

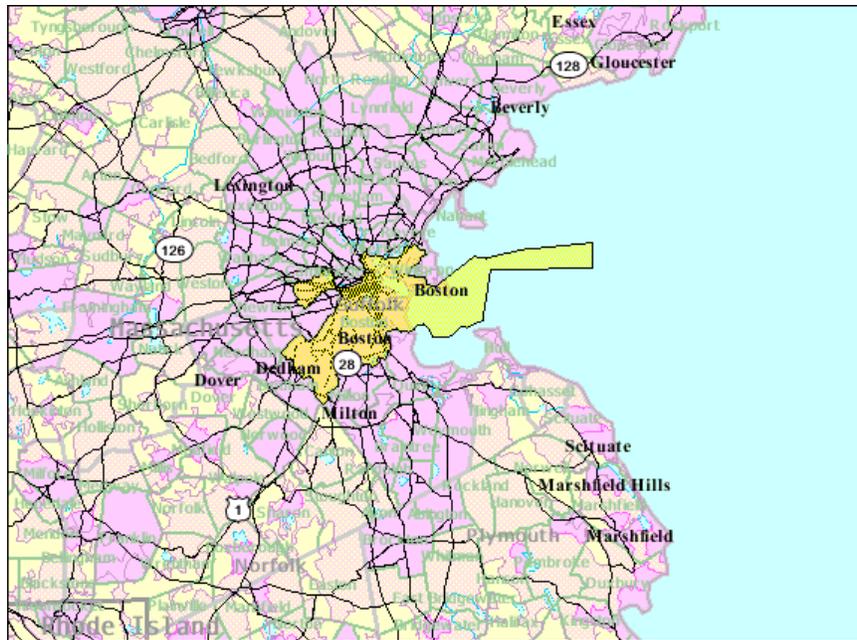
BOSTON, MA¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The City of Boston (42.35° N, 71.06° W) is the capital of Massachusetts, and is located in Suffolk County. Boston Harbor opens out onto Massachusetts Bay (USGS 2008). The city covers a total of 89.6 square miles, of which only 48.4 square miles (54%) is land.



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

Historical/Background

The City of Boston has been an important port since its founding in 1630. Early on, it was the leading commercial center in the colonies (Banner 2005). During colonial times, the city's economy was based on fishing, shipbuilding, and trade in and out of Boston Harbor. "From its founding until the 1760s, Boston was America's largest, wealthiest, and most influential city" (University Archives nd). It also played an important role in our nation's history, as the location of the Boston Tea Party, the Boston Massacre, and the beginning of the American Revolution. After the Revolutionary War, Boston became one of the wealthiest international ports in the world, exporting products such as rum, tobacco, fish, and salt (Lovestead 1997). Once an important manufacturing center, with many factories and mills based

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."

along Boston’s numerous rivers and in the surrounding communities, many of the manufacturing jobs began to disappear around the early 1900s, as factories moved to the South. These industries were quickly replaced, however, by banking, financing, retail, and healthcare, and Boston later became a leader in high-tech industries (Banner 2005). The city remains the largest in New England and an important hub for shipping and commerce, as well as being an intellectual and educational hub. The Boston Fish Pier, located on the South Boston waterfront, has been housing fishermen for almost a century, and is the oldest continuously operating fish pier in the United States (BHA nd). The Fish Pier is also home to the [nation’s oldest daily fish auction](#).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data, Boston had a total population of 589,141, up 2.6% from the reported population of 574,283 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this total in 2000, 51.9% were female and 48.9% were male. The median age was 31.2 years and 73.5% of the population was 21 years or older while 12.2% were 62 or older.

Unlike most other Northeast fishing communities, Boston’s population structure (Figure 1) shows a preponderance of 20-29 year-olds, representing the large influx of young people who move there in search of jobs, as well as a large population of students. There are also many residents in the 30-39 year old category.

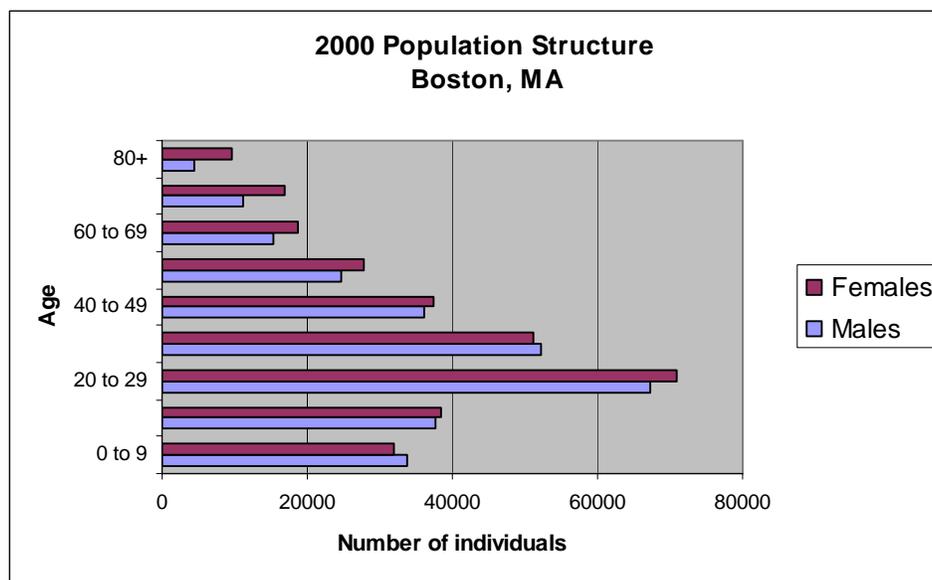


Figure 1. Population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population of Boston in 2000 was white (54.3%), with 26.4% of residents black or African American, 0.9% Native American, 7.7% Asian, and 0.3% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). A total of 14.4% of the total population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their heritage to a number of ancestries

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.

including: Irish (15.8%), Italian (8.3%), West Indian (6.4%), and English (4.5%). With regard to region of birth, 47.4% were born in Massachusetts, 23.5% were born in a different state and 25.8% were born outside of the U.S. (including 16.2% who were not United States citizens).

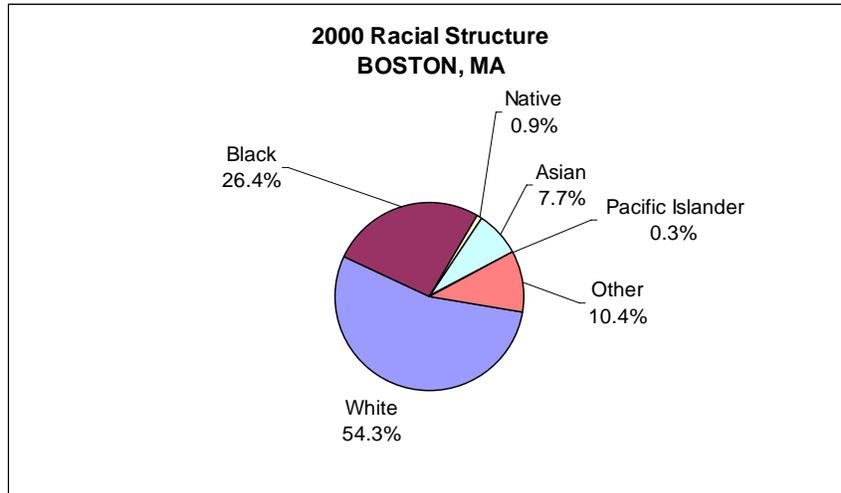


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

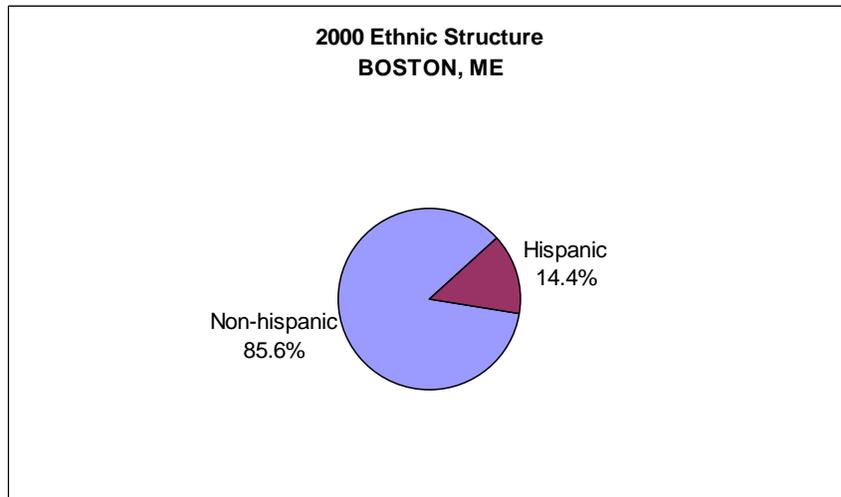


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 66.6% of the population 5 years old and higher in 2000, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 33.4% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 16.3% of the population who spoke English less than “very well.”

