

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

Hearing Officer: Catherine Sparks, Chief – Assistant Director, RIDEM
RIDEM Staff Present: Larry Mouradjian, Associate Director of DEM
Gary Powers, Deputy Chief, Legal Services Counsel
Christine Dudley
Jay Osenkowski
Brian Tefft
Ashley Schipritt

The public hearing for the 2014-2015 Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulations and the 2013-2014 Hunting Regulations was held on June 4, 2013 at 7:00PM at the Warwick Police Department meeting room. Seven (7) people from the public attended the hearing.

The hearing was called to order at 7:12 PM by Deputy Chief, Legal Services Counsel, Gary Powers.

G. Powers – Deputy Chief, Legal Services Counsel, (GP): The hearing began with directions on how the hearing would be conducted and encouraged participants to sign up for testimony. GP introduced himself and announced he was there to officiate on behalf of Janet Coit, Director of DEM. These regulations were noticed to publication on May 3, 2013 on the Secretary of States website and an affidavit of this posting will be entered as **Exhibit 1** along with a copy of the Freshwater Fishing Regulations and the Hunting Regulations and the response that the Division received from Thomas Mullaney from the State Budget Office on April 29, 2013, this was in response to the Fiscal Note for Administrative Rule changes, with the Fiscal Impact Statement. This hearing is conducted pursuant to 42-35 General Laws of Rhode Island. It is an opportunity for the public to provide comment for the above fish and hunting referenced, it is not an opportunity to debate, question or otherwise engage in activity other than provide public comment. There for it is rather one-sided, but that is the way it has to be. GP advised there was an opportunity for such interaction, provided to the public by the means of two public workshops, on the east and the west side of the State. GP advised can make those dates available to those who missed them. GP advised Catherine Sparks will be conducting the hearing and affording the public the opportunity for comment and closing the hearing on an individual basis. GP turned the hearing over to Catherine Sparks and apologized for his tardiness.

Exhibit 1: Affidavit of Public Posting, Public Notice, copy of Proposed Rules and Regulations for the 2014-2015 Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulations and the 2013-2014 Hunting Regulations response that the Division received from Thomas Mullaney from the State Budget Office on April 29, 2013 and Fiscal Impact Statement.

Catherine Sparks - – Assistant Director, (CS): **CS** thanked everyone for their patience and stated that we are going to start with the Hunting Regulations

Public Hearing for Hunting Regulations for the 2013 – 2014 Season opened at 7:24pm.

Review of the 2013 – 2014 Hunting Regulations

CS Call for comments on the Hunting Regulations.

CS calls Keith Aloï

Keith Aloï wishes to comment on Freshwater Fishing

CS calls Tom Ramotowski

Tom Ramotowski wishes to comment on Freshwater Fishing

CS calls Bert Tivey

Bert Tivey advises no problems

CS calls Richard Phillips

Richard Phillips would like to comment in regards to why there are no dates provided for the Heritage Property on Prudence Island.

CS reading the comments on the record that were received during the open public comment period.

Exhibit 2: Submission from Department of Environmental Management - Environmental Police in regards to language change in section 5.7.4 for the Small Game section for coyote hunting with Archery equipment with broadheads. As well considering adding the hunting of raccoons at night and the restrictions as to how they are to be hunted to the Hunting Regulations, dated June 4, 2013.

Exhibit 3: Submission from Matt Smith in regards to a typo on page 26 of 41 – “but specifically not broadhead or field arrows” is repeated, dated May 30, 2013.

Exhibit 4: Submission from Fiona Fitzpatrick, New Shoreham Town Clerk in regards to a changing the pheasants hunting days on Block Island, limit the harvest of the taking antlered deer to one on Block Island and in regards to section 1.3.2.4 a reference to 1.17.2 that should be 1.16.2, dated May 16, 2013.

Exhibit 5: Submission from Scott Cummings, Director of Land and Freshwater Conservation from the Nature Conservancy regarding additional hunting areas in Richmond, dated May 6, 2013.

