

SACHUEST POINT WETLAND AREAS

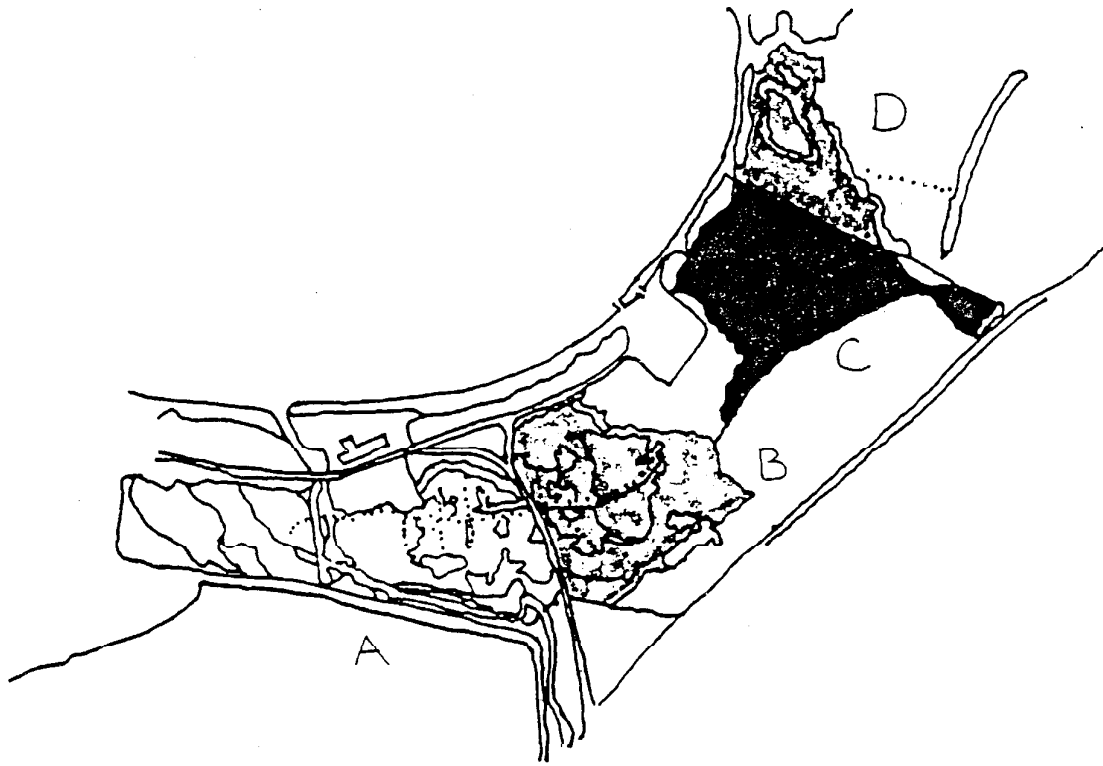
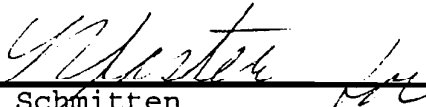


FIGURE 6

VI. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Finding of No Significant Impact

Having reviewed the attached environmental assessment and the available information relative to the proposed action in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, I have determined that there will be no significant environmental impacts from the proposed actions. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement on these issues is not required by Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act or its implementing regulations.



Rolland A. Schmitten
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Date 4/15/96

VII. LIST OF PREPARERS

John Catena

Restoration Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
(508) 281-9251

Elizabeth Shea, Gregory Miller

Restoration Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-0174

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions and assistance provided by Mark Fonseca and Gordon Thayer, National Marine Fisheries Service, Beaufort, NC, James Thomas, National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, MD, Stanley Cobb and Kathy Castro, University of Rhode Island, Rick Wahle, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Larry Oliver and Bill Hubbard U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Charles Roman, National Biological Service.

