

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Title of Rule: Lobsters, Crabs and Other Crustaceans

Rule Identifier: 250-RICR-90-00-5

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: September 2, 2025

Hearing Date: September 15, 2025

End of Public Comment: October 3, 2025

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen Laws Title 20

Chapters 42-17.1

42-17.6

and 42-17.7

and in accordance with § 42-35-18(b)(5).

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

- a.Divisionproposal to provide for the possession of Jonah crab claws consistent with ASMFC Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) (*section5.8(B)(5) and 5.8(C)*).
- b.Divisionproposal to clarify that the horseshoe crab biomedical harvest prohibition includesthe new and full moons (in addition to the 48 hours before and after the newand full moons, which is currently in rule) (*section5.7(D)(3)(d)*).
- c.Proposalto prohibit horseshoe crab biomedical harvest in coastal salt ponds and LittleNarragansett Bay (*section 5.7(D)(3)(f)*).
- d.Divisionproposal to eliminate the lobster trap tag transfer application period andprovide for the submittal and processing of applications at any time of theyear (*section 5.5.1(L)(5)(b)(3)*).

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 October 3, 2025 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Peter Duhamel
Department of Environmental Management
3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, RI 02893
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: September 15, 2025

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium
215 South Ferry Road
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.