

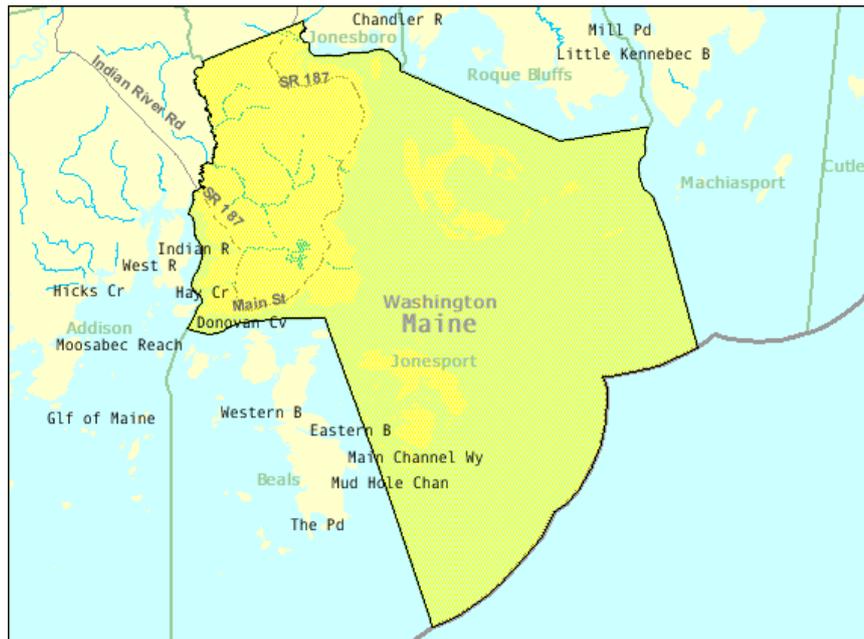
JONESPORT, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The town of Jonesport, Maine (44.33°N, 67.30°W) is located in Washington County on the open Atlantic Ocean. West Jonesport is connected to Beals Island by a bridge and the city is situated about 74 miles from Bar Harbor, ME. Jonesport is a peninsula jutting six miles out into the ocean and has a total area of 100mi², of which 72mi² (72%) is water (State of Maine 2004).



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

Historical/Background

Jonesport, like Beals Island across Moosabec Reach, is a fishing town. The shores are lined with docks piled with lobster gear, and lobster boats are moored in the coves (Maine Coast Guide 2002). In Jonesport and Beals Island, 50-75% of the population depends directly on fishing and, as in many other Downeast Maine communities, there is relatively little non-fishing related employment. There were three sardine canneries in Jonesport in the past. Today, lobster fishing is the dominant fishery, but community members point out that their industry has a history of fishing a diverse array of species. The only income apart from fishing-related business is seasonal tourism. “The survival of the entire community depends on access to sustainable resources” (Brewer 2005).

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.”

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, Jonesport had a total population of 1,408, down 7.6% from the reported population in 1990 (US Census 1990). Of this 2000 total, 52.3% were female and 47.7% were male. The median age was 42.7 years and 74.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 25.5% was 62 or older.

Jonesport's age structure (Figure 1) shows the highest number of residents between the ages of 40-59 years old. Jonesport displays the trend seen in many fishing communities with a decline in the 20-29 age group, indicating young people who may be leaving the community after high school. Among the 10-19 years and the 30-39 years age groups the number of young females is dominant, indicating that the trend toward leaving is strongest among young men.

