

2020 RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL

Saltwater Fishing

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the Bite!



The official regulations provided by the
Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management





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Cover Photo Courtesy:
Capt. Joe Pagano - Stuff It Charters



Photo courtesy of TJ Harris

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Welcome Letter

On behalf of Governor Raimondo, I am pleased to introduce the eighth annual Rhode Island Saltwater Recreational Fishing Guide. The Ocean State offers some of the best saltwater recreational fishing anywhere. Whether you fish the waters of Narragansett Bay or the coastal waters stretching from the south shore out to Block Island and beyond, anglers in Rhode Island have many fantastic opportunities to enjoy the diversity and abundance of our local catch.

As part of a larger network of recreational opportunities in the state, fishing plays an important role in connecting people with nature, promoting health, attracting tourism, and supporting a treasured tradition for Rhode Island families. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, there are approximately 175,000 recreational anglers (age 16+) in Rhode Island. And recreational fishing contributes more than \$130 million to the economy each year. People love to fish in the Ocean State!

This guide is written for both novice and seasoned anglers. I hope you will find it filled with useful information on our efforts to provide superior recreational fishing opportunities in Rhode Island as well as with helpful guidance on fishing regulations. In these pages, you will learn about new habitat restoration initiatives including the construction of an artificial reef at Sabin Point, a research project looking at stomach contents of commonly-caught recreational finfish, stock status and upcoming changes in recreational/commercial regulations for the striped bass fishery, updated recreational fishing data collection through the NOAA Marine Recreational Information Program, and much more. And many local businesses that provide fishing-related services and supplies are also featured.

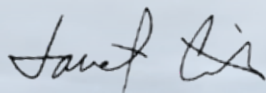
This is your publication, funded by contributions from saltwater anglers, including the federal Sportfish Restoration Program and the Rhode Island Recreational Saltwater License Program. Thanks to your support, our Marine Fisheries Division carries out a range of programs and activities supporting the interests of recreational fishermen. We monitor and conserve our local fish stocks. We work closely with recreational fishing organizations on initiatives like our special shore program or scup and summer flounder. And we continue to engage in outreach and education programs, such as this guide.

Getting people to and on the water is a core part of our mission at DEM. And we invest heavily in improving boating and fishing access to ensure anglers can easily reach their favorite spots on the water and along the shore. We're excited to report that two major construction projects are being completed this year. At the Quonochontaug Breachway in Charlestown, the 1970s-era boat ramp is being replaced with a new, single-lane courtesy ramp featuring an improved design with universal access. The reconstructed boat ramp is reoriented in a north-south direction so boaters can safely launch without having to fight the strong currents in the breachway channel. This popular boat launch is widely used and provides boaters with access to Quonnie Pond and Block Island Sound. And in the West Bay, a new timber fishing pier has been built at Rocky Point State Park. The 280-foot-long T-shaped pier features a shade structure, benches, solar lighting, and varied railing heights that allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy access to Narragansett Bay.

DEM works in close partnership with the RI Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) to promote recreational fishing and introduce the sport to young Rhode Islanders through a popular fishing camp at Rocky Point State Park. The RISAA Foundation sponsored the first camp in 2016, teaching 50 children how to safely fish from boat and shore, some for the first time. Now in its fifth year, the camp takes place this summer from June 23-25. Little is more thrilling than casting a line and reeling in that first fish – especially on beautiful Narragansett Bay. Kudos to RISAA for bringing this camp to Rocky Point and inspiring both a love of fishing and for this park in our children! It is through efforts like this that we forge the next generation of environmental stewards.

Beyond the fun it brings, saltwater fishing is a great way to enjoy fresh, delicious seafood. From bluefish to scup to our beloved summer flounder, Rhode Island is well known for the wealth of seafood harvested year-round from our waters. But ultimately, whether you fish for fun or food, the common denominator is that you are part of a time-honored tradition made possible by Rhode Island's amazing marine life. And we are committed to expanding this special opportunity to explore the briny wonders of our state and to providing a sustainable future for our precious marine resources.

I hope this guide enhances your recreational fishing experiences. Be safe, respect the great outdoors and each other, and enjoy the magic of fishing in beautiful Rhode Island. Most importantly, HAVE FUN!



Janet Coit
Director



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries Section through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

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Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey,
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This guide is also
available online at
eRegulations.com

Notable Catches

If you would like to share your notable catches with us and have the chance to see them in next year's fishing guide, please send pictures and information to RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov



John A.

Future highliner battled this 23" striper while fishing in Winnapaug Pond



Nick D.

Hoisted this beautiful black sea bass while bottom fishing in RI



Phillip T.

Showing off a trophy scup caught while shore fishing in RI waters



TJ H.

Sharing the joys of a beach caught bluefish with this happy angler



Tiffany L.

With a healthy blackfish wrestled from the rocks while jigging from a boat in RI



Mike S.

Went for the ride of his life landing this false albacore while shore fishing



Leo V.

Highlighting the photogenic quality of a hefty male tautog



Timber B.

Lost some sleep to land this 23 pound striped bass at 3:30am in the middle of May last year



Tom H.

Giving his reel a break after fighting with this beauty of a bonito



John M.

With a respectable spread of bluefish fishing the surf from the beach

General Information

Our Mission..

The Department of Environmental Management mission is to ensure that the freshwater, marine, and wildlife resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use. The Department is divided into three separate divisions: Marine Fisheries, Freshwater Fisheries, and Wildlife Management.

The Division of Marine Fisheries conducts research and monitoring of marine species to support the effective management of finfish, crustaceans, and shellfish of commercial and recreational importance. Some of the programs and projects that the Division is responsible for to support the proper management of marine species are resource assessment surveys including the trawl survey and the Narragansett Bay and coastal pond seine surveys, as well as shellfish relaying and transplants, sea and port sampling, stock assessment modeling work, and aquaculture and dredging project permit reviews. The Division is also responsible for developing and maintaining a wide array of regulations on marine species including setting seasons, size limits, harvest methods and equipment, and daily possession limits.

The Division provides information and outreach materials, including press releases, brochures, website, fact sheets, and this fishing guide to convey regulations and marine related topics to the regulated community and general public.

The Division also works closely and collaboratively with the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) to advise the DEM Director on a multitude of marine related matters.

Debris Decomposition Timeline

Glass bottle	1 million years
Monofilament fishing line	600 years
Plastic beverage bottle	450 years
Disposable diaper	450 years
Foamed plastic buoy	80 years
Aluminum can	80-100 years
Nylon fabric	50 years
Plastic bag	10-20 years
Cigarette filter	1-5 years
Untreated plywood	1-3 years
Cotton rope	1 year
Orange peel	2-5 weeks

If you have any questions about this guide or Rhode Island's marine recreational fisheries, please contact:

John Lake
Principal Marine Biologist
3 Fort Wetherill Rd.
Jamestown, RI 02835
(401) 423-1942
RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov



Marine Fisheries Laboratory located in Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, RI



Rhode Island Environmental Police – Division of Law Enforcement

Dean Hoxsie, Chief

The mission of the Environmental Police is to protect our natural resources and ensure compliance with all environmental conservation laws through law enforcement and education.

The history of the Environmental Police dates back to 1842 when the first game wardens were appointed to the Commission of Shellfisheries.

Today, Environmental Police Officers are sworn law enforcement officers who are responsible for patrolling and enforcing all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the state's fish, wildlife, boating safety and marine resources as well as all criminal and motor vehicle laws within the state parks and management areas. Officers patrol over 60,000 acres of state land, 92 salt and freshwater boat launching and fishing areas, 300 miles of rivers and streams, and 417 miles of coastline. They are also cross-deputized with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. During their patrols, they educate the public on the protection of our natural resources and provide safety for the public while enjoying Rhode Island's outdoors.

**To report violations, please call:
(401) 222-3070**

Log your catch, try our new data collection app!

Download the Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries VOLUNTARY recreational on-line angler logbook or download the SAFIS mobile application for iOS, Droid, or Windows. Just follow the link on the www.saltwater.ri.gov page to sign up and get started. Email john.lake@dem.ri.gov for details.



Photo courtesy of TJ Harris

Recreational Saltwater Fishing License

What Rhode Island Anglers Need to Know

In order to fish recreationally in Rhode Island marine waters, and in offshore federal waters, anglers and spearfishers must have a RI Recreational Saltwater Fishing License, OR a Federal Registration, OR a license from a reciprocal state.



Overview

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is a comprehensive new nationwide data collection and reporting system being implemented by NOAA Fisheries. All RI license information, as well as that collected by NMFS and other states, will be incorporated into a national registry of recreational anglers, enabling the new MRIP program to readily survey current fishermen and more accurately assess recreational catch and effort data. That information will lead to improved state-based assessments and more fair, accurate, and effective management programs for Rhode Island's marine recreational fisheries.

Reciprocal States

Rhode Island residents may use their RI Recreational Saltwater Fishing License to fish in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine.

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License holders from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine need not obtain a RI Saltwater Recreational Fishing License if they possess a valid license from one of the states listed above.

Please refer to pages 22 and 25 for information on lobster, shellfish, and other recreational licenses.

Recreational Saltwater Fishing License

License Type	Fee
RI residents (annually)	\$7.00
Non-residents (annually)	\$10.00
7-Day license	\$5.00

- Available online at: www.saltwater.ri.gov
- Also available from certain bait & tackle shops. A list of vendors can be found on the recreational license webpage.
- Applies in all RI waters, all offshore federal waters, and in all neighboring state waters for finfish and squid.
- Free for RI residents over 65 and for active military stationed in RI.
- No license needed for children under 16, nor for anglers on party & charter boats. See website for additional exemptions.

Dive Flag Awareness

SCUBA, skin-diving and snorkeling are all common activities in Rhode Island waters. When participating in any of these activities participants must display a flag warning boaters of their presence under water. Divers and boaters are required to follow the regulations below to ensure a safe and fun time above and below the water.

- Boaters must maintain a safe distance of 50 feet from a dive flag, unless the dive flag is in a place that obstructs navigation
- A warning flag shall be placed on a buoy at a place of the diver's submergence. The flag shall be red in color and at least twelve by twelve inches (12" x 12") with a white stripe running from the diagonal corners and the stripe one quarter (1/4) as wide as the flag.
- If not placed on a buoy, a warning flag shall be conspicuously flown upon a vessel which the diver is then using in the area. This flag shall meet the description above, however, it shall be at least eighteen by eighteen inches (18" x 18").
- The flag must only be flown during diving activity and should be taken down during transit
- No person shall use a dive flag in an area that obstructs navigation
- Divers should ascend slowly and cautiously, ensuring that they are within the 50 foot safety zone around the flag



Sabin Point Artificial Reef



By Patrick Barrett, Fisheries Specialist, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

Since 2017, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDEM DMF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have been monitoring the Upper Narragansett Bay and Providence River to characterize the habitat and to identify suitable locations for fish habitat enhancement projects. This research recently led to the first fish habitat enhancement project to use artificial reefs since the demolition of the Old Jamestown Bridge (Gooseberry Island and Sheep Point Reefs; completed in 2007), and the first project to use Reef Balls™ in the state of Rhode Island. The work was funded largely through the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, administered by RIDEM, with additional funds raised by The Nature Conservancy, including a grant from the RI Saltwater Anglers Association.

On October 25th, 2019, the Providence River benthos was improved by the Sabin Point Artificial Reef. Over two days, 64 Reef Balls™ were carefully lowered to the bottom of the bay, creating 4 distinct patch reefs (4 x 4 clusters) that range from 120 to 225 feet from the end of fishing pier at Sabin Point Park in East Providence. The Sabin Point artificial reef is divided into two nearshore and two bayside patch reefs designed to provide equal access to anglers (e.g., both shore and boat anglers), something that's historically uncommon in artificial reef work.

To date, most projects completed along the coast have taken place miles offshore, in large scale deployments, that use a variety of repurposed materials such as natural (i.e., rock, shell, trees, etc.) and man-made (e.g., tugboats and subway cars) structures. In 1870 South Carolina deployed the first documented US artificial reef and used log huts to build them; in 1935 New Jersey and the Cape May Wilford Party Boat Association sunk four vessels of the coast of Cape May that became so popular that the Pennsylvania-Reading Railroad offered a discounted 1-day round trip to bring anglers from Philadelphia to Cape May; and in 1950 the Shaefer Brewing Company donated 14,000 wooden barrels filled with concrete to make a reef near Fire Island, NY (McGurrin et al. 1989 , Stone 1985). From beer cases to charter boats, ingenuity continues to drive the field of artificial reefs.

