

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

**7.1 (Repealed 8/2010)**

**Minimum Size of Quahaugs, Soft-Shell 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") 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)~~

**7.2 (Repealed 8/2010) Oysters -- Minimum Size: Three (3) inches measured parallel to the long axis of the oyster. (ref 20-6-11) (RIMFC REGULATION) [Penalty -- Part 3.3; (RIGL 20-3-3)]**

**7.3 (Repealed 8/2010) Sea Clams (Surf Clams) -- Minimum Size: Five (5) inches measured parallel to the longest axis of the clam. (RIMFC REGULATION) [Penalty -- Part 3.3; (RIGL 20-3-3)]**

**7.4 (Repealed 8/2010) Scallops -- Taking and Possession of Seed Scallops --** Every person taking any seed scallops, and failing to restore them as soon as possible to their natural beds in the water from which taken, shall be fined not less than twenty dollars (\$20) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100) or be imprisoned exceeding thirty (30) days, or both, for each offense. For the purpose of this Chapter, a "seed scallop" means a scallop with a bright, thin, slightly curved shell with no foreign adherent, the shell having no well-defined raised annual growth line, and the scallop being less than one (1) year old. (RIGL 20-6-17)

**7.5 Striped Bass --** Except as provided for in 12.3 and 12.5 no person, firm, or corporation shall possess any striped bass measuring less than twenty-eight (28)

inches total length, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise. (RIMFC REGULATIONS) [Penalty - Part 12.2; (RIGL 20-4-11)]

**7.6 Minimum sizes, other species -- Except as specifically noted, no person shall possess or take any of the following species which are less than the following minimum size**

**AMERICAN PLAICE (DAB): Commercial and Recreational 14"**

**ATLANTIC STURGEON: Commercial and Recreational - no possession**

**EEL: Commercial and Recreational - 6"**

**HADDOCK: Commercial and Recreational - 19"**

**POLLOCK: Commercial and Recreational - 19"**

**SCUP: Commercial - 9" and Recreational -10 1/2". Floating trap fishermen may possess undersize scup provided they are not sold, bartered, traded, and exchanged, but following culling, are taken to sea and released back into the water.**

**WEAKFISH (SQUETEAGUE): Commercial and Recreational 16"**

**WITCH FLOUNDER (GRAY SOLE): Commercial and Recreational 14"**

**YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER: Commercial and Recreational 13"**

**All minimum sizes for the above listed fish shall be measured as total length (from tip of snout to tip of tail).**

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