



Watershed Counts Agenda

January 29, 2014 – 10 a.m.

Fall River Heritage State Park

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Overview (Tom Borden and Nicole Rohr)
2. Overview of State Beach Monitoring Programs
Federal BEACH Act Grants Program - Caitlyn Whittle, USEPA Region 1
Rhode Island Program - Amie Parris, RI Department of Health
Massachusetts Program - Mike Celona, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
3. Rough Outline of Beach Spotlight Issue

Importance of Beaches

- Recreation
- Tourism
- Habitat - terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
- Beaches and Dunes as Buffers
- Implications of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise (overview of Beach SAMP)
- Update the 2012 fact sheet prepared by Marisa Mazzotta, James Latimer, and Mikalai
Zhukavets:http://www.watershedcounts.org/documents/RI_Beaches_Fact_Sheet_051412.pdf
- Update Judith Swift's 2013 Op-ed - *Investing in Quality Beaches*
http://www.630wpro.com/common/page.php?feed=2&pt=OP-ED%3A+Scrubbed+Budgets+Mean+Dirty+Beaches&id=19323&is_corp=0

Saltwater Beaches

- Map of Beaches in Rhode Island and Massachusetts
- Overview of State Water Quality Monitoring Programs
- Trends
- Improvements - case study
- Threats – case study
- Capital Improvement Summary
(information on investments of existing or proposed improvements to various sites - Scarborough Beach, Easton's Beach, Greenwich Bay beaches, Bristol Town Beach and Warren Town Beach)
- Urban Beach Initiative
- Floatables Data from beach Clean up
- Discussion of seaweed issues:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/czm/publications/seaweed-guidance.pdf>

- Summary of NRDC Report
 - RI - ranked 14th of 30 states in Beachwater Quality – 5% exceedance
 - MA - ranked 9th of 30 states in Beachwater Quality – 4% exceedance
- <http://www.nrdc.org/water/oceans/ttw/executive-summary.asp>

Freshwater Beaches

- Map of Beaches in Rhode Island and Massachusetts
- Overview of State Water Quality Monitoring Programs
- Trends
- Improvements - case study
- Threats – case study
- Capital Improvement Summary

4. Assignments and Next Steps

- Subcommittee Assignments
- **Watershed Overview**
- **Marine Water Quality**
- **Fresh Water Quality**
- **Bay, Ocean and Freshwater Beaches**