

Coastal Features

Information about the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program

Summer 1993

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Special Issue: Rhode Island's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

Over the last twenty years, great progress has been made in controlling water pollution that results from point sources (e.g., sewage treatment plants, industrial discharges). As a result, many of the nation's bays and estuaries are significantly cleaner than they were when the Clean Water Act (CWA) was adopted in 1972. Accordingly, many of today's water quality problems, as evidenced by beach closures, prohibitions on shellfish harvesting, and the loss of biological productivity in coastal habitats, are the result of nonpoint sources of pollution which are not controlled by any CWA requirements.

In general, nonpoint pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural pollutants and pollutants resulting from human activity. Eventually, these pollutants are deposited in rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and ground waters. Nonpoint pollutants include: nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus); hydrocarbons (oil and grease); pathogens; pesticides; toxics; and sediment. These pollutants can cause significant environmental problems, particularly in poorly flushed estuaries (e.g., Rhode Island's Salt Ponds and Narrow River). These problems include:

increased nutrient loadings and eutrophication; increased turbidity of receiving waters; decreased oxygen concentrations in receiving waters; increased loadings of toxics, pesticides, and hydrocarbons; and changes in habitat and species diversity. The leading contributors of nonpoint pollutants are: urban runoff (including certain construction and development activities); individual sewage disposal systems (ISDSs); roads, bridges, and highways; agriculture; silviculture (forestry); hydromodifications, dams, and shoreline erosion; and marinas and recreational boating.

In order to address the growing nonpoint pollution problems affecting the nation's coastal waters, Congress passed, as part of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) of 1990, Section 6217 entitled "Protecting Coastal Waters." Section 6217 requires each coastal state with a federally approved coastal management program to develop a Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP) to be approved jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Once approved, Rhode Island's CNPCP will be implemented through changes to existing programs administered by the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning (RIDOP), and local governments. Failure to develop an approved CNPCP by July 1995 will result in fiscal penalties on both

the RIDEM's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program and the CRMC's RICRMP.

Developing Rhode Island's CNPCP

The central purpose of Section 6217 is to enhance state and local efforts to manage land use activities that degrade coastal waters and coastal habitats. Section 6217 will, for the first time, bring together the authorities and expertise of state water quality (RIDEM) and state coastal zone management (CRMC) agencies to jointly address the problem of coastal nonpoint pollution. In addition, the development of Rhode Island's CNPCP will require coordinating a wide range of regulatory and nonregulatory nonpoint source management programs as well as technical assistance and monitoring programs. Clearly, broad participation in the development and implementation of the CNPCP will be necessary.

Essentially, Section 6217 is a two tiered program. The first tier requires implementation of technology-based management measures which address specific nonpoint sources of pollution. These measures (the (g) measures) are contained in the *Guidance Specifying Management Measures For Sources Of Nonpoint Pollution In Coastal Waters* (the (g) guidance) issued by EPA earlier this year and must be applied throughout the 6217 management area. As designated by NOAA, Rhode Island's 6217 management area includes the entire state. The second tier of Section 6217 is a more stringent water quality based approach to address known nonpoint source water quality problems. It requires developing additional management

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measures to protect and improve threatened and impaired coastal waters and critical areas.

One of the unique components of this program is that the (g) measures and the additional management measures must be implemented through enforceable policies and mechanisms. Enforceable policies include constitutional provisions, laws, regulations, land use plans, ordinances, and judicial or administrative decisions that enable a state to exert control over both private and public land and water uses and natural resources. The requirement that the CNPCP contains enforceable policies and mechanisms differs from prior nonpoint pollution control programs which often relied on demonstration projects and the voluntary implementation of best management practices to control nonpoint pollution. While these voluntary programs have often been very effective, Congress determined that an enforceable program to control nonpoint pollution to coastal waters was necessary.

