

WHY DREDGE WELLFLEET HARBOR?

For over 150 years, the Harbor has been the life-blood of Wellfleet's economy and unique coastal culture. Severe silting-in of this picturesque body of water limiting access channels threatens the future of Wellfleet. Maintenance dredging is long overdue and needed now for the Harbor to recoup existing losses and increase its benefits.

TOP 10 REASONS TO DREDGE WELLFLEET HARBOR

- 1. Safety** – The Wellfleet Harbormaster is the primary police and safety agency for the Town's waterways. Restricted access severely compromises the ability of the Harbormaster to perform emergency operations.
- 2. Legal Obligations** – Wellfleet's location makes it a center for search and rescue operations. The Wellfleet Harbormaster has legal obligations to the U.S. Coast Guard to provide regional emergency services.
- 3. Marina** - Town, State and Federal governments have all contributed to make Wellfleet's Marina a model for other seacoast villages. The site can now accommodate launching and parking for up to 60 boats daily and potential mooring for 400-600. The silting in of the channel and mooring basin have diminished this facility, and threatens revenue estimated at \$3 million direct impact on the local economy.
- 4. Aquaculture** – Shellfishing and Aquaculture in Wellfleet is a \$5 million industry, employing 200 Wellfleet residents - a number that is nearly 14% higher than other Cape Cod shellfishing Towns. Wellfleet shellfishermen live in Town, so most of the revenue generated gets spent and re-spent in the local economy. Failure to perform maintenance dredging will have a dramatic and dire effect on this mainstay of the local economy, as the "*black mayonnaise*" that is the target of the dredging is already spewing over into nearby shellfish beds, smothering and killing off the oysters. The State Division of Marine Fisheries recently noted that the primary danger to Wellfleet's aquaculture business does not come from disease such as vibrio parahaemolyticus – but rather from a die-off precipitated by this "*black mayonnaise*".
- 5. Economic** – Wellfleet boasts 65-70 businesses within walking distance of the Harbor that conservatively facilitate some \$15-20 million in business for the Town. Many of these businesses have already reported a downturn in visitors related to the silting in and non-viability of the Harbor.
- 6. Recreation** – For the past 100 years, Wellfleet's recreational boating industry has been a significant part of the local economy. This silting of the Harbor impedes access for Wellfleet's seasonal visitors who come by the tens of thousands each summer to enjoy our Harbor.
- 7. Commercial Fishing** – A number of fishing boat captains, commercial fishermen and aquaculturalists (who rely on boat to transport their catch) are being affected by limited access to the channel. Their business, which totals close to \$1 million annually, has been sliced in half.
- 8. Conservation** – With nearly 70% of its land under conservation restrictions, Wellfleet is the gateway to the Cape Cod National Seashore. Its unspoiled beaches and ponds as well as its carefully preserved historic buildings make Wellfleet a singular reminder of Cape Cod past, and what it can be at present if we preserve our legacy.

- 9. Public Health** – As part of the Barnstable County plan to bring all Cape Cod watersheds into compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act, Wellfleet has been engaged in a shellfish propagation project. Over 25 tons of shell have been reintroduced to the Harbor creating 35 acres of habitat. Water quality studies indicate that this effort has removed 90% of the nitrogen from Harbor waters. The Wellfleet's Waste Water Committee considers the silting in of the "black mayonnaise" as a serious detriment to this project. Failure to dredge the Harbor could force Wellfleet to construct a full-blown sewer.
- 10. Tourism** – Tourism and aquaculture together support Wellfleet's seasonal economy. Most Wellfleet businesses rely upon these summer weeks for the lion's share of their annual income. Without a viable Harbor, many of these businesses would be unable to stay in operation.

WELLFLEET NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**IF YOU SUPPORT DREDGING THE HARBOR, PLEASE CONTACT OUR LEGISLATORS,
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR!**

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Senator Edward Markey (D)
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.markey.Senate.gov/contact

Boston Office:
JFK Federal Office Building
15 New Sudbury St.
Boston, MA 02203
Phone: 617-565-8519

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D)
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-4543
www.warren.Senate.gov;

District Office:
2400 JFK Federal Office Building
15 New Sudbury St., Boston, MA 02203
Phone: 617-565-3170

Representative William R. Keating (D)
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-3111

Cape & Islands Office:
297 North Street, Suite 312
Hyannis, MA 02601
Phone: 508-771-0666

THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE

Governor Charles Baker (R)
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-725-4005
www.mass.gov (*click on Governor, Contact Us*)

Senator Daniel A. Wolf (D)
State House, Room 511B
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-1570
daniel.wolf@masenate.gov

District Office:
Hyannis, MA, 02601
Phone: 508-775-0162

Representative Sarah Peake (D)
State House, Room 163
Boston, MA, 02133
Phone: 617-722-2015 or 508-487-5694
sarah.peake@mahouse.gov