

DEALE, MD¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The small town of Deale, Maryland (38.79° N, -76.54° W) (USGS 2008) is located on Rockhold Creek in Southern Anne Arundel County, on the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in what is referred to as “South County”. Deale is located just 20 miles south of Annapolis and is a short drive (about 34 miles) from the metropolitan Washington DC area. Deale has a total area of 4.18 sq. mi. (SAACC 2008).



Map 1. Location of Deale, MD (US Census Bureau 2000)³

Historical/Background

“By the time of the arrival of Europeans in Anne Arundel County in 1649, the area had largely been abandoned by the Algonquin speaking inhabitants due to threatening raids of the warlike Susquehannocks to the north” (AAC/PB 2001). Deale was first settled around 1650 and the land was patented by 1659. The area was farming-based until about 1870, when watermen from Long Island and Maryland’s eastern shore purchased land and settled near the abundant

¹ These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

² For purposes of citation please use the following template: “Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov.”

³ According to a community reviewer’s comments, the Census map shows what is locally considered two towns—Deale and Churchton. The division is at Carr’s Creek (the middle of the three inlets shown) and moves northwest at about a 45 degree angle to Swamp Circle Road (Ruth Hazen, Profile review comments, 2008).

oyster beds in Herring Bay. In a short period of ten years, Deale’s economy changed from farming to maritime-based. Beginning in 1920, several former farms became summer communities and Deale residents began building and repairing boats, and renting rowboats to summer visitors. African Americans, both free and enslaved, made great contributions to the development of the Deale-Shady Side area, including through work in oyster processing (AAC/PB 2001). Residents also built restaurants and opened country stores. In the 1950s and 1960s, watermen became charter fishing captains, taking Washington DC and Baltimore tourists for day trips on the Chesapeake. First known as “The Swamp,” then as “Cedar Grove,” Deale did not receive its present name until its first post office opened in 1908. Maryland had another “Cedar Grove,” so Deale’s first postmaster was asked to choose a new name. He called it Deale, for his mother, Rachel A. F. Deale Leatherbury (Hazen nd). In the 1960s and 1970s, a general decline in oystering and fishing fostered the conversion of many weekend cottages into full time homes for those seeking to escape the bustle of nearby cities, and the population began to increase substantially (AAC/PB 2001). Today, Deale is home to many marinas catering to pleasure boats (Hazen, n.d.) and has seen a dramatic increase in sport fishing and recreational motor and sail boating activities, even as numbers of watermen have declined (AAC/PB 2001). Many residents commute to work in Washington DC or Baltimore MD⁴ (AAC/PB 2001) or have home-based businesses (Hazen nd).

Demographics⁵

According to Census data (US Census Bureau 2000a), Deale had a total population of 4,796 in 2000, up 15.5% from a reported population of 4,151 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 49.7% were males and 50.3% were females. The median age was 37.9 years and 70.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 11.4% were 62 or older.

