

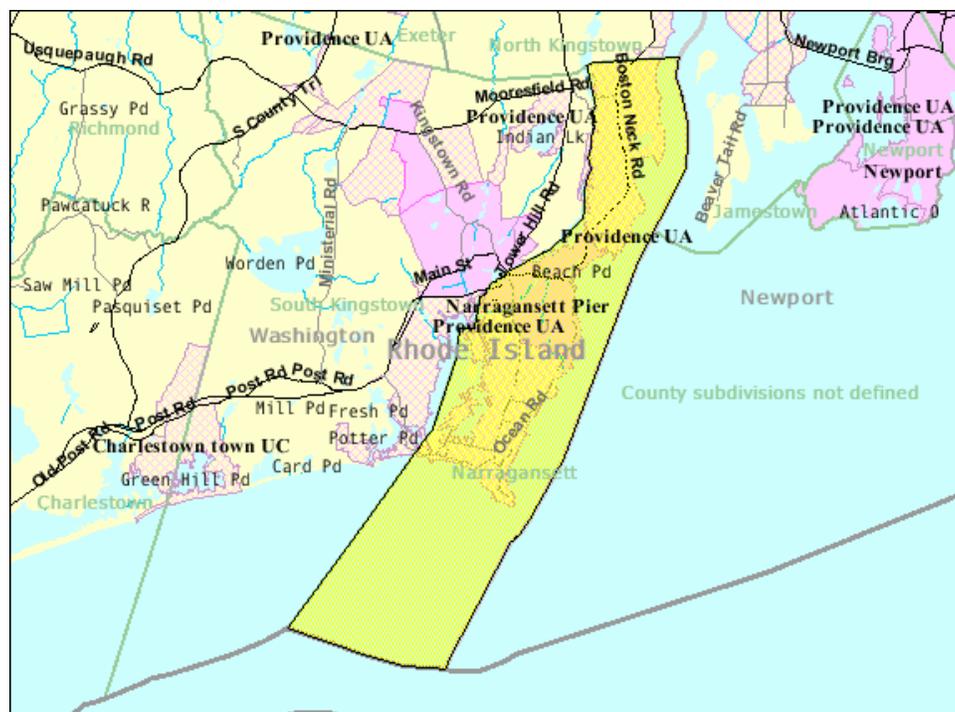
POINT JUDITH/NARRAGANSETT, RI¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Narragansett (41.45°N, 71.45°W) (USGS 2008) is located in Washington County, 30 miles south of Providence. Point Judith is located in the southern end of Narragansett along Highway 108 near Galilee State Beach, at the western side of the mouth of Rhode Island Sound. Point Judith itself is not a CDP or incorporated town, and as such has no census data associated with it. Thus, this profile provides census data from Narragansett Town (town-wide) and other data from both Point Judith itself and Narragansett. According to the state of Rhode Island both Point Judith and Galilee are considered villages within the town of Narragansett (State of Rhode Island 2008).



Map 1. Location of Narragansett, RI (US Census Bureau 200a)

Historical/Background

The land now called Narragansett was originally inhabited by the Narragansett Indians until Roland Robinson purchased it in 1675 (Town of Narragansett nd). Over the next half-

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.”

century, the Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts colonies all vied for control of Narragansett until the British crown placed the area under the control of Rhode Island (State of Rhode Island 2008). By the 1660s, settlers put the fertile soil to use by developing agriculture in the area. Soon the area's economy depended on the export of agricultural products to markets such as Boston, Providence, and Newport. At this time, Point Judith was connected to the sea by a deep, wide breachway, which was used to ship the agricultural goods to market. By the 1700s there was a thriving ship building industry and a busy port. In the early 1800's Narragansett, like the rest of the country experienced rapid industrial growth, particularly in the textile industry. By the mid 1800's the resort tourism industry developed in Narragansett including the once popular Narragansett Casino. The Narragansett Casino was destroyed by fire on September 12, 1900; most of the remaining tourism resorts were destroyed by fire in the early 1900s (Narragansett nd; Encyclopaedia Britannica 2008). Fishing did not come into prominence again until the 1930s (Griffith and Dyer 1996)

By the 1800s many farmers began to supplement their income by fishing for bass and alewife, or harvesting oysters. Eventually, the Port of Galilee was established in the mid 1800's as a small fishing village. By the early 1900's Point Judith's Port of Galilee became one of the largest fishing ports on the east coast. This was largely due to a series of construction projects that included dredging the present breachway and stabilizing it with stone jetties and the construction of three miles of breakwater that provided refuge from the full force of the ocean. By the 1930's wharves were constructed to facilitate large ocean-going fishing vessels (Eckilson 2007). At this point the port became important to the entire region's economy (Griffith and Dyer 1996). Today, Point Judith is not only an active commercial fishing port, but it supports a thriving tourism industry that includes restaurants, shops, whale watching, recreational fishing, and a ferry to Block Island. Point Judith sits on a knob of land that extends out into the open Atlantic Ocean, making it a popular spot for surfing if the ocean swell is angled properly to produce a breaking wave near the seawall.

Demographics³

No Census data are available for Point Judith itself, but they are available for the county subdivision Narragansett Town which includes Point Judith. As Point Judith is not actually a residential area, and those who fish from Point Judith live in surrounding communities, this is more representative of the "fishing community" than would be any data on Point Judith alone. However, it should be noted that fishermen fishing out of Point Judith are likely to live all over Rhode Island.

According to Census 2000 data, Narragansett had a total population of 16,361, up 9.2% from a reported population of 14,985 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.6% were males and 51.4% were females. The median age was 36.4 years and 76.2% of the population was 21 years or older while 16.1% were 62 or older.

The population structure of Narragansett (see Figure 1) had an unusually high percentage of the population in the 20-29 year age group, far outnumbering all other age categories. This is likely due to the presence of nearby University of Rhode Island; many students at the university live in Narragansett. Others may stay in the area for employment after graduation, which would also contribute to the population structure.

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.

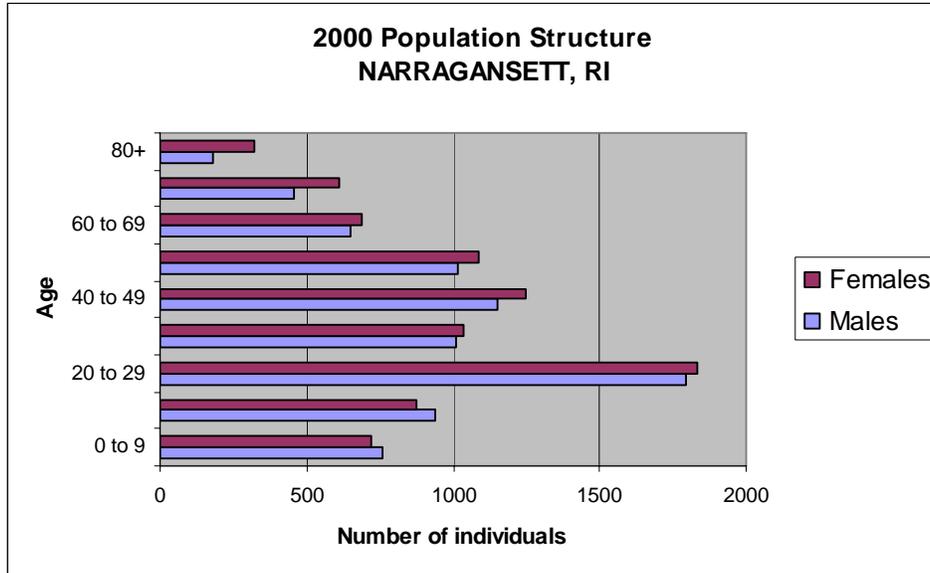


Figure 1. Narragansett's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

The majority of the population was white (95.6%), with 1.3% black or African American, 1.0% Asian, 1.4% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 1.2% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents traced their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (31.8%), Italian (20.6%) and English (18.9%) (US Census Bureau 2000a).

With regard to region of birth, 62.5% were born in Rhode Island, 34.3% were born in a different state and 2.5% were born outside of the U.S. (including 0.8% who were not United States citizens).

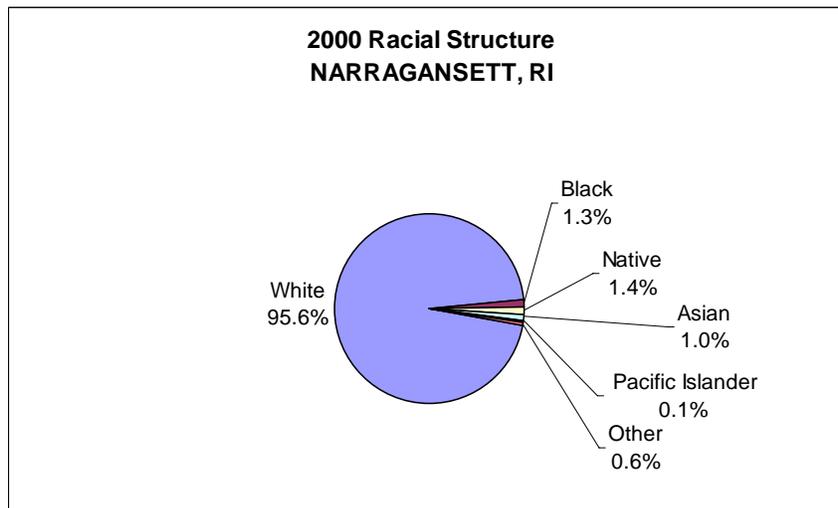


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

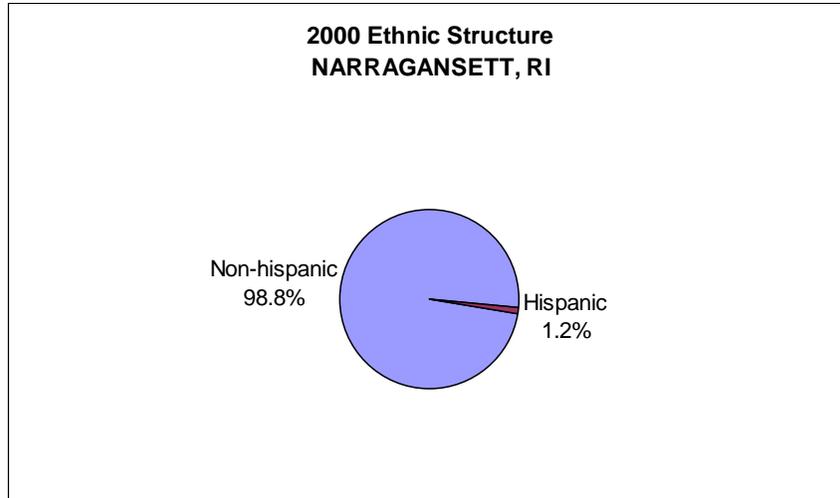


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 94.4% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 5.6% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.6% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 91.3% were high school graduates or higher and 41.8% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.1% did not reach ninth grade, 6.6% attended some high school but did not graduate, 22.5% completed high school, 18.0% had some college with no degree, 9.0% received their associate degree, 24.2% earned their bachelor’s degree, and 17.6% received either their graduate or professional degree.

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 Washington County was Catholic with 20 congregations and 58,668 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were American Baptist Churches (15 congregations with 3,022 adherents) and Episcopal (10 with 4,720 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 57.3% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Not unlike many fishing communities in the Northeast, increasingly stringent state and federal fishing regulations could jeopardize the viability of Point Judith as a fishing port, affecting both commercial and recreational fishermen. In addition to affecting the fishermen directly, Point Judith processing companies have difficulty handling drastic deviations in the number of landings, commonly due to the lifting or expanding of quotas, as well as sudden changes in what species are landed. It is also important to note that Point Judith fishermen harvest both species managed by the New England Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, which increases the level of management measures they must follow.⁴

⁴ Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, August 23, 3007

Additionally, the boom in tourism at Point Judith has had an adverse effect on the commercial fishing industry. Not only do fishermen battle parking issues but shore front rents for fish processing companies and the cost of dockage and wharfage for vessels have increased (Griffith and Dyer 1996).

Cultural attributes

The Narragansett/ Point Judith community celebrates its maritime history with the annual Blessing of the Fleet (Griffith and Dyer 1996), an event that is sponsored by the [Narragansett Lions Club](#). The festival includes the Blessing of the Fleet Road Race of 10 miles of the surrounding area, a Seafood Festival, and rides at Veteran's Memorial Park that last throughout the last weekend of July. The 2004 Blessing of the Fleet included approximately 20 commercial and 70 recreational vessels and gathered an estimated crowd of 200 to 300 to view the passing. The Fishermen's Memorial Park is located in Point Judith and features recreational activities and a playground. Each Saturday in the summer months, the park hosts a Farmer's Market, featuring local produce and often lobsters caught on local vessels. There is a new fishermen's memorial project underway, to be situated near the Coast Guard light.⁵

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Besides an active fishing port, Point Judith supports a thriving seasonal tourism industry that includes restaurants, shops, whale watching, recreational fishing, and a ferry to Block Island (Griffith and Dyer 1996). It also has a number of fish processing companies that do business locally, nationally, and internationally. Point Judith's largest fish processors are the [Town Dock Company](#) and the Point [Judith Fishermen's Company](#) – a subsidiary of M. Slavin & Sons based in NY.

Town Dock came to Point Judith in 1980 and is now one of the largest seafood processing companies in Rhode Island. Its facility supports unloading, processing, and freezing facilities under one roof and services “over half of the port's boats (approximately 30 full time deep sea fishing trawlers) as well as a large day-boat fleet . . . and handle[s] all the southern New England and Mid-Atlantic species of fish including Squid, Monkfish, Flounder, Whiting, Scup, Butterfish, and Fluke.”

The Point Judith Fishermen's Company (with approximately 15 employees) unloads boats and processes squid which are then taken by M. Slavin & Sons to sell wholesale at the Fulton Fish Market in NY.⁶ Handrigan's is another unloading facility located here.⁷ Several smaller processors are also located in the Point Judith area: Deep Sea Fish of RI, Ocean State Lobster Co., Narragansett Bay Lobster Co., Fox Seafood, South Pier Fish Company, Osprey Seafood, and Sea Fresh America (USFDA 2008). Paiva's Shellfish has their own lobster dock in Point Judith but in 2003 after some time experimenting with finfish for auction and horseshoe crabs for bait and biomedical purposes, they relocated to Cranston and became a wholesaler.^{8,9} Economic history up to 1970 can be found in Poggie and Gersuny (1978).

⁵ Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, August 23, 3007

⁶ Phone conversation with employee (401-782-1500)

⁷ Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, August 23, 3007

⁸ Phone call to owner, Stopped processing last year (401-941-3850)

According to the U.S. Census 2000¹⁰, of the total population 16 years of age and over, 67.0% were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.2% were unemployed, 0.2% were in the Armed Forces, and 64.6% were employed.

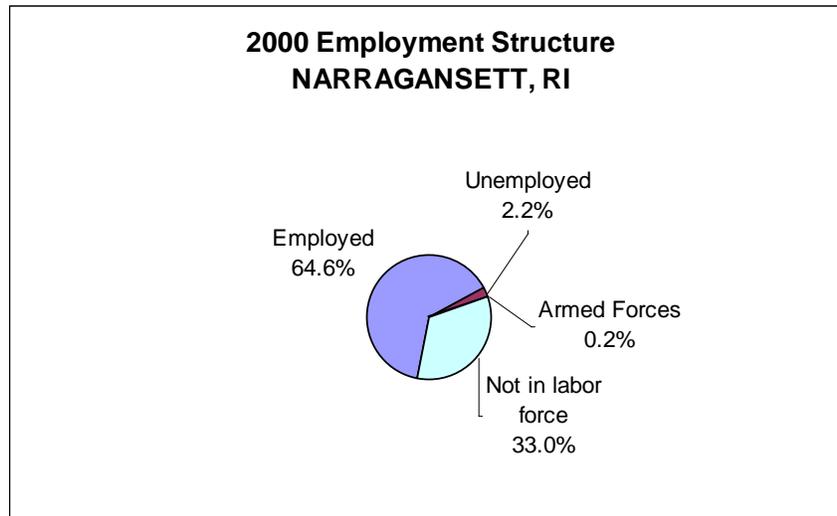


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 239 positions or 2.7% of all jobs (the majority of which is likely to be fishing based on limited activity in the other categories)¹¹. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 171 positions or 8.6% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (26.0%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (11.8%), professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (10.8%), and retail trade (10.4%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Narragansett was \$50,363, up 41.7% from \$35,545 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and median per capita income was \$28,194. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 43.1% more per year than females.

The average family in Narragansett consisted of 2.86 persons. With respect to poverty, 4.9% of families, up from 2.9% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 16.0% of individuals earned 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 2000b). In 2000, 21.8% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Narragansett had a total of 9,159 housing units, of which 74.7% were occupied and 79.4% were detached one unit homes. Less than one tenth (9.8%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, vans, etc. accounted for 0.9% of the housing units;

⁹ Community Review Comments, Walter Anoushian, NMFS Port Agent, 83 State St 2nd Flr, P.O. Box 547, Narragansett, RI 02882-0547, January 31, 2008

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Profile review comment, Michael DeLuca, Town of Narragansett, Department of Community Development, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, RI 02882 December 18, 2007

90.3% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$163,500. Of vacant housing units, 88.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 38.1% were renter occupied.

Government

Narragansett's form of government is a town manager and a five-member town council, headed by a council president. Narragansett was established in 1888 and incorporated in 1901 (State of Rhode Island nd).

Fishery involvement in government

Narragansett has a town Harbor Management Commission and a designated Harbormaster. Narragansett has a town Harbor Management Commission, appointed by the Town Council (HMC nd). The Harbor Management Commission meets once each month to address issues related to management of the town's waters, particularly Point Judith Pond and the Narrow River. Galilee has special zoning which designates certain areas for fishing-related uses only.¹² NOAA Fisheries Statistics Office also has a port agent based here. Port agents sample fish landings and provide a 'finger-on-the-pulse' of their respective fishing communities (NERO FOS 2008). NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Narragansett Laboratory is located on the Bay Campus of the University of Rhode Island (URI). "It is adjacent to URI's Graduate School of Oceanography and the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The facility consists of one main building and aquarium, and four adjacent office/laboratory modular buildings. The laboratory is a facility with a specialized staff of 50 supported by advanced oceanographic and biological systems for carrying out research on the effects of changing environmental conditions on the growth and survival of fish stocks from an ecosystems perspective" (NEFSC nd). Rhode Island Sea Grant is also located at URI's Narragansett Bay Campus. The RI Department of Environmental Management Division of Enforcement has a small office in Point Judith.¹³

Institutional

Fishing associations

Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative went defunct in 1994 as the victim of declining stocks¹⁴, and is now run as an independent fish marketing organization.¹⁵ Rhode Island Seafood Council, a now-defunct not-for-profit organization established in 1976, was located here and promoted quality seafood products. The American Seafood Institute was established in 1982 in conjunction with the Rhode Island Seafood Council and provides assistance to the fishing industry in exporting product overseas (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). The Point Club is a self-insurance group for fishermen to protect against price gouging, etc.¹⁶ The Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association has members throughout Point Judith and the state. The

¹² Profile review comment, Michael DeLuca, Town of Narragansett, Department of Community Development, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, RI 02882 December 18, 2007

¹³ Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, August 23, 3007

¹⁴ Profile review comment, Chris Brown, Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association, 35 Erica Court West Kingston, RI 02892, October 19, 2007

¹⁵ Personal communication, Dr. Madeleine Hall-Arber, MIT Sea Grant.

¹⁶ Profile review comment, Chris Brown, Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association, 35 Erica Court West Kingston, RI 02892, October 19, 2007

organization is based at the Commercial Fisheries Center at East Farm on the University of Rhode Island's main campus. The Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association and the Rhode Island Fishermen's Alliance are well represented in Point Judith, and the RI Shellfishermen's Association is likely to also have members fishing from here.¹⁷

Fishing assistance centers

The Bay Company was developed under the Rhode Island Marine Trade Education Initiative and attempts to link academia to the marine industry to improve productivity and economic viability; it is now defunct since the funding disappeared in 2003 (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

Other fishing related organizations

The [Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island](#) was founded in 2004 and is home to nonprofit commercial fishing organizations, and serves "as a headquarters for bringing fishermen, scientists, managers, and elected officials together to discuss issues." The goals of the center are "to improve fisheries and understanding of the marine environment through education, collaborative research, and cooperation" (CFCRI nd).

