

SAVE THE BAY®

NARRAGANSETT BAY

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TIDES

Paradise Lost?

FEDERAL RETREAT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
THREATENS DECADES OF PROGRESS

PLUS: Restoring Sabin Point | Public Access | Central Falls High School Camp

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Now, More Than Ever, the Bay Needs You



There is a change of climate in Washington, D.C., and I am not referring to climate change. The environment is being pummeled by the Republican-controlled Congress and the Trump administration. As recently as 10 years ago, preventing pollution and protecting the natural world were bipartisan endeavors. Not in this era of polarized politics. Funding for the Environmental Protection Agency is being gutted; environmental policies based on sound science are under attack; federal programs designed to support state efforts to clean up the environment and protect natural resources are being systematically eliminated. Much is at stake for Narragansett Bay.

In this issue of *Tides*, we are putting a marker down: state leaders need to step up and commit resources to protect the environment, and voters need to stand up and be heard. If we don't pull together to fill the void left by the federal government's retreat, we put decades of environmental progress at risk.

The good news is that all is not lost. As a community of citizens who care about the Bay, we continue to make important strides improving the Bay and its watershed. This issue highlights progress in public access, the promise of reopening Sabin Point to swimming and the potential to improve water quality in

upper Bay tributaries. We share stories of people who make a difference through their volunteer efforts and students who are inspired to pursue an interest in environmental studies. We shine a light on the importance of protecting menhaden, a distinctive seasonal visitor to the Bay that has been called "the most important fish."

The fact is that each and every one of us can do our part to protect the Bay in many ways. Our recent publication, *Bay-Friendly Living*, highlights many of them. In this era, though, it is especially important that we urge our elected leaders at a local and state level to stand up for the environment. Here at Save The Bay, we count on your support to help us carry on the good fight and to give us the political heft to be effective advocates for the Bay. Together we will weather the ill winds blowing our way from Washington, D.C.

Jonathan Stone
Executive Director

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Sunset at Bristol Harbor by Stan Dimock.

ARTISTS for the Bay Show & Sale

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Exhibit & Sale, Dec. 2017–Jan. 2018
The Bay Center, Providence
Contact – (401) 272-3540 x140
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Photo by Diana Brennan 2015

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Mission and Vision: Save The Bay works to protect and improve Narragansett Bay and its watershed through advocacy, education and restoration efforts. We envision a fully swimmable, fishable, healthy Narragansett Bay, accessible to everyone and globally recognized as an environmental treasure.



COVER STORY

Paradise Lost?



BY STEPHANY HESSLER, GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS MANAGER AND TOPHER HAMBLETT, DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY

FEDERAL CUTBACKS AND THEIR IMPACT ON NARRAGANSETT BAY

What happens in Washington, D.C. matters here. For nearly five decades, the federal government has played a pivotal role in the cleanup of Narragansett Bay. From the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and passage of the Clean Water and Coastal Zone Management Acts to federal matching dollars for improvements in wastewater treatment and grants for protecting coastal habitats, the U.S. government's influence is profound.

Narragansett Bay has emerged as a national success story, thanks to the commitment of federal and state resources.

Suddenly, the earth has shifted. With a presidential administration that is aggressively pursuing a deregulation agenda, hard-won progress is in peril. The first eight months of the Trump presidency has produced legislation and budget proposals that are nothing short of an all-out assault on the environment. The president's choice

quality at public beaches threatens public health. Fewer federal matching dollars for wastewater treatment will prevent urgently needed upgrades to treatment plants. Deliberate efforts to undermine federal fisheries policy may harm the health and abundance of commercial and recreational species like striped bass. An attack on the Clean Water Act will undermine regional efforts to reduce storm water pollution. Proposed reductions in brownfield restoration grants, if enacted, will fall most heavily on older industrial states like Rhode Island.

Budget cutbacks also threaten geographic programs, such as the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and EPA Southeastern New England Program, which have played important roles in improving bi-state coordination in reducing bacteria and nutrient pollution. The state's environmental agency budgets are especially vulnerable to cuts: one-third of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) budget and two-thirds of the Coastal Resources Management Council's (CRMC) budget are funded by the federal government.

We face an imperative to act. Today's crisis in Washington cries out for leadership, especially in Providence. Unfortunately, elected leaders on Smith Hill have hardly distinguished themselves in investing in clean water and clean air. The DEM has been starved of resources and operates today with 40% fewer employees than a decade ago. This erosion of resources has undermined the DEM's ability to enforce the federal laws that protect our water, air and health. State support is already waning for programs to simply manage, let alone protect and improve, the natural resources that are the foundation of our culture and economy.

The year 2017 has ushered in political changes in Washington that, when combined with hyper-partisanship, represent a frontal attack on environmental protection. Our state leaders have a responsibility to

for EPA Administrator is attempting to dismantle the very policies and programs that have made the cleanup of Narragansett Bay possible. The U.S. House of Representatives has unveiled budget proposals that would gut the EPA and other federal programs and agencies.

The ripple effects of these changes will reach every cove, beach and eddy of the Bay. Less money for monitoring water

take action. And they need to hear from you! Now is time for all citizens of Rhode Island and Massachusetts to stand up and be counted. We must instill environmental values into our politics and dispense, once and for all, with the false premise that protecting the environment is bad for business.

The recovery of Narragansett Bay from a century of abuse to national gem is an achievement to be cherished and nurtured. Letting a change of political climate in Washington undo progress made is unforgivable. It is incumbent upon each and every one of us in the Ocean State and the Bay State to stand up and be heard. Our leaders will act when we demand action.



ABOVE: Beautiful places like Gooseneck Cove are at risk with diminishing federal support. OPPOSITE PAGE: A reversal of water quality protections could lead to more fish kills, such as this one on the Seekonk River

Rhode Island and Massachusetts have been fortunate to have congressional representatives, Democrat and Republican, who have consistently and effectively championed clean water and environmental protection. While federal funding levels and priorities have ebbed and flowed, bipartisan support for clean water, clean air, and the conservation of natural resources has been generally steady. The cleanup of

What's At Stake? Some proposed federal program cuts and their impact on Narragansett Bay.

State Environmental Agencies: The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) depends on federal funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for 65 percent of its budget. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) depends on NOAA for about 33 percent of its budget. Together, these agencies manage Rhode Island's natural resources, development along the coast, environmental enforcement activities and monitoring the ecological health of our Bay and coastal waters. They are the backbone of Bay protection in Rhode Island.

Beach Monitoring Program: This Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-funded program informs Rhode Islanders where and when it is safe to swim in Narragansett Bay. Since 2002, the EPA has awarded over \$3M to the Rhode Island Department of Health to sample and analyze the waters of our beaches and to alert the public of beach closures due to pollution.

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP): Within the one million acres of the Narragansett Bay watershed, the NBEP relies on federal support to monitor Bay health and track ecological trends that inform Bay management and policy recommendations to environmental agencies and elected officials.

Local Environmental Initiatives: Federal grants provide critical funding for many local environmental initiatives. The EPA Southern New England Program awards grants to Rhode Island and Massachusetts cities, towns, and organizations to identify and correct polluted storm water and other issues facing coastal and watershed communities.

How You Can Help

Contact your state leaders to impress the importance of maintaining these programs and initiatives.

