



**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Marine Fisheries**

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INTER-OFFICE MEMO

To: Scott Olszewski,
Acting Chief

From: Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

Date: November 11, 2025

Subject: Final decisions regarding proposed amendments to the RI Marine Fisheries regulations.

I have received and reviewed your memo to me, dated November 10, 2025 (attached), regarding the regulatory matters that were subject of a RI Marine Fisheries Council meeting held on November 5, 2025. The final decision for each regulatory matter is as follows:

1. December 2025 shellfish harvest schedule for the Greenwich Bay Shellfish Management Area:

Decision: Amend the rule as recommended by the Council and supported by the Division, which provides for a revised December 2025 harvest schedule for Greenwich Bay Shellfish Management Area.



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
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Jamestown, Rhode Island
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To: Terrence Gray, P.E., Director

From: Scott Olszewski, Chief *Scott D. Olszewski*

Date: November 10, 2025

Subject: Decisions regarding proposed amendments to the RI Marine Fisheries regulations

Proposed amendments to the RI Marine Fisheries regulations were presented to the RI Marine Fisheries Council at their meeting on November 5, 2025, for a recommendation regarding the December 2025 shellfish harvest schedule in the Greenwich Bay Shellfish Management Area. Please note that proposed regulatory changes in Shellfish Management Areas are not publicly noticed pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-17.1-2(38)(i); in such instances, the public is afforded opportunity for comment at the meetings of the Council and the Shellfish Advisory Panel (SAP).

Below is a summary of the proposed amendments and the Division's recommendation for the final rules to be filed.

1. December 2025 Shellfish Harvest Schedule for the Greenwich Bay Shellfish Management Area:

- Background/proposal: The harvest schedules for Greenwich Bay, Bissel Cove/Fox Island and Bristol Harbor Shellfish Management Areas (aka “winter harvest areas”) are reviewed annually by the Shellfish Advisory Panel (SAP) and Council. In advance of the SAP meeting, the Division solicited proposals for regulatory changes via listserve, in which one industry proposal was received to amend the Greenwich Bay harvest schedule for December 2025. The Council’s Shellfish Advisory Panel (SAP) met on October 15th and recommended openings on December 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, totaling 48 hours of available harvest time, the maximum number of hours allowed in December per rule. This motion passed 9-0-1.
- Public comments: Two comments were provided at the Council meeting in support of the proposed schedule.
- RIMFC: 5 - 0 in support of adopting the SAP recommended schedule.

- Marine Fisheries: Support for the Council recommendation as consistent with the rule that authorizes a maximum of 48 hours of permitted shellfishing in this shellfish management area.