Of the population 25 years and over, 78.9% were high school graduates or higher and 35.6% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 9.1% did not reach ninth grade, 12.0% attended some high school but did not graduate, 24.0% completed high school, 14.5% had some college with no degree, 4.9% received their associate’s degree, 20.2% earned their bachelor’s degree, and 15.3% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the U.S. Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) in 2000 the religion with the highest number of

congregations and adherents in Suffolk County was Catholic with 73 congregations and 205,060 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Jewish (22 with 24,700 adherents), American Baptist Churches in the USA (35 with 9,115) and Episcopal (25 with 9,405 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 44.8% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

The high cost of real estate in Boston means that fishermen and other maritime users of waterfront areas are face displacement issues. Groups such as the Boston Harbor Association are working to prevent this from happening (BHA nd). There are now only two areas for commercial fishermen to tie-up and unload their catch – Boston Fish Pier and the Cardinal Medeiros docks (Medeiros dock is used almost exclusively by lobstermen⁴) – and limited options for containers and bulk cargo handling. Due to redevelopment, much of the working waterfront has been lost to the construction of condos, office buildings, hotels, and other non-marine related businesses.⁵

The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) filed suit against the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) in 2004, for failing to maintain the Boston Fish Pier (which they had recently purchased) as a working commercial pier. The Pier is in need of repair and the businesses relying on the pier have not been issued long-term leases (CLF 2004). The pier recently underwent a massive construction project, including replacing its barrier walls.⁶

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF) proposed in 2004 to shut down a section of Massachusetts Bay extending from Boston north to Marblehead to cod fishing, in order to protect prime spawning ground. This proposal caused much concern for fishermen in the area, already severely limited by restrictions on cod fishing (Keane 2005). The MADMF not only proposed the Cod Closure Zone, but it has been enacted each subsequent year to protect spawning cod. The MADMF conducts directed research on these activities and there are indicators that this area may help support the largest remaining aggregation of spawning cod in the Gulf of Maine.⁷

In 2005 the city was looking at plans to develop a liquid natural gas terminal on Outer Brewster Island, the outermost of the city's harbor islands, a plan that drew much criticism from environmentalists and others (Associated Press 2005). Lobster fishermen in particular worried that this would disrupt lobster habitat, and that the facility would prevent them from accessing important fishing areas (Jette 2005).

The MWRA sewer/outfall project, the two offshore LNG terminals, the Hubline, proposed cobble mining and, large U.S. Army Corps dredging projects have also been suggested as having fishing-related impacts. In addition, the Marine Protected Area of Stellwagen Bank has also affected fishing activities in the area.⁸

Cultural attributes

Boston hosts a number of events which celebrate the city's connections with the sea. The

⁴ Community Review comments, Philip Terenzi, Boston Harbormaster, 34 Drydock Ave, Boston, MA 02210, September 28, 2007

⁵ Community Review comments, Vincent Malkoski, Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740, October 16, 2007

⁶ Profile review comment, Caleb Gilbert, Port Agent, 11-15 Parker St. Gloucester MA 01930-2298, Feb 8, 2008.

⁷ Community Review comments, Vincent Malkoski, Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740, October 16, 2007

⁸ Community Review comments, Vincent Malkoski, Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740, October 16, 2007

annual Blessing of the Fleet is held at the [Boston Marina and Shipyard](#). The city holds an annual Harborfest as part of the city's Fourth of July celebrations, which celebrates the city's role in American history as a maritime port, and includes the [Boston Chowderfest](#). The [International Boston Seafood Show](#) is primarily a culinary trade show. The [East Boston Seaport Festival](#) celebrates the city's maritime heritage. The National Park Service is now controlling the harbor islands, which are a showpiece of Boston Harbor.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁹, 58.9% (308,395 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), with 4.6% unemployed, 0.1% in the Armed Forces, and 58.9% employed.

