



Northeast Fisheries Science Center



Community Profiles for the Northeast US Fisheries

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Introduction added October 28, 2010

Note 1: Those downloading these profiles for use in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be aware that an addendum will be required for each profile in which updated information relative to the EIS in question is added, principally under the heading "Involvement in Northeast Fisheries," but also likely under "Issues/Processes" and possibly also "Current Economy."

Note 2: North Carolina profiles are included here in the same format as the Northeast profiles because of the importance of North Carolina ports to some Northeast fisheries. For the full set of Southeast Region community profiles, please see the following:

- <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/socialsci.htm> (accessed March 5, 2008); scroll down to multiple volumes on *Identifying Fishing Communities...*
- <http://www.safmc.net/Portals/6/SocioEcon/FishingCommunityReport.pdf> (accessed April 18, 2008);
- <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/NOAAFinalReport101506Blount.pdf> (accessed April 22, 2008); and
- Impact Assessment (2007b) which should be available soon at <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/> (in the interim contact Juan.Agar@noaa.gov).

Note 3: Landings and permit data for these profiles are as of August 8, 2007. Since even past year files are occasionally updated with late arriving information, the totals may not be identical to information downloaded before or after that date.



All associated files are PDF. You need Acrobat Reader to access them.

INTRODUCTION

added 10/28/10

PROFILES

(alphabetical by state)

CONNECTICUT

- Groton
- New London
- Stonington
- Waterford

DELAWARE

- Indian River
- Lewes
- Milford
- Port Mahon (coming soon)
- Bower's Beach (coming soon)

MAINE

- Addison
- Bailey Island

MASSACHUSETTS

- Barnstable
- Beverly
- Boston
- Chatham
- Chilmark
- Cohasset
- Danvers
- Fairhaven
- Fall River
- Gloucester
- Harwichport
- Hull
- Manchester
- Marblehead
- Marshfield
- Nantucket
- New Bedford
- Newburyport
- Orleans
- Plymouth

NORTH CAROLINA

- Atlantic
- Atlantic Beach
- Aurora
- Avon
- Ayden
- Bayboro
- Beaufort
- Belhaven
- Columbia
- Engelhard
- Hatteras
- Kill Devil Hills
- Lowland
- Manteo
- Morehead City
- Nags Head
- New Bern
- Oriental
- Sneads Ferry
- Swan Quarter



SDMS DocID

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OTHER BREAK

- Bar Harbor
- Bath
- Beals
- Belfast
- Boothbay Harbor
- Bremen
- Bucks Harbor
- Cape Porpoise
- Corea
- Cundy's Harbor
- Cushing
- Cutler
- Deer Isle
- Eastport
- Falmouth
- Frenchboro
- Friendship
- Harpswell
- Isleford - Cranberry Isles
- Jonesport
- Kennebunkport
- Kittery
- Milbridge
- New Harbor
- North Haven
- Ogunquit
- Owl's Head
- Pemaquid
- Port Clyde
- Portland
- Prospect Harbor
- Rockland
- Sebasco
- Sorrento
- South Bristol
- South Thomaston
- Southwest Harbor
- Spruce Head
- Steuben (coming soon)
- Stonington
- Swan's Island
- Tenants Harbor
- Tremont
- Vinalhaven
- Westport (Island)
- Whiting
- Winter Harbor
- Wiscasset (coming soon)

MARYLAND

- Cambridge
- Crisfield
- Deale
- Ocean City
- Rock Hall
- Shady Side
- Smith Island
- Solomons

- Provincetown
- Rockport
- Salisbury
- Sandwich
- Saugus
- Scituate
- Wellfleet
- Westport
- Woods Hole

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Hampton
- Newington
- Portsmouth
- Rye
- Seabrook

NEW JERSEY

- Atlantic City
- Avalon
- Barnegat Light - Long Beach
- Belford-Middleton
- Belmar
- Brielle
- Cape May Courthouse
- Cape May
- Highlands
- Newark
- Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach
- Port Norris
- Sea Isle City
- Toms River
- Vineland
- Waretown
- Wildwood

NEW YORK

- Brooklyn
- Captree Island
- City Island
- Freeport
- Greenport
- Hampton Bays - Shinnecock
- Mattituck
- Montauk
- New York
- Oceanside
- Point Lookout

- Vandemere
- Wanchese

PENNSYLVANIA

- Bloomsburg

RHODE ISLAND

- Block Island
- Little Compton
- Newport
- North Kingstown
- Point Judith and Narragansett
- Portsmouth
- Tiverton
- Wakefield
- Warren

