

# WARETOWN, NJ<sup>1</sup>

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

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

Waretown (39.79°N, 74.19°W) is located within Ocean Township, Ocean County, in the state of New Jersey. The CDP lies on the mainland (west) side of Barnegat Bay, across from the adjacent ends of Island Beach State Park and Barnegat Light (Barnegat Inlet). Waretown has a total land area of 0.9mi<sup>2</sup> (USGS 2008).



Map 1. Location of Waretown, NJ (US Census Bureau 2000a)

#### Historical/Background

Waretown is believed to have originated from the mill of Abraham Waier, an early settler and Rogerine (Quaker Baptist). The creation of the mill resulted from the exclusion of the Rogerines from Connecticut, enacted due to their hostile actions against the Puritan Sabbath laws of New England. The group found temporary refuge here in 1739, but eventually moved elsewhere. Abraham Waier built a mill in the location and remained. The village has undergone a series of name changes since its creation that included: Waier Creek/Waier Mills (1762), Wiretown (1802), Waretown (1809), Weartown (1828), Wiretown Branch (1839), Waretown Mill (1866), and Waretown P.O. (1872) (Ocean County Tourism nd).

Waretown's industry has also varied throughout its history. "From 1700 to 1900, Waretown was a shipbuilding center, but by the end of the 19th century the main industries had

<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)."

become lumbering, cutting pine and oak wood, and the making of charcoal for the New York market. As the timber sources were depleted, the residents turned to gathering swamp moss, which found a ready market among florists. When the moss supply was exhausted, they began picking cranberries and huckleberries. Until about 1920, oyster beds were plentiful, and for many years Waretown was a focal point for the clamming industry in Ocean County. Throughout most of this century, fishing and crabbing have been major activities, and in recent years charter boat fishing and pleasure boating have become increasingly popular with summer residents and weekend visitors” (Ocean County Library nd). Waretown is the major village of those incorporated into what is known as Ocean Township. In 1876, the land area from Waretown to Brookville (Millville prior to 1892), 7 miles west, was combined to form the Township. Today, Waretown exists as a CDP within Ocean Township, but the two are often referred to as the same place (Ocean County Library nd).

### Demographics<sup>3</sup>

According to Census 2000 data<sup>4</sup>, Waretown CDP had a total population of 1,582 up 21.9% from a reported population of 1,298 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 49.2% were males and 50.8% were females. The median age was 40.1 years and 74.5% of the population was 21 years or older while 19.2% was 62 or older.

The largest population segment in Waretown (see Figure 1) was from the ages of 30-39, followed by 40-49 and 50-59. There were also large numbers of children, indicating that Waretown had a large number of families. As is common in smaller fishing towns and cities, there is a dip in the ages 20-29. The older populations are considerably smaller; it is likely that either older, retired residents move out of Waretown, or that younger residents are migrating here for jobs in New York, surrounding areas, or within Waretown itself.

