

Coastal

Information about the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program

Features

Winter 1992-1993

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Winter Storm Causes Severe Erosion to Rhode Island's Barrier Beaches

In December of 1992, a powerful nor'easter hit the coast of New England causing extensive beach erosion and structural damage along Rhode Island's southern coast. In many places, the sand dunes were eroded back to the scarp left after the Blizzard of 1978. As a result, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) invoked its emergency permitting process.

The emergency permit process enables the Council to respond quickly to the needs of individuals whose homes and businesses suffered damage as a result of the storm. The Council's staff was in the field for several days following the storm to survey damage and issue emergency permits for a wide range of activities. When the CRMC invokes the emergency permit process, property owners are eligible for emergency permits (at no cost to the applicant) to repair all damage resulting from a major storm. Emergency permits are also issued to secure and prevent further

damage to structures. After the December nor'easter, the Council approved over 116 emergency permits with more than half of these being issued to home owners and businesses in Westerly.

The severity of the erosion that resulted from the December storm has generated a great deal of concern among local officials and the public, particularly in Westerly. Many individuals want a solution to the ongoing erosion problems and are concerned that if an answer is not found, both businesses and residences will fall into the ocean during the next major storm event.

In response to the concerns of the public, the CRMC held an emergency meeting of the full Council shortly after the December storm. Over fifty members of the public attended and voiced their concerns. In addition, Jon Boothroyd, a geologist with the University of Rhode Island, gave a presentation on the extent of the erosion that occurred as a result of this storm.

As a result of this emergency Council meeting, a special sub-committee on shoreline protection was created. This sub-committee, with the assistance of the Council's staff, will review the present regulatory policies and develop both short and long term strategies that can be used to address the concerns of local officials and the general public.

The CRMC's present policies regulating barrier beaches are among the strongest in the nation. These regulations strictly prohibit the construction of all forms of structural shoreline protection on barrier beaches, even when used to protect structures in

danger of collapse. It is the Council's policy to favor nonstructural shoreline protection such as beach nourishment and dune stabilization. However, structural protection that predates the creation of the Council (1971) is allowed to remain.

The Council's sub-committee held its first meeting on February 4, 1993 at the Narragansett Community Center with over 45 members of the public in attendance. At this meeting, the Council heard a presentation from an Atlanta-based erosion control firm and viewed a videotape on beach nourishment projects. Grover J. Fugate, the Executive Director of the CRMC, explained the rationale behind the Council's existing prohibitions on structural shoreline protection. The Council also heard testimony from members of the public and local officials from the Westerly.

At this time, the Council has not made any decisions on whether to modify the existing prohibitions on structural shoreline protection. Any change to the CRMC's existing policies must be approved by the federal government which strongly supports the present regulations. The special sub-committee will continue to meet approximately once a month to discuss the alternatives to the existing policies and to decide on both short and long term strategies to address the erosion problems along the southern barrier beaches. If you would like to be notified of these sub-committee meetings, please call the Council at (401) 277-2476 and ask to be put on the shoreline protection mailing list.

Mark T. Imperial

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Harbor Management Update

Harbor Management Planning in Rhode Island

During the 1980s, New England experienced a great deal of development adjacent to waterfront and harbor areas. The increase in the population density of coastal areas brought an ever increasing demand for water related activities and uses of harbors and waterfront areas. For example, many coastal communities experienced an increased demand for recreational boating facilities and public access to the waterfront. In response to the increased pressures and multiple use conflicts, several New England states enacted regulations and planning programs designed to help manage uses of waterfront and harbor areas.

The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) realized that it was no longer possible to effectively manage harbor areas using simple mooring plans and basic safety rules. The Council also recognized the need for a mechanism to resolve the multiple use conflicts that were emerging with increasing frequency.

In Rhode Island, the CRMC has exclusive authority over the regulation of all activities taking place in

tidal waters. The Council's mandate is to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible restore the coastal resources of the state through comprehensive and coordinated long range planning and management. To accomplish these goals and to address the increasing problems associated with the development of shoreline areas, the Council instituted a comprehensive harbor management planning program in November of 1988. This program provides specific planning requirements and guidance to communities on how to develop a municipal harbor management plan.

