

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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

    I.1 THE MASSACHUSETTS ESTUARIES PROJECT APPROACH ..... 5

    I.2 SITE DESCRIPTION ..... 8

    I.3 NITROGEN LOADING ..... 11

    I.4 WATER QUALITY MODELING ..... 12

    I.5 REPORT DESCRIPTION ..... 13

**II. PREVIOUS NITROGEN MANAGEMENT STUDIES..... 14**

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

    III.1 BACKGROUND..... 19

    III.2 MODEL DESCRIPTION ..... 20

    III.3 PLEASANT BAY CONTRIBUTORY AREA..... 21

**IV. WATERSHED NITROGEN LOADING TO EMBAYMENT: LAND USE, STREAM  
    INPUTS, AND SEDIMENT NITROGEN RECYCLING..... 25**

    IV.1 WATERSHED LAND USE BASED NITROGEN LOADING ANALYSIS ..... 25

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

        IV.1.2 Nitrogen Loading Input Factors ..... 30

        IV.1.3 Calculating Nitrogen Loads ..... 36

    IV.2 ATTENUATION OF NITROGEN IN SURFACE WATER TRANSPORT ..... 45

        IV.2.1 Background and Purpose..... 45

        IV.2.2 Surface water Discharge and Attenuation of Watershed Nitrogen: Stream  
                Discharge from Pilgrim Lake to Kescayo Gansett (Lonnies) Pond – Upper  
                Pleasant Bay..... 49

        IV.2.3 Surface water Discharge and Attenuation of Watershed Nitrogen: Stream  
                Discharge from Cranberry Bog to Paw Wah Pond – Upper Pleasant Bay ..... 54

        IV.2.4 Surface water Discharge and Attenuation of Watershed Nitrogen: Stream  
                Discharge from Tar Kiln Marsh to Pleasant Bay ..... 57

        IV.2.5 Surface water Discharge and Attenuation of Watershed Nitrogen: Lovers Lake  
                to Stillwater Pond to Ryder Cove ..... 60

        IV.2.6 Freshwater Discharge and Attenuation of Watershed Nitrogen: Frost Fish  
                Creek ..... 66

