



# Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan

## Chapter 6

# RI WAP Plan Review and Revision

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## **Introduction**

As the monitoring components discussed in Chapter 5 contribute to the adaptive management of this RI WAP, this document will be periodically reviewed and revised according to the development and implementation timeframes of RI DEM and partners scheduled programs and updates (Element 6). Interim sections will be reviewed and revised throughout the 10-year period with a full revision completed in 10 years.

As data gaps are filled, new ones will be identified. The resulting increases in scientific knowledge on which this RI WAP is based will keep the strategy as up-to-date as possible. The plan is predicated upon the changing state of knowledge and is recognized as a dynamic document. Successful implementation of conservation measures and reduction in the threats facing the SGCN and key habitats will allow RI DEM DFW and its partners to be able to make better, informed management decisions and maintain an efficient use of limited funding and staffing resources. The many operational, conservation and management plans already in existence provide opportunities to regularly review and revise the RI WAP within the current RI DEM administrative framework.

## **RI WAP Review Process**

Many of the existing conservation and management plans in Rhode Island are adaptive in nature and have regularly scheduled reviews. The need to revisit conservation plans periodically, updating them to reflect new information, additional programs, and changing conditions is also recognized by several international, national and regional management plans. Table 6-1 outlines the review schedules for some of these relevant plans that will be targeted for RI WAP information incorporation into their revisions, just as revision of these plans will be incorporated into the RI WAP review and revision process.

The RI WAP may become an element of the *Rhode Island State Guide Plan* (RI DA 2002b with components updated as recently as 2014) (refer to Table 6-1), which would integrate it with similar state management plans and emphasize its importance as a statewide planning tool. The State Guide Plan is not a single document but consists of a number of elements. Each element has its own revision schedule established when the specific element was originally published.

Within RI DEM, individual divisions prepare Work Plans or Strategies every year. The RI WAP priority conservation actions (including research, monitoring, inventory, and management actions) will be incorporated into the RI DEM DFW's annual work strategy, with the implementation of the RI WAP identified as its own objective. The RI DEM DFW's Work Strategy is formatted with each objective reporting on trends, problems and initiatives. This format lends itself to ready incorporation of the RI WAP, which also includes detailed information on trends (status and condition), problems (threats) and initiatives (conservation actions). Each objective in the RI DEM DFW Work Strategy is further delineated with environmental indicators, strategies, activities (conservation actions) and performance measure review schedules. The Division has adopted the *Wildlife TRACS* system for reporting (as described in Chapter 5). As a result, RI DEM DFW has an existing administrative framework in which to incorporate the RI WAP review and revision. Highest priority conservation actions can subsequently be updated and included in each annual Work Strategy, allowing for adaptive management, performance review and institutionalization of RI WAP implementation.

**Table 6-1 Review Schedule for Existing Conservation and Management Plans**

<b>Plan</b>	<b>Review Frequency</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Source</b>
A Resilient Rhode Island: Being Practical about Climate Change	5 years	Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Council	To be completed by end of 2014
ACJV New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast Bird Conservation Region (BCR 30) Implementation Plan		Atlantic Coast Joint Venture	In revision 2014
ACJV Strategic Plan	At least every 5 years	Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV)	ACJV (2009)
Conservation Strategy for the New England Cottontail	Periodic as information becomes available	New England Cottontail Technical Committee	Fuller, S. and A. Tur. 2012
Local Comprehensive Plans	5 years	Municipalities	RI Department of Administration (RI DA) (2003)
National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy	As needed	USFWS, NOAA, Steering Committee	National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Partnership 2012
North American Landbird Conservation Plan	5 years	Continental Council, Partners in Flight	Rich et al. (2004)
North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Elements updated online as needed	Waterbird Conservation Council	Kushlan et al. (2002)
North American Waterfowl Management Plan	As needed	North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee	USFWS (2012)
Rhode Island Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan	As needed	Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force	2007
Rhode Island Energy Plan	scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014	RI DA	RI DA (2002)
Rhode Island Forest Resources Management Plan	Within 10 years	RI DA Statewide Planning Program and RI DEM Division of Forest Environment and Office of Sustainable Watersheds	RI DA and RI DEM (2005)
Rhode Island Open Space Inventory (SCORP)	Irregular	RI DA and RI DEM	RI DA and DEM (2009)
RI Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan		RI CRMC	In prep
RI DEM Work Plans/Strategies	Annually	RI DEM	RIDEM (2010)
Sector Management Plan for the Crustacean Fishery	Annually	RI DEM DFW, Marine Fisheries	RI DEM (2014)
Sector Management Plan for the Finfish Fishery	Annually	RI DEM DFW, Marine Fisheries	RI DEM (2014)
Sector Management Plan for the Shellfish Fishery	Annually	RI DEM DFW, Marine Fisheries	RI DEM (2014)