Physical

Point Judith is about 22 miles from Newport, 36 miles from Providence, and 52 miles from New Bedford. TF Green Airport in Warwick, RI is about 25 miles from Point Judith, and Westerly State Airport, a smaller airport, is 17 miles away. A ferry runs from Block Island to Point Judith. From Block Island it is possible to take another ferry to Montauk, NY (BICC 2007; RIPTA nd; State of Rhode Island nd). The Rhode Island Public Transportation Association (RIPTA) runs a bus to Galilee. Buses to other New England destinations are available at T.F. Green airport and from Newport and Providence (RIPTA nd; State of Rhode Island nd). Point Judith also boasts a lighthouse that doubles as a popular surfing spot.

Great Island Road at Point Judith has several docking facilities for both commercial and charter vessels (DEM 2005a). There is a marine supply store where most fishermen shop, and a commercial bait store serving the local trap fishermen. In addition to the dockside infrastructure, there are seasonal restaurants along the main street area and tourism predominately from the ferry crowds the streets and often frustrates residents in the summer.¹⁸ The Point Judith Fishermen's Company unloads boats and processes squid which are then taken by M. Slavin & Sons to sell wholesale at the Fulton Fish Market in NY.¹⁹ Handrigan's is another unloading facility located here.²⁰ Several smaller processors are also located in the Point Judith area: Deep Sea Fish of RI, Ocean State Lobster Co., MC Fresh Inc., Narragansett Bay Lobster Co., Inc., Fox Seafood, South Pier Fish Company, Osprey Seafood, and Sea Fresh America (USFDA 2008). In 2003 Paiva's Shellfish quit the fillet business and relocated to Cranston as a wholesaler.²¹ [Trawlworks, Inc.](#) in Narragansett is a supplier and distributor of marine hardware and rigging supplies for industrial, institutional, and commercial fishing for both mid-water and bottom use.

¹⁷ Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, August 23, 3007

¹⁸ Pers. Comm. Point Judith resident, 06/29/2007

¹⁹ Phone conversation with employee (401-782-1500)

²⁰ Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, August 23, 3007

²¹ Phone call to owner, Stopped processing last year (401-941-3850)

The corporation was formed in 1980. Superior Trawl is also located in Narragansett, and builds fishing gear sold throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic. Wilcox Marine Supply, located in Point Judith, supplies vessels, and The Bait Company sells bait to local lobstermen.²² Point Judith Marina has been designated as a “Clean Marina” by the State of RI (CMRC 2008).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES²³

Commercial

According to the RI Department of Environmental Management, the number of commercial vessels in port in Galilee (Point Judith) 2004 was 230 (RIDEM 2004). Vessels ranged from 45-99 feet, with most being groundfish trawlers. Of these, 55 were between 45 and 75 feet, and 17 over 75 feet (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). In 2004, Point Judith was ranked 24th in value of landings by port in the U.S. (sixth on the East Coast) (FUS 2007).

The state's marine fisheries are divided into three major sectors: shellfish, lobster, and finfish. The shellfish sector includes oysters, soft shell clams, and most importantly, quahogs. The lobster sector is primarily comprised of the highly valued American lobster with some crabs as well. The finfish sector targets a variety of species including winter, yellowtail and summer flounder, tautog, striped bass, black sea bass, scup, bluefish, butterfish, squid, whiting, skate, and dogfish. A wide range of gear including otter trawl nets, floating fish traps, lobster traps, gill nets, fish pots, rod and reel, and clam rakes are used to harvest these species. The state currently issues about 4,500 commercial fishing licenses (Lazar and Lake 2001).

Over the ten year period from 1997-2006, the value of landings in Point Judith varied but seemed to show a declining trend between 1997-2006, from a high of just over \$51 million to a low of \$31 million in 2002-2003. However, in 2004 the landings value began to increase again, back to just under \$47 million in 2006. The landings value for the squid, mackerel, and butterfish species grouping was higher in 2006 than the average value for 1997-2006 (see Table 1). The value of lobster in 2006, second most valuable in terms of landings, was lower in 2006 than the average value for the same time period. Vessel data is combined here for Point Judith and Narragansett; there are no vessel owners listed for Point Judith (because the name refers only to the port), indicating that many fishermen live in the Narragansett area and fish out of Point Judith. In total, the number of vessels home ported in either Point Judith or Narragansett reached a high of 186 in 2001, and a low of 168 in 2006. The number of vessels with owners living in Narragansett was much lower in all years than the number of vessels home ported here, indicating that many of the vessels in Point Judith have owners residing in other communities.

²² Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, August 23, 3007

²³ 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. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups of landings in Point Judith

| | Average from 1997-2006 | 2006 only |
|--|------------------------|------------|
| Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish | 11,298,781 | 13,188,211 |
| Lobster | 11,022,301 | 8,675,086 |
| Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass | 4,718,136 | 6,495,568 |
| Smallmesh Groundfish²⁴ | 2,816,677 | 1,799,479 |
| Monkfish | 2,687,563 | 2,110,227 |
| Largemesh Groundfish²⁵ | 2,451,647 | 3,383,452 |
| Other²⁶ | 2,056,576 | 2,697,425 |
| Scallop | 1,457,702 | 7,420,396 |
| Skate | 618,033 | 604,990 |
| Herring | 470,065 | 376,506 |
| Tilefish | 230,142 | 32,985 |
| Bluefish | 112,378 | 118,466 |
| Dogfish | 48,031 | 45,000 |
| Red Crab | 9,593 | 0 |

Vessels by Year²⁷

Table 2. All columns represent vessel permits or landings value between 1997 and 2006 for Point Judith/Narragansett

| Year | # Vessels (home ported) | # Vessels (owner's city) | Level of fishing home port (\$) | Level of fishing landed port (\$) |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1997 | 181 | 61 | 33,021,800 | 47,529,746 |
| 1998 | 175 | 55 | 32,870,223 | 42,614,251 |
| 1999 | 181 | 60 | 36,324,182 | 51,144,479 |
| 2000 | 184 | 61 | 33,911,658 | 41,399,853 |
| 2001 | 186 | 62 | 30,121,535 | 33,550,542 |
| 2002 | 179 | 53 | 30,014,709 | 31,341,472 |
| 2003 | 173 | 52 | 32,793,425 | 31,171,867 |
| 2004 | 174 | 51 | 37,058,022 | 36,016,307 |
| 2005 | 171 | 52 | 37,150,241 | 38,259,922 |
| 2006 | 168 | 51 | 41,021,147 | 46,947,791 |

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence²⁸

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)

²⁴ Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

²⁵ Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

²⁶ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ 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

Rhode Island marine waters also support a sizable recreational fishing sector. “In Rhode Island, nearly 362,000 recreational marine anglers - more than half from out-of-state - made over 1.5 million trips, catching 4.3 million pounds of sport fish and releasing about 55 percent in 2004” (RIDEM 2004). This indicates that the recreational component is significant both in terms of the associated revenues generated (support industries) and harvesting capacity. Between 2001- 2005, there were 66 charter and party vessels making 7,709 total trips registered in logbook data by charter and party vessels in Point Judith carrying a total of 96,383 anglers (MRFSS data). A 2005 survey by the RI Dept. of Environmental Management showed Point Judith to be the most popular site in the state for shore based recreational fishing (RIDEM 2005). Narragansett has two public saltwater boat ramps (RIDEM 2005a).

Subsistence

Observations by local officials indicate subsistence fishing occurs around Narragansett. Most subsistence fishermen fish at night and in the early morning. No data has been collected on this practice.²⁹

FUTURE

Point Judith fishermen are not very positive about the future of Point Judith as a fishing port. Besides the main concern of stringent fishing regulations Point Judith fishermen also must contend with the ever increasing tourism at the port. This has caused parking issues and rent increases.

Oceanlinx Limited (formerly Energetech Australia) is a wave power company working on a pilot project to build and install a wave power plant off Point Judith. Called “Project GreenWave”, the effort is a non-profit pilot, with funding from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut and would become the first wave power installation in the U.S. if successful. As the effort is a first, there has been confusion over whether the regulatory jurisdiction is state or federal, which has slowed the projects commencement. “The station would be located just outside the Point Judith breakwater and about a mile offshore. Care is being taken not to disrupt commercial ship traffic or recreational boaters. The station will be designed to: withstand ‘100 year storm criteria’, be easily towed to port, make 100 times less noise than an outboard motor; and have only one moving part — the turbine.” (RD 2007) In addition, the Rhode Island Wind Energy Project has mapped several potential sites for future wind turbine placement offshore; one of the possible sites is just off Point Judith (ATM 2007).

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²⁹ Profile review comment, Michael DeLuca, Town of Narragansett, Department of Community Development, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, RI 02882 December 18, 2007

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