    IV.3 BENTHIC REGENERATION OF NITROGEN IN BOTTOM SEDIMENTS..... 73

        IV.3.1 Sediment-Watercolumn Exchange of Nitrogen ..... 73

        IV.3.2 Method for determining sediment-watercolumn nitrogen exchange..... 74

        IV.3.3 Rates of Summer Nitrogen Regeneration from Sediments ..... 78

**V. HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING ..... 83**

    V.1 INTRODUCTION..... 83

    V.2 GEOMORPHIC AND ANTHROPOGENIC EFFECTS TO THE SYSTEM ..... 86

        V.2.1 Natural Inlet Processes ..... 86

        V.2.2 Anthropogenic Changes ..... 95

    V.3 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS ..... 95

        V.3.1 Bathymetry Data Collection..... 96

        V.3.2 Tide Data Collection and Analysis..... 96

        V.3.3 ADCP Data Analysis ..... 105

    V.4 HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING ..... 110

        V.4.1 Model Theory ..... 110

        V.4.2 Model Setup ..... 110

V.4.2.1	Grid generation .....	111
V.4.2.2	Boundary condition specification .....	111
V.4.2.3	Calibration.....	111
V.4.2.3.1	Friction coefficients .....	113
V.4.2.3.2	Turbulent exchange coefficients .....	113
V.4.2.3.3	Wetting and Drying .....	114
V.4.2.3.4	Comparison of modeled tides and measured tide data .....	114
V.4.2.3.5	ADCP Verification of the Pleasant Bay System.....	119
V.4.2.3.6	Model Circulation Characteristics .....	120
V.5	FLUSHING CHARACTERISTICS .....	125
<b>VI.</b>	<b>WATER QUALITY MODELING .....</b>	<b>129</b>
VI.1	DATA SOURCES FOR THE MODEL .....	129
VI.1.1	Hydrodynamics and Tidal Flushing in the Embayments .....	129
VI.1.2	Nitrogen Loading to the Embayments .....	129
VI.1.3	Measured Nitrogen Concentrations in the Embayments.....	129
VI.2	MODEL DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION .....	132
VI.2.1	Model Formulation.....	132
VI.2.2	Water Quality Model Setup .....	133
VI.2.3	Boundary Condition Specification .....	133
VI.2.4	Model Calibration .....	134
VI.2.5	Model Salinity Verification .....	139
VI.2.6	Build-Out and No Anthropogenic Load Scenarios.....	140
VI.2.6.1	Build-Out.....	142
VI.2.6.2	No Anthropogenic Load .....	148
<b>VII.</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT OF EMBAYMENT NUTRIENT RELATED ECOLOGICAL HEALTH .....</b>	<b>151</b>
VII.1	OVERVIEW OF BIOLOGICAL HEALTH INDICATORS.....	151
VII.2	BOTTOM WATER DISSOLVED OXYGEN.....	152
VII.3	EELGRASS DISTRIBUTION - TEMPORAL ANALYSIS.....	182
VII.4	BENTHIC INFAUNA ANALYSIS .....	193
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>CRITICAL NUTRIENT THRESHOLD DETERMINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF WATER QUALITY TARGETS .....</b>	<b>200</b>
VIII-1.	ASSESSMENT OF NITROGEN RELATED HABITAT QUALITY .....	200
VIII-2.	THRESHOLD NITROGEN CONCENTRATIONS .....	204
VIII.3	DEVELOPMENT OF TARGET NITROGEN LOADS .....	210
<b>IX.</b>	<b>IMPACTS TO WATER QUALITY DUE TO INLET MIGRATION .....</b>	<b>217</b>
IX.1	HYDRODYNAMIC EFFECTS FROM ALTERNATE INLET CONFIGURATION .....	217
IX.2	WATER QUALITY COMPARISON OF INLET SCENARIOS.....	217
<b>X.</b>	<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>223</b>

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure	Page
Figure I-1. Study region proximal to the Pleasant Bay embayment system for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project nitrogen thresholds analysis. Tidal waters enter the system through one inlet to the Atlantic Ocean. Freshwaters enter from the watershed primarily through 3 surface water discharges to Paw Wah Pond, Lonnie's Pond and Tar Kiln Marsh, as well as direct groundwater discharge. The main basins forming most of the estuarine area are Little Pleasant Bay, Pleasant Bay and Chatham Harbor. ....	4
Figure I-2. Massachusetts Estuaries Project Critical Nutrient Threshold Analytical Approach .....	10
Figure III-1. Watershed delineation for the Pleasant Bay Embayment 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 great ponds were developed for determining nitrogen loss in transport. 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) Pleasant Bay watershed and subwatershed delineations. The MEP system watershed area is 1% or 164 acres larger. The MEP sub-watersheds to Bassing Harbor and Muddy Creek are unchanged from the previous MEP analysis for these systems. ....	24
Figure IV-1. Land-use in the Pleasant Bay watershed. The watershed encompasses portions of the Towns of Orleans, Brewster, Harwich, and Chatham. 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 Pleasant Bay. Only percentages greater than or equal to 7% are shown.....	31
Figure IV-3. Parcels, Parcelized Watersheds, and Developable Parcels in the Pleasant Bay watersheds. ....	38
Figure IV-4 (a-c). Land use-specific unattenuated nitrogen load (by percent) for select sub-embayments to reflect a variety of load distributions: (a) overall Pleasant Bay System watershed, (b) Pochet Neck subwatershed, and (c) River System 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.....	40
Figure IV-4 (d-f). Land use-specific unattenuated nitrogen load (by percent) for select sub-embayments to reflect a variety of load distributions: (d) Round Cove subwatershed, (e) Muddy Creek subwatershed, and (f) Ryder 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.....	41
Figure IV-5. Location of Stream gauge (yellow triangle) in the upper portions of the Pleasant Bay system embayment system.....	48

