

**7.9 Tautog (Blackfish)** -- No person shall take, possess, sell, possess for sale, or offer for sale any tautog measuring less than sixteen (16) inches total length whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

**7.9.1-1 Recreational** – No person may possess more than three (3) tautog from April 15 through May 31. The tautog fishery will be closed from June 1 through June 30. No person may possess more than three (3) tautog from July 1 through the Friday before the third Saturday in October. No person may possess more than ~~eight (8)~~ **six (6)** tautog from the third Saturday in October through December 15, annually. ~~Compliance aboard vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish onboard a vessel by the number of recreational fishermen onboard said vessel. While the fishery is open the possession limit shall be per person as stated above or a maximum of ten (10) fish per vessel, whichever amount is less.~~

**7.9.1-2 Licensed Party and Charter Boats** – ~~No licensed party/charter boat may possess more than three (3) tautog per person from April 15 through May 31. The tautog fishery will be closed from June 1 through June 30. No licensed party/charter boat may possess more than three (3) one (1) tautog per person from July 1 through the Friday before the third Saturday in October. No licensed party/charter boat may possess more than eight (8) tautog per person from the third Saturday in October through December 15 November 30. No licensed party/charter boat may possess more than one (1) tautog per person from December 1 through December 15. Compliance aboard licensed party/charter boats will be determined by dividing the number of fish onboard the boat by the number of recreational fishermen onboard the boat. Licensed party/charter boats are not subject to the ten (10) fish per vessel restriction that applies to the rest of the recreational fishery. Any licensed party/charter boat participating in the tautog fishery must report each trip targeting tautog into the eREC logbook (the electronic logbook hosted by ACCSP).~~

#### **7.14.2 Recreational Harvest**

**7.14.2-1 – Legal Minimum Size** -- No person fishing recreationally shall possess a black sea bass less than twelve and one half inches (12.5”) total length, and no person fishing recreationally shall possess, per calendar day, more than twenty-five (25) black sea bass whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise. Compliance with the possession limit aboard vessels will be determined by dividing the number of fish on a vessel by the number of recreational fishermen onboard said vessel.

**7.14.2-2 – Recreational Season** – ~~Annually~~ ~~The~~ recreational season for black sea bass in Rhode Island waters is open from May 22 through ~~September 12, annually.~~ October 11, 2010. The

**season will be closed from October 12 through October 31. The season will re-open from November 1 to December 31, 2010.**

**7.20 River Herring – No person shall land, catch, take, or attempt to catch or take any alewives, *Alosa pseudoharengus* or blueback herring *Alosa aestivalis*, from any marine waters of the State of Rhode Island. Possession of any alewives or blueback herring at any time is prohibited and shall be evidence that said herring was taken in violation of this section. RIMF REGULATIONS [Penalty – Part 3.3 (RIGL ~~3020~~-3-3)]**