

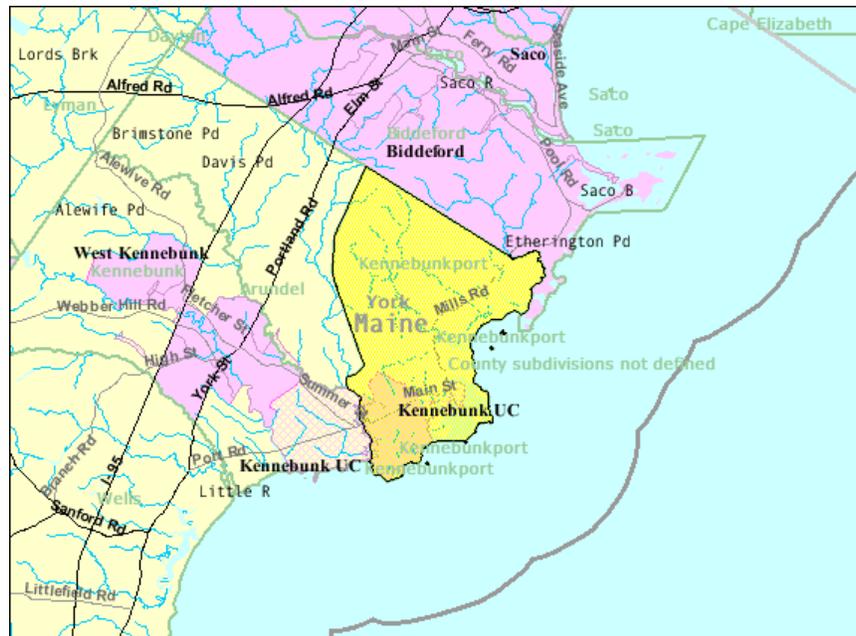
CAPE PORPOISE, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Cape Porpoise (43.37°N, 70.44°W) is a village located in the town of Kennebunkport in York County in the state of Maine. The village occupies the mainland adjacent to Cape Porpoise Harbor, north of Kennebunkport Village and South of Goose Rocks Beach on the southern coast of Maine (KBA 2007). Cape Porpoise is about 30 miles from Portland and 32 miles from Portsmouth, NH. (Note: Kennebunkport is included in a separate profile.)



Map 1. Location of Kennebunkport, ME (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Cape Porpoise is situated near the mouth of the Kennebunk River and was named by explorer Captain John Smith in 1614 for a school of porpoises he saw there (D'Entremont 1997). English settlers arrived during the 1620s and the town was first incorporated as "Cape Porpus" under the government of Massachusetts in 1653. During King Phillips War in 1689, Indians forced the settlers off the mainland and onto Stage Island until rescued by the English (Nonantum Resort 2006). Stage Island, located offshore from Cape Porpoise, was also the site of the earliest habitation by Europeans on these islands and fish were cured there for storage (KCT 2007).

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."

The Cape Porpoise area was also known for its dangerous rocks near Goat Island. The area claimed 46 vessels between 1865 and 1920, however there were no deaths, partly due to the keepers at Goat Island Light picking up survivors near the island (D'Entremont 1997). Today Cape Porpoise is a bustling community that works to balance traditional lobster fishing and tourism (KCT 2007).

A brief look at Kennebunkport history is helpful in understanding Cape Porpoise. In 1653, Kennebunk was established under the control of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, but was a target of Native hostility. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the location was defined for its rich offshore fishing waters, abundant lumber resources, shipbuilding, and as an entry port for foreign trade (Nonantum Resort 2006). In 1821, the town was established under its current name of Kennebunkport (Kennebunkport Historical Society 2006). The shipbuilding era of the Kennebunks brought prosperity to the town, but reached its peak in the 19th century. As shipbuilding declined towards the latter part of the century, the presently thriving tourism industry emerged.

