

OWR WORKPLAN

July, 03 - June, 05

Clean Water

Rhode Island's rivers, lakes and coastal waters will be safe for fishing, swimming, and other direct water contacts, and will support healthy ecosystems. Surface and groundwater will be clean sources of drinking water.

Conditions, Trends and Objectives

Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess one hundred percent of the state's watersheds by 2020 consistent with the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy. 2. Reduce, eliminate and manage both point and non-point discharges to surface and groundwater to allow for attainment of desired uses. 3. Restore water quality in 20% of currently impaired lake acres and river miles, and 15% of currently impaired estuarine square miles by 6/2012. 4. Improve water quality in 2% of currently impaired lake acres, and 20% of currently impaired estuarine square miles and river miles by 6/2012. 5. By 2015, Greenwich Bay and the Blackstone, Woonasquatucket and Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers will be fishable and swimmable. 6. By 2010, reopen 25% of areas now closed to swimming. 7. By 2010, reduce the number and frequency of beach closures by 50%. 8. By 2010, reduce the number of days shellfish areas are closed by 50% and reopen 200 acres. 9. By 2010, nutrient removal will be operational at all wastewater treatment facilities discharging to the Bay and its tributaries. 10. By 2020, Seekonk, Moshassuck, Providence and Pawtuxet Rivers, Upper Bay and Mount Hope Bay will be fishable and swimmable. 			
Indicators			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percentage of watersheds assessed. 2. Number of assessed acres open, conditionally open, restricted, and closed to shell fishing. 3. Number and percent of assessed river miles, lake acres, and estuary square miles that have water quality supporting uses including: a) fish and shellfish consumption; b) recreation; c) aquatic life; d) and drinking water supply. 4. Presence/absence of contamination in public water supply wells. 			
Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>ASSESSING OUR WATERS</u> Administer a statewide system to classify and assess surface water quality including development of standards/criteria, monitoring of baseline conditions and reporting status and trends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update state water quality regulations. ▪ Work toward developing nutrient criteria for lakes and rivers specific tasks include: Lakes - Using 104(b)(3) Water Quality funds, develop contract with URI Watershed Watch for initial technical assistance to DEM in developing nutrient criteria for RI lakes (pending availability of funding). Rivers - Work with NE RTAG on regional nutrient criteria development in rivers. Encourage NEIWPC to conduct a survey of approaches attempted by other states. ▪ Finalize the Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM). ▪ Contract for assistance in further developing biological assessment methodology. ▪ Conduct assessments of water quality conditions. ▪ Publish the Integrated Report - includes the State of the States Waters and list of impaired waters. ▪ Complete comprehensive monitoring strategy. (work with DOH to include fish tissue monitoring as part of strategy) ▪ Implement recommendations as resources allow. 	<p>2/04</p> <p>2/04</p> <p>6/04</p> <p>2/04</p> <p>12/03</p>	<p>10/04</p> <p>9/04</p>

Clean and Plentiful Water (continued)

Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revise user fee program in accordance with monitoring strategy. ▪ Collaborate with partners on baseline monitoring activities (URI, USGS, ESS). Expand as resources allow. ▪ Collaborate with DOH on fish tissue monitoring (contingent on new resources). ▪ Sample 17 shellfish growing areas – 2000 samples from 300 stations per year. Approved waters are to be sampled a minimum of six times each year representing spatial and seasonal changes. Conditional approved waters are to be sampled at least once a month when the area is open for harvesting. ▪ Continue phytoplankton sampling along with shellfish sections routine systematic random sampling for fecal coliform. ▪ Administer Bay Closures coordinating with DOH, DEM, Fish & Wildlife and Enforcement as necessary. ▪ DEM/NEIWPC to develop a Wetland Bioassessment strategy. 	ongoing	9/04 2/05
<p>2. <u>PROTECT WATER QUALITY</u> Ensure point source discharges include appropriate discharge limits to meet water quality standards. Nutrient limits continue to be a focus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reissue the following major RIPDES permits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newport (backlog reduced to 4%) - Bristol (Expires 9/1/04) - Manchester Street by (backlog reduced to 0%) - Burrillville (expires 3/1/05) - RIEDC (expires 2/1/05) - Smithfield (expires 3/1/05) - Narragansett (expires 5/1/05) - New Shoreham (expires 6/1/05) - East Greenwich (expires 4/1/05) - Cranston (expires 7/1/05) - Warwick (expires 7/1/05) - West Warwick (expires 7/1/05) ▪ Issue permit modifications including nutrient limits to the 3-wastewater treatment facilities that discharge excess nutrients. NBC Fields Point, NBC Bucklin Point and East Providence. 	11/03	9/04 12/04 3/05 3/05 3/05 6/05 6/05 6/05 6/05 6/05 6/05 6/05 12/04
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reissue minor RIPDES permits. (target # we expect to complete with % backlog): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 (86%) - 24 reissued/11 terminated (79%) - 13 (60%) - 12 (43%) - 7 (32%) - 7 (22%) - 10 (6%) - 5 (0%) 	6/03 9/03 12/03 3/04 6/04	9/04 12/04 3/05

Clean and Plentiful Water (continued)

Table 1 - Nutrient Reductions from Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Waterbody/Target	WWTF's Affecting Waterbody	WWTF Environmental Results ¹	WWTF Status/Target	Subwatershed Target
Providence/Seekonk Rivers and Upper Bay ■ Reduce nitrogen loadings from RI WWTFs by 45% and achieve acceptable levels of oxygen by 12/08. ■ TMDL due date 6/04.	NBC Bucklin Point	Reduce seasonal WWTF nitrogen concentration by 55%, ammonia 50%. Further reductions may be necessary based on a TMDL.	Construction began 3/02, deadline for completion is 9/06.	
	NBC Fields Point		Nitrogen limits pending TMDL results	
	East Providence		Nitrogen limits pending TMDL results	
	East Greenwich	Reduce seasonal nitrogen WWTF concentration by 70%	Permit issued 9/01. Final design submitted 7/03. Comments issued 9/03. Construction to be completed 2.5 years from issuance of Order of Approval.	Greenwich Bay ■ Reduce nitrogen loading from East Greenwich WWTF 43% by May 2006 Nitrogen TMDL due 12/04
	Warren		Nitrogen limits awaiting results of TMDL. (Palmer River)	Warren River
	Burrillville	Reduce seasonal WWTF nitrogen concentration by 65%, ammonia by 40%	Facility Plan (FP) approved 12/02. In compliance with permit limits. Final design for improvements due 1/04.	Blackstone River • Reduce seasonal ammonia loading from RI WWTFs by 65%, phosphorus by 55%
	Woonsocket	Reduce seasonal WWTF concentration of nitrogen by 50%, ammonia 90% and phosphorus by 80%. Further nitrogen reductions may be necessary based on a TMDL.	Completed 8/01.	
	Smithfield	Reduce seasonal WWTF concentration of nitrogen by 45%, ammonia 80% and phosphorus by 95%.	FP Amendment and Preliminary design submitted 5/03.	Woonasquatucket River • Reduce seasonal WWTF ammonia loading by 60% and Phosphorus by 85%
	Cranston	Reduce seasonal WWTF concentration of nitrogen by 65%, ammonia 90% and phosphorus by 70%.	FP approved 7/03. Final design delayed from 7/03 to 2/04. Complete design reviews by 10/04.	Pawtuxet River
	Warwick ²	Reduce seasonal WWTF concentration of nitrogen by 80%, ammonia 95% and phosphorus by 85%.	Construction started 4/02. Upgrade completion required by 8/04.	Reduce seasonal nitrogen loading from WWTFs by 40%, ammonia 80% and phosphorous 55%, by 12/05
West Warwick	Reduce seasonal WWTF concentration of nitrogen by 60%, ammonia 90% and phosphorus by 70%.	Final design for nutrient removal approved 4/02. Construction in progress, to be completed by 7/05.		
Little Narragansett Bay Reduce ammonia loading from Westerly WWTF by 25%.	Westerly	Reduce seasonal WWTF nitrogen discharge concentration by 15%, ammonia by 55. Further nitrogen reductions may be necessary based on a TMDL.	Final Design approved 4/02. Construction approximately 95% complete. To be completed by 10/03.	

