

State of Rhode Island  
**COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
Oliver Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road  
Wakefield, RI 02879

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Federal requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) at 16 USC § 1455(e) and 15 C.F.R. Part 923, Subpart H, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) has submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management (OCM) proposed changes to the Federally-approved Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP). The CRMC is requesting concurrence of OCM the incorporation of the CRMC's recently adopted *Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast* (650-RICR-20-00-9) as a Program Change to the CRMP. The CRMC's new freshwater wetland regulations have been filed with the Rhode Island Secretary of State and will be effective July 1, 2022. Simultaneously the CRMC's current (old) *Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast* (650-RICR-20-00-2) will be repealed effective July 1, 2022.

The CRMC's new *Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast* (650-RICR-20-00-9) increase the CRMC's regulatory jurisdictional area around freshwater wetlands from 50 feet to 100 feet consistent with state law and will allow the CRMC to strengthen the management and protection of freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast and will provide clarity, predictability and streamlining of the regulatory framework consistent with the state statutory mandate pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 2-1-20.1(c) and 46-23-6(2)(iii)(E). The CRMC is requesting NOAA OCM to approve the incorporation of the new Rules as enforceable policies under the CRMP.

The NOAA OCM is reviewing this request for concurrence in the determination that the CRMC's proposed change is a Program Change consistent with the CZMA and does not require analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. The CRMC's filing (RI-2022-1) is available for viewing online at the OCM Program Change web portal: <https://coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/home>. Public comments may be submitted online at the OCM link above or written comments may be submitted directly to NOAA OCM at the following address:

Joelle Gore, Chief  
Stewardship Division  
Office of Coastal Management  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4 N/OCM6  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Comments regarding whether the incorporation of the CRMC's requested change into the CRMP qualifies as a Program Change pursuant to 15 C.F.R. § 923.84 will be accepted by OCM for three weeks (21 days) following the date of publication of this notice on **June 13, 2022**. The detailed Program Change request to NOAA OCM is also available on the CRMC web site: [www.crmc.ri.gov](http://www.crmc.ri.gov)

Any questions regarding this public notice should be directed to Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director, Coastal Resources Management Council, email: [jwillis@crm.ri.gov](mailto:jwillis@crm.ri.gov), Telephone: (401)783-3370.