

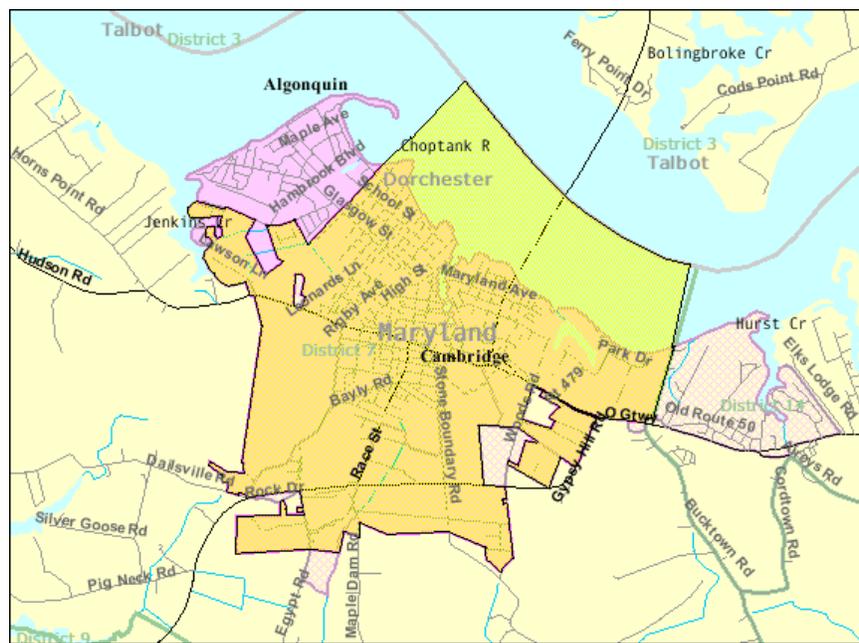
# CAMBRIDGE, MD<sup>1</sup>

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

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

The city of Cambridge, Maryland (38.33° N, 76.04° W) (USGS 2008) is the county seat of Dorchester County. Cambridge is located on the eastern part of the Chesapeake Bay and the southern shore of the Choptank River, before the river flows into the Bay. The city has a total area of 10.27 mi<sup>2</sup> (City of Cambridge nd) and is located approximately 86 miles from Washington, D.C. This community was included in the profiling process because of its role in the seafood processing industry, rather than the importance of harvesting activities to the community.



Map 1. Location of Cambridge, MD (US Census Bureau 2000)

#### Historical/Background

Cambridge, Maryland was founded in 1684 and is one of Maryland's oldest towns (City of Cambridge nd). The city was originally a seaport, taking advantage of its position at the mouth of the Choptank River and is Maryland's second deepest harbor (City of Cambridge nd). Cambridge initially served as a harbor for ships trading tobacco with England. Later, shipbuilding became an important industry here. Annie Oakley, a legendary markswoman in the

<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)."

late 1800s, at one time built a home in Cambridge; it was also the birthplace of Harriet Tubman, who later led 300 slaves to freedom (Tilghman 2008). In recent years, Cambridge has been undergoing a transformation from a declining industrial town to a community known for its arts and antiques (Dorchester Tourism 2008).

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

According to the Census 2000 data, Cambridge had a total population of 10,911, down 5.2% from a reported population of 11,514 in 1990 (US Census 1990). Of this 2000 total, 45.7% were males and 54.3% were females. The median age was 38.8 years and 72.2% of the population was 21 years or older while 21.4% of the population was 62 or older.

The population structure for Cambridge (Figure 1) shows a significant young community made up largely of families with children. The greatest percentage of residents is in the 40-49 age groups, followed by 10-19. Females outnumber males for every age category over 20, and while the number of older males declines, there is a large number of females over the age of 60 in Cambridge.

