



From space, Cape Cod's distinction as a region unto itself is very apparent. Closer to home, a coordinated regional planning strategy is critical for protecting the Cape's water resources and sensitive habitats.

APCC calls on its members to support strong regional planning

The Cape Cod Commission's regional authority is under assault, which could prove disastrous to the Cape's environment.

By geographical fate, Cape Cod stands apart from the mainland as a unique and isolated region. In terms of natural resources, history and culture, the fifteen towns that share this thin spit of land have much more in common with each other than not.

Our natural resources most in need of protection—drinking water supplies, coastal embayments, critical habitat areas—often extend over two or more communities. Potential threats to these resources, as well as policies for protecting them, must be addressed regionally.

It makes sense, then, that our towns follow a coordinated strategy for planning growth and managing natural resources.

Recognizing this reality, APCC led the campaign that supported passage of the Cape Cod Commission Act and subsequent creation of the Cape Cod Commission, which was successfully adopted by every Cape town in 1990. The act was written in response to a growing concern that Cape Cod lacked a regional plan for growth that included the ability to regulate development.

The concept came not a moment too soon. In the nearly two decades since the act was adopted, Cape Cod has experienced tremendous growth pressures. Imagine what our fifteen towns would look like, and in what state our environment would be, without the Cape Cod Commission's authority to review large development proposals and to regulate the impacts those developments would have on the Cape's natural resources. Or consider the alternative if, for example,

the District of Critical Planning Concern—a powerful planning tool available only through the Cape Cod Commission—had not been used successfully by several towns to craft special protections for sensitive resource areas.

Other regional issues, such as traffic, cannot be addressed adequately by fifteen independent communities. A large development occurring in one town can significantly impact traffic in neighboring towns. Without a regional regulatory authority, there is simply no process to ensure that those traffic impacts are satisfactorily mitigated.

New threats to planning and the environment

However, there currently exists a highly-motivated movement in some corners to water down the regulatory authority of the Cape Cod Commission, and some individuals are even calling for certain towns to withdraw from participation in the Commission. In a close vote at spring town meeting, the town of Yarmouth elected to begin proceedings to secede from the Commission. (See sidebar on page 2.)

If these efforts succeed to any degree, it will be Cape Cod's environment that pays the price. Less regulatory authority on the regional level translates into less environmental oversight. Those who care about the health of our Cape environment and the quality of our life on Cape Cod cannot afford to stand by and let that happen.

Regional Planning

Continued from cover

APCC is just as strongly convinced today as it was two decades ago: Cape Cod needs to be guided by growth polices and strategic planning that only a regional perspective can offer. The best way to help ensure that the Cape's natural resources are safeguarded is through a cohesive, consistent, region-wide approach to resource protection in which *every* town participates.

A call to action for APCC members

Then as now, APCC's members have a pivotal role in helping ensure that we do not lose ground in efforts to protect Cape Cod's natural resources. APCC is therefore making a special appeal to every member to inform your town selectmen or councilors and write your newspaper, letting them know you support a Cape Cod Commission that is effective in regulating development. Talk to friends and neighbors and persuade them to do the same thing, too.

In its 2005 Call to Action, APCC's Cape Cod Business Roundtable called for a county-led review of the Cape Cod Commission. The intent was to determine how the Commission could be more responsive to community needs and more efficient in its operation, without losing its effectiveness in regulating development and protecting resources. The result was the creation of the Cape Cod Commission 21st Century Task Force, on which APCC served as a member.

The task force issued numerous recommendations to make the Commission a better regional agency for the Cape, and the Commission is currently implementing those recommendations. Refining and strengthening the partnership between the Commission and every town is absolutely necessary if Cape Cod is to follow the right path in the decades ahead.

Yarmouth citizens weigh Commission participation

At spring town meeting, Yarmouth voters narrowly adopted a resolution to withdraw from the Cape Cod Commission. While the outcome is a worrisome development for regional planning efforts, the town meeting decision is only the first step in a process that requires the question to be brought before voters in a general election next year. After that, the state legislature must vote to allow the town to withdraw.

Secession from the Commission would not only be greatly detrimental to the town of Yarmouth—it could foil plans to improve the character of Route 28, for example—it would also deal a serious blow to coordinated efforts among the other Cape communities trying to address important regional issues. Throughout the year, APCC will advocate strongly for Yarmouth's continued participation in the Cape Cod Commission.

APCC comments on Cape Wind

The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the proposed Cape Wind project was submitted to the state's secretary of environmental affairs, who issued a certificate on March 29 authorizing the project's applicant to move forward in seeking necessary state permits. APCC was pleased that the FEIR was much improved over the Draft EIR with regard to the level of information that was provided. In particular, several of APCC's recommendations in response to the DEIR were addressed in the FEIR.

However, APCC was disappointed that coordination of the state and federal review processes was decoupled, and noted our objections in written comments on the FEIR. Those comments and other APCC statements concerning Cape Wind are available at www.apcc.org.

APCC now looks forward to extensively

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Volunteer monitor Beth Finch measures water temperature while counting herring that pass from Stony Brook into Lower Mill Pond in Brewster on the final leg of their annual spring migration. Beth is one of more than 20 dedicated community volunteers participating in a herring monitoring program conducted by APCC in its role as Cape Cod coordinator for the Massachusetts Bays Program, and in partnership with the Brewster Alewife Committee. The herring count will support a study to examine the feasibility of restoring restricted tidal flow to Paines Creek salt marsh, which is part of the Stony Brook watershed. The work is made possible by grants from the Gulf of Maine Council and NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership program and the Mary-Louise Eddy and Ruth N. Eddy Foundation.