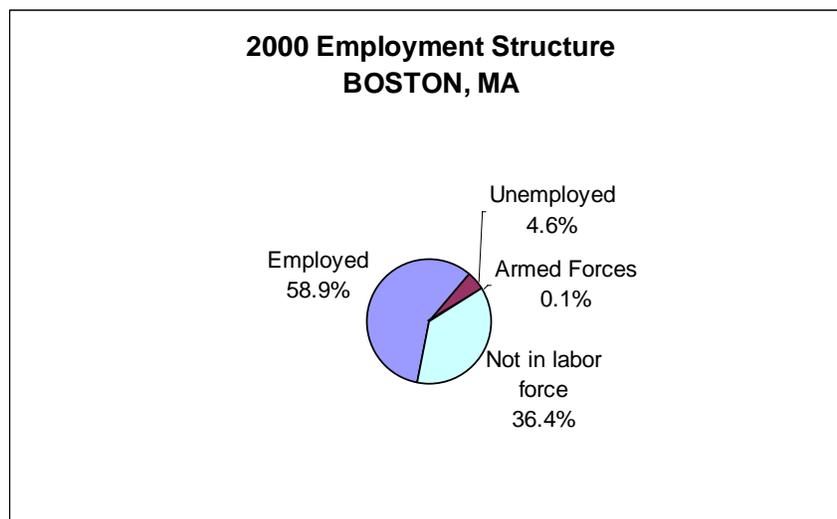


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

“Boston's seafood processing industry includes 88 companies, employs nearly 2,000 people, and generates roughly \$650 million in annual sales to regional, national, and international markets” (Massport 2001).” [Stavis Seafoods](#), a fish processing and distribution facility on the Boston waterfront, employs over 100 people. The new Harbor Seafood Center is expected to create 120 jobs (Massport 2001). Additionally, the development of Boston's Seaport District is likely to create thousands of jobs over the next decade (Gaston Institute 2003).

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 296 positions or 0.1% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 12,988 positions or 4.5% of jobs. Education, health, and social services (26.8%); professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (14.9%); finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (10.4%); and arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (9.2%) were the primary industries.

⁹ 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.

Median household income in Boston was \$39,629 (up 35.8% from \$29,180 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and per capita income was \$23,732. For full-time year round workers, men made approximately 15.5% more per year than women.

The average family in Boston in 2000 consisted of 3.17 persons. With respect to poverty, 15.3% of families (up from 15.0% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 19.5% of individuals were 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, 39.9% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Boston had a total of 251,935 housing units, of which 95.1% were occupied and 11.7% were detached one unit homes. A total of 53.5% of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs and vans accounted for 0.1% of the total housing units; 88.1% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$190,600. Of vacant housing units, 12.6% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 67.8% were renter occupied.

Government

Boston has a mayor and a thirteen member city council. Boston also has a Harbormaster (State of Massachusetts 2007).

Fishery involvement in government

The Port of Boston has a [Designated Port Area](#) which is restricted to maritime industry to allow the continued existence of a working port. The [Boston Redevelopment Authority](#) is Boston's planning and economic development agency, and is involved with waterfront development. The [Seaport Advisory Council](#) in Boston is involved in dredging activities, which likely impact fisheries and fishing-related activities. These agencies and organizations help contribute to environmental improvements for commercial fishing. Under the guidance of the State's Office of Coastal Zone Management, there are Designated Port Areas (DPAs), which make up a large portion of the working industrial waterfront in the Boston area. According to The Boston Harbor Association, DPAs, amongst other things, provide benefits to job creation in the shipping, cruise, and fish processing industries (BHA 2003). The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) is also involved in resource monitoring, and conducts a regular biomonitoring program in the Massachusetts Bay for fish and shellfish. Specific sites where data are collected include Boston Harbor and the Bays and the Future Outfall Site off Nantasket Beach, Broad Sound, and East Cape Cod Bay (Lefkovitz and McLeod 2000). Boston also has an active harbormaster's office.

Institutional

Fishery associations

Boston lobstermen have formed the Boston Harbor Lobster Cooperative (Hall-Arber et al. 2001) and the Boston Harbor Lobstermen's Association.¹⁰ The General Category Tuna Association is also located in Boston (Stevenson nd).

