

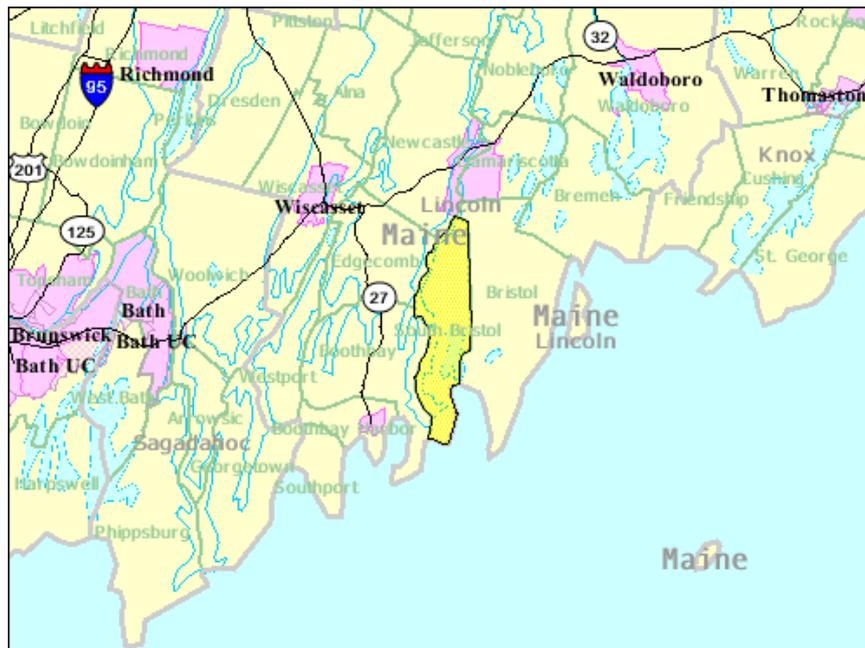
SOUTH BRISTOL ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The city of South Bristol (43.86°N, 69.56°W) is located in the Mid-Coast of Maine in Lincoln County. It is 32.7 miles from Bath, 40 miles from Rockland, and 45.5 miles from Augusta. South Bristol contains 12.3 square miles of land area (State of Maine 2004).



Map 1. Location of South 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 from where the settlers came. Bristol is one of the oldest towns in Maine. 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 Abnaki Indians. Early European settlement of the coastal region was hindered by repeated conflicts between the French, English, and Native Americans. In the 18th century, the foundations for Maine's prosperous fishing, lumbering, and shipbuilding industries were laid. South Bristol separated from Bristol in 1915.

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."

Today, South Bristol is a picturesque fishing village. There are approximately 850 year round residents and 2,000 summer residents. The village offers art galleries, antique and gift shops, fishing, sailing, and local seafood.

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, South Bristol had a total population of 897, up 8.7% from the reported population of 825 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 49.6% were males and 50.4% were females. The median age was 51.5 years and 80.2% of the population was 21 years or older while 29.7% was 62 or older.

South Bristol's age structure (Figure 1) shows the highest percentage of the population between the ages of 50-69 years, and a low population of people between 0-9 years. This age structure, coupled with an overall decrease in population, may be due to out-migration of newly graduated high school residents.

