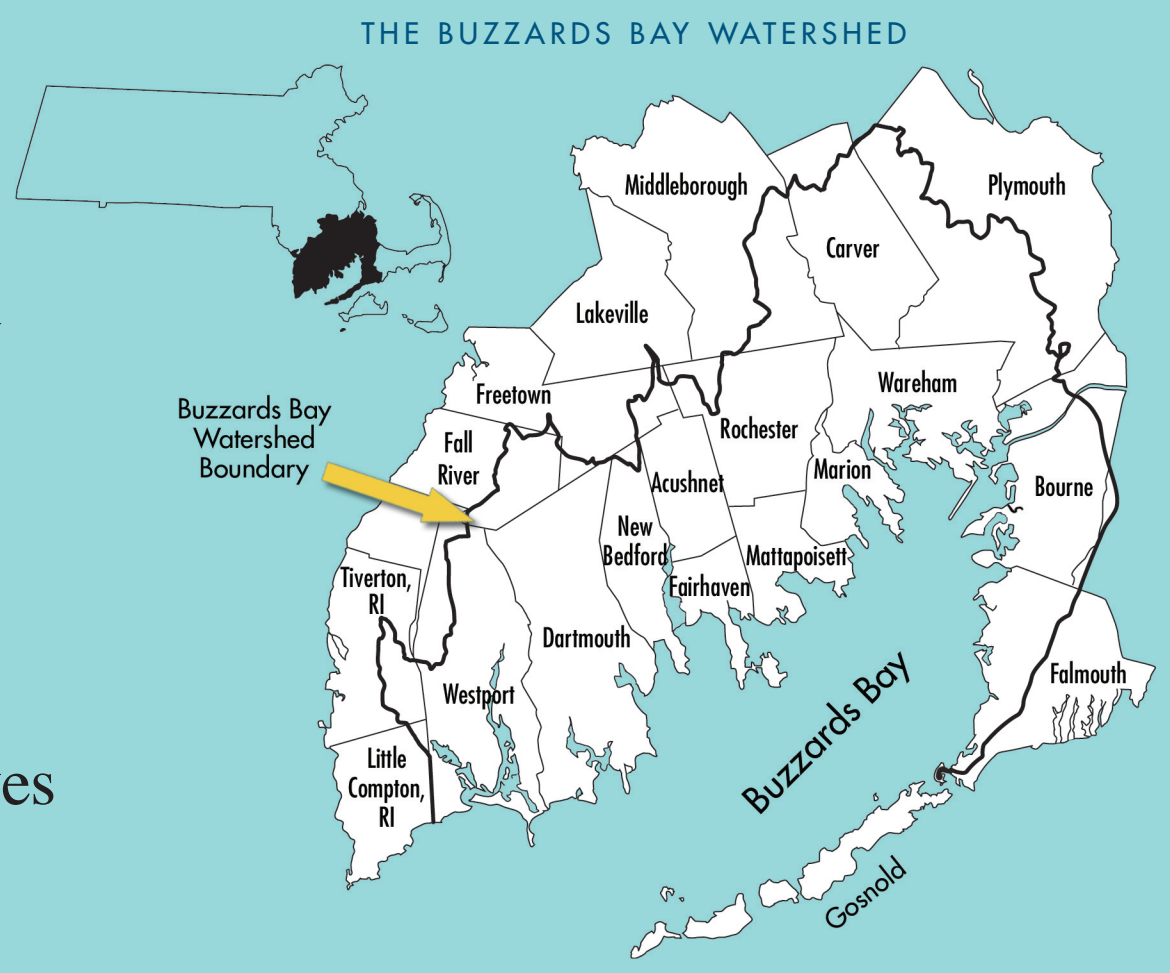
Buzzards Bay Water Quality

Buzzards Bay remains one of the healthiest coastal ecosystems on the East Coast. But a major change is underway along its coastline which threatens the health of the Bay's nearshore harbors, coves and tidal rivers. Buzzards Bay's future is significantly threatened by increasing nitrogen pollution. Today, more than ½ of Buzzards Bay's harbors and coves are suffering from nitrogen pollution.



