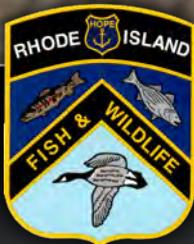


RHODE ISLAND Freshwater Fishing

2026-2027 REGULATION GUIDE



Visit our website:
www.dem.ri.gov
State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management • Division of Fish & Wildlife



Welcome Letter



It's that time of year again, and I am excited to welcome you to the **2026-27 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Regulation Guide**. This guide is your go-to resource for both new and experienced anglers who enjoy spending time on our lakes, rivers, and streams. Inside you'll find the latest freshwater fishing and recreational boating regulations, along with highlights on safety, exciting research and surveys, and fishing opportunities supported by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife, all working to enhance freshwater recreation across the Ocean State.

Rhode Island offers outstanding fishing and boating opportunities year-round. Whether you're in pursuit of bass, trout, northern pike or favorite panfish like crappie, perch, and sunfish, there's always something biting in the Ocean State. From the excitement of Opening Day trout fishing to fall angling and winter ice fishing, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

In these pages, you'll explore the history and current success of Rhode Island's Northern Pike program. DEM's freshwater fisheries biologist, Corey Pelletier, highlights ongoing research which provides unique opportunities for anglers to fish for one of the Northeast's largest freshwater game fish here in Rhode Island.

Also, with so many ways to enjoy the outdoors, this guide reminds anglers that safety is always part of the adventure. Recent regulation changes now require all management area users, including anglers, to wear blaze orange, and it is now necessary to wear life jackets when using personal watercraft. Check out the other regulations to keep yourself and the environment safe.

DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife's freshwater fisheries section provides ample opportunity to explore RI's freshwater resources from a hatchery program that stocks more than 100 fishing areas with a variety of trout each year to the Aquatic Resource Education program that provides people of all ages with a variety of skill-building workshops. You can even fish for free during our Free Fishing Weekend, May 2nd and 3rd, 2026!

Recreational fishing plays a big role in Rhode Island's economy, generating more than \$130 million each year and supported by an estimated 175,000 anglers statewide. This guide is made possible by the continued support of Rhode Island's anglers and boaters, with funding provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sportfish Restoration Program.

As DEM's Director, I sincerely thank everyone who supports these conservation efforts. We hope this guide inspires you to get outside, enjoy our beautiful waters and cast a line. So be safe, have fun, and enjoy the adventure.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrence Gray".

Terrence Gray, PE, Director



About This Guide

This high-quality guide is brought to you by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

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The fishing regulations in this guide are online at:

 **eRegulations.com**

"It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or disability."

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Office of the Secretary, Washington, D.C. 20240



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RHODE ISLAND Freshwater Fishing

2026-2027 REGULATION GUIDE



Photo credit Jonathan D.

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On the cover: Rainbow Trout caught by Robert M.

Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that the Freshwater and Wildlife resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.

This guide contains a partial compilation of state laws and regulations pertaining to freshwater fishing and other related information. For more detailed information, refer to Title 20 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island or visit www.dem.ri.gov

Fishing License Fees

License Type	Current Fee (online)	Current Fee (Vendor)
Resident (or current member of the armed forces)	\$24.00	\$26.00
Combination (Hunting & Fishing)	\$43.00	\$45.00
Non-resident	\$41.00	\$43.00
Non-resident tourist (three (3) consecutive days)	\$20.00	\$22.00
Resident Trout Conservation Stamp	\$6.00	\$6.50
Non-resident Trout Conservation Stamp	\$6.00	\$6.50

Fishing License Information

1. A fishing license is required of any person 15 years of age or older wishing to catch or take fish in any freshwater stream or pond in the state (except as noted below).
2. A fishing license can be obtained on-line at RIO.RI.GOV, from authorized agents such as bait and tackle shops, retail department stores, as well as some city and town clerk offices.
3. RI fishing licenses are reciprocal with Connecticut only for Beach Pond, Killingly Pond, Hazard Pond, and Peck Pond, and with Massachusetts for Wallum Lake.
4. The fishing license must be available and shown upon request.
5. The fishing license expires on the last day of February annually.
6. The fishing license will be revoked for violation of fishing laws.
7. A fishing license is not required of minors younger than fifteen (15) years of age.
8. A fishing license is not required of any blind person.
9. A fishing license is not required of landowners or for members of their families when fishing from property on which they are domiciled.
10. A free, special, permanent license may be obtained by any veteran of the armed forces who currently has a 100% disability rating or by any individual who is 100% permanently disabled.
11. A free, special, permanent license may be obtained by any resident over 65 years of age.

- c. Any person with a 100% disability.
- d. Landowners or members of their families when fishing from property on which they are actually domiciled.
- e. Any person possessing trout taken from a lake or pond which shares a border with a neighboring state.
- f. Any person possessing privately-owned trout caught in privately-owned ponds.

Methods of Fishing

1. Unless otherwise specified, only a rod and reel or other hand-held and hand-operated device shall be used to catch fish in the fresh waters of the state. At no time shall a person place, operate, or super-intend more than two (2) of these devices for the purpose of catching fish, except as noted below, and no more than three (3) hooks may be attached to each device.
2. Suckers, fallfish, and carp may be taken by snares, spears, or bow and arrow.
3. For the purpose of fishing through the ice, up to five (5) lines with a single hook on each, personally attended, and held by any device designed for that purpose (tip-up), may be used. See Exception #14 for Beach Pond, and Exception #15 for Killingly and Hazard Pond, page 5.
4. Freshwater minnows, not including the young of any species of game fish, may be taken for bait with minnow traps, dip nets, and seines not greater than four feet (4 ft.) deep by eight feet (8 ft.) long and having a square mesh size not larger than one-fourth inch (1/4 in.) in any waters of this State. This regulation does not supersede minimum size limits of the fish listed in regulations or current alewife/blueback herring regulations as detailed in the Diadromous Fisheries section found on page 10. Please also see page 4: #10-14, and #17.

Trout Conservation Stamp

1. A Trout Conservation Stamp is required of any person wishing to keep or possess a trout, salmon, or charr caught in Rhode Island waters or to fish in a "catch & release" or in a "fly fishing only" area.
2. A Trout Conservation Stamp can be obtained on-line at RIO.RI.GOV, from authorized agents such as bait and tackle shops, retail department stores, as well as some city and town clerk offices. Collector Trout Conservation Stamps can be purchased at DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licenses.
3. A Trout Conservation Stamp proof of purchase must be available and shown upon request.
4. The Trout Conservation Stamp expires on the last day of February annually.
5. A Rhode Island Trout Conservation Stamp is NOT required of the following:
 - a. Minors younger than fifteen (15) years of age.
 - b. Any resident or non-resident over 65 years of age.

Find your next adventure with your Rhode Island hunting and fishing license!

DEM is proud to offer convenient access to hunting and fishing licenses directly through our expanded online system or in-person at your local vendors. It's now easier than ever to purchase Rhode Island hunting and fishing licenses, permits, tags and stamps, so you can get outdoors and enjoy the many recreational opportunities made possible through conservation and management of Rhode Island's natural resources. Visit RIO.RI.GOV to access frequently asked questions and purchase your license today.

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Big Bear, located in Northern Rhode Island, specializes in everything fresh water. Being so close to some of RI's best fishing holes, we carry a wide assortment of fresh bait and fishing gear for the weekend enthusiast-all the way to the anglers who fish the trail. Our staff can help outfit your needs as well as put you on the fish with our understanding of the areas lakes, ponds and streams.

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General INFORMATION

Prohibited Activities:

1. Fishing in any freshwater stream or pond within this state without a valid fishing license (except as noted on page 2).
2. Fishing in any designated trout stream or designated trout pond of the state, unless otherwise regulated, between 11:59 PM on last day of February to 6 AM on the second Saturday of April, annually.
3. Possessing trout, salmon, or charr during the seasonal closure.
4. Using corn for bait in any designated trout waters.
5. Chumming in any designated trout waters.
6. Snagging fish in any fresh waters.
7. Using any substance injurious to fish life in any stream or freshwater pond within the state except by permit issued by the DEM.
8. Detonating any explosive within any stream or freshwater pond within the state.
9. Selling of any freshwater fish including, but not limited to, trout, largemouth or smallmouth bass, pickerel, northern pike, Atlantic salmon, American shad, or yellow perch taken from any freshwater stream, river, or pond within the State.
10. Stocking any freshwater stream or pond, public or private, within the state with ANY species of fish without having first obtained a permit from the DEM. For more information, call (401) 789-0281.
11. The release of any live fish or invertebrate bait into the freshwaters of the State.
12. The use as bait of any variety of gold fish (*Carassius auratus*) in the fresh waters or estuarine waters of the State.
13. The importation, sale, or possession of any variety of non-native fish, including, but not limited to goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), or fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) for use as bait in the fresh or estuarine waters of the State.
14. Selling any live freshwater minnows for bait or possessing more than one hundred (100) live freshwater minnows without first having procured the appropriate license from the DEM.
15. Tagging, branding, marking, or otherwise willfully mutilating any fish which is to be released alive into any freshwaters of the state except by special permit issued by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
16. It is prohibited that any person use foot gear with external felt soles or other natural or synthetic porous material capable of absorbing liquid that is attached to the soles of wading foot gear in any freshwaters of the state. This shall include any waters shared with adjacent states in which any RI Fishing regulations apply.
17. The taking of any fish in the freshwaters of the state by net, seine, trawl, or similar device, except for a dip net, for the landing of a fish caught by hook and line and the taking of baitfish, is prohibited. Cast nets and gill nets shall be prohibited.
18. The taking of any fish in the freshwaters of the state by any means other than angling, utilizing a hook(s) and fishing line, except for carp, suckers, and fallfish, which may be taken by snares, spears, or bow and arrow.
19. Transport of any plant or plant part into or out of any Rhode Island waterbody on boats, vessels, other water conveyances, vehicles, trailers, fishing supplies, or any other equipment, with the exception of authorized research activities, such as species identification and management activities.

FREE Fishing Days May 2nd and 3rd, 2026

Neither a Freshwater Fishing License nor a Trout Conservation Stamp will be required by residents or non-residents on the 2nd and 3rd of May 2026.

GO FOR THE GOLD and Get a Golden Pin!

Are you up for the challenge?

