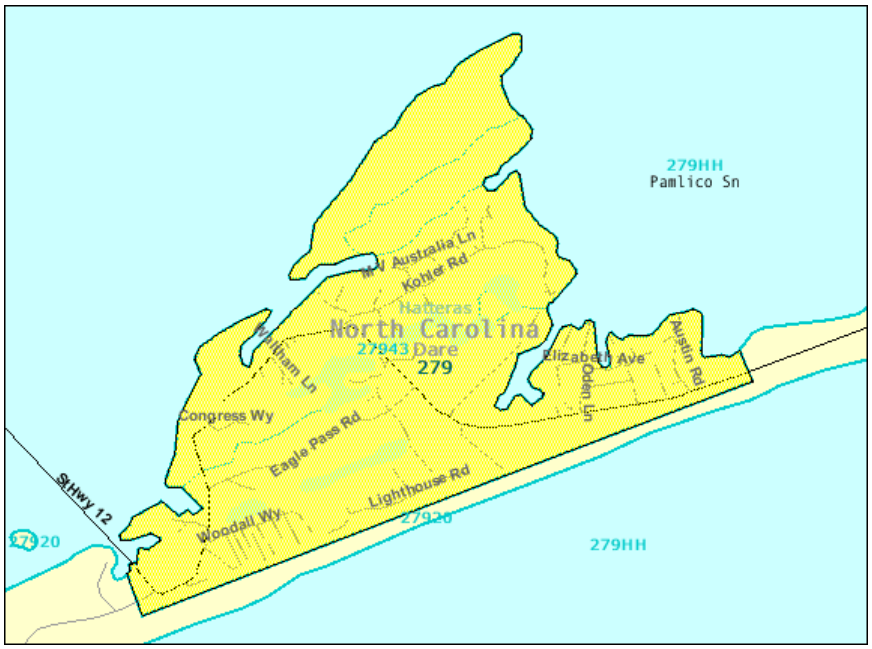
HATTERAS, NC[1]
Community Profile[2]

PEOPLE AND PLACES
Regional orientation

Hatteras (35.22°N, 75.69°W) is in Dare County, in the Kill Devil Hills metro area in the state of North Carolina. Hatteras is located on Hatteras Island, part of North Carolina's Outer Banks (USGS 2008). It separates Pamlico Sound from the Atlantic Ocean and Hatteras Inlet, to the south, joins the two.



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

Historical/Background

Hatteras is a village in Dare County, North Carolina. The area's name comes from the Pamlico Algonquian Hattorask tribe term for "less vegetation." Hatteras, unlike many of the other communities on the island, retained its original name. To avoid confusing the community with Hatteras Inlet, which is 4 miles south, or Cape Hatteras, located 13 miles to the north, "Village" is often added to the community name. In September of 1846, the Hatteras inlet was enlarged by a strong storm. The new Hatteras Inlet was created strategically to connect the Atlantic Ocean and the Pamlico Sound, making it easier to navigate from the north, as boats would not have to battle against the strong Gulf Stream. Soon after the inlet was created, a fishing and a shipping village developed near the inlet. A post office was established in Hatteras Village in 1858.

---

[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."

In 1861, the Hatteras area became the first part of the Confederacy to fall to the Union in The Civil War. In 1861, Fort Clark and Fort Hatteras which had guarded the inlet, fell to the Union as well. After the conclusion of the Civil War in 1878, the Durant's lifesaving station was built near the village. In the mid-1930s, the Army Corps of Engineers created a channel which allowed for better access from Pamlico Sound to the Hatteras Inlet. Soon after, a substantial fishing fleet began to develop in Hatteras.

During World War II, the Hatteras area became known a "Torpedo Junction." The nickname was given because of the heavy loss of ships attacked by German submarines. By the end of the war, over 100 ships were lost off the coast of Hatteras. After World War II, a free ferry began operating across the inlet to connect Hatteras to Ocracoke Island. NCDOT began ferry operations in February 1947. The ferry continues to operate today. The closest major highway, Highway 12, did not reach Hatteras until the 1950s (ICW-NET 2006). One website claims that today "Hatteras is probably best-known for its world-famous offshore fishing fleet" (Discover Hatteras 2006). It is often called the "blue marlin capital of the world" (Carlson 2005).

Demographics[3]

According to Census 2000 data, Hatteras had a total population of 634. The 1990 Census data for Hatteras was not available. Of this 2000 total, 53.8% were males and 46.2% were females. The median age was 43.4 years and 77.9% of the population was 21 years or older while 18.6% was 62 or older.

The age structure for Hatteras (Figure 1) shows that there were far more males than females for the age range 10-19 and 20-29. This may indicate females leaving the community in search of jobs or for school, while males are remaining. The largest age range was 40-49, and there were also a fair number of older residents.

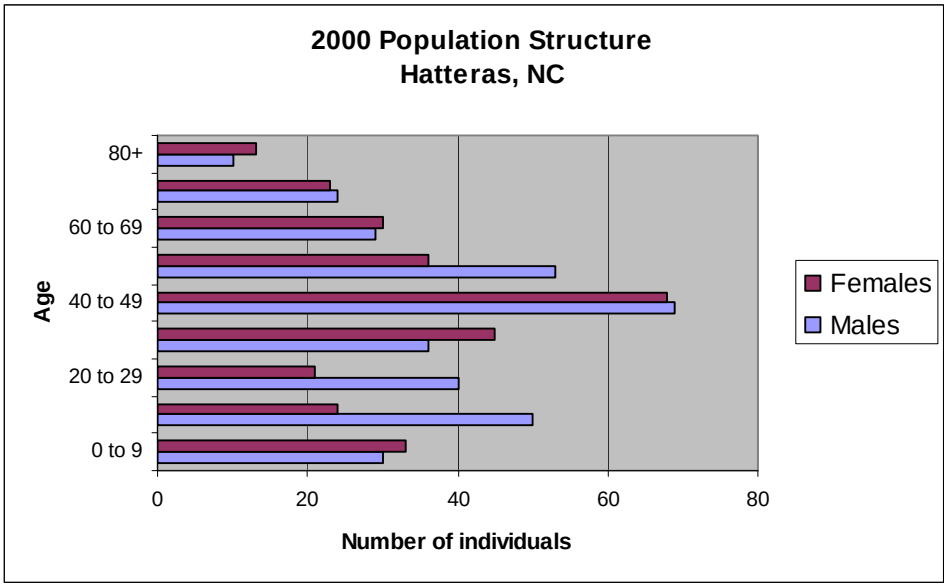


Figure 1. Hatteras's population structure by sex in 2000

The majority of the population was white (99.4%), with 0.2% black or African American, none Asian, 0.4% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only

[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.

0.3% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (43.4%), German (6.5%), Irish (5.7%), and United States or American (8.0%). With regard to region of birth, 59.0% were born in North Carolina, 39.7% were born in a different state and 1.2% were born outside of the U.S., all of whom were United States citizens.