Final call on comments for Hunting Regulations.

Question from Amelio Imbriglio in regards to a comment he submitted during the workshop, inadmissible at that time. CS advised will follow up after hearing.

CS advised that the after today's hearing the record will be kept open for 10 calendar days to permit the submission of any written data, views, arguments, or commentary on the proposed rules and regulations.

Richard Phillips advised he located the date changes for the Heritage Property on Prudence Island.

Public Hearing on Hunting Regulations for the 2013-2014 is closed at 7:28 PM.

Public Hearing for the Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulation for the 2014 - 2015 is opened at 7:29 PM.

Review of the 2014 – 2015 Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulations

CS advised there are no written comments for submission

CS calls Keith Aloï

Testimony: Keith Aloï

Aloï read an extensive 2 page report. Herein is a summary; he opposes any attempt to increase catch and release areas in the State of Rhode Island due to studies that indicate that it is unsuitable for the state of Rhode Island for stocked trout to survive very long or to reproduce in the wild. Aloï provides various research information that he obtained from the Divisions studies and reports. (Submitted a 2 page Fishing Petition **Exhibit 7**, Submitted a summary of testimony **Exhibit 8**).

CS calls Tom Ramotowski

Testimony: Tom Ramotowski

Ramotowski from Tiverton, RI would like to make comments in regards to Stafford Pond in regards to the Fishing Regulations. He states that Stafford Pond is the only reservoir in the State that offers public access fishing waters in the state. Ramotowski goes on to state that Stafford Pond provides drinking water for roughly 10,000 town residents in the Town of Tiverton, RI. Jay Osenkowski requests Ramotowski to move to the front so his comments can be recorded. Ramotowski goes on to state the Stafford Pond is the emergency water supply to the town of Portsmouth, RI. Ramotowski advised that they are still pursuing a local ordinance that would regulate activities that occur on reservoir that are located in their town. Stafford Pond is one Reservoir and Nonquit Pond is another Reservoir for the City of Newport across the bay. The public hearing for these new and proposed town ordinance was continued to the Town Council on the 10th of June starting at sometime after 7pm. If passed there will be local rules in affect in regards to use of the reservoirs, in regards to obtaining a permit from the town, users on the pond needing to get insurance in the event of an accident to the reservoir. He states this is what is in existing language that will be discussed at the June 10th meeting. Ramotowski has additional comments in regards to existing language in the regulations. Ramotowski states that enforcement is a weakness in the regulations in

regards to the horsepower restrictions on the pond and vessels exceeding this horsepower restriction outside of the tournament date and hours. Ramotowski advised that the Division needs to make steps to rectify this and states we have a responsibility to fix this. Ramotowski advised that we also need to address invasive species, he referenced Massachusetts in regards to certifying there boats and trailers, and other states that have on site vendors that power wash vessels before the vessels leave the ramp. Ramotowski advised that they are really concerned about invasive species like Zebra Mussels that can do a lot of damage to the water intakes and cause damage to the water supply, he went on the state that there are current two invasive species in the pond and went on the state that they were probably brought to the reservoir by vessels. Ramotowski went on to request that this pond not be stocked for trout. He went on to state that there are 80 other ponds in the state to stock, why encourage on this reservoir. He thanked the Division for the help in adding sanitary facilities. He wants to make sure we protect this resource.

CS calls Bert Tivey

Bert Tivey, no comment.

CS calls Richard Phillips

Richard Phillips, no comment.

CS also states that the written comment period has been extended 10 calendar days to June 14, 2013.

Public Hearing on Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulation for the 2014 - 2015 is closed at 7:43 PM.

Written comment accept from Amelio Imbriglio, Exhibit 6, in regards to the All Outdoors Package, dated June 4, 2013

Keith Aloï will have his written comments and petition entered as an exhibit, Exhibit 7 & 8.