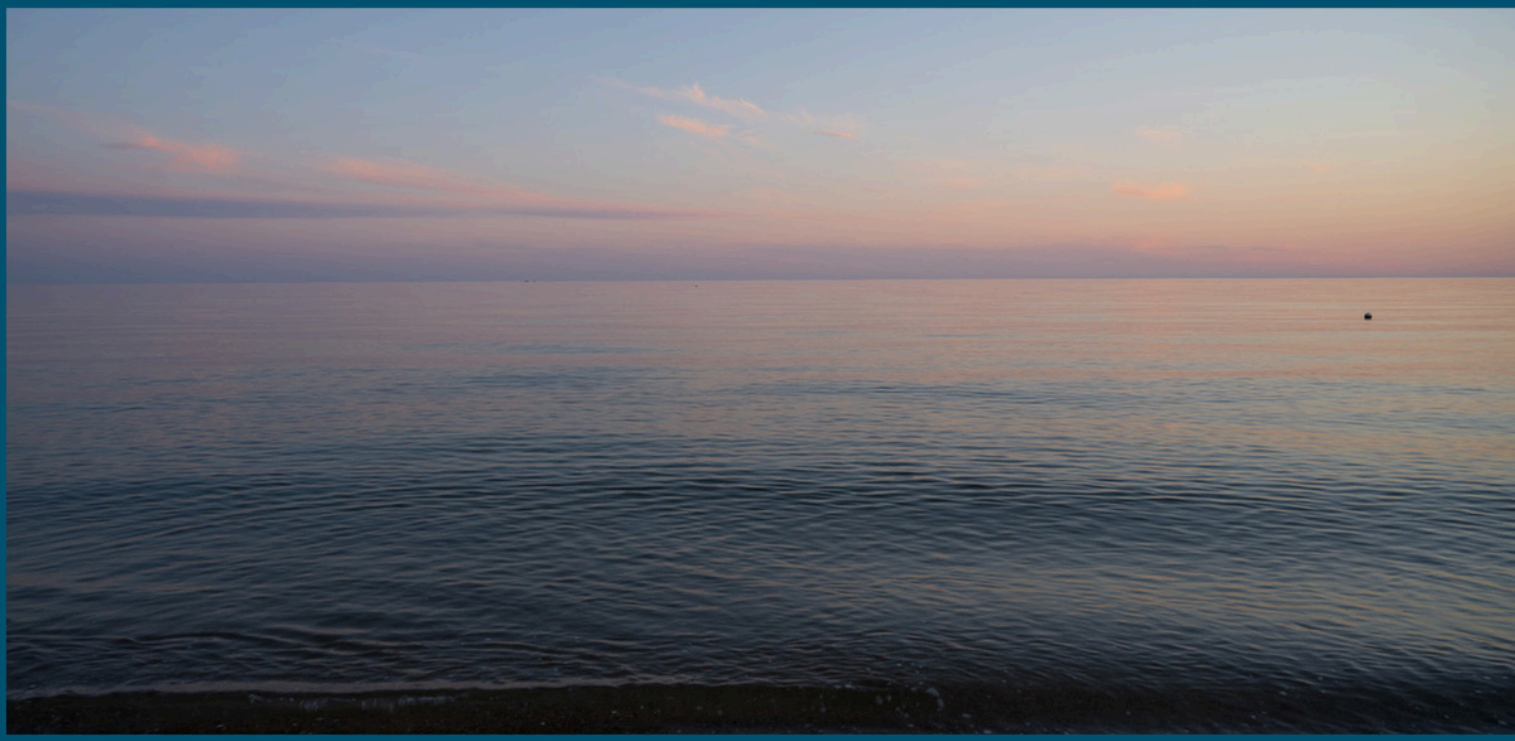
ALLIANCE TO PROTECT NANTUCKET SOUND



YEAR IN REVIEW

2026

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO, AUDRA PARKER



For more than two decades, the **Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound** has been driven by a fundamental truth: Nantucket Sound is far more than a body of water. It is a living intersection of American history, tribal heritage, coastal culture, and irreplaceable marine life. The Sound anchors our regional economy, sustains commercial and recreational fisheries, shapes our shorelines, and defines the identity of the Cape and Islands across generations.

As we look back on 2026, this has been a year of great momentum. From expanding our broad coalition in support of **National Historic Landmark (NHL)** designation for Nantucket Sound to engaging thousands through our "A Celebration of Nantucket Sound" educational series, our collective voice has never been stronger.

Yet even with this progress, Nantucket Sound remains vulnerable. Recent federal policy developments and judicial rulings have made one thing unmistakably clear: temporary administrative freezes, regulatory shifts, and changing political priorities are not enough to safeguard Nantucket Sound. Administrative actions can be adopted, challenged, reversed, or undone. Temporary measures do not equal permanent protection.