Figure IV-6.	Location of Stream gauge (yellow triangle) discharging from Tar Kiln Marsh to Pleasant Bay. ....	48
Figure IV-7.	Location of Stream gauges (yellow triangle) discharging from Lovers Lake to Stillwater Pond, Stillwater Pond to Ryder Cove and Frost Fish Creek to Bassing Harbor, tributary sub-embayments to Pleasant Bay. ....	49
Figure IV-8.	Stream discharge from Pilgrim Lake to Kescayo Gansett Pond (solid blue line), total nitrogen (yellow triangle) and nitrate+nitrite (pink box) concentrations for determination of annual volumetric discharge and nitrogen load from the subwatershed to upper Pleasant Bay system (Table IV-7). ....	51
Figure IV-9.	Stream discharge from Cranberry Bog to Paw Wah Pond (solid blue line), total nitrogen (yellow triangle) and nitrate+nitrite (pink box) concentrations for determination of annual volumetric discharge and nitrogen load from the subwatershed to Paw Wah Pond discharging to upper Pleasant Bay system (Table IV-7). ....	56
Figure IV-10.	Stream discharge from Tar Kiln Marsh to Pleasant Bay (solid blue line), total nitrogen (yellow triangle) and nitrate+nitrite (pink box) concentrations for determination of annual volumetric discharge and nitrogen load from the subwatershed to Tar Kiln Marsh discharging to the Pleasant Bay system (Table IV-7). ....	59
Figure IV-11.	CGW138 Hydrograph. Trace indicates the water table elevation at the well site from 1980-2002. ....	62
Figure IV-12.	Annual composite developed from a stream gauge maintained in the outflow stream from Lovers Lake discharging to Stillwater Pond. Nutrient samples 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-5). ....	63
Figure IV-13.	Annual composite developed from a stream gauge maintained in the outflow stream from Stillwater Pond discharging to Ryders Cove. Nutrient samples 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-5). ....	64
Figure IV-14.	Frost Fish Creek Tidal Study 1 (July 21, 2002). Comparison of measured and modeled tidal flow and measured tidal elevation. ....	68
Figure IV-15.	Frost Fish Creek Tidal Study 2 (August 8, 2002). Comparison of measured and modeled tidal flow and measured tidal elevation. ....	69
Figure IV-16.	Frost Fish Creek Tidal Study 3 (August 20, 2002). Comparison of measured and modeled tidal flow and measured tidal elevation. ....	70
Figure IV-17.	Frost Fish Creek Tidal Study 4 (September 5, 2002). Comparison of measured and modeled tidal flow and measured tidal elevation. ....	71
Figure IV-18.	Pleasant Bay embayment system sediment sampling sites (red diamonds) for determination of nitrogen regeneration rates. Numbers are for reference to list of core stations above. See also Figure IV-19 for Muddy Creek and Bassing Harbor sites. ....	77
Figure IV-19.	Pleasant Bay embayment system sediment sampling sites (yellow circles) for determination of nitrogen regeneration rates. These sites were sampled previously as part of the Chatham Wastewater Planning Study and reported in the MEP Technical Report for Chatham's	

embayments (Howes et al. 2003). Numbers reference list of core stations above..... 78

Figure IV-20. 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..... 80

Figure V-1. Topographic map detail of the Pleasant Bay System, on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. .... 84

Figure V-2. Historical changes in the Nauset Beach-Monomoy barrier system illustrated by generalized 20-year diagrams from 1770-1790 to 1950-1970 (from Geise, 1988). .... 88

Figure V-3. Sequential shoreline changes of the two spits flanking New Inlet (from May 1987 to May 1989). The pre-breach shoreline of October 1982 also is shown for comparison (Liu, *et al.*, 1993)..... 89

Figure V-4. August 1990 aerial photograph of the New Inlet region showing the flood shoal, ebb shoal, and swash platform (modified from aerial photograph in FitzGerald and Montello, 1993). .... 90

Figure V-5. Aerial photograph from September/October 1994 illustrating changes in the inlet geomorphology (source: MassGIS). .... 91

Figure V-6. Aerial photograph from April 2001 illustrating changes in the inlet geomorphology (source: MassGIS)..... 92

Figure V-7. Post-breach shoal and spit area changes between mid 1997 and early 1989 (Liu, *et al.*, 1993). .... 94

Figure V-8. Transects from recent bathymetry surveys of the Pleasant Bay system. Three different sources for the bathymetry data are indicated by different colors: orange for the 2004 MEP survey of the inlet, blue for the 2000 Applied Coastal surveys (for the Town of Chatham) and yellow for the 1997 survey performed by Aubrey Consulting (Ramsey 1997). Yellow markers show the locations of tide recorders deployed for this study. The two ADCP transects followed across the Pleasant Bay inlet and the mouth to “The River” are indicated by the thick solid red lines..... 97

