

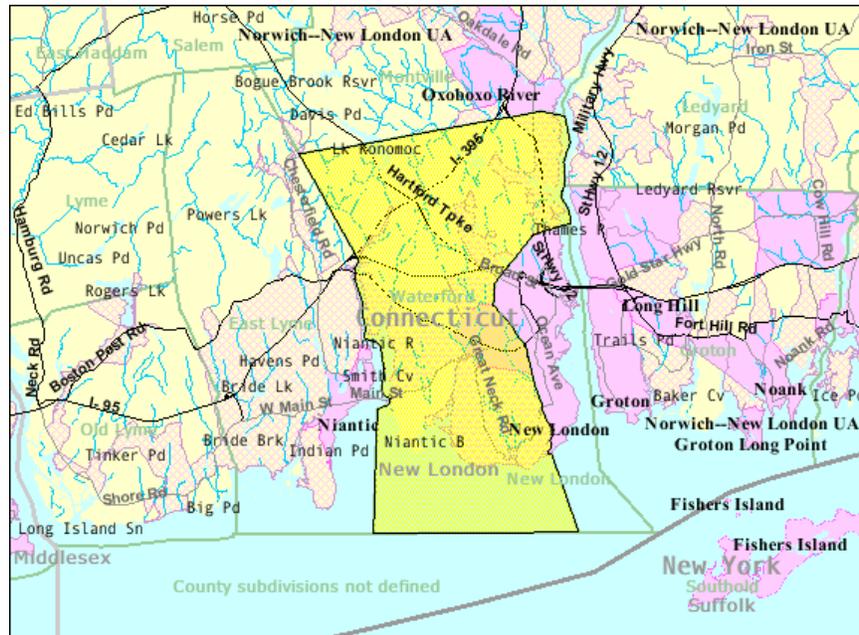
WATERFORD, CT¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Waterford, Connecticut (41.35° N, 72.15° W) (USGS 2008) is located in Southeastern Connecticut, in New London County. It borders New London to the east, the Niantic River to the west, and Long Island Sound to the south. The town is 32.75 square miles in area (CCEC, nd).



Map 1. Location of Waterford, CT (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Waterford, a suburb of New London, was originally inhabited by the Nehantic native people, and was settled by the English around 1651. A rope ferry once took travelers across the Niantic River (Sargent 1916). Fishing and agriculture were traditionally important industries here (CCEC, nd). Waterford was originally called West Farms, and provided agricultural services to New London and was incorporated as Waterford in 1801. A granite quarrying industry also thrived here for many decades (Perazzo 2008). Today Waterford's economy is based on tourism, retail, and light industrial development. The town is well known for being home to the Eugene O'Neill Memorial Theater Center (CCEC, nd). It is also known for having

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."

some of the best recreational boating and fishing in the state (Town of Waterford, nd). More controversially, Waterford is the home to the Millstone Point Nuclear Power Plant, built in 1969, which supplies about fifteen percent of the energy used in New England (NEI 2003).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data⁴, Waterford had a total population of 19,152, up 6.8% from the reported population of 17,930 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.9% were males and 52.1% were females. The median age was 41.7 years and 74.2% of the population was 21 years or older while 21.8% was 62 years or older.

The population structure for Waterford (see Figure 1) shows a generally family-oriented community, with the largest percentage of residents in the 40-49 and 30-39 age categories, as well as many children. Waterford's population has a decline for the 20-29 year old segment of the population, as is seen in other fishing communities and rural and suburban communities. This is different than nearby New London and Groton, which both show a spike in the population for this age group.