VIRGINIA

- Cape Charles (coming soon)
- Carrollton
- Cheriton
- Chincoteague
- Deltaville (coming soon)
- Gwynns Island (coming soon)
- Hampton
- Newport News
- Norfolk
- Poquoson
- Reedville
- Sarah's Creek/Gloucester Point (coming soon)
- Seaford
- Virginia Beach
- Wachapreague
- Wormley Creek (coming soon)

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(File Modified Oct. 28 2010)

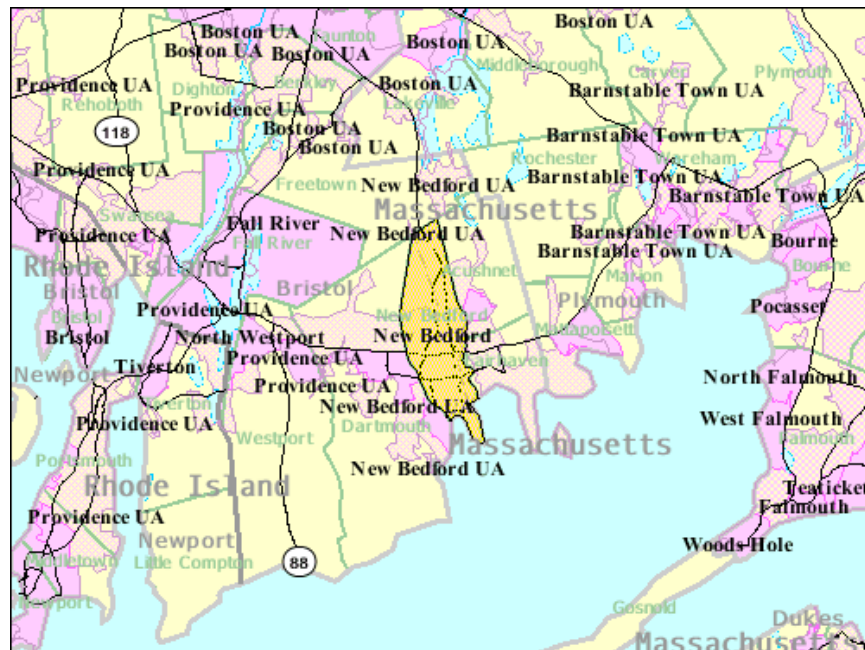
NEW BEDFORD, MA¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

New Bedford is the fourth largest city in the commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is situated on Buzzards Bay, located in the southeastern section of the state in Bristol County. New Bedford is bordered by Dartmouth on the west, Freetown on the north, Fairhaven and Acushnet on the east, and Buzzards Bay on the south. The city is 54 miles south of Boston (State of Massachusetts 2006), and has a total area of 24 mi², of which about 4 mi² (16.2%) is water (USGS 2008).



Map 1. Location of New Bedford, MA (US Census Bureau 2000a)

Historical/Background

New Bedford, originally part of Dartmouth, was settled by Plymouth colonists in 1652. Fishermen established a community in 1760 and developed it into a small whaling port and shipbuilding center within five years. By the early 1800s, New Bedford had become one of the world's leading whaling ports. Over one half of the U.S. whaling fleet, which totaled more than 700 vessels, was registered in New Bedford by the mid 1800s. However, the discovery of petroleum greatly decreased the demand for sperm oil, bringing economic devastation to New

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."

Bedford and all other whaling ports in New England. The last whale ship sailed out of New Bedford in 1925 (New Bedford Whaling Museum 2006). In attempts to diversify its economy, the town manufactured textiles until the southeast cotton boom in the 1920s. Since then, New Bedford has continued to diversify, but the city is still a major commercial fishing port (USGenNet 2006). It consistently ranks in the top two ports in the U.S. for landed value.

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data (US Census Bureau 2000a), New Bedford had a total population of 93,768, down 6.2% from a reported population of 99,922 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.1% were males and 52.9% were females. The median age was 35.9 years and 71.2 % of the population was 21 years or older while 18.9% was 62 or older.

New Bedford’s age structure (see Figure 1) by sex shows a higher number of females in each age group between 20 and over 80 years. There is no drop in the 20-29 age group (as occurs in many smaller fishing communities), which could be due to New Bedford’s proximity to Boston (several universities), the local sailing school, the Northeast Maritime Institute, or a large number of employment opportunities.