Rhode Island

- Governor Gina Raimondo
401-222-2080
governor@governor.ri.gov
governor.ri.gov/contact
- House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello
401-222-2466
rep-mattiello@rilegislature.gov
- Senate President Dominick Ruggerio
401-222-6655
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov
- U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
202-224-2921 or 401-453-5294
sheldon_whitehouse@whitehouse.senate.gov
- U.S. Senator Jack Reed
202-224-4642 or 401-943-3100
reed.senate.gov/contact/email
- Congressman Jim Langevin
202-225-2735 or 401-732-9400
langevin.house.gov/contact-me/email-me
- Congressman David Cicilline
202-225-4911 or 401-729-5600
cicilline.house.gov/contact-me/email-me

Massachusetts

- Governor Charlie Baker
888-870-7770
mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office/
- House Speaker Robert DeLeo
617-722-2500
Robert.DeLeo@mahouse.gov
- Senate President Stanley Rosenberg
617-722-1500
Stan.Rosenberg@masenate.gov
- Senator Ed Markey
202-224-2742 or 508-677-0523
markey.senate.gov/contact
- Senator Elizabeth Warren
202-224-4543 or 617-565-3170
warren.senate.gov/EmailElizabeth/
- Congressman Joseph Kennedy
202-225-5931 or 508-431-1110
kennedy.house.gov/contact/email-me

NOAA's Coastal Resilience Grants program helps coastal communities protect themselves from coastal storms. The National Coastal Zone Management Program is a federal-state partnership that helps states address such overarching issues as ocean planning, planning for energy facilities and development, and climate change. These and other programs are at risk of being drastically reduced or eliminated, putting the Bay and our local environment at a disadvantage for our residents, tourists, and businesses.

Rhode Island and Massachusetts Sea Grant Programs: With federal support from NOAA, these programs, among just 33 nationwide, engage scientists, engineers, educators, students, and experts in the study of threats to the coast, sustainable coastal development and seafood safety. They have helped fisheries adopt sustainable harvesting techniques, trained professionals in seafood processing hazards, and helped communities with legal questions, among other things. Elimination of the Sea Grant program, as proposed in the president and NOAA's initial budget, would mean a loss of incomparable expertise and knowledge about the science of Narragansett Bay.



NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and Marine Mammal programs help protect, manage and regulate the living marine resources and habitats in our waters. A loss of these programs could severely hamper fisheries management capacity and impact thousands of jobs in the commercial and recreational seafood and fishing industry in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

NOAA's Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant programs are vital to Rhode Island's and Massachusetts' response efforts to the stranding or distress of seals, dolphins, whales, sea turtles, and other marine life throughout the year. A proposed elimination of the Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant programs would mean the loss of data

and research on species in our waters and understanding of the connections between marine mammal health, water quality and the condition of our ecosystem.

Environmental Education is a fundamental component of Save The Bay's environmental advocacy goals, and we educate more than 15,000 K-12 students every year in marine science and environmental education. Many of the schools and school districts with which we work are able to enjoy our programs thanks to federal grants that support environmental education and Bay-watershed education. Changes in priorities and funding at both the EPA and NOAA could mean the loss of hands-on, experiential environmental education programs that improve student and teacher understanding of the environment and the importance of protecting our valuable ecological resources.

Your Pocketbook: If the historic federal support of environmental programs falls entirely to state and local governments, states will have to look for new sources of funding, such as higher taxes, fees for service, reduction in staff and programs, or reduction or elimination of services. In Rhode Island, a third of DEM's budget comes from federal funding. The DEM is already understaffed and underfunded, so what effect will losing one-third of its budget have on its already limited ability to enforce environmental law? The state receives funds from the EPA for investments in wastewater treatment, millions of dollars in funding under the Clean Water Act, and federal support for our coastal and wetland programs that help protect Narragansett Bay and our coastline. How will our state government make that up? ■



TOP: More than 15,000 K-12 students enjoy marine science programs with Save The Bay, thanks in part to federal grants for environmental education. ABOVE: NOAA's Coastal Resilience Grants, which help communities protect themselves from coastal storms and flooding, are at risk.

RESTORATION

Return of the Kickemuit

FROM DEFUNCT WATER SUPPLY TO HEALTHY HABITAT?



BY RACHEL CALABRO,
RIVERKEEPER



Once a clean drinking water supply for residents in Bristol and Warren, the eight-mile Kickemuit River has recently been plagued by water pollution that has rendered its water unsafe to drink and its habitat severely degraded. Today, Save The Bay is embarking on a project with local partners to restore Kickemuit water to its former glory. However, waning federal support for local environmental programs threatens the viability of the effort.

The Kickemuit River watershed covers parts of the towns of Rehoboth and Swansea, Massachusetts, and Warren and Bristol, Rhode Island. Originating in Rehoboth, the freshwater river flows into the Warren Reservoir in Swansea, then under interstate 195 and Route 6 to the Massachusetts-Rhode Island border, where it empties into the Upper and Lower Kickemuit reservoirs. The dam at the southern end of the Kickemuit Reservoir marks the boundary between freshwater and saltwater Kickemuit.

Use of the river as a water supply began in 1882, when clean water was delivered directly from the river to 6,000 residents through 14 miles of cast iron pipes. By 1908, bacteria was discovered to be the source of cholera and other waterborne illnesses, and the Warren Water Treatment Plant was created to treat Kickemuit water with chlorine. Over the next several decades, growing problems with water quality and inadequate water supply went unaddressed until 1986, when the Rhode Island Legislature formed the Bristol

County Water Authority (BCWA). BCWA was charged with rehabilitating and upgrading the water distribution system and eventually building a connection to the Providence Water supply system, which would provide a sufficient supply of quality water to the residents of Bristol County, while bypassing Kickemuit sources altogether.

The BCWA has maintained the old system as a backup while taking water from Providence, but water quality and habitat in the Kickemuit have deteriorated to the degree that it will no longer provide potable water. Both the Shad Factory Pond on the Palmer River and the Kickemuit Reservoir have filled in with sediment, while invasive plants and algae have also become concerns. The dams that keep this system intact are aging.

Over the years, Save The Bay has worked with local, state and federal partners to build fish ladders on both dams, in an effort to support the return of migratory fish such as shad and herring. But when the fish make their way into the reservoirs, they find ponds with poor water quality and little spawning habitat. Save The Bay is now working with the BCWA to assess both the Shad Factory and Kickemuit Reservoir dams for potential removal, while the water authority pursues a new backup source of water.

On the Shad Factory Reservoir, we are in our second year of a habitat assessment with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. We discovered a new infestation

of Asian water chestnut, an invasive plant that can rapidly take over and cover the pond surface, as well as large amounts of invasive fan wort and other aquatic plants.

On the Kickemuit Reservoir, we are providing technical assistance to the BCWA and its consultants on a flooding and sediment quality study. The lower Kickemuit dam is located in a flood zone, and at extreme high tides, water from the lower Kickemuit River flows upstream through the dam and into the pond. Sea level rise projections show that this dam will become flooded and that salt marsh will start to form along the edges of the reservoir. If the dams are removed, it would be possible to expand the natural flood plain and reduce local road flooding, while allowing new salt marsh to establish.