The true path to lasting protection lies in securing **NHL** designation for the entirety of Nantucket Sound. As the highest level of historic protection in the United States, NHL status will establish enduring federal protection safeguarding the Sound's ecological, cultural, and historic integrity — regardless of changing political winds. Achieving permanent protection is a deliberate process that requires rigorous research, strategic advocacy, and unwavering persistence. Thanks to your generosity, momentum is firmly on our side.

But, this is the moment when strong public support becomes decisive. As we look toward 2027, we must ensure our campaign has the resources needed to finalize the NHL designation and secure the lasting protection this extraordinary place deserves.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see what is at stake, where we stand, and how you can make a meaningful difference. I hope you will help us carry this work across the finish line. Thank you for standing with us, keeping this issue alive, and ensuring that future generations inhertit a vibrant and thriving Nantucket Sound.

A happy holiday season to you and yours,



A SOUND WORTH PROTECTING
5 REASONS NANTUCKET SOUND MATTERS

Each of these values has many stakeholders behind it. The organizations below, from conservation groups and tribal nations to fishing groups and chambers of commerce, are among the nearly 100 partners who support our mission and stand with us for permanent protection of Nantucket Sound.

American Bird Conservancy

1 Environmental — A Vital Marine Sanctuary

Its rich waters, shoals, and coastal habitats support an extraordinary diversity of marine life, migratory seabirds, and fragile ecosystems that thrive in an interconnected biological sanctuary.

2 Historical — Centuries of Maritime Heritage

Its historic waters have carried Indigenous peoples, early maritime explorers, generations of commercial fishermen, lightship captains, and coastal communities that shaped American history.

PM Preservation Massachusetts

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

3 Cultural — The Foundation of Our Coastal Identity

The Sound is central to the heritage, traditions, and lived experiences of the Wampanoag Tribes and the historic communities of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket.

4 Recreational — A Haven for Generations on the Water

It is a treasured haven for boating, sport fishing, sailing, swimming, paddling, and simple connection with nature for millions of residents and visitors each year.

Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club

cape cod Chamber of Commerce

5 Economic — The Lifeblood of the Local Economy

The Sound is the economic engine of the Cape and Islands. Every year, millions of visitors are drawn to its waters, fueling local businesses and supporting thousands of families who rely on tourism and maritime industries.

YOUR GIFT AT WORK

The Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound relies entirely on private philanthropy to fund our work. To date, we have raised **$700,000** of our **$1.2 million** annual goal. Your gift today will help us close the final $500,000 gap by December 31.

$700,000 Raised — **$500,000 to go**



Goal $1.2 Million by December 31

EVERY DOLLAR IS PUT TO WORK

68% Program

Advocacy, research, education, lobbying, and coalition-building to secure lasting federal protection for Nantucket Sound

20% Development

Outreach, communications, and fundraising efforts that expand our base of supporters and strengthen long-term sustainability

12% Administration

Essential operations that keep the organization running effectively and responsibly

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

1. **Make a Tax-Deductible Contribution**
   Every gift directly powers our legal, legislative, educational, and advocacy work to secure NHL designation for the entirety of Nantucket Sound.

2. **Add Your Organization's Voice to Our Coalition**
   Join nearly 100 businesses, municipalities, chambers, towns, and nonprofits officially backing permanent protection of Nantucket Sound. Contact Sandy Taylor at sandyt@saveoursound.org.

3. **Invite the Alliance to Speak**
   Invite us to speak at an upcoming community group, business, or organizational meeting. Email Sandy at sandyt@saveoursound.org.

4. **Follow Us on Social Media**
   Join us on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, X, and LinkedIn to get the latest news and updates.

A YEAR IN PICTURES:
GROWING SUPPORT ACROSS THE REGION

From lively summer gatherings to speaking engagements and educational programs, public engagement in 2026 was widespread and strong, providing real momentum for the year ahead.











