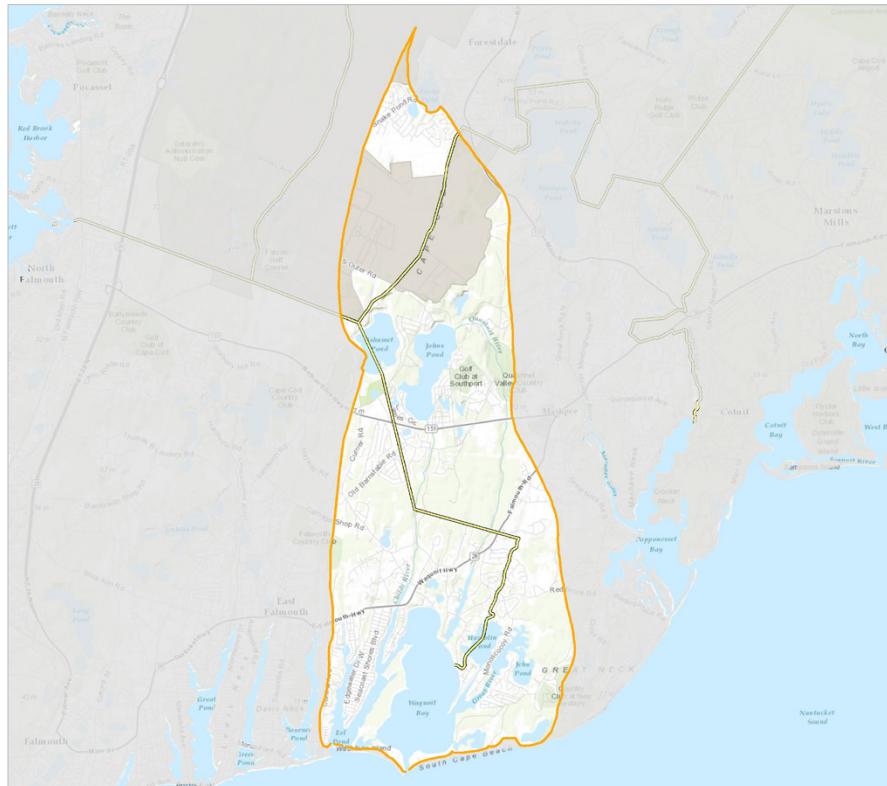


Waquoit Bay

FALMOUTH, MASHPEE & SANDWICH

WATER THREAT LEVEL

HIGH



Waquoit Bay Watershed

Introduction to the Watershed Reports

In 2001, the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) was established to evaluate the health of 89 coastal embayment ecosystems across southeastern Massachusetts. A collaboration between coastal communities, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), the School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), and the Cape Cod Commission, the purpose of the MEP is to identify nitrogen thresholds and necessary nutrient reductions to support healthy ecosystems.

The Cape Cod 208 Plan Update, certified and approved by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the US EPA in 2015, provides an opportunity and a path forward to implement responsible plans for the restoration of the waters that define Cape Cod.

On Cape Cod there are 53 embayment watersheds with physical characteristics that make them susceptible to nitrogen impacts. In its 2003 report, "The Massachusetts Estuaries Project – Embayment Restoration and Guidance for Implementation Strategies", MassDEP identifies the 46 Cape Cod embayments included in the

MEP. Thirty-three embayments studied to date require nitrogen reduction to achieve healthy ecosystem function. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been established (or a draft load has been identified and is under review) for these watersheds. For those embayments not studied, the 208 Plan Update recommends planning for a 25% reduction in nitrogen, as a placeholder, until information becomes available.

The 208 Plan Update directs Waste Treatment Management Agencies (WMAs) to develop watershed reports within 12 months of certification of the Plan Update. The Watershed Reports outline potential “bookend” scenarios for each watershed that include two scenarios to meet water quality goals in the watershed – a traditional scenario, which relies completely on the typical collection and centralized treatment of wastewater, and a non-traditional scenario, which uses remediation, restoration, and on-site reduction techniques to remove nutrients from raw and treated wastewater, groundwater and affected waterbodies.

The intent of the Watershed Reports is to outline two distinct approaches for addressing the nutrient problem. The reports are not intended to identify preferred and detailed plans for each watershed, but to facilitate discussions regarding effective and efficient solutions, particularly in watersheds shared by more than one town. In some cases, towns have provided information on collection areas and non-traditional technologies that have been specifically considered by that town.

The 208 Update developed a regionally consistent database of the nitrogen load entering each watershed. This data set includes estimates of wastewater, stormwater and fertilizer loads - similar to methodologies used by the MEP. Using this regionally consistent database, the Watershed MVP tool (wMVP) was developed so that different strategies (i.e., bookend scenarios) to reduce excess nitrogen load

could be evaluated. The Watershed Reports use the MEP recommendations for the required nitrogen load reductions necessary to meet the threshold loads (that serve as the basis for nitrogen management), and then use the wMVP and the regionally consistent database values to develop bookend scenarios. There are variations of load between the MEP and wMVP, primarily due to differences in comparing older and newer databases.

Terms Defined

Total nitrogen load: the nitrogen load from the watershed contributed by septic, wastewater, fertilizer, stormwater, golf course, landfill, and natural sources.

Attenuated nitrogen load: the nitrogen load from the watershed that reaches the embayment after the effect of natural attenuation in wetlands, ponds or streams.

Threshold: the amount of nitrogen that a water body can receive from its watershed and still meet water quality goals; this number is based on MEP technical reports or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports.

Reduction target: an approximation of the amount of nitrogen that needs to be removed from the watershed to achieve the threshold; this number is calculated by subtracting the threshold number from the attenuated total watershed load, and is for planning purposes only.

Percent contribution: the percent of attenuated nitrogen load that a town contributes to the watershed.

