

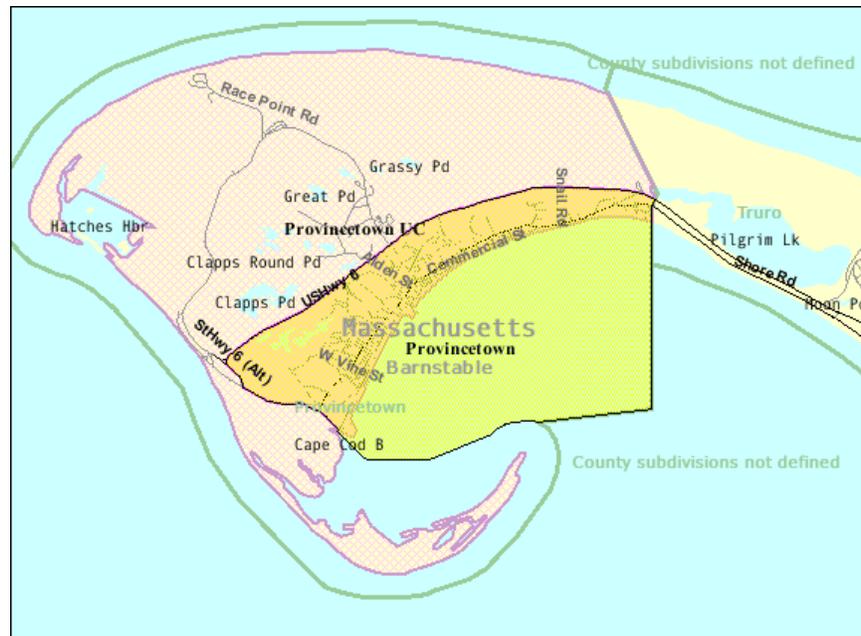
PROVINCETOWN, MA¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Provincetown is located on the northern tip of the Cape Code peninsula in Barnstable County in the state of Massachusetts. It is bordered by Truro on the east and surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on all other sides (USGS 2008).



Map 1. Location of Provincetown, MA

Historical/Background

Provincetown harbor is the site of the first landing of the Mayflower, and is also where the Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact. The first permanent settlement did not take place until 1700 and by 1727, the town was incorporated.

Provincetown grew slowly during the 18th century and the resident population fluctuated with the price of fish. As whaling came of age in New England, Provincetown experienced a sudden transition from a quiet fishing village to a bustling whaling port. By the mid 1800s, Provincetown, with the largest and safest natural harbor on the New England coast, had become one of the busiest seaports in the country (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). During this time there were many fishing and salt drying businesses in town. Without good soil for agriculture, the town depended on its salt, fishing and fish drying industry.

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."

According to the study conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, “In 1875, there were 25 coast-wide and 36 ocean vessels operating in town, more than any community in the state including Boston. Provincetown was a bustling place with all of the ancillary maritime businesses operating, such as ship chandlers, shipwrights, sail makers, caulkers, riggers and blacksmiths. The picturesque setting and salt air also began attracting artists and writers by the end of the 19th century. When the fishing industry faltered from competition with cheaper Nova Scotia cod, and the Portland Gale of 1898 swept away half of the town's wharves, the resort population of the town provided jobs to take the place of those lost. Today, the wealth of preserved historic buildings combines with the lure of the sea to support a huge tourist and summer home industry (State of Massachusetts 2007).”

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data (US Census Bureau 2000), Provincetown CDP had a total population of 3,192, down 5.4% from the reported population of 3,374 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of the year-round residents, 53.8% were males and 46.2% were female. The median age is 45.4 years and 92.4% of the population is 18 years or older while 18.3% are 65 or older.

Provincetown’s age structure by sex (see Figure 1) shows that the male population between the ages of 30 and 69 years are much higher than the females in these ages. This is most likely due to the gay male population that has taken residence in Provincetown. During the summer months, the overall population of Provincetown can increase to nearly 19,000 (Provincetown VSB 2007).