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

¹⁰ Community Review comments, Vincent Malkoski, Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740, October 16, 2007

their families by developing the Fishing Partnership Health Insurance Plan with federal and state aid. This plan has been in place since 1997 and reduces the amount of money that fishermen's families have to pay to be covered by health insurance (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

Fishing assistance centers

Boston has multiple organizations dedicated to aiding mariners passing through Boston, including commercial fishermen. The [Seafarer's Friend Society](#) is a non-denominational Christian ministry to the maritime service, which provides a number of services to mariners including providing food, support, and access to job services. The [Boston Port and Seaman's Aid Society](#) runs the Mariners House, which offers a place for traveling mariners to stay, as well as services to assist mariners, and provides scholarships and grants to further its mission.

Other fishing-related organizations

"The Boston Harbor Association is committed to preserving and promoting Boston Harbor as a Working Port." The BHA is a private non-profit working with several sectors on fishing-related issues including government/ public officials, private developers and commercial interests, maritime residents, residents, and environmental groups. The Association is working to create a framework for discussions about current and future development along Boston's waterfront (BHA nd). The organization [Save the Harbor, Save the Bay](#) is also working to protect Boston Harbor from environmental degradation, as well as developing an accessible waterfront and promoting a connection between the community and the sea.

The [New England Aquarium](#), located in Boston, is conducting research on lobster aquaculture, bluefin tuna, bycatch reduction, North Atlantic right whales, and other topics relevant to Boston area fishermen. The [Conservation Law Foundation](#), also headquartered in Boston, is working to promote sustainable fisheries in New England, including working to develop an area-based fisheries management system and ongoing efforts to end overfishing of groundfish stocks through legal action (CLF 2006).

Physical

"Boston is 106 miles south of Portland, Maine; 44 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island; 93 miles northeast of Hartford, Connecticut; and 218 miles northeast of New York City" (State of Massachusetts 2007). Logan International Airport is located in East Boston, and is New England's largest airport. The airport is also easily accessible from the piers, facilitating the shipping of seafood. Boston has a subway system, a commuter rail system, and Amtrak service to Portland, Providence, New York, and beyond. There is also a large bus station in the city, as well as extensive local bus service throughout the city and the metropolitan area. Interstates 90 and 93 run through the heart of Boston, while Interstate 95 runs outside of the city, making Boston a very accessible city by road (MapQuest nd).

The Boston Fish Pier, located on the South Boston waterfront, has been housing fishermen for almost a century, and is the oldest continuously working fish pier in the United States. The pier houses a number of fish-processing facilities, as well as the fish auction and provides dock space for many of the area's fishermen (Boston Harbor Association nd). The [Boston Fish Exchange](#) is the nation's oldest daily fish auction, in operation for over 100 years.

The Harbor Seafood Center houses several seafood processors in its 65,000 square feet of space, opened in 2001. [Legal Seafoods](#) also operates a 75,000 square foot processing facility in this same area. [Stavis Seafoods](#), located on the Boston waterfront since 1929, operates a

groundfish processing facility here, as well as a distribution operation, shipping fresh and frozen seafood around the world. [Channel Fish Processing Co.](#) is one of the many fish processing companies located in this area of Boston that buys catch directly from the docks of fishing communities around New England, and processes it here for distribution. The [James Hook Lobster Co](#) has been in operation since 1925 and is a landmark.

The Greater Boston Harbor has 13 Clean Vessel Act-funded pumpout facilities, of which eight are boats (State of Massachusetts 2008). The MA Office of Coastal Zone Management has prepared a guide to reducing environmental impacts on the marinas in the Boston area. The guide refers collectively to and advises all facilities engaged in boat keeping, storage, repair, etc., which includes boatyards, yacht clubs, town docks and ramps, and other marine businesses (Epsilon Assoc 2001).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹¹

Commercial

“While fishing-related business is dwarfed by some of the others, it is significant not only for its role as a component of Boston’s economy, but also for its importance in serving dispersed, smaller communities that are more obviously dependent upon fishing and fishing-related businesses... The importance of Boston to the New England region is very significant, in that it is a nexus for the international transshipment of fishery products throughout New England... The twenty or more brokers in Boston service hundreds of boats up and down the coast.... Vessels offload fish at the nearest convenient dock, it’s trucked to Boston, and from there is absorbed by regional, national and international markets” (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

Between 12 and 15 fishing vessels dock at the Boston Fish Pier each day. More than 23 million pounds of fish are processed at the Fish Pier each year, of which 8 million come from the fishing vessels which dock here (BHA 2004). Many fishermen also fish from the Cardinal Medeiros pier in South Boston. The port agent here noted that Boston is home to some of the best-maintained vessels in the country.¹²

The landings show that large-mesh groundfish were the most valuable fishery in Boston, followed by monkfish and lobster (Table 1). While the value of landings in the groundfishery was less in 2006 than the 1997-2006 average, the value of both lobster and monkfish to Boston fishermen increased.