Kilogram responsibility: is calculated by applying the percent contribution to the reduction target and indicates the amount of nitrogen, in kg, that a community is responsible for addressing.

Total Maximum Daily Load: a regulatory term in the Clean Water Act, describing a value of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards. Establishing a TMDL is necessary when a water body has been listed on the 303D list of impaired waters.

Waquoit Bay

FALMOUTH, MASHPEE & SANDWICH



WATER THREAT LEVEL

HIGH

The Waquoit Bay estuary and embayment system is a large marine embayment with shoreline located in the Towns of Mashpee and Falmouth. The system is comprised of the main Waquoit Bay basin and subembayments consisting of Eel Pond, the Childs River, the Great River, Quashnet River, Jehu Pond, Hamblin Pond, and Sage Lot Pond. The Bay supports a variety of recreational uses including boating, swimming, shell fishing and fin fishing.

The Problem

The Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) technical report (available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/the-massachusetts-estuaries-project-and-reports.html>) indicates that the Waquoit Bay system exceeds its critical threshold for nitrogen, resulting in impaired water quality.

A MEP technical report has been completed. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) for nitrogen was established for the Quashnet River, Great River, Jehu Pond, and Hamblin Pond portions of the system by the MassDEP and US EPA in 2006. A TMDL for nitrogen has not been established for the remainder of the Waquoit Bay system.

- **MEP TECHNICAL REPORT STATUS:** Final
- **TMDL STATUS:** In Progress. Nitrogen TMDL established for Quashnet River, Great River, Jehu Pond and Hamblin Pond.

Watershed nitrogen load characteristics were published in the 2013 MEP report, reflecting current conditions at the time of writing:

- **TOTAL ATTENUATED NITROGEN LOAD (MEP CHAPTER VIII):** 33,166 kg/Y

SOURCES OF ATTENUATED WATERSHED

NITROGEN LOAD:

- 75% Septic Systems
- 12% Fertilizer
- 13% Stormwater From Impervious Surfaces

Since the MEP report, the Commission compiled the following updated water use and nitrogen loads using the regional wMVP database, enabling a more current estimate of nitrogen loading (see figure on page 1 for watershed boundary delineation):

- **TOTAL WASTEWATER FLOW:** 333 MGY (million gal per year)
 - Treated Wastewater Flow: 29 MGY
 - Septic Flow: 304 MGY

- **TOTAL ATTENUATED NITROGEN LOAD (WMVP):** 39,655 Kg/Y

CONTRIBUTING TOWNS

Percent contributions listed below are the aggregate sub-embayment contributions identified in Appendix 8C of the Cape Cod Section 208 Plan Update (contributions are based on attenuated load where available). See Appendix 8C for detailed town allocations by sub-embayment.

- **FALMOUTH:** 52%
- **MASHPEE:** 42%
- **SANDWICH:** 6%

WATERSHED REPORT: Waquoit Bay

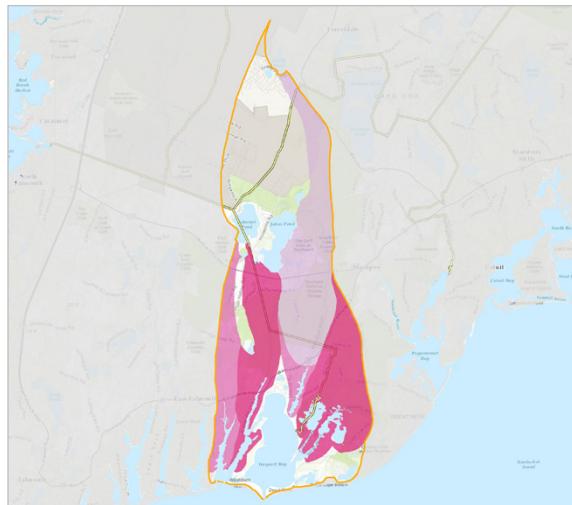
A portion of the land area in Mashpee and Sandwich is not in the control of the towns as it is part of Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), which is served by a wastewater treatment facility and discharged outside of the watershed.

THE MEP RESTORATION SCENARIO

- **WATERSHED TOTAL ATTENUATED NITROGEN REDUCTION TARGET:** 53%
- **WATERSHED SEPTIC REDUCTION TARGET:** 76%
(The scenario represents the aggregated sub-embayment percent removal targets from the MEP technical report)

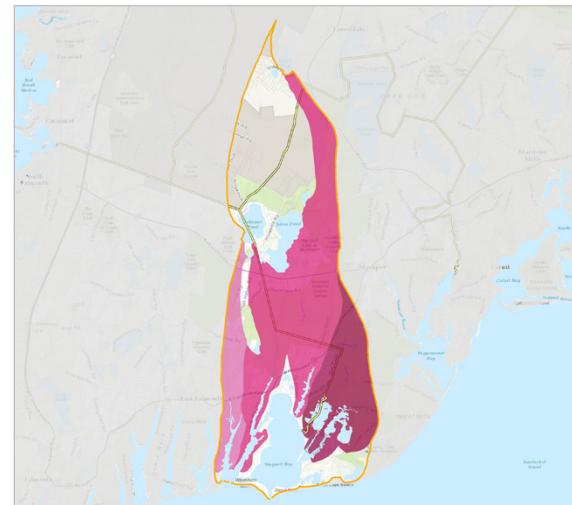
WAQUOIT BAY ESTUARY

- **EMBAYMENT AREA:** 1,632 acres
- **EMBAYMENT VOLUME:** 380 million cubic feet



WAQUOIT BAY WATERSHED

General watershed characteristics according to the current wMVP regional database (see figure on page 1 for watershed boundary) follow.



Falmouth, Mashpee & Sandwich

■ WATERSHED CHARACTERISTICS:

- Acres: 15,021
- Parcels: 7,171
- % Developed Residential Parcels: 80%
- Parcel Density: 2.1 acres per parcel (approx.)

