



# New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Virtual Public Meeting

January 17, 2024

6:00PM – 7:30PM



USEPA - Region 1

Ask questions / share comment

See participants

- Closed Captioning
- 1. Language and Speech
- 2. Turn on live captions

MUTE your PC mic button

Turn your video on/off

Hang up button

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a dark toolbar contains icons for Chat, People, Raise, React, View, Rooms, Apps, More, Camera, Mic, Share, and a red Leave button. Light blue callout boxes with arrows point to these icons: 'Ask questions / share comment' points to Chat; 'See participants' points to People; 'Closed Captioning' (with a list: 1. Language and Speech, 2. Turn on live captions) points to More; 'MUTE your PC mic button' points to Mic; 'Turn your video on/off' points to Camera; and 'Hang up button' points to the Leave button. Below the toolbar is a meeting slide. The left side of the slide features a satellite map of New Bedford Harbor with labels for Aerovox, Acushnet, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Hurricane Barrier, Cornell-Dubilier, Clarks Cove, and Clark's Point/Fort Rodman. The right side of the slide contains the text: 'New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Virtual Public Meeting', 'January 17, 2024', '6:00PM – 7:30PM', the USEPA logo, and 'USEPA - Region 1'.

# Virtual Meeting Participant Instructions

# Ground Rules for Online Participation

## Our requests:

Keep your microphone muted when not speaking

Respect time limits for questions and comments

Keep comments and chats respectful and appropriate for a public audience

Follow the facilitators' guidance and instructions on how to participate

# Project Team

- Aaron Shaheen – EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
- David Dickerson – EPA Remedial Project Manager
- Natalie Burgo – EPA Remedial Project Manager
- Marie Esten – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager
- Paul Craffey – Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Project Manager

# Agenda

Review of 2023  
accomplishments

Upcoming 2024 work

Seafood Consumption  
Advisories





**The Upper Harbor - looking north**

Photo credit: Ed Pepin

# Summary of 2023 Accomplishments






1. Completed East Zone 2 saltmarsh remediation
2. Completed East Zone 3 remediation except for saltmarsh plantings in spring 2024
3. Restoration in process at West Zone 2/3 (excavation is 100 % complete, backfilling is now ~20% complete)
4. Monitoring and maintenance of remediated shorelines
5. Capped the Superfund CAD Cell in the Lower Harbor
6. Began offsite disposal of “Cell 1” material at Sawyer St
7. Collaborated with Buzzards Bay Coalition for reuse of clean sand from its Marsh Island saltmarsh project

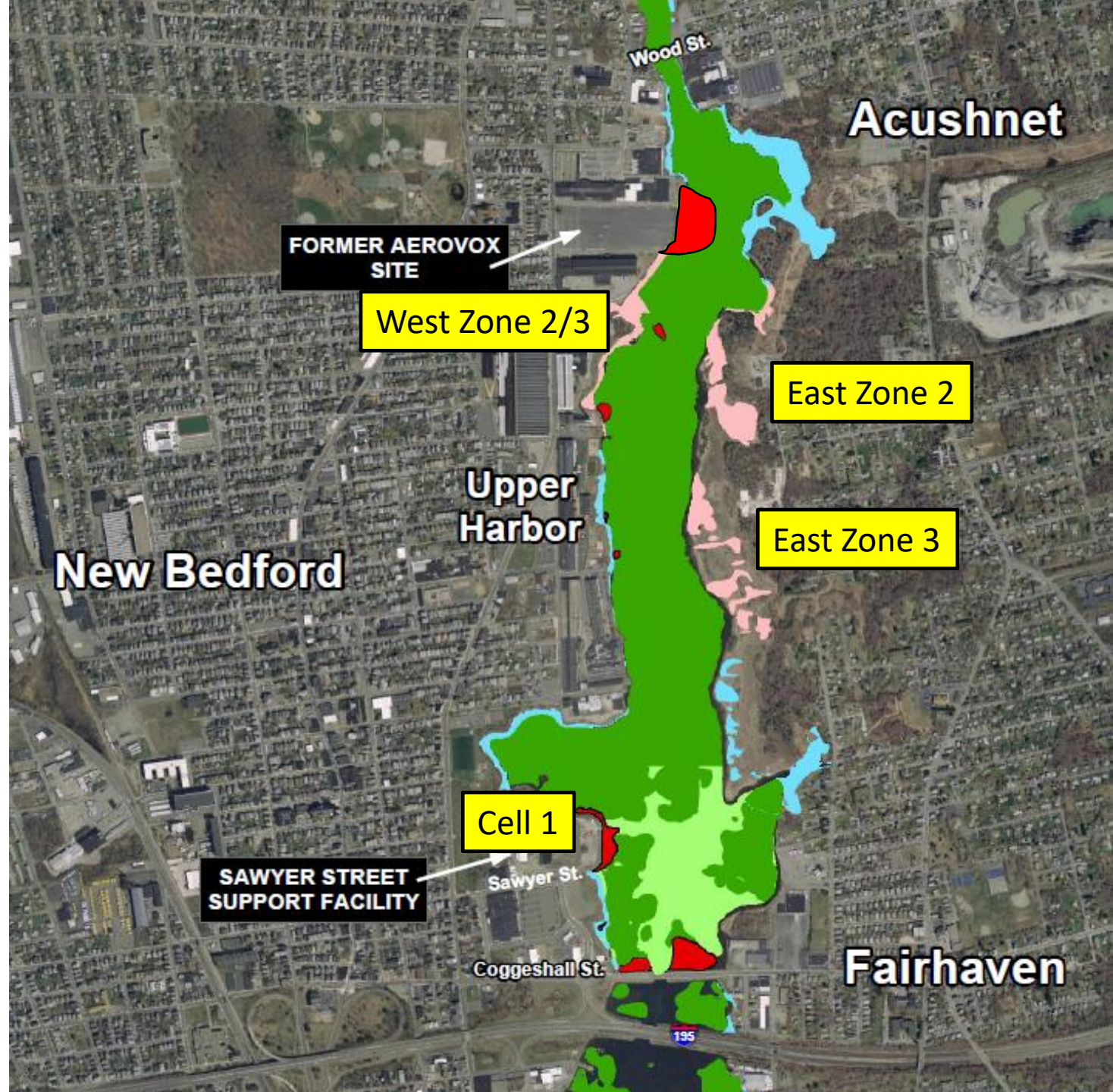
(all areas are shown on the next slides)



