

Coastal Features

INFORMATION
ABOUT THE
RHODE ISLAND
COASTAL
RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

FALL 1993

VOLUME II, No. 2

CRMC Submits Annual Rights-of-Way Progress Report

At its January 13, 1994 meeting, the State Planning Council reviewed the Coastal Resources Management Council's (CRMC's) annual progress report entitled "Designation of All Public Rights-of-Way to the Tidal Areas of the State" which covers the period from October 1992 through September 1993. Based on its review, the State Planning Council determined that "... the progress report is suitable and relevant to the recreational element of the *State Guide Plan*." The CRMC's submission of an annual progress report to the State Planning Council is a requirement contained in the Rhode Island General Laws (R. I. G. L.) §46-23-17. The report describes the Council's Rights-of-Way (ROW) designation activities. It also lists, by municipality, the status of all sites investigated by the Council and

whether the sites have been designated for use by the general public. Currently, the CRMC has investigated 290 sites and designated 195 as public ROWs.

Once a public ROW has been designated, the public possesses a passageway which can be used to access the tidal waters of the state. Like an easement, a public ROW relates to the public's use, not the public's ownership. In other words, the public has the right to pass over and use this land in a manner consistent with the condition of the site, regardless of who owns it. Public ROWs are used in a variety of ways. In some cases ROWs provide access for fishing and scenic overlooks, while in other instances they are used to launch boats or gain access to the beach. Once a public ROW has been designated, it is preserved and protected for future generations to use and enjoy. The CRMC prohibits any activities which obstruct the use of these sites. The CRMC also pursues legal actions against individuals that block or impede the public's access at these sites. In addition, once a ROW has been designated, it can not be abandoned by a municipality without the approval of the CRMC.

In addition to describing the status of individual ROWs, the progress report discusses the CRMC's various activities relative to improving public access in Rhode Island. Highlighted activities include:

- The CRMC's ROW subcommittee held eleven meetings and five public hearings during the one year period;
- The CRMC was successful in its legal fight to designate the San Roma ROW at Poppasquash Point in Bristol;
- The CRMC, in conjunction with the University Of Rhode Island Sea Grant Office, developed a Fact Sheet on the Council's ROW designation process;
- The CRMC assisted the Rhode

Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) in its efforts to erect newly designed public access signs by streamlining the Council's permit process relative to installing the signs and by providing funding to purchase fifty of the newly designed signs;

- The University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center, with assistance from the CRMC, published a comprehensive shoreline access guide. The Council has assisted in the distribution of this manual by making it available at the Council's offices at a cost of \$10;
- The CRMC is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the RIDEM to coordinate the state's public access efforts;
- The CRMC is working on a new public access section for inclusion in the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP) which will contain specific policies and standards to protect and enhance public access; and,
- The CRMC has continued to use its municipal harbor management planning program as a means to enhance public access.

In addition to these efforts, the Council introduced legislation which was passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly. This law limits the liability of landowners when a site is designated as a public ROW or when the CRMC requires public access as a condition of an Assent.

The progress report also identifies a major problem related to improving public access in Rhode Island; the lack of sufficient funding. In recent years, state budget cuts have decreased the availability of funding which can be used for public access. With continued budget cuts likely, it may be difficult for the CRMC and the RIDEM to continue the implementation of their respective access programs.

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Harbor Management Update

Experimental Program to Chart Mooring Fields Proves Highly Successful

As a resource management agency, the Coastal Resources Management Council requires that coastal communities establish priorities for the use of harbor areas and to develop appropriate management strategies for these areas. As part of their planning efforts, municipalities are required to provide a chart of their respective harbor with special use areas, such as mooring fields, accurately delineated. The charting requirement has caused coastal communities significant difficulty in accurately plotting their mooring fields because there is no standardized statewide method to accomplish this task.

In order to assist the coastal communities in this requirement, staff at CRMC has experimented with a new concept to interface the Global Positioning System (GPS) with the Geographic Information System (GIS) to develop a method of plotting existing mooring fields and special use areas that would establish a standard means of measurement throughout the state. This program has proven to be very successful in two trial runs conducted in Ninigret Pond, Charlestown, and Point Judith Pond, Narragansett, demonstrating that the capabilities of these two systems can be combined to produce highly accurate

geographically-oriented charts of harbors and their respective mooring areas.

