

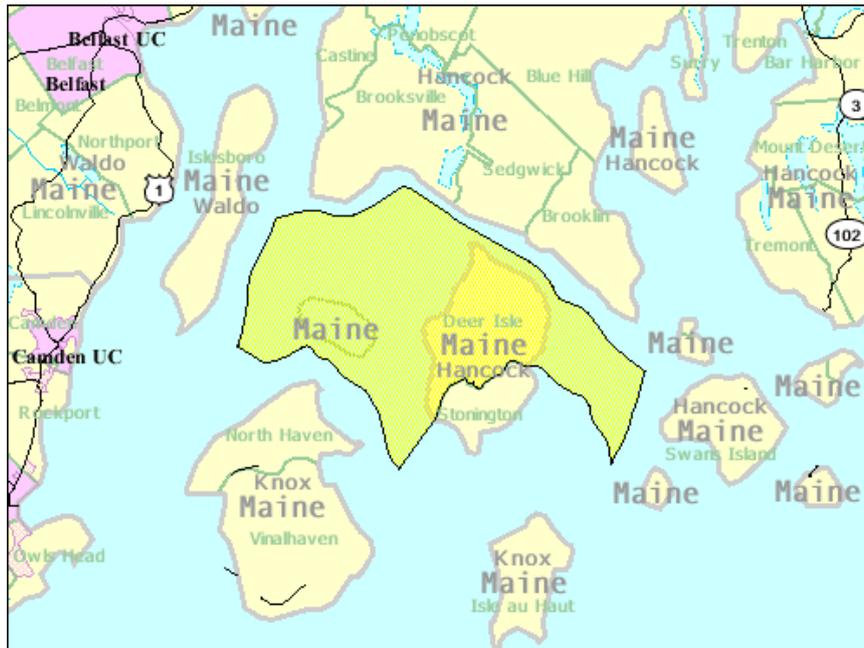
DEER ISLE, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The town of Deer Isle (44.13°N, 68.42°W) is located in Hancock County on Deer Isle in Penobscot Bay in Downeast Maine. It is 79.9 miles east from Rockland, ME, 97.3 miles east of Augusta, ME, and 153 miles northeast of Portland, ME, and 258.7 miles northeast of Boston, MA (USGS 2008).



Map 1. Location of Deer Isle, ME (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

“First settled in 1762 and incorporated in 1789, Deer Isle originally encompassed Isle au Haut, which split off in 1874, and Stonington, which split off in 1897. The town includes the northern two-thirds of the island of Deer Isle, the islands of Little Deer Isle and Sunshine, as well as a number of smaller islands” (Penobscot Bay Press 2007). The waters around Deer Isle were busy in the 19th century, transporting granite from the area’s quarries and supporting a strong fishing industry (D’Entremont 1997). Fishing is still the mainstay of the economy, and lobster boats outnumber visiting yachts and sailboats (Downeast & Acadia 2007). Today, the Deer Isle waterfront counts 78 fishing vessels, and most of their landings are lobsters and clams.

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.”

Demographics³

According to the Census 2000 data⁴, Deer Isle had a total population of 1,876, up 2.6% from a reported population of 1,829 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.7% were males and 51.3% were females. The median age was 44.2 years and 75.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 24.6% was 62 or older.

The population structure for Deer Isle (Figure 1) shows a somewhat even age distribution. The town does, however, experience a dip in population within the 20-29 year age group, and the highest percentage of the population is between 40-49 years.

