

HAMPTON BAYS/SHINNECOCK, NY¹

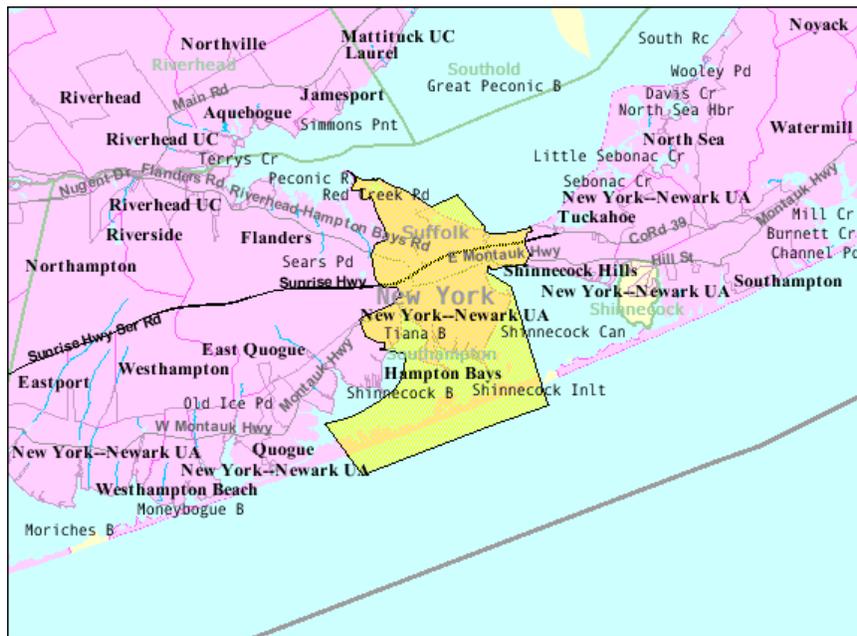
Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Hampton Bays and Shinnecock here are considered to be the same community. Shinnecock is the name of the fishing port located in Hampton Bays on the barrier island next to Shinnecock Inlet, and does not actually refer to a geopolitical entity. Fishermen use either port name in reporting their catch, but they are considered to be the same physical place.

The hamlet of Hampton Bays is located on the southern coast of Long Island, NY in the town of Southampton. Southampton is a very large township, encompassing 128 square miles. Hampton Bays is on the west side of Shinnecock Bay, a bay protected from the Atlantic by a barrier island and accessed through Shinnecock Inlet. The Shinnecock Canal connects Shinnecock Bay with Great Peconic Bay to the north, allowing vessels to pass between the southern and northern sides of Long Island without having to travel east around Montauk (Town of Southampton nd).



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

Historical/Background

The first inhabitants of this area were Native Americans from the Shinnecock tribe, people who still reside in Southampton today on the Shinnecock Reservation. The first

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."

European settlers arrived here in 1640, from Lynn, Massachusetts. Sag Harbor in Southampton was an important whaling port early on, and along with agriculture was the town's primary industry. Starting in the 18th century, residents would dig inlets between Shinnecock Bay and the Atlantic Ocean to allow water in the Bay to circulate, and to increase fish and shellfish productivity in the bay. The Shinnecock Canal, connecting Shinnecock Bay with Peconic Bay, was built in 1892 (Oles 2005). During the 1870s, as the Long Island Railroad running between New York City and Montauk was completed, the communities in Southampton became important tourist destinations where New York City residents built their summer homes, and it retains this distinction today as a vacation destination for New Yorkers. The population of Southampton grows considerably during the summer months, and at its peak is nearly triple the winter population (Town of Southampton nd). Hampton Bays is the most populous of eighteen unincorporated hamlets within Southampton (Oles 2005).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data, Hampton Bays had a total population of 12,236, up 55.0% from 7,893 in 1990. Of this total in 2000, 50.4% were female and 49.6% were male. The median age was 38.8 years and 76.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 19.1% were 62 or older.

Hampton Bays' age structure showed the majority of residents to be in the 30-39 and 40-49 year old age categories (see Figure 1). There is a relatively even distribution of men and women in all age categories. A slight dip in the number of 10-19 year olds probably indicates students leaving for college at this time, but there is nothing to demonstrate significant migration either in or out of Hampton Bays.

