



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE / MARINE FISHERIES
Three Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835



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.

The following regulatory items will be presented for public comment:

1. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR-Finfish** regarding the following:
 - a. **Recreational Summer Flounder;**
 - b. **Recreational Tautog;**
 - c. **Commercial Tautog;**
 - d. **Recreational Scup;**
 - e. **Recreational Black Sea Bass;**
 - f. **Commercial Coastal Sharks;**
 - g. **Skate;**
 - h. **General editing.**
2. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR-Striped Bass**, regarding the following:
 - a. **Recreational Striped Bass;**
 - b. **Commercial Striped Bass general category;**
 - c. **Commercial Striped Bass floating fish trap;**
 - d. **Commercial striped bass tags;**
 - e. **Striped bass fin clipping provision** (in conjunction with hearing item # 3b.)
3. Proposed amendments **RIMFR-Fish/Shellfish Dealer Regulations**, regarding the following:
 - a. **General editing** for improved clarity and readability of the regulations;
 - b. **Striped bass fin clipping provision.**
4. Proposed **REPEAL** of **RIMFR Part 1 – Legislative Findings** (in conjunction with hearing item # 5);
5. Proposed **ADOPTION** of **RIMFR Part 1 – Definitions** (in conjunction with hearing item # 4);

6. Proposed **REPEAL** of **RIMFR Part 17 – Maps**.

The **WORKSHOP** will be held at **6:00PM** on **Tuesday, February 9th** at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Rooms, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882.

The **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held at **6:00PM** on **Tuesday, February 16th** at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Rooms, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882.

The rooms are 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, 2016. A copy of the proposed regulations will be available for review from January 15 through February 16, 2016 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>.

Jason McNamee,
Chief