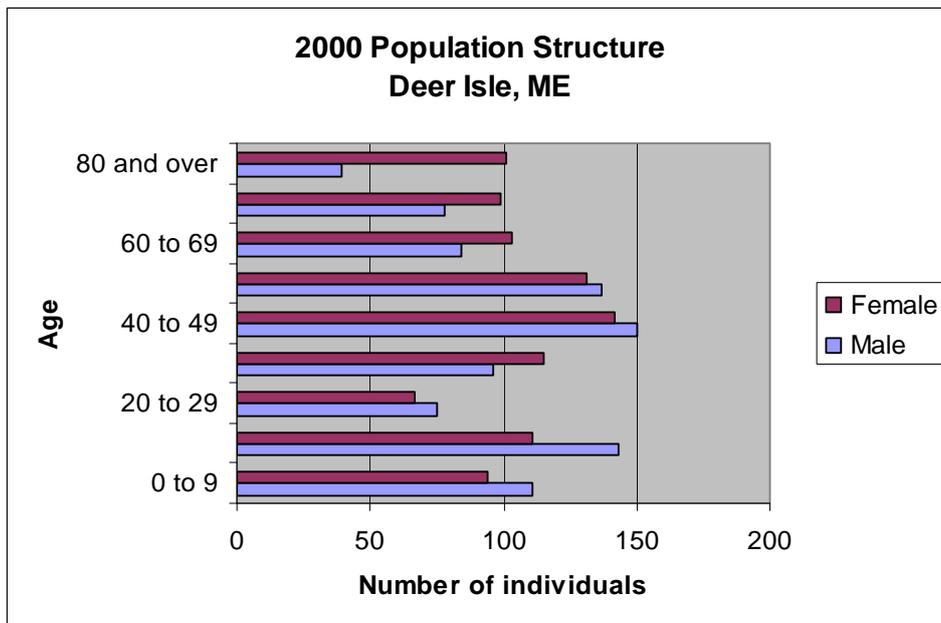


Figure 1. Deer Isle's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population of was white (98.6%), with 0.2% black or African American, 0.2% Asian, 0.1% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.4% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (28.8%), Irish (6.1%), Scottish (5.5%), and Italian (2.9%). With regard to region of birth, 66.9% were born in Maine, 30.9% were born in a different state and 1.3% were born outside the U.S (including 0.3% who were not US citizens).

For 97.4% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 2.6% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.3% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 83.0% were high school graduates or higher and 22.4% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 6.1% did not reach ninth grade, 11.0% attended some high school but did not graduate, 40.5% completed high school, 12.9% had some college with no degree, 7.2% received an

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.

⁴ 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 Deer Isle town; (accessed August 2, 2007)

associate's degree, 12.9% earned a bachelor's degree, and 9.5% received a graduate or professional degree.

