

February 2, 2010

Mr. J. Michael Saul
Interim Executive Director
The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
315 Iron Horse Way
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Director Saul:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council's Ocean SAMP subcommittee, I respectfully submit the fifth period narrative and financial Ocean SAMP progress report which was approved by the subcommittee. An electronic version will be e-mailed for your records.

The Ocean SAMP continues to make progress in the areas of research and public engagement. We continue to work effectively and efficiently with the assigned budget, and we have built a strong team to carry out SAMP activities.

Thank you for reviewing the attached progress report. My contact information is listed on the cover page of the document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grover Fugate". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "F".

Grover Fugate
Executive Director, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
On behalf of the CRMC Ocean SAMP Subcommittee

RHODE ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
FUND SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN
Fifth Period Narrative and Financial Report
(July 31, 2009 – September 30, 2009)

RHODE ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FUND SPECIAL AREA
MANAGEMENT PLAN
Fourth Period Narrative and Financial Report (July 31, 2009 to September 30, 2009)

Submitted to:

The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC), 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 01,
Providence, RI 02908, Attn: J. Michael Saul

Narrative and Financial Report:

Fifth period (July 31, 2009 to September 30, 2009) Narrative and Financial Report for the
Rhode Island Renewable Energy Development Fund/Ocean Special Area Management Plan

Submitted by:

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Institutional Representative:

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Point of Contact:

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FIFTH PERIOD OCEAN SAMP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council's Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP) continued to make significant progress during this time period. The following is a summary of progress during this time period, based on the Goals specified in the work plan:

Goal 1: Assemble background information on the project boundary's natural features, human activities and policy and procedures to assist in the understanding of this Ocean SAMP region.

Recreation and Tourism Draft Chapter: The Ocean SAMP outreach team developed the production of the draft Recreation and Tourism Chapter, with key activities focusing on: 1) Collecting and synthesizing existing and new pertinent data; 2) Ensuring a wide range of input and insight from varied stakeholders; 3) Developing practical and useful maps and visual aides to complement the synthesis; and 4) Engaging with recreation and tourism experts on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to better understand the recreational use of the study area, to review draft content for accuracy, and to identify recreation and tourism opportunities and challenges for the SAMP. Results of these discussions can be found in the Recreation and Tourism draft chapter on the Ocean SAMP web site at

http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp/pdf/samp_600_recreation_10.30.09.pdf. The TAC members are: Sheila McCurdy, Cruising Club of America; Evan Smith, Newport Convention and Visitors' Bureau; Michael Sullivan, R.I. Department of Environmental Management; Mark Brodeur, R.I. Economic Development Corporation; Michael Keyworth and George Cochran, R.I. Marine Trades Association; John Rainone, R.I. party and Charter Boat Association; Robin Wallace, R.I. State Yachting Committee; Jared Rhodes, R.I. Statewide Planning Program; and Ed LeBlanc. See attached Methodology for further chapter description.

Marine Transportation, Navigation and Infrastructure Draft Chapter: The Ocean SAMP outreach team developed the draft Marine Transportation, Navigation and Infrastructure Chapter, with key activities focusing on: 1) Collecting and synthesizing existing and new pertinent data; 2) Ensuring a wide range of input and insight from varied stakeholders; 3) Developing practical and useful maps and visual aides to complement the synthesis; and 4) Engaging with marine transportation experts on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to better understand ship route and traffic management issues within the study area, to review draft content for accuracy, and to identify transportation, navigation and infrastructure opportunities and challenges for the SAMP. This chapter will be submitted in draft form to the public on December 1, 2009 and will be posted at

<http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp/pdf/samp.pdf>. The proposed SAMP Marine Transportation, Navigation and Infrastructure TAC members are: Ed LeBlanc, U.S. Coast Guard; Paul Costabile/Howard McVay, Northeast Marine Pilots; Evan Matthews, Quonset Development Corporation; Chris Tompsett, Naval Undersea Warfare Center; Chris Myers, Interstate Navigation (Block Island Ferry); Matt Wingate, NOAA; Mike Scanlon, RI Department of Environmental Management; USACE; and Port of Providence.

Research update: During this time period, the Ocean SAMP research team carried out the following approved activities:

1. Analysis of support structures and foundations for offshore wind turbines. The analysis is nearly complete. This study analyzes the various technologies, relevant parameters, and costs associated with the support structures and foundations for offshore wind turbines. First, the researchers performed a detailed assessment of the technology used for offshore wind turbine support structures and foundations. This included a literature review with a focus on learning from the implementation of those technologies in areas such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and Denmark. Next, researchers identified and evaluated important environmental parameters (such as water depth, wave height and period, and depth to bedrock) that govern the selection of which technology should be used in a given location. Finally, researchers are estimating the relative costs of the different technologies based on known site conditions in Rhode Island coastal waters, and will identify the systems to be recommended for the proposed sites. This study will conclude with a final report as well as GIS maps illustrating study findings.
2. Analysis of acoustic data and preliminary design of noise prediction model. This study analyzes the noise and electromagnetic field conditions associated with offshore wind structures, and assesses the potential impact of these conditions on marine mammals, turtles, and other living marine resources. Researchers have collected and analyzed acoustic data at the candidate locations in order to perform a detailed analysis of the present atmospheric and underwater noise conditions in these locations. They are progressing in building a noise-prediction model for the wind farm which will operate during construction and operation phases. This study will result in a final report and GIS maps illustrating study findings.
3. R/V Bold field mission. The research vessel deployed in September 2009 to collect data regarding the geology and geophysics of the ocean floor within the SAMP area. The information was enhanced with critical fisheries data gathered through a survey collaboration with the federal government Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program. The surveys provided habitat information about select points within the SAMP.

