

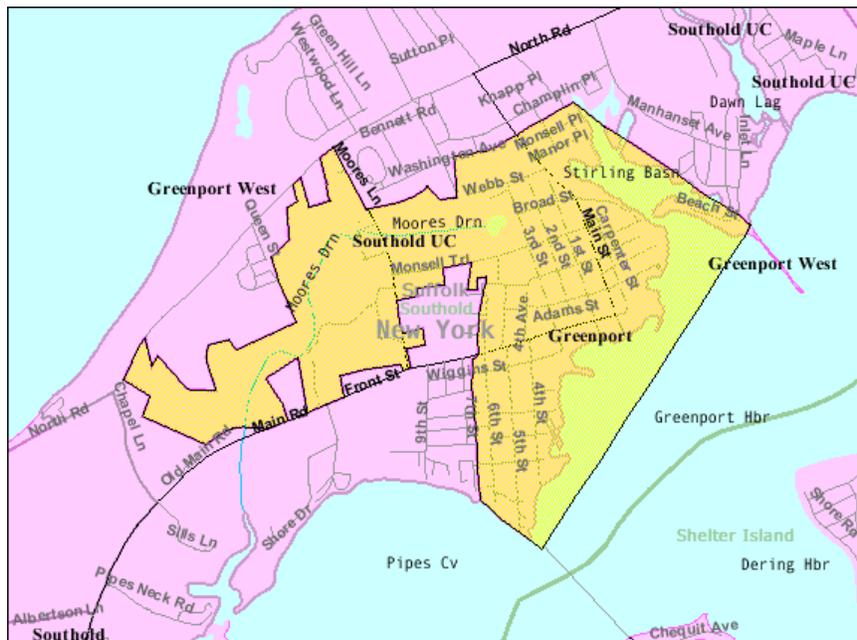
GREENPORT, NY¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Greenport (41.10°N, 72.36°W) is located in the township of Southold, Suffolk County on Long Island, New York (USGS 2008). Greenport is on the North Fork of the east end of Long Island, and borders on Shelter Island Sound across from Shelter Island, in Peconic Bay (Map 1). Mattituck, another village located in Southold with a significant commercial fishing presence, is profiled separately.



Map 1. Location of Greenport, NY (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Greenport is one of ten hamlets, and the only incorporated village, in the township of Southold, which encompasses Laurel, Cutchogue, New Suffolk, Peconic, Southold, Greenport, East Marion, Orient, Mattituck and Fishers Island (Town of Southold nd). Europeans searching for turpentine arrived in Southold in approximately 1638 (Marinalife nd). Southold and Southampton are the oldest English settlements in New York, officially settled in 1640 (Stevens 2000). Much of the town was acquired from Native Americans in the Aquebogue Purchase in 1648-49 (Newsday 2008). Greenport itself was first settled in 1682, and was originally

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."

comprised of two settlements; Stirling and Green Hill. The two merged in 1831 and adopted the name Greenport. Greenport became the second village incorporated in the State of New York in 1838. Greenport became an important whaling port around this time, and as its prominence grew, the Long Island Railroad was extended to Greenport, making it an important stop on the rail-steamboat route between Boston and New York. A number of boat yards were built in Greenport to support the whaling industry; later, as commercial whaling declined, commercial fishing took its place, keeping the shipyards in business. The shipyards also did well during Prohibition, building ships for both the rum-runners and the Coast Guard stationed here. In addition to this important maritime history, Greenport has long been home to numerous writers, actors, and other artists (Long Island Guides 2007). Oysters have been raised in Great Peconic Bay since the early 1900s. During the mid-1900s there were several oyster and scallop shucking houses present in Greenport employing dozens of residents (Solomon 1998). At one time there were as many as fourteen oyster houses here. The menhaden fishery was also significant from the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s; with a number of vessels fishing menhaden and a number of menhaden processing plants producing animal feed and fertilizer (North Fork Chamber of Commerce 2008). The Village of Greenport has been designated as a historic maritime area (Town of Southold 2004).