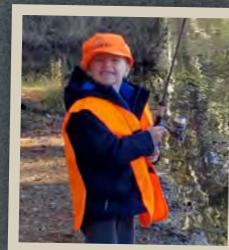
The golden rainbow trout will be stocked on opening day this year and will be stocked in ponds across Rhode Island! And, like last year, our golden trout pin contest will be limited to the first three weeks after opening day!

From April 11, 2026 - May 4, 2026, if you catch a golden rainbow trout, you will be eligible to receive the coveted golden trout pin. Simply take a picture and send it to dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov. Remember, submissions need to be received no later than May 4th to be eligible for the pin.



Fluorescent Orange Requirement

PER REGULATION: All users, including anglers, of State Management Areas are required to wear 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange, worn above the waist and visible in all directions from the second Saturday in September to the last day of February and the third Saturday in April to the last day of May annually, and during established mourning dove season and wild turkey season. 500 square inches is required by all users of management areas and undeveloped state parks during all portions of shotgun deer seasons. Fluorescent camouflage does not meet these requirements. The hunter orange must be worn above the waist and be visible in all directions. Examples are a hat that covers 200 square inches or a combination of a hat and vest covering 500 square inches.



Seasons, Creel Limits, and Minimum Size Limits

Fish	Exceptions*	Season	Creel Limit**	Minimum Size
Trout	1-5, 10-16	Apr. 11 - Nov. 30	5	8"
	3-5, 10-16	Dec. 1 - Feb. 28	2	8"
Atlantic Salmon (migratory)	CLOSED see page 10			
Domestic (landlocked) Atlantic Salmon	1-3, 5, 8, 10-16	Apr. 11 - Feb. 28	2	11"
Northern Pike	1, 6, 14-16	No Closed Season	2	24"
Chain Pickerel	1, 6, 14-16	No Closed Season	5	14"
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass (Black Bass)	1, 7, 14-16	No Closed Season	5	12"
American Eel	1, 9, 14-16	No Closed Season	25	9"
River Herring (Alewives, Blueback herring), Shad & Smelt	CLOSED see page 10			
All Other Freshwater Fish	1, 14-16	No Closed Season	None	None
Striped Bass	17	No Closed Season	1	28" - <31" ***

*** Circle hooks must be used when fishing with bait.

** Creel Limit: Number of fish per person per day

* Exceptions as listed below:

Exceptions

- All lengths are measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.
- The open season on all species of trout, salmon, charr shall close annually on the last day of February at midnight and shall commence at 6:00 AM on the second Saturday of April, annually. All designated trout waters (see page 7) shall be closed to fishing during the trout, salmon, and charr species closure.
- From the second Saturday in April through November 30th annually, the daily creel and possession limits for trout shall be five (5) fish. From December 1st through the last day of February, annually, the daily creel and possession limits for trout shall be two (2) fish.
- The minimum size of all trout or charr species taken from the waters of the state shall be eight inches (8"). This applies to both wild and stocked trout.
- A **Trout Conservation Stamp** is required of an angler who wishes to (a) keep or possess a trout, domestic (landlocked) salmon, or charr or (b) fish in a designated 'catch and release' area or in a 'fly fishing only' area. See page 2 for more information.
- The daily creel and possession limits for northern pike shall be two (2) fish and the minimum size shall be twenty-four inches (24"). The daily creel and possession limits for chain pickerel shall be five (5) fish and the minimum size shall be fourteen inches (14").
- The daily creel and possession limits for black bass (largemouth and smallmouth bass) shall be five (5), either singularly or in aggregate and the minimum size shall be twelve (12) inches. No person shall possess any black bass less than twelve (12) inches in length.
- The daily creel and possession limit for domestic (landlocked) Atlantic salmon (*Salmo Salar*) in the fresh waters of Rhode Island shall be two (2) fish per day and shall be included in the daily limit for trout, salmon, or charr. The minimum size limit for domestic or land-locked Atlantic Salmon is eleven inches (11"). No person shall take any Atlantic salmon from the Pawcatuck River downstream of the Potter Hill Dam.
- The recreational creel or possession limits for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) shall be twenty-five (25) fish per day, per person and the minimum size shall be nine inches (9"). No person shall take an eel from the freshwaters of the state unless in possession of a valid RI Freshwater Fishing License. There will be no closed season. No American eel may be commercially harvested from the freshwaters of the state and offered for sale without a valid commercial fishing license per RI Marine Fisheries (RIMF) regulations. If harvesting commercially with a valid commercial license from the freshwaters of the state, fishermen must adhere to regulations as set forth in RIMF regulations 250-RICR-90-00-3.
- The creel and possession limit for trout or charr taken in the Wood River between Route 165 and Barberville Dam at Arcadia Road shall be limited to two (2) fish from the second Saturday in May through the last day of February (taken singularly or in aggregate).
- With the exception of designated 'catch and release' areas, any legally caught trout, salmon, or charr taken from the fresh waters of Rhode Island shall be immediately released alive into the waters from which they were taken or shall be killed at once and become part of the daily creel limit.
- That portion of the Falls River, Exeter, from the bridge at Austin Farm road downstream approximately 2 miles to the bridge off Brook Trail is designated a 'no kill' or 'catch and release' area. Fishing is permitted only with artificial lures equipped with a single barbless hook or a single barbed hook which has been crimped. All fish caught must be returned to the water immediately. The possession of any trout while fishing in this section of the river shall be *prima facie* evidence that said trout, salmon or charr were taken in violation of this regulation.
- Beaver River, Richmond—the portion from the confluence of the Beaver River and the Pawcatuck River, upstream to the New London Turnpike, Richmond, shall be designated as a 'no kill', 'catch and release', area. Fishing shall be permitted with artificial lures equipped with a single barbless hook; all fish caught shall be returned to the water immediately. The possession of any trout, salmon, or char while fishing shall be *prima facie* evidence that said trout, salmon, or charr was taken in violation of these Rules and Regulations.
- Beach Pond, Exeter—Trout season will open on the second Saturday of April at 6:00 AM and close at midnight on the last day of February, annually. Rhode Island regulations apply for trout, charr, black bass, and chain pickerel. The daily possession and creel limits for Atlantic salmon shall be one (1) per Connecticut regulations. Also in accordance with CT regulations, six (6) lines with a single hook each may be used while ice fishing.
- Killingly Pond, Gloucester and Hazard Pond, West Greenwich—Rhode Island regulations apply for black bass (largemouth and smallmouth bass), and chain pickerel. Six (6) lines with a single hook each may be used while ice fishing in accordance with CT regulations.
- Wallum Lake, Burrillville—Rhode Island Regulations apply.
- Striped bass, although a regulated marine species, are often caught in some freshwater rivers of the state recreationally. In these instances, please note that marine regulations will apply, please refer to RI Marine Fisheries Regulations 250-RICR-90-00-7.

Fish Consumption Advisory

Since 1986, the FDA has issued warnings about mercury levels in various fish including freshwater species. The RIDEM and Department of Health wants our anglers to be familiar with the following information:

Fish is Good

- Fish is a good source of protein.
- Fish has many vitamins and minerals.
- Fish is low in fat.
- Fish can be part of a healthy diet. A healthy diet helps children grow and develop properly.

Mercury is Bad

- Mercury is a type of metal found in nature. It is used in thermometers, batteries, lamps, and other products. Sometimes mercury gets into ponds, lakes, rivers, soil, and air through pollution.
- When mercury pollutes the water, it can get into the fish where they live. If you eat fish with mercury, it can harm your baby when you are pregnant or breast feeding.
- Babies born to mothers who have a lot of mercury in their bodies may develop more slowly and have problems learning. Young children can also be harmed by mercury.
- High levels of mercury in the body can cause harm to an adult's kidneys and brain.
- You cannot see, taste, or smell mercury in fish. Mercury cannot be cut away, cleaned or cooked out of fish. The best way to avoid mercury is to know which fish to choose and how much to eat.

Advice for Those Who Fish:

- Choose stocked trout to eat. See page 7 for trout stocking locations.
- Vary where and what types of fish you eat.
- Eat smaller fish (in accordance with RIDEM size limits).
- Avoid fish with the most mercury: bass, pike, and pickerel.
- Limit meals of black crappie and eel to one meal per month.
- Do not eat fish from private ponds, with no public access and those that are not stocked by the state.

- Trout from private vendors stocked into private ponds may be eaten.
- Do not eat any fish from the following ponds (with the exception of trout): Yawgoog Pond, Windcheck Pond, Meadowbrook Pond, Quidnick Reservoir, and the lower Woonasquatucket.
- Catch and release fishing is recommended in Mashapaug Pond and the Woonasquatucket River along with other urban ponds and rivers.
- Pregnant women and young children should limit their fish intake to include those fish that have tested low in mercury: stocked trout in freshwater, salmon, light tuna, shrimp, Pollock and catfish in marine waters.

For more information:

Visit <https://health.ri.gov/healthrisks/poisoning/mercury/about/fish/> or call the Health Hotline at 1-800-942-7434.

Fly Fishing Only

The following waters are restricted to the use of artificial flies, a conventional fly rod, and a single action reel: Deep Pond (Arcadia), Exeter; A.L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield; and Upper Rochambeau Pond, Lincoln.

Children Only

The following waters are restricted to fishing by persons fourteen (14) years of age or younger:

- Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter;
- Scott Evans Memorial Pond (Biscuit City), S. Kingstown;
- Seidel's Pond, Cranston.

The following pond is open to children fourteen (14) years of age or younger between the second Saturday of April through Memorial Day:

- Silvia Memorial Children's Pond (formerly Lloyd Kenney Pond), Hopkinton.

For the first two (2) days of the season April 12th & 13th the following ponds are restricted to persons fourteen (14) years of age or younger:

- Cass Pond in Woonsocket,
- Geneva Pond and Brook in North Providence,
- Slater Park Pond in Pawtucket,
- Silvy's Brook and Pond in Cumberland
- Lapham Pond in Burrillville.

