

Tides

MAGAZINE

Rhode Island's CRMC

WHAT THE AGENCY DOES,
WHY WE NEED IT, AND
WHY *IT* NEEDS REFORM

SAVE THE BAY®

NARRAGANSETT BAY

Lincoln School
Bay Graduates

Planting
Rain Gardens

Community
Storm Drain Marking

2021 Save The Bay Swim & Virtual Swim and Open

Don't miss your chance to participate in this historic athletic event and fundraiser, celebrating the beauty and benefits of a clean and healthy Narragansett Bay!

REGISTRATION: \$25

FUNDRAISING MINIMUM: \$200

What are you waiting for?

Register today, pick your challenge, plot your course and submit your times by August 31, 2021 to exercise YOUR right to a clean and healthy Narragansett Bay!

Learn more and register at savebay.org/swim

An in-person Swim from Newport-Jamestown, R.I. will be held on July 17. Space is limited and spots are available by lottery only.

Exercise your Right
To a Clean and
Healthy Bay!

All participants who raise a minimum of \$200 will receive an event towel, t-shirt and medal. Participants who continue their fundraising efforts will qualify for additional incentive prizes!

The annual Swim raises funds that support Save The Bay's year-round advocacy, education and habitat adaptation efforts.

Virtual

SWIM & OPEN

CHALLENGE OPTIONS:



25-MILE BIKE RIDE



5-MILE KAYAK
2-MILE SUP



5k WALK/RUN



5k ROW

SWIM
TO SAVE
THE BAY



REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!
WWW.SAVEBAY.ORG/SWIM

A Promising Change of Seasons

After a long, trying winter, spring has finally arrived. Thankfully, the warm weather has been accompanied by extraordinary progress in our pandemic recovery, and the upcoming summer promises to be a revitalizing one. While the last year has been trying, to say the least, the challenges have reinforced our connection to the natural world around us. The Bay itself plays a special role for so many: a place of solace, wonder, and inspiration.

While public health measures have imposed changes on our interactions, we've all adapted, learning new ways of communicating and new approaches to the challenges we face. I am proud to report that Save The Bay continues to make great strides in advancing our mission to protect Narragansett Bay despite new obstacles. Our staff, members, and volunteers continue to shine in their energy and commitment to the cause.

This issue of *Tides* highlights three individuals who have made wonderful contributions to our efforts during the pandemic: Letty Cass, one of our enthusiastic educators; Harry Potter, a passionate fisherman and member; and Amol Rathore, a dedicated volunteer who has contributed untold hours to our cause.



Some of the most important work we do at Save The Bay is "quiet" work, the behind-the-scenes efforts that focus on solving complex problems related to government oversight, public funding of environmental investments, and supporting cities and towns in their efforts to address pollution problems and climate change vulnerabilities. In this issue, we highlight two of these critical efforts: the urgent need to reform the Coastal Resources Management Council, and the successful campaign to pass a \$74 million environmental bond in Rhode Island.

With warming water comes the return of the osprey, striped bass, and sails gliding across the open water. We have much to be thankful for, and much to anticipate in the changing moods and vibrant life of Narragansett Bay.

With appreciation,

Jonathan Stone
Executive Director

What's Inside...

- 6 Restoration**
Planting rain gardens for stormwater management.
- 8 Education**
Lincoln School's K-5 Bay graduates.
- 10 Who Saves the Bay? Staff Profile:**
Letty Cass
- 12 Cover Story**
Rhode Island's CRMC: Why it needs reform.
- 16 Top Ten**
Environmental terms defined.
- 18 Community**
A large-scale storm drain marking project during the pandemic.
- 20 Who Saves the Bay? Volunteer Spotlight:**
Amol Rathore
- 21 Who Saves the Bay? Donor Spotlight:**
Harry Potter

ON THE COVER:

An aerial photo of Wickford, R.I.
by Onne van der Wal.

TIDES MAGAZINE

Save The Bay | 100 Save The Bay Drive, Providence, RI 02905
401-272-3540 | savebay.org | tides@savebay.org



Mission and Vision: Save The Bay works to protect and improve Narragansett Bay and its watershed through advocacy, education and restoration efforts. We envision a fully swimmable, fishable, healthy Narragansett Bay, accessible to everyone and globally recognized as an environmental treasure.



ADVOCACY



BY JED THORP,
ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

Your Vote for the Environment Makes a Difference

In early 2021, with a statewide special election on the horizon, Save The Bay convened a coalition of groups united by a shared interest in a cleaner, greener Rhode Island. The goal? To launch a campaign urging residents to “Vote Yes on Question #2.”

Question #2, the “Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond,” put the opportunity to approve \$74 million in state borrowing for improvements

of the vote approving the “Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond.”

In the coming years, these borrowed funds will make dramatic improvements to Rhode Island’s waterways, parks and beaches, recreational areas, and greenways. Read more about the projects made possible by Question #2, below:

Wastewater Treatment Facilities

We like to refer to wastewater treatment facilities as the “first line of defense” in the protection of Narragansett Bay, and the approval of Question #2 makes that defense even stronger by investing \$15 million in Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds. That investment will unlock an additional \$75 million in federal funds and private capital for wastewater treatment upgrades, stormwater improvements, combined sewer overflow abatement projects and upgrades to drinking water systems. These projects improve water quality by preventing and reducing pollution into the Bay and the watershed.

Municipal Resilience

The approval of Question #2 will allocate \$7 million to the state’s existing Municipal Resilience Program. The Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) guides cities and towns through a process to identify



The “Yes on 2” coalition sought to remind Rhode Island voters that the natural spaces of the Ocean State are what make this place home. On March 2, 2021, voters demonstrated their support for Question #2 by voting to approve investments in green spaces, clean water, beaches and more.

to Rhode Island’s environment before voters. Former Governor Gina Raimondo proposed Question #2 and won strong, broad-based support among General Assembly members and leadership to get it on the ballot.

The special election was held during a pandemic and presented a ballot featuring only bond questions—two unique factors that made the campaign a challenging one. But, on March 2, Rhode Island voters once again expressed strong support for the environment and a clean and healthy Narragansett Bay, with 78.3 percent



priority projects to improve the municipality's resilience to climate change-related hazards like flooding and coastal erosion. Upon successful completion of that process, municipalities are designated a "Resilient Rhody Municipality," enabling them to apply for grants to implement the identified projects. Rhode Island cities and towns—both coastal and inland—are struggling to pay for the many projects that are needed to make them more resilient to climate change. The additional \$7 million for the MRP program will be money well spent, but the need for a dedicated, long-term source of funding for climate adaptation and resilience remains.

Beaches, Parks and Campgrounds

The largest share of the bond funding—\$33 million—will support improvements at Rhode Island's state beaches, parks and campgrounds. Plans include using the funding for new and upgraded facilities at Goddard State Park, Roger Wheeler State Beach, Scarborough State Beach, Misquamicut State Beach, Colt State Park, Brenton Point State Park and various state campgrounds. You'll likely notice these capital improvement projects getting underway in the next year or two.

And More!

The approval of "The Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond" also provides: \$6 million for dredging of the Providence River; \$4 million to help cities and towns acquire or rehabilitate outdoor recreation facilities; \$3 million to protect forests and working farmland; \$4 million for park infrastructure on the former I-195 land in Providence; and \$2 million for the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council to make improvements to the Woony River Greenway.

