



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Salt Marsh Month**

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island's coastal salt marsh habitat is a valuable contributor to the overall health of the ecosystem and resiliency of coastal communities; and

**WHEREAS**, salt marshes are among the most productive ecosystems on earth and perform important functions such as water quality improvement, habitat for fish and wildlife, wave attenuation and flood water storage; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island's salt marshes and intertidal areas help to support commercial and recreational fishing industries by providing important habitat for juvenile finfish and shellfish; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island's salt marsh complexes provide, along with other natural coastal features, protection of the shoreline from wave energy and coastal storms; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island's salt marshes provide areas of scenic beauty that are popular recreation destinations for residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of sea level rise and global warming are already being observed within our coastal salt marsh habitats, heightening the need for education and preservation of these areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, along with other partners, works to protect and enhance these diverse natural coastal areas for the benefit of the environment and all Rhode Islanders; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim October, 2014 as Salt Marsh Month in Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to join me in recognizing the importance of this month.



  
A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 3<sup>RD</sup> day of October, 2014

  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor