



[REGISTER FOR THE CAPE COASTAL CONFERENCE](#)

There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required.

Please register by Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

2026 Cape Coastal Conference

Shared Solutions for Stronger Coasts & Communities

April 13-14, 2026

Conference at a Glance

Day One - Monday, April 13, 2026

OPENING KEYNOTE

Restoring Balance: Mashpee Wampanoag Vision for Land and Water

With a focus on cultural stewardship and practical insight, this panel will explore how the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's work turns restoration into a living practice, guiding more effective approaches to environmental decision-making.

Panel Discussion: Chief Earl Mills, Jason Steiding, Buddy Pocknett, Talia Landry
Department of Natural Resources, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Morning Concurrent Breakout Sessions

SESSION A

From Vision to Impact: Metrics for Tracking Project Success

Meet the Expert

Susanne Moser, Ph.D., Director & Principal Researcher, Susanne Moser Research & Consulting

SESSION B

Advancing Biodiversity: Building Strong, Resilient Coasts

Meet the Experts

Thomas O'Shea, Commissioner, MA Department of Fish & Game

Alan Kneidel, Senior Conservation Biologist, Manomet Conservation Sciences

Stephen Smith, Ph.D., Plant Ecologist, National Park Service

Diana Ruiz, Ph.D., Executive Director, Native Land Conservancy

Afternoon Concurrent Breakout Sessions One

SESSION C

Salt Marshes in Balance: A Holistic Restoration Approach

Meet the Experts

Hillary Sullivan, Ph.D., Research Associate, Woodwell Climate Research Center

Sara Grady, Ph.D., Senior Coastal Ecologist, Mass Audubon

Wenley Ferguson, Director of Restoration, Save the Bay

Brian Yellen, State Geologist, University of Massachusetts Amherst

SESSION D

Growing the Ocean's Future: Eelgrass Restoration & Kelp Cultivation

Meet the Experts

Josh Reitsma, Fisheries & Aquaculture Specialist, WHOI Sea Grant Program

Agnes Mittermayr, Ph.D., Marine Ecologist, Center for Coastal Studies

Mirta Teichberg, Ph.D., Associate Scientist, Marine Biological Laboratory

Matt Long, Ph.D., Associate Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Afternoon Concurrent Breakout Sessions Two

SESSION E

Enhancing Habitat & Resilience through Dredged Material Reuse

Meet the Experts

Ken Cirillo, Dredge Director, Barnstable County

Wenley Ferguson, Director of Restoration, Save the Bay

Ben Gaspar, Restoration Ecologist, Save the Bay

SESSION F

Restoration in Action: Healthy Waterways and Wetlands

Meet the Experts

Beth Lambert, Director Division of Ecological Restoration, MA Department of Fish and Game

Micheal Palmer, Restoration Ecologist, Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Betsy Gladfelter, Ph.D., Coastal Scientist, Falmouth Conservation Commissioner, Town of Falmouth

Michael Lach, Executive Director, Harwich Conservation Trust

PLENARY SESSION

From Knowledge to Action – Applying Today's Restoration Science

Panel Discussion:

Martha Craig, Program Manager, Cape Cod Conservation District

April Wobst, Restoration Program Manager & MassBays Regional Coordinator, APCC

Chris Miller, Director, Natural Resources, Town of Brewster

Thomas Andrade, P.E., Town Engineer, Town of Dennis

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Is Hope Enough? Transformative Resilience Building in an Increasingly Challenging World

The times for easy hope and dependable government support for climate adaptation are over. Something deeper is asked of us now. This keynote will offer an honest but uplifting perspective on what it takes to build resilience when "hope for the best" isn't good enough anymore.

Susanne Moser, Ph.D., Director & Principal Researcher, Susanne Moser Research & Consulting

Student & Early Career Poster Session and Networking



Photo Credits:

Coonamessett River, Jim Turek, NOAA; Hinkleys Pond, Harwich Conservation Trust; Sandy Neck, Barnstable Water Resources

Day Two - Tuesday, 14, 2026

PLENARY SESSION

On the Front Lines: Coastal Communities and Resilience Challenges

This plenary highlights key challenges coastal communities are facing, including flooding, infrastructure stress, and fiscal and community impacts, providing a practical foundation for the day's discussions on adaptation and resilience.

Concurrent Breakout Session

SESSION G

Planning for Coastal Change: Voluntary Relocation

Meet the Experts

Emma Gildesgame, Climate Adaptation Director, The Nature Conservancy

Kristin Uiterwyk, Director, Urban Harbors Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston

Leah Hill, Coastal Resilience Coordinator, Town of Nantucket

SESSION H

Protecting the Future: Resilience & Insurance

Meet the Experts

Charlie Sidoti, Executive Director, Innsure

Michael Weir, Ph.D., Marine Resource Economist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Shannon Hulst, Deputy Director, Floodplain Specialist & CRS Coordinator, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and Heather McElroy, Natural Resources Manager, Cape Cod Commission

Cape Cod Field Adventures (pre-registration required)

Cape Cod Field Adventures – 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Take a step beyond the conference sessions and experience Cape Cod's ecological restoration and resiliency efforts firsthand. These optional field trips offer a rare opportunity to see the tangible results of years of planning, collaboration, and innovative conservation work. Attendees will drive themselves from Hyannis to the field locations.

Sandy Neck Beach Long-Term Coastal Resiliency Project, West Barnstable

Join a behind-the-scenes tour at Sandy Neck Beach Park to learn how Barnstable strengthens vital infrastructure against flooding while protecting rare habitats and supporting public access.

Coonamessett River Wetlands Restoration Project, Falmouth

Experience the restored Upper Coonamessett firsthand! Walk accessible trails and boardwalks with the project lead to explore thriving wetlands and wildlife and gain unique

insights into the river restoration process and lessons learned.

Hinckleys Pond, Herring River Headwaters Restoration Project, Harwich

Discover the restored Hinckleys Pond Herring River Headwaters Preserve along all-abilities trails. Engage with the project team to explore wetlands, wildlife, and the strategies used to overcome restoration challenges.

Exhibitor Opportunities Available: We welcome exhibitors to showcase their work and products that could be useful to the target audience. Ample time will be available for exhibitors to network and engage with attendees. [Exhibit Registration Form click here.](#)

Planning Partners



www.waquoitbayreserve.org

For additional information please contact
Kristen Weir, Training & Engagement Coordinator at kristen.weir@mass.gov

For Exhibitor information please contact Laurie Tompkins
at laurie.tompkins@mass.gov

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