

MATTITUCK, NY¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Mattituck (40.99°N, 72.54°W) is located in the township of Southold, Suffolk County on Long Island, New York. Mattituck borders Great Peconic Bay on one side and Long Island Sound on the other (USGS 2008).



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

Historical/Background

Mattituck is the second-largest of ten hamlets in the township of Southold, which encompasses Laurel, Cutchogue, New Suffolk, Peconic, Southold, Greenport, East Marion, Orient, Mattituck, and Fishers Island (Town of Southold nd). Europeans searching for turpentine arrived in Southold in approximately 1638 (Marinalife nd). Southold and Southampton are the oldest English settlements in New York, and were officially settled in 1640 (Stevens 2000). Much of the town was acquired from Native Americans in the Aquebogue Purchase in 1648-49 (Newsday 2008). Corchaug Indians, who were the first residents of the area, sold land to Theophilus Eaton, governor of New Haven, CT and was established by Charter to the New Haven Colony of Connecticut in 1658 when the Colony of Southold bought the land from

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.”

Connecticut (Mattituck Chamber of Commerce 2008). Mattituck itself was settled in 1662 by English colonists. The colonists pastured flocks and herds, and raised corn, wheat, and rye. The colony had a minister, teacher, a blacksmith, carpenter, cooper, weaver, and miller (Southold Town nd). The area became a significant farming area. Oysters have been raised in Great Peconic Bay since the early 1900s (Solomon 1998). Today Mattituck is known as a scenic community on Long Island.

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data, Mattituck CDP had a total population of 4,198, up 9.1% from 3,849 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.2% were males and 51.8% were females. The median age was 42.5 years and 73.9% of the population was 21 years or older while 21.3% was 62 or older.

Mattituck’s age structure (Figure 1) showed the largest percentage of the population between the 40-49 age bracket, followed by 50-59 and 30-39. There were a large number of children as well, indicating that Mattituck is a community of young families. As in many fishing communities, Mattituck experienced a decline in population in the 20-29 age bracket, as young people left the community to go to college or in search of jobs.

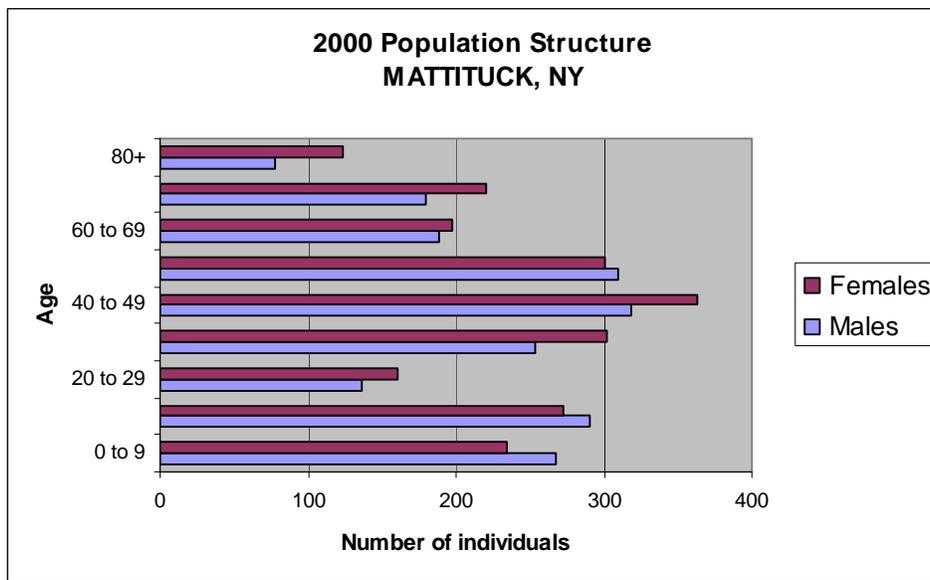


Figure 1. Mattituck’s population structure by sex in 2000

The majority of the population was white (97.7%), with 1.2% black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.02% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 2.5% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (30.5%), German (27.1%), Polish (17.3%), Italian (14.6%), and English (13.5%). With regard to region of birth, 84.7% were born in New York, 9.8% were born in a different state and 0.6% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.7% 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.