The overwhelming support that environmental bonds receive from voters both funds critically-needed projects, and sends a message to our elected leaders that a clean Bay and healthy environment are priorities to the people of the Ocean State. Thank you to everyone who voted in the special election, and to



all of our "Yes on 2" Coalition partners: The Nature Conservancy, Clean Water Action, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Providence Foundation and the I-195 Redevelopment District. ■

USE YOUR VOICE FOR THE BAY!

You don't have to wait for an election to speak up for Narragansett Bay! When you sign up for Save The Bay's Action Alerts, we'll let you know when our local waters need your support.



Powered by VoterVoice, our Action Alerts notify you of breaking issues that are important to the Bay and connect you with an easy process for notifying your representatives.

When you receive an Action Alert in your inbox, the email will include all the details about the latest issue. Through the alert, VoterVoice will automatically match you with your elected officials and help you send a pre-written or personalized message to them.

The process only takes a few seconds, but the impact can last for years to come!

Sign up now, or view current Action Alerts, by visiting www.savebay.org/advocacy

RESTORATION

Planting Seeds of Awareness

SIX RAIN GARDENS SHOW HOW EASY—AND BEAUTIFUL—STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CAN BE

In early November 2020, Save The Bay staff and volunteers shoveled dirt and mulch into the last of six rain gardens in Charlestown, Rhode Island. Moments after the team watered the garden and packed up their shovels, a monarch butterfly landed on the native seaside goldenrod, as if to welcome the garden into the surrounding habitat. It wouldn't be long before the next rainstorm would come along and demonstrate the integral role of this rain garden in the local ecosystem.

Rain gardens are almost exactly what they sound like: gardens that collect stormwater. They consist of native grasses, shrubs and flowers that are planted in a small depression in the ground. When placed near a paved road, drain or downspout, the sunken garden collects the often-polluted water that runs off paved areas or rooftops. The plants absorb the water, preventing it from running down roads into storm drains and polluting nearby bodies of water.



BY DAVID PRESCOTT,
SOUTH COUNTY COASTKEEPER

The story of Charlestown's rain gardens began in 2016, when the town successfully applied for and received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency through a Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Coastal Watershed Restoration Grant. Funded in part by the EPA, this grant addresses water pollution and other important environmental issues. Through the grant, the town collaborated with



Save The Bay, the University of Rhode Island and the Salt Ponds Coalition on research, outreach and demonstration projects that addressed the nutrient pollution affecting local waters. Our projects included the design and installation of demonstration rain gardens throughout Charlestown's South Shore Salt Ponds Watershed. These rain gardens would serve as an educational resource for residents and visitors, and show how rain gardens can improve water quality and prevent flooding.

In July 2017, our staff, along with staff from the town of Charlestown, visited more than 20 town, public, and private properties in an effort to identify locations where rain gardens would be the most impactful. Our criteria for the sites included: visibility, spacing, current usage, and an opportunity to help address localized flooding from stormwater runoff. We also hoped that the plantings would attract birds, bees, butterflies and other vital pollinators.

LEFT: A monarch butterfly lands on native seaside goldenrod moments after volunteers install the plant in a demonstration rain garden in Charlestown, R.I. ABOVE: The installation of a rain garden begins by digging a depression. The volunteers shown here are hard at work preparing this rain garden for planting.

Over the next several months, Save The Bay researched the locations further and began designing the gardens. We built a network of partners and volunteers to assist with planting and garden installation, and teamed up with Wildwood Nurseries in East Greenwich and Blue Moon Nurseries in South Kingstown to purchase the native plant species for the gardens.

We installed the first rain garden in summer 2018, near the Kimball Pavilion at Ninigret Park. More than 20 youth campers from the Charlestown Parks and Recreation Camp helped plant the native vegetation. Over the next two years, we planted three more gardens at the Charlestown Town Beach and Blue Shutters Town Beach, enlisting the help of two local Girl Scout troops, as well as several Save The Bay volunteers.

Though we expected to plant the final two rain gardens in spring 2020, we postponed their installation until the fall due to the pandemic. A final group of volunteers



helped us plant the last rain gardens at the Charlestown Senior Center and Frosty Drew Nature Center, both of which are located at Ninigret Park.

These gardens have already inspired community members to ask us more about how to manage stormwater in their own yards. We hope that in the years to come, we'll have more opportunities to raise



awareness with demonstration garden projects like these throughout the Narragansett Bay watershed.

In the meantime, however, if you want to learn how to plant a rain garden in your own yard, you can download Bay-Friendly Living at [savebay.org/bay-friendly](https://www.savebay.org/bay-friendly). And be sure to visit one of our rain gardens if you pass through Charlestown! ■

By planting native plants (top) and installing educational signage (left and above), we hope that the 6 rain gardens planted throughout Charlestown will demonstrate the ease and beauty of stormwater management.

EDUCATION

A Bay Connection in Every Grade



BY BRIDGET KUBIS PRESCOTT,
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



Over the course of their 6 years at Lincoln's Lower School, students meet with Save The Bay annually. Their field experiences with our educators allow them to seine water samples on the Bay (above), visit our Bay Center headquarters (right), and explore local habitats (far right).

This June, a class of 18 fifth-graders will graduate from Lincoln School's Lower School. This class happens to be the first to participate in a Save The Bay educational program in each of their six years at the school.

It seems like just yesterday that I sat with then-Head of School, Suzanne Fogarty, and Save The Bay's former executive director, Curt Spalding, to discuss a partnership between Save The Bay's education program and Lincoln's Lower School science program. To me, as an environmental educator, the proposal was a dream come true: a marine science curriculum, featuring Save The Bay educators, for every grade at the K-5 school for girls.

Maureen Devlin, the school's current director, and Anna Painter, its STEAM Specialist, each played a role in developing the partnership. They wanted to connect their students with an organization that had expert knowledge of Rhode Island's natural resources. "Save The Bay," said Maureen, "was the obvious choice."

The resulting program gives Lower School students the opportunity to travel off-campus and into the field four or five times each school year. The students visit local rivers, coastal habitats and Save The Bay's facilities in Providence and Newport—they even board our education vessels for on-the-water excursions.

Each field experience is designed to expand on what the students learn in their classrooms. In fact, every year, Anna, Maureen and Save The Bay educator Jennifer Kelly collaborate to create a classroom-aligned field curriculum that unites formal and informal educational practices for a series of hands-on experiences that bring classroom lessons to life.

Maureen points out that the Lincoln School staff members refer to the visits as "field experiences," not "field trips," and notes that the difference in terminology "says it all."

The Lincoln School community sees the Save The Bay program as a fully integrated part of the curriculum, which both Maureen and Anna credit as a key reason for the program's success. According to Anna, the program was the "springboard for our biology and marine science strands." Before the program launched, the marine science strand

only appeared in the fifth-grade curriculum.

When in the field, the girls identify plants and wildlife. They even contribute to ongoing environmental projects, like the large-scale salt marsh restoration Save The Bay has led in Rhode Island's South County



for years. Real-life experiences like these give the girls the confidence they need to make a difference in their own communities.

"The experiential aspect of the program has been one of the greatest benefits to our girls," said Maureen. "They are learning about habitats in the classroom and then they head out to a salt marsh or a rocky shore with Save The Bay's educators and the plants and animals come to life. The girls get to see, smell and touch what they just learned. It's really amazing."

Anna observed that the program has "given the girls the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zone, try something new, and discover the result, even if it's not what they first expected. And that's okay, because then they try again. That's what science is all about."

