

OSAMP Chapter: Recreation and Tourism  
 Comment Period: Formal / Rulemaking  
 End Date: 12/31/2009

Name	Organization	Section	Comment	Response
Kim Gaffett	Town of New Shoreham	610	In general this section seems to be very light regarding Block Island. Although boat races sponsored by the Storm Trysail Club (a biannual week long series of races) and other races such as the "off year" race week sponsored by Rolex are mentioned later in the chapter it would seem appropriate to include at least the Storm Trysail Club race in the history section. Information about the year of origin could certainly be obtained from the Storm Trysail Club directly.	Added information on Storm Trysail Club Block Island Race Week history. Added additional information on history of tourism on Block Island. Referred reader to other chapters for additional historic information on Block Island and other communities.
Kim Gaffett	Town of New Shoreham	640	Two star attractions on Block Island that should be considered here are the lighthouses. Both the North Light, and especially the Southeast Lighthouse, attract thousands of visitors each year. The actual visitor numbers at the Southeast light may rival the DEM's 750 visitors per acre statistic; and this site – more than any other in the State – will likely have the greatest view of off shore wind turbines if they are built as currently envisioned.	Added reference to both lighthouses, and referred reader to Chapter 3, Cultural and Historic Resources, where lighthouses will be discussed in greater depth.
Kim Gaffett	Town of New Shoreham	640	Regularly visited beaches on Block Island include the entire 18 mile shoreline perimeter, not just the Fred Benson Beach. □ Since none of Block Island's beaches are owned/operated/staffed by the DEM it would follow that the figures listed in this section do not include Block Island visitors and residents.	Table 8 was updated with beaches listed by RIDEM, in the RI Sea Grant "Public Access Guide to RI," and data provided by the town of New Shoreham. Added approximate beach visitation data for New Shoreham beaches that was provided by the town of New Shoreham.
Kim Gaffett	Town of New Shoreham	640	Block Island is also a favorite destination for surfers, especially when big surf is predicted from off shore storms. I suggest contacting Surfrider Foundation for specific and/or antidotal information (Dave Prescott – Dave@risurfrider.org)	Added reference to Block Island and other areas with popular surf spots.

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Kim Gaffett	Town of New Shoreham	640	One could argue that Block Island is “in” the SAMP area, not simply adjacent to it. Block Island alone has at least 6 marinas, depending on how they are defined. I suggest contacting the Harbor Master, Chris Willi, for information (401-466-3204)	Edited/updated original RIGIS shapefile and database to reflect current marinas on Block Island and in other coastal communities. Added language in 600.3 to clarify focus on offshore, not upland, areas.
Kim Gaffett	Town of New Shoreham	650	A general comment regarding these sections is that if sport and charter fishing activities are not discussed in the Fisheries chapter than they should be addressed here as they are shore-based and off-shore activities that occur in the Ocean SAMP study area.	Recreational and for-hire fishing will be discussed in detail in the fisheries chapter, which is forthcoming.
Kim Gaffett	Town of New Shoreham	650	The non-market value of recreation and tourism is one of the most important considerations for the Ocean SAMP and yet it is unclear how to consider or weigh these. Clearly the items 6 – 13 in Table 17 are negatively impacted when shipping leads to oil spills, not so clear is which – if any – of these uses may be negatively affected by the addition of off shore wind turbines.	Added clarifying language highlighting challenges of quantifying/evaluating non-market value, despite its importance.
Kim Gaffett	Town of New Shoreham	650.4	Although the word “coastal” is easily construed to include islands, its use in this paragraph feels exclusive of Block Island.	Added "and island".

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Jessica Willi	Block Island Tourism Council	600	I just wanted to touch base with you on the OCEan SAMP chapter on Tourism and Recreation. The Block Island Tourism Council was asked to take a close look at it by our First Warden, Stakeholder Kim Gaffett. I am under the impression that Ms. Gaffett has met with you or your colleagues to discuss her comments on the chapter. I wanted to communicate that the Tourism Council was overall satisfied with the comments and suggestinos made by Ms. Gaffett.. We second her comments.	No response needed.
Jessica Willi	Block Island Tourism Council	600	In addition, we would like to underline the importance of the 2 lighthouses here on Block Island, and be sure that when they are mentionedd, it is noted that The Southeast Lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.	Added reference to two lighthouses and identified BI's status as a National Historic Landmark. Referred reader to Chapter 3: Cultural and Historic Resources where lighthouses will be discussed in greater detail.
Jessica Willi	Block Island Tourism Council	650	Finally, it is important to note that the majority of financial information pertaining to tourism in the chapter comes from the Global Insights Study. This is the same information that we (the Block Island Tourism Council) have on hand, and it seems to be applied correctly in the chapter. It is worth noting, however, that the numbers that come out of Block Island are basically from a 10 week period. That is, Block Island is a much more seasonal destination than Newport or Providence. It is important to note this because when you put the numbers side by side it doesn't look like Block Island is majorly impacted financially by tourism, when in reality, tourism is arguably the financial engine that drives our town.	Added language, 650.1.5, to clarify the length of season represented by the Block Island tourism data.

