

# FROM THE **PRESIDENT** AND CHAIR









SAVE BUZZARDS BAY. You've undoubtedly seen our blue-and-white bumper stickers on cars, boats, and tackle boxes around the region and on a big banner down the side of our downtown New Bedford headquarters. But what does it really mean beyond being a catchy slogan?

Saving Buzzards Bay requires a tireless dedication to our mission, an intense focus on the issues that matter most, and big goals that may seem impossible until they're done. It's accomplished through ambitious and forward-thinking projects like the ones outlined in

this report, which we're proud to share with you, our members and supporters. These are your wins. In a world where it's often difficult to see the impact of our daily actions, your support for the Buzzards Bay Coalition is yielding tangible benefits for our quality of life and for the environmental health of our own backyards.

2018 was a year of progress on many of the projects that will shape the future of our local environment. *On the water*, the largest multi-town pollution reduction project in the Bay's history moved into the next phase of

In a world where it's often difficult to see the impact of our daily actions, your support for the Buzzards Bay Coalition is yielding tangible benefits for our quality of life and for the environmental health of our own backyards.

action, which will ultimately connect more upper Bay homes to world-class wastewater treatment (p. 3). We're also continuing to lead the way to demonstrate solutions to nitrogen pollution from septic systems in communities across the region (p. 4).

In the watershed, both the Acushnet River Reserve and Nasketucket Bay Reserve expanded and public access improved (p. 8). We're now actively pursuing the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to conserve the majority of Cuttyhunk's remaining unprotected natural lands (p. 9). And with people, the Onset Bay Center continued to move ahead with another season of vibrant on-the-water programming, the restoration of Wickets Island, and the groundbreaking of the center's future headquarters at the Onset Bathhouse (p. 12).

It was also a year for celebrations – like the 25th anniversary Buzzards Bay Swim in June (p. 11), which saw record-breaking participation and fundraising. In October, we opened our newest permanent facility, the Marion Science & Field Operations Facility (p. 7), and welcomed the energy and inspiring legacy of the Westport Fishermen's Association into the fold of the Coalition (p. 14).

For a generation, the Coalition has been working to protect clean water – and with your wonderful support, we'll continue to advance these and more great projects to SAVE Buzzards Bay in 2019 and beyond.

President/Buzzards Baykeeper®

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# MISSION AND VISION

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a membership-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, protection, and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed. The Coalition works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research, and advocacy. This work happens in three key areas: ON THE WATER, IN THE WATERSHED, and WITH PEOPLE.

#### **OUR VISION:**

- A Bay shoreline defined by safe swimming beaches, open shellfish beds, and stretches of scenic natural areas for all to enjoy.
- Healthy waters that support abundant fish, shellfish, and wildlife populations.
- A Bay safe from the threats of oil spills, industrial and sewer discharges, and ocean dumping.
- A watershed where rivers, streams, inland forests, and wetlands that buffer the Bay are protected.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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#### **2018** ANNUAL REPORT

# ON THE WATER

#### WE ALL SHARE THE SAME VISION FOR BUZZARDS BAY: A SCENIC SHORELINE WITH

safe swimming beaches, open shellfish beds filled with quahogs, and healthy waters where fish and wildlife thrive. Our Bay is resilient; with sound science, the right laws, and proper enforcement, it can bounce back from the harmful effects of pollution.

Through science and advocacy, the Coalition is leading the way to protect and restore our local waterways for fish, shellfish, wildlife, and most importantly, people like you.

# CHALLENGE

By far, the most serious and difficult challenge facing the Bay is nitrogen pollution. It leaches from our home septic systems, seeps from lawns and cranberry bogs, and flows from aging sewer plants into sensitive harbors and coves. The Bay is also threatened by bacterial contamination, oil spills, and toxic pollution.

#### STRATEGY

For over 26 years, the
Coalition has kept a watchful
eye on the Bay's health
through our nationally
recognized Baywatchers
monitoring program. But we
don't just study the Bay; we
put this data to work. Sound
science forms the foundation
of all of our efforts to restore
and protect clean water.

