

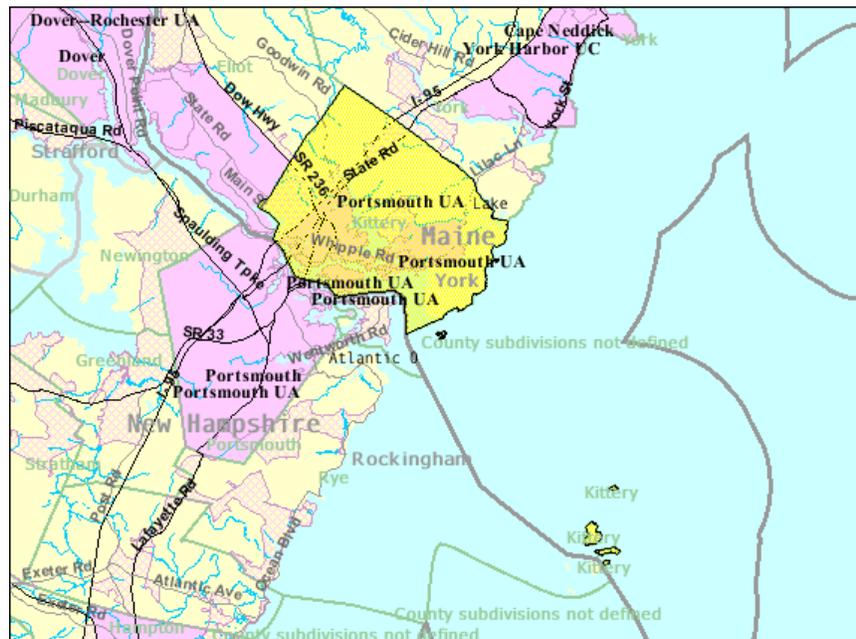
KITTERY, ME¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

Kittery (43.06°N, 70.42°W) is located in York County, in the Portland metro area in the state of Maine (State of Maine 2004). Kittery is situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Piscataqua River just north of the New Hampshire border (State of Maine 2004). The town is 18.5 square miles in area, but has hundreds of miles of coastline with both inhabited and uninhabited islands.³ Kittery's land area includes some of the islands making up the Isles of Shoals, six miles offshore.



Map 1. Location of Kittery, ME (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

Kittery was settled in 1632 by the British, and is Maine's oldest settlement (Maine Office of Tourism 2005). Kittery is also the oldest incorporated town in Maine, incorporated in 1647. The Town of Kittery takes its name from Kittery Court located on Kittery Point in Kingsweare, Devon, England. The first settlers of Kittery were fishermen, hunters, trappers and timber workers. Their goods were shipped to England or the West Indies. In 1652, the people of Kittery submitted to Massachusetts and Kittery was recognized as a municipal township. Along with York, the town received a guaranty of equal privileges with other Massachusetts towns

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."

³ Profile review comment, Jonathan Carter, Town Manager, 200 Rogers Rd., Kittery ME 03904, September 23, 2007

(Town of Kittery 2005). Apleadore was incorporated as a town in 1661 and in 1665 its name was changed to Isles of Shoals and was annexed to Kittery in 1696. Shipbuilding began in Kittery in the 18th century, and the first ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy was launched in 1777. The federal government established the Navy Yard at Kittery in 1806 (State of Maine 2004). Today Kittery is called the “Gateway to Maine” for its location on the Maine border, and is a popular destination for visitors coming to enjoy its seaside location or shop at the town’s numerous outlets.

Demographics⁴

According to Census 2000 data⁵, Kittery town had a total population of 9,543, up 1.8% from a reported population of 9,372 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.7% were males and 51.3% were females. The median age was 39 years and 75.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 18.1% was 62 or older.

The population structure for Kittery (Figure 1) shows the town to be a generally family-oriented community. The largest percentage of the population was residents between the ages of 40-49, followed by 30-39. There were a fair number of children aged 0-9 and 10-19. Unlike many fishing communities, Kittery does not experience a decline in the population for residents aged 20-29; there is a slight increase in this age group from 10-19.

