

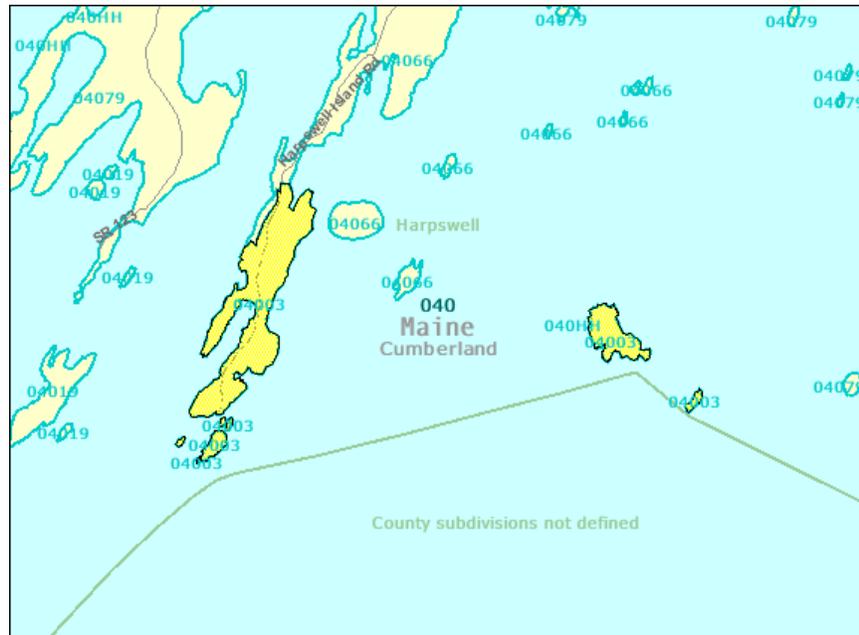
BAILEY ISLAND, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Bailey Island (43.73°N and 69.99°W) is located in the town of Harpswell, Maine, in Cumberland County. The island is located in Casco Bay, separated from South Harpswell by Harpswell Sound, and is linked to Orr Island by a causeway, which is in turn linked to mainland Harpswell (USGS 2008). (*Note: Harpswell and Cundy's Harbor are also profiled separately.*)



Map 1. Location of Bailey Island, ME (US Census Bureau 2000a)

Historical/Background

The town of Harpswell is made up of a ten-mile peninsula extending into Casco Bay, three large islands, Bailey Island, Orr Island, and Great (Sebascodegan) Island, and over 200 small islands, creating over 216 miles of coastline for the town. The town is geographically spread out, and is divided into five main villages: Cundy's Harbor, Harpswell, South Harpswell, Bailey Island and Orr's Island. Cundy's Harbor is the oldest lobstering community in Maine (TPL 2005). Harpswell was purchased from the Native Americans in 1659 and settled by Europeans; however, by 1714 only two settlers remained, after the rest were driven off by Indian raids. Harpswell was incorporated as a town in 1758, under what was then the Massachusetts

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."

Bay Colony. Many tall ships, sloops, and schooners were built here during the 1800s, and fishing has been an important economic activity for the town for centuries. Harpswell has served as a summer retreat for many famous artists and writers throughout the years, including Harriett Beecher Stowe and Edna St. Vincent Millay (HBA 2005). The Bailey Island Bridge, connecting Bailey Island with Orr Island, is the world’s only cribstone bridge (Bowdoin College 2006), designed to let the tide flow the open cribbing of the bridge instead of around it, preventing the bridge from being destroyed by the fast-moving tide. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places as an engineering feat (State of Maine 2005).

Demographics³

According to US Census Bureau 2000 data, Bailey Island had a total population of 420, down 1.9% from the reported population of 428 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 46.2% were males and 53.8% were females. The median age was 48.0 years and 80.7% of the population was 21 years or older while 28.6% of the population was 62 or older.

