



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**Office for Coastal Management**  
Silver Spring Metro Center, Building 4  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

January 22, 2026

Jeffery Willis, Executive Director  
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council  
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879

Dear Mr. Willis,

Thank you for the December 18, 2025, request for approval of changes to the Rhode Island Coastal Management Program (RI-2025-1) to incorporate changes to Rhode Island General Laws §46-23 and 650-RICR-10.00.1 regarding the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council membership and quorum requirements pursuant to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA; 16 U.S.C. § 1451 *et seq.*) regulations at 15 CFR part 923, subpart H.<sup>1</sup> NOAA's Office for Coastal Management approves the request subject to the qualifications noted below.

NOAA's CZMA regulations require that the state post this decision by the Office for Coastal Management for public notice.<sup>2</sup> The public notice should state that as of the date of this decision 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 found at 15 CFR part 930.<sup>3</sup> Please send a copy of the public notice to the Office for Coastal Management for our records to close out this file.

### **PUBLIC AND FEDERAL AGENCY COMMENTS**

The Office for Coastal Management did not receive any comments on this program change submission.

### **CHANGES APPROVED**

See the attached Table of Approved Changes to the Rhode Island Coastal Management Program.

<sup>1</sup> This program change request was submitted under NOAA's revised CZMA program change regulations at 15 CFR part 923, subpart H (84 Federal Register (FR) 38118 (Aug. 6, 2019)). The Office for Coastal Management's decision due date was January 16, 2026, subject to extension. The Office for Coastal Management extended its review of this program change request to January 29, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> 15 CFR § 923.81(e)(5), as described at 84 FR 38133 (Aug. 6, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> 15 CFR § 923.81(f), as described at 84 FR 38133 (Aug. 6, 2019).

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

As a standard qualification applying to all program changes, states may not incorporate enforceable policies by reference. If an approved enforceable policy refers to another statute, regulation, policy, standard, guidance, or other such requirement or document, the referenced policy must be submitted to and approved by the Office for Coastal Management as an enforceable policy in order to be applied under the federal consistency review provisions of the CZMA. No referenced policy may be applied for CZMA federal consistency review purposes unless that policy has been separately reviewed and approved as an enforceable policy by the Office for Coastal Management.

Thank you for your cooperation in this review. Please contact Allison Castellan at 202-596-5039, if you have any questions. For future correspondence regarding these program changes, please refer to the file number assigned to this action, RI-2025-1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joelle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joelle Gore, Chief  
Stewardship Division

Attachment: Table of Approved Changes RI-2025-1