Demographics³

The village of Cape Porpoise is not listed as a separate community according to Census 2000 data (US Census Bureau 2000); data for Kennebunkport town are provided. According to Census 2000 data, Kennebunkport had a total population of 3,720, up 9.2% from the reported population of 3,406 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 46.8% were males and 53.2% were females. The median age was 46.0 years and 77.5% of the population was 21 years or older while 23.5% of the population was 62 or older.

Kennebunkport's population structure (Figure 1) shows that the highest percentage of the population is between 50 and 59 years old, followed closely by the 40-49 age bracket, and the percentages subtly decrease as age groups increase by decade. As is common in smaller fishing towns and cities, there is a dip in the population for ages 20-29. Women outnumber men in all age categories except the 20-29 age group, where the two groups are nearly even.

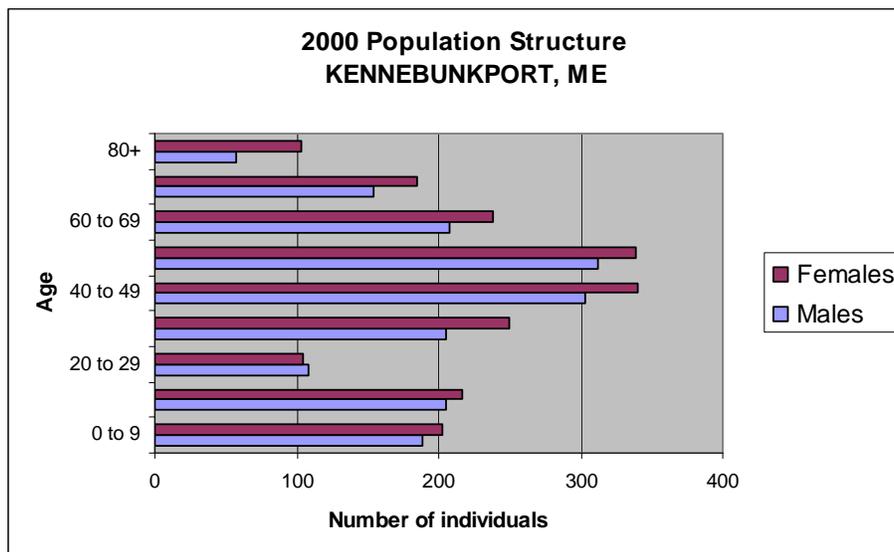


Figure 1. Kennebunkport's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

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 (98.5%), with 0.2% of residents black or African American, 0.6% Asian, 0.5% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.6% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (25.0%), Irish (17.9%), German (11.4%), French Canadian (9.4%), and French (9.1%). With regard to region of birth, 40.9% were born in Maine, 54.2% were born in a different state and 3.7% were born outside the U.S. (including 1.6% who were not US citizens).