The first experiment was conducted in Ninigret Pond, Charlestown. The test was conducted with the support of the University of Rhode Island's Environmental Data Center (EDC) personnel and the Charlestown harbor master, utilizing the University's portable GPS receiver and GIS mainframe computer. The Charlestown harbor master set out buoys to indicate the position of the various mooring fields as verbally described in the Charlestown harbor management plan. These positions were based on estimates of where the mooring field boundaries were assumed to be, not having been surveyed or in any other way accurately plotted or positioned. The team members embarked on the harbor master's boat and proceeded to each prepositioned mark which indicated a mooring field boundary point. At each of these marks a series of satellite readings were taken and stored in the portable GPS receiver. The raw data representing the individual mooring field corner points was then entered into the GIS data base at the EDC utilizing a series of procedures that had not been previously attempted. The result was a computer generated graphic depiction of the mooring fields positioned accurately in relationship to the geographic shoreline adjacent to them.

The computer generated chart, measuring approximately 36"x 48", will be given to the Charlestown Harbor Commission who will annotate the chart with data such as information concerning the numbers of moorings in each specific mooring area, estimated maximum capacity of each area, potential additional mooring areas, bottom sediment types, water depth, shell and fin fish management zones and special data pertinent to the entire charted area. This information will be entered into the GIS file now resident at the EDC and an updated chart will be produced which will provide a real time management tool for both the Town of Charlestown and the CRMC.

The second test was conducted in the upper Point Judith Salt Pond, Narragansett. In this area the mooring fields had not been delineated with buoys beforehand, so a different technique was

utilized to generate the tracking data needed for the GPS input. The portable GPS unit was first initialized in the harbor master's boat using a fixed navigation buoy as a reference point, then the boat proceeded slowly around the circumference of the existing mooring field with the GPS unit taking satellite readings approximately every second. This raw data was again entered into URI's GIS computer, with the resulting chart showing a precise representation of the perimeter of the mooring area in its relationship to the adjacent shoreline. The accuracy of this information is such that mooring field boundaries can be established and maintained from one boating season to the next.

Mooring field mapping utilizing the GPS/GIS interface has been tested and proven to be a viable process that will provide a means to accurately plot mooring fields, individual mooring locations and harbor areas throughout the state. The process has the potential to allow the CRMC to accurately chart every coastal feature, private dock, marina, mooring and mooring field in the state, and be able to overlay such features as water types, bottom sediments, pollution sources and marine life management areas. This capability will provide an extremely powerful tool for water area, shoreline and harbor management decisions, and will allow CRMC to compile specific shoreline and harbor regulation data using a standardized measurement system.

In the future, with procurement of appropriate GIS equipment at CRMC, staff will have the capacity to work closely with the local community planners to determine the best management practices for harbor growth and development. This will allow close coordination in determining proper site locations for new mooring fields and marinas, as well as expansion of existing facilities. The CRMC hopes to obtain federal funding to expand this pilot project to every coastal community in the state, making Rhode Island the first state to employ this new technology for harbor management.

Paul A. Watters
Marine Resource Specialist

Coastal Features

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This issue of *Coastal Features* was edited by Mark T. Imperial and the assistant editor was Laura Kelley Miguel. To comment on any article or to make address changes, please write to the CRMC at the Oliver Stedman Government Center, Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, Rhode Island, 02879.



Phoebe Lyons christens the John A. Lyons, named for her husband.

CRMC Commissions New Patrol Vessels

In a ceremony conducted September 15, 1993, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) christened two new outboard vessels that were purchased with a federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management to improve the enforcement of the Council's regulations. The vessels were christened in traditional ceremonies with the names of John A. Lyons and William W. Miner, both former chairmen and executive directors of the CRMC. John Lyons, a former state legislator, helped draft the legislation which created the Council in 1971. William Miner, who died in 1992, was also active in founding the original Council as well as Save-the-Bay.

The traditional ceremony, coordinated by Paul Watters, was held on the beach at old South Ferry Landing at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and

attended by about 60 well wishers. Chairman Richard James and Council members Paul Hicks and George Sisson each praised the efforts of Lyons and Miner to protect Rhode Island's coastal resources over the years. Mrs. Lyons and Mrs. Miner then christened the vessels in their husbands' names with the customary bottles of champagne broken on each vessel's trailer to avoid damaging the vessel's fiberglass hulls. Both women received traditional bouquets of roses presented by Grover J. Fugate, CRMC's Executive Director.