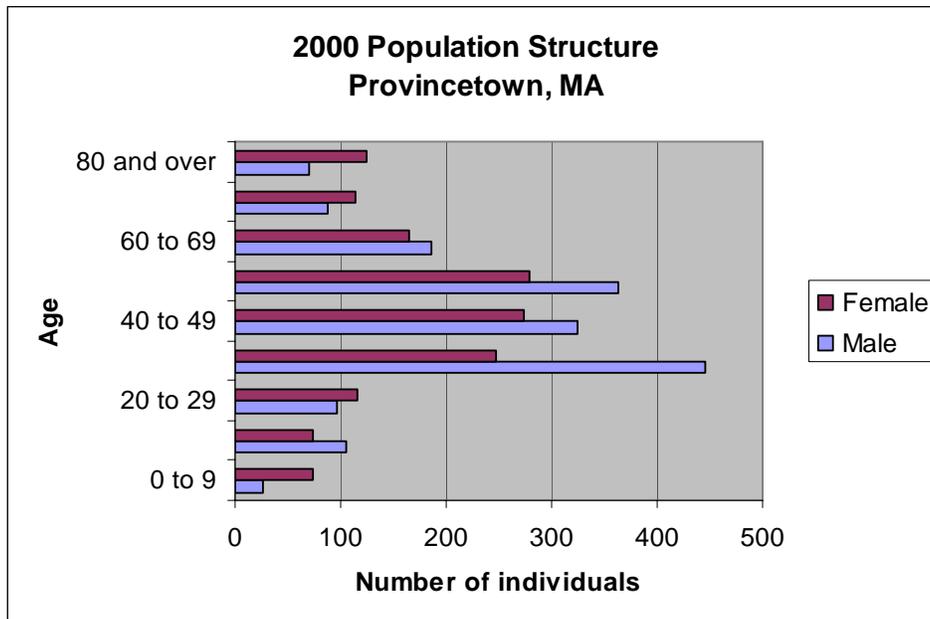


Figure 1. Provincetown CDP's population structure by sex in 2000

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 (87.4%), with 7.8% of the residents black or African American, 0.6% Asian, 0.8% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 2.1% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Portuguese (21.4%), Irish (14.7%), and English (10.7%). With regard to region of birth, 45.4% were born in Massachusetts, 45.6% were born in a different state, and 7.2% were born outside of the U.S. (including 5.8% who were not United States citizens).