Save The Bay's habitat restoration work is almost always done in robust partnerships with other state and local agencies and organizations, and with grant support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others. Without this grant funding, organizations, cities and towns will find it very difficult to fund these kinds of water quality and habitat improvements. As it is, ensuring funding for local watershed restoration is difficult, in part because Rhode Island is a small state with smaller scale projects than other parts of the country. You can do your part by supporting the congressional delegations of Rhode Island and Massachusetts in their fight to defend the Clean Water Act and the funding programs on which the Narragansett Bay and its watershed depend. ■



TOP: Algae on the Kickemuit reservoir impairs habitat and water quality. ABOVE: Salt water flows into the Kickemuit Reservoir at high tide.

ADVOCACY

Constitutional Guarantee: A Bay for All



BY KENDRA BEAVER, STAFF ATTORNEY,
MIKE JARBEAU, BAYKEEPER, AND DAVID
PRESCOTT, SOUTH COUNTY COASTKEEPER

“Save The Bay” has become synonymous with improving the quality of our beautiful waters, but you may not realize that we’re also working to ensure that your constitutional right to use the shoreline is upheld. Article 1, Section 17 of the Rhode Island Constitution states, “the people shall continue to enjoy and freely exercise all the rights of fishery and the privileges of the shore, to which they have been heretofore entitled under the charter... of this state.”

Our vision is a “fully swimmable, fishable, healthy Narragansett Bay, accessible to everyone.” Since Save The Bay’s inception in 1970, we have been dedicated to preserving and creating lateral access along the shoreline, while fostering a sense of ownership and stewardship for those who use the Bay.

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) has designated 222 “public rights-of-way” that guarantee public access to our shoreline. CRMC also now has an active program aimed at designating more rights-of-way, bringing the total number of state-designated public access points to our shoreline to 420, or one access point per mile of shoreline.

In collaboration with CRMC and a cohort of other partners and volunteers, Save The Bay recently completed an important project that “ground-truthed” the existing 222 rights-of-way—physically visiting and observing these sites for true accessibility and any obstructions preventing access. We also combined and corrected existing geographic information mapping of the designated rights-of-way.

Our preliminary report includes the following findings:

- Almost half of the access points are in need of maintenance.
- More than one-third of the access points are at least partly obstructed to foot traffic. Vegetation overgrowth and property encroachment were the most common obstructions, while purposeful obstruction (placement of boulders, fences, gates, etc.) was observed at nearly 10 percent of the sites.
- Only half of the access points provide parking. Without public parking, most citizens are unable to use these rights-of-way, rendering the access obsolete.
- Litter was observed at more than a third of the rights-of-way. Only 32 access points had trash receptacles, while 11 had recycling receptacles.
- Coastal flooding, coastal erosion and stormwater erosion were observed at about one-third of the access points, highlighting the continued threat to the existence of many of these rights-of-way from climate change and sea level rise.

In the next phase of this project, we’ll be reaching out to individuals and communities to address obstructions, asking them to remove barriers to access, create parking or bike racks and supply trash and recycling receptacles.

About 133 miles of Narragansett Bay’s 420-mile shoreline is lined with riprap walls, bulkheads and other manmade structures. These hardened shorelines, combined with rising sea levels and erosion, will only continue to threaten and impede public access. To fully realize our vision for a fully swimmable, fishable, healthy Narragansett Bay, “accessible to all,” we must protect existing rights-of-way and work cooperatively with CRMC and our communities to establish additional rights-of-way, so the waters of Rhode Island may be readily enjoyed by the public as protected by the Rhode Island Constitution. ■



ABOVE: Community members harvesting seafood at the Sabin Point shoreline. OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Homeowner-installed sign at a Misquamicut public access point; snow fences installed by homeowner in Narragansett (courtesy: CRMC); and a new sign at the Ocean Avenue seawall in Cranston.

A Lesson from Misquamicut: No One Knows Who Owns the Beach



In a case that began in 2014, the Rhode Island Attorney General filed a lawsuit against several homeowners who had erected fences limiting public access along a two-and-a-half mile stretch of beach, from Misquamicut State Beach to Weekapaug Breachway, along Atlantic Avenue. The state argued that the public has used the beach for over half a century and that the public’s right to access the beach was supported by a recorded 1909 plat map and agreement.

Along with Rhode Island Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, Clean Ocean Access and Friends of the Waterfront, we filed a brief in support of the Attorney General’s position. Although we were ultimately unsuccessful in convincing the Supreme Court that the undivided stretch of beach was dedicated to the public in 1909, the Court made no specific finding about the ownership of the beach. Future cases will have to address ownership of the beach in front of lots whose property lines have specific dimensions that undisputedly do not extend to the mean high water mark.

Access to Rhode Island beaches is specifically protected by the Rhode Island Constitution, which gives the public the right to conduct activities on the shore, above mean high tide. The 1986 Constitutional Convention records are very clear—the public has a broader right above the mean high tide line in certain cases. Save The Bay applauds Attorney General Peter Kilmartin’s commitment to public access and defense of the public’s right to use and enjoy the beach in this case.

Snow Fences Blocking Public Access Removed in Narragansett

Three property owners in Narragansett, abutting Wheeler Beach, installed snow fences that served to block public access to the shoreline. After the violations were discovered, one property owner removed the fencing, two others left the illegal fences in place, and all three applied to the CRMC for a special exception to the regulations so they could leave the fences in place.

Save The Bay objected to the applications and testified at a public hearing on two points. First, the snow fences are in blatant violation of the state’s coastal resources management plan to “preserve the qualities of, and public access to, those beaches which are an important recreational resource...” and “to protect the scenic and ecologic value of beaches.” Second, the CRMC should not even consider an application, including these, when a violation already exists on a property. Rather, the violator should be required to remove the violation, restore the site, and pay a penalty before submitting an application. Allowing violations to remain during the application process sends a message that it is better to violate the law and ask forgiveness later than to play by the rules.



Unfortunately, in this case, the majority of the politically-appointed CRMC council members, against its own staff recommendations and Save The Bay’s urging, voted to continue the applications for further hearing. The good news is that as of mid-August, most of the offending fences have been removed. Save The Bay will continue to support CRMC in promoting public access and to advocate for the public right to use our shores.

Preserving Your Right to Fish in Cranston

Over the summer, we became aware of a fast-moving ordinance by the Cranston City Council that would ban fishing from a public access point at the end of Ocean Avenue in Cranston. We worked quickly to gather the relevant facts and met with others opposed to the ordinance, including the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association and the Rhode Island Saltwater Angler’s Association. We asked the CRMC to clarify the city council’s interpretation of public access signs, and urged the DEM to formally confirm its role as the only agency in the state with the power to regulate fishing activities. We also alerted the Rhode Island Attorney General’s office to potential conflicts with the state constitution.



We also met with the Rhode Island Yacht Club and other neighbors to discuss solutions that would address litter, noise and parking concerns. We reached out to city council members to share our concerns and offer Save The Bay’s assistance in maintaining public access. Finally, we testified in opposition to the ordinance at the July 24 Cranston City Council meeting. The council passed an amended version, but Save The Bay urged Mayor Allan Fung to veto the ordinance because it was still unclear. While the Mayor did not veto, his office clarified that it “will enforce the ordinance to allow people to stand on the ocean side of the guardrail to the seawall and on the beach for fishing—but not in the street or on the sidewalk.” In the end, all rights of fishery are maintained at the public access point.

Mystery on the Runnins River



BY RACHEL CALABRO,
RIVERKEEPER

The nine-mile Runnins River, which flows south through Seekonk and East Providence before emptying into Hundred Acre Cove, has suffered from high levels of bacteria for decades. While Hundred Acre Cove remains a popular place for fishing, kayaking and rowing, it has been closed to shellfishing since the 1980s because of that bacteria. An extensive, coordinated effort by Rhode Island and Massachusetts environmental agencies to identify the specific source of contamination has yet to yield a clear answer. Monitoring has revealed that bacteria levels are high in both dry and wet weather, so the culprit is not just polluted stormwater. Pipes have been investigated, septic systems analyzed and potential human markers—chemicals that might be found in human sewage, such as caffeine, chlorine, ammonia and the surfactants that are prevalent in laundry soap -- have been tested. But no obvious answers have been found.



The Runnins River flows through thick strands of phragmites in the "triangle" area of Seekonk. Bacteria in this area has been high for decades.

For Save The Bay, giving up is not an option. This is why our Riverkeeper program recently revived the Runnins River Task Force, a team that includes scientists and federal, state and local agencies that will explore new avenues of investigation.

What we know: The Runnins River is impacted by businesses on Route 6, industrial development and small septic systems. It flows into a low marshy area called the "triangle" just before it hits Route 114, emptying out into Hundred Acre Cove in Barrington. An as-yet-unexplored possibility is that the bacteria may be incubating within the phragmites marsh itself, as stagnant water warms in the vegetation. A dam, owned by the Exxon/Mobil Corporation, contributes to the stagnation of water. In another twist, Mobil has been required for years to pump groundwater out of the system because of a history of contamination. The Task Force will explore the possibility that groundwater pumping may be drawing more bacteria into the river. We will also look at the effects of higher tides and the backwatering from the Mobil Dam.

Funding for this kind of work comes from federal sources, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Southeastern New England Program. Massachusetts and Rhode Island both rely heavily on state and local agencies to enforce important federal environmental laws protecting our local waters. Many of these agencies receive significant federal funding to do so. What happens at the federal level could have significant impacts on our water quality locally.

Water quality testing on the Runnins River, for instance, is made possible by funding that comes from our regional EPA office and goes directly to Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM). If the regional EPA office is eliminated, or if Clean Water Act funding is cut, our ability to retain experts and engineers to help solve some of our long-standing issues in the Bay—such as the mysterious bacteria pollution in the Runnins River—will be severely hampered. It is imperative that Congress push back against proposals to weaken the Clean Water Act and the programs that support local Bay cleanup efforts. At the same time, state political leaders must also step up and invest in environmental agencies that are charged with protecting and improving Narragansett Bay. ■

WHO SAVES THE BAY? STAFF PROFILE

TAKING A STAND FOR NARRAGANSETT BAY

Kendra Beaver has been Save The Bay's staff attorney, and an integral member of our advocacy team, for the past three years. She brings a wealth of experience from DEM, the Airport Corporation and her own private practice.

What do you love about working with Save The Bay? I have always been fully committed to Save The Bay's mission and want to advocate for the preservation and protection of Narragansett Bay. I had reached a point in my life when I wanted my work to have meaning. I love working on policy and being part of the passionate Save The Bay team. The people who work here are the best, and you can't beat the location!

What does your position at Save The Bay entail? I support our advocacy team in reviewing permits, discussing enforcement issues and determining what state and federal regulations we might propose or oppose. We review and comment on relevant state and federal applications and decisions and move forward on those issues that are core to our mission at hearings and in court. We review and draft legislation, and I am part of the team that responds to unexpected issues as they arise, such as the Port of Providence proposal to fill 30 acres of Narragansett Bay last year and the recent Cranston "fishing ban."

What might surprise our readers about what you do here? Hmm, not so much what I do but how I do it. We often work cooperatively with the state's environmental agencies, such as our ongoing efforts with the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) on public access to the shoreline. But we can also be at odds with these same agencies on any number of issues. For example, we think the whole structure of the CRMC should change, that its decisions should not be made by council members who don't have the expertise to second-guess its own professional staff's recommendations.

How has the Bay changed over the years you've been with the organization? The major threats to the Bay have changed. More stringent discharge limits have greatly reduced bacteria and phosphorus loadings to the Bay from wastewater treatment plants, and we are seeing the benefits to water quality from all of that work. On the other hand, climate change was not on the forefront in 2000, and we did not realize the extent of its impacts on our Bay and communities.



BY CINDY M. SABATO,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

What do you think are the most important issues facing the Bay today? Ongoing stormwater pollution is a major threat to our Bay, degrading water quality and contributing to shellfish bed and beach closures. Unless the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) steps up enforcement action, that degradation will continue.

Climate change is another major threat to the Bay. We need to take steps now to protect our coastal ecosystems and public access against sea level rise and to reduce the vulnerability of low-lying infrastructure on public land through removal, relocation, re-grading, re-vegetation, and even retreat in some areas. And the state needs to not issue permits in areas that will be eroded or flooded.

What do you think are Rhode Island's responsibilities concerning the Bay? Our state needs to recognize the importance of our environment, to step up and fund the important work done by DEM and CRMC, and plan to replace existing federal funding that may be cut, rather than be surprised by the cuts and then eliminate programs or further reduce staff. Our state leaders need to look for opportunities to strengthen environmental protection and ensure federal reductions are not reflected in state law. A great recent example is that Governor Raimondo entered into a nine-state (five of which are Republican-led) agreement to extend the Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions targets. We also need to establish a fund that will support the implementation of projects that adapt to vulnerabilities from climate change. If each state does its part, we can reduce the harm that may be caused by the actions of the federal administration.

What is your greatest frustration and/or hope for Narragansett Bay's future? The leaders of our state still view enforcement as anti-business. For over a decade, the budgets of CRMC and DEM have been underfunded; they do not have sufficient staff to discover and pursue violations, and the few violations that are discovered are not adequately penalized. Rhode Island lacks the political will to take strong enforcement actions, but our quality of life and economy is dependent on a healthy Bay and watershed.

What can individuals living in the watershed do to help Narragansett Bay? Speak up and stand up for protecting the environment. Show up at town council meetings and the state house, submit comments on proposed local actions, contact their representatives about funding our agencies, and let our state leaders know that they care about the environment and hold them accountable for their part. Call DEM or CRMC if you suspect violations; keep calling until you get results, and call Save The Bay if it is Bay-related. ■

Restoring Sabin Point



Tucked away in a charming East Providence neighborhood, Sabin Point Park has been a favorite spot on the Bay for generations. In the Facebook group “The Love for Sabin Point Park,” older residents reminisce about crisply-uniformed sailors walking the beach in the summer of 1945, while newcomers recount recent visits and hunts for horseshoe crabs. But despite the panoramic view of the Bay as it washes onto the park’s sandy beach, visitors are confined to the shoreline. The beach hasn’t been swimmable in generations—but Save The Bay is working with the City of East Providence to restore the water quality of the beach so that someday, Sabin Point can become the northernmost swimmable point in Narragansett Bay.

Although water quality at Sabin Point has steadily improved with decades of investment in wastewater treatment in the upper Bay, bacteria levels remain high at the beach. The culprit? A few improperly installed road drainage pipes that carry polluted runoff directly onto the beach.

“I got the story from three separate neighborhood residents, this crazy story, that every time it would rain, the ground would rumble and then a huge plug of stinky water and material would pour out



BY ELIZABETH DROGE-YOUNG, Ph.D.,
COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

of those pipes,” recalls Tom Kutcher, former Save The Bay Baykeeper.