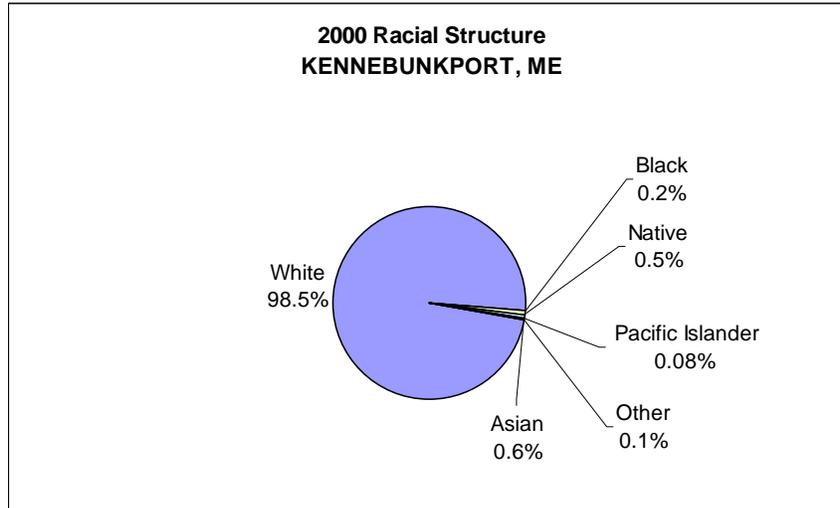


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

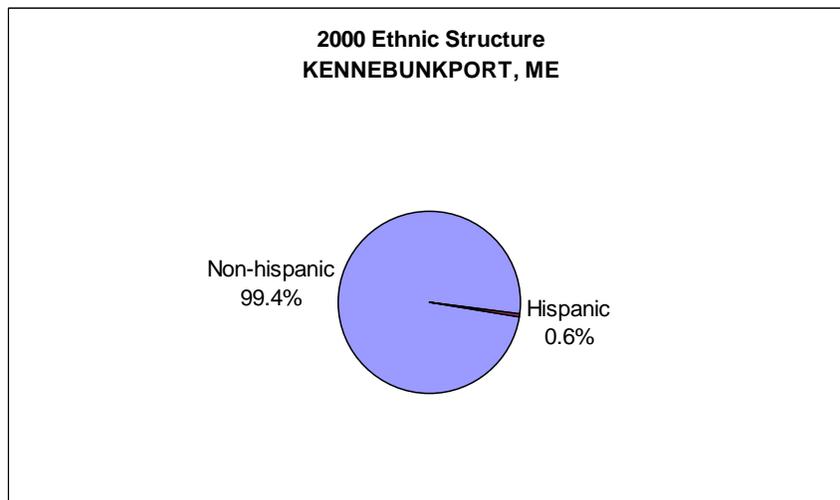


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 95.2% of the population, only English is spoken in the home, leaving 4.8% in homes where a language other than English is spoken, and including 0.4% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 94.6% were high school graduates or higher and 46.0% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 1.3% did not reach ninth grade, 4.2% attended some high school but did not graduate, 18.6% completed high school, 22.0% had some college with no degree, 8.0% received their associate's degree,

28.6% earned their bachelor's degree, and 17.4% received either their graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through US Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations in York County was Catholic with 21 congregations and 52,948 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (20 with 4,708 adherents), and American Baptist (17 with 3,936 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 10.6% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has proposed changes to the lobster fishery management plan (2006). These changes would directly alter lobster fishery regulations in Maine, which demands a smaller catch size than in the other states involved in the plan. Revisions in the plan include: altering fishery boundaries, increasing permit restrictions, and implementing weight limits on trawl catches (Trotter 2006).

Effective November 22, 2006, greater restrictions on fishing groundfish stocks in the Gulf of Maine were enforced. The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) has established that for each day that is fished in heavily accessed areas, two days will be counted towards the total allowed for the season (NMFS 2006).

Some waterways have poor water quality status due to a high amount of fecal bacteria. The contamination that is affecting the Kennebunk River, Gooch's Beach, and Goose Rocks Beach, is believed to be largely from small boat waste discharge. The Maine Healthy Beaches program monitors *coliform* bacteria levels through local, state, and federal levels (Bodwell 2006).

In 2006, the State of Maine passed the Working Waterfront Tax Law, to address the problem of working waterfront property being heavily taxed based on its projected market value. The goal of this tax is "to encourage the preservation of working waterfront land and to prevent the conversion of working waterfront land to other uses as the result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of that land for purposes of property taxation." The law requires the tax assessor to value the property based on what it is worth as working waterfront land, rather than what its market value would be if it were sold and converted to residential or other uses (State of Maine 2005).