Implement the (g) Measures

The first tier of the program requires each state to implement management measures contained in the (g) guidance. These management measures reflect the greatest degree of pollutant reduction achievable through the application of best avail-

able technology, siting criteria, operating methods, and alternative land use activities. The management measures are described in terms of systems rather than individual practices. These systems typically include a

combination of practices that reduce the generation of pollutants (a pollution prevention approach) as well as keep the pollutants from reaching surface or ground waters through structural and nonstructural methods.

A Note From the Executive Director

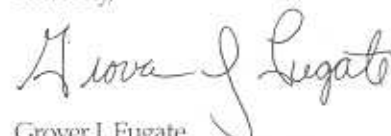
Over the past twenty years, Rhode Islanders have had much to be proud of with regard to our successes in reducing pollution, from both point and nonpoint sources, in the State's coastal waters. Since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, the volume of pollutants reaching Rhode Island's coastal waters from point sources has been dramatically reduced. In addition, as a result of the combined efforts of federal, state, and local agencies as well as environmental groups, significant progress has been made in controlling nonpoint pollution in the waters of the State. Yet, despite our achievements, the coastal waters of Rhode Island remain threatened by nonpoint source pollution. Most notably, we have witnessed the continued decline of water quality in several coastal embayments in recent years which threatens the future use and enjoyment of these valuable coastal resources. For example, several important shell-fishing grounds are now closed to harvesting on either a seasonal or annual basis.

Recognizing nonpoint source pollution is a growing national problem, Congress adopted the Section 6217 Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP) when it reauthorized the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in 1990. Section 6217 mandates that all states with federally approved coastal zone management programs (Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program) undertake major steps to control nonpoint source pollution and that existing programs and authorities which address the problem be more fully and effectively integrated. Earlier this year, when EPA and NOAA jointly issued guidelines for Section

6217 program development, implementation and approval, the 6217 clock began ticking. Accordingly, a CNPCP for the entire State of Rhode Island must be developed by the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) by July of 1995. Should Rhode Island fail to develop a federally approved CNPCP, the CRMC and RIDEM will lose federal funding. More importantly, it is likely that, without developing a sound management program which combines and builds upon existing efforts and expertise, our coastal water quality will continue to decline as a result of nonpoint source pollution.

While a formidable task, we at CRMC, in partnership with RIDEM and the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning (RIDOP), are anxious to meet this challenge. The development of Rhode Island's CNPCP is a unique opportunity to improve coordination and teamwork between federal and state agencies. It also provides an important opportunity for the state's environmental agencies to build a partnership with local governments, interest groups, and the general public, for the purposes of controlling nonpoint source pollution. It is our sincere hope that Rhode Island's CNPCP will not only improve coastal water quality, but also result in a better, more efficient regulatory process which protects and manages the environment for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,



Grover J. Fugate
Executive Director, Coastal
Resources Management Council

Coastal Features

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This issue of *Coastal Features* was edited by Laura Kelley Miguel and the assistant editor was Mark T. Imperial. 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.

This approach is analogous to the use of treatment "trains" or series of treatment steps used in most point source waste treatment systems.

The (g) measures apply to the following land use activities: agriculture, forestry, urban (new development, septic systems, roads, bridges, highways, etc.), marinas, and hydromodifications. There are also management measures to protect wetlands and riparian areas, and to promote the use of vegetative treatment systems. (See the article on page four which summarizes the management measures.)

States must implement all the management measures contained in the (g) guidance unless it can be demonstrated that the nonpoint source category is either: 1) not present nor reasonably anticipated; or 2) the nonpoint source category or subcategory does not present significant adverse effects to living resources or human health. However, states are allowed to implement an alternative management measure provided that it can be demonstrated that the alternative management measure is at least as effective as the (g) measure.

In addition to the management measures, the (g) guidance includes: the applicability criteria for the management measure; a description of activities and locations for which each measure is suitable; an identification of the pollutants that may be controlled by the measures; the factors that should be taken into account when applying the management measure; and, monitoring techniques that can be used to assess the effectiveness of the management measure's implementation.

