

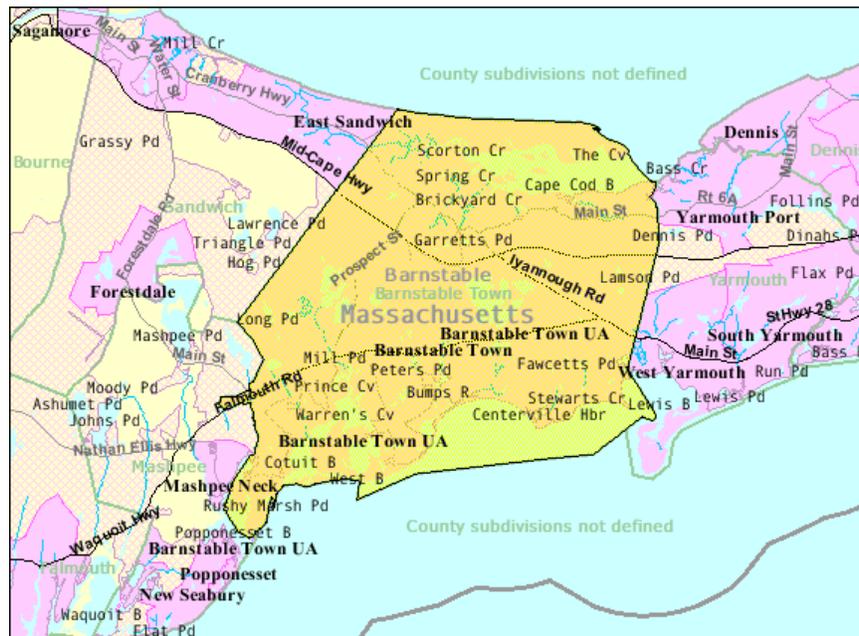
BARNSTABLE, MA¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts (41.70° N, 70.30° W) is located on Cape Cod, in Barnstable County. Barnstable straddles the width of the Cape, and is situated along Cape Cod Bay to the north and Nantucket Sound to the south, bordering Yarmouth and Dennis to the east and Sandwich and Mashpee to the west (USGS 2008). This town encompasses a total of 76.26 square miles, of which 60.05 square miles are land and the rest is water (State of Massachusetts 2007).



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

Historical/Background

The town of Barnstable is made up of seven villages: Barnstable, Centerville, Cotuit, Hyannis, Marstons Mills, Osterville, and West Barnstable, (Town of Barnstable 2005) each of which is culturally distinct (State of Massachusetts 2007a). In 1639, settlers that arrived from elsewhere in Plymouth Colony named the community after Barnstable, England. Originally a farming community, fishing and shore whaling soon became important industries here (ClickCapeCod.com 2000). In 1666, Nicholas Davis, the first settler, built a warehouse in Hyannis for pickling oysters in brine, thus beginning Barnstable's long history with harvesting

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."

resources from the sea (Hyannis Chamber of Commerce nd). Cotuit Oyster Company has been harvesting and selling oysters in Cotuit since 1837 (Maroney 2004).

Relics of Barnstable’s history as an important fishing port still remain on Freezer Point on Barnstable’s harbor, in the form of the old Cannery, built in 1943, where thousands of pounds of fish were canned and shipped around the country, and the old fish house next door (Szmit 2005). Today the village of Barnstable is the center of the Barnstable County government, and Hyannis is the commercial and town government center of Barnstable (ClickCapeCod.com 2000). The villages of Barnstable and Hyannis both have working harbors with fishing fleets, and Osterville also has a number of harbors with active fishing and boating. (State of Massachusetts 2007) Hyannis has long been an important tourism destination, a reputation that further developed when President John Kennedy made this village his summer destination. (Hyannis Chamber of Commerce nd)

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data, Barnstable had a total population of 47,821, up 16.8% from the reported population of 40,949 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.8% were males and 52.2% were females. The median age was 42.3 years and 75.5% of the population was 21 years or older while 23.0% was 62 or older.

Barnstable’s population structure (see Figure 1) is typical of a relatively young, family-oriented community. The greatest number of residents is between the ages of 40-49, followed by 30-39, and there are also lots of children and teenagers. The population takes a dip for the 20-29 age bracket, as is common in many smaller coastal communities when young people leave to go to college or to seek jobs in larger towns or cities. There are also more women than men in every age bracket starting with 30-39.

