

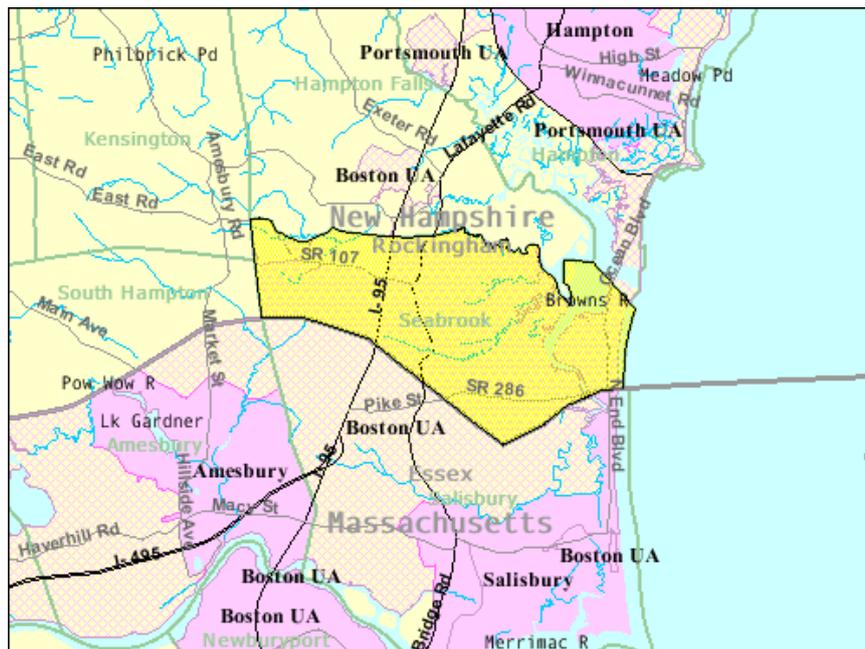
# SEABROOK, NH<sup>1</sup>

## Community Profile<sup>2</sup>

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

The city of Seabrook, New Hampshire (42.89°N, 70.87°W) is located in Rockingham County, at the border of New Hampshire and Maine (USGS 2008). Seabrook contains 9.0 square miles of land area and 0.6 square miles of inland water area (ELMIB 2007). Hampton borders Seabrook to the north; the two share a harbor and are connected by a causeway along the shore, and fishing activity in the two communities is difficult to separate. (Please refer also to the separate Hampton community profile for additional information.)



Map 1. Location of Seabrook, NH (US Census Bureau 2000a)

#### Historical/Background

Seabrook was first settled in 1638, at the time as a part of Hampton. Incorporated as a separate town in 1768, it was named Seabrook after the Seabrook River which runs through the town. The boundary between Hampton and Seabrook was the subject of dispute for nearly two centuries, and was finally settled in court in 1953 (ELMIB 2007). Most of the town's early inhabitants were engaged in the farming and fishing industries. Many of the current residents can trace their ancestry to the first Quaker settlers in the town. Today, Seabrook is a community with miles of beaches, attracting thousands of tourists, with an active harbor surrounded by a thriving business sector (Town of Seabrook 2008). It is also

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov)."

well known for the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant, a source of much controversy when it was constructed (ELMIB 2007).

### Demographics<sup>3</sup>

According to US Census Bureau 2000 data, Seabrook had a population of 7,934, up 22.0% from the reported population of 6,503 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 49.9% were males and 50.1% were females. The median age was 40.3 years and 77.1% of the population was 21 years or older while 20.3% of the population was 62 or older.

Seabrook's population structure (see Figure 1) by age group shows that the highest percentage of the population was between 30 and 39 years old, and the percentages subtly decreased as age groups increased by decade.

