

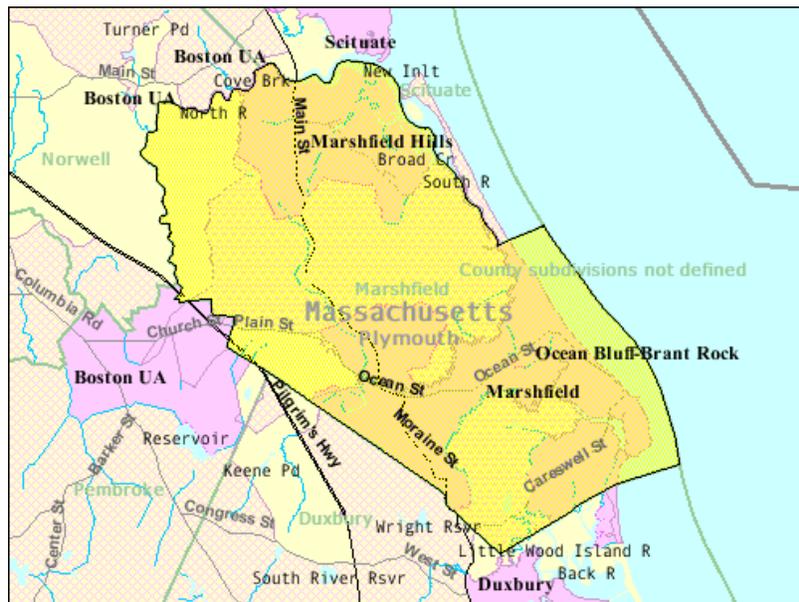
MARSHFIELD, MA¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The Town of Marshfield (42.09° N, 70.71° W) is located in the South Shore region of Massachusetts, in Plymouth County, 30 miles south of Boston. Marshfield faces Cape Cod Bay and is bordered by Duxbury to the south and Scituate to the north. Marshfield encompasses a number of villages including Green Harbor, Ocean Bluff-Brant Rock, Humarock, Rexhame, North Marshfield, and Marshfield Hills. Marshfield is 31.7 square miles in total area, of which 28.5 square miles is land and 3.25 square miles is water (State of Massachusetts 2007).



Map 1. Location of Marshfield, MA (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Marshfield was founded by Edward Winslow in 1640, after having traveled to Plymouth aboard the Mayflower. What is now known as the Pilgrim Trail was a road that connected Marshfield and Plymouth, and may have been the first road in America (Traynor 2005). The Plymouth Colony Court also ordered that a canal be dug between Green Harbor River and Duxbury Bay, called “Cut River” creating a navigable waterway between North River in Marshfield and Plymouth (Marshfield Chamber of Commerce 2005). (This canal is no longer navigable today.)³ A series of villages were settled around what is now the town of Marshfield,

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 Profile review comment, William Adler, Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association, 8 Otis Place, Scituate MA 02066, August 29, 2007

and these villages still exist as distinct entities today. Early in the town's history, shipbuilding became an important industry because of the numerous waterways and access to timber (Marshfield Chamber of Commerce 2005). Between 1645 and 1871, there were over 1,000 ships built in the North River, and a number of industries to support the shipbuilding industry grew up around Marshfield (Marshfield Chamber of Commerce 2005).

For a considerable period of time, Marshfield was home to Daniel Webster who was a US Senator and served as Secretary of State to three presidents (Marshfield Chamber of Commerce 2003). [The Marshfield Fair](#), first held in 1862, is today one of the nations oldest running agricultural fairs. Today Marshfield and other towns in this region are growing rapidly because of their proximity to Boston. Marshfield also serves as a summer destination, with the population increasing to around 40,000 during the summer months (State of Massachusetts 2007).

Demographics⁴

According to Census 2000 data, Marshfield had a total population of 24,324, up 12.5% from the reported population of 21,621 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.8% were males and 51.2% were females. The median age was 37.4 years and 69.9% of the population was 21 years or older while 11.6% was 62 or older.

