



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Central Regional Office, 627 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608

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PUBLIC MEETING - February 28, 2006
Massachusetts Estuaries Project
Coastal Embayments, Towns of Mashpee and Falmouth
Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) For Total Nitrogen
Cape Cod Watershed

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announces the availability, for public comment, of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for Total Nitrogen in six coastal waterbody segments in Falmouth: Great Pond, Perch Pond, Coonamessett River, Green Pond, Bourne Pond and Israel's Cove, Report number MA 96-TMDL-6. This Draft TMDL Report is required by the EPA Federal Clean Water Act section 303d. This TMDL and the Technical Report on which it is based have been prepared as part of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project, a collaborative effort of the MassDEP, the University of Massachusetts School of Marine Science and Technology, the Cape Cod Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, to identify and address nitrogen pollution in 89 estuaries in southeastern Massachusetts.

A TMDL is essentially a "pollution budget" and an outline of a cleanup plan designed to restore the health of an impaired waterbody. A TMDL establishes a maximum amount of pollution that a water body can accept and still meet water quality standards. Four of these Falmouth waterbody segments are listed on the 2002 Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters (Category 5) as impaired primarily for nutrients and/or pathogens.

MassDEP has prepared a Draft TMDL for controlling excess nutrients (nitrogen), the primary cause of eutrophication that chokes waterbodies with harmful algae, depletes oxygen for fish and shellfish populations, and destroys critical eelgrass beds needed for sustaining marine life. The primary source of the controllable contaminant nitrogen in these Falmouth embayments is sanitary wastewater from septic systems. Stormwater runoff, leaching lawn fertilizers, discharges from agricultural land uses, and atmospheric deposition also contribute varying quantities of nitrogen to Falmouth's coastal rivers, ponds, and harbors. The goal for these six embayments is to achieve state water quality standards for Class SA and SB waters as defined in Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00. The water quality standards of particular interest are for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, aesthetics, excess plant biomass, and nuisance vegetation. Standards for Class SA and SB waters provide numerical and narrative criteria to meet designated uses for primary and secondary contact recreation (i.e. swimming, fishing, boating etc.) and supporting habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife.

This information is available in alternate format. Call Donald M. Gomes, ADA Coordinator at 617-556-1057.

<http://www.mass.gov/dep> • Phone (508) 792-7650 • Fax (508) 792-7621 • TDD # (508) 767-2788

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A copy of this Draft TMDL, the Massachusetts Estuaries Project Draft Final Technical Report for the Falmouth TMDL, and a further explanation of the TMDL Program are available on MassDEP's website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/esttmdls.htm>.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Town Hall (Selectmen's Meeting Room), 59 Town Hall Square, Falmouth, MA to discuss and respond to any public comments on the report.

MassDEP will consider all comments and the Draft Report will be revised as appropriate prior to submittal to EPA Region 1 for approval. All public comments, which should refer to the report number cited above, must be received in writing or in electronic format by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2006 and mailed to:

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