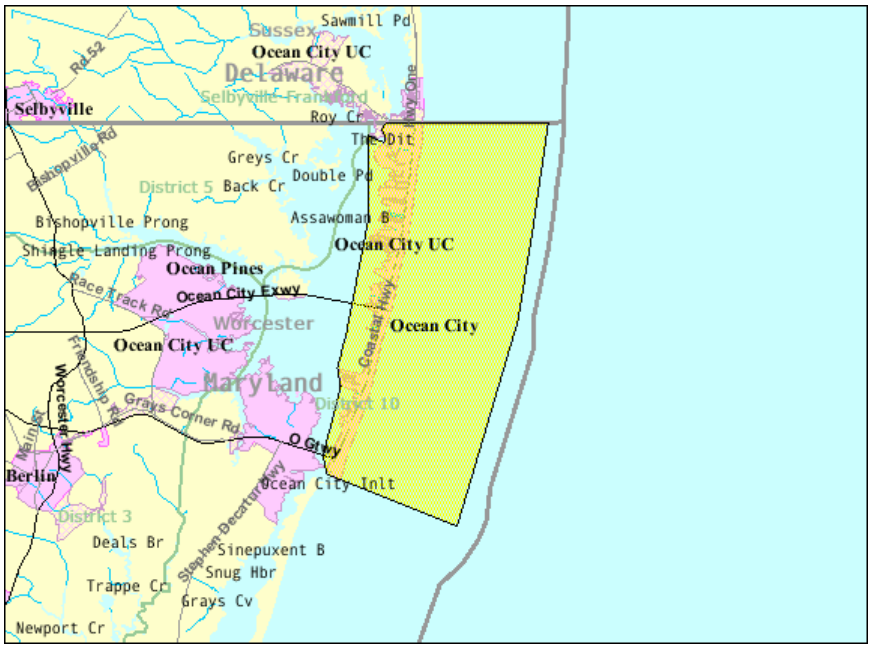
OCEAN CITY, MD[1]
Community Profile[2]

PEOPLE AND PLACES
Regional orientation

Ocean City, Maryland (38.33º N, 75.09º W) is a town located in Worcester County, in Ocean Pines, an unincorporated area in the County. It is bordered to the east by the Atlantic Ocean and to the west by the Assawoman Bay and Isle of Wight Bays. The town has a total area of 36.4 mi^2, 4.6 mi^2 of that is land and 31.8 mi^2 is water (USGS 2008). West Ocean City is across the bay from the southern portion of Ocean City.



Map 1. Location of Ocean City, MD (US Census Bureau 2000a)

Historical/Background

The first European came to Ocean City in 1524 from France, but the town wasn't truly settled until the late 17th century with an influx of Virginians from the Eastern Shore. The area of land belonging today to Worcester county Maryland changed many times over the years, belonging at times to Delaware and Somerset County, Maryland. In 1869, a man named Isaac Coffin came to Ocean City and built a cottage to house guests who wanted to go to the beach or to fish. People quickly came and the area became a popular summer resort, eventually adding dancing and amusements. In 1933, a storm formed the Ocean City Inlet and engineers decided to make this act of nature permanent. This decision helped to establish Ocean City as an important

[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."

fishing port, offering easy access to both the bay and the Atlantic Ocean (OCCVB n.d.). Most of the fishing today is offshore, however there are substantial inshore and coastal bay fisheries (blue crabs, hard clams, and gillnetting for spot, bunker, trout, and striped bass).[3] West Ocean City, while on the other side of the bay and not part of the town, is generally not considered by locals to be a distinct entity from Ocean City.[4]

Demographics[5]

Ocean City – According to the Census 2000 data, Ocean City town had a population of 7,173, up 41.4% from a reported population of 5,074 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 51.3% were males and 48.7% were females. The median age was 47.2 years and 86.5% of the population was 21 years or older while 30.0% of the population was 62 or older.

The population structure for Ocean City (see Figure 1) showed an older population, with the largest percentage of residents between the ages 60-69, and significant numbers of residents in the 50-59 and 70-79 age categories. This indicates that many people may retire to Ocean City. There were also, however, a significant number of residents between the ages of 20-49 as well. Ocean City had surprisingly few children in the 0-9 and 10-19 age categories.

