

# Beach Management Plan

## Town of Falmouth Beaches

### Project Characteristics:

- *Beach Management Planning*
- *Beach Surveys & Mapping*
- *Public Outreach*
- *Environmental Permitting*

Woods Hole Group prepared a comprehensive Beach Management Plan for the 10 saltwater public beaches owned and operated by the Town of Falmouth. The goals of the planning process were to preserve and enhance the natural and recreational functions of the Town of Falmouth public beaches, and to guide future coastal zone management decisions by balancing the needs of all stakeholders. Background data collection included an inventory of natural and anthropogenic resources at each beach site, as well as documentation of the historical evolution and dominant coastal processes at the various beaches. Permanent beach profile stations were established and surveyed, and the sediment characteristics of the beaches were quantified through grain size analyses. Detailed maps were produced for each beach showing existing buildings, parking areas, fencing, access paths/stairs, lifeguard stands, catch basins, coastal engineering structures, wetland resources, and beach profile locations. The municipal management structure for operating the Town of Falmouth public beaches was identified and described, including the responsibilities of the different town boards and departments. A six year history of beach revenue and expenses was also developed.

A total of 54 short- and long-term recommendations were provided for improved management of the public beaches. The recommendations were developed to address management and planning-level activities, infrastructure maintenance and improvement, beach monitoring, routine maintenance, education and enforcement activities, as well as fund raising ideas. Specific recommendations for beach nourishment and dune restoration were made in an effort to enhance the recreational resources and improve the natural functions of the coastal resources.



A series of public meetings were held to present recommendations of the Beach Management Plan and to educate the public. Woods Hole Group also defined the environmental statutes and regulations required for work recommended in the Beach Management Plan. Upon completion of the Plan, the local permitting process with the Falmouth Conservation Commission was initiated. This effort led to the issuance of an Order of Conditions permitting routine maintenance activities as well as various beach restoration and post storm activities throughout the Town of Falmouth public beach sites.

