



CAPE COD COMMERCIAL
**FISHERMEN'S
ALLIANCE**

Small Boats. Big Ideas.

May 20, 2021

Patricia Bowie, Coastal Resiliency Specialist
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Coastal Resilience Grant Program FY22- Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Bowie,

The Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance is writing to express support for the Town's application for a Coastal Resilience Grant through the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. Specifically, the grant seeks to expand on last year's effort to develop appropriate alternatives to mitigate recent accelerated erosion along the Crescent Beach, Morris Island, and Quitneset Beach shorelines and the related infilling of the Stage Harbor entrance channel. The most effective alternative was determined to consist of "flow training" structures to re-direct tidal currents away from the most rapidly eroding area of Crescent Beach, as well as the use of sand shoaling the Stage Harbor entrance as beach nourishment for the impacted beaches. Stage Harbor is Chatham's primary deep-water port supporting safe moorage and berthing for over 1,300 commercial and recreational vessels, three commercial marina's and two of Chatham's primary public landings. The US Coast Guard (Station Chatham) and Chatham Harbormaster maintain search and rescue vessels inside Stage Harbor.

Ongoing coastal dynamics along Chatham's eastern barrier beaches and inlets have drastically altered coastal hydrodynamics and sediment transport patterns leading to more rapid erosion of Morris Island and the man-made dike/barrier beach (Crescent Beach) that extends to the entrance of Stage Harbor. These processes are accelerating due to climate change and continued erosion of Crescent Beach could breach this barrier severely impacting the inner harbor, the Chatham mainland and numerous sensitive ecological resources. In addition, material eroded from the beaches and nearshore area is rapidly shoaling the Stage Harbor entrance. This is requiring extensive and costly dredging efforts to maintain the entrance and raises significant navigation safety and sustainability concerns about the near and long-term viability of this critical harbor entrance.

Extending the effort from the FY21 MCZM Coastal Resilience Grant, the Town proposes to optimize the design of the temporary flow training structures, as well as evaluate the appropriate placement sites for beach nourishment to improve coastal resiliency. Due to the unique coastal engineering solution proposed to mitigate the severe erosion concerns, coordination with various environmental regulatory agencies is critical for moving the project forward. In addition, coordination with federal agencies responsible for existing design features (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and/or management of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge resources (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) is necessary to ensure protection of existing assets. These combined design optimization and agency coordination efforts are aimed at proactively addressing long-term resiliency

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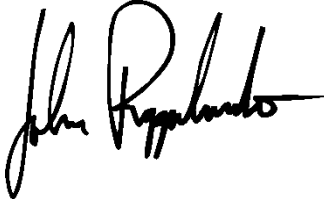
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1566 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633 (508) 945-2432 info@capecodfishermen.org www.capecodfishermen.org

of the barrier beach system which protects the developed waterfront within Stage Harbor, the stability of the tidal inlet providing essential navigation and attenuation of storm surge entering the harbor, as well as rapidly eroding beaches along Quitneset and Morris Island.

We, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, fully support the Town's grant proposal in this endeavor and encourage MACZM's positive review of their grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Pappalardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Pappalardo" clearly distinguishable.

John Pappalardo
CEO