#### RESULTS

We pursue Bay restoration and protection at all levels of government - local, state, and federal - and in court when necessary. Through strong advocacy, we're securing limits on nitrogen pollution, working with towns to update wastewater treatment, and always defending laws to make the Bay safer from oil spills.

# Cleaning up nitrogen pollution from wastewater in the upper Bay

LARGEST MULTI-TOWN POLLUTION REDUCTION PROJECT IN THE BAY'S HISTORY COULD DRAMATICALLY CUT NITROGEN BY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF POUNDS

In the upper portion of Buzzards Bay – which includes waterways like the Wareham River, Buttermilk Bay, Sippican Harbor, Aucoot Cove, and the Weweantic River – the Coalition is spearheading a first-of-its-kind partnership that's bringing together Wareham, Bourne, Plymouth, Marion, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy to expand world-class wastewater treatment.

Why the upper Bay? These waterways make up one-third of the entire Buzzards Bay watershed, and every single one of them is on the state's "dirty waters" list due to nitrogen pollution. The upper Bay is also home to the Wareham wastewater treatment plant, one of New England's top-performing facilities.

In the coming years, this project will connect more upper Bay homes that are currently on polluting septic systems to the Wareham plant, which removes as much as 95% of nitrogen. But before

this can happen, the plant's discharge pipe must be moved from the sensitive Agawam River to the academy's existing wastewater discharge pipe at the Cape Cod Canal.

The first phase of this project, completed in 2017, showed that moving the pipe and connecting more homes to the Wareham plant could reduce as much as 80,000 pounds of nitrogen to the upper Bay per year – that's the pollution equivalent of eliminating 2,300 home septic systems!

Now, through an EPA-funded Southeast New England Program Watershed Grant, we're working together with our partners on the science, research, and planning needed to move the pipe, expand the plant's capacity, and develop the right regional wastewater management system. It's an example of the bold action needed to tackle the Bay's nitrogen pollution problem.

# PROFILE: MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY



Situated on the Cape Cod Canal at the head of Buzzards Bay, the Massachusetts Maritime Academy plays a key role in the success of this project – not only because of its existing wastewater discharge location. MMA cadets and faculty are working with the Coalition to collect sound science that will help us track the health of the upper Bay in the future.

"The Coalition's leadership has brought MMA together with these partners to collectively address water quality in upper Buzzards Bay. This exciting partnership will also give our cadets real-world scientific experience while helping to monitor the health of the water where they live and learn."

- Rear Admiral Francis McDonald, President, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

LEFT The waterways of the upper Bay would be cleaner for fish, wildlife, and people as a result of this project, which would connect more homes to Wareham's world-class wastewater treatment plant and yield dramatic improvements to water quality.

## **ON THE WATER** | *Highlights of* 2018

In 2018, we continued our ongoing fight against nitrogen pollution in Buzzards Bay, defended the Bay against threats, and worked to prevent new sources of pollution from fouling our local waters. You can learn more about these projects and all our work to protect clean water through science and advocacy at **www.savebuzzardsbay.org**.



# Leading the way toward better septic system solutions

We're continuing our work across the region to demonstrate workable solutions to the Bay's biggest source of nitrogen pollution: septic systems. Five more homes have received pilot testing of innovative and lower-cost "layer cake" systems, which remove nitrogen through a multi-layer leach field. And in West Falmouth, we're building on the success of the first phase of our neighborhood-focused project by upgrading 10 more systems, for a total of 30 nitrogen-reducing septic systems installed around the rim of the harbor.



# Broadening science on the Bay's wetlands

The Coalition is broadening our knowledge about the Bay's wetlands to help reduce pollution and save habitats. We're expanding research into the cause and potential responses to rapid salt marsh loss at a dozen new locations around the Bay. And in communities like Carver and Wareham, we're working with scientists and cranberry growers to better understand the role that cranberry agriculture can play in achieving nitrogen pollution reductions.



