



# Rhode Island

## NOAA Works to Improve Rhode Island's Coastal and Marine Areas

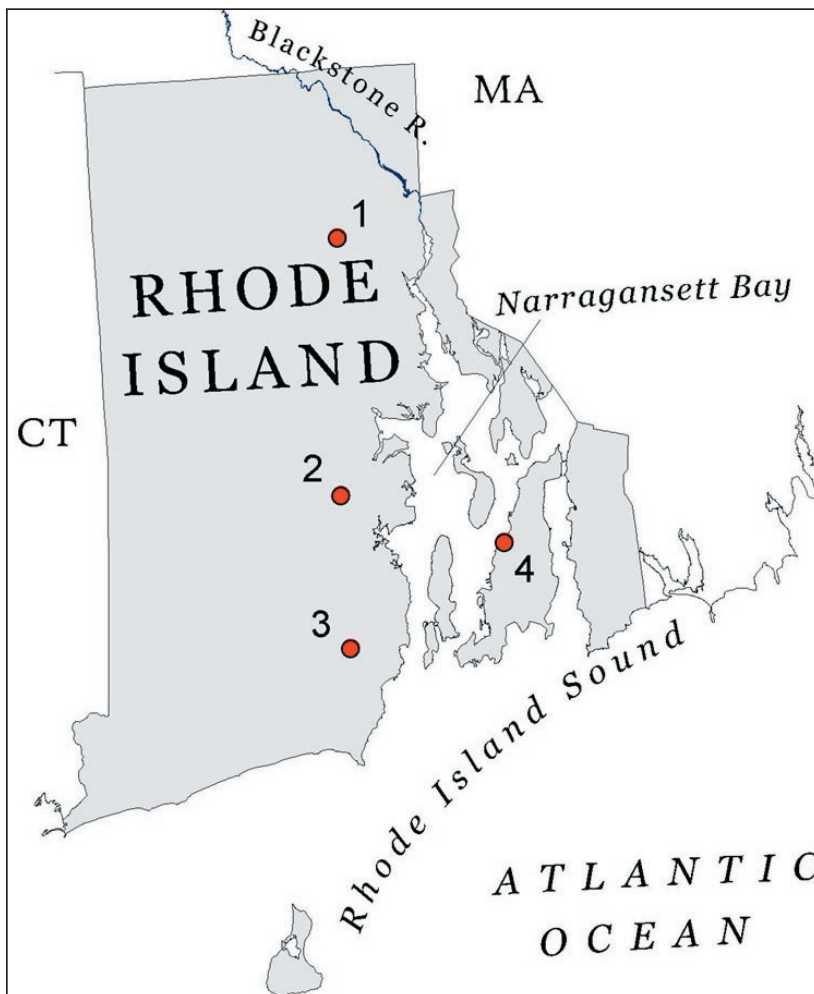
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) acts for the Secretary of Commerce as a federal trustee** under the Superfund Act to protect and restore natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA trust resources in Rhode Island include American lobster, squid, quahog, goosefish, summer flounder, silver hake, herring, scup, striped bass, bluefish, tautog, and dozens of other species and their supporting habitats (e.g., tidal wetlands). Of special concern are federally endangered shortnose sturgeon, sea turtles, and whales; and Atlantic sturgeon, which is of special concern in Rhode Island. NOAA's stewardship also safeguards our nation's waterways and coastal activities, ranging from safe navigation and marine transportation to recreational activities along navigable waters.

## Cleaning up and Restoring Sites in Rhode Island

**The Office of Response and Restoration's Coastal Protection and Restoration Division (OR&R/CPRD) partners with other agencies and responsible parties** to ensure that waste site cleanups not only reduce risk but also restore natural resources and improve the quality of the environment. NOAA Coastal Resource Coordinators get involved early in site cleanups to:

## *Protecting and Restoring Coastal and Marine Resources*

*NOAA's Coastal Protection and Restoration Division (CPRD) protects and restores natural resources in marine and coastal environments that are affected by hazardous waste sites. NOAA Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of Rhode Island, and other trustee agencies to identify risks to natural resources, recommend site cleanups that protect habitat and wildlife, and design projects to restore injured resources and habitats.*



- ensure that ecological assessments and the entire cleanup process evaluate and mitigate any risk to sensitive species and habitats;
- incorporate environmental restoration into cleanup actions;
- monitor the successful recovery of trust resources and habitats; and
- reduce the need for expensive re-evaluations.

Because CRCs help make site-cleanup and restoration decisions in coastal regions, everyone saves time and money by avoiding litigation and duplication of effort. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of liability for damage to natural resources. Best of

### Waste Sites

1. Centredale Manor Restoration Project
2. Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center
3. Rose Hill Regional Landfill
4. Newport Naval Education & Training Center

*Our goal: healthy, productive coastal ecosystems, fisheries, and marine mammals in Rhode Island and the U.S.*

all, we can address environmental threats sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery, and restoration of coastal and marine resources and their habitats.

## Areas of Special Concern in Rhode Island

**Narragansett Bay** supports economically important commercial and recreational fisheries. Allen Harbor is of special concern because it contains rich invertebrate communities that in turn support Narragansett Bay fish populations. Here, NOAA assisted EPA, the Navy, and the State of Rhode Island in assessing ecological risk and selecting remedies at adjacent hazardous waste sites at a federal facility managed by the Navy (Naval Construction Battalion Center). Based on recommendations by NOAA and other trustee and regulatory agencies, the Navy successfully integrated mitigation and restoration of *Spartina* wetland into cleanup actions. Elevated concentrations of heavy metals measured in Narragansett Bay beach ecosystems along the western shore of Hope Island also are of concern because these habitats support abundant seasonal fish populations. The NOAA CRC helped the Navy select a dredging remedy at one hazardous waste site (Naval Education Training Center), and has assisted in ecological risk assessment, cleanup goal selection, and restoration strategies at several other waste sites. Several years of cooperative efforts among the Navy, NOAA, DOI/USFWS and state of Rhode Island, have expedited the successful restoration of habitat in the Narragansett basin, including *Spartina* wetland in Allen Harbor and eel grass beds near Newport.

Other areas of concern include **Saugatucket River**, which supports alewife and American eel populations. NOAA is working to increase passage of anadromous fish through restoration of dams following settlement and cleanup of the river adjacent to a hazardous waste site.

For information about NOAA's Coastal Protection and Restoration Division in **Rhode Island** please contact:

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