

# The CRC Approach: Sustainable Fisheries



Pam Rubinoff/CRC photo

Artisanal fishing boats crowd the shore in Ghana in West Africa.

## Leading and Innovating at Home and Abroad



COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF OCEANOGRAPHY

The University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center (CRC), based at the Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO), works to develop innovative methods of research, extension and outreach to sustainably manage valuable fisheries resources in Rhode Island, the United States and around the globe. CRC is recognized for taking an integrated approach that considers the entire fishery system—from management of sustainable harvests and early engagement of local stakeholders to added value for the supply chain and end

users. This approach includes improved governance solutions, ecosystem-based management, capacity building and development of collaborative and adaptive management plans. Through its position within GSO and its partnerships with the College of the Environment and Life Sciences and other university entities, CRC is able to call on a wealth of knowledge from world-class researchers to bring the best-available science to its work, applying a learning-by-doing approach that affords rapid responses to changing realities.



Fishing boats line the Galilee harbor in Narragansett, R.I., at the end of the day.

R.I. Sea Grant photo



# CRC's Guiding Principles

Through decades of experience and lessons learned, CRC has developed these guidelines:

- Ground the conception, execution and management of programs on sound science
- Create inherently flexible management plans for adaptation to complex and constantly evolving needs
- Create results-oriented programs, describing how impacts will be measured and monitored
- Conduct monitoring and reporting in a timely manner so that responsive action can be taken
- Involve both harvest and post-harvest segments of the industry in management and decision making
- Promote ecosystem resilience for goods and services that conserve biodiversity
- Promote marketing of sustainably sourced, socially responsible and high quality seafood products
- Where appropriate, help fisheries transition from open-access and combine managed access, alternative livelihoods, collaborative management and rights-based approaches for lasting success
- Promote collaborative management and engagement of all stakeholders
- Promote social responsibility and equity as key objectives, including fair labor practices, fair prices and safe working conditions
- Develop and adopt codes of conduct and best management practices



Raking for clams off Rhode Island.

Regulatory agencies in **Rhode Island** invited CRC to facilitate the first statewide Shellfish Management Plan. By engaging wild harvest and aquaculture industries, environmental organizations and the public, the plan will: build understanding of the economic, environmental and cultural values of the local resources and industries, propose alternative management strategies and

## To Learn More:

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## Some Examples of CRC's Work

new mechanisms for implementation and promote science-based shellfish management decisions by increasing science activities.



In the **Asia-Pacific**, CRC has worked on fisheries management and related marine ecosystem issues for decades. For example, CRC advised the Government of Indonesia on ways to improve fisheries management by building capacity and promoting sustainable use of fish and marine resources. In 2013, Indonesia sent fisheries Ministry representatives to URI for a management leadership program. They studied policy and strategy for building ecosystem-based management plans to serve as a national model.



CRC has helped several **West African** nations prepare collaborative fisheries

management plans, achieve greater decision-making roles for stakeholders and build the capacity of government agencies and local organizations. In The Gambia in 2012, CRC was instrumental in the passage of history-making plans for the sole and oyster fisheries that included exclusive use rights and fishery closure periods. The oyster plan marked the first time in sub-Saharan Africa that such rights had been granted to a women's association.



Raking for clams in Rhode Island; above, harvesting oysters in The Gambia.