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**For Immediate Release:
Pleasant Bay Alliance Freshwater Pond Assessment
To Begin Next Week**

Harwich, MA. Beginning next week, researchers from Horsley & Witten, Inc., working under the auspices of the Pleasant Bay Resource Management Alliance, will be out conducting a field reconnaissance of plant and animal life in and surrounding freshwater ponds within the Pleasant Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The field visits to the ponds are a first step in conducting a resource assessment of the freshwater ponds in the ACEC, including

Lover's Lake, Chatham,
Stillwater Pond, Chatham,
Mill Pond, Chatham,
Minister's Pond, Chatham,
Fox Pond, Chatham,
Sarah's Pond, Orleans,
Crystal Lake, Orleans,
Pilgrim Lake, Orleans,
Little Quanset, Pond, Orleans,
Gould Pond, Orleans, and
Uncle Seth's Pond, Orleans.

The resource assessment will provide a snapshot of plant and animal life inhabiting the freshwater ponds, and will identify strategies to protect rare or endangered species, or manage invasive plant species. The Alliance will also rely on the assessment to develop guidelines for permitting structures, particularly docks and piers, located on the shoreline of freshwater lakes and ponds.

Researchers from Horsely & Witten, Inc. will focus their observations on near shore areas as seen from the water and by walking along shore. In instances where the ponds are privately owned, the Alliance is requesting the cooperation of property owners to allow Horsley & Witten personnel to traverse those areas.

“The main thrust of the study is on sustaining the health and vibrancy of these freshwater resources,” said Dr. Robert Duncanson, Chairman of the Alliance’s Technical

Resource Committee. “There is relatively little information available concerning the current status of freshwater ponds. 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. .

The Alliance received a grant of \$15,000 from the Community Foundation of Cape Cod Freshwater Fund to undertake the assessment. Following a competitive process, the Alliance hired Horsley & Witten, Inc. to conduct the assessment. Horsley & Witten, Inc. is a Cape Cod-based environmental services firm with a strong reputation for working with communities toward the conservation of valuable resources.

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