After Save The Bay worked with East Providence city engineers to pull up blueprints for the pipes, roughly two feet in diameter, the cause of the beach bacteria levels and the post-storm rumbles became clear. Instead of being angled downhill toward the beach, the pipes had been pitched back toward the park. At every high tide, Bay water, along with seaweed and waste from geese, washed into the pipes. Making matters worse, the pipes collected polluted runoff from Sabin Point neighborhood streets.

“They were big pipes, so they could hold a lot of seaweed. It was basically a bacteria breeding ground,” Kutcher said. During a big rain, the pipes would fill with enough polluted runoff to push the plug of decomposing material onto the beach.

To assess the effects of the discharge, Save The Bay and the Rhode Island Department of Health partnered to sample the water quality at Sabin Point beach. “We learned that bacteria levels exceeded swimming standards in the vicinity of the pipes, while further away from the pipes, the water met swimming standards,” said Save The Bay Director of Habitat Restoration Wenley Ferguson.

Once the bacterial source was identified, Save The Bay went to work with the City of East Providence to find funding to treat the polluted runoff and to rectify the decades-old engineering flaw. The overarching goal is to treat polluted runoff that drains to the beach and remove the drainage pipes. Save The Bay developed a conceptual stormwater management plan that was used to secure a \$47,000 grant from the Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund for the development of a comprehensive stormwater management plan covering the entire watershed and the design and installation of a shallow basin, called a sand filter, within the park. The sand filter, to be installed in fall 2017, slows and filters runoff from the neighborhood streets and Sabin Point’s parking lot and redirects water away from one of the discharge pipes at the beach.

The City of East Providence and Save The Bay sought and won an additional \$100,000 grant in 2015 for the construction of

additional stormwater infiltration areas in the Sabin Point Park neighborhood to reduce the amount of runoff that makes it to the beach. That grant, awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Southeast New England Program and administered by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, represents important federal funding crucial to the Sabin Point project and many other local environmental and infrastructure initiatives.

East Providence is committed to continuing the partnerships ... toward the goal of returning Sabin Point Park to a swimmable beach.

The grant also included water quality monitoring, which has been taken on by the Department of Health and Brown University researcher David Murray, a Sabin Point Park neighbor. He contacted his neighbor Jeanne Boyle, then-director of planning for the City of East Providence, and what began as a neighborly chat while raking leaves, blossomed into a monitoring plan spearheaded by Murray. “I thought Sabin Point Park could be a nice place to spend time if we moved the storm drain pipes that empty onto the beach,” Murray recalls. “The projects now underway at Sabin Point have the potential to make a tremendous improvement,” he said.

Although Boyle has left her position in East Providence, the partnership forged with the city continues. Ferguson and the city collaborated on a third grant in 2017 for design and construction to “daylight” the runoff in the large pipe that leads to the beach into a series of a infiltration

LEFT: Sabin Point beach goes enjoy the beach but the water is off limits to swimming. ABOVE: Pipes discharge polluted runoff from neighborhood streets directly onto Sabin Point beach. RIGHT: Sea lettuce, a type of seaweed that grows abundantly in waters with high nutrients, accumulates on the beach at Sabin Point.



basins further inland. The long term goal is for the pipes that discharge on the beach to be removed. “The city’s commitment runs deep, from dedicating both staff time and expertise and actual funds to match the state and federal grants” said Ferguson.

“East Providence is committed to continuing the partnerships among state and federal agencies and Save The Bay towards the goal of returning Sabin Point Park to a swimmable beach,” said City of East Providence Acting Planning Director Diane Feather.

The watershed plan is being used as a blueprint to treat and manage stormwater from this urban watershed, and local, state and federal funds are needed to achieve the goal of opening the beach for swimming.

“The massive strides to make Sabin Point Park swimmable shows the commitment of everyone in the state: from voters and municipalities supporting wastewater treatment improvements, to years of stringent permitting efforts by the Department of Environmental Management,” Ferguson says.



Kutcher echoes this sentiment, “It would be a huge victory for Narragansett Bay, and for all partners working really hard to clean up the Bay. This will be an important milestone.”

Sabin Point Park is just one example of how Save The Bay partners with local government to improve Narragansett Bay quality and accessibility. A similar effort is underway at Stillhouse Cove in Cranston, and communities throughout the state are pursuing projects to improve local waters through stormwater management. Thirty years ago, residents described grease balls, mixed with human waste, washing ashore. “Now, the upper Bay is alive with activity from the community boating center at India Point Park, to kayakers paddling along the shoreline and people gathering at WaterFire, where historically the smell of the urban river would have driven people away,” Ferguson says.

All of these successes rely on diverse players, including citizens supporting bond measures to fund water quality improvements, supportive local government agencies to execute plans and provide matching funds, and ongoing federal funding of the EPA and the EPA’s Southeast New England Program—both of which are currently under threat at the federal level, where commitment to environmental protections is waning. ■

Small Fish, Big Impact

AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO PROTECT
“THE MOST IMPORTANT FISH IN THE SEA”

Advocating for the Bay also means advocating for its inhabitants, and one of Narragansett Bay's most important residents is the Atlantic menhaden. In the last issue of *Tides*, we highlighted the critical role menhaden play in the Bay ecosystem. As filter feeders, they convert microscopic plankton into protein for wildlife to consume. By consuming plankton, they help reduce excess nutrients in the water. Fewer nutrients mean fewer algae blooms, fish kills and beach closures. Menhaden also are a food source for fish, lobsters, crabs, wading birds, diving ducks, osprey and seals. For the past several months, Save The Bay has been actively advocating to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) for an eco-system-based approach to managing the menhaden fishery, a move that would enhance Rhode Island's recreational fishing economy and water quality.

Narragansett Bay was once an important spawning ground for menhaden, which were prevalent in New England waters and migrated as far north as Maine. However, increased industrial fishing pressure has significantly depleted the stock. Today, menhaden are concentrated in the Mid-Atlantic, where more than 85 percent of the total catch is harvested by Virginia. Almost all of Virginia's allocation is caught by the Omega Protein Company, which maintains the last “reduction” fishery on the east coast; its catch is ground up and used for animal feed, fertilizer and other commodities. While most states have banned harmful reduction fishing from their waters, Omega Protein continues to monopolize the menhaden resource and limit the fishery's ability to reestablish its natural range.

Meanwhile, in New England, demand for menhaden as bait is increasing with restrictions on other bait species. And the value of menhaden for Rhode Island's recreational fishing sector cannot



BY MIKE JARBEAU,
BAYKEEPER

Island during 2015. More than half of these anglers come from out of state. In short, the more menhaden in our local waters, the better for our fish, our environment and our economy.

