

The Agency

Coastal Resources Management Council

Agency Operations

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, state, and local governments and staffed by professional engineers, biologists, environmental scientists, and marine resource specialists. The public is given regular opportunities at public hearings to comment on how the coastal resources of the State should be managed. 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. New legislation in 1996 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. Legislation in 2001 established the Coastal Habitat Restoration Program to include program development and specific projects. Legislation in 2004 charged the council with developing a Marine Development Plan.

Agency Objectives

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 whom 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.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 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.

The Budget

Coastal Resources Management Council

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	2,514,086	2,675,651	3,834,524	2,877,543
Other State Operations	602,268	321,695	464,050	398,912
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,564	98,650	1,400	1,400
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$3,117,918	\$3,095,996	\$4,299,974	\$3,277,855
Capital Improvements	3,497,963	5,285,267	250,000	665,733
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$6,615,881	\$8,381,263	\$4,549,974	\$3,943,588
Expenditures By Funds				
State General Revenue	1,464,113	1,457,650	1,467,463	1,524,855
Federal Grants	1,653,805	1,541,309	2,832,511	1,753,000
Restricted Receipts	3,352,963	5,210,304	250,000	665,733
Other	145,000	172,000	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$6,615,881	\$8,381,263	\$4,549,974	\$3,943,588
FTE Authorization	28.0	28.0	29.0	29.0
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	39.3%	39.3%	39.3%	39.3%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Program Measures				
Cumulative Percentage of Shoreline Miles with Designated Right-of-Way Sites	52.4%	52.4%	53.6%	53.8%