



# Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

3 Fort Wetherill Road Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835  
(401) 423-1920 Fax: (401) 423-1925

**RIMFC:** Molly Moran-Ogren, *Chair*; Travis Barao; David Bethoney, Ph.D.; Andy Dangelo; Katie Eagan; Michael Rice, Ph.D.; Mike Roderick; Greg Vespe

## MEETING NOTICE RI MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL

**Monday, March 4, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

**In person:**

URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium  
215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI

**Zoom webinar:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85303126950?pwd=bEJUzTVqeVh0N2tpRFkrSWR2cEFydz09>

Meeting ID: 853 0312 6950

Passcode: 883552

Dial in: 1-929-205-6099

### AGENDA

| <b>Agenda item with links/attachments (<i>items italicized are linked directly to the meeting material in the ePacket</i>)</b>  | <b>Recommended action(s)</b>  |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>Tonight’s agenda</b>  | Approval of agenda  |
| 2. <b><i>Meeting minutes – December 4, 2023</i></b>   | Approval of meeting minutes   |
| 3. <b>Public comment on any matters not on the agenda</b>   | FYI or recommendation for future action                                   |
| 4. <b><u>Shellfish Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting minutes – 2/14/2023</u></b> :<br>• <i>Draft meeting minutes</i>   | Approval of minutes   |
| 5. <b><u>2024 Shellfish harvest schedule for Providence River Shellfish Management Area/Conditional area “E”</u></b> :<br>• <i>SAP presentation 2/14/2024 meeting</i><br>• <i>Draft SAP meeting minutes</i><br><b>Note: Opportunity for public comment will be provided</b> | Provide recommendations to the Director regarding prospective rule change |
| 6. <b><u>Start/cessation of harvest and possession in the Providence River Shellfish Management Area/Conditional Area “E”</u></b> :<br>• <i>Draft SAP meeting minutes</i><br><b>Note: Opportunity for public comment will be provided</b>                                   | Provide recommendation to the Council regarding prospective rule change   |
| 7. <b>Any other matters</b>   | FYI   |
| 8. <b>Adjourn</b>   |   |

**All RIMFC Meetings are open to the public**

Posted to Sec. of State Open Meetings pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-6



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**RIMFC:** Molly Moran-Ogren, *Chair*; Travis Barao; David Bethoney, Ph.D.; Andy Dangelo; Katie Eagan; Jason Jarvis; Michael Rice, Ph.D.; Mike Roderick; Greg Vespe

## MEETING SUMMARY

December 4, 2023

Chairperson: M. Moran-Ogren

Council members present: All members present.

1. Approval of the agenda: Chair Moran-Ogren inquired to any objections to approving the agenda or if there were any requests for modifications; hearing no objections or requests for modifications, the agenda was approved by consent.
2. Approval of minutes from last meeting on October 2, 2023: Chair Moran-Ogren inquired to any objections to approving the minutes or if there were any requests for modifications; hearing no objections or requests for modifications, the minutes were approved by consent.
3. Public comments regarding any other matters not on agenda: No comments were made.
4. Jan.-April 2024 shellfish harvest schedule for Providence River Shellfish Management Area/Conditional area "E": Motion made by Dr. Rice; 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Bethoney, Mr. Jarvis to recommend adoption of Industry Proposal 1 for the shellfish harvest schedule for the Providence River Shellfish Management Area/Conditional area "E" as proposed (i.e., to negate the current schedule for 2024). The motion passed 4-3 (Ms. Eagan, Mr. Dangelo, Mr. Vespe opposed).
5. Proposed regulations publicly noticed:
  - a. Clarifications to Possession Limit and Vessel Operating Compliance (Part 1 – Definitions and General Provisions): Motion made by Mr. Barao; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Rice to recommend adoption of the language as revised by the Division in response to public comment, which makes clarifications to section 1.5(A)(2) regarding possession limit and vessel operating compliance rules, as follows (added/revised language in bold italicized):

***Section 1.5(A)(2): A person who takes marine product/species utilizing a vessel and also without the assistance of a vessel is only allowed one (1) possession limit per calendar day unless an alternative period of time is specifically provided in the governing regulation. For any given species, no licensed person***

or vessel shall land more than one (1) possession limit per specified time period, i.e., calendar day, week, or bi-week, whether or not utilizing a vessel, *unless authorized elsewhere in this subchapter.*

The motion passed 7 – 0.

- b. Party/charter vessel reporting requirements (Part 1 – Definitions and General Provisions): Motion made by Dr. Rice; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Dangelo, to recommend relocation of language as proposed regarding party/charter vessel reporting requirements, as follows:

Section 1.5(C)(6): *Vessels making more than one (1) trip per calendar day must have the first electronic trip report for the first trip completed prior to the initiation of the second (2nd) fishing trip on the same day.*

The motion passed 7 - 0.

