

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**I. INTRODUCTION ..... 1**

    I.1 THE MASSACHUSETTS ESTUARIES PROJECT APPROACH ..... 4

    I.2 SITE DESCRIPTION ..... 7

    I.3 NUTRIENT LOADING ..... 12

    I.4 WATER QUALITY MODELING ..... 14

    I.5 REPORT DESCRIPTION ..... 15

**II. PREVIOUS STUDIES RELATED TO NITROGEN MANAGEMENT ..... 16**

**III. DELINEATION OF WATERSHEDS ..... 19**

    III.1 BACKGROUND ..... 19

    III.2 MODEL DESCRIPTION ..... 19

    III.3 THREE BAYS CONTRIBUTORY AREAS ..... 20

**IV. WATERSHED NITROGEN LOADING TO EMBAYMENT: LAND USE, STREAM INPUTS, AND SEDIMENT NITROGEN RECYCLING ..... 26**

    IV.1 WATERSHED LAND USE BASED NITROGEN LOADING ANALYSIS ..... 26

        IV.1.1 Land Use and Water Use Database Preparation ..... 29

        IV.1.2 Nitrogen Loading Input Factors ..... 32

        IV.1.3 Calculating Nitrogen Loads ..... 37

    IV.2 ATTENUATION OF NITROGEN IN SURFACE WATER TRANSPORT ..... 46

        IV.2.1 Background and Purpose ..... 46

        IV.2.2 Surface Water Discharge and Attenuation of Watershed Nitrogen: Marstons Mills River to Warren’s Cove/Prince’s’s Cove (head of North Bay) ..... 49

        IV.2.3 Freshwater Discharge and Attenuation of Watershed Nitrogen: Little River to Cotuit Bay ..... 53

