

# Wellfleet Harbor Sediment Sampling Survey Fact Sheet

Cape Cod National Seashore

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Cape Cod National Seashore scientists are conducting a sediment sampling study in Wellfleet Harbor this summer to characterize the soil composition of current shellfishing areas. This study, previously conducted in 2004 and 2010, is part of an ongoing effort to monitor baseline conditions of Wellfleet Harbor prior to restoration of the Herring River.

Sediments are collected from the top five centimeters of the surface with a three-inch diameter hand-driven coring tube and analyzed for grain size distribution and organic matter content. The analysis is conducted in a lab where samples are dried, weighed, and sorted using sieves. The dried samples are also heated in a special high-temperature oven, which burns off only the organic material allowing scientists to determine the total percent of organic matter in the sediment.



*Cape Cod National Seashore Geologist in the Park conducting Wellfleet Harbor sediment sampling.*

As restoration of the Herring River proceeds, this sampling study will be repeated periodically and the results compared to the baseline data to help understand how the restoration project may be affecting sediment composition in future years

A report describing the baseline sediment characteristics will be prepared later in 2017.



## For questions and comments, please contact:

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