



# Paddling to Save the Bays

*The annual stand-up paddling event benefits Three Bays Preservation, an organization that addresses problems of pollution in Cotuit, North, and West bays.*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIA CUMES

Jack Egan, of Stamford, Conn., carries his stand-up paddle board down to the water at Ropes Beach in Cotuit before the start of the race. This was Egan's second time participating in the "Paddle for the Bays" challenge. He placed first in the one-loop 5-mile course.



Race participants set out from Ropes Beach in Cotuit Bay for the picturesque race course. The racers cover three bays—Cotuit Bay, North Bay and West Bay—during the course of the race.



Eric Johnson, one of the "Paddle for the Bays" race directors, gives safety instructions to participants before the start of the race at Ropes Beach. Race participants, far right, set out from Ropes Beach in Cotuit Bay for the picturesque race course. "People absolutely love this



race," says Judy Heller, one of the race's directors. "We hear all the time how beautiful they think the course is." Alexa Cotton, 7, of Osterville, right, prepares to get on her SUP to participate in the "Paddle for the Bays Youth Class 1-mile course."



"Paddle for the Bays" racers approach the Bridge Street bridge in Osterville, as they head from North Bay into West Bay on the scenic course.



Leaving Cotuit Bay  
headed to North Bay



"Paddle for the Bays" participants cheer enthusiastically for other racers as they finish the course at Ropes Beach in Cotuit. Will Rich, of Gloucester, winner in the 10-mile unlimited board category, celebrates his completion at Ropes Beach. "Paddle for the Bays" attracts racers of all ages and from all over New England and beyond. Damian Caputo of Sandwich, who came in 5th in the 10-mile 14 foot board category, gets a congratulatory high-five from fellow elite racer, Marta Downing of Portsmouth, N.H.





**Paddle for The Bays** will be held Sept. 20. For more information on **Paddle for the Bays**, go to [www.paddleforthebays.org](http://www.paddleforthebays.org). To learn more about **Three Bays Preservation**, visit [www.3bays.org](http://www.3bays.org).

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