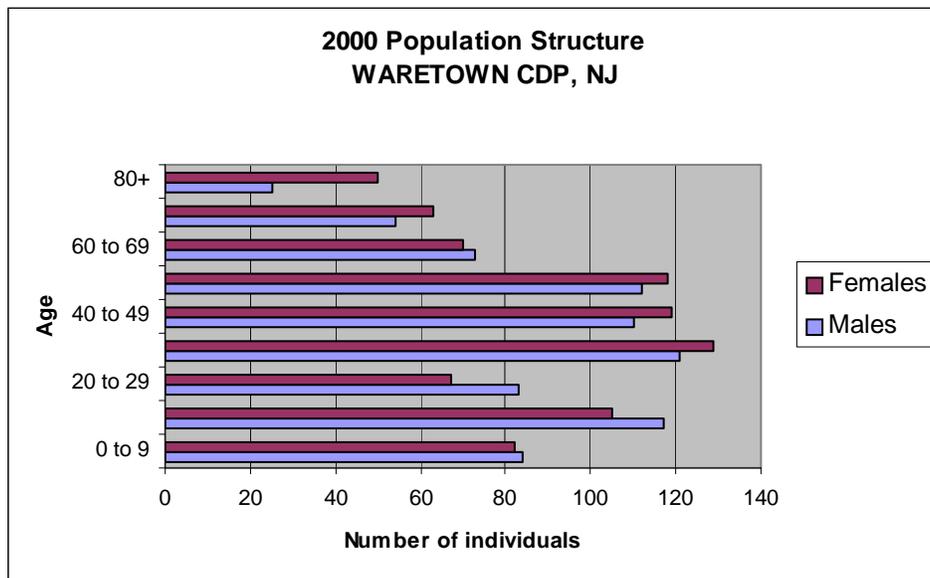


Figure 1. Waretown’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

<sup>3</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>4</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 Waretown CDP; (accessed July 13, 2007)

The majority of the population was white (97.4%), with 0.8% black or African American, 0.6% Asian, 0.8% Native American, 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 2.3% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (33.8%), German (18.8%), Italian (13.8%), Polish (12.7%), and English (8.9%). With regard to region of birth, 66.0% were born in New Jersey, 29.4% were born in a different state and 2.0% were born outside of the U.S. (all were United States citizens).

