



State of Rhode Island  
**Coastal Resources Management Council**  
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**June 7, 2023**

Michael Baron  
Wildlife Biologist – Compliance Coordinator  
Department of the Interior  
USFWS - Gulf Restoration Office  
341 N. Greeno Road  
Fairhope, AL 36532

RE: Negative Determination for Seabird Bycatch Reduction in Northeast  
U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries, Coast of Rhode Island, Atlantic Ocean  
**CRMC File 2023-04-098**

Dear Mr. Baron,

The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) is in receipt of your Negative Determination filing that was received via email on **April 24, 2023**, that included a sufficiently detailed project description, location and detail figures, and a federal consistency negative determination, pursuant to 15 CFR § 930.35 for the referenced. The proposed activity consists of seabird bycatch reduction pilot studies, stakeholder engagement, and data analysis and modeling conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Gulf Restoration Office and the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group. The project will occur in Rhode Island state waters and federal waters off the coast of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The project is being conducted in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill under the requirements of the Oil Pollution Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

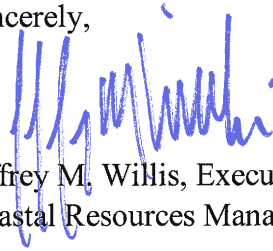
The proposed action is a direct Federal activity subject to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) at 16 U.S.C. § 1456(c) and the CZMA's implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 930 Subpart C. The project area is located in-part within the Rhode Island coastal zone. See [CRMC Federal Consistency Manual](#) at 28. Your Negative Determination states that the project "would not have any coastal effects" and that the pilot project would be small in scale, voluntary, and there would be no associated mandatory actions or policies.

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act § 307(c)(3)(A) (16 U.S.C. § 1456(c)(3)) and the implementing regulations at 15 CFR part 930 subpart C, the CRMC hereby **concurs** with the Negative Determination, as the proposed activities should not have any effect on the coastal resources or coastal uses of the State. Further, the CRMC finds that the proposed activities as

detailed in your filing are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the federally approved RI Coastal Resources Management Program and the enforceable policies therein.

Please contact Bruce Lofgren ([blofgren@crmc.ri.gov](mailto:blofgren@crmc.ri.gov)) should you have any questions regarding this project concurrence.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director  
Coastal Resources Management Council