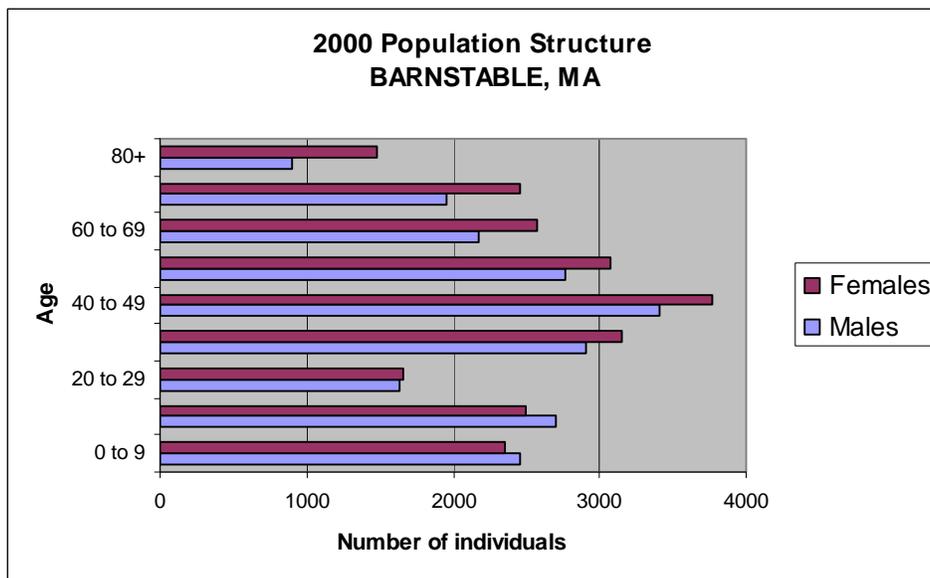


Figure 1. Barnstable’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

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.

The majority of the population was white (91.5%), with 3.5% of residents black or African American, 1.0% Asian, 1.1% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 1.7% of population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (28.2%), English (17.7%), Italian (11.1%), and German (7.9%). With regard to region of birth, 66.2% were born in Massachusetts, 26.0% were born in a different state and 6.9% were born outside of the U.S. (including 4.1% who were not United States citizens).

