

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE & FLOODING

- Rates of sea level rise, locations of areas prone to flooding, impacts to natural resources such as marsh health, and opportunities to enhance climate resilience such as living shorelines need to be better researched for and presented to Eastham officials and property and business owners
- During major flood events, emergency access to flooded roadways/access to landings may be severely limited or prevented completely
- Flooding and related erosion are impacting natural resources such as pond water levels, herring runs, and tree coverage
- Flooding is a concern at several locations, including Ellis Road, Dyer Prince, Bridge Road/Rock Harbor Road, and Samoset Road

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Investigate land acquisition opportunities near all landings, including Shore Road
- All ramps need improvement and paving
- Channel access in Rock Harbor is limited by the tide, thereby significantly impacting the timing of boat traffic and commercial business in the harbor
- Research is needed about how extending the jetty on the Eastham side would impact conditions in the Harbor
- Research is needed about the potential to enlarge the channel on the inside of the new docks in Rock Harbor to increase berthing and decrease wait time
- A maintenance dredging plan for Rock Harbor, included beneficial re-use of sediment, is needed
- At Rock Harbor, many improvements are needed (*e.g.*, new bulkhead or revetment, improved ramp conditions, expanded berthing, larger courtesy/convenience dock, a building with storage for slip holders, cameras and lighting for security, availability of fuel and fresh water, staff presence to manage boat traffic, improved access to grants in summer)
- Rock Harbor could further serve as a destination if an entertainment venue/bandstand for music performances, lectures, etc. was added
- If more berthing and vessel storage is added at Rock Harbor, additional parking will be needed
- At Hemenway, many improvements are needed (*e.g.*, raft improvements, small boat/kayak racks, expanded launch ramp with possibility of a separate lane for commercial users, signage on boating etiquette and ramp use)
- There is concern about conflicts between infrastructure and marsh health at Hemenway. Current parking limits and tidal access at the boat ramp limits motorized boats on marsh, thereby limiting wake-induced impacts to peat banks. Improved parking and ramp conditions may bring more/bigger boats, which could cause greater natural resource impacts.
- At Collins, an improved ramp and parking are needed
- At First Encounter, kayak racks are needed
- If in the inlet at Salt Pond changes, more moorings would be beneficial

MOORINGS/DOCKAGE

- Additional moorings are needed in the Nauset Inlet.
- There is a shortage of land-based vessel storage, particularly for skiff storage for mooring holders
- The permitting process and deadlines for moorings and skiff storage are not connected and coordinated

- Additional parking will be needed to accommodate any increases in berthing and storage

ACCESSIBILITY

- There is a need to better understand the conflicts at landings and make improvements to reduce those conflicts (Re-worded to reflect your comment that the conflict may not be significant/real)
- Additional launch areas and parking is needed, especially on the Nauset Harbor side of town, if possible
- Mapping of all launches and ownership of adjacent properties is needed to identify opportunities to expand access
- Private homeowners could increase public access opportunities if the town provided adequate incentives
- Parking areas are crowded and inefficient
- Commercial fishermen compete with recreational users for parking at landings and beaches and would benefit from dedicated parking areas for commercial use only
- Parking is congested at Rock Harbor and needs to be improved (*e.g.*, non-trailer parking for residents/slip holders in the state lot, offsite parking with a shuttle bus at Rock Harbor)
- Conflicts exist between boaters and kayakers. More strategically positioned signage as well as an education campaign/brochure are needed to foster proper boating etiquette, specifically regarding launching processes at the ramps and “rules of the road” about channel navigation
- Enforcement of launch processes and safe navigation rules is needed
- Channel markers (*e.g.*, Cable Creek) are needed to help minimize conflict between boaters and kayakers
- There is an opportunity to educate kayakers about boating etiquette and safe navigation
- Public access at smaller ponds is important and should be improved
- Visual access to the waterfront is also important and should be improved (*e.g.*, lower the pipe over Boat Meadow)

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Research about current and future impacts of ocean acidification on local natural resources is needed
- Research and engagement about the impact of sharks and seals is important.
- Additional shellfish seeding activity, especially on the bay side, would be beneficial
- Invasive species, such as phragmites and green crabs, are a concern in the town and need better management.
- Preservation of natural resources is critical when considering infrastructure improvements
- It is important to address natural resource impairments by correcting the root cause of the impairment where possible as opposed to mitigating impacts
- It is important to recognize and promote the roles salt marshes play in mitigating climate change impacts by sequestering carbon
- Enhancement of natural resources, such as with an artificial reef like the one created by target ship SS James Longstreet, would be beneficial

