



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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PUBLIC MEETING - November 27, 2007
Massachusetts Estuaries Project
Three Bays Coastal Embayments, Towns of Barnstable, Sandwich and Mashpee
Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) For Bacteria
Cape Cod Watershed

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announces the availability, for public comment, of the Draft Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in coastal water bodies in the Three Bays estuary system, with watersheds in Barnstable, Sandwich and Mashpee [Report number MA96-TMDL-19]. The embayments include Cotuit Bay, North Bay, and Prince Cove. 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, as well as municipalities and watershed groups in southeastern Massachusetts, to identify and address pollution in 89 estuaries in southeastern Massachusetts.

A TMDL establishes a maximum amount of pollution that a water body can accept and still meet water quality standards. The TMDL serves as the regulatory and technical basis for developing integrated water resource management plans designed to restore the water quality of impaired water bodies. Within the Three Bays estuary system Cotuit Bay, North Bay, and Prince Cove are listed on the 2004 and 2006 Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters (Category 5) as impaired for Nutrients and Pathogens.

MassDEP has prepared a Draft TMDL for controlling bacteria in Three Bays. The primary source of this contaminant is stormwater runoff, wildlife, boat discharges and potentially septic systems. The goal for this waterbody is to achieve state water quality standards for Class SA waters. The Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards-314 CMR 4.00 state that Class SA waters shall have a fecal coliform bacteria concentration not exceeding a geometric mean of 14 organisms per 100 mL, nor shall more than 10 percent of the samples exceed 28 organisms per 100 mL.

A copy of this Draft TMDL and a further explanation of the TMDL Program is available on MassDEP's website at <http://mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdls.htm>. The Massachusetts Estuaries Project Final Technical Report for Prince Cove/Three Bays, on which the TMDL is based, is available at <http://www.3bays.org/scientific-research.html>.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm in the Town Council Hearing Room at the Barnstable Town Hall, 367 Main Street in Hyannis, 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 report number MA96-TMDL-19, must be received in writing or in electronic format by December 21, 2007 and should be addressed to:

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