VIII. LITERATURE CITED

- Adamowicz, S.C. 1994. "Restoring Greenwich Bay, Rhode Island: A Dynamic Partnership Approach to Nonpoint Pollution Control in an Estuarine Embayment." In Conference Materials from Coastal Nonpoint Source Workshop: Building Partnerships. October 17-19, 1994, Tampa, FL.
- Addison, J.T., and R.C.A. Bannister. 1994. "Re-stocking and enhancement of clawed lobsters: a review." *Crustaceana* 67(2): 131-155.
- Addison, J.T., R.C.A. Bannister, and S.R.J. Lovewell. In Press. "Variation and persistence of pre-recruit catch rates of *Homarus gammarus* in Bridlington Bay, England. *Crustaceana*.
- Bannister, R.C.A., J.T. Addison, and S.R.J. Lovewell. 1994. "Growth, movement, recapture rate and survival of hatchery-reared lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*, Linnaeus, 1758) Released into the Wild on the English East Coast." *Crustaceana* 67(2): 156-182.
- Barrett, N.E., and W.A. Niering. 1993. Tidal marsh restoration: trends in vegetation change using a geographical information system (GIS). *Restoration Ecology* 1:18-28.
- Boesch, D.F., C.H. Hershner, and J.H. Milgram. 1974. *Oil Spills and the Marine Environment*. Ballinzer Publishing Co., Cambridge, MA.
- Bongiorno, S.F., J.R. Trautman, T.J. Steinke, S. Kawa-Raymond, and D. Warner. 1984. A study of restoration in Pine Creek salt marsh, Fairfield, Connecticut, in F.J. Webb ed., Proceedings of the 11th Annual Conference in Wetlands Restoration and Creation, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL
- Boudreau, B., E. Bourget, and Y. Simard. 1990. Benthic invertebrate larval response to substrate characteristics at settlement: shelter preferences of the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*). *Mar. Biol.* 1106:191-198.
- Bricker, S.B. 1993. "The History of Cu, Pb, and Zn Inputs to Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island as Recorded by Salt-Marsh Sediments." 16 *Estuaries* 3b: 589-607.
- Burns, K.A. and J.M. Teal. 1979. The West Falmouth oil spill: hydrocarbons in the salt marsh ecosystem. *Estuarine and Coastal Shelf Science* 8: 349-360.

- Caddy, J.F. and C. Stamatopoulos (1990). Mapping growth and mortality rates of crevice-dwelling organisms onto a perforated surface: the relevance of "cover" to the carrying capacity of natural and artificial habitats. *Est. Coastal Shelf Sci.* 31: 87-106.
- Campbell, A., Stasko, A.B. (1985). Movements of tagged american lobsters, *Homarus americanus*, off southwestern Nova Scotia." *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 42: 229-238.
- Cardwell, R. 1973. Acute toxicity of No. 2 diesel oil to selected species of marine invertebrates, marine sculpins, and juvenile salmon. University of Washington, Ph.D. dissertation. University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Castagna, M. 1984. Methods of growing *Mercenaria mercenaria* from postlarval to perforer red-size seed for field planting. *Aquaculture* 39:355-359.
- Clark, R.B. 1989. *Marine Pollution*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, pp. 220.
- Cobb, J.S. (1971). The shelter-related behavior of the lobster, *Homarus americanus*. *Ecology* 52 (1): 108-115.
- Cobb, J.S. and R.A. Wahle (1994). Early life history and recruitment processes of clawed lobsters. *Crustaceana* 67: 1-25.
- Cobb, J.S. and D. Wang (1985). Fisheries Biology of Lobsters and Crayfishes. *The Biology of Crustacea: Economic Aspects*. A.J. Provenzano. Orlando, FL, Academic Press. 10: 167-247.
- Conan, G.Y. (1986). Summary of session 5: Recruitment enhancement. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 43: 2384-2388.
- Cooper, R.A. and J.R. Uzmann (1971). Migrations and growth of deep-sea lobsters, *Homarus americanus*. *Science* 171: 288-290.
- Cooper, R.A. and J.R. Uzmann. 1980. Ecology of juvenile and adult *Homarus*, pp 97-142. In: J.S. Cobb and B.F. Phillips (eds.) *Biology and Management of Lobsters*. Vol II. Academic Press. New York, N.Y.
- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS/OBS-79/31.
- Craig, M.A. and T.J. Bright. 1986. Abundance, age distributions and growth of Texas hard clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria texana* in Texas Bays. *Contrib. Mar. Sci.* 29: 59-72.