# Areas of Work: 2023 Upper Harbor

Legend:

-  dredged areas (completed 2020)
-  intertidal areas completed
-  intertidal areas 2023 - 2024
-  sediment cap areas (completed 2019)
-  dredging not needed







Excavated areas

Amphibious excavator

Temporary access road

# East Zone 3 – June 2023





**East Zone 3 – July 2023  
material handling area**

Photo credit: Ed Pepin



## East Zone 2 Restoration

Saltmarsh grasses being planted  
(after excavation and clean backfill)



Photo credit: Jacobs Engineering



An aerial photograph showing a large-scale excavation project. A yellow excavator is positioned on a dirt bank next to a large, dark body of water. The excavator's arm is extended towards the water. To the right of the excavator, there is a blue dumpster, a white pickup truck, and other construction equipment. In the background, there are several large, multi-story brick buildings, likely industrial or institutional. A tall, cylindrical concrete structure is visible near the center of the image. The ground is mostly dirt and gravel, with some green grass and reeds along the water's edge. The overall scene depicts an active construction or remediation site.

**West Zone 2/3 Excavation  
August 2023**








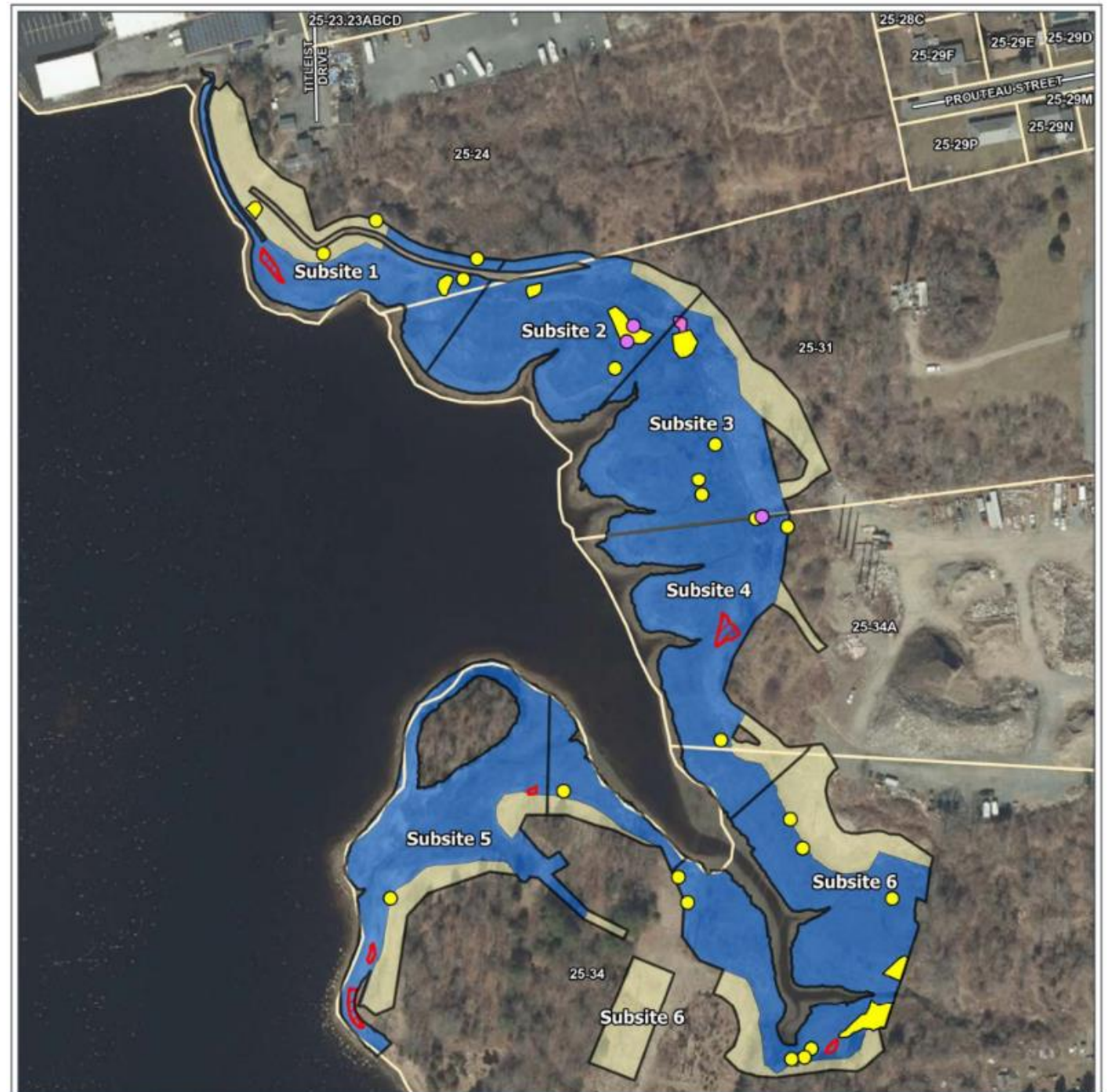
# Restoration Monitoring

Mapping of:

- 1 – sparse vegetation
- 2 – invasive species
- 3 – erosional areas

Legend:

-  sparse vegetation
-  *Phragmites* (invasive)
-  purple loose-strive (invasive)
-  wetland/saltmarsh area
-  upland area







