

Coastal Resources Management Council

Staff Presentation to the
House Finance Subcommittee on Environment and
Transportation
Governor's Capital, FY 2024 Revised and FY 2025 Budgets
April 2, 2024

Coastal Resources Management Council

- Governed by a council of 10 members
 - Staff consists of:
 - Professional engineers
 - Biologists
 - Environmental scientists
 - Marine resources specialists
- State agency responsible for:
 - Preservation, protection, development & restoration of the coastal areas of the state

Coastal Resources Management Council

- Responsibilities
 - Issuing permits for work within the coastal zone
 - Federal law consistency
 - Lead state agency for dredging
 - Aquaculture
 - Coordinating & oversight role for other state agencies
 - Coastal flooding, hazard mitigation, & special area management planning

Summary by Source

Source	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 Revised	FY 2025 Governor	Change to Enacted
General Revenues	\$3,396,395	\$3,483,722	\$3,607,384	\$210,989
Federal Funds	2,264,374	3,133,386	2,319,579	55,205
Restricted Receipts	250,000	250,000	250,000	-
Other Funds	-	100,000	-	-
Total	\$5,910,769	\$6,967,108	\$6,176,963	\$266,194

Summary by Category

Category	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 Revised	FY 2025 Governor	Change to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$4,493,649	\$4,563,865	\$4,689,417	\$ 195,768
Contracted Services	481,770	481,770	481,770	-
Operations	346,150	341,023	294,886	(51,264)
Grants	521,200	1,372,450	642,890	121,690
Capital	68,000	208,000	68,000	-
Total	\$5,910,769	\$6,967,108	\$6,176,963	\$266,194
FTE	32.0	32.0	32.0	-

Staffing

- FY 2025 - \$4.7 million
 - \$0.2 million more than enacted
 - Current services and turnover savings
 - Assumes average of 31.0 positions filled
 - March 23 pay period - 3.0 vacancies
 - Excludes \$0.1 requested for new environmental policy analyst
 - Assist with review of windfarm project
- FY 2024 - \$4.6 million
 - \$70,216 more than enacted
 - Turnover savings and statewide adjustments

CRMC Hearing Officer

- Current Law: RIGL 46-23-20.1
 - Establishes authority for Governor to appoint two hearing officers to CRMC
 - With Senate approval
 - Must be attorneys who have practiced law for at least 5 years
 - Hearing officer must be a full-time position
- 2022 Assembly authorized new hearing officer position
 - Position has been filled
 - Senate confirmed in June 2023

Shoreline Access Education Plan

- FY 2025 – Governor recommends new \$25,000 from general revenues
 - Develop signage and educational materials to inform public of the Shoreline Access Bill
 - Enacted in June 2023
- FY 2024 - \$187,300 from federal funds
 - Primarily from unspent FY 2023 funding
 - Gather information on public access issues
 - Develop five-year management plan

Other Federal Grants and Projects

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - \$0.1 million in FY 2025
 - Support two positions at the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
 - Habitat restoration and conservation projects
- Offshore Wind Farm Pilot
 - \$0.2 million in FY 2025
 - Research on energy development
 - Estimated completion in FY 2025

Other Federal Grants and Projects

- Coastal Resilience Projects
 - \$0.5 million for FY 2025
 - Supports projects to help coastal communities prepare for extreme weather and climate-related hazards
- Aquatic Invasive Species Management
 - \$0.1 million for FY 2025
 - Supports management of invasive species
 - Provides a framework for coordinating State and Federal management efforts

Capital Development Plan

Capital Projects

Project	Status	Cost	Source	End Date
Confined Aquatic Dredged Material Disposal Cells	Revised	\$109.0	COPS, FF RICAP	FY 2026
South Coast Restoration Project	Revised	\$4.2	RICAP	FY 2027
Little Narragansett Bay Study	Ongoing	\$0.1	RICAP	FY 2024
Pawtucket Elevation Study	Ongoing	\$0.1	RICAP	FY 2024
Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Trust Fund	Ongoing	\$4.3	RR	Post - FY 2029
Providence Rivers Dredging	Ongoing	\$9.0	GO	FY 2025

\$ in millions

Capital – Revised Project

- Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Cells
 - Construct a new cell in Providence River
 - Required to contain materials displaced during dredging of Prov. harbor
 - Debt backed by dredge fees initially approved in FY 2018 for \$10.5 million
 - Serve as match to federal funds
 - Approved plan added \$9.5 million from new debt that would require Assembly approval

Capital – Revised Project

- Governor includes \$109.0 million for FY 2026
 - Project total is consistent with approved plan
 - \$68.4 million from federal funds
 - \$20.0 million – Certificates of Participation
 - \$20.6 million from RICAP funds
 - Shifts funding from FY 2025 to FY 2026

Capital – Revised Projects

- South Coast Restoration Project
 - Originally completed in FY 2018
 - Revived in FY 2023
 - Sedimentation has impacted restoration/resiliency efforts and aquatic habitats
 - FY 2027- \$2.0 million from RICAP
 - Remove sediment within breachways
 - First area will be Ninigret Pond/breachway
 - Plan is also to dredge Winnipaug and Quonochontaug ponds
 - Must first secure regulatory authorizations

Capital – Ongoing Projects

- Little Narraganset Bay Study
 - \$50,000 from RICAP
 - Determine how dredging can be done
 - Council requested \$1.5 million
- Pawcatuck Resiliency Elevation Study
 - \$50,000 from RICAP
 - Determine how coastal barrier beaches are affected by severe storms and flood
 - Study will inform coastal resiliency plans
 - Council requested \$16.5 million

Capital – Ongoing Projects

- Providence Rivers Dredging
 - Dredge areas of downtown Providence rivers
 - \$5.6 million from bond funds in FY 2024
- Coastal & Estuary Habitat Restoration
 - Preserves and restores coastal wetlands, fish runs, & eelgrass beds that protect the shore from storms and erosion
 - \$250,000 annually from Oil Spill Prevention and Response Fund
 - Adds funding through the post-FY 2029 period

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