WATER QUALITY

- Runoff is impacting water quality – fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides are of primary concern
- Runoff at the ramps introduces sediment and can impact launching capabilities over time
- Illegal discharges need to be identified and addressed

- Additional sources of water quality impairment need to be identified, including marine debris and sources outside the planning area
- Improved education is needed regarding sources of water pollution, especially fertilizers
- A sewer study is needed to assess the feasibility and impact of installing a sewer system in Eastham
- Non-traditional approaches to reducing nutrient loads (*e.g.*, aquaculture) and improving water quality are important and should continue to be researched and tested
- The economic impacts of beach closures for water quality reasons (*e.g.*, lost tourism revenue, impacts to property values) is not well understood
- Town entities need to coordinate better with regard to water quality
- Climate change is an ongoing concern and requires strategic thinking with regard to water quality impacts

AQUACULTURE & COMMERCIAL FISHING

- Coordination is needed among those who fish (including organizing the local shellfishing community) to improve the town's seafood brand and increase interest from dealers/wholesalers
- The market for fish and shellfish is saturated. Eastham fishermen need more wholesalers/a larger wholesale market.
- Buyer pick-up from commercial fishermen could be handled more effectively if pick-up was allowed directly at the ramp; however, the Town has not granted permission for this activity.
- Selectman and town departments should be consistent with regard to enforcing regulations such as those pertaining to aquaculture.
- Increase allocation of aquaculture sites is taking public waterways and making them private
- Efforts are needed to increase the marketability of Eastham oysters (*e.g.*, using local advertising and marketing, sponsoring shellfish tastings and dinners)
- More public awareness of local commercial fishing activity and lives of shellfishermen is needed (*e.g.*, through signage, public education, newspaper articles, local television channel)
- More public health education about shellfish safety (*e.g.*, vibrio, icing of oysters) is needed
- More education/outreach regarding commercial fishing is needed to decrease conflict and increase understanding with the public
- Education of gate attendants and staff at beaches and landings is needed
- concern and education is needed for growers on ways to reduce debris and for the public on how to handle fishing gear that washes ashore
- Shellfish grants are vulnerable to damage /theft and measures (*e.g.*, signage, security cameras) are needed to improve security
- Aquaculture is limited by a lack of real estate, as shown by the current waiting list.
- Increasing aquaculture grants (*e.g.*, in Boat Meadow) may create other concerns (*e.g.*, the limited vehicle access during summer months may lead to increased boat traffic in and out of Rock Harbor during high and low tide cycles)
- A survey of wild shellfish and benthic habitat is needed
- Fishermen will continue to need a place to store fishing equipment and gear

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL USE

- There is conflict between kayaks and boats at the ramps
- Education through signage and on-site town staff to direct ramp activity is needed to decrease conflicts

- General safety education for kayak/paddleboard users is needed, *e.g.*, navigating in the channels, general information on wind/waves/tides, importance of minimizing impact on vegetation and techniques to achieve this
- Overcrowding is common at certain ramp locations
- Identification of kayaks during an emergency situation is a concern
- Channel depths are a limiting factor for current and future businesses
- The recreational boating community needs more moorings (*e.g.*, at Hemenway) and slips to improve access
- More parking is needed for recreational and commercial use
- More education about overall swimming safety is needed for all ages

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

- Beneficial re-use of dredged material is important and potential locations need to be evaluated
- Creation/expansion of living shorelines, including salt marshes and oyster reef habitat, would be beneficial for wave attenuation/shoreline protection
- Litter at beaches is a concern and is sometimes caused by trash containers that fall over

BUSINESS/TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities for ecotourism, such as local activities focused on sharks and seals, need to be explored
- More shellfish wholesalers and distributors are needed
- A marine supply store for recreational and commercial boaters (similar to Cape Fishermen's Supply in Chatham) is needed in Eastham
- If the number of businesses is increased, then more parking will be needed to accommodate the increased number of visitors
- More mobile businesses (such as shellfish wholesalers) would be advantageous because no additional parking is needed
- It is uncertain whether there is a significant enough customer base to support more businesses and of what type
- The Town must determine to what extent they want to encourage more tourism and businesses
- There is interest in local credit-based week(s)-long courses about the Cape/seashore/ocean/ponds, including biology, ecology, botany, and other subjects
- The coast could serve as a destination/venue for community gatherings and events
- Town decisions should consider what is being done to bring people to Eastham and to decrease the perception or reality of it being a "drive-through" town.