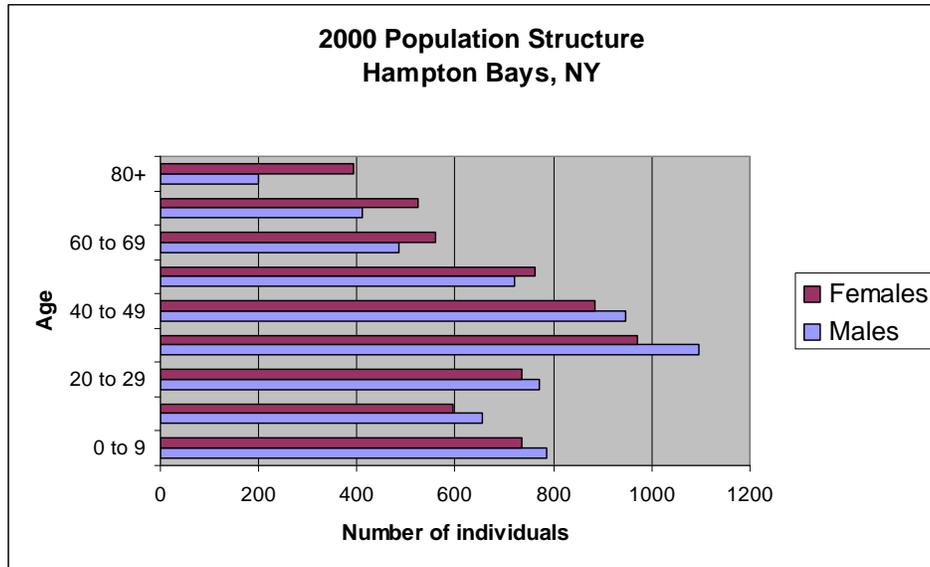


Figure 1. Hampton Bays' population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population of Hampton Bays in 2000 was white (92.8%), with 1.1% of residents Black or African American, 0.4% Native American, 0.9% Asian, and 0.1% Pacific

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.

Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). A total of 12.5% of the total population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their heritage to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (25.7%), Italian (21.6%), German (17.3%), and English (11.6%). With regard to region of birth, 74.7% were born in New York, 10.8% were born in a different state and 13.4% were born outside of the U.S. (including 8.7% who were not United States citizens).

