Chapter 305: PERMIT BY RULE
Draft Amendments 10/19/2011

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- ***Section 20 Activities located in, on or over high or moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, or shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas***

20. Activities located in, on or over high or moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, or shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas

A. Applicability

(1) This section applies to activities in existing developed areas located in, on, or over high or moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, or shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas.

(2) This section applies to an expansion of up to 10% of an existing development area within a high or moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, or a shorebird feeding area, if an individual permit is not otherwise required for activity on the parcel.

(3) This section applies to activities consisting ~~only~~ of cutting or removal of vegetation within high or moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, or shorebird feeding or roosting buffer.

(4) This section applies to new activities, such as the construction of buildings, roads, and driveways, in an upland area on a previously undeveloped lot in moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat.

(4~~5~~) This section does not apply to an activity that is not or will not be in compliance with the terms and conditions of a permit issued under the *Site Location of Development Law,* 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 481–490, the *Stormwater Management Law,* 38 M.R.S.A. §420-D, or the *Natural Resources Protection Act,* 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 480-A–480-FF.

(~~5~~6) This section does not apply to an activity that does not conform to the local shoreland zoning ordinance.

NOTE: For additional regulatory provisions applicable to significant wildlife habitats, see *Significant Wildlife Habitat,* 06-096 CMR 335 (last amended June 8, 2006).

B. Submissions. The following items must be submitted with the notification, unless otherwise provided below.

(1) Photographs of the area that will be affected by the activity proposed.

(2) Photographs showing the completed project and the affected area must be submitted within 20 days of the activity's completion. The photographs must be sent with a

copy of the notification form or labeled with the applicant's name and the town in which the activity took place.

(3) A scaled plan or drawing of the area affected, including information such as the following.

(a) The entire property on which the activity will take place, including property lines, and the boundaries and location of protected natural resources such as streams, and wetlands, as well as significant wildlife habitat (specify type of significant wildlife habitat).

(b) Proposed activity and existing development on which the activity will take place, including buildings, parking areas, roads, fill areas, landscaped areas, etc. If up to a 10% expansion of an existing developed area is proposed within a high or moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, or a shorebird feeding area, indicate the existing developed area and proposed expansion.

It is not necessary to have the plan formally prepared. However, it must be legible and drawn to a scale that allows a clear and accurate representation of distances and measurements on the plan.

(4) For cutting or removal of vegetation in a shorebird roosting buffer~~area~~, notice of approval of the activity from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) must be submitted to the DEP with the notification form. The IF&W approval may specify the location of the activity or other conditions of approval.

(5) For any work in, on or over a shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging area that would occur between July 15 and September 15, notice of approval of the timing of the activity from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife must be submitted to the DEP with the notification form.

C. Standards

(1) For activities in, on or over a shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging area between July 15 and September 15, the activity must occur during the time period approved by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

(2) The following measures must be taken to prevent erosion of soil or fill material from disturbed areas into the resource:

(a) Staked hay bales or silt fence must be properly installed at the edge of disturbed areas between the activity and the undeveloped area before the activity begins;

(b) Hay bales or silt fence barriers must be maintained until the disturbed area is permanently stabilized;

(c) Within 7 calendar days following the completion of any soil disturbance, and prior to any storm event, mulch must be spread on any exposed soils;

(d) All disturbed soils must be permanently stabilized; and

(e) Within 30 days of final stabilization of the site, any silt fence must be removed.

NOTE: For guidance on erosion and sedimentation controls, consult the Maine Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs, dated March 2003. This handbook and other references are available from the DEP.

(3) An activity of a type that would qualify for a permit by rule under one of the sections listed below must also meet the requirements of that section.

Sec. 3. Intake pipes
Sec. 4. Replacement of structures
Sec. 6. Movement of rocks or vegetation
Sec. 7. Outfall pipes
Sec. 8. Shoreline stabilization
Sec. 9. Crossings (utility lines, pipes, cables)
Sec. 10. Stream crossing (bridges, culverts, fords)
Sec. 11. State transportation facilities
Sec. 12. Restoration of natural areas
Sec. 13. Habitat creation or enhancement and water quality improvement activities
Sec. 15. Public boat ramps
Sec. 16. Coastal sand dune projects
Sec. 18. Maintenance dredging renewal permit

(4) Except for cutting or removal of vegetation allowed pursuant to paragraph C(6) of this section, c~~C~~utting or removal of vegetation within a high or moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, or shorebird roosting buffer, is limited to:

(a) Removal of a safety hazard; or

(b) Cutting or removal of vegetation to allow for a footpath not to exceed 6 feet in width as measured between tree trunks and shrub stems. The footpath may not result in a cleared line of sight to the water.

Any cutting or removal of vegetation within a shorebird roosting buffer under this paragraph must be done in consultation with and as approved by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

(5) Cutting or removal of vegetation within a shorebird feeding buffer must meet the vegetative screening standards set forth in *Mandatory Shoreland Zoning*, 38 M.R.S.A. §439-A(6). In interpreting and enforcing these standards, the department shall rely upon the department's shoreland zoning rules regarding cutting or removal of vegetation for activities other than timber harvesting[1] and apply the cutting standards applicable within 75 feet of a coastal wetland to the entire 100-foot feeding buffer.

[1] *Guidelines for Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances,* 06-096 CMR 1000(15)(P) (chapter last amended May 1, 2006).

(6) New activities in an upland area on a previously undeveloped lot in a moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat must meet the following standards:

(a) New structures must be located a minimum of 100 feet landward of the upland edge or forested wetland edge of the waterfowl and wading bird habitat;

(b) Beyond 100 feet from the upland edge or forested wetland edge of the waterfowl and wading bird habitat, no more than 20 % of the applicant's land within the habitat may be cleared or developed;

(c) Within 100 feet of the upland edge or forested wetland edge of the waterfowl and wading bird habitat, cutting and removal of vegetation is limited to those activities described in Paragraphs C(4)(a) and (b) of this section.

(7) All work is limited to the location and extent depicted on the plan or plans submitted pursuant to subsection B(3) of this section.

D. Definitions. The following terms, as used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context indicates otherwise.

(1) **~~Existing d~~Development area.** The area of property altered including, but not limited to, buildings, driveways, parking areas, wastewater disposal systems, lawns and other landscaped areas, as of June 8, 2006. "~~Existing d~~Developed area" has the same meaning as "~~existing~~ development area".

(2) **Inland high or moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat**. A high to moderate value inland habitat is an inland wetland complex, and a 250 foot wide zone surrounding the wetland complex, that through a combination of dominant wetland type, wetland diversity, wetland size, wetland type interspersion, and the percent of open water meets IF&W guidelines or is an inland wetland complex that has documented outstanding use by waterfowl or wading birds. See Chapter 335(10)(A) for complete criteria.

(3) **Shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas**. Shorebird nesting, feeding, and staging areas, and a zone surrounding those areas as described in paragraphs (4) and (5), are significant wildlife habitats. Shorebird species include the members of the families Scolopacidae, Charadriidae, and Haematopodidae, including, but not limited to, sandpipers and plovers. See Chapter 335(11) for complete criteria.

(4) **Shorebird feeding area**. A shorebird feeding or staging area that is not a roosting area. The shorebird feeding area includes a 100-foot-wide surrounding buffer referred to as the feeding buffer.

(5) **Shorebird roosting area**. A shorebird feeding or staging area that is also a roosting area. The shorebird roosting area includes a 250-foot-wide surrounding buffer referred to as the roosting buffer.

(6) **Structure**. Anything built for the support, shelter or enclosure of persons, animals, goods or property of any kind, together with anything constructed or erected with a fixed location on or in the ground. Examples of structures include buildings, utility lines and roads.

NOTE: The significant wildlife habitats subject to this section are depicted on GIS data layers maintained by IF&W and available from either IF&W or the DEP.