The CRMC requires communities to establish priorities for the use of harbor areas and to develop appropriate management strategies for these areas. Each community is then given flexibility to select appropriate planning issues and to develop consensus on the community's vision for the waterfront and harbor area's use and development.

Some of the typical issues addressed in municipal harbor management plans are improved public access to the waterfront, waterfront development, boating safety, improved water quality of the harbors, and the proper siting and management of recreational mooring areas. A successful harbor management plan must combine the management of the shoreline area with the community's other land use and development policies.

All of the twenty-one coastal communities in Rhode Island have begun the process of drafting their harbor management plans. In 1990, the City of Warwick became the first community to receive an interim approval for their Harbor Management Plan (HMP) and Harbor Ordinance. At the present time eight communities have completed the long, and often arduous, task of developing harbor management plans. They are: Charlestown, East Greenwich, East Providence, Jamestown, New Shoreham, South

Kingston, Tiverton, and Warwick. Five additional communities, Barrington, Little Compton, North Kingstown, Portsmouth, and Warren, are in the final stages of completing their plans. The remaining communities are making progress towards the completion of HMPs.

In the future, the Council will continue to support local efforts to manage waterfront areas. Under a grant from the federal government, the Council will develop an expanded harbor management guidance document. The expanded guidance will help communities address new issues and provide greater technical assistance to local governments. The Council has also hired on a new staff member, Paul Watters, who will be devoted entirely to harbor management related activities. The addition of this new staff member should enable the Council to improve its technical assistance to local communities. Accordingly, Paul Watters will be working closely with each shore-front community to provide the technical assistance necessary to ensure that these harbor management plans are developed and implemented effectively. Anyone wishing further information on the CRMC's harbor management program should contact Paul Watters at (401) 277-2476.

Paul Watters

(Paul Watters has recently joined the policy staff of the CRMC as a Marine Resources Specialist. He holds a graduate degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island and is a retired naval officer. He has an extensive background in harbor management having served on a harbor commission and worked as a harbor master in Rhode Island.)

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.

John A. Lyons is Honored on His Retirement from the CRMC

On Thursday, December 8, 1992 members of the Rhode Island General Assembly, Council members and staff, family, and friends held a testimonial dinner to honor John Lyons on his retirement from the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). In recognition of his leadership and dedication as a public servant, The Rhode Island House of Representatives and Senate both issued proclamations honoring John Lyons. Governor Bruce Sundlun also issued a proclamation honoring him for his leadership and his efforts to preserve and protect Rhode Island's coastal resources. In appreciation of his many achievements, Governor Sundlun declared December 10, 1992 as John Lyons Day and also proclaimed him as Chairman Emeritus.

These were all well deserved honors. John Lyons has a long and very distinguished history of public service in Rhode Island and has been considered by many, including former Governor J. Joseph Garrahy to be the father of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Program. From 1963 until 1973, John Lyons served as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives representing Tiverton.

In 1969, he was appointed to a governor's task force to research and draft legislation that would create a coastal resource management program for Rhode Island. The impetus for developing this program came from several proposals to construct energy facilities along Rhode Island's shoreline. These included proposals for a nuclear power plant in Charlestown and an oil refinery in Tiverton. John

Lyons was among those who realized that Rhode Island needed an agency with the authority to approve the siting of these facilities and ensure that they do not result in detrimental impacts on the state's coastal resources.



The task force's first effort died in committee in 1970 over concerns related to the representation of cities and towns on the Council. The Governor then reconstituted and expanded the original task force. In 1971 the General Assembly finally passed legislation creating a 17 member Coastal Resources Management Council. During this period, John Lyons was a leader in both drafting the legislation and in getting the General Assembly to adopt it.

John Lyons was then appointed as one of the original members of the CRMC in July of 1971. During his 21 years on the Council, he served in many capacities. John Lyons was appointed as the Council's chairman

in 1972. In 1975, he was appointed as the Council's Executive Director. He held the dual post of Chairman & Executive Director until January of 1985.