The age structure for Bailey Island (see Figure 1) shows an aging population. The most populous age category was from 50-59, but there were also large numbers of residents between the ages of 60-69 and 70-79, especially women. Residents in these age brackets far outnumber children in the community. There was a large dip in the population for young people between the ages of 20-29, who are likely leaving the community for college or in pursuit of employment elsewhere, as can be observed in many fishing communities.

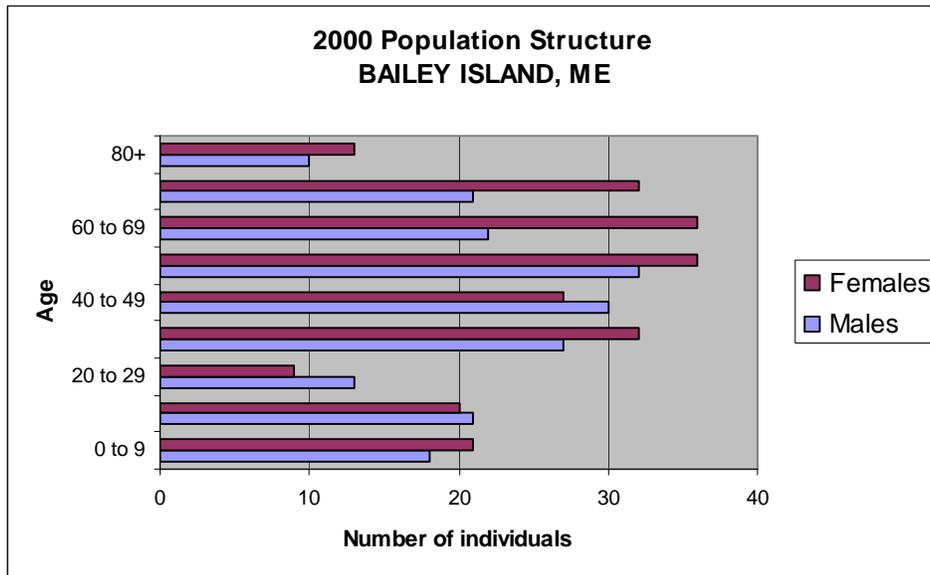


Figure 1. Bailey Island’s population structure by sex in 2000

The majority of the population was white (98.8%), with 0.7% black or African American, 0.2% Asian, 0.2% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). None of the population identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked

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.

their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (33.5%), Scottish (7.0%), Irish (6.3%), and Polish (5.3%) (US Census Bureau 2000a).