- c. Vessels operating commercially (Part 1 – Definitions and General Provisions): Motion made by Mr. Barao; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Eagan, to recommend consolidation of the regulations by deleting sections 1.8(D)(4)&(6) due to duplicative language being currently contained in section 1.8(D)(3)&(5), as follows:

Section 1.8(D)(4): ~~Any vessel operating commercially, including any vessel fishing commercially using rod and reel, may utilize, without restriction, any number of unlicensed crew members to assist with any commercial operations.~~

Section 1.8(D)(6): ~~Vessels making more than one (1) commercial trip per calendar day are bound by all applicable per vessel, per day possession limits.~~

The motion passed 7 - 0.

- d. Vessels operating in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Part 1 – Definitions and General Provisions): Motion made by Dr. Rice; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Dangelo, to recommend clarifications to the rules regarding transiting for vessels fishing in the EEZ, by relocating language from Part 23 “Aggregate Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass” to Part 1 “Definitions and General Provisions”, as follows:

Relocated language to section 1.6(A)(4): *A vessel fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone, and in possession of a regulated species, must adhere to all applicable Rules and Regulations governing commercial fishing operations, including but not limited to seasons, possession limits, offloading hours, gear stowage requirements, and reporting and record-keeping requirements.*

The motion passed 7 - 0.

- d. Stowage of nets requirements (Part 1 – Definitions and General Provisions): Motion made by Ms. Eagan; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Barao, to recommend adoption of the language as proposed for clarifications to transiting/stowage of nets requirements for consistency with federal rules. The motion passed 7 - 0.
- e. Shellfish/Marine Life Management Area Descriptions (Part 1 – Definitions and General Provisions): Motion made by Dr. Rice; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Dangelo, to recommend adoption of the clarifying language as proposed regarding descriptions of Shellfish and Marine Life Management Areas. The motion passed 7 – 0.
- f. Other minor non-substantive clarifications to Part 1: Approved by consent to adopt proposed minor non-substantive clarifications throughout the rule.
- g. 2024 Commercial Scup management (Part 3 – Finfish): Motion made by Mr. Roderick; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Dangelo, to recommend adoption of *Proposal #1* for 2024 Commercial Scup Management as proposed, to adopt a starting possession limit of 10,000 lbs/vsl/week for 2024. The motion passed 7 - 0.
- h. 2024 Commercial Black Sea Bass management (Part 3 – Finfish): Motion made by Dr. Rice; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Bethoney, to recommend adoption of proposal # 5 for 2024 commercial black sea bass management, as follows:

| Min. size | Season        | Allocation                | Starting Poss. limit (lbs)         |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11"       | 1/1 – 4/30    | <del>20%</del> <u>18%</u> | 500 (vsl/week)                     |
|           | 5/1 – 6/30    | <del>25%</del> <u>30%</u> | <del>50</del> <u>100</u> (vsl/day) |
|           | 7/1 – 8/15    | <del>25%</del> <u>22%</u> | 50 (vsl/day)                       |
|           | 8/16 – 9/15   | 10%                       | 50 (vsl/day)                       |
|           | 9/16 – 10/15  | 10%                       | 100 (vsl/day)                      |
|           | 10/16 – 12/31 | 10%                       | 100 (vsl/day)                      |

The motion passed 6 – 1 (Mr. Barao opposed).

- i. 2024 Commercial Summer Flounder management (Part 3 – Finfish): Motion made by Mr. Roderick; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Barao to recommend adoption as proposed, to reduce the starting possession limit from 300 lbs/vsl/day to 200 lbs/vsl/day for the May 1 – Sept. 15 subperiod. The motion passed 7 - 0.
- j. Summer-Fall Aggregate Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass (Part 23 – Aggregate Program for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass):

- Black Sea Bass: Motion made by Mr. Barao; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Roderick, to recommend maintaining the Summer-Fall Aggregate Program for Black Sea Bass, increase the possessions limit to seven times (7X) the daily limit, and increase the closure trigger from 80 to 85 percent of the quota. The motion passed 6 – 1 (Dr. Rice opposed)
  - Summer Flounder: Motion made by Mr. Roderick; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Barao to recommend the inclusion of Summer Flounder in the Summer-Fall Aggregate Program with a weekly/aggregate possession limit of seven times (7X) the daily limit, a closure trigger of 85 percent of the quota, to not require a Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate as an eligibility requirement for participation in the program, and to exempt permitted participants from the Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate possession limit restrictions as specified in Part 14 of this subchapter. The motion passed 6 – 1 (Dr. Rice opposed).
- k. Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate Program (Part 14): Motion made by Mr. Roderick; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Vespe to recommend maintaining the current maximum possession limit of 200 lbs/vsl/day for persons that do not hold a Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate Program possession limit. The motion passed 6 – 1 (Ms. Eagan opposed).
6. RIMFC membership: Division chief Mr. McManus offered that at least three seats on the Council will be needed to be filled due to the term expirations in April 2024 for Mr. Barao and Dr. Rice, and to replace Mr. Jarvis, who resigned in October. He offered that solicitation for these seats would take place in the immediate future, with interview planned for early 2024 and recommendations provided to Governor McKee immediately thereafter.