There are far more vessels with their home port in Boston than there are vessel owners in Boston, indicating that most fishermen docked in Boston harbor live elsewhere (Table 2). The landings values for both home port and landed port varied over the period from 1997-2006, with

¹¹ 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.

¹² Profile review comment, Caleb Gilbert, Port Agent, 11-15 Parker St. Gloucester MA 01930-2298, Feb 8, 2008.

no significant pattern. The landed port value exceeded the home port value in every year, meaning some fishermen come from elsewhere to land their catch here.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Largemesh Groundfish¹³	1
Monkfish	2
Lobster	3
Other¹⁴	4
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	5
Skate	6
Scallop	7
Herring	8
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	9
Smallmesh Groundfish¹⁵	10
Bluefish	11
Dogfish	12
Tilefish	13

(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.)

Vessels by Year

Table 1. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006¹⁶

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	66	16
1998	49	10
1999	45	8
2000	37	10
2001	42	9
2002	45	9
2003	42	9
2004	43	9
2005	46	8
2006	46	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 residence¹⁷)

¹³ Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹⁴ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹⁵ Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

¹⁶ 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.

Recreational

Fishing charters can be found at the [Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina](#). [Flying Fish Charters](#) is one charter company that runs fishing trips in and around Boston. Recreational fishermen can buy bait, tackle, and fuel at Eric's Bait and Tackle at the [Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina](#). The [Boston Harbor Islands](#) are a popular fishing spot, and are one of the few places in Boston that offer sportfishing year round.

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in Boston was either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist. However, this activity most likely exists, although the level of subsistence fishing is difficult to measure. Recent Census data show a 7.5% increase in the Asian population in Boston between 1990 and 2000, also indicating that these new arrivals are considered working poor. Due to language barriers, it has been noted a challenge to make these populations aware of environmental health issues such as shellfish disease. According to Boston Harbor Association's Shellfish Guide and associated report, it is common to see many Asians fishing and harvesting shellfish along Boston Harbor. The seafood makes its way to Chinatown and neighboring towns, where it is often sold on Sundays from the backs of trucks. Health officials have noted an increase in food-borne illnesses in Boston, including in Chinatown. The Harbor Association has developed a project, funded by the MA Environmental Trust, to work with the Asian community to educate and ensure shellfish is being taken from safe areas.¹⁸

FUTURE

Plans for the Future

A team of business people is looking at the possibility of developing a 500,000 sq. ft. seafood market and processing complex in unused areas of the South Boston waterfront. The facility would house processing, packaging, cold storage, selling, and shipping, and could create hundreds of jobs. A spokesperson for the project called it "the last best chance to keep the fishing industry in Boston;" they intend to make Boston into the fresh seafood capital of the East Coast (Palmer 2005). Massport has dedicated 10 acres of the Massport Maritime Terminal for seafood processing facilities, to complement existing facilities at the Boston Fish Pier and the Boston Seafood Center (Massport 2005).

The Center for Community Economic Development has created the Seaport Community Access Project which is working to promote the participation of people of color in the Seaport development process and ensure they can have a share in long-term economic benefits from the project. This project is likely to create thousands of jobs in the next decade (Gaston Institute 2003).

Perception of the Future

Judging by the amount of development planned for the waterfront, and relating to the seafood industry, it is clear that at least many in the business community are optimistic about the

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ Community Review Comments, John Valliere, The Boston Harbor Association, Shellfish Guide, 374 Congress Street, Suite 307, Boston, MA 02210, September 28, 2007

future of Boston as the seafood capital of New England. However, as this development is going towards infrastructure such as processing and wholesale, and not towards maintaining a fishing fleet here, it also seems that Boston will continue to shift away from being a fishing community, and more towards becoming a hub of seafood distribution. The Conservation Law Foundation recently sued Massport over their failure to maintain the Boston Fish Pier; CLF claims “the ability of the fishing industry to land fish directly in Boston makes the survival of a working Fish Pier critically important to the future of this industry and the viability of Boston’s small but important commercial fishing fleet (Conservation Law Foundation 2004).”

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