

**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

	2022 Actuals	2023 Actuals	2024 Enacted Budget	2024 Revised Budget	2025 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	5,392,354	6,651,149	5,910,769	6,967,108	6,176,963
Total Expenditures	5,392,354	6,651,149	5,910,769	6,967,108	6,176,963
Expenditures by Object					
Salary and Benefits	3,741,413	3,768,961	4,493,649	4,563,865	4,689,417
Contract Professional Services	821,454	196,072	481,770	481,770	481,770
Operating Supplies and Expenses	159,320	270,412	346,150	341,023	294,886
Assistance and Grants	664,967	2,368,712	521,200	1,372,450	642,890
Subtotal: Operating	5,387,154	6,604,157	5,842,769	6,759,108	6,108,963
Capital Purchases and Equipment	5,200	46,992	68,000	208,000	68,000
Subtotal: Other	5,200	46,992	68,000	208,000	68,000
Total Expenditures	5,392,354	6,651,149	5,910,769	6,967,108	6,176,963
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	2,659,663	2,744,410	3,396,395	3,483,722	3,607,384
Federal Funds	1,907,080	1,776,739	2,264,374	3,133,386	2,319,579
Restricted Receipts	225,000	230,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Operating Transfers From Other Funds	600,612	1,900,000	0	100,000	0
Total Expenditures	5,392,354	6,651,149	5,910,769	6,967,108	6,176,963
FTE Authorization	30.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0

Personnel Agency Summary

Coastal Resources Management Council

	FY 2024		FY 2025	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified	27.0	2,249,389	27.0	2,329,983
Unclassified	5.0	570,948	5.0	574,046
Subtotal	32.0	2,820,337	32.0	2,904,029
Overtime		16,154		16,154
Turnover		(36,152)		(88,701)
Total Salaries		2,800,339		2,831,482
Benefits				
FICA		211,248		220,895
Health Benefits		476,016		544,052
Payroll Accrual		16,229		16,808
Retiree Health		125,847		114,417
Retirement		824,211		847,057
Subtotal		1,653,551		1,743,229
Total Salaries and Benefits	32.0	4,453,890	32.0	4,574,711
Cost Per FTE Position		139,184		142,960
Statewide Benefit Assessment		109,975		114,706
Payroll Costs	32.0	4,563,865	32.0	4,689,417
Purchased Services				
Clerical and Temporary Services		15,000		15,000
Design and Engineering Services		2,000		2,000
Information Technology		110,000		110,000
Legal Services		194,000		194,000
Other Contracts		4,770		4,770
Training and Educational Services		3,000		3,000
University and College Services		153,000		153,000
Subtotal		481,770		481,770
Total Personnel	32.0	5,045,635	32.0	5,171,187
Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue	22.0	3,432,767	22.0	3,524,671
Federal Funds	10.0	1,612,868	10.0	1,646,516
Total All Funds	32.0	5,045,635	32.0	5,171,187

Personnel

Coastal Resources Management Council

Central Management

		FY 2024		FY 2025	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified					
APPLICATIONS COORDINATOR	0320 A	2.0	109,125	2.0	116,879
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	0321 A	1.0	54,244	1.0	56,151
CHIEF RESOURCE SPECIALIST	0131 A	1.0	99,466	1.0	99,466
COASTAL GEOLOGIST	0332 A	1.0	76,641	1.0	79,359
COASTAL POLICY ANALYST	0132 A	3.0	248,336	3.0	256,561
DEPUTY DIRECTOR- COASTAL RESOURCES MGMT COUNCIL (CRMC)	0140 A	1.0	108,090	1.0	123,758
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER II	0333 A	1.0	79,546	1.0	82,371
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER III	0336 A	1.0	94,351	1.0	98,199
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER IV	0039 A	1.0	127,445	1.0	132,636
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST I	0328 A	1.0	65,575	1.0	67,798
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST II	0332 A	5.0	447,009	5.0	464,176
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST III	0334 A	1.0	82,446	1.0	85,385
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST IV	0336 A	1.0	102,588	1.0	107,075
FISCAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER	0B26 A	1.0	79,024	1.0	79,024
INFORMATION AIDE	0315 A	1.0	43,814	1.0	44,703
MARINE RESOURCES SPECIALIST	0327 A	1.0	79,935	1.0	79,935
PRINCIPAL OCEAN ENGINEER	0133 A	2.0	179,250	2.0	179,250
PROGRAMMING SERVICES OFFICER	0131 A	1.0	95,765	1.0	100,518
TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST I (DOS/MVS)	0328 A	1.0	76,739	1.0	76,739
Subtotal Classified		27.0	2,249,389	27.0	2,329,983
Unclassified					
AQUACULTURE COORDINATOR	0829 A	1.0	83,126	1.0	83,126
CHIEF HEARING OFFICER	0711 F	1.0	144,260	1.0	144,260
DIRECTOR	0845 A	1.0	188,291	1.0	188,291
MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATOR	0834 A	1.0	83,764	1.0	86,862
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COORDINATOR	0824 A	1.0	71,507	1.0	71,507
Subtotal Unclassified		5.0	570,948	5.0	574,046
Subtotal		32.0	2,820,337	32.0	2,904,029
Overtime			16,154		16,154
Turnover			(36,152)		(88,701)
Total Salaries			2,800,339		2,831,482

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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: Annual

Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Target	10	10	10	10	10
Actual	300	10	429	--	--

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: Annual

Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Target	180	180	180	180	180
Actual	167	180	160	--	--

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: Annual

Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Target	60	60	60	60	60
Actual	41	75	45	--	--
