WHY IT MATTERS TO MASSACHUSETTS’ ECONOMY
SUPPORTING COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

**The Need**
Cape Cod has 160 stormwater outflows that affect shellfish beds; 26 were chosen as priority projects.

**The Problem**
Stormwater runoff from roads and parking lots is a source of pollution and causes the closure of shellfish beds.

**Why it Matters**
Shellfish gather nutrients by filtering seawater, which if polluted, can make shellfish unsafe for people to eat.

**The Solution**
Install leaching chambers and filters under the roads and parking lots to treat polluted water before it reaches the shellfish beds.

**The Economic Benefits**
From 2000–2004, the average annual value of commercial and recreational shellfishing on Cape Cod was $11.4 million.

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**The Need**
Cape Cod has 114 identified salt marsh tidal restrictions; 26 were chosen as priority projects.

**The Problem**
Undersized road culverts block tidal flow and the movement of fish.

**Why it Matters**
Commercially and recreationally important fish species like winter flounder and bluefish use salt marshes as nurseries and feeding grounds.

**The Solution**
Replace old undersized culverts with properly sized ones to restore tidal flow and salt marsh functions.

**The Economic Benefits**
Commercial fishing for six salt marsh reliant species brought in $19 million in 2009. The 57 bait and tackle shops on Cape Cod rely on healthy salt marshes too.

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**The Need**
Cape Cod has 40 herring runs with 96 obstructions to passage; 24 obstructions were chosen as priority projects.

**The Problem**
Dams, roads and crumbling fish ladders prevent migratory river herring from swimming upstream to lay their eggs.

**Why it Matters**
Commercially important fish species such as Atlantic cod, striped bass and bluefin tuna eat river herring.

**The Solution**
Rebuild fish ladders to help river herring reach their spawning grounds and sustain their populations.

**The Economic Benefits**
Commercial fishing for species that eat river herring brought in over $37 million to the state in 2009.
The Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project is an estimated $30 million project that will improve water quality for shellfish beds, restore degraded salt marshes and improve fish access to spawning habitat across Cape Cod over 10 years.

Federal, state and local agencies are working together to fix these environmental problems.

The project is supporting the Cape's economy with the creation of design, engineering and construction jobs as well as improving the habitat that recreational and commercial fishing businesses depend on.

Some $6.5 million in Recovery Act funding allowed work to begin in 2010 on 25 of the 76 proposed project sites. Funding was provided through the NRCS Watershed Operations program (P.L.83-566).

Visit www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov or capecodwatershed.blogspot.com to learn more.