



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

Public Hearing Agenda
March 11, 2019, 6:00PM
URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium

1. 2019 recreational Black sea bass management (Part 3, section 3.7.1): Proposed amendments to seasons and/or possession limits. Amendment being proposed is currently in effect as modified pursuant to the Department's authority under R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-1-12.1. *Modifications to possession limits and seasons for marine species managed under quotas*. This amendment was made on May 9, 2018. Proposed modification is to sync rule with this filed modification.
2. 2019 commercial Black sea bass management (Part 3, section 3.7.2): Proposed amendments to seasons, sub-period allocations, and possession limits. This matter was brought to hearing in November 2018. At that time an alternative proposal was received as a public comment which was of interest of the fishing community and the RI Marine Fisheries Council. However, as the proposal was not included in the notice, and therefore not known to interested persons until after the close of the comment period, it was the recommendation of the Council to bring the matter back to hearing for full transparency and public vetting.
3. 2019 recreational Scup management (Part 3, section 3.8.1): Proposed amendments to seasons and/or possession limits.
4. 2019 commercial Scup management regarding possession limits for trawl vessels with a minimum mesh size (Part 3, section 3.8.2(C)): Proposed amendment to modify the gear based possession limit thresholds consistent with the ASMFC Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Scup.
5. 2019 recreational Striped bass management (Part 3, section 3.9.1): No amendments are proposed.

6. 2019 commercial Striped bass general category management (Part 3, section 3.9.2(A)): Proposed amendments to seasons.
7. 2019 commercial striped bass floating fish trap management (Part 3, section 3.9.2(B)): No amendments are proposed.
8. 2019 recreational Summer flounder management (Part 3, section 3.10.1): Proposed adoption of a special shore provision rule with a 16 inch minimum size and 2 fish possession limit.
9. 2019 commercial Summer flounder management (Part 3, section 3.10.1): Proposed amendments to the days that the fishery is closed. This matter was brought to hearing in November 2018. No amendments were considered at that time due to a lack of information from the ASMFC regarding the 2019 quota, which was a result of the federal government shutdown.
10. 2019 party/charter possession limit for Tautog (Part 3, section 3.11.1(B)(7)(d)): Proposed amendment to correct the possession limit from 6 to 5 fish during the October 15 through December 15 sub-period, which was inadvertently not filed resulting from a public hearing held February 2018.
11. 2019 recreational Bluefish management (Part 3, section 3.18.1): No amendments are proposed.
12. 2019 commercial Bluefish management (Part 3, section 3.18.2): Proposed amendments to possession limits.
13. 2019 commercial Blacknose sharks (Part 3, section 3.19.2): Proposed amendments to the possession limit.
14. 2019 recreational Cod management (Part 3, section 3.20.1): Proposed amendment to minimum size and possession limit.
15. 2019 commercial menhaden management (Part 3, section 3.22.2):
 - a. Division proposal to broaden the commercial vessel restrictions to apply to all commercial vessels other than small-scale fisheries and floating fish traps; currently applies only to purse seines (section 3.22.2(A)(2)).
 - b. Industry proposal to restrict vessel size (new section 3.22.2(A)(2)(e), and proposed new section 3.22.2(A)(2)(f)).

- c. Division proposal to replace instances of “landing” with “possession” (several instances in section 3.22.2(B)).
 - d. Industry proposal to amend the closure trigger under the State Quota Program (section 3.22.2(B)(2)).
 - e. Division proposal to amend the transiting rule as it pertains to the commercial menhaden fishery (proposed new section 3.22.2(B)(4)).
 - f. Division proposal to amend the date of the end of the Episodic Event Set Aside Program for consistency with the ASMFC FMP (section 3.22.2(C)(2)).
16. Proposed amendment to whelk minimum size measurement (Part 4, section 4.9(F)).
17. Proposed adoption of a whelk pot tagging program (Part 4, proposed new section 4.18)).
18. Division proposal to replace original lobster trap tags ordered but not initially received with catastrophic tags in the event tags were not received and are presumed lost (Part 5, section 5.8.1(R)(11)(c)).
19. Clarification of open and closed periods of the Upper Narragansett Bay Trawling Area to trawling (Part 6, section 6.8.2(C)(1)).
20. Clarification of area description of the Upper Narragansett Bay Trawling Area (Part 6, section 6.8.2(C)(1)(a)).
21. Extension of gill net tag valid dates (Part 6, section 6.8.3(I)(6)).