

A report of Implementation Activities  
Relating to the Implementation of the  
Buzzards Bay  
Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan  
in accordance with the  
Government Performance and Results Act

for the period  
January 8, 2000 to January 11, 2001.

prepared by the  
Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program  
April 30, 2001

## **Background**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is required to conform with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), which measures performance or progress towards established goals. The following goal and objective adopted by EPA relates to National Estuary Programs, including the Buzzards Bay Project:

Goal #2 is Clean and Safe Water.

Objective #2 under that goal is as follows: By 2005, conserve and enhance the ecological health of the nation's (state, interstate and tribal) waters and aquatic ecosystems - - rivers and streams, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, coastal areas, oceans and groundwaters - - so that 75% of waters support healthy aquatic communities.

Sub-objective 2.1 states: By 2005, restore and protect watersheds so that 75% of waters support healthy watersheds as shown by comprehensive assessment of the nation's watersheds.

One of EPA's Annual Planning Goals is to restore and protect estuaries through the implementation of Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans. Success in meeting this Annual Planning Goal is measured through Annual Planning Measures. To conform with GPRA, the measures adopted by the EPA for FY 2001 are:

- 1) the number of priority actions initiated across the NEP, and
- 2) the acres of habitat protected and restored.

With respect to the habitat measure, NEPs have been asked to report those acres protected or restored during the reporting period whether the project has been completed or is on-going. We therefore have not reported previous years acreage. The baseline for this GPRA report is January 15, 2000.

### ***CCMP Priority Actions Initiated and Completed***

The Buzzards Bay Project has not revised the priorities in our CCMP or added any new actions during the past year. The summary in Table 1 for year 2000 accomplishments continues from where the Buzzards Bay Project Biennial Progress Report submitted in 1999 left off.

It is important to recognize that a summary like Table 1 cannot capture the essence of implementation activities in Buzzards Bay. For example, during the past 5 years, perhaps 25% of the Buzzards Bay Project's and Buzzards Bay municipal effort (dollars and manpower) relate directly or indirectly to the remediation of stormwater discharges contributing to beach or shellfish bed closures. This effort has paid off big dividends with the rehabilitation of hundreds of acres of shellfish beds (see Figure 1). This work on stormwater relates to only two or three Buzzards Bay CCMP recommendations that recommend remediation of problematic stormwater discharges.

Despite the success of these efforts however, we cannot claim that those CCMP recommendations have been completed because they imply the CCMP states all problematic discharges must be remediated. At the current level of effort, this work will take 20 years or

more for this to be achieved. All the while, more and more shellfish beds are rehabilitated and opened. This also means that it is possible to have great improvements in Buzzards Bay while Table 1 shows no change in the status of any recommended actions.

