

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

**7.16 American Eel** – ~~No person shall take, attempt to take, possess, sell, or offer for sale any American Eel measuring less than six inches (6"). No person shall possess more than fifty (50) American eel per day unless commercially licensed pursuant to RIGL 20-2-26, 20-2-27, 20-2-28, 20-2-28.1.RIMFC REGULATIONS [Penalty – Part 3.3 (RIGL 20-1-16)]~~

**7.16.1 Commercial**

**7.16.1-1 Minimum size** - ~~No person shall take, attempt to take, possess, sell, or offer for sale any American Eel measuring less than nine inches (9").~~

**7.16.1-2 Season and possession limit** – ~~The commercial season for American eels in Rhode Island waters is January 1 through December 31, annually. Commercial harvest will be prohibited between September 1 through December 31 annually from any gear type other than baited traps/pots or spears. The possession limit is unlimited for an individual with a valid commercial fishing license.~~

**7.16.1-3 Commercial gear restrictions** - ~~Eel pots shall have a minimum mesh size of ½ by ½ inches or shall have a 4 by 4 inch escape panel constructed of a mesh size of at least ½ by ½ inch mesh. The escape vent allowance will be in effect from January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2016, after which the entire pot must meet the ½ by ½ inches mesh requirement.~~

**7.16.2 Recreational**

**7.16.2-1 Minimum size** - ~~No person shall take, attempt to take, or possess any American Eel measuring less than nine inches (9").~~

**7.16.2-2 Season and possession limit** – ~~The recreational season for American eels in Rhode Island waters is open January 1 through December 31, annually. The recreational possession limit is twenty-five (25) American eels per angler per day.~~

**7.16.1-3 Licensed Party and Charter Boat possession limit** – ~~The licensed party and charter boat season for American eels in Rhode Island waters is open January 1 through December 31, annually. The licensed party and charter boat possession limit is fifty (50) American eels per angler per day for the licensed captain and any employed crew member. For any paying customer the possession limit is twenty-five (25) American eels per angler per day.~~