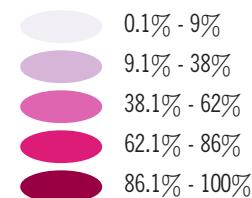
■ WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES: 3

- Mashpee High School
- Commercial Park
- Southport Retirement Community

Freshwater Sources

PONDS

- **IDENTIFIED SURFACE WATERS:** 38
- **NUMBER OF NAMED FRESHWATER PONDS:** 16
- **PONDS WITH PRELIMINARY TROPHIC CHARACTERIZATION:** 4
- **2014 INTEGRATED LIST STATUS:** Ashumet Pond listed as Category 5: Waters requiring a TMDL



Subwatersheds with Total Attenuated Watershed Removal Targets

(Left) Benthic and atmospheric loads directly on embayments are not included.

Subwatersheds with Septic Attenuated Nitrogen Removal Targets

(Right)

Mashpee has participated in the Pond and Lake Stewardship (PALS) program that has helped establish baseline water quality.

STREAMS

■ SIGNIFICANT FRESHWATER STREAM OUTLETS: 4

Childs River:

- Average Flow: 10,372 cubic meters per day (m³/d)
- Average Nitrate Concentrations: 0.21 milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Quashnet River:

- Average Flow: 41,529 m³/d
- Average Nitrate Concentrations: 0.20 mg/L

Stream data from MEP technical report. Nitrate concentrations higher than 0.05 mg/L background concentrations, evident in public supply wells located in pristine areas, provide evidence of the impact of non-point source pollution on the aquifer and receiving coastal water bodies.

DRINKING WATER SOURCES

■ WATER DISTRICTS: 2

- Mashpee Water District
- Falmouth Water District

■ GRAVEL PACKED WELLS: 7

- 4 have nitrate concentrations between 0 and 0.5 mg/L
- 2 have nitrate concentrations between 0.5 and 1 mg/L
- 1 have nitrate concentrations between 1 and 2.5 mg/L

■ SMALL VOLUME WELLS: 0

Drinking water data from Cape Cod Commission and MassDEP data sources – nitrate values obtained from drinking water wells are from 2009-2012. The state and federal drinking water

limit for nitrate is 10 mg/L. The Cape Cod Commission nitrate loading standard is 5 mg/l.

Degree of Impairment and Areas of Need

For the purposes of the Section 208 Plan Update areas of need are primarily defined by the amount of nitrogen reduction required as defined by the TMDL and/or MEP technical report. As noted above, the aggregated watershed removal rates are 53% and 76% for total attenuated watershed nitrogen load and septic nitrogen loads, respectively. More specifically, the targeted amount of nitrogen reduction required by subwatershed is shown in the following figures: Subwatersheds with Total Attenuated Watershed Removal Targets and Subwatersheds with Septic Nitrogen Removal Targets.

The nitrogen load from the watershed exceeds the threshold or TMDL for Waquoit Bay resulting in impaired water quality. The ecological health of a water body is determined from water quality, extent of eelgrass, assortment of benthic fauna, and dissolved oxygen and ranges from severe degradation, significantly impaired, moderately impaired, or healthy habitat conditions.

MEP ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND WATER QUALITY

The MEP report provides the following characterization of the estuary's health:

WATERSHED REPORT: Waquoit Bay

■ OVERALL ECOLOGIC CONDITION: Healthy to Severely Degraded

■ QUASHNET RIVER-UPPER: Severely Degraded

■ QUASHNET RIVER-LOWER: Significantly Impaired to Severely Degraded

■ HAMBLIN POND: Moderately Impaired

■ LITTLE RIVER: Healthy to Moderately Impaired

■ JEHU POND: Significantly Impaired

■ GREAT RIVER: Moderately Impaired

■ WAQUOIT BAY-NORTH: Significantly Impaired

■ WAQUOIT BAY-SOUTH: Significantly Impaired to Severely Degraded

■ EEL POND-WEST: Significantly Impaired

■ EEL POND-EAST: Significantly Impaired

■ SAGE LOT POND: Moderately Impaired

■ SENTINEL STATION:

Waquoit Bay:

- Total Nitrogen Concentration Threshold: 0.38 mg/L
- Total Nitrogen Concentration Existing: 0.40 mg/L

Childs River:

- Total Nitrogen Concentration Threshold: 0.38 mg/L
- Total Nitrogen Concentration Existing: 0.65 mg/L

Eel River:

- Total Nitrogen Concentration Threshold: 0.49 mg/L
- Total Nitrogen Concentration Existing: 0.67 mg/L
(As reported at the MEP sentinel water-quality monitoring station)

Traditional & Non-Traditional Scenarios

SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

Through the 208 Stakeholder process, the Commission developed “bookend” scenarios – one looking at a possible solution using traditional collection and treatment, the other examining a possible suite of non-traditional technologies – to address the nitrogen management needs in each watershed. These bookend scenarios provide guidance for communities as they continue to discuss alternatives, priorities, and opportunities for identifying well-considered solutions that will address communities’ needs and interests.

REGIONAL DATA

In preparation for this effort, the Commission collected regionally consistent data for the purposes of watershed scenario development. Both parcel data and water use data was identified and collected for the entire region. While the scientific basis for planning is the thresholds identified in the MEP technical reports, each report uses data from different years, and in some cases the MEP data used are 10 or more years old. In addition, there are watersheds on Cape Cod without the benefit of an MEP report; therefore, similar data was not available for planning purposes.

The updated regional data set was used to estimate wastewater, stormwater and fertilizer loads, using the same methodologies as the MEP. This approach allows for a reevaluation of existing development, which may have changed

in the last 10 years. Parcel data included in the regional database is from 2010-2012 and water use data is from 2008-2011, depending on the water supplier and based on best available data. This approach allows for regionally consistent watershed scenario development.