Wheelchair Accessible Fishing Areas in Rhode Island

Carbuncle Pond - Coventry

Gorton Pond - Warwick

Hope Valley Grange Fishing Dock - Hope Valley

Lower Shannock Brook - Richmond

Silver Spring Lake - North Kingstown

Upper Melville Pond (Thurston Gray Pond) - Portsmouth

Upper Roaring Brook - Exeter

Westerly Boat Ramp - Westerly

Olney Pond - Lincoln

CHILDREN ONLY:

Scott Evans Memorial Pond (Biscuit City) - South Kingstown



Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free 814.572.4387 HuntofaLifetime.org

The Ethical Angler:

1. Keeps only the fish they need.
2. Does not pollute; properly disposes of trash or packs it back.
3. Hones angling and boating skills.
4. Observes angling and boating safety regulations.
5. Respects other anglers' rights.
6. Respects property owners' rights.
7. Passes on knowledge and angling skills to friends and family.
8. Practices proper catch and release and does not put live fish on stringer, waiting to catch a larger fish.
9. Supports local conservation efforts.
10. Does not release live bait, non-native plants, fish or invertebrates, into RI waters. It's against the law.
11. Does not leave offal from cleaning fish at fishing sites, on land or in the water; instead, packs it back or buries it out of sight.
12. Promotes the sport of angling.
13. Does not transport any plant, fish, amphibian, reptile or invertebrate from one water body to another.

Designated Trout Waters

Name	Location
Abbots Run Brook	Cumberland
Adamsville Brook & Pond	Tiverton & Little Compton
Alton Pond	Richmond & Hopkinton
Ashaway River	Hopkinton
Ashville Pond	Hopkinton
Barber Pond	South Kingstown
Beach Pond	Exeter
Big River	West Greenwich
Blackstone River	Cumberland & Lincoln
Branch River	Burrillville
Brandy Brook	Glocester
Breakheart Brook	Exeter
Breakheart Pond	Exeter & West Greenwich
Brickyard Pond	Barrington
Browning Mill Pond	Exeter
Brushy Brook	Hopkinton
Bucks Horn Brook	Coventry
California Jim's	South Kingstown
Carbuncle Pond ⁴	Coventry
Carolina Trout Pond	Richmond
Cass Pond ³	Woonsocket
Chepachet River	Glocester & Burrillville
Chickasheen Brook	South Kingstown
Clear River	Burrillville
Deep Pond (Arcadia) ¹	Exeter
Dexter Pond - Rt 6 (private owner), open to public	Scituate
Dolly Cole Brook	Foster
Dundery Brook	Little Compton
Eight Rod Farm Pond	Tiverton
Falls River	Exeter & West Greenwich
Flat River	Exeter
Foster Green Acres Pond	Foster
Frenchtown Park Pond	East Greenwich
Frosty Hollow Pond ²	Exeter
Geneva Brook & Pond ³	North Providence
Gorton Pond ⁴	Warwick
Harris River	Woonsocket
Hopkins Mill Pond	Foster
Hunt River	E. Greenwich & N. Kingstown
J.L. Curran Reservoir (Upper and Lower)	Cranston
Lapham Pond ³	Burrillville
Meadow Brook	Richmond
Meadow Brook Pond	Richmond
Upper Melville Pond (Thurston Gray Pond) ⁴	Portsmouth
Lower Mellville Pond	Portsmouth
Memorial Park Pond	Lincoln
Meshanticut Pond	Cranston

Name	Location
Moosup River	Coventry
Moscow Brook	Hopkinton
Mowry, A.L. Pond ¹	Smithfield
Olney Pond ⁴	Lincoln Woods Park, Lincoln
Parris Brook	Exeter
Pawcatuck River ⁴	Hopkinton, Richmond, Charlestown, Westerly
Pawtuxet River (north branch)	Scituate & Cranston
Pawtuxet River (south branch)	Coventry & West Warwick
Peck Pond	Burrillville
Ponaganset River	Foster
Potowomut Pond	Warwick
Roaring Brook & Ponds ⁴	Exeter
Round Top Brook	Burrillville
Round Top Ponds	Burrillville
Saugatucket River	South Kingstown
Scott Evans Mem. Pond (Biscuit City) ^{2&4}	South Kingstown
Seidel's Pond ²	Cranston
Shippee Saw Mill Pond	Foster
Silver Spring Lake ⁴	North Kingstown
Silvia Memorial Children's Pond (formerly Lloyd Kenney Pond) ³	Hopkinton
Silvy's Brook Diamond Hill Park ³	Cumberland
Silvy's Pond Diamond Hill Park ³	Cumberland
Simmons Mill Pond	Little Compton
Slater Park Pond ³	Pawtucket
Spring Grove Pond	Glocester
Stafford Pond	Tiverton
Sylvester's Pond	Woonsocket
Tarbox Pond	West Greenwich
Tarkiln Pond	Burrillville & North Smithfield
Ten Mile River	East Providence
Tiogue Lake	Coventry
Tiverton Trout Pond	Tiverton
Tucker Pond	South Kingstown
Upper Rochambeau Pond ¹	Lincoln
Wallum Lake	Burrillville
Watchaug Pond	Charlestown
Willett Pond	East Providence
Winsor Brook	Foster
Wood River	Exeter, Hopkinton & Richmond
Woonasquatucket River	Smithfield
Wyoming Pond	Hopkinton & Richmond

All designated trout waters are stocked prior to the opening day of trout season. Numbers following area names refer to the following:

¹ Fly fishing only. See page 6 for more information.

² Minors fourteen (14) years of age and younger, only.

³ Minors fourteen (14) years of age or younger during specified times of the year. Please refer to page 6 for more information.

⁴ Wheelchair accessible. See page 6 for more information.

Fishing Highlights of the 2025-2026 Fishing Season

Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures for the 2025-2026 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Guide.



With help from his grandfather, Lucas lands his biggest Largemouth Bass yet!

Photo Credit: Mike C.



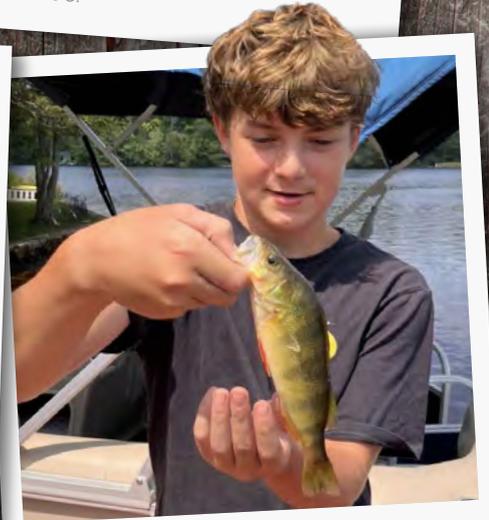
After a hard fought victory, Anthony displays his biggest rainbow trout of 2025.

Photo Credit: Anthony R.



Representing RI in more ways than one!

Photo Credit: Hunter H.



A colorful perch caught on a classic RI summer day.

Photo Credit: Lucas M.



Charly finds peace and quiet while reeling in this monster bass.

Photo Credit: Charly V.



Carpe Diem!

Photo Credit: Daphne F.



Aleena celebrates with her family as she takes home a trophy from an opening day fishing derby!

Photo Credit: Aleena W.

Commonly Caught Fish Species



AMERICAN EEL
Anguilla rostrata



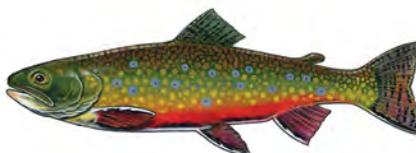
BROWN BULLHEAD
Ameiurus nebulosus



BLACK CRAPPIE
Pomoxis nigromaculatus



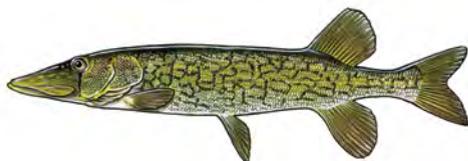
BLUEGILL
Lepomis macrochirus



BROOK TROUT
Salvelinus fontinalis



BROWN TROUT
Salmo trutta



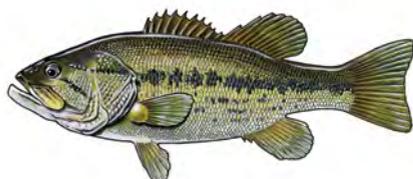
CHAIN PICKEREL
Esox niger



COMMON CARP
Cyprinus carpio



GOLDEN SHINER
Notemigonus crysoleucas



LARGEMOUTH BASS
Micropterus salmoides



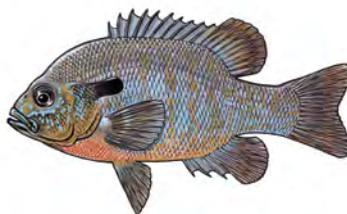
NORTHERN PIKE
Esox lucius



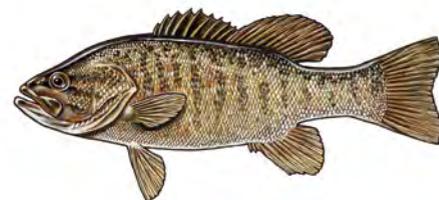
PUMPKINSEED
Lepomis gibbosus



RAINBOW TROUT
Oncorhynchus mykiss



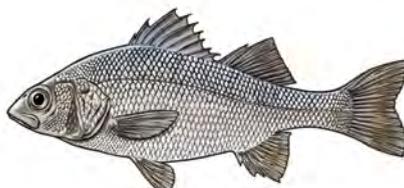
REDBREAST SUNFISH
Lepomis auritus



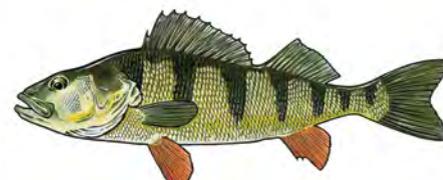
SMALLMOUTH BASS
Micropterus dolomieu



WHITE CATFISH
Ameiurus catus



WHITE PERCH
Morone americana



YELLOW PERCH
Perca flavescens

Diadromous Fish REGULATIONS

Diadromous Fish Regulations

1. No person shall land, catch, take or attempt to catch or take any alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) or blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*) from any fresh waters or marine waters of the State of Rhode Island. Possession of any alewives or blueback herring, at any time, is prohibited and shall be evidence, *prima facie*, that said herring was taken in violation of this regulation.
2. No person shall erect any artificial obstruction/damming to fish passage in any stream or in any way alter the natural stream bottom to hinder the passage of fish.

Shad:

No person shall take any American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) from the fresh waters of the state.

Salmon:

No person shall take any Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) from the Pawcatuck River downstream of the Potter Hill Dam.

Smelt:

No person shall take any smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) by any means from any stream or river system in the state.