When we asked the students about their experience with the programs over the past six years, many of them echoed Anna's observations.



Lower School students get real-life experiences, exploring habitats (above), and even trawling for microplastics (below).

"I got to see real science in the real world, and it helped me realize how important science is," said one member of this graduating class. Another added, "I learned things that I never would have in school."

Students also shared that the program increased their awareness of Narragansett Bay and participation in its stewardship, highlighting another benefit of the program: the evolution of how the girls interact with the Bay, its life and its habitats.

"In kindergarten, the students are initially squeamish when it comes to touching the different Bay creatures during their first exploration of a salt marsh," Painter said. "A spider crab can look pretty scary and the smell of a salt marsh can equate to rotten eggs. By the time they are in the higher grades, these girls have no fear picking up new animals, dissecting a squid, or putting salt marsh mud on their faces."

As Maureen, Anna and I reflect on the partnership over the past six years, we celebrate its successes, look forward to building on them, and wish this first graduating class the best of luck as they enter middle school and continue their growth as environmental stewards. ■

***"I got to see real science
in the real world,
and it helped me
realize how important
science is."***



WHO SAVES THE BAY? STAFF PROFILE

Letty Cass, Education and Curriculum Specialist



BY MACKENSIE DUPONT CROWLEY,
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Born and raised in Rhode Island, our education and curriculum specialist, Letty Cass feels right at home at Save The Bay. She shares her experience and some of the fun projects she's been working on with us below.

How did you get involved with Save The Bay?

I got involved with Save The Bay in 2013 after graduating college. Being a Rhode Island native, Save The Bay has obviously been in my periphery my whole life. After majoring in Wildlife and Conservation Biology in college, the job and community felt like a natural fit.

In your years here, does any one project stick out as a favorite?

The Narragansett Bay Naturalist Guide* was so much fun to make. I think it's exceptionally exciting to have an activity book specifically geared toward our Bay and watershed.

What are you excited to be working on right now?

The education department has been working on integrating content about litter cleanups into our programming. I've been leading the charge in writing a curriculum and coming up with fun activities for our students!

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I used to dream about becoming an explorer.

What's your favorite way of enjoying Narragansett Bay?

I feel like a weekend is wasted if it's not spent outside. I really enjoy hiking, swimming, and kayaking. And, of course, anything I can do with my dog, Momma Bear, is a huge plus. I especially love Fort Wetherill and Beavertail in Jamestown.

What's one thing you're trying to make a habit?

I've set a goal to read 20 pages of a book every night. So far, it's going well! ■

**Save The Bay's education team developed the Narragansett Bay Naturalist Guide in summer 2020. The 60+ page activity book is designed to help families explore and learn about Narragansett Bay through self-led activities, challenges and more.*

RIGHT: Letty shows off a large tautog caught during a trawl in the waters off Fields Point in Providence, R.I.



Save The Bay Action Updates

Education

- Save The Bay educators hosted a second season of our popular Breakfast by The Bay livestream series on Facebook and YouTube. The weekly environmentally-focused episodes featured lessons on everything from wildlife to Narragansett Bay habitats, and even featured the occasional boat tour.
- When Save The Bay educators learned that many of our school partners would either be holding school remotely, or not allowing guests, we developed a course offering of 38 virtual school programs in order to continue providing our unique lessons to students throughout the watershed. By the end of 2020, partners had booked nearly 200 of these virtual offerings, keeping students engaged with lessons about Narragansett Bay, the environment, and local wild and plant life.

Restoration

- Save The Bay's South County Coastkeeper, David Prescott, worked with volunteers and local partners to complete the last of six rain gardens throughout Charlestown, R.I. in November 2020. In addition to serving as a great educational resource for the community, these gardens support improved water quality and include local species of flowers and grasses—perfect for supporting bird, bee, butterfly and other pollinator populations. *Read more about the Charlestown rain gardens on page 6.*
- In early 2021, Riverkeeper, Kate McPherson, and Director of Habitat Restoration, Wenley Ferguson, worked alongside the owner of the Shady Lea Mill to continue our efforts to remove obstructions in the Mattatuxet River in North Kingstown, R.I. The project team submitted an application to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council's Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund for design and wetlands permitting of the project.

Advocacy

- In late 2020, changes to Rhode Island's statewide wetlands regulations were officially announced for public comment. When we saw that the regulations sought to further erode a 2015 law that had already been a compromise on the science of wetland and river protection, Save The Bay Riverkeeper, Kate McPherson, rallied watershed groups, spoke with town planners, and—with support from staff attorney, Kendra Beaver—created a comment letter calling for the maximum protection allowed by law. The final regulations are pending.
- In early 2021, Save The Bay coordinated a coalition of groups interested in a cleaner, greener Rhode Island to lead the "Yes on Question #2" campaign. The effort to encourage voters to approve \$74 million in state borrowing for improvements to Rhode Island's environment was a success: voters approved the bond question on March 2. *Read more about "Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond" on page 4.*

Thank You...

Save The Bay's sponsors help make all of our celebrations possible—whether they take place in-person or virtually!

Thank you to all of the sponsors listed below who are supporting our 2021 events season:

Sage Family Foundation*
 CVS Health*
 Navigant Credit Union*
 REI Co-op*
 Absolut*
 Amica Insurance*
 Bank of America
 Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island*
 National Grid
 Citizens Bank
 Roger Williams University*
 Brown University*
 Coast to Coast Promotional Products*
 Greenleaf Compassionate Care
 Rexel Energy Solutions
 Ruggieri Carpet One
 Citrin Cooperman*
 Conanicut Marine Services, Inc.
 MetLife
 Fuss & O'Neill
 UNFI
 Rhode Races & Events
 F.L. Putnam Investment Management Company*
 BayCoast Bank
 Kate's Real Food
 Starkweather & Shepley*
 Sunflower Design
 Beta Engineering
 Joseph W. Blaeser IV Agency
 Regency Plaza / Chestnut Hill
 BayCoast Bank
 Water Scents
 Moo.com*

** Indicates a 50th Anniversary sponsor*

COVER STORY

Rhode Island's CRMC

WHAT THE AGENCY DOES, WHY WE NEED IT,
AND WHY *IT* NEEDS REFORM



BY TOPHER HAMBLETT,
DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY

The Rhode Island General Assembly created the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) in 1972 “to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore the coastal resources of the state [...]”

The law included a maxim that remains vital to the agency’s work to this day: “[T]he preservation and restoration of ecological systems shall be the primary guiding principle upon which environmental alteration of coastal resources shall be measured, judged and regulated.”

The CRMC’s record has been one of accomplishment and controversy. Its professional staff has elevated the agency as a national leader in coastal planning and management, but the agency’s structure—involving a politically-appointed volunteer council with decision-making authority—invites political interference and conflicts of interest, hindering efficacy and eroding public trust.

As the CRMC approaches its 50th year, it’s time to look at its role and examine the fundamental changes needed to make the agency more effective and accountable.

A Unique Jurisdiction

The Ocean State is defined by a coastal ecology that includes salt marshes, barrier beaches, dunes and rocky shores. This coastal area is the foundation of an economy rooted in fishing and aquaculture, boating and shipbuilding, commercial shipping, real estate development, tourism and hospitality—sectors that depend on navigable channels and shore-based infrastructure like ports, marinas and restaurants.

With such demand on our coastal resources, Rhode Island needs a state agency to regulate their use. That’s why the CRMC exists. Without it, the state’s 19 coastal communities would fend for them-

selves under intense pressure from development proposals.

Created by the General Assembly to implement the federal Coastal Zone Management Act—a law administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—the CRMC is a planning and regulatory agency that oversees activity in Rhode Island’s coastal zone, an area stretching from 200 feet inland to three miles out to sea.

The agency establishes regulations that protect our coastal resources, and makes decisions on development within the coastal zone, including proposed docks, marinas, residential and commercial dwellings and aquaculture leases. The CRMC is the lead

state regulatory agency charged with reviewing offshore wind energy proposals, and it manages the state’s Estuarine Habitat Restoration Fund. Its staff of biologists, engineers, geologists and coastal planners creates powerful planning tools that predict climate change impacts on habitats and communities alike, as well as Special Area Management Plans (SAMPs) that ensure the pressures placed on high-demand locations, like Greenwich Bay and the Salt Ponds, are balanced in an ecologically-friendly way.

Structural Flaws

When the General Assembly created the CRMC, they established a council for the agency. The council’s authority, role and management is an outlier among coastal resource management agencies throughout the country, and also opens the door for the CRMC to be overrun by politics and conflicts of interest.

Today’s 10-member council has the authority to make final decisions on major enforcement and permitting cases, including permits for marina expansions, dredging and more. The governor, with state Senate approval, appoints nine volunteer council members. The 10th member is a R.I. Department of Environmental Management representative.

Council members serve three-year terms, but face no term limits. (Today, some council members have served 19-, 17- and 14-year terms.) The only criteria for most members’ appointments is that they serve in a public position of a certain-sized coastal community. They are not required to have expertise in coastal matters. While the council often relies on the agency staff’s expert recommendations, its permitting decisions can, and sometimes do, directly contradict them.

While other state agencies have full-time, in-house attorneys dedicated ex-

A Tale of Two Agencies

The CRMC’s role is distinct from the R.I. Department of Environmental Management’s (RIDEM), the latter of which is charged with administering and enforcing various statutes including the federal Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act with directives from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The RIDEM also oversees state recreation areas, wildlife refuges, hunting and fishing, brownfield restoration, inland development proposals, and freshwater wetland alteration guidelines—though, the two agencies share responsibility for regulating freshwater wetlands in the coastal zone.

clusively to representing the agency's interests, this council hires part-time lawyers from private practice firms to manage legal matters and provide advice during hearings. These attorneys are free to continue representing other clients and interests—a fact that raises serious concerns about potential conflicts of interest and outside influence. Furthermore, these same hired attorneys provide advice to staff on issues that may later come before the council, a potential conflict in itself.

Additionally, when an outside party appeals a CRMC decision, that party is represented by an attorney during the hearing, but CRMC staff have no representation. This arrangement starkly contrasts the practices of other administrative agencies, including the RIDEM, where hearings are run by a full-time, state-employed hearing officer, and staff are represented by an in-house attorney.

A politically appointed council, represented by attorneys with other clients, can be susceptible to political pressure. In the case of the CRMC, evidence of this dates back almost to its beginning.



At hearings, like the one shown above, the CRMC council and staff review proposals pertaining to activity within the coastal zone. The proposals can include everything from the construction of docks and marinas, to dwellings and aquaculture leases.

A History of Controversy

Upon its founding, the agency's council had 16 members, half of whom were legislators, appointed by General Assembly leaders. With the “fox guarding the henhouse,” council members could easily have traded permitting votes for their own political benefit, or on behalf of well-connected friends.

As governors and legislators established a tradition of appointing and reappointing inexperienced council members, a series of controversial council decisions in the 1970s and 1980s—most notably the 1984 approval of the Atlantic Beach Hotel on a fragile coastal feature in Middle-

town that smacked of political influence—laid bare the politics of the council. In 2013, the council again bucked staff recommendations by approving the construction of a private residence on Money Pond in Narragansett, granting several variances that impacted fragile coastal features. The case ultimately went to the Supreme Court, as the house's footprint encroached onto the adjacent Rose Nulman Park property and had to be relocated.

continued on next page >>>

“The CRMC is the lead state regulatory agency charged with reviewing offshore wind energy proposals.”



'Reform the CRMC' presents a proposal

In an effort to provide a remedy to the problems plaguing the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), a group named Reform the CRMC was formed by Karl Haffenreffer to propose an alternative structure for the Council.

Reform the CRMC intended, as *Save the Bay* went to press, to hold a press conference at Bonniecrest in Newport to issue their proposal. Bonniecrest was chosen for its significance as the site upon which the CRMC approved a development project which led to the National Park Service stripping the area on Ocean Drive of its National Historic Landmark status, the highest designation it bestows.

Reform the CRMC was supported by a coalition of groups including Save the Bay, RI Public Interest Research Group, the Audubon Society, Common Cause, Ecology Action, Friends of the Waterfront and the Easton's Point Association. Save the Bay's Sue Kiernan was actively involved in planning the proposal with Haffenreffer's group.

Reform the CRMC A Proposal

The Coastal Resources Management Council has mismanaged our coastal resources. Its enabling legislation (General Laws of RI, 46-23) allows too much appointive and administrative power to a few. Without proper checks and balances, power naturally leads to abuse.

We propose remedial legislation to reform the CRMC and protect our coastline from further destructive and inappropriate development. We welcome all suggestions to improve this proposal. We ask every candidate for Governor, Lt. Governor and General Assembly to take a clear position on these proposed remedies. Never has the time been so ripe for reform.

Defects of the Enabling Act

1) The act provides for appointment of CRMC members as follows: See chart at left.

In sum, the Governor, Lt. Governor and House Speaker appoint all the members. Municipal and environmental organizations have no role in the appointment process.

The act has excellent provisions that there be staggered terms of various lengths; that no more than 2 members be from the same community; and that upon the expiry of a coastal municipal member's term, "the governor shall appoint an appointed or elected official of a coastal municipality which at the time of the governor's appointment has no appointed or ex-officio representation on said council" (46-23-12). These provisions should be retained.

2) The act fails to limit the consecutive number of years that an appointee may serve. Long-time members tend to become increasingly loyal to the organization and its past decisions, and decreasingly responsive to the needs

of coastal communities and the general welfare.

3) The act silently permits one person to combine the powers of Chairman and Executive Director. This has long been the case. Such

concentrated power has inherent conflicts of interest and encourages abuse.

4) The act silently permits the CRMC to retain private attorneys as legal counsel. This has long been the case. Such a system breeds conflict of interest and improper influence, in appearance if not in fact. Legal costs are unnecessarily high.

Proposed Remedies

1) Amend the act to abolish all seats and create 17 new seats: See chart below.

Some gubernatorial power to appoint would be balanced by the municipal and environmental power to nominate; and the legislative power to appoint would be distributed to 4 leaders in 2 houses. The Statewide Planning Program would add expertise and judgment. The League would represent all municipalities, especially those unrepresented at any given time. The Health Department would be dropped, since DEM has assumed regulatory authority over water quality.

2) Amend the act so that "A member shall be eligible to succeed himself" shall read: "A member shall be eligible to succeed himself, but an appointed member having served for four (4) consecutive years shall be ineligible for reappointment until after a break in service of two (2) years" (46-23-2). And amend the act so that all provisions that a member shall serve "until his successor is named and qualified" shall read: "until his successor is named and qualified, or until thirty (30) days after the expiry of his term, whichever shall occur first" (46-23-2). This would prevent indefinite holdovers, which on a 17-member body pose more danger than temporary vacancies.