- Dexter, R.W. 1944. The ecological significance of the disappearance of eelgrass at Cape Ann, Massachusetts. *J. Wild. Manage.* 8:173-176.
- Fell, P.E., K.A. Murphy, M.A. Peck, and M.L. Recchia. 1991. Re-establishment of *Melampus bidentatus* (Say) and other macroinvertebrates on a restored impounded tidal marsh: comparison of populations above and below the impoundment dike. *J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol.* 152:33-48.
- Flagg, P.J., and Malouf, R.E., 1983. Experimental plantings of juveniles of the hard clam *Mercenaria mercenaria* (Linne) in the waters of Long Island, New York. *Journal of Shellfish Research*, 3(1):19-27.
- Fogarty, M.J. (in press). Populations, fisheries and management. The American Lobster. J. Factor. Orlando, Academic Press.
- Fogarty, M.J. and J.T. Addison (in prep.). "Modelling stationary gear fisheries."
- Fonseca, M.S., W.J. Kenworthy, F.X. Courtney, and M.O. Hall. 1994. Seagrass planting in the southeastern United States: methods for accelerating habitat development. *Restoration Ecology* 2(3): 198-212.
- Fonseca, M.S. 1994. A guide to planting seagrasses in the Gulf of Mexico. Texas A&M University Sea Grant College Program; TAMU-SG-94-601.
- Fonseca, M.S. 1992. Restoring seagrass systems in the United States. In Thayer, G.W. ed. *Restoring the Nation's Marine Environment*, pp. 79-110.
- Fonseca, M.S. 1990. Regional analysis of the creation and restoration of seagrass systems. pp. 175-198. in Kusler, J.A., and Kentula, M.E. ed. *Wetland Creation and Restoration: The Status of the Science*. Island Press, Washington, D.C.
- Fonseca, M.S., W.J. Kenworthy, G.W. Thayer, D.Y. 1982. A low- cost planting technique for eelgrass (*Zostera marina* L.). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station, Coastal Engineering Technical Aid No. 82-6, Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- French, D.P., J.J. Opaluch, and T.A. Grigalunas. 1990. World Prodigy oil spill damage assessment using the CERCLA type A model (NRDAM/CME). ASA 89-51, pp. 30.
- Ganz, A.R., 1988. Survey of the Shellfish Management Area, Quonochontaug Pond. RIDEM Leaflet.