There are a few members of the Council that are retiring or have already retired from their roles. Members are typically fulfilling eight years or more of service on the Council, so it is not common that we see such a changing of the guard like this. I want to personally thank Jason Jarvis, Dr. Michael Rice, and Travis Barao for their years of service and continued dedication to advancing the fishing industry in sustainable and productive ways. This role requires significant preparation and collaboration with various fishing industries. I am grateful for each of your contributions and thoughtful feedback in this process. My hope is that we will still benefit from your expertise through the attendance of workshops, public hearings, and Council meetings as a member of the public. Until then, best wishes and have a wonderful retirement from the Council.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at @ 7:48pm.

Note: This document represents a meeting summary of the actions taken and/or future actions that will be addressed at subsequent meetings. The full video recording of the meeting is available at the Division of Marine Fisheries YouTube channel [here](#).

DRAFT

# Shellfish Advisory Panel

February 14, 2024; 4:30PM

URI Bay Campus Large Conference Room/

Virtual public meeting - Zoom webinar

## MEETING SUMMARY

RIMFC members: K. Eagan (Chair)

DEM: P. Duhamel, A. Gerber-Williams, C. McManus, D. Borkman, J. Livermore, E. Schneider, J. Mercer (DLE);

SAP members: B. Bica, D. Erkan, D. Ghigliotty, J. Grant, M. McGiveney, K. Murgo, G. Schey, J. McDonald, M. Sousa, R. Tellier, E. Troiano;

Public: Z. St Ours, J. Boyd, B. Eastman, P. Popovici, T. Coelho, M. Griffin, G. Watson, J. Desmonod, D. McCoomb, G. Rene, B. Briar

- **Aquaculture application 2023-09-052, Saltbox Sea Farm:**

*M. Griffin* summarized their application submitted for a 3.80-acre expansion located in the West Passage, at Rome Point in North Kingstown, to grow oysters, kelp and bay scallops. It is located over 700 feet from the nearest shoreline and in the shallowest locations 14 feet of water. The shellfish survey found 0.7 clams/m<sup>2</sup> within the proposed footprint. Additionally, the applicant has proposed to install and maintain a navigation channel to shore adjacent to the southern section of their current lease. *M. McGiveney* asked about the North Kingstown moratorium for the area and *M. Griffin* replied that prior to submitting their application that he met with the town and CRMC for their approval to move forward with an expansion application. *R. Tellier* asked who would maintain the channel and the applicant responded that they would install and maintain the channel. *M. McGiveney* inquired about any letters of opposition and whether the DEM had any concerns. *A. Gerber-Williams* responded that the DEM did not have any concerns with the application and that *B. Goetch* had provided details stating that there were no letters of objection.

***Motion made by M. McGiveney to recommend to CRMC that the aquaculture activities proposed in the application is consistent with competing uses engaged in the exploitation of marine fisheries; 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Sousa; The motion passed 8 – 0 – 2.***

- **Aquaculture application 2023-10-006, West Passage Oyster Co.:**

*G. Watson* summarized their application submitted for a 1.72-acre expansion located in the West Passage, at Rome Point in North Kingstown, to grow oysters, clams, kelp and bay scallops. He stated the need to expand their operation and that he and *M. Griffen* had coordinated their efforts in planning the expansions of their own farms and the discussion to add the navigation channel to the south. *P. Popovici* asked whether they could remove the quahogs from their permit condition to ensure that they do not compete with the wild harvest industry. *G. Watson* said that he would consider doing so and that he most likely does not intend on growing clams on his lease due to the depth and conditions. *J. Boyd* stated that most boat traffic within that area is around the periphery and rarely along the shore near the beach. *A. Gerber-Williams* shared from correspondence with *B. Goetch* that there were no letters of opposition for the lease application.

***Motion made by J. Grant to recommend to CRMC that the aquaculture activities proposed in the application is consistent with competing uses engaged in the exploitation of marine fisheries; 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. McDonald; The motion passed 9 – 0 – 1.***

- **The Division of Marine Fisheries update on the Providence River 2023 commercial landings data and dredge survey data:**

*C. McManus* presented the Providence River Shellfish Management Area E 2023 commercial harvest summary. Next he presented the DMF dredge survey results from the 2023 sampling within the Providence River. *M. McGiveney* asked about the quahog density above Area E. *D. Erkan* stated that the treatment plant upgrades have allowed for increased larval survival for the quahog populations north of Area E. *T. Lander* read a statement and asked whether we have a threshold density in Rhode Island for sustainable quahog populations. *C. McManus* stated that there is not one that has been determined for Narragansett Bay and that the number that he was referencing was from a New York Coastal Lagoon study. *D. Erkan* also stated that the patchiness that we see in the dredge survey results is driven by substrate type. *M. McGiveney* announced to the group the ongoing work of the Quahog Commission and the information that they have been gathering in hopes of determining the reason for the decreased numbers of quahogs present in Narragansett Bay. *D. Borkman* stated that the northern line for Area E is at Gaspee Point because of proof of adequate dilution from the Narragansett Bay Commission discharge. The FDA has new requirements that would require a dye study to determine adequate dilution and he believes that if this was performed within the Providence River we may determine a different line and most likely would not be able to open any area north of the current Area E to shellfish harvest. The area is best kept for the use of the relay program with the current FDA regulations in place.