As a result of John Lyons' leadership and direction, the Council realized several milestones during this period. The CRMC adopted its original Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP) which received federal approval under the 1972 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in 1978. In 1983 the Council substantially revised the Coastal Resources Management Program and adopted special area management (SAM) plans for both Providence Harbor and the Salt Ponds region. John Lyons continued to provide important leadership in major policy issues right up until his retirement in November of 1992.

John Lyons is a major reason why the CRMC has become a national leader in coastal zone management and a model for other countries around the world. For example, in 1992, the Council hosted representatives of South Korea, Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey, all of whom were interested in using the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program as a model for developing their own coastal resource management programs.

While John Lyons' leadership and inspiration will surely be missed, his contributions to the continuing effort to preserve and protect Rhode Island's coastal resources will not be forgotten.

Mark T. Imperial

Supreme Court Overturns EFSB Jurisdiction

The Rhode Island Supreme Court overturned a jurisdiction decision of the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB). In May of 1992, the EFSB ruled that it had jurisdiction over the proposed Newbay energy facility. This would have required Newbay to apply for a EFSB license. In overturn-

ing the EFSB jurisdictional decision, Chief Justice Thomas J. Fay, writing for the majority, ruled that the EFSB misinterpreted the clear and unambiguous language of its enabling legislation. Further, the Court ruled that it would not break from its tradition of "prevent(ing) state administrative agencies from expanding their jurisdiction through strained interpretations of unambiguous statutes."

As a result of this decision, the only hurdle that remains for Newbay is a hearing before the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). Thus, the ruling of the Rhode Island Supreme Court with respect to the validity of the CRMC's Energy Amendments has assumed even greater importance. Later issues of this newsletter will report on the outcome of this appeal.

Annual Report on the Activities of the Coastal Resources Management Council in 1992

In the last year, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) has been engaged in a wide range of activities. The Council's staff has continued its efforts to streamline the permitting process and has increased its enforcement efforts to ensure compliance with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP). The Council has also become increasingly proactive, having embarked on several new policy initiatives. This report highlights some of the CRMC's notable accomplishments during the last year and briefly describes some of the new policy initiatives.

Permitting

In 1992, the Council had a record year in terms of processing more permit requests than were received signifying a major improvement since the Council has eliminated what once was a permit backlog. This was achieved in spite of the fact that a near record number of permit requests was received in 1992.

From January to December, the CRMC processed 1136 requests and issued a total of 923 Assents (permits). These figures do not include the 117 emergency permits issued by the Council. Of the permits issued, 296 were Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSIs), 199 were Maintenance Assents, and 305 were Category "A" Assents. Notably only 89 Category "B" permits, which require extensive staff review, were issued. Thus, approximately 90% of the permits issued by the Council were processed administratively.

Another important development in the Council's permit program has been the success of the FONSI process. This new form of Council Assent was introduced in late 1990 and allows for an expedited review of minor activities such as re-shingling, roofing, etc. The FONSI process has greatly reduced the amount of time it takes the Council to process permits. For example, in 1990, the Council accepted approximately 350 more

applications than it processed. However, due to the FONSI process, the Council has been able to process an increasing number of administrative permits in the last two years.

In 1993, the Council will continue its efforts to streamline its permit process through improved coordination. At the state level, the Council is developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RIDEM's) Division of Water Resources and amending the existing MOU with RIDEM's Division of Freshwater Wetlands. In addition, the Council will continue its efforts to improve coordination with local officials and looks forward to implementing the new coordinated permit review process mandated by the 1992 Subdivision Enabling Act.

Federal Consistency

Traditionally, the CRMC has not relied heavily on the federal consistency process under Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Section 307 gives the Council the authority to require all federal agency activities and federal license and permit activities to be consistent with the policies contained in the RICRMP. Normally, the Council does not perform federal consistency reviews for federal license and permit activities because these activities also require Council Assents. However, the Council does perform consistency reviews for federal activities such as dredging and navigation projects conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). In 1992, 12 federal agency activities and numerous federal financial assistance awards were reviewed for consistency with the RICRMP.

