



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FISH AND WILDLIFE
&
LAW ENFORCEMENT



**RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES
REGULATIONS**

**Part X
Equipment Restrictions**

~~March 17, 2015~~

Summary of Proposed Changes

PROPOSED REPEAL OF REGULATION

In conjunction with proposed repeal of “RIMFR Part XI – Commercial Fisheries”, “Part XIII – Gillnet Regulations”, and “Part XIV – Fish Traps” and proposed ADOPTION of RIMFR “Part 6 – General Equipment Provisions”

Public hearing
March 14, 2016

AUTHORITY: These regulations are adopted pursuant to Title 20, Chapters 42-17.1, 42-17.6, and 42-17.7, and in accordance with Chapter 42-35-18(b)(5), Administrative Procedures Act of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

NOTE: This regulation is proposed to be repealed, however most of the language is not in actuality proposed for repeal, but is only proposed to be re-located to a new regulation “Part 6 – General Equipment Provisions” as part of a regulation re-structuring effort designed to improve the readability and clarity of Marine Fisheries regulations.

In many instances the language is proposed to be revised as it is re-located. This summary provides annotated changes to assist the reader with understanding the proposed changes

7.1 Fyke Net Regulations: It shall be illegal to use a fyke net for the purpose of taking any fish if said fyke net leader exceeds one hundred (100) feet in length, has a stretched mesh greater than two and one half (2 ½) inches, a leader which extends more than four (4) feet off the bottom, is not tended every forty-eight (48) hours, and it shall be illegal to set a fyke net within two hundred and fifty (250) feet of any other fishing net. Anyone setting a fyke net must register said gear with the R.I. Department of Environmental Management.

7.1.1 Fyke nets are prohibited in Charlestown and Quonochontaug Ponds between June 15 and September 15 annually.

7.1.2 Fyke nets are prohibited in Channel Areas of Charlestown Pond.

Commented [DP(1): Re-located to Equipment Regs section 6.5.4

7.2 Stowage of nets: Vessels possessing trawl devices while harvesting summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, or winter flounder, in excess of the limits specified in RIMFR may have nets with mesh less than the minimum size specified in the regulations provided that the net is stowed and is not available for immediate use in accordance with this section. A net that conforms to one of the following specifications and that can be shown not to have been in recent use is considered to be "not available for immediate use".

7.2.1 A net stowed below deck, provided:

- (A) It is located below the main working deck from which the net is deployed and retrieved;
- (B) The towing wires, including the "leg" wires are detached from the net; and
- (C) It is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference.

7.2.2 A net stowed and lashed down on deck, provided:

- (A) It is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference;

(B) It is securely fastened to the deck or rail of the vessel; and

(C) The towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net.

7.2.3 A net that is on a reel and is covered and secured, provided:

(A) The entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar material that is securely bound;

(B) The towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net; and

(C) The cod end is removed from the net and stored below deck.

7.2.4 National Marine Fisheries Service authorized: Nets that are secured in a manner authorized in writing by the National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Director, for the Mid-Atlantic regulated mesh area defined as "that area bounded on the east by a line running from the shoreline along 72° 30' west longitude to the intersection of the outer boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Commented [DP(2): Re-located to Finfish Regs section 7.2.4

7.3 Trawling Ground Gear Regulations: The use of rollers, rockhoppers or discs greater than 12 inches in diameter is prohibited while fishing in Rhode Island waters.

Commented [DP(3): Re-located to Equipment Regs section 6.5.2

7.4 Recreational use of nets for bait:

7.4.1 Marine species may lawfully be taken for personal use (not for sale) with nets, provided that all existing minimum size and possession limit restrictions for the species possessed are adhered to.

7.4.2 A two-quart per person possession limit is allowed for all unregulated marine species.

7.4.3 Beach seines or other nets, where allowed for the recreational harvest of marine species shall not exceed four (4) feet in depth and twenty (20) feet in length.

Commented [DP(4): Re-located to Finfish Regs section 7.4