<b>Plan</b>	<b>Review Frequency</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Source</b>
State Guide Plan	Updated as elements are revised/updated	RI DA, Statewide Planning Program	RI DA (2002)
State of the State's Waters 305(b) Report	2 years	RI DEM OWR	RI DEM (2012)
Strategic Plan for the Restoration of Anadromous Fish to Rhode Island Coastal Streams	"As restoration efforts commence and research dictates"	RI DEM DFW	Erkan (2002)
U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan	Every 5 years for 15 years, then as needed	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Council	Brown et al. (2001)
Water Monitoring Strategy 2005-2010	3 years	RI DEM OWR	RI DEM (2004) Update in progress

### **RI WAP Review Schedule**

While the evaluation of conservation actions will continue annually through Annual Project Reporting in TRACS and Federal Aid reports, and as new information becomes available, the RI WAP document will be amended as needed and revised every ten years. A five-year review and evaluation schedule is the most common timeframe for existing management plans in Rhode Island, and Federal Assistance (Application for Federal Assistance-AFA) paperwork is also consistent with those plans (Table 6-1). This 10-year revision will incorporate all annual, biannual and 5-year review and evaluation information and updates so that the 10-year revision will not be a total rewriting, but instead an incremental and iterative review and revision process incorporating new information on a regular basis. Annual federal assistance reports will provide new information from SWG and other Federal Aid projects which will be entered into TRACS, the RI WAP database, and RI GIS/DEM GIS spatial data coverage in order to capture and update the annual accomplishments, changes in SGCN and key habitat status, and the effectiveness of actions. RI DEM DFW staff and technical committees will assess the status of SGCN and key habitats as new data are entered annually or at the end of these projects. This 10-year revision schedule will be long enough to be practical in terms of administrative loads but short enough to be responsive to changing conditions, monitoring and research results, and adaptive management revisions.

In summary, the RI WAP evaluation, review and revision schedule will have the following benchmarks:

- Annual reporting for SWG and other Federal Aid grant requirements and product delivery through TRACS
- Annual input and incorporation of data and GIS to RI DEM and partner databases
- Annual tracking of species and habitat status (RI DEM DFW data programs and GIS)
- Annual incorporation and updates with priority WAP Conservation Actions into RI DEM programs' plans
- Every five years: status review of SGCN
- Every five years: implementation and review of RI WAP through multiple partners plans' revisions and incorporations
- Every five years: AFA project review and reporting
- Monitoring and evaluation review at multiple time and geospatial scales according to RIEMC
- Complete revision in 10 years- incorporating the above interim updates / reviews of identified sections

**Citation and Sources**

- RI Dept. of Administration. 2004. Rivers Policy and Classification Plan. State Guide Plan Element 162. Originally adopted 1998, amended 2004.
- RI Dept. of Administration. 2006. Land Use 2025: Rhode Island State Land Use Policies and Plan. State Guide Plan Element 121.
- RI Dept. Administration and RI Dept. Environmental Management. 2005. Rhode Island Forest Resources Management Plan. State Guide Plan Element 161
- RI Dept. of Administration and RI Dept. of Environmental Management. 2009. State Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan. RI State Guide Plan Element 152. Adopted 2003, Amended 2009.