

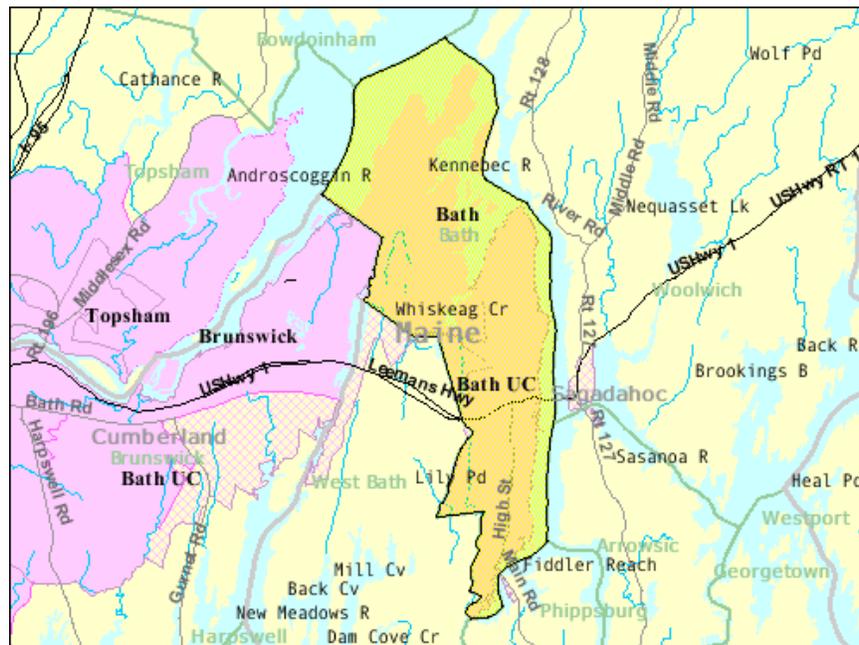
BATH, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The city of Bath (43.91 N, 69.82 W) is located at the junction of the Kennebec River and US Route 1 in Midcoast Maine. The city has nearly 32 miles of coastline and is approximately 12 miles from the Atlantic Ocean on the peninsula along the Kennebec River from north to south (USGS 2008). It is the service center for the island- and peninsula- towns of Georgetown, Arrowsic, Woolwich, Phippsburg, and West Bath.³



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

Historical/Background

Bath is well-known for its history of ship building. The cultural and social value of this heritage is apparent in its events and community organizations. The area around Bath was settled by Europeans beginning in 1607. Jonathan Philbrook and family pioneered the first ship building 1743 and many others followed in their footsteps. In 1884, Bath Iron Works was established at the site of an iron foundry in Bath. The city has depended primarily on the shipbuilding industry and its location along the railroad. In 1927, the Carlton Bridge was

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 Community Review comments, Jim Upham, Planning Director, Bath Planning Department, October 22, 2007

constructed to allow trains to pass over the Kennebec River. In 2000, the new Sagadahoc Bridge was open to Route 1 vehicle traffic and the Carlton Bridge now carries only railroad traffic. Bath Iron Works (BIW) prides itself in having built 82 ships for the U.S. Navy in WWII, between 1940 and 1945, which was more than the entire Japanese fleet. To preserve the shipbuilding heritage, the Maine Maritime Museum was founded 1971.

No information was found on the history of fishing in Bath other than the existence of a sardine processing plant (see *Current Economy*).

Demographics⁴

According to Census 2000 data⁵, the City of Bath had a total population of 9,266, down 5.4% from the reported population of 9,799 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.8% were males and 52.2% were females. The median age was 36.9 years and 71.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 16.3% was 62 or older.

Bath's age structure (Figure 1) was different than other small coastal cities in Maine, such as Rockland, in that its age groups between 0 and 59 were relatively similar percentages of the population. Age groups with the highest population are those within the ages of 0-49 years. In these age groups, the sex ratio is nearly 1:1.

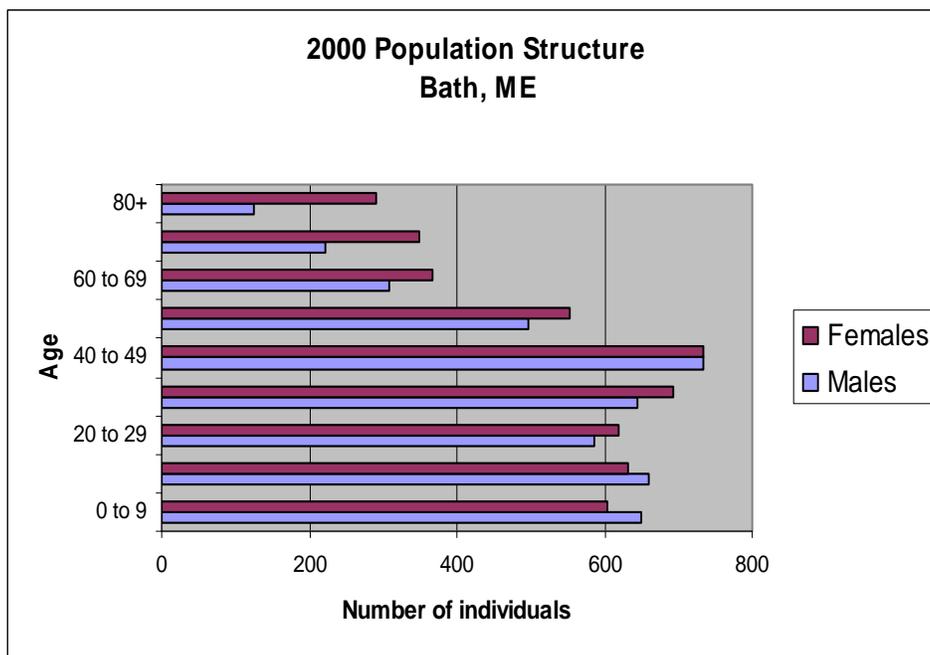


Figure 1. Bath's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (94.9%), 1.6% residents black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.6% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 1.8% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents

⁴ 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.

⁵ These and all census data, unless otherwise referenced, can be found at U.S. Census: American Factfinder 2000 <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>; census data used are for Bath city (cited Jul 2007)

linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (21.4%), Irish (14.5%), French (12.7%), and German (10.1%). With regard to region of birth, 58.1% of residents were born in Maine, 37.1% were born in a different state and 3.6% were born outside the US (including 1.7% who were not U.S. citizens).

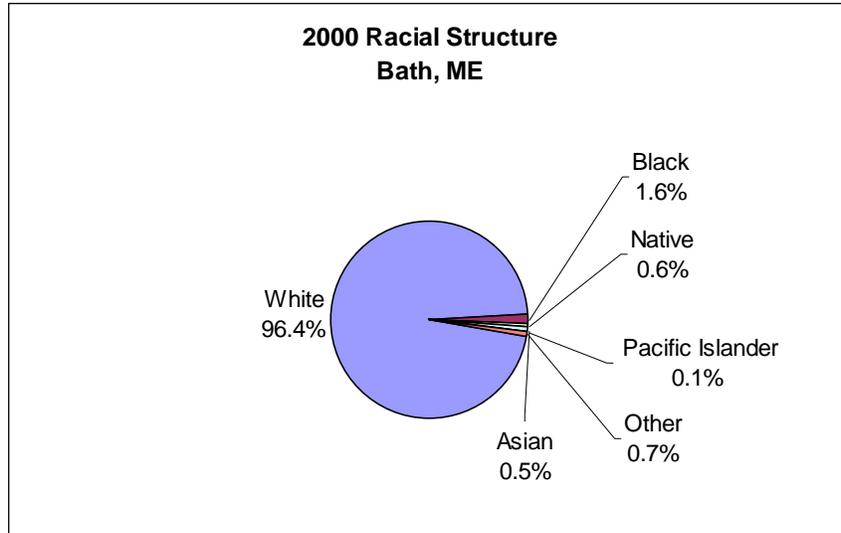


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

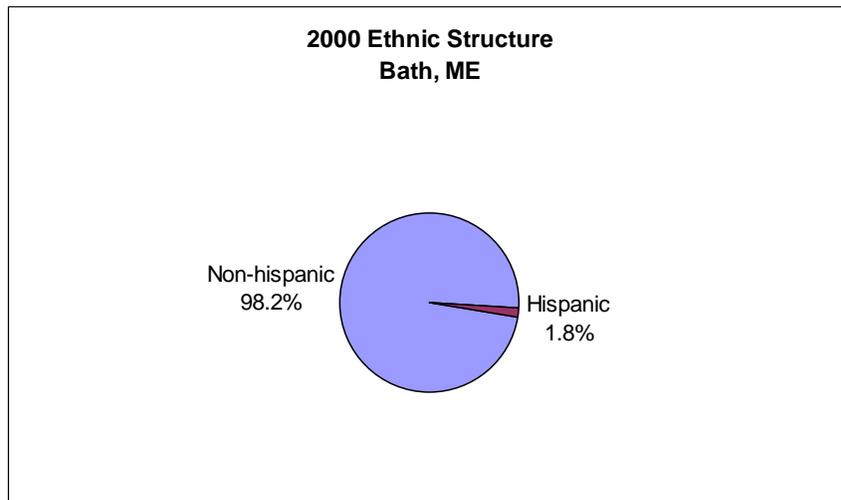


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 95.5% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 4.5% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.0% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 88.2% were high school graduates or higher and 22.4% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 3.6% did not reach ninth grade, 8.1% attended some high school but did not graduate, 37.3% completed high school, 20.6% had some college with no degree, 7.9% received an associate’s degree, 14% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 8.4% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the U.S. Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations in Sagadahoc County was Baptist with 7 congregations and 989 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (3 with 464 adherents), Catholic (3 with 2,612 adherents), Church of the Nazarene/Evangelical (5 with 183 adherents) and United Methodist (3 with 531 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 23.8% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

While most Maine fishing communities have fully developed waterfronts, Bath has a half mile of undeveloped access sites directly adjacent to the downtown (City of Bath 2006). Many of these sites, however, have deteriorated piers that need substantial renovation. The city is currently reviewing these sites to determine whether to zone them residential (City of Bath 2006). While waterfront access is available, fishermen are still concerned about rising waterfront property values and the skyrocketing taxes associated with them (Moore 2003).

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).

The Stinson Cannery in Bath recently closed down due to a declining market for sardines, and the difficulty of securing labor (Hoey 2005). A developer had purchased the cannery with plans to convert it to condominiums, until a fire was set that destroyed the building (Kalish 2006). However, the landowner still wants to build condominiums. The City’s Comprehensive Plan and zoning call for the property to be “Marine Business.” The Planning Board has twice voted against the re-zoning to residential.⁶

Cultural attributes

Although there are no cultural festivities based on fishing in the city, Bath Heritage Days celebrates the city’s ship building heritage. The tourism shops are filled with fishing-based souvenirs, and restaurants offer fresh fish, lobster, and clam chowders similar to many small coastal towns in Maine that entertain tourists.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Bath does not have a current or historical economic bind to the harvest sector. Until recently, one of Stinson Seafood’s two sardine processing plants was located in Bath; the plant closed in 2005. Stinson Seafood is the only company in the United States still processing sardines, and “provide(d) an important market to independent New England fishermen” (Snowe 2004).

The majority of Bath residents are employed by the manufacturing, naval, and education, and service industries. The major employers of Bath include Bath Iron Works (BIW),

⁶ Community Review comments, Jim Upham, Planning Director, Bath Planning Department, October 22, 2007

Brunswick Naval Air Station, L.L. Bean, and Bowdoin College (200 years old). BIW is the largest employer in not only Bath, but all of Maine. BIW employed up to 12,000 people in 1990 but downsized to 8,500 by 1996. By 2007, employment had dropped to about 5,600.⁷ According to the City of Bath website, this company has enough Navy contracts to economically secure its future. L.L. Bean, a company that has been an employer in the area since 1917 and has been open 24 hours per day since 1951, is located in Freeport but it is relatively short commute from Bath (20 miles, approximately 30 minutes).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁸, 67.7% (4,898 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.1% were unemployed, 2.3% were in the Armed Forces, and 63.3% were employed.

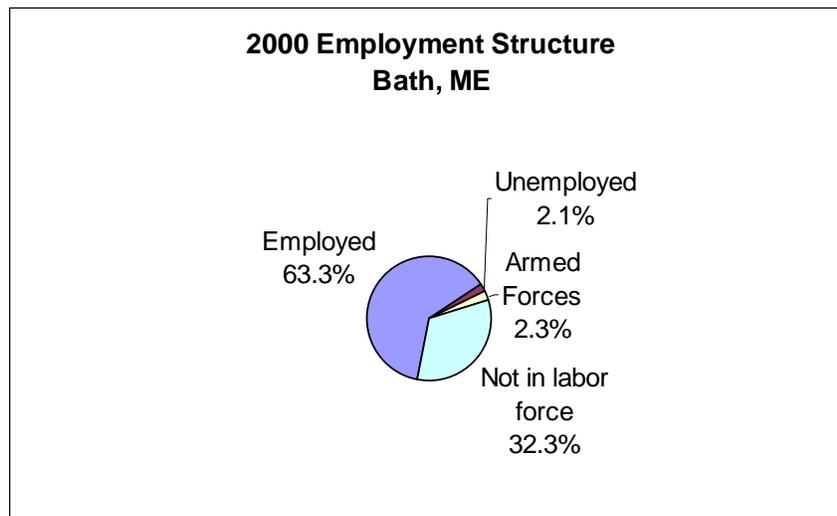


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 63 positions or 1.4% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 399 positions or 8.7% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (22.3%), manufacturing (19.8%) and retail trade (13.2%) were the primary industries.

The median household income was \$36,372 (up 21.7% from \$29,892 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and the median family income is \$45,830. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 36.0% more per year than females.

The average family in Bath consisted of 2.91 persons. With respect to poverty, 9.3% of families (up from 9.1% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 11.8% of individuals earned below the U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9 [US Census Bureau 2000b]). In 2000, 48.0% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year [US Census Bureau 2000a]

In 2000, Bath had a total of 4,383 housing units, of which 92.2% were occupied and 53.9% were detached one unit homes. Just less than fifty percent (48.5%) of these homes were

⁷ Community Review comments, Jim Upham, Planning Director, Bath Planning Department, October 22, 2007

⁸ 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.

built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 2.1% of housing units; 34.3% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$95,200. Of vacant housing units, 1.6% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 45.5% were renter occupied.

Government

Bath was incorporated as a town in 1781, and then became a city in 1847. It operates under a city charter, as all cities must do in Maine. The charter is parallel to that of a constitution, composed of rules for governing the city. The city government is a Council-Manager plan, with the city council members responsible for policy development. A City Manager resides over the budget, while a nine-member School Board controls the education policy (City of Bath 2006).

Fishery involvement in government

The city of Bath has a Harbormaster and an assistant Harbormaster (Maine Harbors 2007). The Harbormaster is responsible for Harbor management from Merrymeeting Bay to Popham Beach and will respond anywhere in the Kennebec River area if needed (City of Bath 2006).

Institutional

Fishing associations

Independent Fishermen Investing in Sustainable Harvesting (IFISH)⁹, established in 2002 (Commercial Fisheries News 2003) and located in Bath, is part of the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA). NAMA is an institution that facilitates collaboration between many community-based organizations located around the Gulf of Maine. It serves to “to restore and enhance an enduring Northwest Atlantic marine system, which supports a healthy diversity and abundance of marine life and human uses, through a community-based, self-organizing and self-governing institution” (NAMA 2006). IFISH members include residents of Bath, Sebasco Harbor, and other nearby Midcoast Maine towns.

The [Maine Lobstermen’s Association](#) 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.

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

⁹ IFISH contact number: 207.443.4466

fisheries in six towns (Maine DMR 2005). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007.

Other fishing related organizations

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

Although not an open ocean-front community, Bath is situated on the Kennebec River, directly off Route 1 and along the Sagadahoc Bridge. Bath is located 36 miles by land from Portland and 136 miles from Boston.

Although no airports exist in Bath, there are several options to gain access by nearby facilities. Wiscasset Airport, which provides service for small jet, is 10 minutes from Bath. The Portland Jetport is 35 minutes from Bath, which gives access to the rest of the country. Both Augusta and Auburn have small airports within 45 minutes (MapQuest 2007). [Concord Trailways](#) provides service into and out of the city of Bath.

The following port facilities provide access to the waterfront in Bath: the Maine Maritime Museum, the Bath Iron Works, the City of Bath public pier, the Long Reach piers, and Stinson's Seafood Company (City of Bath 2007). Bath has two launch facilities for boaters. One is located in the North End on Bowery Street and the other is located in the South End on Washington Street approximately ½ mile south of the Maine Maritime Museum. The city also maintains a public waterfront dock capable of handling multiple vessels at a time and has various rules including tie up limits, overnight stipulations, and seasonal hours (City of Bath 2007).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹⁰

Commercial

Currently there are a total of 136 moorings, berthings, slips, and tie ups for commercial and recreational fishermen, of which 11% are used by commercial fishermen in Bath. Bath has eight commercial private and public waterfront facilities, of which one is dedicated to commercial fishing use. According to a 2002 report, commercial fishing access is perceived as a problem, and both issues of increasing taxes and the decline in the commercial fishing industry

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.

are reported as current threats to the commercial fishing access (Sheehan and Copperthwaite 2002).

Lobster and herring had the highest value of landed species out of federally managed groups between 1997 and 2006. The value of lobster landings in 2006 was more than three times the average value of lobster landings for 1997-2006; there were no landings of herring in 2006 (see Table 1.). The numbers of vessels home ported in Bath saw a significant decrease during this time period, from seven in 1997 down to zero in 2005, and back to three in 2006. The number of vessels with owners living in Bath declined over this same time period (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Herring	2
Other ¹¹	3
Largemesh Groundfish ¹²	4
Monkfish	5

(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 Year¹³

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	7	13
1998	7	6
1999	7	9
2000	5	6
2001	5	9
2002	3	7
2003	2	6
2004	1	6
2005	0	5
2006	3	5

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport
Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁴)

¹¹ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group.

¹² Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, witch flounder, yellowtail flounder, am. plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

Recreational

Bath appears to have only one recreational fishing company, [Obsession Sportsfishing charters](#).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

A new study, "Tracking Commercial Fishing Access," produced by Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI) for the State Planning Office's Coastal Program, suggests that the gap between the market value of working waterfronts and what can be financed by cooperatives and municipalities is likely to grow. The study indicates that midcoast Maine has the highest degree of vulnerability to waterfront access loss. Development pressure, competition with tourism and recreation, and rising property values (an average of 58% coast wide between 2000 and 2004) are listed as the top causes of working waterfront loss.

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