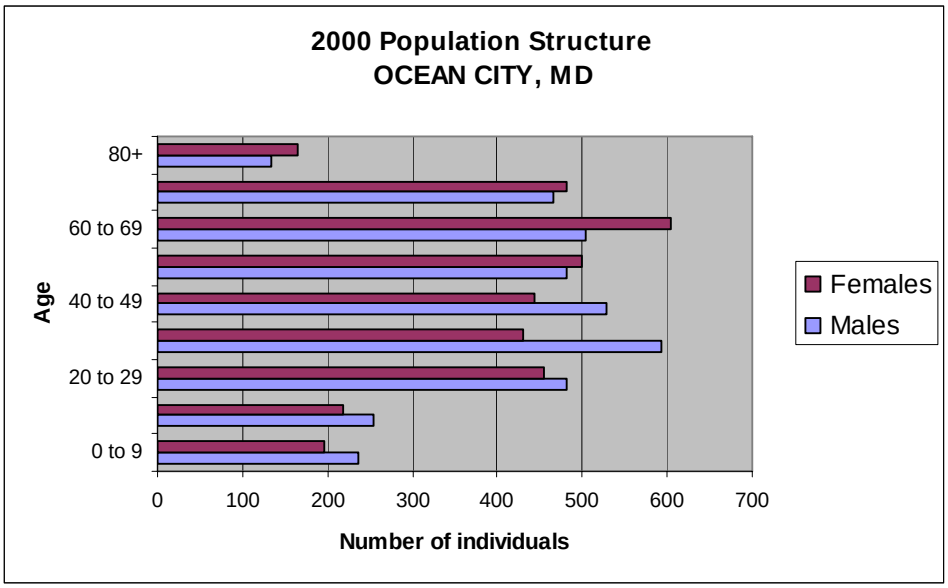


Figure 1. Ocean City's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (96.3%) with 2.5% black or African America, 0.7% Asian, 0.1% Native American, and 0.01% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (see Figure 2). Of the total population, 1.2% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: German (25.6%), Irish (21.0%), English (16.0%), and Italian (8.7%).

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[3] Community Review comments, Dave Blazer, Executive Director, Maryland Coastal Bays, 9199 Stephen Decatur Highway, Suite 4, Ocean City, MD 21842, October 12, 2007

[4] Personal communication, Vincent Malkoski, Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740.

[5] 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.

With regard to region of birth, 51.5% were born in Maryland, 43.7% were born in a different state and 4.5% were born outside of the U.S. (including 3.0% who were not United States citizens).

