

**RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 and gives notice of intent to hold a public hearing to afford interested parties the opportunity for public comment.

Public comment will be solicited on the following proposals:

1. Proposed changes to the Recreational Summer Flounder Management Plan;
2. Proposed changes to the Commercial Winter Flounder Management Plan;
3. Proposed changes to the Recreational and Commercial Tautog Management Plan;
4. Proposed changes to the Recreational Scup Management Plan;
5. Proposed changes to the Recreational Black Sea Bass Management Plan;
6. Proposed changes to the Commercial Monkfish Management Plan;
7. Proposed changes to the Commercial Cod Management Plan;
8. Proposed changes to the Commercial General Category Striped Bass Management Plan;
9. Proposed changes to the Recreational Striped Bass Management Plan;
10. Proposed changes to the Commercial Floating Fish Trap Striped Bass Management Plan;
11. Proposed changes to the Narragansett Bay Menhaden Management Plan;
12. Proposal to amend the soft-shell clam regulations to increase the minimum legal size statewide;
13. Proposal to establish Conimicut Point Shellfish Management Area;
14. Proposal to establish a daily soft-shell clam possession limit for Conimicut Point Shellfish Management Area; and
15. Proposal to amend the soft-shell clam regulations for non-shellfish management areas by reducing the daily possession limit statewide

The public hearing will commence at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 in the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882. The hearing room is handicap accessible. A taped record of the hearing will be made and the DEM will provide interpreter services for the hearing impaired, provided such services are requested at least 48 hours prior to the hearing date. A request for this service can be made in writing or by calling (401) 222-6800 or TDD (401) 831-5508. Written comments concerning the regulations proposed for promulgation by the DEM may also be submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI 02835 no later than 12:00 PM on February 22, 2011.

The Department has determined that small businesses may be adversely impacted by the proposed regulations. The public hearing is being conducted to solicit comment on the proposals and to allow public input from small businesses or any cities or towns, which may be adversely affected. Small businesses which are either currently licensed or in the future may seek permission to harvest, buy, sell, or produce seafood products as well as the small businesses that provide services related to those engaged in such industries and small businesses which buy, sell, or produce products or provide services related to fishing 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.

A copy of the proposed regulations will be available for examination from January 21 through February 22, 2011 by mail or at the offices of the Division of Fish and Wildlife located at 4808 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879 and at 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI 02835. Electronic copies of the proposed regulations will also be available on the DEM website at the following address:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/mftopics.htm>

Janet Coit, Director
Department of Environmental Management

Date Posted: 1/21/2011