

## Coastweeks, paper highlight CRMC monitoring efforts

Through its specialized monitoring methods, the CRMC has determined that marine aquatic invasive species are outcompeting native species. Findings collected by the CRMC were recently featured in a research paper, and were the highlight of a Coastweeks session at Point Judith Marina in South Kingstown.

Introduction of non-native species in Rhode Island is not a new phenomenon. European settlers intentionally introduced native plants and animals upon their arrival in the New World. Along with those, settlers also introduced species unintentionally. Rocks used as ships' ballast discarded in New England's coastal waters were likely the route for some European marine species, including the common periwinkle that covers the rocky shores in Rhode Island today.

An invasive non-native species system within which environmental, health impacts. Re-land in local waters,

marine environments from ecological, economic, and social standpoints, according to a paper recently released by University of Rhode Island graduate student Brandon Fuller, whose research project was based on the CRMC's Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Project.

According to Kevin Cute, marine resources specialist for the CRMC, preventing new introductions, monitoring and education are the keys to managing marine invasive species, and preventing the spread of new threats. One of the most proven methods of monitoring is through the use of settlement plates, which have helped in standardizing monitoring efforts and provided valuable information on larval recruitment (the number of settled larvae that survive over a certain period of time), effects of environmental parameters, community structure, and competition.

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*Coastweeks volunteers work to identify marine aquatic invasive species at Point Judith Marina.*

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## CRMC seeks pre-proposals for Trust Fund projects

The CRMC is seeking pre-proposals for habitat restoration project funding through its R.I. Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund. The Rhode Island General Assembly established the Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Program to facilitate design, planning, construction, and monitoring of coastal and estuarine restoration projects by providing grants and technical assistance. The program is administered by the CRMC with support from the Fund's Technical Advisory Committee.

Municipalities, committees, boards or commissions chartered by a municipality, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, educational institutions and state agencies are eligible to submit a project pre-proposal. Proposed projects must be located within Rhode Island. Priority will be placed on those projects that seek to enhance coastal habitats' resiliency to climate change and sea level rise; for example, projects that remove barriers to future wetland migration with sea level rise or that enhance shoreline vegetation where habitat is threatened by increased coastal erosion.

There is no specific match requirement for proposed projects; however, proposals that can demonstrate matching funds or in-kind services will have an advantage in the selection process. Applicants are therefore encouraged to detail all federal and non-federal resources contributing toward completion of the project, whether cash or in-kind.

Project pre-proposals are due by 4 p.m. on November 16, 2018. Find out more information regarding submission by clicking on the Learn More link below.

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