The vessels will primarily be used to enforce the Council's new program for registering residential docks. However, the new vessels give the

Council the on-the-water enforcement capability which it has been lacking since its inception. The two vessels, a 21-footer with a 175-horsepower engine and a 16-footer with a 50-horsepower engine, were purchased with federal money to develop and implement the Council's new dock registration program. The christening ceremony was sponsored strictly with donated time and services; no state funding was utilized.

Update on the Dock Registration Program

The CRMC's Dock Registration Program, put into effect on July 1, 1993, is designed to ensure that all docks located in the State's tidal waters are authorized by the CRMC (See *Coastal Features* volume 1, number 2). So far, the implementation of this program has been very successful. Currently, over 500 registration plates have been issued to individuals who had prior permits or applied for and received temporary dock permits. It is expected that the number of dock registrations will continue to increase as summer approaches and seasonal residents return.

To help residents with the registration process, the CRMC held numerous public workshops in municipal town halls around the State. The CRMC plans additional workshops in the spring as the June 30, 1994 deadline approaches. Remember, if you have a residential dock, it must be registered with the CRMC before July 1, 1994. To obtain further information about the CRMC's dock registration program and obtain application materials please write the CRMC or contact Jeff Willis at (401) 277-2476.

Council Adopts New Nonpoint Control Measures

In July, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) adopted a series of program changes which address nonpoint source pollution. These included:

- The Council adopted comprehensive stormwater management regulations which implement several new federal requirements within Council jurisdiction. For example, the new policies require the removal of at least 80% of the average annual total suspended solids (TSS) loadings. The CRMC, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), also developed a stormwater management guidance manual for applicants to the CRMC, RIDEM and local governments. This manual compliments Rhode Island's existing soil erosion and sediment control manual and should be available at minimal cost from the RIDEM and the CRMC in March.
- The CRMC adopted wetlands mitigation requirements for all alterations to coastal wetlands.

How You Can Help Improve Public Access

There are many ways that you can help safeguard and improve public access in Rhode Island. These include:

- Familiarize yourself with public access sites in your community
- Clean up public access sites
- Participate in beach cleanups
- Participate in RIDEM's "Adopt-a-Spot" Program
- Participate in your community's harbor management planning process
- Gather information necessary for the CRMC to designate public ROWs
- Report the unlawful blockage of ROWs to the CRMC and local officials
- Work with environmental and conservation groups involved in the issue
- Lobby state and local officials to improve public access



Hazzard Ave. in Narragansett, recently designated by the CRMC as a public right-of-way.

Projects that result in permanently altered or lost coastal wetlands are now required, at a minimum, to restore or create wetlands at a ratio of 2:1. However, specific mitigation requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis taking into account factors such as the size, type, and ecological value of the existing coastal wetland, and the probability of achieving fully functional replacement at the proposed mitigation site.

- The Council adopted denitrification requirements for individual sewage disposal systems (ISDSs) in a selected region addressed by the Salt Ponds Special Area Management (SAM) Plan. All new and upgraded ISDSs in the mapped area must now remove at least 50% of the total nitrogen loadings as measured at the outlet of the septic tank. This action compliments the CRMC's existing ISDS density requirements in the area. The new policies will be enforced by the RIDEM's Division of Groundwater and ISDS pursuant to a formal Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) being developed between the agencies.

These program changes represent significant improvements to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program. The new stormwater management regulations help protect coastal waters from nonpoint source

pollution as a result of stormwater runoff. The wetlands mitigation requirements will ensure that the Council implements a "no-net-loss" policy which protects and preserves coastal wetlands. The new denitrification requirements should also help to improve the water quality in Ninigret Pond, Charlestown. These program changes are an important first step in the development of Rhode Island's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP) pursuant to Section 6217 of the 1990 Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments.

For more information on any of these program changes or the development of Rhode Island's CNPCP contact Mark Imperial or Laura Miguel of the CRMC at (401) 277-2476.

ROW Progress Report

(continued from page 1)

To obtain a copy of a fact sheet on the ROW designation process or a copy of the progress report, please contact the CRMC, Oliver Stedman Government Center, Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879 or call (401) 277-2476. For more information on the RIDEM's Shoreline Access Program contact their Office of Environmental Coordination at (401) 277-3434.