Figure V-9. Plot of interpolated finite-element grid bathymetry of the Pleasant Bay system, shown superimposed on 2001 aerial photos of the system locale. Bathymetric contours are shown in color at two-foot intervals, and also as lines at four-foot intervals. .... 98

Figure V-10. Plots of observed tides for the Pleasant Bay system, for the 43-day period between October 19 and November 30, 2004. The top plot shows tides offshore Nauset Beach, in the vicinity of the inlet. The middle plot shows tides recorded in the inlet channel at the Chatham Fish Pier, and the bottom plot shows tides recorded at Meetinghouse Pond, at the northernmost reach of Pleasant Bay. All water levels are referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29)..... 99

Figure V-11. Plot showing two tide cycles tides at five stations in Pleasant Bay plotted together. Demonstrated in this plot is the significant frictional damping effect caused by flow restrictions at the inlet channel. The damping effects are seen as a reduction in the range of the tide and a lag in time of high and low tides from the Atlantic Ocean. The time lag of low tide between the ocean and Meetinghouse Pond in this plot is four hours. .... 100

Figure V-12. Example of an observed astronomical tide as the sum of its primary constituents. .... 102

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 Chatham Fish Pier gauge data. The residual tide shown in the bottom plot is computed as the difference between the measured and predicted time series ( $r=m-p$ ). ..... 104

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 of data from the offshore gauge for the survey day is also given. .... 106

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 of data from the offshore gauge for the survey day is also given. .... 107

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 of data from the gauge in Meetinghouse Pond for the survey day is also given. .... 108

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 of data from the gauge in Meetinghouse Pond for the survey day is also given. .... 109

Figure V-18. Plot of hydrodynamic model grid mesh for the Pleasant Bay system of Chatham, Harwich and Orleans, MA. Color patterns designate the different model material types used to vary model calibration parameters and compute flushing rates. .... 112

Figure V-19. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location offshore New Inlet, in the Atlantic Ocean. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot. .... 115

Figure V-20. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location at the Fish Pier. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot..... 116

Figure V-21. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in Ryder Cove. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot..... 116

Figure V-22. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in Round Cove. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot..... 117

Figure V-23. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in the western portion of Pleasant Bay. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot..... 117

Figure V-24. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in Pochet Neck. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot..... 118

Figure V-25. Comparison of model output and measured tides for the TDR location in Meetinghouse Pond. The top plot is a 50-hour sub-section of the total modeled time period, shown in the bottom plot..... 118

Figure V-26. Comparison of measured volume flow rates versus modeled flow rates (top plot) through the Cotuit Bay Inlet over a tidal cycle November 16, 2004. The computed RMS error for this model run was 3.8% of maximum measured flow, with a  $R^2$  correlation coefficient of 0.99. Flood flows into the inlet are positive (+), and ebb flows out of the inlet are negative (-). The bottom plot shows the tide elevation offshore Nauset Beach..... 121

Figure V-27. Comparison of measured volume flow rates versus modeled flow rates (top plot) through the mouth of “The River”, in northern Pleasant Bay, over a tidal cycle on November 23, 2004. The computed RMS error for this model run was 9.8% of maximum measured flow, with a  $R^2$  correlation coefficient of 0.97. Flood flows into the inlet are positive (+), and ebb flows out of the inlet are negative (-). The bottom plot shows the tide elevation in Meetinghouse Pond. .... 122

Figure V-28. 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..... 123

Figure V-29. 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..... 124

Figure V-30. Pleasant Bay model computed flowrate for transect across the inlet channel, showing the variation of flood and ebb discharges of the Pleasant Bay system through 12 tide cycles..... 125

Figure VI-1. Estuarine water quality monitoring station locations in the Pleasant Bay estuary system. Station labels correspond to those provided in Table VI-1. .... 131

Figure VI-2. Contour plot of average bioactive (DIN+PON) nitrogen concentrations from results of the present conditions loading scenario, for the Pleasant Bay system..... 137

Figure VI-3. Comparison of measured bioactive (DIN+PON) nitrogen concentrations and calibrated model output at stations in the Pleasant Bay 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 ..... 138

Figure VI-4. 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..... 139

Figure VI-5. Comparison of measured and calibrated model output at stations in Pleasant Bay. 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. .... 141

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. .... 142

Figure VI-7. Contour Plot of modeled salinity (ppt) in the Pleasant Bay system..... 143

Figure VI-8. Contour plot of modeled total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in the Pleasant Bay system, for projected build-out loading conditions. .... 147

Figure VI-9. Contour plot of modeled total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in Pleasant Bay, for no anthropogenic loading conditions..... 150

Figure VII-1. Average watercolumn respiration rates (micro-Molar/day) from water collected throughout the Popponesset Bay System (Schlezinger and Howes, unpublished data). Rates vary  $\sim$ 7 fold from winter to summer as a result of variations in temperature and organic matter availability..... 153

Figure VII-2. Aerial Photograph of the Pleasant Bay system in the Towns of Chatham, Orleans and Harwich showing locations of Dissolved Oxygen mooring deployments conducted in the Summer of 2003 and 2004. .... 156

Figure VII-3. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen at Meetinghouse Pond station, Summer 2004. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 157

Figure VII-4. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Meetinghouse Outer station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 157

Figure VII-5. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen at Lonnies Pond station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 158

Figure VII-6. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Lonnies Pond Outer station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 158

Figure VII-7. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Pochet station, Summer 2004. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 159

Figure VII-8. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Areys Pond station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 159

Figure VII-9. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Namequoit River station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 160

Figure VII-10. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Namequoit Point station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots ..... 160

Figure VII-11. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Paw Wah Pond station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 161

Figure VII-12. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Quanset Pond station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots ..... 161



Figure VII-13. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Round Cove station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 162

Figure VII-14. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Muddy Creek Upper station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 162

Figure VII-15. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Muddy Creek Lower station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 163

Figure VII-16. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Round Cove / Muddy Creek station located between inlet to Round Cove and the mouth of Muddy Creek, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 163

Figure VII-17. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Pleasant Bay station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 164

Figure VII-18. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Strong Island station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 164

Figure VII-19. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Ryder Cove Upper station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 165

Figure VII-20. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Ryder Cove/Frost Fish Creek station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 165

Figure VII-21. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Crows Pond station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 166

Figure VII-22. Bottom water record of dissolved oxygen in Bassing Harbor station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 166

Figure VII-23. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Meetinghouse Pond station, Summer 2004. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 167

Figure VII-24. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Meetinghouse Outer station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 167

Figure VII-25. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Lonnie's Pond station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 168

Figure VII-26. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Lonnie's Pond Outer station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 168

Figure VII-27. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Pochet station, Summer 2004. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 169

Figure VII-28. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Areys Pond station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 169

Figure VII-29. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Namequoit River station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 170

Figure VII-30. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Namequoit Point station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 170

Figure VII-31. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Quanset Pond station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 171

Figure VII-32. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Round Cove station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 171

Figure VII-33. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Muddy Creek Upper station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 172

Figure VII-34. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Muddy Creek Lower station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 172

Figure VII-35. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Round Cove / Muddy Creek station located between the inlet to Round Cove and the mouth of Muddy Creek, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 173

Figure VII-36. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-a in Pleasant Bay station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 173

Figure VII-37. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-*a* in Strong Island station, Summer 2003. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 174

Figure VII-38. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-*a* in Ryder Cove Upper station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots ..... 174

Figure VII-39. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-*a* in Ryder Cove/Frost Fish Creek station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots..... 175

Figure VII-40. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-*a* in Crows Pond station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 175

Figure VII-41. Bottom water record of Chlorophyll-*a* in Bassing Harbor station, Summer 2002. Calibration samples represented as red dots. .... 176

Figure VII-42. Eelgrass bed distribution within the upper portion of the Pleasant Bay System. The 1995 coverage is depicted by the green outline inside of which circumscribes the eelgrass beds. The yellow (2001) areas were mapped by MassDEP. All data was provided by the MassDEP Eelgrass Mapping Program. .... 183

Figure VII-43. Eelgrass bed distribution within the lower portion of the Pleasant Bay System. The 1995 coverage is depicted by the green outline inside of which circumscribes the eelgrass beds. The yellow (2001) areas were mapped by MASSDEP. All data was provided by the MASSDEP Eelgrass Mapping Program ..... 184

