SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

Hearing Officer: David Kalb, Supervising Wildlife Biologist

RIDEM Staff Present: Phillip Edwards, Chief of Fish and Wildlife
Melissa Curry, Administrative Assistant
Branton Elleman, Range Safety Coordinator
Elizabeth Bonczek, Upland Gamebird Biologist
Christine Dudley, Deputy Chief of Fisheries

The public hearing for the Target Range Regulations was held on May 21, 2025, at 5:30 PM at 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place Exeter, RI 02822. Four (4) people from the public attended the hearing.

The hearing was called to order at 6:02 PM by Supervising Wildlife Biologist David Kalb.

D. Kalb – Supervising Wildlife Biologist, (DK): **DK** introduced himself and announced he was there to officiate on behalf of Terrence Gray, Director of DEM.

This hearing is being conducted to the Rules & Regulations under the authority of chapter 42-17.1; 42-17.10; 20-1; 20-13; 20-1-8 and sections 1-8 of chapter 20-13; and pursuant to the procedural requirements of Chapter 42-35, "Administrative Procedures" of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended.

In accordance with the above referenced requirements, a public notice of this hearing was posted on the Secretary of State and DEM computer websites on April 27th, 2025, with a copy of the notarized affidavit of such posting attached to the record of this proceeding as **Exhibit #1** and **Exhibit #2.**

For this regulatory proceeding, pursuant to the requirements of Section 42-35-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, DEM has made the following determinations. DEM has complied with the requirements of Section § 42-35.1-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The DEM has provided prior notice to the Governor's Office and the DOA of the proposed promulgation of these Rules & Regulations and none of these offices has notified DEM that it has identified any of these proposed regulations as one that may have a significant adverse economic impact on small businesses. Despite the above, DEM specifically requests comments on the proposal as to how the proposed regulations can be changed so that the adverse economic impact*(s)* can be minimized or eliminated.

The purpose of this hearing is to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments orally and/or in writing on the proposed Rules & Regulations. This hearing is not intended as a means of providing a forum for discussing, debating, arguing, or otherwise having any dialogue at the time with members of the Division.

The procedure we will use for those persons who wish to speak is as follows:

The procedure for the public comment hearing is as follows:

1. Please register at the table.
2. Speakers will be called in the order of registration.
3. Five (5) minutes was allowed for a presentation unless the number of speakers allows for additional time.
4. When your name is called, please:
   a. Come to the podium; and identify yourself by name and affiliation, if any.
   b. Make your presentation; and then
   c. Provide a written copy of your statement for the record if one is available.

The Public Hearing comment period for the Target Range Regulations will close of business (4pm) on May 28, 2025.

After the time has elapsed for the submission of written commentary has been closed the Department has three (3) options:

1. File the rules and regulations with the Secretary of State as is.
2. File the rules and regulations with minor changes.
3. Make additional amendments to the rules and regulations and hold a new public hearing.

If filed, the rules and regulations become effective twenty (20) days after filing and have the effect of law.

No oral comments from the members of the public in attendance at the hearing.

Oral portion of the Target Range Regulations closed at 6:06 PM.

DK states we will now enumerate all exhibits and received comments for the public record.

> **Exhibit 1:** the "Affidavit of Posting" of the public notice of this hearing a public notice of this hearing was posted on the Secretary of State and DEM computer websites on April 27th, 2025.
>
> **Exhibit 2:** a copy of the draft regulation.

On behalf of the Department of Environmental Management and the Division of Fish & Wildlife, I would like to thank you for attending and for your comments. Since there are no further statements to be presented at this time, and since all interested parties present have been heard, I declare this public hearing is closed.

Public Hearing closed at 6:06 PM.

Transcribed by Melissa Curry.