


2023 RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL

Saltwater Fishing



**Mahi and mackerel
and tuna, oh my!**

Fishing for pelagic species in RI – Pg. 16



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



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 katherine.rodrique@dem.ri.gov



Cy C

Landed this shimmering bluefish from his kayak in Narragansett Bay.



Tom F

with a humphead black sea bass caught during the peak of the summer season.



Josh B

caught this yellowfin tuna on a popper during a sunset offshore trip.



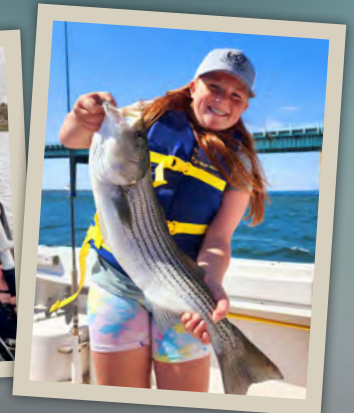
Connor S

this young angler caught a chub mackerel during a summer blitz.



Courtney A

shows off a healthy young fall striper before it's released back into the bay.



TJ H

submitted this photo of a young angler who landed another beautiful striped bass near the Newport Bridge.



Caitlyn Q and Kellie M

bravely show off a feisty jimmy blue crab caught on a trot line.



Hunter and Jack R

these future high-liners got in on the false albacore action last summer!



Anthony R

shows off another big male sea bass caught while bottom jigging.



Paul P

holding up a door mat of a summer flounder.

Saltwater Fishing



State of Rhode Island
Governor Daniel McKee

RI Department of Environmental Management
Director Terrence Gray

Bureau of Natural Resources
Deputy Director Jason McNamee

Division of Marine Fisheries
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Deputy Chief Scott Olszewski
Deputy Chief Julia Livermore

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Cover Photo Courtesy:
Mikey Paradis



Photo courtesy of Meg Maurice

Table of Contents

2.....	Welcome Letter	14.....	Recipe – Black Sea Bass Ceviche
4.....	General Information	16.....	Article – Fishing for Pelagic Species
4.....	Rhode Island Environmental Police – Division of Law Enforcement	18.....	Commonly Caught Species
5.....	Recreational Saltwater Fishing License	20.....	Access Sites
5.....	Aquatic Resource Education Program (Dive Flag Awareness)	22.....	Lobster/Crab Regulations
6.....	Article – Surfcasting	23.....	Equipment Regulations
8.....	Article – Striped Bass Circle Hook Reg - FAQ	24.....	Proper Shellfish Handling
8.....	How to Properly Measure a Fish	25.....	Shellfish Regulations
9.....	Rhode Island Game Fish Award Program	26.....	Article – Access Site Improvements
10.....	Fishing Knots	28.....	Party/Charter Notable Catches
12.....	2023 Recreational Regulations	30.....	Party/Charter Boat Directory
13.....	State Records	32.....	Bait & Tackle Shop Directory



Welcome Letter

On behalf of Governor Dan McKee, I am excited to introduce the 11th 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. Fishing is an important part of Rhode Island's social and cultural fabric and an important driver for our economy. Recreational fishing contributes more than \$130 million to the economy each year. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, there are approximately 175,000 recreational anglers (age 16+) in Rhode Island. 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 some of the lesser-known pelagic species that anglers may encounter in Rhode Island's waters that are fun to target and great to eat; read about the angling artform of surfcasting and an overview of prime shore fishing sites for anglers of all skill levels throughout the state; hear updates on access site improvements including the Westerly boat ramp construction project and several new municipal boat ramp installations as DEM continues to expand recreational opportunities for people of all abilities; discover a delicious black sea bass ceviche recipe, and much more!

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, DEM's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) 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 for scup. And we continue to engage in outreach and education programs, such as this guide.

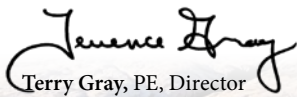
Before you grab your poles and hit the water, be sure to purchase a recreational saltwater fishing license from the **Rhode Island Outdoors – RIO** – online licensing system at RIO.ri.gov! All license fees go back into supporting recreational fishing in Rhode Island, such as fishing access site improvements. With your support, DEM is committed to providing better access to saltwater fishing opportunities throughout RI, allowing more people to connect with nature.

Last year, DEM launched a FREE volunteer recreational catch reporting mobile application, **AnglerCatch**, in collaboration with RISAA and Harbor Lights Software, and with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Since then, AnglerCatch has had over 1,000 downloads with over 400 catches logged by RI anglers. The app allows you to log and track your catches with photos and the information most important to you, while also providing fisheries managers with crucial data on recreational fishing to improve management decisions. It also provides free weather forecasts, tide and solunar information, and buoy data: essential tools for every angler! Let's keep this momentum going – download AnglerCatch today from the Apple App Store or on Google Play.

Since 2016, DEM has worked closely with RISAA to improve boating and fishing access throughout the Ocean State, ensuring anglers can easily reach their favorite spots on the water or along the shore. These close partnerships notably include the development of special shore fishing sites, the 'Vamos a Pescar' program, and the popular Youth Fishing Camp at Rocky Point State Park which introduces recreational fishing to young Rhode Islanders. Despite a two year pause due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the return of RISAA's camp in 2022 was a huge hit – with fifty participants and over 50 volunteers! 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.

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


Terry Gray, PE, 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.

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or at www.JFGriffin.com

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Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, Evelyn Haddad,
Chris Sobolowski



This guide is also available online at
eRegulations.com

Background photo courtesy of Nathan Andrews



THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

Learn more at [TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation](https://www.TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation)



TAKEMEFISHING.org



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



Marine Fisheries Laboratory located in Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, RI

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

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.

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

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



Rhode Island Environmental Police – Division of Law Enforcement

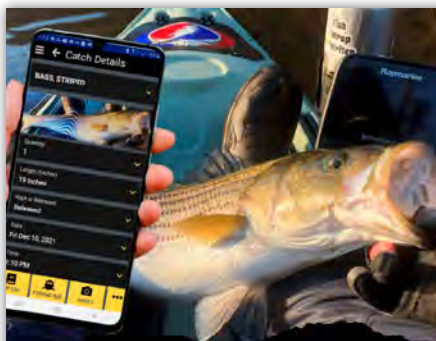
Dean Hoxsie, Chief

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



AnglerCatch

FISHERMAN'S LOGBOOK

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AnglerCatch works with RI DEM and RISAA to provide fisheries managers with accurate, up-to-date info on fishing in New England. AnglerCatch helps to improve fisheries management decisions through better data collection.



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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: rio.ri.gov
- Also available from certain bait & tackle shops. A list of vendors can be found at dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/huntfish.php.
- 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



The Lure of Surfcasting

By Nathan Andrews, Fisheries Specialist, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

The crashing waves, the call of the herring gull, the smell of the salt air – not to mention the thrill of fighting a fish through the surf. This is what draws anglers to the briny shores of Rhode Island.

Surfcasting is an angling artform which typically involves casting plastic, wood, or metal lures. Casting these lures is accomplished with the use of a rod and reel into a tidal saltwater surf, tide, or current, such as the, ocean, bay, or estuary. Most Surfcasters throw a lure from the shoreline into the surf to entice the bite of a predatory saltwater fish.

Despite “Little Rhody” only amounting to 48 miles in length, the “Ocean State” is comprised of approximately 400 miles of coastline from Narragansett Bay to Block Island! Touting many shore-entry access-points and public land along its granite and quartz shores, Rhode Island is ideal for surfcasting and other shore-based fishing, including spearfishing and flyfishing. Anglers travel from all over the northeast to participate in Rhode Island’s recreational saltwater finfishing and do so from our many shoreline access-points. Rhode Island has many great manmade piers like the recently rebuilt Rocky Point Fishing Pier in Warwick, the pier at India Point Park in Providence, the Van Zandt Pier by the Pell Bridge in Newport, The Boat House Pier in Tiverton, and the Galilee Fishing Piers at Salty Brine Beach in Narragansett.

Although these are great locations to fish and easily accessible for anglers of all skill levels, they are not “true” surfcasting locations.

Saltwater pier fishing and surfcasting differ, not necessarily in the species you catch, but rather in the tackle, technique, and access-points fished. Fishing from shore (whether it is a rocky coastline or sandy beach) allows the angler to move freely along the area they target. It also allows freedom to move with the fish as they chase bait up and down the shoreline. This in-turn gives you the ability to fish multiple areas, sandbars, and structure in a single trip, whereas a pier restricts your movement, and only allows for slight directional adjustments. Many pier anglers will rig their 5.5-8 ft heavy rod with a bottom-rig to catch fish such as scup, black sea bass, striped bass (bait rig), and sea robin. Surfcasters will also catch these species, except they will often utilize a 7-12 ft medium-heavy to heavy surf rod equipped with a slew of jigs and plugs to target striped bass (top-water), fluke, bluefish, shad, false albacore, mackerel, and green bonito!

When targeting striped bass and bluefish, a Spook or Pencil-Popper (top-water plugs) might be used to imitate a shad or menhaden that is injured on the surface. The idea is to stimulate a chase and get the predatory fish to strike at the lure. This is often achieved with a moderate jigging motion with the rod combined with a slow and steady reel. One great

advantage of surfcasting is the ability to wade in the surf. One piece of gear that may not be completely essential, but is an advantage, is a pair of chest-waders. By using these to keep dry, surfcasters can comfortably enter the surf and reach further with their casting placement in most climates and seasons (situations vary). This is a key advantage of the surfcaster, and one of his or her defining characteristics. This style of fishing truly immerses oneself into the habitat of the fish, making the catch thrilling, and the release even more rewarding. There truly is no other sensation in the world like fighting a big striped bass in the surf. The initial strike of the fish will catch you off guard. As the striper runs, it will take drag and persuade you deeper into the surf as you hold on to your rod for dear life. Your rod will bend to the strength of the bass as it uses the tidal forces to swim through the white water rushing towards your waders. When the battle is over and the bass is safely landed and released, you have gained more respect for the fish, and more confidence in your abilities to catch a fish and to utilize the ocean’s resources, whether your purpose was for sustenance or recreation.

Metal jigs, spoons, and epoxies work great for fast fish like the bonito, mackerel, and false albacore. This most accurately imitates the small darting bait that they target but hold on tight if you hook one of these fish, as they will often send a reel’s drag screaming with their fast and powerful run. Jigging a bucktail is a great technique for just about every bottom fish species, especially fluke. Often a small bucktail ¼ oz to 1.5oz tipped with some artificial bait (for scent and motion), is all that is needed to stimulate the bite of a big fluke from shore. Seabass and other bottom fish also love to go for bucktails.

Autumn in the Ocean State is not only great for “leaf-peepers,” but is also the best time of year for Surfcasters. The waters boil with bait at peak-abundance. The striped bass come tight on the shore to feast on peanut bunker, shad, and other fry. The falsies and bones run up and down the south shore, making those reels sing a siren’s song. Anglers flock from miles around for a piece of the surfcasting action. First light and last light is the best time of day. Some of the greatest access in the Fall is in the southern reaches of the state between Newport and



This recreational angler shows off a hefty bluefish caught off a sandy beach.



Washington County. Some highly accessible surfcasting locations are:

- **Black Point** – Narragansett, RI – a very productive area within reaches of Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean with a rocky coastline that goes right down to the water.
- **Beavertail State Park** – Jamestown, RI – a spectacular peninsula on Aquidneck Island comprised of lots of rocky outcrops and white water loaded with structure and bait on the southern portion of Narragansett Bay.
- **Charlestown Breachway** – Charlestown, RI – comprised of a sandy barrier beach, jetty, coastal pond, and breachway, with fishing access to all of the above.
- **Misquamicut Beach** – Westerly, RI – a very long stretch of sandy shoreline with small rock reefs just beyond the shore, plenty of ground to cover and fish to seek out
- **Brenton Point State Park** – Newport RI – a similar rocky coastline to Beavertail, but at the south-west end of Newport. Lots of structure with Brenton Reef to the south.
- **West Wall** – Jerusalem, RI – limited parking, but has the largest rock jetty in Rhode Island and access to the Ocean and Point Judith Pond and the Harbor of Refuge.
- **Sakonnet Point** – Little Compton, RI - Small shoreline and Jetty allowing access to the



The author landed this beautiful striped bass from a marshy shore.



First and last light are especially productive times for surfcasting.

southern most parts of Narragansett Bay and deeper water with great structure.

RIDMF in partnership with the ASMFC coordinate RI's division of the Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). This program monitors recreational fishing from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico and provides important data for fisheries managers. Better data means more informed and better management decisions, making it possible to protect and preserve these fisheries for generations! You may see one of our APAIS Field Interviewers collecting data at popular fishing access sites. If you encounter an interviewer after a fishing trip, RI DMF kindly encourages you to take a moment to answer a few questions describing your catch and effort! Plus, if you are looking for a new place to try surfcasting or need more info on a recreational

fishing location near you, you can access our site directory by clicking guest user and searching the entire Atlantic Site Directory for public access fishing areas. Simply go to the NOAA MRIP Site Directory and click on Guest Login: <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/msd/html/siteRegister.jsp>.

The beauty of Rhode Island's shores knows no bounds. Let us all work together to keep it that way. Surfcasting is just as much about respect as it is catching fish. Always respect the land to preserve its majesty. Respect the fish and other marine animals so that our children can grow to respect them as we do. Respect the surf because it is just as mighty as it is dangerous. And respect other anglers because they are there to partake in the same recreation as you. We must all be stewards of the environment. Tight lines!



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Striped Bass Circle Hook Regulation: Frequently Asked Questions



Circle hooks are required when fishing recreationally for striped bass with bait.

Q: What is a circle hook and how does it differ from other hooks?

A: A circle hook is a non-offset hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. Some hooks like J hooks have points which don't curve back toward the shank. Other hooks are offset with a bend that position the point out of line with the shank.

Q: How do circle hooks help Striped Bass?

A: Circle hooks are designed to reduce release mortality by hooking a fish in the corner of the mouth and reducing the incidence of deep ("gut") hooking or ingestion of the hook.

Q: How do I fish with a circle hook?

A: Simply allow the line to tighten on its own when the fish runs and bring the fish in. There is no need to set the hook due to the circle hook design, the hook should catch in the corner of the fish's mouth.

Q: Do artificial lures need a circle hook?

A: No, the circle hook requirement does not apply to any artificial lure with or without bait attached. This includes tube and worm rigs, pork rind, and naked bucktails.

Q: Do artificial baits require a circle hook?

A: Circle hooks are only required when fishing recreationally for striped bass with bait which is defined as any marine or aquatic organism live or dead, whole or parts thereof.

Q: Do I need a circle hook if I am not targeting striped bass but using bait?

A: No, A circle hook is only required when fishing recreationally for striped bass with bait, which is defined as any marine or aquatic organism live or dead, whole or parts thereof. The circle hook requirement does not apply to any artificial lure with bait attached. Striped bass caught on any unapproved

method of take must be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.

Q: If you catch a striped bass on a j-hook while fishing for another species do you have to release it?

A: Yes, striped bass caught on any unapproved method of take must be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.

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 tendrils on the caudal fin.



The **Correct** Way to Determine Total Length Measurement



The **Incorrect** Way to Determine Total Length Measurement

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/natural-resources-bureau/natural-resources-divisions/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fishing/game-fish. 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/natural-resources-bureau/natural-resources-divisions/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fishing/childrens. First Fish Awards are processed twice a year: once in the fall and prior to the opening day of the following year.

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

Qualifying Saltwater Weights or Lengths					
Black Sea Bass	20"	4 lbs.	Mako Shark	90"	300 lbs.
Blue Shark	72"	80 lbs.	Pollock	36"	15 lbs.
Bluefin Tuna	90"	450 lbs.	Scup	13"	2.5 lbs.
Bluefish	32"	14 lbs.	Spanish Mackerel	24"	4.5 lbs.
Bonito	25"	8 lbs.	Squeteague (Weakfish)	24"	4.5 lbs.
Chub Mackerel	14"	1 lb.	Striped Bass	48"	50 lbs.
Cobia	48"	50 lbs.	Summer Flounder	25"	6 lbs.
Cod	38"	20 lbs.	Swordfish	70"	170 lbs.
False Albacore	24"	5 lbs.	Tautog	23"	10 lbs.
Grey Triggerfish	17"	3 lbs.	Wahoo	50"	4 lbs.
Haddock	30"	10 lbs.	White Marlin	72"	70 lbs.
Hickory Shad	18"	2 lbs.	Winter Flounder	16"	3 lbs.
King Mackerel	19"	3 lbs.	Yellowfin Tuna	56"	125 lbs.
Mackerel	15"	1 lb.			
Mahi Mahi (common dolphinfish)	30"	8 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

Fishing Knots

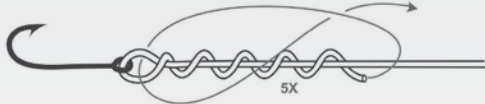
These and more fishing knots are available on waterproof plastic cards at www.proknot.com

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.

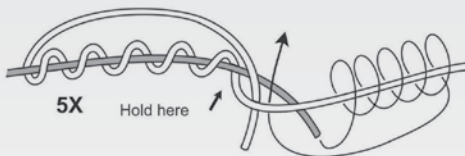


4. Moisten line. Pull on standing line while holding tag end to close knot. Pull on both tag and standing line to tighten knot down.



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.

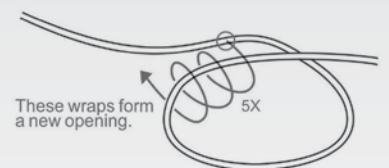


3. Pull tight and clip ends closely.

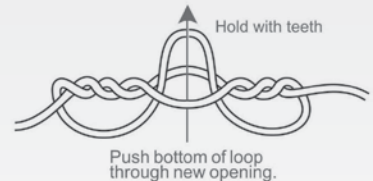
Dropper Loop Knot

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.





For-hire Vessel Permitting and Reporting



For-hire Vessel Permitting

If you are a for-hire captain fishing in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) for one of the species listed below, you must have a valid Greater Atlantic region Vessel Charter/Party Permit. Vessel operators are also required to have a Federal Vessel Operator Permit.

- Summer Flounder
- Black Sea Bass
- Scup
- Atlantic Mackerel
- Squid
- Bluefish
- Chub
- Mackerel
- Lobster
- Butterfish
- Golden Tilefish (North of NC/VA border)
- Blueline Tilefish (North of NC/VA border)
- New England Groundfish including cod, haddock, pollack, hakes and flounders (i.e. "Northeast multispecies")

However, if you have a Northeast Multispecies Limited Access Permit, you do not need the Northeast Multispecies Charter/Party Permit to carry passengers for hire on groundfish trips.

For-hire Vessel Trip Reporting

Once you have a federal permit, you must report your catch.

- If you only have a groundfish permit, you must submit vessel trip reports weekly, either electronically or by paper.
- If you have a for-hire permit for any other species listed above, you must submit vessel trip reports electronically within 48 hours of the end of your for-hire trip.

Lobster Only Vessels

- If you only have a lobster permit and no other federal permits (commercial or for-hire), no federal reporting is required at this time.



- Sign up for email and text alerts
- Fishing regulations
- Fishing and charter/ party fleet permits
- Charter / party fleet reporting
- Marine Recreational Information Program
- Best practices and ethical angling
- Fish Identification



Your Fishing Counts!

When you share information about your saltwater fishing trip with a state field interviewer, you're playing a key role in keeping fisheries healthy and sustainable.

Here's how you support the Marine Recreational Information Program:

You may be interviewed at a marina, boat ramp, pier, or beach.

Your information is combined with commercial catch and other data.

Scientists use these data to determine the health of our fish stocks.

Managers set rules to keep stocks sustainable.

The cycle continues as we work to maintain productive fisheries.



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2023 Recreational Regulations

2023 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 (shore & private)	16.5"	May 22 - Aug. 26 Aug. 27 - Dec. 31	2 fish/person/day 3 fish/person/day
Black Sea Bass (party and charter)	16"	June 18 - Aug. 31 Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	2 fish/person/day 6 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
River Herring (alewives and blueback herring) & American Shad	Prohibited Species		
Scup (private / rental boat)	10.5"	May 1 - Dec. 31	30 fish/person/day
Scup (shore)	9.5"	May 1 - Dec. 31	30 fish/person/day
Scup (party and charter)	10.5"	May 1 - Aug. 31	30 fish/person/day
		Sept. 1 - Oct. 31	40 fish/person/day
		Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	30 fish/person/day
Striped Bass *	Slot Limit: Minimum Size 28" Maximum Size <31"	Open year round	1 fish/person/day within the slot limit
Summer Flounder (general)	18"	May 3 - Dec. 31	4 fish/person/day
Summer Flounder (special shore)***	17" (See Possession Limit)	May 3 - Dec. 31	2 fish @ 17" person/day 2 fish @ 18" person/day
		Apr. 1 - May 31	3 fish/person/day
		June 1 - July 31	CLOSED
		Aug. 1 - Oct. 14	3 fish/person/day
		Oct. 15 - Dec. 31	5 fish/person/day
Tautog (Blackfish) Max of 10 fish/ves/day during all periods, except licensed party / charter boats	16" Max 1 fish >21"	Apr. 1 - May 31 June 1 - July 31 Aug. 1 - Oct. 14 Oct. 15 - Dec. 31	3 fish/person/day CLOSED 3 fish/person/day 5 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

* Circle hooks must be used when fishing with bait.

