

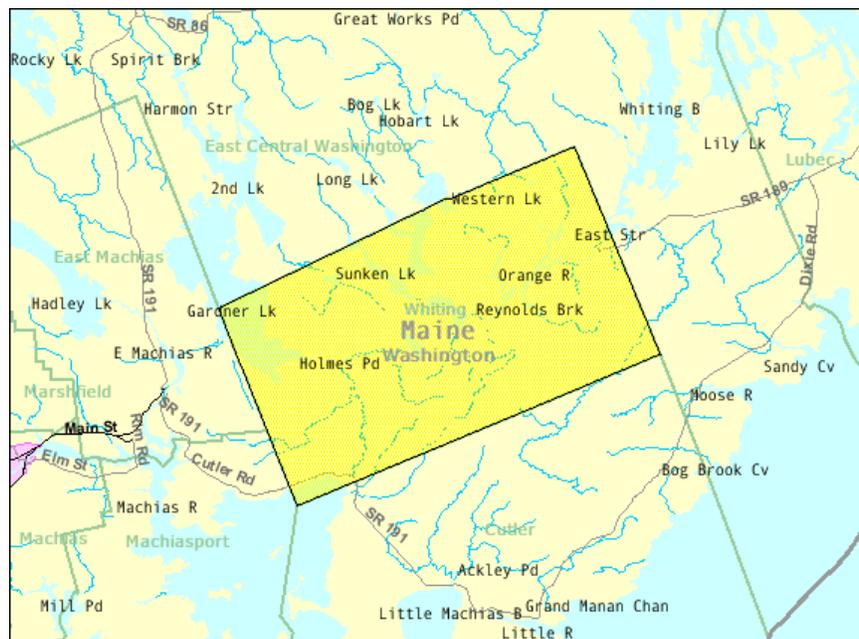
WHITING, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The Town of Whiting (44.43°N, 67.31°W) is in Washington County on Cobscook Bay in the state of Maine (State of Maine 2004). Whiting is a small town, with a total area of 52.1 mi², and is situated in the northern part of the state, less than 30km from Canada (MapQuest 2006). The northern half of Whiting has many acres of lakes and ponds and features dramatic coastal cliffs (State of Maine 2004). This community was included in the profiling process because of its role in the seafood processing industry, rather than the importance of harvesting activities to the community.



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

Historical/Background

Whiting was incorporated in 1825 from Orangetown Plantation and named after Timothy Whiting, an early land owner and member of the State Legislature (State of Maine 2004). Mr. Whiting donated 400 acres of land to the town for the benefit of free schools on the condition that the town was named after him. The neglected fields of early farmers unintentionally produced blueberries which supported a new industry that now makes a large contribution to

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."

Washington County's economy and high production of wild blueberries. A large element of the history of Whiting is lumber and shipbuilding, and the biggest industry for 150 years was a grist mill. Today, the primary business is Look's Gourmet Food Company (CBACC, no date).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, Whiting had a total population of 430, up 5.7% from the reported population of 407 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this total in 2000, 47.4% were female and 52.6% were male. The median age was 43.3 years and 75.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 20.0% was 62 or older.

The population structure for Whiting (Figure 1) shows the largest age class for both males and females was between 40-49 years old. The larger portion of males could be indicative of labor-oriented occupations in the town and may be further demonstrated by the larger number of males between 30-39 years old. There are significantly more males between the age of 0-9, and more females between 10-19 years old.

