

biggest funding challenges is earmarks—funding targeted to a specific issue as opposed to supporting core program funding—Keeney urged support for Bay Window monitoring to create long-term datasets, ecosystem-based management of fisheries, investing in special area management plans, and supporting research to answer difficult questions like, “How does taking nutrients out of the Bay affect ecosystem organisms?” In addition, Keeney talked about the role of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), composed of the New England governors and Eastern Canadian premiers and headed by Rhode Island’s Carcieri, which is working to determine priority areas for 10 federal agencies. “The agencies are standing by ready to take action on these priorities.” (The resolution establishing NROC can be viewed at: www.scics.gc.ca/cinfo05/850104007_e.html; updates of the New England Governors’ Conference are available at: www.negc.org/documents/NEGC_Newsletter_905.pdf.)

In addition to the chair, the Rhode Island Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team consists of a representative from RIDEM, NBC, the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), R.I. Department of Administration, Rhode Island Water Resources Board, Rhode Island Rivers Council, and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The team is working with federal, state, and local agencies as well as other groups to prepare an overall plan for Narragansett Bay. The Coordination Team will serve as the lead coordinator in implementing the plan.

In addition to the state agencies participating on the Coordination Team, there are also four subgroups that bring together experts in a variety of fields to provide input and advice to the team—the RIEMC, the Economic Monitoring Collaborative, a Science Advisory Committee, and the Public Advisory Committee. Rhode Island Sea Grant and URI Coastal Institute personnel are active in several of these groups.

More information about the Rhode Island Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team, its membership, activities, and additional resources for information can be found on the team’s website at: www.ci.uri.edu/ribayteam.

—Malia Schwartz



Photo by
Puffin
Enterprises.



Ronald Baird (left), retired National Sea Grant director, accepts honor from Barry Costa-Pierce, Rhode Island Sea Grant director. Photo by Heather Rhodes.

Symposium honors retired Sea Grant director

Rhode Island Sea Grant has renamed its annual science symposium the “Ronald C. Baird Sea Grant Science Symposium” in honor of the recently retired director of the National Sea Grant College Program.

In recognition of Baird’s contributions to Sea Grant nationally and to Rhode Island Sea Grant specifically, Barry Costa-Pierce, Rhode Island Sea Grant director, announced the honor at a reception in October, during the 2006 Sea Grant Science Symposium on “Ecosystem Based Management: From Theory to Practice,” held at the Roger Williams University (RWU) School of Law.

“Ron envisioned and implemented the National Sea Grant Legal Program, which was an inspiration for us to launch the Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program based at the RWU Law School. Ron also championed a national effort to add new fisheries extension agents to our programs and to create regional fisheries extension programs. Today, Rhode Island Sea Grant is the national and Northeast regional lead for fisheries extension. Ron also led a global effort to establish Sea Grant International, and we can now point with pride to sister Sea Grant programs in various stages of development in Asia, Africa, and Latin America,” said Costa-Pierce during his remarks.

W. Michael Sullivan, director of the R.I. Department of Environmental Management, also presented Baird with a proclamation of appreciation from Gov. Donald Carcieri.

The Baird Symposium also served as the sixth Marine Law Symposium. Information about the symposium is online at: seagrant.gso.uri.edu/research/science_symposium.html.

—Monica Allard Cox

Editor’s Note: Next year’s Ronald C. Baird Sea Grant Science Symposium will be held in October and will focus on “Urban Coasts and Communities.” Visit seagrant.gso.uri.edu for updates and information.