



**For Immediate Release**

For more information contact:  
Daniel Hoort  
Wellfleet Town Administrator  
Tel. 508-349-0300  
[Dan.hoort@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:Dan.hoort@wellfleet-ma.gov)

## Herring River Restoration Project launches environmental permitting with Cape Cod Commission filing

**Wellfleet, MA, December 18, 2019** -- The Herring River Restoration Project has reached another important milestone with the filing of the project's first environmental permit application. The Town of Wellfleet submitted a permit application to the Cape Cod Commission for review of the project as a Development of Regional Impact.

"We are pleased to see this vital restoration project take an important step forward," said Daniel Hoort, Wellfleet Town Administrator. "This is an event that takes us into a new phase and starts us down the road toward construction and correcting long term environmental damage."

Herring River is currently in violation of state and federal clean water standards and restoring its water quality and habitat for fish and shellfish is a town priority. The application seeks to implement the first phase of the restoration project to revive 570 acres of former tidal wetlands. The wetlands have degraded over the past century due to the 1909 construction of the Chequessett Neck Road dike which blocks daily tidal flow.

Ninety-five percent of the land involved in Phase 1 (540 acres) is federally-owned within the Cape Cod National Seashore. Of the remaining area, roughly nine acres are owned by the Wellfleet Conservation Trust, ten acres are owned by Chequessett Yacht and Country Club, and approximately eleven acres are portions of wetlands on residential parcels. The project includes measures to protect all public and private structures from any potential harm due to the restoration of tidal flow.

Phase I is a collaborative project undertaken by the Town of Wellfleet and the Cape Cod National Seashore. In a letter to the Cape Cod Commission, Seashore Superintendent Brian Carlstrom stated that, "the proposed restoration of the Herring River estuary is a project of unique significance to the region, and of vital importance to the Cape Cod National Seashore." Degraded water quality in the river, "is responsible for the closure of hundreds of acres of once-harvestable downstream shellfish beds," Carlstrom wrote.

The filing will kick-off what is likely to be a months-long review process including a public hearing to be held by the Cape Cod Commission some time early next year.

Copies of the application are available to the public at Wellfleet Public Library, 55 West Main Street, and the Wellfleet Health and Conservation Department, 220 West Main Street. The application is also posted on the Town's website <https://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/home/news/herring-river-restoration-project>.