Figure VII-44. Eelgrass bed distribution within the lower portion of the Pleasant Bay System. The 1995 coverage is depicted by the green outline inside of which circumscribes the eelgrass beds. The yellow (2001) areas were mapped by MASSDEP. Aerial photography for Round Cove (1951, 1960) was inclusive. All data was provided by the MASSDEP Eelgrass Mapping Program..... 185

Figure VII-45. Eelgrass bed distribution within the Chatham Harbor portion of the Pleasant Bay System. The 1995 coverage is depicted by the green outline inside of which circumscribes the eelgrass beds. The yellow (2001) areas were mapped by MASSDEP. All data was provided by the MASSDEP Eelgrass Mapping Program. .... 186

Figure VII-46. Eelgrass bed distribution within the Chatham Harbor portion of the Pleasant Bay System. The 1995 coverage is depicted by the green outline inside of which circumscribes the eelgrass beds. The yellow (2001) areas were mapped by MASSDEP. All data was provided by the MASSDEP Eelgrass Mapping Program. .... 187

Figure VII-47. Historical eelgrass coverages with the Bassing Harbor System. The 1951 coverage is depicted by the orange outline inside of which is the eelgrass beds. The green solid and blue hatched areas depict the bed areas in 1995 and 2000, respectively. .... 190

Figure VII-48. Map of Bassing Harbor eelgrass distribution and density (percent of cover) as observed in 2000. .... 191

Figure VII-49. Aerial photograph of the Pleasant Bay system showing location of benthic infaunal sampling stations (red symbols). .... 196

Figure VII-50. Aerial photograph of the Bassing Harbor system showing location of benthic infaunal sampling stations (orange symbols). .... 197

Figure VII-51. Aerial photograph of the Round Cove sub-embayment (Town of Harwich) showing location of benthic infaunal sampling stations (red symbols). .... 198

Figure VIII-1. Contour plot of modeled bioactive nitrogen (DIN+PON) concentrations (mg/L) in the Pleasant Bay system, for threshold conditions (0.16 mg/L at Upper Little Pleasant Bay and Ryder Cove ). .... 216

Figure IX-1. Comparison of hydrodynamic model output from simulations of present and historical (“old inlet”) configurations of the inlet to Pleasant Bay. The old inlet simulation included a tidal boundary condition developed from a data record measured offshore Stage Harbor in Nantucket Sound, which is considered to be the worst-case tidal condition for Pleasant Bay.....218

Figure IX-2. Comparison of bioactive N (DIN+PON) model runs for present inlet conditions and historical inlet (pre-breach) configuration for the Pleasant Bay system. Color contours indicate average bioactive nitrogen concentrations resulting from the present conditions loading scenario (Table VI-2). .....221

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table	Page
Table III-1. Daily groundwater discharge to each of the sub-embayments in the Pleasant Bay 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 Pleasant Bay. ....	26
Table IV-2. Average Water Use in Pleasant Bay Watershed.....	34
Table IV-3. Nitrogen Application Rates for Golf Courses in the Pleasant Bay Watershed.....	35
Table IV-4. Primary Nitrogen Loading Factors used in the Pleasant Bay MEP analyses. General factors are from MEP modeling evaluation (Howes & Ramsey 2001). Site-specific factors are derived from the Orleans, Brewster, Harwich, and Chatham data. *Data from MEP lawn study in Falmouth, Mashpee & Barnstable 2001.....	36
Table IV-5. Pleasant Bay Nitrogen Loads. Attenuation of Pleasant Bay system nitrogen loads occurs as nitrogen moves through upgradient ponds and streams during transport to the estuary.....	39
Table IV-6. Nitrogen attenuation by Freshwater Ponds in the Pleasant Bay watershed based upon 2001 through 2004 Cape Cod Pond and Lakes Stewardship (PALS) program sampling and National Park Service-supported sampling in Orleans and Brewster. These data were collected to provide a site specific check on nitrogen attenuation by these systems. The MEP Linked N Model for Pleasant Bay uses a standard value of 50% for the pond systems. ....	43
Table IV-7. Comparison of water flow and nitrogen discharges from streams (freshwater) discharging to Pleasant Bay. The “Stream” data is from the MEP stream gauging effort. Watershed data is based upon the MEP watershed modeling effort by USGS.....	52
Table IV-8. Summary of annual volumetric discharge and nitrogen load from streams (freshwater) discharging to the head of Kescayo Gansett Pond, Cranberry Bog to Paw Wah Pond, and Tar Kiln Marsh discharging to Pleasant Bay based upon the data presented in Figures IV-9, 10, and 11 and Table IV-7. ....	53
Table IV-9. Comparison of water flow and nitrogen discharges to Ryder Cove and from School House Pond, Lovers Lake and Stillwater Pond watershed through Stillwater Pond Stream. The “Stream” data is from previous SMAST studies with the Town of Chatham and the MEP stream gauging effort. Watershed data is based upon the MEP watershed modeling effort by USGS. ....	65
Table IV-10. Measurement of nitrogen attenuation, flow and water quality constituents within Frost Fish Creek during summer 2002. The total freshwater discharge to Frost Fish Creek from the watershed as determined from the USGS groundwater model (Section III) was 1274 m <sup>3</sup> per day based upon the annual average, compared to the 1097 m <sup>3</sup> per day determined by the RMA-2 model (Section V) and the 1054 m <sup>3</sup> per day from the 4 Tidal Studies. Nitrogen attenuation is calculated as the difference in measured nitrogen mass in tidal outflow from Frost Fish Creek to Ryder Cove	