WATERSHED SCENARIOS

The watershed scenarios that follow outline possibilities for the watershed. A series of non-traditional technologies that might be applicable are included, as well as the amount of residential load that would need to be collected if a traditional collection system and treatment facility was implemented. The pie charts show the load to be collected for treated effluent disposal both inside and outside the watershed.

Site specific analyses of collection areas may result in the need to collect wastewater from more or fewer parcels to meet the nitrogen reduction target. The scenarios presented are conceptual and are meant to inform discussions regarding effective and efficient solutions; they are not specific recommendations and should be viewed as resource information for additional and more detailed wastewater management planning.

In Waquoit Bay, the Towns of Mashpee and Sandwich have done additional and more detailed planning. Included in the last section of this report is a description of their efforts, along with plan details. The Town of Mashpee scenario is based

TOTAL ATTENUATED NITROGEN LOAD VALUES (FROM WMVP)

Waquoit Bay Nitrogen Sources	Total Attenuated Watershed Nitrogen Load (kg-N/yr)
Wastewater ¹	28,773
Fertilizer ²	4,127
Stormwater	4,861
Other ³	1,894
TOTAL WATERSHED LOAD	39,655
Total Watershed Threshold	15,440

TOTAL ATTENUATED LOAD TO BE REMOVED

1. Includes nitrogen loads from septic systems and wastewater treatment facilities.
 2. Includes nitrogen loads from lawns, cranberry bogs, and golf courses.
 3. Includes nitrogen loads from landfills and atmospheric deposition to vacant land.

on their Final Recommended Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report established as part of their Watershed Nitrogen Management Planning efforts.

Traditional & Non-Traditional Scenarios

Non-Traditional

UNIT OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY	ATTENUATED NITROGEN REMOVED IN KG/Y
25 % Nitrogen Reduction - Fertilizer Management	1,032
25 % Nitrogen Reduction - Stormwater Mitigation	1,215
PRB 11,800 Linear Feet - Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) (Capture load calculated by wMVP: 6,671.7 kg/Y)	4,837
25 Acres - Fertigation - Turf	85
15 Acres - Fertigation - Cranberry Bogs	180
46 Acres - Aquaculture/Oyster Beds	11,500
4 Acres - Coastal Habitat Restoration	501
1,360 Units* - Enhanced I & A Systems	4,882
TOTAL	24,232

A summary of the approach and methodology that was applied using non-traditional technologies follows at the end of this report.

*Per the Town of Falmouth request, 1,360 units reflects the number of homes needed to be outfitted with Enhanced I/A systems treating to 10 ppm. If the regionally consistent standard of 13 ppm were used, an additional 276 homes would need to be outfitted.

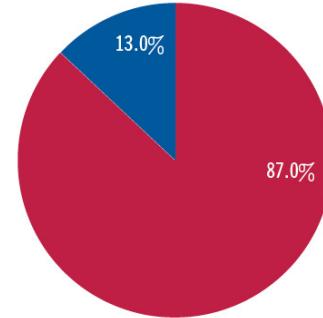
Traditional

CENTRALIZED TREATMENT WITH DISPOSAL INSIDE THE WATERSHED



107.5%

CENTRALIZED TREATMENT WITH DISPOSAL OUTSIDE THE WATERSHED



Septic Load to be Removed
Remaining Septic Load

Assumes load to be collected and treated is disposed in the watershed, requiring additional collection to offset the load.

Assumes that the load to be collected and treated is removed from the watershed so no offset is required.

Town of Falmouth Local Progress

The Town of Falmouth continues to implement the recommendations of its Water Quality Management Committee and its South Coast Watersheds Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP)/Targeted Watershed Management Plan. In addition, it is partnering with the Town of Mashpee and the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative on the analysis of flushing of the Moonakis System in Waquoit Bay.

The Town of Falmouth completed the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)/Development of Regional Impact (DRI) process for the West Falmouth Harbor Wastewater Facilities Plan (WWFP) in 2001. The WWFP focused on a necessary upgrade to the existing treatment facility in order to achieve better nutrient-removal rates. The sensitivity of West Falmouth Harbor to nitrogen loading was not well understood when the facility was permitted in the 1980s. The upgrade is now complete and water quality conditions within the groundwater have improved significantly. However, the disposal location has limited capacity due to sensitivity of the estuary to nitrogen inputs.

The Falmouth wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) was upgraded from a lagoon treatment process to include Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR) and denitrification filters in 2005. The facility is currently permitted with an effluent flow restriction of 0.8 million gallons per day (MGD). The permit limits flows to the WWTF to 0.23 MGD inside the West Falmouth Harbor watershed and 0.57 MGD outside the West Falmouth Harbor watershed. On January 10, 2014 the town

received a Certificate of Adequacy from the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to sewer the Little Pond Service Area and discharge up to 260,000 gallons per day (GPD) at a new disposal site north of the existing beds and outside the West Falmouth Harbor watershed.

The Cape Cod Commission reviewed an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the Town of Falmouth CWMP for the South Coastal Watersheds in 2007. The ENF included the Needs Assessment Report and Alternatives Screening Report for Little Pond, Great Pond, Green Pond, Bourne's Pond, Eel Pond, and Waquoit Bay. This draft CWMP included collection of wastewater in the south coastal areas, generally south of Route 28, treatment at a proposed regionally-shared facility at Joint Base Cape Cod, and effluent disposal through injection wells. The town appointed a new internal review committee to evaluate additional alternatives, and in 2012 submitted a draft CWMP/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for joint MEPA/DRI review.