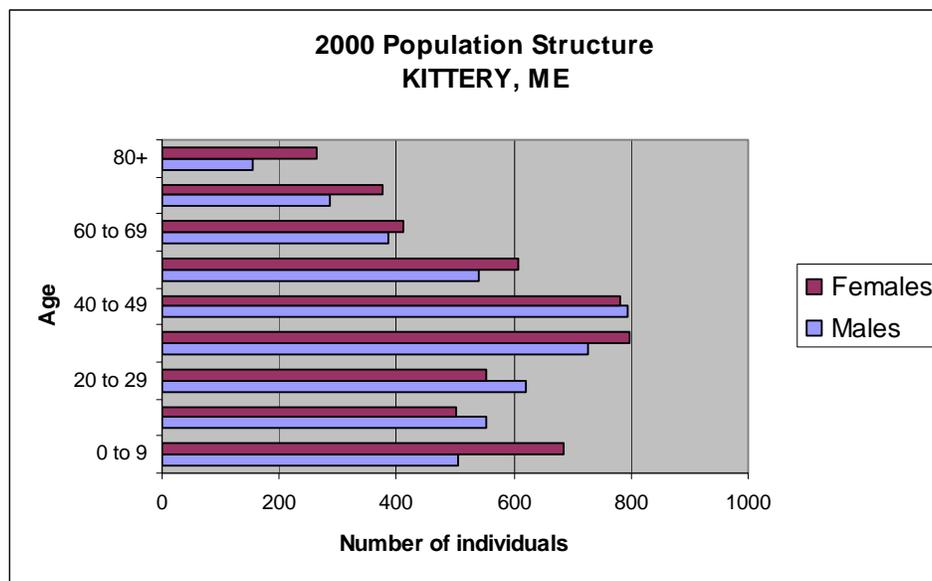


Figure 1. Kittery’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population is white (95.9%), with 2.0% black or African American, 0.9% Asian, 0.5% Native American, and 0.02% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 0.7% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (27.7%), Irish (17.4%), German (8.6%), Scottish (6.9%), and Italian (5.1%). With regard to region of birth, 27.7% were

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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 Kittery town, York County, Maine (cited Jul 2007)

born in Maine, 73.9% were born in a different state and 2.4% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.4% who were not United States citizens).

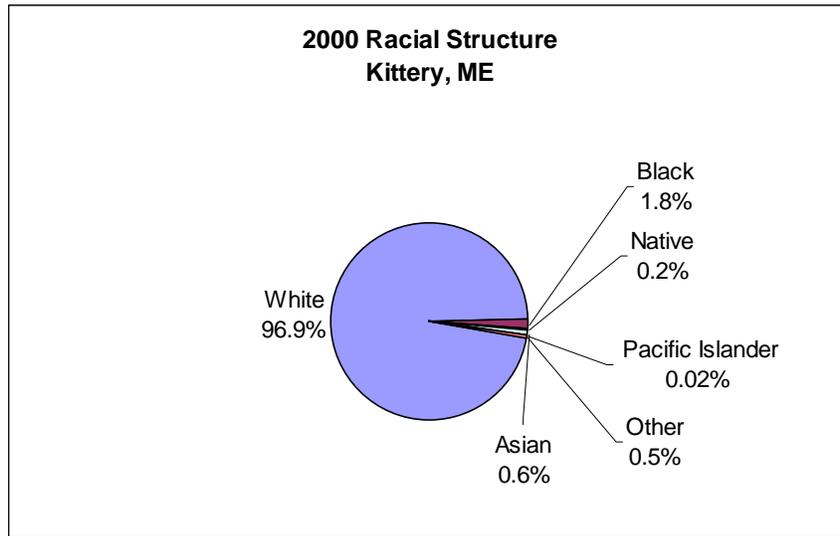


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

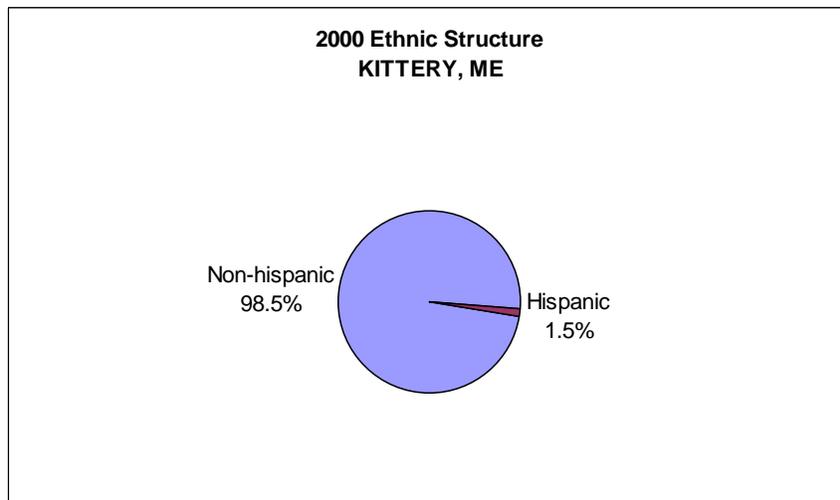


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 94.5% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 5.5% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.1% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 90.3% were high school graduates or higher, and 28.4% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 1.6% did not reach ninth grade, 8% attended some high school but did not graduate, 31.8% completed high school, 23.2% had some college with no degree, 6.9% received an associate’s degree, 18.3% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 10.1% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through US Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations in York County was Catholic with 21 congregations and 52,948 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (20 with 4,708 adherents),