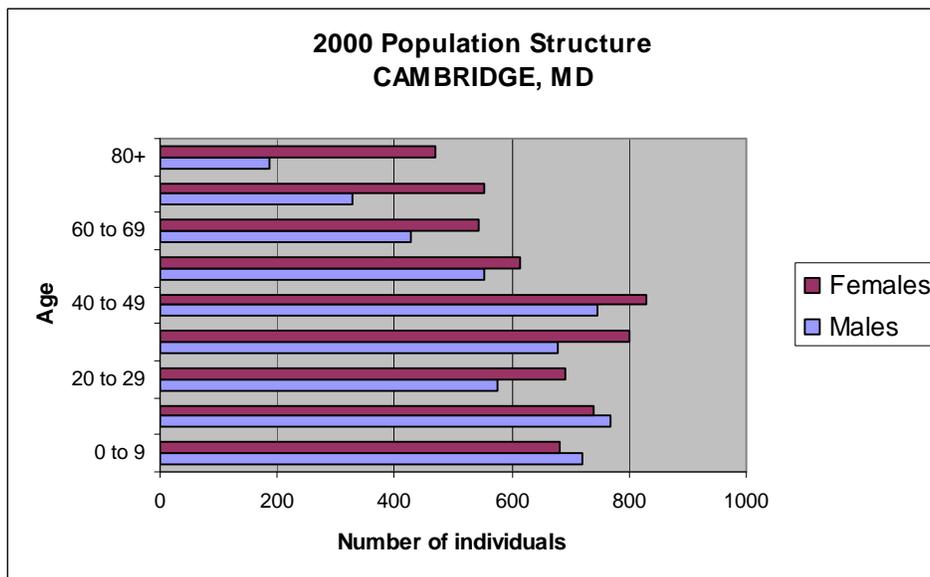


Figure 1. Cambridge's population structure by sex in 2000

The majority of the population of Cambridge was black or African American (50.3%) with 48.1% of residents white, 0.2% Native American, 0.7% Asian, and 0.02% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 1.4% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (9.3%), Irish (6.4%), German (5.5%), and “other ancestries” (46.0%).

With regard to region of birth, 81.4% were born in Maryland, 16.6% were born in a different state and 1.2% were born outside of the U.S. (including 0.7% who were not United States citizens).

<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.

