



RHODE ISLAND
SALTWATER
ANGLERS
Association



P.O. Box 1465, Coventry, Rhode Island 02816

401-826-2121 FAX: 401-826-3546

www.RISAA.org

June 28, 2021

Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Rd, Suite 3
Wakefield, RI 02879



RE: 2020-07-103 Public Street, Providence Access

Director Willis:

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) represents over 7,500 recreational anglers and 28 affiliate clubs in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and we are pleased to take this opportunity to provide our comments in support of designation of the eastern end of Public Street in the City of Providence between Allens Avenue and the waterfront as a CRMC-designated Right of Way.

Access to the waterfront all around the State of RI has been threatened for many years by parking restrictions, private home owners blocking access and even by natural processes caused by rising sea level and eroding coastlines. Because of this it is important to preserve access in every location possible. Access to our coastline is a right described in the Constitution of this great State and preservation of this right is important today and tomorrow.

This particular location, in the inner city is even more important to protect because access to the waterfront is greatly limited in the urban areas of Providence and Pawtucket. Development all along the Providence River currently makes it difficult for people who desire to get to the water. Access such as this is important to residents of the City who would otherwise need to travel much further to access the waterfront.

The surrounding uses might currently be very industrial and the water of degraded quality, but water quality is improving and access just for relaxing and viewing the Providence River is still access worth protecting.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this important issue.

Stephen J. Medeiros
President

Richard C. Hittinger
1st Vice President

Cc: Peter Neronha, Attorney General