

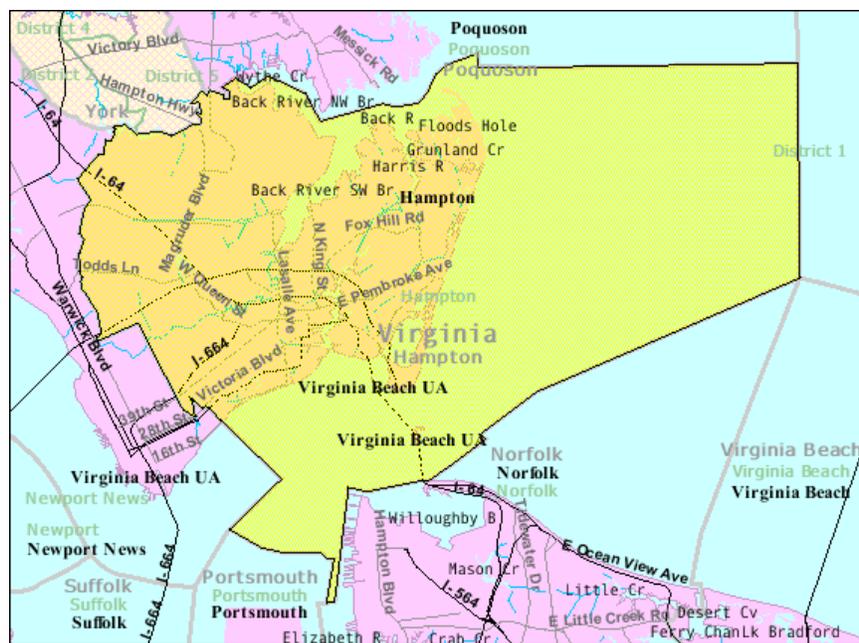
HAMPTON, VA¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Hampton, Virginia (37.03°N, 76.35°W) was initially situated in Elizabeth City; they merged in 1952. Hampton is situated on the southern shores of the state near the entrance to the James River (City of Hampton nd). Hampton is located near the confluence of Hampton Bay and Virginia Roads the end of a peninsula, with access to both the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean (Google 2007). Hampton is part of the Hampton Roads area, which also includes Newport News, Virginia Beach, and Norfolk, as well as a number of other cities and towns whose inclusion varies by source.³ Virginia Beach, Newport News, and Norfolk are all treated in separate community profiles.



Map 1. Location of Hampton, VA (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Hampton is an independent city, in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk metro area. The community was named after the Earle of Southampton in the 17th century. Hampton and the

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.”

³ NOAA/NMFS in its Fisheries of the US defines Hampton Roads as Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton, Newport News and Seaford (Liz Pritchard, Fisheries Statistics, Liz.Pritchard@noaa.gov). [Hampton Roads Transit](#) lists its destinations as Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach.

surrounding area is the oldest continuous English-speaking settlement in America. Englishmen were sent by the Virginia Company of London in 1607 and established Jamestown; in 1610 a fortification was built in an area that would become Hampton to settle the area and the first Africans and women arrived in 1619 (City of Hampton nd). In the eighteenth century, Hampton became a thriving port, with tobacco as a chief export and medium of exchange. The wealth of the colonies around Hampton's waterfront made the Virginia Coast an inviting target for pirates in the 17th century. The most notorious of pirates was Blackbeard; after he was killed in a pitched battle his head was placed in at the entrance of the river (Blackbeard Festival nd). In the late 1800's, Union General Benjamin Butler first applied the term "contraband" to three runaway slaves, establishing an avenue to freedom for African Americans throughout the South (City of Hampton 2007). Hampton is also known for having the first battle between two ironclad ships in 1862, the Confederate *Merrimack* (aka *Virginia*) and the Union's *Monitor* (Department of the Navy nd).

Demographics⁴

According to Census 2000 data, the city had a population of 146,437, up 9.5% from a reported population of 133,793 in 1990. Of this 2000 total, 49.6% were males and 50.4% were females. The median age was 34.0 years and 70.1% of the population was 21 years or older while 12.5% of the population was 62 or older.

The population structure of Hampton (see Figure 1) showed a large population in both 0-19 and 20-49 year old age groups and a rapid drop off in the 50-59 year old age group, likely indicating large numbers of young families. The largest category was males in the 30-39 age category. The number of females exceeds the number of males in Hampton in the younger age categories, with the exception of the 10-19 age category.

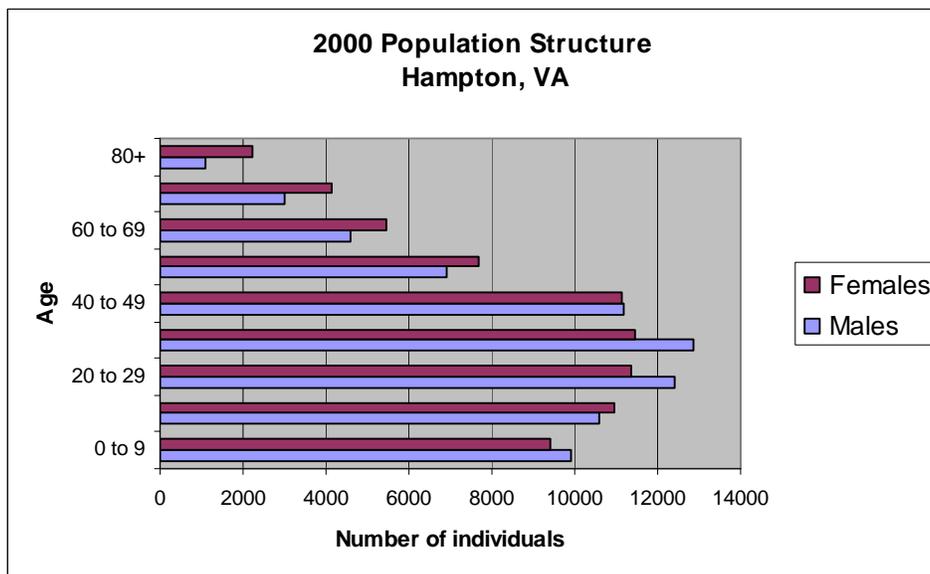


Figure 1. Hampton's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

⁴ 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.

The majority of the population was white (77.0%), with 12.6% of residents black or African American, 0.9% Native American, 3.7% Asian, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 2.8% of the total population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: German (9.0%), English (7.8%), United States or American (7.2%), and Irish (7.1%). With regard to region of birth, 46.9% were born in Virginia, 46.8% were born in a different state, and 2.4% were born outside the U.S. (including 1.7% who were not United States citizens).

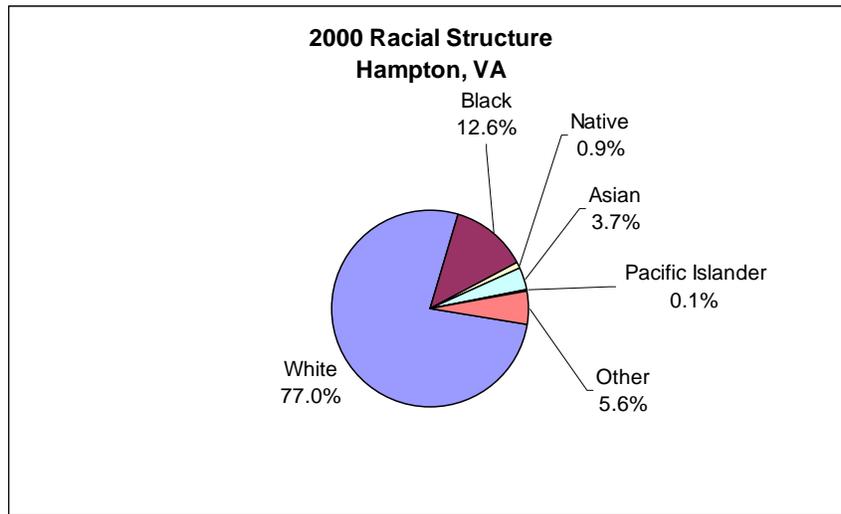


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

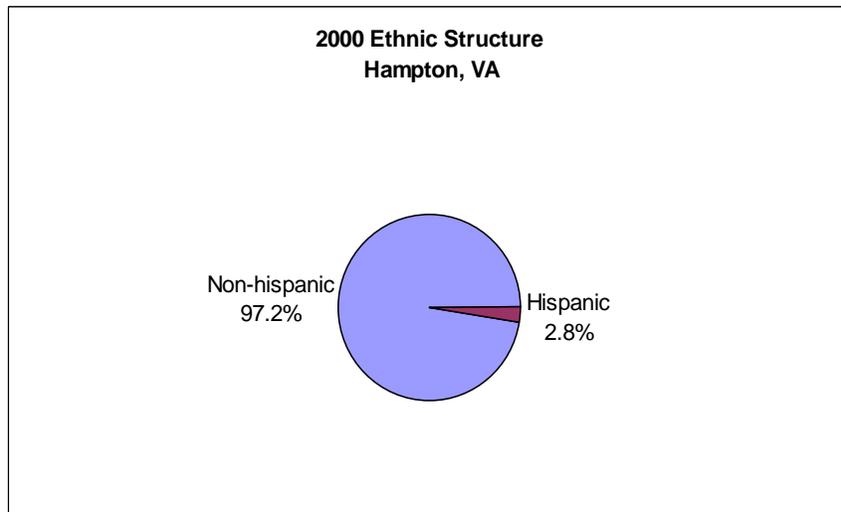


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 93.3% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 6.7% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 2.1% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 85.5% were high school graduates or higher and 21.8% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 4.1% did not reach ninth grade, 10.4% attended some high school but did not graduate, 28.0% completed

high school, 27.2% had some college with no degree, 8.6% received an associate's degree, 13.5% earned a bachelor's degree, and 8.3% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the US Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000 the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Hampton was Southern Baptist Convention with 21 congregations and 16,666 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Methodist (12 with 7,019 adherents), Catholic (5 with 5,217 adherents), and Assemblies of God (5 with 3,263 adherents). The total number of adherent to any religion was up 9.2% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

In August 2005, the coastal fisheries commission in VA approved capping the catch of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay to about 230 million pounds. This most strongly affects Omega Protein Corp., the nation's largest menhaden processor, which has warehouse facilities in Norfolk. Menhaden fuels one of Virginia's largest commercial fishing industries and is considered an abundant resource coast-wide but biologists are concerned about the decline of young fish over the past 15 years (Latane 2005). Crew turnover on trawlers is also an emerging problem (McCay and Cieri 2000).

In June 2007, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council held a meeting in Hampton. Among various topics on the agenda were: research set-asides, fishing vessel safety, bycatch considerations, and quota levels for squid, mackerel, and butterfish (Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council 2007).

Cultural attributes

Hampton celebrates the famous Caribbean pirate Blackbeard, through the [Hampton Blackbeard Festival](#) every year in June. The event features Tall Ships, re-enactments of important battles and a Grand Pirate Ball. Also featured is the annual Hooked on Hampton Fishing Tournament (Blackbeard Festival nd).

The Hampton History Museum on Old Hampton Lane, boasts a wide selection of permanent and changing exhibits highlighting Hampton's rich history. Of maritime interest is the Port Hampton exhibit, where visitors can walk through a simulated ship's hold with original and reproduction artifacts, including old hogshead barrels to illustrate the importance of tobacco in Hampton's trade and commerce past (City of Hampton nd).

The Downtown Hampton In-Water Boat Show is held at the Hampton Public Piers water front and showcases boats in and out of the water from many regional boat dealers. The Seafest, a large marine trade show, is held every September (City of Hampton nd). Also in September, the town celebrates its waterfront heritage with art, entertainment and the regional seafood with the annual [Hampton Bay Days](#) festival.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The largest employers in Hampton are: Lucent Technologies, Gateway Computers (may not be here), Canon, tourism, Langley Air Force Base and NASA are, drawing mostly on highly skilled labor (McCay and Cieri 2000).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 62.4% (71,790 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 3.7% were unemployed, 5.8% were in the Armed Forces, and 52.8% were employed.

