

CHAPTER 5. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT

The original Stage Harbor management plan recommended that the Town establish a committee to coordinate implementation of the plan. Since its formation the Stage Harbor Management Plan Implementation Committee (SHMPIC) has overseen implementation of the Stage Harbor plan, including the review of Chapter 91 applications in terms of consistency with the policies of the plan.

The South Coastal Harbor Management plan continues this charge and expands the scope of management responsibility to two other geographic areas. The success of the new plan will depend on a continuing commitment from town officials and citizens to implementing its recommendations. This commitment must encompass:

- Public support and involvement in the development of policies and regulations called for in the recommendations,
- Cooperation among town departments with shared oversight in many areas of the plan,
- Involvement of state, regional and federal agencies where appropriate, and
- Resources, both human and financial, to implementing actions in a timely manner.

It is recommended that the SHMPIC continue to be the organization charged with coordinating implementation activities. However the committee should be renamed (*South Coastal Harbor Plan Committee*), and current membership should be expanded to include representation of interests unique to the Southway and Nantucket Sound. The committee's role and responsibilities should continue to be:

- Conducting consistency reviews for Chapter 91 applicants within the planning area;
- Providing comment to the Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeal regarding harbor related projects within the planning area, as needed;
- Encouraging interdepartmental cooperation in addressing and implementing recommendations;
- Encouraging public support and involvement in the development of policies and regulations called for in the plan; and
- Keeping focus on the priorities of the plan; and
- Providing a forum for new issues as they arise in the planning areas.

The committee would be urged to submit an implementation report to the Board of Selectmen each year outlining progress toward implementation, and priorities for the coming year. The submission of the report should be timed to allow town departments, the Town Manager, and the Board of Selectmen the opportunity to consider and integrate implementation priorities in the development of fiscal year budgets and work plans.

5.1 Implementation Matrices

The following matrices identify each recommendation in the plan, the parties that should be involved in the implementation, and the levels of resources needed to implement each action.

Responsible parties are those local, state or federal agencies that should have input in the implementation of a particular recommendation. An asterisk (*) is placed next to the party with lead responsibility for implementation of that recommendation, even if the party does not have the ultimate decision making authority. The parties are abbreviated as follows:

ACE – Army Corp of Engineers
BOS – Board of Selectmen
CC – Conservation Commission
CCSN – Cape Cod Stranding Network
CPA - Community Preservation Act Committee
CRD – Coastal Resources Dept.
DPW – Department of Public Works
HBR – Harbormaster
HED – Health & Environment Dept.
MADEP – MA Dept. Environmental Protection
NPS – National Park Service
LBOSC – Land Bank & Open Space Committee
PB – Planning Board
PD – Police Dept.
PRC – Parks & Recreation Commission
SC – Shellfish Constable
SAC – Shellfish Advisory Committee
TC – Town Counsel
USFWS – US Fish & Wildlife Service
WAC – Waterways Advisory Committee

Due to limitations on resources, it is necessary to indicate the relative sense of priority assigned to each recommendation. The number “1” indicates the highest relative priority, and the number “5” indicates the lowest relative priority.

The resources column indicates whether the recommendation can be accomplished through existing department capabilities and budgets, or whether a separate appropriation would be necessary.

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: TOWN LANDINGS AND ACCESS POINTS

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Continue a high level of municipal investment in the acquisition, improvement, maintenance, and management of town landings, access points and associated facilities.	*CRD, HBR, WAC, BOS	1	Staff time. Appropriations as needed.
Develop a public education program about the opportunities, facilities, and regulations associated with various landings and access points.	*CRD, HBR, WAC	2	Staff time. Minimum appropriations for materials
Develop a parking plan that addresses the vehicular access issues unique to each landing.	*CRD, DPW, WAC	1	Staff time. Minimum appropriations for site work.
Secure permanent public use and access to Bridge Street landing, if possible.	*CRD, BOS	2	Undetermined.
Develop and implement a plan to locate permanent or seasonal public restrooms at heavily used landings and access points, as needed.	*CRD, WAC, CC, BH	3	Staff time. Appropriations as needed for restrooms.
Identify all access points that may not be governed by the Town’s existing regulations for landings and water dependent properties and address the need to clarify regulatory oversight at these locations.	*CRD, WAC, BOS	3	Staff time.
Develop a dinghy storage plan appropriate to conditions at each town landing or access point.	*CRD, HBR, WAC	3	Staff time. Minimum appropriations to implement.
Identify and evaluate opportunities to create new public access points as they may become available.	*CRD, BOS, LBOSC	2	Staff time. Appropriations as needed for sites.