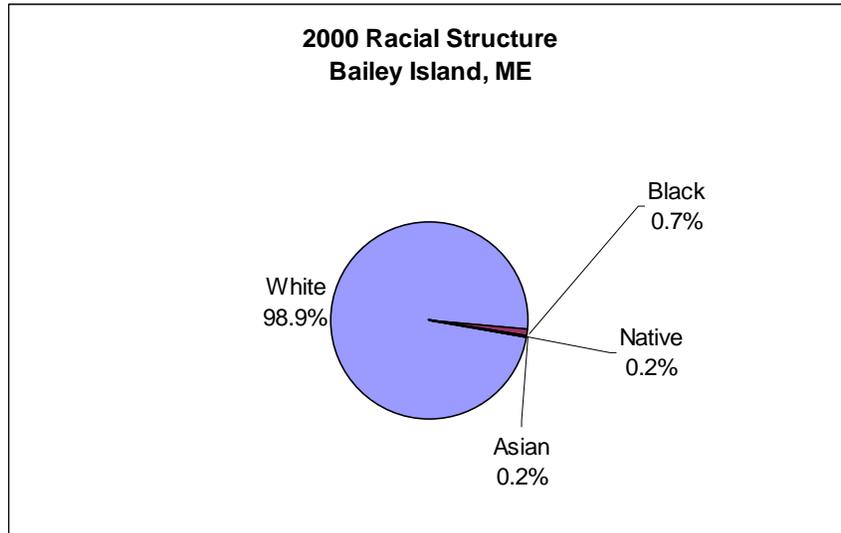


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

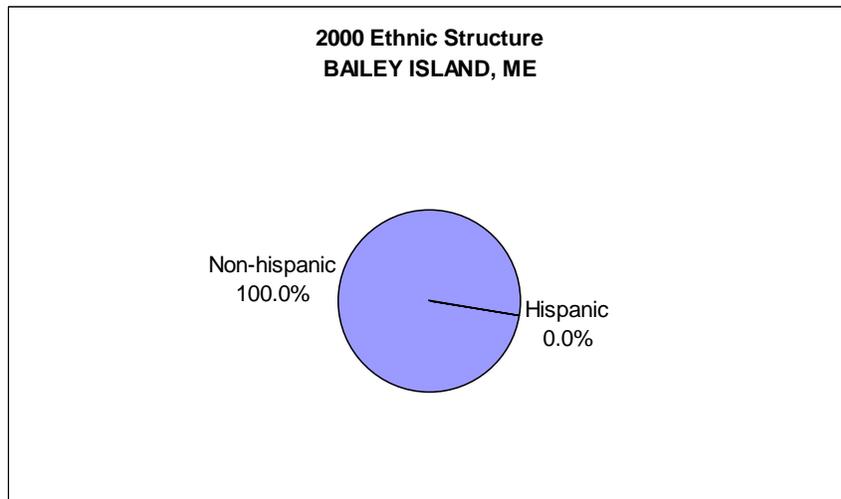


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

With regard to region of birth, 51.2% were born in Maine, 47.8% were born in a different state, and 1.0% were born outside of the United States (including 1.0% who were not United States citizens).

For 98.2% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 1.8% in homes where a language other than English was spoken. None of the population spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 94.6% were high school graduates or higher and 60.7% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, none of the population did not reach ninth grade, 5.4% attended some high school but did not graduate, 20.7% completed high school, 10.8% had some college with no degree, 2.4% received their

associate's degree, 30.3% earned their bachelor's degree, and 30.3% received either their graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through US Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Cumberland County was Catholic with 31 congregations and 61,495 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the United Church of Christ (33 congregations with 10,160 adherents), United Methodist Church (26 with 5,590 adherents), Jewish (4 with 6,000 adherents) and the Episcopal Church (11 with 4,577 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 24.6% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

In the fall of 2005, there were a series of lobster thefts around Harpswell. The thefts were blamed on desperation of lobstermen brought on by a slower season and lower catch than usual (Fahrenthold 2005).

In 2006, the State of Maine passed the Working Waterfront Tax Law, to address the problem of working waterfront property being heavily taxed based on its projected market value. The goal of this tax is "to encourage the preservation of working waterfront land and to prevent the conversion of working waterfront land to other uses as the result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of that land for purposes of property taxation." The law requires the tax assessor to value the property based on what it is worth as working waterfront land, rather than what its market value would be if it were sold and converted to residential or other uses (State of Maine 2005).

Cultural attributes

Bailey Island has an annual tuna fishing tournament (State of Maine 2007). There is also a bronze statue of a Maine lobsterman, dedicated to lobstering in Maine, which was originally created for the 1939 World's Fair (Hall-Arbor et al. 2001). The annual Harpswell Festival by the Bay is an old-fashioned celebration of the town, with music and a parade (Harpswell Festival 2006). The Festival has an emphasis on the participation and public awareness of the town's non-profit organizations, businesses, artists, and artisans. In 2005 the festival featured a quahog demonstration and a tidal pool touch tank among other events. Cundy's Harbor has its own celebration, Cundy's Harbor Day, which features a parade and lobster dinner (Ganong 2005).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

There are several major employers within a relatively short drive of Harpswell. Bath Iron Works, in Bath, is one of the nation's top ten defense contractors and Maine's largest employer, with 8,500 employees. The Naval Air Station Brunswick, located in neighboring Brunswick, is the city's second largest employer, with 4,710 civilian and military personnel, and provides over \$211 million to the local economy. Bowdoin College, also in Brunswick, also employs a number of people in the area (Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber 2005). Many of the residents in and around Bailey Island also commute to jobs in Portland. According to the U.S. Census 2000⁴, 70.8% (245 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force

⁴ 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.