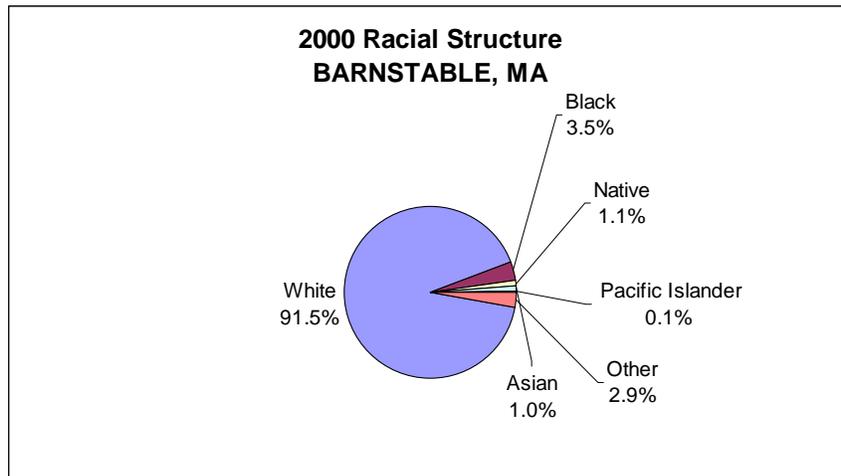


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

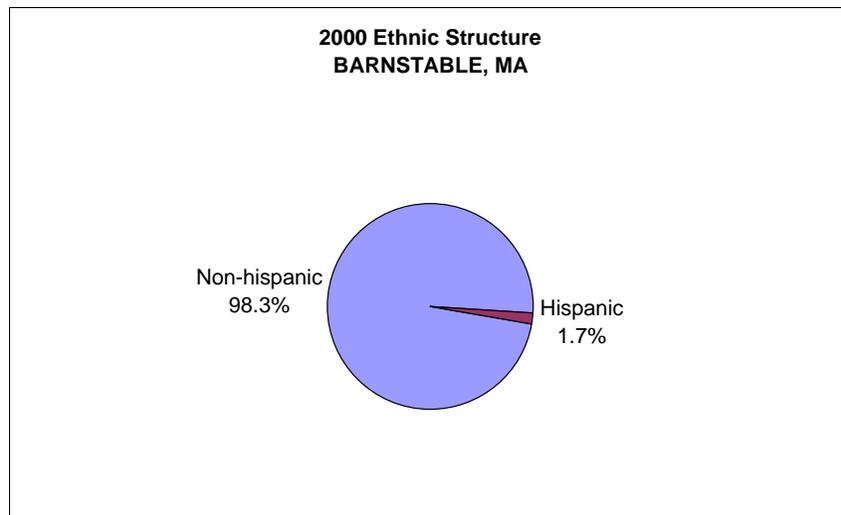


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 91.1% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 8.9% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and including 3.8% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 90.4% were high school graduates or higher and 32.2% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.1% did not reach ninth grade, 7.1% attended some high school but did not graduate, 26.1% completed only high school, 23.0% had some college with no degree, 9.2% received their associate’s

degree, 20.3% earned their bachelor's degree, and 11.9% 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 Barnstable County was Catholic with 29 congregations and 63,729 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Episcopal (11 with 7,093 adherents), United Church of Christ (17 with 6,141 adherents) and Methodist (15 with 4,241 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 20.4% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

Oyster harvesting for commercial or recreational purposes is currently prohibited in Barnstable in order to allow the stocks to replenish (Town of Barnstable 2008). Cotuit Oyster Company, which has a 33-acre grant for oyster harvesting in Cotuit Bay, is battling with the town's zoning board and with their residential neighbors to construct a new building and dock on a small site owned by the company, to replace the building they had been using which was purchased recently for residential use (Maroney 2004).

Gentrification of the waterfront is a problem in Barnstable as it is in many other coastal communities. Hyannis in particular is a significant tourist destination, and dock space is very expensive. Hyannis Harbor is physically built out to its limit, and there is a constant competition for space between smaller vessels, and larger, commercial vessels including ferries that service the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Fishing vessels do not generally dock in Hyannis for extended time periods, but many transient vessels will come here to unload and have a difficult time finding dock space (Barnstable Patriot 1999). "Nevertheless, because of the well-developed recreational fishery, there are some infrastructure components that allow the fishing industry to keep a foothold in the community. These include: a Harbormaster's office, marinas, fish retailers, a fishermen's supply store, fish and tackle dealers, wholesale fish and seafood dealers, marine insurance companies, dockside welding services, and a dockside diesel fuel facility" (Hall-Arber et al 2001).

One of the most significant current issues in Barnstable is the proposed off-shore wind farm, known as the Cape Wind project, which would be visible from the shores of Hyannis and which has polarized residents on both sides of this issue (Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound 2007).

Cape Cod Bay (the area between the Cape and the mainland), where many Barnstable 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 impacts lobstermen from Barnstable (Old Colony Memorial 2005).

Cultural attributes

The Barnstable Association for Recreational Fishing holds an annual Blessing of the Rakes, a ceremony held to bless the people, equipment, and tools involved in shellfishing. The Cape Cod Maritime Museum in Hyannis holds an annual Maritime Festival, which celebrates Cape Cod maritime history with boat-building demonstrations, maritime arts and crafts, and other related activities (Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce nd). A number of recreational fishing tournaments are held in Barnstable, including the Osterville Rotary Bluefish and Striper Tournament (Barnstable Patriot 2005).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Within Barnstable County in 2002, 12.1% of full- and part-time jobs were in “food services and drinking places” (Cape Cod Commission 2003).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁴, 61.9% (23,904 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.9% were unemployed, 0.2% were in the Armed Forces, and 58.7% were employed.

