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Coastal ACEC Boundary Clarification Project

Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand is pleased to announce updated and clarified boundaries of six coastal Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs): Inner Cape Cod Bay, Pleasant Bay, Pocasset River, Sandy Neck/Barnstable Harbor, Waquoit Bay, and Wellfleet Harbor ACECs. ACEC Program staff conducted this *Boundary Clarification Project* because portions of the original boundary maps were outdated and no longer illustrated an accurate representation of the written descriptions found in each ACEC's designation document. As part of the Boundary Clarification Project, ACEC staff closely reviewed the original boundary maps and text for each of the above ACECs, utilized current digital GIS datalayers and technology to update and clarify the map and text, and worked with affected communities to answer questions and receive comment on drafts of each product. The designated ACEC boundaries have not changed, but the accuracy with which they are described and mapped has improved.

You can view or download these maps and boundary text from the ACEC website at <http://www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/acec/>. The boundary map is generally used for land use planning and resource management applications, while the boundary text is used for regulatory interpretation and site-specific project review.

The clarified ACEC digital boundary lines will be incorporated into the state's digital ACEC datalayer and will be available from MassGIS in 2003. All mapped ACEC boundaries are accurate at a scale of 1:25,000 and are best illustrated on a digital USGS topographic base map.

These boundary clarifications may result in differences in the total estimated ACEC acreage as compared to the area originally mapped for each ACEC (see table below for acreage estimates). *As stated above, it is important to remember that the designated boundaries have not changed, but the accuracy with which they are described and mapped has improved.*

| ACEC | Acreage | | ACEC | Acreage | |
|--------------------|----------|---------|------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | original | updated | | original | updated |
| Inner Cape Cod Bay | 2,550 | 2,600 | Sandy Neck/Barnstable Harbor | 8,850 | 9,120 |
| Pleasant Bay | 9,050 | 9,240 | Waquoit Bay | 2,550 | 2,570 |
| Pocasset River | 150 | 160 | Wellfleet Harbor | 12,350 | 12,480 |

Copies of the clarified boundary text and the boundary map for each of these ACECs are available from the ACEC Program website at <http://www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/acec/>, or from Elizabeth Sorenson, Coastal ACEC Coordinator, Department of Environmental Management, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 700, Boston, MA 02114; telephone (617) 626-1394; email: elizabeth.sorenson@state.ma.us. For further information about the boundary clarification project, please contact Katie Lund, ACEC Stewardship Coordinator at 193 Oyster Pond Rd, MS #2, Woods Hole, MA 02543; telephone (508) 289-2889; e-mail: katie.lund@state.ma.us.