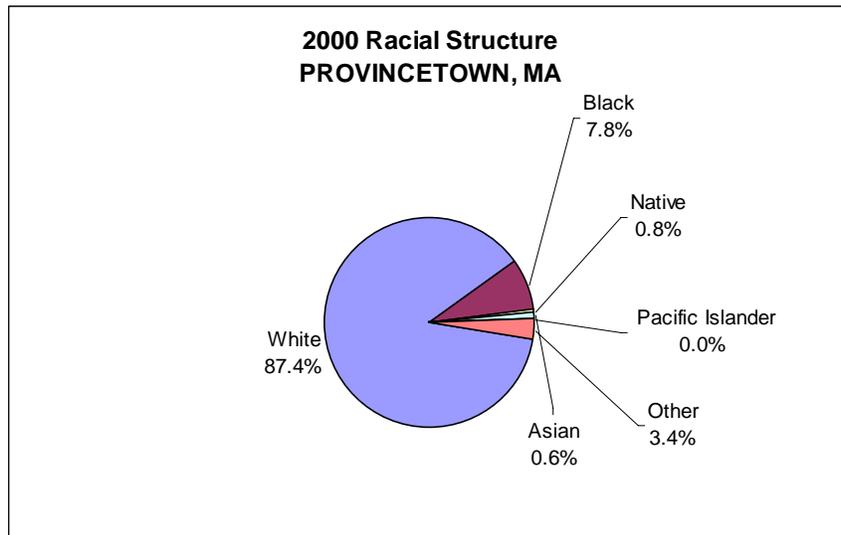


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

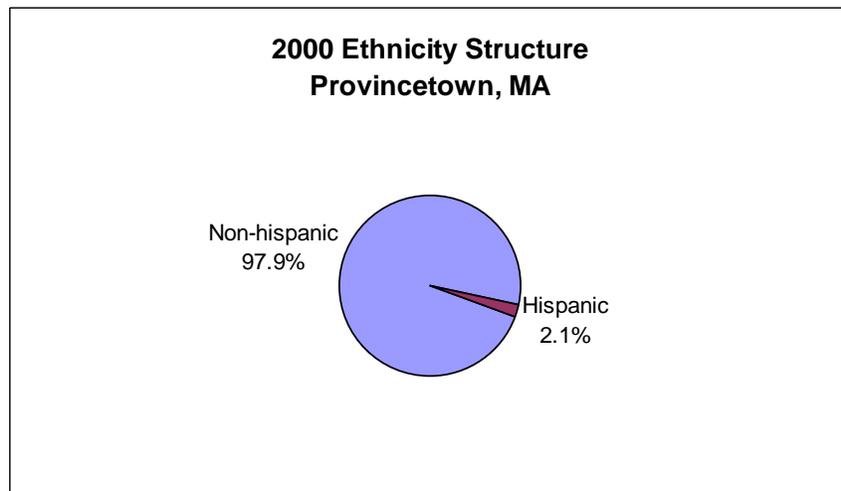


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

For 91.8% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 8.2% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 8.2% of the population who spoke English less than ‘very well’ according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 85.1% were high school graduates or higher and 38.1% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 3.5% did not reach ninth grade, 11.4% attended some high school but did not graduate, 23.2% completed

high school, 15.1% had some college with no degree, 8.6% received an associate's degree, 22.9% earned a bachelor's degree, and 15.2% 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 Barnstable County was Catholic with 29 congregations and 89,000 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Episcopal (11 with 8,028 adherents), and Baptist (7 with 1,387 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 20.7% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

One of the biggest controversies in Provincetown in the past few years has been the reconstruction of the MacMillan Wharf. The community disagreed on the plans in 2000, but the construction began in 2001. Floating docks added to the wharf were damaged in the first Nor'easter after installation due to design flaws and have since been replaced with a better design. After the wharf was reconstructed, the town created the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation (PPPC). The first several years after the Town seated the PPPC Directors were contentious. The PPPC increased dock rates; excursion businesses sued PPPC over rate increases and lost in court. The fishers did not trust the PPPC to protect their interests and used the political climate to try to dissolve the corporation. The outcome of three-way negotiations between the fishers' organization- ProFish, PPPC and the Board of Selectmen resulted in a reduced or protected rate for the fishers of about half (\$2000 per average boat in 2005) the market rate with an annual consumer price index modifier. PPPC also completed a long stalled ice plant and delivery system for the fishing fleet undercutting New Bedford delivered ice prices.⁴

Cultural attributes

Provincetown celebrates its heritage with a culmination of events over one weekend. The town hosts the annual Blessing of the Fleet (started in 1948) and the [Provincetown Portuguese Festival](#) the last weekend of June. This year the activities were held from June 24th to the 27th. In 2004, the Blessing of the Fleet was the 57th Annual, with the parade held on Saturday and the Blessing took place on Sunday. Throughout the weekend, Portuguese foods, traditions and dance are celebrated. In 2007, the Blessing of the Fleet celebrated its 60th year. The combined events of Portuguese Festival and Blessing were the largest in decades.

A second cultural event was created six years ago to celebrate the heritage of fishing schooners in Provincetown. The Great Provincetown Schooner Regatta and yacht race drew over a dozen schooners to the 2007 event the weekend after Labor Day. In 2008, the event will expand to include a fishermen's cup race from Gloucester to Provincetown commemorating the fishing Schooner Rose Dorothea's win in 1907 of the Lipton Cup. Even today, the synergy between the Arts Colony and commercial fishing flourishes. The artists are drawn to the colors and lines of the vessels and gear. Plays and performances involve the lives and lore of fishing on the outer cape. Fishermen still supply the less fortunate with some of their catch (Town of Provincetown 2007).

