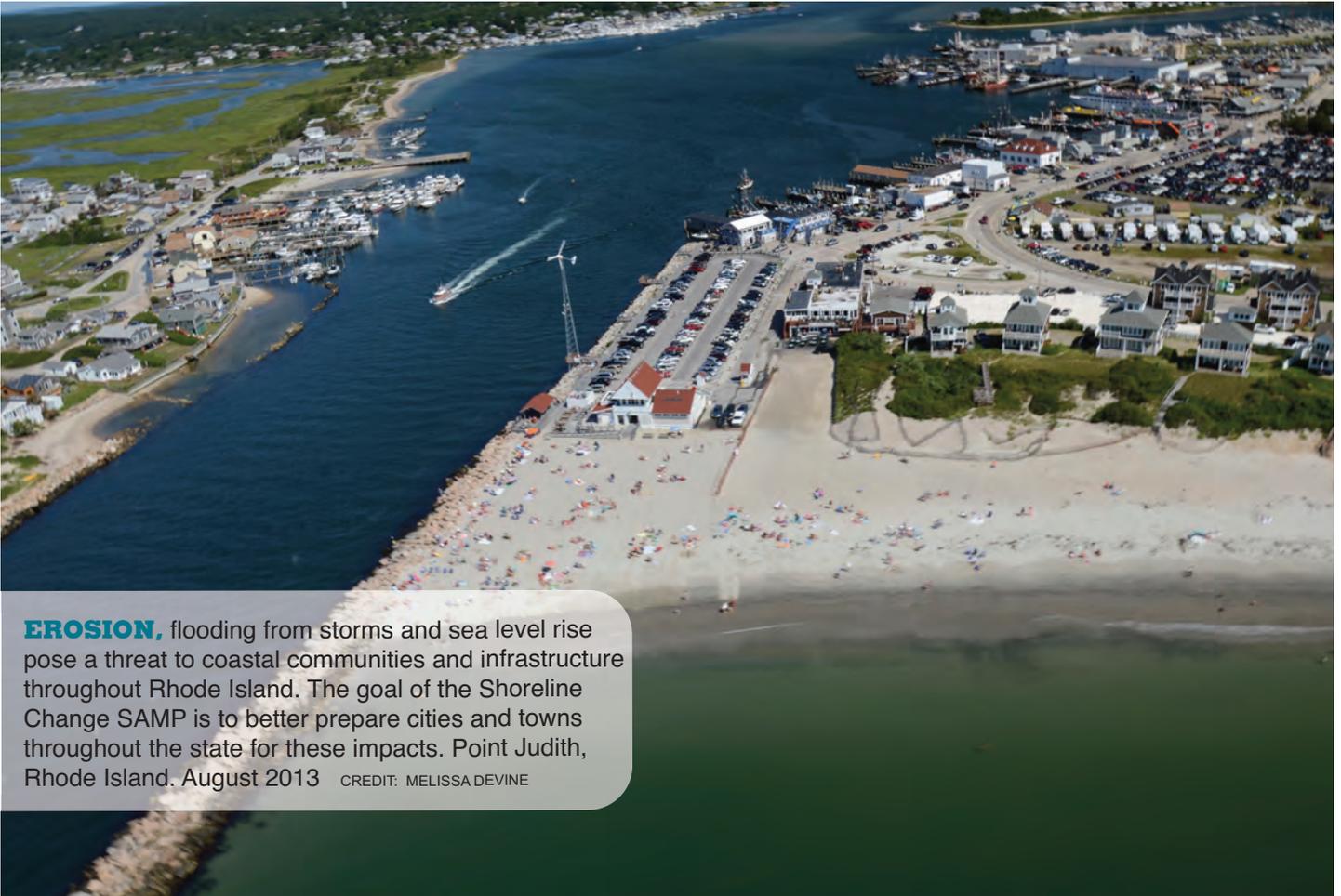


# The Rhode Island Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan (Beach SAMP)



**EROSION**, flooding from storms and sea level rise pose a threat to coastal communities and infrastructure throughout Rhode Island. The goal of the Shoreline Change SAMP is to better prepare cities and towns throughout the state for these impacts. Point Judith, Rhode Island. August 2013 CREDIT: MELISSA DEVINE

Shorelines are constantly changing, and Rhode Island coastal communities are increasingly experiencing the impacts. Storm waves can erode beaches and flood developed areas, while rising sea levels subsume land. Communities are asking how they can protect people and property, as well as vital infrastructure such as drinking water supplies, utilities, and roadways.

Rhode Island is preparing a plan to address these problems, which are threatening communities in many areas along the state's coast. The Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan (Beach SAMP) is being designed to improve coastal resiliency through the collection of new data and the development of effective policies.

## PLANNING FOR AREAS FACING SHORELINE CHANGE

Rhode Island has long had policies to help communities minimize the effects of storm damage and erosion and has recently adopted the state's first sea level rise policy. For instance, the state purchased coastal land where properties were destroyed by the hurricanes in 1938 and 1954 to prevent redevelopment of vulnerable areas, and prohibited development of barrier beaches. As the sea level rises, and erosion and flooding worsen with increasing storm frequency and intensity, new measures are needed. The Beach SAMP is working to identify where and how the shoreline is changing and what is at risk from these changes, and will develop new—and improve existing—state coastal policies. The project will also provide practical guidance for communities adapting to short-term and long-term shoreline change.

The Beach SAMP is a collaborative effort between the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)—the state's coastal regulatory agency—the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant, and the URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences (CELS).

## SCIENCE + PUBLIC PROCESS = POLICY

The Beach SAMP is bringing university research together with input and expertise from state, federal, municipal, academic, civic, and private sector interests. This project involves:

- + Gathering and analyzing data. URI researchers are investigating how the coast has changed, what it may look like in the future, and what infrastructure is at risk.
- + Policymaking through a public process. URI outreach and policy specialists are bringing the scientific findings to state and local decision-makers, sharing it with the public, and encouraging as many community members as possible to take part in shaping solutions so they make sense for Rhode Island.

## LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

The Beach SAMP project is seeking public input to help craft a plan that addresses the problems facing communities around the state. Join us by:

**PARTICIPATING** in stakeholder meetings or public events

**STAYING INFORMED** via the [www.beachsamp.org](http://www.beachsamp.org) or listserv

**CONTACTING** Beach SAMP team at [beachSAMP@etal.uri.edu](mailto:beachSAMP@etal.uri.edu)

## CONTACT

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