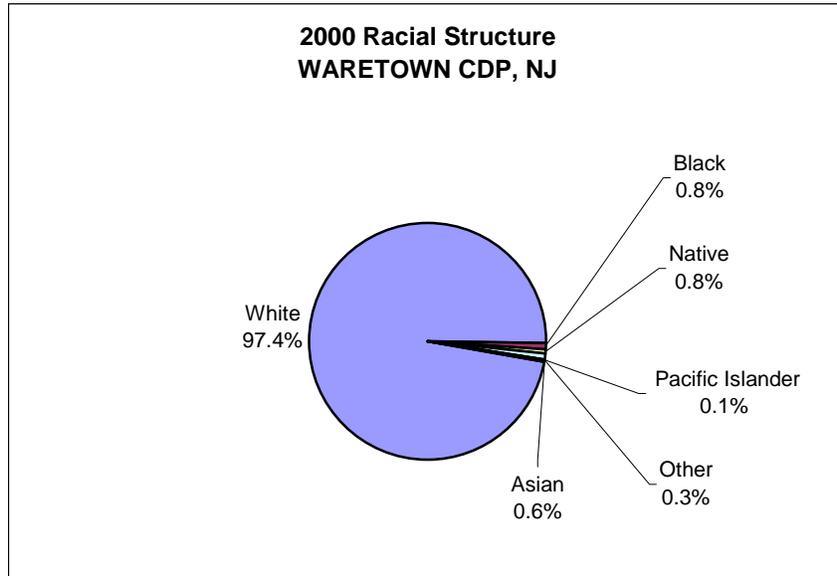


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

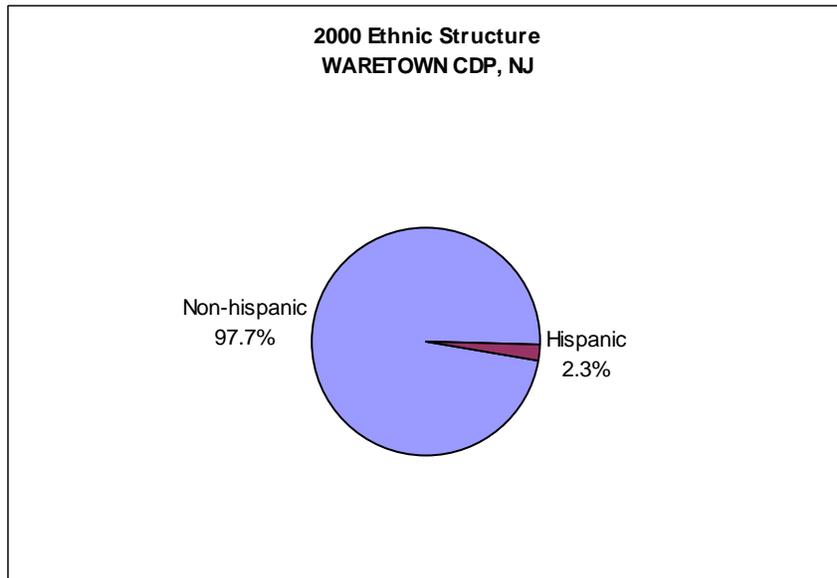


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

For 94.8% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving only 5.2% of homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 0.9% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 84.8% were high school graduates or higher, and 14.3% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.9% did not reach ninth grade, 12.3% attended some high school but did not graduate, 47.6% completed high school, 18.6% had some college with no degree, 4.3% received an associate's degree, 10.6% earned a bachelor's degree, and 3.7% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through U.S. Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations in Ocean County was Jewish with 35 congregations and 11,500 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Catholic (33 with 212,482 adherents), United Methodist Church (28 with 9,534 adherents), and Episcopal (12 with 5,539 adherents), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (11 with 6,731 adherents), and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (11 with 6,489 adherents). The total numbers of adherents to any religion was up 21.9% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

### **Issues/Processes**

Waretown is undergoing a 'Town Center Project' aimed to increase industry development by introducing jobs, recreation, and housing to the town's center. Development is focused along Route 9 and Volunteer Way, adding commercial buildings, apartments, and increasing traffic flow through the town's center via an extension of Volunteer Way. The proposed cost of the project is \$35 - \$50 million (Pharo 2007).

### **Cultural attributes**

Waretown is home to the famous Pinelands Cultural Society (Albert Hall). The PCS is a music hall that hosts weekly performances by country, folk, and bluegrass musicians, as well as two bluegrass festivals annually (Ocean County Library nd).

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Current Economy

According to the U.S. Census 2000<sup>5</sup>, 59.6% (782 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see



Figure), of which 0.6% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 59.0% were employed.

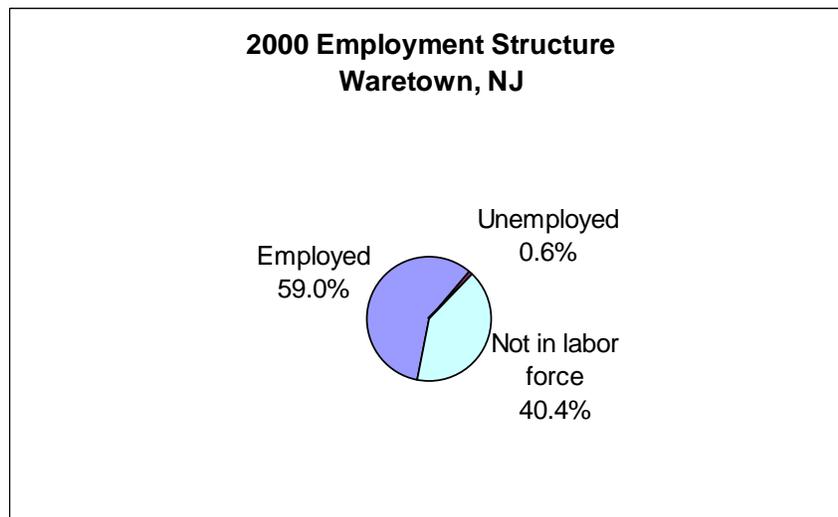


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for no jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 87 positions or 11.2% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (16.9%), professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (15.1%), construction (14.7%), retail trade

<sup>5</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.

(12.7%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (10.7%), and transportation and warehousing, and utilities (10.1%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Waretown was \$44,410 (up 31.1% from \$29,512 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$22,061. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 25% more per year than females.

The average family in Waretown consisted of 2.98 persons. With respect to poverty, 1.7% of families (down from 8.9% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 5.6% 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 2000b). In 2000, 20.3% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Waretown had a total of 823 housing units of which 77.9% were occupied and 88.3% were detached one unit homes. Only 7.7% of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for none of the housing units; 89.7% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$109,400. Of vacant housing units, 15.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 17.5% were renter occupied.

## **Government**

Waretown's Mayor is Daniel Van Pelt and has a town meeting form of government which includes a town clerk and various committees. Two of these committees are the Land Use Board and the Environmental Commission (Ocean County Tourism nd).

### *Fishery involvement in government*

Information on fishery involvement in Waretown's government is unavailable through secondary data collection.

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

[Garden State Seafood Association](#) in Trenton is a statewide organization of commercial fishermen and fishing companies, related businesses and individuals working in common cause to promote the interests of the commercial fishing industry and seafood consumers in New Jersey.