## Restoration Monitoring

West Zone 4 and  
L-014 sediment cap

November 2023



# **Non-EPA YouTube Video of Saltmarsh Restorations in Fairhaven**

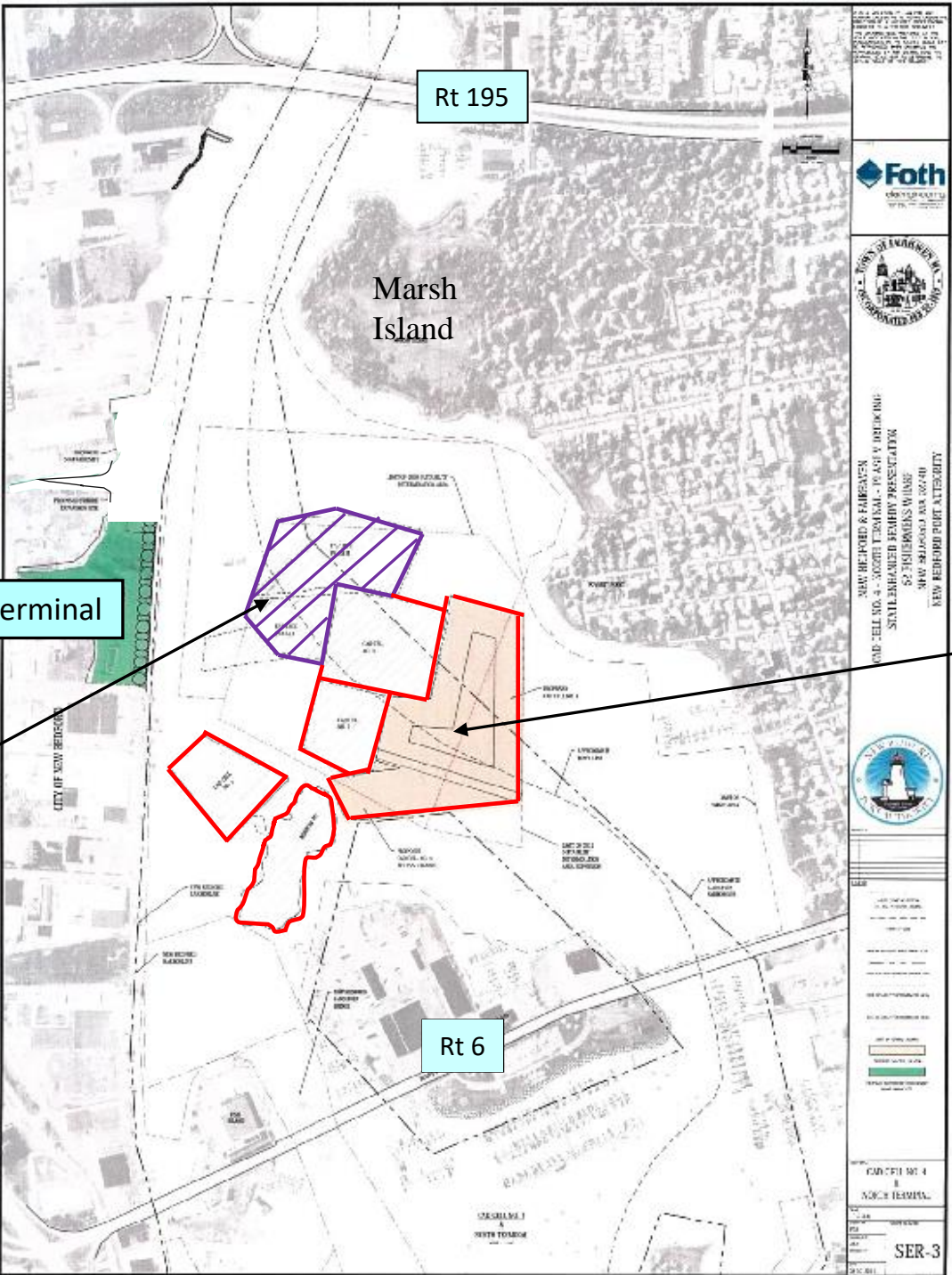
<https://youtu.be/3HjWGyXINX8>

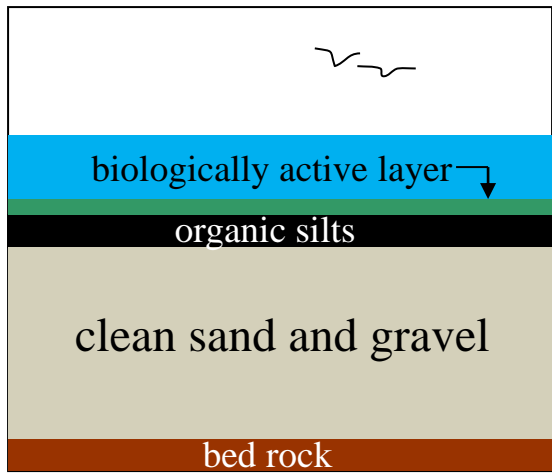
# Capping of the Superfund CAD Cell

Superfund Lower Harbor CAD cell (LHCC)