Additional Management Measures

The second tier of Section 6217 is the development and implementation of additional management measures in order to ensure that water quality standards are achieved and maintained. Additional management measures are both preventative (protect threatened waters) as well as corrective (already impacted waters). Additional management measures must also be developed to protect critical areas. A number of alternatives are available for selecting the additional management measures. For example,

states can select management measures not specified in the (g) guidance, apply (g) measures more intensively, or apply (g) measures more stringently.

In order to identify areas where additional management measures must be developed and implemented, states must: 1) identify coastal waters not attaining or maintaining applicable water quality standards or protecting designated uses, threatened coastal waters, and land uses causing or threatening water quality impairments; 2) develop a process for determining whether additional management measures are necessary to attain or maintain water quality standards in the waters identified above; 3) describe the additional management measures to be applied to the identified land uses and in critical coastal areas; and, 4) develop a program to ensure implementation of the additional management measures.

The additional management measures and critical coastal areas must be identified in the CNPCP when it is submitted to EPA and NOAA in July of 1995. However, states have until January of 2004 to fully implement these additional management measures. While it is still unclear which land uses require additional management measures, it appears that onsite sewage disposal systems (OSDSs) and stormwater runoff are the main nonpoint sources of coastal water quality degradation in Rhode Island. In addition, it appears that all of the CRMC's jurisdiction (e.g., 200 feet inland of a coastal feature), including the areas encompassed by the Salt Ponds Special Area Management Plan and the Narrow River Special Area Management Plan, will be defined as critical coastal areas in Rhode Island's CNPCP.

Coordination and Integration

One of the central challenges to developing Rhode Island's CNPCP is to coordinate the wide range of existing nonpoint source management efforts. It is important to note that Rhode Island will not be developing a "new" nonpoint source management program. Rather, the CRMC and the RIDEM will network existing state and local programs and authorities in

enforceable policies — state policies which are legally binding through constitutional provisions, laws, regulations, land use plans, ordinances, or judicial or administrative decisions, by which a State exerts control over private and public land and water uses and natural resources in the coastal zone.

order to implement the management measures contained in the CNPCP. Some of the mechanisms that will be used to coordinate these nonpoint sources efforts include: memoranda of agreement/understanding; joint permitting processes; cross training of staff; and interagency task forces/committees.

Section 6217 also requires the CRMC and RIDEM to provide technical and other assistance to local governments and the public for implementing the additional management measures. This will require coordinating the technical assistance programs of other federal and state programs in order to make them more accessible to local municipalities, organizations, and individuals. Examples of technical assistance that may be provided include staff training, technical guidance materials, and public outreach materials. Accordingly, a wide range of programs at the federal, state, and local level will ultimately be involved with the development and implementation of the CNPCP.

At the federal level, the development of the CNPCP must be coordinated with the existing programs of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) various agencies. Among these agencies are the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), the Conservation Districts, the Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the University of Rhode Island's Cooperative Extension Service. These agencies administer numerous voluntary nonpoint pollution control programs and provide valuable technical assistance to state agencies and local governments.

At the state level, three agencies will be directly involved with implementing the CNPCP: the CRMC, the RIDEM, and the RIDOP. Other state agencies such as the Rhode

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Summary of the Section 6217 (g) Management Measures

I. Agriculture

Primary sources of agricultural nonpoint source pollution are nutrients, sediment, animal wastes, salts, and pesticides. The following seven management measures are provided to reduce the volume of agricultural pollutants entering coastal waters.

- **Erosion and sediment control** – This measure applies broadly to activities that cause erosion on agricultural land by requiring the implementation of practices which reduce the mass load of sediment reaching a waterbody, improve water quality, and improve the use of water resources.

- **Confined animal facilities** – Two sets of management measures for confined animal facilities (large and small facilities) are provided to reduce the volume of manure and waste water reaching a waterbody. Measures apply to new and existing facilities.

- **Nutrients** – This measure applies to activities associated with the application of nutrients to agricultural lands. The measure requires the development, implementation and periodic update of nutrient management plans.