⁴ Profile review comment, Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster, Macmillan Wharf, Provincetown, MA 02657, October 2, 2007

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The majority of businesses in Provincetown cater to tourists and art buyers. The year round employers that have the most employees are the Town Hall and the Outer Cape Health Services, according to the Town Clerk office in Provincetown.⁵ Summer businesses hire employees for retail and other seasonal jobs.

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁶, 64.2% (1,921 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 13.1% were unemployed, 0.8% were in the Armed Forces, and 50.3% were employed.

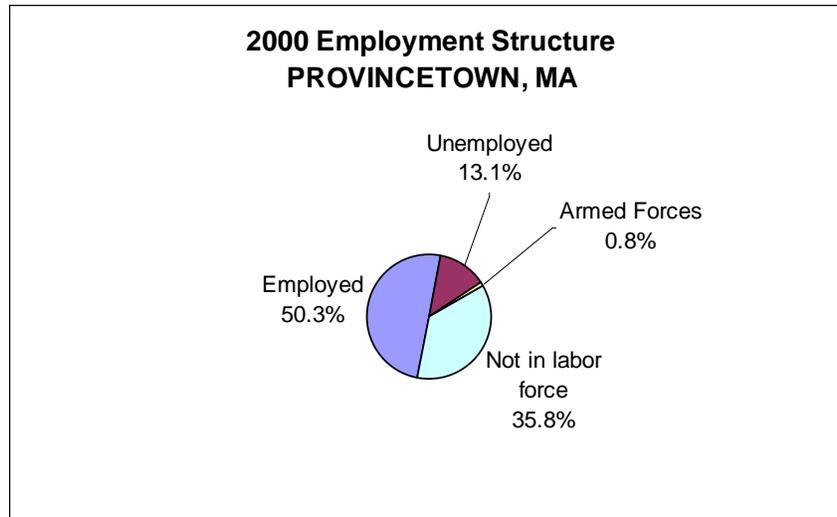


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 15 positions or 1.0% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 241 positions of 16.0% of jobs. Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (23.7%), educational, health and social services (17.1%), and retail trade are the primary industries (14.2%).

Median household income in Provincetown was \$32,731 (1990 data was unavailable) and median per capita income was \$26,878. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 16.5% more per year than females.

The average family in Provincetown consisted of 2.62 persons. With respect to poverty, 8.7% of families (1990 data was unavailable) and 15.5% 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, 40.5% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Provincetown had a total of 3,719 housing units, of which 46.5% were occupied and 36.3% were detached one unit homes. Approximately one half (57.3%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile home accounted for no housing units; 51.8% of detached units had

⁵ Personal communication, Town Clerk, Town Hall, 260 Commercial St., Provincetown, MA 02657, June 2005

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.

between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$333,100. Of vacant housing units, 47.6% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 27.2% were renter occupied.

Government

Provincetown is governed by a Board of Selectmen, a Town Manager, and open Town meetings (State of Massachusetts 2007).

Fishery involvement in government

The town has a Harbormaster. In addition, the town approved the Municipal Harbor Plan which outlines future use and management of Provincetown Harbor. Five key issue areas addressed in this plan, include: “preserving the Harbor's Built and Natural Assets; promoting Commercial Fishing and Aquaculture; providing for Diverse Vessel Use and Needs; assuring Public Access to the Shoreline for Recreation; and planning for Future Harbor Uses (Town of Provincetown 2007).”

