

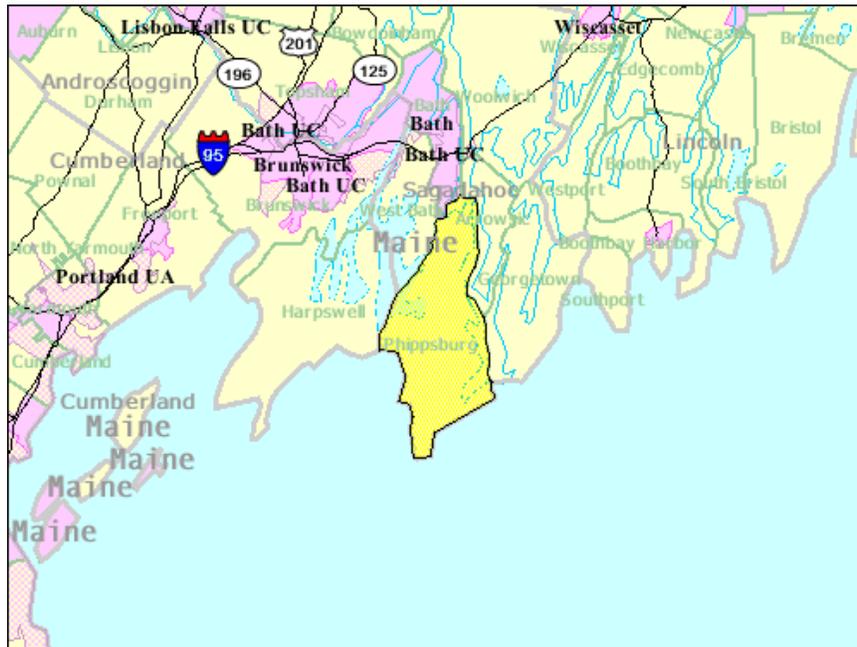
# SEBASCO (PHIPPSBURG), ME<sup>1</sup>

## Community Profile<sup>2</sup>

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

Sebasco (43.78° N and 69.85° W) is a small village within the town of Phippsburg – a subdivision of Sagadahoc County.<sup>3</sup> Sebasco was formerly known as “Sebasco Estates”, after the Sebasco Harbor Resort. The town of Phippsburg also includes the villages of Phippsburg, Parker Head, Popham, West Point, Sebasco, Winnegance, the Center, Small Point, Meadowbrook and Ashdale.<sup>4</sup>



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

#### Historical/Background

Popham, located in the town of Phippsburg, contains the site of the earliest English colony in New England. Eighty percent of Phippsburg is forested and there are about 9,000

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov).”

<sup>3</sup> According to the Phippsburg Postmaster, Sebasco Estates is primarily a PO box address, with people having Sebasco Estates zip codes living side by side with those having Phippsburg zip codes. Few data are available for Sebasco Estates alone, so Phippsburg will be the primary referent, with additional Sebasco Estates specific data supplies as available.

<sup>4</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

acres of parcels, more than 10 acres in forest (Town of Phippsburg 2006). Colonists first occupied the peninsula on the eastern side in 1607 (Varney 1886). At Small Point Harbor, on the south-west side of the town, is the site of a fishing settlement established in 1716. A fort was erected in the settlement to protect the settlers. A sloop named “Pejepscot” transported lumber and fish to Boston and returned with merchandise and settlers from there (Varney 1886). The settlement was destroyed during Lovewell’s War (1722-1725) (State of New Hampshire 2007). In 1734 Col. Arthur Noble built a strong garrison on the north side of the peninsula near Fiddler’s Reach and by 1737 re-settlement of the area began. Phippsburg was then an annex of Georgetown, but on January 25, 1814 Phippsburg was separated from Georgetown and incorporated under the name “Phipsburgh”, which was later changed to “Phippsburg” (Varney 1886).

Naturally, Phippsburg’s location on a peninsula has made the marine industry a key to Phippsburg economy. From the time of the original settlement to present day, fishing has been a mainstay of Phippsburg’s and is vital to the economy of the community today (Town of Phippsburg 2006).

Additionally, ice was a thriving business around 1876. Ice was cut from the ponds, packed in sawdust and hauled to the docks by workhorses and sleds. It was then transported by ship to cities along the Atlantic seaboard to be used in iceboxes (Sebasco Harbor Resort 2008). Phippsburg became known for its shipbuilding but after the Civil War, shipbuilding went into decline.

