

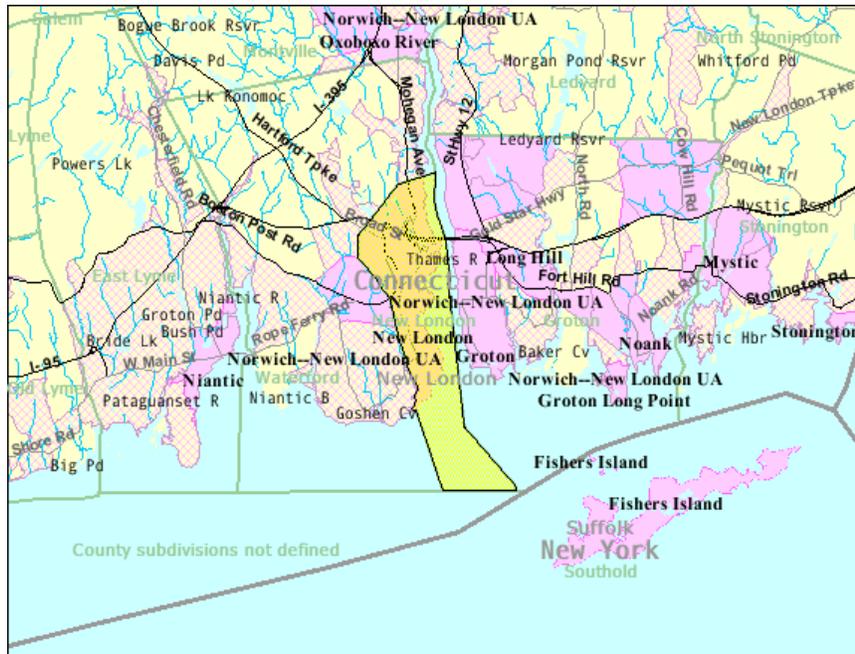
# NEW LONDON, CT<sup>1</sup>

## Community Profile<sup>2</sup>

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

The city of New London, Connecticut (41.35°N, 72.11W°) is a part of New London County. It is bordered by Waterford on the north and west, by the Thames River to the east and Long Island Sound to the south (Taylor 1999). It covers 5.5 square miles and is located adjacent to I-95.



Map 1. Location of New London, CT (US Census Bureau 2000)

#### Historical/Background

New London was first settled in 1646 by John Winthrop, the younger. His father, John Winthrop, led a Puritan immigration from England. The town was named in 1658 and was finally incorporated in 1784. It was an important area in terms of ship building and remains a fishing community even today. Over the years, many sections of New London broke off and became different towns. Today the City of New London is much smaller than it was originally (Taylor 1999). New London has been an important town since the beginning of our country and was attractive to the early colonists because of its waterways. It has a deep harbor and provides direct access to the Atlantic Ocean. The whaling industry began here and many other

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov)."

industries like ship building and fishing were essential to the area’s economic growth and development. Additionally, it was part of the Revolutionary war. Benedict Arnold and his troops burned down the city in 1781 (TOPS, nd). New London is also home to the Customs House, the country’s oldest operating customs office. This is where the slave ship the *Amistad* was docked for a year after the slaves overthrew the crew (City of New London 2006).

### Demographics<sup>3</sup>

According to Census 2000 data<sup>4</sup>, New London had a total population of 25,671, down 10.1% from the reported population of 28,540 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.9% were males and 51.1% were females. The median age was 31.2 years and 68.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 13.7% was 62 years or older.

The age structure for New London (see Figure 1) was different than that of most other fishing communities. Here, the greatest percentage of the population was between the ages of 20-29. This may reflect the presence of several colleges and universities in New London, or perhaps young adults are moving to New London for jobs. Overall, New London had a young population, with high numbers of residents between the ages of 10-19 and 30-39; the population fell off significantly for residents 60 years old and older.