Cultural attributes

Goat Island Light was first established in 1822 and rebuilt in 1859. The 25 foot brick tower originally had a fifth-order lens, but in 1990, Goat Island Light became the last lighthouse in Maine to be automated with a 300mm optic. During the presidency of George H. W. Bush, secret service agents lived at Goat Island, which offered a good vantage point on Bush's estate at Walker's Point. The island served as an air-sea command center complete with a radar beacon. The Light is still an active aid to navigation, but the Coast Guard leases the island to the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust (D'Entremont 1997).

There is a bronze statue in Kennebunkport near the water's edge which portrays a man and a woman holding fish and other harvests from the land and sea (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the US Census 2000⁴, 59.0% (1,798 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.2% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 56.7% were employed.

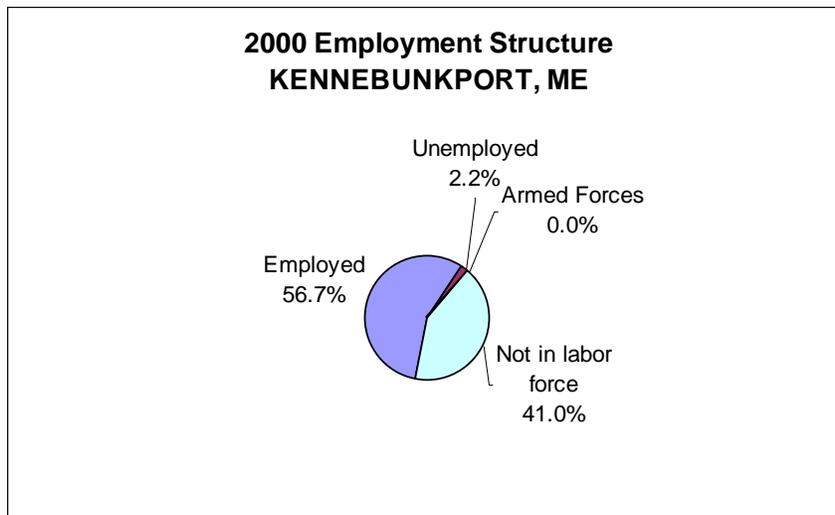


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 47 positions or 24.7% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 298 positions or 17.2% of jobs. Educational health and social services (20.4%), manufacturing (14.8%), professional, scientific, management, administrative employments (11.1%), and retail trade (9.5%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Kennebunkport was \$54,219 (up 55.6% from \$34,837 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$36,707. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 26.7% more per year than females.

The average family in Kennebunkport consists of 2.78 persons. With respect to poverty, 1.7% of families (down from 3.3% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 4.4% of individuals earn 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) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 14.5% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Kennebunkport had a total of 2,555 housing units of which 63.2% were occupied and 86.6% were detached one unit homes. About one quarter (25.3%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs and vans accounted for 1.9% of the total housing units; 85.2% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$268,200. Of vacant housing units, 93.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 16.3% were renter occupied.

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.

Government

Kennebunkport has a five-member board of selectmen (State of Maine 2004). Each Selectman serves three years with staggering terms. The board elects a chairman each year in June (Town of Kennebunkport 2008).

Fishery involvement in government

Lee F. McCurdy is the Kennebunkport pier manager and harbormaster (Town of Kennebunkport 2008). The Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission works to protect, conserve, restore, manage and enhance Atlantic salmon habitat, populations and sport fisheries within historical habitat in all (inland and tidal) waters of the State of Maine. The Commission works side-by-side with local, state, national and international organizations and agencies to manage the wild Maine Atlantic salmon population (State of Maine ASC 2006). While the Commission's central office is located in Augusta, ME, their policies and efforts may affect fishers in Cape Porpoise.

Institutional

Fishing associations

The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) aims to restore the Northwest Atlantic ecosystem through improving cooperative fisheries management between stakeholders in the region (NAMA 2006). The Maine Environmental Policy Institute (MEPI) promotes the need for preservation of the state's natural ecosystems and often works on marine-related projects, such as recently with Atlantic salmon (MEPI 2006).