    IV.3 BENTHIC REGENERATION OF NITROGEN IN BOTTOM SEDIMENTS ..... 57

        IV.3.1 Sediment-Watercolumn Exchange of Nitrogen ..... 57

        IV.3.2 Method for Determining Sediment-Watercolumn Nitrogen Exchange ..... 58

        IV.3.3 Rates of Summer Nitrogen Regeneration from Sediments ..... 60

**V. HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING ..... 64**

    V.1 INTRODUCTION ..... 64

    V.2 GEOMORPHIC AND ANTHROPOGENIC EFFECTS TO THE ESTUARINE SYSTEM .. 66

        V.2.1 Natural Coastal Processes ..... 66

        V.2.2 Anthropogenic Changes Influencing Rushy Marsh Pond ..... 68

    V.3 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS ..... 72

        V.3.1 Bathymetry Data Collection ..... 72

        V.3.2 Tide Data Collection and Analysis ..... 73

        V.3.3 ADCP Data Analysis ..... 82

    V.4 HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING ..... 93

        V.4.1 Model Theory ..... 93

        V.4.2 Model Setup ..... 93

            V.4.2.1 Grid generation ..... 94

            V.4.2.2 Boundary condition specification ..... 94

            V.4.2.3 Calibration ..... 96

                V.4.2.3.1 Friction coefficients ..... 96

                V.4.2.3.2 Turbulent exchange coefficients ..... 97

                V.4.2.3.3 Wetting and Drying ..... 97

V.4.2.3.4 Comparison of modeled tides and measured tide data .....	97
V.4.2.4 Model Verification .....	102
V.4.2.5 ADCP verification of the Three Bays system.....	103
V.4.2.6 Model Circulation Characteristics .....	107
V.5 FLUSHING CHARACTERISTICS .....	112
<b>VI. WATER QUALITY MODELING .....</b>	<b>116</b>
VI.1 DATA SOURCES FOR THE MODEL .....	116
VI.1.1 Hydrodynamics and Tidal Flushing in the Embayments .....	116
VI.1.2 Nitrogen Loading to the Embayments .....	116
VI.1.3 Measured Nitrogen Concentrations in the Embayments.....	116
VI.2 MODEL DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION .....	117
VI.2.1 Model Formulation.....	118
VI.2.2 Water Quality Model Setup .....	119
VI.2.3 Boundary Condition Specification .....	119
VI.2.4 Model Calibration .....	120
VI.2.5 Model Salinity Verification .....	123
VI.2.6 Build-Out and No Anthropogenic Load Scenarios.....	124
VI.2.6.1 Build-Out.....	127
VI.2.6.2 No Anthropogenic Load .....	129
<b>VII. ASSESSMENT OF EMBAYMENT NUTRIENT RELATED ECOLOGICAL HEALTH .....</b>	<b>132</b>
VII.1 OVERVIEW OF BIOLOGICAL HEALTH INDICATORS.....	132
VII.2 BOTTOM WATER DISSOLVED OXYGEN.....	133
VII.3 EELGRASS DISTRIBUTION - TEMPORAL ANALYSIS.....	143
VII.4 BENTHIC INFAUNA ANALYSIS .....	146
<b>VIII. CRITICAL NUTRIENT THRESHOLD DETERMINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF     WATER QUALITY TARGETS.....</b>	<b>150</b>
VIII.1 ASSESSMENT OF NITROGEN RELATED HABITAT QUALITY .....	150
VIII.2 THRESHOLD NITROGEN CONCENTRATIONS .....	153
VIII.3 DEVELOPMENT OF TARGET NITROGEN LOADS .....	155
<b>IX. ALTERNATIVES TO IMPROVE TIDAL FLUSHING AND WATER QUALITY.....</b>	<b>161</b>
IX.1 DREDGING OF COTUIT BAY INLET .....	161
<b>X. REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>165</b>

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure	Page
Figure I-1.	
Study region for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project analysis of the Three Bays Embayment System. Tidal waters enter the Bay through two inlets from Nantucket Sound. Freshwaters enter from the watershed primarily through 2 surface water discharges (Marstons Mills River and Little River) and direct groundwater discharge.....	2
Figure I-2.	
Massachusetts Estuaries Project Critical Nutrient Threshold Analytical Approach.....	9
Figure III-1.	
Watershed and sub-watershed delineations for the Three Bays estuary system. Approximate ten year time-of-travel delineations were produced for quality assurance purposes and are designated with a “10” in the watershed names (above). Sub-watersheds to embayments were selected based upon the functional estuarine sub-units in the water quality model (see section VI). .....	22
Figure III-2.	
Comparison of previous CCC ( left) and MEP (right) Three Bay watershed and subwatershed delineations. The MEP watershed area is only 2.5% or 324 acres smaller than the 1996 delineation, but encloses slightly different land areas. The difference is primarily in the region close to the Cape Cod Bay/Vineyard Sound groundwater divide and stems from a better consideration of Santuit Pond and its relationship to Popponeset Bay than was possible in the earlier effort.....	25
Figure IV-1.	
Land-use coverage in the watershed to the Three Bays Embayment System. The watershed encompasses portions of the Towns of Barnstable, Sandwich, and Mashpee and land use classifications are based on assessors’ records provided by each of the towns.....	28
Figure IV-2.	
Distribution of land-uses within the major subwatersheds and whole watershed to Three Bays. Only percentages greater than or equal to 5% are shown.....	31
Figure IV-3.	
Parcels, Parcelized Watersheds, and Developable Parcels in the sub-watersheds to the Three Bays Estuary.....	39
Figure IV-4 (a-c).	
Land use-specific unattenuated nitrogen load (by percent) to the (a) overall Three Bays System watershed, (b) Cotuit Bay subwatershed, and (c) Seapuit River subwatershed. “Overall Load” is the total nitrogen input within the watershed, while the “Local Control Load” represents only those nitrogen sources that could potentially be under local regulatory control.....	41
Figure IV-4 (d-f).	
Land use-specific unattenuated nitrogen load (by percent) to the (d) West Bay subwatershed, (e) North Bay subwatershed, and (f) Prince’s Cove subwatershed. “Overall Load” is the total nitrogen input within the watershed, while the “Local Control Load” represents only those nitrogen sources that could potentially be under local regulatory control.....	42
Figure IV-5.	
Location of Stream gauges (red diamonds) on the Marstons Mills River discharging to Warren’s Cove and Little River discharging to Cotuit Bay in the Three Bays Embayment System. The red triangle represents the site of periodic measurements coupled to the gauge site to determine attenuation by the associated terminal fresh pond, Mill Pond. ....	48
Figure IV-6.	
Marstons Mills River annual discharge developed from a stream gauge maintained above Mill Pond immediately upgradient of Route 28, Town of	