- **Pesticides** – This measure applies to activities associated with the application of pesticides on agricultural lands in order to reduce contamination of surface and ground water from pesticides through improvements in the timing and efficiency of application, the use of backflow devices, and integrated pest management.

- **Grazing** – The grazing management measure is designed to protect sensitive areas such as streambanks, wetlands, estuaries and riparian zones through such practices as grazing management, adequate water facilities, livestock access control, and vegetative stabilization.

- **Irrigation** – This measure is designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution caused by irrigation through the implementation of practices which



Marinas are one landuse for which Management measures were developed.

improve the timing and efficiency of irrigation on agricultural lands. The measure recognizes that implementation may be restricted by site conditions and state water laws.

II. Forestry

Forestry (or silvicultural) activities may impact water quality by accelerating erosion, and by increasing nutrient and chemical runoff, the amount of organic matter in adjacent waters, water temperatures, and streamflows. Ten management measures provided under this source category include requirements for preharvesting plans, road management and revegetation of disturbed areas. The management measures apply generally on lands where forestry operations are planned or conducted. Forestry is not considered to be a significant contributor to nonpoint source pollution to Rhode Island's coastal waters.

III. Urban Runoff

Urban runoff is one of the major nonpoint sources of pollution to Rhode Island's coastal waters. Major pollutants associated with urban nonpoint source pollution are sediment, nutrients, road salts, heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, pathogenic bacteria, and viruses. These pollutants generally enter coastal waters through stormwater runoff and onsite sewage disposal systems. The Section 6217 (g) guidance contains a wide variety of management measures to address this category of nonpoint source pollutants. These include:

- **New development** – For new development and redevelopment, as well as

new and relocated roads, highways and bridges, runoff must be managed so as to reduce the average annual total suspended solids (TSS) loading by 80%. The management measure also requires that, to the maximum extent practicable, the post development peak runoff rate and average

volume are maintained at a level similar to the predevelopment level.

- **Site development** – This management measure requires development activities to be sited in a manner which avoids areas susceptible to erosion, limits increases in impervious surfaces, and minimizes land disturbances. The measure applies to all site development activities including those associated with roads, highways and bridges.

- **Erosion and sediment control** – This management measure requires the preparation and implementation of erosion and sediment control plans for construction sites. The measure applies to most construction activities on sites less than five acres. It does not apply to construction of single family homes where the disturbance is more than 1/2 acre or to construction projects that do not disturb over 5,000 sq. ft. of land.

- **Chemical control** – This management measure is designed to limit the application, generation and migration of toxic substances (pesticides, fertilizers, petrochemicals and wastes), and to ensure proper storage and disposal of toxic substances through the implementation of recommended practices. The measure applies to those construction activities included under the erosion and sediment control management measure.

- **Watershed protection** – This management measure requires the development of a comprehensive watershed protection program which avoids development on areas particularly

susceptible to erosion, preserves sensitive areas, and minimizes the impacts of development on waterbodies and drainage systems.

- *Existing Development* – Watershed management programs are required to be developed and implemented for previously developed areas. Opportunities for nonpoint source pollutant reduction must be identified, a schedule for implementing appropriate controls developed, and disturbances of natural conveyance systems minimized. The measure also calls for the preservation, enhancement and establishment of buffers.

- *New and Existing On-site Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDSs)* – Separate management measures are provided for new and existing OSDs. New systems are to be sited, designed, installed, operated, and maintained so as to minimize their impacts to ground and surface waters. Policies for operation, inspection and maintenance of existing OSDs must also be developed and implemented. In cases where coastal waters or ground waters are significantly affected by nitrogen loadings from existing OSDs, the installation of an OSDS which reduces nitrogen loading by 50% is required.

- *Pollution prevention* – Rhode Island must implement pollution prevention and educational programs to better inform the general public on routine activities which cause nonpoint source pollution and ways in which sources can be reduced. Activities and sources to be addressed include: hazardous household chemicals, lawn and garden activities, turf management, the discharge of pollutants into storm drains, and commercial activities not currently regulated under the NPDES program.