American Baptist Churches in the USA (17 with 3,936 adherents), United Methodist (15 with 3,270 adherents), and Episcopal (6 with 1,807 adherents). The total numbers of adherents to any religion was up 10.6% from 1990 (ARDA 2000). The First Congregational Church in Kittery Point, circa 1730, is Maine's oldest remaining house of worship (Maine Office of Tourism 2005).

Issues/Processes

Maine's environmental, cultural, and economic customs have become threatened as fish stocks have been depleted as a result of excessive fishing. Some fishermen of Kittery express reservations about their livelihood and the long-term viability of fishing (Snowe 2004).

In 2005 Maine voters approved a bond measure which provided \$2 million to the newly-established [Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program](#) (WWAPP). "The new fund provides matching funds through a competitive application process to help secure coastal waterfront land that supports commercial fisheries businesses and activities" (Maine DMR 2005). The bond is administered by the Working Waterfront Team, made up of Coastal Enterprises Inc. and the Island Institute, working with applicants to secure this funding. Six projects were funded in the first year. Voters approved an additional \$3 million to continue the program in 2007.

In 2006, the State of Maine passed the Working Waterfront Tax Law, to address the problem of working waterfront property being heavily taxed based on its projected market value. The goal of this tax is "to encourage the preservation of working waterfront land and to prevent the conversion of working waterfront land to other uses as the result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of that land for purposes of property taxation." The law requires the tax assessor to value the property based on what it is worth as working waterfront land, rather than what its market value would be if it were sold and converted to residential or other uses (State of Maine 2005).

Cultural attributes

The Kittery Historical and Naval Museum displays items reflecting the town's maritime history (Maine Archives and Museums 2007). Shoals Marine Laboratory, located on Appledore Island in the Isles of Shoals, is six miles off Kittery's coast and part of the town. The laboratory is run by Cornell University and the University of New Hampshire, and gives students a chance to study marine science in the field while living on the remote island. They offer some public education programs, including cruises which leave from Portsmouth, NH (SML 2007).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

York is Maine's most highly industrialized county, but it also depends largely on seasonal tourism. Its many beaches and coastal resort communities attract a considerable summer population. Kittery is a popular place for summer tourists. In fact, even in the 1800s it was the retreat of choice for a number of famous writers and artists. Kittery's beaches and ocean views continue to attract countless visitors. The streets are lined with pubs and antique shops. In addition there are the more than 120 stores, or one mile of shopping, included in the Kittery Outlets. Kittery has a unique economy with historic industries, family-owned small businesses, and a significant retail sector (Elocallink 2007).

The historic Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (located in Kittery) has long been an important part of this area's economy, and is the town's largest employer. The country's oldest naval shipyard, it serves as a repair hub for nuclear submarines (Elocallink 2007). It has an estimated

4800 employees, of which 355 are Kittery residents.⁶ Because of its proximity to Portsmouth, many Kittery residents are also likely to be employed there. In 2004, the top employers in the city of Portsmouth were the following: Liberty Mutual (1800), Columbia HCA Hospital (1040), City of Portsmouth (881), Demoulas Market Basket (425), Lonza Biologies (390), Erie Scientific/Sybron Lab Products (310), Pam-Am Airlines/Boston-Maine Airways (300), US Department of State – National Passport Center (259), High-Liner Foods USA (241) (City of Portsmouth 2007). Kittery is about halfway between Boston and Portland, providing residents with access to a number of job opportunities.

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁷, 68.2% (2,243 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 2.5% were unemployed, 4.4% were in the Armed Forces, and 61.2% were employed.