# Closing the gap in boat pumpout coverage on the Bay

Boaters visiting Cuttyhunk can now get pumpouts every summer at the Coalition's new permanent boat waste pumpout station, located at the fuel dock. This free, self-service station, which opened for its first season in June, removed an estimated 5,000 gallons of sewage from a total of 170 boats during the summer of 2018.



# Preventing illegal wetlands destruction on Eel Pond in Mattapoisett

After three years of advocacy by the Coalition and the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission, a Mattapoisett homeowner is now under court order to restore half an acre of filled-in wetlands along Eel Pond. It was an egregious violation, but now it's a win for Buzzards Bay: Not only will these habitats be restored, but the case also sets an example for other Bay towns working to enforce wetlands protection laws.



**ON THE WATER** | Looking Ahead

# Seeing the whole picture, from West Chop to Sakonnet Point

BAYWATCHERS PROGRAM IS NOW COLLECTING BAY HEALTH DATA AT OVER 250 LOCATIONS AROUND BUZZARDS BAY AND VINEYARD SOUND

Building on the Coalition's 25-plus year record of invaluable Bay Health data, we've expanded our monitoring to new waters whose ecological fates are linked to Buzzards Bay.

In Little Compton, Baywatchers now collect data on two coastal ponds, Quicksand Pond and Briggs Marsh. And on Martha's Vineyard, where we began monitoring the health of Vineyard Sound in 2012, the Coalition is partnering with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah to monitor Menemsha and Squibnocket Ponds, James Pond, and Lake Tashmoo.

Coastal salt ponds like these are harbingers of change. With shallow waters that aren't well flushed, these rich habitats are more sensitive to the effects of nitrogen pollution, which causes algae blooms, murky waters, and low oxygen levels that can't support underwater life.

As we look ahead to the next generation of our work to protect and restore the Bay, monitoring the health of all its related waters – from Little Compton to Vineyard Sound – will stay at the core of our mission.

"By providing comparisons with conditions in other waters, the Coalition's monitoring helps us understand the health of Menemsha Pond, which is integral to the lives of tribal members. Without these comparisons, we could monitor the pond's condition without understanding what's happening."

-Bret Stearns, Natural Resources Director, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

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# IN THE WATERSHED

## WATERSHED PROTECTION IS ABOUT CONSERVING ALL OF THE PARTS OF THE

Buzzards Bay ecosystem - not just its harbors and coves, but its forests, wetlands, rivers, streams, and groundwater. These critical areas provide important habitats, protect our drinking water sources, and act as natural filters for the Bay.

Through watershed protection, the Coalition is forever protecting the region's forests, streams, and wetlands and restoring damaged areas so the Bay ecosystem can thrive.



Nearly half of the land in the 432-square-mile Buzzards Bay watershed is undeveloped and unprotected. The fate of these lands is fundamental to our effort to protect clean water. Without saving the most important forests, streams, and wetlands from poorly planned development, the Bay cannot survive.

We pursue a Bay-focused land protection strategy to conserve the watershed's most vulnerable forests and streams – natural areas that the Bay cannot afford to lose. We also restore damaged rivers, wetlands, and streambanks and help towns and land trusts preserve land in every corner of our region.

The Coalition manages the largest land conservation program in southeastern Massachusetts. Since 1998, we've protected more than 8,300 acres throughout the Buzzards Bay watershed. We're also restoring damaged streams, rebuilding wetlands, and creating better access for people to explore the outdoors in their community.

# Improving our ability to protect land and clean water

MARION SCIENCE & FIELD OPERATIONS CENTER WILL SERVE AS THE CENTERPIECE FOR OUR LAND STEWARDSHIP, SCIENCE, AND OUTDOOR EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

Over the course of a generation, the Coalition has grown to become the region's leader in land and water conservation. We have protected more than 8,300 acres of land, we monitor 250 water quality stations throughout Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound, and we host thousands of people each year on outdoor exploration programs. All of these efforts require equipment – from boats and buoys to mowers and waders.

