

**GOVERNANCE OF NON-POINT  
SOURCE INPUTS TO  
NARRAGANSETT BAY: A PLAN FOR  
COORDINATED ACTION; REPORT  
#NBP-88-09, SEPTEMBER 1988**

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Governance of non-point source inputs to Narragansett Bay: a plan for coordinated action;  
Report #NBP-88-09, September 1988 by Jennie C. Myers

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**JENNIE C. MYERS**

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# Current Report

The Narragansett Bay Project

## GOVERNANCE OF NON-POINT SOURCE INPUTS TO NARRAGANSETT BAY:

### A PLAN FOR COORDINATED ACTION

prepared for

**The Narragansett Bay Project**  
R.I. DEM/ U.S. EPA

by

**Jennie C. Myers**

Consultant to John Ehrenfeld & Associates  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mark Murray-Brown, Research Assistant

September 1988

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WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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## FOREWORD

The United States Congress created the National Estuary Program in 1984, citing its concern for the "health and ecological integrity" of the nation's estuaries and estuarine resources. Narragansett Bay was selected for inclusion in the National Estuary Program in 1984 and designated an "estuary of national significance" in 1988. The Narragansett Bay Project (NBP) was established in 1985. Under the joint sponsorship of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the NBP's mandate is to direct a five-year program of research and planning focussed on managing Narragansett Bay and its resources for future generations. The NBP will develop a comprehensive management plan by December, 1990, which will recommend actions to improve and protect the Bay and its natural resources.

The NBP has established the following seven priority issues for Narragansett Bay:

- \* management of fisheries
- \* nutrients and potential for eutrophication
- \* impacts of toxic contaminants
- \* health and abundance of living resources
- \* health risk to consumers of contaminated seafood
- \* land-based impacts on water quality
- \* recreational uses

The NBP is taking an ecosystem approach to address these problems and has funded research that will help to improve our understanding of various aspects of these priority problems. The Project is also working to expand and coordinate existing programs among state agencies, governmental institutions, and academic researchers in order to apply research findings to the practical needs of managing the Bay and improving the environmental quality of its watershed.

This report represents the technical results of an investigation performed for the Narragansett Bay Project. The information in this document has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement #CX812680 to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. It has been subject to the Agency's and the Narragansett Bay Project's peer and administrative review and has been accepted for publication by the Management Committee of the Narragansett Bay Project. The results and conclusions contained herein are those of the author(s), and do not necessarily represent the views or recommendations of the NBP. Final recommendations for management actions will be based upon the results of this and other investigations.



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