

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
MARINE FISHERIES SECTION**

**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 certain 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) Adoption and amendments of regulations regarding Pot/Trap definitions and Pot/Trap gear regulations (Part I - Legislative Findings; Part X - Equipment Restrictions; Part XI - Commercial Fisheries; Part XV - Lobsters, Other Crustaceans, and Horseshoe Crabs).
- 2) Amendments to regulations regarding the management of Conch (Whelk)(Part IV - Shellfish).
- 3) Amendments to the regulations regarding the management of Winter Flounder (Part VII - Minimum Sizes of Fish/Shellfish).
- 4) Amendments to the regulations regarding the management of Cod (Part VII - Minimum Sizes of Fish/Shellfish).
- 5) Amendments to the regulations regarding the management of Monkfish (Part VII - Minimum Sizes of Fish/Shellfish).
- 6) Amendments to the regulations regarding the management of American Shad (to prohibit recreational harvesting in marine waters)(Part VII - Minimum Sizes of Fish/Shellfish).
- 7) Amendments to the regulations regarding minimum sizes for American Plaice (Dab), Haddock, Pollock, Witch Flounder (Grey Sole), and Yellowtail Flounder, and (Part VII - Minimum Sizes of Fish/Shellfish).
- 8) Amendments to the regulations regarding trawling ground gear regulations (Part X - Equipment Restrictions).
- 9) Amendments to the regulations regarding gillnet gear regulations (Part XIII - Gillnet Regulations).
- 10) Amendments to the regulations regarding the management of Horseshoe Crab (Part XV - Lobsters, Other Crustaceans, and Horseshoe Crabs)(concerning Emergency regulations that were filed March 22, 2013).
- 11) Amendments to the regulations regarding the management of Menhaden (Part XVI - Menhaden Regulations)(concerning Emergency regulations that were filed June 20, 2013).

The public hearing will commence at 6:00 PM on **Thursday, August 15, 2013**, at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882. The room is accessible to the disabled. Interpreter services for

the hearing impaired will be provided if such services are requested at least (3) business days prior to the hearing. Requests for such services may be made in writing or by calling TTY (711) or (401) 222-5300. A recording of the hearing will be made by DEM staff. Written comments concerning the regulations proposed for promulgation by the DEM may be submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI 02835 **no later than 12:00 PM on August 15, 2013.**

The Department has determined that small businesses may be adversely impacted by some of the proposed regulations listed above. 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 July 16, through August 15, 2013, by mail or at the offices of the Division of Fish and Wildlife located 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 web address:  
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pn081513.htm>.

Janet L. Coit,  
Director