To support these diverse field operations, in October the Coalition celebrated the completion of our newest permanent facility: the Marion Science & Field Operations Center. Situated at the corner of Spring Street and Route 6 in Marion, the facility is a major leap forward in our ability to protect clean water in all of the Bay's communities.

On the land, the Marion Science & Field Operations Center will support the Coalition's commitment to keep its public reserves well cared for. Because it's centrally located within the region we serve – exactly halfway between Sakonnet Point to the west and Woods Hole to the east – Marion is an ideal launching point for daily land management.

The center is also now the home of the David Emerson Riggs Laboratory, the hub for scientific data collection for all of Buzzards Bay. With new functionalities such as large water sample storage and a workshop for monitoring instrument and equipment care, the facility greatly increases our capacity to keep an eye on the Bay's health.

And as we continue to expand outdoor exploration programs that get more people connected with their local environment, we've also expanded our fleet of sailboats, kayaks, and other outdoor equipment – all of which can be stored and properly cared for at the center.

# PROFILE: LAND STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS



When the Coalition protected nine acres of woods and fields on the Acushnet River in 2016, the property was littered with trash, dilapidated buildings, abandoned cars, and invasive plants. Dozens of volunteers pitched in to beautify the property, including renovating an old barn. Their efforts led to the opening this fall of Hamlin Crossing, the newest property in the Coalition's expanding Acushnet River Reserve (p. 8).

"The Coalition's Acushnet River Reserve properties are particularly special because these aren't remote destinations – they are essentially our backyards. It's gratifying to take a walk down to The Sawmill and see a dozen people appreciating the natural setting and the wildlife flourishing there."

- Mark Lavallee, New Bedford resident and land stewardship volunteer

**LEFT** The Marion Science & Field Operations Center will support the Coalition's diverse range of land stewardship and water quality activities – all from Marion's "front door" at the corner of Spring Street and Route 6.

## **IN THE WATERSHED** | *Highlights of* 2018

In 2018, we actively pursued new opportunities to protect and restore the Bay's most important forests, streams, and wetlands – the natural filters that support clean water. You can learn more about these projects and all our work to conserve land and restore damaged natural areas at **www.savebuzzardsbay.org**.



# Growing the Acushnet River Reserve

The Acushnet River Reserve continued to expand this year, with the addition of two new trails – Hamlin Crossing and Keating Woods – and approval of funding to expand the Acushnet Sawmill into New Bedford. Over 125 acres are now protected from Marsh Island to Hamlin Street, contributing to the long-term vision of a "greenbelt" of conservation lands along the once heavily degraded and now recovering Acushnet River.



# Restoring and protecting land for discovery in Onset

Wickets Island, the centerpiece of Onset Bay, is one step closer to becoming a safe and welcoming place for people to swim, fish, shellfish, paddle, and picnic. In 2018, we completed the first phase of the island's restoration. We also conserved 47 acres of salt marshes along Shell Point Bay, for a total of more than 100 acres that we've recently protected in Onset.



# **Expanding Nasketucket Bay State Reservation**

The Coalition is continuing to lead the effort to grow Nasketucket Bay State Reservation, one of Buzzards Bay's largest blocks of protected coastal land and a focal point of our land protection efforts. After conserving 210 acres of forests and farmland and creating Shaw Farm Trail in 2016, this year the Coalition and partners the Mattapoisett Land Trust, MA DCR, and The Nature Conservancy protected 53-acre Hammond Quarry, which will serve as a new front door to the now 500-acre reservation.



# Protecting coastal forests for clean water

This year, the Coalition received an extraordinary gift: the 30-acre Wheeler Forest, the largest undeveloped and unprotected property in the Quissett Harbor watershed. This new reserve will protect important habitat for wildlife and maintain the health of Quissett Harbor. Stay tuned for more exciting news from Wheeler Forest in 2019!



