

Buzzards Bay Program

Fall 1998

Fast Facts

Bordered by southeast Massachusetts, Elizabeth Islands and Cape Cod.

Watershed includes 236,000 people, 40% in the city of New Bedford.

Produces nearly 40% of world's cranberry harvest.

Combined quahog, bay scallop, soft shell clam, and oyster harvest valued at \$6 million (1994).

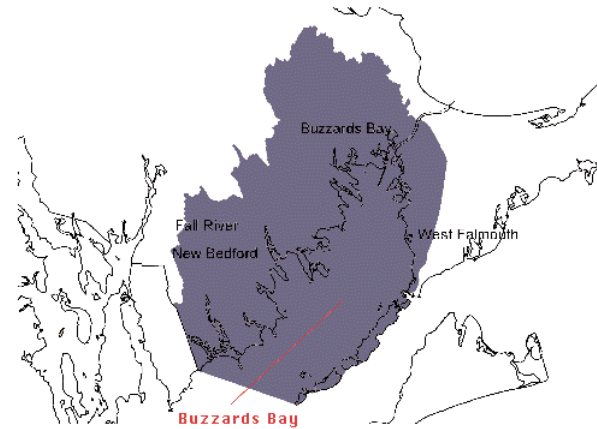
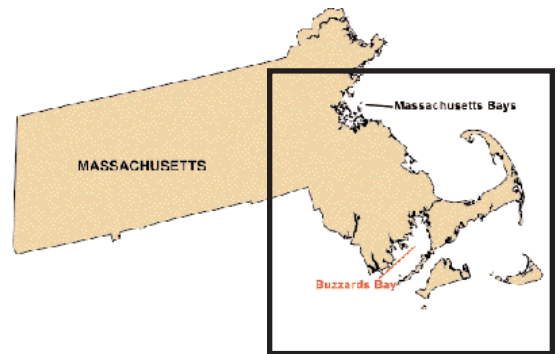
Nearly 20,000 marine vessels pass through Cape Cod Canal annually, with some 10,000 vessels anchoring in the Bay throughout summer.

Status Update & Next Steps

Buzzards Bay has avoided many of the Baywide water quality problems that plague other more urbanized watersheds on the eastern seaboard.

Nevertheless, current land use practices and a growing population have degraded natural resources, particularly the 32 small embayments and harbors. The limited flushing capacity of these areas further intensifies the decline of valuable resources such as eelgrass, a valuable shellfish habitat.

The major threats are excessive nutrient loadings from polluted stormwater runoff and groundwater and bacterial contamination from improper sewage disposal and stormwater runoff. One result of these problems is the closure of shellfish beds, which has a significant negative impact on the local economy.



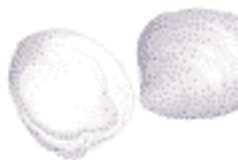
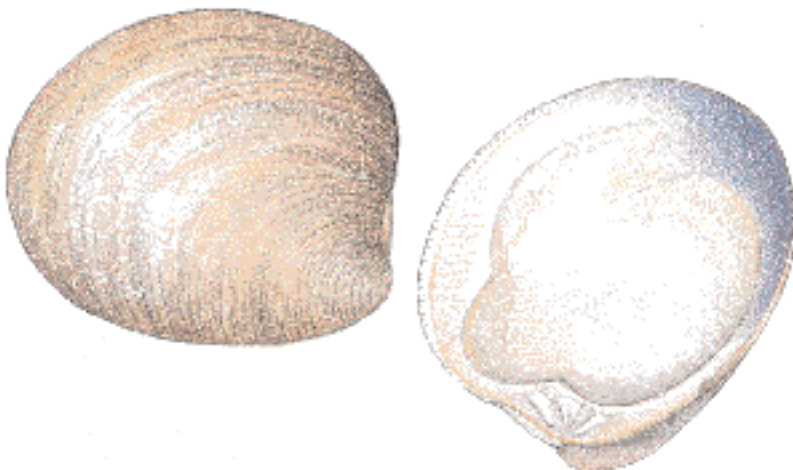
Buzzards Bay watershed. Courtesy of USEPA.

The vast majority of actions in the plan are directed at local governments, a reflection of the fact that this level of government in Massachusetts has the greatest authority for dealing with nonpoint source impacts.

Information regarding the Buzzards Bay Project, (508) 291-3625, or 2870 Cranberry Way, East Wareham, MA 02538 or visit or e-mail us at tracy.nocke@state.ma.us.



ASSOCIATION OF
NATIONAL ESTUARY
PROGRAMS



Association of National Estuary Programs

The Association of National Estuary Program (ANEP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible stewardship and a common vision for the preservation of our nation's bays and estuaries.

ANEP's Mission

Bring consistency to estuarine data collection and management, and turn data into useful information that is consolidated into meaningful status and trends at the national scale. Ensure that data are reliable, objective, and goal-directed. Achieve recognition of the critical roles for continued monitoring and assessment.

Educate the public on the meaning and practical application of "responsible stewardship." Ensure that the public understands the long-term nature of solutions to the environmental problems now facing bays and estuaries.

Achieve mutual support and coordination among all coastal programs. Enhance communication among NEPs and between NEPs and other coastal programs. Report both successes and failures to Congress and the American public, while understanding that through 'adaptive management' we can achieve effective management of our nation's bays and estuaries.

Seek explicit congressional support and commitment to implement Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). Capitalize on the hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours invested thus far, nationwide, and recognize the important role that Management Conferences play as a continuing forum for all stakeholders.

Achieve sufficient federal funding to strengthen the federal/state/local and public/private partnerships that have been fledged across the nation. Achieve stable funding for core program operations, project implementation, and local government pass-through dollars as incentive for regional, multi-jurisdictional cooperation.