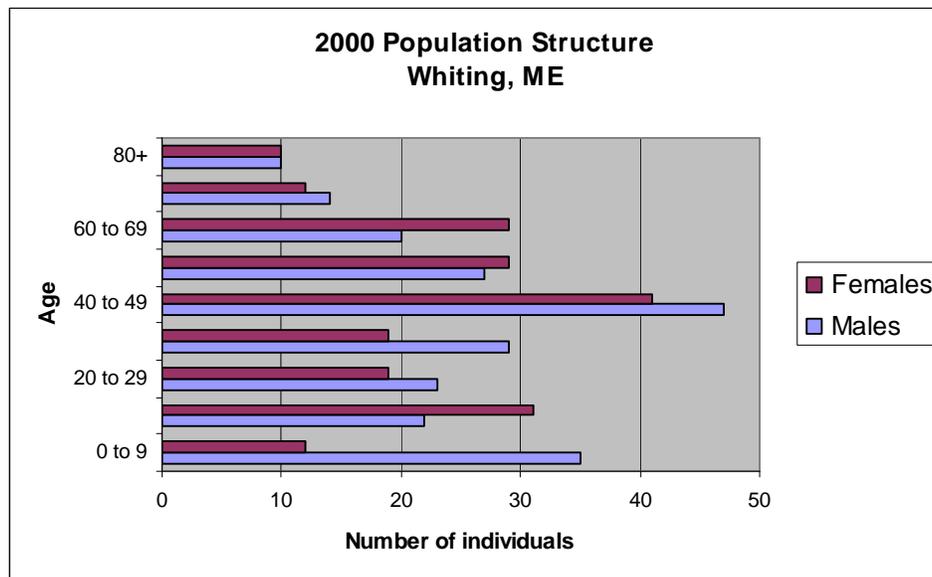


Figure 1. Whiting's Population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population of Whiting was white (99.1%), with 0% of residents black or African American, 0.7% Native American, 0.2% Asian, and 0% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.2% of the total population was Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (27.1%), United States or American (17.7%), Irish (10.4%), other ancestries (7.7%), and Italian (7.0%). With regard to region of birth, 71.6% were born in Maine, 25.6% were born in a different state and 1.7% were born outside of the U.S. (including 0.5% 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 <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>; census data used are for Whiting town (cited May 2007)

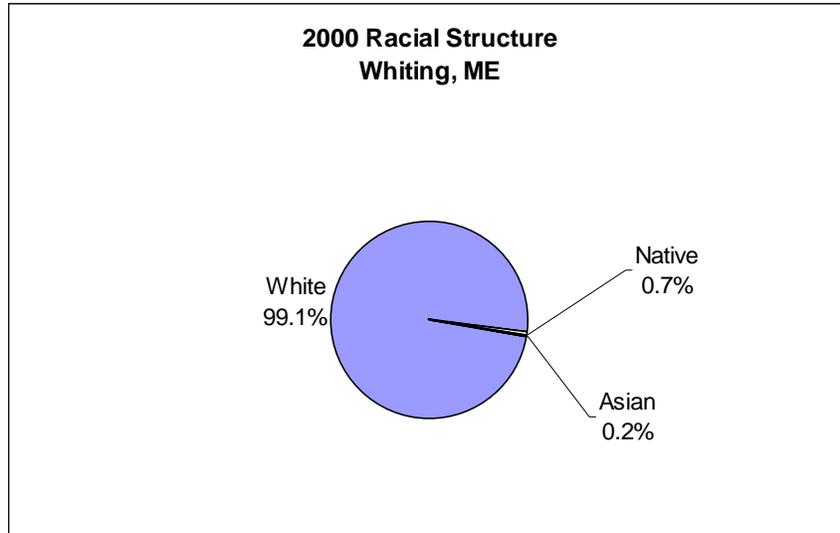


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

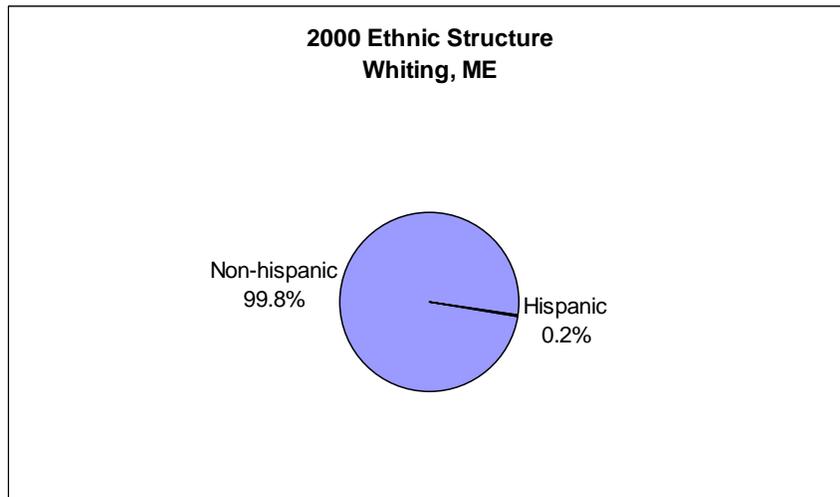


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 98.0% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 2.0% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and none of the population speaks English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 82.1% were high school graduates or higher and 17.6% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 5.2% did not reach ninth grade, 12.8% attended some high school but did not graduate, 41.4% completed high school, 16.6% had some college with no degree, 6.6% received an associate's degree, 11.7% earned a bachelor's degree, and 5.9% 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 Washington County was Catholic with 12 congregations and 4,155 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Methodist (15 with 1,301 adherents), United Church of Christ (9 with 577 adherents) and American Baptist

Churches in the USA (4 with 449 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 3.2% 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 [Quoddy Regional Land Trust](#), located off Route 1 in Whiting, is a non-profit organization that helps maintain over 6,000 acres of land along the coast and inland lakes. Nearby Machias hosts an annual [Wild Blueberry Festival](#), celebrating the fact that Down East Maine produces 85 percent of the world’s blueberries.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 54.9% (185 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 1.8% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 53.1% were employed.