(see Figure 4), of which none were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 70.8% were employed.

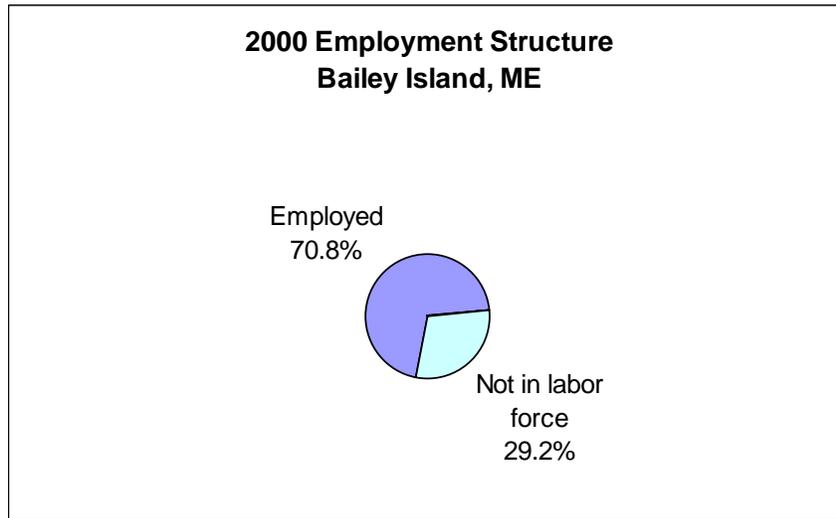


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 14 positions or 5.7% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 56 positions or 22.9% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (21.2%), construction (14.7%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (12.7%), and manufacturing (10.6%), were the primary industries.

Median household income in Bailey Island was \$43,188, up 71.6% from \$25,469 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and median per capita income was \$29,307. For full-time year round workers, females made approximately 33.2% more per year than males.

The average family in Bailey Island consisted of 2.65 persons. With respect to poverty, no families down 7.1% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 4.1% of individuals earn 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, 7.6% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Bailey Island had a total of 424 housing units of which 48.3% were occupied and 87.1% were detached one unit homes. Over one third (39.5%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 4.5% of the housing units; 93.8% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$238,900. Of vacant housing units, 48.8% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 22.9% were renter occupied.

Government

Harpwell is governed by a Town Meeting form of government, as well as a board of three Selectmen, elected to three-year terms. The town was incorporated in 1758 (Anonymous 2005). The town offices are located on Great Island (HBA 2005).

Fishery involvement in government

Harpswell has more shoreline than any other municipality in Maine, so many of the town's municipal activities relate to the use of the coast, including the management of harbors, the regulation of shellfishing, the placement of moorings, and other relevant activities. The town has a Harbor and Waterfront Committee, a Marine Resources Committee, and a Marine Resources Ordinance, as well as a Shellfish Conservation Warden (Anonymous 2005). Harpswell also has a harbor master. The town has also been very active in preserving its working waterfronts, and has implemented exclusive zoning for the commercial fishing industry along the waterfront (Coxe et al. 2004).

Institutional

Fishing associations

The [Maine Lobstermen's Association](#) (MLA) was founded in 1954, and works to protect the lobster resource and the lobstermen's way of life. The association was founded by lobstermen with a goal of empowering Maine's lobster industry by representing lobstermen with a united front. The MLA is the largest commercial fishing industry group on the east coast, and represents the interests of 1200 lobstermen.

The MLA "was initiated in the late 1960s and has a long-standing history of being involved in critical groundfish issues" (Commercial Fisheries News 2003). The Casco Bay Tuna Club is located on Bailey Island (Fishing Line 2005).

Fishing assistance centers

The Working Waterfront Coalition is a statewide collaboration of various industry associations, non-profits, and government agencies with the goal to support Maine's working waterfronts. The [Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program](#), administered by the Department of Marine Resources, provides money to applicants such as municipalities, fishing co-ops, private commercial fisheries businesses and more, ranging from \$7,000 to \$475,000. The intention of the program is to preserve commercial fisheries working waterfronts and to help secure property for these businesses. As of December 2007, the \$2 million pilot program has reportedly supported over 400 jobs, 194 boats, and assured access to clam flats, parking, wharfage and fisheries in six towns (Maine DMR 2005). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007.