With the reconstruction of MacMillan Pier, the Town created Provincetown Public Pier Corporation (PPPC). An amendment to the enabling legislation added protection of commercial fishing interests to the original charge of redeveloping MacMillan Pier for economic development and to bring dock rates in line with market forces, allowing the pier to pay the Town share of the reconstruction debt (\$3.8 million) and maintain the facility. Under the Board of Selectmen, dock rates had not changed for either the fishing fleet or the excursion businesses on the pier since 1986 and the pier had decayed. PPPC pursued rate increases using regional surveys of other ports to determine market rates.⁷

Institutional

Fishing associations

PROFISH, Provincetown Fishermen's Association, allied with Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance in 2002. The association has a nine-member Board of Directors and approximately 60 members. Fishermen formed this organization in order to represent themselves in town meetings regarding the reconstruction of the town pier. Currently ProFish is a silent partner in the management of MacMillan Pier with the harbormaster's office serving as liaison between the fishers and the PPPC directors. Both entities have a keen interest in ensuring revenue to the pier from other sources.⁸

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 Provincetown is unavailable through secondary data collection.

⁷ Profile review comment, Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster, Macmillan Wharf, Provincetown, MA 02657, October 2, 2007

⁸ Profile review comment, Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster, Macmillan Wharf, Provincetown, MA 02657, October 2, 2007

Other fishing related organizations

The [Center for Coastal Studies](#), founded in 1976, is located in Provincetown. This non-profit organization works to conduct research on marine mammals and coastal ecosystems, and provide educational services to the surrounding communities about marine conservation.

Physical

Provincetown is 49 miles north of Hyannis, 78 miles east of Plymouth, 114 miles southeast of Boston, and 290 mile from New York City (MapQuest nd). The city's principal highways are U.S. Route 6, the Mid Cape Highway, and State Route 6A. There is no freight rail service, but the network of inter-modal facilities serving Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is easily accessible. Provincetown is a member of the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), which operates a b-bus demand response service. The b-bus is convenient, low-cost public transportation from one's home on Cape Cod and back. The [Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority](#) provides this door-to-door, ride-by-appointment service for people of all ages for trips for any purpose. B-buses carry up to 19 passengers and are all lift-equipped. The Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company provides two trips daily between Provincetown and Boston.

The Provincetown Municipal Airport is a Commercial Service (CM) facility located two miles northwest of town. The Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company provides two bus trips daily between Provincetown and Logan Airport (State of Massachusetts 2007).

Fishing infrastructure in Provincetown is based around MacMillan Wharf. The PPPC staff at MacMillan Wharf maintains three jib cranes for the fishers use to offload their catch. They also recently completed an ice plant and ice delivery system. Currently, catch volume does not support renting deck space to offloaders. Instead, the fishers move product directly to their own or buyer trucks for transport to market.⁹

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹⁰

Commercial

The fishing industry in Provincetown is no longer the mainstay of the community's economy; however, it does provide a sense of culture and is making an effort to stay afloat during times of low catches and strict regulations. On average from 1997-2006, largemouth groundfish were the most valuable species grouping landed in Provincetown, with just over \$1 million in landings on average (see Table 1). However, by 2006 the landings of groundfish had

⁹ Profile review comment, Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster, Macmillan Wharf, Provincetown, MA 02657, October 2, 2007

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.

declined, while landings of both lobster and scallops had increased from the ten-year average values, each valued at over \$1 million. Overall, Provincetown saw its highest landings in 2001, with over \$5.6 million landed in that year. Subsequent years saw a drop in value, with an increase again in 2005 to \$4.8 million (see Table 2). The level of fishing for home ported vessels mimicked the trend in landings, but was lower for every year, indicating that some vessels from other ports are landing their catch in Provincetown. The number of home ported vessels generally declined, from 45 in 1997 to 27 in 2006.