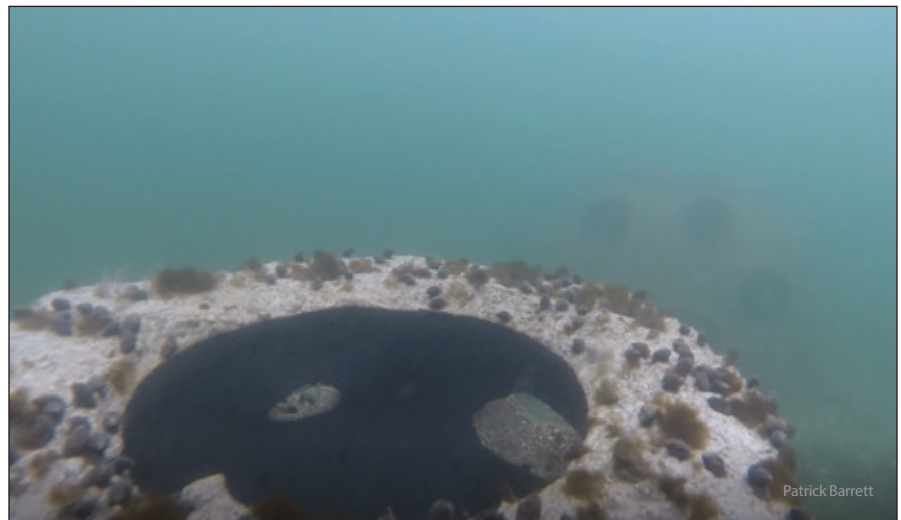
Compared to other states, Rhode Island's venture into the world of artificial reefs is relatively new. After the era of sinking anything and everything, from tires to large ships, the use of prefabricated modules became cheaper to deploy and allowed for a more standardized approach to artificial reef research. The 1970s marked this transition, as well as Rhode Island's first introduction to the enhancement technique. Rhode Island's first deployment focused

on determining if pre-fabricated modules can be used as a tool to increase the carry capacity of lobsters in areas devoid of natural shelter (Sheey 1976). Additional research and mitigation projects to restore fish habitat continued in Rhode Island during the early 2000s; including the Dutch Island (2003), McAllister Point (2004), and Sheep Point and Gooseberry Island reefs (2007). The Sabin Point reef has built on the success of these projects among others along the coast, and will continue to add to the science of artificial reef creation in Rhode Island waters. Following the examples of other successful reef projects, the Sabin Point reef has adopted the use of specifically-designed, well-tested concrete reef structures, deployed on a small scale with the goal of enhancing local fish habitat in estuarine waters (Bohnsack 1994, Lindberg 2006, Jordan 2005, Rosemond 2018).

The Sabin Point project will enhance fishing in the nearby Sabin Point waters, which currently provides fishing access but little structure for demersal reef fish like tautog and black sea bass. Through this work we're aiming to enhance the size and abundance of targeted species (e.g., tautog, black sea bass, scup) that are available to catch at this location. The artificial reef structures will be colonized by algae and invertebrates, promoting the base of the food web that will ultimately support more mid-trophic level sportfish. Research on Reef Balls™ have been shown to create more robust benthic habitats, ultimately attracting more fish to the reef. The reef will also provide shelter and food resources for sub-legal size sportfish and aggregating forage fish, promoting both the growth

and survival of these individuals (Powers 2003, Caddy 2011). The complexity of the reef community is expected to develop over time, however, in just two weeks, initial colonizers were already documented setting up on the reef. Divers from RIDEM DMF and TNC will continue to monitor the succession of the reef multiple times a year.

As artificial reef work continues to grow in RI we are looking to identify the value associated with artificial reef habitat. The Sabin Point project will be used as a pilot study for the use of Reef Balls™ in the RI waters and to identify monitoring guidelines for future artificial reef projects. The reef will be fished once a month from May to October and additional dive surveys will be completed throughout the year to monitor the reef colonization and productivity. We are also interested in determining the relative habitat value produced by creating artificial reefs in the bay, both from a biological and social standpoint. From our work we will establish fish habitat linkages by comparing productivity estimates on artificial reef in relation to sand flat controls, and other important finfish habitats (e.g., Oyster Reefs, Kelp, and Eelgrass). The permitted reef area can be found on the updated NOAA Nautical Chart 13224 (Providence River and Head of Narragansett Bay) denoted as the Fish Haven on the south side of Sabin Point Park. For more information on the Sabin Point Artificial Reef and literature cited, please contact Patrick Barrett (patrick.barrett@dem.ri.gov; RIDEM DMF) or Will Helt (william.helt@tnc.org; TNC).



Patrick Barrett

Photo taken during post installation inspection dive November 2019

Rhode Island Game Fish Award Program

Each year, RIDEM-Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes anglers who have caught freshwater and saltwater game fish of notable size with our Game Fish Award program. To be eligible, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means in Rhode Island waters. To accommodate both 'catch and release' and harvest fishing, the angler can either take a photo of the fish using a hand-scale and ruler or bring the catch to an official weigh station. The angler must then complete the Game Fish / State Record Award Application, available at www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/records/index.php. One award per year is issued for each species of game fish caught that meet the minimum size requirements listed to the right. The Game Fish Award goes to the angler with the largest catch in that species category. Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish was caught.

RI State Record Award

The Division of Fish and Wildlife maintains state records on each species of game fish caught in Rhode Island waters. To apply for an RI State Record, the angler must bring his or her legally-caught fish to an official weigh-in station. The fish must be identified, measured, and weighed on a Rhode Island certified, digital scale. The station operator must fill out a Game Fish/State Record Award Application and sign it. State Record Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish was caught. For a list of official fish weigh-in locations and applications please visit www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/records/index.php.

First Fish Award Program

First Fish Awards are available for children who catch their first fish in Rhode Island. To qualify, an angler must have caught a fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means. Applications can be processed without the need for an official weigh-in. Below is the First Fish Award application. It can also be downloaded using the following link: www.dem.ri.gov/topics/fwttopics.htm. First Fish Awards are processed twice a year: once in the fall and prior to the opening day of the following year.

Gamefish Award Qualifying Weights/Lengths (Except First Fish Awards)

Qualifying Freshwater Weights or Lengths			
Smallmouth Bass	4 lbs.	Chain Pickerel	4 lbs.
Largemouth Bass	6 lbs.	Northern Pike	10 lbs.
Bluegill	9 in.	Brook Trout	2 lbs.
Pumpkinseed	8 in.	Brown Trout	3 lbs.
Black Crappie	12 in.	Rainbow Trout	3 lbs.
Yellow Perch	12 in.	Golden Rainbow Trout	3 lbs.
White Perch	15 in.	Brown Bullhead	13 in.
White Catfish	4 lbs.		

Qualifying Saltwater Weights			
Striped Bass	50 lbs.	Pollock	15 lbs.
Sea Bass	3 lbs.	Scup	2½ lbs.
Bluefish	18 lbs.	Hickory Shad	5 lbs.
Bonito	10 lbs.	Blue Shark	80 lbs.
Cod	20 lbs.	Mako Shark	150 lbs.
Winter Flounder	2 lbs.	Swordfish	200 lbs.
Summer Flounder	8 lbs.	Squeteague	8 lbs.
King Mackerel	3 lbs.	Tautog	10 lbs.
Mackerel	1 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna	450 lbs.
Yellowfin Tuna	125 lbs.	White Marlin	70 lbs.

Completed Applications

Please send all completed applications to: RIDEM- Fish & Wildlife, 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place, Exeter, RI 02822, for verification and processing. For questions about any of these award programs, email kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or call (401) 539-0037.



First Fish Award



APPLICATION

DID YOU CATCH YOUR FIRST FISH? PLEASE CUT OUT, COMPLETE, AND SEND THIS FORM TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE AND GIFT FROM THE RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE!

You can also visit <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/first-fish.php> to print out a copy.

NAME: _____ DATE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TOWN _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL (optional): _____ FISH SPECIES: _____

WHERE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH: _____

WEIGHT OF FISH: _____ LENGTH OF FISH (tip of snout to tip of tail): _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (parent, grandparent, or other responsible adult): _____

RETURN TO: RI Division of Fish and Wildlife / Aquatic Resource Education Program
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place / Exeter, RI 02882

Electronic Reporting in Action

The next time you're out fishing, you may notice that interviewers no longer use pencils and paper forms to collect information from saltwater recreational anglers about their trips. Instead, shoreside samplers working for state fish and wildlife agencies are using electronic tablets to make collecting and processing information more efficient.

Collecting accurate information from saltwater anglers about how many fish they catch, keep, and release is the best way to learn what's happening in our recreational fisheries. These important data, combined with other sources of information such as commercial catch and biological research, help scientists and managers keep U.S. fish stocks sustainable.

Switching to tablets has made it easier for samplers to record data, interview an entire fishing party at once, and work in rainy or windy weather. Tablet-based reporting also saves money, and cuts the time it takes to process data from weeks to days.

This use of electronic technology was developed, tested, and implemented with funding from NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, which coordinates sampling by state fisheries agency personnel on beaches, piers, bridges, jetties, docks, and boat ramps from Maine through Georgia. It's one way NOAA Fisheries

is working with state, regional, and national partners to keep saltwater recreational fisheries productive, now and for generations to come.

Learn more about the tablet program, and other electronic technologies NOAA Fisheries is using to collect recreational fisheries data, at countmyfish.noaa.gov.



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



Report a Stranded or Injured Marine Animal (866) 755-NOAA

Give Animals Space

Remember to give animals space when on the water. How much space depends on the species you are viewing.

- **North Atlantic right whales:** 500 yards or 5 football field lengths (required by law)
- **Other whales:** 100-600 feet
- **Seals, dolphins and sea turtles:** 150 feet
- **Leaping sturgeon** also require extra space to avoid injury to you and the fish. If the animal leaves the area, or changes its behavior, it's telling you it's had enough time with you. Back away and never chase them.

Use Caution

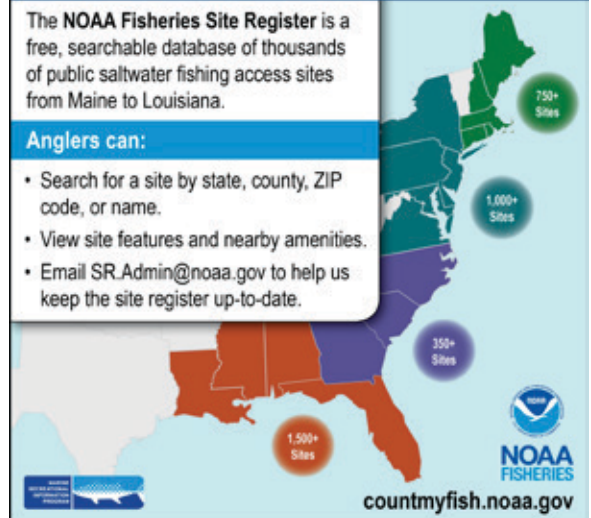
- Make sure you cast your line only when seals, turtles, dolphins, or whales are not present, and if they approach your boat, reel your gear in until they pass.
- If you accidentally hook or hit one of these animals, please call our hotline.
- Never feed wild animals. They can become sick or aggressive if fed by humans.
- Go slowly if seals, turtles, dolphins, or whales are nearby. Ten knots or less are required in certain areas for boats 65 feet greater in length between November 1-April 30 in the Mid-Atlantic in order to protect migrating North Atlantic right whales.
- Remember, boats of any size can strike and seriously injure or kill even a large whale and seriously damage your vessel —don't assume these animals will move out of your way.

Did You Know?

The NOAA Fisheries Site Register is a free, searchable database of thousands of public saltwater fishing access sites from Maine to Louisiana.

Anglers can:

- Search for a site by state, county, ZIP code, or name.
- View site features and nearby amenities.
- Email SR.Admin@noaa.gov to help us keep the site register up-to-date.