The 2012 draft CWMP/DEIR represented a significant change from the screened alternatives presented in the 2007 ENF. In addition to plans for sewerage specific portions of the south coastal estuaries and upgrading the West Falmouth treatment facility and discharge options, the DEIR included specific opportunities for innovative on-site technologies and non-discharging systems, tidal flushing, aquaculture, permeable reactive barrier demonstration projects, and non-structural

nitrogen reduction strategies consisting of fertilizer controls and stormwater management.

Through its review, the Commission supported the additional evaluation of Joint Base Cape Cod as a potential shared regional facility for the Upper Cape as one the town's alternatives.

The town implemented the recommendations of the Review Committee and approved \$2.77 million to implement on site demonstrations of alternatives to conventional sewers and fund up to \$500,000 for sewer design. Spring 2013 Town Meeting appropriated \$5.6 million to provide engineering design for the Little Pond watershed collection system, necessary facility upgrades, and inlet widening of Bourne's Pond.

In January 2014, a MEPA Certificate of Adequacy was issued for the Falmouth South Coast Watersheds CWMP. The Commission approved the CWMP as a DRI in February 2014 with conditions to develop an adaptive management plan. Spring 2014 Town Meeting subsequently voted to bond \$50 million to construct the Little pond watershed collection system and necessary facility upgrades and to widen Bourne's Pond inlet.

Members of the WQMC, town staff, and their consultants (Science Wares, Inc) met with Commission staff to review

Town of Falmouth Local Progress

watershed scenarios and provide input on the non-traditional approaches to be included.

In June 2016, Falmouth received \$24,299 from the Commission to support the Bourne's Pond shellfish project and a sediment aeration project in Great Pond. Funding was part of \$142,149 in local grants made by the Commission in support of 208 Plan implementation.

Town of Mashpee Local Progress

The Mashpee Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) was scoped through a joint Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)/Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review as an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) in 2001. In 2007, the town submitted its Needs Assessment Report entitled, "Town of Mashpee, Popponesset Bay and Waquoit Bay-East Watersheds Needs Assessment Report." Also in 2007, the town completed a technology screening report, which was followed shortly by its draft alternative scenarios and site evaluation report in March 2008.

The Needs Assessment contains a characterization of the nine operating private sewage treatment facilities, including treatment efficiency and excess capacity. This work allowed the town to focus on three potential wastewater scenarios that were developed in 2012. These options were reviewed and served as the basis for development of their preferred alternative. The wastewater scenarios include use of the existing private plants at their planned capacity and either three or four subregional plants with consideration of shared town responsibility. Off-site disposal of effluent outside of the impaired watersheds is an important consideration for the plan's approach. The alternatives analysis included consideration of private effluent disposal sites at New Seabury, Willowbend, and others, in addition to the town's transfer facility site.

The issuance of the final Alternatives Screening Analysis in August 2013 developed the framework of the draft and

final plans and identified several alternative approaches to sewerage, including shellfish aquaculture and permeable reactive barriers.

In April 2014, the Sewer Commission met with Cape Cod Commission staff to begin the discussion around filing its CWMP. The current draft plan includes a significant aquaculture undertaking and an adaptive management approach to achieving water quality goals.

In the fall of 2014, Mashpee adopted local nitrogen-oriented fertilizer management regulations consistent with the Cape-wide Fertilizer Management District of Critical Planning Concern (DCPC).

In September 2014, the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued a certificate of adequacy for the Draft Environmental Impact Review (DEIR) for Mashpee's Comprehensive Watershed Nitrogen Management Plan. In the Summer of 2015, the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued a final certificate Mashpee's Comprehensive Watershed Nitrogen Management Plan. The plan is currently under review by the Commission, although the Commission has already notified the town that phase I of its plan is consistent with the 208 Plan Update.

At the October 2015 Mashpee Town Meeting, the town voted to appropriate \$250,000 for shellfish propagation, \$32,500 as the first installment on a 3-year monitoring study associated with the shellfish project, funded a full time permanent water

quality technician position, \$100,000 to reauthorize the Sewer Commission Facilities Study Account and hire a consultant to complete studies and develop a preliminary design for the connection of properties to existing treatment facilities, \$80,000 to support the development of inter-municipal agreements with neighboring communities, as well as authorized the use of town-owned land for the purposes of developing wastewater treatment facilities.

In June 2016, Mashpee received \$14,600 from the Commission for construction of a floating shellfish seed upweller system to grow quahog seed for initial implementation of their shellfish restoration plan. Funding was part of \$142,149 in local grants made by the Commission in support of 208 Plan implementation.

Mashpee has been working jointly with Falmouth to evaluate the Quashnet River/Moonakis River and anticipates receiving the SMAST Moonakis River report in June 2017. The report will consider improved flushing and shellfish/finfish habitat restoration.

At the Spring 2017 Town Meeting, Mashpee voted to fund monitoring of shellfish aquaculture in Popponesset Bay and Waquoit Bay in the amount of \$49,500. Amendments to the Town's nutrient control bylaw were also approved.

Town of Mashpee Watershed Scenario Details

NAME OF TECHNOLOGY	CREDITS		REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES			REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION TECHNOLOGIES			REMOVAL Total Scenario Load Reduction (kg-N/yr)
	% Nitrogen Reduction	Load Reduction (kg-N/yr)	# Properties / Units	Flow Collected (gpd)	Load Reduction (kg-N/yr)	# Units Proposed	Unit Metric	Load Reduction (kg-N/yr)	
Scenario									9,500
Centralized Sewer - Disposal Outside*			1,017	127,955	3,740				
Aquaculture/Oyster Beds						19.21 mil. Shellfish		5,760	

Town of Sandwich Local Progress

The Town of Sandwich has an established water quality committee to oversee water quality and wastewater planning efforts. In October 2015 town staff and their consultant (Wright-Pierce) met with Cape Cod Commission staff to discuss watershed planning, decision support tools, and scenario development for Sandwich watersheds. In the same month the town was approached by Mashpee regarding approaches for Popponesset Bay, and a potential watershed permit, and has agreed to participate with Mashpee and Barnstable in this shared effort. It is expected that Barnstable, Mashpee, and Sandwich will collaborate on the first watershed permit in the region in close coordination with the Cape Cod Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Previously the committee developed a scope of work for a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) and submitted the scope under the Sagamore Lens Natural Resource Damages Assessment, related to past groundwater contamination at the Textron facility at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). The town received an award of \$400,000 to conduct its water/wastewater plan and completed a comprehensive needs assessment, as well as an interim wastewater solutions plan to accommodate economic development in the South Sandwich Village Center.

