



28 January 2005

Governor J. Joseph Garrahy, Interim Chair
Rhode Island Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team
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Dear Governor Garrahy:

On behalf of the RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative (RIEMC), I am pleased to submit to you and members of the Coordination Team our report for the first six months of work. I am extremely impressed with what the RIEMC has been able to achieve in such a short period of time. The members of the Collaborative and our partners worked diligently to meet the charges in R.I.G.L. Chapters 46-23.2 and 46-31 which established the RIEMC. I am grateful for their commitment to making the RIEMC an effective and productive institution.

We see this report as the beginning of a long and exciting relationship with the Coordination Team and its Advisory Committees. We look forward to working with the Coordination Team over the next few months to discuss, refine, and fine-tune the recommendations we offer here. Given the extremely short timeline we were given to produce this report, we unfortunately did not have the opportunity to deliberate to the degree we must on many aspects of the report; however, adaptive management is an important dimension of our process. The careful review and feedback from the Coordination Team will help us continue to refine Rhode Island's environmental monitoring programs to be as effective as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Peter V. August, Ph.D.
Chair, RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative