Summer is for science!

Summer 2021 Issue View this email in your browser



Harborwalk? Science Walk!

Make your way to Martin's Park in Boston, where you'll find a series of family-friendly posters describing restoration, monitoring, and research supported by MassBays. Learn about horseshoe crab monitoring, the best designs for marshfriendly docks and piers, where the herring go when they swim upstream, why we should care about seagrass... all while strolling the harborwalk! The posters will be in Boston until July 28th, and will travel around the bays from there. Can't wait to see them in person? They're also <u>online</u>.



Summer fun & safety

Join #MassWrack to help MassBays find out what's living on the beach! #MassWrack uses <u>iNaturalist</u> -- just download the app and start taking pictures of the bugs, birds, and seaweeds that rely on this important habitat.

<u>Great River Race</u>, both virtual (July 24-August 6) and in real life (August 7), hosts paddlers traveling down the North River from Marshfield to Hanover. Register by August 6th.

Cyanobacteria monitoring in Cape Cod's lakes and ponds is underway this summer, led by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. Learn more and sign up for pond-

In the News: Coastal & Ocean Acidification

For several years shellfishers and aquaculturists have reported changes in shell thickness and growth rates, a symptom of coastal acidification and a real concern for this important coastal industry. In 2018 the state legislature formed a special Commission to investigate the Commonwealth's preparedness for coastal and ocean acidification and its impacts on commercially harvested species. MassBays contributed significantly to the effort: South Shore Regional Coordinator Sara Grady was a member of the Commission and two working groups, Lower North Shore Regional Coordinator Barbara Warren presented at a hearing for the full Commission, MassBays Staff Scientist Prassede Vella helped to assemble technical information to support the Commission's work, and MassBays' funding and research contributions are documented in the final report.



The <u>Commission's report</u> concludes with nine recommendations, including three that align with MassBays' own priorities:

- 1. Establish a broad, sensitive ocean acidification monitoring system.
- 2. Conduct studies to understand the effects of ocean acidification, for example to characterize the impacts on shellfish and limit stressors that contribute to acidification.
- 3. Educate the public about ocean acidification and the health of coastal waters.

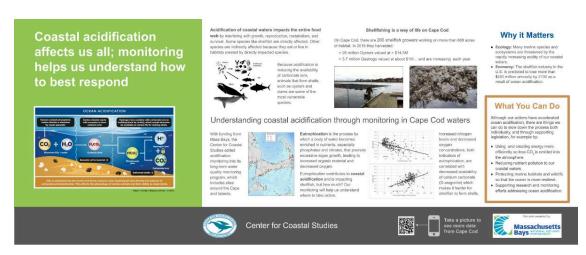
Several news outlets took up the Commission's report when it was released in February of this year; MassBays continues to push ahead on these critical actions as we await the results of the legislature's attention to the issue. For example, the poster at the bottom of this newsletter is one of two focused on coastal acidification as part of MassBays' Science Walk.

Raising the bar on Environmental Justice

On June 24th, EEA published an updated definition of environmental justice (EJ) populations in an updated <u>EJ Policy</u>. The associated <u>EJ maps viewer</u> pinpoints neighborhoods that meet criteria regarding income, minority status, and English isolation (or a combination of these). MassBays has tied its own goals to this definition, and is committed to providing improved access to decision making processes for these communities. Be sure to reach specific alerts on their cyanobacteria webpage.

MassBays Newsletter - Summer 2021

out to MassBays staff and regional coordinators for help through the contact links below.



Tracking acidification in Cape Cod Bay

With funding under MassBays' <u>Healthy Estuaries Grant program</u>, the Center for Coastal Studies is collecting new data from Duxbury to Provincetown. With information about pH and total alkalinity, we will have a better idea about the availability of calcium carbonate for shell-building. Click on the image above to see their poster on MassBays' website, visit <u>CCS' website</u> for more about their monitoring program, and watch <u>this video</u> (produced by the <u>Northeast Coastal Acidification Network</u>) to learn more about the how and why of coastal acidification in the Gulf of Maine.

Regional Coordinators & Staff

Upper North Shore: Peter Phippen and Jennifer Hughes, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Lower North Shore: Barbara Warren, Salem Sound Coastwatch

Metropolitan Boston: Torrie Hanley, Northeastern University Marine Science Center

South Shore: Sara Grady, North and South Rivers Watershed Association

Cape Cod: Jo Ann Muramoto, Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Boston-based staff: Pam DiBona, Director Prassede Vella, Staff Scientist Jill Carr, Coastal Data Scientist

Share Tweet Forward

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.

<u>Commonwealth of Massachusetts</u> - Charlie Baker, Governor; Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor <u>Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs</u> - Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary <u>Office of Coastal Zone Management</u> - Lisa Berry Engler, Director <u>Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership</u> - Pam DiBona, Executive Director Copyright © 2021 Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership, All rights reserved.

unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences subscribe to our newsletter