- *Planning, siting and developing roads and highways* – Sensitive areas must

be protected and land disturbances minimized in the planning, siting and development of new, relocated and reconstructed roads and highways.

- *Bridges* – New, relocated and rehabilitated bridges must be sited, designed and maintained in a manner which protects sensitive aquatic ecosystems.

- *Road construction projects* – Erosion and sediment control plans must be developed and implemented for new, replaced, restored, and rehabilitated road, highway and bridge construction projects.

- *Road construction site chemical control* – Toxic substances must be properly stored and disposed of at construction sites involving new, resurfaced, restored, or rehabilitated road, highway and bridge projects. The measure also requires that nutrients be applied at rates necessary to establish and maintain vegetation without causing significant nutrient runoff.

- *Operation and maintenance* – Pollution prevention procedures must be incorporated into the routine operation and maintenance of new and existing roads, highways and bridges.

- *Road, highway and bridge runoff systems* – This measure requires the development and implementation of runoff management systems which identify pollutant reduction opportunities and controls, and establish implementation schedules for existing roads, highways and bridges.

IV. Marinas and Recreational Boating

Nonpoint source pollution associated with marinas and recreational boating activities can result in increased water toxicity, elevated pollutant levels in aquatic organisms, and contamination of water quality as a result of pathogens. Recreational boating activities can also disrupt sediment and habitat, and cause shoaling and erosion. There are fifteen management measures for marinas and recreational boating activities contained in the Section 6217 (g) guidance. These management measures are grouped under two broad categories: siting and design; and operation and maintenance.

- *Siting and design* – Section 6217 requires that seven management

measures be applied when reviewing the siting and design of new and significantly expanding marinas. These management measures require:

- 1) marina sites allow for regular flushing of surrounding waters;
- 2) water quality assessments be performed as part of marina siting and design;
- 3) marinas be sited and designed in a manner which protects important habitats;
- 4) shoreline stabilization where erosion is a problem;
- 5) implementation of runoff control strategies, including a plan for storm water management which reduces TSS from hull maintenance areas by 80%;
- 6) fueling stations be designed to allow for ease in spill clean up; and,
- 7) the installation of pumpout, dump station and restroom facilities when needed.

- *Marina and boat operation and maintenance* – The Section 6217 (g) guidance also includes eight management measures which focus on routine activities and locations in marinas which can be sources of nonpoint source pollution. In general, these measures require:

- 1) proper disposal of solid wastes;
- 2) fish waste management;
- 3) management of potentially harmful liquid materials such as solvents and paints;
- 4) a reduction in the amount of fuel and oil entering marina and surface waters through the use of automatic shut-off nozzles and by promoting the use of fuel/air separators and oil-absorbing materials in the bilge area on boats with inboard motors;
- 5) the implementation of boat cleaning practices which minimize the release of harmful cleaners, solvents, and paints;
- 6) public education programs for the boating public and marina operators to prevent improper disposal of pollutants;
- 7) proper maintenance and encouraged use of sewage pumpout facilities; and
- 8) a reduction in turbidity and the destruction of shallow-water habitats

management measures – economically achievable measures for the control of the addition of pollutants from existing and new categories and classes of nonpoint sources of pollution, which reflect the greatest degree of pollutant reduction achievable through the application of the best available nonpoint pollution control practices, technologies, processes, siting criteria, operating methods, or other alternatives.

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Special Issue:

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Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and the Department of Economic Development (DED) will also be affected.

The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) administers the federally approved Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP). In order to implement this program, the CRMC issues permits for all activities located in tidal waters or within 200 feet of a coastal feature. In addition, the Council requires permits for certain activities located in the watershed of poorly flushed estuaries (Salt Ponds Region and Narrow River Watershed) as well as specified activities regardless of their location (e.g., solid waste facilities, chemical processing, transfer, and storage facilities, power generation facilities, petroleum processing, transfer, and storage facilities, and sewage treatment and disposal facilities). As part of its review process, the Council addresses nonpoint pollution in many ways. These include; restricting uses in certain areas, establishing buffer zones, establishing setbacks, prohibiting alterations to coastal wetlands, requiring erosion and sediment controls, and requiring that stormwater from proposed activities be properly managed.