Important Notice to Our Members

New postal rates have significantly increased the costs of publishing APCC's *Shore Lines* newsletter. To help reduce expensive postal charges and save paper consumption, *Shore Lines* can be e-mailed to you. If you would like to receive a PDF copy of *Shore Lines* by e-mail, please contact APCC at info@apcc.org or call 1-877-955-4142.

Cape Wind

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reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) from the federal Minerals Management Service, which has ultimate regulatory oversight of the project. Release of the EIS has been moved back to later this year.

APCC is greatly concerned about the effects of climate change on the planet and supports viable renewable energy projects to help address this serious problem.

Wastewater education utilizes citizen stewards, reaches new audiences

Ten Cape Cod citizens successfully completed special training and are now giving informational presentations about the Cape's wastewater dilemma to residents across the region.

The volunteer citizen speakers' bureau, which is an outcome of the wastewater education workshops coordinated by APCC, Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment, and the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in 2006, was created to help spread the word about the need for wastewater infrastructure on Cape Cod. The initiative is funded through grants from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and the Cape Cod Foundation.

Assisted by water quality professionals from numerous Cape agencies, citizen stewards have delivered numerous presentations to civic organizations, libraries, senior centers and church groups.

The presentations have reached hundreds of Cape Codders who may not otherwise be exposed to such an important environmental message. And that's the point behind the initiative: concerned citizens explaining to their fellow citizens about the serious impact wastewater from septic systems is having on the quality of our coastal waters, and why each of us has a role in finding a solution.

Interested in scheduling a wastewater education presentation for your organization? Please contact APCC toll free at 1-877-955-4142 or info@apcc.org for more information.

You have a say in Cape Cod's future...

Without the generous support of concerned individuals like you, APCC could not continue the important work we do every day—protecting Cape Cod's fragile environment. Please use the attached envelope to send in your donation today. Thank you!



Cape Cod Bay eyed for No Discharge Area designation

APCC is participating in an important new initiative to designate Cape Cod Bay as a "No Discharge Area" for boaters. No Discharge Areas (NDAs) are areas of the ocean where discharge of any boat sewage is prohibited, whether the sewage is treated or not. By eliminating discharges within the designated area, NDAs help to improve and protect coastal water quality.

APCC senior scientist and Massachusetts Bays Program Cape Cod coordinator, Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto, is assisting in the regional effort to receive the NDA designation. The project is being coordinated through the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. Other NDA working group members are EPA Region 1, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee, and the South Shore region of the Mass Bays Program.



If an NDA designation is achieved, Cape Cod Bay boaters will be required to utilize pump out stations, rather than discharging sewage directly into the ocean.



Volunteers Wanted!

Join APCC's team of volunteers for our salt marsh restoration monitoring project. Additional volunteers are needed at three salt marsh locations:

- Wings Neck, Bourne: monitoring water salinity, birds and plants.
- Bass Creek, Yarmouth: monitoring water salinity, birds, fish and plants.
- Herring River, Wellfleet: monitoring water salinity (Monitoring at this location is done by kayak and on foot).

For more information, contact APCC Staff Biologist Tara Nye at 508-362-4226 or tnye@apcc.org.

CanalSide Commons Chapter 40B proposal would generate significant traffic in a key regional area

The town of Bourne has begun its review of the proposed CanalSide Commons Chapter 40B application for 300 residential units. If approved, the project would be built as part of a larger mixed use development at the Bourne Rotary.

While a scaled-down commercial component was approved by the Cape Cod Commission last year, the residential portion of the project is exempt from Commission review and subject only to limited town review due to state regulations for Chapter 40B developments.

APCC has long-maintained that a development of the size proposed for CanalSide Commons would cause unmanageable traffic problems for such a critical regional roadway area. The commercial and residential development combined would generate approximately 7,500 new vehicle trips in the rotary area on an average weekday.

As the Bourne Zoning Board of Appeals is currently reviewing this proposal, APCC strongly encourages its Bourne members to let the ZBA know that the community has serious concerns about the impact this development will have on the town.

Meeting schedules can be found on the town's web site, www.townofbourne.com, or by contacting the town hall.

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*The Association to Preserve Cape Cod is a non-profit corporation founded in 1968
"to foster policies and programs that promote the preservation
of natural resources on Cape Cod."*

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*Shore Lines Edited by Don Keeran
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Leave a Lasting Legacy

A bequest through your estate plan is a meaningful way to help ensure that Cape Cod will be protected for future generations.

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod provides opportunities for individuals to assist our work to preserve and protect Cape Cod's natural beauty and quality of life. Bequests from our members and friends help make it possible to continue our efforts to speak out for Cape Cod and fight for the protection of our environment, just as we have done since 1968. The sample language shows just how easy it is:

I bequeath to the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Inc. (APCC), a charitable corporation established by law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the sum of _____ dollars (or percentage of estate) to be a.) used for the general purposes of APCC at the direction of its Board of Directors or b.) added to APCC's permanent restricted endowment.

For more information, please contact APCC toll-free at 1-877-955-4142 or info@apcc.org.



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