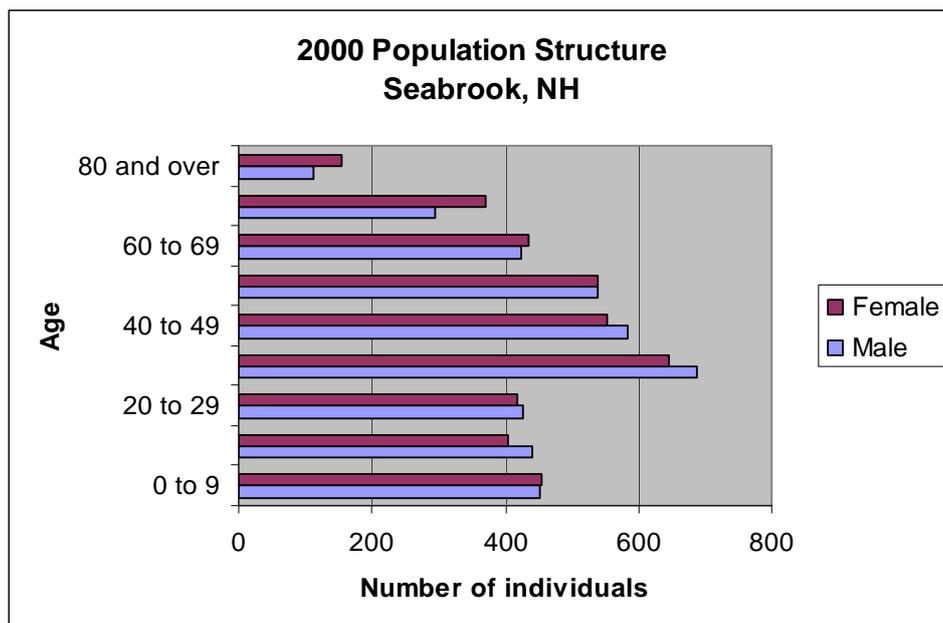


Figure 1. Seabrook's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was White (97.5%), with 0.3% Black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.2% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 0.9% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (20.1%), Irish (13.2%), French (11.8%), French Canadian (7.2%), and Italian (6.8%) (US Census Bureau 2000).

With regard to region of birth, 23.2% of residents were born in New Hampshire, 74.5% were born in a different state and 2.3% were born outside the U.S. (including 1.0% who were not United States citizens).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