The decline in Maine wooden shipbuilding industries is accompanied by increased production of steel steamers at Bath after 1895. The last full rigged ship was built in Phippsburg in 1893 (Sebasco Harbor Resort 2008). During the Civil War, construction of Fort Popham began but was abandoned in 1869. During this time Phippsburg was busy with steamships and schooners hauling passengers and cargo up the Kennebec. Sebasco was once a stopping point for these steamships (Sebasco Harbor Resort 2008).

Because of its location on a peninsula and proximity to large cities such as Boston, tourism has played, and continues to play, a major role in Phippsburg’s economy. For decades, the area has been home to a number of large hotels catering to summer vacationers from the larger northeastern cities (Town of Phippsburg 2006).

## **Demographics<sup>5</sup>**

According to Census 2000 data<sup>6</sup>, Phippsburg had a total population of 2,106, up 16.0% from the reported population of 1,815 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 51.4% were males and 48.6% were females. The median age was 42.8 years and 75.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 18.1% of the population was 62 or older.

The age structure of Phippsburg (Figure 1) shows a severe drop in the ages of 20-29 year old residents, but almost doubles in the 40-49 age group. This may indicate an out-migration after high school followed by a return home in the middle years.

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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 Phippsburg town; (accessed August 3, 2007)

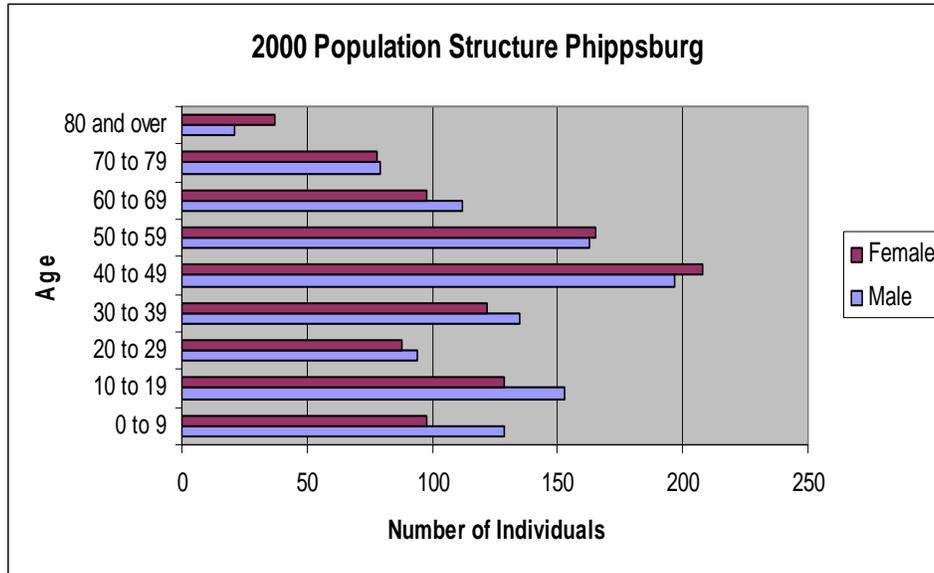


Figure 1. Phippsburg's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (98.5%), with 0.3% black or African American, 0.2% Asian, 0.2% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.6% of the population identified themselves as Hispanics/Latinos (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (28.2%), Irish (11.7%), French (10.3%), German (9.5%), and Italian (2.2%). With regard to region of birth, 66.7% were born in Maine, 30.8% were born in a different state, and 1.9% were born outside of the United States (including 0.8% were not US citizens).

