



**MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
TOWN OF FALMOUTH**
180 SCRANTON AVENUE, FALMOUTH, MA 02540
TEL: (508) 457-2550 • FAX: (508) 457-2525
TOWN MARINA TEL: (508) 457-2551

Dear Falmouth Property Owner:

If your property is within 100-ft of the defined Wetlands Resource Area, this bylaw applies to you.

The Town of Falmouth is home to more than fifteen major coastal ponds stretching from Waquoit Bay to Meganset Harbor. These estuaries help define our community and all are in various stages of decline. Too much nitrogen going through the groundwater into the water bodies is causing algae blooms, fish kills and general habitat degradation.

Individual cesspools and septic systems are the single largest cause of this decline. The second largest controllable nitrogen source impacting our estuaries is **fertilizer used on lawns**. That is why Falmouth enacted the Nitrogen Control Bylaw, Chapter 237 of the Town Code. The full text of the Bylaw can be found at <https://ecode360.com/27443489>

If you fertilize your lawn, or have someone else fertilize for you, this Bylaw applies to you. The key points of the Nitrogen Bylaw are as follows:

- Any portion of your property that comes within 100-ft of a protected wetland resource area as listed in the Falmouth Wetlands Regulations **bans ANY fertilizing in this 100-ft zone.**
- Areas on your property **landward of this zone may be fertilized in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaw.**
- The Bylaw **bans all fertilizing before April 15th or after October 15th, and directly before or during a heavy rain event.**

Just so you know, wetland resource areas include any bank, freshwater wetland, coastal wetland, beach, dune, flat, marsh, swamp, wet meadow, bog, vernal pool, reservoir, creek, estuary, stream, pond, lake, or ocean or land under the water bodies. These are listed in the Falmouth Wetland regulations under FWR 10.01(1) (a-d).

Thank you for your cooperation in improving the quality of Falmouth's estuaries. For more information or to report violations please call 508-457-2550.

Sincerely,

Gregg Fraser, MES Director