- Gruson, L. 1992. Throwing back undersize fish is said to encourage smaller fry. In: "The New York Times". Tuesday, January 7, 1992.
- Hale, S.O., 1980. Narragansett Bay: A Friend's Perspective. Marine Advisory Service, NOAA/Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island, Marine Bulletin 42.
- Heck, K.L., Jr., K.W. Able, M.P. Fahay, and C.T. Roman. 1989. Fishes and decapod crustaceans of Cape Cod eelgrass meadows: species composition, seasonal abundance patterns and comparison with unvegetated substrates. *Estuaries* 12(2):59-65.
- Hellings, S.E. and J.L. Gallagher. 1992. The effects of salinity and flooding on *Phragmites australis*. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 29:41-49.
- Hudon, C. (1987). "Ecology and growth of postlarval and juvenile lobster, *Homarus americanus*, off Iles de la Madeleine (Quebec)." *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 44: 1855-1869.
- Incze, L.S. and R. Wahle, 1991. Recruitment from pelagic to early benthic phase in lobsters *Homarus americanus*. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 79:77-87.
- Jensen, A.C., K.J. Collins, E.K. Free, and R.C.A. Bannister, 1994. Lobster (*Homarus gammarus*), movement on an artificial reef: The potential for use of artificial reefs for stock enhancement. *Crustaceana* 67(2):198-211.
- Kassner, J., R. Cerrato, and T. Carrano. 1991. Toward understanding and improving the abundance of quahogs (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) in the Easter Great South Bay, New York. In M.A. Rice, M. Grady, and M.L. Schwartz (eds.) Proceedings of the First Rhode Island Shellfisheries Conference. Rhode Island Sea Grant. pp. 69-77.
- Kassner, J. 1995. Habitat enhancement as a means to increase the abundance of the northern quahog, *Mercenaria mercenaria*. In M.A. Rice and E. Gibbs (eds.) Proceedings of the Third Rhode Island Shellfish Industry Conference, Rhode Island Sea Grant, pp. 51-56.
- Katz, C.H., J.S. Cobb, et al. (1992). Larval behavior, hydrodynamic transport, and potential offshore recruitment in the American lobster, *Homarus americanus*. *Mar. Ecol. Progr. Ser.*
- Kirkman, H. 1992. Large-scale restoration of seagrass meadows. In Thayer, G.W. ed. *Restoring the Nation's Marine Environment*, pp. 111-140.
- Kotaki, K. 1992. The State and Prospects of Stock Enhancement (Saibai Gyogyo) Projects in Japan. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. FI:CCFM/92/Exp. 21, 9 pp.

- Kopp, B.S., A.M. Doherty, and S.W. Nixon, 1995. A Guide to Site-Selection for Eelgrass Restoration Projects in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. (unpublished report).
- Kraeuter, J.N. and M. Castagna. 1989. Factors affecting the growth and survival of clam seed planted in the natural environment. In Manzi, J.J. and M. Castagna (eds.), *Clam Mariculture in North America*, pp. 149-163. New York: Elsevier.
- Kraeuter, J.N., S.R. Fegley, and C. MacKenzie. 1994. Investigations related to rehabilitation of hard clam habitats. Final Report. Contract Number C29738 NJDEP. Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology Extension Center, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, Institute for Marine and Coastal Science, Rutgers University, Port Norris, NJ.
- MacKenzie, B.R. (1988). Assessment of temperature effects on interrelationships between stage durations, mortality, and growth in laboratory reared American lobsters, *Homarus americanus*. *J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol.* 116: 87-98.
- Malins, D.C. 1977. Effects of Petroleum on Arctic and Subarctic Marine Environments and Organisms. Academic Press, Inc. New York. 2 volumes
- Malouf, R.E. 1989. Clam culture as a resource management tool. In Manzi, J.J. and M. Castagna (eds.), *Clam Mariculture in North America*, pp. 427-447. New York: Elsevier
- McConnell, K.E., T.P. Smith, and J.F. Farrell. 1981. Marine Sportfishing in Rhode Island, 1978. NOAA/Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island Technical Report 83.
- McHugh, J.L. Recent advances in hard clam mariculture. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 1(1):51-55.
- McMaster, R.L. (1960). Sediments of Narragansett Bay system and Rhode Island Sound, Rhode Island. *J. Sed. Petrol.* 30: 249-274.
- Mielke, J.E. 1990. CRS Report for Congress: Oil in the ocean: the short- and long-term impacts of a spill. Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress. pp 34.
- Mulhare, M.J. and P.J. Therrien, 1993. The natural degradation of #2 fuel oil in intertidal sand, pp. 467-478. In P.T. Kosteki and E.J. Calabrese (eds.) *Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soils and Groundwater: Volume 3* (Ann Arbor: Lewis Publishers)
- Narragansett Bay Project, 1992. Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Narragansett Bay of the Bay. State Guide Plan Element 715, Report Number 71. 467 pp. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Providence, RI.

