

Summary of Rhode Island ANS Laws*

RI statutes: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/scripts/search/search.asp>

RI statutes: Introduction & Possession of Fish and Other Animals:

- 1) Stocking of streams and ponds: No one shall stock or liberate into any Rhode Island fresh water pond or stream any fish species without a DEM permit. R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-11-6 (2003).
- 2) Penalties: Any person who violates §§ 20-11-6 or 20-11-10 shall be guilty of a violation. The penalty for each violation is a \$100 fine. R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-11-20 (2003).

Control of Invasive Plants:

- 1) Injurious substances: With a DEM permit and under DEM regulations, a person may use certain chemicals to eradicate plants and to control fish populations. R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-11-10 (2003).

Fish Propagation and Aquaculture:

- 1) Procedures for Approval [to Conduct Aquaculture]: Upon submission of a permit to conduct aquaculture to the CRMC, the director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) shall determine, *inter alia*, if the proposed aquaculture activities are likely to adversely affect the vitality of Rhode Island's native fisheries. R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-10-5 (2003).
- 2) Permits and Licenses for the Taking, Possession, Sale, Importation, and Transportation of Species Used in Aquaculture: The DEM director has the authority to grant permits and licenses regarding the possession, taking, importation, sale, and transportation of aquaculture plants and animals. The director may issue regulations regarding the same. R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-10-12(a) (2003).
- 3) Permits and Licenses for the Taking, Possession, Sale, Importation, and Transportation of Species Used in Aquaculture: Anyone who possesses, takes, imports, sells, or transports aquaculture plants or animals without a permit is guilty of a misdemeanor. The person may be imprisoned for a maximum of one year, or fined a maximum of \$500, or both. R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-10-12(b) (2003).

Ballast Water:

- 1) Ballast Water: Non-indigenous aquatic species introduced from ballast water have caused considerable environmental damage. Specifically mentions the zebra mussel as one of the organisms coming from ballast water discharges. R.I. Gen. Laws § 46-17.3-1(2) (2003).
- 2) Ballast Water: Protective measures are necessary to prevent the introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species via ballast water. This will reduce exposing Rhode Island waters to unwanted contamination by these species. R.I. Gen. Laws § 46-17.3-1(4) (2003).

Task Forces and Committees:

- 1) Biosecurity Board - Powers and Duties: Creates an advisory biosecurity board within the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). The biosecurity board is concerned with, *inter alia*, protecting Rhode Island's aquaculture by reviewing federal regulations regarding the importation of non-indigenous and genetically altered species. R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-10-1.1 (2003), R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-10-1.2 (2003).

*Note: The statutes listed are not spelled out in their entirety. Only those parts that I felt were germane to ANS were included. I have also paraphrased the statutes to avoid quoting them directly, and to hopefully make them clearer.