

## Next Steps: Linking Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Planning on Cape Cod

*Stacey Justus, Coastal Resources Specialist, Cape Cod Commission*

The Cape Cod Commission had developed a multi-jurisdictional, natural hazard mitigation plan for Barnstable County, Massachusetts, and has assisted local governments in their development of local natural hazard pre-disaster mitigation plans. This work was done to satisfy the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Management Act of 2000, requiring such plans by November 1, 2004. The Barnstable County Natural Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (Regional PDM Plan) is organized into six (6) main sections and is accompanied by 9 FEMA-certified local PDM Plans for the towns of Bourne, Mashpee, Sandwich, Harwich, Chatham, Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet, and Provincetown.

**Barnstable County's Regional and 9 Local PDM Plans are due to be updated and recertified by FEMA by March 2010.** The county's certified plans all fall under the regional umbrella plan and are due to be updated every five years from its original FEMA certification date of March 9, 2005.

The purpose of the PDM Plans is to identify specific hazards that threaten Barnstable County and to establish a mitigation strategy to reduce the risks associated with these hazards. Each Local PDM Plan includes goals that support hazard mitigation, a local hazard inventory and risk assessment, a vulnerability analysis based on the location of local critical facilities and infrastructure (using GIS mapping) and an existing protection matrix. Importantly, these plan elements were undertaken so that each town could generate the heart of its Local PDM Plan, which is a mitigation strategy including a prioritized list of mitigation actions and projects.

During the required update, the Cape Cod Commission staff will be working with the Waquoit Bay Reserve (Tonna-Marie Rogers) and the Adaptation Network (Dr. Lynne Carter) to incorporate climate adaptation planning into the natural hazard mitigation planning process. The PDM planning process will be undertaken with the consideration of climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation options that can help ensure that our Mitigation Strategy reduces risk and improves our resilience to the anticipated, localized, effects of our changing climate.

Commission staff will be reconvening the Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Team and asking the Cape's Town Planners to work with them on PDM Plan updating under the umbrella of climate change adaptation planning.

Please see the 2004 Barnstable County Natural Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan on the Commission's web site: [www.capecodcommission.org/planning/plansstudies.htm](http://www.capecodcommission.org/planning/plansstudies.htm)