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: COMMERCIAL FISHING INFRASTRUCTURE

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Evaluate options for ensuring adequate offloading, packaging and storage facilities for the commercial fleet in perpetuity, through repair and maintenance of existing facilities and potential addition of new facilities.	*CRD, HBR, BOS	3	Staff time. Appropriations as needed for repairs.

Operators of commercial offloading facilities should provide adequate waste management procedures and equipment, commensurate with the operation and services provided by the facility, in order to prevent degradation of water quality or surrounding resources.

*Facilities Owners, CRB, HBR 1 Staff time for monitoring compliance

Ensure availability of adequate haul out facilities for the commercial fleet, provided they meet the most stringent applicable environmental requirements.

*CRD, HBR, HED 2 Staff time. Appropriations as needed.

Provide a reasonable number of moorings to be made available to transient boats, provided the boat operators adhere to all applicable bylaws and regulations.

*HBR 2 Staff time

Continue to acquire public moorings at a reasonable rate in balance with the demand for private moorings.

*HBR 2 Staff time

Protect provisions within the zoning code that allow for gear storage in residential areas; and continue to evaluate potential alternate storage locations. Develop and enforce guidelines and access restrictions to prevent misuse of the gear storage area at Chatham Airport.

*PB, CRD *HBR 2 Staff time

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: MARINA AND RECREATIONAL BOATING FACILITIES

Recommendation

Marinas and boatyards should be brought into compliance with all existing federal, state and local water quality protection regulations and measures.

Responsible Parties **Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)** **Resources**

*HED, CC 1 Staff time

Marinas and boatyards should be allowed to expand activities provided they meet stringent environmental requirements and have exhausted upland site options.

*HED, PB, ZBA 4 Staff time

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: MOORINGS

Recommendation

The Harbormaster and the Waterways Advisory Committee should develop a comprehensive mooring program.

Responsible Parties **Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)** **Resources**
 *HBR, CRD, WAC 1 Staff time. Appropriations as needed for engineering

Evaluate the utilization of environmentally compatible mooring technologies and techniques.	*HBR, CRD, WAC	1	or implementation Staff time. Minimum appropriations as needed.
Designate environmentally sensitive areas and enforce the removal of concrete block moorings from those areas within five years of the designation.	*HBR, CRD, HED	1	Staff time
Evaluate and address insurance liability and compliance issues for temporary use of moorings by a vessel other than the permit holder's.	*TC, BOS, CRD, HBR	3	Staff time

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: REGULATION OF PRIVATE PIERS AND OTHER SHORELINE STRUCTURES

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Undertake an assessment of the entire Stage Harbor Complex shoreline, focusing on the public access, navigation, and natural resource values addressed by the management plan.	*HED, CRD, SC	1	Staff time
Use the assessment to designate areas where the location of private piers may or may not be consistent with the management plan; and to develop performance and design standards for private docks in areas where they may be consistent.	*HED, CRD, PB, CC	1	Staff time
Use the assessment to designate areas where the location of private piers may or may not be consistent with the management plan; and to develop performance and design standards for private docks in areas where they may be consistent.	*HED, CRD, PB, CC	1	Staff time
Use the assessment to evaluate the appropriateness of catwalks and erosion control structures and, if necessary, develop permitting guidelines for areas where those structures may be permitted.	*HED, CRD, PB, CC	1	Staff time
Take action to ensure that the Davis dock is removed expeditiously.	*CRD, BOS	1	Undetermined. Owner to bear expense.

Work with the Department of Environmental Protection to monitor all structures within tidelands, including docks, piers, bulkheads and stairways, and ensure they have a valid Chapter 91 license and that the provisions of the license are being enforced.

*CRB, HED, CC 1 Staff time

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: DREDGING

Recommendation

Continue maintenance dredging to continue safe access into the Stage Harbor Complex, and for the use of facilities there.

Responsible Parties

*CRD, HBR, ACE

Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)

2

Resources

Staff time. ACE to bear expense.

Allow improvement (new) dredging in areas where shoaling is limiting access through traditionally important publicly navigable waterways.

*CRD, HBR, CC

3

Appropriations for projects as needed.

Undertake regular bathymetric surveys of all navigable channels throughout the Complex.

*CRD

3

Minimum appropriations as needed.

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: BOATING SAFETY AND NAVIGATION

Recommendation

Continue to use all means available to manage the number and size of boats that access the Stage Harbor Complex through town landings and access points.

