

# Coastal Resources Management Council

Expenditures By Program	FY2020	FY2021	FY2021	Change from		FY2022	Change from	
	Final	Enacted	Governor	Enacted		Governor	Enacted	
Coastal Resources Management Council	\$5.6	\$5.2	\$5.2	\$0.0	0.2%	\$5.5	\$0.3	5.7%

## Expenditures By Source

General Revenue	\$2.8	\$2.6	\$2.6	\$0.0	0.3%	\$2.9	\$0.3	10.5%
Federal Funds	2.0	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.2%	1.9	(0.4)	-18.9%
Restricted Receipts	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	-	0.3	-	-
Other Funds	0.5	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.6	0.5	502.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.6</b>	<b>\$5.2</b>	<b>\$5.2</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>\$5.5</b>	<b>\$0.3</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

Authorized FTE Levels 30.0 30.0 30.0 - - 30.0 - -  
*\$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.*

The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) is mandated to preserve, protect, develop and, where possible, restore the coastal resources of the State. The CRMC oversees the Coastal Habitat Restoration Program and is charged with developing an Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) and a Marine Resources Development Plan.

## MAJOR ISSUES AND TRENDS

The FY2022 Budget includes an all funds increase of \$298,278 (5.7 percent) from the FY2021 Budget as Enacted, including a general revenue increase of \$272,047, a federal funds decrease of \$432,574, and an other funds increase of \$458,805. The increase in general revenue is primarily due to a \$108,648 decrease in turnover savings in FY2022, relative to FY2021 when numerous retirements are expected. The decrease in federal funds is due primarily to the expiration of the Block Island Wind Farm Monitoring grant and the Coastal Resilience grant.

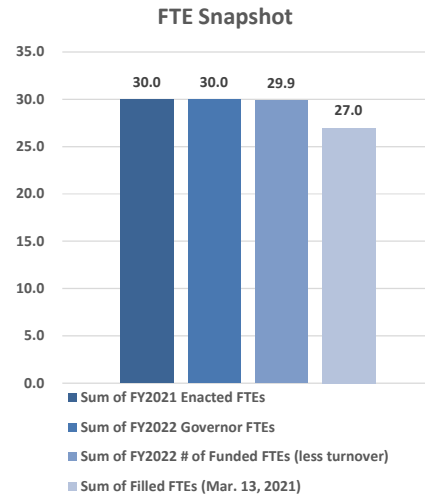
The increase in other funds in FY2022 is primarily due to the carry forward of \$475,000 in RICAP funds for the Narragansett Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) from FY2020. This project will update the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP) to current federal standards and develop a Narragansett Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) to protect the Bay's fisheries, as well as recreation- and marine-based resources.

Article 6 increase the maximum penalties that can be assessed by the CRMC and changes the review of appeals to the Supreme Court. According to CRMC, the penalties have not been changed since 2004, and are so low that violators absorb any fines issued as a cost of doing business. The increase is projected to increase revenue from fines and penalties by \$15,000 (\$22,500 total) in FY2022.

	CRMC Administrative Penalties		
	Current	Article 6	Change
Maximum administrative penalty	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$7,500
Maximum penalty per day	500	1,000	500
Maximum aggregate penalty	10,000	50,000	40,000
Maximum criminal fine	500	1,000	500
Maximum penalty for posting or blocking rights-of-way	500	1,000	500

The article also removes the requirement of “de novo” for appeals for penalties imposed to the Superior Court; consequently, the Court’s review would be guided by the Council’s finding.

The Budget authorizes 30.0 FTE positions in FY2021 and FY2022, consistent with the FY2021 Budget as Enacted.



Central Management	General Revenue
FY2021 Enacted	\$2,580,300
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<i>Target and Other Adjustments</i>	<i>118,011</i>
Turnover Savings Reduction	108,648
Workshare Savings Restoration	25,388
Legal Services	20,000
<b>FY2022 Governor</b>	<b>\$2,852,347</b>

**Turnover Savings \$108,648**

The Budget provides an increase of \$108,648 in general revenue to replace turnover savings included in the FY2021 Budget as Enacted. The increased funding will reduce turnover savings from \$121,439 (5.0 percent of total salaries and benefits) to \$12,791 (0.5 percent of salaries and benefits). The FY2020 Revised Budget included \$13,390 in turnover savings. The higher turnover in FY2021 is due to the expectation that up to 10 employees will retire. In addition, CRMC indicates that five positions were or are expected to be vacant for three or four months in FY2021. According to the April 10, 2021, FTE report, CRMC has averaged 3.0 vacant FTE positions for FY2021.

**Workshare \$25,388**

The Budget adds \$25,388 in general revenue to replace personnel savings in the FY2021 Budget as Enacted from furloughed employees eligible to participate in the State’s Workshare program. Approximately 1,600 state employees participated in the program, which included 4 employees within the Department. The Workshare program allowed the State to achieve the savings in the wake of the devastating financial impact of COVID-19. Through this program, eligible full-time employees were allowed to work 60.0 percent of their regular weekly hours (three business days) from June 14, 2020, to September 5, 2020.

**Legal Services \$20,000**

The Budget includes an additional \$20,000 in funding for legal services (\$126,000 total) to support the Council’s increased involvement with the wind energy projects.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The Budget provides Rhode Island Capital Plan (RICAP) funding totaling \$91,310 in FY2021 and \$458,805 in FY2022 for capital projects, including the following:

- **Coastal Storm Risk Study:** In response to Hurricane Sandy and other coastal storms, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is investigating solutions to reduce future flood risk by developing the long-term resilience and sustainability of coastal ecosystems. The Budget provides RICAP funds totaling \$475,000 in FY2022 as the state share for the cost of the study being conducted by the USACE. Through the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS), the USACE identified high-risk areas on the Atlantic Coast for a more in-depth analysis into potential management solutions to reduce the coastal storm risk to the existing shorefront development. The study breaks Rhode Island into two planning reaches (or zones). The first reach covers the Narragansett Bay area, starting at the Massachusetts border and ending at Point Judith. The second reach encompasses the south shore, including South Kingstown, Charlestown, and Westerly.
- **Narragansett Bay SAMP:** The Budget includes \$89,151 in RICAP funds in FY2021 and \$75,115 in FY2022 to update the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program (RICRMP) to current federal standards and develop a Narragansett Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) to protect the Bay's fisheries, as well as recreation- and marine-based resources. Due to the creation of the original Ocean SAMP, Rhode Island, through the Council, has legal standing for a role in management of federal waters up to 30 miles offshore, instead of only within the traditional three-mile limit. SAMPs are resource management plans and implementation programs developed to manage specific geographic areas with specific resources. In May 2016, the Council marked the five-year anniversary of the Ocean SAMP: the first SAMP in the nation to venture out into federal offshore waters for future uses and preservation. However, the Ocean SAMP starts at the mouth of the Narragansett Bay, leaving a significant gap in the Council's ability to manage the Bay's resources. The Bay is managed pursuant to the federally-approved RICRMP which was developed in the early 1970's; consequently, some of the policies are outdated and inconsistent with current regulations of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the federal agency that regulates federal coastal waters. This project is scheduled for completion in FY2022.