

RI particularly vulnerable to SLR V.3 Iss.3 May/June 2017

With new sea level rise projections from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration showing the Northeast region, including Rhode Island, will be particularly hard-hit by 2100 – an additional 1 to 3 feet above the global projection – one might wonder why our region is so vulnerable. According to a recent report, NOAA projects that sea levels in the Northeast (as well as some other areas in the country) will rise at a significantly faster rate than the global average. The report gives a range of possible scenarios, from the low of 1 foot of sea level rise by 2100 to the worst-case scenario of 8.2 feet globally with an additional 0.98 feet to 3.28 feet for the New England region. This brings the maximum sea level rise in the Northeast to 11.5 feet by 2100.

So, why is this the case?



A view of Wellington Avenue in Newport during a recent rain and King tide. (photo by My Coast user Mark Davis)

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CRMC designates fifth clean marina

The CRMC on May 5, 2017 designated New England Boatworks in Portsmouth as a Clean Marina under its statewide Clean Marina Program, the fifth and largest marina to receive this designation.

New England Boatworks (NEB) has been in operation since 1988, and includes a boat-building division that produces custom, state-of-the-art sail and power yachts at its 28.75-acre operation. It boasts a full-service marina offering long-term and transient berths for yachts in its 8.5-acre boat basin, along with complete refit and repair services, and a haul-out and storage facility.

NEB joins four other marinas that have already been designated as Clean Marinas: Allen Harbor Marina in North Kingstown (the first to be designated), Point Judith

Marina on Point Judith Pond in Narragansett, Ram Point Marina on Point Judith Pond in Wakefield, and Conanicut Marine Services, Inc., in Jamestown, which was designated in 2013.

“As a coastal management program, we are a regulatory agency in this state, but what we’ve found is that regulations only carry us so far,” said CRMC Executive Director Grover Fugate, who presented NEB with its Clean Marina certificate. “We achieve much more when we enter into partnerships with the industries in these areas. The Clean Marina program is an example of that type of partnership.”

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(From L to R) CRMC Executive Director Grover Fugate; Jeremy Pochman, co-founder, director of 11th Hour Racing; RI Sea Grant Director Dennis Nixon; Tom Rich, New England Boatworks; Charlie Enright, captain of Volvo Team Vestas 11th Hour Racing; Dave McLaughlin, Clean Ocean Access; and RI DEM Director Janet Coit gather to celebrate NEB's recent Clean Marina designation.

The CRMC and Save The Bay coordinated a number of volunteer planting efforts at Ninigret salt marsh in May. Volunteers planted native salt marsh grass plants over three days, and one day in June.



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