VOLUME IV: PUBLIC SAFETY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND TRANSPORTATION

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Agency Summary

Coastal Resources Management Council

Agency Mission

To preserve, protect, develop and, where possible, restore the coastal resources of the State. Maintain a balance between conservation and development and between conflicting private and public interests that will provide the greatest long-term benefits. To protect and preserve valuable natural and cultural features such as historic sites, barrier beaches, coastal ponds, wetlands, and fishing grounds that are subject to development and misuse. To protect and promote public access to the shore and provide high quality recreational opportunities to all who come to the Rhode Island shore. Provide suitable waterfront sites for industries and businesses needing direct coastal access.To direct new development away from sensitive areas and into already developed areas. To establish a working partnership among the public and local, state, and federal governments.

Agency Description

Rhode Island law mandates the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) to preserve, protect, develop and, where possible, restore the coastal resources of the State. The council is administered by 16 appointed representatives from the public and state and local governments and is staffed by professional engineers, biologists, environmental scientists, and marine resource specialists. The public is given regular opportunities at public hearings to comment on the management of state coastal resources. The council carries out its permitting, enforcement and planning functions primarily through its management programs. Coastal Resources Management Plans are considered to be the environmental management "blueprint" for coastal zone management in the State and are drafted to meet federal mandates. Special Area Management Plans address specific issues associated with designated management areas. Municipal Harbor Management Plans address issues at the municipal level regarding the management of activities occurring in, or on, the waters of a town. The Coastal Resources Management Council is closely involved with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce in a series of initiatives to improve the management of the State's coastal resources. In 1996, legislation authorized the CRMC as the lead agency (including permitting and planning activities) for dredging and aquaculture, as well as transferring certain freshwater wetlands and permitting responsibility from the Department of Environmental Management to the Council. The CRMC oversees the Coastal Habitat Restoration Program to include and is charged with developing a Marine Resources Development Plan and an Ocean Special Area Management plan. CRMC is also the lead agency on siting of off-shore windfarms, the first of which in the United States was built off the coast of New Shoreham.

Statutory History

R.I. General Laws § 46-23 establishes the duties and functions of the council. Federally, 16 U.S.C. 1451 (Coastal Zone Management Act) establishes the authority to develop management programs.

Budget

Coastal Resources Management Council

	2021 Actuals	2022 Actuals	2023 Enacted Budget	2023 Revised Budget	2024 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	4,354,930	5,392,354	7,557,579	8,487,006	5,910,769
Total Expenditures	4,354,930	5,392,354	7,557,579	8,487,006	5,910,769
Expenditures by Object					
Salary and Benefits	3,418,664	3,741,413	4,343,448	4,333,172	4,493,649
Contract Professional Services	233,149	821,454	481,770	582,270	481,770
Operating Supplies and Expenses	173,529	159,320	313,361	462,430	346,150
Assistance and Grants	505,637	664,967	351,000	1,041,134	521,200
Subtotal: Operating	4,330,979	5,387,154	5,489,579	6,419,006	5,842,769
Capital Purchases and Equipment	23,951	5,200	2,068,000	2,068,000	68,000
Subtotal: Other	23,951	5,200	2,068,000	2,068,000	68,000
Total Expenditures	4,354,930	5,392,354	7,557,579	8,487,006	5,910,769
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	2,456,607	2,659,663	3,327,275	3,272,397	3,396,395
Federal Funds	1,657,083	1,907,080	1,980,304	2,964,609	2,264,374
Restricted Receipts	220,000	225,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Operating Transfers From Other Funds	21,241	600,612	2,000,000	2,000,000	0
Total Expenditures	4,354,930	5,392,354	7,557,579	8,487,006	5,910,769
FTE Authorization	30.0	30.0	32.0	32.0	32.0

Personnel Agency Summary

Coastal Resources Management Council

		FY 2023		FY 2024	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	
Classified	28.0	2,217,896	28.0	2,305,581	
Unclassified	4.0	430,900	4.0	448,325	
Subtotal	32.0	2,648,796	32.0	2,753,906	
Overtime		16,154		16,154	
Turnover		(15,063)		(15,440)	
Total Salaries		2,649,887		2,754,620	
Benefits					
Contract Stipends		55,500		0	
FICA		201,576		207,237	
Health Benefits		445,082		468,416	
Payroll Accrual		0		15,891	
Retiree Health		117,992		123,778	
Retirement		759,102		815,541	
Subtotal		1,579,252		1,630,863	
Total Salaries and Benefits	32.0	4,229,139	32.0	4,385,483	
Cost Per FTE Position		132,161		137,046	
Statewide Benefit Assessment		104,033		108,166	
Payroll Costs	32.0	4,333,172	32.0	4,493,649	
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services		15,000		15,000	
Design and Engineering Services		3,000		2,000	
Information Technology		110,000		110,000	
Legal Services		199,000		194,000	
Other Contracts		5,770		4,770	
Training and Educational Services		5,000		3,000	
University and College Services		244,500		153,000	
Subtotal		582,270		481,770	
Total Personnel	32.0	4,915,442	32.0	4,975,419	
Distribution by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	22.0	3,223,513	22.0	3,345,440	
Federal Funds	10.0	1,691,929	10.0	1,629,979	
Total All Funds	32.0	4,915,442	32.0	4,975,419	