**IN THE WATERSHED** | Looking Ahead

# Forever protecting the extraordinary landscape of the Elizabeth Islands

# THE COALITION IS ACTIVELY WORKING TO CONSERVE THE MAJORITY OF CUTTYHUNK'S REMAINING OPEN, UNPROTECTED NATURAL LANDS

Clean water and clean beaches, abundant wildlife, unspoiled natural habitats, and scenic views across miles of Buzzards Bay, Vineyard Sound, and the Atlantic Ocean – these are the timeless treasures of Cuttyhunk. Thousands of boaters and Bay enthusiasts visit this southernmost Elizabeth Island each summer to swim, sail, fish, and relax.

But with its combination of serene isolation and easy access, Cuttyhunk is threatened by development. The Coalition has secured the opportunity to protect the island's most extraordinary natural landscapes – from the crowns of Haps and Bayberry Hills to the coasts of Canapitsit Neck and Churchs Beach – and guarantee that the Cuttyhunk we know today remains unchanged forever.

What's at stake if this land is lost to real estate developers? Future landowners could restrict or eliminate beach and trail access. Migratory birds could lose a regionally important coastal stopover. Development would threaten Cuttyhunk's clean drinking water supply.

The Coalition is working to raise \$7 million in 2019 to complete the protection of these lands. Your support is vital to the success of this project.

"It's a simple fact: When you visit
Cuttyhunk, it becomes part of your DNA.
The memories become indelible markers
for life. The Coalition recognizes the
individuals and individual livelihoods that
make up the community on Cuttyhunk.
The protection of these 67 acres will keep
the island the way we all remember it."

-Jennifer & Dale Lynch, Owners, Tidewater Cottage

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# WITH PEOPLE

# THE KEY TO A CLEAN, HEALTHY BUZZARDS BAY IS AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY THAT

understands the threats the Bay faces and their role in protecting it. The long-term health of our local environment depends on people knowing, loving, and valuing the Bay as important to their lives.

Through community engagement, the Coalition is creating a new generation of Bay stewards: People who understand their place in the Bay ecosystem and support its protection for decades to come.

# CHALLENGE Buzzards Bay faces a crisis of Connecting people to the disengagement. Fewer people Bay is a fundamental part the Bay through our outdoor.

Buzzards Bay faces a crisis of disengagement. Fewer people today know the Bay and our local environment, and most children grow up in front of screens instead of on sandy shores. Without connections to the natural world, people have turned a blind eye to the Bay's decline. If we don't address this disengagement, our work will ultimately fail.

Connecting people to the
Bay is a fundamental part
of our work. We tackle
disengagement head-on
through outdoor programming,
engaging events and
workshops, and vibrant print
and digital communications.
These efforts build stronger
connections to our local
environment to support
long-term stewardship.

Every year, thousands discover the Bay through our outdoor exploration programs. We're expanding a network of Bay discovery sites where all people can get outside, giving local decision makers solutions to pressing pollution problems, and rebuilding connections to the Bay through annual events like the Swim and Watershed Ride.

# Celebrating a quarter-century of action for clean water at the Buzzards Bay Swim

315 SWIMMERS PARTICIPATE IN THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SWIM, RAISING A RECORD \$153,000 FOR CLEAN WATER

Twenty-five years ago, a small but visionary group of local residents had a big idea: swim 1.2 miles across outer New Bedford Harbor – the Bay's most degraded waterway at the time – to raise awareness and funds for clean water. On August 21, 1994, 17 swimmers raised \$2,000 at the very first Buzzards Bay Swim.

Since that first Swim, the event has grown to attract more than 300 swimmers from communities across New England and beyond to the shores of Buzzards Bay each summer. It remains the largest outdoor environmental awareness event in Southeastern Massachusetts.

For its 25th anniversary in 2018, the Swim celebrated its biggest and most remarkable year yet. On June 30, a record 315 swimmers completed the

1.2-mile crossing, raising over \$153,000 to support our work. As part of their efforts, these dedicated swimmers earned the Coalition a \$50,000 matching grant from the Fish Family Foundation.