Demographics³

The total population of the township of Southold in 2000 was 20,599, and this number more or less doubles in the summer months.⁴ According to Census 2000 data, Greenport Village had a total population of 2,048, down 1.0% from a reported population of 2,070 in 1990. Of this 2000 total, 46.6% were males and 53.4% were females. The median age was 40.3 years and 72.4% of the population was 21 years or older while 24.8% were 62 or older.

Greenport's population structure was rather unusual. The most populous age group listed was females over the age of 80 (with 109 females over the age of 85); there were also a large number of females in the 70-79 age category. Males declined over these same two age categories (Figure 1). This points to an aging population here, and possibly indicates that Greenport may be a retirement community. The other significant population group was males between the ages of 10-19. Generally, there are a lot of children and young people in Greenport as well; this community doesn't see the same decline in the 20-29 age category that many fishing communities experience.

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.

⁴ Personal Communication, Jim McMahon, Director of Public Works, Town of Southold, Southold Town Hall, PO Box 1179 Southold, NY 11971, June 9, 2006

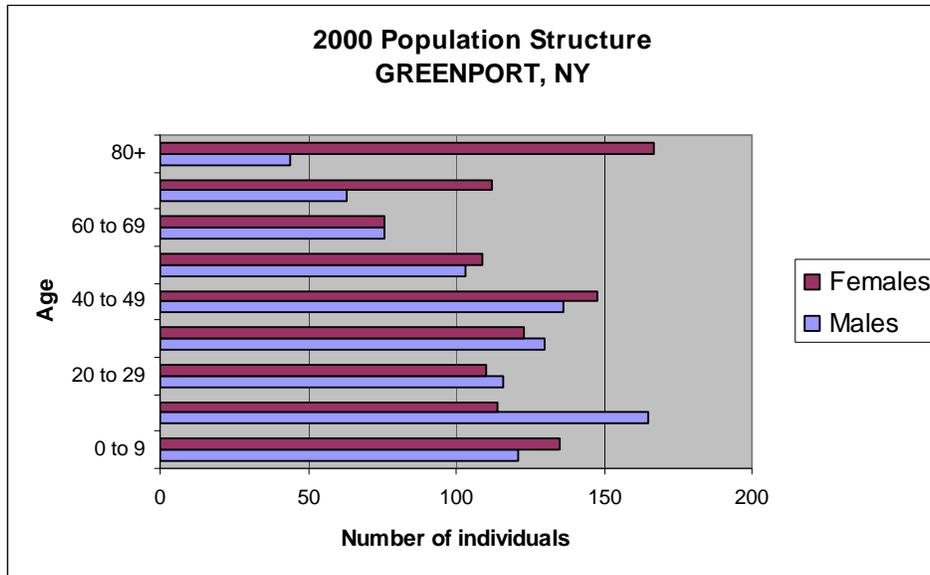


Figure 1. Population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population in Greenport in 2000 was white (75.7%), with 15.7% Black or African American, 0.4% Asian, 0.5% American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 0.7% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). A total of 17.2% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3) – although town officials suspect this population is actually much higher due to undocumented illegal immigrants (Anon 2006). Residents trace their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: German (15.1%), Irish (14.4%), English (14.3%), Polish (8.9%), and “other ancestries” (38.6%). With regard to region of birth, 67.3% were born in New York, 17.8% were born in a different state and 13.4% were born outside of the U.S. (including 11.2% who were not United States citizens).