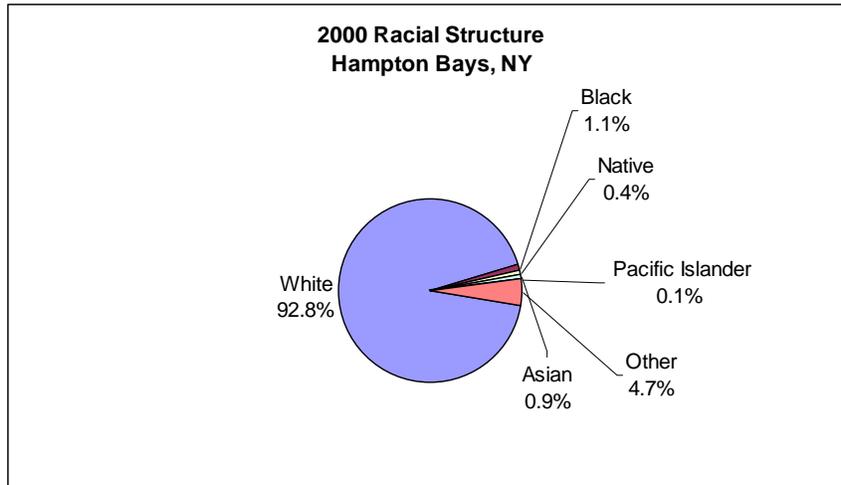


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

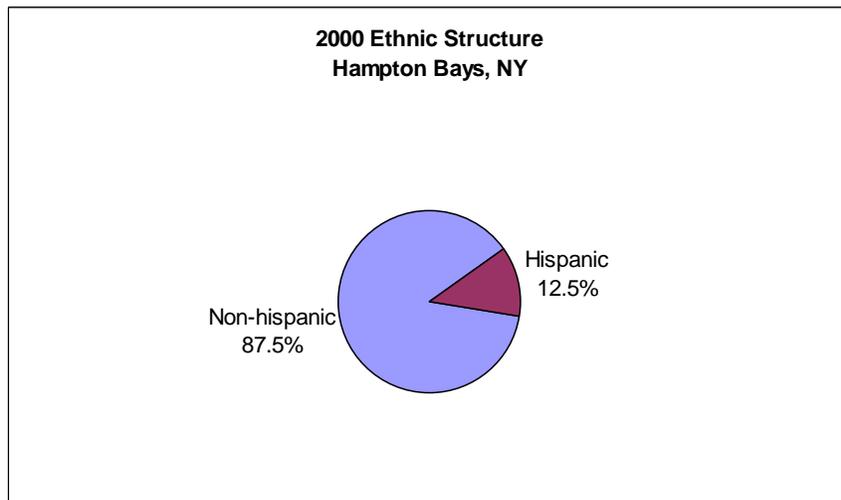


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 82.8% of the population 5 years old and higher in 2000, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 17.2% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and including 9.2% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well'.

Of the population 25 years and over, 86.6% were high school graduates or higher and 25.9% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 5.3% did not reach ninth grade, 8.0% attended some high school but did not graduate, 33.2% completed high school, 20.8% had some college with no degree, 6.7% received an associate's degree, 16.0% earned a bachelor's degree, and 9.9% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious 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 Suffolk County was Catholic with 72 congregations and 734,147 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Jewish (48 with 100,000 adherents), United Methodist (47 with 22,448 adherents), Episcopal (40 with 16,234 adherents), Evangelical Lutheran Church (26 with 19,378 adherents), and Muslim (9 with 12,139 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 3.8% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

The population of the town of Southampton has been growing steadily, and a number of seasonal home owners are choosing to live here year round. This is changing the population structure and dynamics of the town, and is likely to cause house prices to increase in an area where affordability is already a problem. The area around Shinnecock Inlet is one where much growth is expected to occur (Town of Southampton nd). As in many other coastal communities with a fishing industry, the soaring costs of waterfront property make it very difficult for fishermen and others in the industry to afford or retain necessary waterfront property for water access (Town of Southampton nd). Most of the infrastructure at Shinnecock has disappeared in the last few years; where there were at one time three docks for commercial fishermen to pack out at, now only one remains.

Some fishermen are concerned about the accuracy of their assigned historical landings by species for fisheries (often used for promulgating new regulations), as the method used to land fish in New York varies from that in most other states. Called the “box method” it involves fish being boxed at sea, then landed at a consignment dock and from there shipped to Fulton Fish Market in New York City. Prior to the implementation of dealer electronic reporting, NMFS port agents counted the number of boxes landed from each vessel and received a species breakdown from the dock manager (who did not open the boxes but rather based the breakdown on his knowledge of the vessel’s general fishing patterns). This system allowed greater potential for accidental misreporting. Now, the boxes are landed at the consignment dock and immediately shipped to Fulton, where the dealer opens the boxes and reports the landings. Further, individual fishermen report using VTR, logbooks and other methods.

While this method is more accurate in terms of the number and type of fish landed, it can still lead to another type of accidental reporting error. That is, landings are assigned to the incorrect state. This can have inequitable effects on states should an allocation scheme be developed, such as the one for summer flounder, that bases a state’s allocation on the landings of a particular species in that state.

The docks make money by charging \$10-\$12 per box (2007 prices) and by selling fuel. Catch limits and trip limits reduce the number of boxes to be shipped, and have made it very difficult for the docks to stay in business. New York is losing much of its infrastructure, and many of the docks have closed or changed hands in recent years.⁴

In recent years some vessels have been repossessed, which signifies a great change in a fishery where there was always money to be made at one time. The rest of the fleet is aging badly, but fishermen cannot afford new vessels.⁵

As in many other areas of Long Island where clams and other shellfish are a significant part of the fishing industry, water quality is a consistent problem in the increasingly populated shallow bays where the clams are dug (New York Seafood Council n.d.) The bays have had

⁴ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005

⁵ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005

several problems with algal blooms of *Aureococcus anophagefferens*, or brown tide, which killed off bay scallop populations here, and is believed to be related to nutrient depletion in the bay (Oles 2005).

Shinnecock Inlet needs to be dredged consistently because of siltation to allow commercial fishermen and recreational vessels to pass in and out of the inlet into the Atlantic Ocean, which is a costly process (Oles 2005). The Long Island Power Authority is seeking permission to construct a wind farm off Long Island, a proposal which has met with opposition from commercial fishermen in Hampton Bays and elsewhere on the island, because the turbines will block access to a highly productive squid fishery (Anonymous 2005).

