

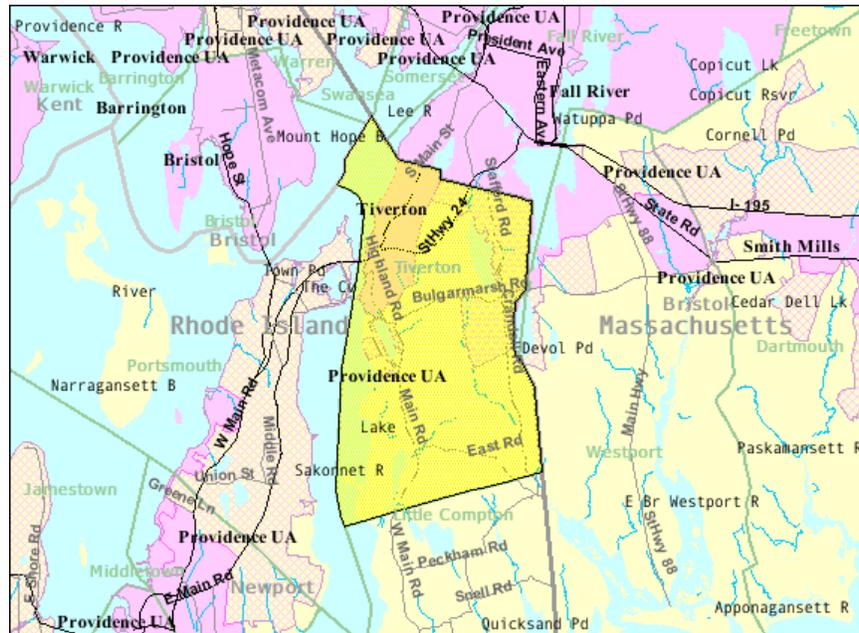
# TIVERTON, RI<sup>1</sup>

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

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

The Town of Tiverton (41.63° N, 71.21° W) is located in Southeastern Rhode Island in Newport County, along the Massachusetts border. It borders Fall River and Westport, MA and has a total land area of the town is 29.6 square miles. Tiverton is located along the Sakonnet River, part of Narragansett Bay (USGS 2008).



Map 1. Location of Tiverton, RI (US Census Bureau 2000)

#### Historical/Background

The town of Tiverton was named after Tiverton, England. “Tiverton was originally incorporated in 1694, as part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. A long boundary dispute between Rhode Island and Massachusetts was settled in 1746, and Tiverton, by Royal Decree, together with the Towns of Cumberland, Barrington, Bristol and Little Compton was annexed to Rhode Island. The town was incorporated in 1747. For approximately three years during the Revolution when the British held Aquidneck Island, Tiverton was an asylum for Americans fleeing from British occupation, and the town became a mustering point for Colonial forces who gathered together to drive the British off the island. In its early day, Tiverton was chiefly a

<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).”

farming community with some fishing and boat construction. Until 1900 the manufacture of menhaden oil, a fish derivative, was one of the primary industrial pursuits. Cotton and woolen mills were established as early as 1827. Today, trade establishments are the major employers in the town. Recent years have seen Tiverton grow as a summer resort and residential area. Development has been concentrated in the area known as North Tiverton” (Town of Tiverton nd). North Tiverton borders Fall River and is densely populated.

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

According to Census 2000 data<sup>4</sup>, Tiverton had a total population of 15,260, up 110.2% from the reported population of 7,259 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 48.7% were male and 51.3% were female. The median age was 40.8 years and 75.1% of the population was 21 years or older while 19.3% was 62 or older.

The population structure of Tiverton (see Figure 1) shows the most populous age group for both men and women was the 40-49 year old grouping, followed closely by both the 30-39 and 50-59 age groups. The age structure showed a dip in population for both men and women in the 20-29 age bracket, indicating an out-migration of young people moving elsewhere for college and/or to seek jobs that is common in many fishing communities.