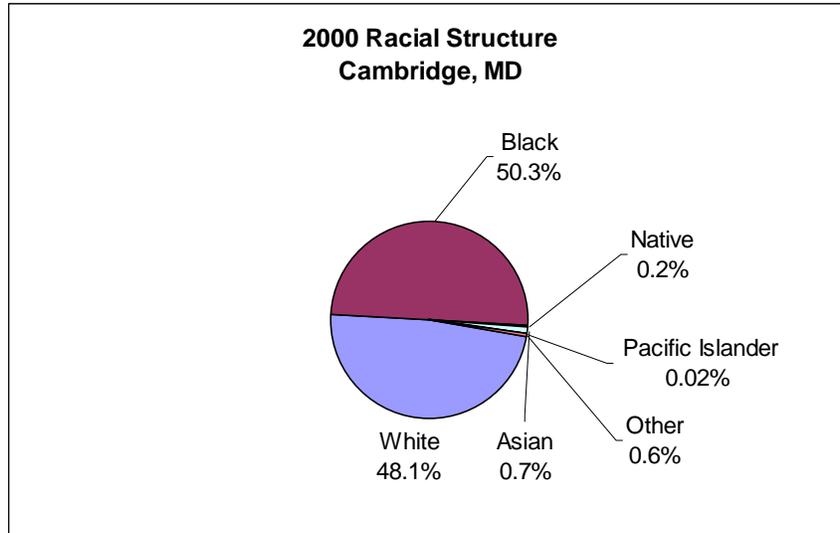


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

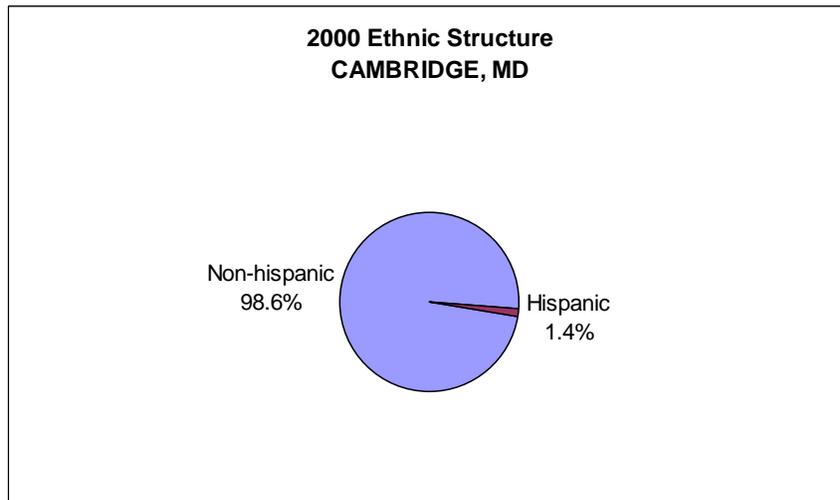


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 96.2% of the population, only English is spoken in the home, leaving 3.8% in homes where a language other than English is spoken, including 1.3% of the population who speak English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 71.2% were high school graduates or higher and 10.4% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 10.0% did not reach ninth grade, 18.8% attended some high school but did not graduate, 42.8% completed high school, 15.1% had some college with no degree, 2.8% received an associate’s degree, 5.5% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 4.9% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious 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 and adherents in Dorchester was United Methodist with 48 congregations and 6,937 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Catholic (4 with 1,450 adherents) and Southern Baptist Convention (3 with 1,192 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was down 0.7% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

There are a number of churches within the city of Cambridge, many of them old enough to warrant inclusion in the Historic Churches Tour (Dorchester Tourism 2008).

### **Issues and Processes**

Crab processing, once a primary industry in Cambridge, has declined as a result of a combination of decreasing catches and competition from cheaper imported blue swimming “Maryland-style” crab from Southeast Asia and cheaper crab from Venezuela (Tibbetts 2000).<sup>4</sup> Many crab picking plants throughout Maryland have gone out of business or have been forced to lay off employees (Epstein and Desmon 2006). In one effort to help the crab picking industry, the Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO), the Dorchester County Government, and the Dorchester Seafood Packers Association in 2007 helped to fund a new crab chum disposal facility (MARBIDCO 2007).

There have been debates for more than two years over a proposed mega-subdivision to be built near the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The subdivision, which would contain 2,700 homes, a retail center, golf course, and conference center, would increase the city’s population, which is currently less than it was in 1950, by 50%. Environmentalists are concerned about the effects the development might have on the refuge, farmers are worried about the impact this may have on their farms, and other residents fear a loss of rural character in the town. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has sued the county to stop this development. Proponents however argue this would bring 3,400 jobs and \$1.5 million a year to Dorchester County (Wyatt 2006).

Crabbers in the area have complained that bombing runs and other military exercises by the Navy on some Chesapeake Bay islands are restricting them from using prime crabbing spots for two months out of the year (Mueller 2005).

### **Cultural attributes**

The Brannock Maritime Museum in Cambridge is dedicated to the maritime history of Dorchester County, and features exhibits about the area’s oyster navy, its role in naval warfare, and its boat building traditions. The Richardson Maritime Museum, also in Cambridge, celebrates wooden boat building. The museum has many examples of the various types of wooden vessels used by watermen over the centuries, as well as an exhibit of the equipment and gear used by Chesapeake Bay watermen. The museum also hosts an annual boat show (MuseumsUSA 2008).

The [Seafood Feast-I-Val](#) is an all-you-can-eat seafood festival held at Sailwinds Park in Cambridge (Dorchester Tourism 2008). The annual Taste of Cambridge includes crab-picking (DCC nd). Cambridge also hosts the annual Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race, which is a race of authentic Chesapeake Bay skipjacks; boats traditionally used by watermen (Dorchester Tourism 2008). The *Nathan of Dorchester* is a replica of a working Chesapeake Bay skipjack; visitors can sail aboard the vessel and listen to stories about watermen (Maryland State Archives 2005; Dorchester Tourism 2008). The Dorchester County Seafood Harvesters’ Association hosts an annual Boat Docking Contest in Cambridge, where local watermen compete at docking their vessels at high speeds (Dorchester Tourism 2008).

