

## **NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD      TOWN REPORT      2020**

In 2020, The Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) completed work on its third Harbor Management Plan (HMP). There were five chapters:

- > a review of the many on-going efforts in town to respond to critical environmental issues for the harbor and connecting estuaries;

- > a discussion of responses to climate change, especially the rise in sea level and stronger winds;

- > a proposal to by-pass dredging, taking advantage of a report from the Center for Coastal Studies on the composition of dredge spoils, now called “black custard”;

- > shellfishing, again emphasizing responses to climate change;

- > a proposed broad study of Wellfleet Harbor resources to compare with a Division of Marine Fisheries initial study from 1975.

A draft of the HMP was accepted by the Selectboard in January 2021.

Support continued for on-going activities, for which NRAB has a long history of support:

- > a Wellfleet Harbor Conference (the 18<sup>th</sup> edition), done virtually this year due to Covid but still very successful and well attended;

- > the annual herring count;

- > continued lobbying to protect two forage fish important to the marine ecosystem, Menhaden and Atlantic Herring. The good news this year was a significant regulatory reduction in allowed commercial take of Menhaden.

For the NRAB:

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