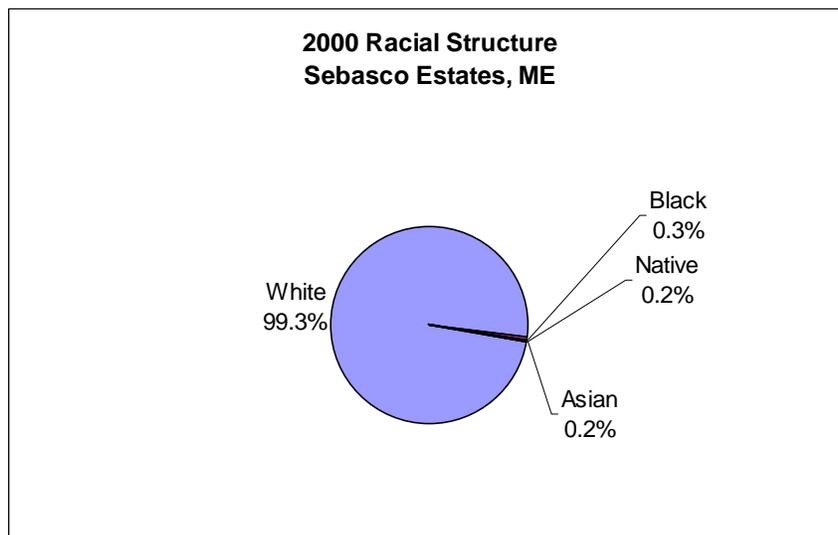


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

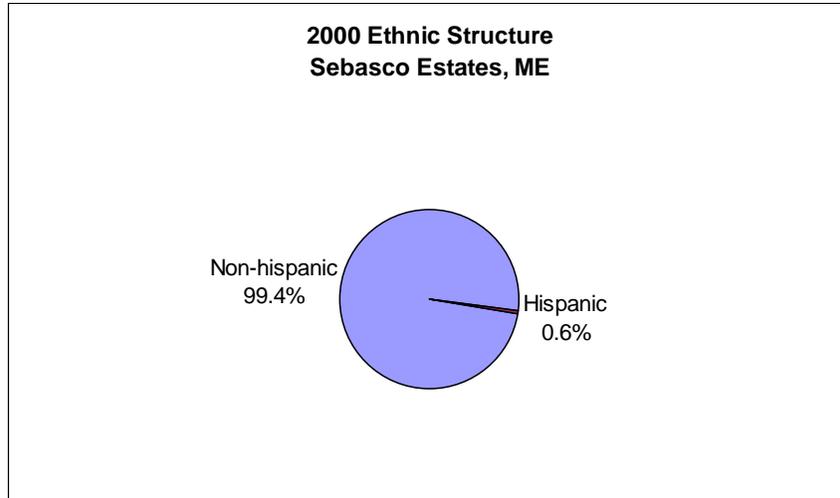


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 97.5% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 2.5% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.4% of the population who spoke English less than “very well,” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 83.9% were high school graduates or higher and 23.9% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 5.4% did not reach ninth grade, 10.6% attended some high school but did not graduate, 35.9% completed high school, 15% had some college with no degree, 9.2% received an associate’s degree, 15.5% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 8.4% received a graduate or professional degree.

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

### **Issues/Processes**

Not unlike most small Maine fishing communities, Phippsburg’s commercial fishermen lack adequate waterfront access. This is largely due to the desirability of waterfront property which has driven town land values up, forcing the valuation (and resulting taxes) beyond the reach of many long time residents and young families (Town Phippsburg 2006). Proctor Wells, Chair Selectmen and commercial fisherman, noted in 2003 that he has “[s]een taxes on commercial waterfront held by long-time, family-based businesses go up as much as 300 percent in some areas” (MCP 2003). He also stated that rising sales figures prompt increased property valuations, creating an onerous tax burden for holders of waterfront property who have low or moderate incomes. The problem, Proctor says, is that “[I] have to use sales ratios as the backbone for property tax assessments because the State requires that.” Yet that system, he says, creates “a vicious circle” that drives out long-time waterfront users who cannot afford increased taxes. “We’re in a terrible tailspin,” Wells concludes. Phippsburg, for example, now has 93 percent of its shorefront owned by non-residents (MCP 2003). Inadequate parking is also an issue that not only confronts commercial fishermen but also the large tourism and recreational boating interests in the town (Town of Phippsburg 2006). Though rising taxes for waterfront

property have been a concern, the State of Maine has provided tax relief for those owning and utilizing the working waterfront (Hendrix 2005).<sup>7</sup>

In 2005 at the Phippsburg town meeting, residents voted overwhelmingly in favor of doubling the size of the dock and protecting it for future use by commercial and recreational fishermen. The town dock in Sebasco, known as Acre Lot Wharf, will now be able to accommodate six boats at one time and ensures that fishermen will be able to continue to use the dock into the future in the face of escalating waterfront property costs (Hendrix 2005). The town also maintains the State wharf located next to Fort Popham and makes it available to local commercial fishermen for loading/offloading catch and gear.<sup>8</sup>

