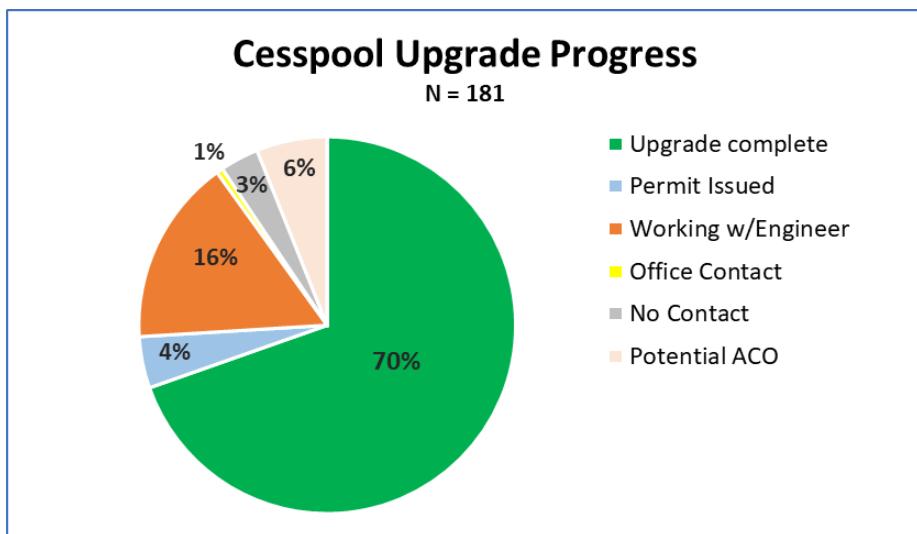


Memo to: Truro Board of Health  
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent  
Date: February 18, 2025  
Re: Water Resources Update



### **Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5**

To date, 74% of properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 16% are working with engineers. Many of these have completed plans and are in the process of hiring an installer. Letters have been sent to these homeowners, so they are aware of the deadline for plans and installation permits. Three of the 11 properties eligible for an ACO have been formally approved by the board. The remaining 4% of properties that have made no progress will be issued notices of violation filed with the Housing court.



Bucket	Count	Deadline
1	8	Installation by 9/1/2024 or 9 months from date of permit issuance
2	8	Completion of ACO by 12/31/2024
2a	3	Approved ACO
3	29	Plan complete by 5/1/2024, install within 9 months
4	7	12/31/2023



**Regarding Administrative Consent Orders (ACOs)**. An ACO is the legal agreement between the Board of Health and a property owner regarding the timing of upgrades or connection to sewer facilities.

At this time, the current deadline for the BoH to finalize all cesspool-related draft ACOs has been shifted to March 1, 2025. There remain 8 properties that will be coming before the Board to have the ACO variance approved.

The feasibility (costs/approach) of sewerizing the Beach Point area will be discussed by the Board of Health in Late February/early-March, along with the anticipated release of the draft CWMP.

**Regarding stormwater management**- Discussions including stormwater management will resume once the CWMP draft has been completed.

**Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs** – In 2023, Title 5 was amended to include watershed permit regulations and include newly defined criteria for estuarine watersheds that are Nitrogen Sensitive Areas or, NSA's. The amendment only addresses watersheds on Cape Cod with an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessed for nitrogen. These new NSAs must come into compliance, by submitting watershed plans.

The Wellfleet Harbor Embayment System has an approved TMDL, and the Wellfleet Board of Health is moving forward this week with new revisions to their local regulations that support compliance with the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed plan. The plan includes establishment of a sewer district that will accommodate the wastewater from a large area surrounding the Harbor/Pier area. All properties not within the proposed sewer district will need to upgrade to enhanced wastewater treatment systems that are approved for to remove at Nitrogen levels to not more than 10 mg/l in the effluent within the next 20 years. The following excerpt of text from the proposed Wellfleet draft regulations establishes their rationale:

*“This Regulation is enacted in accordance with the Town’s Watershed Management Plan to allow for a gradual approach to the elimination of septic systems that do not use adequate nitrogen reducing technology by providing a reasonable schedule for property owners to either connect to a public sewer if and when such a connection becomes available, or replace their existing systems with a system that uses Best Available Nitrogen Reducing Technology, as defined in 310 CMR 15.000, et seq. (“Title 5”), as amended on [date], upon the happening of certain triggering events..”*

The Wellfleet Harbor watershed public notice, and the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed Milestone Schedule are both available on the Health Department web page under the Wastewater Management tab.

You can find a report of the final Wellfleet Harbor Embayment System Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) For Total Nitrogen at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/final-total-nitrogen-tmdl-for-wellfleet-harbor/download>

East Harbor and the Pamet River are both impaired water bodies but are without a TMDL for nitrogen. The Town is working proactively, to align our planning process with the new regulations. We have been working with the engineering firm GHD to complete our Comprehensive wastewater management plan. It is likely that we will be moving into a watershed permit application process within several years for the Pamet River.

#### **Regarding Wastewater Management Planning/ Water Resources discussion with Provincetown:**

Both Select Boards and the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board will meet jointly on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Joint staff team continues to meet every 2 weeks to pull together information for the next joint meeting, and to create an Agenda with the administration of both Towns.

The February meeting will be held at 6 PM at the Provincetown Town Hall. It will be a hybrid meeting.

**PFAs (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update:** Water sampling for PFAS testing for homes downgradient of the DPW facility and a few more homes near the transfer station were completed the week of 1/13. Approximately 18 homes were tested; results are pending.

**Truro Pond WQ testing-HABS and Cyanobacteria:**

The pond water quality program has ended for the season.

A map of Truro's Ponds can be found at:

<https://www.truro-ma.gov/conservation-department/pages/ponds>