American Eel:

The recreational creel or possession limit for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) shall be twenty-five (25) fish per day, per person, either singular or in aggregate, and the minimum size shall be nine (9) inches from tip of snout to tip of tail. No person shall possess any American eel less than nine (9) inches in total length. No person shall take an eel from the freshwaters of the state unless in possession of a valid RI Freshwater Fishing License. There will be no closed season. No American eel may be commercially harvested from the freshwaters of the state and offered for sale without a valid commercial license per RI Marine Fisheries (RIMF) regulations. If harvesting commercially with a valid commercial fishing license from the freshwater of the state, fishermen



must adhere to regulations as set forth in RIMF regulations Part VII (Minimum Sizes of Fish/Shellfish), section 7.16.1.

Fish Ladders:

1. Trespass within or any obstruction of the entrance or exit of any fish ladder in the State is prohibited.
2. For the purpose of regulating diadromous fishes, all fish ladders owned and operated by the state will be set aside as fish cultivation facilities pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Chapters 20-12-1 and 20-12-5.
3. Per General Laws Chapters 20-12-1, 20-12-4 and 20-12-5, fishing is prohibited within 1/2 mile of fish ladder (fish cultivation project) mouth or outlet. Pursuant to General Laws Chapter 20-1-12, the director may by regulation or by special permit allow persons to fish at or near a fish ladder (fish cultivation project), only with official Division of Fish and Wildlife location specific signage.
4. The areas above and below each fish ladder, where fishing will be permitted, shall be designated with an official boundary marker or informational sign.

Rhode Island Environmental Police

The mission of the Environmental Police is to protect our natural resources and ensure compliance with all environmental conservation laws through law enforcement and education.

The history of the Environmental Police dates back to 1842 when the first game wardens were appointed to the Commission of Shellfisheries.

Today, Rhode Island's Environmental Police Officers are sworn law enforcement officers who are responsible for patrolling and enforcing all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the state's fish, wildlife, boating safety and marine resources as well as all criminal and motor vehicle laws within the state parks and management areas. Officers patrol over 60,000 acres of state land, 92 salt and freshwater boat launching and fishing areas, 300 miles of rivers and streams, and 417 miles of coastline. They are also cross-deputized with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. During their patrols, they educate the public on the protection of our natural resources and provide safety for the public while enjoying Rhode Island's outdoors.

To report emergencies or violations, call (401) 222-3070, 24hr line.



Protect Our Native Species from Disease and Invasives

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO TAKE FISH OF ANY SPECIES FROM ANY BODY OF WATER AND STOCK IT IN RHODE ISLAND WATERS!

By taking fish from either in-state or out-of-state water bodies and placing it in another body of water in RI, you risk introducing disease and parasites to native fish. You also risk introducing invasive species to that waterway. Invasive species overtake the native species and significantly alter stream ecology. For more information or for stocking permits, please call (401) 789-0281.

Saltwater/Freshwater Boundaries

River	Town	Interface
Pawcatuck River	Westerly	The downstream side of the bridge crossing US Route 1
Mastuxet Brook	Westerly	Point at which the brook empties into Mastuxet Cove
King Tom / Ninigret Ponds	Charlestown	Spillway at the South end of King Tom Pond
Factory Pond Outlet	South Kingstown	Seaward opening of culvert under Teal Road
Mill Pond Outlet to Cards Pond	South Kingstown	Bridge on Moonstone Beach Road crossing west neck of Cards Pond
Smelt Brook	South Kingstown	Bridge closest to the outlet into Point Judith Pond
Saugatucket River	South Kingstown	Downstream side of the Main Street Bridge in Wakefield
Gilbert Stuart Brook	North Kingstown	Point at which the river empties into the Pettaquamscutt (Narrow) River
Wesquage Pond	Narragansett	Culvert at the outlet to Bonnet Shores Beach
Annaquatucket River	North Kingstown	Point at which river empties into Bissel Cove
Cocumcussoc Brook	North Kingstown	Bottom of the first riffle upstream of Wickford Cove
Potowomut River	North Kingstown/ East Greenwich	Forge Road spillway
Maskerchugg River	East Greenwich	Boston Post Road (US Route 1) spillway
Gorton Pond Outlet	Warwick	West of the Amtrak Railroad Bridge
Tuscatucket Brook	Warwick	Downstream side of the West Shore Road Bridge
Old Mill Creek	Warwick	Entirely tidal
Warner Brook	Warwick	Draper Avenue Bridge
Buckeye Brook	Warwick	Point at which the stream empties into Narragansett Bay
Lockwood Brook	Warwick	Downstream side of West Shore Road Bridge
Spring Green Pond Outlet	Warwick	Downstream side of the Warwick Avenue (RI Route 117A) Bridge
Pawtuxet River	Warwick/ Providence	Narragansett Parkway spillway
Woonasquatucket River	Providence	Downstream side of US Route 1N Bridge
Moshassuck River	Providence	Point of confluence with the Woonasquatucket River
Blackstone/Seekonk River	Pawtucket	Main Street spillway
Ten Mile River	East Providence	Omega Pond spillway
Annawomscutt Brook	Barrington	Pilling Chain Company spillway on Bay Spring Avenue
Mussachuck Creek	Barrington	Downstream side of the Washington Road Bridge
Runnins River	East Providence/ Seekonk, MA	Downstream side of Mink Street (RI 114A) Bridge
Kickamuit River	Warren	The downstream side of the Rte 103 bridge.
Sin and Flesh Brook	Tiverton	Downstream side of the Highland Avenue Bridge
Nonquit Pond	Tiverton	Bridge at Pond Bridge Road
Pachet Brook	Tiverton	Downstream side of the West Main Road (RI Route 77) Bridge
Dundery Brook	Little Compton	Downstream side of Swamp Road Bridge
Cold Brook	Little Compton	Point at which the brook empties into Quicksand Pond
Maidford River	Middletown	Downstream side of Paradise Avenue Bridge
Goose Neck Cove	Newport	Entirely tidal
Lily Pond	Newport	Outlet
Almy Pond	Newport	Outlet
Prince Pond (Tiffany Pond)	Barrington	Point at which the stream enters the Barrington River.

Boating Regulation GUIDELINES

Boating Regulation and Policy Guidelines

The following is a brief summary of Rhode Island's boating regulations. For detailed information, please refer to Division of Enforcement's *The Handbook of RI Boating Laws and Regulations, Title 46* of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island or contact the Division of Enforcement.

1. DEM Conservation and Boating Safety Officers, harbormasters, and police officers have authority to enforce state laws and regulations on all state tidal and non-tidal waters.
2. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person operating a vessel on Rhode Island waters to refuse to stop or move on the oral command of a DEM Conservation or Boating Safety Officer, a harbormaster, or a police officer.
3. Every motorboat operating on the waters of the state must be numbered in accordance with the laws and regulations of this state, with applicable federal law, or with an approved numbering system of another state. The number must be prominently displayed on each side of the bow of the boat.
4. Required Safety Equipment:
 - a. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) - All vessels must have at least one approved type I,II,III, or V PFD for each person on board. **NEW in 2024:** For all vessels less than 16 ft. (4.9 meters) in length including canoes, kayaks, sailboats, kiteboards and paddleboards, operators and passengers shall wear a US Coast Guard approved PDF at all times while underway regardless of age. For vessels 16 feet long or longer, one additional, throw able type IV PFD is required.
 - b. Fire Extinguishers - All mechanically-propelled vessels except those that are less than 26 feet long and powered by outboard motors, must carry one B-I USCG-approved fire extinguisher. Motorboats 26 feet to 40 feet in length and longer must carry either two (2) B-I USCG-approved fire extinguishers or one B-II extinguisher. Vessels 40 feet to 65 feet must carry three B-I or one B-I and one B-II.
 - c. Visual Distress Signals (VSD) - Vessels used on RI waters must be equipped with proper visual distress signals that are USCG approved, in serviceable condition, and readily accessible. Vessels under 26 ft. require 3 night VSDs while those 26 feet or longer require both 3 day and 3 night VSDs.
 - d. Whistle (horn) and Bell - All vessels must carry an efficient sound-producing device (whistle or horn). Vessels 12 meters (36 feet) in length or longer must also carry a bell.
5. All motorboats must carry and display the proper navigation lights for their size class when operating between sunset and sunrise and during daylight periods of reduced visibility.
6. All vessels equipped with an engine must have a factory-type muffler or exhaust water manifold installed on the engine or another effective muffling system for noise reduction purposes.
7. No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel or manipulate any water skis, surfboard, or similar device in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of another.
8. Any person transporting a child under thirteen (13) years of age in a recreational vessel less than 65 ft. in length on the waters of this state, shall require that the child wear a personal flotation device approved by the USCG when underway unless below deck or in a closed cabin.
9. No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel in any harbor or inlet or any pond or other confined body of water in this state in excess of forty-five (45) miles per hour during the hours from sunrise to sunset and twenty-five (25) miles per hour during periods of darkness or other periods of restricted visibility.
10. RI law prohibits anyone from boating while intoxicated (BWI). This includes the operation of any powerboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, water skis, sailboard, or similar device. Intoxicated means a person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or drugs such that his/her thought or actions are impaired causing danger to others. RI law sets blood alcohol limit for boating while intoxicated at 0.08% or greater.
11. Any person SCUBA diving, skin diving, or snorkeling in any area where power or motorboats are operated shall place a diver's warning flag on a buoy at a place of his or her submergence. No person shall operated a motorboat within fifty (50) feet of a displayed diver's flag.
12. Prohibited is the transport of any plant or plant part into or out of any Rhode Island waterbody on boats, vessels, other water conveyances, vehicles, trailers, fishing supplies, or any other equipment, with the exception of authorized research activities, species identification and other management activities.

Natural Shorelines are Good for Fishing

By keeping shorelines natural, you can help protect water quality and improve fish habitat. A shoreline without trees and shrubs can get washed away, making the water muddy and unsuitable for fish. If you live near a lake or a river, plant a buffer strip along the water's edge using trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other native plants. Trees and other vegetation filter pollution and provide shade, shelter, habitat, and food critical for bass, trout, and other fish to thrive and reproduce. Keep your favorite fishing spots well vegetated! For more tips and information, visit <http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/index.cfm>



ATTENTION!

Invasive Plants Here

Stop their spread to other lakes and ponds!

