

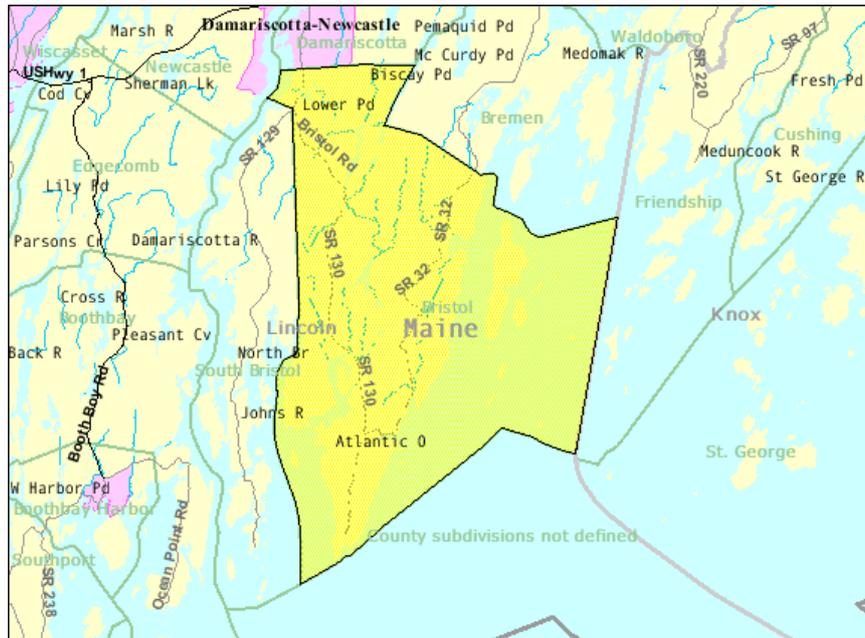
NEW HARBOR, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The community of New Harbor, Maine (43.88°N, 69.49°W) is located in the town of Bristol in Lincoln County, on the Pemaquid Peninsula (State of Maine 2004).



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

Historical/Background

Bristol, Maine is named after the city of Bristol, England. Many of the early villages were named after cities in Europe where the settlers originated. Bristol is one of the oldest towns in Maine and it was incorporated in 1765 while Maine was still part of Massachusetts. Shell heaps left by early inhabitants date back to the 4th millennium BC. Norse explorers may have reached Maine in about 1000 AD. By the time the French and English explorers reached Maine during the seventeenth century, the land was occupied by Wabenaki Indians. Early European settlement of the coastal region was hindered by repeated conflicts between the French, English, and Native Americans (Varney 1886). The first British settlement at Pemaquid was destroyed during the King Philip's War. Pemaquid was a fur trading center in Maine during the mid-1600s (Friends of Colonial Pemaquid 2006). The settlement had an industry early on processing and drying cod and other fish for shipment to Europe (Town of Bristol 2004). In the 18th century the foundations for Maine's prosperous fishing, lumbering, and shipbuilding industries were laid.

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."

South Bristol separated from Bristol in 1915 (State of Maine 2004). Today Colonial Pemaquid is a museum with the remains of the original settlement, and a reconstruction of Fort William Henry, which stood on this spot (Friends of Colonial Pemaquid 2006). Bristol today is made up of five villages: Bristol Mills, Pemaquid, New Harbor, Round Pond, and Chamberlain. Bristol Mills is the municipal center of the town (Town of Bristol 2006).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, New Harbor had a total population of 643, up 71.9% from the reported population of 374 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.6% were males and 52.4% were females. The median age was 56.1 years and 86.5% of the population was 21 years or older while 41.2% was 62 or older.

New Harbor's age structure (Figure 1) showed the highest percentage of the population between 70-79 years, followed by 60-69. This is unusual; most communities have declining populations as they get older. This likely represents the fact that New Harbor is a retirement community, which is supported by a large percentage of the population not in the labor force.