**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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Rhode Island Recreational State Records for Saltwater Species

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
Atlantic Mackerel	1 lb. 1.6 oz.	14 in.	11/1981		T. Rovinelli - Providence, RI
Bluefin Tuna	1142 lbs. 12 oz.		09/1971	Block Island	J. Dempsey
Bluefish	26 lbs.		08/1981		D. Deziel - Woonsocket, RI
Bonito	13 lbs.		10/1995	Westerly	R. Gliottone - Exeter, RI
Chub Mackerel	1.52 lbs.	14.75 in.	07/2022	Point Judith	A. Bierly - Catawissa, PA
Cod	71 lbs.		06/1965		M. Deciantis - Warwick, RI
False Albacore	16.2 lbs.	32 in.	09/2022	The Gully	T. Craig - Bronx, NY
Gray Triggerfish	4 lbs. 8 oz.	22 in.	10/2021		G. Castonguay - Berkley, MA
Hickory Shad	2 lbs. 11 oz.	20 in.	11/1989	Narrow River	M. Pickering - Lincoln, RI
Scup	5 lbs.	20.25 in.	10/1990		J. Yurwitz - Block Island, RI
Black Sea Bass	8 lbs. 7.25 oz.	26 in.	10/1981	Block Island	K. McDuffie - Pascoag, RI
Squeteague	16 lbs. 8.72 oz.	36 in.	05/2007	Greenwich Bay	R. Moeller - N. Kingstown, RI
Striped Bass	77 lbs. 6.4 oz.	52 in.	06/2011	Block Island	P. Vican - E. Greenwich, RI
Summer Flounder	17 lbs. 8 oz.		1962	Narrow River	G. Farmer - Warwick, RI
Tautog	21 lbs. 9 oz.	33 in.	11/2021	Newport	P. Newman - New Milford, NJ
Winter Flounder	6 lbs. 7 oz.	23 in.	08/1990	Galilee	A. Pearson - Cranston, RI
Yellowfin Tuna	265 lbs.	6 ft.	10/1997	The Dip	R. Hughes - Arlington, MA

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. For a complete list of state records and official weigh-in stations, visit <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/fish-wildlife/reports-publications/sportfish-records>



Scan here for regulations

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ສະແດງការងារ រំលឹកប្រាប់

Recipe: Black Sea Bass Ceviche

RECIPE:

Black Sea Bass Ceviche

By Katie Rodrigue, Principal Biologist, RI DMF



Ceviche is a Peruvian dish made from fresh raw fish that is marinated in some sort of acidic liquid, typically citrus juice. Because the fish is not cooked with heat, but rather cured from the acidity of the citrus, only the freshest fish should be used. Any mild fish with a firm texture works well, and during peak fishing season in RI, black sea bass is the perfect candidate. Light, refreshing, and colorful, black sea bass ceviche is the perfect summertime seafood dish.

Ingredients:

- 2 black sea bass filets (about 2 cups)
- 1 lime (juice and zest)
- 1 lemon (juice and zest)
- 1/4 cup of chopped or crushed pineapple (with juice)
- 1/2 of a red onion
- 1/2 of a white onion
- 1/2 cup of bell pepper (any color)
- 1-2 jalapenos (diced)
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped garlic
- Handful of finely chopped cilantro
- 1-2 teaspoons of salt (to taste)
- 1-2 teaspoons of sugar (to taste)



1. Cut sea bass filets into 1/2-inch cubes. Place in large bowl.
2. Using a microplane or grater, zest the lime and lemon and add. Avoid grating too deep – only add the green/yellow outer skin. The white pith below tastes bitter.
3. Add the lime and lemon juice.
4. Add the pineapple and juice.
5. Dice the onions. Add both (about 1/4 cup of each).
6. Dice the bell pepper, about 1/2 cup. I like to mix colors, so typically use 1/2 of a pepper of each color. Green bell peppers taste vegetal, while orange, yellow, and red taste sweeter (due to being riper).
7. Dice the jalapeno. Always taste first, as their heat level can vary greatly! Remove the seeds and white pith if you want less heat.
8. Add the chopped garlic and cilantro.
9. Add the salt and sugar.
10. Mix well, making sure the fish is completely coated in liquid. Let sit refrigerated for 1-2 hours, until fish turns opaque white (and looks cooked). If needed, add more salt or sugar to taste.
11. Serve with tortilla chips and enjoy! Best consumed the same day, but can be kept refrigerated up to 2 days. If storing, drain excess liquid.

Your Data Makes a Difference

The **information you share** about your fishing trips helps ensure **sustainable fisheries** today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

NOAA Fisheries works closely with the Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries to gather quality data from anglers like you. This information is used by marine scientists, regional fishery management councils, and fisheries commissions to help ensure healthy, productive, and sustainable fisheries.



Photo credits: Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries

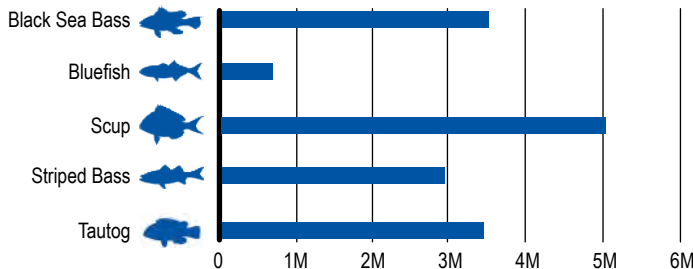
Please note: Field interviewers play no role in law enforcement. We value your participation and privacy. Any personal information collected is kept confidential.

One of America's **favorite pastimes**, saltwater recreational fishing is a **major contributor** each year to the Ocean State's **coastal economies** and **working waterfronts**:



Source: NOAA Fisheries

What's biting in Rhode Island?



These 2021 estimates of fish caught by recreational anglers include released fish.

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Fishing for Pelagic Species

By J.A. Macfarlan, Principal Marine Biologist, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

They provide spirited fights, high-speed runs, and many can be easily targeted by inshore anglers. As a group, they are in our region from mid-spring to around Thanksgiving.

In the past few years, a group of colorful and athletic pelagic fish have captured the attention of Rhode Island’s coastal anglers. These animals are predators that migrate up and down the east coast and across the continental shelf in pursuit of forage and spawning opportunities. They provide spirited fights, high-speed runs, and many can be easily targeted by inshore anglers. As a group, they are in our region from mid-spring to around Thanksgiving. Last year, hungry schools of chub mackerel showed up early in the season, followed by bonito and false albacore, an explosion of small dolphinfish in late summer, and an exciting fall visit of giant bluefin tuna off the south shore beaches. However, in between the arrivals of those better-known species are several others that are just as fun to target.

The ten pelagic fish profiled here belong to three main families: Scombridae (tuna and mackerel), Coryphaenidae (dolphinfishes), and Carangidae (jacks and trevally). These groups have few or very small scales and obvious countershading (dark on the top or dorsal surface and light beneath on the ventral surface) that results in effective watery camouflage. Favoring a diet of other schooling organisms such as small fish, squid, and crustaceans, the species described here can typically be found under flocks of diving birds or by spotting surface disturbances. All are evolved for speed, are streamlined, and most can be targeted with light to medium duty rods and reels, with obvious exception to some of the larger species on the list.

Depending on your personal tastes, all of these fish are edible with a variety of flavor

profiles from mild to gamey. When keeping any fish for consumption they should be humanely stunned, bled, and iced down to ensure the highest quality meat. Eating any fish that has not been properly chilled and is then consumed can result in “Scombroid” poisoning. Symptoms can occur within minutes, last up to two days, and include headache, blurred vision, cramps, diarrhea, facial flushing, and irregular heart rate.

The following fish descriptions are ordered by their proximity to the coast, with “1” being most accessible via shore or kayak, versus “10” most likely to be caught offshore by boat. If you do not have a boat, but you would like to target offshore species please refer to the back of this magazine and the section on “party charter” vessels that specialize in trips to the outer continental shelf waters!

- 1. Banded Rudder Fish** - *Seriola zonata*: The banded rudder fish is a highly predictable visitor to our waters during the warmer months of the year. At smaller sizes their dark vertical bands are prominent but fade with maturity. These typically small and feisty animals congregate around lobster floats, channel markers, and flotsam from areas far offshore up to the Providence River. Banded Rudder fish are a close relative of Amberjacks and share similar attributes such as delicious meat and an incredible fight. Though rarely targeted by anglers in RI, they are fun to catch on light tackle. If the bass bite is slow and the kids are getting bored, finding a school of these fish can help turn

around a frustrating day. **Tackle/Strategy:** Locate floating or submerged structure and use light resin jigs, or small chunks of bait paired to small weightless hooks.