Community events like the Swim and the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride (see p. 12) are much more than fundraisers – they bring together people who want to get outside, experience the Bay with their friends and loved ones, and take action for the same cause: clean water. They give us a chance to celebrate how far Buzzards Bay has come, while recommitting to finishing the job together.

You can swim for clean water at the 26th annual Buzzards Bay Swim on June 22, 2019. Register at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/swim



## **PROFILE: RHEA TEVES-CATE**

When Rhea Teves-Cate of Fairhaven started training for her first Swim in 1999 at age 66, she simply wanted to be able to finish the course. But she accomplished much more than that. For the next 10 years, Rhea stalwartly made her way across the Bay, winning the top fundraiser award four times. A vibrant 85-year-old Rhea still participates in the Swim every year as a volunteer.

"As I became more knowledgeable about [the Coalition's] purpose, I became more interested in the reason for the Swim, which is to raise funds to support clean water for swimmers, fishermen, shore wildlife, coastal residents, and boaters."

LEFT The Buzzards Bay Swim is the largest outdoor environmental awareness event in Southeastern Massachusetts, drawing over 300 swimmers, 100 volunteers, and countless supporters to the clean water cause each summer.

## **WITH PEOPLE** | *Highlights of* 2018

Throughout 2018, people like you took action to protect clean water and support the Coalition's work in communities across our region. You can learn more about all our opportunities to swim, ride, volunteer, or attend an event at **www.savebuzzardsbay.org**.



# Learning to sail, swim, kayak, quahog, and connect with Onset Bay

In the summer, the Coalition hosted the first official season of on-the-water youth programming at the Onset Bay Center. Dozens more families and local residents got to explore Onset Bay at free Bay Adventures like sailing, paddling, quahogging, and open-water swimming. To support this programming, work began to transform the Onset Bathhouse into the center's headquarters.



# Leading people of all ages on outdoor explorations in their community

The Coalition delivered nearly 200 programs at schools in all communities between New Bedford and Falmouth in 2018 – getting more than 2,000 students outside and better connected to their local environment. We also hosted 130 free Bay Adventures with over 1,800 people who got outside and explored Buzzards Bay's woods, wetlands, and waterways. You can sign up for a Bay Adventure at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events



# Raising record funds for clean water at the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride

On the heels of the successful 25th anniversary Buzzards Bay Swim, 242 cyclists broke more records on Sept. 30 when they pedaled 100, 75, and 35 mile courses around the Bay for the 12th annual Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride, raising an incredible \$164,000. Register now for the 13th annual Watershed Ride on Oct. 6, 2019 at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/ride



# Running for Buzzards Bay at the Falmouth Road Race

For the fourth year, Team Buzzards Bay participated in the New Balance Falmouth Road Race. On Aug. 19, 24 runners completed the race's world-class seven-mile seaside route through Falmouth, raising over \$34,000 for the Coalition's work to protect clean water. Apply now for the 2019 team at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/falmouthroadrace



WITH PEOPLE | Looking Ahead

# Giving you a guide to discover Buzzards Bay's land and water

# FIND OUTDOOR PLACES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES ON THE COALITION'S DISCOVER BUZZARDS BAY WEBSITE

When you want to get outside for a walk, a paddle, a swim, or a fishing trip, you can find places to go and events to attend on *Discover Buzzards Bay*, your guide to outdoor exploration in the Buzzards Bay region.

Since launching *Discover Buzzards Bay*, the Coalition has built a resource with more than 200 places to go, hundreds of outdoor events, and 50-plus featured adventure guides – like where to spot bald eagles, what you need to go quahogging, and how to explore destinations across the region, from the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve to Falmouth's Moraine Trail.

When it's complete in 2020, *Discover Buzzards Bay* will be a comprehensive resource for all of the region's public trails, beaches, boat launches, paddling routes, fishing charters, and more – from

Goosewing Beach to Menemsha Hills and everywhere in between. It's part of our mission to be the source of information to help you get outside and explore.