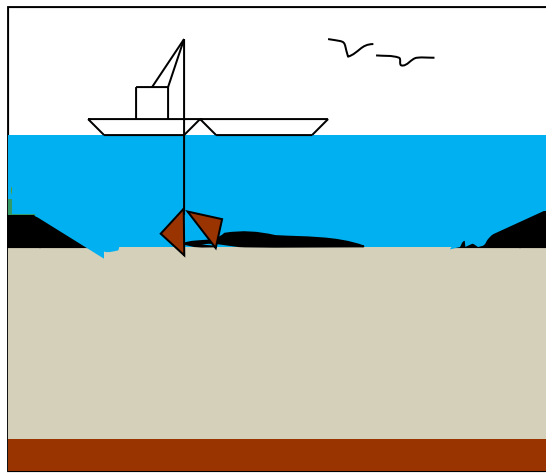
North Terminal

Navigational CAD cell 4

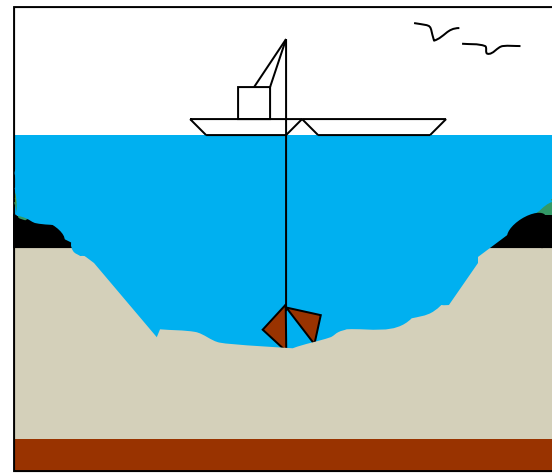




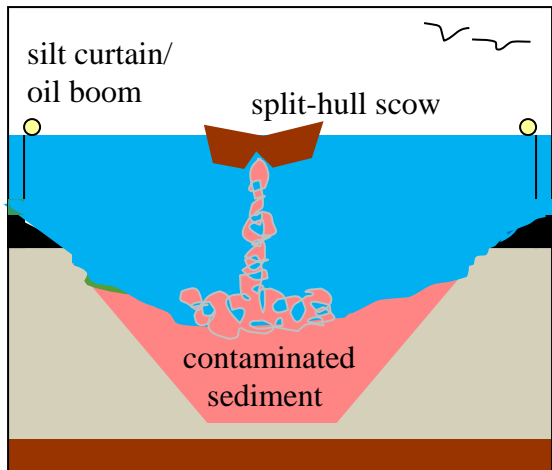
1. Harbor bottom as is



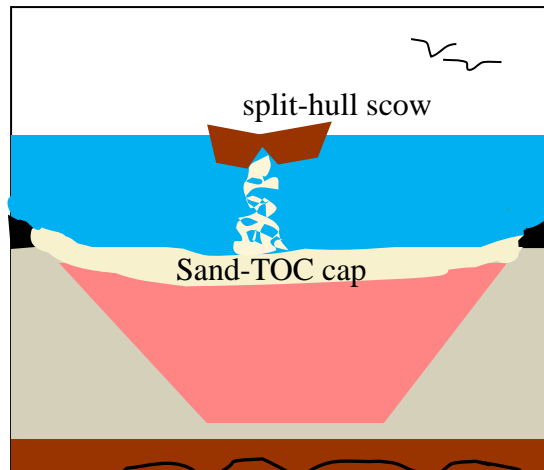
2. Excavation of top silts



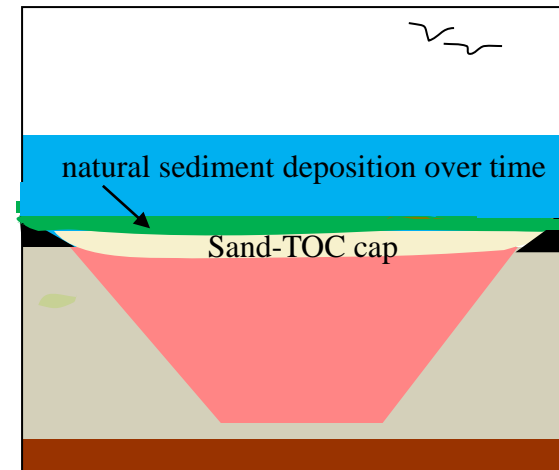
3. Excavation of clean sand



4. Placement of sediments



5. Placement of sand cap



6. Surface "bowl" fills in over time

## Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Cell

Not to scale





**Marsh Island**

**Superfund CAD Cell**

**CAD4**

**Clean sand from the bottom of CAD4 was used to cap the Superfund CAD Cell**

**North Terminal**

**Former EPA Dewatering Facility**

Photo Credit: Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC





Market Basket

Sawyer St

Pilot CDF