Mooring space is also an issue as during the summer months, local harbors are often filled to capacity with commercial and recreational watercraft. The Harbor Commission which manages the local harbors in conjunction with the Harbormaster, will need to set up waiting lists. Commercial vessels are not charged mooring fees in the town of Phippsburg. Also offloading and unloading space for catch and gear is limited as well as gear storage space. Most individuals store gear at their homes. The Maine Coast Heritage Trust allows fishermen in the Sebasco region to use the island of Malaga as it has traditionally been used to store traps during the winter months.

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**

There is little cultural recognition of the fishing industry in Phippsburg. However, the historic Clipper building is used for summer theater productions, as well as meeting space and social functions including bingo, lobster bakes and rehearsal dinners (Sebasco Harbor Resort 2008). In 2007, like Jamestown, VA, Phippsburg also celebrated its 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.<sup>9</sup>

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Current Economy**

Sebasco Harbor Resort is the largest employer in the area, with 185 employees at the peak of their season in the summer.<sup>10</sup>

According to the U.S. Census 2000<sup>11</sup>, 66.3% (1,119 individuals) of the total population

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<sup>7</sup> Community Review comments, Rick Albertson, Independent Fishermen Investing in Sustainable Harvesting, 155 Ripleys Landing Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562, October 9, 2007

<sup>8</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

<sup>9</sup> Community Review comments, Rick Albertson, Independent Fishermen Investing in Sustainable Harvesting, 155 Ripleys Landing Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562, October 9, 2007

<sup>10</sup> Kathleen Hobson, Human Resources – Sebasco Harbor Resort. Personal communication, 6/27/05

<sup>11</sup> 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.

16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 2.2% were unemployed, 1.0% were in the Armed Forces, and 63.0% were employed.

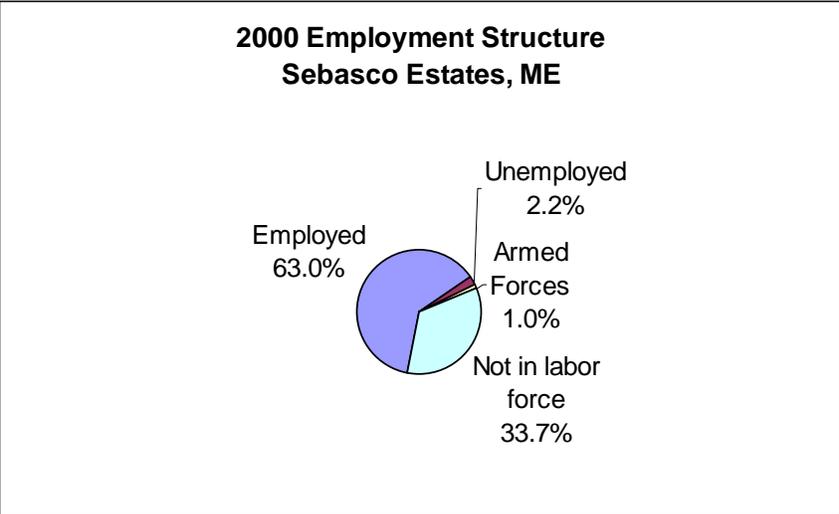


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 80 positions or 7.5% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 183 positions or 17.2% of jobs. Manufacturing (18.2%), educational, health and social services (18.1%), retail trade (13.5%), and entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (8.8%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Phippsburg was \$46,739 (up 51.6% from \$30,822 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$22,205. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 20.9% more per year than females.

The average family in Phippsburg consisted of 2.82 persons. With respect to poverty, 5.8% of families (down from 17.5% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 9.2% 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 2000a). In 2000, 26.5% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Phippsburg had a total of 1,552 housing units of which 55.3% were occupied and 85.7% were detached one unit homes. Just over one quarter (27.3%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes and boats accounted for 11.4% of housing units; 99.1% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$131,100. Of vacant housing units, 42.1% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 13.6% were renter occupied.

**Government**

Phippsburg is governed by a Board of Selectmen, consisting of three selectmen serving three-year terms. One is elected each year to stagger the terms. The Town Administrator is the representative for the Board of Selectmen (Town of Phippsburg, no date).

