



TOWN of FALMOUTH

DIVISION OF MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
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GREGG FRAZER
DIRECTOR/HARBORMASTER

You are receiving this letter because you may have customers whose property is within 100' of a coastal pond.

Falmouth has a Fertilizer Bylaw that PROHIBITS the use of fertilizer on lawns **within 100 feet of a protected resource area** listed in Falmouth Wetlands Regulations 10.02 (1) (a-d) including any: bank, freshwater wetland, coastal wetland, beach, dune, flat, marsh, swamp, wet meadow, bog, vernal pool, reservoir, creek, estuary, stream, pond, lake, the ocean or land under water bodies. The **Town Bylaw bans ANY fertilizing in these areas.** The Department of Marine and Environmental Services is charged with enforcing this bylaw, but voluntary citizen cooperation will be the key to its success.

The Bylaw applies to nitrogen used to fertilize grass only. The Bylaw does not apply to fertilizer used on flower and vegetable gardens, greenhouses, houseplants, farms, or orchards. The Bylaw also does not apply to the establishment or repair of turf (after substantial damage) in its first growing season.

The Bylaw **bans fertilizing any part** of a lawn between **October 16th and April 14th**, or directly before or during a heavy rain event. Don't spill fertilizer on paved surfaces and quickly clean it up if you do.

The Bylaw recommends that if you fertilize lawns not covered by the 100' prohibition, **fertilize sparingly!** The Bylaw encourages use of materials such as yard waste, compost or other similar materials that are primarily organic in nature to improve the physical condition of your soil.

The Town of Falmouth is home to more than fifteen major coastal ponds. From Waquoit Bay to Little Pond to Megansett Harbor, these estuaries define our community. And, they are in serious decline. Too much nitrogen going through the groundwater into these water bodies is causing algae blooms, fish kills, and habitat degradation.

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

Thank you for your cooperation in improving the quality of Falmouth's waters.

Sincerely,

Gregg Fraser

Gregg Fraser, Director, Marine and Environmental Services