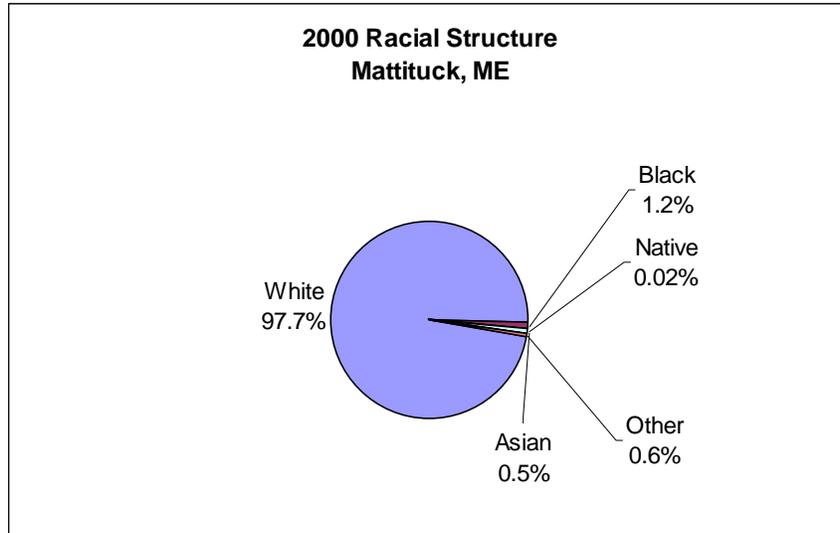


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

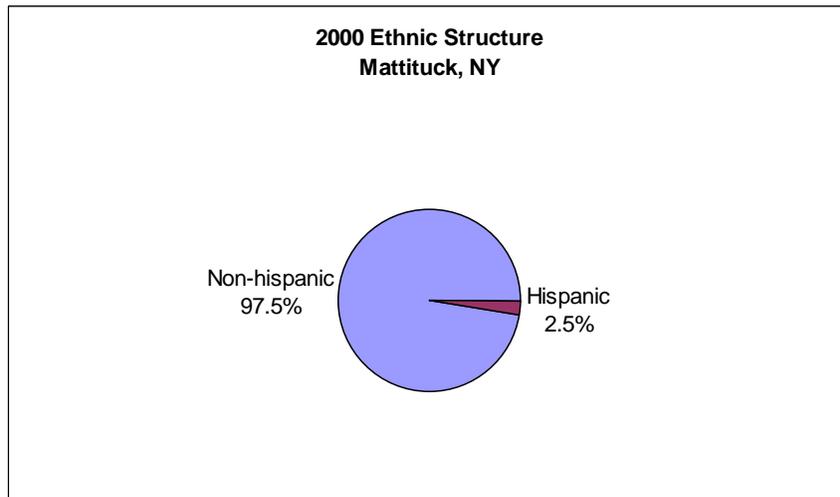


Figure 2. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (U.S. Census 2000)

For 91.9% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 8.1% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.9% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 91.4% were high school graduates or higher and 34.8% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.9% did not reach ninth grade, 5.7% attended some high school but did not graduate, 27.1% completed high school, 21.3% had some college with no degree, 8.2% received an associate’s degree, 17.7% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 17.1% 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 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).

Five churches are listed for Mattituck; two are Roman Catholic, and the others are Church of Christ, Lutheran, and Presbyterian (Mattituck Chamber of Commerce 2008).

Issues/Processes

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 harvested (NYSG nd). The bays have had several problems with algal blooms of *Aureococcus anophagefferens*, or brown tide, which has killed bay scallop populations and is believed to be related to nutrient depletion in the bay (Oles 2005a). Additionally, the Mattituck Inlet channel needs to be dredged frequently (Town of Southold 2004).

Mattituck has difficulty providing sufficient affordable housing for its residents (Lane 2007). The town of Southold has instituted a program to assist its residents with rising housing costs (Town of Southold nd).

