

Scientific Support of Environmental Response (SSEER) Protocol Agreement

In keeping with the terms of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and the URI Coastal Institute MOU, we ask that any member of the SSEER roster engaging in a human-made or natural disaster response please review, sign and date this form.

- Data and photos are not to be released until RIDEM or higher command in the Incident Command System (ICS) gives permission and releases data to scientists.
- SSEER scientists and support staff agree that any photographic images they obtain are available for the free use by RIDEM.
- SSEER scientists and support staff do not speak to or contact the press unless asked to do so by Incident Commander, e.g., Jim Ball, director of RIDEM Office of Emergency Response. This is to ensure the health and safety of the public and maintain the clarity of one consistent message from the response team.
- Anyone engaging in SSEER-approved fieldwork certifies that s/he is 18 and above.
- For your safety and that of others, please do not use alcohol and/or non-prescription drugs while performing SSEER activities.
- SSEER SCUBA divers must be certified.
- SSEER scientists and support staff have all required license(s), certifications or insurance for standard fieldwork.
- SSEER scientists and support staff always place their own safety above the task at hand and accept the onsite direction of first responders.
- The Environmental Data Center is one of two units with university approval for scientific drone use; others are requested not to bring drones into SSEER field work.

I have read this agreement and confirm that this work is undertaken with full knowledge of any risk and with my free consent. I fully understand that during the period covered by this MOU and my work order, I am under the supervision of RIDEM or its commanding agency and within the overall ICS protocols of command. Moreover, I am engaged through SSEER to employ my scientific expertise to assess the environmental impact, damages, and where possible, the exacerbating factors of this human-made or natural event on particular species, habitats, and ecosystem services. I will make every effort to provide a timely and exacting report within the style of a technical report.

Name (signature digital or by hand)

Date

Name & Affiliation (printed)

Judith Swift/Jim Ball
Coastal Institute URI/RIDEM
September 5, 2017