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To: Massachusetts Ocean Initiative:

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Please consider making huge improvements to Massachusetts Coastal Waters through long range plans concerning The Cape Cod Canal, The City of New Bedford, and Massachusetts Land Preservation Trusts.

1. Twenty-five years from now envision that the Cape Cod Canal will be greatly modified or even closed entirely.

The center section of the canal will be filled in and provide for smooth flowing transportation links over the dry land.

The ends of the former canal will be two of the best deep water ports on the East coast of the United States. These ports will provide mixed usage for all types of water craft and wonderful opportunities for light industry.

The waters will be calm. No more terrible currents caused by the unnatural linking and mixing of Cape Cod Bay and Buzzards Bay waters.

The commercial shipping on the bays will decrease. Thus lessening the potential for further chemical spills.

The canal bridges will not have to be replaced. The Corps of engineers can use their talents and resources to build profitable ports rather than running a zero revenue canal.

Please note that the public is generally shocked to find that canal passage is free to all. In reading the history of the canal one finds that even minimal charges were enough to send ships around Provincetown causing failure of the private canal company.

Perhaps somehow Massachusetts could charge for Buzzards Bay passage even if the Federal government will not start charging for the canal.

2. Further 25 years from now I see New Bedford as a leading salt water recreation area.

This again needs a plan. The cleanup progress is well known. However, it is a little known fact that the City of New Bedford owns a tremendous amount of its

own waterfront. The waterfront of entire outer harbor from Fairhaven to Dartmouth has limited private frontage. The existing public beaches on East and West Rodney French Boulevard are spectacular.

3. Throughout Massachusetts private land trusts are preserving open land for future generations. Long range plans are needed to figure out how the citizens are going to benefit from these acquisitions. These strong land trusts will generally only allow passive uses. Any building will have to be done on adjacent lands. This is a difficult situation to foresee. Much of this land is abutting or drains to the ocean.

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay has an active land center that is effectively protecting watershed lands and needs to be a part of Oceans Initiative.

I first heard of your project through the recent article in the New Bedford Standard Times. Please keep me informed of your progress.

Thanks
John Darwin