For-Hire Permitting & Reporting

Electronic vessel trip reporting is required for all vessels issued any of the following GARFO charter/party permits when carrying passengers for hire:

- summer flounder
- scup
- black sea bass
- Atlantic mackerel
- squid
- butterfish
- bluefish
- golden / blueline tilefish

Electronic reports must be submitted through a NOAA-approved software application following the completion of a fishing trip.

eVTR Reporting Questions (978) 281-9418

Search: **GARFO Going Fishing**

Fishing Knots

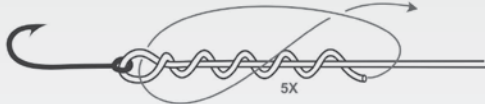
These and more fishing knots are available on waterproof plastic cards at www.proknot.com

Illustrations c 2011 John E Sherry

Improved Clinch Knot

The improved clinch knot has become one of the most popular knots for tying terminal tackle connections. It is quick and easy to tie and is strong and reliable.

The knot can be difficult to tie in lines in excess of 30 lb test. Five+ turns around the standing line is generally recommended, four can be used in heavy line. This knot is not recommended with braided lines.



1. Thread end of the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five or more turns around the standing line. Bring the end of the line through the first loop formed behind the eye, then through the big loop.



2. Wet knot and pull slightly on the tag end to draw up coils. Pull on the standing line to form knot with coils pressed neatly together.



3. Slide tight against eye and clip tag end.

Rapala Knot

The Rapala knot is a popular method to tie a lure or fly to a line such that it can move freely and unimpeded by the knot.

1. Tie a loose overhand knot and feed the tag end through the eye and back through the overhand knot.



2. Make 3 turns around the standing line and bring tag end back through overhand knot.



3. Pass tag end through loop that is formed.

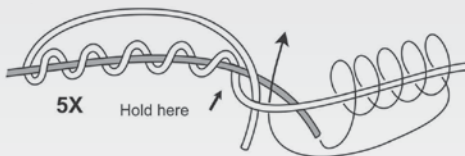


4. Moisten line. Pull on standing line while holding tag end to close knot. Pull on both tag and standing line to tighten knot down.



Blood Knot

Use this knot to join sections of leader or line together. It works best with line of approximately equal diameter.



1. Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring tag end back between the two lines. Repeat with other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.



2. Slowly pull lines or leaders in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather.

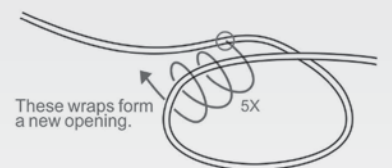


3. Pull tight and clip ends closely.

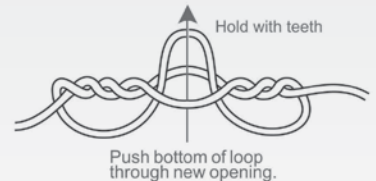
Dropper Loop Knot

This knot forms a loop anywhere on a line. Hooks or other tackle can then be attached to the loop.

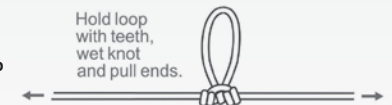
1. Form a loop in the line at the desired location. Pull line from one side of loop down and pass it through and around that side of loop. Make 5+ wraps around the loop, keeping a thumb or forefinger in the new opening which is formed.



2. Press bottom of original loop up through new opening and hold with teeth. Wet knot with saliva and pull both ends in opposite directions.



3. Pull ends of line firmly until coils tighten and loop stands out from line.



Availability Chart

This chart shows the general availability of common finfish species in Rhode Island waters.
 * Please note that times of peak activity may vary due to water temperatures, prey availability, etc.

Important Recreational Species Availability Chart

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Black Sea Bass	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Bluefish	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR
Atlantic Cod	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
False Albacore/ Bonito	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR
Hickory Shad	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR
Mackerel	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR	POOR
Scup	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Squid	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR
Striped Bass	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR	POOR
Tautog (Blackfish)	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	POOR	GOOD	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Winter Flounder	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD

POOR  GOOD  GREAT  SEASON CLOSED 

How to Properly Measure a Fish

Total Length Measurement

The **total length** is the maximum length of the fish, from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The best way to obtain this length is to push the fish's snout up against a vertical surface with the mouth closed and the fish laying along or on top of a tape measure. Measure to the tip of the tail or pinch the tail fin closed to determine the total length. **Do NOT use a flexible tape measure along the curve of the fish**, as this is not an accurate total length measurement. When measuring the total length of black sea bass, do NOT include the tendril on the caudal fin.



The Correct Way to Determine Total Length Measurement



The Incorrect Way to Determine Total Length Measurement

ATTENTION: Striped Bass Fin Clipping Regulation

All striped bass recreationally harvested over 34 inches must have their right pectoral fin completely removed. Only remove the right pectoral fin of fish over 34 inches that you intend to take home, do not remove any fins of fish when practicing catch and release fishing. This regulation helps ensure that any fish captured during recreational harvest cannot be sold commercially in Rhode Island or Massachusetts. No dealer in Rhode Island or Massachusetts can purchase a striped bass with its right pectoral fin clipped. Please do your part and help prevent the illegal sale of striped bass caught while recreational fishing.



Photo Credit: Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries

The right pectoral fin should be removed as close to the body of the fish as possible.



Photo courtesy of Stephen Gerundio

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2020 Recreational Regulations

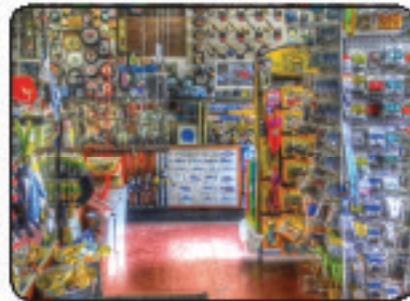
2020 Size, Season and Possession Limits

Species	Minimum Size	Open Season	Possession Limit
American Eel	9"	Open year round	25 eels/person/day or 50 eels/vsl/day for licensed party/charter vessels
Black Sea Bass	15"	June 24 - Aug. 31	3 fish/person/day
		Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	7 fish/person/day
Bluefish (shore and private / rental boat)	No minimum	Open year round	3 fish/person/day
Bluefish (party and charter)	No minimum	Open year round	5 fish/person/day
Monkfish (Goosefish)	17" whole fish 11" tail	Open year round	50 lbs of tails or 166 lbs whole/day
River Herring (alewives and blueback herring) & American Shad	Not applicable	CLOSED	Not applicable
Scup (shore and private / rental boat)	9"	Open year round	30 fish/person/day
Scup (special shore) ***	8"	Open year round	30 fish/person/day
Scup (party and charter)	9"	Jan. 1 - Aug. 31	30 fish/person/day
		Sept. 1 - Oct. 31	50 fish/person/day
		Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	30 fish/person/day
Striped Bass *	Minimum Size - 28" Maximum Size- <35"	Open year round	1 fish/person/day within the slot limit
Summer Flounder (general)	19"	May 3 - Dec. 31	6 fish/person/day
Summer Flounder (special shore)***	17" (See Poses- sion Limit)	May 3 - Dec. 31	2 fish @ 17" person/day 4 fish @ 19" person/day
		Apr. 1 - May 31	3 fish/person/day
Tautog (Blackfish) Max of 10 fish/vses/day during all periods, except licensed party / charter boats	16"	June 1 - July 31	CLOSED
		Aug. 1 - Oct. 14	3 fish/person/day
		Oct. 15 - Dec. 31	5 fish/person/day
		Open year round	1 fish/person/day
Weakfish (Squeteague)	16"	Open year round	1 fish/person/day
Winter Flounder ** (Blackback)	12"	Mar. 1 - Dec. 31	2 fish/person/day

* All striped bass recreationally harvested that measure 34 inches or greater must have their right pectoral fin completely removed. Only remove the right pectoral fin of fish that you intend to take home, do not remove any fins when practicing catch and release.

***The harvesting or possession of winter flounder is prohibited in Narragansett Bay north of the Colregs line (line from South Ferry Rd. in Narragansett to Fort Getty; Fort Wetherill to Fort Adams; and Sandy Pt. to High Hill Pt.), as well as in the Harbor of Refuge, Point Judith and Potter Pond.

***Special Shore Areas: While fishing from shore in the following areas, above special shore possession limits apply: India Point Park in Providence, Conimicut Park in Warwick, Stone Bridge in Tiverton, East and West walls in Narragansett, Rocky Point in Warwick, Fort Adams in Newport, and Fort Wetherill in Jamestown



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State Records

Rhode Island Recreational State Records for Saltwater Species

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
Sea Bass	8 lbs. 7.25 oz.	26"	10/81	Block Island	K. McDuffie Pascoag, RI
Striped Bass	77 lbs. 6.4 oz	52"	6/11	Block Island	P. Vican E. Greenwich, RI
Bluefish	26 lbs.	39"	8/81	—	D. Deziel Woonsocket, RI
Bonito	13 lbs.	—	10/95	Westerly	R. Gliottone Exeter, RI
Cod	71 lbs.	—	6/65	—	M. Deciantis Warwick, RI
Summer Flounder	17 lbs. 8 oz.	—	1962	Narrow River	G. Farmer Warwick, RI
Winter Flounder	6 lbs. 7 oz.	23"	8/90	Galilee	A. Pearson Cranston, RI
King Mackerel	12 lbs. 3 oz.	40"	8/00	Point Judith	A. Camilleri Chester, CT
Atlantic Mackerel	11b 1.6oz.	14"	11/18	—	T. Rovinelli Providence, RI
Pollock	28 lbs. 8 oz.	—	5/95	—	A. Jacobs Lincoln, RI
Scup	5 lbs.	20.25"	10/90	—	J. Yurwitz Block Island, RI
American Shad (Closed)	6 lbs. 8 oz.	25"	4/85	Runnins River	W. Socha Warren, RI
Hickory Shad	2 lbs. 11 oz.	20"	11/89	Narrow River	M. Pickering Lincoln, RI
Blue Shark	431 lbs. 2 oz.	12'6"	11/06	Cox Ledge	G. Gross Fairfield, NJ
Mako Shark	718 lbs.	10'6"	6/93	S. Block Island	W. Alessi Boston, MA
Swordfish	588 lbs.	—	8/18	Atlantic	L. Banfield Saunderstown, RI
Squeteague	16 lbs. 8.72 oz.	36"	5/07	Greenwich Bay	R. Moeller N. Kingstown, RI
Tautog	21 lbs. 4 oz.	—	11/54	Jamestown	C.W. Sunquist
Bluefin Tuna	1142 lbs.	—	9/71	Block Island	J. Dempsey
Yellowfin Tuna	265 lbs.	6'	10/97	The Dip	R. Hughes Arlington, MA
White Marlin	125 lbs.	8' 0.5"	8/87	S. Block Island	J. Luty, Sr. Preston, CT

If you believe you've caught a new Rhode Island State Record, bring it to an official weigh-in station to be weighed and measured using a digital scale. State record catches are determined annually once all data are received for that year. A list of official weigh-in stations can be found on Fish & Wildlife's Webpage at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/records.htm#stations>.



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What are fish eating when not stealing your bait?

By Thomas Angell, Principal Marine Biologist, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

When you have caught one of the several marine fish species that reside in or regularly visit Narragansett Bay and our coastal waters, do you ever wonder what it was eating other than the bait you used, how old it was, or if it was mature? When cleaning your catch, have you ever opened the fish's stomach to see what was there or looked at a fish scale to get an idea of how old it was? Knowing these things may just be interesting bits of trivial information for a recreational angler but are very important for stock assessment biologists and fishery managers in determining the status of our fishery resources. RIDMF staff biologists Nicole Costa, Christine Denisevich and Thomas Angell have been collecting and analyzing this data to provide for stock assessment purposes.

Age and growth information is essential in estimating the age-structure of a fish population. Understanding the age-structure of a population allows scientists to make informed management decisions regarding acceptable harvest levels for a species. In recent years, diet composition of finfish has become increasingly important in understanding the age and growth of a population. Diet composition of a species may help to inform managers on whether an observed change in a population may be due to prey availability. Understanding predator-prey dynamics can also allow managers to utilize a multi-species modeling approach by which they can better understand not only the population dynamics of a target fish species, but other choke or prey species that may be associated with the target species.