Mark T. Imperial
Jeff Willis

First Interagency Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee Held

On September 14th, the first meeting of the Interagency Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee (INSAC) was held at the offices of the Soil Conservation Service in Warwick. The committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the CRMC, the RIDEM's Office of Environmental Coordination and the Department of Administration, Division of Planning on the development of new and revised programs to control nonpoint source pollution in the state. In addition to the aforementioned, attendees included representatives from the

other divisions within the RI Department of Environmental Management, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Health, as well as URI's Coastal Resources Center, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Office of the Governor.

The primary purpose of this meeting was to brief committee members on federal program requirements contained in the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA) and to discuss general

strategies for program development and implementation. At the time, it was decided that a single advisory group would be convened and utilized for the update of Rhode Island's Nonpoint Source Plan, in accordance with the requirements of section 319 of the CWA, and the development of Rhode Island's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP), in accordance with the requirements of section 6217 of CZARA.

Consensus was reached on the use of technical advisory subcommittees for specific programmatic requirements, such as storm water management, monitoring and public education. The committee reviewed and provided comments on the proposed membership of the subcommittees to be used in developing the CNPCP and in updating the *Rhode Island Nonpoint Source Management Plan*. It was agreed that the subcommittees, as well as the main committee, would only meet when needed (i.e., when the staff has developed work products for review).

For further information on the development of RI's CNPCP and the update of RI's Nonpoint Source Management Plan, or if you wish to be put on the mailing list for future meetings or considered as a representative on a technical advisory subcommittee, please contact Mark Imperial at the CRMC, 277-2476, or Scott Millar at the RIDEM, Office of Environmental Coordination, 277-3434.

Nonpoint Source Tips

Over the next 18 months, the CRMC, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning will be developing a *Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program* (CNPCP) for the State in accordance with the requirements contained in Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. As part of an ongoing effort to increase public awareness of nonpoint source pollution problems and solutions, a new column has been added to the *Coastal Features* format. This column will provide helpful information on simple methods for reducing nonpoint sources of pollution in and around the home.

Common household nonpoint source pollutants include paints, solvents, lawn and garden care products, improperly maintained septic systems, detergents and cleansers, and automotive products such as anti-freeze and oil. In this issue, we focus on some easy ways to prevent nonpoint source pollution associated with automobiles.

Proper use and disposal of automotive products, many of which contain toxic chemical compounds, is critical for safety and environmental protection. Motor oil, gasoline, and anti-freeze can damage or kill aquatic vegetation and marine life and can contaminate drinking water. Anti-freeze is a highly toxic chemical with serious oxygen-depleting characteristics. Accordingly, the improper disposal of used oil and anti-freeze can significantly degrade water quality. One quart of oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water and 4 quarts of oil can form an oil slick of up to 8 acres in size. In addition, even small spills of gasoline when refueling lawn mowers or other gasoline powered tools and vehicles at home can result in significant pollution of ground and surface waters.

The following practices are some easy ways to prevent nonpoint source pollution associated with automobiles:

- Never pour anti-freeze, brake fluid, motor oil or gasoline down storm drains or sewers, or flush these products down the toilet. Always bring these materials to a recycling center.
- Choose an anti-freeze that is Propylene Glycol-based, rather than one that is Ethylene Glycol-based. The propylene glycol-based antifreeze is significantly less toxic to the environment and animals in the event of a spill or leak.
- Never store used batteries outside. Instead, bring used batteries to your nearest recycling center.
- Check your automobile regularly for leaks and immediately repair any that you may find.
- Rather than hosing your driveway down to clean it, try sweeping it instead. This will minimize the amount of pollutants running off during rain storms.
- Use a salt/sand mixture on driveways rather than straight salt.

For further information on recycling or disposal of automotive wastes call *Ocean State Cleanup and Recycling* (OSCAR) at 1-800-253-2674 administered by the RIDEM. For further information on how you can reduce nonpoint pollution in and around your home, call the Laura Miguel or Mark Imperial at the CRMC at 277-2476.

Rhode Island's Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee

Interagency Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee

- RIDEM, Environmental Coordination, Co-chair
- Department of Administration, Division of Planning, Co-chair
- CRMC, Co-chair

Technical Advisory Subcommittees

- Agriculture & Forestry
- Stormwater & Erosion Control
- Individual Sewage Disposal Systems
- Marinas
- Public Outreach and Technical Assistance
- Monitoring
- Priority Watersheds
- Land Use

Coastal News from Around the State

CRMC Hosts SAM Planning Conference

On October 18th and 19th, the CRMC, with the support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) sponsored a workshop on Special Area Management (SAM) planning for the North Atlantic Coastal Management Programs at the Marriot Hotel in Newport. The focus of Monday's agenda was SAM planning initiatives throughout the region and included presentations by representatives from the Buzzards Bay Project in Massachusetts, New Jersey's Hackensack/Meadowlands Development Commission, and Connecticut's Office of Long Island Sound Programs. Representatives of the Alabama, South Carolina, and Texas coastal management programs also gave presentations on SAM planning initiatives in those states.

