



## A Message from President & CEO, Audra Parker

## 20th Anniversary Edition



Happy Anniversary!

This year officially marks our 20th year of protecting and preserving Nantucket Sound! With the support of people like you, we have accomplished many of the ambitious goals set in 2002. Our founding Board of Directors had the foresight to recognize the Sound's unique values and the need to protect this special body of water. The Board established the Alliance as a dynamic environmental organization to:

- » Promote the enjoyment and education of Nantucket Sound;
- » Defend its environment and support continued uses; and
- » Encourage solutions to reduce pollution in and around the Sound.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary with you, the fight to uphold our founding ideals continues. We succeeded in stopping Cape Wind from building an industrial scale wind plant, but the Sound still lacks the protections that apply to other bodies of water. The Sound, with its rich history and culture, its importance to the economy, and its unique environment remains neglected and vulnerable to diminished water quality, habitat degradation, and inappropriate development.

Over the past few years, the Alliance has worked tenaciously to develop and build support for the Nantucket Sound National Historic Landmark Act (NSNHCLA) to end this neglect. This federal bill will designate the Sound as a National Historic Landmark - the highest level of historic protection possible; safeguard traditional uses, such as fishing and recreation; provide critical funding to improve water quality; and prevent industrial development in the federal waters in the center of the Sound that is inconsistent with safeguards under state law.

We have made strong progress toward enactment of this legislation, with nearly 100 endorsements from stakeholder groups, representing tens of thousands of individuals. At the same time, we are aggressively pursuing multiple federal and state strategies to encourage Congress, the administration, and our local officials to recognize the special nature of Nantucket Sound and take action to protect its environment and heritage.

This year, we need \$1.5 million to remain relentless in our pursuit of permanent protection for Nantucket Sound. Your generosity is vital to the fate of this national treasure. Please help celebrate our 20th year safeguarding the Sound with a generous gift today. Thank you for your consideration and support - future generations are counting on you!

Warm Regards,

# Promoting Stewardship and Education for Future Generations

## A Celebration of Nantucket Sound (ACONS) - Webinar Series

ACONS has returned for 2022 to provide essential education to promote Nantucket Sound's identity, support our preservation efforts, and encourage environmental stewardship of this special body of water. ACONS webinars connects experts with community members to celebrate the Sound's history, environment, economic importance, and cultural significance. ACONS webinars have not only broadened awareness and appreciation for the Sound and the need to protect it, but they have also enhanced our role in the community and broadened our base of support.

## Nantucket Sound Ambassador Program



This year, we formally kicked off our Nantucket Sound Ambassador program. This initiative mobilizes local high school students to be environmental stewards, spread awareness and advocate for permanent protection for Nantucket Sound. Mashpee High School has been the first to launch this program with a Nantucket Sound beach clean-up competition this spring picking up nearly 200 pounds of debris. The Ambassador program will expand this year with other high schools on the Cape and Islands. In addition, we plan to introduce a pilot Junior Ambassador program at the elementary school level to teach young students about the Sound's environment, its importance, and the need to protect it.

Mashpee High School Students at Popponesset Beach



## Through the Years ... Safeguarding Nantucket Sound Since 2002



2002

- » Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound is officially formed
- » Cape Wind proposes industrial scale wind project in Nantucket Sound

2005



- » Energy Policy Act gives Interior authority to establish permitting process and convey lease rights for offshore wind development
- » Massachusetts issues transmission line permits to Cape Wind

2009

- » Interior finalizes permitting process for offshore wind projects

2010

- » Interior launches initiative to involve stakeholders in identifying off-shore areas that minimize conflicts and are suitable for development
- » Nantucket Sound is deemed eligible for National Historic Register of Historic Places because of its significance to the Wampanoag tribes
- » Interior awards Cape Wind a federal lease



2012

- » Cape Wind wins above market contracts to sell their power

2015

- » Cape Wind loses their power purchase contracts

2016

- » Cape Wind loses state permits to build transmission lines
- » Massachusetts passes law requiring utilities to buy power from offshore wind projects that are at least 10 miles from shore



2018

- » Alliance pursues permanent protection of Nantucket Sound through a National Historic Landmark designation

2019

- » Alliance drafts the Nantucket Sound National Historic Landmark Act and starts to build wide coalition of support

2021

- » Alliance expands coalition of support for NSNHLA from 30 local, state, tribal, and national stakeholder organizations to 80
- » National Congress of American Indians passes resolution endorsing protection of Nantucket Sound as a sacred tribal site

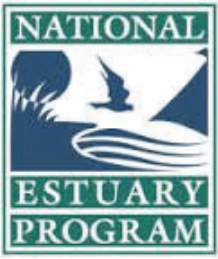


2022

- » Alliance pursues inclusion of Nantucket Sound in National Estuary Program to address water quality and coastal degradation



## Improving Water Quality in Nantucket Sound - National Estuary Program (NEP)



The NEP was established in 1987 under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to restore water quality of estuaries of national significance. It empowers local people to decide how to best address challenges facing their estuary to support clean water, productive habitats, and economic opportunities. Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod Bay, and most of the Massachusetts coastline are within a NEP zone - why not Nantucket Sound?

The Sound meets the definition of an estuarine zone under the CWA and has numerous smaller estuaries which are the source of runoff and water quality issues. The Cape Cod Commission has identified 50 direct groundwater discharge zones, with two dozen in Nantucket Sound alone. These zones are a main cause of algae blooms, poor water quality, and loss of critical eel grass beds and marine species.

Nantucket Sound could receive up to \$1.8M per year if included in the NEP. NEP estuaries are also successful at leveraging other funding by an average ratio of 22:1. This could provide \$40M annually for environmental and water quality programs across the Cape and Islands to help address diminished water quality, cancer linked PFOS/PFAS and emerging contaminant cleanup efforts, coastal resiliency, habitat degradation, and other increasingly critical issues facing our coastal waters. NSNHHLA would designate the Sound as a National Historic Landmark as well as establish a "Nantucket Sound Estuarine Zone" under the NEP.

### Algae Blooms



Beach at the Wianno Club



Popponesset Spit

## Program Goals for 2022

- » Expand political and coalition support for enactment of federal NSNHHLA
- » Initiate National Historic Landmark administrative process with U.S. Dept. of Interior
- » Secure National Estuary Program nomination for Nantucket Sound
- » Increase focus and expand resources to address water quality issues and other environmental threats
- » Broaden educational initiatives including expansion of the Nantucket Sound Ambassador program

## Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound Articles of Organization | May 2, 2002

1. To promote unfettered public access to and enjoyment of Nantucket Sound;
2. To promote educational activities and projects that will enhance the understanding of and commitment to the preservation of the Sound;
3. To defend the ecology and environment of both the Sound and the lands that surround it;
4. To support continued uses of the Sound that are consistent with and as sensitive to the Sound's ecology as is technologically possible; and
5. To encourage research and development of technologies that will reduce groundwater, airborne, and marine pollution resulting in degradation of the Sounds' environment.