Since 1987, the RI Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDMF; formerly part of the Division of Fish and Wildlife) has collected age and growth data for several fish species important to both recreational and commercial fishing interests in RI, including black sea bass, bluefish, menhaden (pogies), scup, striped bass, summer flounder (fluke), tautog, weakfish; winter flounder was added to the sampling more recently. Samples are obtained from various RIDMF sources including the coastal trawl surveys, finfish ventless pot survey, and Narragansett Bay juvenile finfish survey, as well as from commercial fish trap or gillnet operations, finfish dealers, and donations from recreational party/charter boat businesses and individual fishermen. Anatomical structures collected and used to determine age include scales, ear bones (otoliths), gill covers (opercula), and

the first pelvic fin spine. Size (fork length or total length) and weight (if whole fish) are also collected. Collection of stomach content, sex, and maturity stage data for the species listed above was initiated in 2014, with a minimum of 40 stomachs examined annually for each fish species. Identification of stomach contents is made to the lowest taxonomic level possible. This study is designed to characterize the age-structure and diet composition of these fish stocks and will supplement data collected in the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) spring and fall surveys as well as the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP), which do not sample within Narragansett Bay. Data collected in this study is already used in several stock assessments, and that number is expected to increase each year as benchmark stock assessments are conducted and ecosystem-based modeling approaches are further developed. Additionally, this study satisfies the requirements of ASMFC Fishery Management Plans (FMP's) for tautog, bluefish, menhaden and weakfish which require the state of RI to collect a minimum number of age and growth samples annually for stock assessment purposes. Table 1 summarizes the type and number of age structures collected, number of stomachs examined, and number of sexual maturity determinations made for each fish species during 2014-2019. Figure 1 summarizes the proportional contribution of prey items for 8 important fish species. Figure 2 shows annual growth marks of an otolith (ear bone) and scale from a striped bass. Given the amount of

growth past the second annulus and the sample date (4/27/17), the fish had not laid down its annulus for the year and would be assigned an age of 3 years.

Analysis of 2014-2019 stomach content data for each fish species with "unidentifiable" contents removed from the analysis resulted in the following (see Figure 1):

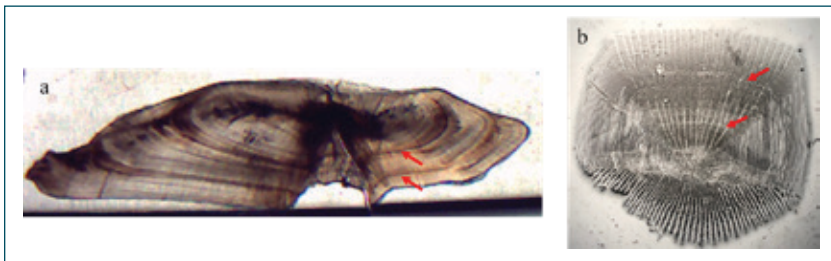
Black sea bass (BSB) – stomach contents dominated by crustaceans (43%; rock crab, Jonah crab, lobster, amphipods, mud crabs, mantis shrimp, hermit crabs, mud shrimp, Asian shore crab, sand shrimp, spider crab), cephalopod molluscs (26%; squid, snails), followed by finfish (14%; sand lance, clupeids, black sea bass, butterfish, scup) and bivalve molluscs (13%; blue mussel, soft-shell clam, razor clam); minor contributions came from gastropod molluscs (1.4%), with all "other" identifiable contents combined (algae, aquatic plants, cnidaria, platyhelminths, polychaetes, sand/rocks, sipunculids, and urochordates) accounting for 2%.

Bluefish (BLU) – stomach contents dominated by finfish (92%; menhaden, scup, butterfish, sea robin, bay anchovy, silversides) and cephalopod molluscs (8%; longfin squid). All "other" identifiable contents combined (algae, aquatic plants, sand/rocks) accounted for 0.013%.

Menhaden – Due to the fact that menhaden are filter feeders, all stomach contents encountered during this study were liquefied, with prey item(s) unable to be identified and classified. Due to this, no menhaden stomachs have been examined since 2017 and are not

Species	Scales	Otoliths	Operculum	Spine	Stomachs	Maturity
Black sea bass	1,994	1,994	-	0	1,157	1,157
Bluefish	-	716	-	0	338	499
Menhaden	458	458	-	0	133	346
Scup	745	647	-	0	246	297
Striped bass	1,447	1,003	-	83 (dorsal)	238	234
Summer flounder	577	576	-	0	244	305
Tautog	-	1,247	1,256	214 (anal), 130 (pelvic)	436	801
Weakfish	-	293	-	0	155	187
Winter flounder	163	163	-	0	163	163

Table 1



Sectioned otolith (a) and scale impression (b) from a striped bass with 2 annuli marked and growth beyond the last annulus. Given the amount of growth past the 2nd annulus and the date of capture (4/25/17), the fish has not yet laid down its annulus for the year and would therefore be assigned an age of 3.

included in Figure 1. Generally, menhaden stomach contents will reflect the dominant planktonic species present at the time of sample collection.

Scup (SCU) – stomach contents dominated by polychaetes (32%; bamboo worms, blood worms, clam worms, red-lined worms), bivalve molluscs (24%; razor clam, blue mussel, softshell clam), and crustaceans (20%; amphipods, mud crab, hermit crab, sand shrimp), followed by cephalopod molluscs (10%; longfin squid) and finfish (9%; menhaden, bay anchovy), with a minor contribution from gastropod molluscs (3%; slipper shell, dog whelk). Algae, bryozoa, cnidaria, sand/rocks, and sipunculids made up the “other” identifiable contents (2%).

Striped bass (STB) – stomach contents dominated by finfish (91%; menhaden, Atlantic herring, scup, butterfish, sand lance, Atlantic mackerel, black sea bass, silver hake), followed equally by crustaceans (4%; mantis shrimp, sand shrimp, amphipods), cephalopod molluscs (4%; longfin squid). Algae, aquatic plants, bivalve and gastropod molluscs, polychaetes, and sand/rocks made up the “other” identifiable stomach contents (1%).

Summer flounder (SFL) – stomach contents dominated by finfish (56%; menhaden, scup, weakfish, sand lance, Atlantic herring, black sea bass, bay anchovy), cephalopod molluscs (23%; longfin squid), and crustaceans (20%; mantis shrimp, sand shrimp, amphipods), with bivalve molluscs, gastro-

pod molluscs, nematodes, and sand/rocks making up the “other” identifiable stomach contents (0.4%).

Tautog (TAU) – stomach contents dominated by crustaceans (60%; rock crab, green crab, mud crab, spider crab, Asian shore crab, lobster), followed by bivalve molluscs (20%; blue mussel, blood ark, bay scallop) and gastropod molluscs (13%; slipper shell, greedy dovesnail, chink shell, dog whelk), with minor contributions from maxillopods (4%; barnacles) and algae (2%). Bryozoa, polychaetes, and sand/rocks made up the “other” identifiable stomach contents (1%).

Weakfish (WEAK) – stomach contents dominated by finfish (91%; butterfish, menhaden/clupeids, scup, silversides), followed by cephalopod molluscs (6%; longfin squid) and a minor amount of crustaceans (2%; shore shrimp, sand shrimp, sand crab). Algae and polychaetes made up the “other” identifiable stomach contents (0.16%).

Winter flounder (WFL) – stomach contents dominated by polychaetes (40%; brush worm, blood worm, red-lined worm, bamboo worm, opal worm) and cnidarians (35%; anemone, hydrozoa), followed by crustaceans (15%; amphipods, sand shrimp, hermit crab, mud crab). Minor contributions came from algae (4%; barrel weed, sea lettuce), gastropod molluscs (2%), nemerteans (<2%), and bivalve molluscs (<2%). Bryozoa, finfish, sipunculids, and sand/rocks made up the “other” identifiable stomach contents (1%).

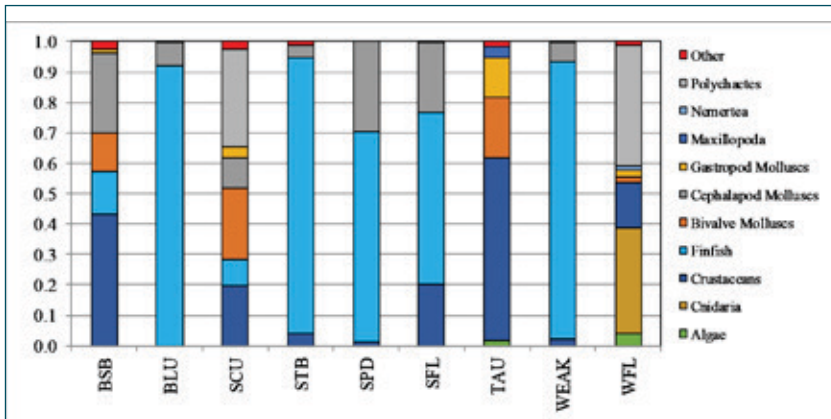


Figure 1 – Proportional contribution of prey items by fish species

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Understanding Striped Bass and Blue Fish Regulations

By: Nicole Lengyel Costa, Principal Marine Biologist, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

Assessing the overall health and condition of a fish stock is one of the primary objectives for fisheries managers. This information is used to set fisheries regulations that allow for the sustainable harvest of a species and ensure the population will persist for future generations. Recreational catch and effort estimates are important data sources for any species stock assessment. This data can inform the model about how much recreational fishing pressure a species is under and characterize the recreational fishery removals from both harvest and releases. The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is a collaborative recreational data collection and estimation program that includes state, regional, and federal partners. Recreational data is collected from anglers and Captains through a suite of surveys, each designed to collect unique information that is used in the overall estimation of recreational catch and effort.

In recent years, MRIP has implemented several changes to their survey design that prompted a complete re-calibration of the entire MRIP time series of data. The newly calibrated MRIP catch and effort estimates were made available for management use in 2018. The incorporation of these new estimates into species stock assessments has changed what we thought we understood about the state of several stocks, including striped bass and bluefish.

Striped Bass

The 2018 Atlantic striped bass benchmark stock assessment was accepted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) striped bass board (Board) for management use in May of 2019. According to the assessment, female spawning stock biomass (SSB) in 2017 was estimated at 151 million pounds, a value below both the target and threshold levels, 252 million pounds and 202 million pounds respectively (Figure 1). Fishing mortality in 2017 was estimated to be 0.31, a value above both the target and threshold levels, 0.20 and 0.24 respectively. These findings indicate the striped bass stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. Furthermore, the stock has been overfished since 2013 and has been experiencing overfishing since 2010.

The stock is currently managed in state waters by the ASMFC through Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic striped bass and its subsequent addenda. Amendment 6 contains five management triggers that require board action should they be tripped. The findings of the 2018 benchmark stock assessment tripped four out of five management triggers, requiring the Board to take action to reduce fishing mortality to a level at or below the fishing mortality target in a one-year time frame, and adjust the management program to rebuild biomass. In response, the Board initiated Addendum VI to the striped bass FMP in May of 2019. The addendum, which was subsequently adopted by the Board in October of 2019, reduces all state commercial quotas by 18%, implements a one fish bag limit and 28" - < 35" slot limit for all recreational ocean fisheries, and implements a one fish bag limit and 18" minimum size for the Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries. The flexibility for states to pursue alternate management programs through conservation equivalency (CE) is also maintained in the addendum.