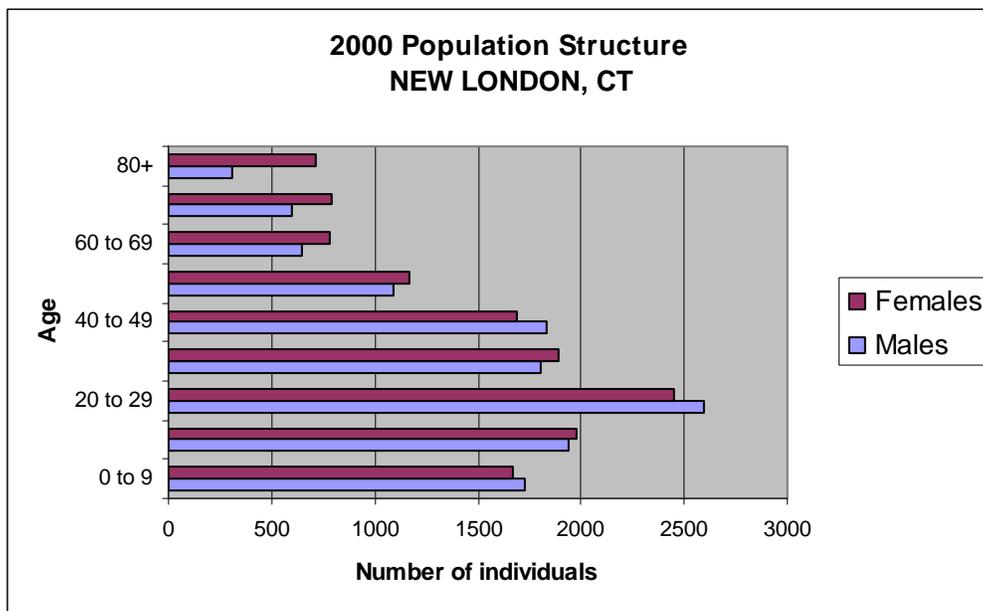


Figure 1. New London’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (67.6%). Relative to other New England towns, a larger than average percentage of the population (21.8%) was black or African American; 2.9% were Asian, 2.3% were Native American, and 0.3% were Pacific Islander or

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 New London town, New London County, CT (accessed July 25, 2007)

Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Of the total population, 19.7% were Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (13.9%), Italian (11.7%), English (8.6%), and German (7.3%). With regard to region of birth, 46.8% were born in Connecticut, 35.8% were born in a different state and 9.7% were born outside the U.S. (including 5.8% who were not United States citizens).

