

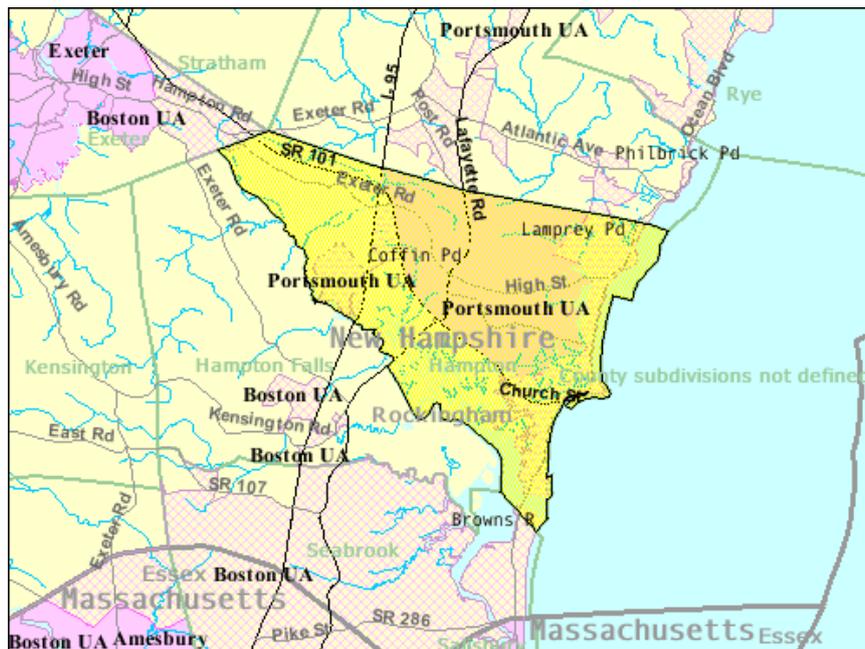
HAMPTON, NH¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The city of Hampton, New Hampshire (42.5°N, 70.5°W) (USGS 2008) is on the Atlantic Ocean's coast in the Rockingham County. Hampton contains 13.8 square miles of land area and 0.4 square miles of inland water area (Town of Hampton nd). Hampton borders Seabrook to the south; the two share a harbor and are connected by a causeway along the shore, and fishing activity in the two communities is difficult to separate. (Please refer also to the separate Seabrook community profile for additional information.)



Map 1. Location of Hampton, NH (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Originally called Winnacunnet, an Indian name meaning “pleasant pines,” Hampton is one of the four original New Hampshire towns established by the Massachusetts government. In 1638 the town’s founders, led by the Reverend Stephen Bachiler, traveled up the Hampton River to what would become the first settlement here (HHS nd).

While never numerous in Hampton, fishermen have been present here for centuries, and have been an important part of the local economy (Randall 1989). Today home to a variety of fishing vessels, as well as whale watch vessels and pleasure craft, Hampton Harbor was at one time home to a salt works (Shea 1931). Clamming has also been an important activity for the area, probably since the time of the first settlers (Randall 1989).

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.”

Tourist development in nearby Hampton has increased tremendously over the last twenty years; however, Hampton fishing activity is still active and is mainly driven by lobster fishing.

Demographics³

According to the Census 2000 data⁴, Hampton had a population of 14,937, down 21.7% from the reported population of 12,278 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.6% were males and 51.4% were females. The median age was 41.1 years and 76.2% of the population was 21 years or older while 17.8% of the population was 62 or older.

Hampton's population structure by age group (see Figure 1) shows the highest percentage of the population between 40 and 49 years, and the percentages subtly decrease as age groups increase by decade. As is common in smaller fishing towns and cities, there was a dip in the 20-29 age grouping.

