



# State of the Waters: Cape Cod 2022



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Photo: Gerald Beetham



 [capecodwaters.org](https://capecodwaters.org)

Visit [CapeCodWaters.org](https://CapeCodWaters.org) to view the full report, interactive map,  
Atlas of Water Restoration Needs and Solutions, and State of the Waters Action Plan.



## How Healthy are the Waters of Cape Cod?

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod's *State of the Waters: Cape Cod 2022* report documents continued degradation of water quality across the Cape caused by pollution from septic systems, stormwater and fertilizers.

The State of the Waters report is a yearly comprehensive assessment of the quality of the Cape's coastal embayments, freshwater ponds and public water supplies. Its purpose is to generate greater public awareness of the Cape's water resources and to motivate policy makers to adopt measures that will improve water quality.



Photo: Gerald Beetham

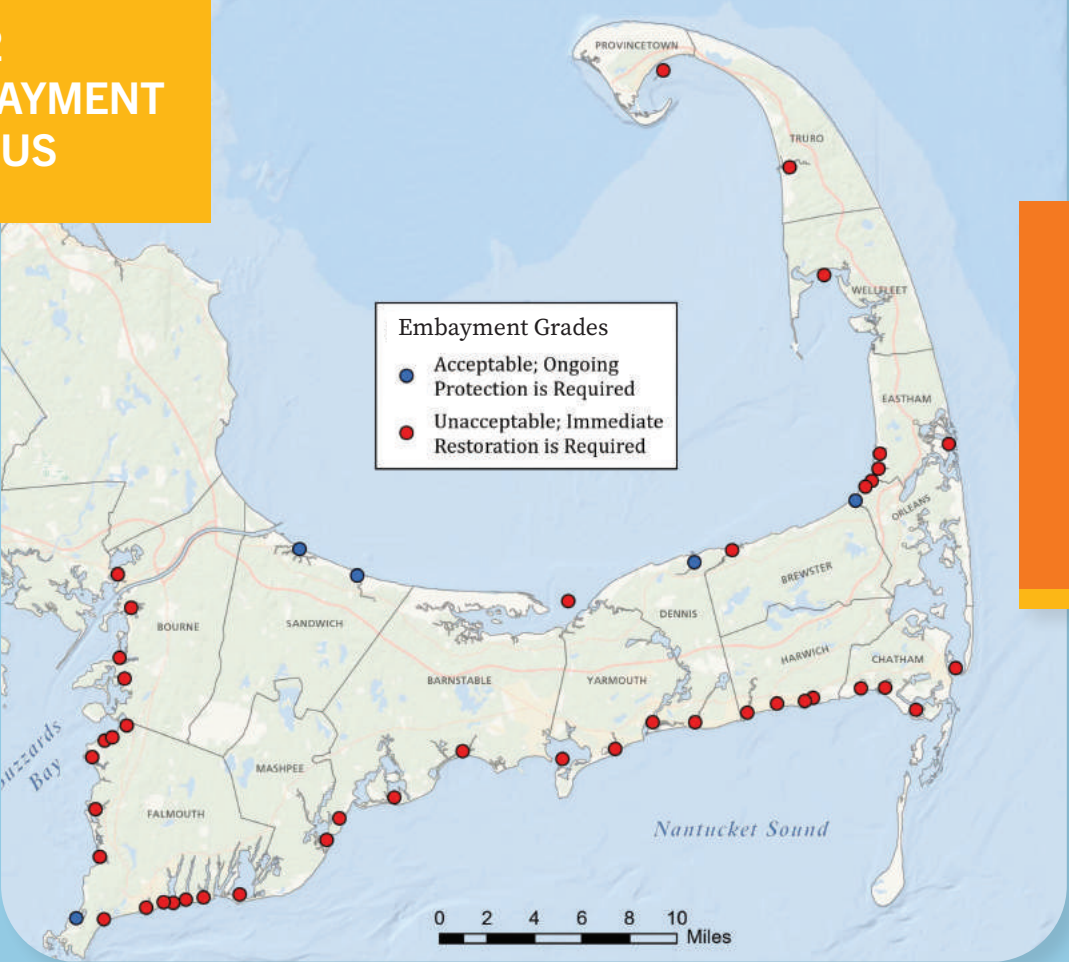


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2022  
EMBAYMENT  
STATUS

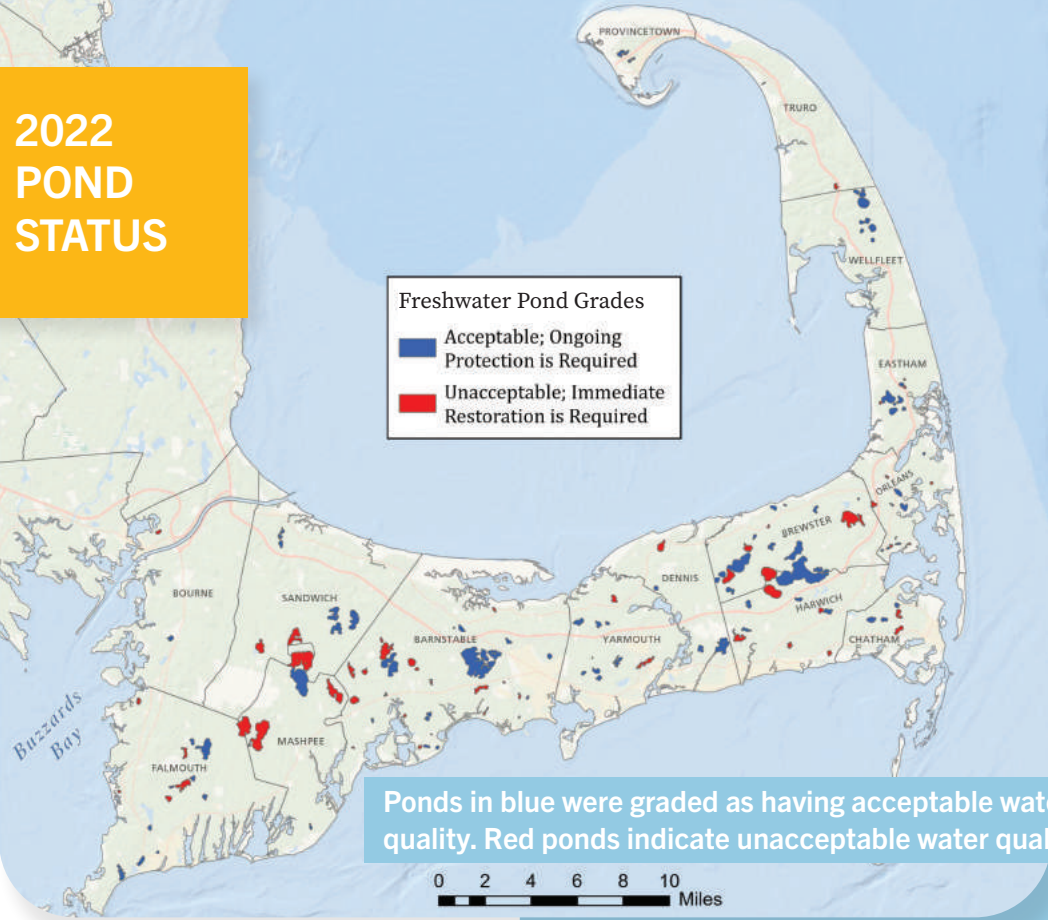


Data sources: BBC, BCWC, CCS, Towns, PBA, SMAST, WBNERR

90%  
of Cape Cod's  
saltwater embayments  
had unacceptable  
water quality.

Red dots show  
embayments with  
unacceptable water  
quality; blue dots  
indicate acceptable  
water quality

2022  
POND  
STATUS



Ponds in blue were graded as having acceptable water quality. Red ponds indicate unacceptable water quality.

Data source: Towns, Cape Cod Commission, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, BCWC, APCC

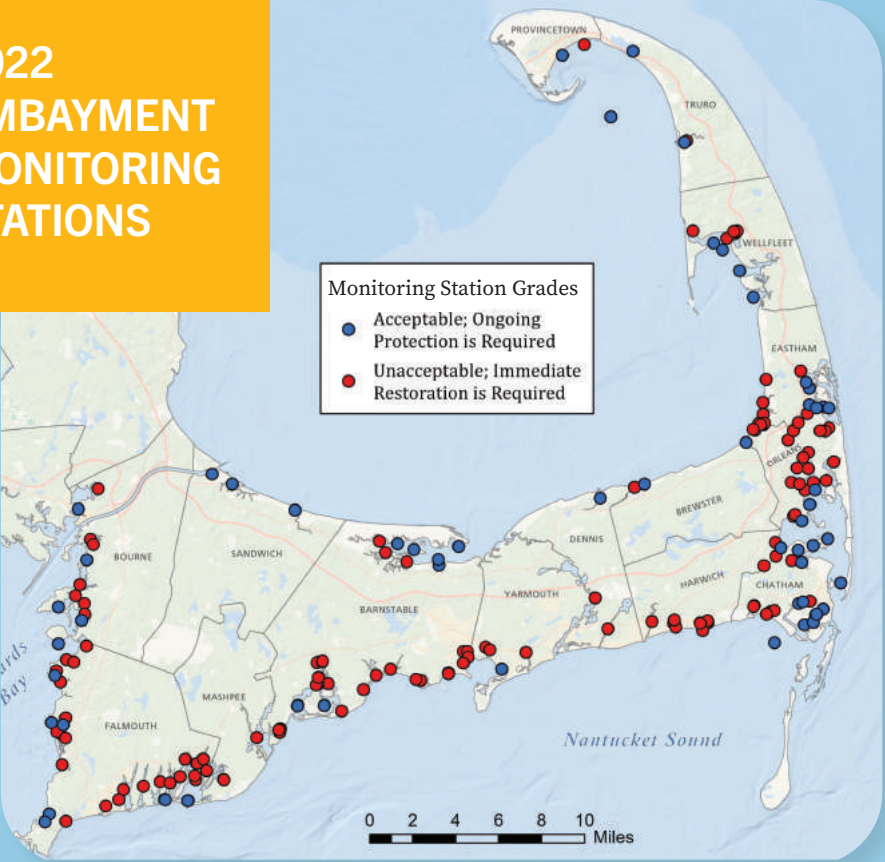
Many of  
Cape Cod's  
freshwater  
ponds  
have been adversely  
impacted by  
excessive nutrients.

