





Alliance staff - summer 2022

## An Important Message from Audra Parker, President & CEO Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound

**Nantucket Sound needs your help!** This exceptional body of water remains unprotected, available for leasing, and vulnerable to industrial development, as well as to algae blooms, coastal erosion, and other environmental threats. Unlike other regional bodies of water, the Sound is split between federal and state authority, is not fully protected by the Massachusetts Ocean Sanctuaries Act, and is not included in the National Estuary Program (NEP). Our mission will end these threats and protect Nantucket Sound in perpetuity. <u>We have made strong progress along multiple pathways (see reverse) to achieve this goal, but we need your support to succeed.</u>

First, since 2018, we have been developing and pursuing the enactment of federal legislation - the Nantucket Sound National Historic Landmark Act (NSNHLA). Once enacted, this legislation will:

- establish Nantucket Sound as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) the highest level of historic protection possible;
- prevent harmful industrial development in the federal waters of Nantucket Sound consistent with protections existing today under state law;
- address diminished water quality, coastal erosion, and other environmental threats; and
- provide critical federal funding for the Cape and Islands through inclusion in the NEP.

**Second**, this year, jointly with the local Wampanoag tribes, we have begun to pursue federal administrative action through the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to designate the Sound as an NHL. This process, which involves multiple federal offices and committees, leverages DOI's 2010 decision recognizing the Sound's rich tribal history and determining it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Alliance is currently assembling a strong team of historical and legal experts to successfully achieve designation of Nantucket Sound as an NHL.

Third, we are working at the state level to request that the Governor nominate Nantucket Sound as an estuary of national significance. Inclusion in the NEP would provide millions in critical funding annually for the Cape and Islands to support water quality improvement projects and other environmental efforts in and around Nantucket Sound.

The Alliance is the only organization dedicated to preserving this special body of water, and we rely on the generosity of our community to succeed. <u>Please help us complete our mission with a tax-deductible gift today</u>. Your support is vital to the future of Nantucket Sound.

Thank you!

