

**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 (RIMFR)** 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 - Finfish”**, regarding regulations for Blueline tilefish (section 7.23);
- 2) Amendments to **“RIMFR - Part XV - Lobsters, Other Crustaceans, and Horseshoe Crabs”**, regarding the application period for transfer of lobster trap allocation (section 15.14.2-12); and landing limits of lobsters taken by gear or methods other than trap (section 15.18);
- 3) To repeal **“RIMFR - Part XV - Lobsters, Other Crustaceans, and Horseshoe Crabs”**, and adopt in its place a new regulation entitled **“RIMFR - Lobsters, Crabs and Other Crustaceans”**, in order to effectuate a re-organization of the structure of the regulation to improve its readability; and to remove unnecessary duplicative, administrative, and/or non-regulatory statutory language;
- 4) Amendments to RIMFR **“Part XVI – Menhaden”**, regarding management of the commercial menhaden fishery;

The **workshop will commence at 4:30PM** on **May 11, 2015** followed by the **public hearing at 7:00PM** at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, **Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Room**, 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 May 11, 2015.** A copy of the proposed regulations will be available for review from April 10 through May 11, 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/pn051115.htm>.

Mark Gibson,  
Deputy Chief