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<sup>4</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

[Sailwinds Park](#) is a large outdoor space with a festival hall and landscaped grounds geared towards events both private and public (Dorchester Tourism 2008). Among the activities held there are the Seafood Festival and Crabfest in July.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Current Economy**

Food processing has for a long time been a major industry in Cambridge. There are three seafood processing plants operating here. [J.M. Clayton Company](#) was started in 1890, initially as an oyster shucking and packing operation. They were the first crab processing plant in Dorchester County. Clayton's today uses an automated crab picking machine, although the highly prized backfin meat must still be picked by hand. Most of the crabmeat is pasteurized and canned, although some is shipped fresh or frozen to local markets. Crab pickers can be difficult to find and keep, so year-round domestic employees are subsidized with seasonal temporary workers entering the country under the H-2B Seasonal Work Visa program from Mexico.<sup>5</sup> They employ about 100 workers in the height of the season, which extends from April through November.<sup>6</sup> [Kool Ice and Seafood](#) in Cambridge is a seafood processing facility, selling seafood wholesale and retail both domestically and internationally. Many of the crabs harvested locally are handled live/ raw and transported directly to market from Cambridge. Sometimes this process occurs by seafood dealers who do not engage in the processing of the seafood.<sup>7</sup> They have roughly 50 employees, many of whom are Mexican migrant workers.<sup>8</sup>

[The Icelandic Group](#), a large multinational seafood corporation, used to operate a secondary processing plant in Cambridge but closed and was sold in the winter of 2007. The plant processed mostly cod, haddock, pollock, crab, and salmon, which are breaded, battered, and grill-marked. This [Icelandic](#) plant had been in operation since 1968. Icelandic was the largest employer in Dorchester County, with 540 employees. Ocean to Ocean in Newport News, VA is now producing the product lines that were in Cambridge under Icelandic.<sup>9</sup> Other top employers in Dorchester County in 2007 included: Allen Family Foods (poultry processing – in the 500-999 employee range); Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort (250-499 employees); Dorchester General Hospital (250-499 employees); Cambridge International (conveyor belts – 250-499 employees); Airpax Corp. (electronic circuit breakers – 250-499 employees); Coldwater (250-499 employees); Adventist Healthcare (100-249 employees); Career Associates, Inc. (personnel placement - 100-249 employees); Delmarva Community Services (vocational and day habilitation services – 100-249 employees); Egide USA (electronic circuits - 100-249 employees); John W. Tieder, Inc. (electrical components - 100-249 employees); MCH Acquisition Corporation (100-249 employees); Mallard Bay Care Center (nursing home - 100-249 employees); and Wal-Mart/Sam's Club (100-249 employees) (DLLR

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<sup>5</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

<sup>6</sup> Personal Communication, Bill Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, August 22, 2006

<sup>7</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

<sup>8</sup> Personal Communication, Mary Beth, Kool Ice and Seafood Co., 110 Washington St., Cambridge, MD 21613, August 22, 2006

<sup>9</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

2007). Dorchester County has established a number of incentives for business and manufacturing to move to the area (Dorchester 2006).

Cambridge was also home to Chitin Works, an experimental crab waste processing plant which turned the chitin from crab shells discarded by the crab processors into chitosan, a potentially valuable compound (Trapps 2000). However, the plant closed around 2003.<sup>10</sup>

According to the U.S. Census 2000<sup>11</sup>, 59.4% (5,028 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 4.4% were unemployed, 0.1% were in the Armed Forces, and 54.9% were employed.