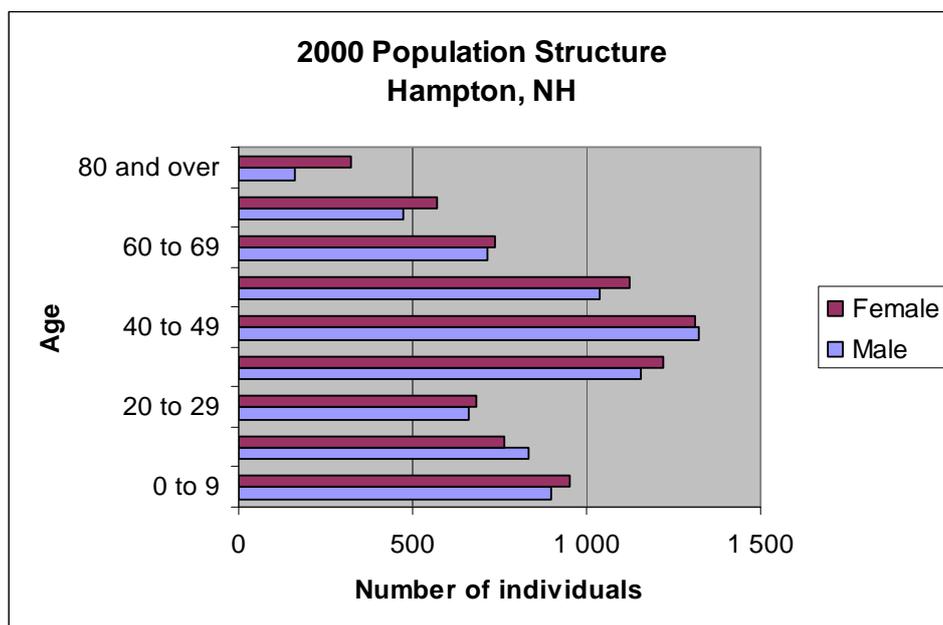


Figure 1. Hampton's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (97.6%), with 0.4% black or African American, 0.9% Asian, 0.2% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 0.9% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (20.1%), English (12%), Italian (8.7%), French (7.7%), and French Canadian (7.0%). With regard to region of birth, 26.8% were born in New Hampshire, 68.0 were born in a different state and 4.6% were born outside the U.S. (including 2.2% who were not US 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.

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 Hampton town, Rockingham County, NH (cited Aug 2007)

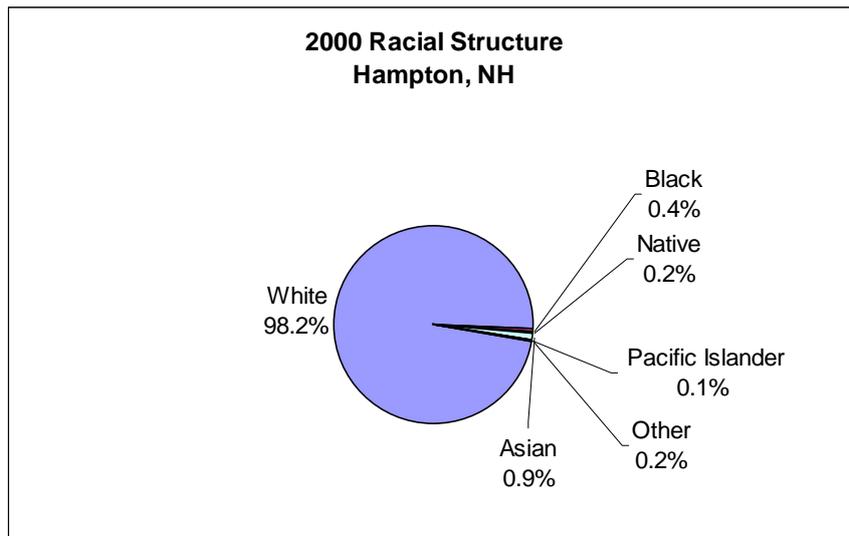


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

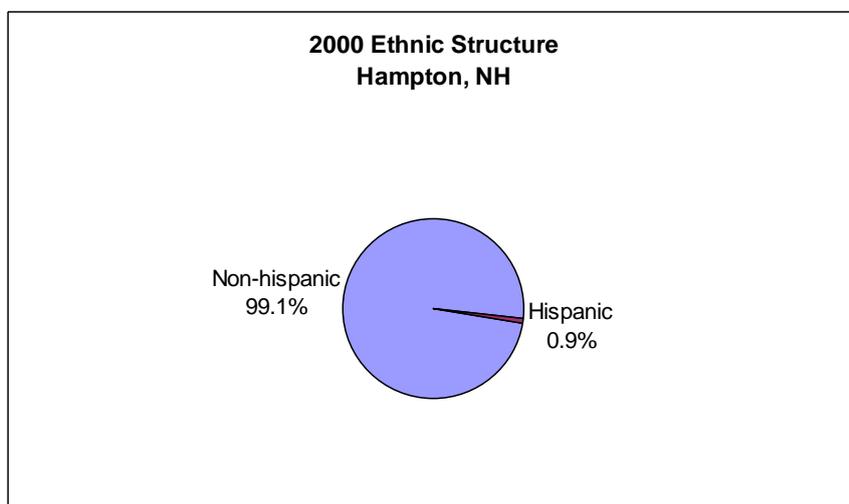


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 92.8% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 7.2% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 2.0% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 90.9% were high school graduates or higher and 36.3% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Of the population 25 years and over, 2.2% did not reach ninth grade, 6.9% attended some high school but did not graduate, 27.7% completed high school, 18.7% had some college with no degree, 8.2% received their associate’s degree, 24.4% earned their bachelor’s degree, and 11.9% received either their 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 religions with the highest number of congregations in Rockingham County included Catholic (25 with 117,542 adherents), United Church of Christ (23 with 6,352 adherents), and American Baptist (21 with 4,449 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 70.5% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