3) Add to the act: "No member shall serve on staff." This would properly separate administrative powers from legislative-judicial powers.

4) Add to the act: "The council shall obtain all legal counsel from attorneys employed by DEM and approved by the council." This would eliminate possible conflict of interest and reduce legal costs. The CRMC, which already uses DEM's administrative staff, could use DEM's legal staff if augmented.

Only thorough and timely reform of the CRMC will save Rhode Island's 420-mile coastline from further destruction and degradation. The four basic reforms proposed here would create checks and balances needed to curb excessive power and its inevitable abuse. We endorse these proposed reforms, and we call on every candidate for Governor, Lt. Governor and General Assembly to take a clear position on them.

Members	Appointed by	Requirements
8	Governor	4 elected or appointed municipal officials, 3 from coastal communities (CC) — appointed from lists submitted by qualified organizations of municipalities. * 4 public members, 3 from CCs — appointed from lists submitted by qualified environmental organizations. **
2	Senate Maj. Ldr.	1 Senator from CC — 1 public member from CC
1	Senate Min. Ldr.	1 Senator
2	House Speaker	1 Representative from CC — 1 public member
1	House Min. Ldr.	1 Representative from CC
Ex Officio:		
1	Governor	Director, DEM, or designee
1	Governor	Chief, Statewide Planning Program, or designee
1	Municipalities	Executive Director, RI League of Cities & Towns

* Municipal nominations. The Governor would appoint each municipal official from lists submitted in the same calendar year by organizations authorized to do so by at least 15 coastal municipalities; each such list would contain at least 3 names of eligible persons for each position.

** Environmental nominations. The Governor would appoint each public member from lists submitted in the same calendar year by private, non-business corporations whose bylaws, articles of incorporation and

activities clearly designate their principal purpose to be environmental, conservation, wildlife or horticultural. These organizations shall have been incorporated in the state for a period of not less than two years and shall have at least 2,000 dues-paying members in good standing resident in the state. The same restrictions on names shall apply as for municipal nominations. (Compare GLRI 45-35-2; appointment of members to municipal conservation commissions).

The tradition of questionable decision-making continued in 2021. Just as then-Governor Raimondo proposed reappointing several long-serving council members who had no relevant expertise—and as Save The Bay urged the state Senate to reject all reappointments, save that of Jennifer Cervenka, an experienced environmental attorney—another controversy erupted around the proposed expansion of Champlin's Marina on Block Island's Great Salt Pond. At issue was a so-called "mediation" negotiated between the council and Champlin's that would allow the expansion of the marina—a move that would overturn a previous council decision to deny the expansion.

The mediation process took place without involving the parties that had intervened in the case, including the Town of New Shoreham, the Committee for the Great Salt Pond, the Block Island Land Trust, the Block Island Conservancy and the Conservation Law Foundation, all of which had spent the previous 17 years opposing and defeating the expansion proposal. R.I. Attorney General Peter Neronha and the intervenors called foul, urging the R.I. Supreme Court to reject the request to enter the mediation agreement. The Court agreed.



LEFT: A history of controversy has followed the CRMC almost since its founding, as the council has repeatedly voted for outcomes that run counter to the agency's purpose. This excerpt from a 1984 *Save The Bay* newsletter outlines one historical effort to restructure the agency and remedy its structural issues. Today, *Save The Bay* is calling for a different set of reforms.

Advocating for Reform

While Save The Bay recognizes the executive director and staff's expertise and effective coastal management, we've spent over 30 years advocating for structural change to the CRMC council. Working alongside other groups, our advocacy has removed legislators from the council, improved procedures, and led to a training requirement for council members. However, our work is far from over.

We are calling for a complete reform of the CRMC into an executive agency named the Department of Coastal Resources. Our complete list of reforms, below, would put an end to the issues that have kept the agency from best serving Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island once and for all:

Abolish the Council

Today: The politically appointed body, whose members are not required to have expertise, wields the power to shape R.I.'s coastal environment for generations.

Reform: Abolish the council structure.



Why? This reform will reduce political influence within the agency, enable transparency and accountability, and build public trust.

Establish an Executive Branch Agency, the Department of Coastal Resources

Today: The CRMC has a problematic structure that prevents the agency from fulfilling its goals effectively. The executive director reports to a politically appointed council whose members are not required to have expertise.

Reform: As an executive branch agency, the executive director will be appointed by the Governor with state Senate approval, serve in the Governor's cabinet, and be subject to the current term of the executive director.

Why? Given the importance of R.I.'s coastal resources, the director should be fully responsible for implementing the coastal program, report directly to the Governor and coordinate with other cabinet-level agency heads to address climate change and other cross-cutting issues.

Establish New Procedures

Today: Some permitting and enforcement decisions rest with politically appointed council members.

Reform: All final agency decisions, including permitting and enforcement, will rest with the director with the support of the in-house attorney and staff. Appeals of decisions will be adjudicated by independent

hearing officers and the CRMC staff will be represented by counsel at the hearings.

Why? This reform will reduce political pressure, while increasing predictability of, and public confidence in, agency decisions.

Hire Full-Time Dedicated Legal Counsel(s)

Today: The council hires private attorneys to assist the staff and represent the council in administrative hearings. The attorneys have other clients, and may have conflicts with agency business.

Reform: The director will hire a full-time, in-house attorney with experience in environmental and coastal law. As with other agencies, the attorney shall not represent other clients.

Why? The director, agency staff, and the public would be better served by attorneys fully focused on the agency's mission and who are able to improve their expertise by working exclusively on CRMC issues. This change will also eliminate concerns around conflicts, perceived or otherwise.

Create a Means for Community Input

Reform: Following the creation of the Department of Coastal Resources, create a Citizens Advisory Council.

Reasoning: The CAC would serve an advisory role for the executive director on major policy initiatives and make

recommendations for the improvement of the coastal program. The CAC would have 12 members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Its membership would include:

- 7 members of the general public, including at least three from environmental justice communities as designated by the RIDEM, and one from an indigenous, coastal community.
- 5 members who represent coastal municipalities as employees or appointees to municipal boards.

These reforms must be made to make sure the agency's ability to fulfill its role free from political pressure and conflict. As climate change continues to put our coastal resources at ever greater risk, we must ensure that the government agencies charged with protecting them are operating optimally and ethically. As the people's voice for Narragansett Bay, Save The Bay is determined to see these changes through. ■

The CRMC regulates the activities that take place in Rhode Island's coastal zone—an area that includes both sandy and rocky shoreline habitats (far left and above), as well as the coastal waters that serve as the foundation of many of the state's key industries, including fishing and shellfishing (below).



Join the Conversation

Ten Environmental Terms, Defined



BY MACKENSIE DUPONT CROWLEY,
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Stormwater Runoff

A result of water falling onto our watershed during storms. As stormwater “runs off” the land, it picks up fertilizers, chemicals, litter, bacteria and other pollutants and carries them into Narragansett Bay. This is a big issue for places with many impervious surfaces, which cannot absorb water.

Impervious Surface

A surface that water cannot sink into, primarily artificial surfaces such as roads, roofs and parking lots. Stormwater should naturally and gradually seep into the ground before making its way to nearby streams and other waterbodies. This process slows down the rate at which the water enters waterways and filters out contaminants. Instead, impervious surfaces send stormwater into streams and storm drains immediately, often causing flooding and increasing pollution.