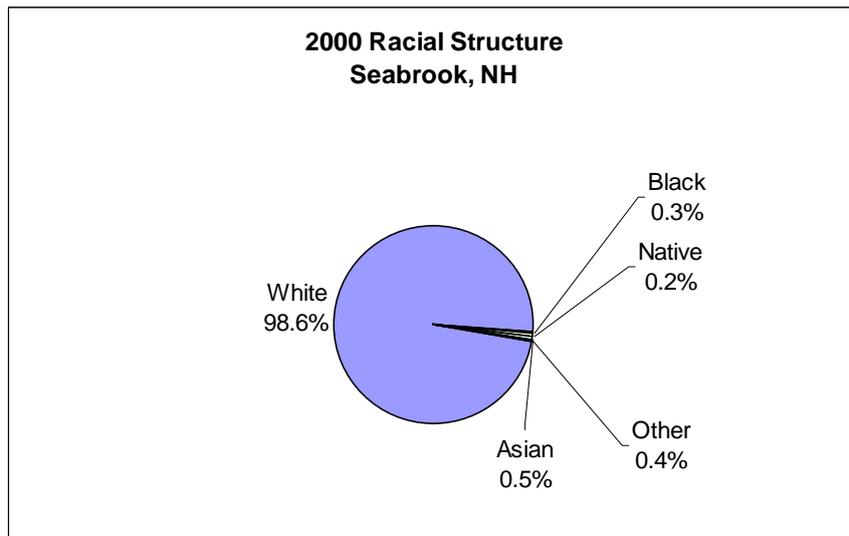


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

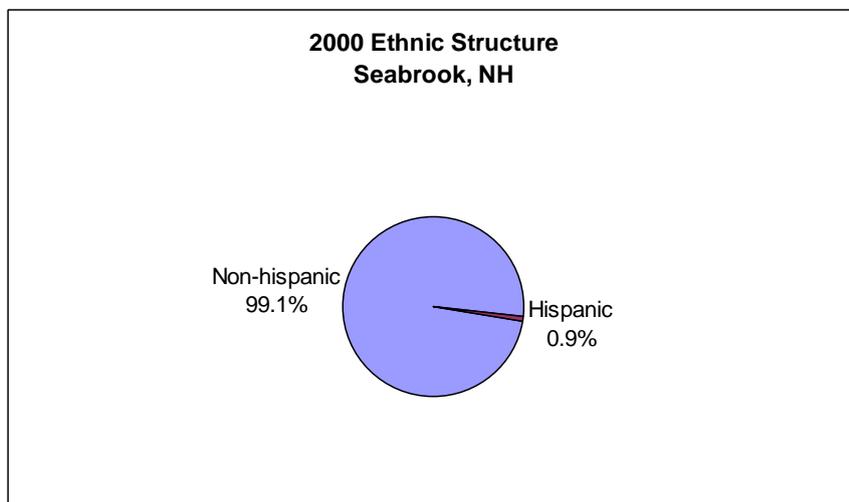


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 94.5% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 5.5% 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, 78.3% were high school graduates or higher and 14.8% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 5.7% did not reach ninth grade, 16% attended some high school but did not graduate, 37.3% completed high school, 18.7% had some college with no degree, 7.6% received their associate’s degree, 11.2% earned their bachelor’s degree, and 3.6% 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 Rockingham County was Catholic with 25 congregations and 117,542 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (23 with 6,352 adherents), and American Baptist (21 with 4,449 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 70.5% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

## Issues/Processes

The cod restrictions push struggling fishermen to go after other species, like tuna, scallops or lobster. Fishermen wonder if those species will be the next to be restricted. In addition, there is concern that these restrictions may permanently destroy small local operations like the Yankee Fisherman's Cooperative (Groff 2002).

Seabrook is well known for being the home to the Seabrook Station nuclear power plant, which was heavily protested at the time of its construction in the 1970s, and is still a source of controversy today (Rosenberg 2007).

## Cultural attributes

Hampton Beach Seafood Festival is sponsored by the Hampton Beach Chamber of Commerce and is celebrated annually the weekend after Labor Day. The residents of Seabrook take part in this celebration. However, few fishermen seem to participate to the festival; participants are mostly restaurants (HACC nd).

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Current Economy

Seabrook is the home to 250 industrial, commercial and retail companies. It houses New Hampshire's only nuclear power plant, the Seabrook Station, and other large companies including Venture Seabrook (plastic automotive exterior parts), Yankee Greyhound Racing, Market Basket, Wal-Mart, Dinsmore (communications), and D.G. O'Brien (electrical connectors), and more than a hundred small, medium and large retail businesses (Seabrook 2008). The largest employers in the city include the North Atlantic Energy Corp (nuclear power plant) with 1000 employees and Venture, Inc. with 560 employees (ELMIB 2007).

According to the U.S. Census 2000<sup>4</sup>, 69.3% (4,494 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.5% were unemployed, 0.1% were in the Armed Forces, and 67.5% were employed.

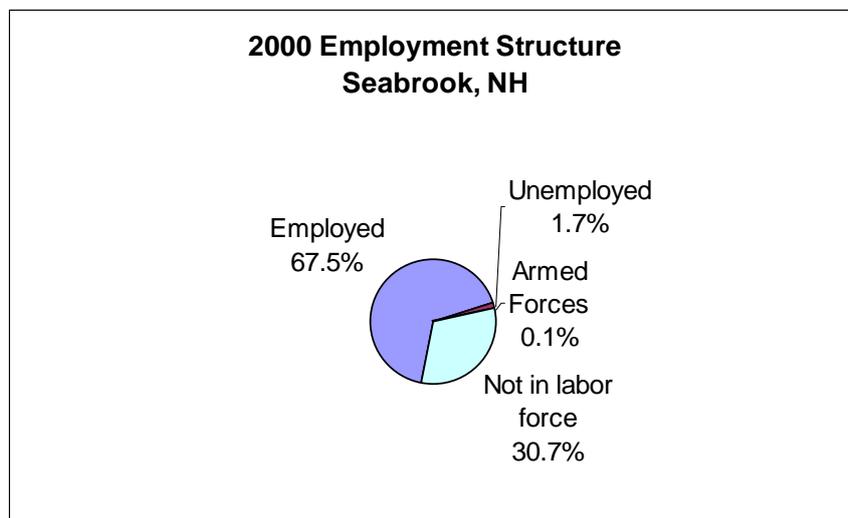


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 17 positions or 0.4% of

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 325 positions or 7.4% of jobs. Manufacturing (19.9%), educational health and social services (12.4%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (11.1%), professional, scientific, management, administrative (8.9%), and construction (8.4%) were primary industries.