With the ever increasing need for Hampton to accommodate its growing tourism, the city has proposed a new master plan that will change zoning. Currently, the commercial fishing industry is in direct competition for waterfront access with residential and tourist uses. This has put a significant restraint on commercial fishing operations from basic waterfront access needs to parking and congestion. One current problem with regards to use by the commercial fishing industry is increased crowding in the harbor with recreational vessels and jet skis, resulting in conflicts and turning this into a safety issue (Cecil Group 2001).

Cultural attributes

[Hampton Beach Seafood Festival](#) is sponsored by the [Hampton Beach Chamber of Commerce](#) and is celebrated annually the weekend after Labor Day. However, few fishermen seem to participate to the festival; participants are mostly restaurants.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Salty's Lobster Company, Pelago's Seafood Inc., Defiant Lobster Company, Jones Lobster Fisherman Inc., and Oceans Unlimited Seafoods Inc. are wholesalers and retailers of seafood in Hampton. [Oceans Unlimited Seafoods Inc.](#) was founded in July 1991 and its products are scallops (domestic, imported), lobsters (Canada, Maine), haddock (Canada, Iceland, Norway), turbot (Canada), shrimps (Canada, Maine), pollock (Alaska, Canada, China), perch (Canada), snow crab (Alaska, Canada), cod (Alaska, Canada, Iceland), and flounder and sole (Alaska, Canada).

While much of the economy in Hampton is driven by the tourist industry, manufacturing and industry are still important here as well. The top employers for the town of Hampton are as follows: Foss Manufacturing (auto-marine carpet) – 190; Complex, Inc. (disposable medical supplies) – 105; Brazonics (electroplating) – 100; Speco (Industrial machine) – 75; Continental Microwave – 70; JD Cahill Co., Inc. (paper board) – 40; QA Tech Co., Inc. (spring contact probes) – 40; Carpenter Associates (architectural millwork) – 25 (ELMIB 2007).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 68.8% (8,249 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.5% were unemployed, 0.1% were in the Armed Forces, and 66.2% were employed.

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.

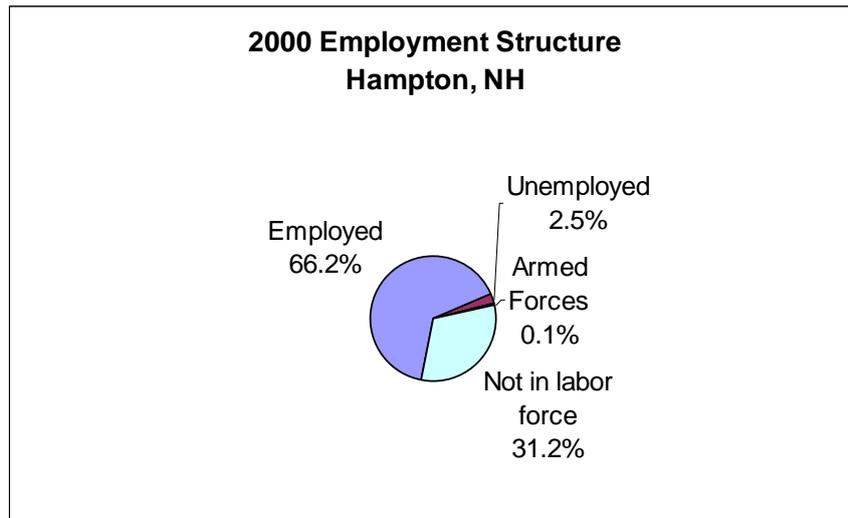


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 22 positions or 0.3% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 720 positions or 9.1% of jobs. Educational health and social services (16.1%), retail trade (13.2%), manufacturing (13%), and professional, scientific, management, administrative employments (11.8%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Hampton was \$54,419 (up 32.9% from \$40,929 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$29,878. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 32.2% more per year than females.

