



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOEA No.: **14446**
 MEPA Analyst: **Nick ZAVOLAS**
 Phone: 617-626-**1030**

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Waquoit Bay Entrance Channel Dredging		
Street: near Washburn Road		
Municipality: Falmouth	Watershed: Cape Cod	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 41° 33.1' Longitude: 70° 31.7'	
Estimated commencement date: Spring 2010	Estimated completion date: Continuing as needed	
Approximate cost:	Status of project design:	25 %complete
Proponent: Town of Falmouth, Gregg Fraser, Harbormaster		
Street: 180 Scranton Ave		
Municipality: Falmouth	State: MA	Zip Code: 02540
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Alyssa Richard		
Firm/Agency: Bourne Consulting Engineering	Street: 3 Bent Street	
Municipality: Franklin	State: MA	Zip Code: 02038
Phone: 508-533-6666	Fax: 508-533-0600	E-mail: arichard@bournece.com

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres):

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **_We will be seeking an Order of Conditions, Falmouth Board of Selectmen special permit, Ch 91 dredge permit and a 401 WQC as well as USACE approval. See Narrative for historic permits.**

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
Land				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	6.2			
New acres of land altered		6.2		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
Structures				
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units				
Maximum height (in feet)				
transportation				
Vehicle trips per day				
Parking spaces				
water/wastewater				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use				
GPD water withdrawal				
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment				
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)				

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____ NHESP PH15 _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify_ In the Waquoit Bay ACEC, the navigation channel is exempt from ACEC designation) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

Please See Attached Narrative

Project Narrative

Project Summary

The Town of Falmouth is seeking permits for dredging of the Waquoit Bay entrance channel for navigation purposes. The proposed navigation channel is 2700' in length (from the inshore end of the jetties) and 100' in width. The channel will be maintained at a depth of -6' MLW (with a -1' over dredge allowance). The Town is proposing to maintain the channel biennially, with a maximum dredge volume of 6200 cys.

Historic Dredging

There are no recorded plans of dredging of the Waquoit Bay Entrance Channel but there are some records to indicate that the Massachusetts Department of Public Works conducted a post dredging survey in 1941. The channel is located within the Waquoit Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), but the channel was exempted from ACEC status upon the creation of the Waquoit Bay ACEC in 1979 establishing that the channel has been defined for many years (please see attached).

Beach Nourishment

The beach nourishment site for this project has been previously approved for use (USACE Permit #NEA2006-4092) for recent dredging projects. Beach nourishment areas are located at the western side of Waquoit Bay near the entrance to the Little River / Great River channel. All material will be placed above the mean high water line. Sieve analyses will be completed to ensure that dredged materials are compatible with the proposed beach nourishment site. The area permitted for beach nourishment is approximately 1200' in length, and varying up to 20' in width. The total permitted area is approximately 20,000 SF above MHW with approximately 3200 SF below the HTL. Please see attached plans.

Waquoit Bay Entrance Channel

The Town of Falmouth is proposing to dredge the entrance channel to Waquoit Bay. The proposed channel is approximately 2700' long and 100' wide. The channel has recently begun to shoal in the area just north of the jetties. The shoaling has made it difficult to maintain navigation in and out of Waquoit Bay. The Town is proposing to dredge and maintain the channel at -6' MLW (-7' MLW over dredge). It is estimated that initial the dredge volume will be approximately 6200 cubic yards (cy) and that future maintenance volumes would be less than 6200 cy.

The Waquoit Bay Entrance Channel covers a total area of approximately 270,000 SF or 6.2 acres. At no time is it anticipated that the entire area, or even most of that area would be impacted during a single dredge cycle.

Environmental Impact

The Waquoit Bay Entrance Channel is within the Waquoit Bay National Estuary Research Reserve, a state recognized Area of Critical Environmental Concern although the channel itself is exempt from ACEC status (see attached). This system encompasses 3,000 acres of open waters, barrier beaches, marshlands and uplands. The Town of Falmouth is conscientious of the wildlife resources directly adjacent to the area to be dredged and have made great efforts to coordinate dredging and beach nourishment so as to have no impact on this area.

The beach where dredge spoils will be deposited as nourishment material is not listed as a NHESP Priority Habitat for State Protected Rare Species or an Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife (see attached).

MAGIS Oliver mapping (see attached) indicates that the area of the channel is suitable habitat for Quahogs and Bay Scallop. Almost the entire Waquoit Bay system is show as habitat for quahogs and Bay Scallop. The proposed project will have only a minor impact on shellfish habitat during dredging activities and conditions are anticipated to return to their pre-dredge state quickly allowing for the reestablishment of the shellfish.

There is one historic area of eelgrass approximately 380' to the east of the eastern entrance jetty (see attached). There will be no impact to eelgrass beds due to dredging as the limit of dredging is more than 100 feet from current or historic eelgrass.