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For Immediate Release

Motor Boats Prohibited in Muddy Creek Channel

With the completion of the Muddy Creek Bridge, not only will tidal flow be returned to upstream waters, but waterway access between Pleasant Bay and Muddy Creek will be restored for the first time in more than one hundred years. However, access into the Muddy Creek waterway from Pleasant Bay will be limited to non-motorized vessels.

State regulation (323 CMR sec 207(c)) prohibits motorized vessels from operating within 150 feet of any public or private beach used for swimming. As a result, the entrance channel leading under the Muddy Creek Bridge is off limits to motorized vessels. Regulatory swim area buoys are established during the summer season to mark the traditional public swimming areas at Bay Road (Harwich) and Jackknife (Chatham) Beaches; the entrance into Muddy Creek waterway is within these areas. Signs also will be posted at the channel entrance to warn vessel operators of the prohibition against motorized vessels in the channel.

In addition to the regulation, there are other reasons why Muddy Creek is not suited to motorized vessels. The creek is very narrow and shallow in certain areas, almost all of the shoreline is conservation land, and there is no public shoreline access upstream of the bridge. Non-motorized vessels such as kayaks and canoes will be free to traverse the entrance channel.

Per Chatham Harbormaster and Harwich Harbormaster