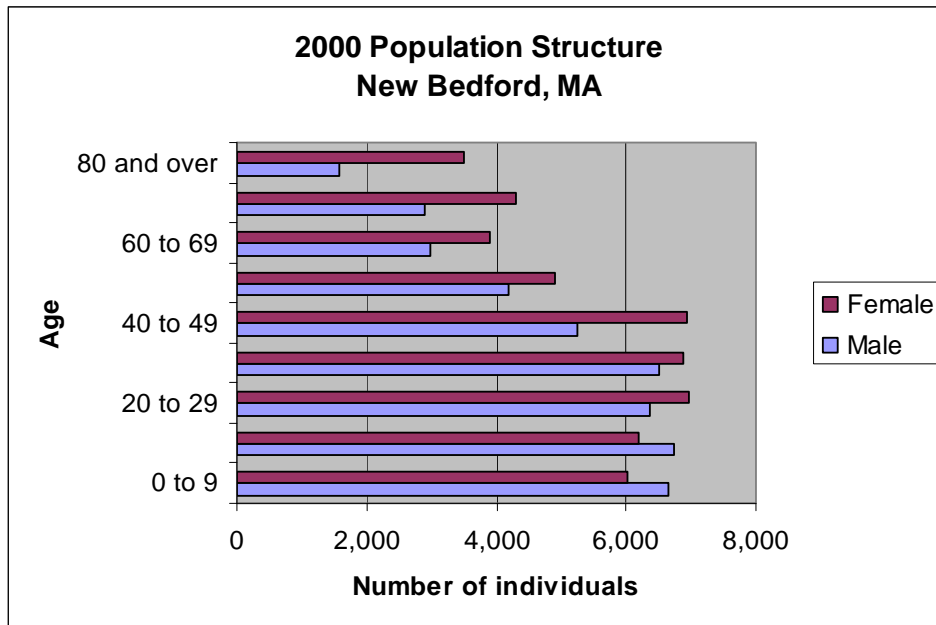


Figure 1. New Bedford’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

The majority of the population was white (83.8%), with 4.7% of residents black or African American, 0.7% Asian, 0.6% Native American, and 0.05% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 10.2% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). (One community member noted that this number is probably much higher, but many undocumented immigrants do not respond to the Census. He noted that many Hispanics/Latinos

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.

work on fishing vessels and in processing plants.)⁴ Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Portuguese (38.6%), French (9.1%), and Sub-Saharan African (8.2%) (the vast majority of which are Cape Verdean) . With regard to region of birth, 67.8% were born in Massachusetts, 8.0% were born in a different state, and 19.6% were born outside of the U.S. (including 9.2% who were not United States citizens).

