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Narragansett Bay Watershed SCP Potter Cove (RI0007029E-03) Portsmouth, RI

Subwatershed Summary

- The subwatershed is located in Portsmouth, RI
- The subwatershed is 175 acres and 2.2% impervious.
- The general land uses within the subwatershed are mixed forest, brushland, pasture, wetland, and beaches.
- The subwatershed is impaired for a non-stormwater-related impairment.
- The subwatershed does not contain any RIDOT roads or any "Other RIDOT roadways"

Site Description

Potter Cove (RI0007029E-03) is located within the Narragansett Bay Watershed. The subwatershed includes the land on Prudence Island immediately surrounding Potter Cove. It is bordered by the East Passage (RI0007029E-01O) subwatershed to the north. The only inland waterbody in this subwatershed is a lagoon separated from Potter Cove by a culvert underneath Harbor Road. The lagoon has a small channel entering from the south via a culvert under Neck Farm Road.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) water quality classification for Potter Cove is Class SA. Class SA waters are designated for shellfish harvesting for direct human consumption, primary and secondary contact recreational activities, and fish and wildlife habitat. The partial designation SA refers to seasonal impacts to shellfish harvesting due to concentration of vessels. According to RIDEM's Clean Water Act (CWA) Integrated List of Waterbodies – Appendix A 2016 Index of Waterbodies and Category Listing,¹ the non-stormwater impairment affecting this waterbody segment is dissolved oxygen. RIDEM has classified Potter Cove as a Category 5 waterbody that is not supporting fish and wildlife habitat. The waterbody is fully supporting primary and secondary contact recreation and shellfish consumption. There is insufficient information regarding use for fish consumption. A TMDL is planned for 2022 for the dissolved oxygen impairment.

According to 2011 land use data obtained from the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS),² the general land uses within the Potter Cove subwatershed are mixed forest, brushland,

¹ RIDEM, March 2018, 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment List – Appendix A 2016 Index of Waterbodies and Category Listing. Available at: <http://dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/surfqwq/pdfs/iwr16.pdf>

² Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Rhode Island Department of Administration, Statewide Planning Program, Photo Science, Inc. www.rigis.org

pasture, wetland, and beaches. RIDEM data indicates subwatershed is approximately 175 acres, 2.2% of which are impervious.

The Potter Cove subwatershed (RI0007029E-03) has less than 10% impervious cover, is impaired for a non-stormwater-related impairment, and does not contain any RIDOT Roadways or "Other RIDOT Roadways"; therefore an SCP is not required for Potter Cove.