

Guidance Document for Aquaculture Operations Plans

Anyone conducting aquaculture operations in RI must comply with all applicable CRMC regulations (*Coastal Resources Management Program Section 1.3.1(K)*) and DEM regulations, as set forth in “*Aquaculture of Marine Species in RI Waters.*” Plans provided to the CRMC will be available for DEM review. Modifications to the permit must follow the CRMC process for modification of assent. Separate, individual plans shall be developed and submitted for each aquaculture site/facility (i.e., one for each lease site, one for each upweller location, etc.); provided, however, that if lease sites are contiguous, or part of a single, unified operation, the overall site can be covered by a single plan. Operations Plans shall address each of the items listed below, as applicable, following the format set forth below.

Note: All plans must be type written. This Microsoft Word document is intended to be used by licensees/operators as a template when preparing plans and may be modified as needed to fit the specific needs of the operator.

1. ***Name and mailing address*** of individual, firm, partnership, association, academic institution, municipality, or corporation who is principally responsible for the aquaculture operation or activity; if corporation, specify and include names of all owners/partners:
2. ***CRMC file number*** for the facility; new applications will be assigned a file number by CRMC:
3. ***DEM Aquaculture License number*** (applicable if products are offered for sale); new applicants will need to obtain the DEM aquaculture license:
4. ***Type of facility*** (e.g., commercial lease site, upweller, experimental site, restoration site) and ***nature of operation*** (i.e., methodology used).
5. ***Location of facility*** (include aerial or chart depicting exact location):
 - Town:
 - Water body:
 - Lat/long coordinates of facility:
6. Identification of all ***species of shellfish*** grown at the facility. Acknowledgement that the applicant will follow Biosecurity Board seed protocols should be included.
7. Description of ***types of structures, gear and methods*** used at the facility (e.g., rafts, pens, cages, tanks, upwellers, docks) and their locations on the site. (Include a sketch/site plan that details a cross-section of structures as they appear in water column including proximity to surface and bottom.):
8. Description of the ***methods and equipment used to identify and mark site.***
9. DEM ***Shellfish Harvesting Classification*** at site.
10. Description of ***practices and procedures used*** during the growth, harvest, storage, transportation, and sale of the cultured species.

11. Procedures for *maintaining records*: for operations using seed acquired from out-of-state: description of notification, disease certification, and labeling/tagging procedures:
12. Procedures for *maintaining records*: for upwellers/seed-growing facilities in prohibited waters: description of procedures, including frequency of grading (with particular reference to requirements that seed must be removed before it exceeds maximum “seed” size threshold, i.e., <32 mm for oysters, <25 mm for quahogs):
13. Procedures for *maintaining records*: for operations using seed from prohibited waters, or operations using shellfish obtained from a third party that originated as seed from prohibited waters:

Detailed description of demarcation methods and record-keeping practices used at the lease site to ensure that animals have been cultured at least twelve (12) months in approved waters, prior to sale, including:

- a. Detailed record-keeping practices specifying date, source, average size, and amount of seed; and
- b. Protocols and associated record keeping for tracking product, e.g., use of tagged/numbered cages and/or bags, use of marked trawls, and/or use of marked, segregated portions of lease sites.

Description of the process for notifying the third party that (a) seed came from prohibited waters, (b) the date of that transfer, and (c) the remaining time needed to maintain the animals in approved waters prior to sale.