

# Responding to EPA Comments on MassBays' CCMP

Report to the Management Committee

October 16, 2019

# Let's catch up...

**December 19, 2018**

Draft CCMP presented to the Management Committee; members provided input on timeline, costs, and measures of success

**January 10, 2019**

Final draft CCMP provided to Management Committee Chairs for review

**January 28, 2019**

Draft final CCMP submitted to EPA Region 1

**July 2, 2019**

EPA (Region 1 & HQ) comments shared with MassBays

**Est. October 31, 2019**

Final CCMP to be submitted to EPA

# General Comments

“Fantastic! So much work...!”

**Reorganize** per the following sequencing:

Introduction/Why a CCMP?

Why MassBays?/Our unique role (new text)

Current conditions & understanding of the system

Why a revision?/How the CCMP will drive change

The New CCMP/Goals, actions, outcomes

Conclusion, anticipated highlights of our implementation (new text)

**Concerns remain** at HQ about focusing on MassBays-led initiatives

# Editorial Comments

Comment	Staff action
Add sea level rise maps and modeling to the system conditions section.	New section
Call out climate justice as a subset of environmental justice.	New text
Describe how MassBays (the organization) is different than it was in 1996, in addition to the difference in context and topics of concern.	New paragraph
Delete the description of older versions of the Estuarine Delineation & Assessment, and include more maps from EDA v2.0.	Deletion
Describe the connection between water quality and habitat and organism health.	New paragraph
Tabulate timing and cost across all actions.	New table

# Comments on CCMP approach

Comment	Committee action
<p>Target-setting (using Biological Condition Gradient) and online tracking of progress (via ecoreport card) should be highlighted as central to MassBays' theory of change (i.e., prompting action at the local level). Currently they are buried and isolated as Actions.</p>	<p>Consider elevation from Action to central Theory of Change</p>
<p>Describe how annual workplans will provide detailed Activities under each Action; include a sample workplan.</p>	<p>Consider CCMP boundaries on RSP workplans</p>
<p>List the Environmental Outcomes that should be evident when we reach the Goals, and attach those to each Action.</p>	<p>Consider goal-specific outcomes (next slides)</p>



Organizational Goals	+ Programmatic Goals	→ Environmental Outcomes
<p>MassBays is a primary source for information about conditions and trends in Ipswich Bay, Massachusetts Bay, and Cape Cod Bay.</p>	<p>MassBays provides new resources to support research and management in the Bays.</p>	<p>Locally significant habitats and ecosystems assessed and prioritized for research, assessment, and implementation actions.</p>
<p>MassBays is an important influence on local decision making that recognizes the roles, functions, and values of healthy habitats in the Bays.</p>	<p>MassBays reaches all planning-area municipalities with actionable information about coastal habitats.</p>	<p>Ambient water quality supports biodiversity; observed improvements in habitat continuity and hydrological connectivity at the local level.</p>
<p>MassBays is a model program for management and planning that addresses diversity among estuaries.</p>	<p>MassBays provides regular and locally informed State of the Bays reporting that reflects the unique characteristics of MassBays assessment units (embayments, rocky shore, barrier beach), and documents progress toward target conditions.</p>	<p>Locally relevant improvements in water quality, habitat, biodiversity, and resilience.</p>