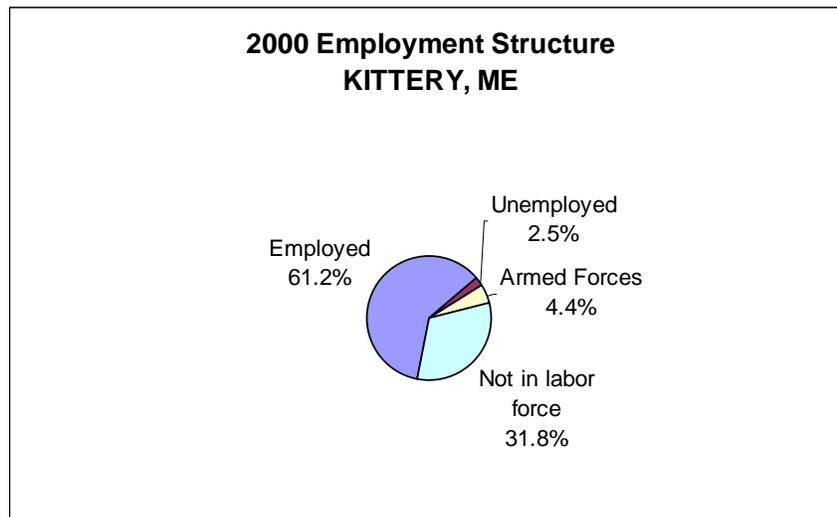


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 55 positions or 1.4% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 452 positions or 9.7% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (18.7%), retail trade (15.6%), manufacturing (14.6%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (10.4%), and professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (10.1%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Kittery was \$45,822 (up 35.6% from \$33,793 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$24,153. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 31.8% more per year than females.

The average family in Kittery consisted of 2.86 persons. With respect to poverty, 5.7% of families (up from 1.2% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 7.6% of individuals earned below the official U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239-35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000a). In 2000, 26.6% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

⁶ Profile review comment, Jonathan Carter, Town Manager, 200 Rogers Rd., Kittery ME 03904, September 23, 2007

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.

In 2000, Kittery had a total of 4,375 housing units of which 43.9% were occupied and 93.2% were detached one unit homes. Only 29.2% of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 7% of housing units; 83.8% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$142,500. Of vacant housing units, 3.4% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 35.9% were renter occupied.

Government

Kittery is governed by a Town Manager and a Town Council (Town of Kittery 2005).

Fishery involvement in government

Kittery has a Shellfish Conservation Committee to manage shellfishing activity in the town. The town Harbormaster also serves as the Clam Warden (Town of Kittery 2005). The Kittery Port Authority is an independent municipal agency responsible for wharves, docks, piers, marinas, moorings and other infrastructure. The Port Authority hires the Harbor Master, who is has authority to enforce the agency's laws (Town of Kittery 2005).

Institutional

Fishing associations

The [Maine Lobstermen's Association](#) (MLA) was founded in 1954, and works to protect the lobster resource and the lobstermen's way of life. The association was founded by lobstermen with a goal of empowering Maine's lobster industry by representing lobstermen with a united front. The MLA is the largest commercial fishing industry group on the east coast, and represents the interests of 1200 lobstermen.

Aside from the State's fishermen organizations, the only local fishermen's organization in Southern Maine is the Biddeford Pool Fishermen's Association (Hall-Arber at al. 2001). This organization is a lobster buying cooperative with members in Kittery and throughout Southern Maine.⁸

Fishing assistance centers

The Working Waterfront Coalition is a statewide collaboration of various industry associations, non-profits, and government agencies with the goal to support Maine's working waterfronts. The [Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program](#), administered by the Department of Marine Resources, provides money to applicants such as municipalities, fishing co-ops, private commercial fisheries businesses and more, ranging from \$7,000 to \$475,000. The intention of the program is to preserve commercial fisheries working waterfronts and to help secure property for these businesses. As of December 2007, the \$2 million pilot program has reportedly supported over 400 jobs, 194 boats, and assured access to clam flats, parking, wharfage and fisheries in six towns (Maine DMR 2005). Voters [approved an additional \\$3 million](#) to continue the program in 2007.

Other fishing related organizations

The [Maine Fishermen's Forum](#) was founded in 1976, and its goal is to provide continuous opportunities to educate the public and the fishing industry about marine resource issues and fisheries, as well as to provide a platform for discussion and decision making. The

⁸ Profile review comment, Patrice McCarron, Executive Director, Maine Lobstermen's Association, 21 Western Ave., Suite 1, Kennebunk, ME 04043, October 2, 2007

Forum also holds an annual three day event which focuses awareness on issues that affect the commercial fishing industry.

The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) has an office in York County. NAMA is a non-profit organization that works to create a coalition among commercial fishermen, universities, scientists, and citizens on research and technology issues involving fisheries. Its goal is to revive this area's ecosystem by improving fisheries management (NAMA 2006).

The Spruce Creek Association is a group of citizens working to protect the Spruce Creek Watershed, which is a tidal estuary in Kittery flowing into the Piscataqua River. The group does water quality and restoration projects, and has developed a Watershed Management Plan (Spruce Creek Association 2007).

