

Water Management Act

Falmouth Water Stewards
Falmouth Public Library
10-28-2026

Duane LeVangie, MassDEP

WMA's Purpose

Chapter 21G, Section 7: Reasonable protection of…



- Public drinking water supplies
- Navigation
- Hydropower resources
- Fish and wildlife
- Water quality
- Water-based recreation
- Wastewater treatment capacity
- Agriculture
- Waste assimilation capacity
- Reasonable conservation practices consistent with efficient utilization of water
- Groundwater recharge areas
- Flood plains
- Wetland habitat
- Reasonable economic development and creation of jobs

WMA: Permits and Registrations

- Registrations (79 Registrations on Cape Cod)
  - Water rights based on prior use (1981-1985)
  - Minimal conditions without regulation change
    - Nonessential use restrictions during droughts
  - ~85% of state's authorized volume
  - Not subject to Safe Yield limitation
- Permits (27 Permits on Cape Cod)
  - New sources or additional volumes after registration period
  - 20-year renewal on basin schedule with reviews
  - Subject to conditions
  - ~15% of state's authorized volume (but conditions ~50% of water)
  - Cannot permit volumes above Safe Yield

Safe Yield: 100% of Drought Aquifer Recharge (MGD)	266.0
Total Annualized Authorized Withdrawals (MGD)	51.34
Total Annualized Registered Withdrawals (MGD)	32.13

0.10 Million Gallons per Day
9 Million Gallons over 3 month

Standard Permit Conditions

- Efficiency Requirements
  - 65 residential gallons per capita day (RGPCD) – *Not applicable for Cape Cod & Islands*
  - 10% unaccounted-for-water (UAW)
  - BMPS (leak detection & repair, metering, pricing, public education, etc.)
- Seasonal limits on nonessential outdoor water use
- Coldwater Fisheries Resources (CFR) Protection
- Minimization – *Not applicable for Cape Cod & Islands*
- Mitigation

Nonessential Water Use Restrictions

- Non-Essential: Uses not required for health or safety reasons, by regulation, for production of food or fiber, for maintenance of livestock, or to meet the core function of a business
- Permits and Registrations have different triggering criteria
- Permit Triggers (varies by PWS and renewal status)
  - Groundwater Elevation Trigger AND Drought declaration
- Registration Trigger
  - Follows drought declarations made by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Mitigation

Mitigation

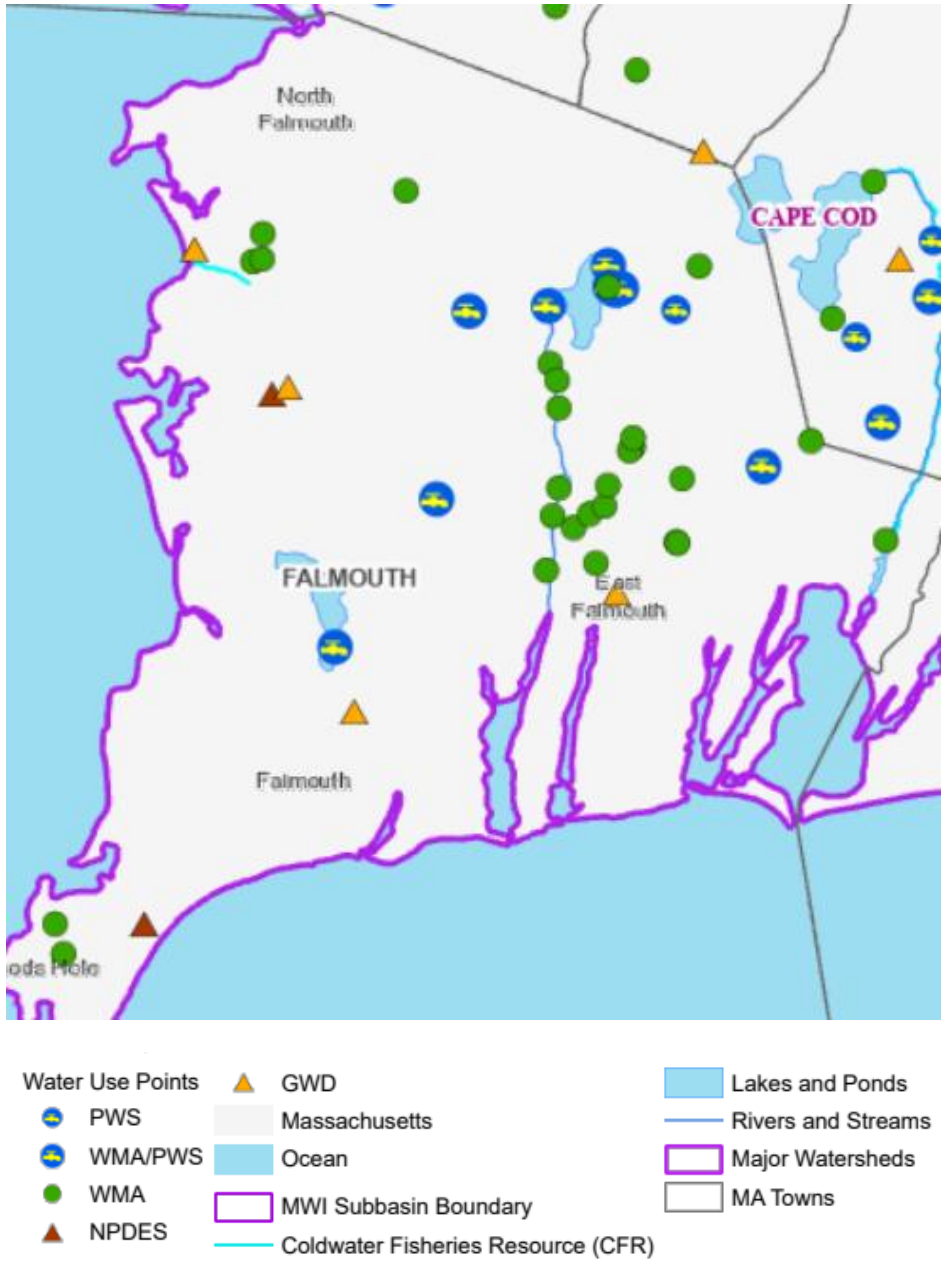
- Activities undertaken that offset the impacts of ground or surface water withdrawals by improving streamflow or aquatic habitat
- Mitigation is required when volume is greater than baseline
- Local wastewater returns to groundwater may adjust the volumes needed to be mitigated

