



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT



RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES REGULATIONS

Part 3 Finfish

~~December 16, 2016~~

Proposed/annotated changes

Public Hearing
February 13, 2017

Hearing Item 1a.
Recreational Summer Flounder
(section 3.7.1)

- Quota reductions are required for 2017, however specific data is unavailable at the time of notice.
- Status quo is not an option for 2017.
- No specific proposals are provided at this time; all management parameters are open to comment and subject to amendment.

3.7.1 Recreational:

- (A) Minimum size: Eighteen inches (18”).
- (B) Season: May 1 through December 31.
- (C) Possession limit: Eight (8) fish, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this state or otherwise.

Hearing Item 1b.
Recreational Tautog
(section 3.9.1)

Option 1: Status quo

3.9.1 Recreational:

- (A) Minimum size: Sixteen (16) inches.
- (B) Seasons and possession limits:
 - (1) April 15 through May 31: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
 - (2) June 1 through July 31: Closed.
 - (3) August 1 through the Friday before the third Saturday in October: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
 - (4) Third Saturday in October through December 15: Six (6) fish per person per calendar day.
 - (5) Maximum per vessel possession limit: The possession limit shall be per person per calendar day, as stated above, with a maximum of ten (10) fish per vessel per calendar day.

(C) Licensed Party and Charter vessel seasons and possession limits:

- (1) April 15 through May 31: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
- (2) June 1 through July 31: Closed.
- (3) August 1 through the Friday before the third Saturday in October: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
- (4) Third Saturday in October through December 15: Six (6) fish per person per calendar day.
- (5) Licensed party/charter boats are not subject to the ten (10) fish per vessel per calendar day restriction.
- (6) Reporting: Any licensed party/charter boat participating in the tautog fishery must report each trip targeting tautog into the elogbook (the electronic logbook hosted by ACCSP).

Option 2: Change October start date to October 15

3.9.1 Recreational:

(A) Minimum size: Sixteen (16) inches.

(B) Seasons and possession limits:

- (1) April 15 through May 31: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
- (2) June 1 through July 31: Closed.
- (3) August 1 through ~~the Friday before the third Saturday in October~~ **October 14:** Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
- (4) ~~Third Saturday in October~~ **October 15** through December 15: Six (6) fish per person per calendar day.
- (5) Maximum per vessel possession limit: The possession limit shall be per person per calendar day, as stated above, with a maximum of ten (10) fish per vessel per calendar day.

(C) Licensed Party and Charter vessel seasons and possession limits:

- (1) April 15 through May 31: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.

- (2) June 1 through July 31: Closed.
- (3) August 1 through the Friday before the third Saturday in October: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day.
- (4) Third Saturday in October through December 15: Six (6) fish per person per calendar day.
- (5) Licensed party/charter boats are not subject to the ten (10) fish per vessel per calendar day restriction.
- (6) Reporting: Any licensed party/charter boat participating in the tautog fishery must report each trip targeting tautog into the elogbook (the electronic logbook hosted by ACCSP).

Hearing Item 1c.
Commercial Tautog
(section 3.9.2)

Option 1: Status quo

3.9.2 Commercial:

- (A) Minimum size: Sixteen (16) inches.
- (B) Seasons, allocations, and possession limit: The total allowable harvest of tautog will be established annually, and will be that amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the Regional Fishery Management Council and/or the ASMFC. The quota shall only be available during the following seasons:
 - (1) Spring sub-period (April 15 – May 31):
 - (a) Allocation: 1/3 of the annual quota.
 - (b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.
 - (2) Summer sub-period (August 1 – September 15):
 - (a) Allocation: 1/3 of the annual quota.
 - (b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.
 - (3) Fall sub-period (October 15 – December 31):
 - (a) Allocation: 1/3 of the annual quota

(b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.

Option 2: Adjust sub-period allocations

3.9.2 Commercial:

(A) Minimum size: Sixteen (16) inches.

