HMP – Storms 7/16/2020

Increased climate change driven storms (reference) can potentially cause major harm –

to shoreline escarpments, to shoreline dunes and to salt marshes.

The issue of escarpment protection is controversial, as the use of boulders or other

agents can actually accelerate the loss of beaches and adjacent escarpments. The protection of

dunes is a subject currently before the Conservation Commission.

Storm driven salt marsh loss is a major issue in – for example – Louisiana but has not been reported in Wellfleet.

At some other Towns in Massachusetts – Provincetown, Yarmouth, Winthrop – have in place off-shore structures that act as protective breakwaters. Care must be shown in the design

and installation of such breakwaters so as not to create a new problem, such as an increased need for dredging.

Reccomendations:

> Continue monitoring of harbor shoreline loss.

> Commence monitoring of salt marshes for possible loss of area or shoreline.

> Compile predictive data on future storm intensity and wind vectors.

While it is not part of this reports scope, we note that much of this data will also be useful in planning for protection of shoreline infra-structure such as roads and Town beaches.