

**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: January 30, 2026

Hearing Date: February 17, 2026

End of Public Comment: March 6, 2026

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. Proposed changes to recreational bluefish management for 2026 (section 3.17.1(C))
2. Proposed changes to recreational black sea bass management for 2026 (section 3.6.1(A)(1))
3. Proposed adoption of regulations for Atlantic bonito and False albacore (section 3.36.1 and 3.36.2)

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 6, 2026 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: February 17, 2026

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: URI Bay Campus/GSO, Corliss 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.