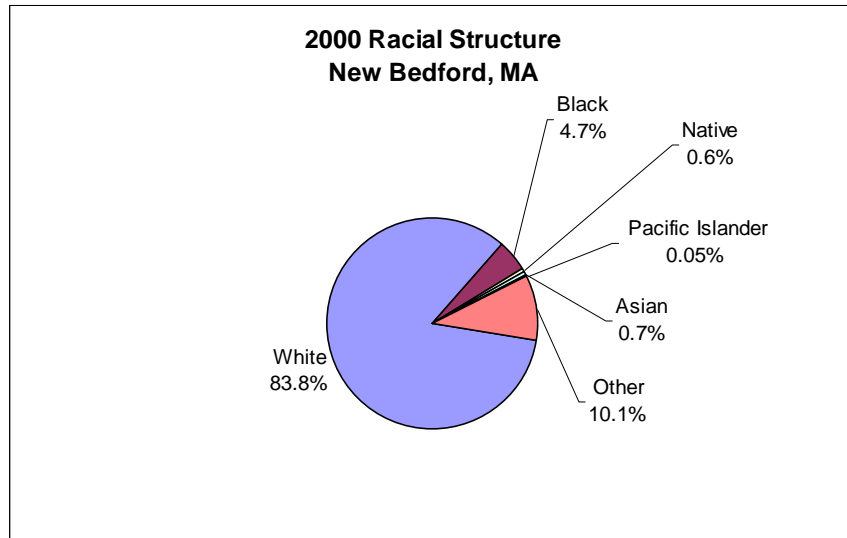


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

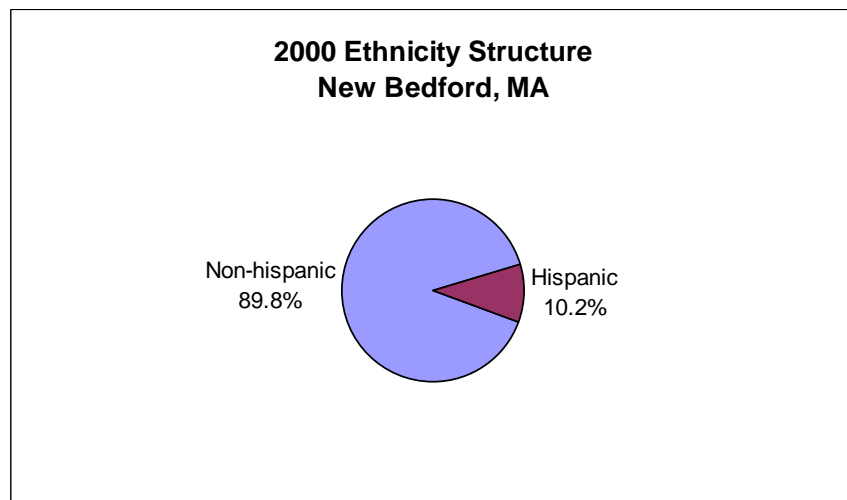


Figure 3. Ethnic structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

For 62.2% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 37.8% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 17.3% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 57.6% were high school graduates or higher and 10.7% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 24.3% did

⁴ Profile review comment, Rodney Avila, former commercial fisherman, 369 Belair St., New Bedford, MA 02745, August 14, 2007

not reach ninth grade, 18.1% attended some high school but did not graduate, 27.7% completed high school, 13.9% had some college with no degree, 5.3% received an associate's degree, 7.5% earned a bachelor's degree, and 3.2% received either a 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 the Bristol County was Catholic with 85 congregations and 268,434 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Methodist (17 with 3,583 adherents), United Church of Christ (19 with 5,728 adherents) and Episcopal (18 with 5,100 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 9.4% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

New Bedford struggles with highly contaminated harbor water and harbor sediment. New Bedford Harbor is contaminated with metals and organic compounds, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (US Department of Commerce 2002). Because of the high concentrations of PCBs in the sediment, New Bedford Harbor was listed by the U.S. EPA as a Superfund site in 1982 and cleanup is underway. Significant levels of these pollutants have accumulated in sediments, water, fish, lobsters, and shellfish in the Harbor and adjacent areas. New Bedford is also the only major municipality in the Buzzards Bay area to discharge significant amounts of untreated combined sewage, industrial waste, and storm water from combined sewer overflows (BBNEP 1991).

The pollution problem not only affects human health and the ecosystem, but has a large impact on New Bedford's economy. For example, closures of fishing areas in the harbor have caused economic losses in the millions for the quahog landings alone. Closure of the lobster fishery resulted in an estimated loss of \$250,000 per year and the finfish industry and recreational fishing have also been negatively affected (Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan 1991). In addition to contaminated harbor sediments, numerous brownfield properties are located in proximity to the port, especially on the New Bedford side (US Department of Commerce 2002).

Another issue in New Bedford is in regards to fishing crew members. According to a 2002 newspaper article, fishing vessel owners complain of a shortage of crewmen. They attribute this scarcity to low unemployment rates that have kept laborers from the docks. Many choose to bypass work that government statistics place among the most dangerous jobs in the country. Many crewmembers are either inexperienced or come from foreign countries. Both present safety issues, according to one fisherman, because inexperienced crew get hurt more often and foreign crew have significant language barriers that impede communication. Additionally, the article noted, those willing to work sometimes struggle with alcohol and drug dependency. Ship captains have applicants roll up their shirt sleeves to check for traces of heroin use (Paul NC, Scripser C 2002). However, a community member and former fisherman commented that this is not normal procedure; most of the drug problems in the city come from crew members on out-of-town boats. He also noted that with a decrease in days at sea vessels are allowed to fish, crew members have been more steady, most working on more than one vessel owned by a single owner.⁵

⁵ Profile review comment, Rodney Avila, former commercial fisherman, 369 Belair St., New Bedford, MA 02745, August 14, 2007

Cultural attributes

In September 2007, New Bedford hosted the fourth annual Working Waterfront Festival, dedicated to the commercial fishing industry in New Bedford. This festival is a chance for the commercial fishing industry to educate the public about its role in the community and in providing seafood to consumers, through boat tours, demonstrations, and contests. The annual Blessing of the Fleet is held as part of the Working Waterfront Festival <http://www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org/>.