(B) Seasons, allocations, and possession limit: The total allowable harvest of tautog will be established annually, and will be that amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the Regional Fishery Management Council and/or the ASMFC. The quota shall only be available during the following seasons:

(1) Spring sub-period (April 15 – May 31):

(a) Allocation: ~~1/3~~ **25%** of the annual quota.

(b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.

(2) Summer sub-period (August 1 – September 15):

(a) Allocation: ~~1/3~~ **25%** of the annual quota.

(b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.

(3) Fall sub-period (October 15 – December 31):

(a) Allocation: ~~1/3~~ **50%** of the annual quota

(b) Possession limit: Ten (10) fish per vessel per day.

Hearing Item 1e. **Commercial Bluefish** **(section 3.10.2)**

Option 1: Status quo

3.10.2 Commercial: A total allowable harvest of Bluefish will be established annually, and shall be that amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the Regional Fishery Management Councils and/or the ASMFC.

(A) Minimum size: Eighteen (18) inches.

(B) Seasons and allocations:

- (1) January 1 through April 30: 500 pounds per vessel per week.
- (2) May 1 through November 15: 4,000 pounds per vessel per week.
- (3) November 16 through December 31: 500 pounds per vessel per week.

Option 2: Increase starting possession limit in the summer sub-period

3.10.2 Commercial: A total allowable harvest of Bluefish will be established annually, and shall be that amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the Regional Fishery Management Councils and/or the ASMFC.

(A) Minimum size: Eighteen (18) inches.

(B) Seasons and allocations:

- (1) January 1 through April 30: 500 pounds per vessel per week.
- (2) May 1 through November 15: ~~4,000~~ **6,000** pounds per vessel per week.
- (3) November 16 through December 31: 500 pounds per vessel per week.

Option 3: Industry proposal - increase starting possession limit in the summer sub-period and decrease minimum size

3.10.2 Commercial: A total allowable harvest of Bluefish will be established annually, and shall be that amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the Regional Fishery Management Councils and/or the ASMFC.

(A) Minimum size: ~~Eighteen~~ **Twelve** (~~18~~ **12**) inches.

(B) Seasons and allocations:

- (1) January 1 through April 30: 500 pounds per vessel per week.
- (2) May 1 through November 15: ~~4,000~~ **6,000** pounds per vessel per week.
- (3) November 16 through December 31: 500 pounds per vessel per week.

Hearing Item 1f.
Recreational Scup
(section 3.11.1)

- **Quota reductions may be required for 2017.**
- **No specific proposals are provided at this time; all management parameters are open to comment and subject to amendment.**

3.11.1 Recreational:

(A) Minimum size: Ten (10) inches.

(B) Season: May 1 through December 31 annually.

(C) Possession limit: Thirty (30) Scup per person per calendar day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

(D) Special shore-fishing provision:

(1) Locations: India Point Park, Providence; Conimicut Park, Warwick; Rocky Point, Warwick; Stone Bridge, Tiverton; East and West Walls (Harbor of Refuge), Narragansett; Fort Wetherill, Jamestown; and Fort Adams, Newport:

(2) Minimum size: Nine (9) inches.

(3) Season: May 1 through December 31.

(4) Possession limit: Thirty (30) Scup per person per calendar day.

(E) Licensed Party and Charter vessels seasons and possession limit:

(1) May 1 through August 31: Thirty (30) Scup per person per calendar day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

(2) September 1 through October 31: Forty-five (45) scup per person per calendar day whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

(3) November 1 through December 31: Thirty (30) Scup per person per calendar day whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

Hearing Item 1g.
Recreational Black Sea Bass
(section 3.14.1)

Option 1: Status quo

Option 2:

- Quota reductions may be required for 2017.
- No specific proposals are provided at this time; all management parameters are open to comment and subject to amendment.

3.14.1 Recreational:

(A) Minimum size: Fifteen (15) inches. Minimum size measurement for black sea bass does not include the tendril located on the caudal (tail) fin.

(B) Seasons and possession limits:

(1) June 24 through August 31: Three (3) fish per person per calendar day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.

(2) September 1 through December 31: Seven (7) fish per person per calendar day, whether caught within the jurisdiction of this State or otherwise.