

TOWN OF WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
2015

MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN & INFORMATION  
(SUPERCEDES WAREHAM HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN OF 1996)

COMMISSION MEMBERS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2015

DONALD JEPSON	CHAIRMAN	COMMISSION EXPIRES: 6/16
TRENTON BLANCHARD	MEMBER	6/17
WILLIAM "JIM" SMITH	MEMBER	6/17
WARREN HALL JR.	MEMBER	6/17
LAWRENCE T, BEARSE	MEMBER	6/16
RICHARD WHEELER	ASSOCIATE MEMBER	6/16
ASSOCIATE	VACANT	

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# INTRODUCTION

**THE MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION WAS FORMED AND APPROVED BY VOTERS AT THE 1975 TOWN MEETING. WAREHAM: FIRST TOWN IN MASSACHUSETTS TO HAVE A HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN. FIRST ON THE EAST COAST OF THE U.S. TO HAVE A NO DISCHARGE HARBOR.**

THE LAST KNOWN HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN (1996) OF WHICH VERY FEW COPIES EXIST WAS COMPILED AND PREPARED BY LOUIS BERGER & ASSOCIATES, INC. PROVIDENCE, R.I...THE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN THE REPORT IS EXTENSIVE AND CONTAINS SOME VALUABLE BUT MOSTLY OUTDATED INFORMATION WITH SOME INTERESTING HISTORICAL DATA. OVER THE APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS SINCE PUBLICATION APPARENTLY LITTLE COMMISSION ACTIVITY HAD TAKEN PLACE OR AT LEAST WENT UN DOCUMENTATED. IN 2014 IT WAS DECIDED TO REORGANIZE THE COMMISSION IN ORDER TO BRING THE MEMBERSHIP UP TO ESTABLISHED LEVELS AND TO MOVE FORWARD REVAMPING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH STREAMED, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION TO INCLUDE **INTERNET PATHWAYS ALONG WITH CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS**. ADDITIONALLY, TO REVIEW AND UPDATE APPLICABLE BYLAWS AS NEEDED. THE MANAGEMENT PLAN, BY NATURE CONTINUES TO BE A **“WORK IN PROGRESS”**.

THERE IS A VAST AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE WHICH SHOULD DIRECT AND INFORM THOSE SEEKING DIRECTION LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE INDIVIDUAL TO RESEARCH THOSE AREAS OF INTEREST AS APPROPRIATE **BEFORE** COMING TO THE COMMISSION LOOKING FOR REMEDY. MOST QUESTIONS, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS OR PRACTICES HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED THROUGH ESTABLISHED RULES, REGULATIONS, LAWS, STATUTES AND A VARIETY OF OTHER ENTITIES. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS INTENDED TO HELP IN THAT PURSUIT. A VARIETY OF SEARCH ENGINES SUCH AS **GOOGLE** CAN BE MOST HELPFUL.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WAREHAM HAS APPROXIMATELY 54 MILES OF WATERFRONT AND EXTENSIVE INTERIOR WETLAND AREAS. THE WAREHAM HARBORMASTER SERVES AS THE EYES AND EARS FOR MOST MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. THE HARBORMASTER AND HIS STAFF ARE IN THE FIELD KEEPING THE COMMISSION ADVISED ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE WHICH ARE OR MAY BE IN NEED OF ATTENTION.

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# **MISSION STATEMENT**

**THE MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION EXISTS TO ACT AS A “CLEARING HOUSE” FOR RESOURCE RELATED ISSUES WHICH HAVE NOT OR CANNOT BE ADDRESSED VIA EXISTING AVAILABLE CHANNELS. THE COMMISSION IS TASKED TO REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WITH FAIR AND BALLANCED COMMENT OR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IS DYNAMIC AND IN A CONTINUOUS STATE OF CHANGE REQUIRING THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN TO ADAPT AND ADDRESS THOSE CHANGES AS NEEDED. THE MANAGEMENT OF THOSE RESOURCES DICTATES THAT ALL CONCERNED TAKE APPROPRIATE, LAWFUL MEASURES WORKING TOWARD THE BENEFIT ATTAINED THROUGH PROPER GUIDANCE AND SOUND DECISIONS.**

**THE GOAL OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, PROMOTE AND WHERE POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE UPON THE MARINE RESOURCES OF THE TOWN; WORKING TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, PRACTICES AND STEWARDSHIP CONTINUE WELL INTO THE FUTURE. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS THE RECOGNITION THAT THE LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF WAREHAM’S MARINE RESOURCES TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF HARBOR MANAGEMENT.**

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# USER INFORMATION

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**SUBJECTS IN RANDOM ORDER WITH SUGGESTED REFERENCES ON WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION AND POINTS OF CONTACT. SUBJECTS ARE LINKED TO REFERENCE KEYS FOR QUICK ACCESS AND ARE FOUND ON THE LAST PAGES OF THIS PUBLICATION.**

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## **01. WATER BODIES**

**REF KEYS 1 - 9**

**A. WAREHAM RIVER SYSTEM INCLUDES THE AGAWAM RIVER, WANKINCO RIVER, WAREHAM RIVER, BROAD MARSH RIVER, CROOKED RIVER, AND MARKS COVE.**