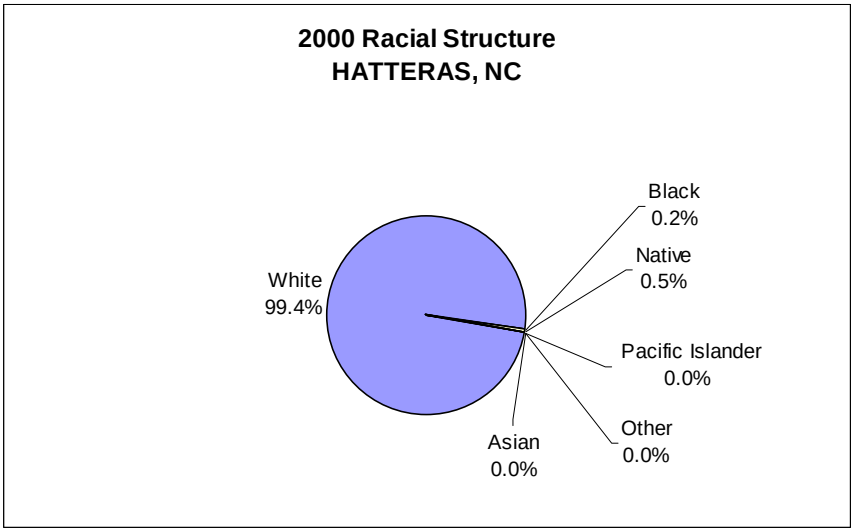


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

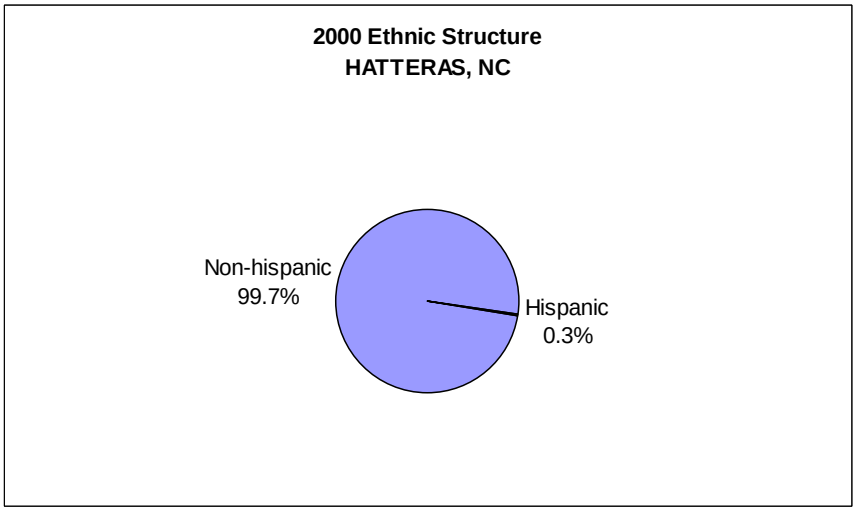


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

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, and none of the population who spoke English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 85.5% were high school graduates or higher, and 25.2% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.9% did not reach ninth grade, 11.6% attended some high school but did not graduate, 38.2% completed high school, 17.2% had some college with no degree, 4.8% received an associate's degree, 22.5% earned a bachelor's degree, and 2.7% received a graduate or professional degree.

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

number of congregations in Dare County was The United Methodist Church with 14 congregations and 4,686 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Assemblies of God (8 with 1,184 adherents), Southern Baptist Convention (6 with 1,783 adherents), Catholic (4 with 2,097 adherents), and Presbyterian (USA) (2 with 525 adherents). The total numbers of adherents to any religion was up 36.4% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Hatteras has two churches in the village: the Hatteras United Methodist church and Hatteras Assembly of God church (Hatteras Village 2006).

Issues/Processes

The destruction from Hurricane Isabel in 2003 intensified a debate over rebuilding and developing the coast. Critics contend that rebuilding and developing alters the rate of natural erosion and growth of the islands. More than half of the Outer Bank's 30,000 residents have full-time jobs directly related to tourism, making development an important issue for many (Kleckley 2006). Hurricane Isabel literally divided the villages of Hatteras and Frisco, creating a new inlet just north of Hatteras. It took two months and 400,000 cubic yards of sand to repair this hole in the barrier island (McGrath 2006).

Although it still remains less developed than many other communities on the Outer Banks, sprawl and overdevelopment is an ongoing issue in Hatteras, with two large condominium developments in the works. Residents are considering incorporation as a village; doing so would allow them to write their own zoning laws, and quell some of the spread of large developments, but would also require the community to arrange its own municipal services (Carlson 2005).

The small gillnetter vessels who fish commercially out of Hatteras are forced to compete with larger trawlers for croaker and other species (Carlson 2005).

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). Crab fishermen along North Carolinas eastern coast have also seen an increase in competition from the global market, with an influx of imported crab meat from around the world. Many local Crab processors are unable to compete and are losing profit (NCSG 2002).

Cultural attributes

Hatteras Village hosts the Day at the Docks, a celebration of Hatteras Island Watermen that includes competitions, displays, and exhibitions by watermen and fishing-related businesses and organizations. This day got its start after Hurricane Isabel, when Hatteras was cut off from the rest of the island; the festival celebrates the resiliency of the local watermen, who were the first residents able to get back to working after the hurricane. This festival is held as part of the annual Spirit of Hatteras Weekend. There is also a Blessing of the Fleet held at the event.