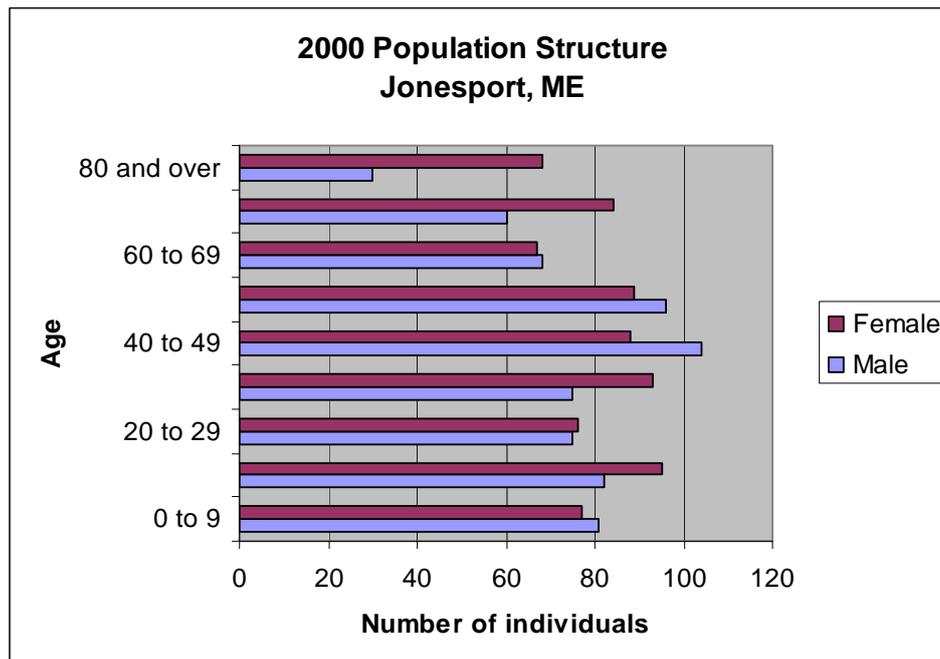


Figure 1. Jonesport's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (97.8%), with 0.3% of residents black or African American, 0.7% Native American, 0.1% Asian, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.4% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (28%), Irish (12.9%), French (7.1%) and Scottish (5.6%). With regard to region of birth, 77.7% were born in Maine, 20.9% were born in a different state and 0.9% were born outside of the U.S. (including 0.1% who were not United States citizens).

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.

⁴These and all census data, unless otherwise referenced, can be found at <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>; census data used are for Jonesport town, Washington County (accessed June 20, 2007)

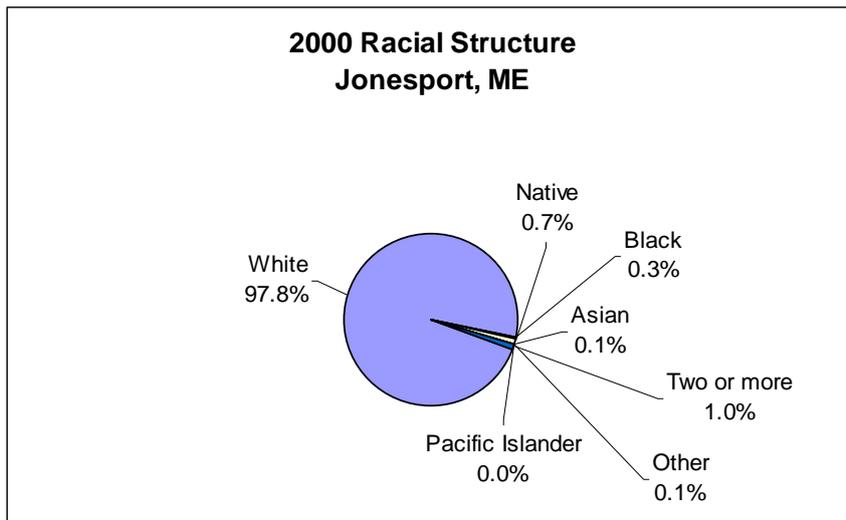


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

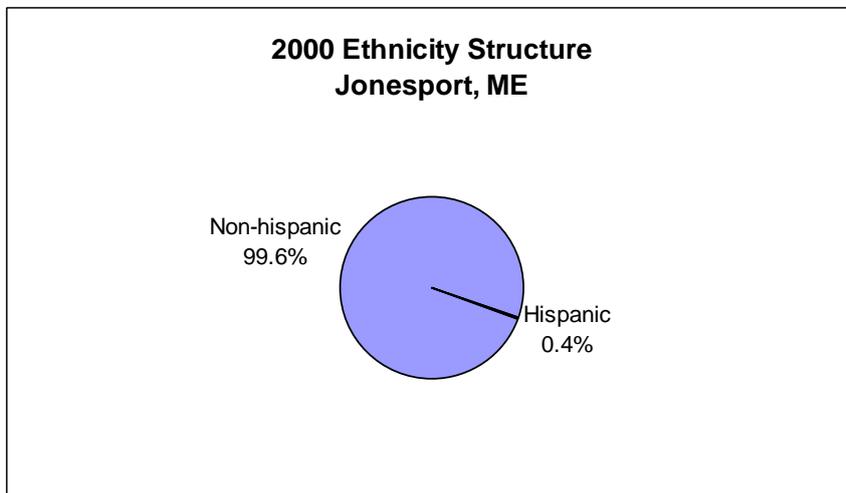


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 97.8% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 2.2% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.2% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 77.4% were high school graduates or higher and 14.6% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 11% did not reach ninth grade, 11.6% attended some high school but did not graduate, 40.8% completed high school, 19% had some college with no degree, 3.1% received an associate’s degree, 9.7% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 4.9% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious 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 and adherents in Washington County was Catholic with 12 congregations and 4,155 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the United Methodist Church (15 with 1,301 adherents), and the United Church of Christ (9 with 577 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 3.2% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

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

The World's Fastest Lobster Boat Race takes place annually in Jonesport in July (Maine Coast Guide 2002). Cultural attributes of this community also include the lobster cooperative described in the section below.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

The economy of Jonesport is dominated by commercial fishing. The town has several bait dealers and seafood wholesalers, including Smith's Lobster, O.W Look and Son, Look's Live Lobster (Bangor Metro Guide 2007), and Moosabec Mussels, Inc. (Maine DMR 2005). Jonesport also has a lobster fisherman's cooperative which includes Beals fishermen as well.