In response to comments received by stakeholders, RI developed and pursued two state-specific CE proposals as well as a regional

CE proposal, that included the neighboring states of CT and NY, to help ensure regional consistency. The CE proposals submitted to the ASMFC included:

- 1 fish bag limit and 32" - < 40" slot limit for all RI recreational anglers
- 1 fish bag limit and 32" - < 40" slot limit for all RI recreational private/shore anglers, and 30" - < 40" slot limit for all RI recreational for-hire vessels
- 1 fish bag limit and 30" - < 40" slot limit for all RI, CT, and NY recreational anglers

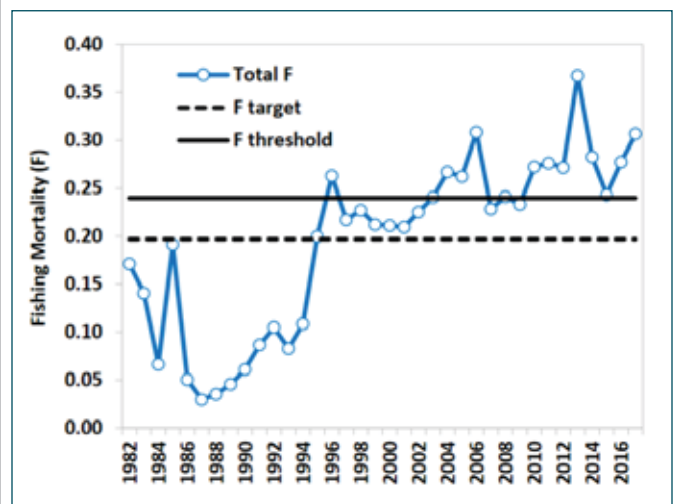
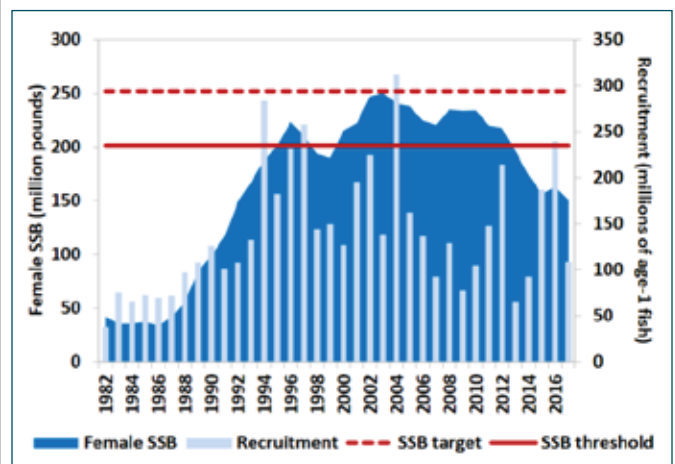


Figure 1. Atlantic striped bass spawning stock biomass (top) and fishing mortality (bottom).
Source: Atlantic striped bass stock assessment, 2018.

All three proposals were approved by the ASMFC striped bass technical committee (TC) and reviewed by the Board at their February 2020 meeting. While the two RI state-specific proposals were approved by the Board, the RI/CT/NY regional proposal was not and was therefore no longer an option for RI to move forward with.

Having three viable options to choose from for 2020 striped bass management, the RIDEM held a public hearing on February 10, 2020 to solicit feedback from RI stakeholders. Comments submitted during the public comment period conveyed support for all three CE proposals as well as the addendum VI coastwide measure. After consideration of all public comment received, the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) met on March 2, 2020 to form a recommendation to the RIDEM Director. The RIMFC voted 5-1 in support of the RI CE proposal to implement a one fish bag limit, 32" - < 40" slot limit for all RI recreational private/shore anglers, and 30" - < 40" slot limit for all RI recreational for-hire vessels.

After careful consideration and deliberation of all relevant materials, public comment, the RIMFC recommendation, and the RIDEM Division of Marine Resources recommendation, the RIDEM Director issued her final decision memo on March 11, 2020. The Director expressed in her memo that it was determined to be in the best interest of the striped bass resource, and the recreational fishing community as a whole, to enact the Addendum VI coast wide measure of a one fish bag limit and 28" - < 35" slot limit for all RI recreational anglers. Some of the key factors that were considered, and that the decision memo presents a thorough analysis on, included resource conservation, risk, compliance and enforceability, and equity.

Although it is expected that this decision will be especially disappointing to the RI for-hire industry, the RIDEM continues our commitment to pursuing separate for-hire regulations across species through the ASMFC. This has already been accomplished for scup, tautog, American eel, and most recently bluefish.

Bluefish

The 2019 Bluefish Operational Stock Assessment indicates that bluefish are overfished but are not experiencing overfishing. The assessment estimated that in 2018, the terminal year of data used, SSB was 201 million pounds, which is below the threshold of 219 million pounds (Figure 2). Fishing mortality, however, was estimated to be 0.146 in 2018, below the threshold of 0.183. Although the stock was not found to be experiencing overfishing in 2018, it had been experiencing overfishing in all prior years from 1985 through 2017. In response to these findings, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) approved a reduced acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the 2020 fishing season that translated to a recreational harvest limit (RHL) of 9.48 million pounds, an 18% reduction from the 2019 RHL. It was projected that if 2019 recreational regulations were maintained for 2020, the 2020 RHL would be exceeded by 28.56%. As a result, the MAFMC and ASMFC, responsible for bluefish management in federal and state waters respectively, approved new recreational management measures for 2020 to constrain bluefish recreational harvest and prevent the 2020 RHL from being exceeded.

To achieve the reduced harvest in 2020, the MAFMC and ASMFC considered several management alternatives that included consistent coastwide regulations for all recreational fishing sectors, as well as sector-specific regulations. The bluefish advisory panel (AP) expressed extreme concern regarding the economic impact that would be experienced by the for-hire sector as a result of a reduced bag limit for bluefish, considering other regulatory restrictions for striped bass, black sea bass, summer flounder, and scup would also be taking effect in 2020. As a result, a 3 fish bag limit for the private/shore sector, and a 5 fish bag limit for the for-hire sector, was recommended by the MAFMC and adopted by ASMFC. The MAFMC and ASMFC also added the development of a bluefish rebuilding plan to the scope of the Bluefish Reallocation and Rebuilding Amendment.

As a result of changing the initial scope of the bluefish amendment to add stock rebuilding, the MAFMC and ASMFC held additional scoping hearings along the coast in February and March of 2020, with

a RI hearing being held on February 26, 2020. Development of the amendment is expected to continue throughout 2020 with final action expected as early as spring of 2021.

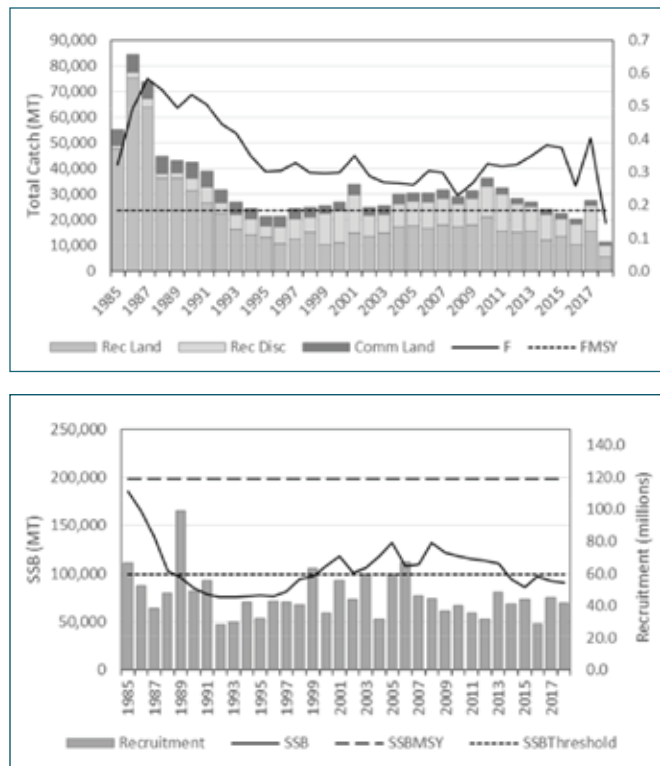


Figure 2. Bluefish spawning stock biomass and recruitment (top) and total catch and fishing mortality (bottom).

Source: Bluefish operational stock assessment, 2019.

References:

- Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). 2019a. "66th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (66th SAW) Assessment Summary Report." NEFSC Reference Document 19-08: 1175 p.
- . 2019b. "Operational Assessments for Black Sea Bass, Scup, and Bluefish.": 164 p.



Photo Credit: Nicholas Adam

Commonly Caught Species

Illustrations by Roberta Calore, All rights reserved.

Common Fish



Winter flounder (Blackback)

Scientific Name: *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*

Identification: Nearly straight lateral line and blunt snout. Eyes on right side.



Summer flounder (Fluke)

Scientific Name: *Paralichthys dentatus*

Identification: Eyes on left side. Large mouth with teeth.



Tautog (Blackfish)

Scientific Name: *Tautoga onitis*

Identification: Highly arched head, blunt snout and thick lips.



Black Sea Bass

Scientific Name: *Centropristis striata*

Identification: Gray, brown or blue-black. Rounded caudal fin.



Striped Bass

Scientific Name: *Morone saxatilis*

Identification: Grayish-green above, silvery on sides with distinct horizontal stripes.



Bluefish

Scientific Name: *Pomatomus saltatrix*

Identification: Series of stout conical teeth, and first dorsal fin is much lower than the second with 7-9 dorsal spines.



Weakfish (Squeteague)

Scientific Name: *Cynoscion regalis*

Identification: Long second dorsal fin, slender body and absent chin barbel.



Scup (Porgy)

Scientific Name: *Stenotomus chrysops*

Identification: Silvery, iridescent. Concave dorsal profile, small teeth and lunate pointed tail.



Atlantic cod

Scientific Name: *Gadus morhua*

Identification: Pale lateral line, chin barbel, large eyes, square tipped tail and spotted color pattern.



Pollock

Scientific Name: *Pollachius virens*

Identification: Forked tail, projecting lower jaw and greenish color without spots.



American eel

Scientific Name: *Anguilla rostrata*

Identification: Dorsal fin begins far behind the pectoral fin, and the lower jaw projects beyond upper jaw.



Alewife and Blueback Herring (River Herring)

Scientific Name: *Alosa pseudoharengus* and *Alosa aestivalis*

Identification: Deep body and spot located just behind the gill cover.



Monkfish (Goosefish)

Scientific Name: *Lophius americanus*

Identification: Depressed body and huge mouth.



Spiny dogfish

Scientific Name: *Squalus acanthias*

Identification: Gray or brownish with large sharp dorsal spines.



Atlantic menhaden

Scientific Name: *Brevoortia tyrannus*

Identification: Large scaleless head nearly one third total body length.

Common Invertebrates



American Lobster

Scientific Name: *Homarus americanus*
Identification: Greenish brown with blue patches near joints of appendages.



Atlantic Rock Crab

Scientific Name: *Cancer irroratus*
Identification: Beige or yellowish shell with numerous closely spaced purple-brown spots. Very common.



Green Crab

Scientific Name: *Carcinus maenas*
Identification: Usually dark green. Found under rocks and in intertidal zones. Very common.



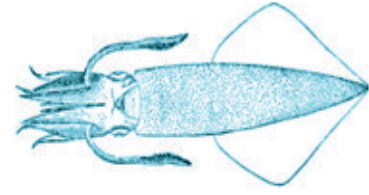
Blue Crab

Scientific Name: *Callinectes sapidus*
Identification: Blueish gray shell. Fingers of claws are bright blue in males and red in females.



Horseshoe Crab

Scientific Name: *Limulus polyphemus*
Identification: Olive green or brownish shell. Long spike-like tail.



Atlantic Longfin Squid

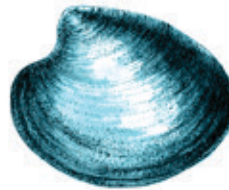
Scientific Name: *Loligo pealeii*
Identification: White or translucent gray with tiny red or purple spots with expand and contract.

Common Shellfish



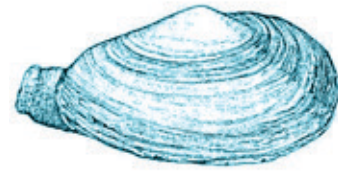
Eastern Oyster

Scientific Name: *Crassostrea virginica*
Identification: Grayish white, variable shape, found at or below low tide level.



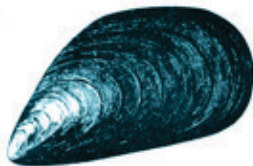
Northern Quahaug (Hard Shell Clam)

Scientific Name: *Mercenaria mercenaria*
Identification: Shell ranges from light gray to black. Found in shallow water.



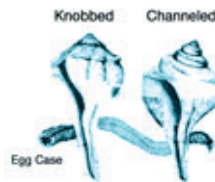
Soft Shell Clam (steamer)

Scientific Name: *Mya arenaria*
Identification: Chalky white shell. Lives deeply burrowed in sediment. Common in intertidal zone and shallow water.



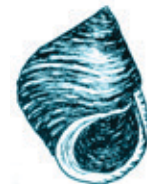
Blue Mussel

Scientific Name: *Mytilus edulis*
Identification: Blue or blue-black. Common in beds near low tide and attaches to rocks and shells with fibers.



