

SUMMARY

Marine Resources Development Plan

Working Version_September 20, 2005



Goals for the Marine Resources Development Plan

The vision for coastal and marine resources requires the wholehearted pursuit of the following goals:

- **Properly functioning bay and lagoon ecosystems**, including coastal buffers, wetlands, salt marshes and sea grass beds that can be both ecologically effective and economically beneficial.
- **Abundant and sustained fishing and fisheries resources** – recognizing the need for diversified and healthy populations of fish and shellfish in our bays, rivers and lagoons in order to reach this goal.
- **Successful coastal places**, pleasant neighborhoods, and access to improved coastal parks, greenways and a variety of options for getting to the shore and its tributary rivers from land and sea.
- **Marine-based economic development** that meets the aspirations of local communities and is consistent and complementary to the state’s overall economic development needs and goals. This development draws upon and is inspired by the beauty and quality of the environs, including the protection and enhancement of maritime activities, marine culture and a sense of place.

700.1 Strategies for Improving the Health and Functionality of Rhode Island’s Marine Ecosystem

The CRMC will:

1. participate in collaborative fine-tuned management of sub-regions of the coast and watersheds to advance ecological stewardship and productivity and will use special area management plans, among other means, to accomplish this strategy.
2. continue to be an active partner in habitat restoration projects.
3. support Rhode Island's no-net-loss wetlands policy. CRMC programs and permit decisions will promote protection, mitigation and restoration—in that order of priority—to protect a diversity of critical coastal habitat types.
4. recognize the benefits, goods and services of manmade habitats created by in-water structures, such as artificial reefs, including those created by marinas, docks, or breakwaters.
5. support an enhanced ecosystem monitoring and assessment program, where collaboration among agencies and organizations is essential. Results from this monitoring will contribute to the “State of the Marine Resources Report”, which shall be developed every five years in support of revisions to the MRDP.
6. promote partnerships between research institutions and the public and private sectors to advance technological and environmental infrastructure that can be used to enhance coastal and marine habitats.

700.2 Strategies for Providing Appropriate Marine-Related Economic Development

The CRMC will:

1. work with the EDC and the marine-related sectors to strive for clarity, agility, creativity and transparency in allocating coastal areas and setting priorities for their use.
2. build on and refine water use zoning, will provide leadership in harmonizing water use zoning with land use zoning, and will utilize the State guide plan process as means to advance this effort.
3. encourage development proposals focused on growth centers, that provide for mixed-use that support the incorporate residential, commercial, employment, and recreational functions within a walkable area.
4. take a leadership role and engage proactively in the collaborative, intentional design of waterfront redevelopment.
5. collaborate with local communities to identify and designate major vacant or underutilized sites suitable (including Navy-owned) for economic development, including pad-ready sites proposed by the EDC.
6. use the SAMP process as part of the overall public process aimed at developing revitalization plans for underused urbanized areas.
7. promote the development of urban greenways as a means to implement buffer requirements to mitigate storm water impacts, protect habitat, and promote public access.
8. collaborate with DEM and other agencies to restore fisheries for commercial and recreational purposes.

700.3 Strategies for Promoting the Use and Enjoyment of Rhode Island Marine Resources by the People of the State

The CRMC will:

1. promote and facilitate a network of coastal parks and dedicated water trails, which provide amenities for a broad variety of marine-based recreational uses.
2. recognize extraordinary, high visual aesthetics, and promote the maintenance and enhancement of visual access from the water and from scenic overlooks, including highways along the shore.
3. maintain and expand public access and support a variety of recreational activities to and along the shore and within the Bay and coastal waters.
4. partner with higher education institutions and the private sector to enhance and expand natural and manmade environmental infrastructure that supports marine fish and wildlife.
5. collaborate with DEM and other agencies in efforts to restore fisheries.
6. continue to provide technical expertise in cooperation with DEM and DOH to monitor the health and functionality of the state's bathing beaches.
7. collaborate with EDC and other agencies to market the diversity of water sports in the Ocean State.
8. take a leadership role in supporting coastal communities to update their harbor management plans. These plans will incorporate the policies of the MRDP and appropriate SAMPs.

700.4 Strategies for CRMC Program Leadership and Coordination Roles, Responsibilities and Capabilities

The CRMC will:

1. maintain and use the MRDP as a strategic guide to action and practice—one that is clear, flexible, kept up-to-date and subject to comprehensive review every five years.
2. provide leadership in collaborative decision-making aimed at promoting intentional design, while ensuring efficiency and effectiveness, in concert with four key state agencies—CRMC, EDC, DOA, and DEM and through the Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team.
3. collaborate with DEM, EDC and DOA in managing federal consistency determinations that affect marine resource development.
4. catalyze and unify the response of networks of stakeholders required to implement SAMPs and to cultivate and renew the trust, confidence and support of citizens.
5. attain the level of performance, through Council and staff development, required to implement the MRDP.

The Council will:

6. establish such permanent standing subcommittees as may be necessary to manage efficiently and effectively its workload and the full range of its powers and duties.
7. dedicate requisite effort to its planning, policy-making, and coordination roles.

700.5 Implementation Activities for the Marine Resources Development Plan, 2005-2010

The CRMC will:

- strive to have vision, strategic leadership, coalitions and networks and think in multiple dimensions in parallel (environmental, economic, social, cultural).
- participate as an active partner of the Coordination Team for Rhode Island's Bays, Rivers and Watersheds and recognize the Team as a primary vehicle for inter-agency collaboration.
- work with Statewide Planning to incorporate the MRDP as an element of the State Guide Plan.
- in partnership with other Coordination Team members, promote in Rhode Island the establishment of four or five mega-watersheds/economic sub-regions—with one or more SAMPs incorporated in each.
- pursue linkages with academic institutions and research organizations that are studying trends in the coast's conditions, uses, and changes and that are formulating innovative place designs and marine resource uses.
- sharpen its monitoring expertise to become a premier "listening post" for identifying trends in coastal development and marine resource conditions.
- evaluate the review procedures for Type B assents and contested cases and determine if a standing subcommittee, the executive director and staff or if the full council should address this workload.
- conduct an assessment of the cumulative results-to-date of the 1983 Red Book as amended, focusing on the effects at the municipal level as well as by water area type.
- select one or two priority areas within which to begin developing a mosaic of SAMPs.