The CRMC also works closely with local coastal communities to address nonpoint pollution issues in several ways. For example, special area management (SAM) plans have been developed for the Salt Ponds and Narrow River regions. The main emphasis of these plans is to address nonpoint pollution issues in the respective watersheds. The CRMC also requires communities to develop and implement municipal harbor management plans (HMPs) which must address, among other issues, nonpoint pollution from marinas, mooring fields, and recreational boating. For example, the harbor management plans often recommend the installation of marine pumpout facilities in order to achieve an EPA designation as a "no-discharge zone". In addition, HMPs often regulate recreational boating activities which

degrade habitat and cause shoreline erosion through the proper siting of mooring fields and the establishment of vessel speed limits. The RICRMP, the SAM plans, and the HMPs will all be important components of the CNPCP when it is completed.

The RIDEM administers a wide range of regulatory programs which regulate nonpoint sources of pollution. These include, but are not limited to programs which regulate: impacts and alterations to freshwater wetlands; individual sewage disposal systems; discharges of pollutants to the waters of Rhode Island (Section 401 Water Quality Certifications); pesticides; hazardous wastes; and stormwater associated with certain commercial and industrial land uses and construction activities over 5 acres (RIPDES general permits). These regulatory programs will be important components of the CNPCP and provide well established mechanisms for enforcing the management measures contained in the CNPCP.

The RIDEM also has several non-regulatory programs to manage non-point source pollution, particularly the Section 319 program which implements the *Rhode Island's Nonpoint Source Management Plan* and the Narragansett Bay Project (NBP) which implements the *Narragansett Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan*. These nonregulatory programs will also form an integral component of the CNPCP. In particular, the *Rhode Island's Nonpoint Source Management Plan* will be updated and become an element of the *State Guide Plan*. As an element of the *State Guide Plan*, several of the (g) measures will be implemented. This new *Nonpoint Pollution State Guide Plan Element* will also con-

tain the CNPCP's goals, objectives, and policies, as well as the nonenforceable management measures and recommended additional management measures.

The Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning (RIDOP) administers the *State Guide Plan*, which is a compendium of the state's policies and plans. The RIDOP also administers a local Comprehensive Land Use planning program where all municipalities are required to develop local Comprehensive Plans which are consistent with the *State Guide Plan's* policies. Once a municipality's Comprehensive Plan has been approved by the RIDOP, all land use decisions at the state and local level must conform to the policies contained in the plan. In addition, each municipality is required to amend their zoning ordinances to be consistent with the local comprehensive plans. Accordingly, when the CNPCP is developed, it will become an element of the *State Guide Plan* to ensure that state and local land use decisions conform to the CNPCP's requirements.

Since effective management of nonpoint pollution also requires improving land use decisions at the local level, local government involvement during the development and implementation of the CNPCP will be essential. There are many ways that local governments can manage nonpoint pollution. These include the preparation and implementation of: comprehensive land use plans; harbor management plans; SAM plans; comprehensive subdivision regulations; waste water management districts; soil erosion and sediment control ordinances; storm water

CNPCP Development, Approval, and Implementation

January 1993	• Final (g) Measures and Program Approval Guidance Issued
Winter 1993-1994	• States Participate in Informal and Formal Threshold Reviews
July 1995	• States Submit Final CNPCP
January 1996	• EPA/NOAA Complete Review of State Programs
	• State Implementation of (g) Measures
January 1999	• Full Implementation of (g) Measures Required
January 2001	• Completion of Two Year Monitoring Period
January 2004	• Full Implementation of Additional Management Measures

management ordinances; wetlands protection ordinances; and, more stringent buffer zone and setback requirements than those of the CRMC and RIDEM. Since many of the local communities lack the technical expertise to implement these nonpoint pollution controls, a central component of the CNPCP will be to provide the necessary technical assistance to local communities such that they can develop their own nonpoint source controls.