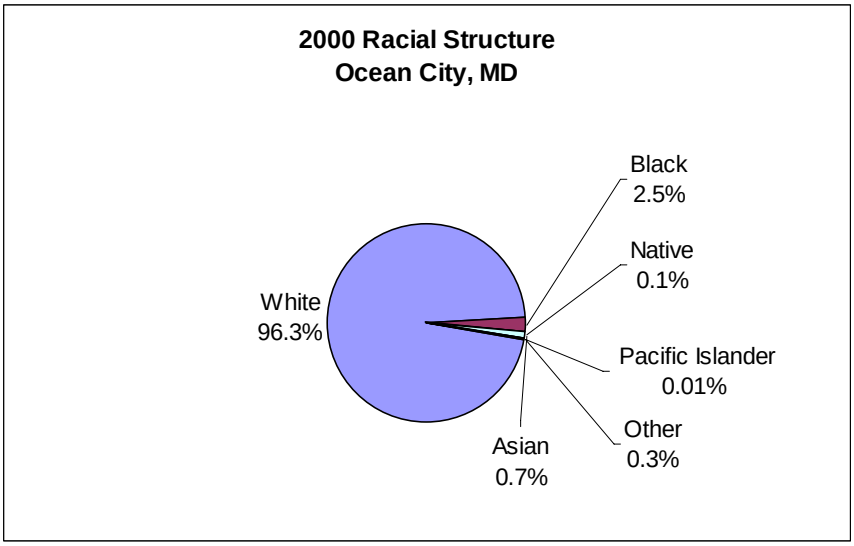

Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

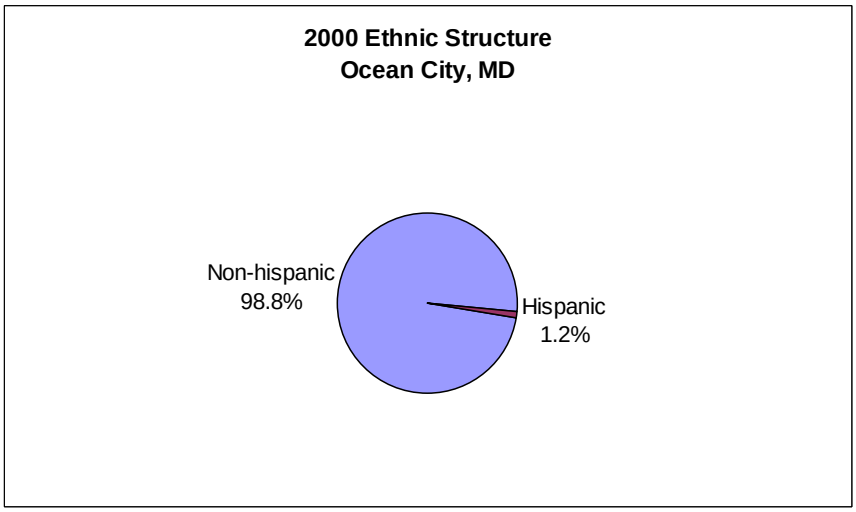

Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 93.0% of the population in 2000, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 7.0% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 2.9% of the population who spoke English less than "very well" according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 87.1% were high school graduates or higher and 28.0% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.6% did not reach ninth grade, 10.3% attended some high school but did not graduate, 31.7% completed high school, 22.7% had some college with no degree, 4.8% received their associate's degree, 20.1% earned their bachelor's degree, and 7.9% received either their graduate or professional degree.

West Ocean City CDP – According to the Census 2000 data, West Ocean City CDP had a population of 3,311, up 65.5% from a reported population of 2,000 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this total in 2000, 49.3% were males and 50.7% were females. The median age was 43.5 years and 77.9% of the population was 21 years or older while 23.3% of the population was 62 or older.

The population structure for West Ocean City (see Figure 4) showed essentially two peaks; the first was between ages 30-39, and the second between ages 60-69. Interestingly, men between the ages of 30-39 outnumbered women of the same age, and conversely women aged 60-69 out-numbered their male counterparts. This patterns suggests two possible trends; one is that younger adults, and particularly males without children aged 20-39 are moving to West Ocean City, and the other is that many people are retiring here, judging by the large number of residents in the 60-69 and 70-79 age categories. There were not many children in West Ocean City, compared to what one might expect to see considering the number of residents here.

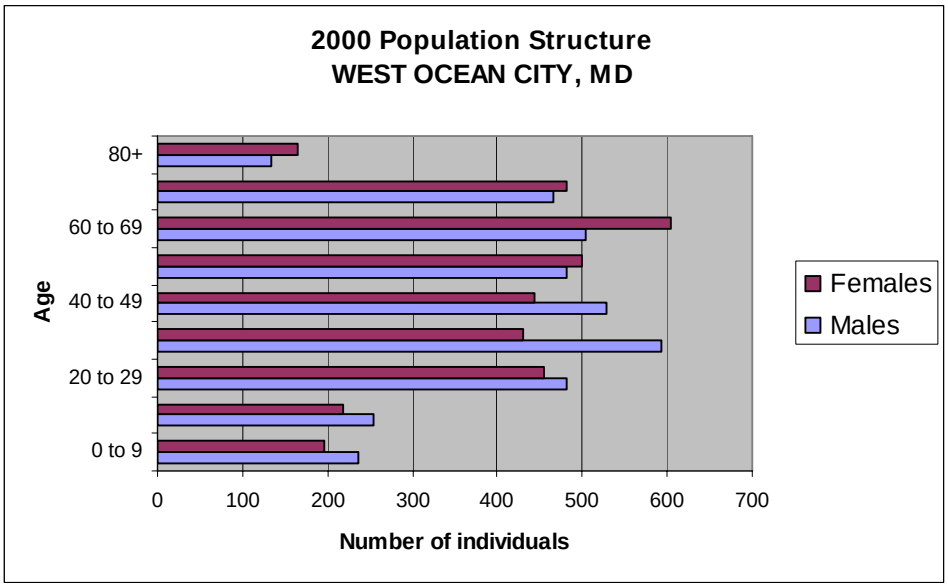

Figure 4. Ocean City's population structure by sex in 2000

The majority of the population of West Ocean City in 2000 was white (95.9%) with 2.0% of residents black or African American, 0.8% Native American, 1.0% Asian, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 5). Of the total population, only 1.4% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 6). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: German (22.1%), English (19.0%), and Irish (16.7%).

With regard to region of birth, 57.2% were born in Maryland, 38.2% were born in a different state and 4.4% were born outside of the U.S. (including 2.2% who were not United States citizens).