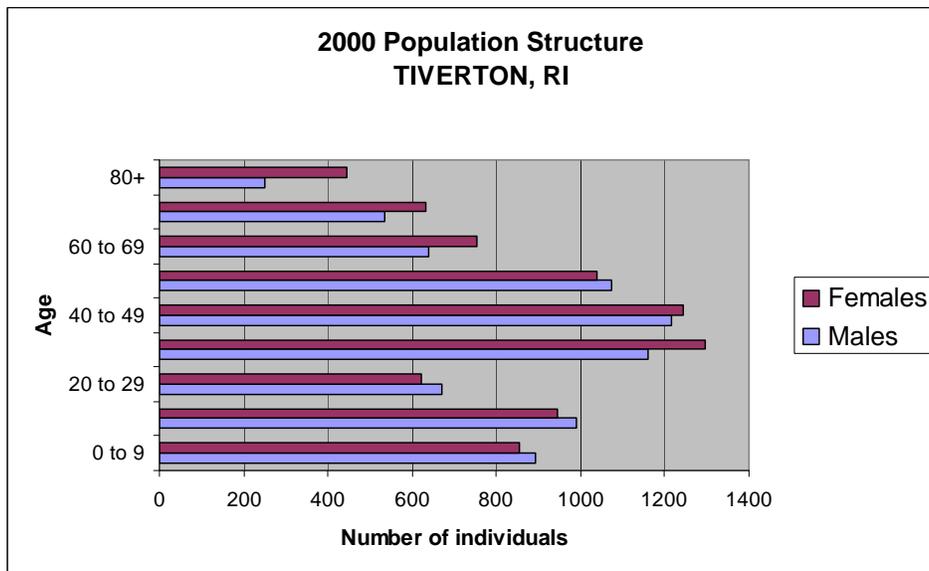


Figure 1. Tiverton's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (97.9%), with 0.6% of residents black or African American, 0.6% Asian, 0.6% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 0.7% of the total population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Portuguese (31.3%), Irish (16.3%), French (14.4%), and English (14.3%). With regard to region

<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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 Tiverton town, Newport County RI (accessed July 2, 2007)

of birth, 19.8% were born in Rhode Island, 75.6% were born in a different state and 4.1% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.3% who were not United States citizens).

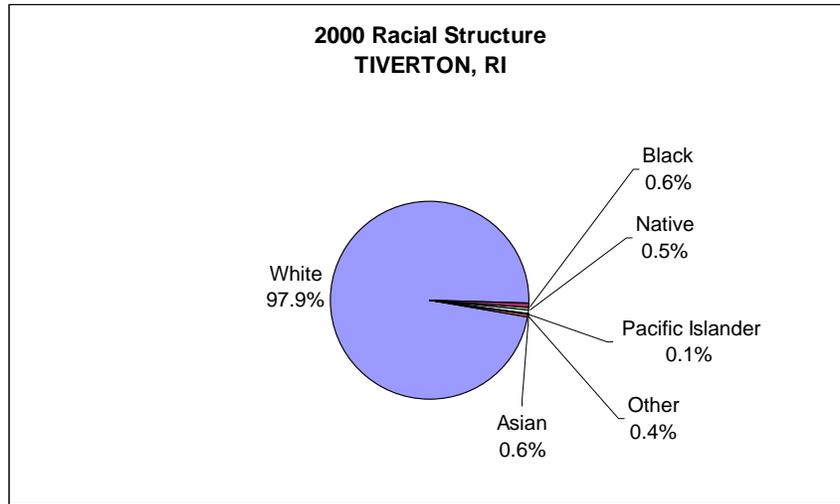


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

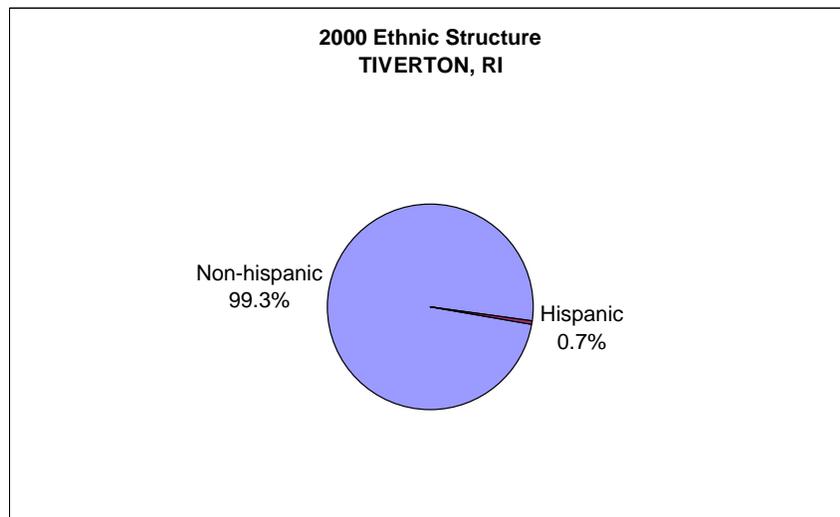


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 89.7% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 10.3% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and including 2.8% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 79.5% were high school graduates or higher and 24.0% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 8.5% did not reach ninth grade, 11.9% attended some high school but did not graduate, 29.6% completed high school, 18.7% had some college with no degree, 7.2% received an associate’s degree, 14.7% earned a Bachelor’s degree, and 9.3% 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 in 2000, the religions with the highest number of congregations in Newport County was Catholic with 13 congregations and over 68,668

adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Episcopal (10 with 4,720 adherents), and American Baptist (15 with 3,022 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 57.3% from 1990 (ARDA 2000). There are twelve houses of worship listed in Tiverton, of which four are Catholic, one is Mormon, and the rest are various Protestant denominations (Town of Tiverton nd).