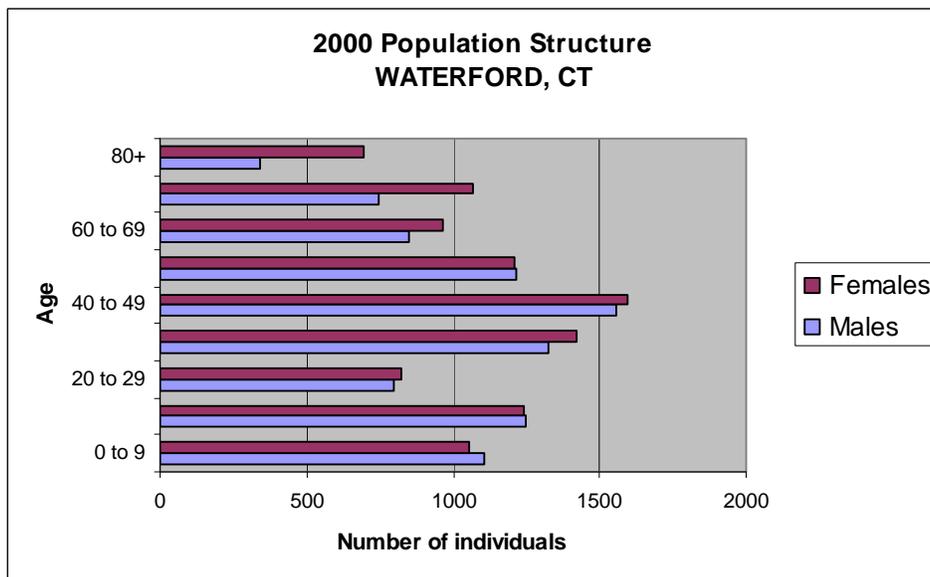


Figure 1. Waterford's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (92.2%), with 2.7% black or African American, 2.9% Asian, 1.0% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 2.4% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Irish (23.4%), Italian (20.9%), English (16.6%), and German (10.2%). With regard to region of birth, 60.9% were born in

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 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 Waterford town, New London County, CT (cited July 2007)

Connecticut, 31.3% were born in a different state and 6.3% were born outside the U.S. (including 1.9% who were not United States citizens).

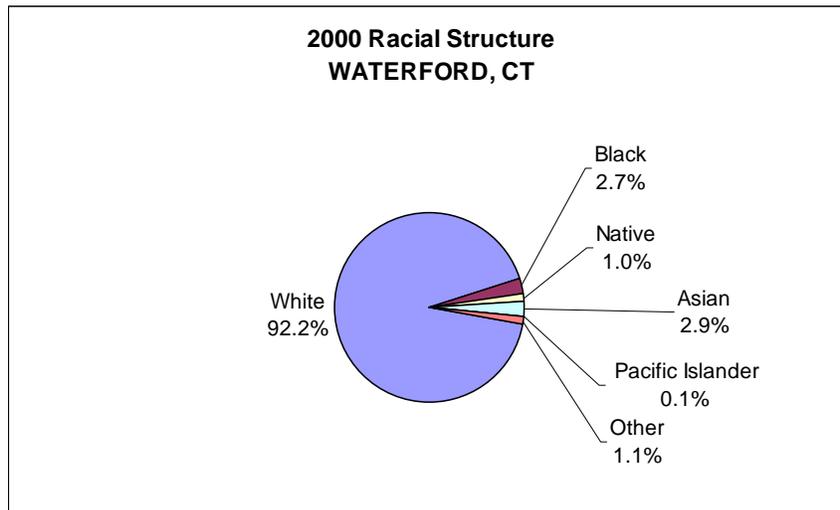


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (U.S. Census 2000)

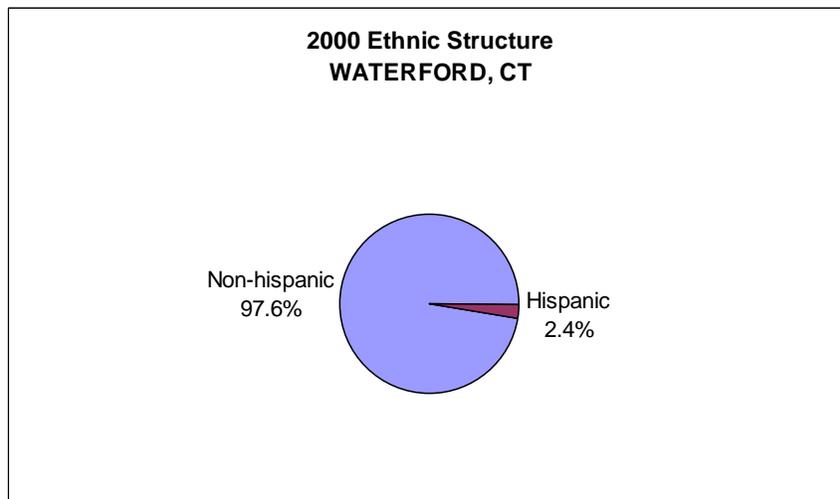


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (U.S. Census 2000)

For 91.1% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 8.9% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and including 2.9% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and older, 86.8% were high school graduates or higher and 28.1% had a Bachelor’s degree or higher. Again, of the population 25 years and over, 4.7% did not reach ninth grade, 8.6% attended some high school but did not graduate, 32.6% completed high school, 17.3% had some college with no degree, 8.7% received their Associate degree, 15.6% earned their Bachelor’s degree, and 12.5% received either their 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 New London County was Catholic with 33 congregations and

80,563 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were American Baptist (19 with 6,502 adherents) and United Church of Christ (20 with 6,809 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 0.3% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/ Processes

The Millstone Power Station recently received a renewal from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to operate two of its reactors for another twenty years, despite protests from some groups in the area (Industry Group 99, 2005). The NRC did find that the plant's cooling system is harming winter flounder populations in Long Island Sound by heating up the water. The spawning stock size is on the verge of collapse, according to the commission's environmental impact statement, but they determined this impact was not enough to prevent renewal (NRC 2005). New London County has the highest cancer rates among females in the state, which opponents of the nuclear plant blame on emissions of Strontium-90 and other radioactive chemicals into the air (Steinberg 2006).

