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# Coastal Features

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*John A. Lyons*  
1915 - 1995  
*Chairman Emeritus*



## This Newsletter is Dedicated to the Memory of John A. Lyons

John A. Lyons left a well established and successful business to champion the causes of the preservation of the coastal resources of Rhode Island.

In the ten year period from 1963 - 1973 he served as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. During that time he was appointed to the original Governor's Task Force which researched information necessary to draft legislation to protect the vital resources of Narragansett Bay. John had the foresight to author and sponsor

a bill creating the Coastal Resources Management Council and nurturing its growth bringing it to the prominence which it enjoys today.

In 1971, he joined the Council and remained an active participant until his death on July 1, 1995. Governor Frank Licht named him Chairman in 1972. The Council appointed him its Executive Director in 1975. John Lyons held that dual post of Chairman and Executive Director of the Coastal Resources Management Council until January 1985. At a testimonial given in his honor in 1993,

Governor Bruce Sundlun bestowed upon him the title of "Chairman Emeritus".

In a traditional ceremony held at the old South Ferry Landing at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, his wife Phoebe christened, with a bottle of champagne, the "John A. Lyons". Obtained through federal funding this vessel provides the Coastal Resources Management Council with crucial water enforcement capabilities, and aids in developing and implementing the Council's dock registration program.

Considered the "Father of Coastal Resources" in the State of Rhode Island, he encouraged continuing public participation in the protection of coastal resources. He understood that resources aren't managed, but it's the people's attitudes regarding these resources that is managed. Understanding that in order to formulate a policy with a high rate of success, education of the public and voluntary compliance is necessary. To this end he was totally committed. John A. Lyons not only lived his job, but he *felt* it.

Among the many accomplishments realized during his able and inspiring stewardship, was the establishment of an independent free standing Coastal Council with a staff and subcommittees directly responsible to the council.

Above all, John Lyons stood for life affirming values. An exemplary family man, a devoted friend, a compassionate human being, and a loyal supporter to those in need.

An avid sailor, John Lyons had a unique sensitivity and affinity for all matters concerning the preservation of the coastal resources of Rhode Island. Although our dear friend and mentor is now in a safe harbor, his spirit and example guides us to continue and bring to complete fruition the mission to which he was so eminently dedicated.



*'..he certainly is the Father of our coastal resources in the state of Rhode Island...'*

"I don't think we'd be here today signing these grants and have made the progress that we've made here in Rhode Island to protect and preserve our coast and our coastal areas if it wasn't for John Lyons... We have to point to you, John, to your successful leadership and to Mr. Freda and the members of the Council for outstanding work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders."

*-Governor J. Joseph Garrahy*

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To comment on any article in this issue contact Barbara Simmons. To make address changes, please write to the CRMC at the Oliver Stedman Government Center, Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, Rhode Island, 02879.



*Gov. Frank Licht appoints John A. Lyons as Chairman on October 24, 1972.*



- In 1971, sponsored Rhode Island's Coastal Zone Management Act, which is still recognized as the nation's most comprehensive piece of coastal zone legislation.
- Developed one of the nation's first coastal zone management programs, which was put in place a full year before the national Coastal Zone Management Act.
- The Coastal Resources Management Program of 1978 was one of the first state programs to be adopted as a federally-approved program.
- Oversaw the major revisions of the program in 1983, leading to its current format of today.
- During his tenure, the Coastal Resources Management Council assumed the job of rights-of-way designation from the legislature.
- Special Area Management Plans (Salt Pond and Providence Harbor) were completed during his stewardship. These SAMPlans are recognized as some of the best coastal planning efforts in the nation.
- Due to his untiring efforts, Rhode Island was the first state to receive Section 305 monies under the Coastal Management Act.
- He inaugurated the first Oil Fingerprinting Program.
- The Coastal Resources Management Council sponsored an annual essay contest for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students for eight consecutive years.

# on's Legacy

- The Blue Lobster Marine Education Program was developed and encouraged during his tenure.
- Founder of Coastal Awareness Week and the Tall Tale Contest.
- The Beach Vehicle Permit Program, the Aquaculture Program and the Lightering Program all evolved under his management.
- Rhode Island was the first state to receive a million dollar federal grant to imple-

ment its coastal zone program.

- Under his direction the Coastal Resources Management Council sponsored, and John Lyons narrated, educational cruises of Narragansett Bay in conjunction with the League of Women Voters. Cooperating with the speakers bureau, school activity books, slide show presentations, workshops, science projects in schools and research programs related to coastal problems were developed. To heighten the

awareness of the public to the importance of our marine coastal heritage, he employed the media using radio, television, and the newspaper.

- Rhode Island's Coastal Resource Management Program became a model for the entire country.
- John Lyons is the only Chairman Emeritus ever designated for the Coastal Resources Management Council.

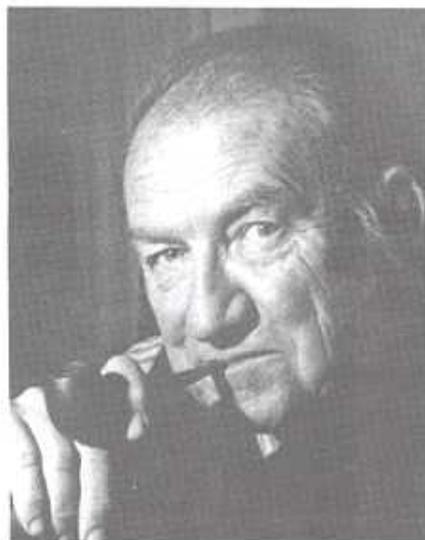


*Coastal Awareness Awards*

*We, his colleagues and the staff at Coastal Resources Management Council, share with his devoted family the loss of this fine gentleman.*



*Preparing to narrate tour of Narragansett Bay*



***"Fingerprinting" of Oil Samples Begins  
in Rhode Island Coastal Area***



*Governor J. Joseph Garrahy, center, hands CRMC  
Chairman John A. Lyons, the coastal awareness  
proclamation during a recent ceremony in the  
Governor's Chambers at the State House.*

***CRMC Program Receives  
High Praise; Formal Acceptance  
Expected Soon***



*"Pond Watchers" Demonstration*



*R.I. Science Fair  
CRMC Science Project Winner.*

## Coastal Program Gets \$1 Million Federal Grant



## R.I. Program Praised by Federal Agency

Governor J. Joseph Garrahy (fourth from left) is flanked by federal and state officials during a ceremony that marked the official approval of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council's massive coastal zone management program and the awarding of \$1 million to implement the program. Shown, left to right, seated: John Walsh, Deputy Administrator of NOAA; John A. Lyons, long-time head of the CRMC, presiding official at the ceremony; Gov. Garrahy; Robert Knecht, Assistant Administrator of the federal OCZM; and William Harsch of the President's Reorganization Staff, Natural Resources. Standing, left to right, are CRMC Vice Chairman Alvaro W. Freda; John D. Riley, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Edward Beard; Vincent F. McAloon, Fiscal Administrator; and William Lynch, Administrative Aide to Senator Claiborne Pell.



Left to right, top row: Joe Turco, Paul Hicks, Alan Goldman, John Lyons, Alvaro Freda, Carolyn Brassil, Dr. William Miner, Capt. John Neary. Left to right, bottom row: Donald Brown, Chet Whaley, Barbara Colt, Jack Bogosian, Frank Geremia

## CRMC Marks Tenth Year

## Coastal Resources Management Council Members

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Paul T. Hicks, Secretary  
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