



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Division of Fish and Wildlife

2011 Brochure of Marine Fisheries Rules and Regulations



RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS

COMMERCIAL (for sale) REGULATIONS

Species	Minimum Size	Open season	Possession limit
American Eel	6"	Open year round	50 fish/person/day
American Plaice (Dab)	14"	Open year round	No limit
Black Sea Bass	13"	July 11 - Dec. 31	12 fish/person/day
Bluefish	No minimum	Open year round	15 fish/person/day
Cod	22"	Open year round	10 fish/person/day
Haddock	19"	Open year round	No limit
Monkfish (Goosefish)	17" whole fish 11" tail	Open year round	50 lbs of tails or 166 lbs whole/day
Pollock	19"	Open year round	No limit
River Herring (alew ives and blueback herring)	Not applicable	CLOSED	Not applicable
Scup (shore and private)	10.5"	May 24 - Sept. 26	10 fish/person/day
Scup (party & charter)	11"	June 8 - Sept. 6 Sept. 7 - Oct. 11	10 fish/person/day 40 fish/person/day
Striped Bass	28"	Open year round	2 fish/person/day
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	18.5"	May 1 - Dec. 31	7 fish/person/day
Tautog (Blackfish)- <i>Max of 10 fish/ves/day during all periods, except licensed party / charter boats</i>	16"	Apr. 15 - May 31 June 1 - July 31 Aug 1 - Oct. 14 Oct. 15 - Dec. 15	3 fish/person/day Closed 3 fish/person/day 6 fish/person/day
Weakfish (Squeteague)	16"	Open year round	1 fish/person/day
Winter Flounder * (Blackback)	12"	April 23 - May 22 Sept. 24 - Oct. 23	2 fish/person/day

Species	Minimum Size	Open season	Trip limit
Black Sea Bass	11"	Jan.-April; May-June; July-Oct.(closed Aug); Nov.-Dec.	Check Website or Call DFW
Bluefish	No minimum	Jan. 1 - June 30 July 1 - Dec. 31	No limit
Cod	22"	Open year round	1,000 lbs vessel/day
Haddock	19"	Open year round	No limit
Monkfish	17" whole fish 11" tail	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	550 lbs tails or 1,826 lbs w hole/day
River Herring (alew ives and blueback herring) & American Shad	Not applicable	CLOSED	Not applicable
Scup	9"	Jan. - April; May - Oct; Nov. - Dec.	Check Website or Call DFW
Scup (Floating fish traps)	9"	May 1 - Oct. 31	Check Website or Call DFW
Spiny Dogfish	No minimum	May 1 - April 30	Check Website or Call DFW
Striped Bass	34"	June 6 - Aug. 31 Sept. 4 - Dec. 31	5 fish/vessel/day Closed Fri & Sat both seasons
Striped Bass (Floating fish traps)	26"	Open year round	Check Website or Call DFW
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	14"	Jan. 1 - April 30 May 1 - Oct.31 Nov. 1 - Dec.31	Check Website or Call DFW Closed Fri & Sat June 1 - Oct 31
Tautog (Blackfish)	16"	Apr.15 - May 31 Aug. 1 - Sept. 15 Oct. 15 - Dec. 31	10 fish vessel/day
Weakfish (Squeteague)	16"	June 1 - June 30; Aug. 7 - Nov. 8	Check Website or Call DFW
Winter Flounder *	12"	Open year round	50 lbs/day

* The harvest or possession of Winter Flounder is **PROHIBITED** in Point Judith Pond, the Harbor of Refuge and in Narragansett Bay, north of the Colregs line. Vessels with a Federal Northeast Multispecies permit may NOT possess or land SNE/MA winter flounder.

The information in this brochure outlines general recreational and commercial fishing laws in state waters **ONLY**. It is not a comprehensive text of regulations.



Contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 423-1920 for further details or visit our website at www.dem.ri.gov/topics then click on the Marine Fisheries link

RI Recreational Saltwater License

Available online at: www.saltwater.ri.gov

Also available from certain bait & tackle shops.

- **Fees:**
 - \$7.00 RI residents (annually)
 - \$10.00 Non-residents (annually)
 - \$5.00 7-Day license
- **Applies** in all RI waters, all offshore federal waters, and MA, CT and NY waters
- **Free** licenses for RI residents over 65; or active military stationed in RI
- **No license** required for children under 16, blind or disabled persons as well as anglers on party & charter boats.

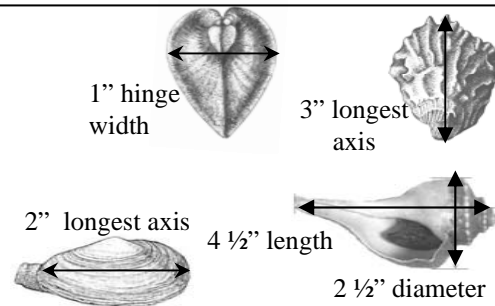
▪ See website for additional information.

Interested in trying out a new data collection system? Log your catch on the RI DEM Fish and Wildlife **VOLUNTARY** recreational on-line angler logbook. Just follow the link on the www.saltwater.ri.gov page to sign up and get started.

Shellfish:

MINIMUM SIZES

- Quahaug = 1" hinge width
- Soft-Shell Clam = 2" longest axis
- Oyster = 3" longest axis
- Scallop = No seed possession
- Surf Clam = 5" longest axis
- Whelk (Conch) = 2 1/2" diameter or 4 1/2" length



DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS FOR QUAHAUGS, SOFT-SHELLED CLAMS, SURF CLAMS, MUSSELS, AND OYSTERS (BAY SCALLOPS EXCLUDED) IN:

Shellfish Management Areas

Non-Management Areas

Resident (no sale)=

1 peck each/day/person

Commercial =

3 bushels each/day/person

Licensed Non-resident (no sale) =

1/2 peck each/day/person

Resident (no sale) =

1/2 bushel each/day/person

Commercial =

12 bushels each/day/person

Licensed Non-resident (no sale) =

1 peck each/day/person

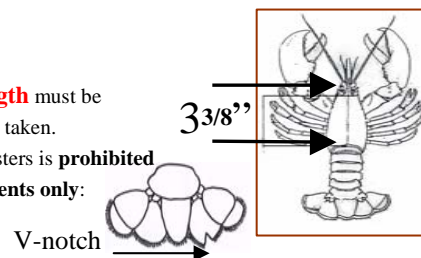
Conimicut Point Shellfish Management Area

Resident & Non-residents follow possession limits for Management Areas

Commercial = 3 bushels day/person for Soft-Shell Clams

Lobsters:

- All lobsters must be measured **IMMEDIATELY**
- Lobsters measuring less than **3 3/8" carapace length** must be returned to the water immediately from which it was taken.
- The **POSSESSION** of egg-bearing or v-notched lobsters is **prohibited**
- Non-Commercial possession limit for **licensed residents only**:
Pots – 5/pots/recreational license
Divers – 8 lobsters/day



Blue Crabs:

- All Blue Crabs measuring less than **5" spike to spike** shall be returned to the water immediately.
- No person shall possess, take, or attempt to take more than 25 blue crabs from any of the waters in this state except when taking by crab net, dip net, scoop net, hand line or trot line.
- Harvesting of blue crabs is **restricted to residents of the state** between sunrise and sunset.
- The **POSSESSION** of egg-bearing crabs is **prohibited**.

Measured from tip of spike to tip of spike.