### *Fishery involvement in government*

Evidenced by the amount of attention the town's recent Comprehensive Plan affords commercial fishermen, Phippsburg boasts a significant amount of local government attention to the commercial fishing industry. The town has a Town Landing Committee which includes at least two commercial fishermen. The Committee is advisory to the Selectmen who promulgate rules. Phippsburg also has a Harbor Commission and Shellfish Committee that all take an active part in commercial fishing matters. One of Phippsburg's three selectman is a commercial lobsterman and Mike Young, the Town Administrator, created and maintains the website for the [Maine's Fishermen's Forum](#), while his wife is the coordinator for the Fishermen's Forum held annually in Rockland, ME.<sup>12</sup>

The town has been supportive of rebuilding local alewife runs. Many lobstermen use these runs to secure bait in the spring. The town contains two sites, one of which is the Winnegance alewife run, built by the three towns bordering the Winnegance Lake (Phippsburg, Bath, and West Bath). The Center Pond alewife run is managed by the Center Pond alewife committee and is controlled by the Town of Phippsburg.<sup>13</sup>

The Shellfish Commission, mandated by state law, is a very active component of the local government. This group is involved with resource management and outreach to state and federal government agencies concerned with shellfish oversight.<sup>14</sup> Phippsburg also has a harbor master.

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

The Phippsburg Sportsman's Club makes its facility available for use by many organizations and recreational groups within and outside the town of Phippsburg. They routinely sponsor local fishing derbies and recreational opportunities within the town for residents and non-residents.<sup>15</sup>

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.

### *Fishing assistance centers*

There are currently no fishing assistance centers in Phippsburg. However, the formation of a fishermen's Co-op is an idea that is being discussed by town leaders and the fishing industry. Similarly, the formation of a Commercial Fisheries Commission by town Selectmen has also been suggested under the Comprehensive Plan (Town of Phippsburg 2006). There is an

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<sup>12</sup> Personal communication (phone), Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, August 2006

<sup>13</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

<sup>14</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

<sup>15</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

assistance center in Bath, ME which serves commercial fishermen in the area. The center is geared mainly towards retraining and job placement.<sup>16</sup>

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

#### *Other fishing related organizations*

Phippsburg appears to rely on the Maine Lobstermen's Association and the Island Institute for support (Town of Phippsburg 2006). Friends of the Basin, New Meadows Watershed Project, and Kennebec River Initiative are all non-governmental organizations who work towards restoring the quality of water and the resources of the marine environment. All work to some degree with the local Shellfish Commission in protecting water quality.<sup>17</sup>

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 (Maine Fishermen's Forum 2007).

#### **Physical**

Phippsburg has 16 miles of state highways and 33.3 miles of town roads. There is no public transportation system; however, the Comprehensive Plan suggests developing access to regional public transportation systems (Town of Phippsburg 2006). Sebasco lies 12 miles from Bath and 45 miles from Portland (MapQuest 2006).

West Point and Sebasco have the greatest number of commercial, water-dependent users, followed to a lesser degree by Small Point Harbor and Popham Harbor. The town itself controls a limited amount of waterfront property with shore access suitable for marine related business. Sebasco Harbor is the largest harbor in Phippsburg. The north side of the harbor is used extensively by commercial fishermen and has 11 commercial piers and numerous small private piers. There is one commercial boat yard with marine railway/mobile boatlift and a commercial bait business. Small Point Harbor has a large number of commercial vessels year round. Mooring space is full during the summer-season. There is a fish pier and 15 boat marina at Hermit Island and a fishermen's cooperative pier at Small Point. West Point Harbor has seven commercial/private fish piers and one service pier for gas/diesel fuel. The mooring area is generally full during the most active recreational boating and commercial fishing season (Town of Phippsburg 2006).

