

CRMC adopts changes to Ocean SAMP

The CRMC has approved changes to the general and enforceable policies in the R.I. Ocean Special Area Management Plan (OSAMP) in an effort to better address proposed wind farm developments subject to CRMC permitting and federal consistency review.

According to James Boyd, CRMC policy analyst, a number of issues were raised during the CRMC’s federal consistency review process for the Vineyard Wind project, which the agency concurred with in February 2019. The Council-adopted changes tighten up the policies in the SAMP, which inform the CRMC in its state permitting process and federal consistency evaluation of wind farm developments in federal offshore waters.

“The offshore wind energy sector is rapidly gaining ground in the northeast waters, and we have learned a lot from going through the federal consistency evaluation of the first commercial Vineyard Wind,” said Grover Fugate, CRMC executive director. “There were things the State of Rhode Island needed to have more of a voice in during that process and with other wind energy projects going forward, for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders, and these regulation changes will accomplish that goal.”

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Changes to the OSAMP’s Chapter 11 include clarification of the regulations and better distinction between state permitting and federal consistency review authority; adding representation of seafood processing facilities onto the CRMC Fishermen’s Advisory Board (FAB) and an increase in FAB membership to 20 to account for the seafood processing facilities representatives; further clarification of the 2011 and 2018 geographic location descriptions (GLDs); clarification of NOAA approval of the Ocean SAMP and federal consistency authority; and the addition of a \$20,000 administrative fee for projects subject to CRMC federal consistency review only (where no state permit is required).

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RI Aquaculture Report: steady growth

The aquaculture industry in Rhode Island experienced more steady upward growth in 2018, according to the sources Management annual status

“[Aquaculture in Rhode Island](#).” In 2018, the farm gate value product paid to the state’s aquaculture increased, from \$5.7 million in 2017 to more than \$5.8 million.

The number of products de-million in 2017 million. The number of from 73 to 76, grew by 23.2 319.3 acres remain the aqua-choice in the than 8.5 million tion.



Oysters held by CRMC’s Aquaculture Coordinator David Beutel (photo courtesy of Ayla Fox)

R.I. Coastal Re-ment Council’s report, [Rhode Island](#).” the farm gate value product paid to the state’s aquaculture increased, from \$5.7 to more than \$5.8

farms increased and acres farmed acres, to a total of farmed. Oysters culture product of state, with more sold for consump-tion.

Oyster seed sales from Rhode Island aquaculturists were valued at \$243,250, down slightly from last year’s value of \$260,175. The number of aquaculture farm workers also increased modestly from 194 to 200. The combined value of aquaculture products for consumption and seed sales was \$6.09 million. The full report is available at www.crmc.ri.gov.

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