- Direct Mitigation: I/I, stormwater recharge, surface water releases, retiring cranberry bogs
- Indirect Mitigation: Land acquisition, municipal bylaws (private wells, wetlands, stormwater, etc.), habitat & stream restoration, I/I, dam removal, culvert replacement

Falmouth Water Department

- Registration: 4-22-096.07
- Permit: 9P-4-22-096.01
- Max. Daily Water Consumption was 9.62 MG on 7/5/2025

Source	Permit or Registration	Max Approved Day (MGD)	2025 Actual Max (MGD)
Long Pond Res.	Both	2.6 (firm yield) 8.40	2.82 6.58
Fresh Pond Well	Reg	1.0	0.69
Coonamesset Well	Perm	1.0	0.55
Mares Pond Well	Perm	0.38	0.33
Crooked Pond Well	Perm	1.47	0.98
Upper Cape Purchase	-	-	1.30



Name	Registration Volume (MGD)	Permit Volume (MGD)	Total Authorized Volume (MGD)	2025 Actual USE (MGD)
Cape Cod CC Green Meadow GC	0.10	--	0.10	0.09
Falmouth CC	0.11	--	0.11	0.05
Falmouth Water Department	2.95	1.36	4.31	2.83 + 0.54* = 3.57
Falmouth Cranberry Bogs	0.56	--	0.56	0
Paul Harney GC	0.1	--	0.1	0.1
The Golf Club by Troon	--	0.17	0.17	0.14
The Golf Club at Cape Cod	--	0.13	0.13	0.11
Woods Hole GC	--	0.08	0.08	0.08
TOTALS	*3.82*	*1.74*	*5.56*	*3.4*

*Upper Cape purchase

NAME	Registered Vol.	Permit Vol.	Total Vol.	2025 Withdrawals Vol.	2025 Purchase Vol.	2025 Total Use
COMM District	1.98	1.59	3.57	3.33	0	3.33
Barnstable Fire District	0.34	0.32	0.66	0.57	0	0.57
Cotuit District	0.27	0.36	0.63	0.46	0	0.46
Hyannis	2.71	0.54	3.25	2.47	0	2.47
Bourne Water District	0.73	0.79	1.52	1.25	0.17	1.42
Brewster	0.63	0.94	1.57	1.36	0	1.36
Chatham	0.7	0.62	1.32	1.29	0	1.29
Dennis Water District	2.1	1.16	3.26	3.25	0	3.25
Eastham	0	0.415	0.415	0.3	0	0.3
Falmouth	2.95	1.36	4.31	2.83	0.54	3.37
Harwich	1.2	1.43	2.63	2.14	0	2.14
Mashpee Water District	0.14	1.4	1.54	1.43	0.16	1.59
Orleans	0.86	0.41	1.27	1.01	0	1.01
Provincetown	0.85	0	0.85	0.75	0	0.75
Sandwich Water District	0.77	1.55	2.32	1.78	0.11	1.89
Yarmouth	3.03	1.92	4.95	3.81	0	3.81
Upper Cape	0	3.00	3.0	1.02	0	1.02
TOTALS	***19.26***	***14.805***	***34.065***	***29.05***	***0.98***	***30.03***

Questions?

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