- **Providence River Area E 2024 harvest schedule:**

*M. McGiveney* presented the RISA harvest schedule proposal. *J. McDonald* presented his harvest schedule proposal.

- ***Motion made by M. McGiveney to recommend to the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council the following commercial winter harvest schedule for the Providence River during 2025:***
  - Every other week on Mondays starting February 10, 2025 for 2-hours per day, from 8AM-10AM at a 6-bushel limit on the following days:
    - February 10, 24
    - March 10, 24
    - April 7, 21
- **2<sup>nd</sup> by *K. Murgo*; The motion passed 10 – 0 – 0.**
  
- ***Motion made by B. Bica to recommend to the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council the following commercial December harvest schedule (2024) for the Providence River:***
  - December holiday harvest 2024: 8AM-11AM with a 6-bushel limit for the week of December 16-20 Area E will be open the first 2 non-consecutive weekdays. Example: M and W, T and Th. Or W and F. For the week of December 23-27 Area E will be open 1 day on the first available day either December 23, 26 or 27. Closed on December 24 and 25.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> by *M. McGiveney*; The motion passed 9 – 0 – 1.**
  
- ***Motion made by J. Grant to recommend to the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council the following commercial harvest schedule (2024) for the Providence River:***
  - 21 days, open 8AM-11AM, 6-bushel limit on the following days provided water quality allows:
    - May 6, 13, 20, 22, 28
    - June 3, 10, 17, 19, 24, 26, 28
    - July 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31
    - August 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, 30
    - September 3, 9, 16, 23, 30
    - October 7, 14, 21, 28
- **2<sup>nd</sup> by *D. Ghigliotty*; The motion passed 9 – 0 – 1.**

*K. Eagan* presented the status quo recreational harvest schedule for the Providence River and it was determine that the default schedule would remain by consensus.

- **Providence River Area E time restriction proposal from the Division of Law Enforcement:**

*J. Mercer* presented the Division of Law Enforcement’s proposal to add a time restriction for harvesters in the Providence River Area E once the area is closed to harvest. The rule would prevent the possession of quahogs within Area E thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled end of harvest to reduce the number of public complaints about illegal harvesting within Area E once the area is closed. The DLE has found that many people will spend an hour or more within Area E after it has closed to harvest to “cull their catch,” thus instating a time restriction should reduce the number of complaints that require the DLE’s response to the area once it is closed.

***Motion made by J. McDonald to recommend to the Council the following time restriction proposal for the Providence River Area E Management Area:***

**No person shall engage in the taking of shellfish when the area is closed as specified in this Part. All gear used in the taking of shellfish shall be stowed when the area is closed. Possession of Quahogs within the area shall be prohibited on scheduled open days forty-five (45) minutes after the scheduled end of harvest.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by *D. Erkan*; The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.**

- **2024 Shellfish Transplants:**

*A. Gerber-Williams* presented information about shellfish transplant funding to be used during 2024-2025 and asked for feedback from the group about preferred transplant locations. There will be a scheduled meeting to discuss transplant details in the upcoming weeks. There was a request made to include an East Bay or Bristol Harbor transplant during 2024.

- **Any other matters?:**

*D. Ghigliotty* requested that a future SAP agenda item be a discussion about the aquaculture application clam density testing. He stated that it should be performed by an experienced professional harvester and that it be added as a requirement in the aquaculture application.

- **Adjourn**

Adjourned at 7:45 PM.

*Minutes prepared by Anna Gerber-Williams, the Division of Marine Fisheries*

**SHELLFISH ADVISORY PANEL**

**URI BAY CAMPUS/GSO  
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM (COASTAL INST.  
BUILDING)**

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**PUBLIC MEETING  
&  
ZOOM WEBINAR**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2024**





# Virtual Meeting Participation

- ✓ All participants will be muted throughout the meeting.
- ✓ To make a comment or ask a question you must use the Raise Hand feature in the zoom webinar.
- ✓ The meeting facilitator will un-mute one participant at a time to make their comment or ask their question, the participant will then be re-muted.