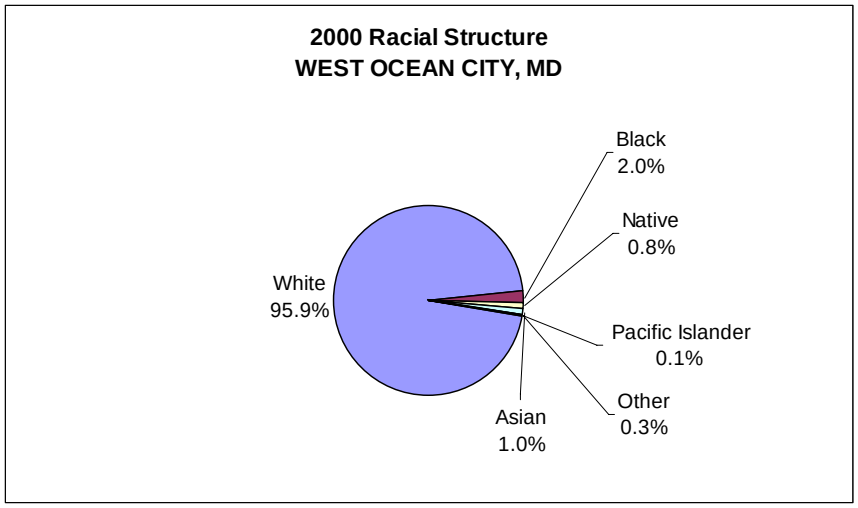

Figure 5. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

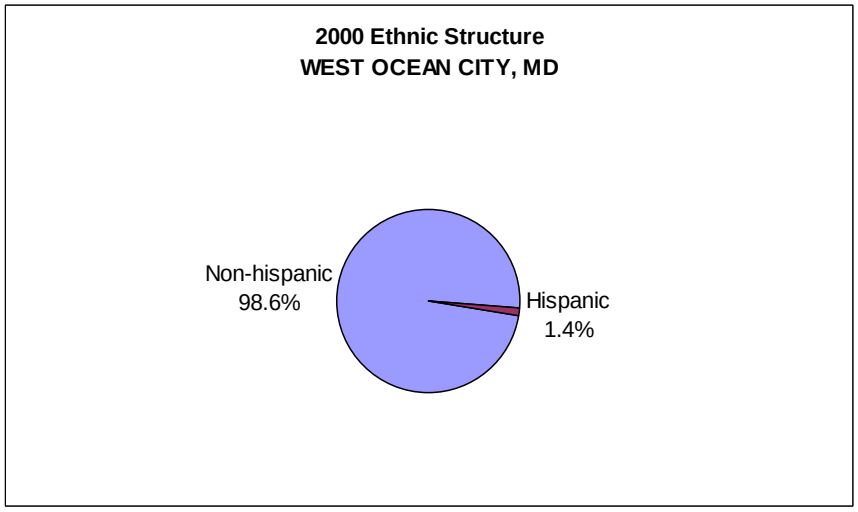

Figure 6. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 93.2% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 6.8% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 2.8% of the population who spoke English less than "very well" according to 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 81.2% were high school graduates or higher and 20.7% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 3.6% did not reach ninth grade, 15.2% attended some high school but did not graduate, 31.5% completed high school, 21.1% had some college with no degree, 7.9% received their associate's degree, 12.6% earned their bachelor's degree, and 8.1% received either their graduate or professional degree.

Although religious 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 Worcester County included Catholic with 5 congregations and 7,700 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Methodist (39 with 7,628 adherents) and Southern Baptist Convention (8 with 3,009 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 59.6% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues and Processes

Ocean City is primarily a resort town. The real estate market has long been a problem for those seeking to buy a first home, especially blue collar workers (Lerner 2002, Guy 2003, Vandiver 2004). Many people are also concerned about aquaculture developing in the area. They are concerned that if it does develop, it will be run by the large poultry companies in the area, as has happened in areas further to the south (McCay and Cieri 2000:90). Also a concern with respect to aquaculture is competition for space and resources. Concerns are also present regarding allocation of marine resources between the commercial and recreational sectors, as well as potential commercial fishing gear impacts on habitat in the area.[6]

Dock space in West Ocean City, where the commercial fishing fleet is based, is limited; fortunately protective zoning by Worcester County means the docks are not immediately threatened. Some processing plants and a clam dock in the area recently closed as a result of a consolidation of surf clam and ocean quahog boats, particularly a decline in owner-operated boats, after the implementation of ITQs in this fishery (Oles 2003).

Cultural attributes

Ocean City hosts many fishing tournaments each year. In 2006, the tournaments began in June with the Mako Mania Shark Tournament. In July comes the Ocean City Tuna Tournament, which features nightly weigh-ins as well as food, entertainment, crafts and fishing related games for children. In August, the town hosts the world's largest billfish tournament, the White Marlin Open, which offers cash prizes for white marlin, blue marlin, tuna, wahoo, dolphin and shark; nightly weigh-ins are a popular event. In 2006, $2.3 million was given away in prizes. Later in the month is the only local Ladies Only fishing tournament, Captain Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open Fishing Tournament. In September the Mid-Atlantic Bartenders Open Fishing Tournament is another popular event (Ocean City 2008). Other tournaments are held as well, many hosted by The Ocean City Marlin Club.