- Nixon, S.W. 1980. "Between coastal marshes and coastal waters--a review of twenty years of speculation and research on the role of salt marshes in estuarine productivity and water chemistry." In *Estuarine and Wetlands Processes*. P.Hamilton and K. McDonald, eds. Plenum Press, New York.
- Nixon, S.W. 1982. The ecology of New England high salt marshes: A community profile. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Biological Services, Washington, D.C. FWS/OBS-81/55. 70 pp.
- Nixon, S.W., and C.A. Oviatt. 1973. Ecology of a New England salt marsh. 43 *Ecological Monographs* 4: 463-498.
- Olesen, B., and K. Sand-Jensen 1994. Patch dynamics of eelgrass, *Zostera marina*. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 106(1-2):147-156.
- Olsen, S.B., and M.J. Grant. 1973. Rhode Island's Barrier Beaches. Marine Technical Report Number 4, Volume 1. Coastal Resources Center, University of Rhode Island.
- Olsen, S.B. and D.K. Stevenson. 1975. Commercial marine fish and fisheries of Rhode Island. Coastal Resources Center, URI Marine Technical Report 34.
- Olsen, S.B. and G.L. Seavey. 1983. The State of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program as Amended. Prepared for the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield, RI.
- Peck, M.A., P.E. Fell, E.A. Allen, J.A. Gieg, C.R. Guthke, and M.D. Newkirk. 1994. Evaluation of tidal marsh restoration: comparison of selected macroinvertebrate populations on a restored impounded valley marsh and an unimpounded valley marsh within the same salt marsh system in Connecticut, USA. *Environmental Management* 18(2):283-293.
- Peterson, C.H., H.C. Summerson, and P.B. Duncan. 1984. The influence of seagrass cover on population structure and individual growth rate of a suspension-feeding bivalve, *Mercenaria mercenaria*. *Journal of Marine Research* 42: 123-138.
- Pilson, M.E.Q. 1985. On the Residence Time of Water in Narragansett Bay. *Estuaries* 8: 2-14.
- Pilson, M. 1989. Draft Final Report - World Prodigy Oil Spill at Brenton Reef, Rhode Island, June 23, 1989.
- Pilson, M.E.Q. 1990. Chemical and biological observations after the World Prodigy oil spill. In: M.L. Spaulding and M. Reed (eds.) *Oil Spills Management and Legislative*

- Implications Proceedings of the Conference. American Society of Civil Engineers, New York.
- Pottle, R.A. and R.W. Elner. 1982. Substrate preference behavior of juvenile American lobsters, (*Homarus americanus*) in gravel and silt-clay sediments. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 39:928-932.
- Pratt, D.M. 1953. Abundance and growth of *Venus mercenaria* and *Callocardia morrhua* in relation of the character of bottom sediments. *J. Mar. Res.* 12:60-74.
- Rhode Island Department of Administration, 1988. Ocean State Outdoors: Recreation and Conservation Strategies for Rhode Island. Report Number 52, State Guide Plan Element 152. Prepared by Department of Administration Division of Planning and Department of Environmental Management.
- Rice, M. 1992. The Northern Quahog: The Biology of *Mercenaria mercenaria*. Rhode Island Sea Grant publication no. RIU-B-92-001.
- Ries, K.G. III. 1989. Estimation of surface water runoff to Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Investigations Report, Washington, D.C. 87pp.
- Roman, C.T., W.A. Niering, and R.S. Warren 1984. Salt marsh vegetation change in response to tidal restriction. *Environmental Management* 8: 141-150.
- Roman, C.T., R.W. Garvine, and J.W. Portnoy. 1995. Hydrologic modeling as a predictive basis for ecological restoration of salt marshes. *Environmental Management* 19: 559-566.
- RPI International, Inc. 1989. Natural Resource Response Guide: Marine Shellfish. Ocean Assessments Division, Office of Oceanography and Marine Services, National Ocean Service, NOAA.
- Saila, S.B., J.M. Flowers, and M.T. Cannario. 1967. Factors affecting the relative abundance of *Mercenaria mercenaria* in the Providence River, Rhode Island. *Proc. Natl. Shellfish. Assoc.* 57:83-89.
- Scarratt, D.J. 1968. An artificial reef for lobsters (*Homarus americanus*). *J. Fish. Res. Bd. Canada* 25 (12): 2683-2690.
- Scarratt, D.J. 1973. Lobster populations on a man-made rocky reef. *Int. Counc. Explor. Sea ICES Shellfish and Benthos Committee C.M./K:* 3p.