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁵, 52% (1,143 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 3.5% were unemployed, 1.0% were in the Armed Forces, and 47.5% were employed.

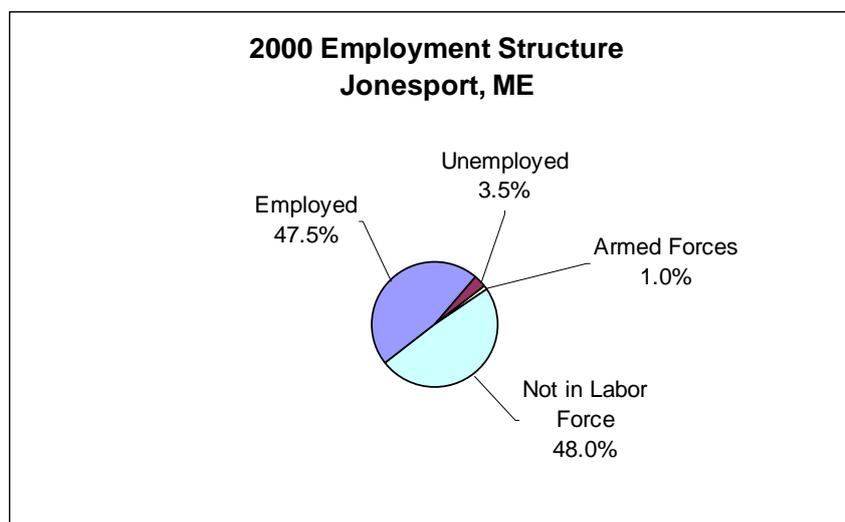


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 134 positions or 24.7% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 137 positions or 25.2% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (24.1%), retail trade (12.7%), and public administration (5.7%) were the primary industries.

⁵ 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 Jonesport was \$30,474 (up 21.5% from \$25,074 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]); Patrice McCarron of the Maine Lobstermen's Association noted that this increase likely corresponds to the doubling of lobster landings in Maine in the 1990s⁶) and median per capita income was \$14,135. For full-time year round workers, men made approximately 30.5% more per year than females.

The average family in Jonesport consisted of 2.79 persons. With respect to poverty, 14.7% of families (down from 41.2% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 19.8% of individuals earned 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 2000a). In 2000, 58.4% of families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Jonesport had a total of 877 housing units of which 68.1% were occupied and 82.5% were detached one unit homes. Close to one-half (45.6%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, and vans accounted for 9.3% of the total housing units; 89.1% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$75,600. Of vacant housing units, 20.4% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, while of occupied units 18.3% were renter occupied.

Government

Jonesport's local government is comprised of a Chairperson, and three Selectmen. It was incorporated as a town in 1832 (State of Maine 2004).

Fishery involvement in government

Information on fishery involvement in government is unavailable through secondary data collection. There does not appear to be a Harbormaster in Jonesport.

Institutional

Fishing associations

The [Maine Lobstermen's Association](#) (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. The Downeast Lobstermen's Association located in Deer Isle, ME also services lobstermen in Jonesport (Stevenson 2005).

Fishing assistance centers

Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI) in Maine is a private, non-profit Community Development Corporation (CDC) and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) with roots in the civil rights movement. Founded in 1977, the organization provides capital and support in the development of job-creating small businesses, natural resources industries, community facilities, and affordable housing (CEI 2005). Also, the Sunrise County Economic Council, located in Machias, has worked with fishermen in Jonesport to develop a grant program to help the small home-based crab pickers. This Council is also available to provide assistance to other sectors of the fishing industry in Downeast, Maine.⁷

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,

⁶ Profile review comment, Patrice McCarron, Executive Director, Maine Lobstermen's Association, 21 Western Ave., Suite 1, Kennebunk, ME 04043, October 2, 2007

⁷ Personal communication, Jennifer Brewer, University of Maine (current address unknown), October 2007

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

Other fishing related institutions

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

Jonesport is situated about 121 miles from Rockland and 160 miles from Augusta, ME and juts out as a peninsula on the Atlantic Ocean in what is referred to as Downeast Maine. Jonesport is accessible via Maine's Route 187, approximately 12 miles south of U.S. Route 1. The closest airports in the area are the Hancock County Bar Harbor airport (BHB) located about 75 miles west of Jonesport in Bar Harbor, Maine and the Bangor International airport (BGR) located approximately 90 miles west of Jonesport in Bangor, Maine (SCEC 2005).