Barnstable, October 2002 to October 2003. Nutrient samples (Nox – Nitrate+Nitrite) were collected weekly and analyzed for inorganic and organic nitrogen species. These data were used to determine both annual flow and total nitrogen transport for determining nitrogen attenuation (see Table IV-7).....52

Figure IV-7. Little River annual discharge developed from a stream gauge maintained in the outflow from Lovell’s Pond discharging to Cotuit Bay, Town of Barnstable, October 2002 to October 2003. Nutrient samples (Nox – Nitrate+Nitrite) were collected approximately weekly and analyzed for inorganic and organic nitrogen species. These data were used to determine both annual flow and total nitrogen transport for determining nitrogen attenuation (see Table IV-7).....55

Figure IV-8. Three Bays System locations (red diamonds) of sediment sample collection for determination of nitrogen regeneration rates. Numbers are for reference in Table IV-9.....59

Figure IV-9. Conceptual diagram showing the seasonal variation in sediment N flux, with maximum positive flux (sediment output) occurring in the summer months, and maximum negative flux (sediment up-take) during the winter months.....61

Figure V-1. Topographic map detail of the Three Bays System, in Barnstable, Massachusetts. ....65

Figure V-2. Historical shoreline positions in the vicinity of the Cotuit Bay entrance between 1938 and 2004. ....67

Figure V-3. Observed shoreline change from 1938 to 2001/2005 for the shoreline area in the vicinity of Rushy Marsh Pond and Three Bays in Barnstable.....68

Figure V-4. Bathymetry map of the Three Bays estuarine system in 1897. ....69

Figure V-5. The eastern portion of Dead Neck in 1999, showing at least two locations where the beach had significant storm overwash areas.....71

Figure V-6. Dead Neck Beach immediately following the beach nourishment in 2000, where the beach width had been increased significantly to prevent breaching of the barrier. ....71

Figure V-7. Results of shoreline change analysis using the 2002 and 2004 GPS shorelines. Color bars indicate a range of shoreline change computed along Dead Neck. Negative rates indicate erosion, and are represented by the colors green, yellow, orange and red. Areas of accreting shoreline are indicated by light and dark blue.....72

Figure V-8. Transects from the bathymetry survey of the Three Bays system. Red markers show the locations of the seven tide recorders deployed for this study.....74

Figure V-9. Plot of interpolated finite-element grid bathymetry of the Three Bays system, shown superimposed on 1994 aerial photos of the system locale. Bathymetric contours are shown in color at two-foot intervals, and also as lines at four-foot intervals. ....75

Figure V-10. Plots of observed tides for the Three Bays system, for the 44-day period between October 2 and November 15, 2002. The top plot shows tides offshore Dead Neck, in Nantucket Sound. The middle plot shows tides recorded in North Bay at Point Isabella, and the bottom plot shows tides recorded at Prince’s Cove, in the upper reaches of the Three Bays system. All water levels are referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29). ....76

Figure V-11. Plot showing two tide cycles tides at three stations in the Three Bays system plotted together. Demonstrated in this plot is the minor frictional damping effect caused by flow restrictions at the inlets. The damping effects are seen only as a lag in time of high and low tides from Nantucket Sound. The time lag of low tide between the Sound and Prince’s Cove in this plot is 50 Minutes. ....77

Figure V-12. Example of an observed astronomical tide as the sum of its primary constituents. ....79

Figure V-13. Plot showing the comparison between the measured tide time series (top plot), and the predicted astronomical tide (middle plot) computed using the 23 individual tide constituents determine in the harmonic analysis of the Nantucket Sound (offshore Dead Neck) gauge data. The residual tide shown in the bottom plot is computed as the difference between the measured and predicted time series ( $r=m-p$ ). ....81

Figure V-14. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run east-to-west across West Bay inlet measured at 9:57 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum flood tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into the estuary, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....83

Figure V-15. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run east-to-west across West Bay inlet measured at 18:30 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum ebb tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into the estuary, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....84

Figure V-16. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run east-to-west across the entrance to West Bay, measured at 10:02 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum flood tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into the estuary, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....85

Figure V-17. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run east-to-west across the entrance to West Bay, measured at 18:34 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum ebb tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into the estuary, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....86

Figure V-18. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run north-to-south across the eastern end of the Seapuit River, measured at 12:09 on October 24, 2001 during the

period of maximum flood tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into the estuary, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....87

Figure V-19. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run east-to-west across the eastern end of the Seapuit River, measured at 18:41 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum ebb tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into Cotuit Bay from the West Bay inlet, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....88

Figure V-20. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run north-to-south across the western end of the Seapuit River, measured at 12:19 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum flood tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into Cotuit Bay from the West Bay inlet, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....89

Figure V-21. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run north-to-south across the western end of the Seapuit River, measured at 18:51 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum ebb tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into Cotuit Bay from the West Bay inlet, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....90

Figure V-22. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run west-to-east across Cotuit Bay Inlet, measured at 9:14 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum flood tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into the estuary, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....91

Figure V-23. Color contour plots of along-channel and cross-channel velocity components for transect line run west-to-east across Cotuit Bay Inlet, measured at 18:11 on October 24, 2001 during the period of maximum ebb tide currents. Positive along-channel currents (top panel) indicate the flow is moving into the estuary, while positive cross-channel velocities (middle panel) are oriented 90° clockwise of positive along-channel. Lower left plot shows scaled velocity vectors projected onto a 1994 aerial photo of the survey area. A tide plot for the survey day is also given. ....92

Figure V-24. Plot of hydrodynamic model grid mesh for the Three Bays system of Barnstable, MA. Color patterns designate the different model material

types used to vary model calibration parameters and compute flushing rates. ....95

Figure V-25. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location offshore Dead Neck, in Nantucket Sound. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot.....98

Figure V-26. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in lower Cotuit Bay. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot.....99

Figure V-27. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in West Bay. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot. ....99

Figure V-28. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location at Oyster Harbors Marina, near the Little Island draw bridge. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot.....100

Figure V-29. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in North Bay, off Point Isabelle. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot. ....100

Figure V-30. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in Dam Pond. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot.....101

Figure V-31. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in Prince’s Cove. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot.....101

Figure V-32. Comparison of measured volume flow rates versus modeled flow rates (top plot) through the Cotuit Bay Inlet over a tidal cycle on October 24, 2001. Flood flows into the inlet are positive (+), and ebb flows out of the inlet are negative (-). The bottom plot shows the tide elevation offshore Dead Neck. ( $R^2=0.96$ ).....104

Figure V-33. Comparison of measured volume flow rates versus modeled flow rates (top plot) through West Bay Inlet over a tidal cycle on October 24, 2001. Flood flows into the inlet are positive (+), and ebb flows out of the inlet are negative (-). The bottom plot shows the tide elevation offshore Dead Neck. ( $R^2=0.84$ ).....105

Figure V-34. Comparison of measured volume flow rates versus modeled flow rates (top plot) through the entrance to West Bay, at transect A2, over a tidal cycle on October 24, 2001. Flood flows into the bay are positive (+), and ebb flows out of the bay are negative (-). The bottom plot shows the tide elevation offshore Dead Neck. ( $R^2=0.97$ ).....105