The town spent several years working with a private developer on a development project that included a public-private wastewater component for the construction of a facility that

would accommodate the private project, in addition to some public wastewater needs. That project will not be completed, but the town is again seeking a private partner to create new economic growth and to potentially participate in infrastructure development.

The town has participated in discussions at JBCC about the potential use of its existing wastewater infrastructure as a regional option for the Upper Cape towns.

In February 2016 the Town of Sandwich requested a meeting with Commission staff to discuss watershed scenarios and potential modifications to watersheds in which Sandwich has jurisdiction. The town provided collection footprints and assumptions for a single treatment facility to serve all three watersheds (Popponesset Bay, Three Bays, and Waquoit Bay), consistent with the Sandwich CWMP, and identified locations for non-traditional approaches, in addition to credits for stormwater and fertilizer reduction. The Town proposes a 25% fertilizer management credit and a 6.25% stormwater management credit. While the proposed interventions, alone, do not meet the nitrogen allocations identified in Appendix 8C of the 208 Plan Update, the town has expressed a preference to rely on nutrient trading or cost sharing to reduce the load allocated to the downgradient towns in the shared watersheds of Popponesset Bay, Three Bays and Waquoit Bay, where nitrogen reductions can be more cost effectively attained.

Town of Sandwich Watershed Scenario Details

NAME OF TECHNOLOGY	CREDITS		REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES			REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION TECHNOLOGIES			REMOVAL Total Scenario Load Reduction (kg-N/yr)
	% Nitrogen Reduction	Load Reduction (kg-N/yr)	# Properties / Units	Flow Collected (gpd)	Load Reduction (kg-N/yr)	# Units Proposed	Unit Metric	Load Reduction (kg-N/yr)	
Traditional Scenario									1,780
Centralized Sewer - Disposal Outside			616	90,781	1,780				
Non-Traditional Scenario									43
Fertilizer Management	25%	30							
Stormwater Mitigation	6.25%	13							

NOTES:

The Town of Sandwich will rely on nutrient trading as an additional measure to meet the TMDL, if necessary.