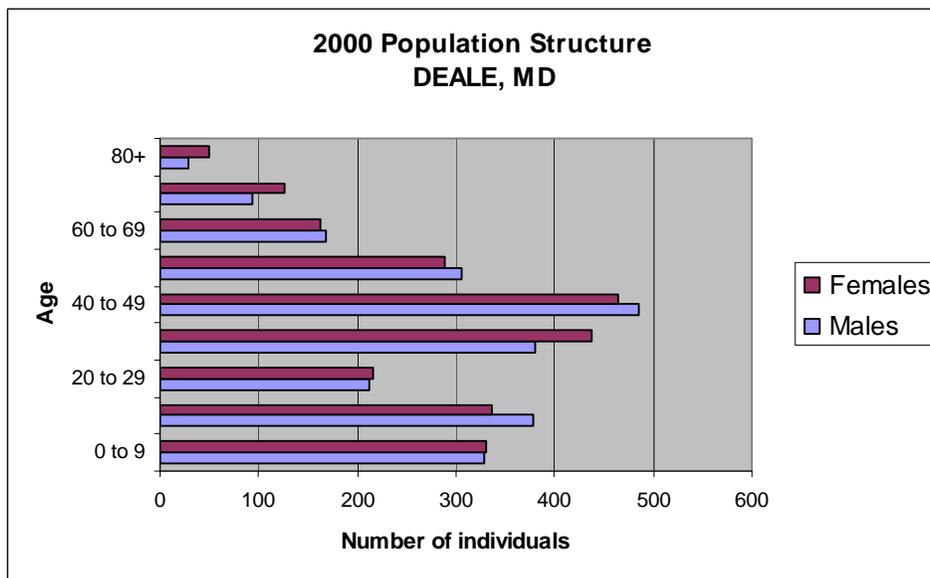


Figure 1. Deale’s population structure by sex in 2000

⁴ Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

⁵ 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 population structure for Deale (Figure 1) shows the town had a spike in the number of both males and females between the ages of 40-49 and generally more females than males for ages 30-39. There was also a dip in the population of both males and females between the ages of 20-29 in the year 2000.

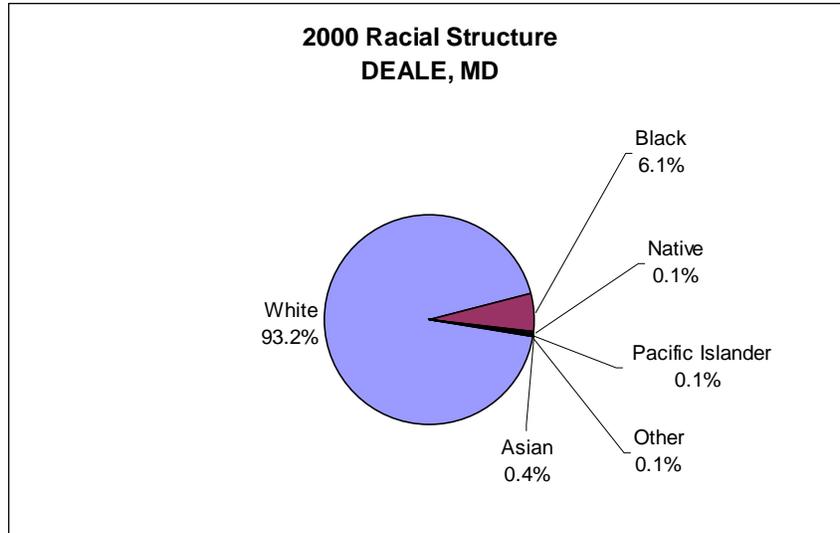


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

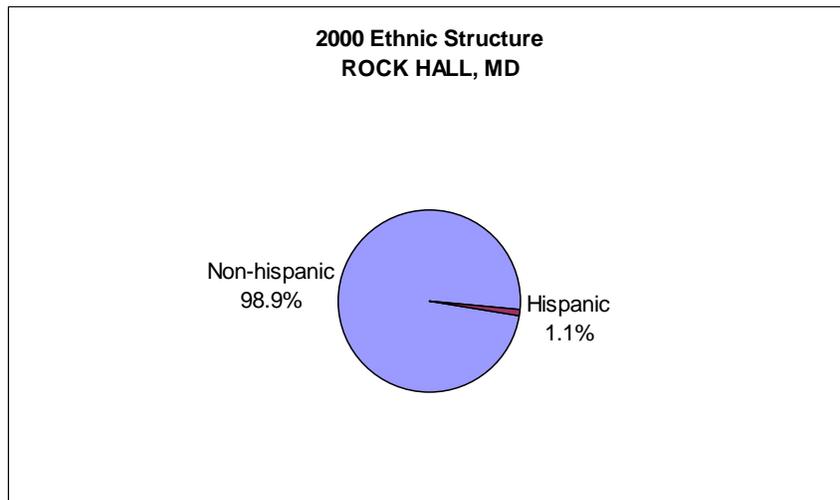


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population in Deale was white (93.2%) with 6.1% of residents black or African American, 0.4% Asian, 0.1% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 1.1% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents traced their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (26.5%), German (22.9%), English (21.3%) and other ancestries (14.6%).