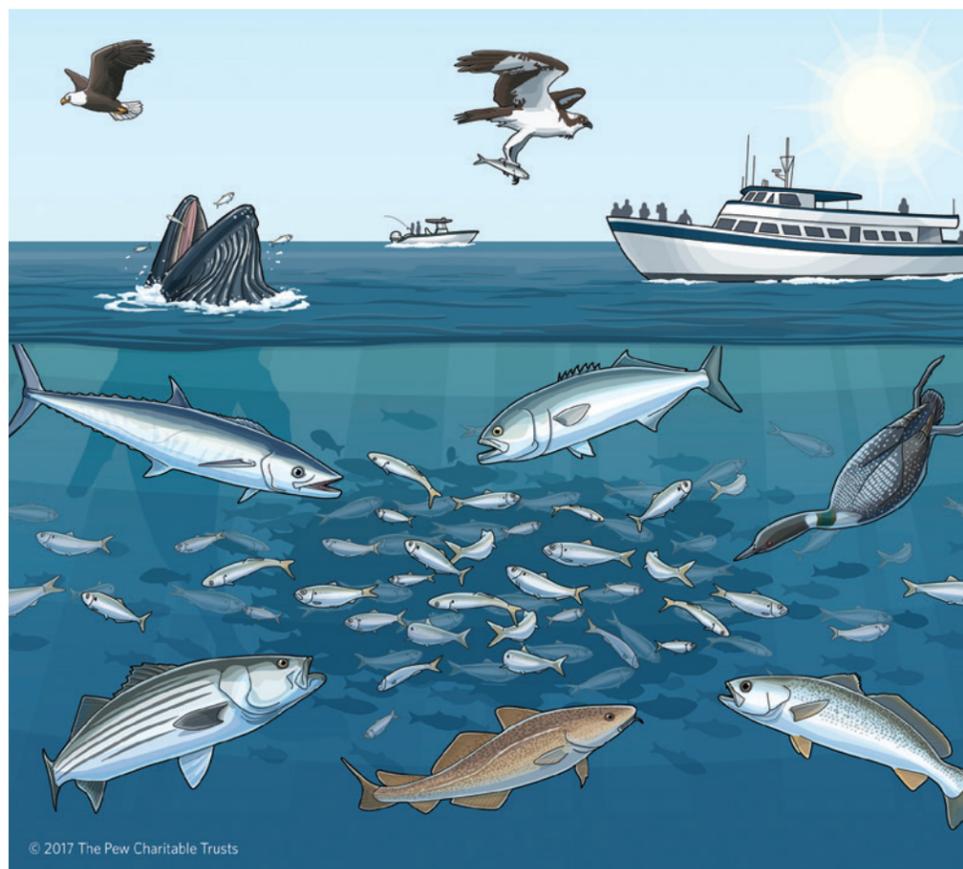


Illustration of menhaden in the ecosystem, courtesy of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

be overstated. Bay fishermen proclaim that when menhaden are prevalent, the striped bass they catch are healthier and more robust. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's most recent data, 300,000 anglers spent more than \$300 million on fishing trips and related expenses in Rhode

The Atlantic menhaden fishery is managed by the ASMFC, an interstate compact of the Atlantic coast states formed in 1942 with the understanding that shared fishery resources could be more effectively managed with states working together. However, menhaden are still managed in a “single species”

context, meaning that their critical role as filter feeders and prey for other species is not taken into account.

Decision Point: The ASMFC will vote in November on an amendment to adopt ecosystem-based management of menhaden, with interim reference points, which takes into account menhaden's value to the entire marine environment, ensuring that enough fish are in the water to feed whales, striped bass and osprey. Save The Bay supports this amendment as a responsible, necessary measure to keep more menhaden in the water for predators and the environment.

We have joined with an interstate coalition of like-minded groups and individuals in support of ecosystem-based reference points. The coalition, which includes the National Wildlife Federation, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, is working to encourage the ASMFC Menhaden Management Board, and specifically Rhode Island's delegation on the board, to do the right thing and vote in favor of interim ecosystem reference points.

A menhaden in the water, filtering excess nutrients and feeding key predator species, has far more value to the public than a ground up menhaden sold as a cheap commodity to benefit a single corporation in Virginia. Catch limits put in place in 2012 resulted in an immediate 25 percent reduction in fishing and a return of menhaden to New England waters in greater and greater numbers. Those numbers will continue to increase if ecosystem measures are adopted.

The time is now to codify the Atlantic menhaden's role as the “most important fish in the sea.” When we see menhaden return to Narragansett Bay in numbers not seen for a century, we will enjoy the ecological and economic benefits they provide and wonder why there was ever a debate. ■

Save The Bay Action Updates

Restoration

- At Charlestown's Ninigret Pond, 136 volunteers gave 591 hours planting 40,000 grasses and shrubs to colonize the newly restored salt marsh, following last year's elevation work with our partner, the Coastal Resources Management Council. Volunteers included Chariho High School students, who grew *Spartina* grasses for the marsh from seed in their classroom. The new plantings have thrived thanks to the wet spring and summer.
- At Middletown's Sachuest Marsh, volunteers from Schneider Electric, Citizens Bank and Liberty Mutual worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge staff planting 8,000 salt marsh grasses following a 2016 elevation project to restore salt marsh sparrow nesting habitat.
- At Shad Factory Pond in Rehoboth, staff and interns removed the invasive water chestnut from the shallow pond, where it was choking out native vegetation and degrading the habitat where river herring spawn.
- Thanks to funding awarded to the City of Cranston by the EPA, a linear stormwater infiltration area will soon be in place to remove bacteria and nutrients from polluted road runoff in Stillhouse Cove's watershed. For the past three years, Save The Bay has been collaborating with the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association and the city to secure funds for the project.

Advocacy

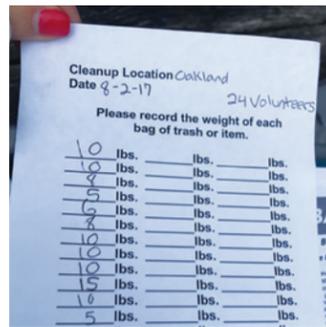
- **R.I. General Assembly:** For the second straight year, Governor Raimondo, at the urging of Save The Bay, proposed a budget with two additional positions for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Once again, the budget passed by the House removed those positions. The General Assembly session “ended” on June 30 with a Senate-House impasse on the state's FY18 budget. In addition, legislation to establish a Coastal Adaptation Trust Fund to help cities and towns protect shorelines and habitats did not pass the Assembly. Save The Bay will take up these initiatives in the 2018 session.
- **Oil Spill:** While out checking weekend activity on the water this summer, Narragansett Baykeeper Mike Jarbeau spotted, reported and helped DEM respond to an oil spill near Stillhouse Cove in Cranston. The source of the spill wasn't clear, but Jarbeau estimates it to have been between 5,000-10,000 square feet. He called DEM's after-hours emergency number, lent DEM use of our boat, and helped deploy oil-absorbent booms and other response materials with DEM until no more oil could be observed on the water. In this case, Save The Bay's physical presence on the Bay directly resulted in the identification and cleanup of an oil spill that may have gone unnoticed otherwise. This was a great example of the value Save The Bay provides as an organization with one primary constituent – Narragansett Bay.

Education

- Thanks to the generous donation of materials from Robert Russell Company of Rehoboth, the fabrication skills of engineer Alex Segala, and a 2,500-gallon tank from New England Aquarium, we installed an enlarged exhibit this summer to showcase our growing snapping turtle, Bowser, at our Exploration Center and Aquarium.
- Save The Bay was awarded a three-year National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration B-WET grant to work with high schools in Providence, Central Falls and Woonsocket. Our Narragansett Bay Field Studies program will connect students from these high schools to their local environment through hands-on, inquiry-based science and provide teachers with professional development in the marine and environmental sciences.
- Students from The UCAP School in Providence participated in our summer learning program exploring the Blackstone River watershed.