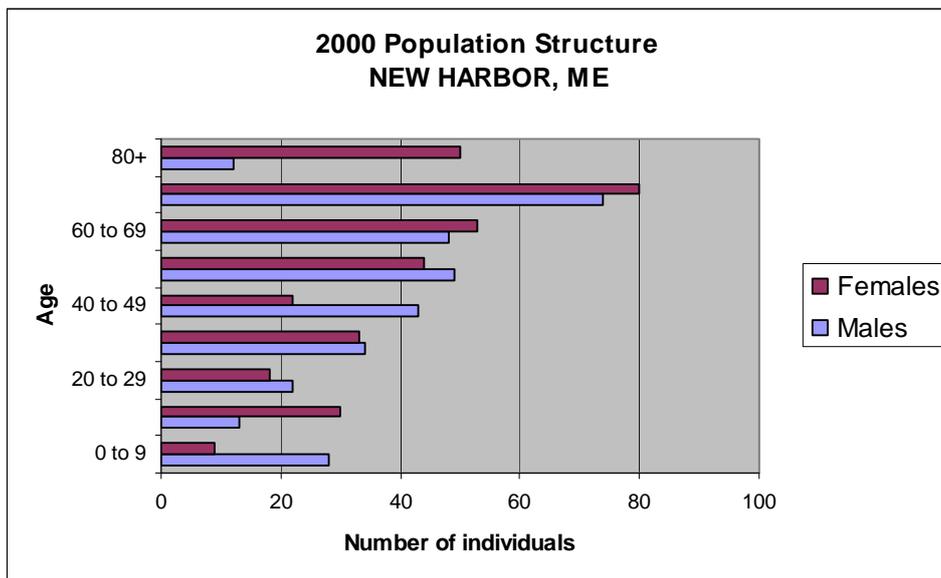


Figure 1. New Harbor's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census 2000)

The majority of the population was white (99.4%), with no residents black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.2% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 0.5% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (34.3%), Irish (22.7%), German (14.2%), and Scottish (7.9%). With regard to region of birth, 36.0% were born in Maine, 60.0% were born in a different state and 4.1% were born outside of the U.S. (including 2.9% who were not United States citizens).

³ While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

⁴ These and all census data, unless otherwise referenced, can be found at US Census: American Factfinder 2000 <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>; census data used are for Zip Code 04554 in Bristol (cited July 2007)

