

Letter to landowners within or adjacent to the Herring River flood plain, Wellfleet and Truro

Dear owner of Lot XX, Map XXX (Street address)

This letter is to introduce you to the Herring River Salt-marsh Restoration Project.

The Herring River Technical Committee has been tasked by the Wellfleet Board of Selectmen and Cape Cod National Seashore to assess the effects of restoring tidal flow to Herring River, which has been isolated from the marine environment by a dike built in 1909. Mapping to assess the effects of tidal restoration on private properties indicates that some portion of your land is within or abutting the tidal flood plain.

Importantly, the effects of proposed tidal restoration would be limited to existing wetlands. Studies have shown that any effects on existing wells and septic systems are unlikely; however, depending on the specific location, changes in wetland vegetation may be substantial, with existing trees and shrubs replaced by salt-marsh grasses. For this reason, we are soliciting comments, questions and concerns from all property owners who live near the estuary and may see a change on their land, or even in their vista, should tidal restoration proceed. Besides the vegetation changes, tidal restoration is expected to improve water quality and re-establish the rich finfish and shellfish resources that historically occupied the Herring River estuary.

For background on the project and the Committee's deliberations, there is much information on the Town of Wellfleet website (www.wellfleetma.org), which we strongly recommend that you visit if possible. Also, and if you don't have web access, detailed information and a set of frequently asked questions and answers is available at the Wellfleet Health and Conservation Department at the DPW building. If you have specific concerns or questions, you can also call Hillary Greenberg, Wellfleet Health and Conservation Agent at 508-349-0308 or John Portnoy, Cape Cod National Seashore Ecologist at 508-487-3262 ext. 107. In addition, we plan an informational meeting on 21 August 7-9 PM at the Wellfleet Library to bring local landowners like yourself up to date. Finally, the Technical Committee's regular meetings are always open to the public and posted on the Town website; our next meeting is at 1 PM on 15 August at the Wellfleet Senior Center.

Sincerely,

Gordon Peabody, Chairman
Herring River Technical Committee