On Tuesday, the discussion shifted to local planning initiatives in the North Atlantic region. Attendees heard about a number of different approaches to harbor management planning by representatives from coastal zone management programs in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and Connecticut.

The workshop, with the assistance of Virginia Lee of the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center, generated a great deal of discussion on the problems and

approaches associated with SAM planning in a number of very different geographical and political settings. Much of the discussion centered on identifying factors which influence the planning and implementation process. One of the main lessons learned from the workshop was that each special area management plan must be designed to address the specific environmental, social, cultural, and political conditions present in the area. However, it was also evident that many SAM planning initiatives shared similar experiences and addressed similar environmental problems.

This workshop was the second in a series of workshops planned in the Northeast region. These workshops provide an opportunity for staff of different coastal management programs to discuss how they each address similar issues.

Council/Staff Workshop Held

The CRMC held their second Council/Staff workshop on November 29, 1993 at the URI's W. Alton Jones Campus. This semi-annual workshop provides an opportunity for CRMC staff and Council members to discuss emerging issues and the progress of on-going planning efforts. This particular workshop focused on revisiting the agency's goals and policies in the context of recent developments in coastal management in Rhode Island. The workshop also provided a forum for staff and Council members to bring up for discussion (and hopefully resolve) any problems, concerns or issues that have arisen over the seven months. A great turnout and lively discussion resulted in a productive, and dare we say, fun day for all.

Coastweeks '93 is a Big Success

For the sixth consecutive year, Rhode Island participated in the national COASTWEEKS celebration. This year, COASTWEEKS '93 ran from September 18th to October 11th and featured a wide variety of activities and events for participants from all age groups. Some highlights of COASTWEEKS '93 included the annual "Get the Drift and Bag It" statewide beach cleanup, a series of lunchtime oceanography talks sponsored by the Narragansett Bay Classroom, a canoe race along the Pawcatuck River, and a number of coastal walking tours. Once again, the CRMC is grateful to RI Sea Grant and Stop and Shop Supermarkets for their assistance in making COASTWEEKS '93 a great success.

If you or your organization would like information on how to become involved in COASTWEEKS '94, contact Laura Miguel of the CRMC at (401) 277-2476.

Public Access Guide Now Available

The Coastal Resources Center at the University of Rhode Island has completed the guidebook *Public Access to the Rhode Island Coast*.

This lovely 74 page full color booklet provides a selective guide to parks, wildlife refuges, beaches, fishing sites, boat ramps, pathways, and viewing points along Rhode Island's coast.

The guide is available at a cost of \$10.00 from Rhode Island Sea Grant Information Office, URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882-1197.

Guide to the CRMC Hearing Process is Available

The CRMC recently completed a pamphlet entitled *The Hearing Process: A Quick Reference Guide*. This educational pamphlet answers many of the questions commonly asked by those who go before the Council at public hearings and semi-monthly meetings and is available free of charge. If you would like to request a copy, please send your name and address to the Coastal Resources Management Council, Oliver Stedman Government Center, 4808 Tower Hill Rd., Wakefield, RI 02879 or call (401) 277-2476.

Council and Staff Member Update

Since the last issue of *Coastal Features*, there have been several changes on the Council. The Council's Chair, **Richard James**, resigned from his post effective January 1, 1993 to take a position on the Convention Center authority. **Sandra Thornton-Whitehouse** was named by Governor **Bruce Sundlun** to replace James as the Council's Chair. She is the first woman to chair the Council. A new vice-chair has yet to be named. . . . **Senator Helen M. Mathieu** was appointed by Lieutenant Governor **Robert Weygand** to replace **Senator Domenic A. DiSandro, III**. . . . On June 8, 1993 **Noelle Lewis** of South Kingstown was appointed to the Council. She replaced **Kathryn G. Owen**. . . . On October 20, 1993 **Charles "Ted" Wright** was replaced by **Lloyd Sherman** of North Kingstown. Ted was one of the original Council members and his years of dedication and service as the Chair of the CRMC's Rights-of-way Subcommittee and member of the Policy and Planning Subcommittee will surely be missed. . . . **Roger D. Medbury** was replaced by **Michael Tikoian**. Tikoian of Smithfield will now serve as the representative from an inland community.

