



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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1.16 Boating, fishing and education organizational activities requiring a permit from RIDEM Fish & Wildlife.

For the purpose of this regulation, organizational boating, fishing or educational activities are defined as being conducted by an organization which has an administrative and functional structure for participants who are members or affiliates of said organization. A written permit from RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife is required for certain activities with minimum numbers and locations as described below, in Sections: 1.16.1 (boating), 1.16.2 (fishing), and 1.16.3 (education). Permits may be obtained by contacting RIDEM Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892. Tel: (401)789-7481.

The application to obtain a permit for an organizational activity must include the location, date, time (which shall include set-up and arrival activities before the event and ending activities prior to exiting the access parking lot), and the numbers of persons, vehicles, and boats planned for the event (s). RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife shall review each application for the granting of a permit for each organizational boating or fishing activity based upon, but not limited to, 1. the capacity of the boat ramp or access to be utilized, 2. the water body which is proposed as the site of the activity, 3. consideration of any competing users, and 4. the support facilities available at the site, including, but not limited to, parking, sanitary facilities, and security. RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife reserves the right to limit the number of activities per location, per day, or time period. The Department further reserves the right to deny a permit application for a particular date and location for reasons of overuse or conflict with other activities.

- 1.16.1 Permits for organizational boating activities are required for state fishing and boating access areas if the activity consists of ten (10) or more boats (motorized, rowboats, canoes, kyaks, paddle boards; regardless of propulsion). Permits should be applied for within two weeks of the planned activity.
- 1.16.2 Permits for organizational fishing activities (ex. tournaments) are required for state fishing and boating access areas and the following private access areas, Johnson's Pond, Coventry, and Waterman Reservoir, Gloucester. Permits, issued by RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife, are required if the activity is composed of 6 or more persons and/or 3 or more boats. Permits must be applied for a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the activity. Except in the case of an unforeseen natural disaster or other unforeseen occurrences, organizations who fail to conduct the permitted activity and fail to provide RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife with written notice of the cancellation of the activity, at least three (3) weeks in advance of the date which the activity was scheduled to occur, shall have the organization's eligibility to conduct further fishing activities revoked for one year from the time of the cancelled activity.

This revocation shall include any activities for which a permit was previously issued. This decision of revocation shall rest entirely with RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife. Each boat and vehicle occupying the state boat ramp parking lot that participates in an organization fishing activity is required to display a participant placard issued by the RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife prior to launching at the proposed site of the activity. Conditional permits are granted for Beach Pond (CT) and Wallum Lake (MA) due to the boat ramps being located in bordering states. An additional permit must also be obtained from the CT or MA agencies that issue permits.

1.16.2.1 The applicant must indicate on the application whether the fishing activity is a "closed" or an "open" activity.

1.16.2.1.1 If the activity is designated as a closed fishing activity, the number of boats, vehicles, and participants must be entered on the application. The permit must be retained on site and have the names of all participants and boat registration numbers. Refer to section 1.16.6.

1.16.2.1.2 If the activity is authorized to be conducted as an open fishing activity, the organization shall have the names of all participants and registration number of each boat on the day of the activity and accessible to RIDEM-Division of Law Enforcement.

1.16.2.2 The total count of all participants, vehicles and boats shall be forwarded to RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife within five (5) days of the start of the fishing activity. The Department will provide the organization with a specified number of placards based upon an estimate of proposed entrants given at the time of application.

1.16.2.3 Regardless of whether a fishing activity has been authorized as a "closed" or an "open" activity, the organization is obligated to provide a report to RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife within five (5) days of the termination of the activity which includes: the number of hours fished, the numbers of boats, numbers of participants, a separate total count of the number of largemouth bass and small mouth bass caught as well as separate total weights of all largemouth bass and smallmouth bass processed at the weigh-in. This report may be sent as a letter to RIDEM Fish and Wildlife or by completing the Bass Tournament Count Form that will be provided with the placards.

1.16.2.4. It is the responsibility of the organization to obtain all of the required data in its entirety. Failure to complete and submit the required information shall render the organization ineligible to conduct further organization fishing activities for one year from said activity; such revocation shall include any activities for which a permit was previously issued.

1.16.3 Permits for organizational education activities (ex. universities, schools, youth groups) are required for state fishing and boating access areas if the activity consists of ten (10) or more persons and/ or ten (10) or more boats (motorized, rowboats, canoes, kyaks, paddle boards; regardless of propulsion). Permits should be applied for within two weeks of the planned activity.

1.16.4 If the permit for a organizational boating, fishing, or educational activity is requested for access utilizing a municipal or a private ramp, the organization may be required to comply with the regulations or rules adopted by that

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municipality or private entity including the obligation to obtain a permit from the municipality or private entity if so required. It shall be the responsibility of the organization of the fishing or boating activity to obtain said additional permit as well as to comply with Sections 1.16, 1.16.1, 1.16.2, 1.16.3.

1.16.5 These regulations shall not be interpreted as superseding any special boat ramp or state management area regulations.

1.16.6 It shall be the sole responsibility of the organization of each permitted boating, fishing or educational activity to have the names of all participants and the boat registration numbers, if applicable, of all participants available along with the permit during the activity for RIDEM Division of Law Enforcement.

Please note:

Permits are not required for non-organizational, informal, or casual gatherings at state freshwater access areas.

Penalties for violations, please refer to Section 30, Park and Management Area Regulations

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Reference for 1.16

Park and Management Area Rules and Regulations

- 1.12 Group - a collection of at least ten (10) persons, which may be military, public or private, may or may not be chartered or incorporated, profit or non-profit and having a formal name, with or without officers and/or dues.
- 1.13 Management Area – public lands that are owned by the state of Rhode Island under the jurisdiction of the Department’s Division of Fish & Wildlife or Forest Environment or in conjunction with each other or subject to the enforcement authority of the Department.
- 1.22 Permitted organized fishing activity, i.e. tournaments, shall mean those permitted through the RIDEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife with all rules and stipulations included therein. (See Section 1.16 Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulations.)
- 1.23 Person - an individual, firm, corporation, society, association, partnership, or private or public body.
- 1.27 Special Event – any activity in which seventy-five (75) or more participants not to exceed one hundred fifty (150) participants.
- 1.28 Special Use Permit - an authorized written permission for groups between 10-75 people or research studies to use the management areas.
- 1.29 Sponsor – the person(s) who applies for authorization to conduct, or conducts a special event as that term is defined in Part 1.27 of these rules and regulations.

Section 30 – Penalties for Violation Freshwater Regulation beginning.

- 30.1 PENALTIES: Any person found to have violated any rule and/or regulation shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00 for each violation, except Section 26, which is governed by 26.6 and 26.7.
- 30.2 All persons failing to pay or evade payment of any user or admission fee shall be subject to the penalty provision R.I.G.L.1956 (1982 Reenactment) 32.2.4 as amended.
- 30.3 No person shall refuse or neglect to obey the direction of an environmental police officer or forest ranger or any other authorized representative of the Department of Environmental Management.