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In accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the "Administrative Procedures Act" (Section 42-35-3 of the General Laws of Rhode Island) and the Rule and Regulations of the Coastal Resources Management Council, notice is hereby given of the intention of the Coastal Resources Management Council to change the management plans, policies, procedures and regulations of the agency regarding planning and management of the coastal resources of the State relative to Chapter 46-23 of the State of Rhode Island.

The following change is proposed:

(Note: new text is underlined and any deleted text is ~~struck through~~)

RI Coastal Resources Management Program –Section 300.11 Aquaculture

Amend Section 300.11.B.1 as follows

1. The CRMC recognizes that commercial aquaculture is a viable means for supplementing the yields of marine fish and shellfish food products, and shall support commercial aquaculture in those locations where it can be accommodated among other uses of Rhode Island waters. The CRMC recognizes that responsible shellfish aquaculture has a net positive effect on the environment, and therefore it is permissible in all water types. As any human activity can have adverse environmental effects, the Council recognizes the possibility of setting scientifically defensible limits on aquaculture leasing in any particular water body. The CRMC also recognizes that in the framework of adaptive management protocols, research into the ecology of coastal waters and our understanding of ecosystem carrying capacities is constantly evolving and improving.

Purpose: To further clarify existing CRMC policy that aquaculture activities are permissible in all CRMC designated water types, including Type 1, consistent with the permissible activities listed in Table 1 (Water Type Matrices) in the Coastal Resources Management Program.

The Council has complied with the requirements of R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-35-3 by considering alternative approaches to the proposed regulation(s) and has determined that there is/are no alternative approach(es) that would be as effective and less burdensome. The Council has also determined that the proposed regulation(s) do(es) not overlap or duplicate any other state regulation. The Council has complied with the requirements of R.I. Gen. Laws Section 42-35-3.3 by submitting copies of the proposed regulation(s) to the Governor's Office and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Parties interested in or concerned with the above proposed changes are invited to **submit written comments by Thursday, September 5, 2013**. All such comments should be directed to Grover J. Fugate, Executive Director, at the above address.


A public hearing has been scheduled for these proposed changes to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at the Administration Building Conference Room A, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

Copies of the proposed regulations are also available from the Coastal Resources Management Council offices and its website – www.crmc.ri.gov.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Council office at 783-3370, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Coastal Resources Management Council offices at 783-3370.

Signed this 1st day of August, 2013



Jeffrey M. Willis, Deputy Director
Coastal Resources Management Council

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