The New Bedford community celebrates its maritime history with a culmination of activities in the New Bedford Summerfest. The Summerfest is held annually in July in conjunction with the New Bedford State Pier and the New Bedford National Whaling Historical Park. Summerfest also includes the Cape Verdean Recognition Day Parade and the Cape Verdean American Family Festival <http://www.newbedfordsummerfest.com/>.

The community has taken an active role in the remembrance of its maritime heritage. The Azorean Maritime Heritage Society, the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park have cooperated to raise awareness of the maritime history of the Azorean community on both sides of the Atlantic.

The [New Bedford Whaling Museum](#) was established by the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in 1907 to tell the story of American whaling and to describe the role that New Bedford played as the whaling capital of the world in the nineteenth century. Today the whaling Museum is the largest museum in America devoted to the history of the American whaling industry and its greatest port.

The New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was created in 1996 and focuses in the city's whaling history. The park covers 13 city blocks and includes a visitor center, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum (US Department of the Interior 2006).

Every summer, the City of New Bedford offers a free monthly cultural night in downtown called "[Aha!](#)" (Art, History & Architecture). Started in 1999, the series includes music, open galleries, vendors, and music on the second Thursday of each month.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC), Inc. was established in 1998 to improve the city's economic development by helping to attract business and job opportunities to the city. The NBEDC also provides small business funds and offers financial support (in loans) for new businesses or those who want to expand. One of their loan funds is specifically targeted at fishermen (NBEDC 2006).

With a federal grant and local funds, the city and the Harbor Development Council (HDC) in 2005 began construction on a \$1 million, 8,500-square foot passenger terminal at State Pier to support passenger ferry service. The HDC received a federal grant for more than \$700,000 to construct the passenger terminal and to improve berthing at the New Bedford Ferry Terminal (NBEDC 2006). The city has also redeveloped Standard Times Field, a brownfield site, into an industrial park targeted towards the seafood industry; a number of seafood processors have relocated to this site.⁶

⁶ Profile review comment, Dave Janik, Massachusetts Department of Coastal Zone Management, South Coast CZM Regional Coordinator, 2870 Cranberry Highway, Wareham, MA 02538, October 5, 2007

According to a 1993 survey, major employers that provided over 100 jobs in New Bedford included the following businesses with the number of employees in parentheses: Acushnet Company (1,600), Cliftex (1,400 – now out of business⁷), Aerovox (800), Calish Clothing (750), and Polaroid (465) (City of New Bedford 2006). “According to a study conducted in July 1998, harbor-related businesses account for an estimated \$671 million in sales and 3,700 jobs within the local area. The core seafood industry, comprising harvesting vessels and dealers/processors, contributes nearly \$609 million in sales and 2,600 local jobs (State of Massachusetts 2002).” New Bedford accounts for 45% of employment in the seafood harvesting sector in the state of Massachusetts (State of Massachusetts 2002).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁸, 57.7% (42,308 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 5.0% were unemployed, 0.2% were in the Armed Forces, and 52.5% were employed.

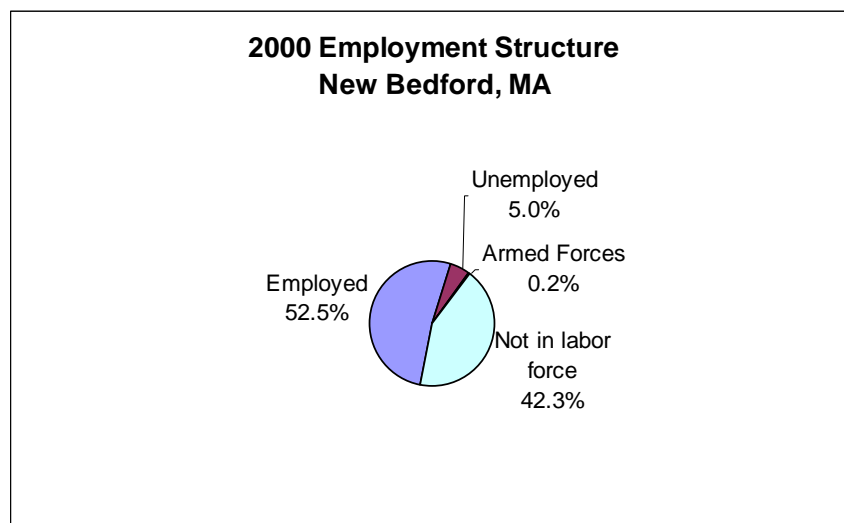


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 407 or 1.1% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 1,485 or 3.9% of the labor force. Educational, health and social services (20.9%), manufacturing (20.7%), retail trade (12.1%), entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (7.4%), and construction (7.1%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in New Bedford was \$27,569 (up 21.7% from \$22,647 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990a)) and median per capita income was \$15,602. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 29.0% more per year than females.

The average family in New Bedford consisted of 3.01 persons. With respect to poverty, 17.3% of families (up from 16.8% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990a)) and 20.2% 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)

⁷ Profile review comment, Rodney Avila, former commercial fisherman, 369 Belair St., New Bedford, MA 02745, August 14, 2007

⁸ 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.

(US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 48.8% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, New Bedford had a total of 41,511 housing units of which 92.0% were occupied and 30.2% were detached one unit homes. Approximately half (49.9%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes in this area accounted for 0.3% of the total housing units; 95.0% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$113,500. Of vacant housing units, 0.3% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 56.2% were renter occupied.

Government

New Bedford was incorporated as a town in 1787 and as a city in 1847. The city of New Bedford has a Mayor and a City Council (City of New Bedford 2006).

Fishery involvement in government

The Harbor Development Commission includes representatives from the fish-processing and harvest sectors of the industry. NOAA Fisheries, [Fisheries Statistics Office](#), has two port agents based in New Bedford. Port agents sample fish landings and provide a ‘finger-on-the-pulse’ of their respective fishing communities. “The HDC has jurisdiction over all the waters in New Bedford, including the entire coastline of the peninsula, the harbor, and north along the Acushnet River to the city’s boundaries. The HDC manages city property on the waterfront, including Homer’s, Leonard’s, Steamship, Coal Pocket and Fisherman’s Wharves and a 198-slip recreational marina at Pope’s Island. The HDC also assigns moorings and enforces rules regarding use of piers, wharves, and adjacent parking areas under its jurisdiction. The Harbormaster acts as an agent of the HDC (City of New Bedford 2006).” New Bedford also has a Shellfish Warden.

Institutional

Fishing associations

There are a variety of fishing associations which aid the fishing industry in New Bedford, including the American Dogfish Association, the American Scallop Association, and the Commercial Anglers Association. New Bedford also is home to a Fishermen’s Wives Association which began in the early 1960s. Additionally, New Bedford has the Offshore Mariner’s Wives Association which includes a handful of participants that organize the “Blessing of the Fleet” (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

The Massachusetts Fisherman’s Partnership focuses on issues for fishermen in different ports in Massachusetts. The Partnership responded to the need of health care for fishermen and their families by developing the Fishing Partnership Health Insurance Plan with federal and state aid. This plan has been in place since 1997 and reduces the amount of money that fishermen’s families have to pay to be covered by health insurance (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

Fishing assistance centers

[Shore Support](#) has been the primary fishing assistance center in New Bedford since 2000 (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). Their mission is “to identify and organize the rank and file fishermen in the port of New Bedford, to keep fishing families aware of retraining opportunities and human services when necessary, and to create a liaison between the rank and file fishermen and the regulatory system.” The New Bedford Fishermen and Families Assistance Center, formerly

active here, has closed its doors, and the Trawlers Survival Fund is no longer active. The Industry Survival Fund, which deals with the scallop industry, is active in New Bedford at present.⁹

Other fishing related organizations

There are several other fishing related organizations and associations that are vital to the fishing industry such as the Fisheries' Survival Fund (Fairhaven), the New Bedford Fishermen's Union, the New Bedford Seafood Coalition, and the New Bedford Seafood Council (Hall-Arber 2001).

The Community Economic Development Center is a non-profit organization vested in the economic development of the local community. The organization is unique in that it is involved with fisheries management. The center is currently engaged in a research project to better understand the employment status in the fishing industry. The center is a liaison for migrant workers and other newcomers to the community to have access to the benefits provided by the city. In the past the center at one time had a re-training program for displaced fishermen to move into aquaculture.

The [School for Marine Science and Technology](#) (SMAST), part of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, is based in New Bedford. SMAST is a graduate school offering interdisciplinary degrees in ocean and marine science, including fisheries science and management.

Physical

Interstate 195 and State routes 24 and 140 provide access to the airports, ports, and facilities of Providence and Boston. In addition to being only about 50 miles from Boston, New Bedford is located 33 miles southeast of Providence, RI and approximately 208 miles from New York City. "New Bedford Harbor is at the mouth of the Acushnet River, which flows south into Buzzards Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The entrance to the harbor is nine nautical miles from the beginning of the Cape Cod Canal shipping channel. The Port of New Bedford is a deep-water port with depths of 30 feet. The harbor features a hurricane barrier that stretches across the water from the south end of New Bedford to the Town of Fairhaven. The barrier's 150-foot opening is closed during hurricane conditions and coastal storms. As a result, the harbor is one of the safest havens on the eastern seaboard (City of New Bedford 2006)."

The Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) provides services into New Bedford. The New Bedford Municipal Airport is located 2 miles NW of the city. Cape Air, located in Hyannis on Cape Cod, offers flights to and from New Bedford, as does Bayside Air Charter (located at the New Bedford Regional Airport). Ferry service to the island of Martha's Vineyard is available daily (year-round) from the State Pier in the city. Whaling City Harbor Tours & Water Taxi Service offers mooring-to-dock services in the summer months to recreational boaters. They also offer tours of the commercial fishing fleet and the lighthouse, also in the summer season. Intercity bus service is offered by American Eagle Motor Coach, Inc. and Bonanza Bus Lines to Cape Cod, Providence, Newport, and Boston. [Southeastern Regional Transit Authority](#) offers local bus service throughout the New Bedford area. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has been considering extending the commuter rail service to New Bedford from Boston. In the summer of 2007, a pilot fast ferry service started between New

⁹ Profile review comment, Rodney Avila, former commercial fisherman, 369 Belair St., New Bedford, MA 02745, August 14, 2007

Bedford and Woods Hole; the service ran for four months, and will be evaluated by city officials to determine whether it will continue (Urbon 2007).

There are several marinas in New Bedford and nearby Fairhaven, in addition to the major commercial docks. The HDC operates the 198-slip public marina at Pope's Island, which is located within the Hurricane Barrier in the upper harbor east of the New Bedford/Fairhaven Bridge. Pope's Island Marina is situated along the south side of the island and receives financial assistance from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Services include on-site laundry facilities, pump out facilities, shower rooms, and conference room, with dockside water and electricity available <http://www.ci.newbedford.ma.us/PortofNewBedford/GettingAround/PopesIsland.html>. There are more than 950 recreational boat slips in New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor (City of New Bedford 2006).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹⁰

Commercial

In the 1980s, fishermen experienced high landings and bought new boats due to a booming fishing industry. In the 1990s, however, due to exhausted fish stocks, the fishing industry experienced a dramatic decrease in groundfish catches and a subsequent vessel buyback program, and strict federal regulations in attempts to rebuild the depleted fish stocks. A new decade brought more changes for the fishing industry (Kennedy 2001). By 2000 and 2001 New Bedford was the highest value port in the U.S. (generating \$150.5 million in dockside revenue) (Plante 2002).

The range of species landed in New Bedford is quite diverse and can be separated by State and Federal (see Table 1) permits, however this profile displays only Federal landings data. It is important to note that according to State permits, the largest landings were of cod, haddock, and lobster, and with impressive representation by a number of different species. According to the federal commercial landings data, New Bedford's most successful fishery in the past ten years has been scallops, followed by groundfish. Scallops were worth significantly more in 2006 than the 1997-2006 average values, and the total value of landings for New Bedford generally increased over the same time period. The value of groundfish in 2006, however, was considerably less than the ten-year average value. The number of vessels whose home port was New Bedford increased somewhat between 1997 and 2006, while the value of fishing for home port vessels more than doubled from \$80 million to \$184 million over the same time period. The number of vessels whose owner's city was New Bedford fluctuated between 137 and 199 vessels, while the value of landings in New Bedford tripled from \$94 million in 1998 to and \$281 million in 2006 (see Table 2). One community member notes that the number of vessels in

¹⁰ 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.

the harbor as of 2007 is up to 232. The number of fishing vessels based out of New Bedford has increased in the last few years due a loss of infrastructure in other ports; New Bedford has seen vessels relocate here from Gloucester, Portland, Plymouth, Newport, and even as far away as Virginia.¹¹

New Bedford has approximately 44 fish wholesale companies, 75 seafood processors, and some 200 shore side industries (Hall-Arber 2001). [Maritime International](#) has one of the largest U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved cold treatment centers on the East Coast. Its terminal receives approximately 25 vessels a year, most carrying about 1,000 tons of fish each. [American Seafoods](#), one of the largest seafood companies in the United States, has a large processing facility in New Bedford where they process primarily scallops. [Norpel](#) (Northern Pelagic Group, LLC), also in New Bedford, is one of the largest pelagic processing companies in the United States, catching and processing both mackerel and herring with a dedicated fleet of mid-water trawlers. New Bedford’s auction house, [Whaling City Seafood Display Auction](#), opened in 1994, allowing fishermen to get fair prices for their catch and providing buyers with a more predictable supply of seafood. One of the recommendations of the New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor Plan was to establish effective public oversight of the auction process (State of Massachusetts 2002).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups of landings in New Bedford