The average family in Hampton consisted of 2.86 persons. With respect to poverty, 4.5% of families (down from 5.4% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 5.9% 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, 20.2% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Hampton had a total of 9,349 housing units of which 69.2% were occupied and 55.7% were detached one unit homes. Very few (16.5%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes and boats accounted for 4.1% of housing units; 84.7% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$190,400. Of vacant housing units, 26.4% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 31.9% were renter occupied.

Government

Hampton has a Board of Selectmen and a town manager.

Fishery involvement in government

Hampton has a harbor master, overseen by the New Hampshire State Port Authority (NHDPH 2003).

INSTITUTIONAL

Fishing associations

The Yankee Fishermen's Cooperative (50-plus members) in Seabrook is the landing site and central wholesaling facility for the small local fleet (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). The Co-op provides a number of services for its members including bait, ice, cold storage and discounted goods from the Co-op store (Cecil Group 2001).

The New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association represents both lobstering and groundfishing, the major components of New Hampshire's commercial fishing industry. It has been an active advocate for industry issues at both the state and federal level with members participating as representatives on boards, commissions, and councils.⁶

Fishing assistance centers

When NMFS proposed Amendment 13, which closed vast areas to fishing, this reduced the number of days fishermen can fish, and required fishermen to purchase new and expensive gear. New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg (R) asked Senate Appropriations for more than \$11 million in economic assistance for New England fishing communities (Davidson 2002). As a result of Senator Gregg's efforts, a revolving loan fund was made available to the fishing industry. Fund activity has been sporadic because of the decline in economic investment in the industry resulting from regulatory conditions.⁷

Other fishing related organizations

[The Recreational Fishing Alliance](#) is "a national, grassroots political action organization representing individual sport fishermen and the sport fishing industry." [The Coastal Conservation Association](#) (CCA) is composed of recreational fishermen and addresses conservation issues nationally and at the state level. It was formed in 1998 in New Hampshire.

Physical

Hampton has both an interstate (I-95) and state (1A, 51) highway system providing access within and to the city for those with vehicles. It is 63 miles from Portland, 46 miles northeast of Boston, and 35 miles from Manchester (MapQuest nd). Transportation within the city is provided by the Hampton Area Trolley which is operational from Memorial Day until the Hampton Beach Seafood Festival in September. Five trolleys cover the seacoast area with four trips a day from Seabrook to Kittery, Maine (Town of Seabrook 2000).

The nearest airport is Pease Airport in Newington, New Hampshire. The nearest commercial airport is at Manchester (40 miles). There are two elementary schools, one middle/junior high school, one high school, and two private schools in Hampton. The nearest hospital is Exeter Hospital in Exeter (7 miles) (MapQuest nd).

Hampton-Seabrook Harbor is a smaller bar-built estuary situated behind barrier beaches and surrounded by over 5,000 acres of salt marsh. Covering an area of approximately 475 acres at high tide, this estuary has approximately 72 miles of tidal shoreline. Sandy beaches, including some of the last remaining sand dunes in coastal New Hampshire, are a popular tourist attraction adjacent to and within the estuary. The Hampton-Seabrook Harbor also serves as a popular clamming destination and has the most productive flats in the state (NHEP 2008).

⁶ Profile review comment, Erik Anderson, President, New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association, 38 Georges Terrace Portsmouth, NH 03801, September 28, 2007

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INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁸

Commercial

Most of the fishermen in Hampton are members of the Yankee Fisherman's Cooperative (Co-op) that is located in Hampton-Seabrook Harbor (Cecil Group 2001). The Co-op provides a number of services for its members, including bait, ice, cold storage and discounted goods from the Co-op store. There are also a number of part-time fishermen that use the harbor. Depending on the season, a given fisherman might fish for a variety of species - groundfish in the spring, shrimp in the winter, and finfish in the summer or fall. Lobsters can be taken year round, though stocks are more abundant in the late spring, summer and fall. Because of the federal limits on the number of catch for ground fish, many of the fishermen have moved solely to lobstering.

The commercial industry in Hampton/Seabrook estuary is very active, and most of the wholesalers and retailers of seafood are located in Hampton. The Yankee Fisherman's Cooperative Pier in Hampton Harbor has a seafood processing facility which handles both shellfish and finfish where landings from Seabrook are also processed. Other commercial fisheries in the Hampton/Seabrook estuary include herring, baitfishing for alewives, mummichogs (*Fundulus sp.*) and tomcod using gillnets, seines and minnow traps; trapping for eels, and angling and dipnetting for smelt (NHEP 2008).