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI), in Portland, was created to be the central location for regional fisheries research and planning (GMRI 2006). Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA; state) and Biddeford Pool Lobsterman's Association (local/regional) are associations with influence in fisheries of the Cape Porpoise and Kennebunkport areas. The MLA was founded in 1954, and works to protect the lobster resource and the lobstermen's way of life. The association was founded by lobstermen with a goal of empowering Maine's lobster industry by representing lobstermen with a united front. The MLA is the largest commercial fishing industry group on the east coast, and represents the interests of 1200 lobstermen (MLA 2007).

Fishing assistance centers

The Working Waterfront Coalition is a statewide collaboration of various industry associations, non-profits, and government agencies with the goal to support Maine's working waterfronts. The [Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program](#), administered by the Department of Marine Resources, provides money to applicants such as municipalities, fishing co-ops, private commercial fisheries businesses and more, ranging from \$7,000 to \$475,000. The intention of the program is to preserve commercial fisheries working waterfronts and to help secure property for these businesses. As of December 2007, the \$2 million pilot program has reportedly supported over 400 jobs, 194 boats, and assured access to clam flats, parking, wharfage and fisheries in six towns (Maine DMR 2005a). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007.

Other fishing related organizations

The KCT has acquired many of the islands in Cape Porpoise harbor along with a number of other parcels of land in the community. Their goal is "to preserve land in its natural state so

that future generations will be able to enjoy it as we do.” They have an active island stewardship program which includes beach clean-ups and other conservation work in the bay (KCT 2007).

The [Maine Fishermen’s Forum](#) was founded in 1976, and its goal is to provide continuous opportunities to educate the public and the fishing industry about marine resource issues and fisheries, as well as to provide a platform for discussion and decision making. The Forum also holds an annual three day event which focuses awareness on issues that affect the commercial fishing industry.

Physical

Cape Porpoise is a small coastal village in the town of Kennebunkport. The village is situated north of Kennebunkport Village and South of Goose Rocks Beach and occupies the mainland adjacent to Cape Porpoise Harbor. More than a dozen islands protect the deep natural harbor. Pier Road in Cape Porpoise is a popular tourist area with many dining venues featuring regional seafood caught locally (KBA 2007).

The town is approximately 25 miles southwest of Portland, ME and 84 miles northeast of Boston, MA. Road access is available via the Maine Turnpike (I-95), to Route 35/9A, to Route 9 (MapQuest 2006). The nearest Amtrak stations are Saco (10 miles), Wells (10 miles), and Old Orchard Beach (11 miles). The nearby airports are Biddeford Muni, Biddeford, ME (7 miles), Sanford Regional, Sanford, ME (17 miles), Portland International Jetport, Portland, ME (23 miles), Littlebrook Air Park, Eliot, ME (26 miles), and Pease International Tradeport, Portsmouth, NH (32 miles) (KBA 2007). Medical attention can be found at the Southern Maine Medical Center (Biddeford), York Hospital (York), and Goodall Hospital (Sanford) (MHA 2003). Cape Porpoise Pier is an active fishing port where numerous small lobster vessels unload their daily catch (Cape Porpoise Lobster 2007).

Cape Porpoise fishing village is located two miles east of Kennebunkport's Dock Square and the Cape Porpoise Pier is found off Route 9 (KBA 2007). Cape Porpoise Harbor and has around 120 moorings, and a low tide depth of around 8 feet. Commercial fishermen use most moorings (Town of Kennebunkport 2006). Other marine services are found in the town of Kennebunkport which has several marinas on the Kennebunk River including Chicks Marina, Kennebunkport Marina, and Yachtsman Marina (Maine Harbors 2006). The Kennebunk River has been established as a No Discharge Area (NDA) by the Maine DEP (Parker 2004). All three marinas offer MSD (marine sanitation device) pump-out, however the Kennebunkport Marina the only public service (Bodwell 2006).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁵

Commercial

Cape Porpoise supports a small fleet of lobster fishermen and draggers with protected docks and moorings as well as bait and gear storage houses. Cape Porpoise has a lobster and

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.

seafood market, Cape Porpoise Lobster Co. Approximately 24 vessels tie up at a considerable dock area in Cape Porpoise with a harbor master office, storage and bait house, and a diesel station. Cape Porpoise is believed to have at least 100 houses that are supported by fishing. Cape Porpoise is also home to highliner tuna fishermen that have been renowned in the tuna fleet for a long time. Some people switch seasonally to rod and reel to fish other local species after lobstering (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). Kennebunkport is profiled separately; it is likely that the vessels and landings for Cape Porpoise cannot be entirely distinguished from those of Kennebunkport as a whole.

Lobster yields the highest value for species landings in commercial fisheries (2005; Maine DMR 2006). The lobster fishery shows dominance in Maine’s fisheries possibly due in part to the previous decline of groundfish stocks. Currently, groundfish stocks in the region are believed to be on the rebound (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

The highest value landings in Cape Porpoise for the 1997-2006 average were lobster, largemouth groundfish, and those species in the “Other” category (Table 1). Lobster values were significantly higher than any other species landed in the town. Both the number of vessels home ported in Cape Porpoise and whose owner’s city was Cape Porpoise stayed relatively consistent between 1997 and 2006 (Table 2). The level of fishing value for home port generally increased over the ten year average, peaking in 2005. In contrast, the level of fishing value for landing port was considerably higher but remained relatively constant, with the exception of a high in 2004.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Largemouth Groundfish⁶	2
Other⁷	3
Monkfish	4
Dogfish	5
Smallmouth Groundfish⁸	6
Skate	7
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	8
Bluefish	9
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	10

(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)

⁶ Largemouth groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

⁷ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

⁸ Smallmouth multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

Vessels by Year⁹

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	42	14
1998	40	13
1999	40	13
2000	37	13
2001	35	10
2002	39	11
2003	37	12
2004	36	10
2005	36	10
2006	35	7

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁰)

Recreational

[Tidewater Fishing Charters](#) provides fly fishing and light tackle for fishing in the area. Full and half day charters are also available for striped bass and bluefish. Fishing licenses are required to fish in freshwater for Maine residents 16 years & up; non-residents 12 years & up. Licenses are not required to fish in salt water (Town of Kennebunkport 2008).

Sport fishing, whale watching and lobster charters are popular in Kennebunkport and Cape Porpoise from spring through fall. Sport fishing charters target bluefish, striped bass, mackerel, cod, haddock, tuna, shark, and lobster, and include: [Skiddish Fishing Charters](#), [Captain Greg Metcalf's Sport Fishing & Sightseeing](#), and [Lady J. Fishing Charters](#). Whale watch and lobster charters include: First Chance Whale Watch & Lobster Tours, Captain Dave's Lobster Boat Cruises, and Rugosa Charters (SouthernMaineCoast.com nd).

Subsistence

Information on subsistence activity in Cape Porpoise is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

Cape Porpoise and Kennebunkport, as part of the Southern Maine Coast, is involved in the regional objective of improving groundfish stocks to a sustainable level. These stocks are said to be on the rebound from previous overexploitation (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). New regulations on the lobster fishery are proposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and if integrated could substantially alter fishing locations, individual catch size, and total catch sizes (Trotter 2006). Regulation of commercially important stocks, such as

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

groundfish stocks, continues to increase. The need for improved protection may remain until the stocks reach a healthy level, thus in the future restrictions on the fisheries will continue to tighten (NMFS 2006). This increasing regulation will affect both commercial and recreational fisheries.

MLA's proposal to limit pesticide exposure to coastal waters was passed through legislation by Maine Governor John Baldacci in April 2006. The exposure limits will be attempted by creating a buffer zone between pesticide spray areas and high tide lines (Mizzoni 2006).

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