Each year the Maryland Watermen's Association sponsors the East Coast Commercial Fishermen's and Aquaculture Trade Exposition in Ocean City, which features aquaculture and commercial fishing seminars, gear, equipment, and boats. The Seaside Boat Show is held in February. May brings the Annual White Marlin Festival and Crab Soup Cookoff (Town of Ocean City 2008). One of the fish docks in West Ocean City sponsored a "Mid-Atlantic Commercial Fishing Skills Contest", which included competitions in rope tying, net mending, rope splicing, survival suit-donning, and other fishing-related activities (Oles 2003). January brings the Nautical and Wildlife Art Festival and October brings Harbor Day at the Docks ~ a Waterfront Heritage Festival and Phillips Annual Seafood Dinner (OCCVB nd).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Many of the people in the Ocean City area work in restaurants and hotels that have made this area popular with tourists. In fact, the six major employers in Ocean City are all in tourism and property management/development industries: Harrison Group (hotels), Phillips

[6] Community Review comments, Dave Blazer, Executive Director, Maryland Coastal Bays, 9199 Stephen Decatur Highway, Suite 4, Ocean City, MD 21842, October 12, 2007

(restaurants/seafood), Bayshore Development (hotels, amusements), OC Seacrets, Inc. (night club), KTG LLC (restaurants), and Clarion Resort Fountainbleu (hotels).[7]

There are three packing houses in West Ocean City, which combined employ about sixteen people. There are probably at least 230 people employed on the charter and party boats in Ocean City, not including additional support staff or those that work at related businesses like bait and tackle shops. Recreational fishing is one of the more important aspects of Ocean City's tourist economy (Oles 2003). "Worcester County's 2,040 businesses employ 20,300 workers; an estimated 13 of these businesses have 100 or more workers. Chicken growing and processing is the major industry in Worcester County. Major private sector employers include Bel-Art Products [plastic components, laboratory equipment], Perdue Farms [poultry processing], and Tyson Foods, Inc [poultry processing]" (Worcester County 2008) [Tyson's was located in Berlin but closed down8]. Other major employers include Harrison Hotels, Atlantic General Hospital and Walmart (Worcester County 2008).

Ocean City – According to the U.S. Census 2000[9], 60.4% (3,909 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 7), of which 5.6% were unemployed, 0.2% were in the Armed Forces, and 54.6% were employed.

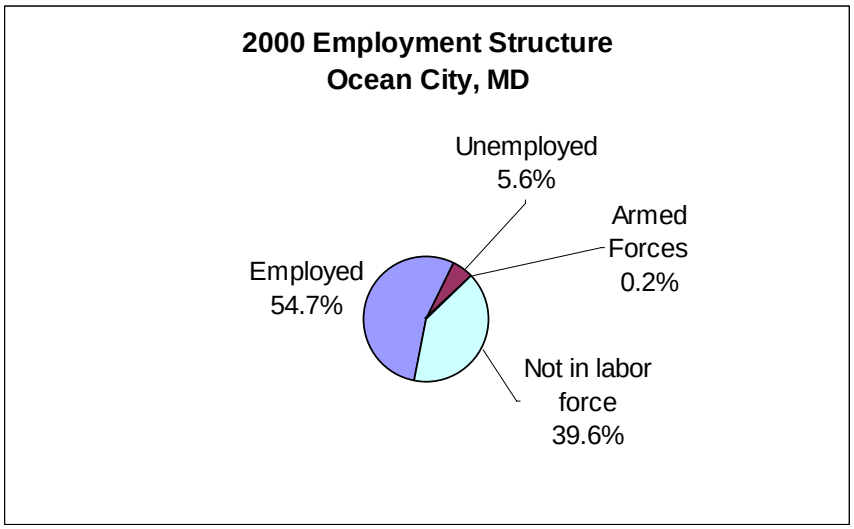

Figure 7. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 12 positions or 0.3% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 392 positions or 11.1% of jobs. Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (29.5%), retail trade (12.9%), finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (12.0%), and educational, health, and social services (11.1%) were the primary industries.

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[7] Community Review comments, Jesse Houston, Director of Planning and Community Development, PO Box 158, Ocean City, MD 21843, October 10, 2007

[8] Community Review Comment, Donna Abbott, Public relations, Ocean City Department of Tourism, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842, October 22, 2007

[9] 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.

Median household income in Ocean City was $35,772, up 37.8% from $25,959 in 1990 (US Census Bureau) and median per capita income was $26,078. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 4.2% more per year than females.

The average family in Ocean City consisted of 2.47 persons. With respect to poverty, 6.0% of families, down 6.4% from 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 8.4% 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 2000b). In 2000, 37.7% of all families of any size earned less than $35,000 per year.