Responsible Parties

*CRD, PB, CC

Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)

3

Resources

Staff time

Continue active, highly visible patrol presence during the prime boating season (Memorial Day through Labor Day), especially on weekends.

*HBR

1

Increase in patrol staff as warranted.

Allow relocation of lobster pots by appropriate town officials as necessary if pots are located in areas where they pose a hazard to navigation.

*HBR

3

Staff time

Develop a public education program and/or changes in waterways regulation to promote safe and appropriate use of recreational equipment and activities, including but not limited to kayaks and canoes, para-sails, kite-boards, towed tubes and water skis, and swimming.

*HBR, CRD

4

Staff time. Minimum appropriation for materials.

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SHELLFISHING

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Continue the Town’s commitment to propagation of the wild shellfishery; explore the benefits of expanding the propagation program; and evaluate the adequacy of the existing upwelling facility.	*SC, SAC	2	Increase in staff time and materials as appropriate.
Increases the amount of resources for enforcement to match the increase in the number of permit holders.	*SC	1	Increase in staff time as warranted.
The on-going management of town landings should ensure that offloading activity is undertaken in compliance with all applicable bylaws and regulations.	*CRD, SC	2	Staff time
Evaluate creative methods for addressing demand for increased access to moorings for commercial shellfishermen.	*CRD, HBR	3	Staff time
Require applicants for projects within coastal resource areas to provide documented assessment of impacts on shellfish or shellfish habitat and access to shellfish beds.	*CC	2	Staff time

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: WETLANDS AND EELGRASS

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Make salt marsh protection a priority consideration in the review of projects for private docks, marina or boatyard expansion, erosion control structures, walkways and dredging.	*CC	1	Staff time. Appropriations for restoration as needed.

Identify opportunities for the restoration of damaged salt marsh, and for acquisition of land for inland migration.	*HED, CRD	2	Staff time
Monitor changes in eelgrass throughout the complex and develop an understanding of the causes of eelgrass variability.	*HED, CRD, MADEP	2	Staff time

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: WATER QUALITY

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Continue water quality monitoring throughout the system; and implement the recommendations of the nutrient management.	*HED, WWAC, BOS	1	Monitoring resources on-going; implementation of ww plan to be determined.
Evaluate methods to identify bacteria sources in areas where sustained high bacteria counts have been recorded on a frequent basis.	*HED	2	Staff time.
Develop a locally tailored emergency response plan to address spills that, while harmful to the area, may not trigger intervention by the Coast Guard.	*HED, HBR, CRD	4	Staff time
Monitor research and develop policy develop Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).	*HED, SC	4	Staff time

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: SHELLFISH RESOURCES

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Continue support for the shellfish propagation program. Evaluate whether the existing upwelling facility is adequate to meet the Town’s long-term propagation needs. Secure additional resources to meet desired increases in propagation activity.	*SC	2	Appropriations as needed to support increase in program or facilities.

Expedite implementation of nutrient management plan to protect habitat. Consider measures to reclaim degraded habitat. plan to be determined.

*HED, WWAC, BOS

3

Resources for implementation of ww

STAGE HARBOR COMPLEX: LAND USE AND VISUAL CHARACTER

Recommendation

Responsible Parties

Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)

Resources

Support efforts to maintain and reopen coastal views on town properties or private properties.

*PB, DPW, CC,
private property owners

5

Staff time

Explore mechanisms for preserving and restoring water views from public roads in residential areas.

*DPW

5

Staff time

Develop management guidelines related to encroachment at town landings and access points.

*CRD, WAC,
private property owners

2

Staff time

Evaluate definition of water dependent uses to ensure that it encompasses all desirable water dependent uses.

*PB

5

Staff time

SOUTHWAY: CONTINUED ACCESS

Recommendation

Responsible Parties

Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)

Resources

Coordinate with the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service to evaluate issues related to access for commercial shellfishing, geomorphology and erosion control, navigation management, use policies and enforcement.

*CRD, BOS, NPS,
*USFWS, SC

2

Staff time. Appropriations for special projects as needed.

Preserve and protect limited town access points on the Southway, particularly town access along a pathway accessible from Morris Island Road.

*TC, BOS, CRD

1

Staff time. Appropriation for purchase if advisable

SOUTHWAY: PUBLIC SAFETY

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Continue to monitor vessel traffic throughout the area and evaluate the need for further speed controls, or other actions to reduce vessel conflicts or disturbance to nearby wildlife.	*HBR	2	Increase in patrol staff as needed.

