

Protecting Coastal Wetlands in Your Community in Consideration of Sea Level Rise

Held on Tuesday, October 28, 2014
RWU School of Law, Bristol, RI

OR

Thursday, October 30, 2014
RI Coastal Institute, Narragansett, RI

3 AICP CM credits offered

Our coastal wetlands are some of the most productive ecosystems on Earth. They are extremely important for wildlife, contributing greatly to Rhode Island's valuable commercial and recreational fisheries, they purify water, and they help reduce storm damage to our valuable coastal areas by absorbing high wind and wave energy. Unfortunately, our coastal wetlands are very susceptible to impacts from climate change, particularly sea level rise. Projections show that RI could lose one-half of its existing coastal wetlands with 3 feet of sea level rise.

These workshops presented the results of a project investigating the potential impacts to our coastal wetlands resulting from climate change-induced sea level rise and the landward migration possibilities of these wetlands in RI's coastal communities. Participants heard from experts about **how to access and use new maps** showing upland areas in their communities that may provide the best opportunity for wetland migration and **how to incorporate the new information and tools into their community's plans and initiatives** while **aligning them with state efforts**. Attendees also learned about **specific adaptation strategies** that can be used to help protect and restore our coastal wetlands into the future.

These workshops were cosponsored by the RI Coastal Resources Management Council, RI Sea Grant/URI Coastal Resources Center, The Nature Conservancy, Save The Bay, and the Roger Williams University Marine Affairs Institute.