THE THREAT OF NITROGEN POLLUTION

While nitrogen is a natural and essential part of all marine ecosystems, excess quantities reduce water quality and degrade marine habitat.

With increased nitrogen pollution, heavy algae growth blocks sunlight and reduces oxygen needed for healthy growth of marine species. As the health of the Bay declines, additional negative impacts are generated, such as murky waters, bad odors, and loss of marine plants and animals such as eelgrass and shellfish.

The principle sources of nitrogen in Buzzards Bay include septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, stormwater runoff, lawn and agricultural fertilizers, and acid rain—all coming from a growing population and increasing poorly-planned development throughout the Bay's watershed.

LET'S ALL REDUCE NITROGEN POLLUTION

You can help improve the health of the Bay:

- Reduce your own fertilizer use at home.
- Support town efforts to clean up pollution and manage new land development.
- Become a member of The Coalition for Buzzards Bay and get directly involved in Bay protection and restoration efforts.

THE COALITION FOR BUZZARDS BAY

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of Buzzards Bay and its watershed.

If you would like to become a volunteer water quality monitor, learn more about Bay protection efforts, or to join The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, visit us on the web at:

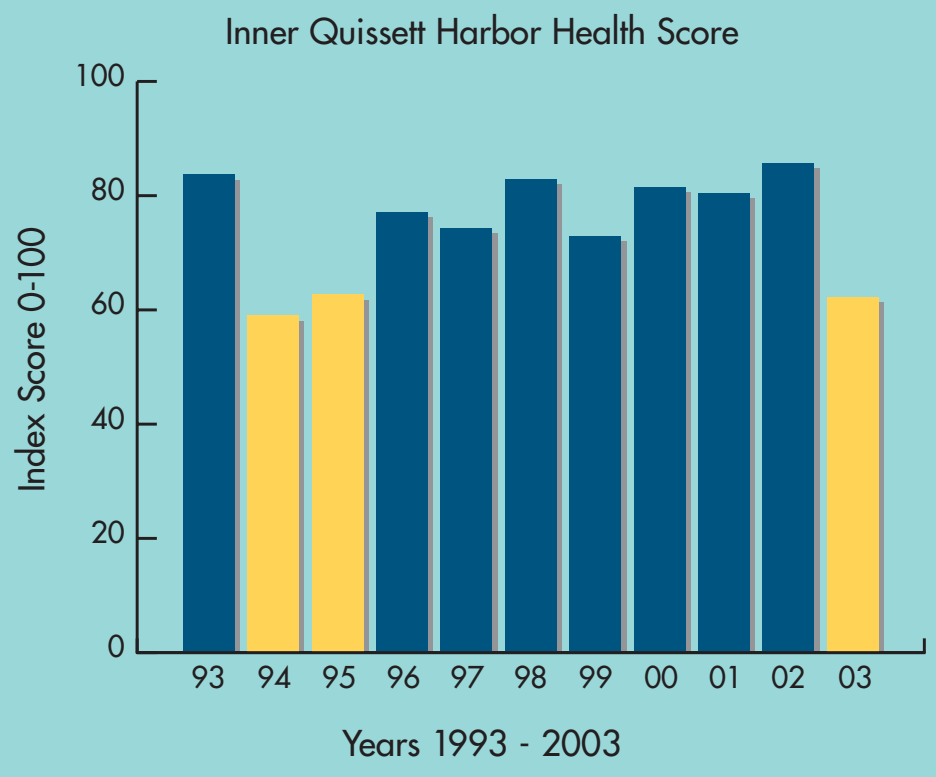
www.savebuzzardsbay.org

HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR LOCAL WATERWAY?

INNER QUISSETT HARBOR

The Buzzards Bay Health Index

- Good to Excellent (65-100)
- Fair (35-65)
- Poor Conditions (<35)



The Bay Health Index measures the nitrogen-related health of each of Buzzards Bay's major harbors, coves and tidal rivers. It does not include bacteria monitoring and is not an index of public health safety including swimmability or shellfish bed status.

THE COALITION FOR BUZZARDS BAY

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