Jonesport has a harbor in Sawyer Cove behind a 1,200-foot steel and a stone breakwater that extends across the mouth from the east. The town marina consists of the recently rebuilt and enlarged town wharf and floats and a launching ramp and parking. The first, southernmost float is for commercial vessels only. The other float, to the north, is for the limited docking of recreational boats. Despite the longer wharf, each float has only about 3 feet of depth at low tide. Jonesport Shipyard is located east of the town on floats near the head of the harbor. Boats up to 17 tons or 45 feet can be hauled and repaired there, and showers, laundry, and ice are provided. Jonesport Shipyard offers boat services, ranging from hauling and launching to storage, rentals and yacht joinery. Look Lobster's floats and buildings are opposite the west end of the breakwater. Gas is available at the floats, and diesel is available halfway up the dock. Look's also sells ice and frozen crabmeat (Maine Coast Guide 2002).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁸

Commercial

As with Beals Island, commercial fishing has dominated the past and current economy of Jonesport. Residents of Jonesport have been able to rely on fishing because they have had

⁸ 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.

“flexible switching strategies [that] allow small and medium sized boats in particular to adjust their individual business plans to changing ecological and socioeconomic circumstances with relative ease” (Brewer 2005). With increased restrictions on gear, permits, and Days At Sea (DAS), in addition to declining fish populations, fishermen now depend primarily on lobster. The town has wooden boatbuilding companies (Beal 2005) and seafood dealers such as Carver Shellfish and Old Salt Seafood (Maine DMR 2005).

In the past, residents of Jonesport Island have fished for the following: lobster, groundfish, urchins, shrimp, quahogs, worms, clams, mussels, winkles, herring and scallops. Lobster is by far the most valuable species, with landings values for federally managed species considerably higher in 2006 than the average value for 1997-2006 (Table 1). Species which also brought considerable value to Jonesport in 2006 were; surf clams and ocean quahogs, “other”, and scallops. Overall the value of both landings in Jonesport and of fish landed by vessels listing Jonesport as their home port had increased in the 1997-2006 period, as had the number of vessels using Jonesport as their home port, and the number of vessels registered to residents (Table 2). The overall level of landings in Jonesport increased steadily each year.

From the 1960s to the early 1990s Beals and other Downeast harbors relied on groundfish fishing. As of 2004 no Beals Island residents had groundfish permits, and only one Jonesport resident does. According to information collected by Jennifer Brewer in the Community Panels Project, “many [residents] lost access to the groundfish when regulations required a ‘history’ of groundfishing in order to obtain a permit” (Brewer 2004). It should be noted, however, that rules on what could be used to document history were quite broad and included, for instance, grocery and fuel receipts plus a logbook entry to document a trip, along with NMFS weigh out reports or dealer reports such as those generated by the Portland Fish Exchange to document species caught (NMFS Northeast Regional Office).

Beals-Jonesport Co-op Inc. in Jonesport is a lobster fisherman's co-op, both wholesale and retail, handling 500,000 to 800,000 pounds of lobster and 200,000-400,000 of live crabs a year. During the winter months scallops are sold, allowing sea urchin fishermen to use the facility at this time. The co-op sells also bait, marine supplies, fuel and gas and wholesale picked crabmeat (Maine Department of Agriculture 2003).

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	2
Other⁹	3
Scallop	4
Largemesh Groundfish¹⁰	5
Monkfish	6

(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.)

⁹ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group.

¹⁰ Largemesh Groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

Vessels by Year¹¹

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	50	32
1998	50	29
1999	54	30
2000	59	29
2001	61	33
2002	67	40
2003	69	44
2004	70	45
2005	70	47
2006	75	51

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹²)

Recreational

Information on recreational fishing in Jonesport is unavailable through secondary data collection. However, on the nearby Machias and other islands, puffin birds can be seen in the summer months. Norton of Jonesport operates boat tours to view the birds and has had family ties to the area since 1760 (Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

According to Patrice McCarron of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, the outlook for the future of lobstering in Jonesport is good.¹³

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¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

¹³ Profile review comment, Patrice McCarron, Executive Director, Maine Lobstermen's Association, 21 Western Ave., Suite 1, Kennebunk, ME 04043, October 2, 2007

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