In 1993, the Council will begin to amend its federal consistency regulations. These revisions will help improve the coordination between federal and state permit processes and take greater advantage of the authority granted to the Council by the federal government.

Enforcement

One reason a near record number of permit requests was received in 1992, despite the recession, is the improved enforcement efforts of the Council. In 1992, the Council issued 165 Cease and Desist orders and 57 Notices of Violation. As a result, the Council issued 92 Notices of Administrative Fine and 17 Notices of Final Fines. Many of matters were resolved through 95 consent orders after the violator agreed to conform to the policies contained in the RICRMP. However, the Council did collect approximately \$5,000 in administrative fines and \$20,000 in administrative fees.

In order to further improve enforcement efforts, the Council is developing a computer tracking system to monitor compliance. The Council is also exploring new ways of improving enforcement such as increased coordination with local building officials and harbor masters. In addition, the Council will purchase mobile radios for the enforcement staff to improve the response to violations. These mobile radios will have the added benefit of improving the Council's hazard response capacity by allowing the Council's staff to stay in constant contact when issuing emergency permits and surveying damage after major storm events.

Public Access

In 1992, the Council continued to focus considerable agency resources on improving public access to the shore in Rhode Island. One way public access was improved is through the right-of-way (ROW) designation process. In 1992, the Council investigated numerous potential ROWs. As a result, the Council officially designated 9 sites in Narragansett. The Council has also finished the public hearing process for 11 potential ROWs in Middletown.

Another area where the Council was able to increase and improve public access is through the permit

process. In 1992, the Council obtained several major public access improvements as a result of permit stipulations. The most notable of these are the public access improvements which will result from the new Narragansett Electric Manchester Street Station. Narragansett Electric agreed to provide approximately \$20 million for waterfront public access improvements. These include a 3 acre waterfront park with walkways, shoreline improvements, a boat launching ramp, and a fishing pier.

In 1993, the Council will continue its efforts to obtain greater public access through the permit process by adopting comprehensive public access regulations. In addition, the Council will work closely with the RIDEM's Division of Environmental Coordination to develop a MOU on public access in Rhode Island. The MOU will further coordinate the public access programs of the CRMC with those of the RIDEM. It will also help coordinate the limited resources available to address this important coastal issue.

Special Area Management (SAM) Planning

The Council continues to place a strong emphasis on special area management (SAM) planning. In 1992, the Council approved the Interstate Management for the Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay. This Interstate SAM plan is one of the first of its kind in the nation and addresses a multitude of issues including water quality, habitat restoration and protection, recreational uses, public access, and interstate coordination. In 1993, the Council will begin to implement

many of the Interstate SAM plan's recommendations.

During the last year, the Council also provided technical assistance to local communities to help them develop and implement Harbor Management Plans (HMPs). As a result, the Council approved the East Providence HMP and several additional communities should receive their approvals early in 1993.



Damaged structure which received a CRMC Emergency Permit after the December 1992 winter storm

In 1993, the Council will continue its strong emphasis on using SAM plans to address the cumulative and secondary impacts of development. The Council will begin to revise and update the Salt Pond SAM plan and will expand the guidance for developing HMPs.

Habitat Protection

In 1992, the Council took several steps to improve its protection of critical habitats. In response to concerns over the continued water quality degradation of Nannaquaket Pond, the Council changed its designation of these waters from Type 2 to Type 1. This reclassification will help to better protect the coastal resources in this area.

To improve the management of buffer areas, the CRMC adopted buffer management guidance for applicants. The Council's revised regulations permit minor modifications of buffer areas (e.g. pruning

and trimming) in order to improve the habitat values of these areas. In 1993, the Council will continue to improve its policies and regulation of buffer areas.

