



Rhode Island  
Department of Environmental Management

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**DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Marine Fisheries  
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Jamestown, RI 02835

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**Notice to all Vessels Fishing for Atlantic Herring in Rhode Island State Waters**

Please be advised that any vessel intending to fish for Atlantic herring in RI state waters must comply with the following requirements:

1. **Permitting** – Vessels commercially fishing for Atlantic herring in state waters possessing more than 2,000 pounds must obtain the *Rhode Island State Waters Atlantic Herring Fishing Permit* from the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife. To obtain this permit vessel captains or representatives must fill out an application and demonstrate that the vessel captain(s) possess the appropriate commercial fishing licenses and vessel declaration.
2. **Licensing** – Vessel captains must hold either a RIDEM multipurpose, principal effort, or commercial fishing license. If the vessel is engaged in mid-water/pair trawling a gear endorsement must also be obtained. Licenses and endorsements may be obtained, between January 1 and February 28 of each year, at the RI DEM, Office of Boat Registration & Licensing, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908. Office hours: 8:30-3:30 Mon-Fri. Phone: 401-222-6647.
3. **Reporting** - In addition to all other standard reporting requirements, vessels engaged in mid-water/pair-trawl operations must report beginning, location, and cessation of fishing activities on a daily basis to RI DEM's Office of Law Enforcement. Phone: 401-222-3070.
4. **Avoiding Fixed Gear** - Vessel operators are responsible for avoiding impacts to fixed gear. All such gear – namely, lobster traps – is required to be marked with buoys. Vessels must obtain, and have on board, a chart provided by RIDFW showing the locations of "favorable" fishing areas which are marked in red on the attached chart. Vessels should monitor radio channels used by commercial fishermen and communicate with local captains.
5. **Avoiding River Herring** – Vessel captains must submit a valid e-mail address capable of being accessed while fishing to receive information about potential river herring interactions. There is zero possession of river herring (alewife and blueback) and American shad while fishing in state waters. Captains should monitor the information and use it to minimize bycatch of river herring.

*For questions – contact John Lake at RIDFW Marine Fisheries 401-423-1942*

The cable and pipeline areas falling within the areas of the larger scale charts are shown thereon and are not repeated on this chart.