versus the nitrogen load entering from the watershed and within the inflowing tidal waters. .... 72

Table IV-11. Rates of net nitrogen return from sediments to the overlying waters of the Pleasant Bay 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 July -August rates. N represents sample size. .... 82

Table V-1. Tide datums computed from 43-day records collected at stations in the Pleasant Bay system. Datum elevations are given relative to NGVD 29. .... 101

Table V-2. Major tidal constituents determined for gauge locations in Pleasant Bay, October 19 through November 30, 2004. .... 102

Table V-3. M<sub>2</sub> tidal constituent phase delay (relative to the Atlantic Ocean offshore of Nauset Beach) for gauge locations in the Pleasant Bay system, determined from measured tide data. .... 103

Table V-4. Percentages of Tidal versus Non-Tidal Energy for tide gauge records from the Pleasant Bay system, October through November, 2004. .... 103

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-18. .... 114

Table V-6. Tidal constituents for measured water level data and calibrated model output, with model error amplitudes, for the Pleasant Bay system, during modeled calibration time period. .... 119

Table V-7. Embayment mean volumes and average tidal prism during simulation period. .... 127

Table V-8. Computed System and Local residence times for embayments in the Pleasant Bay system. .... 128

Table VI-1. Measured total (DIN+PON+DON) and bioactive nitrogen (DIN+PON) data and modeled bioactive nitrogen concentrations for the Pleasant Bay 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 2000 through 2005. N represents sample size. The sentinel threshold stations are in bold print and depicted in Figure VI-1. .... 130

Table VI-2. Sub-embayment and surface water loads used for total nitrogen modeling of the Pleasant Bay system, with total watershed N loads, atmospheric N loads, and benthic flux. These loads represent **present loading conditions** for the listed sub-embayments. .... 134

Table VI-3. Values of longitudinal dispersion coefficient, E, used in calibrated RMA4 model runs of salinity and nitrogen concentration for the Pleasant Bay estuary system. .... 136

Table VI-4. Freshwater inputs (groundwater and surface water) used as inputs to the salinity model of the Pleasant Bay estuary system. .... 140

Table VI-5. Comparison of sub-embayment watershed loads used for modeling of present, build-out, and no-anthropogenic (“no-load”) loading scenarios of the Pleasant Bay system. These loads do not include direct atmospheric deposition (onto the sub-embayment surface) or benthic flux loading terms. .... 144

Table VI-6. **Build-out** sub-embayment and surface water loads used for total nitrogen modeling of the Pleasant Bay system, with total watershed N loads, atmospheric N loads, and benthic flux. .... 145