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Scallop	108,387,505	216,937,686
Largemesh Groundfish ¹²	30,921,996	23,978,055
Monkfish	10,202,039	8,180,015
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	7,990,366	9,855,093
Lobster	4,682,873	5,872,100
Other ¹³	4,200,323	2,270,579
Skate	2,054,062	3,554,808
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	1,916,647	5,084,463
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	1,481,161	2,227,973
Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁴	897,392	1,302,488
Herring	767,283	2,037,784
Dogfish	89,071	13,607
Bluefish	25,828	10,751
Tilefish	2,675	1,084

Note: Red crab are also landed, but data cannot be reported due to confidentiality.

¹¹ Profile review comment, Rodney Avila, former commercial fisherman, 369 Belair St., New Bedford, MA 02745, August 14, 2007

¹² Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, witch flounder, yellowtail flounder, am. plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹³ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹⁴ Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

Vessels by Year¹⁵

Table 2: All columns represent vessel permits or landings value combined between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	244	162	80,472,279	103,723,261
1998	213	137	74,686,581	94,880,103
1999	204	140	89,092,544	129,880,525
2000	211	148	101,633,975	148,806,074
2001	226	153	111,508,249	151,382,187
2002	237	164	120,426,514	168,612,006
2003	245	181	129,670,762	176,200,566
2004	257	185	159,815,443	206,273,974
2005	271	195	200,399,633	282,510,202
2006	273	199	184,415,796	281,326,486

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

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁶

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)

Recreational

While recreational fishing in New Bedford Harbor is discouraged due to heavy metal contamination (Department of Health and Human Services), a number of companies in New Bedford offer the public [recreational fishing excursions including boat charters](#). There are also several bait and tackle stores, many of which serve as [official state fishing derby weigh-in stations](#). “In 1999 there were approximately 950 slips in New Bedford Harbor and 85% were visitor based. According to FXM Associates, marina operators agreed that an additional 200 slips could be filled. A few owners of fishing boats in the 45 to 50 foot range have obtained licenses for summer party boat fishing. Tuna is a popular object for recreational fishing as are stripped bass” (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

Subsistence

While no information on subsistence fishing in New Bedford was obtained through secondary data collection, the large number of ethnic groups in New Bedford may indicate subsistence fishing does occur.

FUTURE

For several years, work was underway to construct the New Bedford Oceanarium that would include exhibits on New Bedford’s history as a whaling and fishing port, and was expected to revitalize the city’s tourist industry and create jobs for the area. The Oceanarium

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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.

project failed to receive its necessary funding in 2003 and 2004, and while the project has not been abandoned, it seems unlikely the Oceanarium will be built anytime in the near future.

According to a 2002 newspaper article, many fishermen believe that based on the quantity and ages of the species they catch, the fish are coming back faster than studies indicate. While most admit that regulations have worked, they believe further restrictions are unnecessary and could effectively wipe out the industry. "If they push these [regulations] too hard, the whole infrastructure of fishing here could collapse," according to a New Bedford fishermen (Paul, Scriptor 2002).

New Bedford has a Harbor Plan for New Bedford/Fairhaven harbor, which is focused on developing traditional harbor industries, capturing new opportunities for tourism and recreational use, rebuilding harbor infrastructure, and enhancing the harbor environment. Projects completed or underway as part of the Harbor Plan include a revitalization of the State Pier and redevelopment of the Standard Times Field as an industrial park to house fishing-related businesses (State of Massachusetts 2002). The plan received state approval in 2002, and was recognized as one of the most progressive harbor plans produced in the state.¹⁷

The [Massachusetts Fisheries Institute](#) is planned for New Bedford; the institute is collaboration between the University of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Intercampus Graduate School of Marine Sciences and Technology, the Department of Marine Fisheries, and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The project intends to team up scientists, fishermen, and graduate and undergraduate students to develop practical and innovative fisheries management applications.

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¹⁷ Profile review comment, Dave Janik, Massachusetts Department of Coastal Zone Management, South Coast CZM Regional Coordinator, 2870 Cranberry Highway, Wareham, MA 02538, October 5, 2007

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