Some fishermen are concerned about the accuracy of their assigned historical landings for fisheries (often used for promulgating new regulations). Using historical records is concerning fishermen and they question this method which is used to land fish in New York. 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 mis-reporting. 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

Cultural attributes

An annual Blessing of the Fleet and BBQ is held at the [Matt-a-Mar Marina](#) in Mattituck Inlet for the fishing fleet. Mattituck also has an annual Strawberry Festival and a Street Fair. Mattituck is located in the Long Island Wine Region that has over 30 vineyards (LIWC 2008).

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The total population of the township of Southold in 2000 was 20,599; this number more or less doubles in the summer months.⁵ Southold's Department of Public Works estimates that the largest employers in the town of Southold where Mattituck residents might work are Northfork Bank, Mattituck School District, the Town of Southold, Greenport Hospital, Peconic Landing (a retirement home), and the local school districts.⁶

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁷, 60.2% (2,025 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 1.2% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 59.0% were employed.

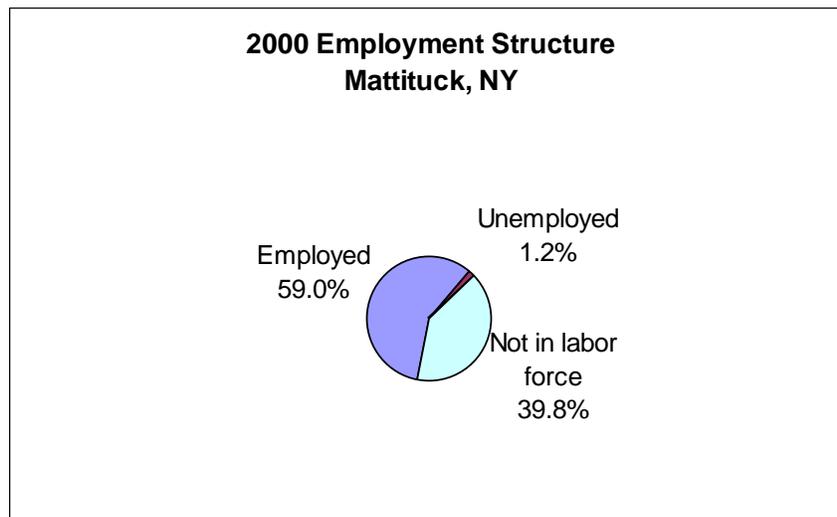


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 59 positions or 3.0% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 124 positions or 6.3% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (25.1%), retail trade (11.3%), construction (8.9%), public administration (8.9%), and professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services (8.6%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Mattituck was \$55,353 (up 52.0% from \$36,415 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$26,101. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 23.3% more per year than females.

The average family in Mattituck consisted of 2.97 persons. With respect to poverty, 4.5% of families (up from 4.4% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 5.6% of individuals earned below the o 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)

⁵ Personal Communication, Jim McMahon, Director of Public Works, Town of Southold, Southold Town Hall, PO Box 1179 Southold, NY 11971, June 9, 2006

⁶ Personal Communication, Jim McMahon, Director of Public Works, Town of Southold, Southold Town Hall, PO Box 1179 Southold, NY 11971, June 9, 2006

⁷ 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.

(US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 23.2% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Mattituck had a total of 2,319 housing units, of which 71.5% were occupied and 96.7% were detached one unit homes. Only 20.6% of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 0.6% of housing units; 100% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$203,900 (up to \$453,500 in 2005).⁸ Of vacant housing units, 24.4% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 14.3% were renter occupied.

Government

The township of Southold is governed by a six-member town council and a town clerk. The town offices are located in the hamlet of Southold (Town of Southold nd).

Fishery involvement in government

The township of Southold has developed a local waterfront revitalization program concerned with, among other goals, protecting water dependent uses, maintaining and strengthening a stable commercial fishing fleet, promoting the sustainable use of living marine resources, enhancing community character, preserving open space, preserving public access, and making use of the coastal location. The town has two Marine Use zoning types in place. Mattituck Inlet and Creek were identified as two places within the town most suitable for water-dependent uses (Town of Southold 2004).