Channeled & Knobbed Whelk

Scientific Name: *Busycotypus canaliculatus* & *Busycyon carica*.
Identification: Grooved or knobbed beige or yellowish gray shell. Often covered with a hairy outer shell layer. Distinctive egg case.



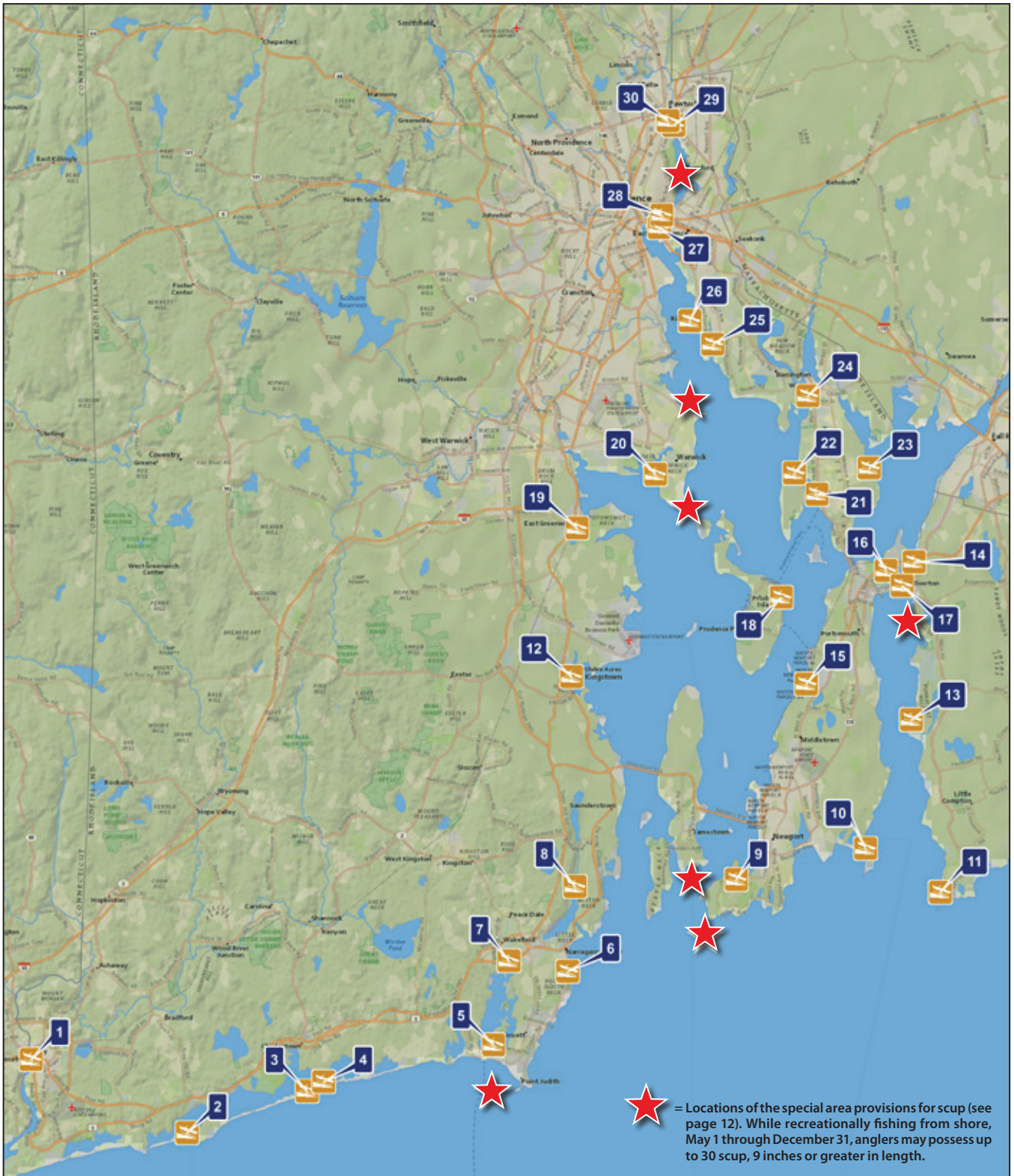
Common Periwinkle

Scientific Name: *Littorina littorea*
Identification: Usually brown, black or gray shell, sometimes will white spiral lines. Most common periwinkle in the rocky intertidal zone.

Access Sites

Please see below for a map of saltwater boating access sites throughout Rhode Island. The sites are State-owned and currently in usable condition. A list of these locations with brief descriptions is found on page 21. More boating access sites, such as town-owned ramps, and additional information can be found on the Marine Fisheries website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/boatInch.htm#salt>.

When utilizing these boating access sites, please be respectful of other users and properly dispose of all trash and waste.



Town	Site #	Name	Description	Depth at MLW
Westerly	1	Main Street	Main St., concrete slab ramp	4 ft.
Charlestown	2	Quonochontaug Breachway	Off West Beach Rd., concrete plank ramp	3 ft.
	3	Charlestown Breachway	West end of Charlestown Beach Rd., linked concrete slabs	3 ft.
	4	Charlestown	Off of Charlestown Beach Rd. Natural Shoreline, gravel base	N/A
Narragansett	5	Galilee	Corner of Galilee Rd., and Great Island Rd., southeast side of Great Island Bridge. Linked concrete planks - double ramp	4 ft.
	6	Monahan's Dock	East Side of Ocean Rd., at South Pier Rd., concrete - steep drop	3 - 4 ft.
South Kingstown	7	Narrow River	Off Middlebridge Rd. on Pollock Ave., concrete planks	3 ft.
	8	Marina Park	Route 1., concrete slabs	N/A
Newport	9	Fort Adams	Off Harrison Ave.	3 ft.
Middletown	10	Third Beach	Concrete ramp. Parking fee when beach is open	N/A
Little Compton	11	Sakonnet Point	Sakonnet Point Rd. (Rt. 77). North side of Town Landing Rd., linked concrete planks	2 ft.
North Kingstown	12	Wilson Park	East end of Intrepid Dr., off Post Rd., Rt. 1, near fire station. Linked concrete plank - moderately steep	3 ft.
Tiverton	13	Fogland	End of Fogland Rd., at High Hill Rd. Linked concrete planks	N/A
	14	Sakonnet River Bridge	Underneath new Sakonnet bridge., off Riverside Dr. concrete planks, strong currents	N/A
Portsmouth	15	Weaver Cove	On Burma Rd. South of Melville complex. Concrete slabs	4 ft.
	16	Gull Cove	Accessed via turnoff from RI 138 E/24 E. Linked concrete planks	2 ft.
	17	Stone Bridge	Off Rte. 138 at junction of Park Ave and Point Rd., at Teddy's Beach	3 ft.
Prudence Island	18	Homestead	On Prudence Island, off Narragansett Ave., north of Prudence Variety	N/A
East Greenwich	19	Greenwich Cove	Pole #6, Crompton Ave. Concrete slab	N/A
Warwick	19	Goddard	Goddard State Park	N/A
	20	Oakland Beach	Warwick Cove. Oakland Beach Ave. Take last left. East side of Oakland Beach. Concrete ramp	<4 ft.
Bristol	21	Independence Park	At the foot of Church St., off of Rt. 114. Linked concrete slab	N/A
	22	Colt State Park	Off of Hope St. (Rt. 114), concrete ramp	4 ft.
	23	Annawanscutt	Annawanscutt Dr., off Metacom Ave. (Rt. 136), past Veteran's Home. Linked concrete planks	>2 ft.
Warren	24	Warren	West side of Water St., at Wheaton St., cement slab	N/A
Barrington	25	Haines Park	On Bullock's Cove, off Metropolitan Park Dr. concrete slab	4 ft.
East Providence	26	Sabin Point	Off Bulluck's Point Ave. Hard packed Sand	N/A
	27	Bold Point	Off Veteran's Memorial Pkwy., via Mauran Ave. at the end of Pier Rd. Concrete slab	4 ft.
Providence	28	Gano Park	End of of East Transit St. Concrete slab	N/A
Pawtucket	29	Festival Pier	End of Tim Healey Way, off of School St. (Rt. 114). Concrete slab	N/A
	30	Pawtucket	East side of Taft St., just south of Rt. 95 bridge. Linked concrete planks	N/A

* Please note that some boating access sites may require a permit or fee for parking and/or use.

N/A= Information not available

Lobster/Crab Regulations

Recreational Lobster License

- Available to Rhode Island residents only
- Allows for personal use only (not for sale)



Types of licenses available:

Lobster	
Non-Commercial Pot License	\$40.00 yr
Non-Commercial Diver License	\$40.00 yr

Licenses can be obtained through the Office of Boat Registration and Licensing located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 or online at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/manserv/hfb/boating/commfish.htm>

- All lobsters must be measured IMMEDIATELY.
- Those measuring less than 3-3/8" carapace length must be returned immediately to the water from which taken.
- The POSSESSION of egg-bearing or v-notched lobsters is prohibited.
- Mandatory v-notching of all egg-bearing females in LCMA 2 (includes all RI state waters).
- No person shall raise or unduly disturb any lobster pot or trap within the territorial waters of this State between the hours of one (1) hour after sundown and one (1) hour before sunrise.
- Recreational possession limit for licensed residents:
 - » Pots – 5 pots/recreational license
 - » Divers – 8 lobsters/day

Blue Crabs

- State Residents Only – no license needed



- All Blue Crabs measuring less than 5" spike to spike shall be returned to the water immediately.
- No person shall possess, take, or attempt to take more than 25 blue crabs from any of the waters in this state except when taking by crab net, dip net, scoop net, hand line or trot line.
- Harvesting of blue crabs is prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- The POSSESSION of egg-bearing crabs is prohibited.

****This is only a brief summary of the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife's regulations. For more information or to view the actual regulations please visit RIDFW's website at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/mftopics.htm>****

Life Jackets; Wear Them!

- Always remember to wear a life jacket.
- Make sure your life jacket is U.S.C.G. approved.
- Take the time to ensure a proper fit.
- Life jackets meant for adults do not work for children.
- Children under 13 years old must wear a life jacket.



Equipment Regulations

Escape Vents (Lobster, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Pots)

Minimum size	Lobster	Scup	Black Sea Bass
Rectangular	2" x 5-3/4"	2-1/4" x 5-3/4"	1-3/8" x 5-3/4"
Square	None	2-1/4" x 2-1/4"	2" X 2"
Two Circular	2-5/8" diameter	3.1" diameter	2.5" diameter

Diving Baskets

Bar Spacing	1" x 2-1/2" minimum
Bag	2" minimum

Spacing Requirements for Tongs and Bullrakes

Tooth Spacing	1" minimum
Head Construction	1" x 2-1/2" minimum

Bay Scallop Regulations:

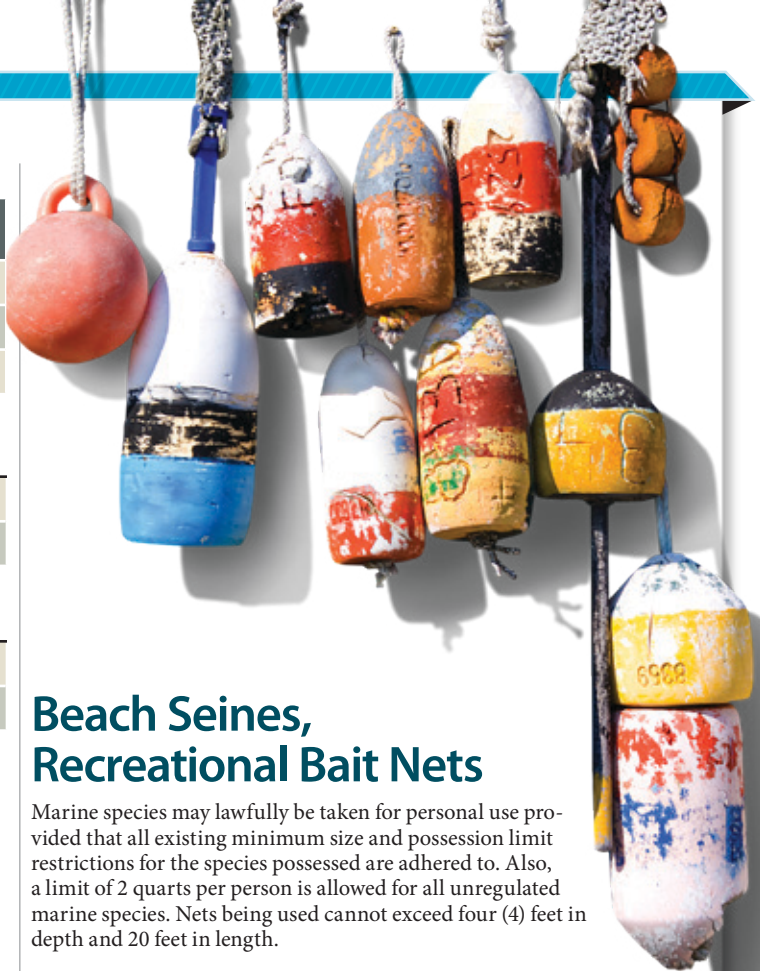
Bay Scallops may only be harvested using dip nets from the second Saturday of November until sunrise the first day of December. Other appropriate methods, such as snorkeling, diving, or dredges, may be used from December 1st until December 31st. For additional information and restrictions, please visit http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimf_shell.pdf.