Marshfield's population structure (Figure 1) was typical of a relatively young, family-oriented community. The largest age bracket was between the ages of 30-39, followed by 40-49, and there were also many of children and teenagers. The population dipped for the 20-29 age bracket, as is common in many communities, including fishing communities, when young people leave to go to college or to seek jobs. There were also many more males than females in the 30-39 age grouping, but not in the other age brackets, indicating that perhaps men come to Marshfield for employment around that age.

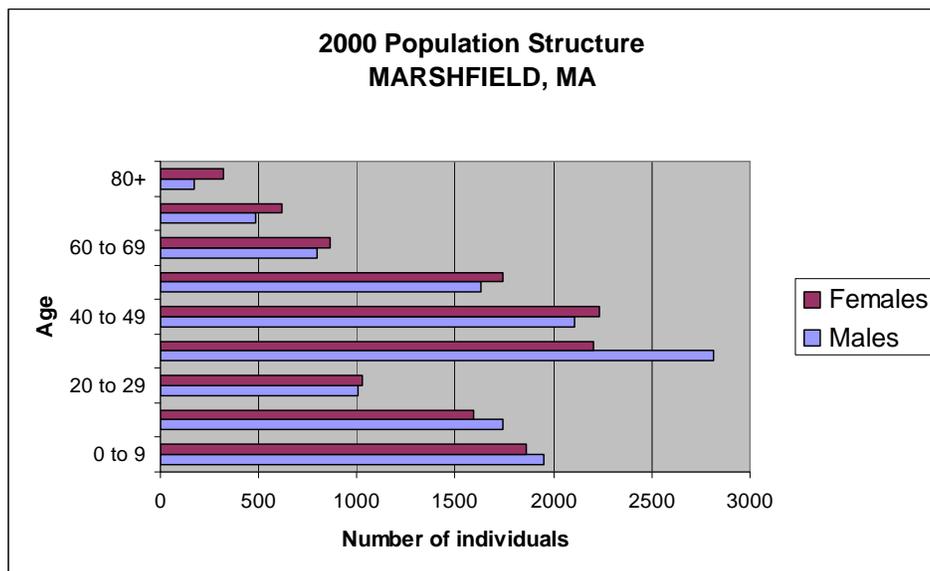


Figure 1. Marshfield's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

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 (97.4%), with 0.8% of residents black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.3% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 0.7% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (45.1%), English (18.0%), Italian (16.0%), and German (7.4%). With regard to region of birth, 82.6% were born in Massachusetts, 14.0% were born in a different state and 2.8% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.1% who were not United States citizens).

