

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.



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



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



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



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



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.



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



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



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



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



Commercial fishing for species that eat river herring brought in over \$37 million to the state in 2009.



ABOUT THE CAPE PROJECT

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).

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

SPONSORS

- Barnstable County Commissioners
- Cape Cod Conservation District
- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Select Boards of all 15 Cape Cod towns
- USDA-NRCS

COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- Mass. Dept. of Fish and Game
 - Division of Ecological Restoration
 - Division of Marine Fisheries
- Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Mass. Highway Dept.
- Mass. Coastal Zone Mgt.
- NOAA
- National Park Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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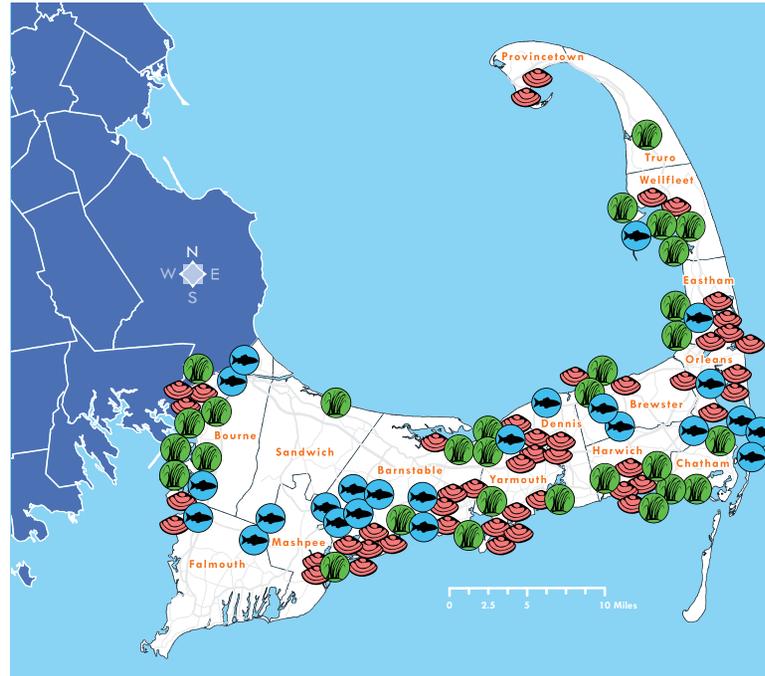
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PRIORITY SITES FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

- Shellfish Sites
- Salt Marsh Sites
- Fish Passage Sites

COMPLETED WORK

Projects completed.....	15
Salt marsh feasibility studies completed.....	6
Acres of shellfish habitat benefited	2,200
Acres of salt marsh benefited	64

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