The Council has embarked on several initiatives to improve the protection of coastal wetlands. First, the Council is in the process of revising the existing MOU with the RIDEM's Division of Freshwater Wetlands. This will improve interagency coordination. The CRMC is also developing formal mitigation policies for coastal wetlands. These new policies will not alter existing prohibitions with respect to wetland alterations, but rather complement them. The new regulations will require applicants to mitigate wetlands alterations

approved by the CRMC. This will ensure that the Council's policy of no-net-loss of wetlands is achieved.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control

In 1992, the Council began a major effort to improve the management of stormwater in Council jurisdiction. The Council is currently in the process of developing comprehensive stormwater management regulations in accordance with the Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual and expects to go out to public notice in the spring of 1993.

In order to reduce pollution from recreation boats, the Council adopted regulations requiring marine pumpout facilities at marinas. All new marinas, marinas expanding by more than 50 boats, and marinas expanding beyond 25% of their previously assented capacity (if the expansion is greater than 50 boats) are now required to install marine

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Coastal News from Around the State

Governor Sundlun Appoints New Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Governor Bruce Sundlun has appointed Richard H. James to be the new Chairperson of the Coastal Resources Management Council. Mr. James, an investment counselor for Oxxford Asset Management, has been on the Council for the last four years. During this time he has served on the Urban Ports and Harbors, and Dredging sub-committees.

Mr. James replaces George L. Sisson Jr., who has served as the acting chairperson for the last two years. During his two years as acting chairperson, Mr. Sisson provided excellent leadership in the Council's various policy initiatives. Despite being replaced as the acting chairperson Mr. Sisson remains on the Council and serves on several sub-committees including Rights-of-Way, and Planning and Procedures.

The Governor also named a new Vice-Chairperson of the CRMC, Sandra Thornton Whitehouse. Sandra Thornton Whitehouse has studied marine ecology at the University of Rhode Island and served on a panel studying pollution in Mount Hope Bay. She was named to the 16 member Council last year and has served on the Rights-of-Way, and Urban Ports and Harbors sub-committees.

The Council's staff wish our new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson good luck in their new positions. We are certain they will do an excellent job. The Council's staff would also like to congratulate George L. Sisson, Jr. on the excellent job he has done while serving as the Acting Chairperson during the last two years.

Court OKs Temporary Seawall on Barrier Beach

The recent winter storm which caused extensive beach erosion along Rhode Island's barrier beaches also provoked a legal challenge to the Council's emergency permitting

procedures. Richard Grills sought preliminary injunction that would allow him to construct a temporary stone wall to protect his home from further damage.

The Council had previously denied Mr. Grills an emergency permit to construct a temporary stone wall. However, the Council was willing to permit Mr. Grills to erect temporary wooden sheet piling in order to stabilize the structure such that it could be moved landward of its present location. Under this option, the wooden sheet piling would have been removed once the Grill's house was moved back.

Superior Court Judge John P. Bourcier ruled that Mr. Grills could build a temporary stone wall to protect his home. However, Judge Bourcier ruled that Mr. Grills must submit a formal application to the Council that would allow him to keep the seawall in place permanently. Mr. Grills was required to post a \$20,000 performance bond to ensure that he restore the sand dune to its natural state should the Council require him to remove the seawall when it reviews his formal application.

President Clinton to Name New Director of OCRM

As a result of the recent presidential election, Trudy Cox, formerly the Director of Save-the-Bay in Rhode Island, ended her tenure as Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management (OCRM). The OCRM is the federal agency responsible for overseeing Rhode Island's federally approved coastal resources management program. At this time, President Clinton has not named a replacement. As an interim measure, Frank Maloney, the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the NOAA's National Ocean Service (in which OCRM is housed) will serve as the acting Director.

The CRMC's Section 309 Strategy Receives the Highest Rating

The CRMC was recently notified by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) that it had received the highest possible ranking for its recently submitted Section 309 Strategy.

Section 309 of the 1990 Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments created a competitive enhancement grants program. In order to participate in the program, the CRMC had to prepare an assessment of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP). Specifically, this assessment had to review the CRMC's activities in eight areas: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management planning, ocean resources, and energy and government facility siting. The Section 309 Assessment had to then recommend and prioritize activities for program enhancement. The Council's Section 309 Assessment was approved by OCRM in 1992.

