Atlantic, and Davis, all traditional fishing villages. One of the two larger fish houses in Atlantic, Clayton Fulcher and Son, closed in 2007 which will likely impact Beaufort

[10] 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.

fishermen. Nearby Harkers Island, long a fishing and boat building center, has no more fish houses.[11]

In 2006, the most valuable landings in Beaufort were in the "Other" category, but this value was very similar to that for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass (Table 1). Both the level of home port fishing and the level of landings in Beaufort was variable, between the 1997-2006 time period. The number of vessels both home ported and whose owner's city was Beaufort generally increased, with the exception of a slight dip in 2006 (Table 2).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value by Federally Managed Groups of landings in Beaufort

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Other[12]	2,097,663	1,556,593
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	987,903	1,522,597
Scallop	148,042	168,236
Monkfish	9,664	6,623
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	7,224	3,541
Bluefish	6,347	1,965
Dogfish	3,660	0
Tilefish	266	0
Largemesh Groundfish[13]	155	517
Smallmesh Groundfish[14]	22	0

Vessels by Year[15]

Table 2. All columns represent vessel permits or landings value combined between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port ($)	Level of fishing landed port ($)
1997	12	12	906,322	2,957,119
1998	9	10	618,295	4,054,822
1999	8	17	1,284,287	3,653,821
2000	17	18	3,088,077	3,569,251
2001	18	17	2,047,592	2,398,485
2002	18	17	2,618,162	3,551,520
2003	16	17	2,085,527	2,688,498
2004	17	17	2,645,490	3,893,049
2005	19	19	3,332,070	2,582,822
2006	16	17	2,750,147	3,260,072

 # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport
 # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence[16]
Level of fishing home port ($) = Landed value of fisheries associated with home ported vessels
Level of fishing landed port ($) = Landed value of fisheries landed in location

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[11] Community Review Comments, Barbara Garetty Blake, Marine Fisheries Commission, 3441 Arendell Street - Morehead City, NC 28557, September 28, 2007

[12] "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

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

[14] Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

[15] 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.

[16] 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

Recreational fishing is a billion dollar industry in North Carolina (Stoffle nd) . Beaufort has several charter and party boat companies, such as Mystery Tours Inc. which has a 65 foot boat which can accommodate 40-50 people comfortably. They advertise fishing for "flounder, trout, croakers, spots, black sea bass, sharks, blues, and many other fish abundant in the area." There are also several fishing tournaments that go on throughout the year.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

One of the major issues facing the future of commercial fishing in Beaufort is pressure from the recreational fishing companies. The recreational fishing companies are concerned with the harvesting of menhaden, which is a major source of food for larger fish (Cheuvront 2004). In August 2005, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the agency that manages fisheries from Maine to Florida, placed the first ever cap on menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. It capped the annual catch at 105,800 metric tons a year (Boorstein 2005). This cap could force more boats further south to the Beaufort area, making the menhaden situation worse.

In a study done by Dr. Brain Cheuvront, of the Department of Environment & Natural Resources Division of Marine Fisheries, several local fishermen were interviewed to find out their thoughts about the future. "Most of the respondents were too worried about the future of the commercial fishery to recommend it [as an occupation for future generations]" (Cheuvront 2004). One general manager was quoted saying "I've got two boys and I told both of them I'm not going to allow them to come down here. I want something better for them than this" (Cheuvront 2004).

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