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 and 20-3 of the General Laws of Rhode Island as amended, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws, 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 hold a public hearing 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 management for the following:

    a. Recreational Summer Flounder (section 3.7.1);
    b. Recreational Tautog (section 3.9.1);
    c. Commercial Tautog (section 3.9.2);
    d. Commercial Bluefish (section 3.10.2);
    e. Recreational Scup (section 3.11.1);
    f. Recreational Black Sea Bass (section 3.14.1).

2. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR *Part XII - Striped Bass***, regarding management for the following:

    a. Recreational Striped Bass (section 12.1);
    b. Commercial Striped Bass general category (section 12.2);
    c. Commercial Striped Bass floating fish trap (section 12.4).

3. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR-*Part XVI - Menhaden***, regarding commercial menhaden management (section 16.1).

4. Proposed amendments to **RIMFR-*Part 4 - Shellfish***, regarding the following:

    a. Clarifications of Shellfish Management Area boundaries (sections 4.7.4 through 4.7.18)
    b. Proposed Shellfish Management Areas (proposed new sections 4.7.19 through 4.7.24)

The **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held at **6:00PM** on **Monday, February 13th** at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, Corless Auditorium, 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.

The public comment period closes at 4:00PM February 24, 2017. Written comments may be submitted to the Marine Fisheries office at 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI 02835 (Attn: Peter Duhamel) or emailed to peter.duhamel@dem.ri.gov. The proposed regulations have been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State's website at http://sos.ri.gov/ProposedRules/ pursuant to RIGL Chapter 42-35, and are also are available at the DEM Marine Fisheries webpage at http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/marine-fisheries/rimfc/index.php, or by mail.

Jason McNamee,
Chief