Decontaminate Your Gear:

CLEAN



Remove all debris on:

- Boat, Motor
- Trailer, Gear
- Anchors, Paddles
- Lines, Straps

DRAIN



Pull boat plug & drain:

- Motors
- Bait Buckets
- Live Wells
- Canoes & Kayaks

DRY



Dry gear & equipment:

- Hang or leave in sun
- Dry before traveling to another lake, pond river, or reservoir



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

To report invasive animals, contact: Division of Fish and Wildlife (401) 789-0281
To report invasive plants, contact: Office of Water Resources (401) 222-4700

Management Area BOATING REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

Boating Information: Management Area Ponds & Lakes

Pond	Town	Regulation
A.L. Mowry Pond	Smithfield	1, 3
Alton Pond	Hopkinton	5, 15-20
Asa Pond	South Kingstown	4, 15-20
Ashville Pond	Hopkinton	7, 15-20
Barber's Pond	South Kingstown	5, 6, 15-20
Blue Pond	Hopkinton	5, 15-20
Bowdish Reservoir	Glocester	10, 15-20
Breakheart Pond	Exeter	7, 15-20
Browning Mill Pond	Richmond	5, 15-20
Carbuncle Pond	Coventry	5, 15-20
Carolina Trout Pond	Richmond	1, 3
Carr Pond	North Kingstown	5, 15-20
Chapman Pond Westerly	Westerly	7, 15-20
Clarkville Pond Glocester	Glocester	5, 15-20
Deep Pond (Arcadia)	Exeter	3
Frosty Hollow Pond	Exeter	1,3
Great Swamp Dike	West Kingston	2, 15-20
Gristmill Pond	Glocester	3
Indian Lake	South Kingstown	7, 8, 15-20
John L. Curran Reservoir	Cranston	7, 15-20
Keech Pond	Glocester	7, 15-20
Lake Washington	Glocester	5, 15-20
Little Round Top Pond	Burrillville	1, 3
Locustville Pond	Hopkinton	7, 15-20
Lower Roaring Brook Pond	Exeter	3
Olney Pond	Lincoln	13, 14, 15-20
Pascoag Reservoir	Glocester	12, 15-20
Pawtuxet River (Hope)	Scituate	5, 15-20
Peck Pond	Burrillville	3
Round Top Pond	Burrillville	3
Shippée Saw Mill Pond	Foster	5, 15-20
Silver Spring Lake	North Kingstown	5, 15-20
Simmons Mill Pond	Little Compton	5, 15-20
Smith and Sayles Reservoir	Glocester	7, 15-20
Spring Lake	Burrillville	5, 15-20
Stafford Pond	Tiverton	9, 15-20
Tucker Pond	South Kingstown	7, 15-20
Union Pond	Burrillville	5, 15-20
Upper Roaring Brook Pond	Brook Pond Exeter	4, 15-20
Wakefield Pond	Burrillville	11, 15-20
Wilson Reservoir	Burrillville	7, 9, 15-20
Woonasquatucket Reservoir (Stump Pond)	Smithfield	7, 15-20

1. Definition: Float Tube — any device manufactured and sold for use as a fishing float tube. Float tubes are prohibited on the following ponds: Little Round Top Pond, Burrillville; A.L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield; Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter; and Carolina Trout Pond, Richmond.
2. Boating is prohibited within the impoundment created by the Great Swamp dike, within the Great Swamp Management Area during the period September 1st through March 31st annually except by licensed migratory bird hunters. All motors are prohibited at all times.
3. Boats are prohibited on the following ponds: Round Top and Little Round Top Ponds, Burrillville; Peck Pond, Burrillville; Deep Pond — Arcadia, Exeter; Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter; Gristmill Pond, Glocester; Carolina Trout Pond, Richmond; Lower Roaring Brook Pond, Richmond; A.L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield.
4. The launching, hauling, or operation of boats with motors of any kind is prohibited from state-owned and/or operated ramps on the following ponds: Asa Pond, South Kingstown; and Upper Roaring Brook Ponds, Exeter.
5. The launching, hauling, and operation of boats with motors of any kind, except electric trolling motors, is prohibited from state-owned

and/or operated ramps on the following bodies of water: Spring Lake & Union Pond, Burrillville; Carbuncle Pond, Coventry; Shippée Saw Mill Pond, Foster; Clarkville Pond and Lake Washington, Glocester; Alton Pond and Blue Pond (no ramp), Hopkinton; Carr Pond and Silver Spring Lake, North Kingstown; Simmons Mill Pond, Little Compton; Browning Mill Pond, Richmond; Pawtuxet River (Hope), Scituate; and Barber's Pond, South Kingstown.

6. Per town ordinance: No person shall operate any motorboat, except a motorboat propelled by an electric motor, on the waters of Barber's Pond within the territorial limits of the Town of South Kingstown.
 7. The use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from state-owned and/or operated ramps is prohibited on the following bodies of water: Wilson Reservoir, Burrillville; Keech Pond, Smith & Sayles Reservoir (Sand Dam), Glocester; Woonasquatucket Reservoir (Stump Pond), Smithfield; Indian Lake and Tucker Pond, South Kingstown; Ashville and Locustville Ponds, Hopkinton; Chapman Pond, Westerly; Breakheart Pond, Exeter; and John L. Curran Reservoir, Cranston.
 8. Per town ordinance: No person shall operate any motorboat with a motor in excess of 10 horsepower on the waters of Indian Lake, within the territorial limits of the Town of South Kingstown.
 9. No person shall use any motor in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched or hauled from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Stafford Pond, Tiverton, and Wilson Reservoir, Burrillville, with the exception that the use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Stafford Pond, Tiverton, and Wilson Reservoir, Burrillville, is permitted for organized fishing activities possessing a valid permit from RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife; as described in 'Fishing Activities Requiring a Permit' on page 19 of this 2026-2027 Freshwater Fishing Guide.
 10. No person shall use any motor in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched or hauled from the state-owned and/or operated boat ramp on Bowdish Reservoir in the George Washington State Campground, Glocester, with the exception that permitted organized fishing activities, i.e. tournaments, shall be allowed to use motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on the waters of Bowdish Reservoir at the state-owned launching ramp in the George Washington State Campground, Glocester, between the Saturday before Memorial Day and Labor Day of each year, inclusive. See Page 19, Fishing Activities Requiring a Permit, of this 2026-2027 Freshwater Fishing Guide.
- NEW POLICY (2024):** Bowdish Reservoir Boat Ramp Non-Camper Parking Reservation Policy: All non-campers launching a vessel from the Bowdish Reservoir boat ramp, in the George Washington State Campground, Glocester, between the second Friday in April through October 31, must make a parking reservation whether parking or not, by filling out a permit application at: <https://dem.ri.gov/bowdish-reservoir-boat-ramp-parking>; or refer to page 14 for permit application QR code. Three parking spaces and one handicapped parking space will be designated for non-campground users. Campground users may not reserve or use these spaces. For more information, please contact Gabriel Betty at gabriel.betty@dem.ri.gov.
11. The use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from the state-owned ramp on Wakefield Pond, Burrillville, is prohibited at all times. The use of any motor on a boat from this state-owned ramp, except electric trolling motors, is prohibited from June 20th to September 20th of any year, inclusive.
 12. No person shall use any motor in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched or hauled from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Pascoag Reservoir at the state-owned launching ramp on Schoolhouse Road, Glocester, with the exception that permitted organized fishing activities, i.e. tournaments, shall be allowed to use motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on the waters of Pascoag Reservoir at the state-owned launching ramp on Schoolhouse Road, Glocester, between the Saturday before Memorial Day and Labor Day of each year, inclusive.

Management Area BOATING REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

13. The operation of boats with motors of any kind, except electric trolling motors, is prohibited on the waters of Olney Pond in Lincoln Woods State Park on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays between the Saturday before Memorial Day and Labor Day of each year, inclusive.
14. The operation of boats with motors of any kind, except electric trolling motors, owned by persons other than the State of Rhode Island with motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower is prohibited upon Olney Pond in Lincoln Woods State Park except with official written permission from the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife.
15. Only vehicles launching or landing a boat will be permitted to park in designated boat trailer areas, unless otherwise designated.
16. The mooring of boats, the parking of vehicles, or engaging in any other activity on land or water so as to obstruct the use of a boat launching ramp by others, is prohibited.
17. Boats shall be launched only at designated areas.
18. Boats shall be tied up at state boat ramps for no longer than 30 minutes.
19. Fishermen utilizing State Management Areas and designated undeveloped State Parks are required to wear fluorescent orange during hunting seasons as referenced in the Park and Management Area Rules and Regulations. See page 4 for more information.
20. Prohibited is the transport of any plant or plant part into or out of any Rhode Island waterbody on boats, vessels, other water conveyances, vehicles, trailers, fishing supplies, or any other equipment, with the exception of authorized research activities, species identification and other management activities.

Request Parking Permit for Bowdish Reservoir



A permit is required for non-camping boaters who wish to park and launch a vessel at the boat ramp located at the George Washington State Campground from the second Friday in April through October 31.



dem.ri.gov/bowdishparking

RHODE ISLAND

HUNT BOAT FISH

Outdoors

Is your boat registered in Rhode Island?

We are moving to the RIO system. Please take a few minutes to create an account to save time when your renewal becomes due.

dem.ri.gov/boatreg

Your one-stop shop for RI fishing, hunting & boating licenses & permits

Start your adventure today!

rio.ri.gov

Is That a Harmful Algal Bloom On My Favorite Pond?

RIDEM and RI Department of Health (DOH) are working together to keep your fishing experience safe. During the summer, fall and into the winter months, when the water levels are low and temperatures are high, RI DOH scientists sample bodies of water for blue-green algae (also known as Cyanobacteria) toxins. If toxin levels are too high, warnings are issued and signs are posted to refrain from recreational activities on that particular body of water. Here is a little more information about Cyanobacteria:

What is Cyanobacteria?

Cyanobacteria is a blue-green algae that occurs naturally in freshwater systems. High temperatures and excess sunlight can lead to algal 'blooms' which have the potential to produce toxins that are harmful to both human and animals. The toxins are released when the algae begin to die off or are ingested.

How do you identify a blue-green algal bloom?

Blooms generally occur in late summer or early fall when the water level is low and water temperature is high. There are no visual signs that a blue-green algae bloom is producing the harmful toxins; however, identifying an algae bloom may help you avoid the chance of exposure. Blue-green algae blooms are normally bright green or blue green in color, but can also be brown, red or purple. Water may appear cloudy and may produce an odor. The color of the algal bloom is a clue; however, confirmation of blue-green algae can only be identified using a microscope. Water samples should be tested for toxin presence.