- 2. Chub Mackerel** - aka “Chubs” or “Tinker Mackerel” - *Scomber colias*: In the past several years numerous schools of this scombrid have shown up in April and persisted until Fall. They are easily spotted on the surface by their thick, boiling, fast-moving pods that feed on small baitfish and large zooplankton. **Tackle/Strategy:** Casting 0.50-1.5-ounce resin or metal jigs with a single treble hook, color varies day to day however, bone, pink, and green/yellow have all worked in past years, find a school and stay ahead of their movements.
- 3. Bonito** – aka “Bones”- *Sarda sarda*: Pods of bonito have been reported as early as April, but typically are associated with summer fishing and persist through the fall. Bonito have large eyes, a mouth studded with small sharp teeth, and bright bluish-black stripes along their back with a white belly. **Tackle/Strategy:** Sight casting for these fish on surface feeds with jigs, spoons and small plugs, trolling with small to medium sized swim baits at ~5+ knots over ledges, drop-offs and near other structure.
- 4. False Albacore** – aka “Albies”, “Little Tunny” – *Euthynnus alletteratus*: Although not the fastest fish on our list, but capable of blistering 40 mph runs that elicit “run and gun” chases by anglers along the beaches

Banded Rudderfish



Duane Raver Jr.

Chub Mackerel



NOAA Fisheries

Bonito



Robert Jon Golder

False Albacore



Diane Rome Peebles

Atlantic Mackerel



NOAA Fisheries

Spanish Mackerel



NOAA Fisheries

Dolphinfish



NOAA Fisheries

Bluefin Tuna



Diane Rome Peebles

Yellowfin Tuna



Diane Rome Peebles

Wahoo



NOAA Fisheries

and bays throughout RI. Similar in overall shape to a bonito but with a deeper, rounder body, Albies have several dark blotches and worm-like greenish blue camouflage patterns on their backs. **Tackle/Strategy:** Locate birds circling over fast-moving small pods that include fish jumping out of the water, use a range of small soft and hard baits to tease out a bite.

5. **Atlantic Mackerel** - “Boston Mackerel” or “Common Mackerel”- *Scomber scombrus*: A distinctly spindle shaped body is marked by bars along their iridescent blue-green dorsal surface which gives way to a white belly. Large schools were typical in years past, however recently landings have declined substantially. Similar to a few other species on our list, Atlantic Mackerel are very fun to catch when fishing with kids particularly when getting multiple fish per cast. **Tackle/Strategy:** Sabiki rigs are the most popular, however red devils and small swimming lures also work well, watch for surface finning, or cast and jig a sabiki rig methodically to find a school’s location.
6. **Spanish Mackerel** – “Spotted Mackerel” or “Bay Mackerel”- *Scomberomorus maculatus*: Spanish Mackerel are toothy schooling scombrids that prefer warmer water temps and will show up in August and peak in abundance in September. They are distinctive looking with a prominent under-bite jaw, a sickle shaped tail, dark blotches along their sides, and a blueish-green dorsal surface. In our area they typically school with other mackerels and at times small bluefish. **Tackle/Strategy:** Find surface feeding fish and cast shiny spoons, soft plastics, and swim baits.
7. **Dolphin and Pompano Dolphin** - “Dorado”, “Mahi-Mahi”, or “Dolphinfish”- *Coryphaena equiselis*, *C. hippurus*: These animals have thin bodies, with a large foldable tale that exhibits coloration from whitish gray to bright blues, yellows, greens and turquoise flecks throughout. The two species co-occur in our area and are typically referred to by their market name “mahi mahi”. Dolphin-

Common Name	Size (in/ft)	Time of Year	State Record
1. Banded Rudder Fish	6-18 in	Spring-Fall	None
2. Chub Mackerel	10-20 in	Spring-Fall	1.52 lbs, 14.75 in
3. Bonito	8-30 in	Summer-Fall	13 lbs
4. False Albacore	16-30 in	Late Summer-Fall	16.2 lbs
5. Atlantic Mackerel	6-14 in	Spring and Fall	1.6 lbs, 14 in
6. Spanish Mackerel	12-30 in	Late Summer-Fall	None
7. Dolphinfishes	14 in - 5 ft	Summer-Fall	32 lbs
8. Bluefin Tuna	27 in - 8 ft	Late Summer-Fall	1142 lbs
9. Yellowfin Tuna	20-48 in	Late Summer-Fall	265 lbs, 6 ft
10. Wahoo	24 in - 6 ft	Late Summer-Fall	80 lbs

fish are the most colorful on our list, and they also exhibit sexual dimorphism in which the males tend to have a large square head compared to the smaller rounded head of females. They are likely the fastest growing and maturing species in our list, rarely living more than 5 years, and reaching sexual maturity within the first few months of life. **Tackle/Strategy:** Casting jigs, dropping cut bait on circle hooks, and trolling around weed lines, buoys, and other structure works well, commonly found with banded rudder fish.

8. **Bluefin Tuna** - *Thunnus thynnus*: The largest scombrid on our list can grow to 1500 lbs and 10 feet in length. Bluefin tuna have a deeply rounded body with a large powerful sickle-shaped tail. Their dorsal surface is bluish black above and silvery below with bluish yellow second dorsal and anal fins. In the past several years we have seen a “giant” fishery within state waters and regular sightings of pods of smaller “school-size” bluefin along the ocean-front within striking distance of kayaks and small boats. **Tackle/Strategy:** Live-lining bluefish, bonito, or mackerels and chumming menhaden and other oily species for larger fish. Smaller bluefin can be trolled, jigged, popped, and baited with a variety of presentations. Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit required.

9. **Yellowfin Tuna** - “Ahi” - *Thunnus albacares*: Yellowfin tuna are at times confused with bluefin tuna which both can have yellowish fins and finlets. A dark bluish black dorsal surface is bordered by a yellowish lateral line and fins that are brighter yellow than a bluefin tuna. Yellowfin also have a torpedo shaped body and longer second dorsal and anal fins that are also bright yellow. **Tackle/Strategy:** Typically, a warm water visitor, these fish can be found just south of Block Island and further east on Coxes Ledge during the summer and early fall, popping, jigging, or trolling spreads of various lures all work well. HMS Permit Required.

10. **Wahoo** - *Acanthocybium soladri*: This elongated and spindle-shaped mackerel has 20-30 dark lateral bars along both sides and a bluish-black dorsal surface with a mouth full of razor-sharp teeth. The fastest fish in our list, it has been reliably clocked at speeds of upwards of 60 mph. These non-schooling pelagic torpedoes are capable of overheating drags and quickly stripping 100s of yards of line from reels. **Tackle/Strategy:** Locate sargassum weed patches, or areas near wrecks and other deep structure in clear blue water toward the shelf break, can be jigged, commonly trolled using heavily weighted swimming and feathered trolling lures at speeds of up to 16 knots .



Ryan Pagano shows off the vibrant colors of this dolphinfish caught south of Block Island.



A small but feisty chub mackerel caught inshore on a bucktail.



A rare wahoo caught offshore on the charter vessel C-Devil II.



RI DMF Deputy Chief Scott Olszewski shows off a false albacore landed outside the Point Judith Harbor of Refuge.

Commonly Caught Species

Illustrations by Roberta Calore, All rights reserved.

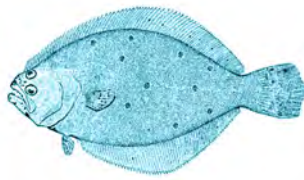
Common Fish



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*

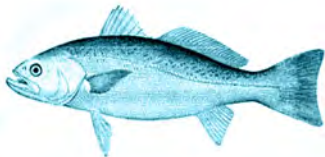
Identification: Grayish-green above, silvery on sides with distinct horizontal stripes.



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*

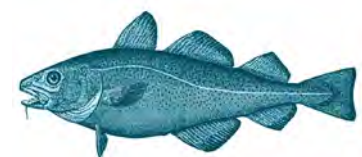
Identification: Long second dorsal fin, slender body and absent chin barbel.



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.



H. L. Todd

Pollock

Scientific Name: *Pollachius virens*

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



American eel

Scientific Name: *Anguilla rostrata*

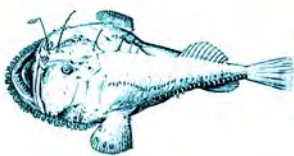
Identification: Dorsal fin begins far behind the pectoral fin, and the lower jaw projects beyond upper jaw.



Alewife and Blueback Herring (River Herring)

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

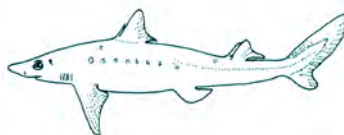
Identification: Deep body and spot located just behind the gill cover.



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*

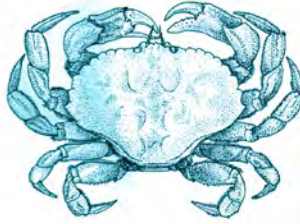
Identification: Large scaleless head nearly one third total body length.

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.



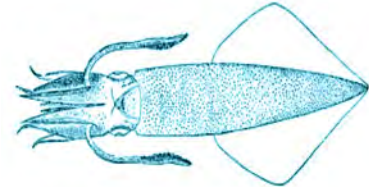
Blue Crab

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

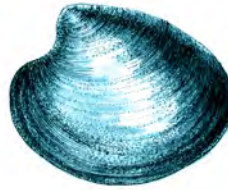
Scientific Name: *Loligo pealeii*
Identification: White or translucent gray with tiny red or purple spots with expand and contract.

Common Shellfish



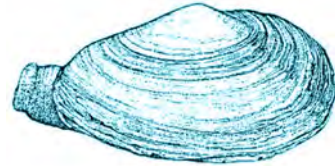
Eastern Oyster

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



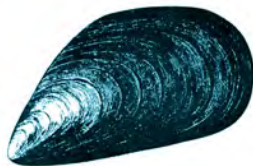
Northern Quahaug (Hard Shell Clam)

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



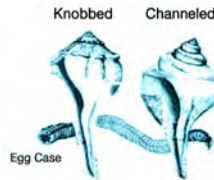
Soft Shell Clam (steamer)

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



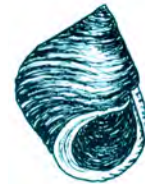
Blue Mussel

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.



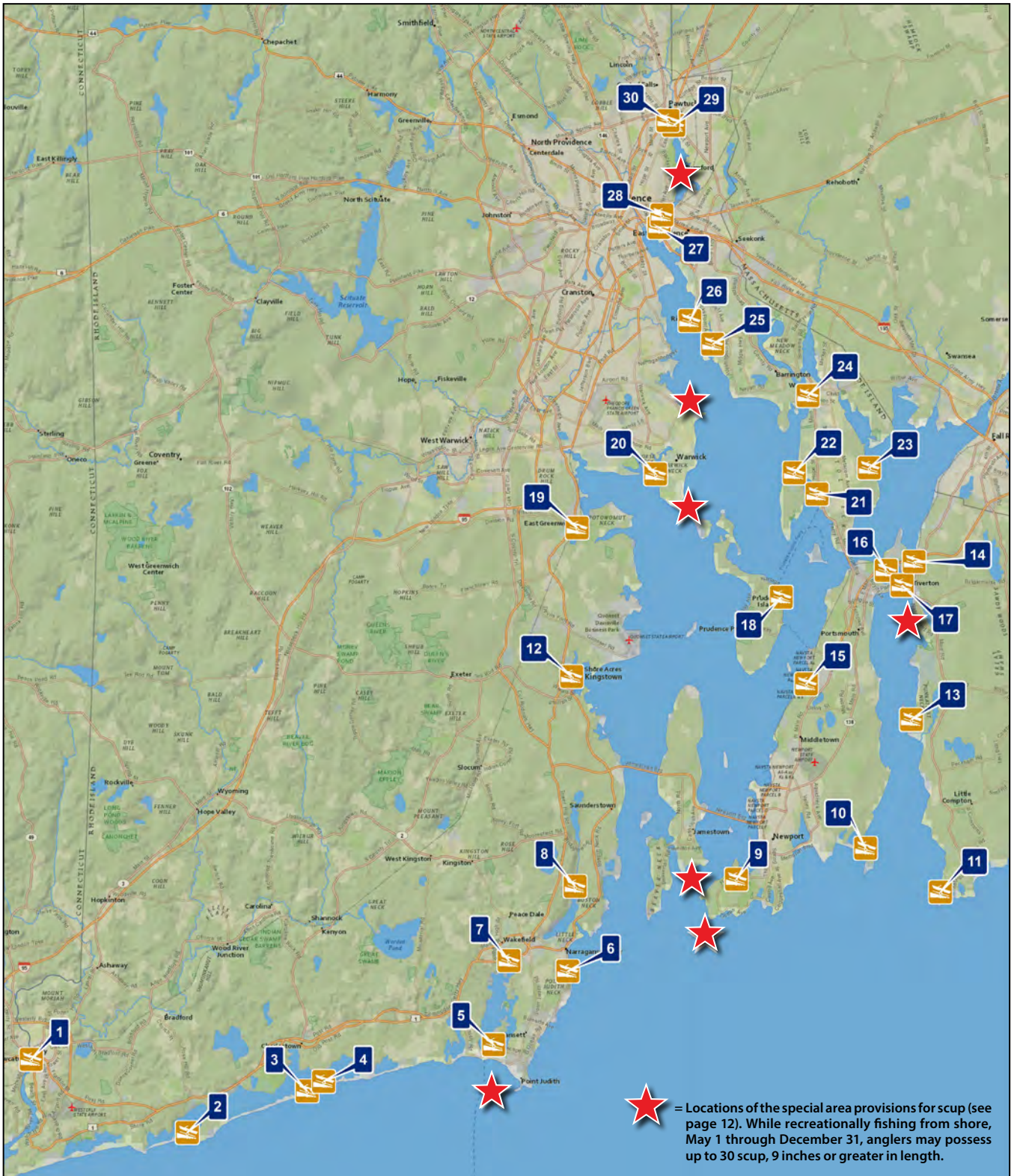
Common Periwinkle

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.
- All operators and passengers of canoes, kayaks, sailboards, kiteboards, paddleboards, and any other paddle craft must always wear a United States Coast Guard (USCG)-approved PFD while underway regardless of age.



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 Ninigret Pond, Green Hill Pond, Quonochontaug 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.

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RIDEM
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
RHODE ISLAND

Photo: Charlestown Breachway State Beach

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, whelk, 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 = 2 1/4” shell height

(farthest distance from opercular side to top of shell when operculum is laid on flat surface)

* 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) = 1/2 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

1/2 peck = 1 gallon

1 bushel = 8 gallons

1/2 bushel = 4 gallons

Whelks

1/2 bushel per person

1 bushel per vessel max

Residents only

The most up-to-date fishing regulations online!

Icons representing various fishing species: quahog, clam, mussel, surf clam, oyster, whelk.