Cultural attributes

Sportfishing tournaments are a popular event in this area (Shinnecock Marlin and Tuna Club 2007).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The largest employer in Southampton Town is Southampton Hospital, which employs over 100 people. Other significant sources of employment for residents are in businesses related to tourism or the second home industry, including landscaping, pool maintenance, and construction.⁶

Many employers in the fishing industry have noted the difficulty in attracting employees here when many can make more money in the landscaping business, which has a high demand for laborers, particularly from April through November (Oles 2005). Port Agent Erik Braun said there has been an influx of Hispanic dock workers, and many of the fishermen have had to learn Spanish to communicate with them. This has been a dramatic change within the last 5 years, he said. He also stated that there are no new fishermen starting up, and the children of fishermen, even those that are doing well, are not encouraged to enter into this business.⁷

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁸, 60.6% (6028 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force, of which 3.4% were unemployed, 0.3% were in the Armed Forces, and 57.0% were employed (Figure 4).

⁶ Personal communication, Southampton Town Chamber of Commerce, 76 Main St., Southampton, Long Island, NY 11968, 7/13/05

⁷ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005

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.

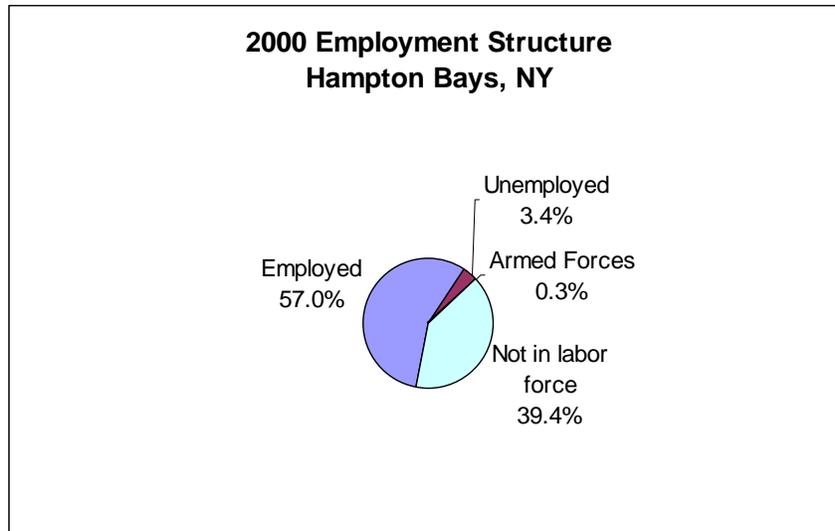


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 95 positions or 1.7% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 789 positions or 13.9% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (20.3%), construction (18.9%), and retail trade (14.4%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Hampton Bays in 2000 was \$50,161 (up 40.0% from \$35,736 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$27,027. For full-time year round workers, men made approximately 56.6% more per year than women.

The average family in Hampton Bays consisted of 3.0 persons. With respect to poverty, 6.7% of families (up from 2.4% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 10.7% of individuals were 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 2000b). In 2000, 23.2% of families in 2000 earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Hampton Bays had a total of 6,881 housing units of which 70.9% were occupied and 86.3% were detached one unit homes. Less than ten percent (7.1%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 1.7% of the total housing units; 93.9% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$178,000. Of vacant housing units, 84.3% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 29.8% were renter occupied.

Government

A 5-person Town Board governs the town of Southampton. There is 1 supervisor, elected to a 2-year term, and the rest of the board is elected to staggered 4-year terms (Town of Southampton nd).

Fishery involvement in the government

In addition to the Town Board, the town of Southampton has a Board of Trustees made up of five elected members, which is responsible for governing the laws of the waters and bay bottoms. Their jurisdiction includes boating activities, shellfishing licenses, shoreline protection,

and docks and other marine infrastructure. The laws of the Board of Trustees are enforced by the Bay Constables (Town of Southampton nd).

