

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
([R.I. Gen. Laws §42-35-2.6](#))

Agency: Department of Environmental Management

Division: Marine Fisheries

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

Date of Public Notice: January 30, 2026

Hearing Date: February 17, 2026

End of Public Comment: March 6, 2026

Agency’s reason(s) for adopting the rule, including any reasons for not accepting arguments made in testimony and comments:

1. 2026 recreational bluefish management: Public comment supported status quo. The RI Marine Fisheries Council voted unanimously to adopt the proposed rule as noticed.
2. 2026 recreational black sea bass management: The final rule adopted was the Northern Region Option 2 Approved by ASMFC Board. The RI Marine Fisheries Council voted unanimously to adopt this option.
3. Atlantic bonito and Falso albacore management: The majority of public comment supported adopting regulations on these species, however comment was highly varied. The RI Marine Fisheries Council voted 4-3 to maintain status quo at this time.

The Director’s decision memo provides rationale for this decision and is included as a supporting document with this rule filing.

Change between the proposed and final rule, including an explanation as to why these changes were made to the final text: Final changes were made regarding recreational black sea bass to reflect adoption of Northern Region Option 2 Approved by ASMFC Board. This option was supported by the RI Marine Fisheries Council who voted unanimously to adopt this option.

Regulatory Analysis: 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.