

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 change is proposed:

RI Coastal Resources Management Program

Ocean Special Area Management Plan: Chapter 7: Marine Transportation, Navigation and Infrastructure

The Rhode Island Ocean SAMP, or Ocean Special Area Management Plan, is working to define use zones for Rhode Island's ocean waters through a research and planning process that integrates the best available science with open public input and involvement.

As the state's coastal zone management agency, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) is leading this project and is cooperatively managing research projects undertaken by URI scientists to provide the essential scientific basis for Ocean SAMP policy development.

This installment of the Ocean SAMP – the Marine Transportation, Navigation and Infrastructure Chapter – has as its objective to provide information on commercial, military, government and support vessels, and infrastructure that comprise the SAMP area elements of the nation's marine transportation system within the Ocean SAMP area.

As with other chapters in development, the Ocean SAMP document and policies are focused on the offshore environment, not adjacent upland areas. This offshore focus is due to the fact that the CRMC already has a regulatory program, including a zoning program, in place for coastal lands and waters out to the three-nautical mile boundary. Accordingly, this chapter focuses on commercial, military, government and support vessels, and infrastructure that comprise the SAMP area elements of the nation's marine transportation system.

Please go to the CRMC's website www.crmc.ri.gov to download the entire chapter 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).

A public workshop on these proposed changes is scheduled for Friday February 19, 2010 at 2:30 pm at the University of Rhode Island's Bay Campus, Coastal Institute, Hazard Rooms A & B, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI.

Parties interested in or concerned with the above proposed changes are invited to **submit written comments** by March 2, 2010. All such comments should be directed to Grover J. Fugate, Executive Director, at the above agency address.

A public hearing has been scheduled for these proposed changes to be held in Conference Room A, Administration Building, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

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.

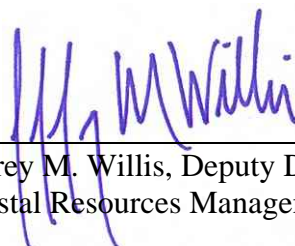
Further information may be obtained by contacting the Coastal Resources Management Council offices at 783-3370.

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:

Allison Castellan
Coastal Management Specialist
NOAA/NOS/OCRM
Coastal Programs Division
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Signed this 29th day of January, 2010.



Jeffrey M. Willis, Deputy Director
Coastal Resources Management Council