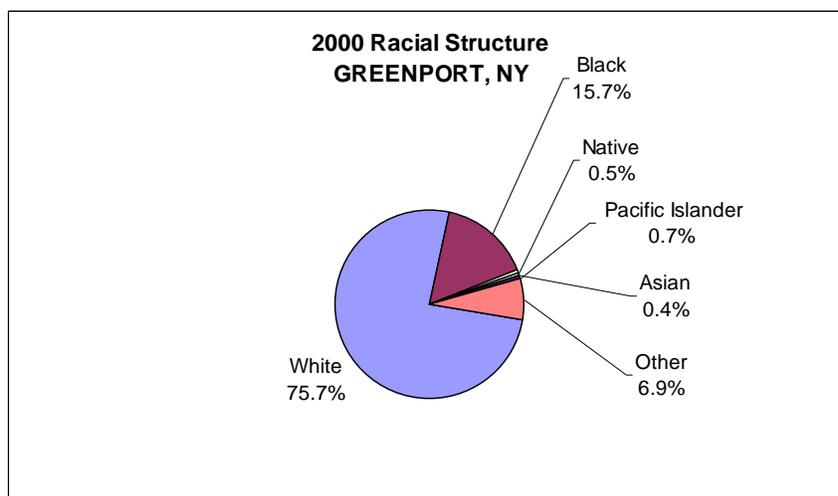


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

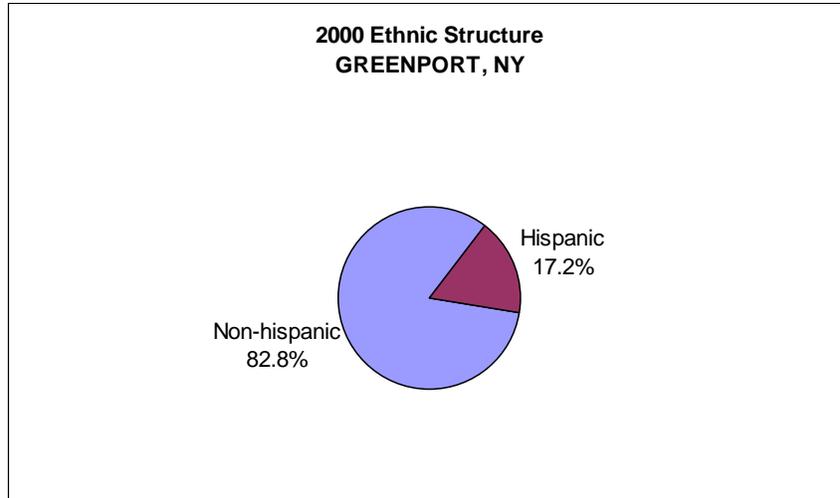


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 82.0% of the population in 2000, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 18.0% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 10.8% of the population who spoke English less than ‘very well’.

Of the population 25 years and over, 72.2% were high school graduates or higher, and 19.4% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 11.8% did not reach ninth grade, 16.0% attended some high school but did not graduate, 33.4% completed high school, 14.6% had some college with no degree, 4.9% received an associate’s degree, 12.1% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 7.3% 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 and adherents in Suffolk County was Catholic with 72 congregations and 734,147 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Jewish (48 with 100,000 adherents), Methodist (47 with 22,448 adherents), Episcopal (40 with 16,234 adherents), Evangelical Lutheran (26 with 19,378 adherents), and Muslim (9 with 12,139 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 3.8% from 1990 (ARDA 2000). Eight houses of worship are listed in Greenport, including a synagogue, a Greek Orthodox church, a Catholic church and 5 different Protestant churches (Greenport Business Improvement District nd).

Issues/Processes

Many commercial fishermen from Greenport have gone out of business entirely in recent years, and have difficulty finding decent jobs after they leave, because of a lack of other marketable skills. Few children of fishermen are choosing to pursue this career (Oles 2005b). The town of Southold has instituted a program to assist its residents with rising housing costs (Town of Southold nd). It is estimated that the Hispanic population in Greenport (and elsewhere on Long Island) is much greater than what census data indicate, due to the likely presence of illegal immigrants. Officials wish to conduct a survey of undocumented immigrants here in order to better serve their needs (Anon 2006).

As in many other areas of Long Island where clams and other shellfish are a significant part of the fishing industry, water quality due to increasing human populations is a consistent problem in the shallow bays where the clams are dug. The bays have had several problems with

algal blooms of *Aureococcus anophagefferens*, or brown tide, which killed off bay scallop populations here, and is believed to be related to nutrient depletion in the bay (Oles 2005a).