Median household income in Seabrook was \$42,874 (up 51.8% from \$28,237 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and median per capita income was \$20,992. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 25.8% more per year than females.

The average family in Seabrook consisted of 2.85 persons. With respect to poverty 6.1% of families, up from 5.9% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 8.6% 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 2000b). In 2000, 29.7% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Seabrook had a total of housing units of which 84.2% were occupied and 39.8% were detached one unit homes. Very few (7.8%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes and boats accounted for 25.8% of the total housing units; 93.1% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$181,900. Of vacant housing units, 12.5% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 37.1% were renter occupied.

## **Government**

Seabrook has a Board of Selectmen (3 individuals) and a town manager. Each member serves a three year term (Town of Seabrook 2008). Through the Division of Boats and Harbors the city regulates many fishing related issues such as moorings, port security, expanding the role of the State Pier, and a fishermen's loan fund Brown 2004).

### *Fishery involvement in government*

Seabrook has a harbor master, who is overseen by the New Hampshire State Port Authority (DPH 2003).

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

The Yankee Fishermen's Cooperative (50-plus members) in Seabrook is the landing site and central wholesaling facility for the small local fleet (DPH 2003). The New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association "monitors, participates and contributes to concerns and issues regarding the commercial fishing industry of New Hampshire. They disseminate information amongst its members and act in a proactive manner on behalf of the commercial fishing industry. They conduct an annual beach clean up of lobster gear and assists in transition of fishing industry due to changing regulatory action" (DES nd).

The New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association represents both lobstering and groundfishing, the major components of New Hampshire's commercial fishing industry. It has been an active advocate for industry issues at both the state and federal level with members participating as representatives on boards, commissions, and councils.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Profile review comment, Erik Anderson, President, New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association, September 28, 2007

### *Fishing assistance centers*

When NMFS proposed Amendment 13, which closed vast areas to fishing, this reduced the number of days fishermen can fish, and required fishermen to purchase new and expensive gear. New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg (R) asked Senate Appropriations for more than \$11 million in economic assistance for New England fishing communities (Davidson 2002). As a result of Senator Gregg's efforts, a revolving loan fund was made available to the fishing industry. Fund activity has been sporadic because of the decline in economic investment in the industry resulting from regulatory conditions.<sup>6</sup>

### *Other fishing related organizations*

"The [Recreational Fishing Alliance](#) is a national, grassroots political action organization representing individual sport fishermen and the sport fishing industry." The [Coastal Conservation Association](#) (CCA) is an organization composed of recreational fishermen and that addresses conservation issues nationally and at the state level. It was formed in 1998 in New Hampshire.

### **Physical**

Seabrook is served by State Route 107, running from Seabrook to Manchester, New Hampshire, and State Route 286, leading to the beaches. It is on Interstate 95 and Route 1, carrying traffic to Boston, MA, Portsmouth, NH, and Portland ME. It is 15 miles from Portsmouth, 36 miles northeast of Boston, and 40 miles from Manchester (Town of Seabrook 2008).

Manchester Airport, about an hour from Seabrook, is a regional airport, now served by major carriers. It has added an international passenger facility and offers full-time U.S. Customs Service. With the addition of seven new airlines since 1998, passenger activity at Manchester Airport has risen to almost three million passengers annually. Pease Airport/Pease International Tradeport, Newington, New Hampshire, 15 miles from Seabrook, is less than one hour to Boston. New Hampshire State Port Authority, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is 15 miles from Seabrook and provides pleasure boating, sport and commercial fishing in addition to bulk and general cargo transport to and from points worldwide. Access to Interstate Highway 95 is only a half mile away. About five million tons of cargo enter or exit Portsmouth Harbor each year. Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority (MBTA), Newburyport MA, about six miles from Seabrook, provides commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, Massachusetts. Extension of rail service is being considered on a route through Seabrook from Boston to Portsmouth (Town of Seabrook 2008).