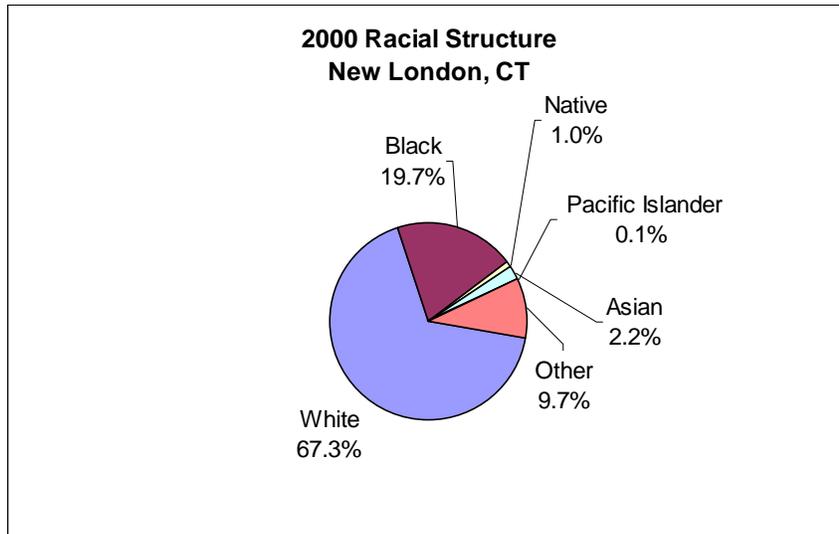


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

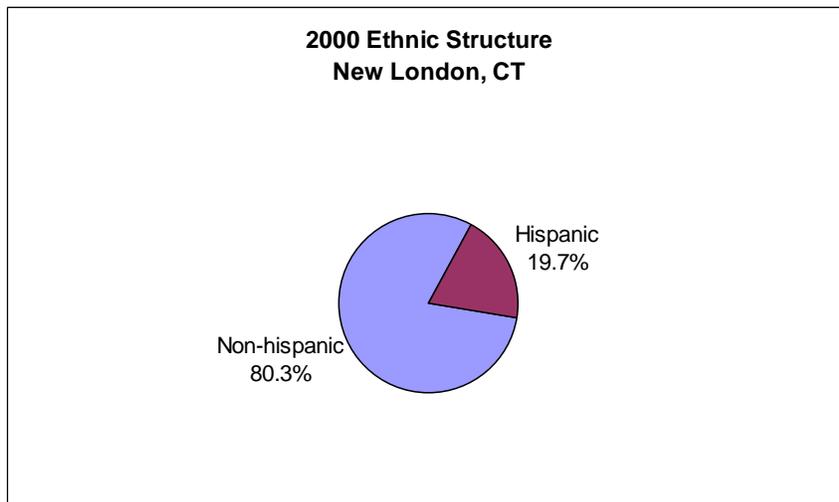


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 76.4% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 23.6% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and including 9.1% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and older, 78.4% were high school graduates or higher and 19.6% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again, of the population 25 years and over, 8.2% did not reach ninth grade, 13.5% attended some high school but did not graduate, 33.2% completed high school, 19.3% had some college with no degree, 6.3% received their associate’s degree, 10.6% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 9.0% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the US Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in New London County was Catholic with 33 congregations and 80,563 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were American Baptist (19 with 6,502 adherents) and United Church of Christ (20 with 6,809 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 0.3% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

### **Issues/Processes**

The lobster fishing industry in New London was not affected by the 1999 lobster die-off to the extent that other ports to the west were, but now they face competition from lobstermen coming from Norwalk, Bridgeport, and other places that were affected by the die-off. Newcomers must find their own spots to fish (which usually yield a smaller catch) or risk getting the lines to their traps cut by the local fishermen. This, among other things, makes it difficult for someone to get started in the business (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

Also, New London has seen an over-abundance of striped bass. In the 1980s they were overfished and were becoming scarce, so strict commercial catch regulations were put in place. Today, striped bass have made a huge comeback and some argue this is having a negative affect in their habitats. They are one of the top three recreational fish in the area and are the prey of sharks, but still their population is growing. They can live up to thirty years and can grow to 100 pounds. The bass have a large appetite and in conjunction with their population size, this is presumed to be decimating other fish in the area. Currently, they are a recreational species only; they are not allowed to be fished commercially (Walsh 2007).

Groton's naval submarine base managed to avoid closure in 2005 when it was taken off a list of military facilities slated for elimination, which would have cost the state an estimated 31,000 jobs, but there are always concerns about future closure attempts (Military Advantage 2005). Electric Boat in Groton in 2006 laid off close to 600 employees, and there was talk of eliminating between 1,400 and 1,700 additional jobs because of a decline in the submarine industry (CT Post 2006). Pfizer also has layoffs planned for the area, as it stops all drug manufacturing in Groton, eliminating another 300 jobs (Gosselin 2006). Since the early 1990s, Southeastern Connecticut has lost about 20,000 jobs from cutbacks in the defense industry, and gained an equal number in the casino gambling industry. Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun both have significant expansions planned. However, the newly created jobs are generally entry-level positions with a much lower pay (Green 2006).

### *Cultural attributes*

There are many festivals in and around New London. New London hosts an annual [Sailfest](#), which in 2007 celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A number of other waterfront events take place along the city's waterfront walk.<sup>5</sup> The Sea Harvest Festival in nearby Mystic is a popular attraction for New London's residents. Also in Mystic is the annual Chowderfest which lasts for three days in October and includes a shipbuilding exhibit, many historical ships to see and many booths run by local fishing related companies to give the visitors a chance to experience the life of a fisherman. Of course, there is also lots of local seafood for people to enjoy (Mystic Seaport, nd).

---

<sup>5</sup> Profile review comment, Dave Crocker, Crocker's Marina, 56 Howard Street, New London, CT 06320, September 6, 2007

## Infrastructure

### *Current Economy*

Major industries in the New London area which employ large numbers of residents are the defense industry, based in nearby Groton as well as New London, and the gaming industry, with two large casinos (Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun) located a short distance away. The 5 major employers for New London County are: Foxwoods (11,000 employees), U.S. Naval Subbase (10,500 employees), Mohegan Sun (10,500 employees), General Dynamics/Electric Boat (8,800 employees) and Pfizer (6,000 employees) (seCTer, nd).

According to the U.S. Census 2000<sup>6</sup>, 65.8% (13,438 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age or over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 4.5% were unemployed, 5.2% were in the Armed Forces, and 56.2% were employed.