In 2000, Ocean City had a total of 26,317 housing units of which 14.2% were occupied and 9.4% were detached one unit homes. A few (2.2%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, vans, etc. accounted for 6.9% of the total housing units; 96.9% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was $152,200. Of vacant housing units, 54.3% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 32.6% were renter occupied.

West Ocean City CDP – According to the U.S. Census 2000, 61.9% (1,724 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 7), of which 4.2% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 57.7% were employed.

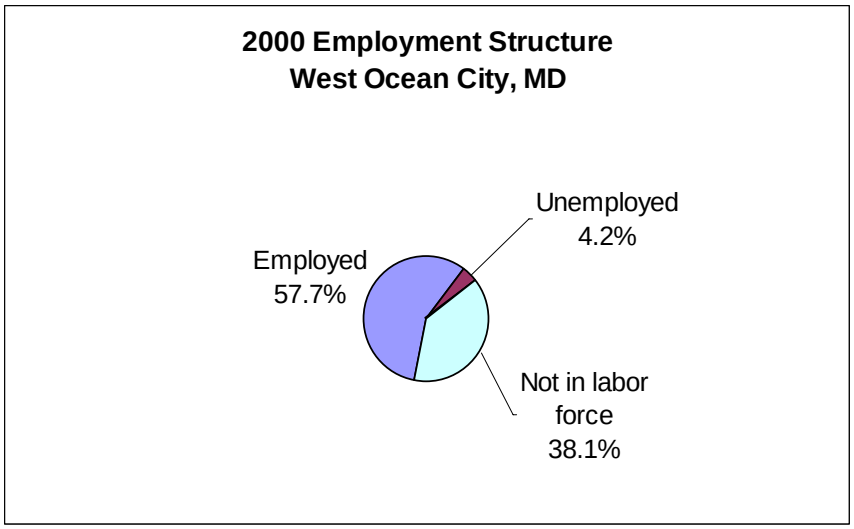

Figure 8. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 15 positions or 0.9% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 145 positions or 9.0% of jobs. Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (24.1%), retail trade (15.8%), finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (11.6%), educational, health, and social services (10.7%), and construction (10.7%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in West Ocean City was $42,279, up 33.7% from $31,632 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and median per capita income was $28,132. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 11.8% more per year than females.

The average family in West Ocean City consisted of 2.77 persons. With respect to

poverty, 3.0% of families, down from 9.3% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 5.0% 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 2000b). In 2000, 27.1% of all families (of any size) earned less than $35,000 per year.

In 2000, West Ocean City had a total of 2,075 housing units of which 68.7% were occupied and 77.0% were detached one unit homes. Less than 5% (3.1%)of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 10.1% of the total housing units; 88.6% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was $157,500. Of vacant housing units, 14.2% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 20.1% were renter occupied.

Government

Ocean City is run by a City Manager and Council form of government. The mayor and Town Council include a Council President, Council Secretary and five general Council Members (Town of Ocean City 2008). West Ocean City is governed by Worcester County, which has a seven-member board of County Commissioners (Worcester County 2008).

Fishery involvement in government

Worcester County manages a commercial dock in West Ocean City. The Worcester County Commission has zoned the harbor area here as a commercial marine district, to protect commercial fishing operations from being pushed out by condominiums and other private development. The Worcester County Comprehensive Development Plan (WCPC 2006) also recognizes commercial fishing as one of the County's economic assets (p. 31) and has a goal of preserving fisheries and their nurseries (p. 33) and has 5 goals specifically aimed at retaining commercial fishing and seafood processing in the County (p. 60). Ocean City's comprehensive plan encourages water uses on the bay and marina construction (Oles 2003). It also recognizes the importance of water quality and commercial fishing to the town (OCPB 2007).

The State of Maryland Division of Natural Resources (DNR) manages fisheries in Ocean City and West Ocean City. The DNR has a Coastal Fisheries Advisory Committee which provides advice on fishery issues, preparing management plans, and works to develop objectives and management options for specific fisheries. The Committee has representation from Ocean City, West Ocean City, and different fishing groups.[10] Ocean City also has a harbor master.