Marsh Accretion

The natural process marshes undergo to increase elevation in response to rising sea levels. As roots and other plant material build up, the marsh elevation rises. During the past 10 years, accelerated sea level rise has outpaced marsh accretion, drowning marsh grasses. As vegetation dies, the marsh has nothing to use to build its elevation. To



Too many nutrients in the water can cause harmful algal blooms, like the one you see here.

survive, the plants move into adjacent low-lying areas called marsh migration corridors.

Nutrients

The substances that plant and animal life need to survive, including vitamins, minerals and proteins. Nutrients can come from both natural and unnatural sources. While they appear naturally, excessive amounts often enter our waters in the form of fertilizers and pet waste, from septic systems and other agents of pollution.

Eutrophication

The process that occurs when there are too many nutrients in a body of water. The extra nutrients create harmful algal blooms and lead to fish kills. When we add nutrients to an ecosystem on land, we see how they help plants within it grow. The same process takes place in the water. But when it does, the excessive plant growth blocks out sunlight for plants on the bottom, setting off a chain reaction. Bacteria involved in the process of decomposition use up valuable dissolved oxygen in the water. This creates dead zones where fish and other species cannot breathe.

Climate Change

Long-term, significant changes to the average weather in an area or on Earth. When environmentalists talk about “climate change,” they usually mean man-made climate change, the primary cause of which is the burning of fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil and coal. This process introduces extra carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. As the atmosphere absorbs this carbon dioxide, the planet’s temperature increases. Read more about climate change in Rhode Island on the next page.



Salt marshes are sensitive to accelerated sea level rise, which affects the marsh's ability to increase its elevation through the natural process of marsh accretion.

Ocean Acidification

A result of excess carbon dioxide entering our water. To help regulate our planet's natural climate, the ocean acts like a sponge and absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. When the atmosphere absorbs too much carbon dioxide, the pH of the water changes. As a result, the ocean becomes more acidic, which can be harmful to ocean life. For instance, animals with a shell or exoskeleton, such as clams, crabs, corals and plankton, can no longer absorb calcium to build their shells, leaving them vulnerable to predators.

Infiltration Area

A place that catches stormwater runoff. These areas allow stormwater to soak into soil and filter out pollutants. An infiltration area is often a depression, like a dry, sandy soil area. It can also be a place that is wet, like a wetland designed specifically for stormwater treatment. This process treats stormwater at the source, preventing runoff into the Bay or other waterbodies.

Microplastics

Tiny pieces of plastic—about the size of a sesame seed—that pollute the environment. Some microplastics were made at this size, like the microbeads in face wash and the microfibers in polyester clothing. Other microplastics are the result of larger items—like bottles, bags and straws—breaking down due to sun exposure, erosion and animal interaction.

Native Plant

A species believed to have been present before European settlement. For hundreds of thousands of years—or longer—these plants have evolved without much interference from humans. When planted in the right spot, native plants need far less water and fertilizer than other species. Native plants also support 29 percent more biodiversity than non-native plants, attracting beneficial pollinators like birds, bees and butterflies. By planting more native plants, we can save both money and time, while also reducing the amount of nutrients running off land and into the Bay and its watershed. ■



Infiltration areas, like the one in Warren, R.I. shown here, collect stormwater before it runs off into the Bay.

Marine animals can easily mistake small plastics for food. The harmful bacteria and chemicals that adhere to plastic make even the tiniest pieces a threat to wildlife.



Climate Change in Rhode Island

Rhode Island is experiencing warmer air and water temperatures, more extreme weather events (such as droughts, intense storms, and flooding), rising sea levels, and changes to our seasons. As temperatures increase, so does the water that evaporates into our atmosphere. The excess water falls during weather events such as rainstorms, blizzards and hurricanes, causing more intense and frequent storms and flooding.

COMMUNITY

Connecting Land to Water

HOW SUMMER 2020 PROVIDED THE PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR A LARGE-SCALE VOLUNTEER STORM DRAIN MARKING EFFORT



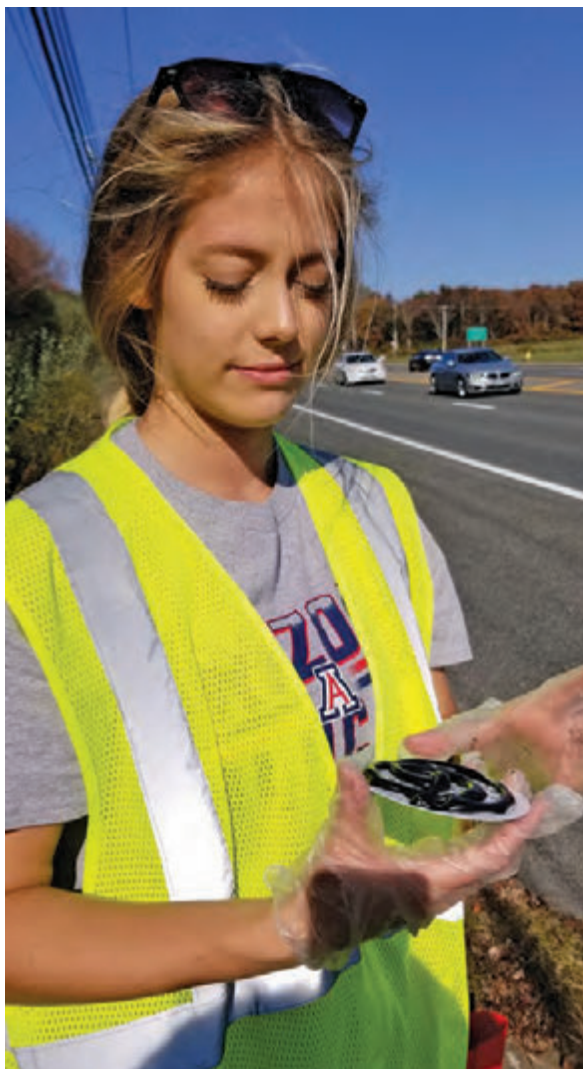
BY KATY DORCHIES,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING

“DON’T DUMP, DRAINS TO BAY,” read the blue and green markers that are distributed by the dozens to storm drain marking volunteers, alongside several tubes of goopy adhesive, some disposable gloves, a reflective safety vest, and a dustpan and brush. Pair these materials with some town maps, and you have a recipe for raising awareness about stormwater pollution.

Storm drains are a direct line from land to water. Despite a common misconception that the water and debris that flow into storm drains during rain events undergo a filtration process, everything on our streets—from particles of excess lawn fertilizer to discarded plastic water bottles—washes into our storm drains and directly into nearby rivers, streams, and, ultimately, Narragansett Bay.

Save The Bay has been working to raise awareness about the role storm drains play in various forms of pollution since the 1990s, but recent funding*, new mapping and tracking procedures, an enthusiastic team of volunteers, and pandemic-related guidelines that mandated independent volunteer activities, led to a Bay-wide storm drain marking effort like no other in summer 2020.

“The pandemic really limited the options available for volunteer activities,” said July Lewis, Save The Bay’s volunteer and internship manager. “But, marking storm drains can be completed independently, or with the members of one’s own household, so it was a great option for all of our amazing volunteers who were eager to get out there and help the Bay.”



Volunteers don safety vests and gloves to affix markers to curbs above storm drains using a special—and very sticky—adhesive.

