

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 2001

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**PLEASANT BAY ALLIANCE MOVES AHEAD ON KEY PROJECTS WITH FUNDS FROM THE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CAPE COD**

The Pleasant Bay Resource Management Alliance announced plans to move ahead on two key projects for which it has obtained funding through the Community Foundation of Cape Cod. The projects are components of the resource management plan for Pleasant Bay being implemented by the Alliance communities of Orleans, Chatham and Harwich.

Resource Assessment of Freshwater Lakes and Ponds in the Pleasant Bay ACEC

The Alliance will undertake a resource assessment of up to ten freshwater lakes and ponds within the boundary of the Pleasant Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The project consists of an assessment of significant plant and animal species and related physical characteristics of the areas, and the development of guidelines for local permitting of docks on freshwater ponds. The project will enhance the Alliance's understanding of the character and functions of the freshwater bodies contributing to the region's groundwater supply and the Pleasant Bay estuarine system. The project will generate information and management strategies that can be replicated in other communities on Cape Cod.

"There is relatively little information available concerning the current status of freshwater ponds within the Pleasant Bay ACEC," said Dr. Robert Duncanson, Chairman of the Alliance Technical Resource Committee. "These ponds are important as community freshwater resource areas, and links to the region's groundwater supply. They are also important because of their direct hydrologic connection to Pleasant Bay," Dr. Duncanson said.

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The Alliance received a grant of \$15,000 from the Community Foundation of Cape Cod Freshwater Fund to undertake the assessment. The Foundation's Freshwater Fund was created with funds from the Agua Fund and the Tides Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to promote protection and restoration of the quality of surface and groundwater and the health of freshwater ecosystems on Cape Cod and Nantucket.

Citizen's Guides to Estuarine Protection

The project consists of developing three editions of a *Citizen's Guide to Estuarine Protection: Nitrogen Management for a Watershed*. Each edition will be targeted to the specific nitrogen loading conditions within a selected sub-embayment and associated sub-watershed of Pleasant Bay. The guides are intended to increase public awareness of the effects of nitrogen on marine eco-systems, and to provide a foundation for community debate and consensus-building on water quality goals and strategies for nitrogen management.

The *Citizens' Guide to Watershed Planning* combined the results of the property owners' survey with data and analysis of nitrogen levels and water quality conditions in each sub-embayment. The Alliance will work with the Cape Cod Commission and involved community and resident organizations to develop and distribute the guides.

“The communities of Orleans, Chatham and Harwich are undertaking steps to understand and manage excessive nitrogen loading in marine waters,” said George Meservey, Orleans Director of Community Planning. “However each community’s ability to implement effective solutions to the problem of nitrogen loading in marine waters requires a thorough public understanding of the causes and consequences of high levels of nitrogen, as well as community consensus on water quality goals that are to be achieved by a chosen strategy,” Mr. Meservey said.

The Alliance received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Cape Cod Saltwater Fund. The Foundation's Saltwater Fund was established with a grant from the Horizon Foundation to promote protection and restoration of saltwater eco-systems on Cape Cod.

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The Pleasant Bay Resource Management Alliance is a cooperative effort among the towns of Orleans, Chatham and Harwich to preserve the natural resources and public enjoyment of Pleasant Bay.