Institutional

Fishing associations

There is a statewide fishermen's organization called the Maryland Watermen's Association (MWA) but few of the ocean fishermen belong to it because it emphasizes helping the Chesapeake Bay fishermen rather than the ocean fishermen. The organization focuses more on the Bay fishermen because there are more bay crabbers, clammers, and gill netters than there are ocean fishermen. However, the MWA still broadly represent all those who work on the water in/of Maryland. The President of the Association also serves on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery

[10] Community Review comments, Dave Blazer, Executive Director, Maryland Coastal Bays, 9199 Stephen Decatur Highway, Suite 4, Ocean City, MD 21842, October 12, 2007

Management Council (MAFMC) which focuses on bay and ocean fisheries issues.[11] The ocean fishermen are concerned that they are not prepared for what may happen and they lack representation (McCay and Cieri 2000). The Maryland Saltwater Sport Fishermen's Association also has a Chapter in Ocean City.[12]

There are some sportfishing groups in Ocean City that work to promote sportfishing in the area. One is the Ocean City Marlin Club, which began in 1936. The club is primarily a social one, although they are becoming increasingly political. They also host several tournaments. The OC Surf Anglers hosts surf fishing tournaments. The Ocean Pines Fishing Club is made up of members of Ocean Pines, a planned community in West Ocean City. The captains of the charter boats located at the Ocean City Fishing Center are all members of the Ocean City Charter Captain's Association (Oles 2003).

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishery assistance centers in Ocean City is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related organizations

The Marine Trades Association of Maryland is involved in providing information for boaters and fishermen in the state of Maryland. They hold safety classes and have a wide variety of information for boaters in their website. They represent marine issues in front of the state legislature, participate on governmental boards and committees related to boating and fishing, they also provide information and host boat shows in the area. The OC Reef Foundation is working to provide artificial reefs around Ocean City for the area's recreational fishermen (Oles 2003). A Coast Guard Auxiliary is located in Ocean City and holds safety classes as well as it's normal duties.

Physical

Ocean City is located about 30 minutes from the Salisbury-Wicomico County Regional Airport and has locally the Ocean City Municipal Airport for private flights (Worcester County 2008; OCCVB nd). It is accessible from Routes 50 and 90 from the west, and Delaware Route 1 from the north. Ocean City is located about 4.5 hours from New York City, about 3 hours from Washington D.C. and about 3 hours from Philadelphia, PA. A large park and ride facility has been established outside of Ocean City which allows visitors to park here and catch a bus into town (Oles 2003; OCCVB nd).

The commercial fishing industry in Ocean City is actually located in West Ocean City, an unincorporated segment of Worcester County just across the bay from Ocean City. The harbor here has a commercially-owned dock, a recreational fishing marina, and three commercial packing houses. Some private dock owners also lease space to the commercial vessels (Oles 2003). The Sunset Marina has a sheltered 18 acre deep water basin that can accommodate vessels up to 100 feet in length. There are 20 charter boats located here, as well as a bait and tackle shop and marine supplies shop. The Ocean City Fishing Center, also located in West

[11] Community Review Comments, Kelly Clements Barnes, Administrative Assistant, Maryland Watermen's Association, 1805A Virginia Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, September 13, 2007

[12] Community Review comments, Dave Blazer, Executive Director, Maryland Coastal Bays, 9199 Stephen Decatur Highway, Suite 4, Ocean City, MD 21842, October 12, 2007

Ocean City, has 170 slips, free parking and security. It is home to the largest charter fleet in the town, comprising 30 boats. It also has a bait shop, restaurant and repair service.

There are nine recreational marinas located in Ocean City and West Ocean City; 75% of the charter boats are found in three marinas, along with two of the largest ocean-going party boats. There are also a number of places along the shore frequented by anglers, including three pay piers (the Ocean Pier and the Oceanic Pier), the Route 50 Bridge, a number of public piers and bulkheads, and a public crabbing and fishing area on Isle of Wight. There are four public boat launches found in West Ocean City harbor. The Ocean City area also has a number of fish cleaning businesses (Oles 2003). The government of Ocean City owns the Bayside Boardwalk/ 9th St Fishing Pier and the Bering Road Boat Ramp (WCPC 2006).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES[13]

Commercial

The commercial fishing industry in Ocean City is actually located in West Ocean City (McCay and Cieri 2000:89). However, the landings are declared for Ocean City and most vessels are listed as having their home port in Ocean City. The most valuable species in Ocean City in 2006 was scallops, followed by the surf clam and ocean quahogs. Overall, the landings values for 2006 were higher than the 10-year average values for the surf clam and ocean quahog category, and for scallops but were lower for the "other" category (see Table 1).

The number of vessels listing Ocean City as their home port was highly variable from 1997 to 2006, ranging from a low of 17 in 1999 to a high of 47 in 2006. There were more boats listing Ocean City as their home port than there were vessels with owners residing in Ocean City, indicating that many people from outside Ocean City dock their boats there. Overall, the value of landings to home ported vessels showed a consistent increase for the years provided as did the level of fishing landed port (see Table 2). The level of home port fishing for Ocean City vessels was less in most years than the level of landings for Ocean City, pointing to the fact that many people from outside Ocean City are dropping off their catches in the town.

