

Science Forum October 29th, and introducing AquaQAPP!

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Belle Isle Inventory

Through our [Healthy Estuaries Grant Program](#), MassBays helped to fund an inventory of natural resources in Belle Isle Marsh, one of the largest remaining salt marshes in greater Boston and a component of the [Rumney Marsh Area of Critical Environmental Concern](#). The [inventory](#) of the 275-acre system is the first step toward a comprehensive management plan for the area that could help species like the salt marsh sparrow (pictured above, in a photo by S.Riley) survive in the face of sea level rise due to climate change.



Bundle up, it's nice out!

[Science Walk](#) posters are currently installed along the Ipswich River Walk at the Ipswich Mills dam, through October. Watch [this space](#) to find out where it will be next!

[Self-guided cleanups](#) in the Mystic River watershed are a good way to enjoy the region's many parks and paths. You can find [safety protocols here](#).

[Autumn strolls](#) with naturalists in the North and South River watersheds during November.

[Nature Walks](#) in the Belle Isle Marsh are on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.

[Take some pictures](#) in anticipation of next year's photo contests. The [Merrimack River](#)

Invitation to a MassBays Science Forum: Investigating and Responding to Hypoxia in Cape Cod Bay

On October 29 from 2 to 5pm, MassBays will host a webinar bringing scientists, policymakers and resource managers, and local stakeholders together to discuss possible causes and potential next steps to address the recurring low dissolved oxygen events in Cape Cod Bay. The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Center for Coastal Studies have documented "blobs" of near-shore water with low dissolved oxygen concentrations which threaten marine species, and especially trapped lobsters, which are unable to move away toward more oxygenated water.

Review the [agenda](#), and [register](#) to receive a link to join; we have also compiled informational materials and publications about the issue in this [Google folder](#), including a recent [Advisory](#) from DMF. We anticipate that the Forum will result in further action to fill data and research gaps, and inform management actions.



Lobster trap photo: joesretirementblog.blogspot.com

A National Estuary Program-Urban Waters Program Partnership is born

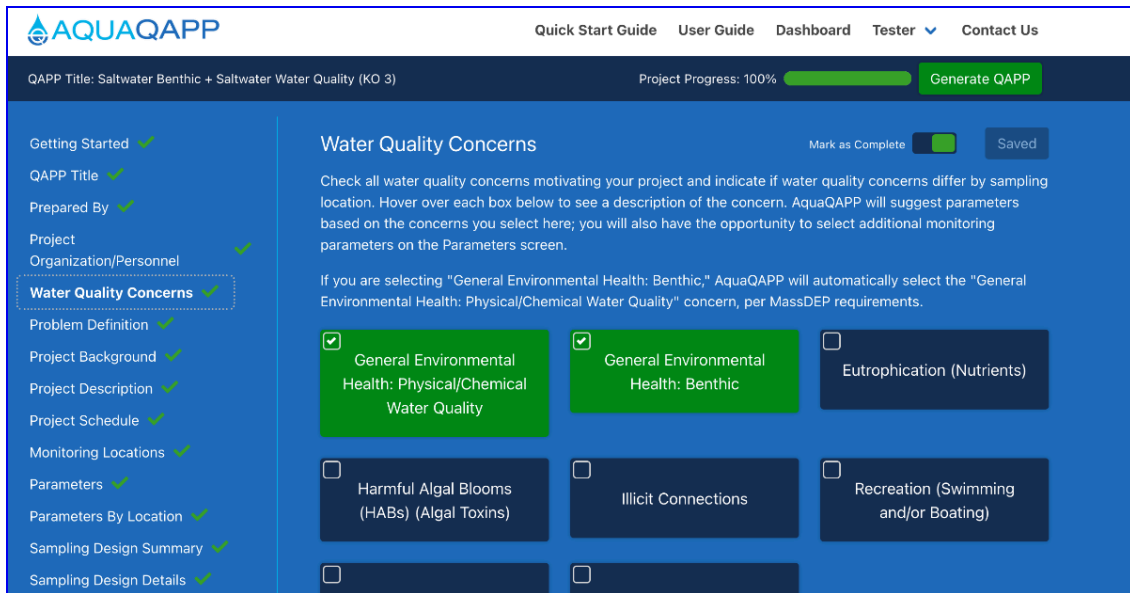
MassBays is pleased each year to share our annual workplan, which includes activities across the Bays and is developed with significant input and commitments from our [Regional Service Providers](#). Our [2021-2022 workplan](#) includes funding for a Mystic River Ambassador through EPA's [Urban Waters Program](#). The [Mystic River Watershed Association](#) (MyRWA) subsequently hired Sushant Bajracharya, who has been busy building relationships across the watershed, local, state, and federal agency staff, as well as local nonprofits such as GreenRoots and Harborkeepers. He is also leading the [Trash-free Mystic](#) program and has already coordinated seven local clean-up events and is overseeing the installation of a new trash boom on the Malden River.

[Watershed Council](#) (May), [MassAudubon](#) (September), [Cape Cod Life](#) (February), [Essex National Heritage Area](#) (December), and [Boston Harbor Now](#) (September) all solicit photos of coastal Massachusetts.

To learn more about the Mystic River watershed and MyRWA programming, [subscribe to their e-newsletter](#).

A new tool in the monitoring toolbox!

MassBays is pleased to present [AquaQAPP](#), a web-based "wizard" designed to help community-based monitoring groups and others plan and implement sample collection in fresh and estuarine waters. This tool is one component of MassBays' [2018-2022 Exchange Network Project](#), designed to help local monitoring groups meet data quality standards set by EPA and MassDEP. Start with the [User Guide](#) to get a sense of how it works, then sign in and get started!



Next up, and with new funding from EPA's Exchange Network Program for 2021-2024, MassBays will work with partners to develop tools to help monitoring groups conduct their own data analysis.

EPA funding has helped us to address multiple steps in the data management cycle as illustrated at right: blue boxes highlight components of the 2018 Exchange Network grant; red-boxed components will be developed with a new 2021 Exchange Network grant.

For more information, and to request technical support with AquaQAPP or other data management questions, contact Jill Carr at jill.carr@mass.gov.



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The Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership is a cooperative venture of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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