

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Title of Rule: Finfish
Rule Identifier: 250-RICR-90-00-3
Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: February 15, 2024
Hearing Date: February 28, 2024
End of Public Comment: March 17, 2024

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws Title 20

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-17.1

42-17.6

and 42-17.7

and in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35-18(b)(5)

Administrative Procedures Act

as amended

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

1. Recreational striped bass management – proposed recreational filleting requirements (proposed new section 3.8.1(F))
2. Commercial general category striped bass management – proposed changes to seasons, subperiod allocations, when possession is permitted, and when sale is permitted (section 3.8.2(A))
3. Commercial striped bass floating fish traps management – proposed change to reporting requirements (section 3.8.2(B)(6)) and possession limit trigger (section 3.8.2(B)(5))
4. Striped Bass tagging – proposed clarification to when fish must be tagged (section 3.8.2(E))
5. Menhaden management:
 - Proposed clarification of language throughout section; no regulatory changes proposed
 - Proposed change to the possession limit and the southern boundary of the Fall opening area (sections 3.21.2(A)(2)(c)(1) and 3.21.2(A)(2)(c)(2))
 - Proposed establishment of a weekly possession limit regardless of MMA status (section 3.21.2(A)(1))
6. Commercial bluefish management – proposed changes to seasons and starting possession limits (section 3.17.2)
7. Recreational scup management – proposed changes to minimum size, seasons, and possession limits (section 3.7.1)
8. Recreational summer flounder management – proposed changes to minimum size, seasons, and possession limits (section 3.9.1)
9. Proposed clarification to commercial possession limits (several species throughout rule; no regulatory change proposed)

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until March 17, 2024 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Peter Duhamel
Department of Environmental Management
3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, RI 02835
peter.duhamel@dem.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: February 28, 2024

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium, 215 South Ferry Rd
Narragansett, RI, 02882

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-423-1927 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.