With regard to region of birth, 60.9% were born in Maryland, 36.9% were born in a different state, and 0.7% were born outside the US (including 0.5% who were not US citizens).

For 96.9% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 3.1% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.4% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” (US Census Bureau 2000).

Of the population 25 years and over, 84.7% were high school graduates or higher, and 18.0% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Of the population 25 years and over, 3.1% did not reach ninth grade, 12.2% attended some high school but did not graduate, 37.0% completed high school, 24.8% had some college with no degree, 4.8% received their associate’s degree, 10.2% earned their bachelor’s degree, and 7.8% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious percentages are not available through the US Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) in 2000 the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Southern Anne Arundel County was the United Methodist Church, with 71 congregations and 33,235 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the Catholic Church (20 with 107,463 adherents) and Southern Baptist Convention (30 with 12,763 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 26.6% from 1990 (ARDA 2000). Deale’s largest church is Cedar Grove Methodist Church but there is also a Baptist Church in town. There were attempts to start a Lutheran church in a Deale storefront but this was not successful. The local Catholic Church is in Owensville, several miles to the north⁶.

Issues/Processes

According to the [Deale Area Historical Society](#), many residents of Deale commute to work in Washington DC or Baltimore MD, or have home-based businesses. The original Deale families have accepted those who are not from Deale or work in the community (referred to as “imports”) but “mourn the loss of the close-knit waterman’s community they knew as children” (Hazen nd). This sentiment appears to be common throughout the community as wealthy people from out of town move in and buy land, making it difficult for the local community to afford property and pay taxes.⁷

In general for the South County area where Deale is located, the primary business has been agriculture. However, farming has been faced with challenges in recent years and tobacco and other farming has been replaced by soybean and corn. Today, most of the farming is done in Tracys Landing, just to the west of Deale. Years back, Deale farmers grew and canned tomatoes, which is no longer an active industry. Some landowners within South County have sought alternatives to traditional farming such as sod farming, dog and horse breeding and aquaculture. The local sod farming industry does have at least one Deale location, although most of their land is in Churchton⁸. About 10 years ago, there was an attempt at aquaculture in Deale, which did not prosper. According to the Chamber of Commerce, developing creative ways to continue the agrarian lifestyle of South County is critical in preserving the areas landscape (SAACC 2008).

In December 2005, a bill was passed and added to the Anne Arundel County Code allowing waterman to conditionally use their homes to store their crab pots and fishing gear. Some of the conditions for storing gear are that the property owner must have a commercial fishing license, there is to be no out-of-season storage on piers, no adjacent property water view

⁶ Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

⁷ Lois Nutwell, pers comm.. Multi-generation Deale resident, August 20, 2008; ph (410) 867-4688; author of pictorial history “A Ripple on the Wind: Down the Creek and Along the Shore in Deale, Maryland” 2004; Harwood, (MD): SunDogs Studio.

⁸ Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

obstructions, and specified hours for on-site seafood sales (Anne Arundel County Code, § 18-10-136, 2005).

As of 2007 blue crab numbers in the Chesapeake had fallen 70% since the 1990s, and scientists continue (in 2008) to be concerned about a possible crash in the population. Poor water quality and overharvesting are considered causes of the decline; of particular concern is the number of female crabs being harvested by watermen. While the Chesapeake Bay's crabs are not likely to go extinct, crabbers are having a tough time making ends meet between the rising cost of fuel and an influx of imported crab meat; both Maryland and Virginia are seeking disaster funds to aid watermen and processors (MD DNR 2008).