### **Issues/Processes**

Like many coastal communities in the area, Tiverton has a problem with loss of waterfront access (Sakonnet Times 2004b). A property known as Manchester's, which has been in the past leased to fishing companies for use as a wholesale and retail market, and where a number of fishing vessels were docked, was sold in 2005 to a couple who intend to develop this area for retail and tourism (East Bay Newspapers 2005).

A highly controversial proposal in this area is one to bring liquid natural gas (LNG) tankers into Fall River, which borders Tiverton. These tankers would have to pass close by a segment of Tiverton's shore (Sakonnet Times 2004a). In addition to the safety concerns over having LNG tankers in the area, this would possibly present an access problem for fishermen in Narragansett Bay, as security regulations surrounding the tanker would restrict the use of part of the bay as the tankers are passing through. This would also require dredging parts of the bay to allow the tanker to pass through, a plan that Save the Bay, an organization dedicated to the protection of Narragansett Bay, claims would hurt the area's already sensitive fisheries (Sakonnet Times 2005).

The community is also contending with a couple of proposed large-scale retail developments in the town, and many residents are concerned about this and future plans for developing here, and their potential to change the character of the community (Town of Tiverton nd). The Stone Bridge, formerly a bridge and currently used as a fishing pier, was damaged in a 2005 storm. The town received federal funding to repair the structure, which protects Tiverton Basin (where the town's harbor is located) from storm waves coming up the length of the Sakonnet River (Burdett 2004).

### **Cultural attributes**

The Tiverton Four Corners village hosts a number of art-related festivals throughout the year (Tiverton4Corners nd), but little in the way of fishing related cultural events.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Current Economy**

According to the U.S. Census 2000<sup>5</sup>, 63.4% (8,247 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 3.4% were unemployed, 0.2% were in the Armed Forces, and 63.4% were employed.

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<sup>5</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.

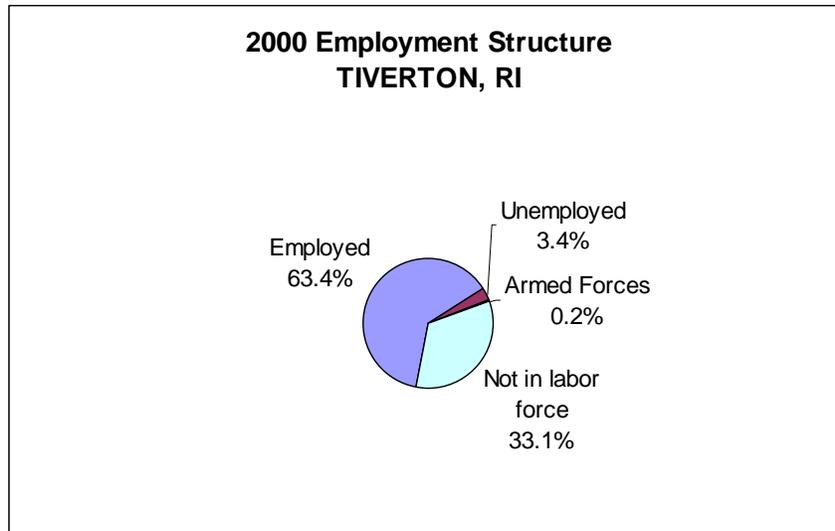


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The largest employers in Tiverton in 2004 were the Town of Tiverton (400 employees) and LIFE (235 employees) which provides group home support for persons with disabilities (RIEDC 2004).

Tiverton had an aquaculture facility, Eastern Fish, which closed in 2000; the facility mostly produced hydroponically grown lettuce, however (NBEP nd). Most of the seafood landed in processed in Tiverton is shipped elsewhere, to Boston, New York, or across the country (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 94 positions or 1.2% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 426 positions or 5.5% of jobs. Education, health, and social services (23.8%), manufacturing (12.7%), and retail trade (12.4%) were the primary industries. Median household income in Tiverton was \$49,977 (up 43.7% from \$34,787 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$22,866. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 40.5% more per year than females.

The average family in Tiverton consisted of 2.95 persons. With respect to poverty, 2.9% of families (down from 3.2% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 4.5% 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, 22.6% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Tiverton had a total of 6,474 housing units of which 93.3% were occupied and 77.6% were detached one unit homes. Just over 20% (20.6%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 4.2% of the total housing units; 91.0% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$144,400. Of vacant housing units, 3.0% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 20.1% were renter occupied.

## Government

Tiverton has a Town Meeting form of government with a seven-member Town Council and a Town Clerk (Town of Tiverton nd).