39%  
or 59 of the 151 ponds  
graded by APCC had  
unacceptable water  
quality.

Cape Cod's  
saltwater  
embayments

are suffering from the  
negative effects of too  
many nutrients.  
The report shows  
that 43 out of 48  
embayments graded  
by APCC—or 90%—had  
unacceptable water  
quality.

2022  
EMBAYMENT  
MONITORING  
STATIONS



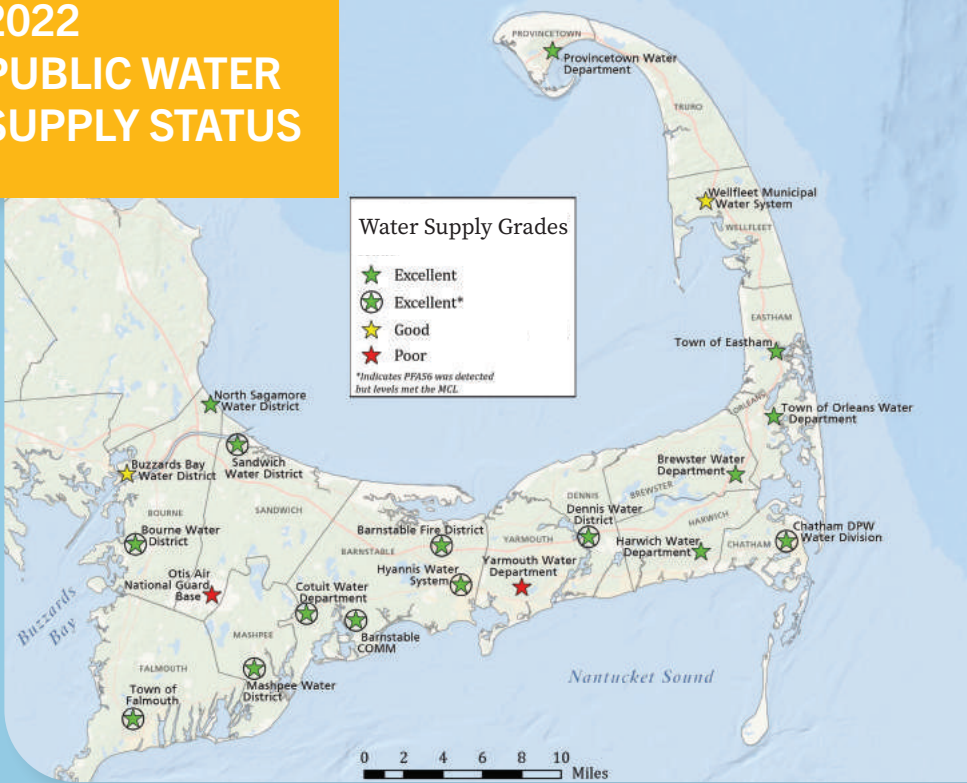
Icons reflect water quality status at specific monitoring stations.  
Blue is acceptable water quality; red is unacceptable

Data sources: BBC, BCWC, CCC, CCS, Towns, PBA, SMAST, WBNERR

The quality of  
most Cape Cod  
public drinking  
water supplies

remained excellent or  
good. However, two  
public drinking water  
supplies were graded as  
poor because they did  
not meet two or more  
drinking water standards.  
One failed E. coli and  
total coliform bacteria  
standards and another  
failed PFAS6 and enteric  
bacteria standards.

2022  
PUBLIC WATER  
SUPPLY STATUS



Green stars indicate excellent water quality grades  
for public water supplies, green stars in circles indicate PFAS6 was  
detected but levels were within the Maximum Containment Level  
standard, yellow indicates a good grade, and red is poor

Data source: Consumer Confidence Reports