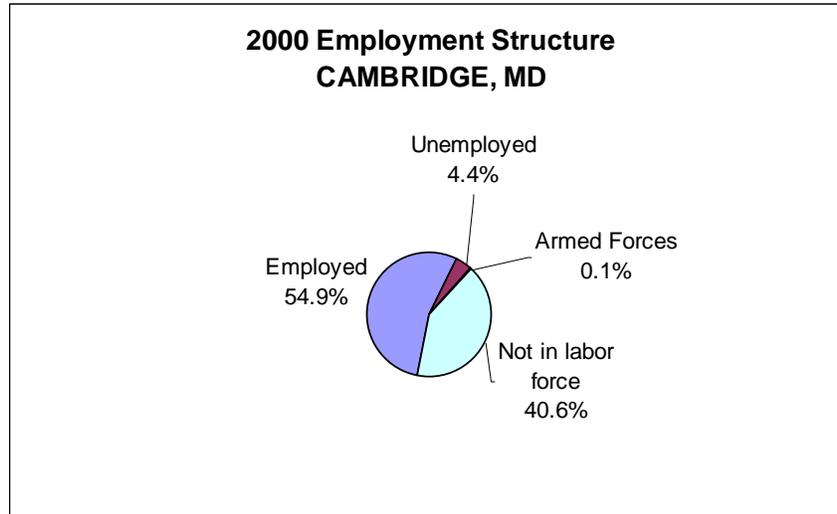


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 19 positions or 0.4% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 358 positions or 7.7% of jobs. Manufacturing (22.8%), educational, health, and social services (21.1%), retail trade (12.6%), and construction (9.4%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Cambridge was \$25,967, up 28.6% from \$20,185 in 1990 (US Census Bureau) and median per capita income was \$15,647. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 21.1% more per year than females.

The average family in Cambridge consists of 2.88 persons. With respect to poverty, 17.2% of families, down from 17.6% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 20.3% of individuals earn 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, 52.4% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Cambridge had a total of 5,230 housing units of which 88.5% were occupied and 59.9% were detached one unit homes. More than one quarter (28.1%) of these homes were built

<sup>10</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

<sup>11</sup> Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, vans accounted for 1.2% of housing units; 95.3% of detached units have between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area is \$79,300. Of vacant housing units, 6.3% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 54.9% were renter occupied.

## **Government**

Cambridge is governed by a mayor and a five-member board of commissioners (City of Cambridge nd).

### *Fishery involvement in government*

Cambridge has a dockmaster which oversees activities in the harbor and surrounding waterways. Discussion at a February 2004 town meeting involving expansion of the marina at Long Wharf also highlighted the possibility of expanding the role and title of the dockmaster to Harbor Master of the City of Cambridge (City of Cambridge n.d., February 9, 2004 Town Council meeting notes). The marina expansion was completed in the spring of 2007, increasing the municipal boat slips from 175 to 245.<sup>12</sup>

In the mid-1990s, Maryland officials set up the Oyster Recovery Partnership, a government-financed nonprofit that aims to restore oysters to the Chesapeake Bay. The organization partners with the Maryland Watermen's Association to plant oyster seeds for future harvest, although there is discussion that these oysters are being commercially harvested too quickly (Kobell and Garland 2007). Community comments suggest that pollution has allowed the parasites MSX and Dermo to exist in the Bay. These parasites can attack and kill older oysters that remain in the Bay and are not harvested.<sup>13</sup>

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

The Dorchester County Seafood Harvesters' Association represents watermen throughout the county, and hosts events such as the annual Boat Docking Contest. In addition, "the [Maryland Watermen's Association](#) is dedicated to the interests of all who derive beauty & benefit from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Waters". The Dorchester Seafood Packers Association is an industry group made up of crab meat processors and watermen. In addition, the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association is also dedicated to all who derive benefit from the Bay.<sup>14</sup> Ben Parks, President of the Dorchester County Seafood Harvesters' Association, is also Vice-President of the Maryland Watermen's Association (Weiss and Leshner 2005). The Blue Crab Coalition is an industry group made up of crab meat processors and watermen; it includes U.S. producers of crabmeat from Chesapeake Bay to the Gulf of Mexico (Lipton 2000).

### *Fishery assistance centers*

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

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<sup>12</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

<sup>13</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

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### *Other fishing related organizations*

[The Marine Trades Association of Maryland](#) is involved in providing information for boaters and fishermen in the state of Maryland. They hold safety classes and have a wide variety of information for boaters in their website. They represent marine issues in front of the state legislature, participate on governmental boards and committees related to boating and fishing, and they also provide information and host boat shows in the area.

The Horn Point Laboratory at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science is located in Cambridge. Faculty and students here study the ecosystem and natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond. Horn Point is also Maryland's leading facility for research and education in striped bass, sturgeon, and oyster aquaculture (UMCES nd).

