

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Oliver Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road; Suite 3, Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

In accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the "Administrative Procedures Act" (Section 42-35-3 of the General Laws of Rhode Island) and the Rule and Regulations of the Coastal Resources Management Council, notice is hereby given of the intention of the Coastal Resources Management Council to change the management plans, policies, procedures and regulations of the agency regarding planning and management of the coastal resources of the State relative to Chapter 46-23 of the State of Rhode Island.

The following changes are proposed:

**RI Coastal Resources Management Program/
Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP)**

Executive Summary

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the Ocean SAMP document – why it was developed; a brief history of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council's history in creating SAMPs; the goals of the SAMP; and the process by which the Ocean SAMP was produced.

Section 100: Chapter 1 – Introduction

The purpose of this chapter will provide a broad overview of the SAMP area and SAMP document, laying the foundation for the subsequent chapters which describe the present status of the Ocean SAMP study area, characterize the natural attributes and resources of this body of water, describe current uses, identify and review existing and potential future use impacts, and present policies and recommendations that will help federal, state, and local governments work with the people of Rhode Island to wisely manage the Ocean SAMP study area for this and future generations.

Section 1100: Chapter 11 – New Policies and Regulations

While a number of federal and state statutes, regulations, and policies now govern the uses of the areas contained within the Ocean SAMP, the purpose of this chapter is to address additional provisions to provide policy direction for, and regulation and management of, new ocean resources and uses, as well as to enhance management of existing activities. The Ocean SAMP New Policies Chapter addresses these emerging policies.

The Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP) in its entirety

The purpose of the Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP) is to serve as a regulatory, planning and adaptive management tool of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) to uphold its regulatory responsibilities. Using the best available science and working with well-informed and committed resource users, researchers, environmental and civic organizations, and

local, state and federal government agencies, the Ocean SAMP provides a comprehensive understanding of this complex and rich ecosystem.

The Ocean SAMP also documents how the people of Rhode Island have used and depended upon these offshore resources for subsistence, work, and play. It also documents important natural wildlife, fish, birds, marine mammals and sea turtles, their habitats and areas important to their survival. To fulfill the Council's mandate, the Ocean SAMP lays out enforceable policies and recommendations to guide CRMC in promoting a balanced and comprehensive ecosystem-based management approach to the development and protection of Rhode Island's ocean-based resources within the state waters of the Ocean SAMP study area.

Please go to the following websites to download chapters for review. Also see the Ocean SAMP websites at www.crmc.ri.gov/samp_ocean.html and <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp/> for detailed information regarding the SAMP's development.

The Council has complied with the requirements of R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-35-3 by considering alternative approaches to the proposed regulation(s) and has determined that there is/are no alternative approach(es) that would be as effective and less burdensome. The Council has also determined that the proposed regulation(s) do(es) not overlap or duplicate any other state regulation. The Council has complied with the requirements of R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-35-3.3 by submitting copies of the proposed regulation(s) to the Governor's Office and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Parties interested in or concerned with the above proposed changes are invited to **submit written comments by Thursday September 9, 2010**. All such comments should be directed to Grover J. Fugate, Executive Director, at the above address.

A public hearing has been scheduled for these proposed changes to be held in on Tuesday, August 24, 2010, Tuesday, September 14, 2010, with final action on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. Each of these hearings will take place at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A, Administration Building, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

Copies of the proposed regulations are also available from the Coastal Resources Management Council offices and its website – www.crmc.ri.gov.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Council office at 783-3370, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Coastal Resources Management Council offices at 783-3370.

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NOTICE

These changes are considered to be routine program changes to the federally approved Coastal Resources Management Program of Rhode Island. The CRMC will be requesting that the federal Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management concur with this determination when it seeks inclusion of such in the federally approved program. Persons who disagree that these are routine modifications to the federally approved program may submit such written comments within three weeks of the date of the issuance of this notice to:

John King
Division Chief
NOAA/NOS/OCRM
Coastal Programs Division
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Signed this 23rd day of July, 2010.



Jeffrey M. Willis, Deputy Director
Coastal Resources Management Council

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