Pursuant to the federal requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) at 16 USC § 1455(e) and 15 CFR Part 923, Subpart H, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) filed with the Office for Coastal Management (OCM) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on June 13, 2022 proposed program changes to the federally-approved Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP). The CRMC requested concurrence of OCM to incorporate the new Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast (650-RICR-20-00-9) (Part 9) replacing the previously approved freshwater wetland regulations (650-RICR-20-00-2) in their entirety. (RI-2022-1). The program changes are detailed within the program change submission document available on the NOAA website here: https://coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/change-view/1275

NOAA OCM did not receive any public or Federal agency comments for the program change submission. On July 26, 2022 NOAA OCM issued its approval letter for the requested program change with clarifications and exceptions. NOAA’s approval letter can be viewed at the website noted above and on the CRMC website here: www.crmc.ri.gov.

As of the date of NOAA OCM’s approval letter, the enforceable policies identified in the attached Table of Approved Changes shall be applicable in reviewing federal actions pursuant to the federal consistency requirements of the CZMA and its implementing regulations at 15 CFR part 930.

Any questions regarding this notice should be directed to Jeff Willis, Executive Director, Coastal Resources Management Council, at the address above or email: jwillis@crmc.ri.gov Telephone: (401)783-3370.