

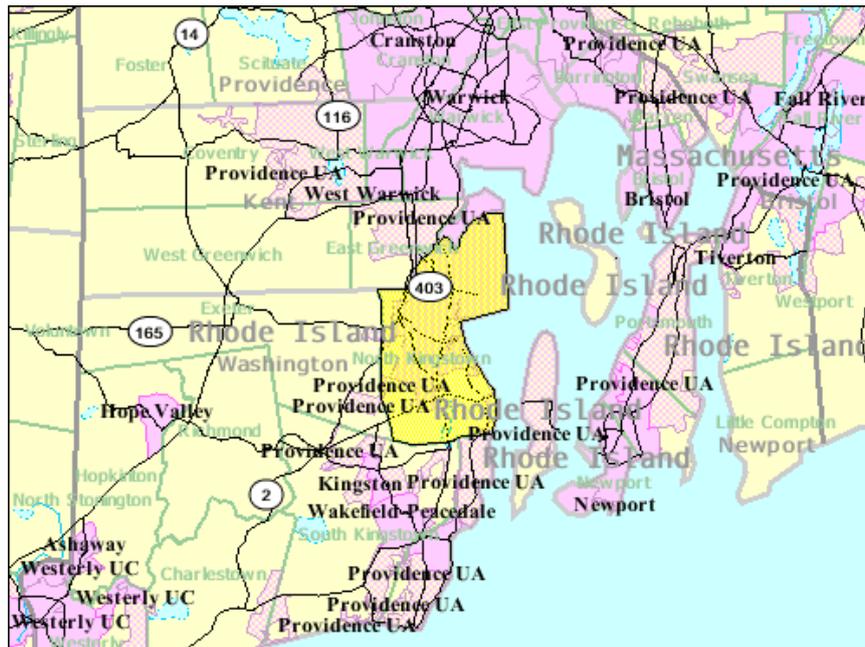
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

North Kingstown (41.55°N, 71.46°W) is located in Narragansett Bay in Washington County in the state of Rhode Island (USGS 2008). The town is located 8.2 miles from Narragansett Pier, 23 miles from Providence, 73 miles from Boston, MA, and 170 miles from New York City.



Map 1. Location of North Kingstown, RI (US Census Bureau 2000a)

Historical/Background

North Kingstown is a small town on the west side of Narragansett Bay. It is comprised of nine villages, with Wickford as the center of town and the seat of the local government. The city is known as Rhode Island's sea town. Kings Towne was incorporated in 1674, and included what was then known as Narragansett County. North Kingstown and South Kingstown were the same town until they split in 1723. World War II dramatically changed the economy of North Kingstown. Quonset Naval Air Station and the Davisville Construction Training Center were built in an area north of Wickford village and used as a site to protect the Northeast coast during the war. Today, North Kingstown has strong economic growth potential due to a deep-water port, rail lines, the state's longest runway, and

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."

its natural harbor and beaches which make it famous as a summer resort (Town of North Kingstown 2008).

Demographics³

According to the Census 2000 data, North Kingstown had a total population of 26,326, up 10.7% from a reported population of 23,786 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.4% were males and 51.6% were females. The median age was 38.7 years and 71.3% of the population was 21 years or older while 14.0% of the population was 62 or older.

North Kingstown's population structure (see Figure 1) showed a dip in the population of the 20-29 year age group, a trend seen in many fishing communities. The largest age group was between 40-49 years and generally for most age groups, the number of females exceeds the number of males.

