

## ***Coastal Water Nutrient Monitoring Program***

Friends of Chatham Waterways (FCW) worked cooperatively with the town to implement the *Coastal Water Nutrient Monitoring Program* in 1999. Every year since then FCW volunteers, the ***Chatham Water Watchers***, test and collect water samples in Chatham's estuaries five times per summer. Volunteers are trained to directly assess water quality by measuring water clarity, salinity, dissolved oxygen content and temperature and then to collect water samples that are chemically analyzed by the School of Marine Science and Technology at UMASS, Dartmouth.

### **Volunteer to become a Water Watcher – Contact information**

Bob Samuelson - Pleasant Bay Area - 617-312-9827 [rjsamuelson@mac.com](mailto:rjsamuelson@mac.com)

Betsy Mosser – Stage Harbor Estuaries – 508-523-3871 [betsymosser@aol.com](mailto:betsymosser@aol.com)

Frank Messina –South Coastal Embayments–508-432-9333[fmessina@verizon.net](mailto:fmessina@verizon.net)

In 1994, the State Executive Office of Environmental Affairs endorsed a Stage Harbor Management Plan approved by Chatham Town Meeting. Chatham's plan was the first to be adopted by a Massachusetts town. FCW provided much aid in the development of the Stage Harbor plan that called for the design of a water quality-monitoring program and efforts to better understand and manage wastewater from homes and businesses and from storm water runoff.

In the early years, when data was needed for initial wastewater management planning, FCW had as many as 150 Water Watchers working at 25 stations in Chatham's estuaries (places where fresh waters and coastal salt waters meet and mix). The data collected was critical input for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP). The Total Maximum Daily Loads of nitrogen for each estuary developed by MEP is part of the basis of Chatham's Comprehensive Waste Water Management Plan that will guide our implementation of sewerage and centralized and satellite-plant treatment of waste water to remedy our degraded waterways.

In 2016 41 FCW Water Watchers monitored 14 stations in three Chatham estuaries, completing the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of testing and sampling water quality in these estuaries. Since it is important to monitor water quality over a long period, Chatham Water Watchers will continue their work over the years ahead. Dr. Robert Duncanson, Director of Chatham's Water Quality Lab, and Dr. Sarah Griscom, Water Quality Lab Technician, assist FCW with the program.

### **Friends of Chatham Waterways would like to thank the 2016 Chatham Water Watchers:**

Jay Stahl, Bill Horrocks, John Trimble, Lany Capodilupo, Nat Mason, Chris Corthouts, Kelsey Shakin, Bill Hayes, Sam Royal, Susanne Taylor, Bob Simonds, Maureen Vokey, Drew Carey, Susan Morgan, Ann Reydel, Mary Beth and Stephen Daniel, Betsy Mosser, Lauren Thonus; Frank Messina, Don Phinney, John Deleonardis, Sally and Roger Kallsrtom, Dave Holden, Roger Donald, John Garey, Dick Hosmer, Juris Ukstins, Anastasia Elmenddorf; Roz and Bill Coleman, Natalie Coleman Fuller, DeeDee and Lisa Holt, Nick Harris, Bob Samuelson, Tom Parker, Denise Yokum, Carole and Trevor Ridley.