

Joanna Chatham

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APES 2/3

Mr. Browne

Semester 1 extension project

For my semester one extension project I attended an Ocean SAMP Stakeholder Group meeting. SAMP is an acronym for special area management plan. SAMP is investigating the waterways of Rhode Island because they are trying to install renewable energy sources in Rhode Island's oceans. They are researching all the possible effects the energy sources would have on the area so that they are well informed before a proposal is made to install them. An offshore wind farm is the most likely source of energy to be installed in Rhode Island's waterways. The ocean SAMP team has divided the effects of the wind farms into different sections, and each meeting focuses on a different topic. This meeting's topic was marine transportation, navigation and infrastructure. I learned about several things that need to be taken into consideration when constructing a wind farm, such as the telecommunication cables that are underwater, the marine traffic from naval, recreational and commercial ships, and even the seven unexploded bombs from the 1940s that are still underwater. A wide variety of people attended the meeting; there were commercial fishermen who are concerned about how the turbines will affect their business, recreational boaters, those interested in the construction of the turbines and many others. This meeting relates to the AP environmental science

curriculum because the whole focus of SAMP is to research the interrelationship of the offshore wind farm and the existing natural environment. They are trying to find a way to help our environment by using renewable energy sources without disturbing the human and natural activity of Rhode Island's waterways.