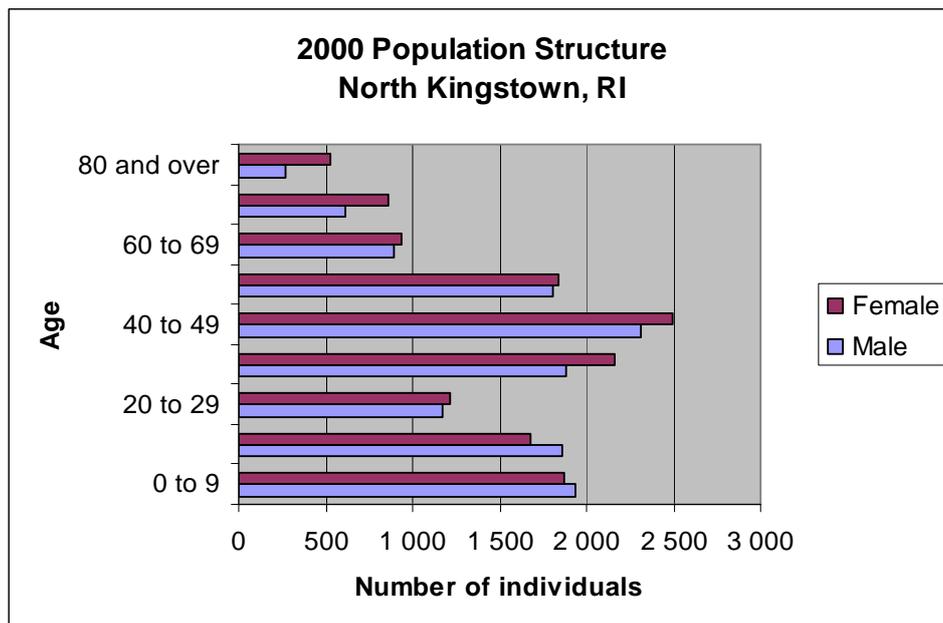


Figure 1. North Kingstown's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

The majority of the population was White (96.0%) with 1.9% Black or African America, 1.0% Asian, 0.6% Native American, and 0.03% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 1.8% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (17.8%), English (13.7%), Italian (13.4%), French (6.5%), German (5.1%), and French Canadian (4.9%). With regard to region of birth, 62.6% were born in Rhode Island, 32.8% were born in a different state and 3.4% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.0% 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.

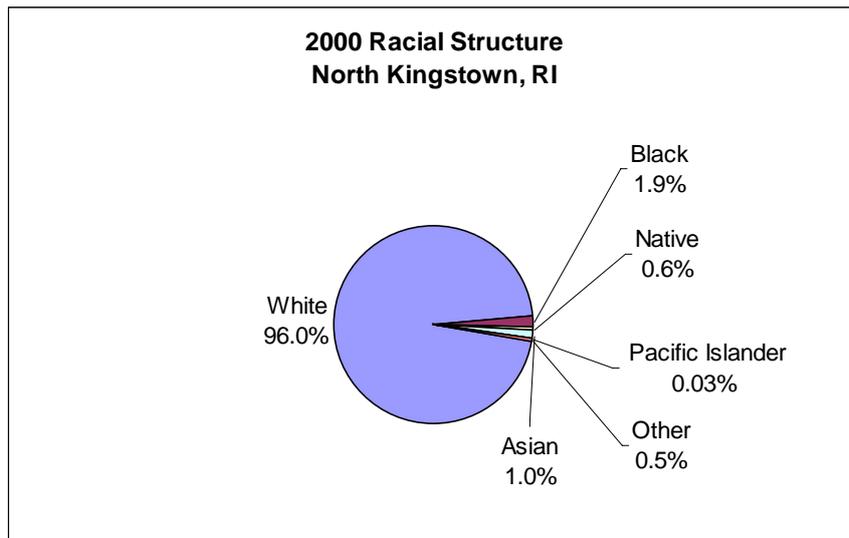


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

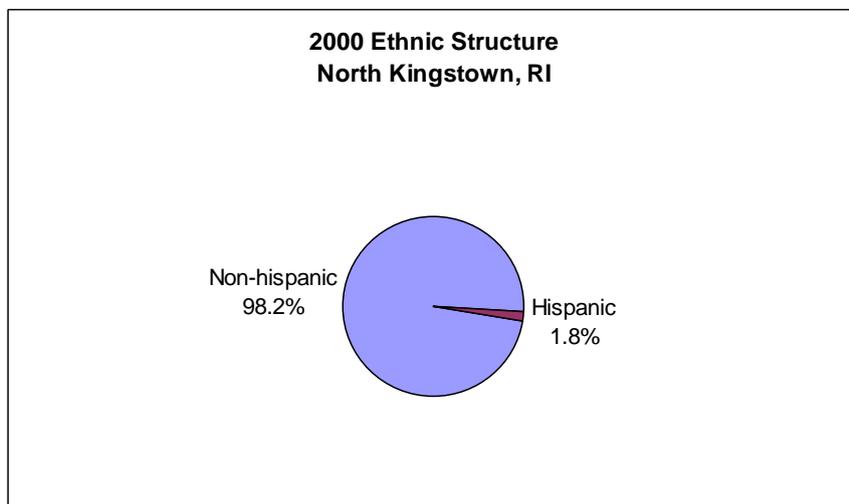


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 93.6% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 6.4% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.5% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 91.5% were high school graduates or higher and 40.3% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.0% did not reach ninth grade, 6.5% attended some high school but did not graduate, 23.3% completed high school, 19.5% had some college with no degree, 8.4% received an associate’s degree, 26.4% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 14.0% 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 religions with the highest number of congregations in Washington County was Catholic with 20 congregations and 58,668 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were American Baptist Churches in the USA (15 with 3,022 adherents), and Episcopal Church (10 with 4,720 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 57.3% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