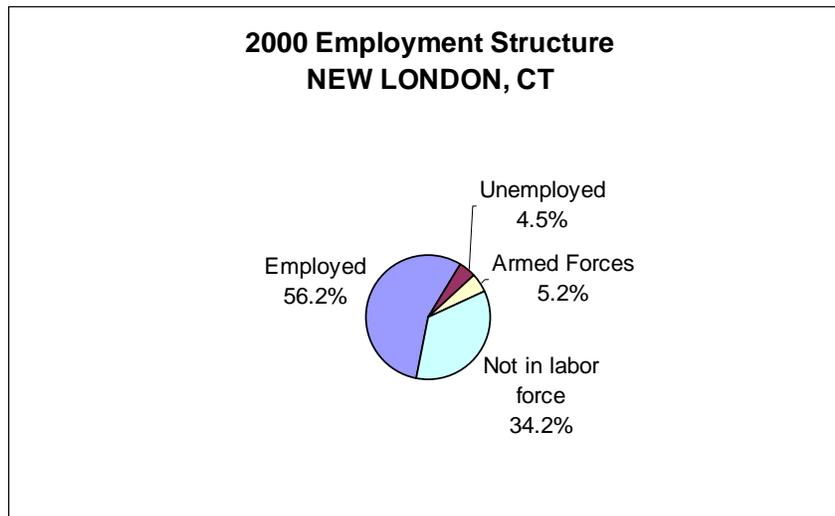


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 10 positions or 0.1% of all jobs. Self-employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 630 positions or 3.1% of all jobs. Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (18.0%), manufacturing (11.5%), educational, health, and social services (25.1%) and retail trade (12.6%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in New London was \$33,809 (up 7.8% from 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$18,437. For full-time year-round workers, males made approximately 20% more per year than females.

The average family in New London consisted of 3.0 persons. With respect to poverty, 13.4% of families (up 1.5% from 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 15.8% of individuals earned below the official U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000a). In 2000, 44.8% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

In 2000, New London had a total of 11,560 housing units, of which 88.1% were occupied and 31.7% were detached one unit homes. Just under half (47.6%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, vans, and boats accounted for 0.3% of the total housing units; 90.6% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$107,900. Of vacant housing units, 1.1% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 62.1% were renter occupied.

## **Government**

New London is run by a City Council. There are seven councilors including the mayor. They all serve two-year terms. The City manager is responsible for many of the day to day activities of the town such as budgeting, overall planning, staffing, and organizing (City of New London 2006).

### *Fishery involvement in government*

New London has a Harbormaster (CHMA, nd). There are no waterfront specific committees listed in the town government (City of New London 2006).

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

The New London Sportfishing Association is based in the city.<sup>7</sup>

### *Fishing assistance centers*

The Southeastern Connecticut Fisherman's Loan and Technical Assistance Program offers loans that average \$50,000 to fishermen. These loans can be used for purchasing equipment, converting to alternative employment, developing alternative species or aquaculture projects and converting vessels for alternative uses. Assistance from fishing and marine science specialists is provided to help fishermen with applications, business plans, market research, etc. This program was developed to help the commercial fishing industry. Applicants must be commercial fishermen or must be involved in "marine related" business. They also must be located in southeastern Connecticut (seCTer, nd).

### *Other fishing related institutions*

Information on other fishing related organizations in New London is unavailable through secondary data collection.

## **Physical**

New London is located in south eastern Connecticut. There are many ways for people to travel to and from New London. It is located on the Thames River and there are ferries that provide transportation to Long Island, Block Island and Fishers Island (City of New London 2006). It has excellent railroad access to major cities; one can take Amtrak, the Central Vermont Railroad, or the [Shoreline East Commuter Train](#), which is a commuter service between New London and New Haven. By air, the Hartford/Springfield-Bradley International Airport is 1 hour and 15 minutes away, the Providence-TF Green International Airport is 1 hour away, the Groton-New London Regional Airport is 15 minutes away, and the New

---

<sup>7</sup> Profile review comment, Dave Crocker, Crocker's Marina, 56 Howard Street, New London, CT 06320, September 6, 2007

Haven- Tweed Regional Airport is 45 minutes away. In addition, I-95 runs through New London. New London is about 2 hours away from both New York and Boston and is about 1 hour from Hartford and 45 minutes from New Haven.

