

## Why Controlling Nitrogen Pollution Matters


Nitrogen is a natural part of our environment—but too much of it in our coastal waters can cause serious problems. Excess nitrogen, often from septic systems and fertilizers, leads to:

- ◆ Degraded water quality
- ◆ Harmful algal blooms
- ◆ Damage to salt marshes and eelgrass beds
- ◆ Fish kills and loss of marine life

In coastal communities like ours, managing nitrogen pollution is essential to protect our environment, economy, and way of life. That's why the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) requires towns to develop Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans (CWMPs). These plans help communities:

- ✓ Identify sources of nitrogen pollution
- ✓ Evaluate wastewater treatment options
- ✓ Plan for long-term, sustainable solutions

By supporting local CWMP efforts, we're investing in clean water, healthy ecosystems, and a resilient future.

 To learn more, join us at a Public Report on Wastewater Planning in Truro on Thursday, September 25 at 3:00 pm at the Community Center (7 Standish Way, Truro).