

CRMC in the News

RI Salt Marsh Monitoring & Assessment Program released V.2 Iss.5 May 2016

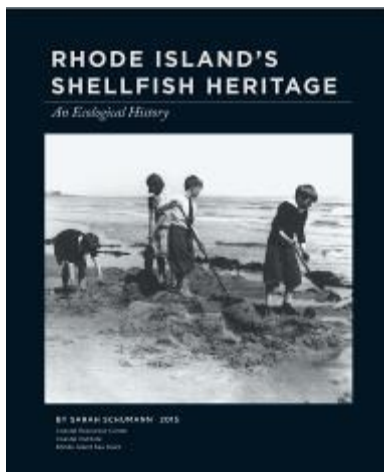
A plan to help guide Rhode Island monitor and preserve its coastal salt marshes has been released by the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR), the CRMC, and Save The Bay, and will serve as a strategic plan for future monitoring efforts.

Rhode Island's salt marshes provide valuable ecosystem service: they help protect the shoreline during storm events, offer fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and aid in carbon sequestration. The majority of them, however, have been negatively impacted by human activity and show signs of degradation from a number of stressors, made worse by the impacts of climate change. According to the report, "A Strategy for Developing a Salt Marsh Monitoring and Assessment Program for the State of Rhode Island," extensive monitoring all over the state has provided a detailed look into how our salt marshes respond to these threats, as well as management and restoration efforts.

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Events

- **Newport Oyster Festival**, 5/21-5/22, 11-5 p.m., both days, Bowen's Wharf, Newport
- **StormReporter Training**, 5/31/2016, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Save The Bay, 100 Save The Bay Drive, Providence
- **Ninigret aquaculture tours**, 6/2/16; 9:30, 11:30, 1:30; Ninigret Pond



Copies of "Rhode Island's Shellfish Heritage," by Sarah Schumann are available upon request. The book grew out of the 2014 R.I. Shellfish Management Plan.

An update on Ninigret Pond elevation enhancement

Since receiving a one-year extension on a project to beneficially re-use dredged material for marsh elevation and restoration in Ninigret Pond, the CRMC and its project partners have refined the project design, and soon will be going out to bid. Because the breachway and delta are very dynamic areas, the CRMC also utilized the extension timeframe to conduct an updated bathymetry survey of the project area.

The goal of the elevation enhancement in Ninigret is to bring back the low marsh elevation to areas that have seen extensive degradation – there are large pans of standing water in places on the marsh where the elevation has dropped; other areas have experienced marsh dieback, and will be regraded and replanted. Material will be added to the marsh surface, and will range in thickness up to 12 inches deep.

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CRMC approves five aquaculture applications

The CRMC recently approved four aquaculture applications, totaling 8.86 acres to be located in the West Passage of Narragansett Bay in the Dutch Harbor area. The Council unanimously approved all four at its semi-monthly meeting on May 10, 2016. Currently, there are three aquaculture farms in the area, totaling 15.25 acres. A fifth in the Sakonnet River was also approved. CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator David Beutel provided the Council members and public with a presentation on all four of the proposed leases, as well as visuals of areas already utilized for aquaculture in the Dutch Harbor area.

[Learn More](#)

Oppenheimer Beach SAMP video

At the May 3 R.I. Shoreline Change (Beach) Special Area Management Plan stakeholder meeting, Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, one of the authors of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, shared insight on emerging climate science and trends. In case you missed the talk, find it [here](#). His interests include science and policy of the atmosphere, particularly climate change and its impacts.

[Learn more](#)

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