New London Harbor has more than 30 wharves and piers available for fishermen. They are used for everything from recreational vessels to commercial use to tugs and barges. The depths range from 10 to 30 feet. Piers are owned by a variety of companies. The Coast Guard, Hess Oil, and Electric Boat all own docks in this area. There are several commercial fishing vessels, including draggers and dredge boats, docked at New London Seafood Distributors, a wholesale seafood company located to the north of Fort Trumbull.<sup>8</sup>

Other docks are located at Green's Harbor which has depths of 6 to 17 feet and can accommodate small crafts and is located north of the New London Harbor entrance. Shaw's Cove is a dredged basin for small craft located between the Coast Guard Station and the downtown New London wharves. Winthrop Cove is located at the north part of the downtown New London wharf area but is mostly for ferry boats (Global Security, nd). [Crocker's Boatyard](#) located in Shaw's Cove has 230 floating slips and has a dockage depth of 12 feet. The [Thamesport Marina](#) has 110 slips and can accommodate a variety of vessel sizes. Other marinas located in the area are AW Marina, Burr's Marina, City Pier, and Fort Trumbull Marina Railway (City of New London 2006).

## **INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>9</sup>**

### **Commercial**

Commercial fishermen in New London seem to be mostly fishing for lobster. All lobstering is done near the shore with the maximum distance away from shore being 8 miles. Lobster fishermen have complained that overfishing has caused the lobster population to decline, making it more difficult to catch sufficient amounts to run their businesses. They have to put out more traps to keep their catch stable. Competition is fierce and the fishermen tend to be very territorial. People that have been fishing the area for a long time (up to three generations) have the best spots and if a newcomer oversteps his bounds, often he will find his lines have been cut.

There are also three whiting boats in the area which fish on Georges Bank. They are all owned by the same company and go out for 3-5 day trips. They box their catch immediately on board and ship directly to a dealer at Hunt's Point Fish Market (New York).

---

<sup>8</sup> Profile review comment, Dave Crocker, Crocker's Marina, 56 Howard Street, New London, CT 06320, September 6, 2007

<sup>9</sup> 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.

The fishermen in the area are generally dispersed among the small marinas that are on the mouth of the Thames River. They are mixed in among the recreational fishermen (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). These marinas are located amongst many places for repair and supplies (City of New London 2006).

The most valuable species grouping landed in New London averaged for 1997-2006 is smallmesh groundfish (see Table 1). In 2006, however, the value of scallop landings were \$1.5 million, higher the smallmesh groundfish landings in that year, worth \$1.45 million. The total landings in New London increased in most years from 1997-2005, to just over \$6 million in 2005, and then declined to \$4.5 million in 2006 (see Table 2). The number of home ported vessels increased in this same time period, from 14 in 1997 up to 25 in 2006. The level of fishing for home ported vessels saw a tremendous increase in this time period. Values were low in most years, from \$56,000 in 1997 and under \$1 million in every other year, then jumping up to \$4.3 million in 2006. There were very few vessel owners living in New London. This indicates that many people come to unload their catches in New London or keep their vessels here, but do not actually make their home in New London.

### Landings by Species

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

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
<b>Smallmesh Groundfish<sup>10</sup></b>	1,602,275	1,454,062
<b>Scallop</b>	888,008	1,517,005
<b>Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish</b>	628,133	748,686
<b>Lobster</b>	363,121	318,757
<b>Monkfish</b>	319,131	238,333
<b>Other<sup>11</sup></b>	97,624	122,575
<b>Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog</b>	83,600	0
<b>Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass</b>	55,611	147,861
<b>Herring</b>	17,997	281
<b>Largemesh Groundfish<sup>12</sup></b>	11,531	5,398
<b>Skate</b>	6,358	14,417
<b>Tilefish</b>	3,708	1,921
<b>Bluefish</b>	1,316	818
<b>Red Crab</b>	755	0
<b>Dogfish</b>	18	9

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

<sup>11</sup> "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

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

## Vessels by Year<sup>13</sup>

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	14	2	56,204	2,980,500
1998	15	3	146,100	2,639,813
1999	15	4	353,680	3,854,100
2000	15	4	455,254	2,835,704
2001	21	5	507,482	3,521,294
2002	20	4	127,221	4,036,575
2003	19	2	810,561	4,691,922
2004	20	3	295,831	5,589,424
2005	19	4	164,020	6,072,398
2006	25	3	4,355,277	4,570,123

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport

# Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence<sup>14</sup>

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 many places in New London to fish recreationally. Fort Trumbull State Park has over 500 feet of shorefront access to the water for game fishing. The park is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year so recreational fishermen can go there any time. The pier also has bright lighting and pole holders. Sport fish usually caught there include striped bass, bluefish, weakfish and tautog (CTDEP, nd).