Start discovering your Buzzards Bay today at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/discover

"Discover Buzzards Bay is an incredible asset for our community. The Coalition and Southcoast Health continue to offer unique and exciting ways to explore the outdoors and help local residents maintain a healthy, active lifestyle."

- Dr. Robert McGowen, Southcoast Health

# Carrying on the Westport Fishermen's Association's legacy of clean water

#### SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1983, THE WESTPORT FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

has served as Westport's grassroots advocate for clean, healthy water and marine habitats. Now, 35 years later, the WFA has found a strong ally in the Coalition to sustain and grow its legacy of accomplishments.

A merger was unanimously approved by the boards of both organizations in October. Because the WFA had a long history of partnering with the Coalition and the two organization's missions are well aligned, the merger was a natural fit.

The Coalition has worked hand-in-hand with the WFA for decades. The WFA's advocacy helped clean up pollution sources, protect fish passage, and prevent negative impacts on stream flow and habitat. The result was better fisheries and water quality for all of us.

We're honored to carry on this legacy of action and willingness to take on the tough challenges facing the Westport River. The focus remains on reducing nitrogen pollution, primarily from residential wastewater, as well as restoring and protecting habitat for native migratory fish such as river herring and salter brook trout in the Westport River and its tributaries.

As part of the merger, the Coalition will assume responsibility for managing the historic Horseneck Point Lifesaving Station (inset photo), adding to our network of Bay discovery centers and conservation reserves across the region. We'll also continue the traditional winter Oyster Stew Supper and the fall Fishermen's Clambake.



Starting in the summer of 2019, the Coalition will manage the Horseneck Point Lifesaving Station, one of the last of its kind in the state and the only one on Buzzards Bay. The WFA restored the 1893 Lifesaving Station to its original appearance in 2009 and reopened it as a visitor center in 2014.



**WHERE WE WORK** The Buzzards Bay Coalition works throughout the Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound watersheds to protect and restore the region's coastal, river, and drinking water quality and the upland forests, wetlands, and streams that support a healthy coastal ecosystem.



Beginning at Sakonnet Point in Rhode Island in the west, our service area runs along the watershed boundaries for Little Compton's coastal saltponds, then northeast along the Buzzards Bay watershed boundary until it reaches Nobska Point in Falmouth in the east. From Nobska, our work crosses to West Chop on Martha's Vineyard along the edge of Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds, then runs up island along the Vineyard Sound coastal watershed boundary to Squibnocket Point and Gay Head. Our western seaward edge is defined by the municipal boundary of the town of Gosnold until it meets the jurisdictional boundary for "MGL 21M, Chapter 251 of the Acts of 2004," which establishes the edge of compliance with oil spill prevention rules for tank barges entering Buzzards Bay.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition also monitors land use and supports water quality protection efforts in the Assawompset Ponds watershed in Lakeville and Middleboro due to the pond's historical physical connections to Buzzards Bay through the Acushnet and Mattapoisett Rivers and their role as the public drinking water supply for the city of New Bedford.





Dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed. We work to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy.

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Rhonda Veugen, Vice President, Engagement Donna Cobert, Director of Membership Claudia Geib, Discover Buzzards Bay Editor Deborah Hood, Event Manager Kimberly Meneo, Development Assistant Alicia Porter, Communications Director Rebecca Vasa, Outdoor Exploration Manager Colin Zeigler, Office and Volunteer Coordinator

#### **Seasonal Staff**

Kyle Cassidy, Assistant Boat Captain Nicole Danaher-Garcia, Event Assistant Kathleen Donnellan, Woods Hole Outreach Center Manager Paul Hyde, Boat Captain

#### **TerraCorps Service Members**

Mead Binhammer, Land Stewardship Coordinator Emily Boardman, Youth Education Coordinator Kent Harlow, Land Stewardship Coordinator





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The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a membership-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, protection, and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed.

www.savebuzzardsbay.org







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