Scuba

Shellfishing using SCUBA gear is prohibited in Point Judith, Ninigret, Green Hill Pond, Quonochontaug Pond, Charlestown Pond and Potter Pond.

Gill Nets, Otter Trawling, Seines, Etc.

Please contact RIDFW to request area specific regulations.



Beach Seines, Recreational Bait Nets

Marine species may lawfully be taken for personal use provided that all existing minimum size and possession limit restrictions for the species possessed are adhered to. Also, a limit of 2 quarts per person is allowed for all unregulated marine species. Nets being used cannot exceed four (4) feet in depth and 20 feet in length.

Marking of Traps

The owner of every trap, pot, or other stationary contrivance used for the taking of marine fish, shellfish, crustaceans, or other invertebrates being fished in the waters of this state, and the owner of any trap or pot for catching, or cars or other contrivance for keeping lobsters shall mark each such trap, pot, or contrivance, together with the buoy which is attached thereto, with the name or names of the owners thereof or the person or persons using the same, and the license number or numbers of such person or persons. Each such lobster or crab pot buoy shall display that person's stated color scheme, and this color scheme shall also be displayed on the boat used by that person in tending that gear. The use of floating line within eight feet of the surface is prohibited.

Pole Bait Lures

LICENSE?

Buy Your RI Saltwater Fishing License Online.

www.saltwater.ri.gov



Department of Environmental Management

TECHNIQUES

How to handle shellfish with love



Shellfish are one of Nature's most perfect foods – healthful, nutritious and delicious. However, if shellfish are not kept cold they can cause illness (like many other raw foods). These tips ensure that the shellfish you serve are as perfect and healthful as Nature intended



Harvesting Shellfish

Before you set out to “dig your own” there are basic guidelines to follow. The first is to dig in approved waters. The RI Dept. of Environmental Management regulates and manages shellfish growing areas. They monitor water quality for conditions such as bacterial/viral loads and “red tide.” To ensure you are harvesting from approved waters you can check the maps and descriptions at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/mapfile/shellfish.pdf> and get updates on closures on the DEM hotline at 401-222-2900. The wild harvest of oysters is prohibited from May 16 – Sept 14 annually.



Transporting Shellfish

Make sure your shellfish stay cold on the trip home. The optimal temperature to preserve flavor and safety is 35° to 45° F. Here are a few options:

- Keep shellfish on ice, not in water, and in the shade for the trip home.
- Using a cooler with ice or cold packs is the best choice.



Storing Shellfish

Fresh shellfish can last for several days if properly stored in your refrigerator below 45° F. Freezing shellfish will kill them, and they should not be held in melted ice water. Make sure they are not contaminated by other foods that might drip on them. Allowing shellfish to warm up can allow bacteria to grow, increasing the risk of illness.



Cooking Shellfish

Make sure there are no dead or gaping shellfish, live shellfish will close tightly when tapped. Shellfish should smell fresh - like an ocean breeze. Avoid raw or undercooked shellfish if you are immune compromised*, but fully cooking will eliminate bacteria.

* The elderly, as well as those individuals who suffer from liver disease, diabetes, HIV, or are taking medications that suppress their immune system, can be at risk for serious illness from bacteria that may be associated with raw or undercooked poultry, eggs, hamburger and shellfish (especially in summer). Ask your doctor if you are not sure.



For more information
about shellfish safety issues visit the following websites:
www.ECSGA.org/safety or www.safeoysters.org



Shellfish Regulations

Shellfishing is prohibited statewide between sunset and sunrise.

Oysters – The season is open from September 15 to May 15 (inclusive).

Scallops – The season opens sunrise the first Saturday in November and closes at sunset on December 31.

Consult “Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulations: Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations for specific shellfishing regulations. <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimftoc.htm>

Resident Recreational Shellfishing – No License Required

Any resident of this State may, without a license, take quahogs, soft-shelled clams, mussels, surf clams, oysters (in season), and bay scallops (in season). Harvested shellfish may not be sold or offered for sale. (See below for possession limits in Shellfish Management Areas and Non-Management Areas).

Non-Resident Recreational Shellfishing – Licensed Individuals Only

Holders of a non-resident shellfishing license may take quahogs, soft-shelled clams, mussels, surf clams, oysters (in season). (See below for possession limits in Shellfish Management Areas and Non-Management Areas). There is no taking of lobsters, blue crabs, or bay scallops by non-residents.

Non-Resident Property Owners

A nonresident landowner who owns residential real estate in Rhode Island assessed for taxation at a value of not less than thirty thousand dollars may, with proof of property ownership, obtain an annual, non-commercial, non-resident shellfish license for a fee of twenty-five dollars. This license holds the same restrictions and allowable daily catch limits as a licensed non-resident.

Shellfish Management Areas:

Potter, Point Judith, Ninigret (Charlestown), Quonochontaug, and Winnapaug (Brightman) Ponds, Greenwich Bay, Bristol Harbor, Potowomut (Areas A, B and C), and Bissel Cove, Kickemuit River, High Banks, Mill Gut, Jenny’s Creek (closed until further notice). Additionally, certain Shellfish Management Areas, have limited fishing days and seasonal requirements for commercial harvest.

Area specific regulations may apply. Consult “Part IV Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations at http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimf_shell.pdf

Shellfishing Areas with Harvest Restrictions Due to Water Quality:

Certain areas are subject to permanent, seasonal, and rainfall-induced shellfishing closures. Consult <http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/mapfile/shellfish.pdf> for current maps and regulations or contact the Division of Water Resources at

(401) 222-3961. For current rainfall-induced closure restrictions call (401) 222-2900. Please be responsible; be aware of all harvesting restrictions.

Spawner Sanctuaries and Shellfishing Moratoria:

Certain waters of the state are permanently closed to shellfishing, allowing maintenance, restoration, and enhancement wild broodstock. Areas include portions of Winnapaug Pond, Quonochontaug Pond, Ninigret Pond, Potter Pond, Potowomut, and Jenny’s Creek in its entirety. Consult “Part IV Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimf4.pdf>

Minimum Sizes for Shellfish:

- Quahog = 1 inch hinge width
- Soft-Shelled Clam* = 2 inches
- Oyster* = 3 inches
- Bay Scallop = No seed possession
- Surf Clam* = 5 inches
- Channeled or Knobbed Whelks = 3 inches width or 5 3/8 inches length

* Measured in a straight line parallel to the long axis of the animal.

Daily Possession Limits for Quahogs, Soft-Shell Clams, Surf Clams, Mussels, and Oysters (Bay Scallops Excluded) in:

Shellfish Management Areas

Resident (no sale) = 1 peck each per person
Licensed Non-Resident (no sale) = ½ peck each per person

Non-Management Areas

Resident (no sale) = 1/2 bushel each per person
Licensed Non-Resident (no sale) = 1 peck each per person

Dry Measure Equivalents

- 1 peck = 2 gallons
- ½ peck = 1 gallon
- 1 bushel = 8 gallons
- ½ bushel = 4 gallons

Whelks

1/2 bushel per person
1 bushel per vessel max
Residents only

The your most up-to-date regulations online.





2020 Rhode Island Saltwater Regulation Guide

New Fishing Pier To Open In 2020 At Rocky Point State Park

Construction of a new timber fishing pier at Rocky Point State Park is almost complete. When finished, the pier will provide universal access to one of the state's prime fishing areas, less than 10 miles from the City of Providence. Located along Warwick Neck and overlooking Narragansett Bay, the 124-acre Rocky Point State Park property, once home to the iconic amusement park, is a rich source of cultural identity for residents and visitors alike.

Rocky Point Amusement Park began operation in the late 1840s and was one of the most popular attractions in Rhode Island. Located so close to Rhode Island's prime metropolitan area, the Rhode Island Central Railroad Company served the site from Providence 7 times per day in 1889, including Sundays! There was also a pier at the site which once served as a means of bringing people to the former amusement park by boat, dinghy, or even yacht. The pier was rebuilt following destruction by the hurricanes of 1938 (unnamed) and 1954 (Hurricane Carol) in order to maintain access to the Rocky Point Amusement Park. Watercraft access via Narragansett Bay

remained the popular way to enter the Park until the 1960's when cars and buses became the common and readily-available transportation method.

Rocky Point Amusement Park closed in 1994 and remained unused for the better part of the following decade until the property was purchased for \$8.5 million in 2003. In 2008, the City of Warwick secured title to 41 acres of the property, including the one-mile-shoreline at Rocky Point, through a complicated negotiation involving city, state and federal officials. In 2013, working through a similarly complicated set of partnerships and negotiations, RI DEM was able to acquire the remaining 83 acres. The area was reopened to the public in 2015 as Rocky Point State Park, a true "partnership park" with DEM overseeing the operation and maintenance of the property in coordination with Warwick City departments.

The new T-shaped pier at Rocky Point features a 260-foot-long approach with an approximately 110-foot-long fishing pier at the T. The pier amenities include a shade structure,

benches, aluminum railings, and solar lighting. Railing heights vary in order to allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy fishing access to Narragansett Bay. (Although the facility long ago supported ferries and yachts, there is currently no plan to reinvent that scenario, which would also require additional services such as reservations and security.) The final design for the accessible fishing pier was prepared by Pare Corporation of Lincoln, RI/Foxboro, MA. ACK Marine & General Contracting, LLC of Quincy, MA is performing the construction. Total costs for the project are expected to be just over \$2 million.

Construction began in June 2019 with the arrival of two barges to Rocky Point. Much of the pier was built from these barges with cranes, pile drivers, and other machine operations. Remnants of the former pier were first removed and disposed of, and new timber piles were installed in the same approximate footprint. These timber piles provide the main structural support.

By August, the pile bracing was complete and the supports for the pier deck were in



Rocky Point Pier ca 1937



Jody F. King



Jody F. King

Pile bracing, part of pier decking installed



Jody F. King

New timber piles being installed

place. By November, the railing posts were installed and the pier deck was constructed. The aluminum railings were installed in December 2019 and January 2020. The shade structure, benches, and the pier connection to land will be completed through winter and spring of 2020.

The new fishing pier will complement a variety of recreational opportunities at Rocky Point, including walking, bird-watching, rock climbing and open spaces for sports, picnics and other gatherings. The public draw to Rocky Point remains unwavering. Some Rhode Islanders may remember it for the Shore Dinner Hall or the Skyliner gondola ride. Others may only know that history

through stories of the past, and instead think of open space, walking paths, and soon, a pier for fishing access and beautiful views of Narragansett Bay. Either way, Rocky Point continues to be a cherished attraction for all with the iconic arch that stands today, bridging memories of the past with a State Park that is preserved for the future. "Come with your family, come with your friends. That's the Rocky Point tradition 'cause it's (almost) summertime again!"



Fishing area with accessible aluminum railings



The Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species!

Examples of Invasive Species:



1/2 inch
Zebra Mussel



1/2 inch
Asian Clam



Variable
Milfoil



Water Chestnut



Eurasian Milfoil



Fanwort



Carp



Koi



Goldfish

Attention Boaters: Inspect vessel carefully before & after use!

