



Dear Friend of the Environment:

We are all familiar with the salt marshes along our shores. They are wonderful places to watch birds or to walk alongside and view nature's beauty. Salt marshes are diverse in marine life and are a habitat and nursery for birds, mammals, turtles, finfish, shellfish, and crustaceans. They help reduce coastal pollution by filtering and removing pollutants from upland activities as water flows through the marsh vegetation. Salt marshes also minimize the damage of coastal floods and reduce coastal erosion.

It is for these reasons that salt marshes are our most valued and protected coastal resources. It is also why the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has been making efforts to restore tidally restricted salt marshes around the state. The construction of roads and paths in the past has blocked or restricted the flow of salt water into these ecosystems, which has led to an unhealthy habitat and the loss of some salt marshes.

This "Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes in Buzzards Bay," created by the Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program, inventories 257 tidal restrictions to salt marshes around Buzzards Bay. This document is intended to provide information on the effects a tidal restriction can have on a salt marsh, and to help municipal officials, state agencies, and environmental organizations identify potential restoration projects.

I applaud this collaborative effort and the team that developed this Atlas. It is my hope that it will serve as a catalyst to initiate salt marsh restoration projects around Buzzards Bay.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Durand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Durand
Secretary of Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts