

Restoring Eelgrass and Shellfish Habitat in West Falmouth Harbor Using Conservation Moorings and Stormwater Treatment

West Falmouth Library, West Falmouth, MA, 7 to 9 pm, August 15, 2013

On Thursday, August 15, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) will host a short workshop on restoring coastal habitat in West Falmouth Harbor using two different approaches. The workshop will be held from 7 to 9 pm at the West Falmouth Library, 575 West Falmouth Highway, West Falmouth, MA. Featured speakers include Ms. Tay Evans, fisheries biologist from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and Mr. Charles Martinsen, III, Deputy Directory of the Marine and Environment Department, Town of Falmouth.

Ms. Evans will give a presentation on eelgrass, why it is important and what is being done to monitor and restore this valuable resource. She will then describe the recently completed conservation mooring project in West Falmouth Harbor. In this project, conservation moorings were used to replace conventional moorings in order to restore eelgrass beds and improve water quality.

In the second presentation, Mr. Martinsen will describe a proposed stormwater project to treat runoff discharging into Mashapaquit Creek at the head of West Falmouth Harbor. The project would improve water quality in a shellfishing area and would also create a shellfish spawning sanctuary that will naturally disperse shellfish seed into other areas of West Falmouth Harbor, promoting natural propagation of shellfish. This project is in the planning stage.

For more information, contact Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto at (508) 362-4226 extension 16 or check APCC's website at www.apcc.org under "What's New".



Area of former eelgrass bed damaged by conventional mooring chain.



Screw Anchor

Hazelett Rode

Eco Mooring Rode

Examples of conservation moorings.



Site of stormwater discharge into Mashapaquit Creek, West Falmouth Harbor.