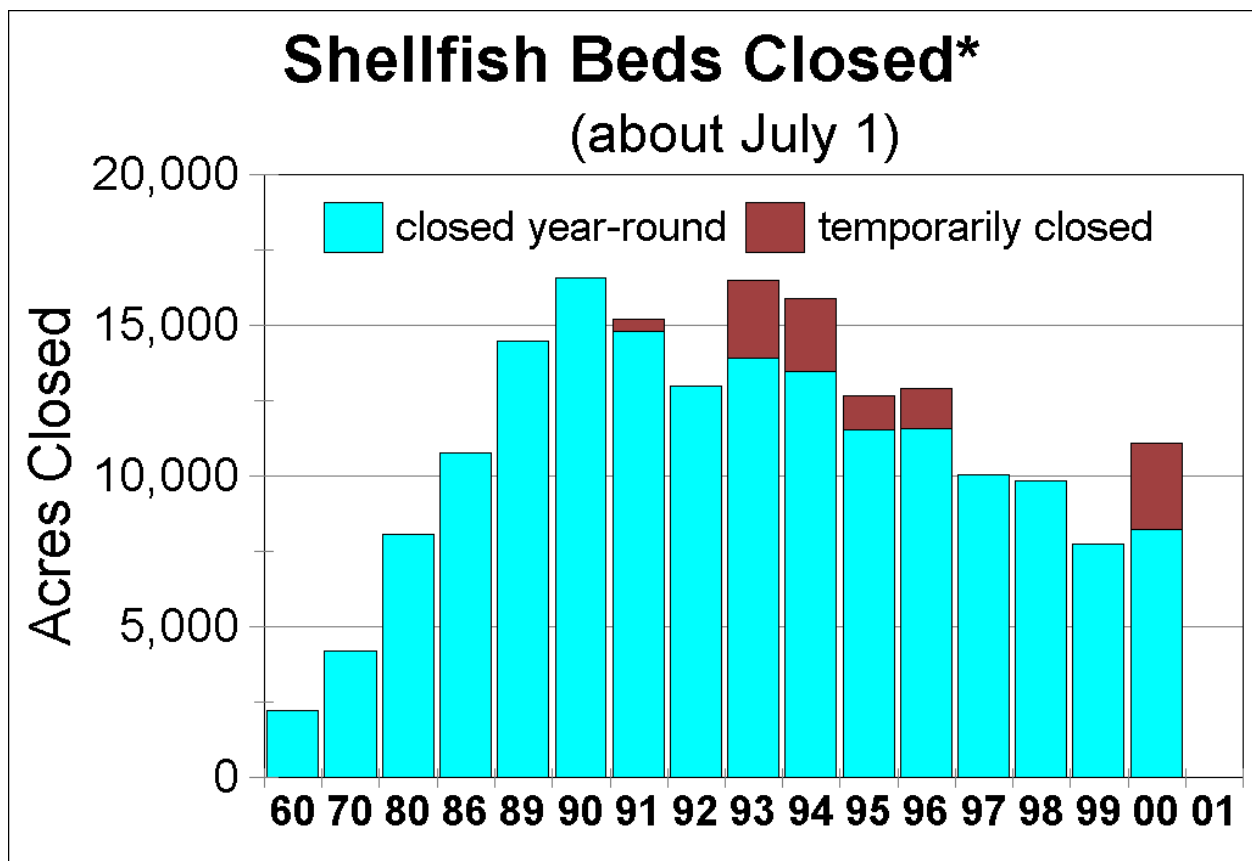


Figure 1. Shellfish beds closed in Buzzards Bay from draft Status and Trends report proposed for next workplan period. Temporarily closed beds for 1997 through 1999 are missing.

***Habitat Protection and Restoration***

With respect to the quantified amount of habitat protected and restored, we have included created areas, protected areas resulting from acquisition, conservation easement or deed restriction, submerged aquatic vegetation coverage increases, permanent shellfish bed openings, anadromous fish habitat increases, etc. If a shellfish bed was temporarily closed and then reopened, we did not count this acreage. Reported acreage is only for this reporting year (1/8/00 - 1/11/01). Because this category has been a major focus of the Buzzards Bay Project and other partners, many properties were permanently protected in the year 2000.

In the reporting table, we have employed the US EPA's recommended definitions for wetland types and implementation activity as follows:

**Tidal Wetland** (includes the term coastal salt marsh, coastal wetland, or tidal marsh) - occur along coastlines.

Dominated by rooted plant which are covered by water at high tide and exposed at low tide. Characterized by salt-tolerant plants such as smooth cord-grass, saltgrass, and glasswort.

**Tidal Freshwater Wetland** - located upstream of estuaries. Tides influence water levels but the water is fresh. Cattail, wild rice, pickere lweed and arrowhead are common.

**Freshwater Marsh** - water table is at or near the surface of the soil and there is no tidal influence. They typically derive most of their water from surface waters, including floodwater and runoff, but do receive groundwater inputs. They are characterized by little or no peat deposition and mineral soils.

**Establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a habitat that did not previously exist on an upland or deepwater site. Establishment results in a gain in acres. Includes activities commonly associated with creation.

**Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of **returning** natural/historic functions to former estuary habitat. Re-establishment results in rebuilding former estuary habitat and **results in a gain in habitat acres**.

**Rehabilitation:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of **repairing** natural/historic functions of degraded estuary habitat. Rehabilitation results in a gain in habitat function, but **does not result in a gain in habitat acres**.

**Enhancement:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a undisturbed or degraded site to heighten, intensify, or improve specific functions or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. Enhancement is undertaken for a purpose of such as water quality improvement, flood water retention or wildlife habitat. The term includes activities commonly associated with the terms enhancement, management, manipulation, and directed alteration.

**Protection:** The preservation of habitat by mechanisms such as land acquisition, conservation easements, deed restrictions, etc.

**Table 1. CCMP Priority Actions Initiated and Completed January 8, 2000 to January 11, 2001. Because 103 of 119 recommended action plans have been initiated to some degree, but only 52 actions completed, no remaining new priorities will be initiated. Instead existing initiated priorities will remain the focus of implementation efforts.**

<b>Total Priority Actions in CCMP</b>	<b>Priority Actions Initiated Baseline (2000)</b>	<b>CCMP Priority Actions Initiated This Calendar Year (Number and Title)</b>	<b>Total Priority Actions Initiated This Calendar Year (Since last GPRA report)</b>	<b>Target of Priority Actions Initiated by 9/2002</b>	<b>Number of Total Priority Actions Completed This Calendar Year (Since last GPRA report)</b>	<b>Cumulative Number of Priority Actions Completed To Date</b>
119	103	2 Boat Sewage CZM- municipalities #2- NDA designation of all BB  Land Use Management: Buildout Analysis completed for all towns, workshops given	0	103	3 Boat Sewage CZM #1- adequate pumpouts  Boat Sewage CZM- municipalities #2- NDA designation of all BB  Land Use Management: Buildout Analysis completed for all towns, workshops given	52

Table 2 *Habitat Protection and Restoration January 8, 2000 to January 11, 2001.*

CCMP Action Plan	Project Name	Habitat* Type	Description of Project	Action/Activity**	Partners	Acreage or River Miles (as specified.) Protected or Restored	Total Project Cost (NEP Portion)	Project Duration and/or Completion Date
Boat Sewage	BB No Discharge Area	Open Water	Designate NDA for all of Buzzards Bay, prevent sewage dumping	Rehabilitation (calculation excludes previous designations)	BBAC Municipalities MCZM BBP	148,758 acres	\$25,000  (BBP: \$20,000 staff time)	8/13/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Winsegan-sett Marsh restoration Phase 1	Tidal Wetland	Remove Tidal restriction, eliminate invasive species (Phragmites) and restore marsh	Re-establishment	Town, NOAA MA DEP, Residents, USFWS, MET, BBP	30 acres	\$28,000? (BBP: \$9,300 staff time + 8,400 grants from various grant)	Phase I complete 3/2000, Phase 2 ongoing
Wetlands and Habitat	Gracia Property, Town of Acushnet	Wetland-upland-habitat mix	Purchase an open parcel	Protection	Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Trust, CBB, Town of Acushnet	2.23 acres	\$44,000 (gift) (BBP: \$0)	2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Mahon Property, Town of Fairhaven	Wetland-upland-habitat mix	Purchase an open parcel	Protection	Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Trust, CBB, Town of Fairhaven	0.16 acres	\$3,200 (gift) (BBP: \$0)	2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Acushnet River BioReserve (Acushnet Sawmill Property)	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase an open parcel	Protection	State DEM principal, many partners including Coalition for Buzzards Bay, business owner	2,076	\$6,600,000 (BBP: \$0)	2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Nadeau Parcel, State Rd Westport	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase of parcel for conservation and open space	Protection	Westport Land Conservation Trust, Town of Westport	2 acres	\$41,000 gift (BBP: \$0)	12/2000