What are the health risks?

Humans who come in contact with the blue-green algae toxins can develop rashes, blisters, hives, and nose and eye irritation. If swallowed, humans may experience diarrhea, vomiting, or neurotoxicity (numb lips, tingling fingers and toes, dizziness). Pets or livestock that ingest the Cyanobacteria toxins can experience

sickness, paralysis and even death. Neurotoxicity in animals is characterized by salivation, weakness, staggering, difficulty breathing, and convulsions.

What can you do to avoid Cyanobacteria toxins?

Adhere to all posted signs. Do not drink, swim, or fish in affected water bodies. Avoid contact with water that is discolored or has scum on the surface. Do not drink untreated water, whether algae blooms are present or not.

What does the state do to reduce human/pet exposure to the Cyanobacteria toxins?

Not all species of blue-green algae produce toxins and the blue-green algae that can produce the toxins may not. Toxins can be detected through laboratory tests. Water testing is conducted throughout the summer and results are reported to RI Department of Health and RIDEM. **IF TOXINS ARE FOUND, A PRESS RELEASE AND ADVISORY IS ISSUED AND SIGNAGE IS POSTED AT THE POND. RIDEM WILL NOT STOCK AFFECTED PONDS WITH TROUT.**

Where can I get more information?

For more information, visit <https://dem.ri.gov/environmental-protection-bureau/water-resources/research-monitoring/aquatic-invasive-species>.

Largemouth Bass Virus

The Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV) has been found to occur at three locations in Rhode Island: Olney Pond in Lincoln Woods State Park, Echo Lake in Pascoag, and Watchaug in Charlestown Pond. While LMBV has only proven fatal to largemouth bass, the virus has been found in some sunfish species such as bluegill and pumpkinseed. Common symptoms of the virus include hyper-buoyancy, spiral swimming, and lethargy, which are attributed to damage to the swim bladder. Infected fish may not exhibit any signs of the virus until it is activated by stressful environmental conditions such as high water temperatures, low oxygen levels, droughts, secondary injuries, or bacterial infections. These are conditions that could trigger LMBV and potentially cause fish kills. While fish health biologists have indicated that LMBV is a naturally occurring fish virus that does not pose a human health risk for people who eat or handle infected fish, all freshwater fish should be thoroughly cooked before being consumed. DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife advises anglers to minimize the spread of LMBV by not transplanting any fish from one water body to another; draining, cleaning and drying boats, motors and fishing gear between each use; not releasing bait fish into any water body; minimizing the stress to bass caught and released as much as possible during periods of high water temperatures; and reporting all fish kills to the Department at (401) 222-3070.



Photo credit: Syllus P.

/// The History and Current State of Rhode Island's Northern Pike Program

By **Corey Pelletier**, DFW Fisheries Biologist and **Mark Gibson**, Retired DFW Fisheries Biologist

When you hear someone say pike fishing, do you think big toothy fish, bitten off lures, or ice fishing?

Northern Pike are an incredible sportfish across much of the Northeast, upper Mid-West and beyond in the United States and throughout much of Europe. They are a popular target through the ice due to their feeding activity throughout the winter months, especially as they stage for spawning towards the end of February through March. They are sometimes a nuisance by-catch to bass anglers and sometimes a welcomed catch for those throwing a lightweight setup targeting panfish. Some anglers set out with the goal of catching pike on a fly rod, using large and colorful tied

flies mimicking a large baitfish. Any way you look at it, they are a top predator in freshwater that can make for some of the most exciting catches for anglers alike. In some portions of their native range, mostly upper latitudes, within the United States, they are known to be a nuisance and their top-of-the-food-chain status is viewed as detrimental to other native species. In other states, typically lower latitudes (i.e. southern New England and south), natural resource agencies must stock pike to maintain catchable populations.

Seasonal research technician, **Grace**, holding the first Northern Pike captured during DFW's pike survey in 2025



Seasonal research technician, **Lauren**, holding a 37" female Northern Pike captured in a fyke net from Worden Pond in 2025

In Rhode Island, no evidence of natural reproduction has been found to date. The exact reasons are unknown but are likely because of low pH levels, poor spawning habitat, predation of eggs and fry, or a combination of factors. The Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) began a stocking program in the early 1960's to not only provide recreational opportunity to anglers of the Ocean State, but also to help balance fish communities in select waterbodies. Pike are a longer-lived species in terms of lifespans of freshwater fish, in Rhode Island commonly ranging between 5 and 10 years and in rare cases up to 14 years. As the largest predatory species in the region, pike often reach lengths of 30 to 38 inches and weights of 10 to 15 pounds, with much less common catches of fish up to 25 pounds. When stocked as juveniles, pike will reach a catchable size in 2 to 3 years, and some will reach trophy sized in 8 to 10 years. The Rhode Island state record currently stands at 47.5 inches in length and a whopping 35 pounds, caught in 1987. Pike feed on a variety of prey with most prominent forage consisting of golden shiner, white perch, and alewife. Since stocking began, only five waterbodies within the state have been maintained including Waterman Reservoir in Gloucester, Stump Pond in Smithfield, Johnson's Pond in Coventry, Worden Pond in South Kingstown, and Chapman Pond in Westerly. Despite stocking in these locations, pike have been found in other waterbodies in the state in low numbers, likely due to emigration from stocked waterbodies or from bordering states, as is the case in the Blackstone River.

The Northern Pike program in Rhode Island has had its share of ups and downs, relating to funding, staff shortages, and available sources of pike fry. From its inception in 1962 until 1992, based on survey and stocking data from Worden Pond, the program was at its peak. Pike were stocked and raised in a controlled marsh in Northern RI, which required a lot of staff time and resources, but proved successful. In 1993, the program ceased for a few years with no stocking until 1996 when DFW began purchasing pike fingerlings from out of state. Stocking was strong through 2006 when procurement of pike ended because of issues with the vendor. No pike were stocked between 2006 and 2013 and no surveys occurred between 1992 through 2013. Stocking began again in 2014 when surplus eggs were donated from the state of Pennsylvania. These eggs were hatched and reared in a Rhode Island hatchery.

Article continued on page 20.

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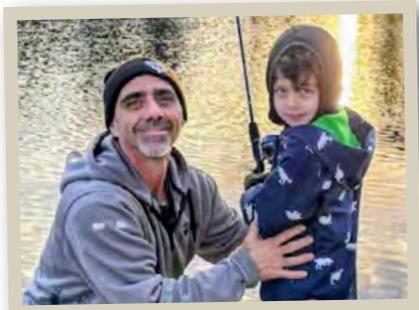
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@TheRangeRI

Why Do You Fish?

Thank you to those of you who shared your 2025 'Why Do You Fish?' stories. This year we had an overwhelming response; here are some of our favorites. We hope you will continue to enjoy fishing in RI and making more memories in 2026.



"Ever since my 7-year-old grandson Kamren was 4 years old I've been taking him fishing. I feel it is my duty to show him everything that my dad taught me. And the quality time is just priceless. Turns out that he is the BEST fisherman I know and only getting better! In just three years he has caught well over 100 fish, and the variety is unbelievable. We usually fish around the Burrillville area; Round top, Wilson's, and George Washington...just to name a few. Kam has caught Bass, Trout, Pike, Bluegills, and everything in-between. He is a big-time animal lover, so catch and release is mandatory. Most of the time I don't even fish myself, I just sit back and watch him do his thing. It's truly a sight to see! HE is the reason I fish, and I am the reason he fishes. There is no better feeling than to know one day he'll show his kids everything his Papa taught him. I am so incredibly proud of my grandson; I am blessed beyond measure."

- Alan C.



"I love to fish with my dad. It's a chance for us to catch up, meet new people, and enjoy nature. In a word: connection."

- Elizabeth G.



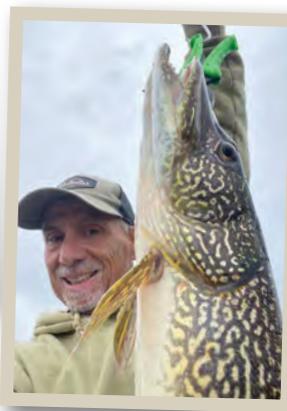
Everett is an avid fisherman. His skill, respect, and care for the sport at such a young age is beautiful to watch. He picks up the Rhode Island Saltwater and Freshwater Regulation Guides every year to keep up-to-date with current fishing regulations and to learn fishing tips. He loves to look at the photos of those in the 'Why Do You Fish?' section as well as other photos with anglers (of all ages) and their catches.

- Everett



Grayson is a big fan of the rules and regulations book every year as you can see he's holding the ID guide in one of the pictures of his catches. I honestly think the highlight of his season is that first trip to the bait shop for his book and to see everyone's catches from the year.

- Grayson P.



"I have fished over 200 days this year compiling over 1800 lbs. of bass in the state of R.I. I live for it and it truly brings me joy."

- Robert B.

"I started fishing when I learned to walk, I grew up lucky enough to live waterfront in northern R.I. After having a child and getting married, I kind of lost the passion till recently. I was going through a serious battle with depression 3 years ago and my friend/coworker told me to find a hobby that gets me outside, I instantly said to myself I'm getting a boat. I currently take care of my disabled son full time and dedicate time on the lake every day, I believe this is something that may have saved my life. I'm trying to get better at different techniques and lures so I can fish competitively, and over the last 3 years I have logged 100s of hrs, I'm pretty good now and live for it. Thanks for reading!"

- Jonathan D.



"Found my love for fishing at a very young age when my grandfather used to take me. Started out fishing for bluegill at Ashville Pond to trout fishing at Line & Twine bridge before school every chance we had. As we both got older and he couldn't make it out as much, I ventured out on my own and the love for the game got stronger. Now I spend most of my time with bass fishing out of kayaks, surf casting for striped bass, and ice fishing for the gorgeous trout our state stocks."

- Jesse K.



"I love to fish because my oldest brother taught me how to fish when I was 9 years old and I have never stopped fishing since then. The thrill of reeling in fish has always been with me since that very first day."

- John M.