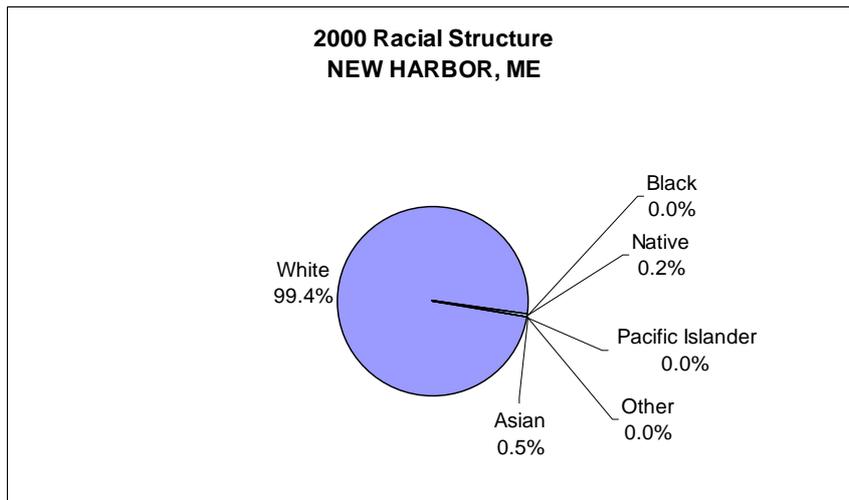


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

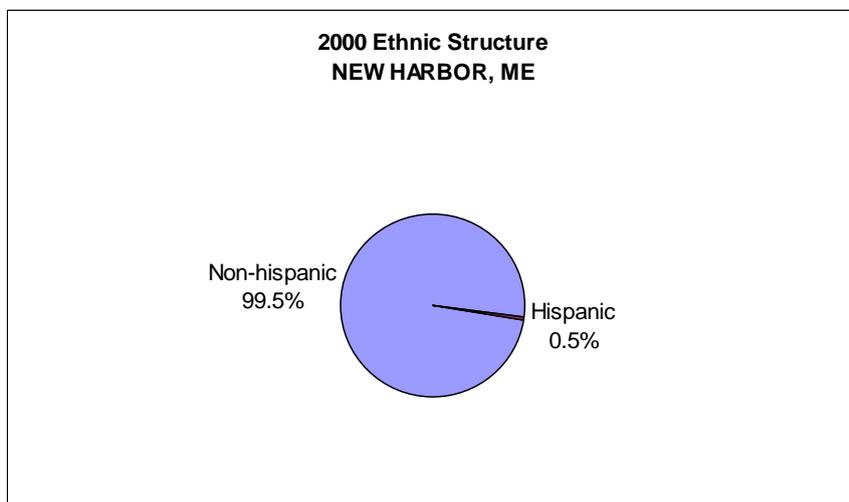


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 95.2% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 4.8% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.5% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 93.4% were high school graduates or higher and 32.9% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.1% did not reach ninth grade, 4.5% attended some high school but did not graduate, 35.0% completed high school, 22.5% had some college with no degree, 3.0% received an associate's degree, 17.9% earned a bachelor's degree, and 15.0% 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 Lincoln County was Catholic with 3 congregations and 2,730 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the United Church of Christ (8 with 1,104 adherents), and the United Methodist Church (8 with 1,100 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 55% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Water pollution has resulted in clam bed closures (Maine DMR 2006). 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

Pemaquid Point Light, at the end of the peninsula, is home to the Fishermen’s Museum. The museum is dedicated to the area’s fishing and lobstering industry, and includes displays about the past and present of the industry and its techniques (D’Entremont 1997). The annual Merritt Brackett lobster boat races are held as part of Olde Bristol Days in Colonial Pemaquid. In 2005 there were 19 different classes of boat competing, divided by size, horsepower, engine type, and other variables (Fletcher 2005).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The commercial fishing industry makes up an important part of the town’s economy, as do small businesses. When compared with neighboring towns, Bristol’s unemployment rate is very low. Roughly 44% of Bristol’s residents work within the town; 22% work in Damariscotta, and the remainder work primarily in neighboring towns (Town of Bristol 2004). The largest employer in the town of Bristol⁵ is Masters Machine Company in Round Pond, with 100 employees.⁶

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁷, 47.6% (285 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which none were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 47.6% were employed.

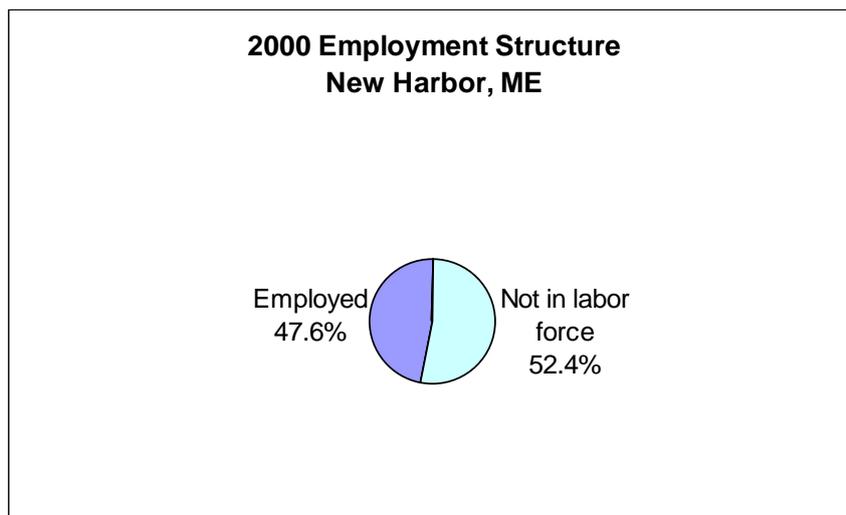


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

⁵ Personal communication, Bristol Town Office, 1268 Bristol Rd., Bristol ME 04539, 1/27/06

⁶ Personal communication, Masters Machine Co., 500 Lower Round Pond Rd., Round Pond ME 04564, 1/27/06

⁷ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 34 positions or 11.9% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 46 positions or 16.1% of jobs. Educational, health, and social services (19.6%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (18.6%), and construction (10.2%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in New Harbor was \$35,313 (up 17.2% from \$30,125 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$25,163. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 18.1% more per year than females.

The average family in New Harbor consisted of 2.42 persons. With respect to poverty, 4.4% of families (up from 3.6% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 9.8% 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, 34.2% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, New Harbor had a total of 824 housing units of which 39.7% were occupied and 92.6% were detached one unit homes. Less than one-third (31.6%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, vans, and boats accounted for 16.1% of the total housing units; 92.6% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$171,500. Of vacant housing units, 57.6% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 10.4% were renter occupied.

Government

Bristol has a board of three selectmen. The municipal offices are located in Bristol Mills (Town of Bristol 2006).

