Ocean SAMP Stakeholder Meeting #15
Notes, June 1, 2010, 6 – 9 p.m.
Hazard Rooms A and B, URI Bay Campus

Purpose of the Meeting:

1) Present a summary of the Ocean SAMP Historic and Cultural draft chapter for discussion.
2) Discuss the Stakeholder summary document.
3) Update Stakeholders on Ocean SAMP research, outreach and policy activities.

Meeting Chair and Facilitator: Ken Payne

Payne indicated to the approximately 40 attendees that the group is to collectively agree what took place during the stakeholder process. Payne will produce a report that reflects this input from his perspective as chair. He said his report will summarize what took place and that he is looking forward to preparing it. "As we look to the future, a 100 years from now, and people say, how did they understand their marine environment, there will be no more important document than the Ocean SAMP," he said.

New Ocean SAMP Developments – Grover Fugate, CRMC

Fugate indicated that the SAMP continues to emerge as a national model for marine spatial planning, and that the SAMP chapters "have a lot of meat to them, because we have gone much further than any other state has contemplated, and we're trying to dovetail with intricate federal process." He said in terms of the national picture, the effort among the eastern seaboard states to engage with the federal government in developing a process to streamline offshore leasing procedures continues. He said Rhode Island, Delaware and Maine are among the lead states in this effort.

Update on Ocean SAMP Chapters – Jennifer McCann, URI

McCann asked attendees to share which chapters they have read so far, and told the group that several more chapters would be publicly available shortly. The chapters are Future Uses, Fisheries Resources, Cultural and Historical Resources, and Renewable Energy. McCann said the chapters have significant policy components, and she encouraged the group to read them and provide comments. She reviewed the timeline for each of the chapters, and indicated that for the entire document, there will be a July 13 readout, and on August 24, there will be a public hearing. Payne also encouraged the group to read the chapters and provide comments as early as possible.

Cultural and Historical Chapter – Teresa Crean (URI), Jon Boothroyd (URI), Rod Mather (URI), Rick Greenwood, Charlotte Taylor (RIHPHC)

Crean opened the presentation by indicating that the draft chapter reflects a collaborative effort among many entities, including the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and the Narragansett Indian Tribe. Crean said the Tribe had provided a transcribed account of its historical perspective in terms of the Ocean SAMP area, marking the first time the Tribe has participated in such direct fashion in the creation of a SAMP document. Crean introduced each of the speakers who provided the following summarized information:

Jon Boothroyd/Pre-contact geological history: Boothroyd reviewed the glacial lakes in the SAMP area and explained how the ocean waters filled in from the melting glaciers. He also pointed out the post-glacial lakes and possible living sites, and indicated there could be cultural material below the seafloor.

Rod Mather/Maritime history and archeology: Mather spoke about organizing history, and about how he decided to think about the maritime history of SAMP areas as a series of themes, and as contexts and landscapes. He said his team grouped together activities that impact area. He addressed maritime history and landscape contexts, European exploration and colonial settlement, the post-colonial cultural landscape, the military landscape, the fisheries landscape, the marine transportation landscape, the recreation and tourism landscape, and the energy landscape.

Rick Greenwood/Onshore historic sites adjacent to the SAMP area: Greenwood outlined what his office does and under which regulations. He also addressed the identification and evaluation processes, and explained the series of historical registers and tools. He explained the inventories and descriptions, and said that in the coastal zone, which has intense human activity, there is a wealth of sites, and a large number of these are on the national register. Greenwood said the RIHPCC also keep a list of properties that do or have potential to be on the register – these are candidate properties and survey properties. He said these properties include agricultural landscapes and farms and farm buildings, seaside hotels, summer cottages, and aids to navigation. The only National Historic Landmark adjacent to the SAMP area is Southeast Light on Block Island. Greenwood said the RIHPCC is committed to the ongoing planning process with the SAMP and looks forward to receiving new information as it emerges. Following this, Charlotte Taylor, also of RIHPCC, provided an overview about how the federal historical preservation laws dovetail with the state historical preservation regulatory processes.

After the presentations, Payne indicated that the final meeting would be June 30, and that he will be preparing a report about the stakeholder process. He said that while he thought there would be more contentious debate, he said he “would like to believe it’s because the process has been fair. Absence of contentiousness here is partially due to fact this has been a reasonable and fair process. Doesn’t mean everyone agrees on

everything, but that the chapters were prepared professionally." He thanked everyone for participating and acknowledged the staff for their efforts and CRMC for allowing the fair process to take place.

Last meeting: June 30, 2010 from 6 – 9 p.m., Hazard Rooms, Coastal Institute, URI Bay Campus