Physical

Kittery is located just along the Piscataqua River, which separates New Hampshire and Maine (Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce 2007). It is just across the Piscataqua Bridge from Portsmouth, NH. Kittery is roughly 50 miles from Portland and 60 miles from Boston, MA. The Downeaster Train stops in nearby Dover and Wells on its way between Portland and Boston, and the C&J Trailways bus line stops in Portsmouth (Town of Kittery 2005). The closest airport is the Pease International Airport in Newington, NH; roughly 4 miles away (MapQuest 2005).

Kittery sits just at the mouth of the Piscataqua River, where it meets the Atlantic. The town includes Seavey Island, where the Portsmouth Naval Base is located. Most of the lobster and fishing fleet is located in Pepperell Cove in Kittery; there is also a town dock here. A large recreational fleet can also be found in town. There are several lobster firms to be found on Chauncey Creek, at the head of the cove (USACE 2005). Kittery Point is on the opposite side of Spruce Creek from the rest of Kittery. [Kittery Point Yacht Yard](#) is a full-service boat yard. There is one marina in Kittery; Badger Island Marine (Maine Harbors 2006).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁹

Commercial

[Seaview Lobster Company](#) was founded in May of 1994 and is located in Kittery. Seaview's buying wharf is on the Atlantic side, and allows customers the opportunity to buy freshly caught lobster right off of the boat. The Seaview Lobster Company has grown from four small fiberglass tanks to a 30,000 pound live lobster holding facility. There are several other lobster companies located in Kittery. Others include [Taylor Lobster Company](#) and [Chrissy D. Lobster](#). [Maine Lobster Outlet](#) is a lobster wholesale business located in Kittery. [Weathervane Seafoods](#) is a popular seafood restaurant chain headquartered in Kittery, with locations all over New England and New York, which specializes in lobsters and also ships lobsters online.

⁹ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

Landings and vessel data here are combined for both Kittery and Kittery Point, as they are listed for both. The value of lobster landings in Kittery in 1997-2006 was significantly higher than in 2006 (see Table 1). The level of port landings generally experienced an increasing trend from 1997-2006 (with the exception of a dip after 2004) and overall was much higher than the value of landings for home ported vessels, indicating that most of the vessels landing their catch in Kittery do not list Kittery as their home port. The number of vessels with Kittery as their home port changed very little while the level of fishing for home ported vessels was much more erratic. It jumped from \$73,816 to over \$1.2 million in three years (see Table 2). This seems to indicate that either the number of vessels fishing changed dramatically from year to year within this time period, or that there are inaccuracies in the data.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Dollar value of Federally Managed Groups of landing in Kittery

	Average from 1997-2006	2006 only
Lobster	5,020,232	4,507,407
Other¹⁰	30,646	19,763
Largemesh Groundfish¹¹	13,995	128
Scallop	9,712	3,899
Monkfish	2,442	0
Dogfish	183	0
Smallmesh Groundfish¹²	21	0
Skate	7	0

Vessels by Year¹³

Table 2. 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	38	33	73,816	3,349,610
1998	35	33	603,525	3,201,099
1999	40	35	663,167	5,288,248
2000	44	38	1,227,114	5,419,668
2001	49	45	713,123	2,554,382
2002	45	39	683,609	5,312,446
2003	42	36	860,340	5,312,446
2004	42	35	649,340	9,952,358
2005	38	34	1,283,669	5,592,071
2006	35	30	2,488,820	4,531,197

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

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹⁴

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

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

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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

Kittery offers a variety of recreational fishing. Kittery Deep Sea Fishing, LLC is based in Pepperrell Cove, Kittery Point. It offers deep sea fishing and sightseeing on a 55' Bonner Custom Yacht. Tidewater Sportfishing Charters also offers flyfishing and conventional light tackle for striped bass and bluefish and is also based in Pepperrell Cove. Seafari Charters are available from April until the end of November for one to 20 people, depending on the type of trip. They offer fishing, scuba diving, and whale watching from their 44' sportfishing vessel (Maine DMR 2006).

Subsistence

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

FUTURE

In 2005, the Department of Defense recommended closing the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard along with a number of other military facilities, which would have significantly impacted Kittery's economy with the loss of its largest industry. It was later decided that the shipyard would remain open (Global Security 2007).

The town has been struggling to decide what to do with the historic Portsmouth Harbor Lifesaving Station off Kittery Point. The historic lifesaving station has fallen into disrepair. One group envisions turning the property into a maritime museum (Gleason 2007).

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