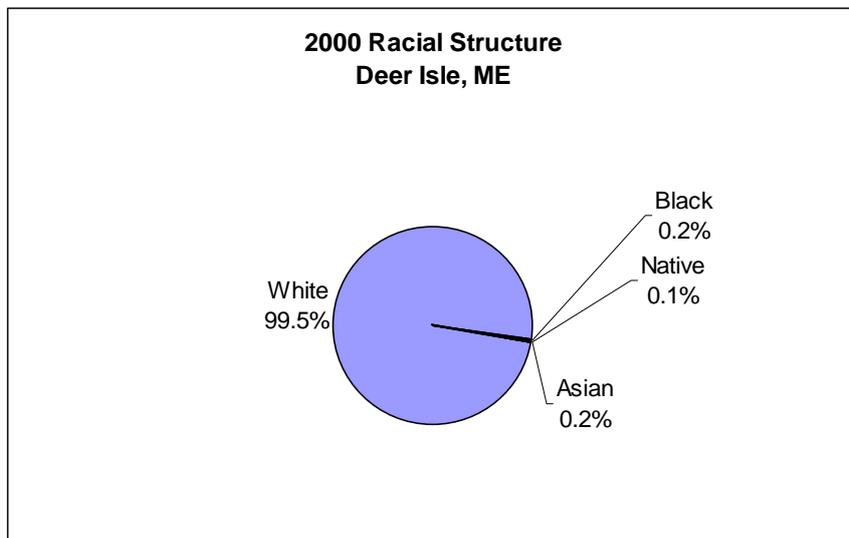


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

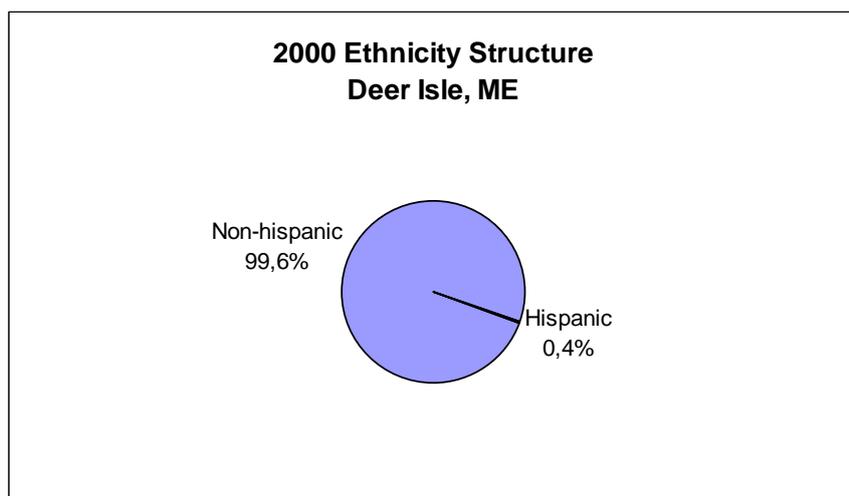


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

Although religion percentages are not available through U.S. Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Hancock County was Catholic with 10 congregations and 6,292 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (19 with 1,957 adherents), American Baptist Churches in the USA (17 with over 1,774 adherents), and the United Methodist Church (17 with 1,074 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 25.2% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

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

The first or second Sunday in August is the annual Fisherman's Day celebration in Deer Isle (Deer Isle-Stonington Chamber of Commerce 2007).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The biggest employer on the island is Billings Diesel and Marine Services, Inc. with 60 people located in Stonington (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 57.5% of the population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 3.6% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 53.9% were employed.

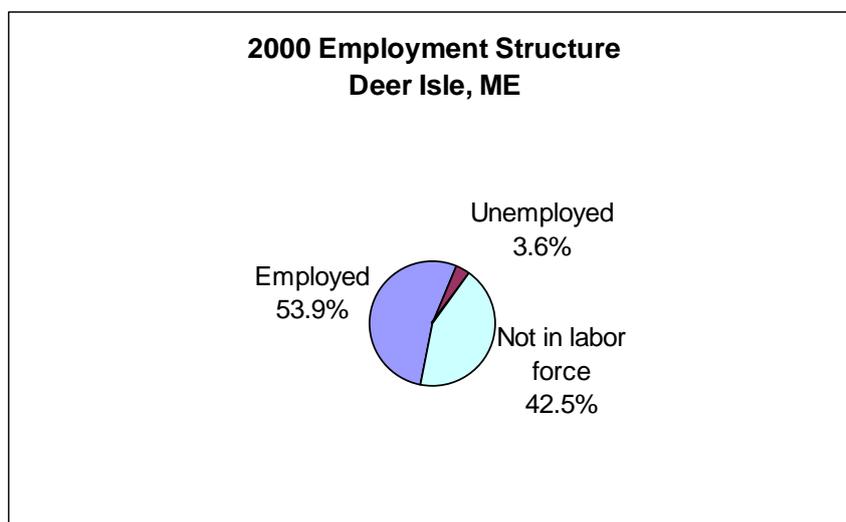


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to U.S. Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 123 positions or 24.4% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 211 positions or 25.9% of jobs. Educational health and social services (18.6%), retail trade (15.7%), construction (14.0%), and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (10.8%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Deer Isle was \$32,862 (up 50.4% from \$21,853 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$16,875. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 29.5% more per year than females.

