

**R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations**  
**PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH**

**7.1 Minimum Size of Quahaugs, Soft-Shelled Clams, Mussels --**

**No person shall take or have in his custody or possession quahaugs of less than one inch (1") shell thickness (hinge width). For purposes of this regulation, hinge width is defined as the distance between the convex apex of the right shell and convex apex of the left shell. (ref 20-6-11) (RIMFC REGULATIONS) [Penalty - Part 3.3; (RIGL 20-3-3)]**

(a) No person shall take and/or possess any quahaugs less than one inch (1") shell thickness (hinge width). In addition, no person shall take and/or possess soft shell clams, taken from the free and common soft shell clam fisheries, of a diameter less than ~~one and one half inches (1 1/2")~~ **two inches (2")** taking the maximum shell diameter, or any oysters, taken from the free and common oyster fisheries, measuring less than three inches (3") measured parallel to the long axis of the oyster, unless greater minimum sizes are established by the director, in consultation with the marine fisheries council. Any person who takes and/or possesses shellfish of less than the minimum size, as delineated above, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each and every fifteen (15) shellfish taken. Additionally, any person who takes and/or possesses shellfish of less than the minimum size commingled and/or otherwise stored or contained with shellfish of not less than the minimum size, where the percentage of the less than minimum size shellfish is not less than ten percent (10%) of the total piece count of the commingled and/or otherwise stored or contained package, shipment, or container, shall be subject to seizure and/or forfeiture of the entire commingled and/or otherwise stored or contained package, shipment, or container, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 20-1-8(e) and (f) and 20-1-8.1. (RIGL 20-6-11)