The town of Southold also has a Fishers Island Harbor Committee (Town of Southold nd) and as of 2004 had a shellfish advisory committee to address issues relating to the town's numerous shellfish beds (Town of Southold 2004).

Institutional

Fishing associations

Fishermen in Mattituck have recently formed the Mattituck Fisheries Association (Oles 2005b). The Long Island Commercial Fishing Association promotes commercial fishing throughout Long Island (Oles 2005b).

The New York Seafood Council 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).

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishing assistance centers in Mattituck is not available through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related organizations

The North Fork Captain's Association represents charter boats on Long Island's North Fork (Oles 2005b). The [Peconic Estuary Program](#) is charged with developing and implementing a comprehensive management plan for the Peconic Estuary, designated as an "estuary of national

⁸ Personal Communication, Jim McMahon, Director of Public Works, Town of Southold, Southold Town Hall, PO Box 1179 Southold, NY 11971, June 9, 2006

significance”. This alliance is a collaborative of local, state, and federal government agencies, businesses, environmental and citizen groups, and academic institutions working together to promote the environmental health of this natural resource.

Physical

Suffolk County occupies the easternmost portion of Long Island, in the southeastern portion of New York State. The eastern end of the county splits into two peninsulas, known as the North Fork and the South Fork. The county is surrounded by water on three sides, including the Atlantic Ocean and the Long Island Sound. To the north is the Long Island Sound, and the State of Connecticut is on the opposite shore. To the east is Block Island Sound. The south boundary is the Atlantic Ocean. Several airports are located in the area, including Long Island MacArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma (about a 40 mile drive from Mattituck), Republic Airport in East Farmingdale, and Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach (MapQuest 2005). Mattituck also has its own small airport. Mattituck is about 13 miles from Greenport, 18 miles from Hampton Bays, and 85 miles from New York City by car. The [Long Island Railroad](#) connects Mattituck with New York City and other points along Long Island. The [Hampton Jitney](#) bus service carries passengers from along Long Island’s North Fork to New York City, including a stop in Mattituck. The [Cross Sound Ferry](#) travels between nearby Orient Point and New London, CT.

Fishing operations in Mattituck are based out of Mattituck Creek, which opens onto Long Island Sound via Mattituck Inlet and is protected by a jetty (McCay and Cieri 2000). There are a total of five marinas in Mattituck providing a total of 200 slips. Most of these are for recreational use, but there are some slips used commercially at the mouth of the inlet. Until recently, commercial vessels tied up at Peterson’s Marina, at the mouth of the inlet (Town of Southold 2004). However, this property was recently purchased by the state’s Department of Environmental Conservation, and so the commercial fleet has dispersed to the other nearby marinas around the inlet.⁹

Mattituck Fishing Station, in the inlet, offers boat rentals and a bait-and-tackle shop (NYSG nd). [Mattituck Inlet Marina and Shipyard](#) is a full service repair and maintenance facility. [Matt-a-Mar Marina](#) is located in Mattituck Inlet and Strong’s Marina, located on the south side of Mattituck in James Creek off Great Peconic Bay, is primarily used by recreational vessels, and offers storage, repairs and fuel, as well as hosting fishing tournaments. Mattituck has two public boat launching ramps located at the head of the inlet (Town of Southold 2004). Mattituck Creek today has one packing house; many of the fishermen pack their own fish or go to the packing house in Greenport (Oles 2005b). Because of the proximity of Greenport, the two communities are likely to share some commercial fishing infrastructure.

⁹ Personal Communication, Jim McMahon, Director of Public Works, Town of Southold, Southold Town Hall, PO Box 1179 Southold, NY 11971, June 9, 2006

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹⁰

Commercial

Mattituck is known primarily as a lobstering port; the lobster boats work on Long Island Sound. There are also some otter trawls here (Oles 2005b). Jim McMahon of the Public Works Department estimates there are 3-4 trawlers and 20-25 commercial lobster vessels working out of Mattituck Inlet and four fishing-related businesses. He also noted that about 3-4 of these vessels had recently been refitted for surf clamming.¹¹

Mattituck is the center of commercial fishing for the township of Southold. Most of the fish caught here is shipped to the Fulton Fish Market in New York City, while a small amount is consumed locally. The Mattituck Inlet contains highly productive shellfish beds, from which both hard and soft clams as well as oysters are harvested commercially (Town of Southold 2004). There is a small hand rake clam fishery here (Oles 2005b). The famous bluepoint oysters of Long Island are grown for part of their lifetime in the Mattituck Creek before being transferred to Great South Bay where they grow large enough to be sold (Paquette 2002).