At 210 feet[4], the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is the tallest in the nation. It was endangered by the Atlantic Ocean but was saved in 1999 by moving the entire structure away from the sea. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore is a one of the country's most visited National Parks. The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras is dedicated to this area's reputation for having one of the highest densities of shipwrecks in the world. The museum is focused on preserving

[4] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

the maritime heritage of the Outer Banks. Until Hurricane Isabel, the village had a display of a commercial fishing vessel, the *Jackie Fay*, in a shed for public viewing as visitors drove into the town. The boat was, however, lost during the hurricane (Carlson 2005).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Hatteras' proximity to the Gulf Stream provides for large recreational and commercial fisheries. A growing offshore charter boat industry has operated on the Outer Banks since 1937, and pursues bluewater gamefish such as tuna, billfish, wahoo and dolphin. A growing private boat fleet also seeks the same species (Currin and Ross 2002). Hatteras relies on these nearby fishing grounds to support its economy, both through commercial fishing and through a booming sportfishing industry (Hatteras Village 2006). The charter fishing industry in Hatteras began in 1937 (Carlson 2005). Most of Hatteras Island remains protected due to the National Seashore, so development has not been extensive (ICW-NET 2006). Three national wildlife refuges also protect portions of the Outer Banks from development. Many residents of Hatteras and the Outer Banks area have jobs related to tourism.

According to the U.S. Census 2000[5], 64.8% (individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 2.1% were unemployed, 1.4% were in the Armed Forces, and 61.3% were employed.

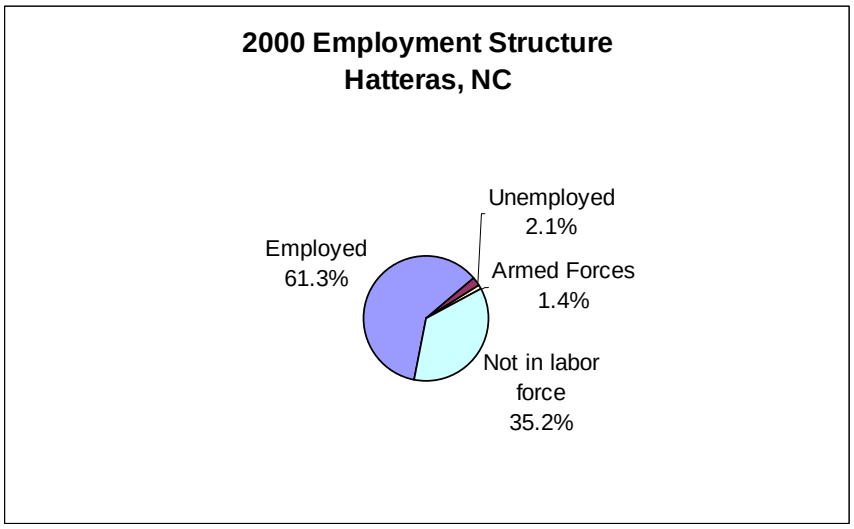


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 71 positions or 22.6% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 94 positions or 29.9% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (13.1%), retail trade (11.1%), wholesale trade (10.5%), professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (9.9%), construction (7%), and transportation and warehousing, and utilities (6.7%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Hatteras was $39,479 (1990 Census data was unavailable) and median per capita income was $18,677. The median household income, however, was

[5] 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.

reported as lower than the Census estimates by a community member.[6] For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 20.1% more per year than females.

The average family in Hatteras consisted of 2.79 persons. With respect to poverty, none of the families (1990 Census data was unavailable) and 3% of individuals earned below the official U.S. Census poverty threshold, although this figure was reported as higher by a community member source.[7] 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, 19.1% of all families (of any size) earned less than $35,000 per year.

In 2000, Hatteras had a total of 698 housing units of which 41.4% were occupied and 84.7% were detached one unit homes. Only 5.2% of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 4.9% of housing units; 93.7% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was $151,800. Of vacant housing units, 59.1% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 26.1% were renter occupied (US Census Bureau 2000).

Government

Hatteras is an unincorporated village in Dare County. Dare County is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners, elected at large in countywide elections to serve four-year staggered terms (Dare County 2006).

Fishery involvement in government

The Dare County Parks and Recreation Department offers a fishing school for children on Hatteras Island (Dare County 2006a).

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. There is a local Hatteras/Ocracoke chapter of the NCFA. Hatteras Island and its townships are also part of a Bill Fish Fishery Association. The association is trying to manage the Bill Fish through management plans.

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishing assistance centers in Hatteras is unavailable through secondary data collection. However, according to a community member source, fishermen depend on the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and the NC Fisheries Association for assistance. There are also reportedly members of the fishing industry who are participating in the process of preserving fishing as a way of life.[8]

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 (NCSG 2005).

