

Pleasant Bay Alliance

The Pleasant Bay Alliance is an organization of the Towns of Harwich, Orleans, Chatham and Brewster established to coordinate implementation of the Pleasant Bay Resource Management Plan. The plan incorporates the Pleasant Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the 21,600-acre watershed, which includes portions of all four towns. The Alliance develops public policy recommendations, technical studies and public education tools to support the Bay's natural resources and the public's safe enjoyment of Pleasant Bay.

Highlights from 2010 include:

Water Quality

The *Pleasant Bay Alliance Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program Interim Report 2000-2008* was released in January 2010. The report compiled data from 2000, the first year of monitoring, through 2008, and provided basic statistics on the data.

Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers and volunteer coordinators, the Pleasant Bay Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program completed its 11th year of sample collection. Samples were analyzed at the UMASS School for Marine Science and Technology Laboratory. Sixteen stations were monitored in 2010.

In October the Alliance released the *Statistical Analysis of Multi-year Water Quality Monitoring Data*, which reported any bay-wide and location specific trends that were discernable from statistical analysis of data collected from 2000 through 2010.

No Discharge Area

In July, US EPA and Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (MCZM) announced that Pleasant Bay was designated a *No Discharge Area* for discharge of treated or untreated boat sewage. The Pleasant Bay Alliance submitted the application to MCZM in February after gathering support from Boards of Selectmen and waterways committees in the four towns.

Fertilizer Management

The Alliance completed a Fertilizer Management Study that showed how reductions in fertilizer applications could reduce the controllable watershed nitrogen load in Pleasant Bay by 5%. In the coming year the Alliance will work with managers of public parks and grounds, public and private golf courses, homeowners, and landscapers to implement measures to achieve the nitrogen loading reductions.

Muddy Creek Restoration

The Alliance assisted the Towns of Chatham and Harwich in applying for \$65,000 from the Cape Cod Water Resource Restoration Project (CCWRRP) federal funding to study a possible widening of the Route 28 culvert. The CCWRRP will require no match from the towns. The funds will support additional resource assessments, and initial engineering work needed to accurately evaluate impacts and benefits associated with construction and on-going operation of a widened culvert, and to estimate

construction cost. The Alliance will coordinate the study with the Cape Cod Conservation District and the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration.

Coastal Processes

In January the Alliance released *A Geomorphological Analysis of Nauset Beach/Pleasant Bay/Chatham Harbor for the Purpose of Estimating Future Configurations and Conditions*, a study by Dr. Graham Giese of the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies. The study assesses what is likely to occur with the dynamic barrier beach and inlet configuration over the coming decades, if historical patterns hold. The Alliance also continued its work developing a coastal resource atlas for Pleasant Bay

On behalf of the Alliance we wish to thank the citizens of the Towns of Orleans, Chatham, Harwich and Brewster for your ongoing support.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Steering Committee and TRC members