The average family consisted of 2.82 persons. With respect to poverty, 5.9% of families (down from 6.6% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 8.8% of individuals earned below the U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9 [US Census Bureau 2000a]). In 2000, 40.0% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

⁵ 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, Deer Isle had a total of 1,573 housing units of which 50.0% were occupied and 86.1% were detached one unit homes. Over half (56.5%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes and boats accounted for 10.0% of housing units; 91.0% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$109,300. Of vacant housing units, 90.1% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 14.5% were renter occupied.

Government

Deer Isle has a Board of Selectmen (3 individuals) and a town manager (State of Maine 2004).

Fishery involvement in government

Deer Isle has a harbormaster; further information on fishery involvement in government in Deer Isle is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Institutional

Fishing associations

Fishing associations in the area are the Downeast Lobstermen's Association in Deer Isle, Deer Isle-Stonington Shellfish Committee, Island Fishermen's Wives Association, and Maine Gillnetters Association in Stonington (Stevenson 2005). 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.

Fishing assistance centers

The Island Fishermen's Wives Association supports the fishing community in many ways, including through school programs and scholarships, emergency financial assistance to fishing people and their families, and survival and safety education with help from the US Coast Guard. The Association is committed to preserving the fishing heritage of the island and to educating the public about the industry (Bangor Metro 2006).

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.

Other fishing related organizations

The Maine Sea Grant Program, the School of Marine Sciences, and the Lobster Institute are all located in Orono, ME and are involved in Stonington fisheries (Maine Fishermen's Forum 2007). The Lobster Zone Council (Zone C) is empowered by the state legislature to set trap limits and otherwise manage the lobster fishery on a zone-by-zone basis, subject to approval by the state's Department of Marine Resources (Waterman 1999).

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 (Maine Fishermen’s Forum 2007).

Physical

Deer Isle is accessible via Maine’s meandering Route 15. Bar Harbor in Hancock County has a national airport which is 52 miles from Deer Isle. The city of Bangor in Penobscot County has an international airport 60 miles from Deer Isle (MapQuest 2006). The Isle au Haut mailboat provides service between Stonington and the town landing at Isle au Haut, with summer service to the Acadia National Park campground at Duck Harbor. Downeast Transportation operates bus services to Ellsworth from Stonington, Bucksport, Otis, and Winter Harbor (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁶

Commercial

The Conary Cove Lobster Company located in Deer Isle is a wholesale and retail vendor of seafood (MLA 2007). According to NMFS data, in 2002 the annual landings for Maine totaled 197 million pounds with a landing value of \$279.4 million (Pritchard 2003). The top five species landed in Deer Isle were lobster, “other”, scallops, largemesh groundfish, and monkfish. Of these species, lobster values far exceeded any other species values, although there were no landings of any species listed for 2006 (see Table).

The number of vessels whose homeport was Deer Isle generally increased over the 1997 to 2006 time period. The number of vessels whose owner’s city was Deer Isle followed a similar trend, with a significant increase in 2002 but a small decline in 2006. In all years, the level of fishing landed port value far exceeded the level of fishing home port value, but shows a striking decline over the ten year time period (see Table).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value by Federally Managed Groups of landings in Deer Isle

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Lobster	2,089,254	0
Scallop	42,962	0
Other⁷	42,057	0
Largemesh Groundfish⁸	2,490	0
Monkfish	23	0

⁶ 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.

⁷ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

⁸ Largemesh Groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

Vessels by Year⁹

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	10	19	7,431	4,253,859
1998	10	19	0	6,233,997
1999	11	23	80,812	7,699,074
2000	12	23	581	2,142,604
2001	13	29	0	150,714
2002	24	41	0	376,994
2003	17	34	0	896,389
2004	23	44	31,374	13,754
2005	23	44	167,774	474
2006	21	39	2,600	0

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

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁰

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 is a hunting and fishing guide service in Deer Isle, as well as boat charters and excursions (Deer Isle-Stonington Chamber of Commerce 2007).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

Information on the future in Deer Isle is unavailable through secondary data collection.

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⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

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