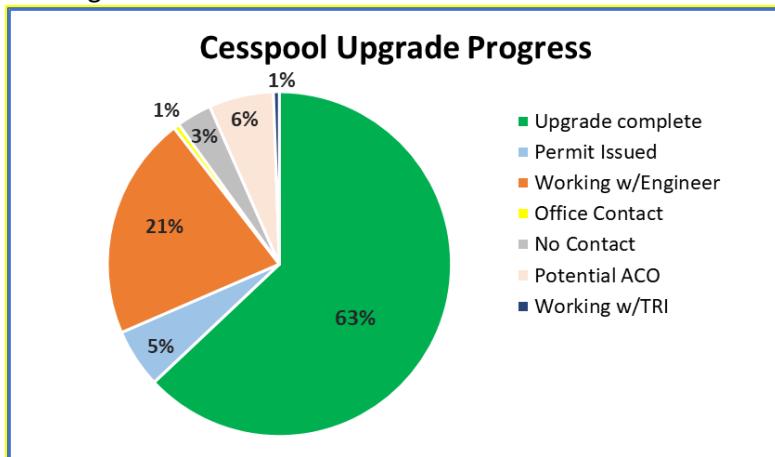


Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: August 16, 2024
Re: **Water Resources Update August 2024**



Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, over 2/3 of the properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 21% 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 to enter into an ACO have been formally approved by the board. The other ACO properties will be on upcoming agendas. 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	10	Installation by 9/1/2024 or 9 months from date of permit issuance
2	8	Completion of ACO by 9/1/2024
2a	3	Approved ACO
3	39	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. Draft ACOs must be finalized September 1, 2024 by BoH approval of a variance to allow the agreement, using GPD value placeholder until the actual cost/gallon multiplier is determined by GHD. An update from Engineers at GHD will be included in the August update.

Regarding stormwater management – (no new update, August 2024)

Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs – (no new update, August 2024)

New (in 2023) watershed permit regulations are now a part of title 5 and include newly defined criteria for Nitrogen Sensitive Areas (NSA) estuarine watersheds on Cape Cod that have an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nitrogen. These new NSAs have timeframes for compliance with approved watershed plans. On Wednesday July 3, a notice of intent was filed with the DEP by GHD on behalf of Truro for the portion of South Truro that is located in the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed. A public notice requirement was satisfied by publishing details of the filing": 1. in the Environmental monitor, and, 2. in a newspaper of local circulation, and, 3. posting in the Town Hall for the municipality. The notice states that "the Town of Truro, MA has filed the Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for a watershed permit for the Wellfleet Harbor watershed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Resources – Watershed Permitting Program. This is a pre-Watershed Application form that allows the Town to submit a proposed schedule for obtaining watershed permits for the listed watersheds. Filing the NOI prevents commencement of the five-year time period in which Title 5 system upgrades would otherwise be required under 310 CMR 15.215(2)(a) and suspends the Title 5 upgrade requirements for new construction under 310 CMR 15.215(2)(b). Additional information regarding the Notice of Intent may be obtained by contacting Emily Beebe – Truro Health & Conservation Agent by calling (508)214-0919." The Wellfleet Harbor 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 neither have a TMDL for nitrogen, however, to protect these resources the Town is working proactively, to align our planning process with the new regulations. We have contracted with the engineering firm GHD to prepare our Comprehensive wastewater management plan which will guide our wastewater management activities across town. 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:

The Provincetown and Truro water resource planning staff team have secured the date- September 30- for a joint meeting of the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board with the Select Boards of both towns. The meeting will be held at the Truro Community Center. Materials and agenda for this facilitated meeting will be available by about mid-September

PFAs (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update: (no new update, August 2024)

Truro Pond WQ testing-HABS and Cyanobacteria:

There are only 2 ponds in Truro that are not located in the Cape Cod National Seashore, the "Great Swamp" of Shearwater and the Village Pond on Pond Road; both are in North Truro. Neither of these ponds are used for recreational swimming and are therefore not defined as bathing beaches (Public Bathing Beach means any bathing beach open to the general public, whether or not any entry fee is charged, that permits access to bathing waters).

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

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

In other Towns, public landings on the shores of their Ponds provide the public access to the ponds, and they are regulated by the Town and State under the Massachusetts Sanitary code as "bathing beaches".

The Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) is not governed by the State; therefore, our Sanitary code standards do not apply to the swimmable ponds in Truro. The CCNS does routinely perform water quality monitoring of their ponds, and they are quite mindful of so-called HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms) such as Cyanobacteria. In the event an algal bloom is observed and when cyanobacteria in particular is suspected, the CCNS works with APCC to sample and analyze the bloom. The CCNS and APCC include the Town in their communications tree to advise the public when cyanobacteria is present, and to ensure that public postings and notifications are coordinated and issued promptly.

The Town has an annual contract with APCC to regularly monitor and sample the Village Pond for cyanobacteria throughout the season.



Cyanobacteria Monitoring Bi-Weekly Update of Truro Ponds

Sampling for the week of: July 29, 2024

Report prepared for: Town of Truro

Report prepared by: James Marino

Report Reviewed by: Lynn Francis

Sample collection by: Jacob Scola

For more information: [Cyanobacteria | Association to Preserve Cape Cod \(apcc.org\)](http://Cyanobacteria | Association to Preserve Cape Cod (apcc.org))

Pond	Sample Date	Pond Water Temp (F)	General Turbidity	Dominant Genus	BFC PC ave. (ug/L ⁻¹) *	Estimated BFC microcystin concentrations (ug/L ⁻¹)			Net growth rate (ud ⁻¹)			Cyano. Scum	Recent Activity	Current Risk Category
						MCY (Cl ⁻) *	MCY *	MCY (Cl ⁺) *	<50um	WLW	BFC			
Great Pond	8/1/24	76.8	Clear	DS	10	-	-	-	0.026	0.030	-0.038	-	6/6/24: Acceptable	Acceptable
Village Pond	8/1/24	81.8	Clear	DS	7	-	-	-	0.007	-0.072	-0.013	-	6/6/24: Acceptable 6/20/24: Acceptable 7/3/24: Acceptable	Acceptable

*All BFC PC values rounded to the nearest whole number. Complete data set available upon request.

Notes:

Great and Village Ponds were in the Acceptable cyanobacteria risk category.