The current count of commercial fishing vessels today at Provincetown Harbor, according to the Harbormaster is: 14 draggers over 50 feet, of which 12 operate regularly; eight dragger/flex-boats under 50 feet; and at least 35 lobster boats. Provincetown has seen a trend toward smaller vessels rigged to take advantage of changing conditions and the proximity of the fishing grounds. The smaller vessels require less crew and fuel to operate, can get out and back quicker and rigging is easily changed to adjust to seasonal fluctuations of product.¹¹

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups by species landed in Provincetown

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Largemesh Groundfish¹²	1,003,894	696,612
Lobster	894,127	1,297,060
Scallop	705,648	1,115,703
Other¹³	427,874	424,756
Smallmesh Groundfish¹⁴	415,437	0
Skate	97,400	86,723
Monkfish	88,245	55,407
Dogfish	47,462	16,482
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	31,372	49,367
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	21,935	0
Bluefish	20,293	7,289
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	8,094	0
Herring	9	0

¹¹ Profile review comment, Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster, Macmillan Wharf, Provincetown, MA 02657, October 2, 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 landed value combined between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	45	30	1,836,160	2,323,550
1998	41	25	2,082,836	2,806,083
1999	45	28	2,861,104	3,509,414
2000	38	19	2,294,882	3,805,809
2001	40	18	3,745,646	5,648,390
2002	40	19	2,766,302	3,894,188
2003	45	22	2,001,747	3,555,308
2004	45	21	1,941,001	3,477,377
2005	39	15	2,863,492	4,848,370
2006	27	11	1,871,187	3,749,399

(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

Provincetown's economy thrives on tourism. In 2007, there are at least seven charter fishing/party boat businesses and five whale watching boats located on the town's two piers. Several other charter boats operate off moorings in Provincetown Harbor. Charter boats from around Cape Cod converge on Hatches Harbor between Wood End and Race Point Lights to fish for stripers, bluefish and tuna. Many of these vessels from Rock Harbor and Dennis embark their passengers at Provincetown's Courtesy float.¹⁷

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in Provincetown is unavailable through secondary data collection. However, some subsistence fishing is known to occur out of Provincetown.¹⁸

FUTURE

Both ProFish and the PPPC directors have a keen interest in ensuring revenue to the pier from other sources to maintain its viability. Potential plans for a new building at MacMillan Wharf include offloading and ice services coupled with a revenue source such as fresh fish market, restaurant, public or rental space to support the structure. The new revenues generated

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.

¹⁷ Profile review comment, Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster, Macmillan Wharf, Provincetown, MA 02657, October 2, 2007

¹⁸ Profile review comment, Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster, Macmillan Wharf, Provincetown, MA 02657, October 2, 2007

by the pier include, special events, large yacht tie-up and “trapsheds” for rent to artists. The contracts created for PPPC management of the pier include protections and enhancements for the commercial fishing fleet. The new revenue from other sources enables those protections.

The Provincetown harbormaster notes: “the prognosis for the Provincetown fleet depends on the regulators. If the trend toward regulating a few large factory ships continues, the result for small ports across the Northeast is dire.”¹⁹

REFERENCES

- Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) 2000. Interactive Maps and Reports, Counties.[cited October 2007]. Available from:<http://www.thearda.com/>
- Hall-Arber M, Dyer C, Poggie J, McNally J, Gagne R. 2001. New England’s Fishing Communities. Cambridge (MA): MIT Sea Grant 01-15. Available from: <http://seagrant.mit.edu/cmss/>
- MapQuest. nd. Web site [cited Oct 2007]. Available at: <http://www.mapquest.com>
- State of Massachusetts. 2006. Provincetown, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, DHCD Community Profiles [cited Oct 2007]. Available from: <http://mass.gov>
- Town of Provincetown. 2007. Official web site [cited Oct 2007]. Available from: <http://www.provincetown-ma.gov/>
- Provincetown Visitor Services Board (VSB). 2007. Official Provincetown tourism web site [cited Oct 2007]. Available from: <http://www.provincetowntourismoffice.org/>
- US Census Bureau. 2000a. Provincetown. Demographic Profile Highlights. [cited December 2006] Available from: <http://factfinder.census.gov>
- US Census Bureau: 2000b. Poverty Threshold. [cited October 2007] Available from: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh00.html>
- US Geological Survey (USGS). 2008. US Board on Geographic Names: Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) [cited Sep 2008]. Available at: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/>

¹⁹ Profile review comment, Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster, Macmillan Wharf, Provincetown, MA 02657, October 2, 2007