

## Local Organizations Receive Grants from Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

BOSTON – The Metropolitan Beaches Commission will hold a public hearing Monday that will include a discussion of the value of free events and programs in beachfront communities, including Quincy and Hull.

The hearing will take place from 10 a.m. to noon in Room 222 at the State House in Boston. The hearing will also focus on the Department of Conservation and Recreation's budget and plans for 2016, strengthening water transportation connections and the status of the Boston Harbor Islands beaches at Spectacle Island and Paddocks Island.

The state Legislature created the commission in 2006 to take an in-depth look at Boston-area public beaches that are managed by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, including Wollaston Beach in Quincy and Nantasket Beach in Hull.

The state has spent millions to clean-up Wollaston Beach, which has been dogged by closures due to high bacteria counts caused by storm-water pipes and pet waste washing into the water. Experts say the efforts have resulted in progress, but some beachgoers still steer clear of the water.