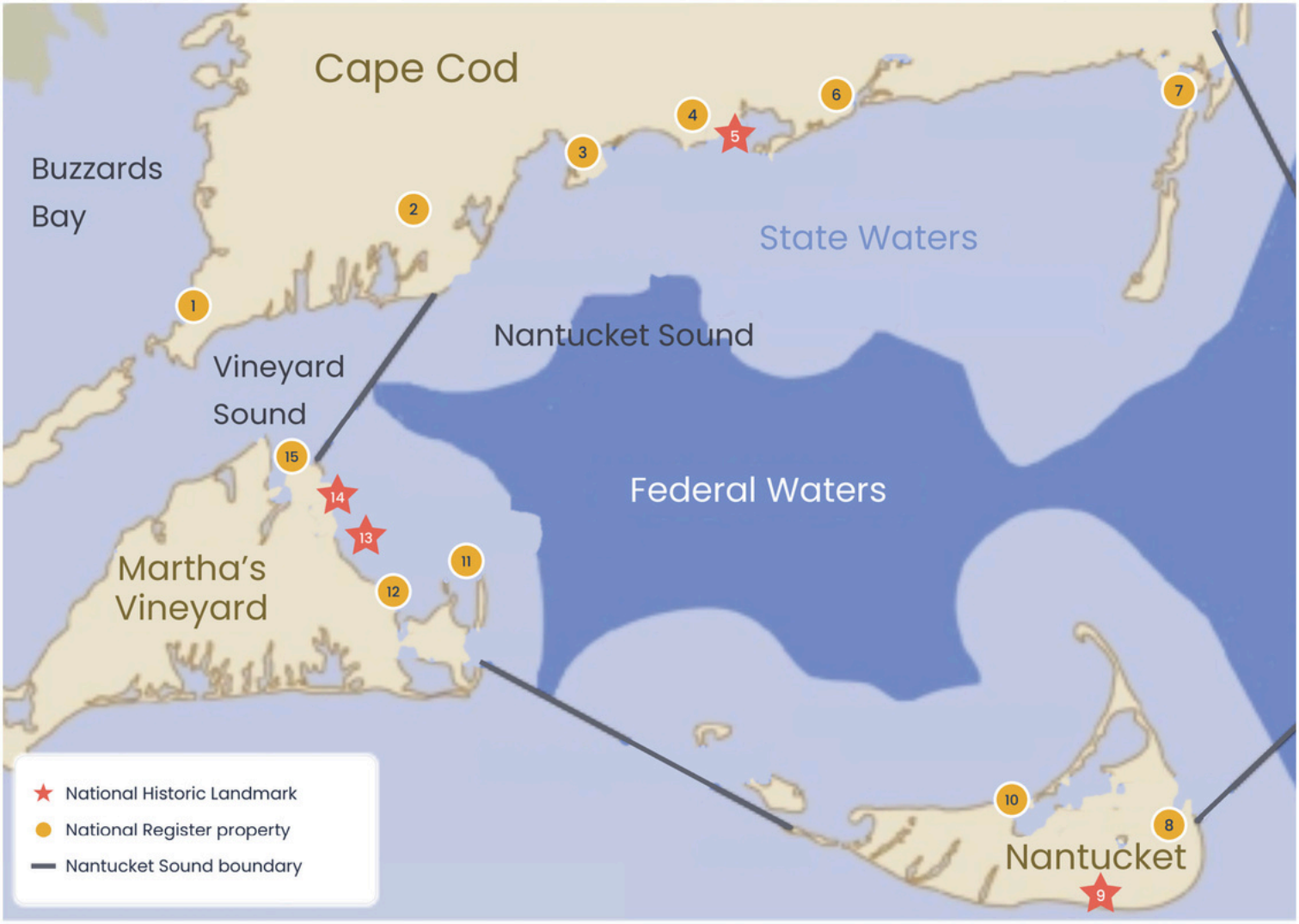




Alliance staff at Nauticus Marina

STANDING ALONGSIDE NATIONAL TREASURES

Nantucket Sound stands among America's most revered historic places. A National Historic Landmark designation will place the Sound alongside other NHLs like the Kennedy Compound, Wesleyan Grove, the Flying Horses Carousel, and the Island of Nantucket as well as hundreds of National Register properties. Help us ensure this treasured part of our shared heritage receives the lasting protection it deserves for generations to come.



1 **Nobska Point Light** — Falmouth
2 **Old Indian Meeting House** — Mashpee
3 **Wianno Club** — Osterville
4 **Hyannis Port Historic District**
5 **Kennedy Compound** — Hyannis Port
6 **Baxter Mill** — West Yarmouth
7 **Stage Harbor Light** — West Yarmouth
8 **Sankaty Head Light** — Nantucket
9 **Island of Nantucket**
10 **Brant Point Light** — Nantucket
11 **Cape Poge Light** — Chappaquiddick
12 **Edgartown Village Historic District**
13 **Flying Horses Carousel** — Oak Bluffs
14 **Wesleyan Grove** — Oak Bluffs
15 **East Chop Light** — Oak Bluffs

The Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound
Phone: (508) 775-9767 | A 501(c)(3) Tax-Deductible Organization
Find us at: @saveoursound_ @SOS2day @saveoursound saveoursound.org