- Seavey, G.L. 1975. Rhode Island's Coastal Natural Areas: Priorities for Protection and Management. Coastal Resources Center. URI Marine Technical Report 43.
- Sheehy, D.J. 1976. Utilization of artificial shelters by the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*). *J. Fish. Res. Bd. Can.* 33 (7): 1615-1622.
- Short, F.T. D.M. Burdick, J.S. Wolf, and G.E. Jones. 1993. Eelgrass in estuarine research reserves along the east coast, USA, Part I: Declines from pollution and disease and Part II: Management of eelgrass meadows. NOAA-Coastal Ocean Program Publ. 107 pp.
- Sinicrope, T.L. P.G. Hines, R.S. Warren, and W.A. Niering. 1990. Restoration of an impounded salt marsh in New England. *Estuaries* 13: 25-30.
- Spanier, E. (1994). What are the characteristics of a good artificial reef for lobsters? *Crustaceana* 67: 173-186.
- Stewart, L.L. (1972). The seasonal movements, population dynamics and ecology of the lobster, *Homarus americanus*, off Ram Island, Conn., University of Connecticut, Storrs.
- Teal, J.M. 1986. The ecology of regularly flooded salt marshes of New England: a community profile. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biol. Rep. 85(7.4). 61 pp.
- Teal, J.M., J.W. Farrington, K.A. Burns, J.J. Stegeman, B.W. Tripp, B. Woodin, and C. Phinney, 1992. The West Falmouth oil spill after 20 years: fate of fuel oil compounds and effects on animals. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 24:607-614.
- Thayer, G.W., W.J. Kenworthy, and M.S. Fonseca. 1984. The ecology of eelgrass meadows of the Atlantic coast: a community profile. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FWS/OBS-84/02. 147 pp.
- Tiner, R.W. 1989. Wetlands of Rhode Island. United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Newton, MA.
- Underwood, A.J. (1992). Beyond BACI: the detection of environmental impacts on populations in the real, but variable world. *J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol.* 161: 145-178.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1994. Biological and hydrological evaluation of the Sachuest Point salt marsh, Middletown, Rhode Island. Technical support document for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service. (Unpublished report) 10 p.