Cell 1

Cell 2

Riverside Park

Offsite disposal and backfill

**Sawyer St Support Facility**  
Looking south

Photo credit: Ed Pepin



# Marsh Island Saltmarsh Project, Fairhaven, MA – Buzzards Bay Coalition June 2023



Clean sand that was excavated as part of this Natural Resource Damages (NRD) project was used for NBH Superfund Site backfill

Photos courtesy of BBC











## Upcoming work in 2024

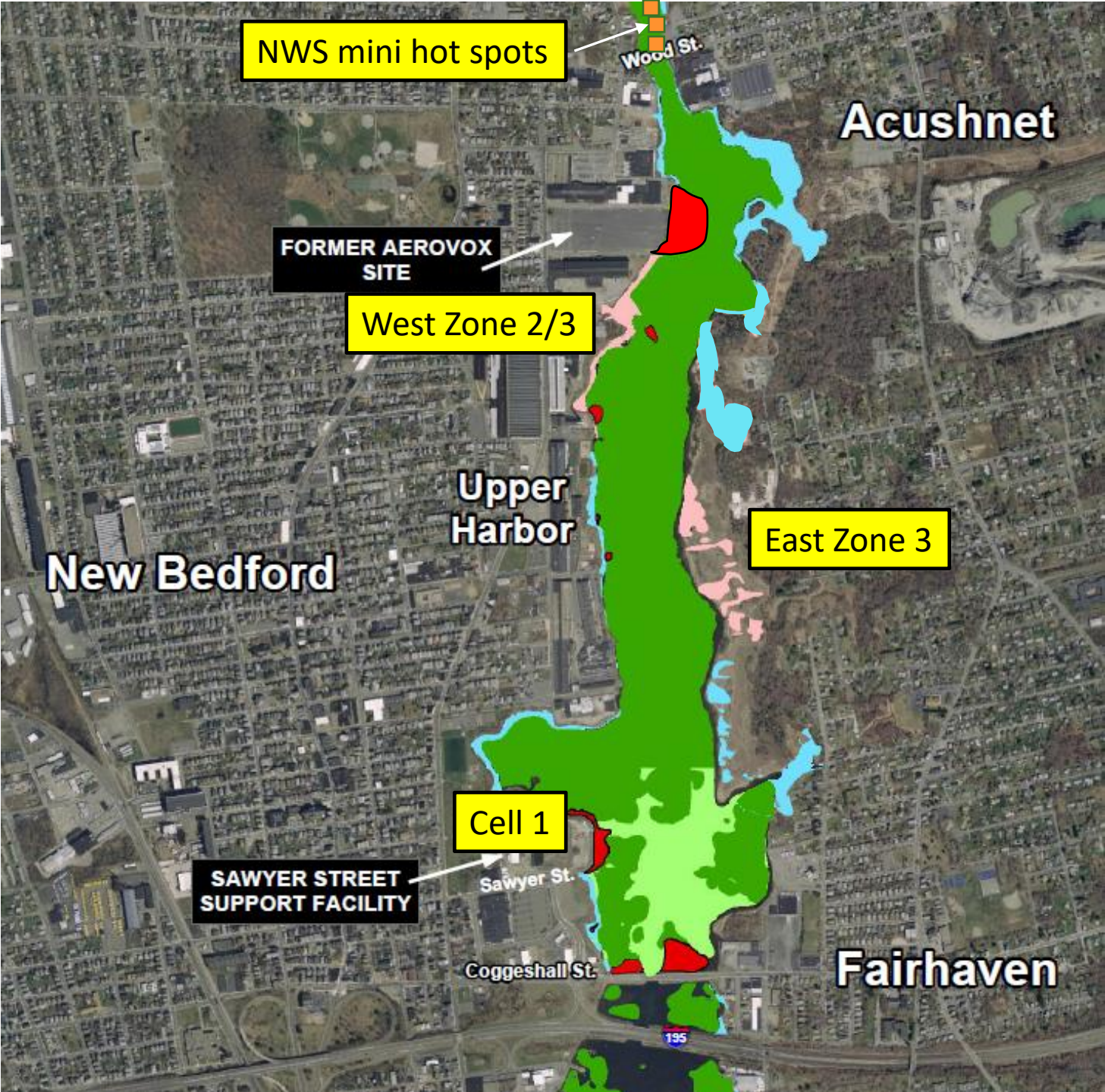
1. Finish offsite disposal of Cell 1 material
2. Finish backfilling at West Zone 2/3
3. Install saltmarsh plantings at EZ3 and WZ 2/3
4. Monitoring and maintenance of saltmarshes
5. Start construction of pilot CDF cap
6. North of Wood Street bridge mini hot-spots
7. Focused Feasibility Study for sediment caps  
- public comment period late in 2024