**Please remain muted unless speaking – Thank you!**

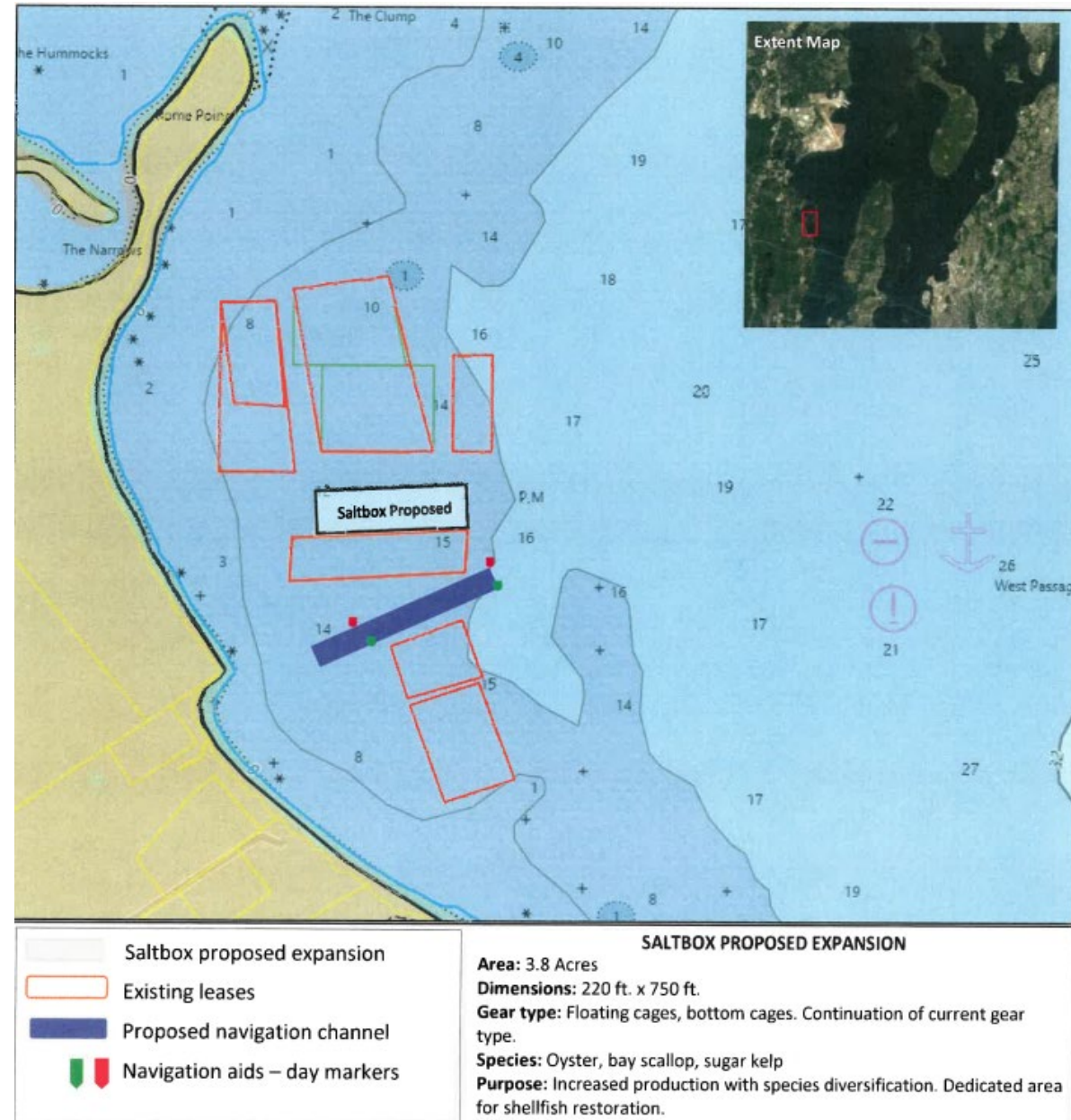


# AGENDA

1. Aquaculture applications: Saltbox Sea Farm and West Passage Oyster Co. (voting items)
2. DMF update on the Providence River 2023 commercial landings data and dredge survey data
3. Providence River Area E 2024 harvest schedule (voting item)
4. Providence River Area E time restriction proposal from the Division of Law Enforcement (voting item)
5. 2024 Shellfish Transplants
6. Any other matters?
7. Adjourn

# Saltbox Sea Farm

- 3.8-acre expansion (total of 7.8-acres) at Rome Point North Kingstown
- For oyster, kelp and bay scallop production
- 708 ft from shore
- Shellfish survey found 0.7 clams/m<sup>2</sup>
- Propose to install and maintain a navigation channel to shore



# Saltbox Sea Farm



**Motion: to recommend to CRMC that the aquaculture activities proposed in the application is consistent with competing uses engaged in the exploitation of marine fisheries.**

*Motion made by: M.M.*

*Motion 2nd by: M.S.*

*Yea: M.M., J.G., K.M., J.M., R.T., B.B., E.T., M.S.*

*Nay:*

*Abstain: D.E., D.G.*

**Vote: 8 – 0 – 2**

# West Passage Oyster Co.



- 1.72-acre (7.74-acre total) expansion at Rome Point North Kingstown
- Shellfish survey
- Oyster, clams, kelp and bay scallops
- Gear types



# West Passage Oyster Co.



**Motion: to recommend to CRMC that the aquaculture activities proposed in the application is consistent with competing uses engaged in the exploitation of marine fisheries.**

