

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Title of Rule: Freshwater Fishing Regulations (250-RICR-60-00-10)

Rule Identifier: 250-RICR-60-00-10

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: April 13, 2026

Hearing Date: May 12, 2026

End of Public Comment: May 20, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

RIGL Sections 20-1-4; 20-1-12 and 20-1-13

as well as Chapters 42-71.1

and 42-17.6

in accordance with requirements with Chapter 42-35 "Administrative Procedures Act" of the General Laws of 1956.

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to regulate freshwater fishing seasons and bag limits annually.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until May 20, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

David Kalb
Department of Environmental Management
277 Great Neck Rd
West Kingston, RI 02982
david.kalb@dem.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Location: DFW Outdoor Education Office
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place
Exeter, RI, 02822

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-284-3427 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

The purpose of this filing is to govern the recreational freshwater fishing season dates, creel limits, and regulate the manner of fishing.

10 Edit the title to clarify from marine,

10.6.1(A)10(e) Prevent the release of live bait,

10.6.1(A)10(j) Requirement for labeling minnow traps,

10.7(A) Close state hatcheries to public use.

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) the benefits and costs of a reasonable range of regulatory alternatives reflecting the scope of discretion; (2) alternative approaches; (3) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (4) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.