Based on the findings of the Assessment, the Council had to prepare a Section 309 Strategy that addressed priority program enhancement areas identified by OCRM and CRMC; wetlands, public access, and special area management planning. Recently, the CRMC resubmitted a completely revised Section 309 Strategy which included new work tasks to address the priority areas for program enhancement. This revised strategy was designed to improve coordination with other ongoing planning initiatives. As result of its efforts, the CRMC was recently notified that it was one of the few states to receive the highest possible score on its Section 309 strategy. The Council was commended by the NOAA which strongly believes that the CRMC's new strategy will greatly enhance the RICRMP. In addition, the higher ranking also means that the Council is eligible for additional federal funding.

The CRMC Hires New Staff

Since the last issue of *Coastal Features*, the Council hired several new staff members.

New Engineers

Michael Deveau joined the Council from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) where he worked primarily as a materials inspector. Mr. Deveau's work primarily involves processing Category "A" (Administrative) Assents.

Timothy "Chief" Buckley joins the Council as an engineer and will review Category "B" projects. Prior to joining the Council, Mr. Buckley recently completed a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Navy Seabees.

Dorris Ashman joined the Council's staff as an Engineer and reviews Category "B" projects. Prior to the Council, Ms. Ashman worked for Remedial Engineering Inc. in New York doing groundwater remediation. She has a Masters degree from the University of Rhode Island in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

New Environmental Scientists

Jim Boyd joined the Council as an Environmental Scientist and reviews

Category "B" projects. Prior to the Council, Mr. Boyd worked with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) preparing the Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual. Mr. Boyd has a Masters degree from the University of Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources.

Mark Vincent joined the Council as an environmental scientist from the Rhode Island Division of Planning (RIDOP). In addition to reviewing Category "B" projects, Mr. Vincent has used his extensive background in computer technology to help enhance the Council's computer system.

Tim Mott joined the Council's staff as an environmental scientist. He is a recent graduate of the University of Rhode Island where he earned a

Masters degree from the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Mott will be working with Mr. Deveau reviewing Category "A" activities.

New Marine Resource Specialists

Donna Doyle previously worked for the Council as an environmental scientist reviewing Category "A" applications. Ms. Doyle is working on several projects including the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with RIDEM's Division of Freshwater Wetlands.

Laura Kelley Miguel joined the Council's policy staff after her graduation from the University of Rhode Island, Department of Marine Affairs where she earned a Masters degree. Ms. Miguel is working on new policies to improve the Council's ability to regulate nonpoint source pollution. She is also working on developing formal wetlands mitigation policies.

Paul Watters is another addition to the Council's policy staff. He recently graduated from the University of Rhode Island Department of Marine Affairs with a Masters degree. Prior to joining the Council, Mr. Watters worked as a harbor master for New Shoreham. Mr. Watters works primarily on harbor management related issues.

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 the summer 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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pumpout facilities. This will ensure that there are enough pumpout facilities to serve the boating public.

This past year also marked the beginning of a planning process designed to improve the management of nonpoint sources of pollution in Rhode Island pursuant to Section 6217 of the 1990 Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments. This mandate charges the Council, in conjunction with the RIDEM, to develop a Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP) for Rhode Island in accordance with the guidance issued by the federal government. Subsequent issues of this newsletter will describe these federal requirements in great detail and provide information on how the public can get involved in the development of Rhode Island's CNPCP.

Conclusion

In 1992, the Council took several steps toward the improved management of Rhode Island's coastal resources. The Council continued its efforts to improve permitting and enforcement activities. The Council also streamlined its permitting process and improved inter-governmental coordination. In addition, the CRMC is now taking an increasingly proactive approach to policy development. The activities and initiatives described above are just a sample of the Council's many activities devoted to preserving and protecting Rhode Island's coastal resources. Future issues of *Coastal Features* will provide updates and greater details on these and other Council efforts and programs.

Mark T. Imperial

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