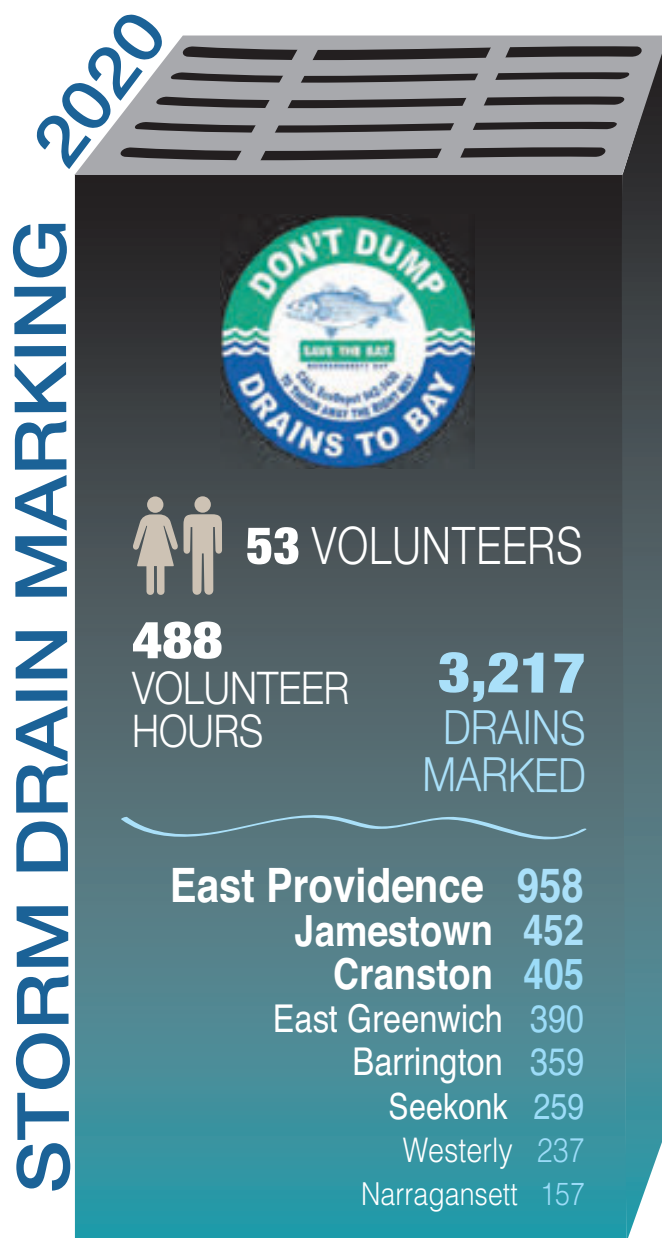
Volunteers who participate in storm drain marking activities are provided with a list of streets and a map of storm drains to mark. They then travel from drain to drain, sweeping debris from the curb before applying adhesive to the marker, and affixing it to the curb.

“By applying storm drain markers to the drains themselves, we create a reminder that simultaneously lets people know that storm drains are not trash receptacles, and that they are connected to waterways,” explained July. “They’re a great public education tool!”

Early in the year, Save The Bay built an inventory of storm drain marking supplies and was positioned to support a large-scale storm drain marking effort. By the time the pandemic hit, we had already begun coordinating with communities around Narragansett Bay.

When it comes to marking storm drains, municipal partnerships are mutually beneficial. On the one hand,

the towns and cities support the effort by giving us permission to mark the drains and by providing helpful resources, like maps. On the other hand, storm drain marking qualifies as a public education activity, which helps cities and towns meet the requirements for their stormwater permits (known as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permits, or “MS4s”).



With resources and approval from towns—and permission from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to mark state roads—Save The Bay interns and staff jumped into action, developing corresponding documents that helped volunteers find their storm drains and allowed Save The Bay to track the progress.

While the number of storm drains varies from town to town, a single municipality can easily have more than 1,000 storm drains. Over the course of just four months, 53 volunteers took to the streets to mark drains around Narragansett Bay by hand. Traveling by foot, bike and car, volunteers marked

3,217 storm drains in East Providence, Jamestown, Cranston, East Greenwich, Barrington, Westerly and Narragansett in Rhode Island, as well as in Seekonk, Massachusetts.

“Our volunteers were remarkable! Some were particularly dedicated to the project, marking drains week after week, both in their own communities and beyond,” explained July. “Many even recruited additional volunteers for the effort!”

While our volunteers made incredible progress in 2020, we’re looking forward to making more—and continuing to raise awareness about stormwater pollution—in summer 2021! If storm drain marking sounds like the summertime volunteer activity for you, visit www.savebay.org/volunteer to find and sign up for the next opportunity! ■

**Save The Bay’s 2020 Storm Drain Marking effort was made possible with financial support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 11th Hour Racing, and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.*



Storm drain markers are placed on curbs above storm drains themselves. The markers serve as a reminder to passersby that the drains are a direct connection to our local waters.

WHO SAVES THE BAY? VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Amol Rathore

Saving the Bay, On the Ground



BY MACKENSIE DUPONT CROWLEY,
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Amol Rathore has been interested in environmental issues since he was a child. Now, as a sophomore in high school, he is dedicated to preserving Narragansett Bay through cleanups and storm drain marking.

When did you first become acquainted with Narragansett Bay?

My earliest memory of Narragansett Bay is going on a lighthouse ferry tour when I was eight years old, where I admired the spectacular coastal scenery, many boats, and the lighthouses from the deck. Since then, I've enjoyed ocean kayaking, visiting the South County beaches, whale-watching tours, and

ferry rides to Block Island and Martha's Vineyard! All through school, I have visited the beaches on field trips, too.

When did you first become aware of environmental issues?

In middle school, I became aware of widespread environmental issues like the dangers of air pollution, contaminated water sources, and rapid deforestation. Locally, I could see the trash spoiling our beaches and Bay. Visiting my grandparents in India, I saw firsthand the dusty, smoke-filled air and the trash-filled rivers. For an AP Environmental Science course, I dove into studying climate change and its impacts, and what we can do as a community to slow down the harmful effects.

How did you first hear about Save The Bay?

My first time attending a beach cleanup was four years ago, on a middle school field trip with Save The Bay. At about the same time, my brother became an active Save The Bay volunteer and held summer beach cleanups, which I participated in.

You've continued your involvement.

This last summer, I became a storm drain marking volunteer and crisscrossed East Greenwich to mark hundreds of drains. I also lead the Save The Bay Club at The Wheeler School, where I hope to get my classmates involved. This summer, I want to become a Cleanup Captain and help lead the International Coastal Cleanup in my town.



Why do you think volunteers are important to Save The Bay's work?

Volunteers are crucial to Save The Bay's work because they can cover the span of the watershed! Without these volunteers, several areas in our state might not receive the support they need. Volunteers also raise community awareness through their friends, family, schools and other activity-based groups. Our work motivates others to get involved!

What do you love about volunteering with Save The Bay?

I've learned so much, and love that I am helping preserve Narragansett Bay and giving back to my community. By marking storm drains, we're guiding people to understand their environmental impacts. I like meeting new people at cleanups, too. It's really gratifying to make an impact... my passion just keeps growing stronger! ■

In 2020, Amol traversed East Greenwich, R.I. on his bike, marking hundreds of storm drains as he went.



WHO SAVES THE BAY? DONOR SPOTLIGHT

From Fishing to Save The Bay Membership



BY JACKIE CARLSON,
MEMBERSHIP AND INDIVIDUAL
GIVING MANAGER

Long-time Save The Bay member and supporter, Harry Potter, first grew to love Narragansett Bay for the recreational opportunities it provides.