Figure V-35. Comparison of measured volume flow rates versus modeled flow rates (top plot) through the west entrance to the Seapuit River over a tidal cycle on October 24, 2001. Flood flows are positive (+), and ebb flows are negative (-). The bottom plot shows the tide elevation offshore Dead Neck. ( $R^2=0.83$ ).....106

Figure V-36. Comparison of measured volume flow rates versus modeled flow rates (top plot) through the east entrance to the Seapuit River over a tidal cycle on October 24, 2001. Flood flows are positive (+), and ebb flows are negative (-). The bottom plot shows the tide elevation offshore Dead Neck. ( $R^2=0.94$ ).....106

Figure V-37. Example of hydrodynamic model output for a single time step where maximum ebb velocities occur for this tide cycle. Color contours indicate velocity magnitude, and vectors indicate the direction of flow..... 109

Figure V-38. Example of hydrodynamic model output for a single time step where maximum ebb velocities occur for this tide cycle. Color contours indicate velocity magnitude, and vectors indicate the direction of flow..... 110

Figure V-39. Time variation of computed flow rates for the two inlets of the Three Bays system. . Plotted time period represents four tide cycles (12.42 h cycle). Positive flow indicated flooding tide, while negative flow indicates ebbing tide..... 111

Figure V-40. Close-up of Cotuit Bay, showing output from the Three Bays hydrodynamic model at a single time step, where a recirculation eddy (or gyre) has set up on the north side of Bluff Point..... 112

Figure VI-1. Estuarine water quality monitoring station locations in the Three Bays estuary system. Station labels correspond to those provided in Table VI-1. Sentinel station for threshold development depicted with red symbol..... 118

Figure VI-2. Comparison of measured total nitrogen concentrations and calibrated model output at stations in the Three Bays system. Station labels correspond with those provided in Table VI-1. Model output is presented as a range of values from minimum to maximum values computed during the simulation period (triangle markers), along with the average computed concentration for the same period (square markers). Measured data are presented as the total yearly mean at each station (circle markers), together with ranges that indicate  $\pm$  one standard deviation of the entire dataset..... 122

Figure VI-3. Model total nitrogen calibration target values are plotted against measured concentrations, together with the unity line. Computed correlation ( $R^2$ ) and error (rms) for the model are also presented..... 122

Figure VI-4. Contour plot of average total nitrogen concentrations from results of the present conditions loading scenario, for the Three Bays system. .... 123

Figure VI-5. Comparison of measured and calibrated model output at stations in Three Bays. Stations labels correspond with those provided in Table VI-1. Model output is presented as a range of values from minimum to maximum values computed during the simulation period (triangle markers), along with the average computed salinity for the same period (square markers). Measured data are presented as the total yearly mean at each station (circle markers), together with ranges that indicate  $\pm$  one standard deviation of the entire dataset. .... 125

Figure VI-6. Model salinity target values are plotted against measured concentrations, together with the unity line. Computed correlation ( $R^2$ ) and error (rms) for each model are also presented. .... 125

Figure VI-7. Contour Plot of modeled salinity (ppt) in the Three Bays system..... 126

Figure VI-8. Contour plot of modeled total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in the Three Bays system, for projected build-out loading conditions..... 129

Figure VI-9. Contour plot of modeled total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in Three Bays, for no anthropogenic loading conditions..... 131

Figure VII-1. Average watercolumn respiration rates (micro-Molar/day) from water collected throughout the Popponesset Bay System (Schlezingner and Howes, unpublished data). Rates vary  $\sim$ 7 fold from winter to summer as a result of variations in temperature and organic matter availability..... 134