The [Jersey Coast Anglers Association](#) (JCAA) is an association of over 75 saltwater fishing clubs throughout the state. Founded in 1981, the purpose of the organization is to unite and represent marine sport anglers to work towards common goals. The JCAA website ([www.jcaa.org](http://www.jcaa.org)) also provides links for many NJ anglers associations.

### *Fishing assistance centers*

Information on fishing assistance centers in Waretown is unavailable through secondary data collection.

### *Other fishing related organizations*

Waretown contains three marinas that are 'Pledged Clean marinas' within the New Jersey Clean Marina Program of the Department of Environmental Protection. "The CMP encourages marina owners, yacht clubs, boatyards and boaters to voluntarily adopt practices that help

prevent adverse impacts to water quality, sensitive habitats, and living resources in proximity to marinas” (NJDEP 2008). Marinas may choose to be ‘Certified Clean Marinas’ by actively practicing clean behavior in the intent to enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and promote environmentally sound boating. ‘Pledged Clean Marinas’ sign into the CMP establishing they will implement environmentally friendly practices, with the intent of becoming a ‘Certified Clean Marina.’ Waretown’s ‘Pledged Clean Marinas’ are Key Harbor Marina, Spencer’s Bayside Marina, and Lemmings Marina Inc. (NJDEP 2008).

Waretown is involved in the [Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program](#) (BBNEP). “The BBNEP is ‘a partnership of federal, state, and local interests’ overseeing the development of a management plan and the community efforts in the Bay area. The Program is made up of subcommittees who oversee the various aspects of the management plan: the Policy Committee, the Advisory Committee, and the Science and Technical Advisory Committee.”

### **Physical**

Waretown makes up the center third of Ocean Township’s (Ocean County) Barnegat Bay coast. Bordered by Barnegat Bay to the East, the CDP stretches north to Oyster Creek and south to Barnegat Beach. In relation to large cities of the region, Waretown’s location is 13.2mi from Toms River (NJ), 65mi from Jersey City (NJ), and 65.9mi from New York City (NY). Nearby, smaller cities of N.J. include Forked River (2.5mi), Barnegat Light (6.0mi), Manahawkin (7.9mi), and Beach Haven West (9.0mi) (MapQuest nd).

Waretown is easily accessible by roadway because it is located only a few miles east of the Garden State Parkway, at the junction of Route 9 and Mills Lane Rd (Rt. 532) (MapQuest nd). Large airports/carrier ports near Waretown are Lakehurst Nais/Maxfield Field (21mi), McGuire Air Force Base (31mi), and Atlantic City International (36mi). Smaller public-use airports of closer proximity are Robert J. Miller Air Park (11mi), Eagles Nest (13mi), and Lakewood Airport (20mi) (MapQuest nd).

Waretown contains many marinas, three of which are ‘Pledged Clean Marinas’ under the NJDEP’s Clean Marina Program. These marinas include Key Harbor Marina (Point Road), Spencer’s Bayside Marina (Pennsylvania Ave.), and Lemmings Marina, Inc. (Marina Road, Barnegat Beach) (NJDEP 2008). Additional Marinas (N to S) include Holiday Harbor Marina (Tiller Drive), Waretown Fishing Station (Bryant Road), Sanborn Marine (Baltic Ave.), and Cape Island Marina & Yacht Sales (Marine Road) (Harbor Guides 2005).

Waretown has many recognized sections, most of which are distinguished in relation to a coastal area. These include: Brookville, Wells Mills, Pebble Beach, Barnegat Beach, Holiday Beach, Sands Point Harbor, Skipper’s Cove, Bay Haven, and Dogtown (Ocean County Tourism nd).

## **INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>6</sup>**

### **Commercial**

Fishing interests in Waretown are mainly focused on recreation, but commercial fishing ports exist in nearby Barnegat Light, Point Pleasant, and Atlantic City. Barnegat Light is the closest of the three ports (6.0mi) (MapQuest nd) and is located east of Waretown, across Barnegat Bay. It is a center for the East Coast tilefish fishery, also contains members of the East Coast longline fleet, scallop vessels, and inshore gillnets vessels. Point Pleasant and Atlantic City land a large amount of the nation's and the world's surf clams and ocean quahogs (NJ Fishing nd).

