

Species: Trout, oysters and hard clams,

Production Methods: Ponds, tanks, raceways, bottom and off-bottom culture.

Responsible Agency: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), 291 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908, *Telephone: 401-277-6519; Fax: 401-521-4230*, The DEM has responsibility for regulating water quality standards for discharges to tidal and non-tidal surface waters, groundwater, and solid waste disposal. The Division of Environmental Coordination (401 -277-3434) provides general information and refers enquiries to the appropriate regulatory Division within the Department.

Water Classification: Surface waters are divided into freshwaters (Classes A, B, C D, and E) and sea waters (Classes SA, SB, SC, SD, and SE). Class A waters are designated for (drinking) water supply. Class B waters are suitable for public water supply with appropriate treatment, agricultural uses, bathing and other primary contact recreational activities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Class C waters are designated for boating and other secondary contact recreational activities, fish and wildlife habitat, and industrial processes and cooling. Class D waters are limited to migration of fish and good aesthetic value. Class E waters are unsuitable for most uses and are considered nuisance waters limited to certain industrial processes and cooling, power, and navigation.

Class SA waters are suitable for bathing and contact recreation, shellfish harvesting for direct human consumption, and fish and wildlife habitat. Class SB waters are designated for shellfish harvesting for human consumption after deputation, bathing and other primary contact recreational activities, and fish and wildlife habitat. Class SC waters are designated for boating and other secondary contact recreational activities, fish and wildlife habitat, industrial cooling, and good aesthetic value.

Groundwater and designated uses are subdivided into 4 classes GAA, GA, GB, and GC. Solid wastes are subdivided as Solid and Special Solid Waste.

Copies of Current Standards: Rhode Island DEM, Division of Water Resources (surface water standards); Division of Groundwater (groundwater standards) and the Division of Waste Management (solid waste and septage standards) 291 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908. No fee is charged for copies of the surface-water standards.

Waste Classification: *Effluent* — Industrial Waste Water; *Settleable Solids* and *Mortalities* — Solid Waste.

Effluent Standards: Based upon quality of the receiving waters and best available technology (BAT).

NPDES Permit: All discharges are regulated under the state discharge permit program. *Criteria* — 40 CFR Part 122.24 (Rule 28 lists equivalent criteria under the state discharge program). *Permit Fee* — See State Discharge permit. *Individual Permit Authority* — Yes, 9/84. *General Permit Authority* — Yes, 9/84.

State Discharge Permit: Aquiculture discharges are covered under the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (RIPDES) permit (pronounced “rip-dees”). All operations discharging to waters of the state, regardless of production level, are required to notify the DEM, Division of Water Resources. A RIPDES permit is mandatory for all facilities with production above the 40 CFR threshold. A case-by-case determination is made for facilities below this level. The RIPDES permit is valid for five years, and covers two discharge categories: Minor (\$462) and Major (\$4043). Quality of the receiving waters, composition of the discharge, and discharge volume are factors used to determine the appropriate category.

Mixing Zone: Determined individually based upon characteristics of discharge and quality of receiving waters. One proposed facility has requested a mixing zone.

Land Application: Effluents and settled solids may be used on agricultural land with a permit from the DEM. Commercial composting facilities are an alternative to land disposal. Settled solids and mortalities intended for disposal must be taken to an approved landfill.

General Discharge Permit: The Rhode Island DEM has no plans to develop a general discharge permit for aquiculture at this time.

Other Information: Rhode Island water quality standards also include a separate section on Outstanding Natural Resource Waters (ONR). These include all waters in State Parks, and other waters identified by the state legislature.