

## Notice of MEPA Scoping Session

**To:** Distribution

**From:** Holly Johnson, MEPA Unit

**Subject:** Dead Neck/Sampson's Island Restoration and Management Project - BARNSTABLE

**EEA #:** 15197

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An Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) has been submitted to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office for this project. The project includes the maintenance dredging of the Cotuit Bay navigation channel at the western end of Sampson's Island and utilization of that material for beach and dune nourishment and habitat restoration for endangered birds at the eastern end of Dead Neck in Barnstable. Dead Neck/Sampson's Island is a barrier island located in the villages of Cotuit and Osterville bordering Nantucket Sound. The islands are owned and managed by MassAudubon and Three Bays Preservation. Maintenance dredging of the Cotuit Bay navigation channel is proposed over a 5-year span with a total of 233,600 cubic yards estimated for beach nourishment material and 10,000 cy of silt to be disposed off-site for upland beneficial uses. The proposed dredge footprint is approximately 930 feet by 680 feet at a depth of 6 to 8 feet depending upon the areas of historic dredging. Maintenance dredging and nourishment areas will impact Land Under Ocean, Land Containing Shellfish and Barrier Beaches. The project also includes the establishment of a habitat conservation and management plan to guide the long-term maintenance of shorebird habitat on-site.

The project includes impacts to a variety of wetland resource areas and mapped rare species habitat. The project will require a Chapter 91 permit and Section 401 water quality certificate from MassDEP, a Conservation and Management Permit from Natural Heritage and an Order of Conditions from the Town of Barnstable. The project requires the mandatory preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EENF requested that the requirement to prepare this EIR be waived.

A scoping session will be held to receive advice and comments from agencies, officials, and citizens regarding which environmental issues, if any, are significant for this project. Opinions as to the extent and significance of possible environmental impact will be welcome.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

**Date:** Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Time:** 1:00pm

**Location:** Meet at Cotuit Town Dock on Oyster Place. Project site is only accessible by water. A boat will be provided to allow viewing of the project area; please dress accordingly.

Comments on the project will be welcome in writing prior to June 6, 2014. A Certificate on the EENF will be issued on June 13, 2014.

**Project Contact:** Lindsey Counsell, Three Bays Preservation, 508-420-0780 or John O'Dea, Sullivan Engineering, 508-428-3344

Pursuant to the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, this Meeting Notice is available in alternative formats upon request. Questions on the meeting may be answered by contacting Holly Johnson at (617) 626-1023.