

## NRAB Report - 2021

The main activity of the Natural Resources Advisory Board in 2021 was to complete the Town's 3<sup>rd</sup> Harbor Management Plan.

The plan emphasized the need to complete several on-going projects including harbor nitrogen reduction, the Herring River restoration, and harbor dredging. All of these have made significant progress in 2021 through the efforts committees and individuals who have worked long and diligently toward these ends. These deserve continued Town support.

There are four chapters in the 2021 HMP, with new action proposals:

- i. Climate Change and its effect of the harbor – especially sea level rise and temperature increase. We note that this key issue was not even mentioned in 1995 or 2006.
- ii. Dredging. This is perhaps better known as “after-dredging”. The goal is to find ways to minimize future dredging and to make better use of dredge “spoils”.
- iii. Shellfishing. A review of steps that might be considered to enable the wild shellfish populations in the harbor to flourish, as an environmental and commercial benefit.
- iv. Survey of Wellfleet Harbor Marine Resources. This is an update of the 1972 “[CurleyReport](#)”. The goal is to provide a useful basis for tracking harbor changes.

Much of the further work of NRAB in 2021 has been to support implementation of these recommendations. A proposal for an alternative to conventional dredging was approved at the 2021 ATM. A proposal for a detailed harbor survey – needed to implement the other three action items – is being prepared.

NRAB has recognized that Wellfleet's ponds also need attention and planning. Learning discussions have taken place with pondside owners, the Seashore, APCC and the Town Beach Administrator. We intend to have a plan ready for Selectboard approval in 2022.