Booklet cover: Saltwater Fishing 2023 Rhode Island Professional Mahi and mackerel and tuna, oh my! Fishing for praline species in RI.

Smartphone screen: eRegulations Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Laptop screen: eRegulations Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Logo: eRegulations.com

Access Site Improvements

By Jillian Thompson, Conservation Engineer, RI DEM Planning and Development

Main St, Westerly and Marina Park boat ramps under construction, more in the queue, as DEM supports public boating access with USFWS Sportfish Restoration dollars.



Setting the new ramp slabs.

Construction of the public boat ramp at DEM's facility on Main St in Westerly is moving along and on track to finish by Spring of 2023. Once complete, the Main Street boat ramp will provide an improved boating and fishing experience on the Pawcatuck River and can be enjoyed by more visitors. As DEM continues to expand recreational opportunities for people of all abilities, the site will have several features which facilitate access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Plans developed by GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. include a one-lane concrete ramp with six floating docks. The parking lot circulation and layout will remain unchanged but updated signage is planned. There are 30 spaces for trailered boats, several spots for car top boats like kayaks or canoes, and ADA-accessible parking.

Demolition of the old ramp began in November 2022 by the contractor Atlantic Marine

Construction. Boat ramps have an estimated functional life expectancy of 20 to 25 years depending on level of use and location, so this ramp was due for replacement. Amazingly, Bill Magowan, owner of Atlantic Marine, was part of the contractor crew for Pawcatuck River Dock Building, Inc. that built the original ramp in early 2000! Bill ended up buying that company with his business partner Brian Denecour and has continued in the business as Atlantic Marine Construction.

During the first phase of the project, the old, fixed dock and piles were removed, and steel sheet pile was installed to create a cofferdam, which makes it possible to complete the construction in dry conditions. That work was done from both the land side and by barge. A new concrete abutment will connect to the floating docks and replaces the fixed dock which was often fully flooded at high tide.

The new ramp is 68' long and has 34 pre-cast concrete slabs, and is constructed in the same 20-foot wide footprint as the original ramp. A concrete runoff slab was also set at the end of the ramp to help prevent scour holes from forming on the river bottom. New wooden pilings will be installed for the floating docks in April 2023 and boaters and anglers can anticipate the reopening of the facility in early May.

The Main Street Boat Ramp improvement project is funded with over \$400,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Program, which derives its revenue from taxes on motorboat fuel, fishing equipment, and the purchase of some boats. A portion of the national funding is dedicated and distributed via DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife, specifically for boating access. Recreational boating and fishing are ingrained in the culture of the Ocean State. They also



Preparing the site for sheet piling installation at Marina Park.

Photo courtesy of South Kingstown Recreation Department



Dock demolition underway at the Main St boat ramp in Westerly.



Installing the sheet piling at Marina Park.

are important economic drivers: 54,000 boats use Rhode Island waters each year, including more than 40,000 registered to RI owners. The Sport Fish Restoration program fund allows for continued improvements to boating and fishing infrastructure across the state.

In addition to investing in state-owned boating facilities, DEM also provides support to municipalities in their efforts to upgrade public boat ramps. Most recently, work began to replace the popular boat ramp at Marina Park in South Kingstown. The Town contracted with New England Building and Bridge Company Inc. for the construction of the new ramp; completion of the project is estimated during Summer 2023. Plans for this facility, also completed by GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., include a new 24' wide ramp, two additional floating docks to provide more berthing space while boaters are launching

or retrieving, and an accessible route to the new ramp. In addition to the Sport Fish Restoration dollars allocated by DEM, this boat ramp reconstruction is funded through the Town of South Kingstown Capital Improvement Program.

Two additional boat ramp projects are in the planning stage right now as well. The Town of Portsmouth received USFWS funding for engineering and design services for the Weaver Cove ramp on Burma Road, as did the Town of North Kingstown for their ramp at Wilson Park. Both projects are awaiting final permits.

DEM will continue to invest in boating facilities to provide safe and accessible experiences for boaters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts, and looks forward to sharing more great projects in 2024.



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



BOATERS

PROTECT WHALES, SEA TURTLES, SEALS, STURGEON, AND YOURSELF FROM PREVENTABLE BOAT COLLISIONS.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

GO SLOW
SLOWER BOAT SPEEDS GIVE ANIMALS TIME TO GET OUT OF YOUR WAY.

GIVE SPACE
SAFE DISTANCES REDUCE RISKS OF ILLEGAL DISTURBANCE AND DANGEROUS COLLISIONS.

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FOR ENTANGLED OR INJURED MARINE MAMMALS AND SEA TURTLES CALL (866) 755-6622; FOR DEAD OR INJURED STURGEON CALL (978) 281-9328 OR EMAIL NOAA.STURG911@NOAA.GOV

STAY INFORMED
FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.FISHERIES.NOAA.GOV/TOPIC/MARINE-LIFE-VIEWING-GUIDELINES](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/marine-life-viewing-guidelines)

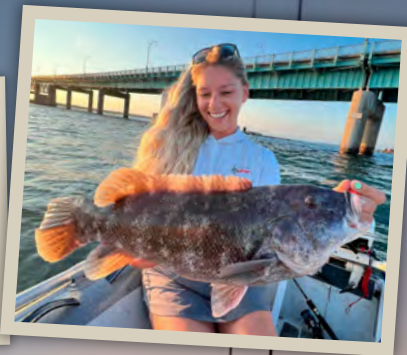
Party & Charter Boat Notable Catches

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 katherine.rodriquez@dem.ri.gov



L'il Toot Charters

Captain John Rainone put this happy client on some humphead black sea bass during a gorgeous summer day.



Sara Star Charters

Captain Coral Aiello shows off a monster tautog near the Newport Bridge.



Archangel Charters

Catching a shark is sure to bring a smile to any kid's face!



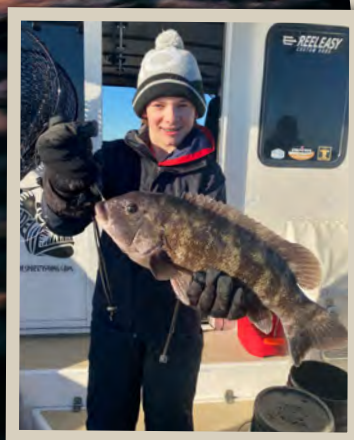
Frayed Knot

A nice hefty black sea bass caught while bottom fishing in Narragansett Bay.



Stuff It Sportfishing

Ruben and his father-in-law show off a gorgeous yellowfin tuna with its colors lit up during a beautiful summer day.



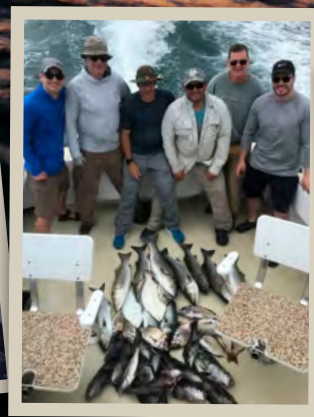
C-Devil II Sportfishing

This young angler braved the cold to land an impressive fall tautog.



Jackhammer Charters

Everyone went home with at least one fish on this late-summer tuna trip.



Priority Too

Showing off a nice mix of striped bass, fluke, scup, and black sea bass after a successful spring trip off Block Island.



Patterson Guide Service

put their clients on some bluefin tuna on a hazy summer day.

