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## Robbins Report

To preserve and protect

### The County Dredge Makes Its Way Around the Cape

11/05/08 · 6:29 pm :: posted by **Peter Robbins**

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The County barge is re-decked on Bass River before its voyage to Falmouth.

Photographs & Story by Peter Robbins

**T**o prepare for an upcoming busy schedule, under the direction of Barnstable County Dredge Superintendent Wayne Jaedtke, the County barge was re-decked with 2" oak planks in Bass River last week prior to its journey to Falmouth to meet up with the County's dredge the *Codfish*.

A cooperative effort between NOAA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the County of Barnstable, the Town of Falmouth and Cashman Dredging will soon result in the opening of the channel to Great Harbor in Woods Hole. A great deal of the material to be removed was found to be of beach quality, according to Jennifer McKay of Falmouth Conservation. Because of the size of Cashman's equipment and its inability to get too close to shore, the spoils will be brought to a dumping area near Menauhant Barrier Beach. From there the County dredge will pump the spoils to



designated areas of the beach.

Announced in a prior press release from Congressman Bill Delahunt's office, the NOAA funds will pay for the use of the spoils for the nourishment of the Falmouth beach. Specifically, the project proposes to protect, restore and enhance the valuable natural ecosystem in the vicinity of Menauhant Beach through a program of dune restoration and beach nourishment. Restoration of this valuable barrier beach will enhance the health and productivity of the Menauhant Barrier Beach and Bournes Pond ecosystem providing a public benefit through increased access to the coastal zone and improved stewardship of coastal resources. Congressman Delahunt was able secure \$249,845 in NOAA funds for the project.

Future plans are to berth NOAA's R/V (research vessel) *Bigelow* in Woods Hole, which would require dredging to accommodate the vessel's size. The R/V *Bigelow* is the latest addition to NOAA'S fleet. Having a full load displacement of 2,479 metric tons, 209' in length, 49' wide and drawing 29.7' with its retractable keel down, it seems everyone is going to benefit from the dredging project.

The project is a massive undertaking and should begin any time. Photographs taken today documented the presence of the County equipment moored off Bournes Pond in Falmouth with its 16" discharge tubes laid out on the beach.

As the County dredge makes its way around Cape Cod, and having an ongoing interest in Barnstable Harbor, I asked Jaedtke when the dredge would make it to Barnstable Harbor. "We should be in Barnstable Harbor by the end of November or the first of December," he replied.

"The Barnstable project will have nearly 2 miles, some 10,000 feet of the 16" pipe." Jaedtke went on to say, "It will run from the dredge *Codfish* to a secondary booster pump on the barge. From the booster pump the spoils will go to the designated areas. It should be quite an operation."

The dredging program run by the County is a very valuable asset, one which the Cape should be grateful for. County dredging projects have been reported to cost a quarter of what a commercial dredging company may charge.



The County barge is re-decked on Bass River.



NOAA's research vessel *Bigelow*. Image from NOAA site.



The County dredge at work.



The 16" discharge tubes used in the process.