

# 2004 Highlights



2004 —the 14<sup>th</sup> year of Salem Sound Coastwatch's efforts —was another exciting and successful year for our organization. Among our many recent accomplishments during the last year, we



*Brackenbury Beach, Beverly – One of the many stormwater outfalls monitored for bacterial discharge, through SSCW's Clean Beaches & Streams Program.*

**Continued to identify contaminated discharge to the Sound and reduce nonpoint source pollution** – Nonpoint source pollution is the number one threat to coastal water quality in our region. Through our *Clean Beaches & Streams Program*, we identified a number of sites of contaminated discharge and successfully worked with municipal officials and other regional partners to develop solutions and notify the public of associated risks.

**Monitored salt marsh systems – Salt marshes are one of the most valuable yet threatened ecosystems in the region.** Through our *Wetlands Health Assessment Toolbox Program*, we have been able to identify sites in need of restoration, and monitor and analyze the results of those efforts. This successful monitoring program has recently been used as a model by other environmental organizations in New England.



*Salt marsh vegetation sampling in the Forest River Estuary, Salem*

**Increased public awareness about marine invasive species and began a formal monitoring program** – Invasive species present a significant and growing threat to the health of our coastal habitats. To engage the community and increase public awareness of the problem, we have conducted outreach programs, developed educational materials, and assisted trained volunteers in collecting essential information on the location and abundance of these organisms (*Coastal Habitat Invasives Monitoring Program*).



*Volunteers monitoring marine invasive species at White Beach, Manchester.*

**Conducted educational programs & provided professional resources throughout the watershed** –

The success of our organization is dependent upon public understanding of the threats to Salem Sound and participation in the solutions. We have sponsored and conducted educational programs for the public, municipal officials, and teachers & students, providing information on a variety of topics related to the health of Salem Sound and its watershed.

**And much more!** – For more detailed descriptions of our recent and current projects and initiatives, please visit [www.salemsound.org](http://www.salemsound.org). Data and reports from some of the recent environmental monitoring programs are also posted on this website.

We are proud of our successful record and recent accomplishments, and we are excited about the future of Salem Sound. However, we need the continued **support of our members and volunteers** to be ready to respond to the continuing environmental threats to the region. Please join us in our future efforts to restore and protect the magnificent natural resources of Salem Sound.

**Salem Sound Coastwatch is grateful to the following grantors for supporting our programs during 2004:**

Boat U.S. Foundation, Entrust Foundation, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, **Massachusetts Bays Program**, Massachusetts Environmental Trust, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, New England Biolabs Foundation, and The Thomas Foundation.