Ocean City is a popular place for fishermen in the area to unload their catches because it is the only major ocean port between Cape May, NJ and Hampton Roads, VA. Even the people who are considered to be locals do not live in Ocean City itself but live about 30 minutes away on the land side of the harbor (McCay and Cieri 2000). Some of the fishermen who land their catch here are from Delaware, as there are no packing facilities in Delaware (Oles 2003).

In 2003 West Ocean City was home to five surf clam and ocean quahog boats, at least seven draggers, and at least fifteen small boats that engaged in potting, gillnetting, dredging, and/or handlining. Conching is a common practice among the smaller vessels. Twenty years

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[13] 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.

ago, there were 30 surf clam and ocean quahog boats docked here, but consolidation resulting from the use of ITQs drastically reduced this number. Most of these are small, owner-operated vessels with the exception of four surf clam and ocean quahog boats owned by J.H. Miles Co., a clam harvesting and processing operation based in Norfolk, VA. There are three fish and shellfish packing facilities here, one of which is a satellite operation of J.H. Miles. Two of these fish houses opened recently, however one of these was a "re-opening" of an older fish house.[14] Another fish house has existed there since 1957. The older packing house mostly buys from local boats, and has two draggers that land here. Some of the seafood here is sold at their retail market or to local restaurants, but most is sold to buyers in Hampton, VA, Philadelphia, or New York City (Oles 2003).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups of landings in Ocean City

	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Other[15]	1
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	2
Scallop	3
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	4
Monkfish	5
Dogfish	6
Lobster	7
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	8
Bluefish	9
Skate	10
Smallmesh Groundfish[16]	11
Largemesh Groundfish[17]	12
Tilefish	13
Herring	14
Red Crab	15

(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)

[14] Community Review comments, Dave Blazer, Executive Director, Maryland Coastal Bays, 9199 Stephen Decatur Highway, Suite 4, Ocean City, MD 21842, October 12, 2007

[15] "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

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

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

Vessels by Year[18]

Table 1. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	28	18
1998	19	16
1999	17	14
2000	20	10
2001	25	9
2002	23	7
2003	27	9
2004	27	8
2005	40	12
2006	47	15

(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[19]*)*

Recreational

Ocean City is famous for its recreational fishing and hosts many fishing tournaments every year. The most popular species to fish are bigeye and yellowfin tuna, mako and dolphin, white marlin, blue marlin and sailfish (OCCVB nd). Ocean City is known as the "White Marlin Capital of the World" (McCay and Cieri 2000). There are also many sportfishing associations such as the Ocean City Marlin Club and the Maryland Saltwater Sport Fishing Association. Ocean City has at least five large ocean-going party boats and around six party boats that fish in the bay. There are an estimated 100 charter boats in Ocean City's six major marinas. Tuna fishing is especially popular here; marlin tends to be a more elite fishery targeted by more expensive and exclusive charter boats. Ocean City is also popular with recreational anglers who fish from their own boats, from rental boats, or from shore; many of these are targeting summer flounder. There are numerous jetties, pay piers, and bridges from which anglers may fish, in addition to surf fishing from the beach. Crabbing and clamming are also important recreational activities. According to NMFS VTR data, between the years 2001-2005 there were a total of 31 charter and party boats which logged trips in Ocean City, carrying a total of 83,505 anglers on 3,137 different trips.

Subsistence

Fishing for something to take home for dinner is less common in Ocean City now than it once was, and catch-and-release fishing is increasingly popular (Oles 2003).

FUTURE

The Ocean City Development Corporation, appointed by the Mayor and Council, has many plans for the Downtown area of Ocean City. Current plans include more parking and mass transportation such as busses to help bring people to the downtown area. They are also planning

[18] 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.

[19] 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.

on building a new wraparound boardwalk. A bayfront public park was completed in 2006.[20] New zoning will help to bring in more businesses and improvement of the roadways and signs will make getting around much easier (OCPB 2007).

Some people who live in the Ocean City area have been worried about being priced out because the area is a resort destination, though recent drops in real estate prices may at least temporarily mitigate that (Latshaw 2007, 2008; Shane 2008).

Fishermen in the area are also concerned about rezoning in the harbor. One major concern is that the docks will become non-conforming meaning that replacement or fixing of the structures will be impeded. The fishermen are interpreting this rezoning to mean that people in the area are trying to force out the fishermen; much of the rezoning has been because of new condominiums being built in the area (McCay and Cieri 2000). Despite protective zoning measures, gentrification of the waterfront is a concern. Commercial fishing here does, however, serve as a tourist attraction and is important to the community in that respect (Oles 2003; OCPB 2007).

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