One ongoing concern for the fishermen in North Kingstown has been the proposed transformation beginning in 1999 of the Quonset Naval Base into a deep water container port McCandless. Once thought dead in 2003 (Emlock 2003), the issue returned and remains a concern as of 2006 (Stape 2006). Concerns included: pollution from the port, noise from the ships, increased erosion from the wake of more of ships, greater potential for oil spills, and the introduction of invasive species from ballast water (GSRI 1999). Most significantly, fishermen were concerned about a decline in fisheries that may be the result of any number of the previously mentioned effects. Additionally, many of the vessels that use this port are large vessels and require large amounts of dock space.⁴ The nearby Port of Davisville, also in North Kingstown, is already a deep water port; “the 14th largest auto port in North America, with more than 100 ships carrying 120,000 cars into the port each year” (Kaplan 2007).

Cultural attributes

North Kingstown used to hold an annual Quahog Festival; this event has not taken place in several years. Nearby Wickford holds a Harbor Festival, however, which includes the naming of Miss Quahog and Mr. Mussels (Town of Wickford 2008). And there is a Quahog Festival in Warren (Ciampa 2007).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

[Sea Freeze, Ltd](#), in North Kingstown, which began its operations in 1985, is the largest producer of sea-frozen fish on the east coast of the United States. It supplies sea-frozen and land-frozen fish to domestic and international markets, including bait products to long-line fleets. Sea Freeze owns two freezer trawlers that provide all of the catch that is stored at Sea Freeze facilities. Catch is then marketed nationally and world-wide. The plant does not include any processing facilities. Fishing operations target: *Illex* and *Loligo* squid, mackerel, herring, and to a lesser degree, butterfish. Although herring is among the least financially valuable (per pound) of the species harvested, it is nevertheless important to the business due to its year round availability and due to the fact that access to the resource continues after other fisheries become unavailable. Currently, the plant employs approximately 60 people including 10 administrative and managerial staff, 20 crew working rotating shifts, and 15 individuals that work in the storage facility. However, the plant exists largely independent of the surrounding community. Employees live regionally, though not necessarily locally.⁵ American Mussel Harvesters and Fox Seafood are two other seafood companies located in Davisville; Champlin’s of Wickford also handles fish and seafood.⁶

Some of the largest employers in North Kingstown include: Toray Plastics America (plastics manufacturer), General Dynamics – Electric Boat Division (hull manufacture for submarines), and Senesco Marine (hull manufacture), all based at Quonset, as well as retail outfits such as WalMart, Home Depot, and Ocean State Job Lot.⁷

⁴ Personal communication, Capt. John O’Leary 1/14/05.

⁵ Personal Communication. Dr. Patricia Pinto da Silva. NEFSC. Patricia.Pinto.da.Silva@noaa.gov. Information based on interviews at the plant in 2005.

⁶ Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, October 10, 2007

⁷ Personal Communication, Marjorie, North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce, 8045 Post Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852, 6/17/05

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁸, 71.9% (114,524 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.6% were unemployed, 0.5% were in the Armed Forces, and 68.8% were employed.

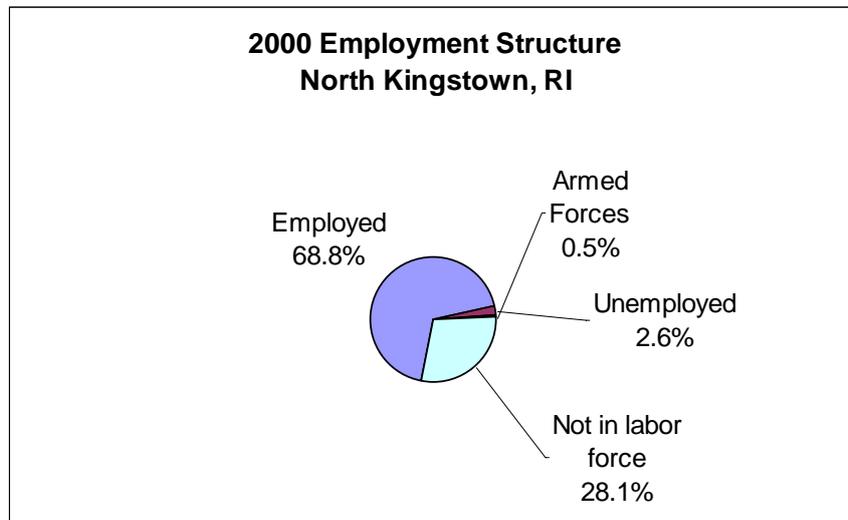


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000a)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 88 positions or 0.6% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 22 positions or 0.15% of jobs. Educational health and social services (26.3%), retail trade (13.2%), manufacturing (12.7%), and professional, scientific, management, administrative services (8.3%) were primary industries.

