



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

Three Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

Summary of Public Hearing Comments

Agency: Department of Environmental Management

Division: Marine Fisheries

Regulations: Part 3 – Finfish (250-RICR-90-00-3)

Type of Filing: Amendments

Timetable for action on the proposed rule:

- Date of public notice: October 17, 2022
- Date of hearing: November 1, 2022
- End of comment period: November 17, 2022

Testimony and Comments:

The public hearing was recorded and is publicly available on the Division of Marine Fisheries YouTube channel [here](#). ***This document represents a synopsis of the comments provided; it does not include supporting details and rationale that may have been provided.***

1. Commercial Black Sea Bass Management (§ 3.9.2(B)):

- 1 comment in support of increasing the possession limit to increase harvest and reduce mortality on juvenile lobsters.
- 2 comments in support of the proposed amendment to change the starting sub-period possession limits as noticed.
- 1 comment opposed to the proposed amendment to decrease the January 1 starting possession from 750lbs/vessel/week to 500 lbs/vessel/week; support to maintain the current starting possession limit of 750 lbs/vessel/week.
- 1 comment in support of reducing the number of possession limit changes.

2. Commercial Scup Management:

- 1 comment in support of the industry proposal as noticed.

3. Commercial Summer Flounder Management (§ 3.10.2(B)(2)):
 - 1 comment in support of industry proposal #2 as noticed.
 - 1 comment in support of industry proposal # 1 as noticed and to continue efforts to keep the fishery open for the entire period; opposed to proposal # 2
4. Recreational Striped Bass Gaffing Prohibition (§ 3.11.1(F)):
 - 1 comment in support of the proposed regulations as noticed.
5. Spanish Mackerel Management (proposed new § 3.38):
 - No comments or testimony were provided.