Landings and permit data are provided for both Hampton and Hampton/Seabrook (please also refer to Seabrook, profiled separately). Landings were not recorded for Hampton, only Hampton/Seabrook, for 1997-1999. The most valuable species landed in Hampton in 2006, and averaged for 2000-2006, was lobster. Scallop landings made up most of the rest of 2006 values (see Table 1). For landings listed as Hampton/Seabrook (see Table 2), lobster was also the most valuable species on average, followed closely by largemouth groundfish and other. Only species from the "other" category were landed at Hampton/Seabrook in 2006. Overall, landings in Hampton are low, with the peak occurring in 2006, and landings under \$200,000 until 2005. The value of landings to home ported vessels was much higher in all years, with a generally increasing trend and a peak of just under \$1.5 million in 2005 (see Table). In most years, the majority of landings were listed for Hampton/Seabrook (see Table) with a peak of over \$2.7 million in 2001. Landings in Hampton/Seabrook fell to just under \$57,000 in 2006; some of this decline can be explained by an increase in landings listed as Hampton, but not all of it. The number of home ported vessels in Hampton fluctuated, increasing from a low of 37 in 1998 up to 49 in 2002, back down to 38 in 2006. In all years the number of vessels with owners living in Hampton (owner's city vessels) was lower than the number of home ported vessels, indicating that many boats home ported in Hampton are owned by people living in other communities. No vessels were listed for Hampton/Seabrook.

⁸ 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. Dollar Value by Federally Managed Groups of Landings in Hampton

HAMPTON	Average from 2000-2006	2006 only
Lobster	98,586	155,735
Largemesh Groundfish ⁹	20,549	0
Scallop	19,591	102,149
Monkfish	1,235	12
Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁰	432	0
Other ¹¹	114	0
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	103	0
Herring	83	0
Bluefish	75	0
Skate	5	0

Table 2. Dollar Value by Federally Managed Groups of Landings in Hampton/Seabrook

HAMPTON/SEABROOK	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Lobster	461,493	0
Largemesh Groundfish ¹²	435,839	0
Other ¹³	413,816	56,941
Monkfish	46,356	0
Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁴	35,666	0
Dogfish	22,504	0
Scallop	11,599	0
Herring	3,487	0
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	2,332	0
Skate	1,462	0
Bluefish	1,394	0
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	326	0
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	3	0

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

¹⁰ Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

¹¹ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹² Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

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

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

Vessels by Year¹⁵

Table 3. All columns represent Federal Vessels Permits or Landings Value combined between 1997-2006 in Hampton

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	42	26	900,990	NOT RECORDED
1998	37	23	1,096,890	NOT RECORDED
1999	43	25	786,680	NOT RECORDED
2000	43	25	1,284,983	12,616
2001	45	29	1,195,246	84,232
2002	49	31	1,359,713	124,136
2003	47	30	1,394,132	123,761
2004	48	29	1,306,731	153,544
2005	44	29	1,483,719	229,593
2006	38	26	1,446,422	257,896

Table 4. All columns represent Federal Vessels Permits or Landings Value combined between 1997-2006 in Hampton/Seabrook

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	0	0	0	2,022,174
1998	0	0	0	2,211,719
1999	0	0	0	2,631,782
2000	0	0	0	2,396,345
2001	0	0	0	2,738,384
2002	0	0	0	1,943,996
2003	0	0	0	63,463
2004	0	0	0	164,743
2005	0	0	0	133,216
2006	0	0	0	56,941

Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁶

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

There are numerous tourist-related businesses including sport fishing, whale watching, windjammers/charter sailing, and harbor tours/day cruises in Hampton (HACC 2008). Recreational shellfishing is allowed in the harbor area under limited conditions on weekends from November to May. Most of the shellfish activity occurs on the Hampton/Browns Confluence Flat, Common Island Flat, and Middle Ground Flat. The latter

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.

two are in Seabrook Harbor. There is no commercial shellfishing permitted in New Hampshire (Cecil Group 2001).

Several charter boat companies in Hampton Harbor carry fishing parties to inshore waters for clams and to the offshore waters to pursue cod, flounder, mackerel, and other fish. Another important recreational fishing activity is trap fishing for lobsters (NHEP 2008).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

In 2001 Hampton proposed a new Master Plan to balance commercial activities with residential interests. The Plan includes multiple programs and financial incentives to support reinvestment in commercial properties as well as to repair and maintain commercial fishing infrastructure such as piers. This Plan focuses on the core commercial area and central portions of Hampton Beach, which has experienced the most problems and the greatest apparent disinvestments (Cecil Group 2001).

The perception in Hampton of the future of commercial fishing is “good.” While fishermen certainly feel restrained by fishing regulations they generally believe that there are many fish to be caught and the populations are increasing (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

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