

# The Three Bays Monitor

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## Three Bays Preservation Opposes Electric Wind Plant, Partners with Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound

Three Bays Preservation, Inc. has joined the growing number of municipalities, civic organizations, chambers of commerce, and fishermen's groups in opposing the wind plant proposed on 28 square miles of Nantucket Sound.

Following a survey that showed 88 percent of Three Bays' members oppose the project, the board of directors voted to partner with the citizen action group, Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, to fight the industrialization of a precious natural resource.

### Threat to birds, navigation

The potential threat to sea and migratory birds ranks high among the reasons that Three Bay's voted to oppose the project (for further information, see [www.towerkill.com](http://www.towerkill.com)). Our organization has worked diligently to improve nesting habitat for plovers and terns. These and other species are at severe risk if 170, 40-story turbines are built on Horseshoe Shoals. The tips of the blades would spin in excess of 170 miles per hour, threatening the thousands of birds that routinely feed in and migrate through Nantucket Sound.



Blight: A representation of what the wind plant would look like from Loop Beach in Cotuit; based on a Cape Wind statement that the machines would be "thumb high" on the horizon.

The turbines would also pose navigational and aeronautical hazards. Thousands of boaters ply these waters, which routinely see fog, and it is our belief that collisions are likely to take place, particularly involving small boats that are not equipped with radar. As for planes, local pilots traveling between Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket often fly over this area at heights not far beyond where the blades would be rotating. The Barnstable Municipal Airport Commission vehemently opposes the project, citing "the potential lethal effects that the proposed wind farm would thrust upon the airport community..."

### Concern for fishermen, aesthetics

Local and state fishermen's organizations have weighed in as well, arguing that the project would, in effect, block off a productive fishery for hundreds of fishermen who have been making their living on these waters for generations. Indeed, many local fishermen make up to 60 percent of their annual income on and around the shoals, and they say they would not be able to maneuver their gear in between the enormous machines.

Not to be underestimated are the aesthetic violations of a pristine body of water – the turbines would be clearly visible from our beaches – as well as the potential impact on property values.

There is also the larger policy question regarding how developers can use public waters for their own financial gain. The Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound supports federal legislation that would mandate a comprehensive survey of all public waters to determine which sites, if any, would be environmentally suitable for a project like the one proposed for Nantucket Sound. It is our belief that such a survey would reveal Nantucket Sound to be too important an environmental, recreational, and economic resource to privatize and ruin.

For more information on the wind plant and how you can help, visit the website:  
[www.saveoursound.org](http://www.saveoursound.org).

## **Estuaries Project Underway**

Remember: knowledge is power.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in conjunction with the University of Massachusetts School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST), is making progress on its ambitious Estuaries Project.

The \$12.5 million, six-year project will explore pollution problems and possible solutions in 89 embayments from the South Shore to Cape Cod and the Islands, including the Three Bays estuarine system. Three Bays Preservation has been providing data for the project and looks forward to the suggestions to be made by the study.

Of course, once those suggestions are made, the decisions will be up to the local community. How much are taxpayers willing to pay to sewer the western portion of Barnstable? And what habits are residents willing to change? Would we use fewer pesticides and fertilizers, recognizing that they ultimately discharge into the watershed? Such is the important marriage of science and public policy. It's a marriage we should honor.

## **Thanks for the Answers**

Our annual questionnaire generated an impressive number of responses. We appreciate all the members who volunteered to assist with office work and we may get in touch with you soon.

Those who offered to help on the Water Watchers Advisory Team or the Water Quality Monitoring Program will likely be contacted in early summer. Finally, kudos to the great majority of members who know where their septic systems are. For those of you who don't, put on the gas mask and get hunting.

## **In Spring, We Mark Our Calendars: Time to Celebrate Our Natural Resources**

Like you, when the weather turns, we long to get out of the office. And so we hope you join us when we take our act on the road for **River Day**, May 5, at The Inn at the Mills. Co-sponsored by the Marstons Mills Village Assoc. and the Cape Cod Conservation District, River Day is a celebration of the Marstons Mills River where the community and environmental organizations come together in celebration of the natural resources that bind us and make us proud to be Cape Codders. Three Bays Preservation is honored to be a participant.

We also hope you join us at our annual **Spring Presentation**, May 18, 8:30-11:30, at Cape Cod Academy in Osterville. Guests include Mark Ells, Asst. Superintendent of the Town of Barnstable DPW, Dr. Brian Howes of the Univ. of MA School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST), speaking on Three Bays and the Estuaries Project, and Betsy White of SMAST, sharing results of the lawn fertilizer survey she conducted in the neighborhoods abutting the Three Bays estuarine system. Watch for more details coming to your mailbox soon.