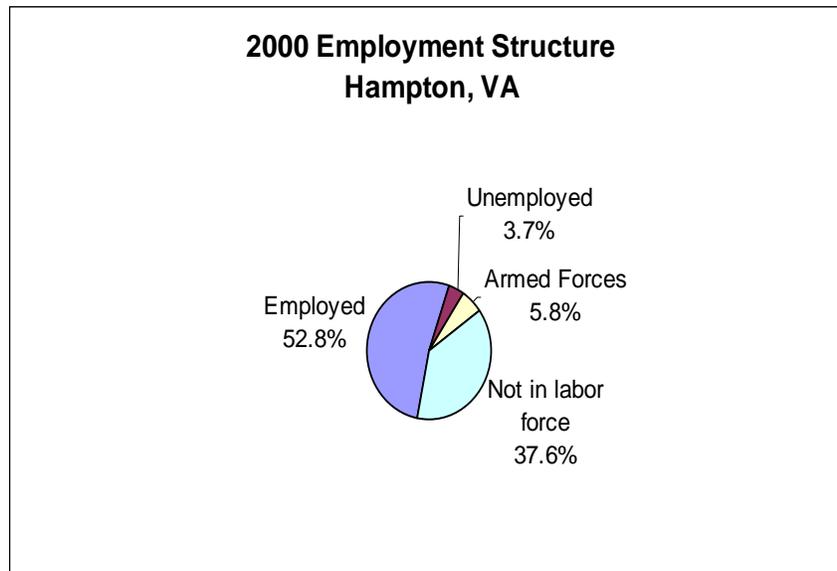


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to the Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 208 positions or 0.3% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 2,237 positions or 3.7% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (20.4%), manufacturing (15.5%) and retail trade (13.0%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Hampton was \$39,532 (up 15.3 % from \$34,291 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$19,774. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 28.4% more per year than females.

The average family in Hampton in 2000 consisted of 3.02 persons. With respect to poverty, 8.8% of families (up from 2.5% in 1989 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 11.3% of individuals earned below the official US Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239-35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 46.5% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Hampton had a total of 57,311 housing units, of which 94.0% were occupied and 64.1 % were detached one unit homes. Less than ten percent (7.4%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats and RV's accounted for 1.8% of the total housing units; 93.5% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$91,100. Of vacant housing units, 0.5% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 41.4% were renter occupied.

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.

Government

The Hampton City Council is composed of seven members, including an elected Mayor, and a Vice Mayor, who is selected by the Council after each election. Council members are elected to four-year terms in staggered elections in even years. The Council also appoints the City Manager, who is the chief administrator and executive officer of Hampton (City of Hampton nd).

Fishery involvement in government

NOAA Fisheries, Fisheries Statistics Office, has three port agents based in Hampton. Port agents sample fish landings and provide a ‘finger-on-the-pulse’ of their respective fishing communities (NOAA Fisheries Service nd).

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) is a State Agency established in 1875 to preserve Virginia’s marine and aquatic resources, including all tidal waters. The VMRC’s Fisheries Management Division aids in the planning of state, interstate, and federal management organizations. Its Fisheries Advisory Council helps agencies create and implement management plans for both commercial and recreational fishery species. The Commission’s headquarters are located in Newport News (VMRC nd).

Institutional

Fishing associations

At the federal commercial level, there are no apparent active fishing associations in the Hampton Roads area. At the State level, there are several local “watermen’s” associations, formed generally to address specific regulations being considered by the VMRC. These associations focus primarily on Chesapeake Bay fisheries.⁶ One such association (Working Waterman’s Association) has its Vice President from Hampton (VMRC nd).

Fishery assistance centers

Information on fishery assistance centers in Hampton is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related institutions

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) operates a state chapter out of Virginia Beach, VA with activities in Hampton. The CCA is a non-profit organization aiming to educate the public about marine conservation. The CCA’s members are primarily saltwater anglers (Coastal Conservation Association nd).

