

RIEMC Prioritization of Monitoring Programs and Related Actions Outlined in its January 2005 Report

Table 1. Maintain and Enhance Existing Monitoring Programs (17 activities)

	Monitoring Program/Activity	Program Status	Federal Mandates	Specified in the RI Water Monitoring Strategy	Cost Estimate (Year 1 or FY2006)	Notes/Comments
1	Bathing Beach Monitoring Program – coastal & freshwater beaches (lakes)	Existing	CWA; BEACH Act	Yes	\$217,000	
2	Shellfish Growing Area Monitoring	Existing	FDA; CWA	Yes	\$285,000	
3	Fixed-Site Monitoring – Maintain existing network (13-14 stations- Narragansett Bay) –time-series data	Existing	CWA	Yes	\$430,000	
4	Rapid dissolved oxygen surveys in upper Bay- monthly in summer	Existing		Yes	\$ 88,000	
5	Providence & Seekonk Rivers –pathogens – fixed-stations	Existing	CWA	Yes	\$37,000	
6	Bay & Tributary Nutrient Monitoring (Providence & Seekonk, five tribs to upper Bay)	Refinement of prior program		Yes	\$45,000	
7	Pathogen monitoring in rivers subject to CSO discharges	Existing	CWA	Yes	\$60,000	
8	Volunteer-based monitoring coordinated by Watershed Watch (lakes, streams, coastal)	Existing	CWA	Yes	\$210,000	
9	Marine fisheries surveys: Finfish, juvenile finfish, shellfish, lobsters, horseshoe crabs, ichthyoplankton	Existing	Required to support regional fisheries mgt.	Yes	\$1,408,000	
10	Bioinvasives – rapid surveys – marine waters; Mgt. plan being developed aquatic waters	Existing			\$6,000	
11	PORTS & weather stations – meteorological & physical measurements (currents, tides)	Existing		Yes	\$250,000	
12	Fixed-sites on large rivers – monthly at 8 sites on the Blackstone, Pawtuxet, Pawcatuck Rivers	Restoration of long-term monitoring program	CWA	Yes	\$200,000-\$225,000	
13	Institute rotating basin approach for monitoring all other rivers and streams (5 year cycle) – replaces existing fixed-station network for small rivers and streams	Refinement of existing program; requires new funding to fully implement	CWA	Yes	\$350,000	
14	Freshwater fishery surveys: American Shad & River herring; largemouth bass – lakes & rivers	Existing		Yes	\$400,000	
15	Streamflow gage network – maintain existing network	Existing		Yes	\$166,000	
16	Continue implementation of public drinking water monitoring program (Lakes)	Existing	SDWA, CWA	Yes	\$41,000	

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17	Update statewide land use coverage	Existing			\$150,000	
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Table 2. Monitoring Program – New Initiatives (15 activities)

Expand baseline monitoring capacity – as specified in the RI Water Monitoring Strategy

	Monitoring Program/ Activity	Program Status	Federal mandates	Specified in RI Water Monitoring Strategy	Cost Estimate (Year 1 or FY2006)	Need Yes/No	Value Yes/No	Effectiveness Yes/No	Highest Priority (X)	Notes
1	Rotating assessments of coves and embayments – time series & fixed stations	New	CWA	Yes	\$250,000					
2	Monitoring of unassessed lakes (not monitored by volunteers)	Expansion of URI-WW Program	CWA	Yes	\$46,000					
3	Expand the network of stream gages by 5 locations	Expansion of existing network		Yes	\$180,000					
4	Fish tissue contamination in rivers and streams & lakes	New	CWA	Yes	\$200,000					
5	Fish tissue contamination in coastal waters – review existing data and develop specific recommendations	New	CWA	Yes	To be determined					
6	Expansion of beach monitoring in freshwater lakes – (implement risk-based approach)	Expansion of existing program		Yes	\$100,000					
7	Implement monitoring as recommended in plan for aquatic bioinvasives (Plan is being developed; specific strategies to be determined)	New			To be determined					

Supplemental Monitoring Programs Identified in RI EMC Report

	Monitoring Program/ Activity	Enhancements/ New Initiatives	Federal mandate	Specified in RI Water Monitoring Strategy	Cost Estimate (Year 1 or FY2006)	Need Yes/No	Value Yes/No	Effectiveness Yes/No	Highest Priority (X)	Notes
8	Bioinvasives – monitoring program development	Supplemental /RIEMC			\$96,400					

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9	Riparian Buffers – remote sensing	Supplemental/ RIEMC			\$125,250					
10	Benthic Community Structure	Supplemental/ RIEMC			\$33,391					
11	Zooplankton	Supplemental/ RIEMC			\$32,080					
12	Secondary Productivity: quahogs	Supplemental/ RIEMC			\$35,104					
13	Secondary productivity: flounder	Supplemental/ RIEMC			\$24,640					
14	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAVs)	Supplemental/ RIEMC			\$150,000					
15	Macro algae monitoring	Supplemental/ RIEMC			\$36,623					

Table 3. RIEMC Coordination/Strategy Refinements (7 activities)

	Monitoring Program/ Activity	Existing/ New/ Supplemental	Federal mandate	Specified in RI Water Monitoring Strategy	Cost Estimate (Year 1 or FY2006)	Need Yes/No	Value Yes/No	Effectiveness Yes/No	Highest Priority (X)	Notes
1	Additions to the RI Water Monitoring Strategy – wetland bioassessment, sediments & groundwater	Existing & planned	CWA	Yes	To be determined					
2	Disaster response and damage assessment data development	Supplemental / RIEMC			\$11,350					
3	Data management planning	New / DEM	CWA	Yes	\$50,000					
4	Internet access to data & distribution assessment	Supplemental / RIEMC	CWA	Yes	\$53,000					
5	Communications	Supplemental / RIEMC		Yes	\$20,000					
6	RIEMC administration	Supplemental / RIEMC		Yes	\$66,000					

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7	Monitoring grants program	Supplemental / RIEMC			\$125,000					
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