

**Rhode Island Environmental Monitoring Collaborative
Monitoring Priorities 2006-2007 ¹**

Who We Are. The Rhode Island Environmental Monitoring Collaborative (RIEMC) was established in the 2004 legislative session as an element of the Rhode Island Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team. The purpose of the RIEMC is to "establish a comprehensive watershed and marine monitoring system that provides consistent and useful data to resource managers, decision-makers and the public concerning the health of the marine environment of the state." The RIEMC consists of representatives from all state agencies involved in environmental monitoring and academic institutions, federal agencies, and non government organizations that collect or use monitoring information.

Why Is This Important? Careful monitoring of the changes in the environmental condition of the Bay, coast, and watersheds of Rhode Island is the only way we know if our management efforts are working and if the environment is getting better or worse. Monitoring is about accountability and determining if our programs are achieving their desired outcomes. The RIEMC is charged with making sure the right kinds of data are being collected; that data be readily available to resource managers; analysis, synthesis, and reporting are performed in a timely and efficient manner; and there is no duplication of effort or data gaps. Without careful monitoring, we do not know if environmental management actions are working as hoped.

How We Work. The RIEMC provides the Coordination Team an annual report and request for funds to improve the monitoring of the state's environment. Our recommendations are developed by the RIEMC and peer reviewed by the Science Advisory Committee of the Coordination Team. The Coordination Team evaluates our recommendations and carries them forward to the Governor and General Assembly.

Highest Priority Monitoring Needs. The highest priority monitoring needs for 2006-2007 are given in the Table below. These needs are the product of two years of careful assessment by the RIEMC, Science Advisory Committee and Coordination Team.

Program and Coordinating Agency	Cost	Priority
<i>Fixed-site monitoring in Narragansett Bay (DEM)</i>	\$239,000	Tier 1
<i>USGS streamflow monitoring (WRB)</i>	\$242,000	Tier 1
<i>Large river monitoring by USGS on a monthly basis (DEM)</i>	\$195,000	Tier 1
<i>Rotating assessments of coastal waters (DEM)</i>	\$250,000	Tier 1
<i>Rotating basin assessments of rivers & streams (DEM)</i>	\$360,000	Tier 1
<i>Database capacity assessment (RIEMC)</i>	\$53,000	Tier 2
<i>Dissolved oxygen surveys (DEM/NBEP)</i>	\$42,500	Tier 2
<i>Fish tissue monitoring - freshwaters only (DEM)</i>	\$105,000	Tier 2
<i>Development of an invasive species monitoring plan (RINHS)</i>	\$150,000	Tier 3
<i>Emergency response data review (RIEMC)</i>	\$11,350	Tier 3
<i>Expansion of beach monitoring -freshwaters (DOH)</i>	\$100,000	Tier 3
<i>Lake & stream monitoring (URI Watershed Watch)</i>	\$80,000	Tier 3
<i>Monitoring development grants program (RIEMC)</i>	\$125,000	Tier 3

¹ For more information see www.ci.uri.edu/projects/ri-monitoring or contact the Chair of the RIEMC Dr. Peter August (pete@edc.uri.edu, 874-6513)