



1 water resources including lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.

2 (2) "Coordination" means to harmonize in a common action or effort and/or to function in  
3 a complementary manner.

4 (3) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of environmental management.

5 (4) "Lake" or "pond" means a place, natural or manmade, located wholly or partly within  
6 the State of Rhode Island, where open standing or slowly moving water shall be present for at least  
7 six (6) months of the year.

8 (5) "Lake association" means an association, club or other organization, formed and  
9 registered in Rhode Island, which has responsibility for stewardship and management of a  
10 freshwater lake or pond.

11 (6) "Non-native species" means a species of plant, animal, or microbe that is:

12 (i) Introduced to a country or region where it is not native;

13 (ii) Is reproducing and spreading without human cultivation; and

14 (iii) Is causing harm to native species or the areas in which they live.

15 (7) "Rhode Island lake management fund" means the fund established by § 46-33-3.

16 **46-33-2 Rhode Island lake management program – Established.**

17 (a) The department shall develop and implement a lake management program. The program  
18 shall include the following elements:

19 (1) Field surveys and mapping to document the presence of aquatic invasive species in  
20 freshwaters;

21 (2) Development and provision of guidance and technical assistance to lake associations,  
22 watershed organizations and municipalities interested in undertaking lake management actions;

23 (3) Coordination of the implementation of lake management actions, where appropriate;

24 (4) Oversight of lake management policy and program development;

25 (5) Distribution of financial assistance for lake management, including control of aquatic  
26 invasive plants, as resources allow; and

27 (6) Other activities consistent with the powers and duties assigned to the department in §  
28 42-17.1-2(34).

29 (b) Upon receipt of funding in the Rhode Island lake management fund, the department  
30 shall establish procedures and rules for the distribution of lake management grants consistent with  
31 the following provisions:

32 (1) Entities eligible to apply for assistance shall include lake associations, watershed  
33 associations, municipal governments and other nonprofit, non-governmental environmental and  
34 conservation organizations.

1           (2) Projects involving lakes and ponds located wholly within a privately owned property  
2 and that lack public access to the waterbody are not eligible for assistance.

3           (3) Projects involving lakes and ponds that lack public access, excepting those excluded in  
4 subsection (b)(2) of this section, may be eligible to apply for financial assistance provided the  
5 department determines that active management is necessary to protect publicly accessible  
6 freshwater resources.

7           (4) Projects shall be solicited through a publicly advertised process.

8           (5) Projects shall require a matching contribution of funds.

9           (6) Eligible projects are determined by the department to be technically sound and  
10 appropriate to mitigate an existing aquatic invasive species management, water quality or aquatic  
11 habitat concern.

12           (7) Funding is used to design and implement specific lake management actions.

13           **46-33-3 Rhode Island lake management fund – Established.**

14           (a) There is hereby established a restricted receipt account within the department of  
15 environmental management to be called the Rhode Island lake management fund.

16           (b) The fund shall consist of any funds which the state may from time to time appropriate,  
17 as well as money received as gifts, grants, bequests, donations or other funds from any public or  
18 private sources.

19           (c) All funds, monies, and fees received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the  
20 lake management fund and shall be utilized by the department consistent with the purposes of this  
21 chapter.

22           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC003645/SUB A  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- FRESHWATER LAKE MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM

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1           This act would establish the Rhode Island lake management program and a restricted  
2 receipt account as a fund within the department of environmental management to aid with lake and  
3 pond management issues relating to the control of aquatic invasive plants.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC003645/SUB A  
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