

Chappy Erosion Update, Ship Wreck and Wasque (Swan Pond) Erosion
with Photos - January 16, 2011

The Christmas weekend storm has wreaked more havoc on Chappy beaches particularly the area between the old tire deflation lot and Wasque Point. More than 20 feet of beach was lost at the site of the former deflation lot and the ocean is now less than 150 feet from Jerry & Sue Wack's house. The road from what was the deflation lot has all but disappeared with only the very lower portion remaining. Currently the only way to access the Chappy side of Norton Point Beach is on foot from the bathing beach parking lot, and that may not even be possible at high tide. The Trustees have removed all of their signage from the lot and the Foster Silva Memorial rock has been moved back to the Wasque guard house. The seaward end of the lot is being washed over almost daily and is filling with seaweed and sand as well as debris from the remaining bluff which is only about 30 feet from the edge of the lot. Wasque Point itself has been reduced in size and there is absolutely no dune between Wasque and what was once Metcalf's Hole. Much of the sand has been pushed inland and there is very little left to the Swan Pond. The entire area including much of East Beach is filled with debris coming off of the bluffs. Accelerating the problem is the fact that the Katama side of Norton Point is continuing it's march eastward and starting to parallel the Chappy side. This has created a 100 yard sluiceway which funnels the water out of Edgartown Harbor directly toward the southwest corner of Chappy which is taking the biggest hit.

See aerial views directly below comparing the Water line from the Summer of 2008 to the current water line in December 2010.