**B. ONSET BAY SYSTEM INCLUDES; GIBBS BROOK, MUDDY COVE, BROAD COVE, EAST RIVER, SHELL POINT BAY, ONSET BAY AND PLEASANT HARBOR.**

**C. WEWEANTIC RIVER SYSTEM INCLUDES THE RIVER ALONG WITH HORSESHOE POND AND THE SIPPICAN RIVER.**

**D. BUZZARDS BAY (A SMALL AREA).**

**E. SMALLER EMBAYMENTS TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO; BOURNE COVE, LITTLE HARBOR, WIDOWS COVE, BUTLERS COVE, AS WELL AS A VAST AREA OF INLAND NON TIDAL WATER RESOURCES.**

**NOTE: FOR VISUAL GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE SEE NOAA CHART 13236. ALSO, HARBORMASTERS WEBSITE, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES AND OTHER UPDATED CHARTS AND MAPS.**

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## **02. BATHYMETRY: (CHARTED DEPTHS) NOAA CHART 13236**

**REF KEYS 2 & 10**

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## **03. SEDIMENT DATA**

**REF KEY 6**

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## **04. DREDGING PRIVATE & PUBLIC**

**REF KEYS 2 & 11**

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## **05. WATER QUALITY (MARINE)**

**REF KEYS 3 & 11**

**06. FECAL COLIFORM** REF KEYS 5,  
9 & 11

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**07. DRAINAGE / DISCHARGING INTO WATERWAYS; PROHIBITED, ALL  
AREAS.** REF KEY 11

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**08. MARINE PUMP OUT FACILITIES:** REF KEYS 9  
& 11

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**09. FUEL HANDLING FACILITIES AND REGULATIONS:** REF KEY 11

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**10. WASTE WATER: (SHORE SIDE ORIGIN)** REF KEYS 3,  
6 & 9

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**11. MAPS, OVERLAYS ETC.** REF KEY 13  
**ALSO, SEE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY & TOWN PUBLICATIONS.**

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**12. ZONING:** REF KEY 13

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**13. MARINE FACILITIES (PUBLIC)** REF KEYS 11  
& 13

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**14. MARINAS & BOAT YARDS (PRIVATE)** REF KEY 11  
**ALSO SEE WATERWAY GUIDES, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, YELLOW  
PAGES AND TRADE PUBLICATIONS.**

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**15. PUBLIC PIERS, DOCKS AND BOATING AREAS:** REF KEY 11

16. PUBLIC RAMPS AND LAUNCHING: **REF KEY 11**

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17. MOORING INFORMATION: **REF KEY 11**

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18. RECREATIONAL INFORMATION (MARINE) **REF KEY 11**

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19. HARBOR REGULATIONS: **REF KEY 11**

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20. NAVIGATION RULES & REGULATIONS: **REF KEY 12**  
SEE U.S.C.G. PUBLICATION COMDTINST M 16672 (RULES OF THE  
NAUTICAL ROAD).

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21. SHELLFISH RULES, REGULATIONS, CLOSINGS & INFO. **REF KEY 11**

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22. EEL GRASS INFORMATION: **REF KEYS 5  
& 11**

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23. WATER QUALITY (MARINE) **REF KEYS 9  
& 11**

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24. CONSTRUCTION: WETLAND /MARINE RELATED  
ISSUES. **PERMITS REQUIRED AS APPLICABLE.** (FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND  
TOWN)

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## REFERENCE KEY INDEX

P-4

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01. U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)  
DATA, MAPS, PUBLICATIONS, PRODUCTS & SERVICES.  
1-888-275-8747                      [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)
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02. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE)  
MAPS, CHARTS, PUBLICATIONS & INFORMATION BY DISTRICT.  
1-202-761-0011                      [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)
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03. MASS. DEPT. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEM)  
1-508-946-2700                      [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies)
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04. MASS. COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (CZM)  
1-617-626-1200                      [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm)
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05. MASS. DIV MARINE FISHERIES (DMF)  
1-617-626-1633                      [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dmf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dmf)
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06. MASS., DIV OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL  
1-508-946-2700                      [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies)
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07. WAREHAM SHELLFISH COMMISSION (harbor master)  
1-508-291-3100- (3186)              [www.wareham.ma.us](http://www.wareham.ma.us)
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08. BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT  
1-508-291-3625                      [www.buzzardsbay.org](http://www.buzzardsbay.org)



09. WAREHAM BOARD OF HEALTH  
1-508-291-3196

[www.wareham.ma.us](http://www.wareham.ma.us)

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10. NOAA (NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION)  
1-301-943-6977

[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

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11. WAREHAM HARBOR MASTER  
1-508-291-3100 (3186)

[www.wareham.ma.us](http://www.wareham.ma.us)

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12. U.S. COAST GUARD (USCG)  
1-617-223-8355 (waterways)

[www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil)

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13. TOWN OF WAREHAM \*  
1-508-291-3100

[www.wareham.ma.us](http://www.wareham.ma.us)

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\* THE WAREHAM TOWN WEBSITE AS WELL AS OTHER SITES LISTED  
CONTAINS IMPORTANT AND USEFUL LINKS TO OTHER SOURCES OF  
INFORMATION SUCH AS:

FLOOD ZONES AND MAPS, HURRICANE INFORMATION, EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AND EVACUATION, WETLAND AND ZONING BYLAWS AND  
MUCH MORE.