Notes:

1. Reduction in seasonal WWTF discharge concentrations based on average May-Oct 1995-1996 data. Loading reductions for receiving waters based on a comparison of May-Oct 1995-1996 data (total nitrogen estimated as inorganic nitrogen + 2.0 mg/l of refractory nitrogen) against targeted seasonal loading at full WWTF design flow. Additional reductions are anticipated from WWTFs in MA.
2. Warwick implemented interim measures to reduce nutrients prior to full construction.
3. Nutrient of concern for estuaries is nitrogen. Ammonia toxicity may be a concern in all waters. Phosphorus is typically the nutrient of concern for tributaries. Tributaries may also impact downstream estuarine areas.

Clean and Plentiful Water (continued)

Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oversee the implementation of Phase I CSO Control Program. Targeted reductions: annual biological oxygen demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) loadings by 30%; fecal coliform by 40% to reduce the days Conditional Areas A and B are closed to shellfishing by 50%. 		6/06
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct annual POTW compliance evaluation inspections at 25 major facilities in accord with inspection schedule. ▪ Investigate WWTF/collection system bypass/overflow events and WWTF operational problems. Take appropriate follow up actions >2 months after investigation is completed. ▪ Review and approve I/I and SSES reports and project designs to reduce system overflows. (6 expected) 		8/05
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure local pretreatment programs are properly administered to prevent wastewater treatment impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revise sludge regulations to allow more beneficial reuse of biosolids ▪ Conduct 25 sludge handling inspections annually. ▪ Promulgate revised O&M regulations (possible ERP) by ▪ Conduct 6 pretreatment compliance inspections (PCIs) and 2 pretreatment audits: (list facilities and date) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smithfield - NBC - Bucklin - NBC - Fields - Bristol - South Kingstown - RIEDC - East Greenwich - Cranston ▪ Promulgate final amendments to the State pretreatment regulations by 	4/04 6/04 3/04 8/03 11/03 11/03 2/04	6/05 5/04 8/04 11/04 2/05 5/05
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure projects that may cause or contribute pollution to waters of the state are done in accordance with state water quality standards. (Water Quality Certifications) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and determine if projects comply with state water quality standards (~125 WQC applications expected each year). ▪ Coordinate Water Quality reviews with other OWR and DEM programs as well as CRMC, DOH and ACOE. ▪ Develop Water Quality review guidelines/protocols. 	3/04	

Clean and Plentiful Water (continued)

Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
<p>3. <u>PREVENT AND ABATE NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION WITH A FOCUS ON SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND STORMWATER.</u></p> <p>Septic Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage local wastewater programs to abate pollution due to septic systems. <p>Stormwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with partners to implement stormwater controls for municipal drainage systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revise Non-Point Pollution Management Plan. See page 9 for additional NPS commitments. ▪ Continue 1-2 meetings a year of the Septic System Policy Forum and assist in planning and organizing the Northeast OSDS short course to facilitate policy development and exchange information. ▪ Issue the following individual storm water permits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TF Green Airport - Warwick Mall - RI Mall 	<p>9/04</p> <p>10/03</p> <p>11/03 6/04</p>	<p>9/04</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize and implement Phase II Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize MS4 general Permit ▪ Oversee 33 grants to communities to develop local stormwater plans. ▪ Review SWMPPs. ▪ Review 33 SWMPP annual reports ▪ Develop Phase II stormwater BMP menu and update stormwater guidance to promote BMPs. 	<p>12/03 3/04</p> <p>9/03</p>	<p>9/04 3/05</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issue multi-sector Industrial General Permit and Guidance. ▪ Issue Construction GP and guidance. ▪ Update the Rhode Island Stormwater Manual. ▪ Make appropriate changes to regulations as needed to implement the stormwater manual. ▪ Publish Stormwater Manual by 	<p>3/04</p> <p>9/03 12/03</p>	<p>9/04</p>
<p>Aquatic Weed control in lakes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Award and oversee grant for development of model lake management plan that address aquatic weeds. 		<p>6/05</p>

Clean and Plentiful Water (continued)

Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
<p>4. <u>RESTORE IMPAIRED WATERS</u></p> <p>Protect and restore water quality by working in partnership with other agencies and local stakeholders to resolve water quality concerns, including conducting studies of polluted water bodies and identifying strategies to abate pollution (TMDLs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage implementation of pollution abatement strategies for the following: Runnins/Barrington Rivers, Hunt River, Scrabbletown Brook, Fry Brook, Narrow River, Gilbert Stuart Brook, Mumford Brook, Palmer River, Crooked Brook, Saugatucket River, Mitchell Brook, Indian Run, Rocky Brook and other targeted watersheds as TMDL are developed/approved and projects are identified. ▪ Oversee development of TMDL implementation plan for Saugatucket River Watershed. ▪ Develop TMDLs for 40 impaired waterbodies (See Figure 1) ▪ Completion targets for implementation projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Narrow River –BMP construction for Wampum Rd/Conanicus Rd by Mettatuxet Beach by 12/04 - Runnins River -- storm water BMP construction by 12/03 - Greenwich Bay- vortex units construction by City of Warwick, White Ave/Boyle St., infiltration BMP network & BMP design in E. Greenwich by 6/04 - Kickamuit Reservoir - storm water abatement assessment plan by 6/04 - Woonasquatucket River - wetland restoration at Lincoln Lace and Braid by; removal of 3 vehicles from the river by 6/04 9/03 - Portsmouth and Island Parks - facilities plan update & feasibility study by 6/04 	<p>12/04</p> <p>12/03</p> <p>6/04</p> <p>6/04</p> <p>6/04</p> <p>9/03</p> <p>6/04</p>	<p>12/05</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oversee follow-up monitoring to evaluate success of pollution abatement activities for the following watersheds: Stafford Pond, Hunt River, Palmer River, Runnins River and other targeted watersheds as TMDL implementation activities are completed. 		

Figure 1 – Water Quality Restoration Plans (WQRPs) & Habitat Restoration Projects

WQRPs Approved by EPA – Implementation Underway

Stafford Pond, Runnins River, Barrington River, Hunt River, Scrabbletown Brook, Fry Brook, Pettaquamscutt River, Gilbert Stuart Stream, Mumford Brook, Palmer River, Crooked Brook, Saugatucket River, Mitchell Brook, Indian Run, and Rocky Brook

WQRPs to be Completed Fiscal Years 2004-2005

Develop TMDLs or Water Quality restoration plans and submit documents to EPA (total of 40)

- Sakonnet River and Island Park Cove (pathogens) (2) – 12/03
- Kickamuit Reservoir (pathogens, nutrients/excess algae/ turbidity) (2) - 12/03
- Palmer River (nutrients) (1) – 6/05
- Ninigret and Green Hill Ponds and Teal Pond Stream, Factory Pond Stream (pathogens) (4) – 12/03
- Providence River (hypoxia/nutrients), Seekonk River (hypoxia/nutrients) (2) – 6/04
- Indian Run (metals) (1) – 6/04
- Greenwich Bay, Buttonwoods Cove and Brushneck Cove, Warwick Cove, Greenwich Cove, Apponaug Cove, Baker Creek, Dark Entry Brook, Fosters Brook, Greenwood Creek, Maskerchugg River, Southern Creek (Carpenter Brook), Tuscatucket Brook, (pathogens) (13) – 12/03,
- Hardig Brook (pathogens) (1) 6/04
- Greenwich Bay, Buttonwoods Cove, Brushneck Cove, Greenwich Cove, Warwick Cove, Apponaug Cove (nutrients/hypoxia) (6) – 12/04
- Sands Pond (Block Island) (phosphorus/excess algae/taste & odor/turbidity) (1) – 6/04
- Mashapaug Pond (hypoxia, pathogens) (2) – 6/04
- Woonasquatucket River (metals, pathogens) (2) – 6/05
- Yawgoo Pond (phosphorus/hypoxia/excess algae), Barber Pond (hypoxia), Chickasheen Brook (phosphorus/noxious aquatic Plants) (3) – 12/03

WQRPs To be completed beyond 6/30/05 (not mapped):

Continue and/or initiate TMDL development for completion beyond June 30, 2005:

- Blackstone River (pathogens, metals, biodiversity), Mill River (metals), Peters River (pathogens, metals), Valley Falls Pond (biodiversity, metals, pathogens, nutrients/hypoxia/excess algae growth)
- Saugatucket Pond (nutrients/noxious aquatic plants) (1)
- Pawcatuck River (hypoxia, pathogens), Little Narragansett Bay (pathogens)
- Spectacle Pond (phosphorus/excess algae)
- Work with CRMC and CRC in the development of a SAMP for Greenwich Bay

Water Quality Restoration Plans

Waterbody specific plans to restore water quality in impaired waters by identifying sources of pollutants and the corrective actions necessary to address these sources. This comprehensive approach requires the cooperation of municipalities, local organizations, and property owners to abate point and nonpoint sources of pollution. The map indicates impaired waters by shading.

Habitat Restoration Projects

Habitat restoration focuses on discrete projects that address a source of habitat degradation. A habitat restoration project may involve planting eelgrass in an area that historically had an eelgrass bed; installing a culvert where tidal flow has been restricted or cut off through building a causeway or a collapsed culvert; or excavating where a wetland has been filled. These projects may address water quality as well as other habitat features.

Clean and Plentiful Water (continued)

Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
	Conduct the following shoreline surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E. Middle Bay - W. Middle Bay - Mt. Hope Bay & Kickamuit River - Upper Bay - Greenwich Bay - Pt. Judith & Potter Ponds - Green Hill and Ninigret Ponds - Quonachontaug & Winnapaug Ponds - E. Passage - W. Passage - Mt. Hope Bay & Kickemuit River - Sakonnet River - Offshore - Block Island 	12/03 12/03 12/03 12/03 12/03 12/04 12/04 12/04 12/04 12/04 12/04 12/03 12/04 12/04	12/04 12/04 12/04 12/04 12/04 6/05 6/05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 Year Surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greenwich Bay - West Middle Bay - East Middle Bay - Upper Bay - Sakonnet River - Block Island - Offshore ▪ 12 Year Surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greenwich Bay - W. Passage (to be completed by 12/05) 	12/03 12/03 12/03	12/04 12/04 12/04 12/04 6/05 6/05
5. PREVENT GROUNDWATER POLLUTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement groundwater classification and standards program. ▪ Implement wellhead protection program in close coordination with the Department of Health Source Water Assessment Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update groundwater protection strategy. ▪ Prepare "State of State's Groundwater" for 2004 (305(b) report). ▪ Update groundwater classification map and wellhead protection area map. ▪ Update WHP program document. ▪ Review municipal and water supplier plans. Provide technical assistance where possible. ▪ See page 12 for additional groundwater commitments. 	9/04 3/04 ongoing	1/05 9/04
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure new ISDS systems meet standards established to protect public health and the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement ISDS regulatory program: Review and process permits – anticipate 3,000 per year. New construction – anticipate 1,400 per year Variance reports – anticipate 300 per year (balance-repairs and alterations) 		

Clean and Plentiful Water (continued)

Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure subsurface discharges are protective of public health and the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revise Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations to focus more on activities with a high potential to pollute groundwater and to streamline permitting procedures for lower risk injection sites, such as stormwater infiltration . ▪ Implement Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program approvals and closure activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review and process UIC permits 50 per year expected. - complete closures as identified - target 25 closures per year. - complete inspections in priority resource areas. - track compliance at 55 approved sites. - review pilot test injections for clean ups (~5). ▪ See page 14 for additional UIC commitments. 	3/04	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oversee well drilling program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issue annual registration and collect well completion reports. ▪ Develop a strategy to support repeal of DEM well drilling regulatory requirements (also see page 12). 	3/04	
<p>6. <u>PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.</u> FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE SRF, LIMITED BOND FUND AND NPS GRANTS.</p>	<p>Administer Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) including project approvals, monitoring construction, processing payment requests, and assess project effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issue 15 Certificates of Approval annually ▪ Close out 15 projects ▪ Close out 10 projects ▪ Maximize use of CWSRF administrative monies to support post-construction water quality monitoring in accordance with RIDEM Statewide Monitoring strategy. ▪ Solicit projects for and develop annual Project Priority List (PPL). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present PPL at public hearing ▪ Compile and submit data for 2004 Clean Water Needs Survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit data to EPA 	4/04 8/03 6/04 9/03	4/05 8/04 6/05 8/04 1/05 8/04

Clean and Plentiful Water (continued)

Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update User Manual for Integrated Priority Determination System. ▪ Administer the remaining 19 grants in the Aqua Fund. Majority to be completed. ▪ Award and administer remaining Non-Governmental Water Pollution Control Facilities Fund monies. Majority to be completed. ▪ Award the remaining funds in the \$ 9 M Pawtuxet River Authority Fund and the remaining funds in the \$ 10 Pawtuxet River Water Quality Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Award final grant to Warwick - Award final grants to Cranston ▪ Solicit (RFP) for nonpoint source abatement project grants and oversee completion of up to 65 existing projects. Priority will be given to projects implementing WQRPs (TMDLs). 	<p>10/04</p> <p>7/03 10/04</p> <p>6/04</p>	<p>1/05</p> <p>6/05</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide demonstration grants to assist municipalities in implementing Phase II Stormwater programs and ISDS management. ▪ Continue to collaborate with EPA and other states on the NPS Steering Committee for improved NPS implementation. ▪ Provide small grants and support specific wetland protection and restoration activities. 	<p>12/03</p> <p>9/03</p>	

Healthy Ecosystems

The health, diversity, and integrity of Rhode Island's ecosystems will be restored, protected, enhanced and sustained.

Condition, Trends and Objectives

Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase quality and quantity of RI habitats and aquatic ecosystems. 2. Increase understanding of ecosystems, threats to their health, and ways to protect and restore them.. 3. Ensure adequate quantities of water for drinking, fish and wildlife habitat, irrigation, commerce, industry, and recreation. 4. Achieve no net loss of freshwater wetlands. 			
Indicators			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acres of freshwater wetlands gained, lost. 2. Number and duration of dry periods in streams and rivers. 			
Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
Collaborate with state, local agencies and water users to determine needs and manage water use to ensure adequate qualities for drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat, irrigation, commerce, industry, and recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue working with the Water Use Stakeholders group for the Pawcatuck River to complete pilot study of water use and water withdrawal in the Queens River basin & impact on habitat. ▪ Collaborate with Water Resources Board and other watershed stakeholders in developing recommendations for a water allocation program for the state. ▪ Develop draft streamflow standards. ▪ Develop a policy for reuse of treated wastewater (working with DOH and WRB) 	6/04 12/03 12//03 12/04	
Ensure impacts to Freshwater Wetlands are avoided, minimized or otherwise mitigated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and process freshwater wetland applications ~ 500-600 annually continue to require avoidance and minimization of wetland alterations. ▪ Complete background research for statewide wetland conservation plan. ▪ Participate on action team and implement wetland restoration projects targeted on the Woonasquatucket. ▪ Prepare wetland status and trend report every other year. ▪ Refer to page 12 for additional wetland commitments. 	4/04	6/05

Open and Effective Government

The Department will carry out its mission and achieve its goals with involvement and support of citizens and stakeholders and to that end will improve its accountability, responsiveness, and service delivery.