***Motion made by: J.G.***

***Motion 2nd by: J.M.***

***Yea: B.B., D.G., J.G., J.M., M.M., K.M., M.S., R.T., E.T.***

***Nay:***

***Abstain: D.E.***

***Vote: 9 – 0 – 1***

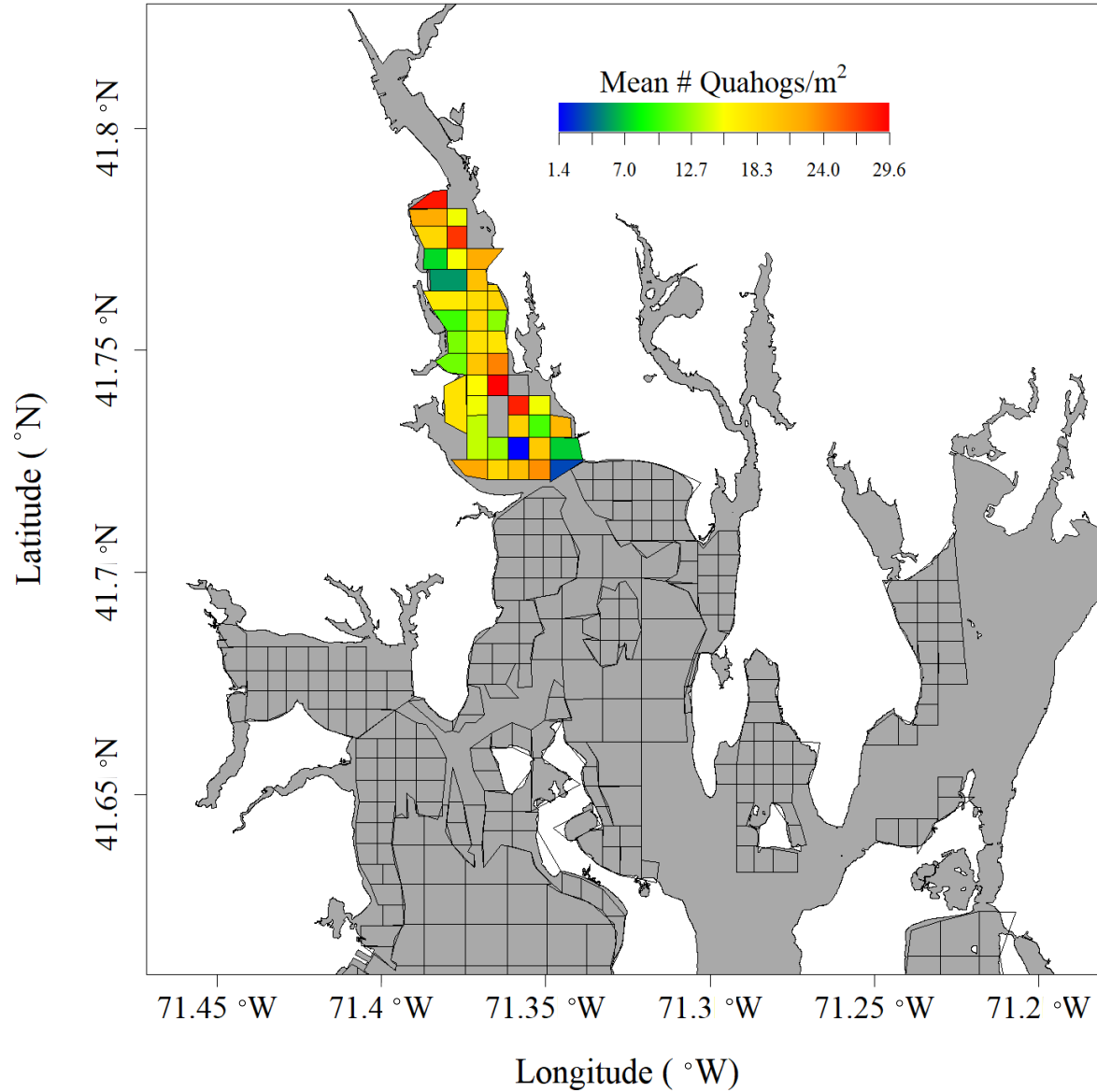
## 2. Providence River 2023 Harvest Summary