The most valuable federal species landed in Mattituck in 2006 was summer flounder, scup, black sea bass (nearly \$400,000) and lobster (nearly \$150,000) (Table 1). The value brought in from both the lobster and the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass categories was much higher in 2006 than the 1997-2004 average values. There were also a variety of other species landed in Mattituck. The number of vessels home ported in Mattituck as well as the number of vessels owned by Mattituck residents have been relatively steady throughout the nine year time period (Table 2). The level of fishing home ported value, however, experienced a jump from over \$56,000 in 2001 to over \$170,000 in 2002, whereas the level of fishing landed port shows a steady increase over the same time period. Mattituck had a much more significant fishery before 1992, when some area closures along Long Island reduced the size of the dragger fleet (McCay and Cieri 2000).

¹⁰In 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 Personal Communication, Jim McMahon, Director of Public Works, Town of Southold, Southold Town Hall, PO Box 1179 Southold, NY 11971, June 9, 2006

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value by Federally Managed Groups of Landings in Mattituck

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	180,818	374,303
Lobster	66,274	146,177
Other ¹²	46,157	78,566
Butterfish, Mackerel, Squid	23,555	25,440
Bluefish	22,400	16,584
Largemouth Groundfish ¹³	19,621	3,009
Smallmouth Groundfish ¹⁴	4,955	254
Tilefish	3,230	4,538
Herring	2,039	14,591
Skate	1,718	4,548
Dogfish	506	46
Monkfish	245	78

Vessels by Year¹⁵

Table 2. All columns represent Federal Vessels 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	4	3	30,304	169,429
1998	3	3	38,948	286,569
1999	4	3	36,384	233,472
2000	4	3	45,703	202,653
2001	4	3	56,844	354,686
2002	7	4	170,784	368,819
2003	6	4	130,518	368,819
2004	7	4	154,295	400,910
2005	7	4	232,963	661,677
2006	6	4	183,197	668,134

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

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

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

¹⁴ Smallmouth 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

Fishing is a popular leisure time activity in Suffolk County. Bluefish, striped bass, fluke, as well as an assortment of other types of fish are targeted in local bays, Long Island Sound, and numerous creeks.¹⁷ Particularly in March, April and May, Mattituck is a popular port among open and charter boat anglers, and offers boat rentals as well (NYSG nd). Mattituck has a small fleet of charter fishing boats (Town of Southold 2004). The [Captain Bob Fishing Fleet](#) is one company that provides both party and charter boat excursions. Jamesport Bait and Tackle is located in Mattituck (Noreast.com nd). Shellfishing is also a popular activity here; the Mattituck Inlet contains a number of extremely productive shellfish beds, producing both hard and soft clams and oysters, all of which are harvested recreationally (Town of Southold 2004). Scallops, clams, oysters, mussels, crabs, and eels are all taken in the creeks and inlets around Mattituck (Town of Southold nd).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

The township of Southold has identified Mattituck Inlet and Creek as an area where the town's maritime activity should be focused, and thus this area will be a target for infrastructure improvements from the town, including new infrastructure for commercial fishing. Specifically, the town wishes to promote the provision of "commercial fishing support facilities, including docks and dock space; off-loading areas; gear storage space; commercially-priced fuel and service yards; ice and refrigeration; road access to commercial fishing docks; affordable housing for fishery industry personnel; and fish processing facilities" (Town of Southold 2004).

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¹⁷ Personal Communication, Jim McMahon, Director of Public Works, Town of Southold, Southold Town Hall, PO Box 1179 Southold, NY 11971, June 9, 2006

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