

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

I. FY2000 WORK PLAN DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Program name and description: Division of Law Enforcement

This Division patrols the upland areas of the state and the waters of the state and is mandated by statute to insure compliance with laws and regulations relating to fresh water fishing, hunting, boating, commercial and recreational shellfishing, commercial and recreation marine fishing, forestry, agriculture, hazardous waste, coastal resources management council, solid and hazardous waste, fresh water wetlands and dams. In addition the division is the primary contact for violations of any state law in parks and other areas managed by DEM.

The Division accomplishes this mandate through law enforcement actions and education. In the law enforcement function individuals are summoned to court to answer for the violations of regulation or law that they have committed. In the educational function several techniques are used. Violators are issued written warnings for violations which insures that they become familiar with regulation/law that they have broken. Officers teach state boating laws and hunting laws in classes to familiarize constituents with the appropriate laws. The division conducts outreach programs to reach target groups and educate them in regard to laws and safety issues.

- II. **Mission of Division:** – To insure compliance of all user groups with all environmental conservation laws through law enforcement and public education in order to protect the natural resources of the state. The division also seeks to insure the public health and public safety through enforcement of all state laws on DEM properties, shellfishing laws, boating safety laws, and conducting search and rescue activities on the waters and in the forests of the state

III. Program Highlights

We are attempting to enhance our educational efforts by increasing the number of students taught in boating safety classes with our partners the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Power Squadron. By partnering with the Newport Creamery we have positively reinforced children who wear life jackets and have provided them with boating safety educational materials.

We have partnered with the Coast Guard to increase our patrols for Boating Under the Influence cases. Alcohol is a major factor in boating accidents nationwide and by increased enforcement anticipate fostering a safer boating climate.

We have partnered with Parks and Recreation to increase officer presence in the parks to meet the public safety needs in the parks.

We are attempting to return officers to work who have been out workers comp/sick leave in order to increase our patrol force.

In both the recreational hunting and fishing fields and the commercial fisheries violators will always attempt to over bag or take prohibited species which results in depletion of the species. We are partnering with the National Marine Fisheries Service to provide training for our officers to make them familiar with constantly changing federal regulations to make our fisheries patrols more effective.

Our officers are enhancing a 7 language fisheries abstract which they developed to provide a culture friendly explanation of conservation laws, littering, and a "good neighbor" ethic to new Americans. Hopefully this will lead to fewer violations, better acceptance of these ethnic groups by locals and a decreased public health threat to the immigrant community

New Initiatives not Requiring Additional Resources:

We are reaching out to watershed groups to explore the possibility of partnering to enhance our educational efforts in the watersheds which will curb violations.

We are investigating the possibility of a legislative initiative which would limit/ban personnel watercraft on constricted bodies of water.

New Initiatives Requiring Additional Resources:

We are attempting to identify/obtain funding to hire an assistant to work at our Wickford Marine Base to assist in the maintenance of our vessels/vehicles. We have an extensive backlog of maintenance tasks which needs to be eliminated.

We are trying to establish a vehicle, vessel and boat motor replacement plan to insure that we can continue to have equipment that allows our officers to effectively patrol.

OBJECTIVE 1 : Insure public safety in boating, hunting, and on DEM properties through patrol and education.		Environmental Indicators: Safe, and enjoyable boating and recreational environment
STRATEGIES*	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Provide a safer boating environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Power Squadron to provide boater education to Rhode Island boaters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of students taught- goal of 10% increase by 12-31-99 over 1,327 taught in 1998
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with Newport Creamery to provide ice cream certificates and boating safety packets to children found wearing life jackets during boating checks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10% increase in number of children reached by 10-1-99 over children reached by 10-1-98
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with the Coast Guard and target boating while intoxicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction in number of boating accidents/fatalities ▪ Number of BUI cases made by 10-1-99, ▪ 20% increase over 6 cases in 10-1-98 ▪ Number of BUI patrols same period 20% increase
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with Parks and Recreation to attempt to more successfully meet the public safety needs in the parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decrease in calls for service in parks – establish baseline this year – work with RISP to quantify their response

*See attached definitions

Partners: Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Power Squadron, Newport Creamery, Parks and Recreation

OBJECTIVE 2: To insure that public health is protected by patrols attempting to detect and arrest violators taking shellfish from polluted areas		ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS: Preserve, protect, and enhance the management of recreational, economic and cultural assets of Narragansett Bay and the coastal environment.
STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Provide adequate patrols and maintain and replace equipment as needed to insure our shellfish patrol document continues to meet USFDA standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval of shellfish patrol document by USFDA, insure that shellfish areas are patrolled daily, shellfishermen are checked frequently, shellfish houses checked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of shellfish related disease outbreaks ▪ Increase shellfish house inspections by 10% over 147 done in 1998
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify funding to hire assistant boat/vehicle maintenance worker for Wickford Marine Base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have paperwork process initiated by 8-15-99 ▪ Assistant hired
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish plan in 2001 budget for scheduled vehicle, vessel, and boat motor replacement to insure that we continue to meet USFDA standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have plan in place by 2001 Budget submission date

*See attached definitions

Partners: U.S. Food and Drug Administration

OBJECTIVE 3: To protect fish and game resources through adequate patrol and enforcement of relevant laws and regulations and education outreach to insure a sustainable level of resource		Environmental Indicators Fish and game resources enhanced and maintained at a sustainable level
STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance fisheries stocks via officers more effectively enforcing regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enlist the services of the National Marine Fisheries Service to train our officers in marine fisheries regulations which are in state of flux 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All officers successfully trained by 10-31-99
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage the development of an environmental ethic based on watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reach out to watershed groups to determine how we might partner to further their goals and our enforcement efforts through educational efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess progress made and determine appropriate course of action by 1-31-00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater compliance with fisheries regulations by inner city residents, better acceptance by locals of “new Americans” and reduce threat of environmental pollution to immigrant community to ensure environmental equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Produce an enhanced 7 language marine fisheries abstract to educate foreign speaking user groups in marine fisheries regulations and the reason for the regulations with an enhanced abstract with culture friendly explanation of conservation laws, littering, “good neighbor” ethic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of abstracts distributed as of 10-31-99 ▪ 10% increase over the 1500 distributed by 10-31-98
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review for effectiveness of deer damage program with farmers and Agriculture and Fish and Wildlife 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine if change is necessary and initiate needed modifications by 10-31-99

*See attached definitions

Partners: National Marine Fisheries Service, Woonasquatucket Watershed, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, farmers

OBJECTIVE 4: Insure public safety in boating, hunting, and on DEM properties through patrol and education.		Environmental Indicators: provide a safe and enjoyable recreational environme
STRATEGIES*	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Provide for stewardship of Rhode Island's natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase patrol force by returning 1 long term workman's comp officer and 1 long term sick officer back to work or replacing them 	Officers returned or replacement process initiated by 9-30-99 subject to conditions of state personnel system
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase time charged to boating cost centers by officers to more effectively access available boating funds 	Increase hours charged from 15% in 99 to 25% with checks 10-31-99,1-31-00,4-30-00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate possibility of banning PWC on all waterways less than 400 feet wide (by regulation) . Partner with legal to investigate legislation banning PWC on all constricted bodies of water in watersheds 	Have feasibility determined by 12-31-99 and proceed with required regulation/legislation thereafter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct "post mortem" on parks law enforcement initiative of 99, determine effectiveness and whether it would be more effective to acquire more FTE's or continue to staff on overtime 	10-1-99 –determine how to proceed and take appropriate actions

*See attached definitions

Partners: Parks and Recreation, groups in watershed complaining about PWC's