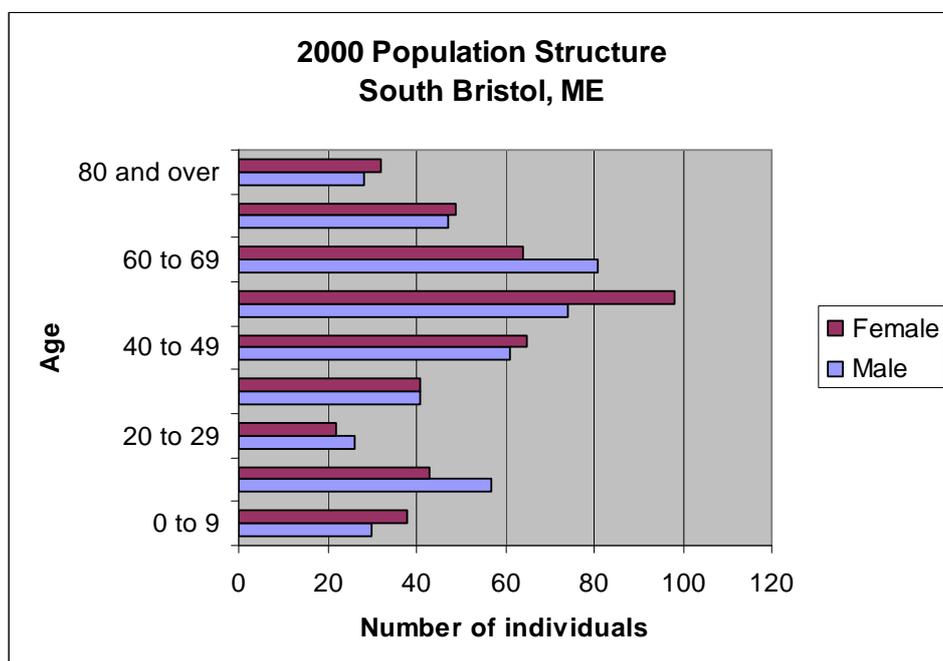


Figure 1. South Bristol's population structure by sex in 2000

The majority of the population was white (99.7%), with no residents black or African American, 0.2% Asian, 0.1% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 0.4% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (31.7%), German (13.7%), Irish (12.1%), French (8.7%), and Scottish (8.4%). With regard to region of birth, 52.8% were born in Maine, 43.9% were born in a different state and 1% was born outside of the U.S. (including 0.8% 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 U.S. Census: American Factfinder 2000 <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>; census data used are for South Bristol town, Lincoln County, ME (accessed July 26, 2007)