### *Fishery involvement in government*

Tiverton has a Harbor & Coastal Waters Management Commission which always includes a member of the Planning Board, and also has waterfront zoning for water-dependent commercial uses (Town of Tiverton nd). The town also has a harbormaster.

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

The [Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers' Association](#) is dedicated to the conservation of the marine environment and of fisheries, and to protecting the rights of saltwater recreational fishermen in Rhode Island. Rhode Island has several other fishery associations to which fishermen in Tiverton might belong, including: the Ocean State Fishermen's Association, the Rhode Island Shellfishermen's Association, the Rhode Island Inshore Fishermen's Association, and the Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association (RIMRU 2002).

### *Fishing assistance centers*

Information on fishing assistance centers in Tiverton is unavailable through secondary data collection.

### *Other fishing-related institutions*

[Save the Bay](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and protecting the environmental quality of Narragansett Bay. The organization works towards this goal by monitoring the health of the Bay, initiating action to clean up the Bay, and through advocacy and education programs.

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."

## **Physical**

The southern portion of Tiverton for the most part maintains a rural character with numerous farms and open space. Tiverton is roughly 20 miles away from New Bedford by car, and about 25 miles from Providence. The closest airport is T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, RI, roughly 32 miles away. One highway, Route 24, runs through North Tiverton.

Many of Tiverton's fishing boats were previously found tied along a property known as Manchester's in a sheltered cove just outside Nanaquaket Pond. However, this property was purchased in 2005 for development and fishermen are no longer allowed to tie up here (East Bay Newspapers 2005). Other fishing vessels are found in Tiverton Basin, an area of the Sakonnet River protected on one side by the Sakonnet River Bridge and on the other side by the Old Stone Bridge that serves as the town's harbor. Tiverton has two boat ramps, one at Sapowet Point and one at Fogland, and one boat yard, Standish Boat Yard (NCCVB nd). There is also a herring ladder in the town (Reel-Time 2003).

## **INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>6</sup>**

### **Commercial**

Tiverton has a relatively large lobster fishery, as well as a small niche conch fishery. Tiverton also has a red crab fishery, identified in the Red Crab FMP (NEFMC nd). In 2001, Tiverton had 122-150 lobster boats, 12-15 conch boats, and 16 finfish boats (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). Bridgeport Seafood in Tiverton is both a retail and wholesale operation.

According to landings data, Tiverton has a highly diversified fishery, with landings in almost every category (see Table 1). The most valuable landings by species based on average values for 1997-2006 is the “other” species category, followed by monkfish, and then lobster. The value of most of these species groupings in 2006 was lower than the ten-year average value. The total value of landings in Tiverton increased sharply between the years 1997-1999, declining again in 2003. The number of home ported vessels in Tiverton increased from 12 in 1997 to 17 in 2000, back to 11 in 2006. The number of vessels with owners living in Tiverton declined from a high of 20 in 2000 to 12 in 2006 (see Table 2).

### **Recreational**

Recreational fishing is a popular activity in Tiverton. The town’s Old Stone Bridge fishing pier is the remainder of an old bridge and is a popular spot for fishing from shore, although it was recently closed for safety reasons after a storm damaged the remaining structure (Burdett 2004). Tiverton also has a couple of fishing charters listed (Forte Marketing nd).

### **Subsistence**

Hall-Arber et al. (2001) notes: “Lots of the people who participate in recreational fishing in Tiverton are Cambodian or have other ethnic backgrounds. Some of this “recreational” activity may actually support a fisheries- based subsistence life style.” However, no firm data on subsistence fishing in Tiverton have yet been found.

## **FUTURE**

A facility which formerly housed a wholesale and retail company and was used by a number of vessels has been recently purchased with plans to convert the property into an inn, spa, restaurant, and retail outlets, with a charter fishing company present here as well (East Bay Newspapers 2005). A number of new slips are proposed for a marina in Tiverton. There are also controversial plans to bring LNG tankers into neighboring Fall River, passing by Tiverton, and to develop large-scale retail facilities in the town.

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<sup>6</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.

## Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Other <sup>7</sup>	1
Monkfish	2
Lobster	3
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass	4
Skate	5
Largemouth Groundfish <sup>8</sup>	6
Red Crab	7
Surf Clams, Ocean Quahog	8
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	9
Smallmouth Groundfish <sup>9</sup>	10
Scallop	11
Dogfish	12
Bluefish	13
Tilefish	14
Herring	15

(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.)

## Vessels by Year<sup>10</sup>

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	12	19
1998	12	15
1999	10	15
2000	17	20
2001	16	17
2002	13	13
2003	14	17
2004	13	18
2005	12	16
2006	11	12

(Note: # 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>11</sup>)

<sup>7</sup> "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

<sup>8</sup> Largemouth groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

<sup>9</sup> Smallmouth multi-species: red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

<sup>10</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.

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<sup>11</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.