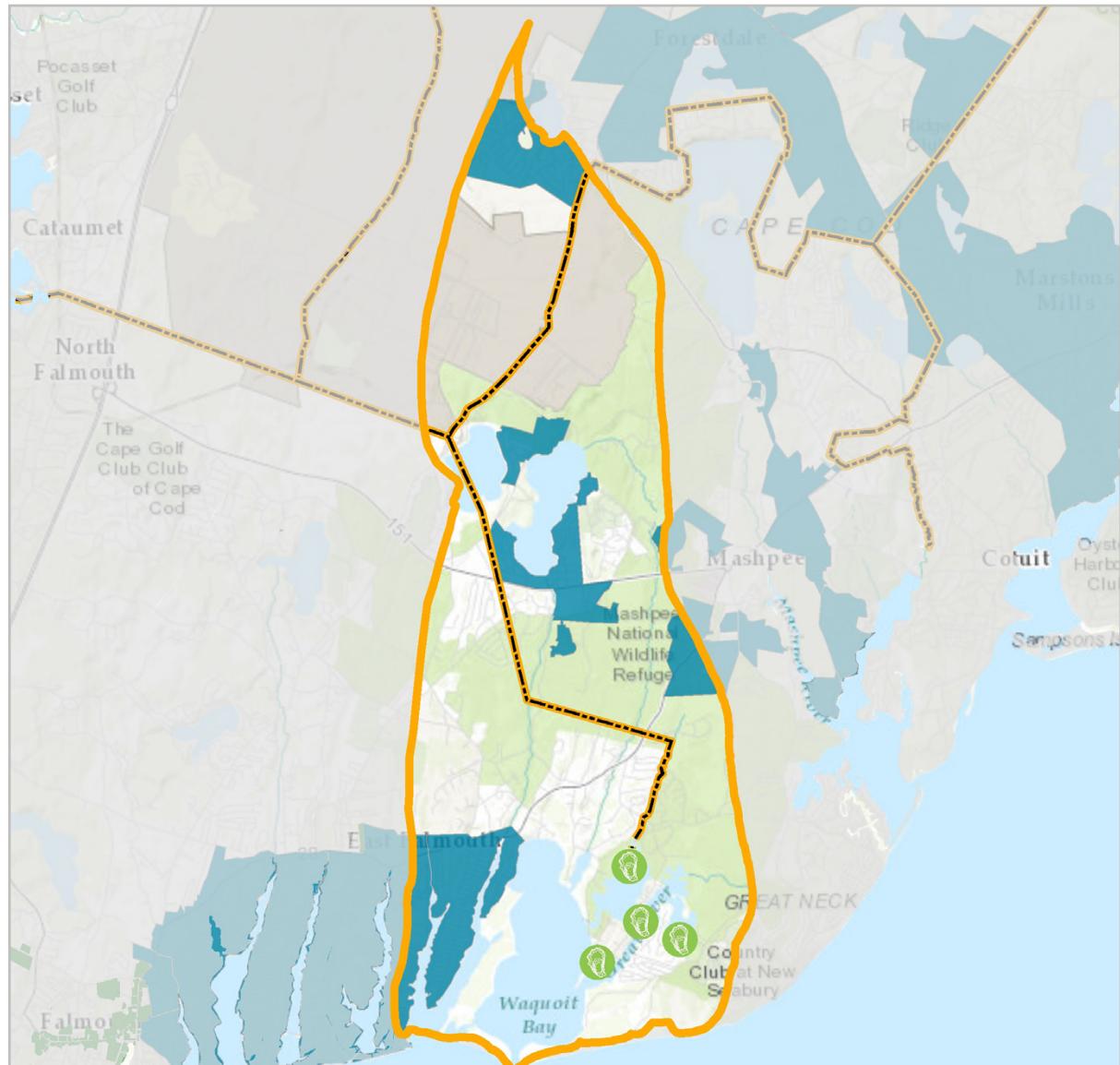
Scenario Maps

Waquoit Bay Watershed Traditional Scenario MASHPEE & SANDWICH

Representative locations of conceptually proposed infrastructure

Legend

-  Aquaculture
-  Town Lines
-  Embayment Watersheds
-  Proposed Sewersheds



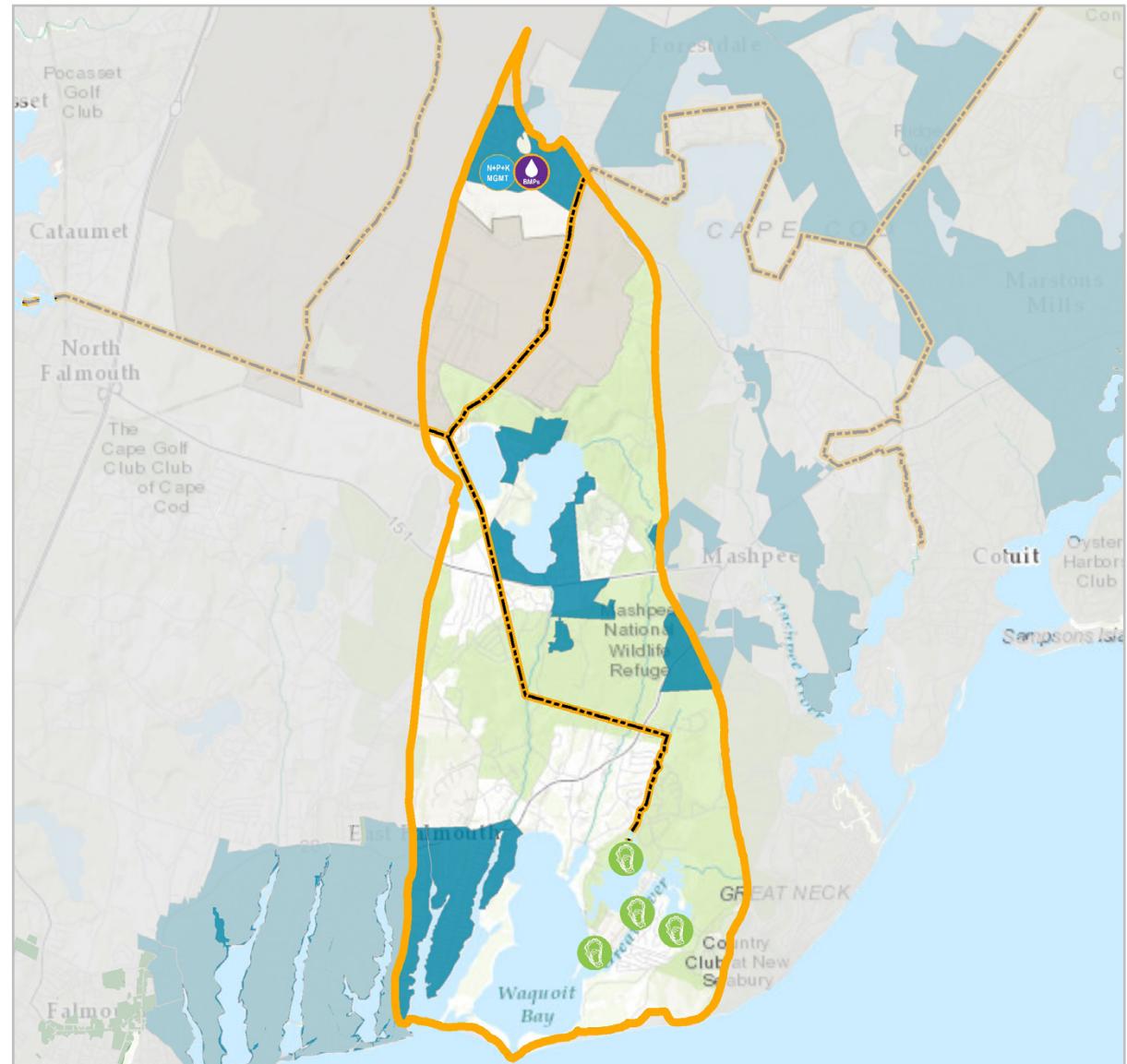
Scenario Maps

Waquoit Bay Watershed Non-Traditional Scenario MASHPEE & SANDWICH

Representative locations of conceptually proposed infrastructure

Legend

-  Stormwater Management
-  Fertilizer Management
-  Aquaculture
-  Town Lines
-  Embayment Watersheds
-  Proposed Sewersheds



Methodology for Selecting Non-Traditional Technology Scenarios

This section summarizes the approach and methodology that was applied during the 208 Update to develop plans for reducing nitrogen loading to estuaries using non-traditional (NT) technologies. It includes descriptions of regional credits for stormwater and fertilizer reductions, regional screening for potential sites for several technologies, and site-specific analyses for others. Nitrogen attenuation rates for each technology were derived from the Technologies Matrix. The nitrogen thresholds for each embayment were determined from the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP).