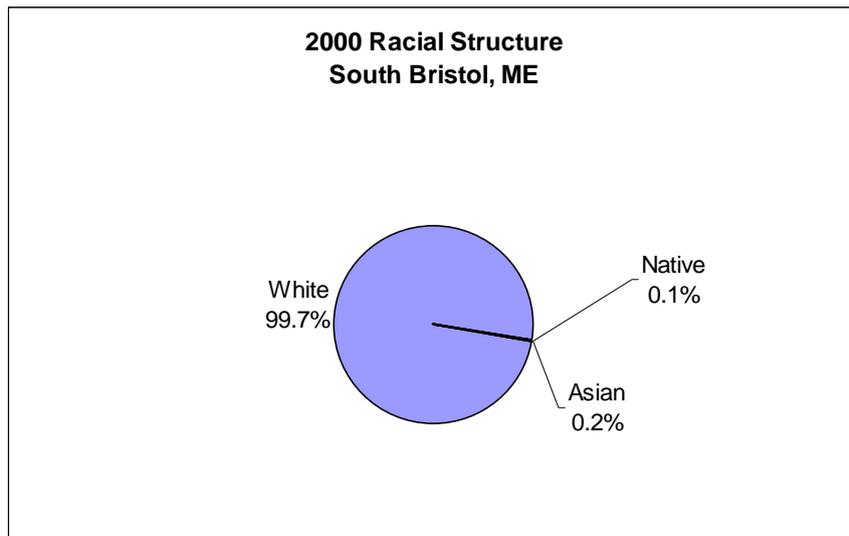


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

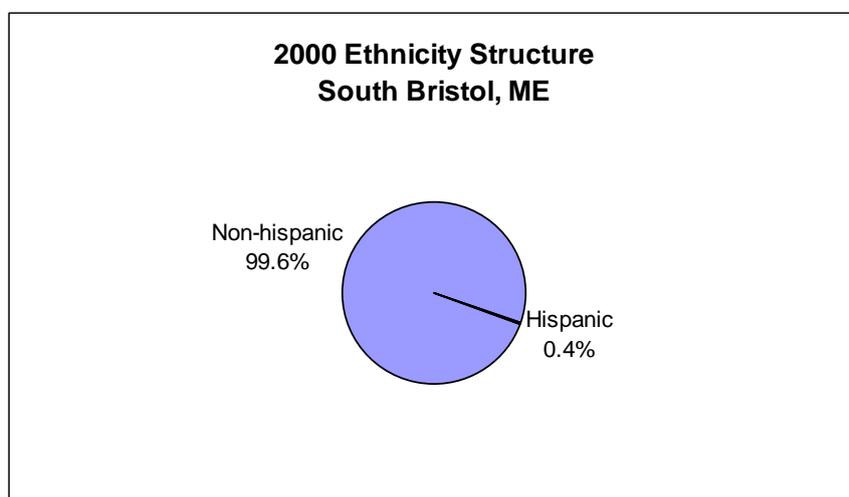


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 95% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 5% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.8% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 92.8% were high school graduates or higher and 35.5% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 0.9% did not reach ninth grade, 6.4% attended some high school but did not graduate, 30.7% completed high school, 19% had some college with no degree, 7.5% received an associate’s degree, 20.5% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 15.1% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the U.S. 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

A looming and increasing threat facing fishermen throughout the Maine coast is the soaring cost of real estate. Additionally, according to the Island Institute, out of over 5,000 miles of coastline in the state, only 20 miles are open to commercial fishermen. Also, most of the access areas fishermen use are privately owned, meaning at any time those properties can be sold and access denied to fishermen. While fishing in Maine brings over \$700 million in revenues, the competition from second home buyers and retired New Englanders may squeeze out the state's fishing culture and identity. According to the Director of Maine Sea Grant, "Lobstermen used to live right on the coast and walk down their driveways to their docks. Now they've been squeezed out of owning their own property on the water because of the costs." To help rectify this problem, in 2005 Maine voters approved a bond measure which provided \$2 million to the newly-established [Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program](#). "The new fund provides matching funds through a competitive application process to help secure coastal waterfront land that supports commercial fisheries businesses and activities." The bond is administered by the Working Waterfront Team, made up of Coastal Enterprises Inc. and the Island Institute, working with applicants to secure this funding. Six projects were funded in the first year (Maine DMR 2005). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007.

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

A grade school program funded by MIT Sea Grant and the Northeast Consortium is working to increase student's awareness of the local commercial fishing industry (MIT Sea Grant 2007).

Lobster boat races are an annual event throughout the Maine coast. In 2007, seven of the boats in the wooden lobster boat category were built in South Bristol by a town resident (Rappaport 2007).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Among the features present in South Bristol are an air fill station for divers, bait dealer, boat builders, boat yards, yacht dealer, docking facilities, a lobster cooperative (the South Bristol Fishermen's Cooperative), a shrimp, tuna and crab processor, fish retailers, and a harbormaster. In addition, other businesses relating to the ocean include an ice house, marine contractors, marine railways, marine supplies, marine museum, one aquaculture facility, oceanographers, cold storage warehouse, trucking and oil/diesel fuel (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). [Lobster Plus](#), at Eugley's Wharf in South Bristol, is a seafood company selling lobsters, clams, mussels, oysters, finned fish, crabs year-round, and scallops and sea urchins during winter only.

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 55.2% (427 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 1.0% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 54.2% were employed.