One website (<http://www.mysticcountry.com/>) lists eleven different charter sportfishing businesses for New London. The [Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association](#) represents eighteen boats in the Groton/New London area. Charter boats generally offer full or half-day charters. Most boats fish inshore for striped bass, bluefish, fluke, sea bass, scup, and blackfish, while some venture offshore for tuna and shark. In addition, there are many marine supply shops and bait shops in the area (City of New London 2006). Between 2001-2005, there were a total of 14 charter and party boats which logged trips in New London, carrying a total of 10,398 anglers on 1,885 different trips.

## Subsistence

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

---

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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**

There are currently many plans for development in New London. [Pfizer](#), the pharmaceutical company, was working in 2006 on construction of their new Global Development facility in New London which will likely bring many new jobs for the people living in and around New London (PR Newswire 2001).

The [New London Development Corporation](#) (NLDC) is specifically centered around bringing new economic development into the city and is dedicated to making it bigger with more jobs and more recreational activities. They are a non-profit group comprised of citizens, business owners, and community leaders in the city.

One of the current projects of the NLDC is the expansion of Fort Trumbull State Park. Fort Trumbull is a 90 acre peninsula located near Pfizer's new building. The corporation is working on expanding the park to include a Coast Guard Museum, a Riverwalk stretching along the whole waterfront with pedestrian and bicycle pathways, and new streets. They are also working on maritime development. New London has one of the longest coastlines of any town in the state and the NLDC is working to create more recreational boating, improved marinas, upgraded facilities, more amenities, and more docking.

## **REFERENCES**

- Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA). 2000. Interactive Maps and Reports, Counties within one state [cited Aug 2006]. Available from: <http://www.thearda.com/>
- City of New London, CT. 2006. Visitors Information [cited 2007 Jan 3]. Available at: <http://ci.new-london.ct.us/content/35/default.aspx>
- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP). nd. State Parks and Forests [cited Jan 2007]. Available at: <http://www.ct.gov/dep/>
- Connecticut Harbor Management Association (CHMA). nd. CHMA Member Commissions [cited Jul 2007]. Available at: <http://www.ctharbormangement.org/member.html>
- Connecticut Post (CT Post). 2006. Electric Boat announces 440 layoffs. Connecticut Post Online, 2006 Jul 10. Available at: <http://www.connpost.com/>
- Global Security. nd. Naval submarine base New London, Groton CT [cited Jan 2007]. Available at: [http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/new\\_london.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/new_london.htm)
- Gosselin KR. 2006. Pfizer plans job cuts; trimming 300 positions as it shifts manufacturing out of Groton. The Hartford Courant. 2006 June 21, p E2.
- Green R. 2006. Casinos adding jobs – and amenities; Healthy job growth in Southeastern Connecticut, but the pay's not always great. The Hartford Courant, 2006 Feb 26, p L2.
- Hall-Arber M, Dyer C, Poggie J, McNally J, Gagne R. 2001. New England's Fishing Communities. Cambridge (MA): MIT Sea Grant 01-15. Available from: <http://seagrant.mit.edu/cmss/>
- Military Advantage. 2005. Sub base saved. Defense Tech, 2005 August 24; available at: [http://www.defensetech.org/archives/2005\\_08.html](http://www.defensetech.org/archives/2005_08.html)
- Mystic Seaport. nd. Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea [cited 2007 Jan 3]. Available at: <http://www.mysticseaport.org>
- PR Newswire. 2001. Pfizer Opens New Global Research and Development Headquarters in New London, Connecticut. PR Newswire, 2001 Jun 8.

- Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer), Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG). nd. Come, stay and grow (web site) [cited Jan 2007]. Available at: <http://www.secter.org>
- Taylor SG. 1999. US GenWeb New London, CT [cited Jan 2007]. Available at: <http://www.ctgenweb.org/town/ctcnewlondon/>
- The Oldham Publishing Service (TOPS). nd. Historic sites of New London, Connecticut [cited Sep 2008]. The New London Gazette, available at: <http://newlondongazette.com/histrc.html>
- US Census Bureau. 1990. 1990 Decennial Census [cited Aug 2006]. Available at: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>
- US Census Bureau. 2000. American Factfinder – Groton town, New London County, Connecticut [cited Aug 2006]. Available at: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>
- US Census Bureau. 2000a. Poverty thresholds [cited Aug 2006]. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld.html>
- US Geological Survey (USGS). 2008. US Board on Geographic Names: Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) [cited Sep 2008]. Available at: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/>
- Walsh C. 2007. Striped bass keeping fishermen busy. Connecticut Post, 2007 May 21.