- U.S. Department of Commerce. 1994. Fisheries of the United States, 1993. Current Fisheries Statistics No. 9300. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics Division.
- University of Rhode Island. 1972. Rhode Island Marine Bibliography. Marine Advisory Service, National Sea Grant Depository, and Coastal Resources Center. University of Rhode Island Technical Report Number 3.
- University of Rhode Island. 1994. Rhode Island Travel and Tourism Report. Volume 11, Number 1, May 1994. Office of Travel, Tourism, and Recreation. Department of Resource Economics, College of Resource Development, Kingston, RI. 36 pp.
- Van Olst, J.C., J.M. Carlberg, and R.F. Ford. 1979. Effects of substrate type and other factors on the growth, survival and cannibalism of juvenile *Homarus americanus* in mass rearing systems. *Proc. Wld. Maricult. Soc.* 6:261-274.
- Volk, J. 1992. Notes from the Department. Connecticut Weekly Agriculture Report. July 15, 1992. Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Hartford, Connecticut.
- Wahle, R.A and R.S. Steneck, 1991. Recruitment habitats and nursery grounds of the American lobster: a demographic bottleneck? *Mar. Ecol. Progr. Ser.* 69:231-243.
- Wahle, R.A. and R.S. Steneck, 1992. Habitat restrictions in early benthic life: experiments on habitat selection and in situ predation with the American lobster. *J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol.* 157:91-114.
- Wahle, R. (1992). Body size-dependent anti-predator mechanisms of the American lobster. *OIKOS* 65.
- Wahle, R.A. 1993. Recruitment to American lobster populations along an estuarine gradient. *Estuaries* 16(4):731-738.
- Wells, H.W. 1957. Abundance of the hard clam *Mercenaria mercenaria* in relations to environmental factors. *Ecology* 38:123-128.
- Whitlatch, R.B. 1982. The Ecology of New England Tidal Flats: A Community Profile. University of Connecticut and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. FWS/OBS-81/01 March 1982.
- Wilder, D.G. (1963). Movements, growth and survival of marked and tagged lobsters liberated in Egmont Bay, Prince Edward Island. *J. Fish. Res. Board Can.* 20 (2): 305-318.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

APR 19 1996

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action:

TITLE: M/V *World Prodigy* Oil Spill Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

LOCATION: Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island

SUMMARY: In June 1989, the Greek tanker *World Prodigy* ran aground in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, releasing approximately 290,000 gallons of number 2 fuel oil. Numerous species of marine organisms were adversely affected by the spill. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) assesses and claims damages (compensation) from responsible parties for injuries to natural resources from discharges of oil, and is required to use such funds to restore the injured resources. In 1991, NOAA received \$567,299 as a result of a legal settlement between the Federal Government and the responsible party. NOAA will use these funds to restore the natural resources injured by the spill.

The Clean Water Act, as amended by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Cleanup, and Liability Act, requires Federal and state natural resource trustees to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources injured by an oil spill. To fulfill NOAA's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act as well as under these statutes, NOAA has developed the M/V *World Prodigy* Oil Spill Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA/RP). The EA/RP describes the proposed use of the settlement funds received by NOAA. It presents a summary of the incident and injuries caused by the spill, identifies categories of restoration that were considered (resource and habitat enhancement, acquisition of equivalent resources, and no action), identifies criteria for project selection, and discusses proposed alternatives.

NOAA's goal is to restore the resources injured by the *World Prodigy* oil spill and to compensate the public for the lost use of those resources by enhancing habitat value for living marine resources, with specific emphasis on lobsters, quahogs (hard clams), and estuarine finfish. To meet this goal, NOAA proposes several actions: (1) enhance lobster habitat by establishing



several lobster reefs; (2) transplant quahogs and establish quahog "spawner sanctuaries," to help restock formerly productive areas of the bay, and to make more of the resource available to shellfishermen; (3) establish eelgrass beds in multiple sites throughout Narragansett Bay to enhance fisheries habitat; and (4) restore a saltmarsh system on Sachuest Point in Middletown, Rhode Island, to enhance habitat for estuarine-dependent fish and shellfish.

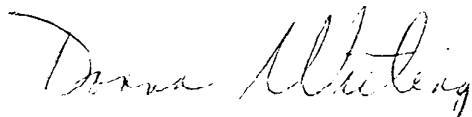
The public was informed of the availability of the RP/EA for comment through publication in the *Providence Journal* on January 22, 1996. Environmental and commercial groups in the Narragansett Bay area, and state and local governments were contacted as well. The RP/EA was made available for public comment from January 22 to March 1, 1996. Several comments were received; however, none suggested there would be significant impacts on the environment if this restoration plan were undertaken.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Rolland A. Schmitt
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301/713-2239

The environmental review process has led us to conclude that the proposed restoration actions will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the Finding of No Significant Impact, including the environmental assessment and Restoration Plan are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,



Donna S. Wieting
Director, NOAA Ecology
and Conservation Office

Enclosure