Congratulations to the Council's Assistant Commissioner **Bill Hawkins** and his wife **Jane** on the birth of their daughter, **Haley** on October 25. . . . Best wishes to **Cheryl** and **Robert Allan** who were married in Las Vegas in November. Best of luck to **Cheryl** who works in the CRMC's Providence office. . . . On October 2nd, 1993 **Doris Aschman**, a staff engineer, became the first woman to complete the Vineyard Windsurfing Challenge around Martha's Vineyard. Despite strong

winds and high seas, Doris made it around the island in 5 hours and 53 minutes.

Grover J. Fugate and **Jeff Willis** attended the 12th Annual Submerged Lands Conference in New Brunswick, Canada. The conference provides various state agencies and provincial offices which manage submerged lands with the opportunity to discuss issues and exchange ideas. At the conference, Grover Fugate, CRMC's Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Council's resource management activities. . . . In other travel related news, **Mark T. Imperial**, a Marine Resources Specialist, traveled to New Orleans, LA to attend Coastal Zone '93, an international conference for coastal zone managers and academics. While at the conference, Imperial gave two presentations on coastal zone management topics.

The CRMC has been very fortunate to have had several University of Rhode Island students working as interns over the past year. These interns have worked on projects and done research in a variety of areas including harbor management, public access, nonpoint source pollution, and public outreach. In addition, many of the interns have gone on to take jobs and further pursue interests developed while working at the CRMC. The Council would like to thank **Joanna Donohue**, **Beth Rhody**, **Jared Rhodes**, **Jason Parker**, **Judy DiCenzo**, **Scott Lussier**, and **Kathy Lavierdi** for their diligence and enthusiasm during the past year. . . . The CRMC would like to welcome **Mike Vann**, **Michael Apicella**, and **John Luco** who will be working as CRMC interns during the Spring semester.

Shoreline Erosion: A Meeting of the Minds

On December 16, 1993, Grover J. Fugate, the Coastal Resources Management Council's (CRMC's) Executive Director, and staff attended a meeting on the status of the shoreline erosion problems in South County, held at the request of Senator Claiborne Pell. Federal, state, and local representatives also attended the meeting held at the University of Rhode Island (URI) which consisted of a four hour roundtable discussion on the scientific, economic, and resource management issues surrounding the current erosion problems. Margaret Leinin, the Vice Provost for Marine Programs at the URI opened the discussion with an overview of the future role that the new Coastal Institute could play in coordinating multi-agency efforts to address complicated environmental issues such as shoreline erosion. The group then listened to two presentations. Professor Jon Boothroyd with the URI Geology Department described the natural processes at work and the resulting problems. Tim Tyrell, a professor with the URI Resource Economics Department, discussed the economic consequences of increased erosion, storm damage, and sea level rise. Ken Payne, Senator Pell's federal projects coordinator, then asked the group to consider all of the political, economic, and environmental consequences of proposed actions and in-action. A discussion then proceeded which was moderated by Dennis Nixon, a professor with the URI Marine Affairs Department.

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Shoreline Erosion: A Meeting of the Minds

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Much of the discussion revolved around current efforts to address this problem. The Army Corps of Engineers (COE) is examining the feasibility of having the Misquamicut Beach areas designated as a federal beach renourishment project. This project would also involve dredging Winnapaug Pond to improve habitat. The CRMC has received federal funding to examine the shoreline erosion problem as well. This grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) allowed the CRMC to provide funding to the URI to conduct monitoring in the Misquamicut Beach area. In addition, the CRMC will be evaluating its policies and regulations governing construction on barrier beaches and shoreline protection facilities. This project is due to be completed in June 1994. Additional discussion identified other possible ways to address the erosion problems in the South County area and how to obtain the funding necessary for a beach nourishment project.

The participants generally felt that the meeting was productive since it allowed various federal, state, and local agencies an important opportunity to discuss the complex issues surrounding shoreline erosion. It was agreed that future meetings would be held to continue the discussions and ensure a coordinated response to the shoreline erosion problem. For more information contact Donna Doyle of the CRMC at (401) 277-2476.

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