Figure VII-2.	Aerial Photograph of the 3 Bays embayment system in the Towns of Mashpee and Barnstable showing locations of Dissolved Oxygen mooring deployments conducted in the Summer of 2002. ....	135
Figure VII-3.	Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen at the Three Bays Prince's Cove station, Summer 2000. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	138
Figure VII-4.	Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in the Three Bays Upper North Bay station, Summer 2001. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	138
Figure VII-5.	Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in the Three Bays Lower North Bay station, Summer 2001. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	139
Figure VII-6.	Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in the Three Bays West Bay station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	139
Figure VII-7.	Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in the Three Bays Cotuit Bay station, Summer. ....	140
Figure VII-8.	Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a at the Three Bays Prince's Cove station, Summer 2000. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	140
Figure VII-9.	Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in the Three Bays Upper North Bay station, Summer 2001. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	141
Figure VII-10.	Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in the Three Bays Lower North Bay station, Summer 2001. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	141
Figure VII-11.	Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in the Three Bays West Bay station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	142
Figure VII-12.	Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in the Three Bays Cotuit Bay station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. ....	142
Figure VII-13.	Eelgrass bed distribution within the Three Bays System. The 1951 coverage is depicted by the green thatched outline inside of which circumscribes the eelgrass beds. The green (1995) and yellow (2001) areas were mapped by DEP. All data was provided by the DEP Eelgrass Mapping Program. ....	144
Figure VII-14.	Eelgrass bed distribution within North Bay and Prince's Cove/Warren's Cove subembayments to the Three Bays System. The 1951 coverage is depicted by the green thatched outline inside of which circumscribes the eelgrass beds. The green (1995) and yellow (2001) areas were mapped by DEP. All data was provided by the DEP Eelgrass Mapping Program. ....	145
Figure VII-15.	Aerial photograph of the Three Bays embayment system showing location of benthic infaunal sampling stations (red symbol). ....	148
Figure VIII-1.	Contour plot of modeled total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in the Three Bays system, for threshold conditions (0.38 mg/L at the narrows between North Bay and Cotuit Bay). ....	159
Figure VIII-2.	Same results as for Figure VIII-1, but shown with finer contour increments for emphasis. Contour plot of modeled total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in the Three Bays system, for threshold conditions (0.38 mg/L at the narrows between North Bay and Cotuit Bay). ....	160
Figure IX-1.	Contour plot of total nitrogen concentration change between present hydrodynamic conditions and the dredging scenario where Cotuit Bay inlet is widened to by approximately 300 ft to a depth of 8 ft NGVD. The difference is computed as dredged minus present (d-p) concentrations. Therefore, minus values indicate nitrogen concentration reductions associated with Cotuit Inlet dredging. ....	163

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table	Page
Table III-1. Daily groundwater discharge to each of the sub-embayments in the Three Bays system, as determined from the USGS groundwater model. ....	23
Table IV-1. Percentage of unattenuated nitrogen loads in less than 10 time of travel subwatersheds to Three Bays. Note that not all of the “outflow” from these ponds is to the Three Bays Estuary. The load to the estuary is presented below in Table IV-5. ....	27
Table IV-2. Wastewater Treatment Facilities in the Three Bays Watershed. ....	34
Table IV-3. Average Water Use in Three Bays Watershed based upon multi-year water meter data. ....	35
Table IV-4. Primary Nitrogen Loading Factors used in the Three Bays MEP analyses. General factors are from MEP modeling evaluation (Howes & Ramsey 2001). Site-specific factors are derived from Barnstable, Sandwich, and Mashpee watershed-specific data for Three Bays. *Data from MEP lawn study in Falmouth, Mashpee & Barnstable 2001. **Commercial assumptions also utilized for existing developed properties without water use. ....	38
Table IV-5. Nitrogen Loads to the tidal waters of the Three Bays Estuary. Attenuation of the Three Bays system nitrogen loads occurs as nitrogen moves through up-gradient ponds, the Marstons Mills River, and Little River during transport to the estuary. ....	40
Table IV-6. Nitrogen attenuation by Freshwater Ponds in the Three Bays watershed based upon 2001 through 2004 Cape Cod Pond and Lakes Stewardship (PALS) program sampling and 2004 IPA/Barnstable sampling of Mystic Lake, Middle Pond, and Hamblin Pond. *Site specific nitrogen attenuation by these systems. Overall, estimates support the use of a 50% pond N attenuation rate within the Three Bays watershed for the MEP Linked N Model approach. ....	45
Table IV-7. Comparison of water flow and nitrogen discharges from Marstons Mills River to Mill Pond and Little River discharging to Cotuit Bay. The “Stream” data is from the MEP stream gauging effort. Watershed data is based upon the MEP watershed modeling effort by USGS. Note that the total nitrogen load exiting Mill Pond is only ~10% higher than the loading at the gauge site, due to attenuation of River transported nitrogen and nitrogen entering from the Mill Pond sub-watershed. ....	51
Table IV-8. Summary of Flow and Nutrient loads from both the Marstons Mills River discharging to tidally influenced Warren’s Cove (head of North Bay) and the Little River discharging to Cotuit Bay. ....	56
Table IV-9. Rates of net nitrogen return from sediments to the overlying waters of the Three Bays Embayment System. These values are combined with the basin areas to determine total nitrogen mass in the water quality model (see Chapter VI). Measurements represent August rates. ....	62
Table V-1. Tide datums computed from 44-day records collected offshore Dead Neck and in Cotuit Bay, West Bay, and Prince’s Cove. Datum elevations are given relative to NGVD 29. ....	78
Table V-2. Major tidal constituents determined for gauge locations in Three Bays, October 2 through November 14, 2002. ....	79

