

RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES REGULATIONS

Part 3 - Finfish

Final annotations

Public Hearing February 13, 2017

3.7 Summer Flounder (Fluke)

3.7.1 Recreational:

- (A) Minimum size: ~~Eighteen inches (18")~~ **Nineteen inches (19")**.
- (B) Season: May 1 through December 31.
- (C) Possession limit: ~~Eight (8)~~ **Four (4)** fish, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this state or otherwise.

3.9 Tautog (Blackfish)

3.9.1 Recreational:

- (A) Minimum size: Sixteen (16) inches.
- (B) Seasons and possession limits:
 - (1) April 15 through May 31: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
 - (2) June 1 through July 31: Closed.
 - (3) August 1 through ~~the Friday before the third Saturday in~~ October ~~14~~: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
 - (4) ~~Third Saturday in~~ October ~~15~~ through December 15: Six (6) fish per person per calendar day.
 - (5) Maximum per vessel possession limit: The possession limit shall be per person per calendar day, as stated above, with a maximum of ten (10) fish per vessel per calendar day.
- (C) Licensed Party and Charter vessel seasons and possession limits:
 - (1) April 15 through May 31: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.

(2) June 1 through July 31: Closed.

(3) August 1 through ~~the Friday before the third Saturday in~~ October ~~14~~:
Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.

(4) ~~Third Saturday in~~ October ~~15~~ through December 15: Six (6) fish per
person per calendar day.

(5) Licensed party/charter boats are not subject to the ten (10) fish per vessel
per calendar day restriction.

(6) Reporting: Any licensed party/charter boat participating in the tautog
fishery must report each trip targeting tautog into the elogbook (the electronic
logbook hosted by ACCSP).

3.9.2 Commercial:

(A) Minimum size: Sixteen (16) inches.

(B) Seasons, allocations, and possession limit: The total allowable harvest of
tautog will be established annually, and will be that amount allocated to the State
of Rhode Island by the Regional Fishery Management Council and/or the
ASMFC. The quota shall only be available during the following seasons:

(1) Spring sub-period (April 15 – May 31):

(a) Allocation: ~~1/3~~ **40%** of the annual quota.

(b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.

(2) Summer sub-period (August 1 – September 15):

(a) Allocation: ~~1/3~~ **20%** of the annual quota.

(b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.

(3) Fall sub-period (October 15 – December 31):

(a) Allocation: ~~1/3~~ **40%** of the annual quota

(b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.

3.10 Bluefish

3.10.1 Recreational:

(A) Possession limit: Fifteen (15) fish per person per calendar day.

3.10.2 Commercial: A total allowable harvest of Bluefish will be established annually, and shall be that amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the Regional Fishery Management Councils and/or the ASMFC.

(A) Minimum size: ~~Eighteen inches (18")~~ **Twelve inches (12")**.

(B) Seasons and allocations:

(1) January 1 through April 30: Five hundred (500) pounds per vessel per week.

(2) May 1 through November ~~15 11~~: ~~Four thousand (4,000)~~ **6,000** pounds per vessel per week.

(3) November ~~16 12~~ **through December 31**: Five hundred (500) pounds per vessel per week.

3.14 Black Sea Bass

3.14.1 Recreational:

(A) Minimum size: Fifteen inches (15"). Minimum size measurement for black sea bass does not include the tendril located on the caudal (tail) fin.

(B) Seasons and possession limits:

(1) ~~June 24~~ **May 25** through August 31: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

(2) September 1 through ~~December 31~~ **September 21**: Seven (7) fish per person per calendar day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

(3) September 22 through October 21: Closed.

(4) October 22 through December 31: Seven (7) fish per person per calendar day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.