- Remove **ALL** weeds and plant fragments from water craft & trailer before & after use
- Drain boat & motor far from water; allow to dry before next use
- Clean off all waders, boots and gear after use in any waterbody
- Do not release bait of aquarium fish, shellfish or plants

For more information contact:

RI Department of Environmental Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife
(407) 789-0281 or (401) 789-7481

www.dem.ri.gov



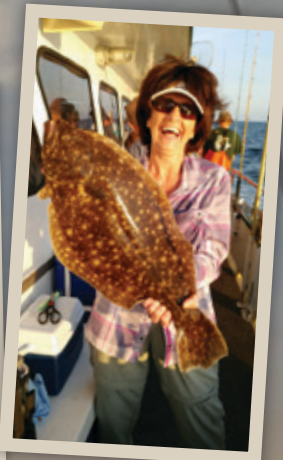
Party & Charter Boat Notable Catches

If you would like to share your notable catches with us and have the chance to see them in next year's fishing guide, please send pictures and information to RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov



Maridee II

Captain Andrew Dangelo, Jr. putting a happy customer on some humphead



Seven B's V

Helping Linda pick out the perfect Rhode Island doormat



Lucky Lady Charters

Captain Steve Palmer chasing the gator blues for his customers



Flippin Out Charters

Captain BJ Silva teaching his customers how to earn their stripes



C-Devil II Sportfishing

Headed offshore for this bluefin tuna which made for the freshest sushi around



Priority Too

Captain Rick Bellavance showing RI DMF Deputy Chief Conor Mcmanus how to catch Atlantic cod



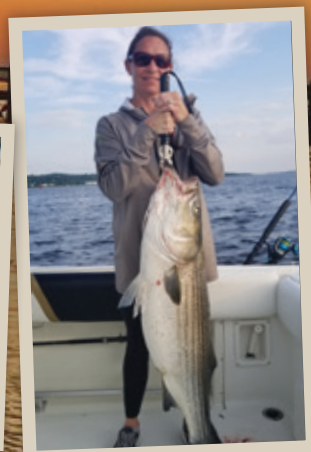
Fish'n Tales Adventures

A young angler caught this hefty grey triggerfish while bottom fishing off of Newport



Sara Star Fishing Charters

Captain Joe has his daughter and mate Coral show off a healthy tautog from the Newport reefs



Arch Angel Charters

Captain Mike guided this angler to a lunker striped bass

2020 Tide Table – Newport, RI

High tide predictions between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM (adjusted for daylight savings time)

● = New Moon ○ = Full Moon

	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. (2021)	Feb. (2021)	Mar. (2021)	Apr. (2021)
1	3:06 PM	4:48 PM	5:29 PM	6:37 AM	7:56 AM	8:10 AM ○	7:47 AM	7:53 AM	8:52 AM	10:07 AM	9:00 AM	11:25 AM
2	4:08 PM	5:47 PM	6:26 PM	7:28 AM	8:37 AM ○	8:46 AM	8:19 AM	8:29 AM	9:37 AM	10:59 AM	9:49 AM	12:22 PM
3	5:11 PM	6:13 AM	6:51 AM	8:16 AM ○	9:16 AM	9:20 AM	8:53 AM	9:09 AM	10:26 AM	11:54 AM	10:41 AM	1:22 PM
4	6:09 PM	7:08 AM	7:44 AM	9:01 AM	9:54 AM	9:52 AM	9:30 AM	9:55 AM	11:19 AM	12:51 PM	11:37 AM	2:24 PM
5	6:34 AM	8:00 AM ○	8:33 AM ○	9:44 AM	10:30 AM	10:25 AM	10:14 AM	10:45 AM	12:14 PM	1:52 PM	12:36 PM	3:29 PM
6	7:27 AM	8:50 AM	9:22 AM	10:27 AM	11:06 AM	11:01 AM	11:05 AM	11:39 AM	1:10 PM	2:59 PM	1:37 PM	4:36 PM
7	8:18 AM ○	9:41 AM	10:09 AM	11:09 AM	11:44 AM	11:42 AM	12:00 PM	12:35 PM	2:10 PM	4:08 PM	2:44 PM	5:38 PM
8	9:08 AM	10:31 AM	10:57 AM	11:51 AM	12:23 PM	12:30 PM	12:57 PM	1:33 PM	3:16 PM	5:11 PM	3:54 PM	6:30 PM
9	9:59 AM	11:23 AM	11:45 AM	12:32 PM	1:07 PM	1:24 PM	1:57 PM	2:34 PM	4:22 PM	6:05 PM	4:57 PM	6:56 AM
10	10:51 AM	12:16 PM	12:33 PM	1:13 PM	1:55 PM	2:21 PM	3:00 PM	3:38 PM	5:23 PM	6:54 PM	5:50 PM	7:37 AM
11	11:45 AM	1:09 PM	1:19 PM	1:53 PM	2:50 PM	3:23 PM	4:03 PM	4:41 PM	6:18 PM	7:22 AM ●	6:37 PM	8:16 AM ●
12	12:42 PM	2:00 PM	2:03 PM	2:37 PM	3:53 PM	4:29 PM	5:02 PM	5:38 PM	6:47 AM	8:05 AM	7:02 AM	8:52 AM
13	1:38 PM	2:49 PM	2:46 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:31 PM	5:56 PM	6:31 PM	7:36 AM ●	8:47 AM	7:42 AM ●	9:28 AM
14	2:34 PM	3:39 PM	3:31 PM	4:31 PM	5:59 PM	6:26 PM	6:48 PM	6:59 AM ●	8:24 AM	9:28 AM	9:21 AM	10:04 AM
15	3:31 PM	4:31 PM	4:23 PM	5:32 PM	6:51 PM	6:55 AM	7:14 AM ●	7:50 AM	9:11 AM	10:08 AM	9:58 AM	10:41 AM
16	4:29 PM	5:21 PM	5:18 PM	6:26 PM	7:18 AM	7:44 AM ●	8:05 AM	8:40 AM	9:57 AM	10:49 AM	10:35 AM	11:21 AM
17	5:22 PM	6:05 PM	6:08 PM	6:54 PM	8:07 AM ●	8:33 AM	8:57 AM	9:31 AM	10:43 AM	11:31 AM	11:12 AM	12:04 PM
18	6:07 PM	6:44 PM	6:54 PM	7:42 AM ●	8:55 AM	9:23 AM	9:50 AM	10:23 AM	11:29 AM	12:14 PM	11:52 AM	12:52 PM
19	6:46 PM	7:07 AM	7:21 AM	8:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:15 AM	10:46 AM	11:16 AM	12:15 PM	12:58 PM	12:35 PM	1:42 PM
20	7:21 PM	7:49 AM	8:08 AM ●	9:18 AM	10:36 AM	11:09 AM	11:44 AM	12:08 PM	1:00 PM	1:48 PM	1:21 PM	2:36 PM
21	7:41 AM	8:31 AM ●	8:53 AM	10:07 AM	11:31 AM	12:07 PM	12:42 PM	12:59 PM	1:46 PM	2:47 PM	2:11 PM	3:35 PM
22	8:18 AM ●	9:15 AM	9:40 AM	10:59 AM	12:28 AM	1:08 PM	1:39 PM	1:49 PM	2:39 PM	3:53 PM	3:07 PM	4:37 PM
23	8:56 AM	10:01 AM	10:30 AM	11:53 AM	1:28 AM	2:09 PM	2:36 PM	2:41 PM	3:39 PM	4:50 PM	4:10 PM	5:35 PM
24	9:37 AM	10:50 AM	11:21 AM	12:49 PM	2:30 AM	3:11 PM	3:33 PM	3:37 PM	4:36 PM	5:39 PM	5:13 PM	6:28 PM
25	10:21 AM	11:42 AM	12:15 PM	1:47 PM	3:35 AM	4:14 PM	4:25 PM	4:30 PM	5:25 PM	6:25 PM	6:08 PM	6:51 AM
26	11:08 AM	12:36 PM	1:11 PM	2:47 PM	4:41 AM	5:13 PM	5:11 PM	5:16 PM	6:09 PM	6:45 AM	6:57 PM	7:41 AM ○
27	12:00 PM	1:31 PM	2:07 PM	3:52 PM	5:41 AM	6:03 PM	5:51 PM	5:58 PM	6:51 PM	7:29 AM ○	7:18 AM	8:31 AM
28	12:54 PM	2:26 PM	3:05 PM	4:49 PM	6:31 AM	6:45 PM	6:28 PM	6:37 PM	7:09 AM ○	8:13 AM	8:05 AM ○	9:22 AM
29	1:49 PM	3:25 PM	4:08 PM	6:00 PM	6:51 AM	7:05 AM	6:45 AM	6:53 AM ○	7:50 AM		8:52 AM	10:14 AM
30	2:46 PM	4:27 PM	5:13 PM	6:52 PM	7:32 AM	7:42 AM	7:18 AM ○	7:31 AM	8:34 AM		9:40 AM	11:09 AM
31	3:46 PM		6:13 PM	7:11 PM		8:15 AM ○		8:10 AM	9:19 AM		10:31 AM	

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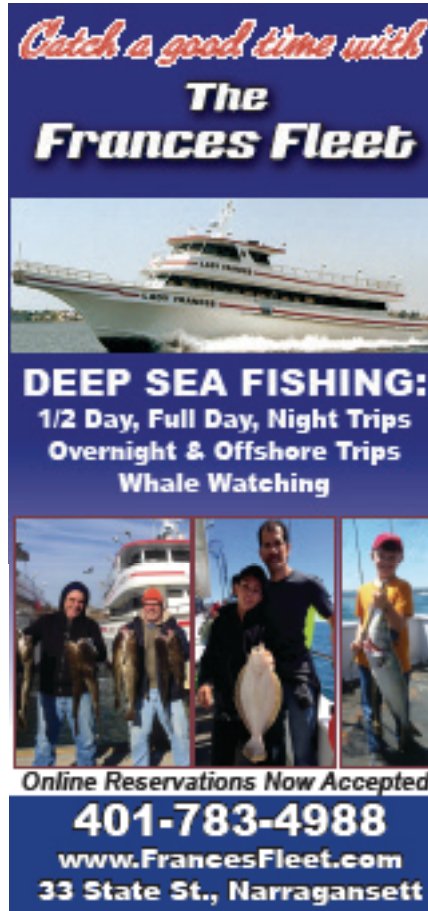
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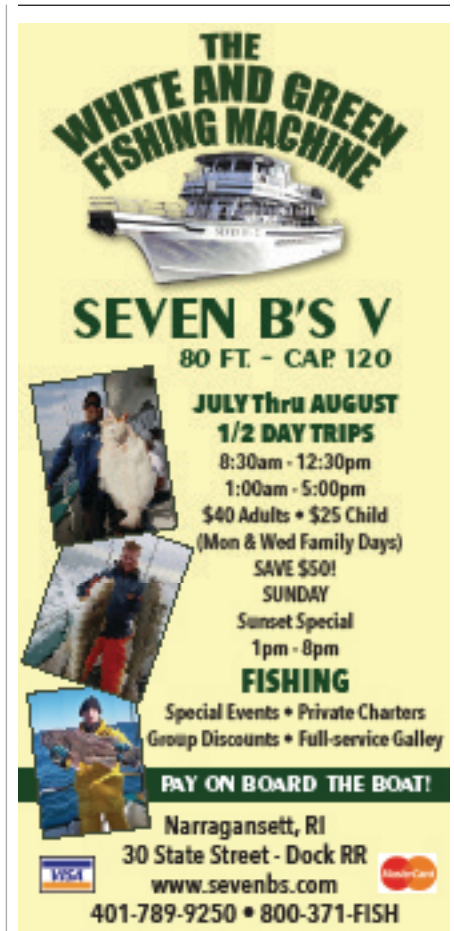
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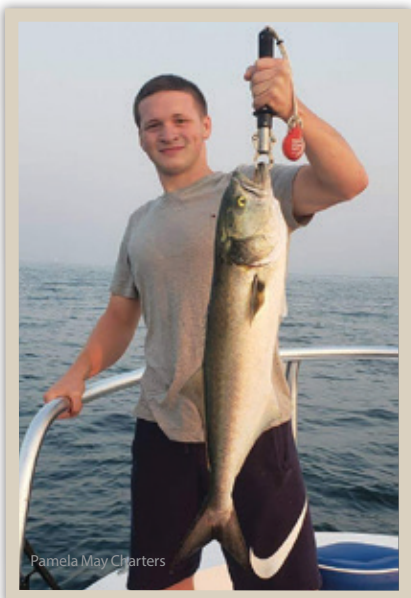
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