Institutional

Fishing associations

The New York Seafood Council, located in Hampton Bays, is the largest association representing fishing interests in the state. “The New York Seafood Council (NYSC) is an industry membership organization comprised of individuals, businesses, or organizations involved in the harvesting, processing, wholesale, distribution or sale of seafood products or services to the seafood industry in New York.” (NYSC 2008) The Southampton Town Baymen’s Association serves the interests of the inshore watermen utilizing Shinnecock Bay and the other bays within the town of Southampton. Also relevant to this area is the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, which promotes commercial fishing throughout Long Island (Oles 2005). The Shinnecock Co-op dock was in operation for 30 years, but went bankrupt and closed two years ago.⁹ There was also an organization called the Concerned Wives of Shinnecock Fishermen, that ceased to exist about 15 years ago.¹⁰

Fishery assistance centers

Information on fishery assistance centers in Hampton Bays was unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related organizations

The Shinnecock Marlin and Tuna Club is a recreational fishing club that sponsors tournaments. They also represent the interests of sportfishermen at meetings and fight for the improvement of Shinnecock Inlet and the preservation of local waters (Shinnecock Marlin and Tuna Club 2007).

Physical

Hampton Bays is strategically positioned on Shinnecock Bay, protected from the Atlantic by a barrier island and accessed through Shinnecock Inlet. This allows fishermen access to both productive coastal and offshore fishing, and its proximity to markets in New York City is also important (NYSC 2008). It is roughly 30 miles from Montauk, NY on the eastern tip of Long Island, and about 90 miles from New York City (NYSC 2008). The Francis Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach is 10 miles away, Long Island Islip MacArthur Airport is 36 miles away, and JFK International Airport is 77 miles from Hampton Bays (MapQuest 2005). The Long Island Railroad stops in Hampton Bays and travels directly into New York City. Roughly 80% of the finfish landed in Hampton Bays/Shinnecock is sold at Fulton’s Fish Market in New York City (NYSC 2008).

The commercial fishing industry for Hampton Bays/Shinnecock is located on a thin strip of sand on the barrier island by Shinnecock Inlet, allowing the vessels to easily pass out of the Inlet into the sea, physically isolated from the rest of the town. Until recently (2005), there were three docks in Shinnecock including the Shinnecock Fish Dock, the fishermen’s cooperative dock, which provided labor, ice, boxes, and trucking for its members, as well as low-cost fuel, and one private dock (Oles 2005). These docks are still present, but only the private dock is still

⁹ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005

¹⁰ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005

operating and packing out fish. The other docks are abandoned; vessels still tie up to them but cannot receive any services. The cooperative dock has been turned into a restaurant.¹¹

The majority of marinas and other infrastructure for recreational fishing as well as recreational boating within the town of Southampton are located in the Hampton Bays area alongside the Shinnecock Canal (Town of Southampton nd). The Shinnecock Canal County Marina is a publicly-owned marina along the canal (Town of Southampton n.d.), but it does not allow commercial vessels to tie up here (Oles 2005). There are at least two bait and tackle shops located in Hampton Bays, and several others within Southampton. There are also six fish retail markets located in Hampton Bays (NYSC 2008).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹²

Commercial

Both landings data and vessel data have been combined for Hampton Bays/ Shinnecock for this profile because the fishing communities are indistinguishable. Hampton Bays/ Shinnecock is generally considered the second largest fishing port in New York after Montauk. The combined ports of Hampton Bays/Shinnecock had more landings of fish and shellfish in 1994 than at any other commercial fishing port in New York. Combined landings of surf clams and ocean quahogs were worth roughly \$1.6 million in 1994, and squid was at the time the most valuable species here (NYSC 2008). A 1996 report from the New York Seafood Council listed the following vessels for the combined port of Hampton Bays/Shinnecock: 30-35 trawlers, 2-8 clam dredge vessels, 1-2 longline vessels, 1-3 lobster boats, 4-5 gillnetters, as well as 10-15 fulltime baymen and at least 100 part-time baymen (NYSC nd). As of 2005, there was one longline vessel here and many of the trawlers were gone.¹³

Hampton Bays/Shinnecock had at one time a significant surf clam and ocean quahog fishery, evident in the 1997 data, which by 2006 had completely disappeared (Table 1**Error! Reference source not found.**). Oles notes that surf clam and ocean quahog landings in the past had been from transient vessels landing their catch here (Oles 2005). The level of home port fishing declined over the period from 1997 – 2004 for vessels listed with either Hampton Bays or Shinnecock as their home port, but increased slightly in 2005 and 2006 (Table 2Table). Shinnecock/Hampton Bays saw the highest landings in the squid, mackerel, butterfish grouping on average for 1997-2006, at just over \$2.5 million. Landings in 2006 were less than the average value, at just over \$2 million. Landings of smallmesh groundfish, another important species grouping, were considerably lower in 2006 than the ten year average value. However, landings

¹¹ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005

¹² 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.