As numbers of fish and shellfish in the Chesapeake decline, there are stricter fishing regulations and rules (Nitkin 2007, Kobell 2008). Recently, the State imposed additional regulations for catching female crabs (DNR 2008), upsetting local watermen who feel they have a difficult enough time making a living⁹ (Kobell, 2008).

Cultural attributes

The Deale Farmer's Market is held on Thursdays in the parking lot of the Cedar Grove United Methodist Church from July 3 to October 30 (DA 2008). Deale residents also participate in the South County Festival every summer which is a waterfront event with food and activities on Herrington Harbour North Marina about 2 miles from Deale. Other local events include A Taste of Southern Maryland and the nearby Shady Side Oyster Festival (SAACC 2008).

The South County Concert Association is very popular locally. Based at the area high school in Harwood, MD, they offer subscribers six concerts a year featuring a mix of local and nationally known artists. Local churches, including Deale's local Cedar Grove Methodist Church, offer fall ham and oyster dinners. The Deale Volunteer firemen also sponsor an all-you-can-eat and drink oyster dinner once a year¹⁰. The Deale Merchants Association has an annual Bluegrass Festival and car show, held on the grounds of Herrington Harbor North (DMA 2007). There is a Maryland Maritime Heritage Festival held in Annapolis every year (SAACC 2008).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The Deale Merchants Association (DMA) consists of over 250 local businesses whose motto is "Helping Businesses and Supporting the Community" (DMA 2007). In the Deale/Shady Side Small Area Plan, the town of Deale was identified as one of three "Opportunity and Revitalization Sites," with a plan to "retain the small-scale, "rustic" quality of the town while, at the same time, allowing for increased activity as both a community asset and visitor attraction" (AAC/PB) through improved parking, pedestrian walkways and other road-related infrastructure improvements.

According to the 2000 Census¹¹, 75.2% (2,779 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 1.5% were unemployed and 0.4% were in the Armed Forces.

⁹ Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

¹⁰ Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

¹¹ 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.

According to US Census Bureau (2000), jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for none of the jobs in Deale. Self-employed workers – a category where fishermen might be found – accounted for 196 positions or 7.2% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (16.8%), retail trade (16.7%), construction (16.0%), and public administration (9.8%) were the primary industries.

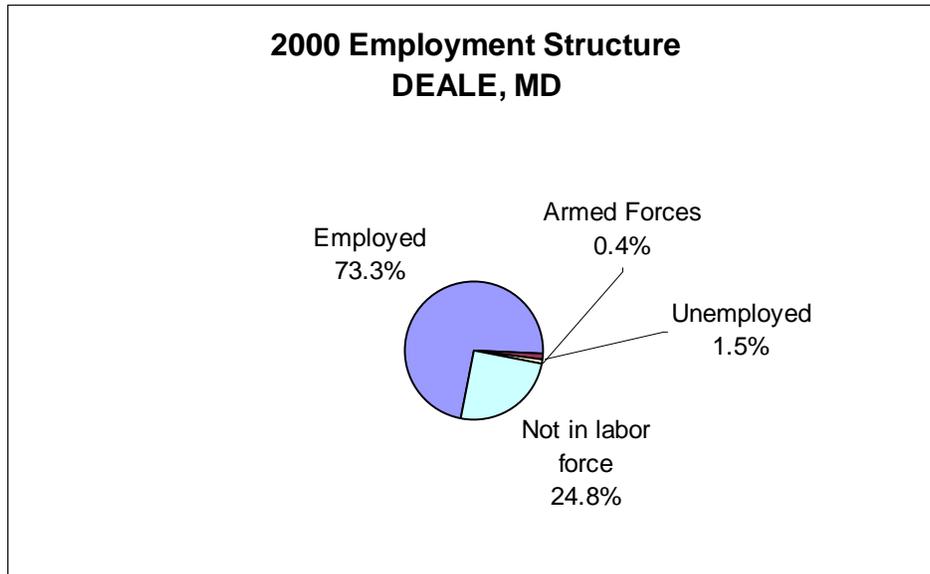


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

Median 2000 household income in Deale was \$66,016, up 31.9% from \$44,952 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and median per capita income was \$26,214. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 26.0% more per year than females.

The average family in Deale consisted of 3.11 persons. With respect to poverty, 1.9% of families, down from 2.9% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 3.7% of individuals were below the US Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 13.0% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000 Deale had a total of 1,939 housing units, of which 91.6% were occupied and 96.3% were detached one-unit homes. Fewer than ten percent (8.3%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for none of the housing units; 99.4% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$159,200. Of vacant housing units, 4.6% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 11.7% were renter occupied.

Government

Deale does not have a Town Hall or formal government structure, and relies on the County. Since 1964, Anne Arundel County has had a charter form of government in accordance with State law. It is composed of a legislative branch (County Council) and an executive branch that is headed by the County Executive. The County Executive and County Councilman are based in Annapolis, MD (Anne Arundel County 2003).

Fishery involvement in government

The Deale/Shady Side 2001 Area Plan notes: “Boats, seafood, and maritime industries coupled with a moderate amount of tourism and a slow, deliberate lifestyle and small-scale development are the main goals” (AAC/PB 2001). Both commercial and recreational fisheries are recognized as important culturally and economically (AAC/PB 2001). Anne Arundel County also has a Severn River Commission to deal with environmental issues throughout its watershed (Anne Arundel County 2003). And the Deale/Shady Side Area Plan includes improving wetlands for juvenile fish habitat (AAC/PB 2001).

Institutional

Fishing associations

Associated Bay Captains, Inc., based in Deale, is a recreational fishing-based organization formed to assist in charter boat booking¹².

“The [Maryland Watermen's Association](#) (MWA) is dedicated to the interests of all who derive beauty & benefit from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Waters.” While the MWA focuses primarily on bay fishing issues, they also represent ocean fishermen where necessary. The MWA still broadly represent all those who work on the water in/of Maryland. The President of the MWA also serves on the [Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#) which focuses on bay as well as ocean fisheries issues.¹³ The MWA is based in Annapolis, MD (about 19 miles from Deale).

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishing assistance centers in Deale was either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

Other fishing related organizations

There are several non-profit organizations in Deale, although little information was found regarding specific activities and their involvement in fishing related activities is unknown. The organizations include: The Deale Beach Citizens Association (WSC 2008), the [International Environmental Data Rescue Organization Limited](#), and [Planet Hope, Land, and Sea](#).

While not located in Deale, [Arundel Habitat for Humanity](#) is a Christian housing ministry that provides homeownership opportunities to low-income families currently living in substandard or inadequate housing. The organization builds and renovates houses in partnership with families across Anne Arundel County and the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay area of Baltimore City. Their office is based out of Arnold, MD which is about 21 miles from Deale.

The crab research program, called “Crab Restoration and the Bay” or CRAB, is a combined effort by the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute's Center of Marine Biotechnology (COMB), the MWA and other regional and local businesses. The project collects spawning female crabs and monitors and manipulates conditions to better understand ideal situation for the crabs and spawning. Researchers hope the hatchery effort will answer questions about the blue crab's environment, physiology and molecular structure that will enable managers better manage the struggling wild fishery. (COMB 2008)

¹² Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

¹³ Community Review Comments, Kelly Clements Barnes, Administrative Assistant, Maryland Watermen's Association, September 13, 2007