For many Rhode Islanders, Narragansett Bay represents a place of peace, a place where they can go for quiet reflection. This is especially true for loyal Save The Bay member, Harry Potter.

Harry's love for the water started when he was a young man growing up in South Providence. He and his friends would go down to the Providence River, Roger Williams Park and the Atlantic Mills to fish. It wasn't until Harry attended Camp Cronin at Point Judith and walked the jetty with his fellow campers that he realized his childhood fishing holes were part of beautiful Narragansett Bay.

As he grew older, Harry's passion for fishing and the water grew. He travelled the state, discovering new, favorite fishing spots near the Mt. Hope Bridge; in Portsmouth and Newport; and in North Kingstown, near the University of Rhode Island, where he got his undergraduate degree in secondary education and his master's degree in counseling. Upon reflection, he even notes that all of his homes, both in and out of the Ocean State, have been near the water.

While Harry had always been familiar with Save The Bay—due largely in part to “the catchy red bumper stickers”—his relationship with the organization truly began when the Bay Center was constructed at Fields Point in 2005.

Harry lives within walking distance of the Bay Center and he started visiting often to fish or just to enjoy the stunning scenery at the site, which he refers to as his “own little paradise.” During his visits, and after attending several Taste of The Bay events, Harry learned more about our mission, became a Save The Bay member and has been a loyal one ever since. After all, as he puts it, “Save The Bay is one of the premier organizations that works to protect the Bay.”

Harry is especially interested in Save The Bay's advocacy work, specifically protecting public access. He is also a vocal advocate against pollution. When he traverses the grounds at our headquarters, he collects litter as he goes, and frequently takes the time to educate fellow fishermen about the importance of keeping the site

and the Bay free of pollution. (He also makes sure to tell them, “The work Save The Bay does is the most important work.”)

“The work Save The Bay does is the most important work.”



For dedicated Save The Bay member, Harry Potter, a love for fishing forged a lifelong connection to Narragansett Bay.

Harry wishes more Rhode Islanders knew the scope of Save The Bay's work and how important it is for us all to work together to protect the state's beautiful natural resource and Rhode Islanders' access to it. He says that, too often, those he speaks with, “know there's a Bay, but they don't know who protects it.”

And, though he cites Save The Bay as Narragansett Bay's protector, all of us on staff know that it's dedicated, loyal members like Harry who truly make the protection of Narragansett Bay possible. ■

Board of Directors

Cheryl Nathanson
President
Gilbert Conover
Vice President
George Shuster
Vice President
Robin Boss
Vice President
Chris Lee
Secretary
Joseph "Bud"
Cummings
Treasurer

Board Members

Justin DeShaw
Steven Geremia
Gail Ginnetty
Jenn Harris
Kathy Lanphear
Lynn Manning
Gene McDermott
Anne Miller
Ruth Mullen
Alan Nathan
Tim Palmer
Ben Singer
Samuel Slade
Robert Vierra

Board of Trustees

Joan Abrams
Trudy Coxe
Kate Kilguss
Sarah Beinecke
Richardson
Dr. Vincent Rose
H. Curtis Spalding
Ellicott Wright

**President's
Leadership Council**

Alden Anderson, Jr.
Ruud Bosman
Nick and Wendy Bowen
Timothy Burns
Cynthia Butler
Duncan and
Barbara Chapman
Wayne Charness
Steve Clark
Denise Dangremond
Elizabeth M.
Delude-Dix
Joseph DiBattista
Bradford S. Dimeo
Clover Drinkwater
Anne G. Earle
Jonathan D. Fain
Mark J. Formica
Leslie Gardner
Thomas P. I. Goddard
Bob and Robin Hall
Steven Hamburg
Alan G. Hassenfeld
C. Michael Hazard
David and Susan
Hibbitt
Mr. and Mrs. Richard
Higginbotham
Jennifer Hosmer
Kate and Howard
Kilguss

Brooke Lee
Raymond T. Mancini
Brad Miller
F. Paul Mooney
Tim Palmer
Aiden and Kate Petrie
Warren Prell
Elizabeth Prince
Jeffrey Rasmussen
Michael Rau
Sarah Beinecke
Richardson
Marty Roberts
Nancy Safer
Anne Sage and
Jesse Sgro
Paul Salem
George Shuster and
Stephanie Van Patten
Jeffrey Siegal
Eric R. C. Smith
Don and Meg Steiner
Hon. O. Rogeriee
Thompson
Philip Torgan
Geoff Tuff
William Vareika
Kenneth W. Washburn
Ellicott Wright

Executive Director

Jonathan Stone

Staff

Joan Abrams
Kendra Beaver
Jess Bornstein
Tammy Camillo
Jackie Carlson
Joshua Cherwinski
Gráinne Conley
Mackenzie duPont
Crowley
Leanne Danielsen
Stan Dimock
Chris Dodge
Kathryn Dorchie
Wenley Ferguson
Maureen Fogarty
Bayley Forshee
Topher Hamblett
Letty Hanson
Stephany Hessler
Mike Jarbeau
Jennifer Kelly
Meghan Kelly
Adam Kovarsky
July Lewis
Kate McPherson
Leslie Munson
Eric Pfirrmann
Bridget Kubis Prescott
David Prescott
Jeff Swanlund
Jed Thorp
Kristine Waxman

Tides Editor:

Kathryn Dorchie
Editorial inquiries to:
tides@savebay.org

SAVE THE BAY'S

Wish List

Save The Bay is in need of late-model, working vehicles to support our education programs!



Donate your...

STATION WAGON • SMALL SUV • PICKUP TRUCK • VAN

Save The Bay's existing fleet of vehicles has been donated by generous supporters. Several of our aging vehicles need to be replaced and our growing education program has an increased need for reliable transportation. **But you can help!**





Questions?
Contact Maureen Fogarty at 401-272-3540 x109
OR send us an email at savebay@savebay.org

Connect with Us



Save The Bay is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Follow along, share your stories and pictures, plan a visit and spread the word about the importance of a healthy Narragansett Bay.

Visit our website at: savebay.org

Like us on Facebook at: facebook.com/savebaynarragansett

Follow us on Twitter at: twitter.com/savethebayri

Follow us on Instagram at: instagram.com/savethebayri

Subscribe to our channel at: youtube.com/savethebayri

Read our Tides blog at: savebay.org/tides

For 50 years, Save The Bay has stayed the course,
fighting to protect and improve Narragansett Bay.

Help Save The Bay today.



Join today to support our ongoing efforts.
www.savebay.org/join



Discover...

the never-before-told
personal stories, critical victories,
and powerful voices that
contributed to the remarkable
cleanup of Narragansett Bay.



SAVING NARRAGANSETT BAY

How People, Passion, and Perseverance Made All The Difference



On Sale Now!

WWW.SAVEBAY.ORG/SAVINGNB

*A 10-chapter history book, authored by
Todd McLeish, and featuring the stunning
photography of Onne van der Wal, Salvatore
Mancini, Carmel Vitullo, and more!*

100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, RI 02905
SAVEBAY.ORG

SAVE THE BAY®

NARRAGANSETT BAY

non-profit
US Postage
PAID
Providence, RI
Permit No. 758

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Be a Champion for Narragansett Bay



OUR **50th** ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

Support the next 50 years of advocacy for Narragansett Bay.
www.savebay.org/BeAChampion

