HMP Climate ii 7/15/2020

The evidence continues to show that climate change is inexorable.

We recognize four main consequences for Wellfleet Harbor.

> Sea levels will continue to rise ( need NOAA data) due to warmer waters and glacial melting. This will affect all harborside lands. Salt marshes will be most impacted, as they are flat and so more easily inundated at higher tides.

> Storms. There is a risk of increasing storms and winds ( need reference). Along with higher tides, this will lead to increased shoreline erosion.

> Increased rainfall. Predictions are for about a 10% increase in New England (refernce). Soe bays in the harbor will directly have lower salinity – such as the Gut, Blakfish Creek and Loagy Bay. Greater rainfall will also cause an increase in ground water levels, affecting the efficiency of nearby septic performance.

> Of course, climate change is basically driven by higher global temperatures. Not all consequences for Wellfleet Harbor will be harmful: for example, blood clams are another source of shellfishing revenue. But, warmer waters can mean greater disease risk and a throat of harmful species entering the harbor.