

## Ninigret Dredging Progress

What has been commonly called “the Charlestown Dredge Project” is actually the first phase of the “RI South Coast Habitat Restoration Project”. This project began over 10 years ago at a request to remove accumulated sedimentation in the coastal ponds of RI. Funding to simply dredge the ponds was not feasible, however dredging to restore loss eel grass habitat was. Ninigret Pond was chosen in the first phase with the other coastal ponds to follow. Dredging began November of 2004.

One of the biggest misunderstandings of the project was that the navigational channels would be dredged. Unfortunately, this was not the case. The project consists of dredging the sedimentation basin located close to the Breachway and two areas of the sedimentation deltas followed by planting of eel grass. Due to the density of the material being dredged, the contractor was not able to complete the project as originally projected. After negotiations, the project was amended and work on the western portion of the delta was completed this past February.

Due to ongoing sedimentation, the basin area and the newly dredged delta area are already showing signs of filling in. In an ironic twist of fate, it has been determined that it would be helpful to direct the tidal flow away from the newly dredged area by dredging the existing navigational channel. This northern portion of this work has been completed and plans are underway to redredge the sedimentation basin and expand it’s size to the north.

The work is scheduled to be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### *Charlestown Breachway, Charlestown*

<b>Authority:</b>	Section 107 of the River & Harbor Act of 1960, as Amended
<b>Description:</b>	Improvement project to remove boulders and other obstructions from within the inlet between the jetties and in the seaward approaches to the inlet in Block Island Sound to the depth of the surrounding bottom elevation, with disposal of the rock in deeper water offshore to enhance reef habitat.
<b>Status:</b>	Preparation of NEPA document and Plans and Specifications now underway for completion in FY06. Execution of a PCA and construction anticipated for early FY07, depending on funding.
<b>Issues:</b>	District directed to skip feasibility phase and go directly to Plans & Specs due to low cost of proposed improvements. Will need a State sponsor to execute PCA and provide 20% of construction cost (\$60,000 estimated). Project would be better suited for the Corps Section 3 Clearing and Snagging authority rather than Section 107 as this authority would not establish a Federal channel.
<b>06 Appropriations:</b>	\$90,000 in the Conference Report for plans and specifications.

**Current Funding Schedule (Federal costs only): (\$000)**

	<b><u>Thru FY 05</u></b>	<b><u>FY 06</u></b>	<b><u>FY 07</u></b>	<b><u>BTC</u></b>
Feasibility	100.0			
Plans & Specs		90.0		
Construction			300.0	