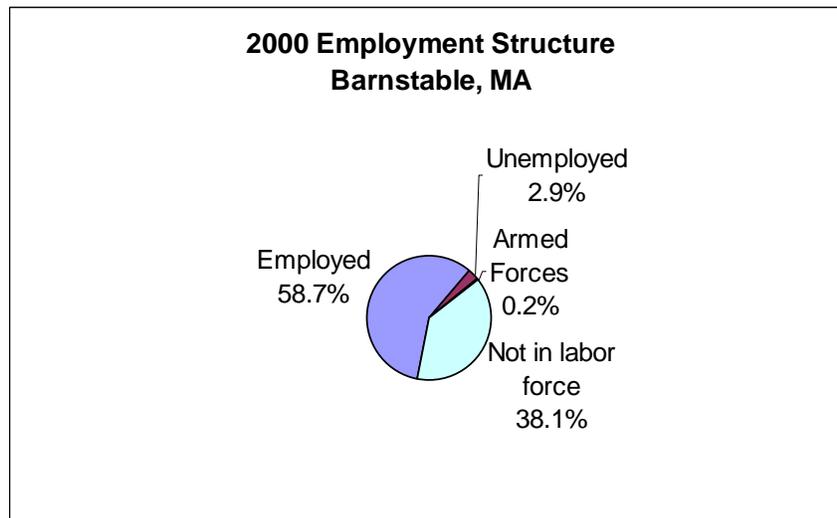


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 88 positions or 0.4% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 2,746 positions or 12.1% of jobs. Education, health, and social services (23.6%) retail trade (14.7%), and professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (8.7%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Barnstable was \$46,811 in 2000 (up 2.5% from \$45,671 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$25,554. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 36.3% more per year than females.

The average family in Barnstable consisted of 2.88 persons. With respect to poverty, 6.3% of families (up from 4.5% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 8.8% of individuals earned below the U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b) In 2000, 27.7% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Barnstable had a total of 25,018 housing units of which 78.4% were occupied and 84.1% were detached one unit homes. More than ten percent (12.2%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 0.1% of housing units; 90.2% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$171,500. Of

⁴ 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.

vacant housing units, 19.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 23.8% were renter occupied.

Government

Barnstable has an elected eleven-member town council, which is the legislative branch of the town government (Town of Barnstable 2005).

Fishery involvement in government

Barnstable's Natural Resource Division is responsible for the enhancement and protection of the town's shellfish resources, and for enforcement of laws related to marine use. The Shellfish Constable is responsible for issuing shellfish permits in the town. (Town of Barnstable 2008) Barnstable also has a harbormaster's office.

The village of Hyannis is zoned with a Harbor District, to support water-dependent uses on the harbor. (Town of Barnstable 2002) Barnstable County's Cape Cod Cooperative Extension has a Marine Program whose goal is "to establish, develop and carry out education programs in marine resource development, to assist with problems concerning coastal industries and the management of coastal resources, and to transfer technological innovations, educational and informational materials to public officials, educators, and marine users groups." (Cape Cod Cooperative Extension)

Institutional

Fishing associations

The Massachusetts Commercial Fishermen's Association, a member of the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership, is located in neighboring Sandwich (Stevenson nd). The [Barnstable Association for Recreational Shellfishing](#) works for the protection of shellfish habitats through field work and community education. The [Hyannis Anglers Club](#) is a private club for recreational fishermen which holds tournaments. There is also the [Osterville Anglers Club](#), a family-oriented club dedicated to promoting recreational fishing. They hold tournaments and other events throughout the year.

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.

Fishing assistance centers

The Fishing Family Assistance Center, located in the Hyannis Career Opportunities Center, provided job training and employment assistance for those looking to leave the fishing industry and start new careers until they lost their funding due to budget cut in 2006. Services included career counseling and workshops, occupational training, job development, and remedial/GED instruction (Career Opportunities Center 2005). Many of the fishermen who retrained for new jobs train to work in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, commercial driving, or computer fields

Other fishing-related institutions

The Cape Cod Cooperative Extension in Barnstable provides education programs in marine resource development and assistance in marine resource management, through such programs as training town officials in shellfish management, conducting research on shellfish stocks and disease in the area, and developing aquaculture training programs (Cape Cod Cooperative Extension nd).

Physical

There is an airport in Hyannis, the Barnstable Municipal Airport. U.S. Route 6 runs through the town of Barnstable, and bus service to Boston and other destinations is available through the Plymouth & Brockton Railway Company. The Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority runs a bus service between Barnstable and Woods Hole. The Bay Colony Railroad provides freight service to Barnstable (State of Massachusetts 2007b). Hyannis is the base for ferry access to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Barnstable is 48 miles from New Bedford, 48 miles from Provincetown, and 70 miles from Boston. There are eleven salt water boat ramps in Barnstable, found in almost all of the town's villages.