(all areas are shown on the next slides)

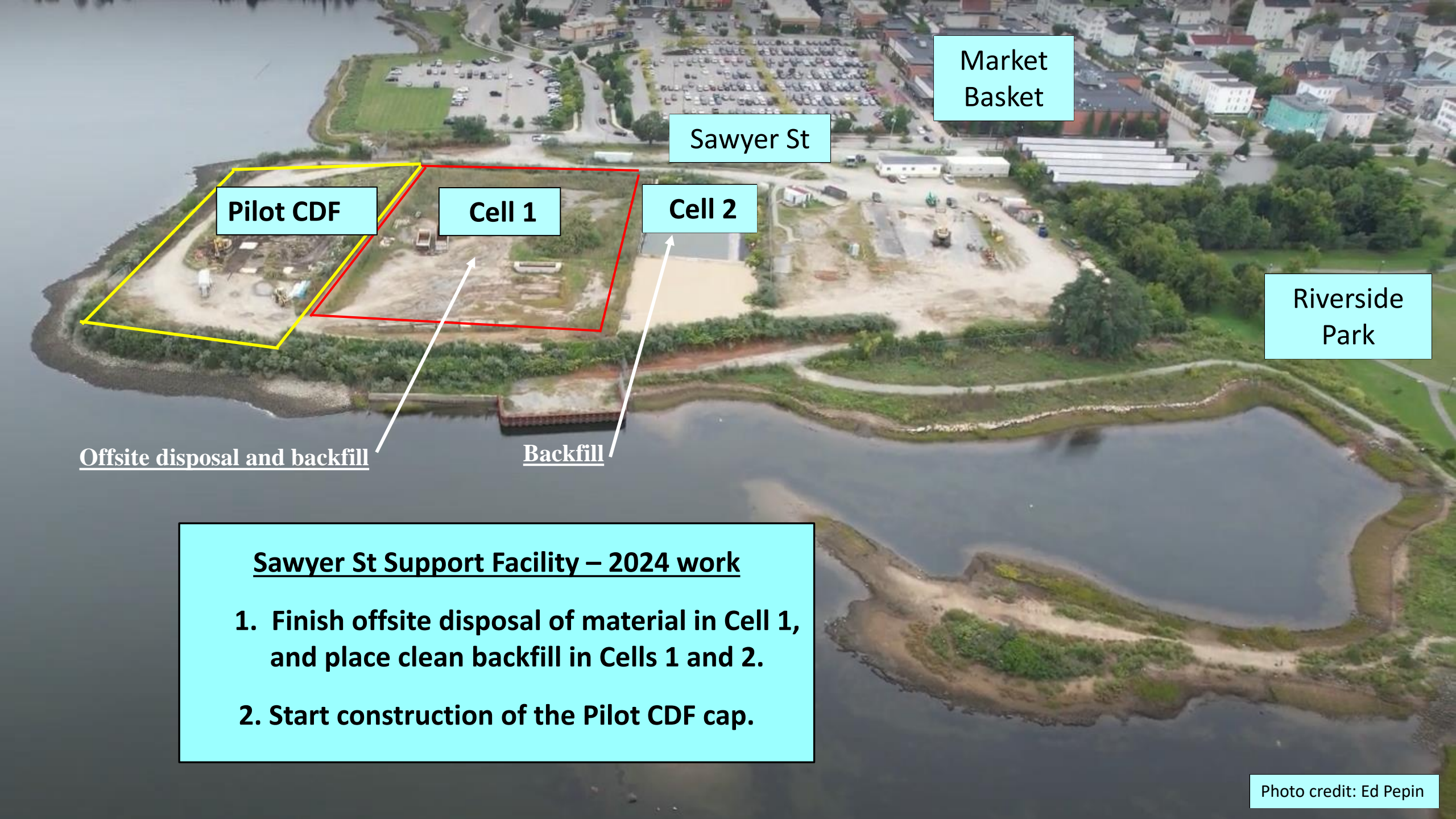
# Areas of Work: 2024

## Legend:

-  dredged areas (completed 2020)
-  intertidal areas completed
-  intertidal areas 2024
-  sediment cap areas (completed 2019)
-  dredging not needed
-  North of Wood Street mini-hot spots







