



2023

Seagrass Meadows - Forests under the Sea

Seagrass Extent
Narragansett Bay



NARRAGANSETT BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM

Science Update: Seagrass Extent in Narragansett Bay Between 2006-2021.

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

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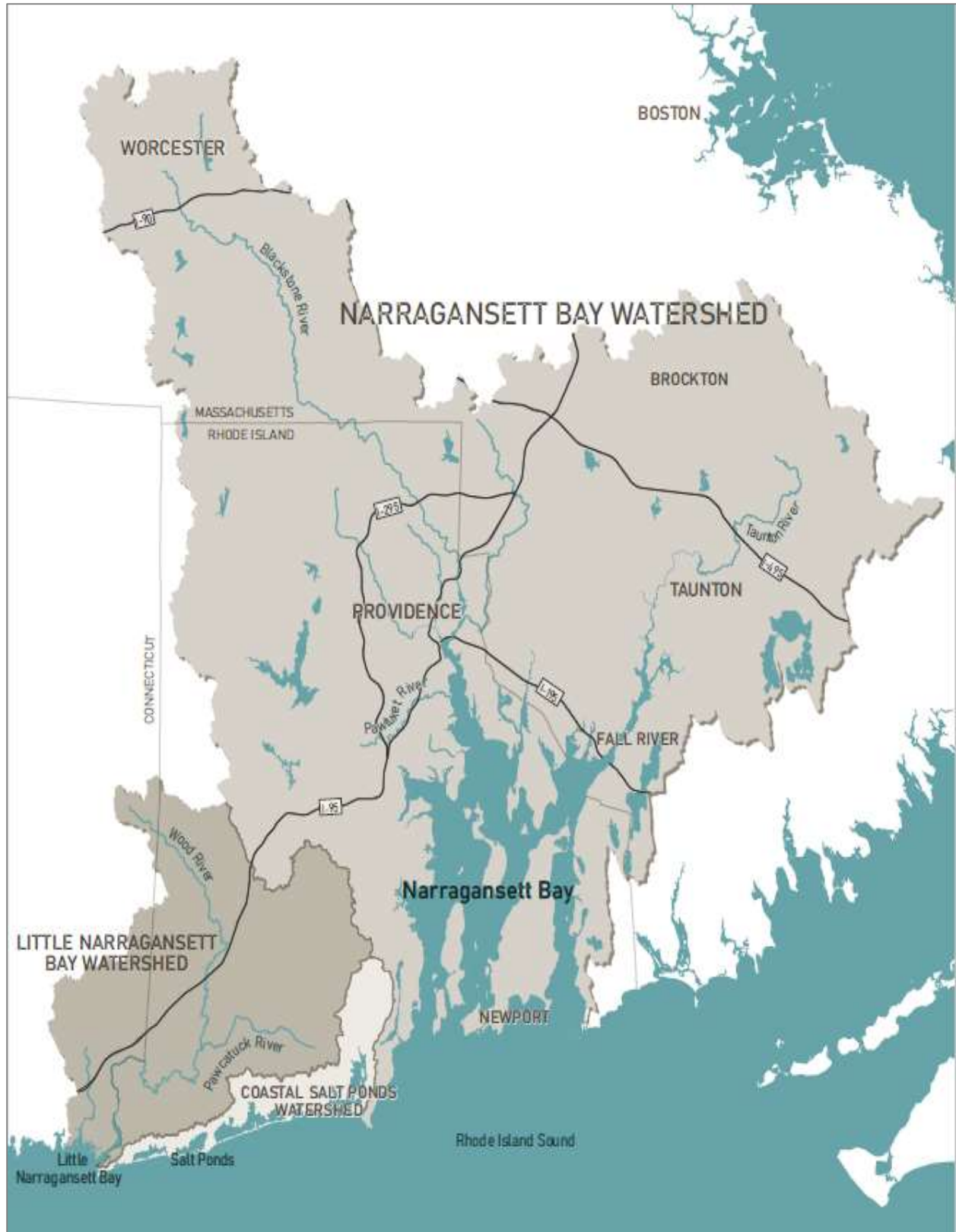
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NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM AND ITS STUDY AREAS

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is part of the National Estuary Program, established in 1987 as an amendment to the federal Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The NBEP uses a voluntary, community-driven approach to enhance the water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, the Coastal Ponds, and their watersheds in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The landscape unites 2 million people across 113 communities in 3 states and hosts many diverse habitats that sustain people, vital ecosystems, wildlife, and critical economies.



Map of Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Study Areas

PURPOSE

This science update presents an analysis of seagrass extent change in the Narragansett Bay Watershed, which is an update of the [2017 State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed](#).

The purpose of these documents is to inform our audience on seagrass acreage change in NBEP's study areas, and to identify areas for further research. NBEP hopes that this update stimulates discussion among our partners and seagrass experts. The audience for this piece is anyone who is interested in seagrass, particularly environmental managers, members of community outreach groups, and the interested public.

METHODS & DATA

The methods used in this report are similar to the [Seagrass Chapter](#) of the *Status of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* (NBEP 2017). The acreage reported in this update stem from Rhode Island Eelgrass Taskforce's Tier 1 aerial photography monitoring in 2006, 2012, 2016, and 2021.

Data and methods are available here: <https://narragansett-bay-estuary-program-nbep.hub.arcgis.com/> and <https://edc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ed8de382fa414c60b82ceaf881232994>