Table VI-7.	Comparison of model average bioactive N (DIN+PON) concentrations from present loading and the build-out scenario, with percent change, for the Pleasant Bay system. The sentinel threshold stations are in bold print and depicted in Figure VI-1. ....	146
Table VI-8.	<b>“No anthropogenic loading”</b> (“no load”) sub-embayment and surface water loads used for total nitrogen modeling of the Pleasant Bay system, with watershed N loads, atmospheric N loads, and benthic flux .....	148
Table VI-9.	Comparison of model average bioactive N (DIN+PON) concentrations from present loading and the no anthropogenic (“no load”) scenario, with percent change, for the Pleasant Bay system. Loads are based on atmospheric deposition and a scaled N benthic flux (scaled from present conditions). The sentinel threshold stations are in bold print.....	149
Table VII-1.	Percent of time during deployment of in situ sensors that bottom water oxygen levels were below various benchmark oxygen levels. ....	177
Table VII-2.	Percent of time during deployment that bottomwater oxygen levels recorded by the in situ sensors were below various benchmark oxygen levels. ....	178
Table VII-3.	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.....	179
Table VII-4.	Frequency (number of events during deployment) and duration (total number of days over deployment) of chlorophyll a levels above various benchmark levels within the 5 embayment systems. ....	180
Table VII-5.	Changes in eelgrass coverage in the Pleasant Bay Embayment System within the Towns of Chatham, Orleans, Brewster and Harwich over the past half century (C. Costello). ....	188
Table VII-6.	Eelgrass coverage in Chatham embayments in 2000 assayed by visual transect surveys. This approach can record the distribution of eelgrass at low density. Therefore the values represent maximum areal coverage. ....	192
Table VII-7.	Changes in eelgrass coverage in the Bassing Harbor embayment system within the Town of Chatham over the past half century (C. Costello). Note: data from Table VII-6 collected by different approach not included. ....	192
Table VII-8.	Benthic infaunal community data for the Pleasant Bay 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> ). ....	199
Table VIII-1.	Summary of Nutrient Related Habitat Health within the Pleasant Bay Estuarine System Cape Cod, MA., based upon assessment data presented in Chapter VII. D.O. and Chl a are dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll a from the mooring data (VII.2). ....	203
Table VIII-2.	Bioactive nitrogen thresholds and associated Total Nitrogen (TN) levels in sub-embayments to Pleasant Bay targeting restoration of benthic animal habitat under one possible restoration scenario. Note that the range in TN levels stems from the varying levels of dissolved organic nitrogen within the Pleasant Bay System. The site-specific DON level was used to adjust the bioactive nitrogen threshold to total nitrogen. ....	209
Table VIII-3.	Comparison of sub-embayment watershed <b>septic loads</b> (attenuated) used for modeling of present and threshold loading under one possible restoration scenario of the Pleasant Bay system. These loads do not	

	include direct atmospheric deposition (onto the sub-embayment surface), benthic flux, runoff, or fertilizer loading terms.....	212
Table VIII-4.	Comparison of sub-embayment <b>total watershed loads</b> (including septic, runoff, and fertilizer) used for modeling of present and threshold loading under one possible restoration scenario of the Pleasant Bay system. These loads do not include direct atmospheric deposition (onto the sub-embayment surface) or benthic flux loading terms.....	213
Table VIII-5.	Threshold sub-embayment loads used for bioactive nitrogen (DIN+PON) modeling of the Pleasant Bay system under one possible restoration scenario, with total watershed N loads, atmospheric N loads, and benthic flux.....	214
Table VIII-6.	Comparison of model average bioactive N (DIN+PON) concentrations from present loading and the threshold scenario, with percent change, under one possible restoration scenario for the Pleasant Bay system. Loads are based on atmospheric deposition and a scaled N benthic flux (scaled from present conditions). The threshold stations for eelgrass restoration are shown in bold print (0.16 mg/L at PBA-12 and the average of PBA-03 and CM-13) and for benthic infauna restoration are shown in italics (0.21 mg/L at WMO-10, PBA-15, WMO-6, WMO-5, PBA-11, WMO-12, PBA-09 and PBA-05). .....	215
Table IX-1.	Embayment mean volumes and average tidal prism during simulation period, for present condition and historical pre-breach inlet configuration with Nantucket Sound tides (“Old Inlet”).....	219
Table IX-2.	Computed System and Local residence times for embayments in the Pleasant Bay system, for present conditions and the historical pre-breach inlet configuration with Nantucket Sound tides (“Old Inlet”).....	220
Table IX-3.	Comparison of model average bioactive N (DIN+PON) concentrations from present loading and the historical inlet configuration scenario (“old inlet”) driven with Nantucket Sound Tides, with percent change, for the Pleasant Bay system. Loads for both present and “old inlet” bioactive N model runs are based on the present loading scenario (Table VI-2) The threshold stations are shown in bold print. ....	222