Some fishermen are concerned about the accuracy of their assigned historical landings by species for fisheries (often used for promulgating new regulations), as the method used to land fish in New York varies from that in most other states. Called the “box method” it involves fish being boxed at sea, then landed at a consignment dock and from there shipped to Fulton Fish Market in New York City. Prior to the implementation of dealer electronic reporting, NMFS port agents counted the number of boxes landed from each vessel and received a species breakdown from the dock manager (who did not open the boxes but rather based the breakdown on his knowledge of the vessel’s general fishing patterns). This system allowed greater potential for accidental misreporting. Now, the boxes are landed at the consignment dock and immediately shipped to Fulton, where the dealer opens the boxes and reports the landings. Further, individual fishermen report using VTR, logbooks and other methods.

While this method is more accurate in terms of the number and type of fish landed, it can still lead to another type of accidental reporting error. That is, landings are assigned to the incorrect state. This can have inequitable effects on states should an allocation scheme be developed, such as the one for summer flounder, that bases a state’s allocation on the landings of a particular species in that state.

The docks make money by charging \$10-\$12 per box (2007 prices) and by selling fuel. Catch limits and trip limits reduce the number of boxes to be shipped, and have made it very difficult for the docks to stay in business. New York is losing much of its infrastructure, and many of the docks have closed or changed hands in recent years.⁵

Cultural attributes

The annual Greenport Maritime Festival features a clam chowder competition, pirate events, whale boat races, a children’s fishing competition, and many other events in a celebration of the area’s maritime heritage. Tens of thousands of visitors descend upon the village for this event, and the main streets are closed (Long Island Guides 2007). The [East End Seaport Museum and Maritime Foundation](#) sponsors this annual event. The museum promotes the rich maritime heritage of Long Island’s East End through exhibits, events, and the maintenance of Bug Light, operated by the museum. The museum has a number of displays relating to the maritime heritage of the area, including exhibits on the menhaden and oyster fisheries (East End Seaport Museum and Maritime Foundation nd). Greenport also has a monument dedicated to commercial fishermen lost at sea (Oles 2005b).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Southold’s Department of Public Works estimates that the largest employers in the town of Southold where Greenport residents might work are Northfork Bank, Mattituck School District, the Town of Southold, and Greenport Hospital.⁶

According to the U.S. Census 2000, 59.7% (977 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force, of which 6.2% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 53.5% were employed (Figure 4).

⁵ Personal Communication, Erik Braun, NMFS port agent, E. Hampton, NY, July 22, 2005

⁶ Personal Communication, Jim McMahon, Director of Public Works, Town of Southold, Southold Town Hall, PO Box 1179 Southold, NY 11971, June 9, 2006



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

According to Census 2000 data⁷, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 4 or 0.5% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 81 positions or 9.3% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (21.7%), retail trade (15.1%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (11.5%), and professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (9.7%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Greenport was \$31,675 (up 23.9% from \$25,562 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$17,595. For full-time year round workers, men made approximately 66.2% more per year than women.

The average family in Greenport consisted of 3.10 persons. With respect to poverty, 21.2% of families (up from 9.8% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 19.7% of individuals were 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, 48.2% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Greenport had a total of 1,075 housing units, of which 72.2% were occupied and 60.9% were detached one unit homes. Almost three-quarters (70.5%) of these homes were built before 1940. There were no mobile homes, boats, RVs, vans, etc. listed; 91.1% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$151,400. Of vacant housing units, 79.2% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 44.8% were renter occupied.

Government

Greenport is an incorporated village within the town of Southold. Greenport is governed by a mayor (Greenport Business Improvement District nd). The township of Southold is governed by a six-member town council and a town clerk. The town offices are located in the hamlet of Southold (Town of Southold nd).

⁷ 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.