Public Participation

One of the final requirements of Section 6217 is to provide an opportunity for public participation in all aspects of developing and implementing the CNPCP. Accordingly, the CRMC and the RIDEM plan to provide a wide range of public participation activities. Some of the public involvement activities which are planned include: a nonpoint source steering committee which will advise the CRMC and RIDEM on all aspects of the CNPCP's development; a series

of sub-committees and interagency work groups to focus on individual issues; periodic workshops and public meetings on nonpoint source issues; and, prior to any formal approvals, the draft CNPCP will be subject to public review and comment and at least one public hearing when it is completed.

A wide range of public outreach activities are also planned. Examples include: future articles in *Coastal Features* and other newsletters; fact sheets; a speakers bureau on nonpoint source issues; and a slide show on Section 6217 and nonpoint source issues. Other public involvement and public outreach activities will be developed and utilized as needed and requested. Moreover, the CRMC and the RIDEM will make a concerted effort to coordinate the public outreach materials and services that are currently available such that the public can better utilize existing information sources. If you have suggestions on how to more effectively involve and educate the public during

the development and implementation of Rhode Island's CNPCP, please send your suggestions to Mark Imperial and Laura Miguel at the CRMC.

In order to get more information on the development of Rhode Island's CNPCP and be included on the Section 6217 mailing list, please complete the coupon below and return it to the CRMC. This will ensure that you receive public outreach materials and are notified of public participation opportunities (e.g., public workshops, conferences, public meetings).

In addition, if your organization would like a presentation on Section 6217 or you simply want to know how to become more involved in the development of Rhode Island's CNPCP, please contact Mark Imperial or Laura Miguel at the CRMC (401) 277-2476.

Available Information on the Section 6217 CNPCP

The following documents are available at no charge from the Environmental Protection Agency:

- *Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Pollution in Coastal Waters*
- *Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program: Program Development and Approval Guidance*

To obtain a copy of these documents please contact Ann Beier, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, Nonpoint Source Control Branch (WH-553), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Phone: (202) 260-7085. Fax: (202) 260-7024.

To obtain public outreach materials related to Rhode Island's CNPCP please contact either Laura Kelly Miguel or Mark T. Imperial at the CRMC (401) 277-2476. To be included on the CNPCP mailing list fill out the coupon below.

NOTICE TO READERS

The *Coastal Features* has changed its format and will now be published quarterly with one or more special issues per year. If you wish to remain on the Council's current mailing list, you must fill out the coupon below and send it to the Council. If you wish to be added to the mailing list you must also fill out the coupon below. After this issue, the Council will delete all names from the current mailing list who do not respond. Thank you for assisting the Council in its attempts to revise the mailing list for this newsletter.



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- ☐ Add my name to the CNPCP Mailing List
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- ☐ Address Correction (attach label)

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Section 6217 Management Measures

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through the exclusion of motor boats in certain areas and the establishment of no wake zones.

V. Hydromodifications

Hydromodifications include channelization and channel modification, dams, and streambank and shoreline erosion. Hydromodifications contribute to nonpoint source pollution by disrupting habitats, sedimentation patterns, erosion rates, and water flows. The Section 6217 (g) guidance contains six management measures for hydromodifications designed to address problems associated with the alteration of the physical characteristics of surface waters and the resulting impacts on instream and riparian habitats. Generally, the measures require impacts associated with these sources be minimized through operation and maintenance practices as well as the protection of water quality and instream and riparian habitats.

VI. Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Vegetated Treatment Systems

The Section 6217 (g) guidance contains three management measures which do not address a specific source of nonpoint source pollution, but rather, promote the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas as well as the use of vegetated treatment systems to control and minimize nonpoint source pollution. These management measures require states to protect wetlands and riparian areas which serve a nonpoint source abatement function, promote the use of vegetative filter strips and buffer zones, and to restore degraded wetlands and riparian areas.

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