Fishery involvement in government

The town's Harbor Committee is involved with issues such as access to waterfront and wharf development (Town of Bristol 2004).

Institutional

Fishing associations

The New Harbor Fisherman's Cooperative was owned by 20 crab and lobster fishermen in New Harbor, and was founded in 1972. These fishermen cooperatively market and sell their catch. Across the peninsula, the [Pemaquid Fishermen's Co-op](#) is the oldest continuously running fishermen's cooperative in the United States.

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 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](#) (WWAPP), 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 Pemaquid Watershed Association is working to preserve and protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Pemaquid Peninsula region. Their programs include land stewardship, water quality monitoring, and environmental education programs (PWA 2006).

The Darling Marine Center is the site of world renowned marine research. The marine laboratory of the University of Maine functions year round as a research and educational facility serving the marine interests of faculty, staff, students and visiting investigators from around the world (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). The Darling Marine Center is located in Walpole, at approximately 8 miles from New Harbor (DMC 2006).

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.

Physical

The Pemaquid Peninsula separates John Bay and Muscongus Bay; New Harbor is on the east side of the peninsula. New Harbor is about 4.5 miles from Pemaquid Harbor, on the other side of the Pemaquid River from the Peninsula, and about 6 miles from Round Pond Harbor, about 6 miles north along the Pemaquid Peninsula. South Bristol is about 10.5 miles away, Boothbay Harbor is about 29 miles away, Rockland is 35 miles away, and Portland is about 65 miles from New Harbor. The closest airport is the Knox County Municipal Airport in Rockland (MapQuest 2006). [Hardy Boat Cruises](#) offers ferry service to Monhegan Island from New Harbor.

Shaw's Fish and Lobster Wharf sells lobster retail and wholesale, and at their waterfront restaurant.⁸ Shaw's is also a popular bar frequented by local lobstermen (Travel Agents Intl. 2006). Bristol is unusual in that most of the wharves in the town are dedicated to fishing-related activity rather than tourism or residential activity. Of 18 commercial wharves built in New Harbor, six of them have been converted to residential use and one to recreational use, and the rest remain as commercial wharves (Town of Bristol 2004).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁹

Commercial

There are 20 fishermen who are members of the New Harbor Fisherman's Co-op, who collectively sell and market their catch. There are an additional 20 boats that tie up off Shaw's Fish and Lobster Wharf which sell their catch there; Shaw's provides them with bait

⁸ Personal communication, William Knight, Shaw's Fish and Lobster Wharf, 129 Maine Rt. 32, New Harbor, ME 04554, 1/27/06

⁹ 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.

and fuel.¹⁰ In 2000 there were 11 registered marine-related dealers in Bristol, and 124 residents registered as commercial harvesters according to the Maine Department of Natural Resources (Town of Bristol 2004).

New Harbor was for many years the number two shrimp port after Portland (Town of Bristol 2004). Today lobster is by far the most valuable species in New Harbor, as in many other similar Maine communities. The value of lobster in 2006 was far higher than the ten-year average value for 1997-2006. The second most valuable species was shrimp (labeled as ‘other’ in Table 1). The number of vessels home ported in New Harbor decreased significantly from 1997-2006, from 24 in 1997 down to 11 in 2006 (Table 2). The number of vessels with owners living in New Harbor similarly declined, from 25 in 1997 to 10 in 2006. This seems to indicate that while New Harbor still has a strong fishing industry, most of the vessels that land here come from elsewhere, or many of the fishermen that were formerly in New Harbor have moved elsewhere.

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 ¹¹	2
Largemouth Groundfish ¹²	3
Herring	4
Monkfish	5
Skate	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 Year¹³

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	24	25
1998	17	24
1999	19	24
2000	17	21
2001	17	23
2002	19	20
2003	16	17
2004	15	14
2005	16	13
2006	11	10

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁴)

¹⁰ Personal communication, William Knight, Shaw’s Fish and Lobster Wharf, 129 Maine Rt. 32, New Harbor ME 04554, 1/27/06

¹¹ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹² Largemouth groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹³ 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.

Recreational

Information on recreational fishing in New Harbor is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

The Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Bristol outlines a number of goals related to maintaining the fishing industry in this community. These include: maintaining and improving points of access to the water, monitoring the use of wharves, conserving the wharves being used commercially, and possibly establishing a public wharf for use by fishermen. It is the town's stated goal to maintain and promote a number of marine related activities within the community (Town of Bristol 2004).

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¹⁴ 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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