Market Basket

Sawyer St

Pilot CDF

Cell 1

Cell 2

Riverside Park

Offsite disposal and backfill

Backfill

**Sawyer St Support Facility – 2024 work**

- 1. Finish offsite disposal of material in Cell 1, and place clean backfill in Cells 1 and 2.**
- 2. Start construction of the Pilot CDF cap.**

Photo credit: Ed Pepin





Market Basket

Sawyer St

Pilot CDF

Future Redevelopment

Riverside Park

Future River Walk

Integrating the Pilot CDF cap into the River Walk plan

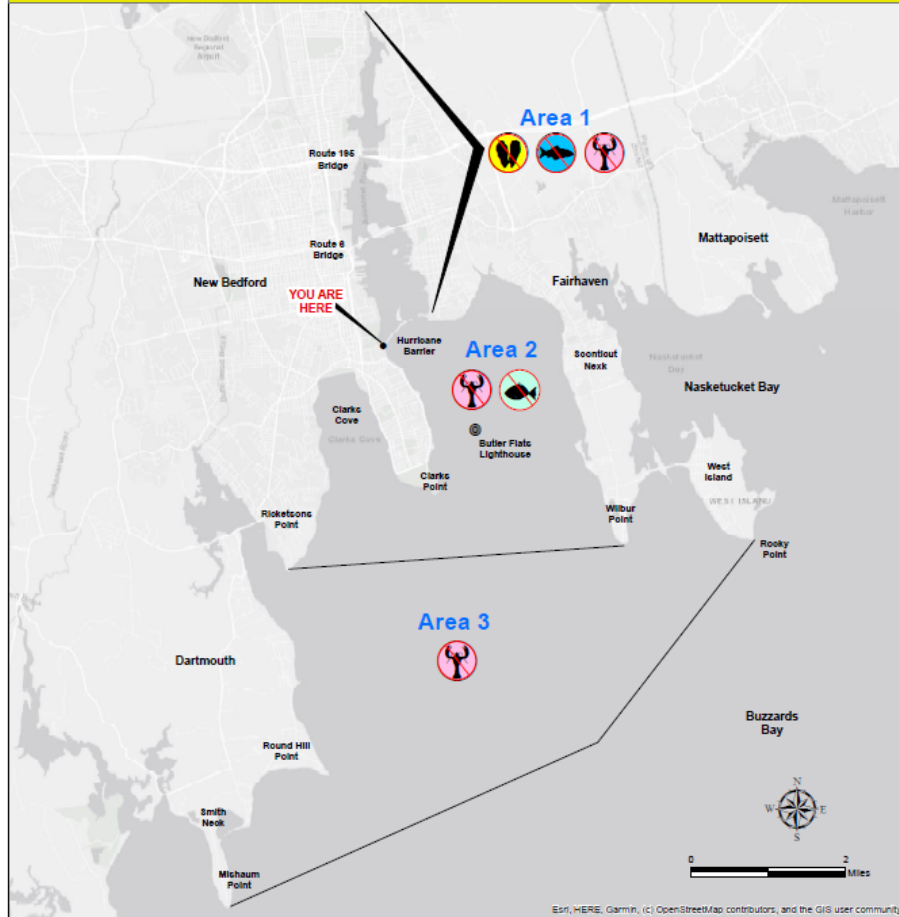
Base photo credit: Ed Pepin



**Fish consumption restrictions and advisories continue**



## 1979 State Fishing Ban - PCBs (still in effect)



**Do NOT eat shellfish**  
 No coma mariscos  
 Nao coma mariscos



**Do NOT eat fish**  
 No coma pescado  
 Nao coma peixe



**Do NOT eat lobster**  
 No coma langosta  
 Nao coma lagosta

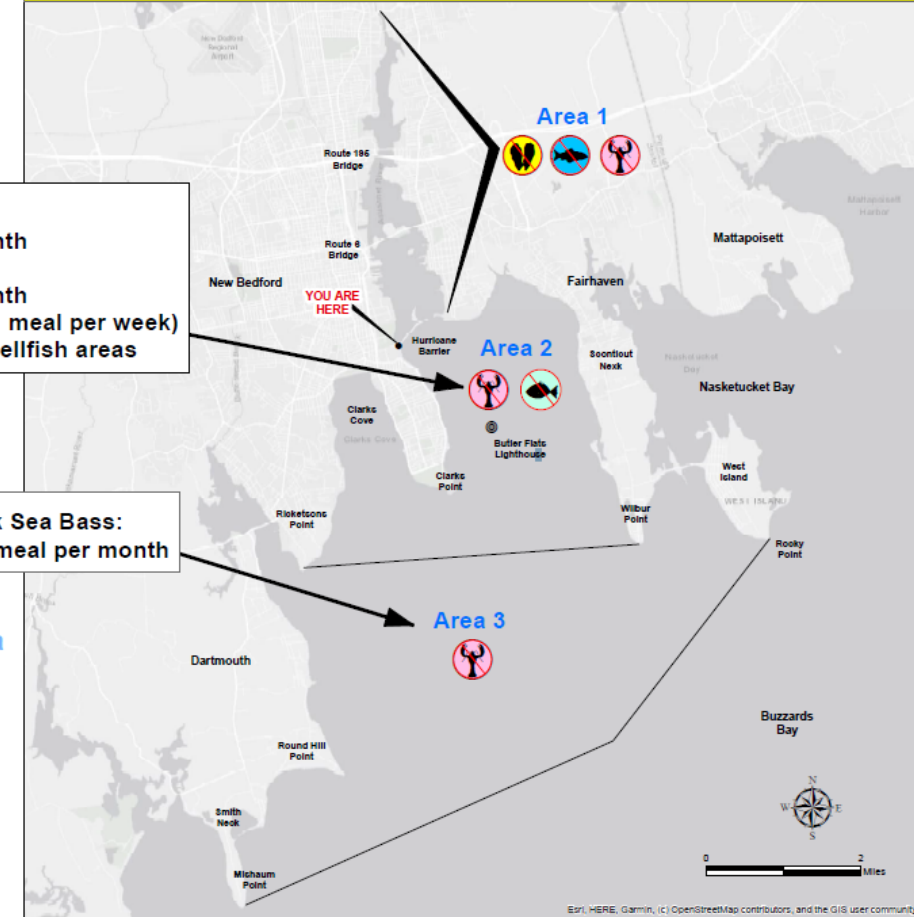


**Do NOT eat bottom-feeding fish:**  
 No coma pescado de fundo:  
 Nao coma peixe de fundo:  
 - flounder, tautog, scup, eel  
 - languado, tautoga, sargo, anguila  
 - solha, bodilio da ostra, sargo, anguila



For more info: <https://www.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor>

## 2010 USEPA Recommendations (still in effect)



**Black Sea Bass:**  
 1 meal per month  
**Shellfish:**  
 1 meal per month  
 (Clark's Cove 1 meal per week)  
 in approved shellfish areas

**Black Sea Bass:**  
 1 meal per month

**18,000-acre fish consumption restrictions and advisories**



# New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

Consumption regulations and advisories for locally-caught seafood

(105 CMR 260.05; 322 CMR 629(2) and USEPA advisories)

**Area I:** do NOT consume ANY fish or shellfish of any kind.

**Area III**

**Area II - do NOT consume:**

- Bottom-feeding fish (scup, tautog, flounder and eel)
- Lobster
- Bluefish
- Striped bass
- Conch

OK once per month:

- Quahog (in non-restricted areas; OK once per week in Clark's Cove)

**Area III - do NOT consume:**

- Lobster
- Bluefish
- Striped bass

OK once per month:

- Scup
- Black sea bass
- Conch

OK once per week:

- Quahog
- Tautog

Saltwater fishing license required per Mass. DMF

For non-English translations and consumption recommendations for sensitive populations (young children, pregnant women, etc.) use this QR code:

ADD QR  
CODE -  
9/29/23  
