



Department of Environmental Protection

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June 29, 2020

To All Interested Parties:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announces the May 20, 2020 approval of the final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Pathogens on Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands (the Islands) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Final Islands Pathogen TMDL is a watershed-wide bacteria TMDL that was developed as part of a series of watershed Pathogen TMDLs initiated in the early 2000s under a grant from EPA. The public comment period on the draft Islands TMDL was in 2005; no comments were received. The TMDL was finalized and formally submitted to EPA recently. You can find a copy of the final Pathogen TMDL Report for the Islands Watershed on the Mass.Gov website at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/total-maximum-daily-loads-by-watershed#islands-watershed->

This TMDL addresses the following ten pathogen impaired estuarine waterbodies:

Nantucket	Martha’s Vineyard
Nantucket Harbor (MA97-01)	Chilmark Pond (MA97-05)
Polpis Harbor (MA97-26)	Edgartown Harbor (MA97-15)
Sesachacha Pond (MA97-02)	Oak Bluffs Harbor (MA97-07)
Elizabeth Islands:	Sengekontacket Pond (MA97-10)
Cuttyhunk Pond (MA97-21)	Tisbury Great Pond (MA97-18)
	Vineyard Haven Harbor (MA97-09)

Notes:

- 1- Island waterbodies no longer impaired for pathogens (“delisted”) since the draft TMDL was issued include: Menemsha MA97-06, Oyster Pond MA97-13, Westend Pond MA97-20, and Edgartown Great Pond MA97-17.

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

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Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Loads for Impaired Waterbodies on Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands

- 2- Pathogen impaired segments that were identified in the 2016 Integrated List of Waters Report, after the public comment period for this TMDL, will be included in the Addendum: Total Maximum Daily Loads of Pathogens for the Islands Watershed CN 254.2 (under development). A public comment period will be provided to receive comments on the draft TMDL for these segments.

The goal for the Islands TMDL is for the bacteria concentrations in each impaired waterbody to meet the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards for the designated uses of that waterbody (i.e. shellfishing, swimming, boating). Improvements in pathogen concentrations in Island estuaries has occurred since the draft TMDL was issued largely through local efforts and through the designation of No Discharge Zones (NDZs) around coastal areas. Massachusetts NDZs prohibit the release of boat sewage into coastal waters. Bacteria, viruses, (as well as, nutrients and chemicals added to marine toilets) released from sewage discharges are toxic to humans and estuarine aquatic life. Local efforts include catch basin mapping, increased use of Low Impact Development techniques (LID), identification/construction of stormwater infrastructure needs such as increasing piping sizes, additional catch basins and installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to facilitate drainage and filtration of runoff. Although some of these improvements have occurred additional management actions are still needed including; proper maintenance of septic systems; education on proper pet waste disposal; increased catch basin cleaning; and street sweeping. None of the municipalities on the Islands have urbanized areas regulated under EPA and MassDEP's General Stormwater Permit, however the Department encourages towns on the Islands to consider developing Stormwater Management Plans.

Thank you for your interest in the Pathogen TMDL for the Islands. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at (508)767-2724 or at Barbara.Kickham@mass.gov.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Kickham
TMDL Section Chief
Watershed Planning Program, MassDEP