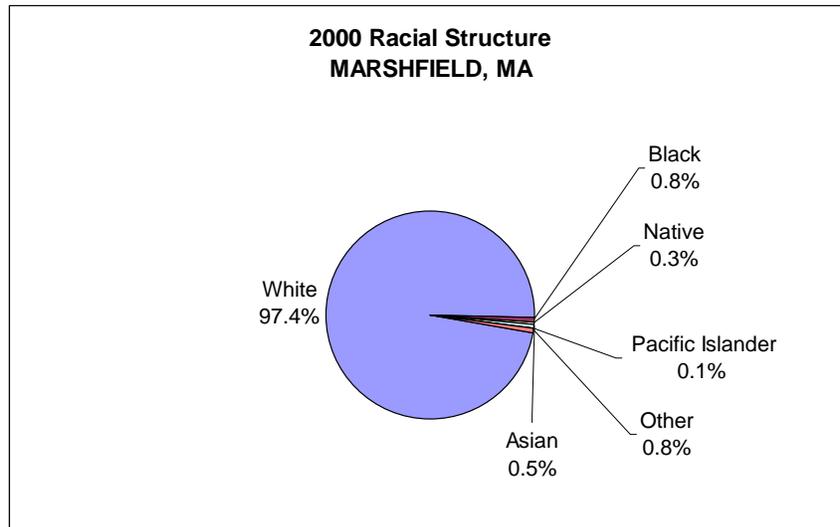


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

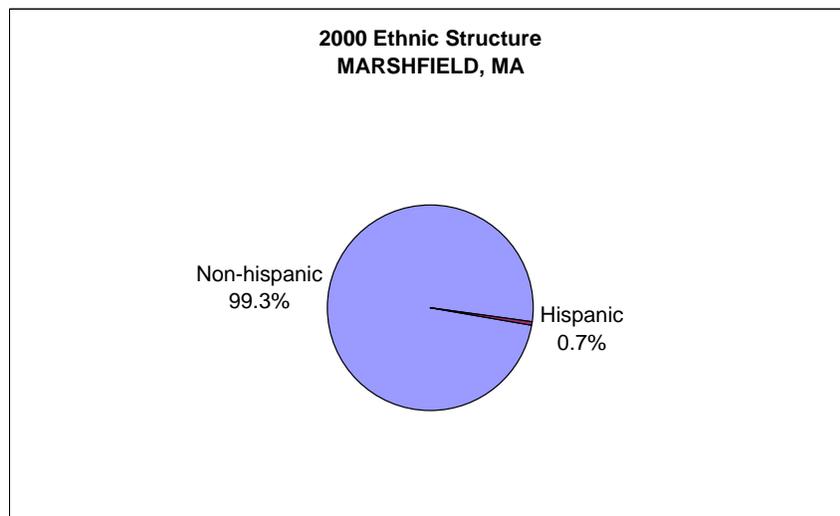


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 96.1% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 3.9% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and including 1.5% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 94.1% were high school graduates or higher and 35.9% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 1.2% did not reach ninth grade, 4.7% attended some high school but did not graduate, 24.7% completed

high school, 23.7% had some college with no degree, 9.8% received an associate's degree, 25.1% earned a bachelor's degree, and 10.7% received either their graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the U.S. Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Plymouth County was Catholic with 40 congregations and 205,060 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Jewish (8 with 23,600 adherents), United Church of Christ (25 with 9,491 adherents) and Episcopal (15 with 6,894 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 36.1% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

In 2004, Marshfield tuna fishermen complained of a difficult season, catching far fewer tuna than in years past, which may have been due to weather or to migration patterns (McGillicuddy 2004). In 2005, the shellfish beds in Marshfield were heavily affected by a red tide outbreak, and had the highest levels of toxicity anywhere in New England (Fraser 2005).

Cape Cod Bay, where many Marshfield fishermen work, is critical Northern right whale habitat, and parts of the bay are frequently closed to fixed fishing gear or require gear modifications at times when the whale are present, which may impact lobstermen from Marshfield. However, Bill Adler of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association notes that Marshfield lobstermen are only minimally affected because the closure rules are most restrictive during the winter months (January – May); there is little fishing at this time of year, and those who do go out are fishing north of Cape Cod Bay (DeLory 2004). Discussions on closing all or part of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Marshfield to fishing also has many fishermen worried.

Cultural attributes

[The Green Harbor Tuna Association](#) hosts a number of fishing tournaments in Marshfield.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The largest employers in Marshfield are likely to be some of the large retail stores, including the Roche Bros., Stop + Shop supermarkets, and Marshall's.⁵

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁶, 71.8% (13,220 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 1.9% were unemployed, 0.1% were in the Armed Forces, and 70.3% were employed.

⁵ Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, personal communication, 8/8/05

⁶ 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.

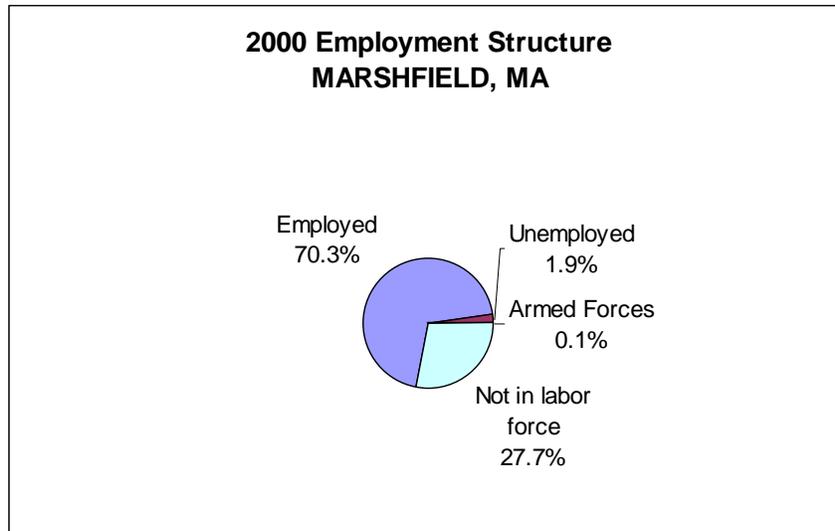


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 44 positions or 0.3% of all jobs. Self-employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 831 positions or 6.5% of jobs. Education, health, and social services (20.4%), finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (12.5%), retail trade (12.0%), and professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services (10.9%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Marshfield was \$66,508 (up 35.8% from \$48,986 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$28,768. For full-time year-round workers, males made approximately 43.4% more per year than females.

The average family in Marshfield comprised 3.20 persons. With respect to poverty, 3.8% of families (up from 2.6% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 5.4% of individuals earned below the US 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, 22.7% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Marshfield had a total of 9,954 housing units of which 89.5% were occupied and 85.3% were detached one unit homes. A total of 14% of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs and vans accounted for 0.2% of housing units; 87.6% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$225,200. Of vacant housing units, 8.4% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 18.8% were renter occupied.

Government

The Town of Marshfield is governed by a Board of Selectmen, with 3 members elected to three-year terms, and has a Town Meeting form of government (Town of Marshfield 2005).

Fishery involvement in government

Marshfield's shellfish warden monitors the shellfish beds for pollution and for the size of the shellfish, and stocks the shellfish bed with seed.⁷ The town also has a harbor master.

⁷ Personal Communication, Marshfield Harbormaster, Marshfield Harbormaster's Office, 1639 Ocean St., Marshfield, MA 02050. 8/5/05

Institutional

Fishing associations

The [Marshfield Commercial Fishermen's Association and the Massachusetts Bay Inshore Commercial Groundfishermen's Association](#) (Massachusetts Netters Association) are based in Marshfield. The South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association is also based in Marshfield.⁸ The [Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association](#) is located in Scituate; this organization represents the interests of commercial lobstermen throughout Massachusetts. [The Green Harbor Tuna Association](#) was founded in 1970 to promote sportfishing for bluefin tuna, and today sponsors tournaments for a number of different sportfish.

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 2001).

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishing assistance centers in Marshfield is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing-related organizations

[The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences](#), located in nearby Plymouth, conducts research on fish behavior and fishing practices to develop sustainable and selective fishing practices. The Center works with commercial fishermen, local communities, and with state and federal agencies. [The North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#) aims to protect the watershed of these two rivers, restore water quality and habitat, and educate the public about the watershed through public education, outreach, and recreation programs. The watershed is located in twelve towns on the South Shore of Massachusetts, including Marshfield

Physical

Marshfield is 12 miles from Plymouth and 30 miles from Boston. The town is accessible by car via Route 3, which travels between Cape Cod and Boston. Marshfield has its own municipal airport, as does Plymouth; the closest large airport is Logan International Airport in Boston, 25 miles away (MapQuest 2005). [The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](#) provides public transportation via commuter rail to Boston from some nearby communities along the South Shore.

Marshfield has a Town Pier that offers ice and some storage (Town of Marshfield 2005). Most of the commercial fishing fleet is based at the town pier, or on moorings just off the town pier, and this is where all of the vessels come to unload. Marshfield is separated into several villages, and while many of the fishermen list either the community of Green Harbor or Ocean Bluff-Brant Rock as their home port; these are actually just two sides of the same harbor. All of the landings are done at the Town Pier, located on the Brant Rock side of the harbor. There are 4-5 trucks arriving at the town pier each day to purchase fish; some trucks are here specifically to purchase bluefin tuna when they are landed.⁹

⁸ Profile review comment, William Adler, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066, August 29, 2007

