Down Where the Water Is: A Coastal Awareness Activity Book
Illustrated by Henrietta Crandall
INTRODUCTION

This book, *Down Where the Water Is: A Coastal Awareness Activity Book* and its companion, the Teacher's Activity Guide to Coastal Awareness, were originally written by Sara Callaghan Hickox and published by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council in 1977. At that time there were few resources available to Rhode Island teachers to help them introduce the concept of coastal management into the early elementary curriculum. While a much greater number of educational resources on the coastal environment exist today, there is still a need for resources focusing specifically on Rhode Island. To meet this need, the Office of Marine Programs at the University of Rhode Island has revised *Down Where the Water Is* and the Teacher's Activity Guide to Coastal Awareness to include updated background and resource information and standards-based activities.

The Teacher's Guide and the Activity Book are intended to be used in the classroom as either a complete unit or as supplements to an existing unit. In the back of each book space is provided for the child to write his or her own story about each picture. The last two pages of the Activity Book contain cut-out sentences that may be pasted below their corresponding pictures. The Teacher's Guide follows the Activity Book page by page, expanding on each topic with background information for the teacher, glossaries, activity ideas, resources, and places to visit.
Use this space to write your own story about Rhode Island’s coast.
Use this space to illustrate your story about Rhode Island's coast.
Rhode Island's more than 400 miles of beautiful coastline have given it the nickname "the Ocean State."

The coastline is where the land and sea meet. This coming together of land and water provides important habitats for many plants and animals.

Along our coast we find barrier beaches and dunes, rocky cliffs, coastal ponds, salt marshes, and tidal creeks. These are all coastal resources. The birds, beach grass, fish, and other plants and animals that live in or near the ocean are resources, too.

Beach grass grows along the beaches and helps form sand dunes. We can help protect the dunes by walking on boardwalks or marked trails and not on the beach grass.

In the summer, the beautiful pink and white blossoms of the salt spray rose are seen growing in sandy places all along the shore. In the fall, blossoms fall off revealing a "hip" in their place. The bright red hips become food for small wild animals and birds.

The rocky coast provides habitat for many marine plants and animals. These creatures must adapt to rough waves and times of day with no water at all.

The eelgrass that grows in sheltered waters is a home for young fish and snails.

Birds like the great blue heron often feed in salt marshes. They eat the little fish and snails that live there.

At night raccoons come to the marsh to eat clams, mussels, and fiddler crabs.
People like to eat food from the sea too. They catch and eat fish, lobsters, mussels, and clams.

We also build towns, cities, and homes along the coast. Some buildings are on top of stilts to keep them above high water and big waves from storms.

People enjoy boating along our coast. On any given day you might see a rowboat, kayak, motorboat, or sailboat on the water or tied up at docks like this one.

Some people, like commercial fishermen and women, make their living from Narragansett Bay.

Commercial ships can also be seen on the Bay transporting goods to and from the state.

Lighthouses are located along the coast to guide ships safely through the Bay.

Rhode Islanders and visitors like to relax and play along the coast. They enjoy boating, fishing, swimming, and relaxing on the beach.

In order to make sure that future generations of Rhode Islanders can enjoy our coastline and appreciate the habitat it provides for other animals and plants, it is everyone’s responsibility to learn about and preserve this precious natural resource.