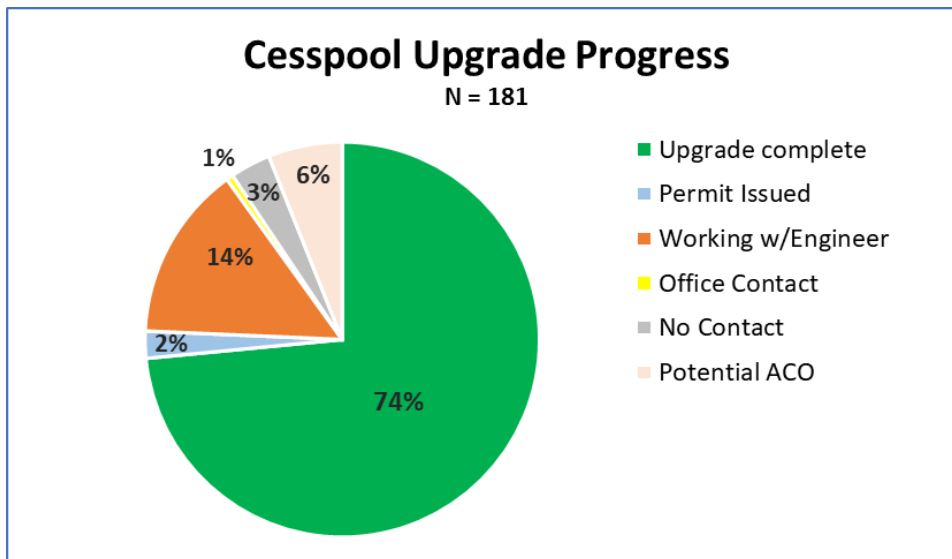


Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: May 20, 2025
Re: **Water Resources Update**



Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 76% of properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 14% are working with engineers and installers.



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.

8 properties still need to come before the Board to have the ACO variance approved.

Discussion on feasibility (costs/approach) of sewerage the Beach Point area are anticipated for September 2025.

Regarding stormwater management At the 2025 Annual Town meeting, borrowing authorization was granted for the Pond Road stormwater improvement project, and supported at the ballot on May 13.

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.

Last week the Wellfleet selectboard voted to move forward with IMA discussions with Truro, regarding our shared wastewater management goals for the Wellfleet Harbor watershed. This process will require

the support of the Board of Health, and there will be recommendations made by Scott Horsely and GHD to amend the T BoH regulations accordingly.

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>

Water sampling of the Pamet will commence this month. The most recently sampled stations will continue to be sampled by the Center for Coastal Studies, along with additional sampling at some, if not all 7 stations of the 2010 604b sampling program.

Regarding Wastewater Management Planning/ Water Resources discussion with Provincetown

Joint staff meetings continue to be held every 2 weeks, as planning work on the Watershed management plan and the Master Plan beach commences. Truro is working with Stantec Engineering to develop engineering specifications for a Water Storage Tank that will be constructed in North Truro to improve pressures across the system, and to help manage the water system's peak demands. Staff is working with Scott Horsley and GHD to develop permissible wastewater treatment options for the Walsh property.

PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update

Water sampling in homes downgradient of the DPW facility and a few more homes near the transfer station was completed this winter. Additional sampling is occurring as property owners return to open for the season. Several homes downgradient of the DPW facility had detectable levels of pfas and one home exceeded the standard. One home downgradient of the transfer station had detectable levels of pfas.

As an immediate temporary measure at homes where pfas have been detected, bottled water has been supplied. Long term and more permanent measures include equipping these homes with carbon filtration systems to remove the pfas from the water as it comes into the house.

The Barnstable County Water Quality Lab now offers PFAS testing, and bottles are available for pickup from our office. Pfas analysis cost is \$265. For more information visit the lab's webpage:

<https://www.capecod.gov/2025/02/27/new-pfas-monitoring/>

Truro Pond WQ testing-HABS and Cyanobacteria:

The pond water quality program will commence at the end of this month. Here comes the season!

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

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