Physical

Hampton is located south of Interstate Highway 64 along the Hampton River. Hampton is located approximately 30 miles from Virginia Beach, 30 miles from Historic Williamsburg, 17 miles from Norfolk and 7 miles from Newport News. Hampton is 3 miles from Langley Air Force Base, 11 miles from Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport, and approximately 14 miles from Norfolk International Airport. There are Amtrak stations in both

⁶ Personal Communication, David Ulmer, NOAA Port Agent, P.O. Box 69043, Hampton, VA 23669, (David.Ulmer@noaa.gov), July 21, 2006

Newport News (7 miles) and Norfolk (14 miles) (Google nd). The [Hampton Roads Transit \(HRT\)](#) provides public transportation service throughout the Hampton Roads area.

Hampton's extensive waterfront offer access to multiple marinas (City of Hampton, Virginia, Hampton Marinas nd.), including the Salt Ponds Marina Resort which is one of the largest on the Chesapeake Bay, providing storage for boats up to 80 feet long and a wide range of marina services. The Intercoastal Waterway also flows through Hampton, accommodating various types of boat traffic (City of Hampton nd). [Hampton Marine Services](#) offers parts and services for different vessel types and has been in business for over 20 years. On the west side of the Hampton River near downtown is a large working wharf with numerous yachting centers (Downtown Hampton Development Partnership nd).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁷

Commercial

The top three species landed in Hampton (see Table 1) by value were sea scallops, "other," and summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. Sea scallops values far exceeded any other species landings in Hampton. Blue crab is a state managed species, so landings values are not shown in Table 1 but may be significant in Hampton. In addition, menhaden is one of Virginia's largest commercial fisheries, with 58% of the total coast-wide harvest from 1996 to 2004 coming from the Chesapeake Bay. In 2004, commercial menhaden landings generated about \$24 million for the Virginia economy and about 395 full time jobs (Southwick Associates Inc. 2006).

Sea-scalloping with dredges is the most important fishery by value, although a significant portion of scallops are caught out of Hampton using otter trawl vessels. The landing value of scallops in 2006 was more than double the 1997-2006 scallop landings average.

The diversity of species landed in Hampton is high, as is the types of gear used. These gear types include: handlines, haul seines, pound nets, sink gillnets, pots, patent tong for hard clams, as well as the popular scallop dredge and otter trawls. There is also a small amount of pelagic longlining occurring from Hampton, targeting various sharks and tuna. In 1999, two or three boats in Hampton had Vietnamese owners, captains and crew. Crab picking and oyster shucking, once important trades, are now supported by only one crab house (McCay and Cieri 2000).

The number of vessels home ported and the number of vessels whose owner lives in Hampton (see Table 2) has stayed relatively consistent from 1997 to 2003, after which there is a decline in vessels through 2006.

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
Scallop	1
Other ⁸	2
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	3
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	4
Monkfish	5
Bluefish	6
Herring	7
Lobster	8
Largemesh Groundfish ⁹	9
Dogfish	10
Skate	11
Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁰	12
Tilefish	13

(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	14	30
1998	11	30
1999	11	30
2000	11	31
2001	10	29
2002	11	35
2003	7	27
2004	8	29
2005	6	31
2006	10	22

(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)

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.

Recreational

In 2005, the economic impact generated by marine recreational fishing in Hampton was third highest in the state, next to Virginia Beach and Newport News. The total sales/economic activity for Hampton was \$53,275,000, a cumulative income of \$30,639,000, and recreational fishing employed 757 people. In 2004, 20 % more marine recreational licenses were sold than in 1994 (Southwick Associates Inc. 2006). There are numerous sport fishing operations and dealers in Hampton. Most businesses offer sight seeing tours on the water in addition to chartered fishing trips. Vessels fish mostly in the Lower Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads, usually targeting bottom fish such as croaker, trout, bluefish, and flounder (Hampton Roads Charters Inc. nd).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

There is pressure by developers to use dock space for tourist-related infrastructure (McCay and Cieri 2000). Also, during the 2003-2005 in the Hampton Roads area at least fifteen scallop vessels were sold to a New England processing company. Some fishermen see a trend where a few large companies are purchasing vessels, thus, creating a monopoly in the scallop industry. Concerns also exist that big business will squeeze small vessels out of the industry.¹³

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