

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
MARINE FISHERIES SECTION**

PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING PROPOSED REGULATORY CHANGES

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 42-17.1 and 20-3 of the General Laws of Rhode Island as amended, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) proposes amendments to the **Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulations** and gives notice of intent to hold a workshop and public hearing to afford interested parties the opportunity for public comment.

Public comment will be solicited on the following proposals:

- 1) Amendments to RIMFR - Shellfish, regarding the establishment of **regulations to reduce the risk of Vibrio illness associated with the consumption of commercially harvested quahaugs** (section 6, 16, and 17);
- 2) Amendments to RIMFR - Shellfish, regarding **technical clarifications** (i.e., no actual changes proposed);
- 3) Amendments to Part XV - Lobsters, Other Crustaceans, and Horseshoe Crabs regarding **removal of escape vent placement requirement** (section 15.13.2);
- 4) Amendments to Part VII - Finfish, regarding management for **recreational Summer Flounder** (section 7.7.1);
- 5) Amendments to Part VII - Finfish, regarding management for **recreational Tautog** (section 7.9.1);
- 6) Amendments to Part VII - Finfish, regarding management for **commercial Tautog** (section 7.9.2);
- 7) Amendments to Part VII - Finfish, regarding management for **recreational Scup** (section 7.11.1);
- 8) Amendments to Part VII - Finfish, regarding management for **recreational Black Sea Bass** (section 7.14.1);
- 9) Amendments to Part VII - Finfish, regarding management for **Spiny dogfish** (section 7.15);
- 10) Amendments to Part XII – Striped Bass, regarding management for **recreational Striped Bass** (section 12.1);
- 11) Amendments to Part XII – Striped Bass, regarding management for **commercial Striped Bass general category** (section 12.3);

- 12) Amendments to Part XII – Striped Bass, regarding management for **commercial Striped Bass floating fish trap** (section 12.5);
- 13) Amendments to Part VII - Finfish, regarding **general editing for improved clarity**;
- 14) Amendments to Part VII - Finfish, regarding **addition of a Quota Management section** (proposed section 7.1; in conjunction with hearing item #15);
- 15) Amendments to Part III – Marine Fisheries Council, regarding **deletion of the Quota Management section** (section 3.1; in conjunction with hearing item #14);
- 16) Amendments to Part X – Equipment Restrictions, regarding **deletion of redundant sections that are currently included elsewhere in RIMFR**.

The **workshop will commence at 4:30PM** on **Monday, February 16** followed by the **public hearing at 7:00PM** at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882. The room is accessible to the disabled. Interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing will be provided if such services are requested at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing by contacting the RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (401) 222-5300; or (401) 222-5301 (TTY); or <http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/>.

The Department has determined that small businesses may be adversely impacted by the proposed regulations. Small businesses which are either currently licensed, or in the future may seek a license to harvest, buy, sell, or produce seafood products, as well as the small businesses that provide services related to those engaged in such industries, are requested to comment on the proposed regulations on how such proposed action can be changed to minimize the impact on those small businesses affected.

Written comments concerning the proposed regulations may be submitted to Peter Duhamel, Division of Fish and Wildlife – Marine Fisheries office, 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI 02835 no later than 12:00 Noon on February 16, 2015. A copy of the proposed regulations will be available for review from January 16 through February 16, 2015 at the Marine Fisheries offices, or by mail. A copy of the proposed regulation(s) has been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State's website at <http://sos.ri.gov/ProposedRules/>. Proposed annotated regulations are also available on the DEM Marine Fisheries webpage at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pn021615.htm>.

Mark Gibson,
Deputy Chief