

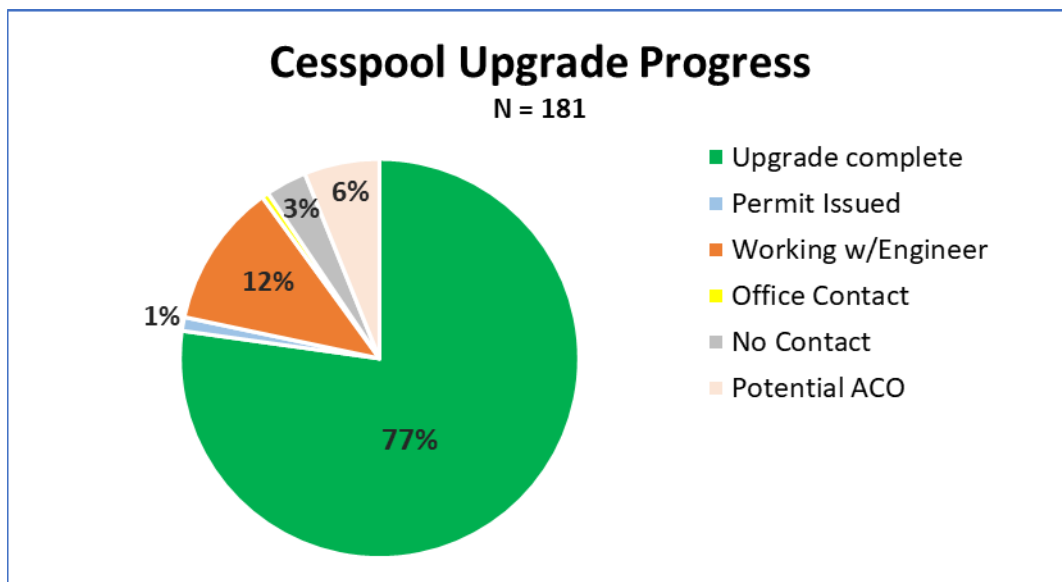
Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: October 20, 2025
Re: **Water Resources Update**



TOWN OF TRURO
HEALTH & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
24 Town Hall Road, Truro 02666
508-349-7004 x119

Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 78% of properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 12% 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.

The feasibility (costs/approach) of connecting to the Provincetown sewer system and alternatives for wastewater treatment on Beach Point will be detailed in the Draft CWMP due for release on October 2025. A discussion about the feasibility study will take place as part of the next public discussion that is focused on the Watershed management plan, and scheduled for November 18, 2025, at 2 PM at Truro Town Hall.

Regarding stormwater management

A copy of the 2023 stormwater management draft bylaw proposal is attached for discussion with the Board of Health. This was withdrawn in 2023 prior to Town Meeting.

Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs

The 2023 amendments to Title 5 included newly defined Nitrogen Sensitive Areas or NSA's, and watershed plan requirements.

Presentations of the CWMP (Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan) including potential strategies to comply with the requirements of the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed plan were presented to the BoH at the CWMP public discussion held on October 14. Options include combinations of I/A general

use treatment with Enhanced I/A provisional use treatment, as well employment of strategic stormwater and fertilizer best management practices.

Regarding Water Resources planning discussions with Provincetown

Watershed Master Plan and Pamet Lens Management planning discussions with Provincetown remain focused on groundwater modeling, and demand analysis.

CWMP – The Comprehensive Watershed Management plan includes wastewater and nitrogen management strategies for 3 watersheds in Truro.

- 1) Wellfleet Harbor (Herring River watershed, in south Truro)
- 2) Pamet River watershed
- 3) Provincetown Harbor/East Harbor- (Pilgrim Lake)

Our Water Resources consultant Scott Horsley, and GHD presented an overview of the CWMP at a joint meeting of the Truro Select Board and Board of Health, on September 25. A second discussion was hosted by the Board of Health on October 14 at Town Hall. The draft report will be issued October 31, and a third presentation and public discussion will be held on November 18, 2025, at 2 PM in Town Hall. Slides from the first two meetings can be found here: <https://ma-truro.civicplus.com/361/Wastewater-Watershed-Management>

Walsh property planning-no update, reports are pending.

PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update

The Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) pilot project has been installed. Groundwater sampling is underway, and DEP is satisfied with the work completed so far. All homes with detectable PFAS concentrations were provided with bottled water until a Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system could be installed to remove PFAS from the water as it comes into the house. Initial water testing included homes within a 500' radius of the site. Subsequent testing was based on groundwater flow direction to further define the plume.

The Barnstable County Water Quality Lab offers PFAS testing, and bottles are available for pickup from our office. Cost for PFAS analysis 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:

10/1/2025

Due to the Government shutdown no additional information has been posted since Oct 1, and at that time, the Public Health Advisory was still in place.

The Park has reported a *potential (suspect)* harmful algal bloom in Snow Pond. Signs were posted by Park officials at the pond warning the public of this Public Health Advisory, and cautioning them not to swim, or let their dogs drink or swim. The pond will be monitored, and APCC will sample and test the water for cyanobacteria. The Town website and social media pages will be updated as more information is available.

Most of the ponds in Truro are within the Cape Cod National Seashore. Because there is no Town-owned shoreline to provide public access, the Town of Truro has no jurisdiction there, and those ponds are solely under federal jurisdiction.

The pond water quality for Village Pond is monitored by APCC and results can be found on the APCC website. Great Pond is also monitored by APCC.

****Swimmers should please use caution and look for evidence of an algal bloom before entering any pond. For more information: <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/>**

A map of Truro's Ponds can be found at: <https://www.truro-ma.gov/225/Ponds>