Both Hyannisport and Barnstable village have working harbors with small commercial fishing fleets. There is also a small working harbor in Cotuit. "In Hyannis, though considered the fishing village of Barnstable, Census figures show that the individuals involved in the fishing industry actually live all over the town, though their vessels and jobs might be based in Hyannis" (Hall-Arber et al 2001). Hyannis Harbor is on the south side of the town in Hyannis, facing Nantucket Sound, while Barnstable Harbor, on the North side of the Cape, opens onto Cape Cod Bay. The town operates four marinas through the Harbor Master's office; The Marina at Prince Cove, Marstons Mills; Bismore Park Marina, Ocean Street Hyannis; Gateway Marina, Hyannis; and Barnstable Harbor Marina, Barnstable (Town of Barnstable 2002). The town recently opened a handicap accessible fishing pier in Osterville (Town of Barnstable 2002). [Powderhorn Outfitters](#) in Hyannis sells bait and tackle primarily for recreational fishermen.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁵

Commercial

Catches in Barnstable are off-loaded in Barnstable harbor, Hyannisport harbor, or Cotuit, where they are shipped by refrigerated truck to Boston (Hall-Arber et al 2001). The town of Barnstable's Shellfish Constable will issue commercial shellfishing permits at a rate of one new permit for every non-renewed permit (Town of Barnstable 2002).

⁵ 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 and vessel data provided combine Barnstable, Hyannisport, and Cotuit, as all three are commercial ports within the town of Barnstable. On average, lobster was the most valuable species landed in Barnstable from 1997-2006, with average landings of \$1.3 million (see Table 1). Lobster landings in 2006 were worth considerably more than this, at over \$1.8 million. After lobster, landings in the “other” species grouping (which likely includes crab and shellfish) and in scallops were also valuable; landings of both were far greater in 2006 than the ten-year average values. In general, lobsters are landed in Hyannisport, while “other” species, primarily shellfish, are landed in Barnstable harbor, which has an important shellfishery. Overall, the value of landings in Barnstable was very low for 1997-1999, but then did not fall below \$1.5 million, with a high of just under \$5 million in 2005 (see Table 2). The value of fishing for home ported vessels was high in every year, with a low of \$2.5 million in 2004 and a high of \$5.6 million in 2005, with no discernible pattern. The number of home ported vessels increased from 1999-2002, with 53 in 2002, and then dropped down to 30 in 2006. The number of vessels with owners living in Barnstable had a similar trend, increasing to a high of 52 in 2002, and falling to 32 in 2006. The similarity of these two numbers indicates that most vessel owners living in Barnstable also keep their vessels here.

Landings by Species

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

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Lobster	1,297,677	1,827,462
Other⁶	413,316	1,717,062
Scallop	187,238	1,052,019
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	110,690	260,226
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	76,817	63,859
Largemouth Groundfish⁷	5,307	14,403
Bluefish	2,693	9,534
Monkfish	2,156	5,169
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	1,057	1,292
Skate	107	890
Dogfish	15	150

⁶ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group.

⁷ Largemouth Groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

Vessels by Year⁸

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	51	43	3,051,808	101,199
1998	41	36	2,869,649	48,110
1999	37	35	3,007,525	80,121
2000	39	41	2,846,808	2,501,746
2001	48	46	3,379,368	2,927,422
2002	53	52	4,065,432	1,892,440
2003	42	39	3,352,301	1,921,826
2004	40	39	2,564,272	1,575,896
2005	34	35	5,610,276	4,969,897
2006	30	32	5,020,077	4,952,066

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport
Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence⁹
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

Recreational shellfishing is a popular activity in Barnstable; Barnstable Harbor contains the Scudder Lane Recreational Shellfish Area, an area specially designated to recreational shellfishing (Town of Barnstable 2002). There are a number of fishing charters based in Barnstable, throughout the town's various harbors. [Hy-line Cruises](#) in Hyannis also offers deep sea fishing cruises.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

Information on plans for the future in Barnstable is unavailable through secondary data collection.

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⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

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