Fisheries involvement in government

The township of Southold has developed a local waterfront revitalization program concerned with, among other goals, protecting water dependent uses, maintaining and strengthening a stable commercial fishing fleet, promoting the sustainable use of living marine resources, enhancing community character, preserving open space, preserving public access, and making use of the coastal location. The town has two Marine Use zoning types in place (Town of Southold 2004). Greenport is a New York State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program community, through the state's Coastal Management Program; the community has prepared a comprehensive land and water use plan for its waterfront (NYS DOS Division of Coastal Resources 2004).

The town of Southold also has a Fishers Island Harbor Committee (Town of Southold nd) and as of 2004 had a shellfish advisory committee to address issues relating to the town's numerous shellfish beds (Town of Southold 2004).

Institutional

Fishing associations

The Long Island Commercial Fishing Association promotes commercial fishing throughout Long Island. There is also a Greenport Baymen's Association that is not very active (Oles 2005a).

The New York Seafood Council is the largest association representing fishing interests in the state. "The New York Seafood Council (NYSC) is an industry membership organization comprised of individuals, businesses, or organizations involved in the harvesting, processing, wholesale, distribution or sale of seafood products or services to the seafood industry in New York" (NYSC 2008).

Fishery assistance centers

Information on fishery assistance centers in Greenport was unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related organizations

The North Fork Captain's Association represents charter boats on Long Island's North Fork (Oles 2005a). The [Peconic Estuary Program](#) is charged with developing and implementing a comprehensive management plan for the Peconic Estuary, designated as an "estuary of national significance." This alliance is a collaborative of local, state, and federal government agencies, businesses, environmental and citizen groups, and academic institutions working together to promote the environmental health of this natural resource (Peconic Estuary Program nd).

Physical

Suffolk County occupies the easternmost portion of Long Island, in the southeastern portion of New York State. The eastern end of the county splits into two peninsulas, known as the North Fork and the South Fork. The county is surrounded by water on three sides, including the Atlantic Ocean and the Long Island Sound. To the north is the Long Island Sound, and the State of Connecticut is on the opposite shore. To the east is Block Island Sound. The south boundary is the Atlantic Ocean (USGS 2008). Several airports are located in the area, including Long Island MacArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma, Republic Airport in East Farmingdale and Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach. Nearby Mattituck also has its own small airport. Greenport is about 13 miles from Mattituck, 30 miles from Montauk, 32 miles from

Hampton Bays, and 98 miles from New York City by car. Long Island Airport is about a 45 mile drive (MapQuest 2005). The [Long Island Railroad](#) connects Greenport with New York City and other points along Long Island (MTA nd). The [Hampton Jitney](#) bus service carries passengers from along Long Island's North Fork to New York City, including a stop in Greenport. The [Cross Sound Ferry](#) travels between nearby Orient Point and New London CT. The North Ferry also runs between Greenport and Shelter Island (Greenport Business Improvement District nd).

Fishing operations in Greenport are based out of Greenport Harbor, which opens onto Shelter Island Sound. One packing house remains in Greenport, with a retail market, commercial packing facility, and a private dock. This business also handles some of the fish from Mattituck, Shelter Island, and Orient Point. Greenport has two town-owned docks, one for larger vessels and one for smaller vessels; additionally, some of the commercial vessels use private marinas and docks. There are four marinas in Greenport where commercial vessels haul out: Greenport Yacht and Shipbuilding, Sterling Harbor, Brewers, and Douglas Marine (Oles 2005a). The [Townsend Manor Marina](#) in Greenport Harbor is geared primarily towards transient boaters. [Preston's](#), established in 1880, is located in Greenport, and calls itself the most famous chandlery in America, although today they sell few items of use to commercial fishing. [Lewis Marine Supply](#) is based in Greenport, and North Fork Welding in Greenport manufactures scallop dredges (Solomon 1998). There are two bait and tackle shops located here (Oles 2005a). Because of the proximity of Mattituck, the two communities are likely to share some commercial fishing infrastructure.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁸

Commercial

Today commercial fishing in Greenport is a shadow of what it once was. Vessels still working here include about four pound-netters, some of whom also gillnet, three inshore bay draggers, two of which are full-time, and a handful of bay clambers (Oles 2005a). Oystering has been taking place commercially in the Peconic Bay since the early 1900s; traditionally the waters off Greenport were one of the primary spots for oystering (Solomon 1998). The [Widow's Hole Oyster Company](#) maintains this tradition today, cultivating and harvesting oysters in Greenport's waters and selling them to restaurants in Manhattan and elsewhere.

