

**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) Proposed amendments to **“RIMFR - Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations”**:
  - a. Exit/entry ratios for quahaug and soft-shell clam endorsement (section 6.1-10);
  - b. Procedures for adopting Sector Management Plan (section 6.2-1);
  - c. Issuance of new licenses upon sale of vessel and gear (section 6.7-8); and
  - d. Date for submittal of Student Shellfish licenses (sections 5, 6.7-3, and 6.8-5).
  
- 2) Proposed amendments to **“RIMFR - Aquaculture Marine Species in Rhode Island Waters”**:
  - a. Proposed definitions (new section 7);
  - b. Clarifying and updating permitting and submission requirements (new section 8.0);
  - c. Clarifying submission requirements for the shipment and importation of shellfish seed (new section 9.2);
  - d. Reduce the time period requirement for the harvest of shellfish transferred from other than approved waters as seed (new section 9.8);
  - e. Updating tagging requirements (new section 11.1); and
  - f. General editing to improved readability (entire regulation).
  
- 3) Proposed repeal of **“RIMFR – Marine Fisheries Council”**.
  
- 4) Proposed repeal of **2015 Finfish, Shellfish, and Crustacean Sector Management Plans**.
  
- 5) Proposed amendments to **RIMFR – Lobster, Crabs, and Other Crustaceans** to correct the minimum escape vent size and season closure dates for LCMA 4 for consistency with the federal management plan (sections 8.4.3 and 8.4.10).

The **workshop will commence at 4:30PM on September 21, 2015** followed by the **public hearing at 6:00PM** 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 September 21, 2015.** A copy of the proposed regulations is available for review from August 21 through September 21, 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/pn092115.htm>.

Jason McNamee,  
Chief