



July, 2005

I'm pleased to send to you a copy of our synthesis, "State of Science on Nutrients in Narragansett Bay: Findings from the Rhode Island Sea Grant's 2004 Science Symposium on Block Island" for your review. This synthesis is a "living document" and thus is not intended to be the "final say" on the science of nutrients in Narragansett Bay. Rather, it is a detailed science synthesis on results from the symposium, plus additions made by experts and respondents after the symposium. It is also not a complete synthesis, since scientists at the symposium did not have enough time to write detailed summaries that covered all facets of their research. Therefore, we have contracted with a science press to publish in 2006 a multi-authored volume that attempts a more complete science assessment of the Bay. For more information on this book project please visit [http://seagrantadm.gso.uri.edu/04\\_Sci\\_Symp\\_Web/book/book\\_page.htm](http://seagrantadm.gso.uri.edu/04_Sci_Symp_Web/book/book_page.htm). The last chapter of this upcoming science volume will be a synthesis chapter that builds upon the more detailed information contained in the book chapters to update and increase the scope of this synthesis.

The first draft of this synthesis was accomplished by Alan Desbonnet and me, who compiled the materials from the oral presentations and discussion sessions on Block Island. Rhode Island Sea Grant then contracted with Dr. Drew Carey, of Coastal Visions, Inc., in order to complete the synthesis (Drew also facilitated the Block Island meeting). Drew formed a working group of interested scientists from the Block Island meeting, who worked on 3 drafts, then vetted a final draft to all who attended the Block Island symposium. Changes to that document were then made, and a final editing of the document was accomplished by Rhode Island Sea Grant's editorial team. All of the materials from the symposium – attendees, all presentations, minutes of synthesis work group meetings, a bibliography, and earlier drafts of this document are at [http://seagrantadm.gso.uri.edu/04\\_Sci\\_Symp\\_Web/Sci\\_Sym\\_04\\_home.htm](http://seagrantadm.gso.uri.edu/04_Sci_Symp_Web/Sci_Sym_04_home.htm)

Lastly, documents such as these do not advocate any particular actions; rather, they are interim reports that are information resources to help guide but not direct planning, governance and regulatory actions, since these processes include not only science in their final determinations and actions.

Please contact me if you would like to comment on this document or the processes we have used to derive it. Your input on our process is as important to me as the findings themselves since we hope to refine the processes we use on an annual basis to deliver science products of use to our state and the public.

Best regards,

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