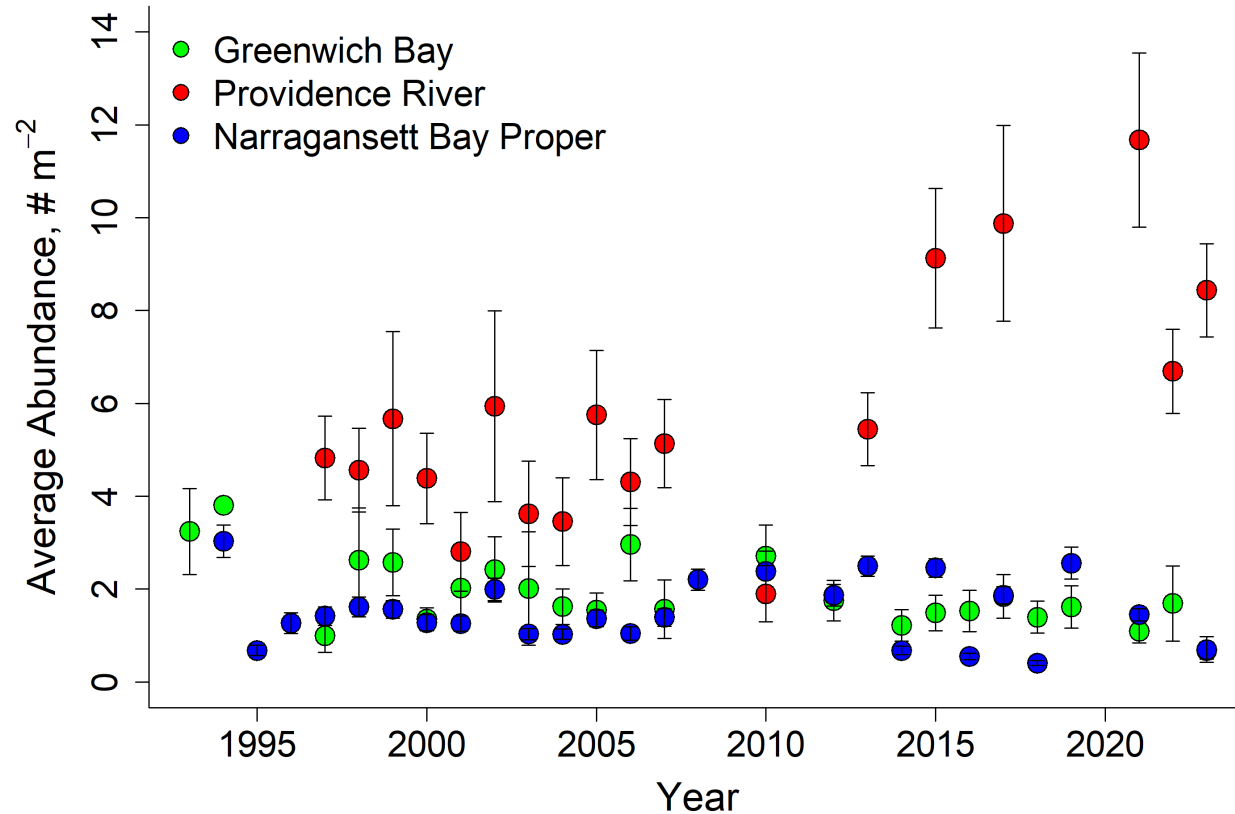
| YEAR  | 2021              | 2022              | 2023              |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Days Open                                   | 15                | 28                | 15                |
| Clams Harvested                             | 4,727,196         | 10,553,571        | 5,645,317         |
| (% Little Necks)                            | (83.54%)          | (85.1%)           | (83.12%)          |
| (% Top Necks)                               | (13.3%)           | (12.6%)           | (14.80%)          |
| (% Cherry)                                  | (0.87%)           | (0.6%)            | (0.57%)           |
| (% Chowders)                                | (2.29%)           | (1.7%)            | (1.51%)           |
| Average landings per Day                    | 312,530           | 373,731           | 363,040           |
| Range of Total Landings per day             | 200,827 - 434,001 | 121,481 – 473,091 | 272,200 - 425,596 |
| Average Number of Harvesters per Day        | 151               | 174               | 178               |
| Range of Number of Harvesters per day       | 111 – 193         | 70-221            | 137-202           |
| Average number of Clams per license per day | 2,057             | 2,147             | 2,032             |

## 2. Dredge Survey

- 2023 Dredge Survey
  - Sampled 231 stations
  - October-December
- Third year with the new research vessel
  - Same dredge and methodology



