



Q&A with Audra Parker, President and CEO | Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound



Is the future of Nantucket Sound threatened?

Yes, the situation that existed prior to Cape Wind remains the same today. The waters in the center of Nantucket Sound are under federal control and can still be leased for private development by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Until we accomplish our mission, the Sound remains vulnerable to industrialization, as well as to toxic algae blooms, diminished water quality, habitat degradation, and other environmental threats.

Why is Nantucket Sound important?

Nantucket Sound is the heart and soul of the Cape and Islands. Millions of people each year visit this special place to take in its tremendous beauty, abundant wildlife, and distinct maritime and tribal history. Nantucket Sound is the economic engine for the region and an inspiration for lasting memories for generations of families. This unique ecosystem, with its rich history and economic importance, is a national treasure that must be protected in perpetuity.

What is the Alliance doing to ensure Nantucket Sound is permanently protected?

We are pursuing federal legislation - the Nantucket Sound National Historic Landmark Act - to designate the Sound as a National Historic Landmark (NHL), prevent development that is inconsistent with safeguards under state law, protect traditional uses such as fishing and recreation, and provide significant benefits to improve water quality and address other environmental threats.

We are also seeking an NHL designation administratively through DOI. This designation provides the highest level of historic protection, leverages DOI's 2010 recognition of the Sound's tribal significance and eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and connects other surrounding NHLs (the Island of Nantucket, Wesleyan Grove on Martha's Vineyard, and the Kennedy Compound on Cape Cod).

How can I help protect and preserve Nantucket Sound?

Enacting a federal law or securing administrative action is challenging, but with your help, we will succeed. As we are the only organization dedicated to preserving Nantucket Sound, we need your help to maintain our strong presence in Washington, D.C. as well as to continue building state and local support. Please help preserve and protect this national treasure for future generations with a generous gift today.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Audra Parker".