### **Physical**

US Route 50 and Maryland Routes 16 and 392 pass through Cambridge. The city is 62 miles from Ocean City, 64 miles from Pocomoke City, 75 miles from Baltimore and 122 miles from Philadelphia. Cambridge has a small airport with charter flights – the Cambridge-Dorchester Airport (Dorchester 2006). The nearest commercial airport is the Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport, 40 miles east of Cambridge (Google Maps 2008). There are two hospitals/medical centers in Cambridge; there is also a Greyhound Bus Lines in the city. Cambridge is a deepwater port providing access to ocean-going ships and coastal freighters, though this shipping traffic is no longer a major economic force in the town (Neville 2007). This site is ideal for hosting multiple community events during the year, including the Annual Dorchester Seafood “Feast-i-val”.<sup>15</sup>

The City of Cambridge operates a municipal yacht basin with 186 slips, recently expanded to 245 slips (City of Cambridge n.d.). Several of these slips have been designated for “commercial watermen.” Long Wharf, the Choptank River Fishing Pier, and Great Marsh Park and boat ramp are three spots within the city of Cambridge from which anglers can fish from shore (Dorchester Tourism 2008).<sup>16</sup> Kool Ice and Seafood provides ice.

## **INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>17</sup>**

### **Commercial**

The J.M. Clayton Seafood Company in Cambridge is a crab picking and processing facility which processes about 30,000 pounds of crabs per day at the height of the season. It is

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<sup>15</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

<sup>16</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

<sup>17</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.

the oldest working crab processing plant in the world. They purchase most of the crab locally, either directly from independent watermen or from local dealers. In general they purchase from about 50 boats.<sup>18</sup> Kool Ice and Seafood in Cambridge sells a variety of seafood products both wholesale and retail, including hard and soft crabs, oysters, shrimp, clams, and a variety of fish. They specialize in crab, and also purchase catch mostly from a large number of local watermen.<sup>19</sup>

Cambridge appears to have very little in the way of federally reported commercial fishing. There were no landings listed here for 1997-2006. In most years there was only one boat listed as home ported in Cambridge, with the exception of 1998, when there were no boats, and 2005-2006, when there were four. The vessels home ported in Cambridge only listed landings in four of the ten years. However, according to community feedback on this profile, the number of vessels in Cambridge can range from 70 to over 125, depending on the season and harvest.<sup>20</sup> There was a significant spike in home port values in 2006 and a smaller increase in the number of vessels fishing during this year.

### Vessels by Year<sup>21</sup>

Table 1. All columns represent vessel 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	1	0	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0
1999	1	0	0	0
2000	1	0	0	0
2001	1	0	0	0
2002	1	0	confidential	0
2003	1	0	confidential	0
2004	1	0	0	0
2005	4	3	4,827	0
2006	4	3	229,784	0

# 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>22</sup>

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

Confidential = Value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels

### Recreational

Crabbing and fishing are popular recreational activities in Cambridge and throughout Dorchester County. There are several fishing charters listed for Cambridge: Joint Venture

<sup>18</sup> Personal Communication, Bill Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, August 22, 2006

<sup>19</sup> Personal Communication, Mary Beth, Kool Ice and Seafood Co., 110 Washington St., Cambridge, MD 21613, August 22, 2006

<sup>20</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

<sup>21</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>22</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.

Charters, Gootee's Marine, Double A Charters, Stoney Cove Charters, and Miss Pritch Sportfishing Charters.<sup>23</sup> Fishing from shore is also common; anglers in Cambridge can fish from Long Wharf or the Choptank River Fishing Pier. A fishing license is required for the Choptank River pier (Dorchester Tourism 2008).

### **Subsistence**

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

### **FUTURE**

In 2004, discussion was underway to erect a lighthouse at Long Wharf in Cambridge, which would be a link to the city's maritime history. Concerns arose over parking issues in an area that is increasingly becoming traffic congested. Proposed uses for the lighthouse structure were a city visitor's center and possible dockmaster's office. Along with issues relating to space for the lighthouse, there is general concern over the proper course to take in expanding the marina to suit greater boat traffic and tourists. With expanded infrastructure, the town is prepared for cruise ships activity at Long Wharf and an increase in tourist-related activities on the river (City of Cambridge nd).

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<sup>23</sup> Community review comments, Jack Brooks, J.M. Clayton Seafood, 108 Commerce St., P.O. Box 321, Cambridge, MD 21613, September 12, 2007

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