Wetlands and Habitat	Gray Parcel, Horseneck Rd Westport	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase of parcel for conservation and open space	Protection	Westport Land Conservation Trust, Town of Westport	8 acres	\$161,000 gift (BBP: \$0)	12/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Brayton Conservation Restriction, Westport	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Conservation Restriction for conservation and open space	Protection	Westport Land Conservation Trust, Town of Westport	22 acres	\$221,000 gift (BBP: \$0)	8/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Sassafras Island Parcel, Westport	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase of parcel for conservation and open space	Protection	Westport Land Conservation Trust, Town of Westport	0.2 acres	\$21,000 gift (BBP: \$0)	12/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Upper Spectacle Island Westport (East Branch)	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase of parcel for conservation and open space	Protection	Westport Land Conservation Trust, Town of Westport	3.69 acres	\$74,800 gift (BBP: \$0)	8/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Copicut Reservoir area Westport (Acushnet Sawmill Property)	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase of parcel for conservation and open space	Protection	Division of Fish and Wildlife, business owner, Town, CBB	700 acres	\$1,900,000 (BBP: \$2,600 toward appraisals and fees)	2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Haskell Swamp additions (to larger protected area) purchase	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase of parcel for conservation and open space	Protection	Division of Fish and Wildlife, Town of Rochester, private owner	15.53 acres	\$155,300 (BBP: \$0)	7/2000

Wetlands and Habitat	Paskamansett River Herring Run ladder reconstruction	River-Herring Run	Replace Herring ladder	Enhancement	Town of Dartmouth, MA Division of Marine Fisheries	5 miles	\$7,100 (BBP: \$0)	7/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Basset Property (Rochester) purchase	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase of parcel (Rounesville Property) for conservation and open space	Protection	Town of Rochester, private owner	13 acres	\$81,000 (BBP: \$0)	7/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Haskell Swamp additions (Rochester) purchase	Wetland-upland- Rare Endangered species habitat mix	Purchase of parcel (Rounesville Property) for conservation and open space	Protection	Town of Rochester, Division of Fish and Wildlife, private owner	6.9 acres	\$70,000 (BBP: \$0)	7/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Truran property Wareham Purchase	Wetland-upland-habitat mix	Purchase of parcel for conservation and open space,	Protection	Wildlands Trust of SE Mass, Town of Wareham, BBP, Private owner	13 acres	\$261,000 gift (BBP: \$1000 for appraisals, +\$3,000 of staff time)	2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Well Head Property Wareham Purchase	Wetland-upland-habitat mix	Purchase of parcel for conservation and open space, well head protection for drinking water	Protection	Town of Wareham, BBP, Private owner	3.43 acres	\$72,600 gift (BBP: \$1000 for appraisals and fees, \$1,000 of staff time)	2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Turowitz property Marion Purchase	Wetland-upland-habitat mix	Purchase of parcel at Creek Road for conservation and open space	Protection	Sippican Lands Trust, private owner, Town of Marion	12 acres	\$241,000 gift (BBP: \$2,000 for appraisals)	2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Turowitz property Marion Purchase	Wetland-upland-habitat mix	Purchase of parcel at Quails Crossing for conservation and open space	Protection	Sippican Lands Trust, private owner, Town of Marion	2 acres	\$41,000 gift (BBP: \$600 for appraisals)	2000

Wetlands and Habitat	Purchase of Destruction Brook Dartmouth property purchase	Wetland-upland-endangered species habitat mix	Purchase an old farmland parcel for conservation and open space	Protection	Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, Town of Dartmouth, BBP	303 acres	\$2,115,000 (BBP: 700 for appraisals, 1,000 of staff time)	11/2000
Wetlands and Habitat	Purchase of Dartmoor Farm Dartmouth property	Wetland-upland-endangered species habitat mix	Purchase an old farmland parcel for conservation and open space	Protection	Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, Town of Dartmouth, BBP, State Fish & Wildlife	641 acres	\$2,200,000 (BBP: 11,000 for appraisals, 2,000 of staff time)	1/2000
						TOTALS - 152,612.1 And 5 miles	NEP TOTALS - \$14,363,000 (BBP: \$62,900)	