CRMC, Fugate lauded for role in first offshore wind farm

The Environmental Business Council of New England recently praised all of the partners for the development and operation of the Block Island Wind Farm, America’s first offshore wind farm, including the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council, its permitting authority. Deepwater Wind, LLC’s five-turbine wind farm off Block Island’s coast is the recipient of the 2017 EBC Ira W. Leighton, Jr. Outstanding Environmental – Energy Technology Achievement Award. Each year, the EBC recognizes companies, organizations and individuals for outstanding environmental and energy accomplishments in the promotion of a sustainable, clean environment through the EBEE Awards Celebration.

CRMC Executive Director Grover J. Fugate accepted the award on behalf of the Council on June 8. The CRMC was instrumental in seeing the wind farm from application to operations, largely through the development and implementation of the Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP), which guided the Block Island project through a unique permitting process, and will inform any future applications for use of Rhode Island’s offshore environment.

Join us for 6/29 State of Aquaculture in RI talk

The public is invited to attend an education program focused on the state of aquaculture in Rhode Island’s salt ponds. The program will feature experts who will provide different perspectives on this topic and will offer the community the opportunity to ask questions and share concerns about aquaculture.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, June 29 from 5 – 7 p.m., Kettle Pond Visitor Center, 50 Bend Rd., directly off Route 1, Charlestown, RI 02813. RSVPs are requested by June 27 to cathy@crc.uri.edu.

“"The aquaculture industry has continued to grow in Rhode Island, with new products, gear and techniques being introduced," said Grover J. Fugate, executive director of the CRMC, a key member of the RI Shellfish Initiative and participant in the event. "The CRMC is responsible for balancing all uses of the ponds and coastal waters, including aquaculture, and it’s an arduous task. As the state’s manager for aquaculture, the CRMC knows, too, that it’s important for the public to be part of the process. This discussion will allow for experts to relay these exciting developments and for the public to be engaged and ask questions."