



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE / MARINE FISHERIES
Three Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835



PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING PROPOSED REGULATORY CHANGES

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 42-17.1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island as amended, and in accordance with Chapter 42-35 “Administrative Procedures Act”, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) proposes amendments to the **Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulations (RIMFR)** and gives notice of intent to afford interested parties the opportunity for public comment.

The following regulatory items will be presented for public comment:

1. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR Part 3 - Finfish**, regarding the following:
 - a. Commercial Management for Summer flounder (sections 3.7.2 and 3.7.3);
 - b. Commercial management for Scup (section 3.11.2);
 - c. Commercial management for Black sea bass (section 3.14.2);
 - d. Commercial management of Coastal sharks (section 3.24)
2. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR Part 4 – Shellfish**, regarding the following:
 - a. Transiting (section 4.2.7)
 - b. Temporary shellfish possession limit (section 4.7)
 - c. Clarification of process to amend commercial boat harvest schedules in Shellfish Management Areas (sections 4.7.3 and 4.7.4)
 - d. Editing. Clarifications (sections 4.3.13(C), 4.4.2, 4.7.4(4), 4.7.8(A)(3), 4.7.10(A)(5)).
3. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR Part 5 – Lobsters, Crabs, and Other Crustaceans**, regarding management for horseshoe crab (section 5.4).
4. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR Part 6 – General Equipment**, regarding correction of the location of Fish Trap Site # 29 (section 6.6(B)(14)).

The **WORKSHOP** will be held at **6:00PM** on **Monday, November 7th** at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Rooms, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882.

The **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held at **6:00PM** on **Monday, November 14th** at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Rooms, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882.

The rooms are accessible to the disabled. Interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing will be provided if such services are requested at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing by contacting the RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (401) 222-5300; or (401) 222-5301 (TTY); or <http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/>.

The Department has determined that small businesses may be adversely impacted by the proposed regulations. Small businesses which are either currently licensed, or in the future may seek a license to harvest, buy, sell, or produce seafood products, as well as the small businesses that provide services related to those engaged in such industries, are requested to comment on the proposed regulations on how such proposed action can be changed to minimize the impact on those small businesses affected.

Written comments concerning the proposed regulations may be submitted to Peter Duhamel, Division of Fish and Wildlife – Marine Fisheries office, 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI 02835, until the close of the public comment period on November 25th. A copy of the proposed regulations is available for review at the Marine Fisheries offices, or may be requested by mail. Proposed regulation(s) have been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State's website at <http://sos.ri.gov/ProposedRules/>, and are available on the DEM Marine Fisheries webpage at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/marine-fisheries/rimfc/index.php>.

Jason McNamee,
Chief