Physical

Deale has a variety of marinas and offers many boat services. [Harbour Cove Marina](#) is the closest full-service marina to the Washington D.C. area and offers a clubhouse, pool, and haul-out services. The Deale Merchants Association lists the following marinas and marine services in Deale: Bay Harbor Boat Yard, Collins Marine Railway, Deale Marina, Deale Marina Center, Inc., Gates Marine, Inc., Harbor Cove Marina, Paradise Marina, Inc., Shipwright Harbor Marina, and Rockhold Creek Marina. Shiver Me Timbers specializes in marine air conditioning and refrigeration repair. Cove Point Marine Service does boat hauling. Rockhold Creek Pile Driving does new installations and repairs. Tri-State Marine, Inc., Integrity Yacht Sales, Inc., and Gates Marine Sales are boat dealers. In addition, Herrington Harbor North Marina, the largest employer in the area, is just across Tracys Creek from Deale. Along with their large marina, they have numerous boat builders and boat services on their grounds (DMA 2007). There is also a town wharf called Deale Wharf on Deale Rd. along Rockhold Creek near Tracy's Landing Bridge (Anne Arundel County 2003).

The majority of Deale's charter fishing fleet is at the Happy Harbor docks. [Happy Harbor Inn](#) includes a bar and restaurant with outside deck. Other popular eateries include [Skipper's Pier](#) (a waterside crab house with dockside bar) and Pete Green's on Drum Point Road. The Happy Harbor Inn is an official Maryland Sportfishing Tournament Citation Center (DNR 2008).

Deale is situated a short distance off Route 2 in Maryland on Route 256 on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Deale is approximately 19 miles from Annapolis, 34 miles from Washington D.C., and 127 miles from Philadelphia, PA by car. There is a private airport in Edgewater, 8 miles from Deale and the nearest public use airport is Baltimore-Washington International Airport is 28 miles away (Anne Arundel County 2003). Deale also has a small private use airport, according to a community source¹⁴. Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services offers a South County bus connection called SCOTS which services Annapolis and the western shore area (including Shady Side) (Annapolis 2002). A regular bus route from Annapolis to Deale/Shadyside and other points in South County also exists (Anne Arundel County 2003).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹⁵

Commercial

There are a few commercial fishermen docked at Discovery Village in Shady Side, but the cost of slip rental in Deale has made it difficult for commercial fisherman to dock in the

¹⁴ Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

¹⁵ 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.

town. Some local people sell seasonally from trailers parked at local businesses or along the road¹⁶.

Maryland federal landings data, which come primarily from Ocean City, are reported with a county and port. State entered data are reported under “MD unclassified” and Potomac River data are reported with county and port - the port code being the name of a river or a creek rather than an actual port. Thus no Deale landings, or even complete Anne Arundel County landings, can be disaggregated for report here.

Similarly, only federally-permitted vessels are in the federal permit database. There were a small number of vessels listing Deale as their home port – one in 2004, one in 2005, and four in 2006. White perch, striped bass, spot, and croaker are among the species listed as commercially and recreationally important to Deale in the Deale/Shady Side Area Plan (AAC/PB 2001).

Recreational

Recreational fishing and charter boats are important economic forces in the town (AAC/PB 2001). The [Deale Pro-Am](#) is a Chesapeake Bay fishing tournament for striped bass, bluefish, Spanish mackerel and offers \$8,000 in cash prizes. Deale area anglers also participate in the state-wide Maryland Fishing Challenge, a six month ongoing event where anglers can claim a variety of prizes in exchange for tagged fish they capture (DNR 2008).

[Deale Captains Association](#) provides recreational fishermen with resources and access to over 40 charter boats. Charter boats offer fishing for species including Striped Bass, Hardhead, and Trout, customers can choose trolling, chumming, light tackle or bottom fishing activities.

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

In September-October 2008 the County Council will be completing its General Development Plan for the county which will have relevance to Deale. In addition, future issues may arise relating to the 2005 Bill passed through the County Council that allows commercial fishermen to store fishing gear in their yards. Such issues relating to commercial fishing gear and private rights may become more important as tourism expands and property values rise.¹⁷

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¹⁶ Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

¹⁷ Pers comm., Beth Jones, Legislative Assistant, Anne Arundel Council, August 15, 2008, ph. (410) 222-1401.

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