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Captain Rick Bellavance	R.I.P.C.B.A.	620	Changing the name of the Wreck listed as Troy-Don to Troy-Dawn	Dr. Rod Mather, who is conducting historical research on shipwrecks for the SAMP area that will be included in Chapter 3: Historic and Cultural Resources, has indicated that the proper spelling of this wreck is Troydon.
Captain Rick Bellavance	R.I.P.C.B.A.	620	Extending the area listed as Shark cage diving south to the limits of the SAMP Area.	Revised map.
Captain Rick Bellavance	R.I.P.C.B.A.	620	Listing the area know as Coxes Ledge as a potential wreck diving area. Recently, I have learned of a few possible wrecks located in this area, and while I have not confirmed these, I have intentions to do so during the 2010 season.	Amended map to reflect area of potential future dive sites; added line of text explaining this area.
Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	600	Phrases, "it is important to note" and "it is worth noting" used heavily. The reference list citation of the RI Economic Monitoring Collaborative FY08 Report should also include its on-line source: <a href="http://www.coordinationteam.ri.gov/econcollab.htm">http://www.coordinationteam.ri.gov/econcollab.htm</a> . The chapter does a great job reviewing and summarizing historical datasets and analysis regarding marine recreation activities in Rhode Island. It could do more to explore or sketch out the relations between valued marine recreational activities and the SAMP area.	Reference correction made.
Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	600	Perhaps the list here of major marine and coastal rec activities should include kayaking and wildlife observing.	Wildlife observing added. Kayaking not added as it is a less common activity within the SAMP area (see discussion w/in text).
Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	600	There were certainly more causes of Newport's prominence as a resort community other than just its adjacency to "SAMP area waters".	Rephrased to qualify language.
Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	610	The 1983 America's Cup defender Liberty lost to the challenger Australia II from AUSTRALIA, not New Zealand.	Correction made.

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Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	640	double reference. Also, isn't data on beach visitor-ship for years after 2001 available? Of greater value would be charting recent multi-year trends in beach visitor-ship from out of and in-state.	Reference correction made. In this chapter, the best available published data for beach visitation (and other activities) was used.
Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	640	With regard to the possibility that the summary of coastal recreational areas based upon RIGIS may "overstate the number of adjacent facilities", I recommend that the analytical work be done prior to re-issuance of this chapter draft to eliminate this possible overstatement..	Inaccuracies in the relevant RIGIS datasets do not allow for an exact count of facilities. Count of facilities replaced with calculation of approximate acreage.
Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	640	The cited survey of beach users (and others) by the BRWCT Economic Monitoring Collaborative was conducted in the summer of 2007, not 2008.	Correction made.
Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	660	This section, and similar sections in forthcoming chapters, is the heart of the OSAMP. The review of existing key information on a particular issue, or summaries of ongoing research being funded by the SAMP, are important and, in this chapter, well-done. They will serve as useful compendiums of information. The recommended policies contained in the OSAMP should be based upon these information reviews, identifying the now apparent knowledge gaps and how they could be filled, and specifying appropriately management policies and strategic priorities as a integrated, ecosystem-based management plan.	We share the same goals with regard to Ocean SAMP chapters and policies.

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Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	660	<p>My initial reaction to this initial draft of Section 660 is that it makes broad recommendations for CRMC policy and permit review without sufficient specifics. For example, Para. 1 states that "The Council's goal is to promote uses of the Ocean SAMP area that do not significantly interfere with marine recreation and tourism activities or values." Great! Who would possibly object to that goal? But, in addition to this broad statement, this section should include some explanation of what "significant interference" is, or at least an initial cut at the criteria that would be utilized by the Council to determine what "significant interference" means when a potential conflict arises. For example, a 2004 report from the Royal Yachting Assoc. is cited in the section from Ch. 7 that was distributed along with Ch. 6 that provides detailed recommendations on how to reduce and minimize conflicts between recreational boating and utility-scale windfarms. Why shouldn't Section 660 incorporate some of those specific recommendations, modified as necessary to apply to our own marine waters and recreational b</p> <p>Such questions are fundamental to the establishing the scope and design of the forthcoming OSAMP; how specific should it be with regard to management policies that will promote systems-based management of the environmental and economic values of RI's ocean waters, and adjacent federal waters? Please see my comments on the Oct 09 draft of Chap. 1 with regard to this issue.</p>	<p>Policies are drafted to be consistent with the existing policies of the CRMC as outlined in the RI Coastal Resources Management Program ("Red Book"). "Significantly interfere" is language that is used in existing CRMP policies. More specific criteria will be incorporated into Ocean SAMP policies as appropriate. With regard to wind farms, the renewable energy chapter will contain specific renewable energy-related policies and standards.</p>

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Ames Colt	RI Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Team	650	Cite the "relevant research" even if it is "decades old"	Revised text and inserted citations