Conditions, Trends and Objectives

Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve accountability. 2. Improve Department accessibility, responsiveness and public outreach and participation. 3. Make regulatory process less burdensome, more streamlined and productive. 4. Increase compliance with environmental laws and regulations through compliance assistance and fair and effective enforcement. 			
Indicators			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased customer satisfaction and public understanding of, and support for, the Department's programs. 2. More compliance with fewer complaints. 3. Reduce the backlog in major RIPDES permits by 0% minor by 35% by 9/04. 			
Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
Increase awareness of DEM's role in environmental protection and promote an understanding of how actions affect environment quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct Open House focussed on Wetlands, ISDS and Stormwater or participate in Home Show. ▪ Publish a Wetland BMP manual. ▪ Develop an outreach strategy for implementation of Wetland rules by ▪ Publish updated permit guide "What's the Scoop on Wetlands" by ▪ Work with DOT and other partners to develop and implement stormwater education and outreach strategy. 	5/04 6/04 12/04 2/04	5/05 12/05
Expand and improve partnerships and opportunities for Rhode Islanders to participate in environmental decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue follow-up with Stakeholder workgroups (Tom Getz) 		
Continuously improve E-government services and technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA and its technical contractors are conducting a resource and feasibility analysis to determine the best means for DEM to provide data to STORET. Analysis will include: comparison of compatibility issues between DEM existing databases and required STORET fields, further assessment of metadata issues, identification of hardware/software needs and next steps necessary to utilize STORET. Upon receipt of the EPA analysis DEM will develop an implementation plan. 	6/04	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct assessment of the feasibility of using GRTS in NPS program. Determine which data can be entered (primary data fields). Seek EPA assistance to support data entry. ▪ Continue to develop and improve integration of OWR and DEM databases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a database(s) to assist with TMDL implementation and funding allocation. - NPS/SRF incorporated - improve UIC and WQC databases to include full event tracking. 	12/03 8/03 12/03 12/03	

Open and Effective Government (continued)

Key Strategies	Performance Measures	FY'04	FY'05
<p>Improve administration and streamline permit processes. Reduce backlogs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce major RIPDES permit backlog to 0% by ▪ Reducing minor RIPDES backlog to 6% by ▪ Reduce average number of days from receipt of wetlands applications to issuance of final decision from 86 (FY03) to 65 or fewer by ▪ Implement recommendations from Wetlands & ISDS Task Force (see specific task force work plans). 	<p>12/04 12/04</p>	<p>6/05</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ISDS revised rules ▪ Wetlands revised Phase II rules. ▪ Wetlands revised Phase III Rules ▪ Issue general permit for subsurface storm water discharge by ▪ Repeal of DEM Well Drilling regulatory requirements consistent with legislative amendments. ▪ Revise groundwater rules to streamline procedures by eliminating routine GW quality certifications by ▪ Revise sludge regulations to reduce volume of sludge going to landfills, reduce incineration of sludge and reduce paperwork for those who use large quantities of sludge by ▪ Develop policies and procedures that encourage consultants to be more accountable for quality applications. (Tom Getz) 	<p>6/04 3/04 12/04 9/04 3/04 4/04</p>	
<p>Eliminate duplication in permit process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete review of overlap in DEM well drilling regulations and state plumbing code requirements and rules governing the Contractor's Registration Board; documenting any amendments needed to support eliminating program duplication. ▪ Develop strategy to support repeal of DEM Well Drilling Regulatory requirements and negotiate implementation schedule with other participating agencies (DOL, DOA,DOH) (subject to negotiation) 	<p>3/04</p>	<p>6/05</p>
<p>Continue to improve enforcement policies and protocols.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase permit compliance inspections for wetlands (target 30%) and RIPDES minor permits (target 10%). 	<p>6/04</p>	<p>6/05</p>