

# CWMP Project

## TOWN OF TRURO, MASSACHUSETTS



### What is a CWMP?

A Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) is a 20-year roadmap for nitrogen management. It evaluates current and future needs, compares alternatives, and recommends the most cost-effective solution to protect public health and the environment.

### Why is a CWMP needed in Truro?

- **To protect public health:** Nitrogen pollution of the groundwater (primarily from individual septic systems) puts Truro's drinking water supply at risk. (Traditional Title 5 septic systems are not designed to treat nitrogen and don't adequately protect our drinking water or environment).
- **To protect the environment:** Excess nitrogen is harming Truro's coastal estuaries, leading to poor water quality and increasing the risk of harmful algal blooms and loss of native species such as eelgrass.
- **To comply with regulatory requirements:** Truro is required by the State to meet its share of the nitrogen reduction target (known as the total maximum daily load, or TMDL) for Wellfleet Harbor. Truro will also be required to meet nitrogen management targets in the Pamet River and Provincetown Harbor Watershed once those TMDLs are scientifically determined.

### How is nitrogen entering our coastal estuaries?

As documented by the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) and the Cape Cod Commission (CCC), nitrogen enters our coastal estuaries mainly from individual septic systems. Other controllable sources of nitrogen include stormwater and fertilizers.

### How can I get involved?

The Town's public outreach program will include opportunities to learn more about the CWMP process and provide input to shape the plan. Public meetings scheduled for Fall 2025 will be announced on the town website. The draft CWMP will also be available on the town website at the end of October 2025.

### How can nitrogen be managed in Truro's watersheds?

The CWMP will evaluate multiple strategies for managing nitrogen in Truro's watersheds, including: stormwater management, fertilizer management, nitrogen-reducing on-site septic systems, cluster wastewater treatment systems, permeable reactive barriers, and centralized wastewater treatment.

### What will happen if we don't take action?

If we don't take action, Truro's watersheds are expected to continue to degrade, impacting environmental quality and local quality of life. There is also risk of receiving a Consent Order from the State, which may impact financing options for wastewater infrastructure projects.

### WATERSHEDS IN TRURO

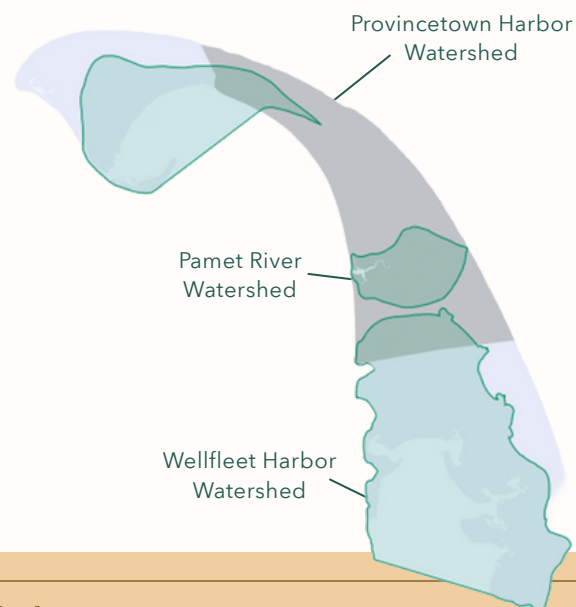


image credit: Cape Cod Commission

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