¹³ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005

of the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass grouping had increased in 2006, and landings of “other” species and scallops were both considerably higher in 2006 than the average values. Generally, the level of landings in Hampton Bays/Shinnecock was much higher than the home port values. Landings declined from a high of close to \$10 million in 1997 down to \$6.5 million in 2002-2004, increasing again to \$8 million in 2005 and 2006. The number of vessels home ported in Hampton Bays/Shinnecock generally declined, from 65 in 1997 to 49 in 2003, increasing again to 54 in 2006.

There are a number of baymen who work in Shinnecock Bay, through permits granted by the town of Southampton, fishing for eels, conch, razor clams, scallops, and oysters, among other species (Oles 2005). The Shinnecock Indians had an aquaculture facility for cultivating oysters in the bay, but the oyster beds were largely destroyed through pollution and nutrient-loading; they are once again starting to recreate the oyster beds (DCR 2004).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value by Federally Managed Groups of landings for Hampton Bays/Shinnecock

HAMPTON BAYS / SHINNECOCK	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	2,524,001	2,039,202
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	1,228,520	1,322,108
Smallmesh Groundfish¹⁴	1,061,915	289,561
Other¹⁵	934,568	1,525,033
Monkfish	640,566	651,960
Scallop	478,525	1,227,794
Largemesh Groundfish¹⁶	473,771	271,480
Tilefish	468,683	377,301
Bluefish	216,681	241,080
Skate	71,269	59,764
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	56,708	0
Dogfish	48,407	498
Lobster	25,638	17,937
Herring	393	1,738

¹⁴ Smallmesh Multi-Species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

¹⁵ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹⁶ Largemesh Groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

Vessels by Year¹⁷

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	65	38	8,195,598	9,754,671
1998	60	30	8,040,050	9,671,692
1999	58	32	9,172,792	8,445,374
2000	58	31	8,361,761	9,472,731
2001	57	36	7,598,408	9,221,483
2002	51	35	6,996,831	6,528,459
2003	49	33	5,291,436	6,528,459
2004	51	32	4,412,092	6,590,465
2005	50	37	4,866,267	8,057,658
2006	54	42	4,930,913	8,025,456

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

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁸

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 an important part of the tourist industry in Hampton Bays. The marinas here are well positioned for both inshore fishing in Shinnecock Bay and offshore fishing, and there are numerous charter and party boats that go fishing in both areas (Association of Marine Industries 1998). Many of those who own second homes in Southampton also own private boats for recreational fishing, and this contributed substantially to the marinas and other marine industries (Oles 2005). A website dedicated to fishing striped bass ([Stripers 247.com](http://Stripers247.com)) lists a number of locations in Hampton Bays for catching striped bass from on shore. One report estimated the value of recreational fishing at between \$32 million and \$66.8 million for the town of Southampton, which far exceeds the value of commercial fishing here. Recreational shellfishing is a popular activity in the area; at one time it was estimated that 50 percent of shellfishing in Southampton was done recreationally, both by residents and tourists (Town of Southampton nd).

Subsistence

Oles noted in his report on the Hampton Bays/Shinnecock community (2005) that the recreational fishery has shifted from one focused on bagging as many fish as possible for consumption to one focused on catch-and-release, as many of those fishing in the area can easily afford to buy fish.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

FUTURE

The master plan for the Town of Southampton includes a commitment to preserving the town's fisheries by protecting the industry from growth and development pressures, recognizing the importance of fisheries to both the economy and character of the area (Town of Southampton nd). The Master Plan, adopted in 1999, includes a plan to expand the town's commercial fishing dock (Town of Southampton nd).

"The resilience of the commercial fishing industry in Hampton Bays is threatened by the cumulative effects of fisheries management and the forces of gentrification that are sweeping the area" (Oles 2005). One potentially positive note for the fishing industry is that the barrier island and beach where the commercial fishing industry is located are owned by Suffolk County and cannot be developed, so there is less direct competition for space here (Oles 2005).

Erik Braun, the port agent for this part of New York, was not hopeful about the future of the fishing industry. He said there are no new fishermen getting into commercial fishing, and that even those who have done well are not encouraging their children to get into the industry. The fleet is badly aging and much of it is in disrepair. Much of the infrastructure here is also gone, and those who own docks can make much more by turning them into restaurants.¹⁹

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¹⁹ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005