The most valuable federal landings in Greenport over the ten year average from 1997-2006 were species in the smallmesh groundfish category, although the 2006 landings values were very small comparatively (Table 1). This appears to be the trend for all species except lobster, where the 2006 values were considerably less than the ten year averages. Overall, the level of landings in Greenport fell considerably from a high of over \$4 million in 1998 to a low of

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.

\$672,000 in 2002. The level of home port fishing and the number of home ported vessels saw similar declines (Table 2). This is consistent with reports that commercial fishing has been in a constant decline here (Oles 2005a). For each year, the level of landings in Greenport was higher than the level of home port fishing, indicating that some vessels come from elsewhere to land their catch here.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value by Federally Managed Groups of Landings in Greenport

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Smallmesh Groundfish⁹	546,812	4,980
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	417,593	59,305
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	324,128	300,807
Other¹⁰	238,221	220,107
Bluefish	128,934	105,470
Largemesh Groundfish¹¹	102,344	6,073
Lobster	37,658	62,984
Monkfish	25,633	328
Tilefish	6,839	24
Dogfish	2,004	0
Scallop	1,787	0
Skate	668	74
Herring	121	510

Vessels by Year¹²

Table 2. All columns represent Federal Vessels Permits or Landings Value combined between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	11	4	1,748,927	3,929,942
1998	13	7	2,357,017	4,144,883
1999	9	7	1,549,806	3,336,463
2000	10	5	1,446,580	2,137,087
2001	8	5	1,200,996	1,003,369
2002	8	5	1,056,708	672,513
2003	9	5	738,673	812,975
2004	9	5	807,984	739,820
2005	10	6	955,680	789,687
2006	7	5	661,030	760,662

Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹³

Level of fishing home port (\$) = Landed value of fisheries associated with home ported vessels

Level of fishing landed port (\$) = Landed value of fisheries landed in location

⁹ Smallmesh Multi-Species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

¹⁰ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹¹ Largemesh Groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹² 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.

¹³ 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

Fishing is a popular leisure time activity in Suffolk County. Bluefish, striped bass, fluke, as well as an assortment of other types of fish are targeted in local bays, Long Island Sound, and numerous creeks.¹⁴ The North Fork Captain's Association lists three charter vessels in Greenport.

Shellfishing is also a popular activity here; the Mattituck Inlet contains a number of extremely productive shellfish beds, producing both hard and soft clams and oysters, all of which are harvested recreationally (Town of Southold 2004). Scallops, clams, oysters, mussels, crabs, and eels are all taken in the creeks and inlets around Greenport (Town of Southold nd).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

The Village of Greenport has been designated as a historic maritime area, and the Town of Southold is dedicated to preserving traditional maritime uses and the maritime character of the village. The township of Southold has identified Greenport as an area where the town's maritime activity should be focused, and thus this area will be a target for infrastructure improvements from the town, including new infrastructure for commercial fishing. Specifically, the town wishes to promote the provision of "commercial fishing support facilities, including docks and dock space; off-loading areas; gear storage space; commercially-priced fuel and service yards; ice and refrigeration; road access to commercial fishing docks; affordable housing for fishery industry personnel; and fish processing facilities." (Town of Southold 2004) There is some discussion at the moment of developing Greenport as a port for boats servicing an offshore LNG (liquefied natural gas) plant, which coincides with the village's intent to maintain a working waterfront (Rather 2006).

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