Cultural attributes

There are [two fishing tournaments](#) held annually in Waterford. The Inshore Tournament targets inshore species, and the Run & Gun Tournament targets tuna, marlin, sharks, and other large, offshore species.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

Waterford has a number of large retail centers. The largest industry is the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant, built in the late 1960s and currently owned by Dominion Power. A report by the Nuclear Energy Institute estimated the economic benefits to New London County from the plant to be roughly \$515.2 million and generated a total of 2,338 jobs within the county in 2001 (NEI 2003).

There are over 2,000 people employed at Waterford's Crystal Mall. [Sonalysts, Inc.](#), headquartered in Waterford, is the area's largest multimedia production facility, as well as working in systems engineering and software development. They have 450 employees throughout their 19 locations. Other major industries in the Waterford area which employ large numbers of residents are the defense industry, based in Groton as well as New London, and the gaming industry, with two large casinos (Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun) located a short distance away.

According to the US Census 2000⁵, 62.9% (9,699 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age or over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.2% were unemployed, 0.7% were in the Armed Forces, and 59.9% were employed.

⁵ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

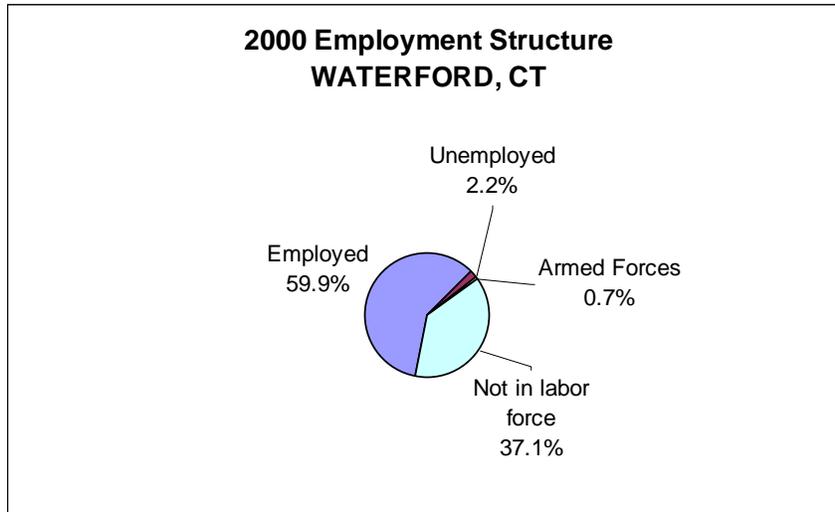


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 36 positions or 0.4% of all jobs. Self-employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 699 positions or 7.6% of all jobs. Educational, health, and social services (24.0%), retail trade (14.3%), and manufacturing (12.0%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Waterford was \$56,047 (up 29.2% from \$44,167 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$26,807. For full-time year-round workers, males made approximately 47.6% more than females.

The average family in Waterford consisted of 2.91 persons. With respect to poverty, 2.1% of families (unchanged from 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 4.3% 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, 18.2% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Waterford had a total of 7,986 housing units of which 94.4% were occupied and 84.7% were detached one unit homes. One fifth (20.0%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, vans, RVs, etc. accounted for 1.2% of the total housing units; 89.3% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$153,000. Of vacant housing units, 2.4% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 15.5% were renter occupied.

Government

Waterford has a Board of Selectmen – Board of Finance - Representative Town Meeting form of government. There is a three-member Board of Selectmen, a seven-member Board of Finance, and a 22-member Representative Town Meeting (Town of Waterford, nd).

Fishery involvement in government

The Waterford/East Lyme Shellfish Commission issues permits for the harvesting of shellfish, including clams, mussels, oysters, and scallops, within Waterford/East Lyme waters of the Niantic River (Town of Waterford, nd). The town also has a harbormaster.

Institutional

Fishing associations

Information on fishing associations in Waterford is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Fishing assistance centers

The Southeastern Connecticut Fisherman's Loan and Technical Assistance Program offers loans to fishermen that average \$50,000. These loans can be used for purchasing equipment, converting to alternative employment, developing alternative species or aquaculture projects, and converting vessels for alternative uses. Assistance from fishing and marine science specialists is provided to help the fishermen with applications, business plans, market research, etc. This program was developed to help the commercial fishing industry. Applicants must be commercial fishermen or must be involved in "marine related" business. They also must be located in southeastern Connecticut (seCTer, nd).