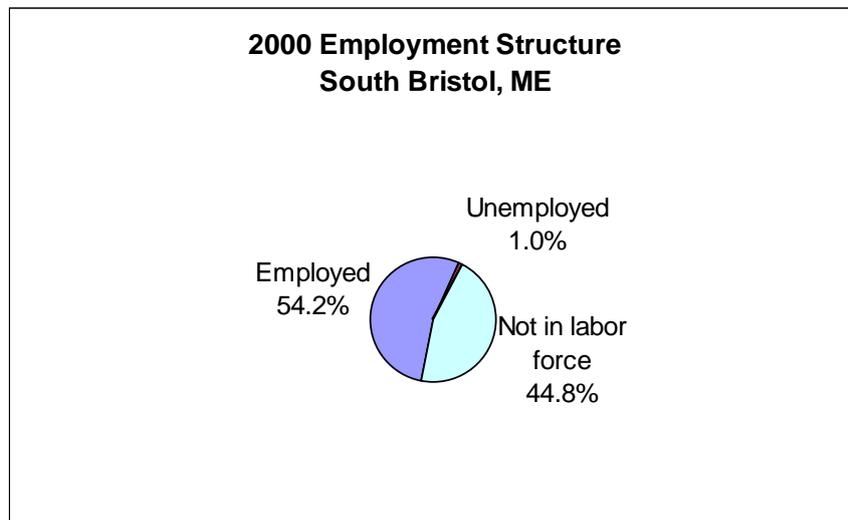


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 58 positions or 13.8% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 116 positions or 27.7% of jobs. Educational, health, and social services (21%), retail trade (18.1%), manufacturing (10.7%), and construction (9.3%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in South Bristol was \$38,636 (up 42.1% from 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]); Patrice McCarron of the Maine Lobstermen's Association noted that this increase likely corresponds to the doubling of lobster landings in Maine in the 1990s⁶) and median per capita income was \$28,233. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 46.9% more per year than females.

The average family in South Bristol consisted of 2.58 persons. With respect to poverty, 3.5% of families (down from 50% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 7.5% 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, 32.4% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, South Bristol had a total of 932 housing units of which 44% were occupied and 95.2% were detached one unit homes. Approximately one-half (48.7%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, vans, and boats accounted for 2.2% of the total housing units; 85.5% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$144,600. Of vacant housing units, 53.9% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 12.9% were renter occupied.

Government

South Bristol's local government is comprised of a Chairperson, and three Selectmen (State of Maine 2004).

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.

⁶ Profile review comment, Patrice McCarron, Executive Director, MLA, October 2, 2007

Fishery involvement in government

South Bristol has a Harbormaster and Assistant Harbormaster that oversees water-based activities in the town (SMHMA 2007).

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.

Fishing assistance centers

The MLA provides assistance to lobster fishermen in South Bristol. Additionally, in 2005 a \$2 million bond initiative providing state matching funds to commercial fishermen to help them buy their own waterfront property to work from was approved by Maine voters. With oversight from the Department of Marine Resources, the initiative has already (as of July 2007) seen six proposed projects giving \$1.3 million. Senator Collins, a Maine Republican, who often supports fishing related interests, has introduced legislation for a federal program with \$50 million in matching funds (Russell 2007).

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

In 2002, MIT Sea Grant helped fund a partnership between the elementary school and fishermen in South Bristol called Adopt-a-Boat. This provides students that live in South Bristol an awareness about commercial fishing through hands-on activities (MIT Sea Grant 2007).

The Darling Marine Center is a 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 7 miles from South Bristol (DMC 2003).

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

South Bristol is accessible by Maine Route 129 off U.S. Route 1. The town of South Bristol is located on a peninsula, jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean. The Damariscotta River

and John's Bay border it. Rutherford Island lies off the end of the peninsula and is connected to the rest of the town by a swing bridge. The international airports of Portland and Bangor are respectively 69 miles and 146 miles from South Bristol.

The community is home to three nature preserves. Plummer Point is a 74 acre wooded peninsula with over a mile of shoreline on the Damariscotta River. The Tracy Property is a town park with public access to 800 feet on Damariscotta River. Partially forested, it features 33 acres of rocky ledges, cliffs, a tidal basin and a small marsh. The wooded 18-acre Witch Island Sanctuary, provides views of Johns Bay. Two beaches offer picnicking, swimming and boat access (State of Maine 2004).

[Coveside Inn and Marina](#) at Christmas Cove provides 16 guest moorings, dock space, a launching ramp, fuel, and facilities including ice. Eugley's Wharf provides various marine supplies as well as take-out restaurants. Gamage Shipbuilding Inc. has a boat yard, a commercial shipyard, public and private docks, as well as a wide range of services. Heron Island Landing provides public boat launch. Osier's wharf proposes gas and diesel, ice, marine supplies, and restaurants within a mile. South Bristol Town Dock has public docks, and restaurants and groceries within a mile (MPA 2005).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁷

Commercial

According to the 2001 Hall-Arber et al. fishing communities report, "there were up to 68 boats in South Bristol (an estimated 20 wooden, 8 steel and 40 fiberglass) ranging in age from one to fifty, and in size from skiffs to 90 foot vessels. About a dozen stern trawlers, a couple of eastern-rigged boats, a few urchin boats, and about 50 lobster boats" (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). Additionally, "about 100 fishermen live in the area, 40 to 50 in South Bristol and Walpole. At least 175 households are directly dependent on the fishing industry, another 100 indirectly" (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

By far the most important commercial species in South Bristol is lobster, with 2006 landings well above the 1997-2006 average (see Table 1). Landings of "other" species and largemesh groundfish were the second and third most valuable groups; landings of both in 2006 were lower than the ten-year average values. Landings overall in South Bristol reached their peak in 2001; values of home port fishing were lower than landings in all years, meaning that vessels from other ports are landing their catch here. The number of vessels home ported in South Bristol increased from 22 in 1997 up to 28 in 2006, and was larger in every year than the number of owner's city vessels (see Table 2).

⁷ 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 ⁸	2
Largemesh Groundfish ⁹	3
Monkfish	4
Red Crab	5
Scallop	6
Skate	7
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	8
Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁰	9
Bluefish	10
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	11

(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 Year¹¹

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	22	12
1998	25	12
1999	26	14
2000	24	13
2001	23	13
2002	24	13
2003	24	11
2004	26	12
2005	27	13
2006	28	14

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹²)

Recreational

There is only a small amount of recreational fishing activity and no charter boats in South Bristol, however, "sometimes people come in to catch mackerel, and then they go to Wiscasset to catch striped bass" (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

⁸ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

⁹ Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

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

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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 South Bristol is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

Commercial fishing residents are concerned that children growing up in South Bristol are doing so without learning the details of the town's fishing heritage. One resident worried that a majority of the children in the area are being raised by people who do not have a connection to fishing and the way of life it represents. He laments, "It's really pretty sad when you think about it. A lot of the kids around here have no idea what goes on in the fishing industry. Some of these kids have never even been out on a boat" (Seaver 2002).

REFERENCES

- Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA). 2000. Interactive Maps and Reports, Counties within one state [cited Jul 2006]. Available from: <http://www.thearda.com/>
- Darling Marine Center. 2003. Travel directions [cited Jul 2007]. Available at: <http://server.dmc.maine.edu/>
- Hall-Arber M, Dyer C, Poggie J, McNally J, Gagne R. 2001. New England's Fishing Communities. Cambridge (MA): MIT Sea Grant 01-15. Available from: <http://seagrant.mit.edu/cmss/>
- Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR). 2005. Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program [cited Dec 2007]. Available from: <http://www.wwapp.org/>
- Maine Port Authority (MPA). 2005. Maine port authority web page [cited Jul 2007]. Available at: <http://www.maineports.com/>
- MapQuest. 2006. MapQuest Homepage [cited Dec 2006]. Available from: <http://www.mapquest.com/>
- MIT Sea Grant. 2007. Adopt-a-Boat [cited Jul 2007]. Available at: <http://adoptaboat.org/>
- Rappaport S. 2007. Lobster Boat Races Between Fog and Thunderstorms. Ellsworth American, 2007 Jul 19.
- Russell J. 2007. The selling of Maine's coast: fishing industry access squeezed by development. Boston Globe, 2007 Jun 17.
- Seaver R. 2002. Learning on deck – Adopt-a-Boat: Commercial fishing vessels in K-12 education [cited Jul 2007]. Available at: <http://www.fishresearch.org/>
- State of Maine. 2005. Maine Revenue Service: Maine's working waterfront tax law [cited Dec 2007]. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/pubs/workingwaterq&a.htm>
- State of Maine. 2004. Town of South Bristol [cited Feb 2007]. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/local/>
- State of Maine Harbor Master Association (SMHMA). 2007. Harbormaster directory [cited Jul 2007]. Available at: <http://maineharbormasters.org/>
- US Census Bureau. 1990. 1990 Decennial Census [cited Jul 2006]. Available at: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>
- US Census Bureau. 2000. American FactFinder: South Bristol town, Lincoln County, Maine fact sheet [cited Jul 2007]. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/>