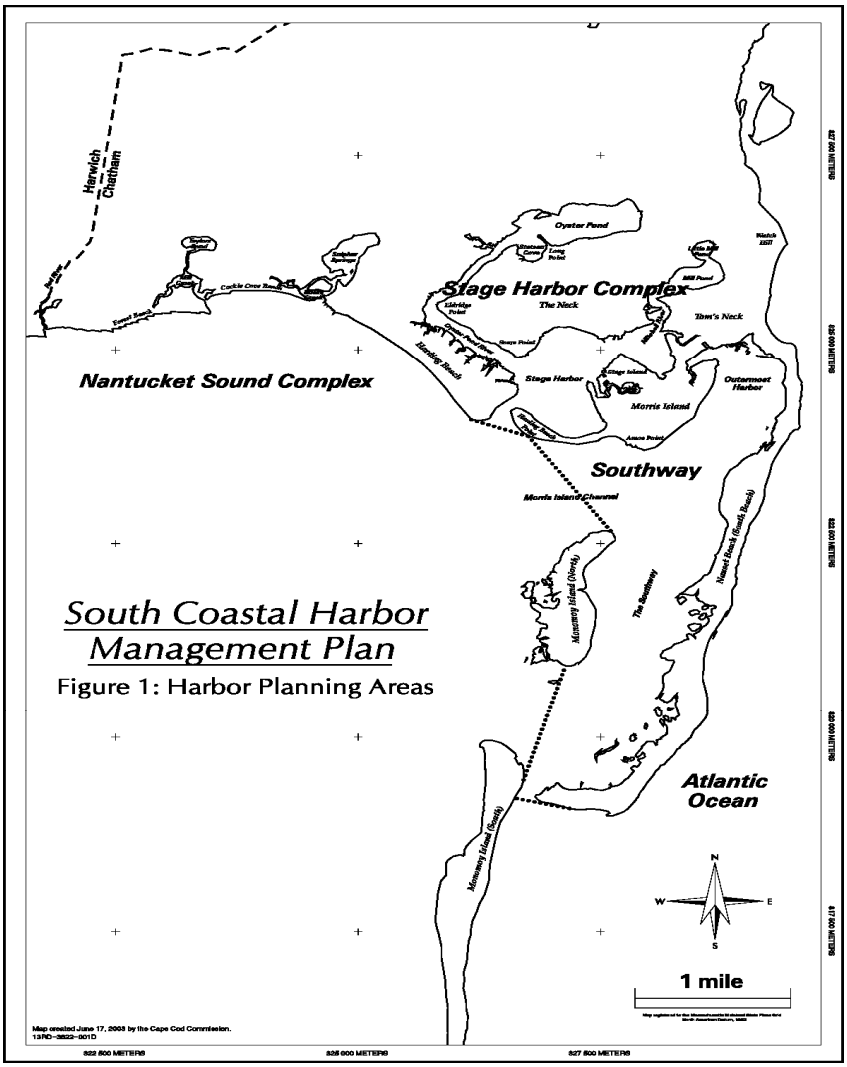SECTION I: FRAMEWORK OF THE PLAN