Table V-3.	M <sub>2</sub> tidal constituent phase delay (relative to Nantucket Sound) for gauge locations in the Three Bay system, determine from measured tide data.....	79
Table V-4.	Percentages of Tidal versus Non-Tidal Energy for Three Bays embayments, August to September 2001.....	80
Table V-5.	Manning’s Roughness coefficients used in simulations of modeled embayments. These embayment delineations correspond to the material type areas shown in Figure V-24.....	97
Table V-6.	Tidal constituents for measured water level data and calibrated model output, with model error amplitudes, for the Three-Bays system, during modeled calibration time period. ....	102
Table V-7.	Tidal constituents for measured water level data and calibrated model output, with model error amplitudes, for the Three-Bays system, during modeled verification time period.....	103
Table V-8.	Correlation statistics between modeled and measured total flow rates at the five ADCP transects .....	107
Table V-9.	Embayment mean volumes and average tidal prism during simulation period. ....	114
Table V-10.	Computed System and Local residence times for embayments in the Three Bays system.....	115
Table VI-1.	Measured data and modeled Nitrogen concentrations for the Three Bays estuarine system used in the model calibration plots of Figures VI-2 and VI-3. All concentrations are given in mg/L N. “Data mean” values are calculated as the average of the separate yearly means. Data represented in this table were collected in the summers of 1999 through 2004, except the Vineyard sound station, which covers a longer time period. ....	117
Table VI-2.	Sub-embayment and surface water loads used for total nitrogen modeling of the Three Bays system, with sub-watershed N loads, atmospheric N loads, and benthic flux. These loads represent <b>present loading conditions</b> for the listed sub-embayments. *Warren’s Cove and Prince’s Cove Channel direct atmospheric deposition is included in the Price Cove load.....	120
Table VI-3.	Values of longitudinal dispersion coefficient, E, used in calibrated RMA4 model runs of salinity and nitrogen concentration for the Three Bays estuary system. ....	121
Table VI-4.	Comparison of sub-embayment watershed loads used for modeling of present, build-out, and no-anthropogenic (“no-load”) loading scenarios of the Three Bays system. These loads do not include direct atmospheric deposition (onto the sub-embayment surface) or benthic flux loading terms. ....	127
Table VI-5.	Build-out sub-embayment and surface water loads used for total nitrogen modeling of the Three Bays system, with total watershed N loads, atmospheric N loads, and benthic flux. ....	128
Table VI-6.	Comparison of model average total N concentrations from present loading and the build-out scenario, with percent change, for the Three Bays system. ....	128
Table VI-7.	“No anthropogenic loading” (“no load”) sub-embayment and surface water loads used for total nitrogen modeling of the Three Bays system, with total watershed N loads, atmospheric N loads, and benthic flux.....	130
Table VI-8.	Comparison of model average total N concentrations from present loading and the no anthropogenic (“no load”) scenario, with percent	

	change, for the Three Bays system. Loads are based on atmospheric deposition and a scaled N benthic flux (scaled from present conditions). Sentinel threshold stations are in bold print.....	130
Table VII-1.	Bottom water dissolved oxygen levels within the principal sub-embayments to the Three Bays Estuary. Percent of time during deployment of in situ sensors that bottom water oxygen levels were below various benchmark oxygen levels during summer deployments, 2000-02.....	136
Table VII-2.	Duration (% of deployment time) that chlorophyll (a) levels exceed various benchmark levels within the embayment system. “Mean” represents the average duration of each event over the benchmark level and “S.D.” its standard deviation. Data collected by the Coastal Systems Program, SMAST. The mean in the final column is the average level over the deployment.....	137
Table VII-3.	Changes in eelgrass coverage in the Three Bays system within the Town of Barnstable over the past half century (C. Costello).....	146
Table VII-4.	Benthic infaunal community data for the Three Bays embayment system. Estimates of the number of species adjusted to the number of individuals and diversity (H') and Evenness (E) of the community allow comparison between locations (Samples represent surface area of 0.0625 m <sup>2</sup> ). Values are averages of grab samples a-c.....	149
Table VIII-1.	Summary of Nutrient Related Habitat Health within the Three Bays Estuary on the south shore of Barnstable , MA., based upon assessment data presented in Chapter VII. ....	151
Table VIII-2.	Comparison of sub-embayment watershed <b>septic loads</b> (attenuated) used for modeling of present and threshold loading in one possible load reduction scenario for the Three Bays system. These loads do not include direct atmospheric deposition (onto the sub-embayment surface), benthic flux, runoff, or fertilizer loading terms.....	156
Table VIII-3.	Comparison of sub-embayment <b>total watershed loads</b> (including septic, runoff, and fertilizer) used for modeling of present and threshold loading in one possible load reduction scenario for the Three Bays system. These loads do not include direct atmospheric deposition (onto the sub-embayment surface) or benthic flux loading terms.....	157
Table VIII-4.	Threshold sub-embayment and surface water loads used for total nitrogen modeling of the Three Bays system under one possible scenario, with sub-watershed N loads, atmospheric N loads, and benthic flux .....	157
Table VIII-5.	Comparison of model average total N concentrations from present loading and the threshold scenario (reduction in septic effluent discharge only), with percent change, for the Three Bays system. Loads are based on atmospheric deposition and a scaled N benthic flux (scaled from present conditions).....	158
Table IX-1.	Comparison of modeled hydrologic conditions in the Three Bays system for present conditions and the Cotuit Bay Inlet dredging scenario. Computed residence times are shown to three decimal places in order to show the change resulting from the proposed dredging at the inlet.....	161
Table IX-2.	Comparison of the distribution of tidal flows ebbing from and flowing to North Bay (to Cotuit Bay and West Bay) for present conditions and for the Cotuit Bay inlet dredging scenario. Percentages are based on the total hydraulic flux entering or exiting North Bay .....	162
Table IX-3.	Comparison of the distribution of tidal flows ebbing from and flowing to the Three Bays system (via Cotuit Bay inlet and West Bay inlet) for	

present conditions and for the Cotuit Bay inlet dredging scenario. Percentages are based on the total hydraulic flux entering or exiting the entire Three Bays system ..... 162

Table IX-4. Comparison of model average total N concentrations from present loading and the threshold scenario, with percent change, for the Three Bays system. Loads are based on atmospheric deposition and a scaled N benthic flux (scaled from present conditions)..... 164