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<sup>16</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

<sup>17</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

## INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>18</sup>

### Commercial

Lobster is the most important species economically to the town of Phippsburg. Soft-shelled clams are another important resource for the town, with many local individuals actively engaged as year round harvesters.<sup>19</sup>

Landings data are combined for Phippsburg and Sebasco Estates, and vessel data includes data from Phippsburg, Sebasco, and Sebasco Estates. The area where many landings occur is still referred to as “Sebasco Estates”. Many of these landings and vessels are likely interchangeable among these three community names. Lobster was the most important species landed for 1997-2006 in both Sebasco Estates and Phippsburg (see Table 1). There were more vessels home ported in Sebasco Estates than Phippsburg or Sebasco in all years; generally the combined number of home ported vessels declined from 1997-2006 (see Table 2). The number of vessels with owners living in Phippsburg, Sebasco, or Sebasco Estates did not show any considerable trend, increasing to 52 in 2003, and dropping to 45 in 2006. The number of vessel owners living in Sebasco, Sebasco Estates, or Phippsburg far exceeded the number of home ported vessels, meaning many vessel owners keep their vessels in another port.

### Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups in Sebasco Estates/Phippsburg

	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
<b>Lobster</b>	1
<b>Other<sup>20</sup></b>	2
<b>Largemesh Groundfish<sup>21</sup></b>	3
<b>Monkfish</b>	4
<b>Skate</b>	5
<b>Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish</b>	6
<b>Smallmesh Groundfish<sup>22</sup></b>	7
<b>Herring</b>	8
<b>Dogfish</b>	9

*(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.)*

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

<sup>20</sup> “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

<sup>21</sup> Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

<sup>22</sup> Smallmesh multi-species : red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

## Vessels by Year<sup>23</sup>

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006 for Phippsburg, Sebasco, and Sebasco Estates

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	35	47
1998	30	48
1999	30	50
2000	26	50
2001	24	49
2002	23	50
2003	24	52
2004	26	54
2005	20	49
2006	21	45

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence<sup>24</sup>)

## Recreational

Recreational fishing has become very popular in Maine. There are several businesses in Phippsburg that offer charter services, and many small boat launching facilities within the town that serve the recreational fleet. There is a state run facility in Fiddler's Reach, a town owned ramp on the New Meadows, as well as various private facilities, some of which are available for a small fee.<sup>25</sup> Phippsburg supports a large recreational fishing fleet. In fact, recreational shellfishing is encouraged by the town (Town of Phippsburg 2006). There are also some businesses that take tourists on fishing excursions (Maine DMR 2006).

## Subsistence

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

## FUTURE

State Representative Percy of Phippsburg proposed an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to provide property tax relief to owners of property used for commercial fishing and homestead land (Maine LIO 2005). The proposal was passed in 2006 and instituted in April 2007 for assessors. As of September 2007, there were no applications in the Town of Phippsburg. The town does not assess commercial piers and wharfs. Many people are hesitant to enroll in the program due to the huge withdrawal penalty.<sup>26</sup> Town Selectmen have suggested that the town Landing Committee investigate using SPO access grants, as well as acquire and develop new opportunities for access to salt water and for fishing gear storage on the coast. Selectmen also suggest using funds collected from boat registrations, mooring fees, and marine

<sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> 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.

<sup>25</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

<sup>26</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

related law violations for establishing a dedicated fund for the development of shoreland access and other marine related projects. The town is also trying to develop a program that would provide incentives for private landowners to allow access to the water over their property (Town of Phippsburg 2006).

According to the Phippsburg Comprehensive Plan, opinion surveys indicate that a majority of the respondents (resident and non-resident) want to preserve and support the commercial fishing activity in Phippsburg (Town of Phippsburg 2006). According to a Phippsburg town survey the majority of the fisheries license holders: Are satisfied with shellfish policies; Would like much tighter controls on pollution; Would like better access to clam flats; Feel supplies for fishing should be available locally - Bath and Brunswick are too far away; and Feel that small boat launch facilities are neither sufficient in numbers nor adequate in quality. The majority (85%) of Phippsburg residents want to encourage marine fishing. Additionally, fishermen wish the town would be more supportive of them and feel there is an urgent need to address waterfront property taxation (Town of Phippsburg 2006).

There is concern among many local fishermen over their futures in groundfishing. As many have lost their groundfish permits as stocks suffered and regulations were put in place, the concern exists that as species rebound, these fishermen may not have the opportunity to harvest groundfish in the future. Concerns are over the high price of permits and the lack of individual landings due to cut backs, which could limit their future allowance. In addition, most ports in Maine, including Phippsburg, have seen the consolidation of permits and boats into larger ports such as Portland, New Bedford, and Gloucester, MA.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Community Review comments, Mike Young, Phippsburg Town Administrator, 1042 Main Rd. Phippsburg, ME 04562, September 26, 2007

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