2023 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. (2024)	Feb. (2024)	Mar. (2024)	Apr. (2024)
1	5:53 PM	6:08 AM	6:30 AM	7:58 AM ○	9:21 AM	9:47 AM	11:00 AM	10:24 AM	11:14 AM	11:49 AM	11:16 AM	6:45 AM
2	6:10 AM	6:58 AM	7:23 AM	8:50 AM	10:11 AM	10:36 AM	11:52 AM	11:12 AM	11:53 AM	12:35 PM	12:05 PM	8:11 AM
3	6:50 AM	7:46 AM	8:15 AM ○	9:42 AM	11:02 AM	11:27 AM	12:47 PM	12:00 PM	12:34 PM	1:27 PM	1:00 PM	9:50 AM
4	7:30 AM	8:34 AM ○	9:07 AM	10:34 AM	11:55 AM	12:21 PM	1:43 PM	12:46 PM	1:18 PM	2:27 PM	2:01 PM	10:51 AM
5	8:11 AM ○	9:24 AM	10:00 AM	11:28 AM	12:50 PM	1:19 PM	1:37 PM	1:30 PM	2:08 PM	3:36 PM	3:09 PM	11:36 AM
6	8:55 AM	10:16 AM	10:54 AM	12:23 PM	1:47 PM	2:17 PM	2:30 PM	2:16 PM	3:07 PM	4:43 PM	4:19 PM	12:18 PM
7	9:41 AM	11:11 AM	11:50 AM	1:18 PM	2:46 PM	3:19 PM	3:25 PM	3:07 PM	4:11 PM	5:41 PM	5:19 PM	12:58 PM
8	10:30 AM	12:08 PM	12:47 PM	2:14 PM	3:50 PM	4:23 PM	4:14 PM	4:01 PM	5:10 PM	6:33 PM	6:13 AM	1:40 PM
9	11:24 AM	1:07 PM	1:44 PM	3:12 PM	4:58 PM	5:21 PM	4:57 PM	4:53 PM	6:02 PM	7:00 AM ●	7:03 AM	2:22 PM
10	12:21 PM	2:05 PM	2:40 PM	4:16 PM	5:56 PM	6:06 PM	5:35 PM	5:40 PM	6:52 PM	7:48 AM	8:29 AM ●	3:05 PM ●
11	1:21 PM	3:03 PM	3:38 PM	5:21 PM	6:42 PM	6:43 PM	6:13 PM	6:25 PM	7:16 AM ●	8:37 AM	9:17 AM	3:48 PM
12	2:21 PM	4:03 PM	4:40 PM	6:18 PM	6:55 AM	7:01 AM	6:52 PM	6:47 AM ●	8:05 AM	9:26 AM	10:05 AM	4:31 PM
13	3:22 PM	5:04 PM	5:40 PM	7:05 PM	7:34 AM	7:35 AM	7:11 AM ●	7:33 AM	8:55 AM	10:17 AM	10:55 AM	5:16 PM
14	4:26 PM	6:00 PM	6:34 PM	7:20 AM	8:09 AM	8:08 AM ●	7:51 AM	8:20 AM	9:45 AM	11:10 AM	11:48 AM	6:09 PM
15	5:27 PM	6:51 PM	6:55 AM	8:01 AM	8:43 AM ●	8:42 AM	8:35 AM	9:10 AM	10:38 AM	12:06 PM	12:44 PM	6:59 AM
16	6:21 PM	7:14 AM	7:41 AM	8:39 AM ●	9:16 AM	9:17 AM	9:23 AM	10:03 AM	11:33 AM	1:03 PM	1:42 PM	10:44 AM
17	6:45 AM	8:01 AM ●	8:24 AM ●	9:16 AM	9:49 AM	9:56 AM	10:16 AM	10:59 AM	12:28 PM	2:03 PM	2:42 PM	11:16 AM
18	7:34 AM	8:45 AM	9:06 AM	9:51 AM	10:25 AM	10:39 AM	11:14 AM	11:57 AM	1:25 PM	3:10 PM	3:46 PM	11:41 AM
19	8:20 AM ●	9:29 AM	9:45 AM	10:26 AM	11:05 AM	11:30 AM	12:14 PM	12:54 PM	2:26 PM	4:18 PM	4:53 PM	12:06 PM
20	9:05 AM	10:11 AM	10:24 AM	11:02 AM	11:51 AM	12:27 PM	1:14 PM	1:52 PM	3:32 PM	5:16 PM	5:52 PM	12:34 PM
21	9:50 AM	10:55 AM	11:03 AM	11:40 AM	12:44 PM	1:28 PM	2:15 PM	2:53 PM	4:37 PM	6:05 PM	6:40 PM	1:05 PM
22	10:35 AM	11:38 AM	11:42 AM	12:23 PM	1:42 PM	2:31 PM	3:18 PM	3:56 PM	5:33 PM	6:47 PM	7:09 AM	1:38 PM
23	11:22 AM	12:22 PM	12:22 PM	1:10 PM	2:44 PM	3:35 PM	4:19 PM	4:56 PM	6:23 PM	7:12 AM	7:44 AM	2:12 PM
24	12:10 PM	1:05 PM	1:03 PM	2:02 PM	3:52 PM	4:41 PM	5:16 PM	5:50 PM	6:52 AM	7:47 AM ○	8:16 AM	2:46 PM
25	12:59 PM	1:47 PM	1:46 PM	3:01 PM	5:01 PM	5:42 PM	6:07 PM	6:39 PM	7:33 AM ○	8:19 AM	8:47 AM ○	3:22 PM ○
26	1:46 PM	2:29 PM	2:33 PM	4:09 PM	6:03 PM	6:36 PM	6:55 PM	7:05 AM ○	8:12 AM	8:50 AM	9:18 AM	3:59 PM
27	2:32 PM	3:15 PM	3:28 PM	5:19 PM	6:56 PM	7:02 AM	7:19 AM ○	7:49 AM	8:48 AM	9:21 AM	9:51 AM	4:41 PM
28	3:19 PM	4:08 PM	4:32 PM	6:21 AM	7:21 AM	7:51 AM ○	8:05 AM	8:32 AM	9:22 AM	9:55 AM	10:27 AM	5:29 PM
29	4:09 PM	5:05 PM	5:37 PM	6:47 AM	8:11 AM ○	8:38 AM	8:50 AM	9:13 AM	9:56 AM	10:33 AM	11:07 AM	6:31 PM
30	5:00 PM	6:02 PM	6:37 PM	7:40 AM	8:59 AM	9:24 AM	9:36 AM	9:54 AM	10:31 AM		11:54 AM	6:32 AM
31	5:49 PM		7:04 AM	8:31 AM ○		10:11 AM		10:34 AM	11:08 AM		12:46 PM	

Tidal Differences

- Providence, RI.....Plus 13 minutes
- Warwick, RIPlus 13 minutes
- Portsmouth, RIPlus 8 minutes
- Wickford, RIPlus 3 minutes
- Sakonnet Point, RI.....Less 9 minutes
- Narragansett, RI Less 11 minutes
- Point Judith, RI.....Same as Tide Chart
- Westerly, RIPlus 41 minutes
- Block Island, RILess 13 minutes

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Photo Credit: Katie Rodriguez

Attention Rhode Island Party/Charter Captains!

All Party/Charter vessels and Head boats licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management are required to report catch from all for-hire trips electronically. All trip reports must be submitted within 48 hours of the end of the trip. The application used for reporting is called Etrips-Mobile and is free. It works on tablets, phones and laptops. You can sign up for an account and access training materials on our website: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/marine-fisheries>.



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SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

The target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

- **Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.**
- **Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.**
- **Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.**
- **Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.**
- **Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.**
- **Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.**
- **Report any wildfire you see to authorities.**
- **Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.**



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