

Steven Sepe

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Kenneth Cooper <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2026 11:32 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Reform CRMC, Pass H7996

Dear Chairman Shanley,

I have been fishing and spearfishing in Rhode Island waters since the late 1960s. I am a Coast Guard licensed Captain who typically puts 250 to 300 hours on my boat's engine every season between May and October, on the waters of Block Island Sound, The Race and Narragansett Bay. I care deeply about our local fishery and our unique and diverse shoreline.

The General Assembly needs to take meaningful steps to reform CRMC. The so-called reform law passed last year has not been implemented and simply changing who serves on the politically-appointed Council will not change what is a fundamentally flawed and inefficient structure.

Senate bill 3082 (McKenney) and House bill 7996 (Edwards) would create a more efficient and better-resourced coastal agency by eliminating the appointed Council and merging CRMC staff into the Department of Environmental Management. The new Bureau of Coastal Resources Management would bring Rhode Island in line with most other coastal states, give coastal resources access to shared legal and administrative resources and result in more timely and efficient permitting decisions.

Please prioritize our coastal resources and pass S3082 and H7996. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Cooper
19 Rock Ridge Rd
Westerly, RI 02891
thecoops1@comcast.net