

**7.10 Bluefish - Possession limit for recreational fishermen** -- No person shall possess more than ~~ten~~ **fifteen (15)** bluefish unless he/she has a permit meeting the requirements of RIGL 20-2-26, 20-2-26.1, 20-2-27, 20-2-28, 20-2-28.1. Compliance onboard vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish onboard a vessel by the number of recreational fishermen onboard said vessel.

**7.10.1 Bluefish - Commercial Quota** -- 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 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The quota may be harvested only by permitted gear types and licensed fishermen in accordance with all rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Environmental Management. To provide for the orderly harvest of the quota, the Department of Environmental Management has established the following sub-period allocations.

**7.10.2 Bluefish Commercial Quota - Sub-Periods**

**7.10.2-1 Spring sub-period** - January 1 through June 30 annually. Quota - 50% of the annual allocation.

**7.10.2-2 Summer-Fall Sub Period** - July 1 through December 31 annually. Quota - 50% of the annual allocation.

When 50% of any seasonal sub-period quota is reached, Fish and Wildlife will determine if a possession limit of between 200 - 10,000 pounds should be established depending upon the time remaining in the quota period and the current catch rate. Fish and Wildlife will file a notice with the Secretary of State's office if a possession limit is established, and will publish a news release announcing the change. The possession limit may be modified by Fish and Wildlife providing such notification is made.

**7.10.3 Bluefish - Reporting Requirement** -- Dealers must comply with the reporting requirements as set forth in section 19.14 of the RI Marine Fisheries Regulations

**(RIMFC REGULATION) [Penalty - Part 3.3; (RIGL 20-3-3)]**