

## CRMC, Fugate lauded for role in first offshore wind farm

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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.



*Fugate speaking at the recent EBCNE awards event. (Photo: EBCNE)*

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### 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](mailto: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."

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### EU report highlights BMPs of Ocean SAMP

A recent case study performed on the CRMC's Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP) by the European Union, looking at best practices of marine spatial planning, found a number of unique and notable achievements that have contributed to the SAMP's success.

The report from the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), published in May, is part of a "Study on International Best Practices for Cross-Border Maritime Spatial Planning," and is the result of a case study conducted in Rhode Island last fall. (There were also shorter case studies of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.) In particular, it sought to examine interactions between state and federal authorities across the state-federal marine waters; and between neighboring states, with special focus on Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

While the case study noted that interstate collaboration is infrequent due to different regulatory and policy frameworks between states and often requires formal agreements to commit agencies on both sides of the border, cooperation has long been established across state lines, and when it does occur, is generally effective. "No formal collaborative

Rhode Island  
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agreements existed in the domain of coastal and marine management involving the State of RI and its neighbor [*sic*] states before the Ocean SAMP," the report states.

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