



Rhode Island  
Department of Environmental Management

**DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

3 Fort Wetherill Road  
Jamestown, RI 02835

401 423-1920  
FAX 401 423-1925  
TDD 401 222-4462

**RI Marine Fisheries Regulatory Streamlining Initiative**

***First Workshop – on Finfish Regulations – scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2011, from 4-6 pm at the URI Bay Campus, Coastal Institute, Large Conference Room***

DEM's Division of Fish & Wildlife – Marine Fisheries Program is undertaking a comprehensive revision of all RI Marine Fisheries Regulations. This initiative is a continuation of previous efforts by Fish and Wildlife staff to streamline, consolidate, and reorganize existing regulations. It is not the intent of this initiative to make any substantive changes to existing regulations. Rather, the intent is only to improve the organization, clarity, and readability of the regulations, which are currently broken out into 24 separate parts.

DEM is planning to consolidate the existing 24 parts into the following 11 new parts:

1. Finfish Management Plan
2. Finfish Regulations
3. Shellfish Management Plan
4. Shellfish Regulations
5. Lobster and Crustacean Management Plan
6. Lobster and Crustacean Regulations
7. Possession Limit Modifications; Closures
8. Gear Regulations
9. Dealer Regulations
10. Licensing Regulations
11. Aquaculture Regulations

DEM plans to subject each part to a series of reviews, beginning with several public workshops, followed by public notice and public hearing, and concluding with consideration by the RI Marine Fisheries Council. The entire process is likely to span the first half of 2011.

DEM has completed an initial draft of the streamlined ***Finfish*** regulations. The regulations are presented in three formats, which are accessible via DEM's Marine Fisheries website ([www.dem.ri.gov/topics/mftopics.htm](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/mftopics.htm)) – see the link for “Marine Fisheries Regulatory Streamlining Initiative” under “Regulations” on the left side of the page. Each format is identical with regard to substance; they differ only in the way the changes are depicted. ***The draft finfish regulations will be presented and discussed at the upcoming March 9 workshop. The workshop will provide an opportunity for questions and input from the public.***

At anytime -- including prior to and following the workshop -- anyone who has a question, comment, or suggestion regarding the proposed regulatory changes may contact Jonathan Peros, who is coordinating the regulatory streamlining initiative for DEM's Marine Fisheries Program, at [Jonathon.Peros@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Jonathon.Peros@dem.ri.gov).

### Looking Ahead

- Following the same approach used for the finfish regulations, DEM will develop the additional parts (i.e., *Shellfish, Lobsters and Crustaceans, etc.*) during March and April of 2011. As each part is drafted, the document will be posed on DEM's marine fisheries website, following a Listserv announcement. Additional public workshops will be held on the additional parts.
- In May 2011, DEM will put the entire batch of revised regulations, as modified by any changes made via the workshops, out to public notice. A Listserv announcement will be made, and the draft regulations will be posted on DEM's website. In June 2011, DEM will conduct a public hearing on the proposed changes. Soon after the hearing, the RI Marine Fisheries Council will meet to consider the proposed changes and make recommendations on them to the DEM Director. After considering all public comments and the recommendations of the Council, the Director will then promulgate the final revisions and file them with the RI Secretary of State's Office.