



## CRMC welcomes new Aquaculture Coordinator



Goetsch joins the CRMC staff after working for different aquaculture and fishing companies in Connecticut. (Photo courtesy of B. Goetsch)

*“What started as a side gig soon turned into a way of life for me and I continued diving for clams, up to the point I decided to go to Law School at Roger Williams University and pursue a joint degree in Marine Affairs. There I followed my passion for shellfish-related issues and soon discovered that shellfish aquaculture was a rapidly expanding industry.” - Ben Goetsch*

The CRMC has welcomed its new aquaculture coordinator, Benjamin Goetsch, who fills the vacancy left by David Beutel, who retired in June 2020.

Brown University and the study of archaeology brought Goetsch to Rhode Island in 2001. During his time off from excavations, Goetsch started working at a dive shop in Warwick. Filling tanks for quahoggers, Goetsch said he realized aquaculture (clams) presented a way to supplement his income, and he got a license to harvest steamers and clams.

Goetsch worked on shellfish aquaculture issues for Save The Bay as a legal intern, and as a law fellow for Rhode Island Sea Grant. His research brought the Connecticut native into contact with many of the oyster farmers in Rhode Island’s salt ponds, and he spent a few years working on the water for various companies during and after the pursuit of his Master’s in marine affairs at the University of Rhode Island, which he got at the same time as his JD from Roger Williams University.

[Read more here](#)

## CRMC seeks comment on Draft 309 Assessment/Strategy

The CRMC is currently seeking public comment on its Draft 309 Assessment and Strategy for Enhancement for 2016—2020, which is being prepared in consultation with NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management (OCM).

Every five years, state coastal management programs conduct self-assessments of their programs’ activities in nine enhancement areas of expertise. The coastal management programs perform resource characterizations for each enhancement area, identifying the current status and trends, recent management activities, and any unmet management needs.



The nine enhancement areas are:

- Public Access
- Coastal Hazards
- Ocean/Great Lakes Resources
- Wetlands
- Cumulative and Secondary Impacts
- Marine Debris
- Special Area Management Plans
- Energy and Government Facility Siting
- Aquaculture

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