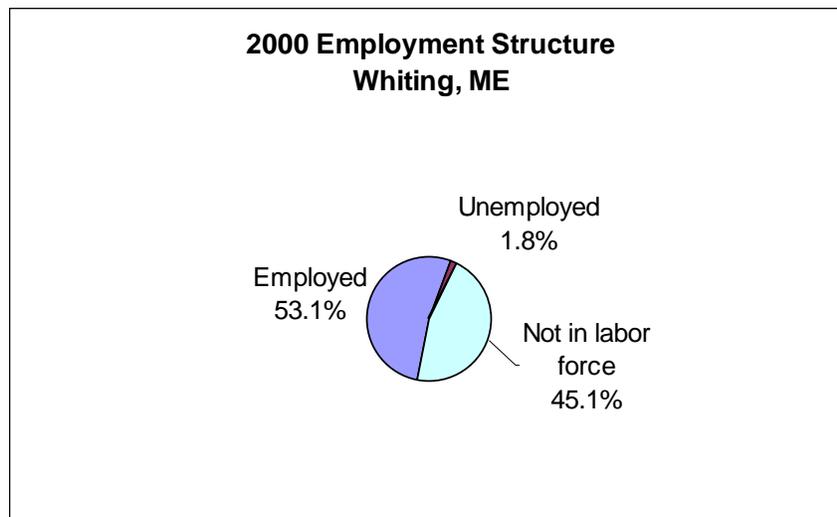


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

Look’s Canning Company is an historic Maine seafood processor established in 1917 by Willard M. Look. Known then as East Machias Canning Company, the processor is now located at the head of Holmes Bay and is the first business that succeeded in canning lobster and crab

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.

meat. Look's was acquired by [Look's Gourmet Food Company](#) in 2003, now owned outside of the Look family, although family members still work in the production facility. Today, Look's specializes in seafood chowders, bisques, sauces, and herring and mackerel fillets. The fillets, however, are bought from Nova Scotia and distributed through Look's. The company also sells non-seafood items like Indian pudding and various types of baked beans. Look's is the last multi-product food cannery in Maine, and their products are distributed domestically and to Japan.

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 14 positions or 7.8% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 6 positions or 3.4% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (24.0%) is the industry grouping that accounts for the most employment. Additionally, public administration (12.3%), manufacturing (11.2%), and transportation and warehousing, and utilities (10.6%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Whiting was \$28,304 (up 30.2% from \$21,731 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$13,771. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 26.8% more per year than females.

The average family in Whiting consists of 2.87 persons. With respect to poverty, 15.3% of families (1990 data not available) and 22.2% 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 2000a]). In 2000, 46.8% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Whiting had a total of 342 housing units of which 52.9% were occupied and 87.1% were detached one unit homes [US Census Bureau 2000]. Almost 30% (25.8%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs and vans accounted for 12.3% of housing units; 87.6% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$82,800. Of vacant housing units, 36.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 12.7% were renter occupied [US Census Bureau 2000].

Government

Whiting is managed by a series of official including an Assessors agent, Municipal Clerk and Treasurer, three Selectmen/ Assessors, and a Tax Collector (State of Maine 2004).

Fishery involvement in government

The town of Whiting has a Clam Warden and has established a town ordinance to protect the intertidal zone along its coast. There are fines set with regard to harvesting seashore plants and animals without prior permission of the landowner (\$100 to \$25,000 fines, depending on past violations and the severity of the offense).

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 (MLA 2007).

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.

Other fishing-related institutions

The [Maine Audubon Society](#) holds monthly natural history programs at the Whiting Community Center from April through October. 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

Whiting is on Cobscook Bay, with the main village located at the easterly end of the township where the Orange River flows into Whiting Bay at the Junction of U.S. Route 1 and Maine Route 189 to Lubec (State of Maine 2004). Whiting's boundaries run roughly parallel to US Route 1 between East Machias & Machiasport to the west and Edmunds & Trescott to the east. The nearest cities are: Dennysville (8.6 miles), Cutler (9.4 miles), Pembroke (11.3 miles), and Lubec (14 miles). The nearest major airport is Bangor International, which is approximately 100 miles away (MapQuest 2006).

[Look's Gourmet Food Company](#) is located at the end of the wharf in Whiting. It is unknown whether the wharf offers recreational fishing or boating infrastructure.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁶

Commercial

There are no commercial landings data, which indicates no commercial fishing activity in Whiting. There were however, two vessels listed whose owner's city was Whiting in 2006 (Table 1).

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.

Vessels by Year⁷

Table 1. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups of landings in Whiting

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	0	0	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0
1999	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	0	2	0	0

Recreational

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

Subsistence

Information on subsistence activities in Whiting is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

Information on the future of Whiting is unavailable through secondary data collection.

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⁷ 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.