DRAFT



Yellow text = Massachusetts regulations. Non-yellow = USEPA advisories

*Seafood is an important part of a healthy diet provided it's caught in approved areas.*



# Seafood Consumption Outreach Coordinators

- Since 2016 EPA and local CEDC collaborate to survey and educate those who fish locally
- Bilingual/trilingual outreach
- Goal: to limit recreational seafood consumption from NBH in addition to gaining a better understanding of local fish consumption



# SEAFOOD CONSUMPTION QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE:

NAME:

LOCATION:

\*This information is anonymous, none of the answers will be associated with your name or any family member/friends you may be fishing or eating fish with. Please answer ONLY based on fish caught and eaten from New Bedford Harbor.

QUESTION	NOTES
Do you fish in the Harbor?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Where do you usually fish? (Use map as a guide)	
What type of fish do you typically catch? (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Sea Bass <input type="checkbox"/> Flounder <input type="checkbox"/> Scup <input type="checkbox"/> Tautog <input type="checkbox"/> Eel <input type="checkbox"/> Lobster <input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Are you eating the fish you catch from the harbor?	
Does anyone else eat the fish that you catch from the harbor? If yes, who? (friends/family?)	

QUESTION	NOTES
If you do eat seafood and/or shellfish from the harbor, how often would you estimate you eat it as a meal?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1x a Week <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x a week <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x a month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 times a month <input type="checkbox"/> Every couple of months <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year
How many months a year do you normally fish? Only during the summer months, or year round?	
If you catch a lot of fish, do you freeze it and eat it year round?	
Do you have any concerns about the potential health effects of consuming seafood from the harbor? Why or why not?	
Any additional notes from interview?	



# Questions and Comments

For additional  
information  
please visit  
[www.epa.gov/nbh](http://www.epa.gov/nbh)



Photo credit: D. Dickerson