

RI Department of Environmental Management

Division of Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries

PUBLIC HEARING

May 11, 2015



Hearing Item #1: Amendments to “RIMFR - Finfish”, regarding regulations for Blueline tilefish (section 7.23):

7.23 Blueline tilefish (*Caulolatilus microps*)

7.23.1 Commercial

(A) Minimum Size: No minimum size.

(B) Fishing year: May through April 30 fishing year.

(C) Possession limit: Three hundred (300) pounds per vessel per calendar day.



Hearing Item #2: Amendments to “RIMFR - Part XV - Lobsters, Other Crustaceans, and Horseshoe Crabs”

- ◆ Application period for transfer of lobster trap allocation:

15.14.2-12 LTA Transfers:

(f) Applications:

- (iv) Applications for transfers may be submitted from ~~June 1 through November 30~~ August 1 through September 30 for the following fishing year.

- ◆ Landing limits of lobsters taken by gear or methods other than trap (section 15.18):

15.18 Landings of lobsters taken by gear or methods other than trap – Limits: Landings by fishermen using ~~gear or methods other than traps (non-trap fishermen)~~ gillnets or otter trawls will be limited to not more than one hundred (100) lobsters per day (based on a 24-hour period) up to a maximum of five hundred (500) lobsters per trip, for trips of five (5) days or longer.



Hearing Item #3: Repeal of “*RIMFR - Part XV - Lobsters, Other Crustaceans, and Horseshoe Crabs*”, and adopt in its place a new regulation in order to improve its readability by re-organizing the structure of the regulation:



Hearing Item #4: Amendments to RIMFR “Part XVI – Menhaden”, regarding management of the commercial menhaden fishery

◆ Use of non-directed gear:

16.2.3 Possession Limits: (B) No commercial menhaden fisher shall possess menhaden or otherwise engage in the taking of menhaden anytime on Saturday, Sunday, on any official state holiday, or prior to sunrise or following sunset, unless the fisher is using a non-directed gear type for menhaden. Non-direct gear will be defined as cast nets, floating fish traps, and rod and reel.

16.2.7 Harvest of Menhaden in Permanently Closed Areas: No person harvesting menhaden by any fishing method shall possess more than two hundred (200) menhaden per vessel per calendar day in any closed area of the Management Area as set forth above, unless the individual is properly commercially licensed to harvest menhaden and is not using purse seine gear.

16.3 Landing of Menhaden in RI under State Quota Program:

16.3.2 All commercial Menhaden operations conducted in the Management Area, prior to and after the State’s quota has been reached, are subject to the provisions of section 16.2, unless the fisher is using a non-directed gear type for menhaden, as defined in 16.2.3(B) of this rule.



Hearing Item #4 cont'd:

- ◆ Directed fisheries: This proposal is to clarify existing regulations.

16.4 Episodic Event Set Aside Program:

16.4.3 Vessels not associated with directed fisheries for menhaden may continue to harvest and land in RI up to 6,000 pounds per vessel per day as bycatch. Such vessels are not subject to the provisions of sub-sections 16.2.3 (A) and (B), but ~~are subject to the provisions of section 16.2 with regard to operations conducted in the Management Area, and~~ are subject to all existing commercial fishing reporting requirements as set forth in the RIMFR.



Hearing Item #4 cont'd:

- ◆ Fall Opening of the Narragansett Bay Marine Life Management Area:

16.9 Fall Opening of the Narragansett Bay Marine Life Management Area:

16.9.1 Beginning September 1 of each year, the area south of a line from the Jamestown and Newport Bridges, and the area south of a line from Fogland Point to Sandy Point in the Sakonnet River, to the southern extent of the Narragansett Bay Marine Life Management Area as defined in 16.2 will be open to the harvest of menhaden by purse seine as long as the states quota has not been exhausted or if the Episodic Event Set Aside Program has been enacted in RI.

16.9.2 A possession limit of 25,000 lbs will be allowed in this area under the conditions defined in 16.9.1.



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