---

[6] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

[7] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

[8] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

Other fishing related organizations

The Hatteras Marlin Club is a sportfishing club in Hatteras which sponsors tournaments, including the annual Hatteras Marlin Club Billfishing Tournament. Other clubs in the area include: Cape Hatteras Anglers Club, the NC Beach Buggy Association (surf fishing), and the Outer Banks Preservation Association (surf fishing) (Insiders.com 2006).

Physical

Hatteras is bordered by the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the Pamlico Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore includes over 75 miles of beautiful, undeveloped beaches, marshes, dunes, and flatlands. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore was the first national seashore in the nation. Three national wildlife refuges protect portions of the Outer Banks from development (Insiders.com 2006). Cape Hatteras projects eastward into the Atlantic Ocean. The cape is the closest land-mass to the Gulf Stream north of Florida (Currin Ross 2002). The Pitt-Greenville Airport is roughly 100 miles west of Hatteras, and the Craven County Regional Airport is 112 miles west. Most people who visit the area by plane use private planes via the Billy Mitchell Airport in Frisco or fly to Norfolk and rent a car.[9] Hatteras is 142 miles southeast of Norfolk, Virginia. Raleigh is roughly 252 miles east of Hatteras. A free state-run ferry takes travelers between Hatteras and Ocracoke Island (Discoverhatteras.com 2006).

Many of the commercial fishermen in Hatteras use the docks off Altoona Lane, particularly the crabbing boats (McCay Cieri 2000). The charter fishing boats are generally found at five different docks including Hatteras Harbor Marina, Teach's Lair Marina, Hatteras Landing, and Oden's Dock. Most marinas have bait and tackle shops and fish cleaning businesses. Oden's Dock is also where many of the commercial fishermen spend their time when not at sea (Carlson 2005).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES[10]

Commercial

Hatteras has three fish houses. Avon Seafood is adjacent to the Hatteras Marlin Club (Carlson 2005). Another seafood wholesaler is Jeffrey's Seafood, located at Hatteras Harbor Marina, with another location on Altoona Lane.[11] Crabbing, while not evident in the federal data, is a common fishery in Hatteras (McCay and Cieri 2000). Gray trout is another species targeted commercially, especially during the winter months. Around 70% of gray trout caught on the east coast comes from Hatteras, where it is sent to be processed the Fulton Fish Market in

[9] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

[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.

[11] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

New York City.[12] King mackerel is fished both recreationally and commercially in Hatteras, although more frequently commercially. Some of the commercial boats also catch menhaden to sell to the bait shops in and around Hatteras. Much of the commercial fishing in Hatteras is by small gillnetters. Some of the charter boats in Hatteras fish commercially during the winter months, although this practice is less common than it once was (Carlson 2005).

The top landings for Hatteras in 2006 were species in the "Other" category, followed by bluefish. Many of the other species landed in Hatteras showed lower 2006 values than the ten year average, with the exception of "Other" and tilefish (Table 1). Landings for Hatteras were not recorded at the port level until 1999; landings were over $1 million in every year for which data are provided with the exception of 1999. Landings decreased between 2000 and 2003, but rose again in 2004. Overall, the level of port landings was more than the value of landings for home ported vessels, indicating that most of the vessels landing their catch in Hatteras do not list Hatteras as their home port. The number of vessels with Hatteras as their home port changed only slightly while the level of fishing for home ported vessels were slightly more erratic (Table 2).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups of landing in Hatteras

	Average from 1999-2006	2006 only
Other[13]	1,614,995	2,136,774
Bluefish	40,600	31,359
Dogfish	27,379	55
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	22,345	5,051
Monkfish	6,085	1,995
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	6,030	20
Tilefish	1,830	3,102
Skate	93	2
Largemesh Groundfish[14]	21	70
Smallmesh Groundfish[15]	14	0

[12] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

[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)

Vessels by Year[16]

Table 1. 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	13	13	100,067	NOT RECORDED
1998	4	6	120,628	NOT RECORDED
1999	7	6	355,513	963,948
2000	14	9	424,585	1,944,969
2001	13	8	425,991	1,746,258
2002	14	7	434,144	1,393,895
2003	12	7	374,491	1,127,905
2004	13	8	442,299	2,180,696
2005	10	5	376,366	2,485,012
2006	8	5	352,692	2,178,428

 # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport
 # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence[17]
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