Hampton-Seabrook Harbor is a small bar-built estuary situated behind barrier beaches and surrounded by over 5,000 acres of salt marsh. Covering an area of approximately 475 acres at high tide, this estuary has approximately 72 miles of tidal shoreline. Within and adjacent to the estuary, sandy beaches, including some of the last remaining sand dunes in coastal New Hampshire, are a popular tourist attraction here. The Hampton-Seabrook Harbor also serves as a popular clamming destination and has the most productive flats in the state (NHEP 2008). Seabrook Harbor is at the southern Seabrook side of Hampton Harbor, although on most maps it is simply referred as Hampton Harbor. A number of fishing vessels are present in Seabrook Harbor, as well as the Seabrook Fisherman's Co-Op.

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<sup>6</sup> Profile review comment, Erik Anderson, President, New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association, September 28, 2007

## INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>7</sup>

### Commercial

The commercial industry in Hampton/Seabrook estuary is very active. However, most the wholesalers and retailers of seafood are located in Hampton. The Yankee Fisherman's Cooperative Pier in Hampton Harbor has a seafood processing facility which handles shellfish and finfish landings from both Seabrook and Hampton (Jones 2000).

In 2002 recorded annual landings for New Hampshire totaled 23.2 million pounds with a landing value of \$16.7 million (NMFS 2002) and for 2007 were 19.1 million and \$8.4 million (NMFS 2007). Landings in the largemesh groundfish grouping were the most valuable on average in Seabrook from 1997-2006, followed by lobster and monkfish (Table 1). Landings of all three of these were higher in 2006 than the ten-year average value. The number of vessels fishing, both those with Seabrook listed as a home port and those whose owners resided in Seabrook, showed considerable variability over the 1997-2006 period with no obvious trend, from a low of 28 in 1999 and 2005 to a high of 45 in 2006. Owner's city vessels were similarly variable (Table 2). (*Note:* Much of the landings data are listed as Hampton/Seabrook and are included in the Hampton, NH community profile. Please see that profile for more information)

Other commercial fisheries in the Hampton/Seabrook estuary include herring, baitfishing for alewives, mummichogs (*Fundulus sp.*) and tomcod using gillnets, seines and minnow traps; trapping for eels, and angling and dipnetting for smelt.

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<sup>7</sup> 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
Largemouth Groundfish <sup>8</sup>	1
Lobster	2
Monkfish	3
Other <sup>9</sup>	4
Smallmouth Groundfish <sup>10</sup>	5
Dogfish	6
Scallop	7
Herring	8
Bluefish	9
Skate	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 Year<sup>11</sup>

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# vessels (owner's city)
1997	38	30
1998	30	23
1999	28	25
2000	31	29
2001	38	32
2002	37	31
2003	33	29
2004	31	26
2005	28	22
2006	45	31

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence<sup>12</sup>)

<sup>8</sup> Largemouth groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

<sup>9</sup> "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

<sup>10</sup> Smallmouth Multi-Species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

## **Recreational**

There are numerous tourist-related activities including sport fishing, whale watching, windjammers/charter sailing, and harbor tours/day cruises in Seabrook. Some of the companies include: Eastman's Deep Sea Fishing, and GTAT Sea Charters LLC (HACC nd). In addition, the bordering Great Bay Estuary is the most popular place on the New Hampshire coast to harvest soft shell clams recreationally (Jones 2000).

## **Subsistence**

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

## **FUTURE**

The harbor in Seabrook must constantly be dredged due to rapid shoaling (getting shallower in depth). Currently the city is considering an experimental shoreline erosion project proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers involving 2,700 feet of vinyl sheet-piling and the restoration of the Blackwater River's original course (Brown 2004). In the meantime however, where to put the dredging spoils continues to be a significant problem.

Although fishermen remain concerned about restrictive fishing regulations, they are optimistic that legislation such as the Preservation of Entitlement Marine Conservation Act will allow their voices to be heard (Jusseume 2003).

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