Other fishing related organizations

Information on other fishing related organizations in Waterford is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Physical

Waterford is just off Interstate 95; Connecticut Routes 156 and 1 also pass through the town. [Shore Line East](#) is a commuter rail service running between New London and New Haven. The Groton-New London Regional Airport is located in nearby Groton; other larger airports nearby include the Hartford/Springfield-Bradley International Airport, the T.F. Greene International Airport in Providence, and the New Haven-Tweed Regional Airport. The [Amtrak Northeast Regional and Acela Express](#) routes both stop in New London. Ferry service to Long Island, Block Island, and Fishers Island are all available in New London as well (CCEC, nd). Waterford is about 17 miles from Stonington, 59 miles from Providence, RI, and 124 miles from New York City (MapQuest 2005).

Some of the charter fishing fleet in Waterford is located at the Niantic Sportfishing Dock, on the Niantic River (CCPBA 2004). There is a town dock at Mago Point which is for official use only, and does not provide public access. Captain John's Sportfishing Center and [Hillyer's Bait and Tackle Shop](#) are located at Mago Point (DEP/UConn, nd), as well as a couple of marine retail shops.⁶ [Niantic Bay Marina](#) on the Niantic River offers dry storage, repairs, and a full ships store, as well as a boat ramp and dock space. [J&B Tackle](#) is a large bait and tackle shop, located in Niantic across the Niantic River from Waterford. Boat ramps are available at the Dock Road State Boat Launch and the Niantic River State Boat Launch (DEP/UConn, nd). Shore-based fishing can be done from such sites as Harkness Memorial State Park, Mago Point Park, the Jordan Cove Road bridge, and Waterford Beach Park (DEP/UConn, nd).

⁶ Profile review comments, Robert Nye, Town Clerk, 15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT 06385-2886, October 15, 2007

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁷

Commercial

Waterford has a small commercial fishery. The most valuable species on average between 1997-2006 was lobster, but it was not the most valuable in all years. The most valuable species grouping landed in Waterford in 2006 was “other” species, of which green crabs are a significant species landed here (see Table 1). Of the vessels listed as home ported in Waterford for 1997-2006, there are no federal landings listed associated with these vessels (see Table 2). Overall, the landings in Waterford saw a sharp decline, from a high of over \$257,000 in 1998 to just over \$24,000 in 2005. There are a larger number of vessels whose owners live in Waterford; 14 in 2005. It is likely that many of these vessel owners dock their boats in New London.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Other⁸	2
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	3
Largemouth Groundfish⁹	4
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	5
Skate	6
Bluefish	7
Monkfish	8
Smallmouth Groundfish¹⁰	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.)

⁷ 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.

⁸ “Other” species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

⁹ Largemouth groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹⁰ Smallmouth multi-species : red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

Vessels by Year¹¹

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	9	14	0	174,282
1998	4	9	0	257,443
1999	6	11	0	175,458
2000	5	8	0	117,053
2001	6	10	0	62,515
2002	6	12	0	77,401
2003	6	12	0	41,888
2004	6	11	0	55,665
2005	7	14	0	24,177
2006	6	12	0	46,780

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

Recreational

One website (<http://www.mysticcountry.com/>) lists four different fishing charter operations for Waterford. The [Connecticut Charter and Party Boat Association](#) represents thirteen boats between Waterford and Niantic. Most boats fish inshore for striped bass, bluefish, fluke, sea bass, scup, and blackfish, some also venture offshore for tuna and shark. There are also a few party boats in Waterford; [the Mijoy 747](#) in Waterford targets primarily bluefish and striped bass, as well as scup in the fall. [Captain John's Sunbeam Fleet](#) has four vessels, two of which are charter boats and two of which are open party boats. The party boats offer half day blues and striper trips, full day fluke trips, and nighttime striped bass fishing during the summer, with offshore trips for tuna and other offshore species in September and October.

[Hillyer's Bait and Tackle Shop](#) in Waterford has been around since 1934 and calls itself "the most complete tackle shop on the East Coast." [J&B Tackle](#) in Niantic runs two annual fishing tournaments, one inshore and one offshore, at The Dock in Waterford. Between 2001-2005 there were a total of 5 charter and party boats which logged trips in Waterford, carrying a total of 56,210 anglers on 3,229 different trips.

Subsistence

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

¹¹ Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

¹² The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

FUTURE

A new railroad bridge to the south of the existing bridge is planned for Waterford; this could impact public access here or possibly have environmental impacts affecting the river.¹³

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¹³ Profile review comments, Robert Nye, Town Clerk, 15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT 06385-2886, October 15, 2007