



CHANGES IN NARRAGANSETT BAY

A CONVERSATION AMONG CITIZENS AND SCIENTISTS

16th Annual Ronald C. Baird Sea Grant Science Symposium

University of Rhode Island · Graduate School of Oceanography

December 6, 2017

GOALS:

1. Provide resource users, regulators, and scientists an opportunity to discuss the changes they have seen in the bay and share information about why these changes are taking place.
2. Identify information and research gaps and solutions.
3. Begin to define a resilient Narragansett Bay.
4. Inform Rhode Island Sea Grant's research agenda, the Narragansett Bay Special Area Management Plan, and other initiatives.

8:15 a.m.

Welcome and Purpose

- Dennis Nixon, Director, Rhode Island Sea Grant (RISG)
- Bruce Corliss, Dean, URI Graduate School of Oceanography (URI/GSO)
- Jennifer McCann, Director of U.S. Coastal Programs, Coastal Resources Center (CRC); Extension Director, RISG

8:30 a.m.

A Resilient Bay: Stakeholder Perspectives

Moderator: Azure Cygler, Coastal Research Associate, CRC; Extension Specialist, RISG

- Mason Silkes, Saltwater Farms
- Mike McGiveney, President, Rhode Island Shellfisherman's Association
- Matt Griffin, Researcher and Shellfish Farmer
- Al Eagles, Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association
- Lanny Dellinger, Board Member, Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association

9:20 a.m.

The Choices We Have Made

Moderator: Pam Rubinoff, Associate Coastal Manager, CRC; Extension Specialist, RISG

- Wally Fulweiler, Associate Professor, Boston University
- Tom Uva, Director of Planning, Policy & Regulation, Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC)
- Rapporteur: Candace Oviatt, Professor, URI/GSO

10:10 a.m.

Break

10:25 a.m.

Changes in the Bay: Chemical Inputs

Moderator: Alan Desbonnet, Assistant Director, RISG

- What are the chemical inputs from the wastewater treatment plants? Angelo Liberti, Chief of Surface Water Protection, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
- How do the chlorine inputs from the wastewater treatment plant alter Narragansett Bay? Art Spivack, Professor, URI/GSO

- How much of the nutrients are coming from the wastewater treatment plants? Rick McKinney, Research Ecologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Rapporteur: Rich Hittinger, First Vice President, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

11:25 a.m. Changes in the Bay: Habitats and Critters (Part 1)

Moderator: Dave Beutel, Aquaculture and Fisheries Coordinator, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)

- How has eelgrass growth changed over time? Steve Granger, Research Scientist, URI/GSO
- How does nutrient reduction impact primary production? Candace Oviatt
- Rapporteur: Caitlin Chaffee, Coastal Policy Analyst, CRMC

12:10 p.m. Lunch and share your research thoughts: Charge to the group

1:30 p.m. Changes in the Bay: Habitats and Critters (Part 2)

Moderator: Dave Beutel

- How have benthic invertebrate communities changed over time? Stephen Hale, EPA
- What have been the changes in fish, crabs, and lobsters? Jeremy Collie, Professor, URI/GSO
- Rapporteur: Robert Rheault, Executive Director, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association

2:15 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Expectations for the Future

Moderator: Teresa Crean, Coastal Research Associate, CRC; Extension Specialist, RISG

- How much of this change is climate? John King, Professor, URI/GSO
- What does this all mean and where are we going? Wally Fulweiler
- Rapporteur: Wenley Ferguson, Director of Habitat Restoration, Save The Bay

3:20 p.m. What are the research questions?

Moderators: Dennis Nixon and Jennifer McCann

4:00 p.m. Responding to the Needs and the Gaps

Moderator Tiffany Smythe, Coastal Research Associate, CRC; Extension Specialist, RISG

- Narragansett Bay Monitoring and RI Marine Fisheries Institute (RIMFI), Conor McManus, Principal Biologist, DEM
- Narragansett Bay SAMP, Dave Beutel
- Narragansett Bay Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), Lew Rothstein, Professor, URI/GSO
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, John King
- Southeast New England Program (SNEP), John King

4:40 p.m. Adjourn

Dennis Nixon

NOTES

Thank you for attending the 2017 Ronald C. Baird Sea Grant Science Symposium. For more information, including annotated background reading, please visit <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/special-programs/baird/>.

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University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography
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John King, GSO – also representing NEP
Tom Uva, NBC

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