



## Rhode Island / Massachusetts Hydrographic Survey 2022

Ocean Surveys, Inc. (OSI) is anticipating an upcoming nautical charting survey of Rhode Island Sound and the approaches to Newport (see project map) in support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The available bathymetric data in the survey area is almost all over a century old, with the most recent survey conducted in the 1930's. The bathymetric and feature data acquired as part of this project will be used to update National Ocean Service nautical charting products and services.

*This survey project is not related to offshore wind development.*

To complete this project, OSI plans to mobilize three survey vessels in June/July of 2022 (see vessel descriptions). The survey vessels will operate 7 days per week (weather permitting) until data acquisition is complete in August or September of 2022. Two vessels will operate 12 hours per day; one vessel will operate 24 hours per day on multiple 10-day trips. Each vessel will be equipped with 400 kHz multibeam echosounders mounted on fixed pole mounts.

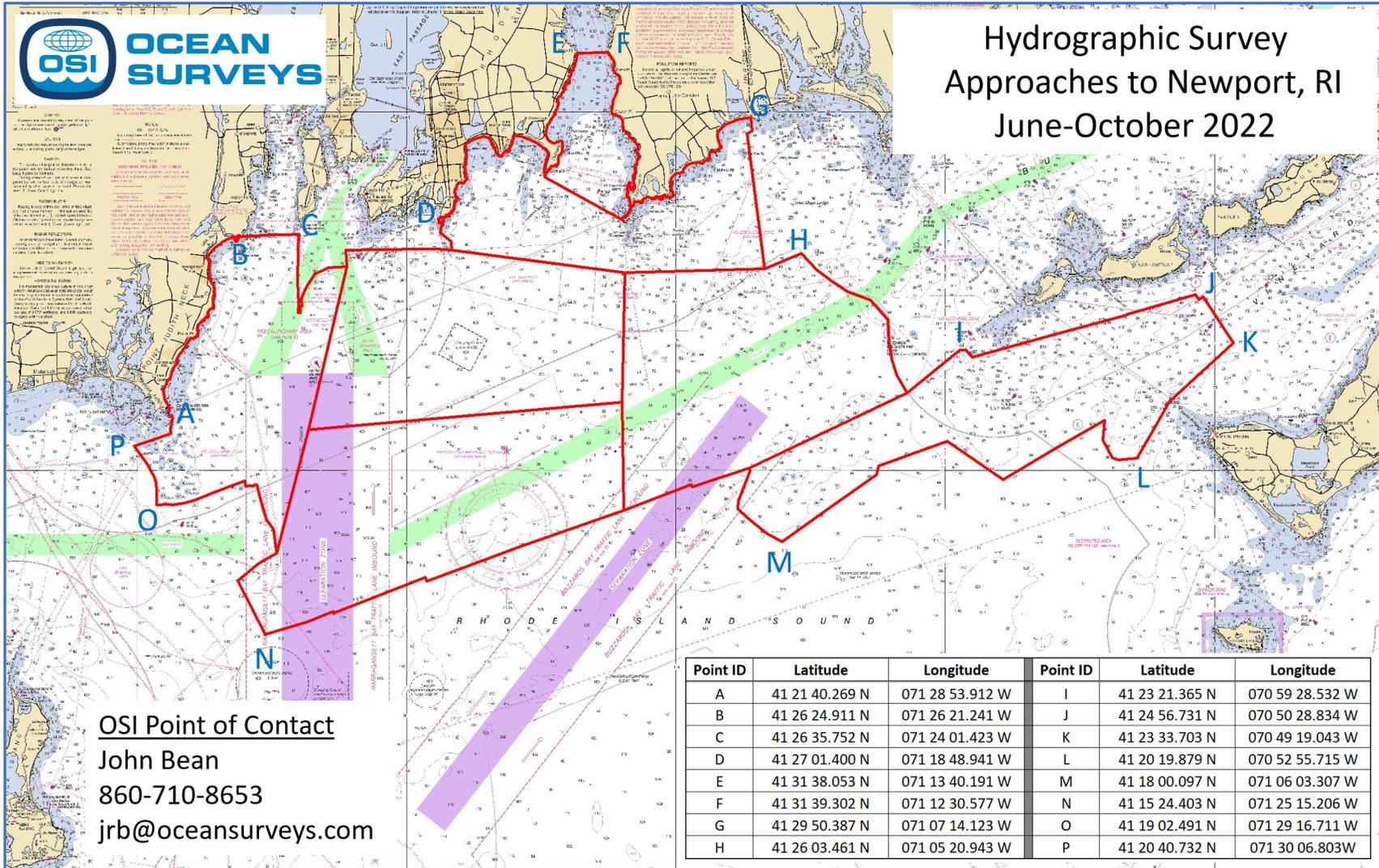
OSI is dedicated to maintaining positive interactions with the local fishing community. The nature of the planned operation carries some risk for gear interactions (particularly fixed gear interactions) as survey vessels are actively moving across the survey area on a closely-spaced set of planned lines. To prevent and/or mitigate negative interactions, OSI will be taking the following steps:

- Submit a Local Notice to Mariners to USCG District 1 outlining the project area, describing each survey vessel and its plan of operations, and containing OSI contact information (completed on 6/3/2022).
- Maintain open and frequent communication with fisheries representatives as the operation proceeds.
- Use feedback from the fisheries community as a guide for what to expect, when and where, with respect to fishing gear/activities.
- During operations, keep a sharp lookout for trap-buoys, high-flyers and fishing vessels and keep a safe distance.
- Monitor VHF channels 13 and 16.
- Be mindful of the impact of current on the presentation of buoys and the direction of warp lines.
- Note or mark the position of buoys and fishing activity for future planning and for managing night-time operations.
- Plan nighttime operations such that survey lines are run in areas without visible fishing gear.

In the event of a gear interaction (e.g. snagging a pot buoy), OSI will:

- Mark the position of the encounter and note the time and operating condition in the acquisition log.
- Obtain identifying information (e.g. buoy color; permit number; vessel name).
- Notify the appropriate fisheries representative in a timely manner.

# PROJECT MAP



## SURVEY VESSELS



*MV Northstar Challenger*

LOA 92 ft.

Call sign: WDG5396

MMSI: 367546220

Official No. 1043939



*RV South Cove*

LOA 31 ft.

Call sign:

MMSI: 338444001

Registration. CT 8013 BN



*RV North Cove*

LOA 34 ft.

Call sign:

MMSI: 338392514

Registration. CT 9011 BM