The Maine Fishermen's Wives Association is based in Harpswell (Stevenson 2005).

Other fishing related organizations

The [Maine Fishermen's Forum](#) was founded in 1976, and its goal is to provide continuous opportunities to educate the public and the fishing industry about marine resource issues and fisheries, as well as to provide a platform for discussion and decision making. The Forum also holds an annual three day event which focuses awareness on issues that affect the commercial fishing industry.

The [Harpswell Heritage Land Trust](#) is working to preserve public access to the waterfront, and to protect open space in Harpswell. Its mission is "to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of Harpswell through education, conservation, and land owner assistance" (HHLT 2005).

Physical

Harpswell is made up of a long peninsula and over 200 islands, creating a number of coves and harbors throughout the town. Bailey Island is connected to Orr Island by the Bailey Island Bridge, which is connected to Great Island, which is in turn connected to the mainland via two bridges on Route 24. Route 24 is the major road running through the town, joining up with Route 1, which runs through Bath, Brunswick, and all along the Maine coast. Bailey Island is about 14 miles from Brunswick, 20 miles from Bath, and 42 miles from Portland. The closest airport is the Portland International Jetport (MapQuest 2005).

Both [Concord Trailways](#) and [Greyhound](#) operate bus services that stop in Bath and Brunswick. [Vermont Transit](#) also has buses running from Brunswick. [Amtrak](#) offers train service from Portland to Boston and the rest of the eastern seaboard. [Casco Bay Lines Scenic Cruises](#) in Portland offers a round-trip cruise to Bailey Island for sightseeing. The commercial fishing industry on Bailey Island is centered in Mackerel Cove (Curtis Memorial Library 2005).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁵

Commercial

Cook's Lobster House is a wholesale/retail lobster pound, where visitors can watch local lobsters being offloaded (HBA 2005). Bailey Island Lobster Co. is located in Mackerel Cove and buys lobsters from about 30 boats (Chase and Porter 2006). Lobster Village in Mackerel Cove is listed as an authentic "lobster village" with a restaurant, marina, gift shop, and wharf (UFiSH 2005). Much of the commercial fishing activity in Harpswell is out of Cundy's Harbor; there is likely to be some interdependence among Cundy's Harbor, Bailey Island, and the rest of Harpswell.

Like Harpswell and many other communities in Maine, lobster is by far the most valuable species in Bailey Island. The value of lobster landings in 2006 were well above the average landings values for 1997-2006. The second most valuable species grouping was "other", which includes tuna, the landings of which have been high in Bailey Island in some years (see Table 1). The number of vessels listing Bailey Island as their home port declined slightly from 1997-2006, as did the number of vessels owned by Bailey Island residents. The landings for Bailey Island were consistently high in all years, indicating that boats from elsewhere are landing their catch here while the Bailey Island vessels are not active, or that the value of fishing for home ported vessels is being misreported (see Table 2).

⁵ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Other ⁶	2
Scallop	3
Herring	4
Largemouth Groundfish ⁷	5
Monkfish	6

(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.)

Vessels by Year⁸

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	20	14
1998	17	11
1999	20	13
2000	18	13
2001	18	13
2002	21	15
2003	17	11
2004	14	11
2005	14	9
2006	17	9

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport
Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence⁹)

Recreational

The town of Harpswell has both commercial and recreational shellfishing managed through the Marine Resources Committee (Anonymous 2005). [Sea Escape Charters](#) on Bailey Island offers charter fishing trips as well as seal watches and island tours. Bailey Island also has an annual tuna fishing tournament (Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber 2005).

⁶ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group.

⁷ Largemouth groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

Harpowell is currently in the process of implementing a comprehensive plan for the town which will encourage smarter growth within the town by focusing development within designated village areas (HBA 2005).

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