⁹ Personal Communication, Marshfield Harbormaster, Marshfield Harbormaster's Office, 1639 Ocean St., Marshfield, MA 02050. 8/5/05

There are [two bait and tackle shops](#) in Marshfield. [Fishermen's Outfitters](#) sells bait and tackle to sport fishermen. The town has [several marinas](#) which sell, repair, and house primarily recreational vessels. Green Harbor Marina provides fuel, bait, and dockage to both recreational and commercial tuna boats. Taylor Marine on the Brant Rock side next to the Town Pier has a fuel dock also. There are also two public boat launch ramps in town, one located next to the town pier (Town of Marshfield 2005), and the other located on South River.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹⁰

Commercial

Landings in Marshfield were not recorded at the port level until 2000. The most valuable species landed in Marshfield in 2006 was lobster, worth almost \$2.3 million. The landings value of lobster was lower in 2006 than the average landed value averaged for 2000-2006, and was far greater than landings in any other species grouping (see Table). Marshfield is also considered a center for tuna landings; trucks come to the docks prepared to purchase the tuna and take it directly to Logan Airport (Hall-Arber 2001). Data on vessel permits are combined for Marshfield and its villages (Green Harbor, Ocean Bluff, and Brant Rock) Landings in 2000, the first year for which they were reported in Marshfield, were valued at over \$5 million. Since then, the landings have declined to just under \$2.6 million in 2006 (see Table). The level of home port fishing varied for Marshfield, including Green Harbor and Ocean Bluff-Brant Rock, over the period from 1997-2006. The level of home port fishing had declined from almost \$900,000 in 1999 to just over \$300,000 in 2000, but was at more than \$2.7 million by 2006. For most years, the landings in Marshfield were considerably higher than the level of home port fishing, indicating vessels from other communities have been landing here. The number of vessels home ported in Marshfield generally declined over this same time period, from a high of 108 in 1997 to 81 in 2006.

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries reported 52 commercial lobstermen fishing out of Marshfield in 2006. Marshfield was ranked 8th in the state in catch (pounds) for state landings.¹¹

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.

¹¹ Data provided by William Adler, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066, September 5, 2007

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups of landing in Marshfield

	Average from 2000-2006	2006 only
Lobster	3,030,764	2,279,311
Largemouth Groundfish ¹²	124,177	152,884
Other ¹³	22,234	13,087
Dogfish	8,752	61,246
Scallop	8,723	57,359
Skate	1,333	148
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	874	2,204
Monkfish	728	175
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	535	513
Bluefish	166	73
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	29	0
Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁴	2	0

Vessels by Year¹⁵

Table 2. All columns represent vessel permits or landings value combined between 1997-2006 (data combined for Marshfield – Green Harbor – Ocean Bluff – Brant Rock)

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	108	74	754,098	NOT RECORDED
1998	96	65	604,562	NOT RECORDED
1999	101	75	885,144	NOT RECORDED
2000	107	77	338,566	5,304,282
2001	92	67	558,856	3,961,088
2002	92	72	628,251	2,678,377
2003	89	67	643,456	2,678,377
2004	84	66	555,371	2,661,445
2005	88	66	1,987,389	2,111,329
2006	81	61	2,760,790	2,567,000

(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)

¹² Largemouth groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American 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)

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.

Recreational

There are a number of sportfishing charters in Marshfield based out of Green Harbor: [Ocean Runner Charters](#), [Blue Water Charters](#), [Big Fish Charters](#), [Lease II Sportfishing](#). Charter boats typically target striped bass and bluefish on inshore trips, cod and haddock on offshore trips, and bluefin tuna offshore as well. Other species fished include pollack, wolfish, monkfish, halibut, and shark. [Sportfishing](#) is also conducted from the shore, including the town's jetties. Between 2001 and 2005, there were 61 charter and party vessels making 3,530 total trips registered in logbook data by charter and party vessels in Marshfield. These trips carried a total of 19,979 anglers.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

The municipal pier in Marshfield reports a steady demand for dockage among commercial fishing boats, indicating that the industry here is also relatively steady (Town of Marshfield 2005).

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