

MA DMF offers the following comments for your consideration:

- MA DMF recommends the proponent conduct an eelgrass survey prior to construction to confirm the seaward structures proposed for reconstruction **do not lie within 25 feet of any eelgrass**. The survey should be conducted within the growing season (June-September) and according to MA DMF Eelgrass Survey Guidelines [4].
- Repair of the structure should be within the same footprint as the existing structure or landward. Any expansion of the footprint into tidal waters of the Commonwealth will result in the loss of shellfish habitat and likely eelgrass habitat.
- A **time-of-year (TOY)** restriction should be observed to protect sensitive life stages of horseshoe crabs from beach construction activity on potential nesting beaches. Beach construction activity - such as piling removal and installation - could bury and/or crush spawning adult crabs and nests. Eggs in nests buried too deep may not hatch. **No beach construction activity should take place from May 1 – July 31 of any year [5]**.
- Construction activity, including staging of construction material and equipment as well as equipment transit to and from the construction site, should avoid intertidal habitat to the greatest extent practicable. As much work as possible should be conducted from the upland portion of the project site or from the barge to minimize impacts and avoid compaction of sediment in mapped shellfish habitat. Any work in the intertidal zone should be limited to low tide such that work is conducted in the “dry”.
- Any activities requiring a **barge** should be coordinated to **avoid barge grounding** or operation in **shallow water** (less than **2 feet** between motor skag and substrate) over mapped shellfish habitat.
- Fuel spills from refueling of construction equipment will adversely impact sensitive resource areas. Impacts to resource areas can be avoided by prohibiting all land-based equipment from being refueled on-site. If equipment is refueled on-site, adequate containment and clean up material should be required to minimize impacts.

Questions regarding this review may be directed to Amanda Davis in our New Bedford office at [Amanda.davis@mass.gov](mailto:Amanda.davis@mass.gov).

Sincerely,

*Amanda Davis*

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Environmental Analyst

MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Cc:

Bradford Bower, Woods Hole Group, Inc.

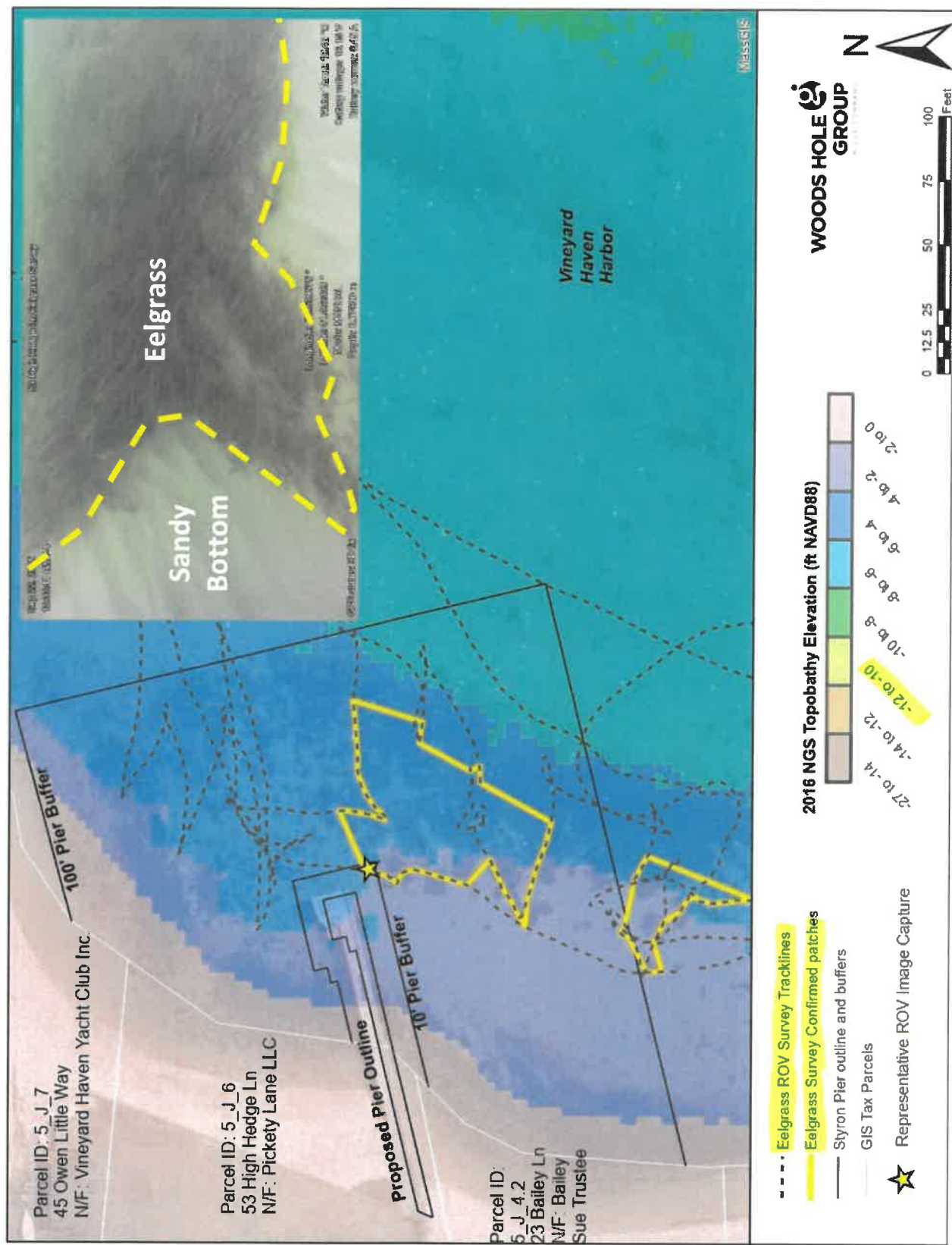


Figure 5. Subtidal eelgrass area interpreted from continuous video footage along transect lines at and adjacent to the existing pier at 53 High Hedge Lane on September 22, 2025. The proposed project area, as well as a 10-ft and 100-ft buffer line are depicted to show relative position. Inset photo represents nearest location to pier.

10 feet Pier Buffer DMF says 25 feet