



**EBC Rhode Island Program  
Congressional Briefing with U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse**

Friday, March 17, 2023

*Held at:*

**District Hall Providence  
225 Dyer Street  
Providence, RI 02903**

&

**On Zoom**

*In Partnership with:*

**Rhode Island Society of Environmental Professionals**

*This program made possible in part thanks to the support from:*

**GOLD Sponsors**



**Silver Sponsor**



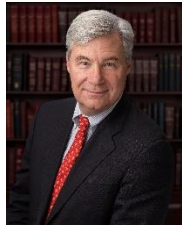
**AGENDA**

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Welcome: Rick Mandile, Chair, EBC Rhode Island Chapter  
Principal, SAGE Environmental

Program Introduction: Kelly R. Knee, Executive Director, RPS Ocean Science

9:10 a.m. Keynote Presentation



**U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
Rhode Island**

9:35 a.m. Moderated Discussion

Moderator: Kelly R. Knee, RPS Ocean Science

10:15 a.m. Networking Opportunity

10:45 a.m. Adjourn

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

##### **U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse**

170 Westminster Street, Suite 1100, Providence, RI 02903

RI Office: 401-453-5294

*Point of Contact: Katie\_Tsimikas@whitehouse.senate.gov*

Sheldon Whitehouse represents Rhode Island in the United States Senate, where he is fighting to position America as a leader in the clean energy economy and protect the Ocean State from the consequences of climate change. As Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and a senior member of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, Whitehouse takes on the fossil fuel industry and spearheads policies combatting the climate crisis and strengthening environmental protections.

In addition to Budget and EPW, Whitehouse is a member of the Finance and Judiciary Committees.

A graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law, Whitehouse served as Rhode Island's U.S. Attorney and state Attorney General before being elected to the United States Senate in 2006. He and his wife Sandra, a marine biologist and environmental advocate, live in Newport. They have two grown children.

#### **PROGRAM MODERATOR**

##### **Kelly R. Knee**, Executive Director

RPS Ocean Science

55 Village Square Drive, South Kingstown, RI 02879

401-789-6224 | [kelly.knee@rpsgroup.com](mailto:kelly.knee@rpsgroup.com)

Kelly leads RPS's Ocean Science business in North America, which focuses on oil spill risk and damage assessment, environmental fate and impact modeling, emergency response, and data management and cyber-infrastructure for met-ocean observations and models. Educated as an environmental engineer, Kelly has spent more than 18 years with RPS in a variety of roles focused on technical project work, business development, management, operations, and executive leadership. She currently oversees the Ocean Science business and continues to lead numerous complex data management, distribution, and visualization projects for NOAA/IOOS, USACE, USCG, Australian Defense Forces, and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council. Prior to joining RPS (formerly ASA) in 2004 she used a Fulbright Fellowship to study the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge flooding in the country of Mauritius by integrating GIS and systems engineering models.