

Distribution, Diversity, and Drivers of Human Activities in and around Narragansett Bay

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To explore C-AIM Objective 2.4.2 on how human activity is influenced by the structure and function of coastal resources, an intercept survey of Narragansett Bay users was employed from June-August 2018. Data were collected from 580 users across 19 coastal sites (beaches, public parks, and coastal access points) in Rhode Island to improve understanding of human uses and attitudinal factors related to Narragansett Bay resources.

This study is exploring the distribution and diversity of human activities along the Bay and factors driving patterns of use by asking users how they interacted with a site (i.e. activities, frequency of visits, and travel information), their perceptions of site conditions (i.e. water quality, amenities and features, and connectedness to the site), and personal characteristics (i.e. income, gender, age, and race/ethnicity). Preliminary results indicate that user engagement, site conditions, and user characteristics vary across sites. Data collected from this project will be compared with water quality and ecological indicators to investigate how changes to the coastal environment impact human activities.

These results will provide insight on how people interact with the coastal environment and explore potential inequalities in resource use and access.