SOUTHWAY: NATURAL HABITAT AND RESOURCE PROTECTION

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Seek No Discharge Area designation for the Southway; evaluate and publicize existing pump out capacity.	*HED, HBR	3	Staff time.
Continue to work with the Cape Cod Stranding Network, and seal tour providers to take measures to prevent harassment or injury to seals, and to report and respond to events as they occur.	*CRD, HBR, CCSN, seal tour providers	3	Staff time
Consider use of DNA testing, or other feasible method of determining bacteria sources, in areas where sustained high bacteria counts have been recorded on a frequent basis. Cause remediation by town or responsible parties.	*HED	2	Staff time. Appropriations for testing and remediation.
Develop a locally tailored emergency response plan to address fuel spills that may not trigger intervention by the Coast Guard.	*CRD, HBR, HED	4	Staff time
Monitor research and policy regarding Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Develop a plan to address the prevention, mitigation, and control of HABs.	*HED, SC	4	Staff time

NANTUCKET SOUND: SHORELINE PROTECTION

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Continue nourishment of public beaches to mitigate erosion; evaluate/prioritize shoreline areas for re-nourishment. Identify potential sediment sources for re-nourishment.	*CRD, CC, PRC, DPW	1	Staff time. Appropriations for projects as needed.
Undertake an assessment of the Nantucket Sound Complex shoreline to determine where along the shoreline of the Complex new private shoreline structures may be found in compliance with the plan (docks, catwalks, erosion control).	*HED, CRD	1	Staff time
Use the assessment to designate areas where the location of new private structures may or may not be consistent with the management plan. Develop performance and design standards for private structures in areas where they may be consistent (docks, catwalks, erosion control).	*CRD, CC, PB, HED	1	Staff time
Evaluate current configuration of groins and jetties, particularly between Red River and Mill Creek, to determine effectiveness in shoreline stabilization. Evaluate re-design potential.	*CRD, CC, Town of Harwich		4 Staff time
Continue support of shoreline monitoring.	*CRD	1	

NANTUCKET SOUND: MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC BEACHES

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Develop demand management policies for public beaches.	*PRC, DPW	2	Staff time
Address safety concerns where boating activity takes place in proximity to swimmers and moored vessels.	*HBR, PRC, DPW	2	Staff time
Continue/develop protocols for seaweed raking at selected beaches for dune stabilization.	*PRC, DPW, CC, CRD	3	Staff time
Monitor commercial activity at beaches.	*PRC, DPW	2	Staff time
Address pet access/pet waste issues at beaches.	*PRC, DPW, HED	1	Staff time

NANTUCKET SOUND: PROTECTION OF HABITAT

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Seek designation of Nantucket Sound as a No Discharge Area; ensure adequate pump out capacity.	*HED, HBR	3	Staff time. Appropriations for pump out as needed.
Continue water quality monitoring; activities within the jurisdiction of health and wetland protection regulations should be held to the strictest standards applicable.	*HED, CC	1	Staff time
Consider use of DNA testing, or other feasible method of determining bacteria sources, in areas where sustained high bacteria counts have been recorded on a frequent basis. Cause remediation by town or responsible parties.	*HED	2	Staff time. Appropriations for testing and remediation.
Develop a locally tailored emergency response plan to address fuel spills that may not trigger intervention by the Coast Guard.	*CRD, HBR, HED	4	Staff time
Monitor research and policy regarding Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Develop a plan to address the prevention, mitigation, and control of HABs.	*HED, SC	4	Staff time
Continue a high level of commitment to public aquaculture projects.	*SC	2	Appropriations as needed to support increase in program or facilities.

NANTUCKET SOUND: BOATING AND NAVIGATION

Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Priority 1 (high)–5 (low)	Resources
Affirm the importance of the permitted weir sites to the local fishing industry, as well as the potential for any of the alternate permitted sites to be used at any one time.	*HBR	3	Staff time
Limit the issuance of new mooring permits and maintain waiting lists at Nantucket Sound locations.			*HBR 1 Staff time
Evaluate demand for and impacts from dry sailing and dinghy storage at public beaches and landings, and develop management recommendations.	*HBR, CRD	2	Staff time
Limit dredging in the estuarine waters of the Nantucket Sound Complex. Allow dredging in the outer waters of Nantucket Sound for navigation or mining of sediment for beach nourishment. Ensure that all dredging meets federal, state, county and local environmental standards and requirements for dredging and material disposal.	*CRD, HBR, HED, CC	2	Staff time. Appropriations as needed for projects.