Landings in Waretown in all years were relatively small, with no landings at all from 1997-1999. The most valuable species grouping in Waretown averaged for the years 1997-2006 was monkfish; monkfish was also the most valuable species in 2006 (see Table 1). There were no landings associated with vessels home ported in Waretown in 1997 and 1998, but then home port value increased considerably in the following years. Both the number of vessels home ported in Waretown and the number of vessels whose owner's city is Waretown increased over this time period. Vessels home ported in Waretown went from seven in 1997 and 1998 to 18 in 2005, while owner's city vessels went from six in 1997 to 16 in 2001, dropping down to 11 in 2006 (see Table 2).

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<sup>6</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.

## Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Monkfish	1
Other <sup>7</sup>	2
Bluefish	3
Scallop	4
Skate	5
Lobster	6
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	7
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	8
Largemouth Groundfish <sup>8</sup>	9
Herring	10

(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)

## Vessels by Year<sup>9</sup>

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	7	6
1998	7	6
1999	10	8
2000	17	14
2001	17	16
2002	13	12
2003	15	12
2004	15	13
2005	18	13
2006	14	11

(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>10</sup>)

<sup>7</sup> "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

<sup>8</sup> Largemouth groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

<sup>9</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>10</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.

## Recreational

Areas of Barnegat Bay in Ocean Township (Waretown) are considered “some of the finest” recreational fishing and duck hunting waters in Ocean County (Ocean County Tourism nd). Charter fishing is abundant in the surrounding area of Barnegat Bay and Barnegat Inlet. Commonly targeted inshore and offshore species are striped bass, fluke, bluefish, shark, tuna, dolphin, and marlin (Sportsman’s Resource nd).

Charter boats include: *Tuna-Tic* (Capt. Mike) of Barnegat Inlet; *Pop’s Pride* (Capt. John Koegler), *Fish Trap* (Capt. Bob Beideman), *Real Trouble* (Capt. Bill DuBois), *Wave Rider II* (Capt. Bill Godel), *June Bug* (Capt. Lindsay Fuller), and *Star Fish* (Capt. Carl Sheppard) of Beach Haven, and *Double Trouble* (Capt. Stan Shepanski), *Super Chic* (Capt. Ted White), *Four Aces II* (Capt. Joe Pires), *The Shark* (Capt. Bob Carton), *The Instigator* (Capt. Dave Wentley), *Jersey Devil* (Capt. Russ Jacobus), *Skirt Chaser* (Capt. Frank Hutchco), *The Stingray* (Capt. Greg Eastburn), and *Little Chic* (Capt. Les Osborn) of Barnegat Light (Fishermen’s Headquarters nd).

Party boats include: *Carolyn Ann II* (Capt. Hammarstrom), *Doris Mae IV* (Capt. Chales Eble), *White Star IV* (Capts. Paul Casio and Paul Bonnell), and *Miss Barnegat Light* (Capt. John Larson) (Fishermen’s Headquarters nd).

In New Jersey, the charter/party fleet is the largest on east coast. Many vessels are over 120ft long and carry over 150 people.<sup>11</sup>

## Subsistence

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

## FUTURE

New Jersey’s commercial oyster fishery has declined in recent years, signaling a decline in oyster populations in the state’s waters. To help improve oyster populations, it has been suggested that empty clam and quahog shells from processing plants be dumped into the Delaware Bay. These thousands of discarded shells will serve to attract juvenile oysters and effectively rebuild live oyster reefs. The recruited oysters will help to filter pathogens entering the bay through run-off waters, ultimately minimizing pollution and improving water quality in the bay (Daily Journal 2007).

“In the future, Waretown will be physically linked by the evolving Ocean County Rail Trail System. The trail will connect South Toms River with Barnegat and allow county residents an even greater opportunity to enjoy Waretown’s beautiful environment” (Van Pelt nd).

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<sup>11</sup> Community Review Comments, Bruce Freeman, NJ Coast Anglers Association, October 2, 2007

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