Highlights from our Warwick Summer Cleanup Series

This summer, Save The Bay embarked on a pilot program to reduce littering rates at four favorite Warwick beaches. Our Warwick Summer Cleanup Series held cleanups every week, alternating between Oakland Beach, Conimicut Point, Rocky Point and Salter Grove, and engaged in community outreach and anti-littering messages that will continue in the coming year. We're proud to share some of the highlights.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, LEFT: Richard Corrente of Friends of Warwick Ponds was voted best dressed volunteer; this early Citizens Bank team at Rocky Point wound up being the face of the cleanup series, featured on our flyer; cleanup leaders weighed and recorded trash collected at each cleanup; Conimicut Point Village Association was one of the many community groups that volunteered for the cleanup series; local fishermen pitched in at Salter Grove, while Friends of Salter Grove helped organize the cleanups at this site; terrific team from Batchelor, Frechette, McCrory, Michael & Co. on Oakland Beach; Save The Bay intern Jared Resendes marked storm drains near Rocky Point Park with markers saying "Don't Dump - Drains To Bay"; and volunteers picked up hundreds and hundreds of cigarette butts from parking lots.



11 CLEANUPS
383 VOLUNTEERS
2,361 POUNDS OF TRASH



WHO SAVES THE BAY? VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Gaurav Rathore: ONE PERSON REALLY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Gaurav Rathore, of East Greenwich, is a rising sophomore at The Wheeler School. Gaurav started volunteering for Save The Bay this summer and hasn't looked back since. Read his story of how one person really CAN make a difference for Narragansett Bay.

I have always cared about nature and our environment and am concerned about pollution. I have visited beautiful beaches in many places, but seeing litter and garbage has ruined those experiences and made me think twice about the environment. In my eyes, the perfect way to help clean it up was to join Save The Bay.

I contacted Save The Bay's Volunteer and Internship Manager, July Lewis, to talk about volunteering at shoreline cleanups. July's enthusiasm inspired me, and I couldn't wait to help out. I began by doing shoreline cleanups as part of Save The Bay's Warwick Summer Cleanup Series—weekly beach cleanups throughout the summer. At each cleanup, volunteers would meet at a specific Warwick location and spend two hours picking up trash. Leaders would set up the supplies required, help keep volunteers on track and organize the trash bags and pickup in advance. After the first two events, July assigned me a leadership role in those cleanups. As time passed, I became increasingly confident with my role as a volunteer leader, and by the time the Warwick series was over, I had organized volunteers and picked up more than 1,500 pounds of trash.

In the meantime, I picked up another project from July — storm drain marking. My goal was to glue stickers labeled, "Don't Dump. Drains To Bay." next to storm drains on different streets in my town,



as a notice and warning to people not to dump liquids or garbage in or near the drains. Most of the water that goes into storm drains heads directly to a waterway, and then out to Narragansett Bay, without being treated.

I was excited for my new project, since Narragansett Bay is one of Rhode Island's most beautiful and cherished areas, and pollution ruins it. I learned a lot from working with Save The Bay, and raising awareness about storm drains was a big help. I started placing stickers in my neighborhood in East Greenwich, and people often asked me what I was doing. I felt good, seeing their curiosity and raising more awareness about storm drains. After weeks of hard work and adventures, I finally placed more than 150 drain stickers. I was thrilled to have reached that goal, and I was glad I made a difference.

After my summer with Save The Bay, I am planning to create a club at my school that will participate in cleanups and gather more volunteers for Save The Bay — a perfect way for students to get community service hours with their friends. Throughout the year, I'll invite speakers from Save The Bay to give short talks about environmental issues at each meeting. Finally, to wrap up my summer with Save The Bay, I planned and organized a beach cleanup for the International Coastal Cleanup on September 16 at the East Greenwich boat ramp.

The chance to join Save The Bay and become a volunteer leader this summer was amazing, and has given me the opportunity to help clean my community as well as raise awareness about keeping our environment clean. I had hoped to make a difference in my community, and Save The Bay has helped me accomplish that! ■

It's Not Okay to Trash the Bay!

Five easy ways you can make a difference:

TOSS IT IN OR CARRY IT OUT

Use trash cans when provided, but remember: not all sites have them. Bring an empty bag and take your trash home to dispose of it there.



CONTAIN YOUR BUTTS

Cigarette filters are NOT biodegradable. Use a container for your butts so they don't reach waterways and the ocean.



PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that contaminate our waters and seafood. Scoop the poop and throw it out in a trash can. Please DO NOT toss your "loaded" plastic bag on the ground.



REEL IT IN

Abandoned fishing line, nets and hooks can fatally injure and entangle wildlife. Fish responsibly and pack out your gear when you go.



SET AN EXAMPLE

When you go to the beach, take a trash bag with you, and pick up any litter you see. If you see friends and family littering, let them know IT IS NOT OK TO TRASH THE BAY!



Falling for the Bay

CENTRAL FALLS STUDENTS DISCOVER THEIR ROLE IN THE WATERSHED



BY ELIZABETH DROGE-YOUNG, Ph.D.,
COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Local high school students dove into learning about the Bay this June—one of them quite literally. While scanning the beach at Colt State Park for interesting animals to show his classmates, a fully dressed student spotted a horseshoe crab a few yards offshore and enthusiastically pursued it, dry clothing be damned.

The horseshoe crab-hunter was one of the Central Falls High School students participating in a weeklong educational program with Save The Bay, exploring Bay habitats and human influences on its health. The group visited sites from Lonsdale Marsh in Lincoln down to Easton's Beach in Newport, where they observed biodiversity, cleaned up trash and put their linguistic skills to the test in a salt marsh-themed rap battle.

"Our students going out with Save The Bay and actually seeing the concepts they're reading about gives them a tangible piece to understand environmental science," says Laura Stanish, Central Falls High School science teacher and partner in Save The Bay's education program.

Exploration and hands-on learning in the Central Falls High School camp is part

of Save The Bay's overarching education goal of inspiring future stewards of the Bay, says Bridget Kubis Prescott, director of education. "We see education as the cornerstone of our advocacy goals. We're working with future decision makers, giving them real-world experiences to help them understand their own backyard."

The Central Falls High School campers are part of the 600 students who participate in Save The Bay summer programming and the 15,400 students the organization sees through the calendar year. For some of the students, these programs serve as a first introduction to Narragansett Bay, which educators leverage to show each person's connection to the Bay and its health.

Save The Bay works with school administrators and teachers alike to ensure that programming bolsters the school district's educational goals. For Stanish, this means that in addition to the brief summer camp, Save The Bay provides real world experiences during the school year to illustrate concepts she teaches in her environmental sciences courses during the school year.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Central Fall High School students use watershed models to explore their impact on the Bay. LEFT: Students examine a horseshoe crab they caught at Colt State Park

INSIDE THE MINDS OF OUR BAYCAMPERS

During the 2017 Central Falls High School summer camp, students got intimately acquainted with the Bay and its watershed. Near the top of the watershed, the students learned about how pollutants and trash get into the Bay after constructing a city, including wooden blocks representing a pizza place and the hottest new nightclub, and did their part by picking up over 100 pounds of trash at Lonsdale Marsh. They spotted Bay animals on the rocky shore at Colt State Park and nabbed crabs and edible plants in the salt marsh. Down at the mouth of the Bay, the students got up close and personal with local critters at the Exploration Center & Aquarium on Easton's Beach. Time out on the water during a boat trip to Prudence wrapped up the experience.

We checked in with some of our youngest campers, too, about their own BayCamp experience.

Trent DeCosta, grade 6

What was your favorite part of BayCamp? Trawling. I like catching different fish that live down deep in the water. I want to catch a goosefish, thresher shark, eels and crabs.

What was your least favorite part of BayCamp?

The boat ride to the island. I wish it was a shorter ride so I could get there right away to find new animals I haven't found before. Yesterday was my first time catching and seeing an eel.

If you could be any animal in the Bay, what would you be?

A great white shark because I would get to swim around the world.

What do you do to protect the Bay?

I don't litter or pollute it with oil. I don't take all the fish, because it's important to leave them in the bay because, if not, there would be no fish left in the world. Don't take the animals eggs. I saw some yesterday and left them—I think the dad crab was happy I did that.



Callie Camillo, age 6

What was your favorite part of Bay Camp? Playing in the water because I got all wet.

If you could be any animal in the Bay, what would you be? A crab, because some crabs are red, and red is my second favorite color. There could be blue crabs and green crabs.



What do you think about the Bay? The animals in the Bay need to stay healthy. I like the hermit crabs and horseshoe crabs.

What do you do to protect the Bay? I clean up the garbage so animals don't eat it and get sick.

BELOW: Providence After School Alliance Campers in their cardboard boat race.



Kaia Prescott, age 6

What was your favorite part of BayCamp and why? I really like learning about animals and doing the play at the end of the week with my new friends.

What was your least favorite part of Bay-Camp? Nothing really, but if I had to say something it would be that it was hot out.

If you could be any animal in the Bay, what would you be? A blue crab because they are really good swimmers

What do you think of Narragansett Bay? I think the bay is fun and I really like to swim in it, so we need to keep it clean, so I can swim in the Bay.

Matthew Carlson, age 6

What was your favorite part of BayCamp? My favorite part of BayCamp was going on the boat because it was fun and we got to make tin foil boats and float them. Also getting to touch the critters, especially the hermit crabs.

If you could be any animal in the Bay, what would you be? I would be a hermit crab because they are very tiny and cute. I like to sit still and put the hermit crab on my hand. If I'm very still, it will come out of its shell and use my hand as a diving board.

What do you think about the Bay? I think Narragansett Bay is nice.

What do you do to protect the Bay? I pick up trash when I see it so it doesn't go into the Bay and an animal thinks it is food.



DEVELOPMENT

Two Families Rave About Bay Critters



BY JACKIE CARLSON,
MEMBERSHIP AND
INDIVIDUAL GIVING MANAGER

One of the wonderful things about Save The Bay membership is that it brings people from various geographic locations and backgrounds together with a shared passion for Save The Bay and support of our mission "to protect and improve Narragansett Bay." This is especially true for our family members, many of whom love to take advantage of the benefit of free admission to the Exploration Center and Aquarium in Newport.

*"I was blown away the first time I visited the Exploration Center."
— Nicole Mineau,
Family Member*



Whether you're a Rhode Island transplant from San Diego, like member Colleen Sybor, or you grew up in southeastern Massachusetts, like member Nicole Mineau, the Exploration Center is an exciting, year-round educational adventure that never gets old.

Nicole Mineau became a family member of Save The Bay in January 2016 with her husband, Michael, while visiting the Exploration Center. "I was blown away the first time I visited the Exploration Center," she said, impressed by the various species of critters, always finding something new during their visits two or three times each month, and loving so many activities for visitors of all ages. She specifically enjoys how the aquarium educators cater demonstrations to the audience, remembering the time when her son was the only one there and the educator was able to do a private lesson with him.

"My three-year-old is already learning important lessons about keeping the Bay clean," Nicole said. In addition to visiting the Exploration Center with friends, many of whom are also Save The Bay members, Nicole, Michael and their two children enjoy going to the beach and hiking at Sachuest Point. Narragansett Bay has always held a special place in Nicole's heart, as her father went to the University of Rhode Island and was an oceanographer and she also attended the University of Rhode Island. "We will definitely continue to renew our membership and visit the Exploration Center as it keeps improving and evolving," Nicole said.

Unlike Nicole, who grew up in the Narragansett Bay watershed, Colleen Sybor grew up in San Diego and now lives in Newport with her husband, Micah, and their three children. But like Nicole, Colleen and her family became family members in February 2015 while visiting the Exploration Center and finding it "filled to the brim with excellent educational and fun opportunities for children," Colleen said.

Colleen shares Nicole's sentiment that the activities are applicable to diverse age groups and says she loves how Save The Bay brings the Bay to the children, teaching them to appreciate the animals while learning about them. "Every time we go to Save The Bay, my children's faces light up when they get to touch a sea animal, they love it."

The Sybor children, who visit the aquarium every week during the school year and monthly over the summer, never get tired of touching the spider crabs and dogfish, and Colleen says she appreciates the aquarium staff answering all the questions her kids throw at them.

"The Bay is so important to our family because we love to play on the beaches, swim in the ocean and explore. I love that my children are learning how to help conserve and keep the beaches and Bay clean," Colleen said.

Here at Save The Bay, we are so appreciative of all our members, and we are especially thankful for the opportunity to interact with our youngest members and help educate them, as they are the future generation of Bay stewards!



*"Every time we go to Save The Bay, my children's faces light up. When they get to touch a sea animal, they love it."
— Colleen Sybor,
Family Member*



THANK YOU!

Family Membership Days at the Exploration Center and Aquarium are generously sponsored by Corvias.



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SAVE THE DATE

**Artists for the Bay Show & Sale
Opening Reception**

Thursday, November 30, 2017 • 6:00 p.m.
Save The Bay Center, Providence

Westerly Seal Tours

Now through December 31, 2017
Viking Marina, 19 Margin Street, Westerly

**Newport Seal Tours**

November 18 through April 22, 2018
Bowen's Ferry Landing, 18 Market Square,
Newport

Fall River Seal Tours

March 10 & 17, 2018
Borden Light Marina, 1 Ferry Street, Fall River

Annual Meeting & Taste of the Bay

Thursday, June 14, 2018 • 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Save The Bay Center, Providence

42nd Annual Save The Bay Swim

Saturday, August 4, 2018

Connect with Us



Save The Bay is on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Blogger. Follow along, share your stories and pictures, plan a visit and spread the word about the importance of a healthy Narragansett Bay.

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SEAL CRUISES & NATURE TOURS

Newport • Westerly • Fall River

PROOF THAT SUMMER ISN'T THE ONLY TIME TO ENJOY THE BAY



Reservations are recommended • 401-203-7325 • savebay.org/seals

SAVE THE BAY®

NARRAGANSETT BAY

FRIDAYS – SUNDAYS 10 A.M. – 4 P.M. AND SCHOOL VACATIONS



Easton's Beach, Newport • savebay.org/aquarium

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Join Save The Bay today and help us protect Narragansett Bay.



BE PART OF A MOVEMENT, A TRADITION, A COMMUNITY
DEDICATED TO PROTECTING AND IMPROVING NARRAGANSETT BAY.
TOGETHER, WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE:

- Serve as the VOICE of the Bay.
- ADVOCATE for clean water and a healthy environment.
- INSPIRE the next generation of Bay stewards.
- RESTORE rivers and coastal wetlands.
- LEAD the fight to protect Rhode Island's most valuable natural resource.

As a Save The Bay member, you enjoy: member rates on exciting public programming, invitations to special events, monthly member e-newsletter, biannual *Tides* magazine, discounts at local merchants, and more.

JOIN TODAY! savebay.org/membership