

**R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations
PART VIII - OYSTER REGULATIONS**

8.1 Licenses

8.1.1 Resident - A Rhode Island resident is not required to obtain a license provided he or she does not exceed the daily catch limit for residents, and the oysters shall not be sold or offered for sale. RIMFC REGULATION [Penalty - Part 3.3 (RIGL 20-3-3); (RIGL 20-6-9)] ref (RIGL 20-6-1)

8.1.2 Non-resident Shellfish License:

(a) Season - Every non-resident over the age of twelve (12) years may obtain a non-resident, non-commercial annual shellfish license for a fee of two hundred dollars (\$200).

(b) 14-day - A non-resident may obtain one non-commercial limited license per calendar year covering fourteen (14) days, including date of issue for eleven dollars (\$11.00).

(c) Landing - A non-resident must obtain a shellfish landing license, for a fee of two hundred (\$200) to land shellfish (surf clams, blue mussels, ocean quahaugs, sea scallops) harvested outside Rhode Island waters.

(d) Non-Resident Landowner - A non-resident landowner, as defined in § 20-1-3(a)(3), who owns residential real estate in Rhode Island assessed for taxation at a valuation of not less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) may, with proof of residential property ownership in the form of a current tax bill from a town or city hall showing that the non-resident landowner is current in his or her property tax obligation, obtain an annual, non-commercial, non-resident shellfish license for a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
(RIGL 20-2-22)

8.1.3 Commercial Shellfish Licenses:

(a) A resident older than nineteen (19) years but younger than sixty-five (65) years shall pay two hundred dollars (\$200) for a commercial license to take shellfish.

(b) A resident twenty-three (23) years or younger shall pay fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a student commercial license to take shellfish upon provision of proof of full-time student status.

(c) Commercial shellfish licenses shall expire on December 31 of each year.

[it is the policy of the Department of Environmental Management to allow a resident sixty-five (65) years of age and older to be eligible for a commercial license to take shellfish at no cost]

(RIGL 20-2-20)

8.2 Minimum Size -- Three (3) inch minimum measured parallel to the long axis of the oyster. (RIMFC REGULATION) (Penalty - Part 3.3; (RIGL 20-3-3)]

8.3 Oysters -- Open Season -- Unless otherwise specified in regulations adopted by the Marine Fisheries Council, the open season for taking oysters from the free and common oyster fisheries in any of the waters of this State shall be between the fifteenth day of September and the fifteenth day of May. Any person who shall take any oysters or exposing any oysters for sale taken from the free and common fisheries in state waters in violation of the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be fined no less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) and costs for each offense.

(RIGL 20-6-2) [Penalty - Part 8.03; (RIGL 20-6-02)]

8.4 Statewide Catch Limits (except Management Areas)

Maximum Daily Take	
R.I. Resident	½ bu/day/per person
Commercial	3 bu/day/license holder
Non-resident	1 peck/day/license holder

(ref RIGL 20-6-1; 20-6-10)

[Penalty-Part 4.07;(RIGL 20-6-9)]

[Penalty-Part 4.04;(RIGL 20-6-10)]

8.5 Management Areas Catch Limits -- In Green Hill Pond, Potter Pond, Pt. Judith Pond, Ninigret (Charlestown) Pond, Quonochontaug Pond, Winnapaug (Brightman) Pond, Greenwich Bay, Sheffield Cove, Hundred Acre Cove, Mill Gut, and Narrow River, the following reduced daily catch limits apply:

Maximum Daily Take	
R.I. Resident	1 peck/day/per person
Commercial	3 bu/day/license holder
Non-resident	½ peck/day/license holder

(RIMFC REGULATION) [Penalty - Part 4.04 or 4.07; (RIGL 20-6-9 or 20-6-10)]