This section summarizes the approach and methodology that was applied during the 208 Update to develop plans for reducing nitrogen loading to estuaries using non-traditional (NT) technologies. It includes descriptions of regional credits for stormwater and fertilizer reductions, regional screening for potential sites for several technologies, and site-specific analyses for others. Nitrogen attenuation rates for each technology are noted below, based on the Technologies Matrix or newer data. The nitrogen thresholds for each embayment were determined from the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP).

Regional credits were developed for potential stormwater retrofits and fertilizer reductions. They were calculated as a percent reduction of existing nitrogen loads as identified in the MEP reports and updated GIS data developed by the Cape Cod Commission.

■ STORMWATER MANAGEMENT: Most Cape communities have already begun the process of identifying significant untreated stormwater discharges and developing appropriate mitigation projects. With the prospect of the MS4 regulatory requirements it was assumed that additional mitigation efforts would be implemented. Based upon the evidence developed by the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center that several vegetated stormwater management practices (including bioretention and constructed wetlands) are able to achieve nitrogen reductions of 50% or more and the assumption that only a portion (estimated at 50%) of identified sites would be retrofitted a 25% nitrogen reduction credit was assumed for each watershed. Specific locations and number of locations were not identified; this was deferred to individual towns to consider as part of the suite of nitrogen management strategies.

■ FERTILIZER REDUCTIONS: Based upon the success of most Cape Cod towns to implement either regulatory or non-regulatory fertilizer management programs and the efforts of the Cape Cod Extension Service in

educating homeowners a 25% reduction in fertilizer applications was assumed for each watershed.

Regional GIS screening methods were developed to identify locations for some non-traditional technologies. A GIS viewer was developed as an on-line tool for staff and consultants to utilize during the watershed planning process.

■ CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS/

PHYTOREMEDIATION: A GIS-based screening method was developed by the Cape Cod Commission to identify and rank parcels of land that have potential for the location of constructed wetlands and phytoremediation. The ranking utilized parcel size and ownership, depth to groundwater, suitable soils, distance from wetlands, and undeveloped parcels. A nitrogen removal rate of 500 kg/Y/acre and 532 kg/Y/acre was used for Constructed Wetlands and Phytoremediation, respectively.

■ PERMEABLE REACTIVE BARRIERS (PRBS): A GIS-based screening method was developed to identify existing roads that are proximate to receiving waters, downgradient of high density development, run perpendicular to groundwater flow (to have the highest potential to intercept nutrients in groundwater), and where the depth to groundwater is relatively shallow to maximize the area of saturated thickness treated in the aquifer.

Methodology for Selecting Non-Traditional Technology Scenarios

■ **FERTIGATION WELLS:** Golf courses were mapped to identify areas where fertigation wells could be utilized to recapture nitrogen-enriched groundwater and re-apply it to the managed turf areas to serve both irrigation and fertilization needs. Most golf courses were assumed to be eighteen holes with a fertilized area of 75 acres. Fertigation water was assumed to have an average concentration of 5 mg/liter. An uptake/attenuation rate of 80% was applied resulting in an assumed nitrogen reduction of 300 kg/year for each golf course with effectively located fertigation wells. In some cases other irrigated areas (such as athletic fields and cemeteries) were identified as potential fertigation locations. A nitrogen removal rate of 4 kg/Y/acre was used.

The MVP tool and other site-specific tools were utilized to quantify nitrogen load reductions for several potential NT interventions.

■ **PERMEABLE REACTIVE BARRIERS:** for each PRB that was identified during the prior GIS-screening process an approximate capture area was identified using available water table maps and the wMVP tool. Upgradient contributing areas were digitized within wMVP and the nitrogen load was calculated. A nitrogen reduction of 72.5% was applied (calculated as an average of the reported attenuation range from the Technologies Matrix).

■ **CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS (WITH COLLECTION):**

Constructed wetlands were considered as a tertiary, polishing treatment for existing wastewater treatment plants. This included small-scale wastewater treatment systems. A nitrogen removal rate of 500 kg/Y/acre was used.

■ **AQUACULTURE/OYSTER REEFS:** Potential areas for aquaculture and/or oyster reef restoration were considered based upon discussions with town representatives and review of maps to identify potential areas for these operations without significant conflicts to navigation. In some cases actual recent aquaculture expansions were included where they were developed after the MEP reports were prepared. An assumption of 1 million oysters per acre was used with a nitrogen removal rate of 250 kg/Y/acres.

■ **FLOATING CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS:** Potential areas for floating wetlands were considered in areas where no conflicts with navigation or swimming areas were identified. A nitrogen removal rate of 0.4 kg/Y/sq foot was used.

■ **INLET WIDENING AND COASTAL HABITAT RESTORATION:**

Only considered in areas where these projects were identified by towns or state agencies and where detailed hydrologic investigations and modeling had been performed due to wide variations in nitrate load reduction, flushing impacts, impacts on flooding, and costs (dredging only, replacing infrastructure,

removing and replacing roadways or bridges, etc.).

Nitrogen removal rates were based on MEP or other studies.

■ **INNOVATIVE & ALTERNATIVE SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND ECOTOILETS:**

In most cases specific locations for these technologies were not identified. Rather general estimates for the percent adoption were provided based upon discussions with the stakeholder groups and their views on potential adoption rates. In some watersheds a 5% adoption rate was included based upon this stakeholder input. In a limited number of instances specific locations for these technologies were included based upon town input and suggestions. A nitrogen removal rate of 1.658 kg/Y for each system was used for I&A Septic Systems, and 2.984 kg/Y for enhanced I&A systems. A removal rate of 2.542 kg/Y was used for each home installation of an Ecotoilet, and 0.467 kg/Y for installation of urine diversion toilets in public settings.

Finally, the locations of specific technologies were discussed during the 208 stakeholder engagement process. Stakeholders across the Cape ‘groundtruthed’ potential NT locations and NT scenarios were adjusted accordingly.