Goal 2: Identify best practices and strategies for overcoming obstacles in planning, policy, and implementation of marine renewable energy that can be transferred to the Ocean SAMP initiative based on a comparative assessment of lessons learned from other initiatives in the United States and worldwide. Evaluate what works and what does not work in the Ocean SAMP initiative so that this model effort can be used as a case study for future efforts.

Applying global experience to the Ocean SAMP: The Ocean SAMP outreach team worked during the summer to plan a November 2009 conference to ensure lessons learned from here and around the world can inform the Rhode Island experience with marine ocean spatial planning and the location of offshore renewable energy resources. "The Ecology of Marine Wind Farms: Perspectives on Impact Mitigation, Siting, and Future Uses/8th Annual Ronald C. Baird Sea

Grant Science Symposium” brought 150 international experts in wind energy, biotechnologies, seafoods, fisheries, aquaculture, and leading legal and policy experts together to discuss innovative methods for the integration of these future uses into windfarm marine areas.

Understanding the ecological implications of offshore renewable energy: The Ocean SAMP outreach team worked to secure a leading marine biologist, Dr. Andrew B. Gill, of the Natural Resources Department of Cranfield University, UK, to apply lessons learned from European wind farm ocean habitat monitoring and evaluation strategies to the Rhode Island experience and the Ocean SAMP. Dr. Gill presented at the Baird Symposium described above, and will provide expertise in transferring strategies in understanding the ecological impacts of offshore renewable energy in European settings to the Ocean SAMP.

Goal 3. Engage a well informed and well represented constituency that understands the Ocean SAMP issues and is involved in the creation of the Ocean SAMP.

Ensuring Block Island community participation in the SAMP: The Ocean SAMP outreach team organized a full day of meetings and a public session on Block Island in July 2009 to collect input from local constituents regarding a windfarm pilot project, as well as the potential offshore windfarm project. Members of the CRMC met with constituents to discuss the Ocean SAMP and hear their issue and concerns regarding the Ocean SAMP.

2009 Summer Community Lecture Series: CRMC and Rhode Island Sea Grant sponsored (along with other supporters) the series which enabled libraries and community centers in local coastal communities to host speakers who addressed issues central to the Ocean SAMP. The Series was called “Our Ocean in Motion” and included presentations on: 1) Understanding Climate Change: What it Means for Rhode Islanders (June at the Newport Public Library); 2) Vessel Traffic, Safety, and Offshore Wind Farms: Navigating the Coast Guards Review Process (July at the North Kingstown Free Library); Rhode Island Ocean Zoning: Where not to put a Wind Farm in Rhode Island Waters (August at the South Kingstown Peace Dale Library); and Perspective on the opportunities and challenges for U.S. Offshore Wind Technology (August at the North Kingstown Free Library).

Goal 4: Develop a SAMP for Rhode Island’s Coastal waters that serves as a tool to encourage regulatory and management coordination and consistency among Rhode Island state agencies (CRMC, OER, DEM), federal agencies (U.S. Department of Energy, ACOE, MMS, and the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), neighboring states (MA, CT, NY) and other public entities, developers, and environmentalists within this project area.

Ocean Policy Task Force Briefing: The Ocean SAMP team provided a briefing to officials of President Obama’s Ocean Policy Task Force on September 25, 2009 at the URI Bay Campus. The team was invited to present the Ocean SAMP because the task force is considering its potential as a national model for ocean spatial planning, adaptive management, and the development of offshore renewable energy resources. The Task Force is charged with developing a

recommendation for a national policy that ensures protection, maintenance, and restoration of oceans, our coasts and the Great Lakes. It will also recommend a framework for improved stewardship, and effective coastal and marine spatial planning.

The SAMP Document chapter development: Project team develop a formal timeline for when the Ocean SAMP chapters will be available for public comment was developed and communicated to the public. This document is located on the Ocean SAMP web site: http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp/pdf/samp/samp_chapter_timeline.pdf.

OCEAN SAMP PROJECT TIMELINE-RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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FUNDING SOURCE/AMOUNTS:	
Year I-Ocean SAMP Funding	\$ 1,599,999
Year II- Ocean SAMP Funding	\$ 1,600,001
2.8M-Additional Studies Funding	\$ 2,828,942
DOE - Reed Appropriation for SAMP	\$ 607,438
	\$ 6,636,380

	EDC			
<i>Previously Billed</i>	Current Dec 09	<i>Encumbrances</i>	<i>Total to Date</i>	
\$ 2,839,868	\$ 329,840	\$ 830,854	\$	-
			\$	3,169,708
\$ 2,839,868	\$ 329,840	\$ 830,854	\$	3,169,708

<i>*DOE-APPROPRIATION FUNDING:</i> DOE Award notification is in the final stages and invoicing will occur when award is official and grant is taken off Dean's Pledge. DOE Accts: 14-S083-86 <u>Outstanding ENCUMBRANCES:</u> Are identified project expenses with specific purposes (i.e. Subcontracts) & have not been invoiced for payment by vendor and therefore amounts are not reflected in account expenditures.

	**DOE		
Previously Exp.	Current Dec 09	Total to Date	
\$ 80,094.95	\$ 10,210.82	\$ 201,503.49	\$ 90,305.77
\$ 2,919,963	\$ 340,050	\$ 1,032,358	\$ 3,260,014

\$	4,292,372	Total encumbrances and invoices
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