

Fishing Activity, Resources, Habitat in Nantucket Sound and Related Questions



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Introduction

The shoal areas of Nantucket Sound provide a very important feeding and/or nursery ground for many species of finfish and invertebrates including:

- Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*)
- Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*)
- Scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*)
- Summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*)
- Black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*)
- Tautog (*Tautoga onitis*)
- Squid (*Loligo & Illex*)
- Knobbed whelk (*Busycon carica*).



Introduction (cont.)

The commercial and recreational harvest of fish and invertebrates in Nantucket Sound provides millions of dollars in revenue to the local economy and is an integral part of life in many Cape towns.



Methods of Commercial Harvest

- ▲ *Conch Pots*
- ▲ *Fish Pots*
- ▲ *Fish Weirs*
- ▲ *Hand lines*
- ▲ *Otter Trawl*
- ▲ *Rod & Reel*
- ▲ *Shellfish Drags & Dredging*



Commercial Fisheries Harvest Year 2000

▲ *Squid (Loligo, Illex and unspecified)*

▲ *Number of Boats in 2000: 34*

▲ *Landings in pounds: Trawl - 637,522 Weir - 110,620*

▲ *Fluke*

▲ *Number of Boats in 2000: 58*

▲ *Landings in pounds: Trawl - 508,785 Hand line - 63,598*

Trap - 707 Scottish Seine - 100



Commercial Fisheries Harvest

Year 2000

- ▲ *Conch (Channeled, Knobbed, Lightning Whelk and unspecified)*
 - ▲ *Number of Boats: 17*
 - ▲ *Landings in pounds: Trawl - 16,222 Fish Pot - 4,667*
Lobster Pot - 1,382 Other Pot - 2,063
- ▲ *Striped Bass*
 - ▲ *Pounds sold July through September 2000: 12,537*



Commercial Fisheries Harvest Year 2000

- ▲ *Black Sea Bass Pots (From state catch report data)*
 - ▲ *Number of boats: 35*
 - ▲ *Landings in pounds: 625,902*

- ▲ *Conch Pots (From state catch report data)*
 - ▲ *Number of boats: 39*
 - ▲ *Landings in pounds: 1,078,956*



Commercial Fisheries Harvest Year 2000

▲ *Fish weirs - Landings by pound*

Atlantic Mackerel - 430,785

King Mackerel - 151,615

Butterfish - 12,464

Spanish Mackerel - 11,046

Albacore - 1,363

Tautog - 51

Weakfish - 18

Squid - 322,608

Scup - 76,693

Bluefish - 11,076

Fluke - 3,924

Bonito - 356

Amberjack - 27



Commercial Fisheries Harvest Year 1990 - 2000

▲ *Shellfish - Landings by pound*

Bay Scallop (without shells) - 17,813

Bay Scallop (with shells) - 28,068

Littlenecks - 200

Mixed Quahogs - 3,985

Mussels - 8,548,273

Ocean Quahogs - 66,560

Sea Clams - 12,816,980

Sea Scallops (without shells) - 413

Soft Shell Clams - 42,285



Recreational Fishing Activity

- ▶ *Approximately 150 Party and Charter boats*
- ▶ *Privately owned vessels*
- ▶ *Rod & Reel and Hand line*
- ▶ *Trolling, Surface casting, Bottom fishing with bait and lures, Fly fishing*
- ▶ *Estimates of recreational anglers are in the hundreds of thousands*



Data Resources

- ▶ *DMF Resource Assessment Program*
 - ▶ *Biannual trawl study*
 - ▶ *Stratified random design for fisheries management*
 - ▶ *Twenty-five year time series*
 - ▶ *Annual beach seine survey*
- ▶ *Fisheries Dependent Investigations*
- ▶ *Landings data for commercial fisheries*
- ▶ *Sportfish Program*



Fisheries Related Questions

- ▶ *How will installation of wind towers impact water flow and sediment transport during construction and long-term?*
- ▶ *Will there be a large-scale conversion of habitat from open shoals to structure oriented?*
- ▶ *How would such a conversion impact fisheries resources, particularly through alteration of juvenile and forage habitat?*
- ▶ *Will there be any electrical field impacts from the subsea cables and distribution hubs?*



Fisheries Related Questions

- ▶ *Will access for recreational and commercial fishermen be restricted or lost due to operational or security issues?*
- ▶ *Will traditional fishing practices be altered and/or hindered by the presence of wind towers?*
- ▶ *Will USCG rescue capability be negatively impacted?*
- ▶ *What will be the magnitude of impacts caused by the unintended and/or sporadic deposition of chemicals, preservatives, copper, or structural elements?*