Fishing Activities Requiring a Permit

1.18 Permits are required for organized fishing tournaments for state private and boating access areas and for the following private access areas: Johnson's Pond (Flat River Reservoir) in Coventry, and Waterman Reservoir, Glocester. Permits are required for six (6) or more persons and/or three (3) or more boats. Applications for the issuance of a permit must be submitted to the Division a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the tournament. An organization may cancel a permitted fishing activity without penalty as long as written notice of cancellation is received at least three (3) weeks prior to the event. Failure to provide timely written notice shall result in a one (1) year revocation of an organization's eligibility to receive a permit for any organized fishing activity. Exceptions for unforeseen occurrences (e.g. weather, natural disaster) will apply at the discretion of the Division. The decision of revocation shall rest entirely with the Division. Permit applications may be obtained by contacting RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892, Tel: (401) 789-7481. Applicants must complete all required information. The Division reserves the right to limit the number of activities per location, per day, time period, or deny a permit for reasons of overuse or conflict with other activities.

a. The applicant must indicate on the application whether the fishing activity is a 'closed' or an 'open' activity. *A closed fishing activity is an event having a fixed or restricted number of participants. An open fishing activity is an event having an unrestricted number of participants.*

- 1.** If the tournament is closed, the number of boats, vehicles, and participants must be entered on the application. The permit must be retained on site by the sponsor along with the list of participants and boat registration numbers.
- 2.** If the tournament is open, the names of all participants and registration numbers of each boat on the day of the tournament must be made available to RIDEM Division of Law Enforcement. An estimated count of all participants, vehicles and boats shall be forwarded to the Division at least five (5) days prior to the start of the tournament.

3. Regardless if a fishing tournament is 'closed' or 'open', the organization must provide a report to the Division within five (5) days of the termination of the tournament which includes: the number of hours fished, the number of boats, numbers of participants, and, as applicable, the total number of largemouth bass and smallmouth bass caught as well as the total weight of all largemouth bass and all smallmouth bass processed at weigh-in. This report may be sent as a letter to RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife or by completing the Bass Tournament Count Form. Failure to complete and submit the required information within five (5) days shall render the organization ineligible to conduct further organized fishing events for one year from the said event. Such revocation shall include any events for which a permit was previously issued.

- b.** Applicants requesting a permit for a municipal or private ramp shall be responsible to obtain additional permits for these areas, if necessary.
- c.** These regulations shall not be interpreted as superseding any special boat ramp or state management area regulations.
- d.** Permits along with lists of participants and boat registrations, if applicable, shall be available during the tournament for law enforcement purposes and must be clearly displayed in the windshield of the contact's vehicle.

For more information, contact Gabriel Betty at gabriel.betty@dem.ri.gov or 401-789-0281

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Article: NORTHERN PIKE PROGRAM

Article continued from page 16.

Surveys began again at this time in Worden Pond, indicating that the population was small with only large individuals, remnant from stocking efforts that ended in 2006. Between 2014 through 2020, surveys yielded between 3 and 7 individuals captured in fyke nets each year, most ranging between 5 and 10 years old.

In 2019, DFW began receiving pike fry by generous donation from New Jersey Fish and Wildlife. Fry are typically raised in the hatchery from March through June before being stocked out. Again, between 2020 and 2024, surveys had ceased although stocking had continued. In 2025, DFW began surveying Worden Pond

again, which occurs soon after ice out between the months of February and March. Fyke nets, a type of trap net, are used to capture pike and are checked each day to count and measure individuals. Results from 2025 surveys indicate that stocking efforts from the past 10 years have been successful at increasing the population size. A total of 13 pike were captured in a two-week period, nearly double the total in half of the survey time from surveys 5 to 10 years prior. Lengths of fish captured in 2025 ranged from approximately 20 to 37 inches. These fish were retained, brought to the hatchery, spawned, and returned to Worden Pond. A combination

of fry that were hatched from Worden Pond broodstock and fry donated from New Jersey Fish and Wildlife, were stocked in 2025 (total numbers stocked in 2025 are presented in Table 1). In recent years, stocking efforts have been focused at 3 of the 5 historically stocked ponds (locations listed in Table 1). This is due to the total number of pike available for stocking and to prioritize maintaining populations in waterbodies with the best public access.

Table 1. 2025 Northern Pike Stocking

Location	Number of Pike Stocked	Size Range (inches)
Worden Pond	2,167	2 to 4
	783	7 to 8
Stump Pond	658	2 to 4
	1,083	7 to 8
Chapman Pond	380	2 to 4

Northern pike fishing in Rhode Island has seen its ups and downs but each year, a number of anglers are lucky enough to catch a trophy pike. This is evident based on photos submitted to DFW with grip and grin photo shots and anglers holding pike in excess of 3 feet. This unique fishery to Rhode Island provides a fun and exciting chance to harvest the Northeast's largest freshwater gamefish. Us fisheries managers in Rhode Island's Division of Fish and Wildlife hope to maintain this program and continue providing this opportunity. For now, let's hope for safe ice for getting out and targeting these toothy fish during the slow winter months, and for continued success at maintaining healthy, catchable populations in the Ocean State. Please share your photos with us and maybe you will be featured in next year's fishing abstract!

Stay Connected with the Division of Fish and Wildlife

- Sign up for our 'Wild Rhode Island' Newsletter to keep up-to-date with RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife. The full-color quarterly newsletter is available online only. For more information or to be added to our email list, please contact Sarah Riley at 401-789-0281 or sarah.riley@dem.ri.gov.
- Kids can sign up for the 'Wild Rhode Island Explorer', a quarterly magazine just for kids, available on-line or in full-color print. This publication features interviews with biologists, information about native species, and so much more! For more information or to sign up, email mary.gannon@dem.ri.gov.
- Monthly Fish and Wildlife Outreach email: Receive free, up-to-date information about fishing, hunting, and wildlife outreach events as well as Division volunteer opportunities. To sign up, please contact kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or mary.gannon@dem.ri.gov.
- Follow us on Facebook: Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife Outdoor Education @ RIfishwildlife or www.facebook.com/RIfishwildlife. Get event updates, up-to-date stocking information, learn about RI species, and more.
- Follow us on Instagram @ri.fishandwildlife.

Tips for Releasing Live Fish

If fish are to be taken as part of the daily creel limit, they should be killed immediately and kept cool until they can be prepared for the table. If an angler wishes to release a live fish, either because it is undersized or because they are practicing catch and release fishing, the following procedures are recommended:

1. Land the fish as quickly as possible to minimize stress to the fish. Playing a fish to the point of exhaustion will lessen its chance for survival.
2. Wet your hands before handling the fish; dry hands will remove the fish's protective slime layer and leave the fish open to bacterial and fungal infections.
3. Handle the fish carefully. Do not use excessive force when grasping the fish. Do not put fingers into the gill cavities or eye sockets. A wet glove can be a useful aid in grasping the fish because it reduces the amount of pressure needed to hold the fish securely.
4. Gently remove the hook to minimize damage. A pair of long-nose pliers will make the job easier.
5. If you are intentionally practicing catch and release fishing, use artificial lures with single, barbless hooks, or circle hooks to minimize damage to the fish.
6. Do not attempt to remove a hook that is deeply embedded in the gullet. Instead, cut the line off as close to the hook as possible and release. The fish will have a better chance of survival if the hook is left in place; the hook will eventually disintegrate.
7. Return the fish to the water as quickly as possible. Lower it back into the water in an upright position and move it back and forth in the water to force water across its gills. Once the fish revives, allow it to swim away.

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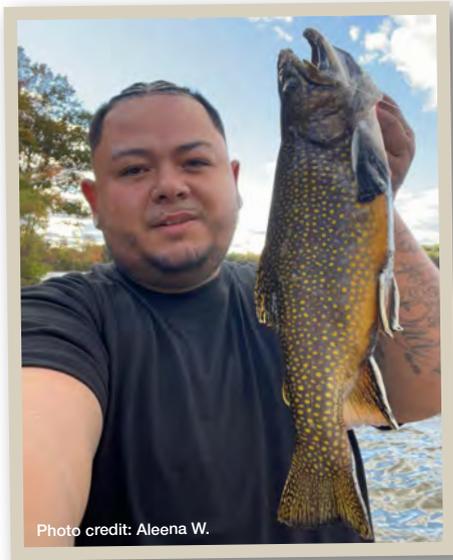
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Rhode Island Game Fish Award Program

Each year, RIDEM-Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes anglers who have caught freshwater and saltwater game fish of notable size with our Game Fish Award program. To be eligible, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means in Rhode Island waters. Fish must be caught in Rhode Island waters open to the public without charge, fee, special permission or membership (private pond restricted to use by club members or their guests are not considered open to the public, even if no fee is charged). To accommodate both 'catch and release' and harvest fishing, the angler can either take a photo of the fish using a hand-scale and ruler or bring the catch to an official weigh station. The angler must then complete the Game Fish / State Record Award Application, available

at www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/records/index.php. One award per person per year is issued for each species of game fish caught that meet the minimum size requirements listed. Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish was caught.

RI State Record Award

The Division of Fish and Wildlife maintains state records on each species of game fish caught in Rhode Island waters. To be eligible, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means in Rhode Island waters. Fish also must be caught in Rhode Island waters open to the public without charge, fee, special permission or membership (private pond restricted to use by club members or their guests are not considered open to the public, even if no fee is charged).

Gamefish Award Qualifying Lengths/Weights (Except First Fish Awards)

Qualifying Freshwater Lengths and Weights		
Species	Length (in)	Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	12 in.	0.9 lbs.
Bluegill	9 in.	0.5 lbs.
Brown Bullhead	13 in.	0.99 lbs.
Carp	32 in.	29 lbs.
Chain Pickerel	25 in.	4 lbs.
Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	16 in.	2 lbs.
Largemouth Bass	22 in.	6 lbs.
Northern Pike	34 in.	10 lbs.
Pumpkinseed	8 in.	0.3 lbs.
Smallmouth Bass	19 in.	4 lbs.
Trout: Brook Trout	16 in.	2 lbs.
Trout: Brown Trout	19 in.	3 lbs.
Trout: Golden Rainbow Trout	20 in.	3 lbs.
Trout: Rainbow Trout	20 in.	3 lbs.
White Catfish	20 in.	4 lbs.
White Perch	15 in.	1.6 lbs.
Yellow Perch	12 in.	0.85 lbs.

Qualifying Saltwater Lengths and Weights		
Species	Length (in)	Weight (lbs)
Black Sea Bass	20 in.	4 lbs.
Blue Shark	72 in.	80 lbs.
Bluefin Tuna	90 in.	450 lbs.
Bluefish	32 in.	14 lbs.
Bonito	25 in.	8 lbs.
Chub Mackerel	14 in.	1 lb.
Cobia	48 in.	50 lbs.
Cod	38 in.	20 lbs.
False Albacore	24 in.	5 lbs.
Gray Triggerfish	17 in.	3 lbs.
Haddock	30 in.	10 lbs.
Hickory Shad	18 in.	2 lbs.
King Mackerel	19 in.	3 lbs.
Mackerel	15 in.	1 lb.
Mahi Mahi (common dolphinfish)	30 in.	8lbs.
Mako Shark	90 in.	300 lbs.
Pollock	36 in.	15 lbs.
Scup	13 in.	2.5 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	24 in.	4.5 lbs.
Squeteague (Weakfish)	24 in.	4.5 lbs.
Striped Bass	Currently ineligible for Gamefish Award*	
Summer Flounder	25 in.	6 lbs.
Swordfish	70 in.	170 lbs.
Tautog	23 in.	10 lbs.
Wahoo	50 in.	4 lbs.
White Marlin	72 in.	70 lbs.
Winter Flounder	16 in.	3 lbs.
Yellowfin Tuna	56 in.	125 lbs.

* Please note: Striped bass is ineligible for the Gamefish Award Program since the qualifying length threshold is not within the slot limit regulations of 28"-31". If regulations permit, the species will be returned to the award list.



To apply for an RI State Record, the angler must bring their legally-caught fish to an official weigh-in station. The fish must be identified, measured, and weighed on a Rhode Island certified, digital scale. The station operator must fill out a Game Fish/State Record Award Application and sign it. State Record Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish was caught. For a list of official fish weigh-in locations and applications please visit www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/records/index.php.

First Fish Award Program

First Fish Awards are available for children who catch their first fish in Rhode Island. To qualify, an angler must have caught a fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means. Applications can be processed without the need for an official weigh-in. The First Fish Award application can be found below or it can be downloaded: <https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/programs/bnatres/fishwild/>

[pdf/kidsapp.pdf](#). First Fish Awards are processed twice a year: once in the fall and prior to the opening day of the following year.

Completed Applications

Please send all completed applications to: RIDEM- Fish & Wildlife, 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place, Exeter, RI 02822, for verification and processing. For questions about any of these award programs, email kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or call (401) 539-0019.



First Fish Award



APPLICATION

DID YOU CATCH YOUR FIRST FISH? PLEASE CUT OUT, COMPLETE, AND SEND THIS FORM TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE AND GIFT FROM THE RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE!

You can also visit <https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/kidsapp.pdf> to print out a copy.

NAME: _____ DATE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TOWN _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL (optional): _____ FISH SPECIES: _____

WHERE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH: _____

WEIGHT OF FISH: _____ LENGTH OF FISH (tip of snout to tip of tail): _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (parent, grandparent, or other responsible adult): _____

RETURN TO: RI Division of Fish and Wildlife / Aquatic Resource Education Program
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place / Exeter, RI 02882

Anglers: You Can Help Us Combat Turtle Poaching!

Your passion for the outdoors brings you to some of the most important places for our native wildlife. You are advocates for the conservation of wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend. The native turtle species of the Northeast are facing a new threat — poaching. Removing even individual turtles can have permanent consequences for populations already under tremendous pressure. It is against Rhode Island law to possess or remove from the wild, any native amphibian or reptile. Here's how you can help:

What to look for:

- Individuals with bags poking around in fields, wetlands, or along streams, or flipping over logs and rocks.
- Unmarked traps set in wetlands. A trap set for research purposes will be clearly labeled.
- Cars parked near forested areas with collection equipment — like nets, containers, and pillowcases — visible inside.
- Unattended backpacks or bags left in the woods, along a trail, or near roads.

What to do if you see something suspicious:

- Maintain a safe distance and protect yourself.
- Note your exact location, and call the 24-hr RIDEM Law Enforcement hotline (401-222-3070) when it's safe to do so.
- If you are safe, try to take photographs that can corroborate your report. For example, the license plate of a car, or the serial number on a turtle trap.

What not to do:

- Do not confront suspicious persons, or try to stop a crime yourself. Leave that to law-enforcement professionals.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has an anonymous tip line — 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477).



Sportfishing RECORDS

RI Sportfishing Records 2025 - Freshwater

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
Atlantic Salmon Domestic, stocked (landlocked)	21 lbs. 9 oz.	41 in.	01/2004	Barber Pond	R. Maldonis - Arlington, MA
Black Crappie	3 lbs.	15 in.	07/1976	Watchaug Pond	R. Sevegny - Pawtucket, RI
Bluegill	2 lbs. 1 oz.	12 in.	08/1987		C. Rizzo - Pascoag, RI
Brown Bullhead	4 lbs. 9.44 oz.	18.5 in.	08/1998		H. Laramie - Cumberland, RI
Carp	32 lbs. 8 oz.	37 in.	06/2001	Tiogue Lake	S. Wasilewski - Hope Valley, RI
Chain Pickerel	6 lbs. 14 oz.	27.75 in.	08/2005	Beach Pond	T. Egan - Hope Valley, RI
Largemouth Bass	11 lbs. 3.2 oz.	25 in.	04/2016	Johnson's Pond	B. Migliore - Sterling, CT
Northern Pike	35 lbs.	47.5 in.	10/1987	Hundred Acre	D. LaRose - Coventry, RI
Pumpkinseed	13.6 oz.	10.5 in.	08/2020	Block Island	J. Agosta - Rye, NY
Smallmouth Bass	5 lbs. 15 oz.	22.5 in.	09/1977	Wash Pond	B. Ferris - Wakefield, RI
Trout: Brook Trout	3 lbs. 12 oz.	21 in.	10/1984	Wyoming Pond	R. Boucher, Jr. - Warwick, RI
Trout: Brown Trout	7 lbs. 9 oz.	26 in.	04/2000	Wallum Lake	R. Groleau - Blackstone, MA
Trout: Golden Rainbow Trout	12 lbs. 9.12 oz.	29.75 in.	04/2019	Olney Pond	J. Lopez, Jr. - Central Falls, RI
Trout: Rainbow Trout	15 lbs. 12 oz.	29 in.	01/2024	Peck Pond	Z. Taylor - Pascoag, RI
White Catfish	16 lbs. 12 oz.	33 in.	08/1994	Tiogue Lake	L. Angell - Coventry, RI
White Perch	2 lbs. 7.28 oz.	16.25 in.	11/2018	Narrow River	P. Warner - Narragansett, RI
Yellow Perch	2 lbs. 4 oz.	13.5 in.	02/1987	Pascoag Reservoir	D. LaRochelle - Glendale, RI

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summer, and fall

8:30 AM to 6:00 PM

7 days a week, holidays included

(The range is not open unless a Range Safety
Officer is present.)

Target shooters, archers, and hunters are welcome to visit the Great Swamp Shooting Range, Rhode Island's only free and public shooting range situated within the Great Swamp Management Area in West Kingston.

It is mandatory to obtain a free permit prior to utilizing the Great Swamp Shooting Range

For more information and permit applications:

Visit www.dem.ri.gov/greatswamprange

Contact the Range Supervisor at

Branton.Elleman.CTR@dem.ri.gov or (401) 575-6331.



RI Sportfishing Records 2025 - Saltwater

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
American Shad (Closed)	6 lbs. 8 oz.	25 in.	04/1985	Runnins River	W. Socha - Warren, RI
Atlantic Mackerel	1 lb. 6.4 oz.	16 in.	2024	Block Island	A. Johnson - Warwick, RI
Blue Shark	431 lbs.	—	11/2006	Cox Ledge	G. Gross - Fairfield, NJ
Bluefin Tuna	1142 lbs. 12 oz.	—	09/1971	Block Island	J. Dempsey
Bluefish	26 lbs.	—	08/1981	—	D. Deziel - Woonsocket, RI
Bonito	13 lbs.	—	10/1995	Westerly	R. Gliottone - Exeter, RI
Chub Mackerel	2.4 lbs.	17.5 in.	11/2024	Point Judith	L. DiLella - Boonton, NJ
Cod	71 lbs.	—	06/1965	—	M. Deciantis - Warwick, RI
False Albacore	19.56 lbs.	35 in.	08/2023	Block Island	C. Simonds - Manchester, MA
Gray Triggerfish	5 lbs. 2 oz.	22 in.	10/2025	Wickford	J. Cannone - Warwick, RI
Hickory Shad	2 lbs. 11 oz.	20 in.	11/1989	Narrow River	M. Pickering - Lincoln, RI
King Mackerel	12 lbs. 3 oz.	40 in.	08/2000	Point Judith	A. Camilleri - Chester, CT
Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish)	37lbs. 8.96 oz.	59 in.	8/2024	Fish Tails	R. Kennedy - Rensselaer, NY
Mako Shark	718 lbs.	12 ft. 6 in.	06/1993	S. Block Island	W. Alessi - Boston, MA
Pollock	28 lbs. 8 oz.	—	05/1995	—	A. Jacobs - Lincoln, RI
Scup	5 lbs.	20.25 in.	10/1990	—	J. Yurwitz - Block Island, RI
Sea Bass	8 lbs. 7.25 oz.	26 in.	10/1981	Block Island	K. McDuffie - Pascoag, RI
Squeteague	16 lbs. 8.72 oz.	36 in.	05/2007	Greenwich Bay	R. Moeller - N. Kingstown, RI
Striped Bass	77 lbs. 6.4 oz. 52"	52 in.	06/2011	Block Island	P. Vican - E. Greenwich, RI
Summer Flounder	17 lbs. 8 oz.	—	1962	Narrow River	G. Farmer - Warwick, RI
Swordfish	588 lbs.	—	08/2018	Atlantic	L. Banfield - Saunderstown, RI
Tautog	23,945 lbs.	33 in.	11/2025	Newport	V. Vaynshteyn - West Orange, NJ
Tiger Shark	597 lbs.	11 ft. 6 in.	07/1990	S. Block Island	M.P. Strout - Auburn, MA
White Marlin	125 lbs.	8 ft. 0.5 in.	08/1987	S. Block Island	J. Luty, Sr. - Preston, CT
Winter Flounder	6 lbs. 7 oz.	23 in.	08/1990	Galilee	A. Pearson - Cranston, RI
Yellowfin Tuna	265 lbs.	6 ft.	10/1997	The Dip	R. Hughes - Arlington, MA



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