Median household income in North Kingstown was \$60,027, up 48.5% from \$40,419 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and median per capita income was \$28,139. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 31.4% more per year than females.

The average family in North Kingstown consisted of 3.03 persons. With respect to poverty, 5.8% of families, up from 3.7% in 1990 (US census Bureau 1990) and 7.1% 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, 19.9% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, North Kingstown had a total of 10,743 housing units of which 94.5% were occupied and 72.4% were detached one unit homes. Only 16.6% of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 2.4% of the total housing units; 85.2% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$165,700. Of vacant housing units, 2.5% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 25.6% were renter occupied.

Government

North Kingstown has had a Council/Manager form of government since 1954. It is composed of a five-member legislative body with a professional administrator. Council members are elected for two year terms. The Town Manager is the chief executive and administrative officer of the town. Appointed for an indefinite term, he is responsible to the

⁸ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

Town Council for the proper administration of all affairs of the town (Town of North Kingstown 2008).

Fishery involvement in government

The town has a Harbor Management Commission and a Conservation Commission, with members elected to 3-year terms. There is also a Harbormaster with two Assistant Harbormasters, as well as an Operations Manager for the Allen Harbor Marina (Town of North Kingstown 2008).

Institutional

Fishing associations

Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association, formed in 2000 and located in Wakefield, includes fishermen, dealers, suppliers and others. The goals of the association are to reach consensus on issues, improve working relationships with state and local officials, harvest fish sustainably, obtain quota for Rhode Island fishermen, and have input into management regulations. Other associations with membership in North Kingstown are Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association, Rhode Island Shellfishermen's Association, Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, Ocean State Fisherman's Association, Ocean State Aquaculture Association, and Rhode Island Salt Water Anglers Association (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishery assistance centers in North Kingstown is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related organizations

The [Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island](#) was founded in 2004 and is home to nonprofit commercial fishing organizations, and serves "as a headquarters for bringing fishermen, scientists, managers, and elected officials together to discuss issues." The goals of the center are "to improve fisheries and understanding of the marine environment through education, collaborative research, and cooperation" (CFC nd).

Physical

Situated only 20 miles from the state capitol of Providence, North Kingstown is easily accessed from Rte 95, Rte 4, and two north/south arteries: Rte 1(Post Road) and Rte 2 (Quaker Lane). The city is 18 miles from TF Green Airport located in Warwick. Quonset State Airport, located in North Kingstown is a reliever airport for TF Green. The airport is also home base for the 143d Airlift Wing of the RI Air National Guard (MapQuest nd).

Quonset Davisville Port and Commerce Park in North Kingstown is one of the best-equipped industrial parks on the East Coast. A 3,000 acre facility, located on a former Navy base, offers four modes of transportation: land, rail, sea & air for a wide variety of business needs. Quonset/Davisville has deep water piers (totaling 6,800 lineal feet), and an airport (with a 8,000 foot runway) that can handle private Lear jets to most cargo planes and 23 miles of internal rail-lines with connections to the national freight rail system (QDC 2004).

There is a Town Wharf in Wickford situated among other commercial piers. This wharf holds only commercial fishing boats.⁹

⁹ Profile review comment, Mark Knapp, North Kingstown Harbormaster, 8166 Post Road, N. Kingstown, RI 02852, September 6, 2007

Allen Harbor in North Kingstown is the first marine to be designated a “Clean Marina” by the State of Rhode Island (CRMC 2007).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES¹⁰

Commercial

According to NMFS data, the 2002 recorded annual landings for Rhode Island totaled 103.6 million pounds with a landing value of \$64.2 million (FUS 2002); for 2007 these values were 303 million pounds and \$417.8 million (FUS 2007). The most valuable species landed in North Kingstown was *Illex* squid, followed by *Loligo* squid and mackerel. North Kingstown’s highest landed values for 1997-2006 were from the squid, mackerel, and butterfish species grouping, followed by “other” species and herring (see Table 1). In 2006, the value of landings for squid, mackerel, and butterfish was much higher than the ten-year average values, while the landings values of “other” species and herring had declined. North Kingstown has a diverse fishery with landings from a wide variety of species groupings. The number of vessels whose home port was North Kingstown was significantly lower than the number of vessels whose owner’s city was North Kingstown over the 1997-2006 time period. While home port vessel numbers ranged from 2-3, the owner’s city vessels ranged from 15-23 (see Table 2). A number of home ported vessels were also listed for Davisville, a village located within the town of North Kingstown (see Table 3). There are a number of boats that are in state fisheries only, particularly the quahog fleet from Wickford and Allen’s Harbor. Some of them sell their product at Champlin’s in Wickford while others drive their product to vendors elsewhere. There are three bottom trawlers in Wickford that work state waters only and sell to vendors in Narragansett. There is a boat that concentrates on harvesting whelks in Wickford as well as 3-4 lobster boats. At least three oyster aquaculture operations are based in North Kingstown.¹¹

¹⁰ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

¹¹ Profile review comment, David Beutel, Fisheries Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, October 10, 2007

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

| Species | Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish | 1 |
| Other ¹² | 2 |
| Herring | 3 |
| Lobster | 4 |
| Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass | 5 |
| Monkfish | 6 |
| Largemesh Groundfish ¹³ | 7 |
| Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁴ | 8 |
| Bluefish | 9 |
| Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog | 10 |
| Skate | 11 |
| Scallop | 12 |
| Tilefish | 13 |
| Dogfish | 14 |

(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.)

*Loligo, Illex, Mackerel, and Butterfish landings are confidential and no reference can be made to poundage or dollars in order to protect the privacy of the one major company (Seafreeze) located in the town.*¹⁵

Vessels by Year

Table 1. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006 in North Kingstown

| Year | # Vessels (home ported) | # Vessels (owner's city) |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1997 | 3 | 23 |
| 1998 | 2 | 20 |
| 1999 | 3 | 21 |
| 2000 | 3 | 23 |
| 2001 | 2 | 21 |
| 2002 | 2 | 22 |
| 2003 | 2 | 20 |
| 2004 | 3 | 18 |
| 2005 | 3 | 15 |
| 2006 | 3 | 15 |

¹² "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

¹³ Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹⁴ Smallmesh multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

¹⁵ Community Review Comments, Walter Anoushian, NMFS Port Agent, 83 State St 2nd Flr, P.O. Box 547, Narragansett, RI 02882-0547, January 31, 2008

Table 3. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006 in Davisville

| Year | # Vessels (home ported) | # Vessels (owner's city) |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1997 | 2 | 0 |
| 1998 | 6 | 1 |
| 1999 | 7 | 1 |
| 2000 | 7 | 1 |
| 2001 | 4 | 1 |
| 2002 | 3 | 1 |
| 2003 | 3 | 1 |
| 2004 | 3 | 1 |
| 2005 | 3 | 1 |
| 2006 | 3 | 1 |

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁶)

Recreational

Narragansett Bay attracts a variety of recreational fishermen. These fishermen target many species, but primarily quahogs and bluefish. “In Rhode Island, nearly 362,000 recreational marine anglers - more than half from out-of-state - made over 1.5 million trips, catching 4.3 million pounds of sport fish and releasing about 55 percent in 2004” (RIDEM 2004).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

The 2001 Town of North Kingstown Comprehensive Plan 5-Year Update (North Kingstown 2008) noted that in a 1999 survey, North Kingstown residents were asked what type of additional economic development they prefer. The top four responses were: industrial development within Quonset Point Davisville 86.3%; aquaculture 78.8%; tourism-based industry 77.3%; and commercial fishing 64.8%. Thus the Plan’s objectives included: improved water quality for recreational and commercial fishing activities, and boating; improvement of the Jamestown Bridge fishing pier; and maintenance of fishing-related trades at the Quonset Point/Davisville Pier. The town’s Harbormaster notes, however, that the town officially opposes the Jamestown Bridge fishing pier.¹⁷ The updated 2007 Plan (North Kingstown 2008) showed major community interest in: maintaining a small town atmosphere, residential development as the most important land use (given the demise of the Quonset Point project), along with increased protection of open spaces and the environment.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Profile review comment, Mark Knapp, North Kingstown Harbormaster, 8166 Post Road, N. Kingstown, RI 02852, September 6, 2007

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