Personnel

Coastal Resources Management Council

Central Management

		FY 2023		FY 2024	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified					
APPLICATIONS COORDINATOR	0320 A	1.0	63,676	1.0	65,268
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	0321 A	1.0	50,228	1.0	52,770
CHIEF RESOURCE SPECIALIST	0131 A	1.0	97,089	1.0	99,466
COASTAL GEOLOGIST	0327 A	1.0	61,265	1.0	62,797
COASTAL POLICY ANALYST	0132 A	3.0	227,784	3.0	239,410
DATA CONTROL CLERK	0315 A	1.0	54,077	1.0	55,429
DEPUTY DIRECTOR- COASTAL RESOURCES MGMT COUNCIL (CRMC)	0140 A	1.0	107,587	1.0	116,066
ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN III (NATURAL RESOURCES)	0323 A	1.0	54,500	1.0	57,584
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER III	0034 A	1.0	83,959	1.0	89,683
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER IV	0037 A	1.0	118,215	1.0	124,077
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST	0326 A	1.0	60,827	1.0	64,311
FISCAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER	0B26 A	1.0	77,096	1.0	79,024
HEARING OFFICER	0033 A	1.0	77,380	1.0	79,315
MARINE RESOURCES SPECIALIST	0327 A	1.0	78,047	1.0	79,935
PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST	0332 A	1.0	98,123	1.0	100,504
PRINCIPAL OCEAN ENGINEER	0133 A	2.0	174,878	2.0	179,250
PROGRAMMING SERVICES OFFICER	0131 A	1.0	90,245	1.0	95,753
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST	0330 A	5.0	428,251	5.0	441,639
SENIOR WORD PROCESSING TYPIST	0312 A	1.0	43,013	1.0	44,088
SUPERVISING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST	0334 A	1.0	96,789	1.0	102,473
TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST I (DOS/MVS)	0328 A	1.0	74,867	1.0	76,739
Subtotal Classified		28.0	2,217,896	28.0	2,305,581
Unclassified					
AQUACULTURE COORDINATOR	0829 A	1.0	79,497	1.0	83,126
DIRECTOR	0845 A	1.0	178,809	1.0	188,291
MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATOR	0834 A	1.0	102,831	1.0	105,401
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COORDINATOR	0824 A	1.0	69,763	1.0	71,507
Subtotal Unclassified		4.0	430,900	4.0	448,325
Subtotal		32.0	2,648,796	32.0	2,753,906
Overtime			16,154		16,154
Turnover			(15,063)		(15,440)
Total Salaries			2,649,887		2,754,620

Personnel

Coastal Resources Management Council

Central Management

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Performance Measures

Coastal Resources Management Council

Central Management

Coastal Habitat Restoration

The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) works to protect and restore coastal ecosystems of the state. This goal is accomplished through the Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund. With a maximum annual funding allocation of \$225,000, the Trust Fund supports projects that primarily propose on-the-ground restoration work. To maximize impact in restoring ecosystems, CRMC strives to fund projects that demonstrate other sources of funding (leveraging), thereby increasing the number of sites and/or acres being restored in the state. The figures below represent the number of acres of coastal habitat restored.

Frequency: Ar	nnual	Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Target	10	10	10	10	10
Actual	76	300	10		

Timeliness of Formal Application Processing

Formal applications are those subject to judicial or open meeting legal processes (e.g., formal comment periods, hearing schedules, contested cases, etc.) that impact CRMC's ability to control the review period for this subset of applications. CRMC's standard for formal activity application review times is ninety days to six months (90-180 days), and includes those activities for which a 30-day public comment period is required. The figures below represent the average processing time for formal applications, in days.

Frequency: Ar	ınual	Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Target	180	180	180	180	180
Actual	159	167	180		

Timeliness of Administrative Application Processing

CRMC works to efficiently process applications for activities within its jurisdiction. The majority of these applications are categorized as administrative. In an effort to gauge its responsiveness to the public, CRMC tracks the average turnaround time from CRMC's receipt of an application to assent issuance. CRMC's target for administrative activity application review is two weeks to two months (14-60 days), depending on the type of application. The figures below represent the average processing time for administrative applications, in days.

Frequency: Ar	Srequency: Annual Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Target	60	60	60	60	60
Actual	23	41	75		