Recreational

Recreational fishing is prominent in Hatteras, which is known as the "world's blue marlin capital". Six marinas offer charter and party fishing boats to take visitors out fishing (Discover Hatteras 2006). There are twenty three charter boats listed at Hatteras Harbor Marina, three listed at Oden's Dock, three at Hatteras Landing, and twelve at Teach's Lair Marina.[18] There are also two head boats at Oden's and three Charter boats, and one head boat at Teach's Lair.[19]

Different kinds of fishing are accessible depending upon the time of year. Dolphin, wahoo, tuna, king mackerel, or billfish may be caught in the spring, summer, or fall, while giant bluefin tuna are caught in the winter. At one time, it was common for charter boats to take passengers out for sportfishing from May through September, and fish commercially through the rest of the year, but today this is less common. Charter boats now fish through most of the year, serving tourists who want to fish inshore during the summer months, and "real fishermen" who come during the fall to fish stripers, big drum, and king mackerel (Outerbeaches.com 2006a). Risky Business Seafood Market offers complete processing of catches, including cleaning, vacuum packaging, and freezing. They also serve seafood as take out for those who do not want to cook themselves (Outerbeaches.com 2006).

The Hatteras Village Offshore Open Fishing Tournament is a major fishing tournament held each year in May as part of the Governor's Cup. There is also a Hatteras Village Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament held in September.

---

[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.

[18] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

[19] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is studying hot spots along the Outer Banks where the barrier island is likely to be breached again in the event of a storm. They are identifying sources of sand near the hotspots to be able to repair the gaps quickly, as they did in Hatteras after Hurricane Isabel (McGrath 2006).

Many commercial fishermen in Hatteras are anxious about the future, because they see their industry being forced out by "federal regulations"[20], tourism and recreational fishing (McCay and Cieri 2000).

REFERENCES

Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA). 2000. Interactive maps and reports, counties [cited Jun 2006]. Available at: http://www.thearda.com/

Carlson T. 2005. Hatteras Blues: A story from the edge of America. Chapel Hill (NC): University of North Carolina Press.

Currin M, Ross S. 2002. Boating uses, economic significance and information for North Carolina's Offshore Area, "The Point." Volume 1: Characterization of recreational and commercial fisheries at "The Point" Off-Shore, North Carolina. Available at: http://www.gomr.mms.gov

Dare County. 2006. Web site [cited Jun 2006]. Available at: http://www.co.dare.nc.us/

Discover Hatteras. 2006. Web site [cited Jun 2006]. Available at: http://www.discoverhatteras.com/

ICW-NET. 2006. Hatteras Village & Hatteras Inlet History. Available from: http://www.hatteras-nc.com/history/hatteras-village-history.shtml

Hatteras Village. 2006. Official web site [cited Jun 2006]. Available at: http://www.hatterasonmymind.com/

Insiders.com. 2006. North Carolina Outer Banks. Area overviews. Available from: http://www.insiders.com/outerbanks/main-overviews.htm

Kleckley J. 2006. The Outer Banks Economy. Bureau of Business Research, College of Business, East Carolina University. Available at: http://www.outerbankschamber.com/economics2.cfm

McCay B, Cieri M. 2000. Fishing Ports of the Mid-Atlantic: A Social Profile. Report to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Dover, Delaware, February 2000.

McGrath G. 2006. Officials hoping funds will shore up sources for sand. Star News (Wilmington, NC), 2006 Jan 10.

North Carolina Sea Grant (NCSG). 2002. Coastwatch High Season 2002: North Carolina Seafood Processors Go Global. Available from: http://www.ncseagrant.org/

NCSG. 2005. Coastwatch Winter 2005: Shrimp Economics: Coastal Tradition and Global Economy Converge. Available at: http://www.ncseagrant.org/

US Census Bureau. 1990. 1990 Decennial [cited Jun 2006]. Available from: http://factfinder.census.gov

[20] Community review comments; Helen Hudson, Hatteras Library, 57690 NC Highway 12, Hatteras, NC 27943, September 25, 2007

US Census Bureau. 2000a. Hatteras. Demographic Profile Highlights. [cited June 2006] Available from: http://factfinder.census.gov

US Census Bureau: 2000b. Poverty Threshold. [cited June 2006] Available from: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh00.html

US Geological Survey (USGS). 2008. US Board on Geographic Names: Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) [cited Feb 2007]. Available at: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/