

---

## Staff & Administrative Functions

Administratively, staff is divided into sections that perform policy and planning, administrative, permitting, and enforcement duties, all providing the Council with the necessary expertise to assist in decision-making. The staff conducts pre-application conferences, reviews all pertinent permit applications and prepares recommendations for decisions to be made by the Council. The staff also prepares draft plans and regulations for the Council's consideration. The staff of the CRMC is divided into the following components:



## Permitting

The permitting staff conducts pre-application conferences, reviews all pertinent permit applications and prepares recommendations for decisions to Council members. The permitting staff, for most applications, is divided into teams, each team consisting of an Environmental Scientist and an Engineer. Each of the teams covers a specific geographic area of the state. This includes all of the territorial waters of the state and land areas in and surrounding the municipalities. The limited geographic focus of each team results in an increased knowledge and awareness of each area's coastal environment.

## Administrative

The Executive Director is responsible for all aspects of the agencies functions. Personnel issues, budget preparation, and various other administrative duties are carried out by the Executive Director in addition to the daily decision-making and recommendations to Council members.

## Policy & Planning

The policy and planning staff assures that all pending planning tasks are continued and that new planning tasks are initiated. In conjunction with the administrative section, the policy and planning staff prepares annual federal grant requests, and program performance reports. The policy and planning staff also serves as the lead contact on coastal planning activities and performance of the federal grant program with OCRM/NOAA.

## Enforcement

The enforcement staff acts upon any violations of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP). They work closely with the permitting teams in order to discover any violation of the regulations in all of the geographic coastal regions of the state. In addition, the permitting staff works closely with other state agencies to make enforcement more efficient.

### Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council

CRMC  
Oliver Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Rd.

Phone: 401-783-3370

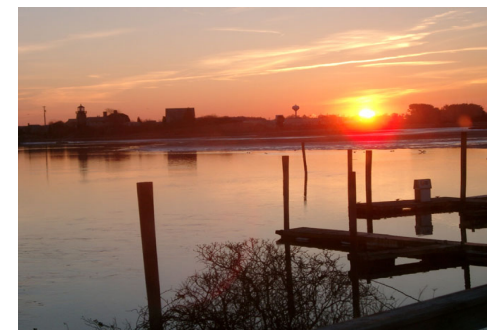
*Celebrating 53 years of coastal management*



---

- Celebrating 53 years of coastal management -

## What is the CRMC?



The Coastal Resources Management Council is a management agency with regulatory functions. Its primary responsibility is for the preservation, protection, development and where possible the restoration of the coastal areas of the state via the issuance of permits for work with the coastal zone of the state. The CRMC is administered by a council who are appointed representatives of the public and state and local government, and a staff of professional engineers, biologists, environmental scientists, and marine resources specialists. It is a state agency created by the General Assembly that balances economic considerations with environmental protection. The decision-making process of the CRMC is conducted in the public eye through regular public hearings. In this manner, the public is given regular opportunities to formally input their comments on how the coastal resources of the state should be managed in Rhode Island.



## What is the CRMC?

In 1971, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed legislation that created the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). The legislative findings recognized the paramount importance that the coastal resources provide to the social and economic welfare of the state, and charged the CRMC with the explicit policy:

"...to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore the coastal resources of the state for this and succeeding generations through comprehensive and coordinated long-range planning and management designed to produce the maximum benefit for society from such coastal resources; and that the preservation and restoration of ecological systems shall be the primary guiding principal upon which environmental alteration of coastal resources shall be measured, judged and regulated."

In order to properly manage coastal resources, the General Assembly has given the CRMC explicit powers and duties. Specifically, the CRMC is charged with the primary responsibility for the continued planning and management of the resources of the state's coastal region. It is authorized to formulate policies and plans, to adopt regulations necessary to implement its various management programs; coordinate its functions with local, state, and federal governments on coastal resources issues (including advising the Governor, the General Assembly, and the public on coastal matters, and acting as binding arbitrator in any

dispute involving both the resources of the state's coastal region and the interests of two (2) or more municipalities or state agencies. It is also responsible for the designation of all public rights-of-way to the tidal water areas of the state, and carrying on a continued discovery of appropriate public rights-of-way.



The regulatory authority of the CRMC is generally defined by the area extending from the territorial sea limit, 3 miles offshore, to two hundred feet inland from any coastal feature. In addition, natural features such as coastal beaches, dunes, barriers, coastal wetlands, cliffs, bluffs, and banks, rocky shores, and manmade shorelines all have an extended contiguous area of two hundred feet from their inland borders which is under the authority of the Council. Cultural features of historical or archaeological significance are also within the jurisdiction of the Council as required by the Federal Government.

In addition to developing coastal management plans and policies and implementing the state coastal regulatory program, the CRMC also has other important functions. It has a coordinating and oversight role for other state agencies and local governments which do not inherently consider coastal zone management issues in their decision-making processes. It has a leadership role in identifying new issues and seeking their resolution. It sponsors coastal zone research that has led to new initiatives in public trust issues, coastal flooding, hazard mitigation, and special area management planning. And it provides the state with a continuing process of public rights-of-way discovery: an issue that is integral to all Rhode Islanders.

## List of Council Members

The CRMC is organized into two basic elements: the Council and its staff. Currently (as of March 2024) the Council membership is:

- Mr. Raymond Coia, Chair
- RIDEM Director/Representative
- Mr. Donald Gomez
- Ms. Patricia Reynolds
- Mr. Stephen Izzi
- Ms. Catherine Robinson Hall
- Mr. Kevin Flynn
- Mr. Joseph Russolino

## Other Council Functions

The Council meets regularly (every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month) and as necessary to hear application requests, investigate the existence of rights-of-way, hold workshops, and develop policy. It does this as one body, or as a subcommittee. All CRMC meetings are open to the public. The following are standing subcommittees of the CRMC:

### **Rights-of-Way Subcommittee**

### **Ocean SAMP Subcommittee**

### **Planning & Procedures Subcommittee**

### **Urban Ports and Harbors Subcommittee**

### **Shoreline Change SAMP Subcommittee**

Additional subcommittees can be created at the direction of the Chairman, who can also call for meetings as needed. All of these subcommittees function with the assistance of the Executive Director and staff.