## 2. Dredge Survey

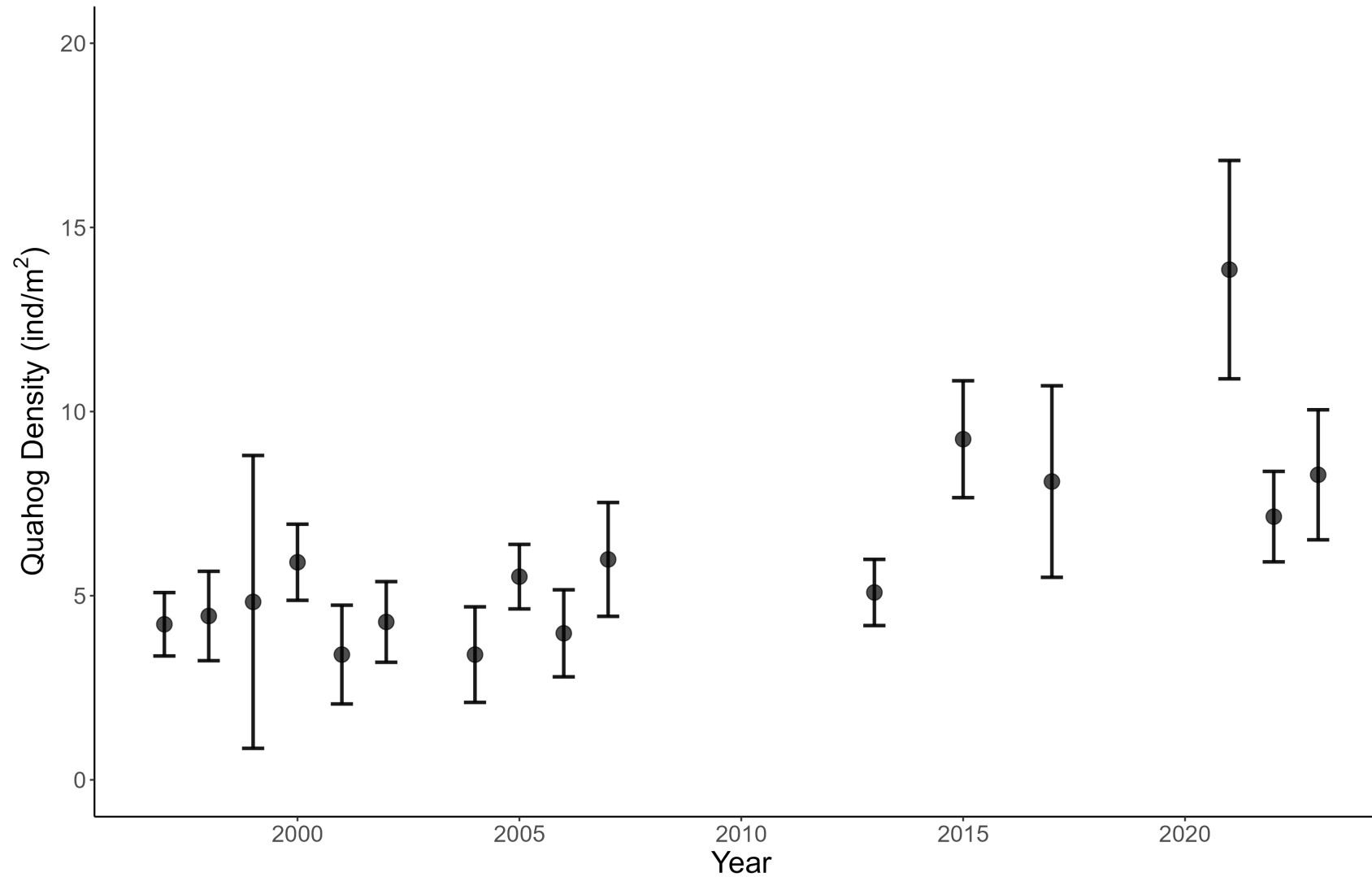


- Abundance indices (mean  $\pm$  standard error) through 2023 season
- Providence River indices remains at similar pattern since 2017
- Greenwich Bay and NBP are relatively consistent with past years

## 2. Dredge Survey – Providence River Conditional Area E



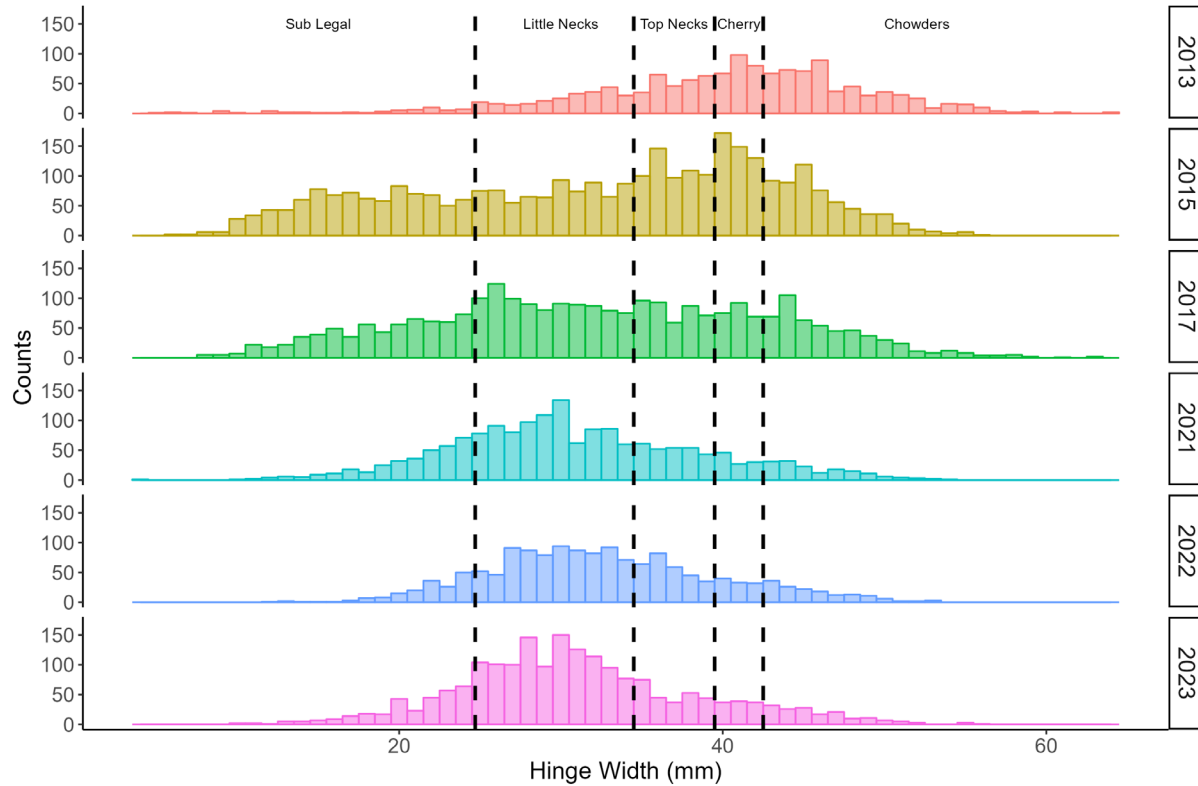
RIDEM - Quahog Dredge Survey  
Conditional Area E



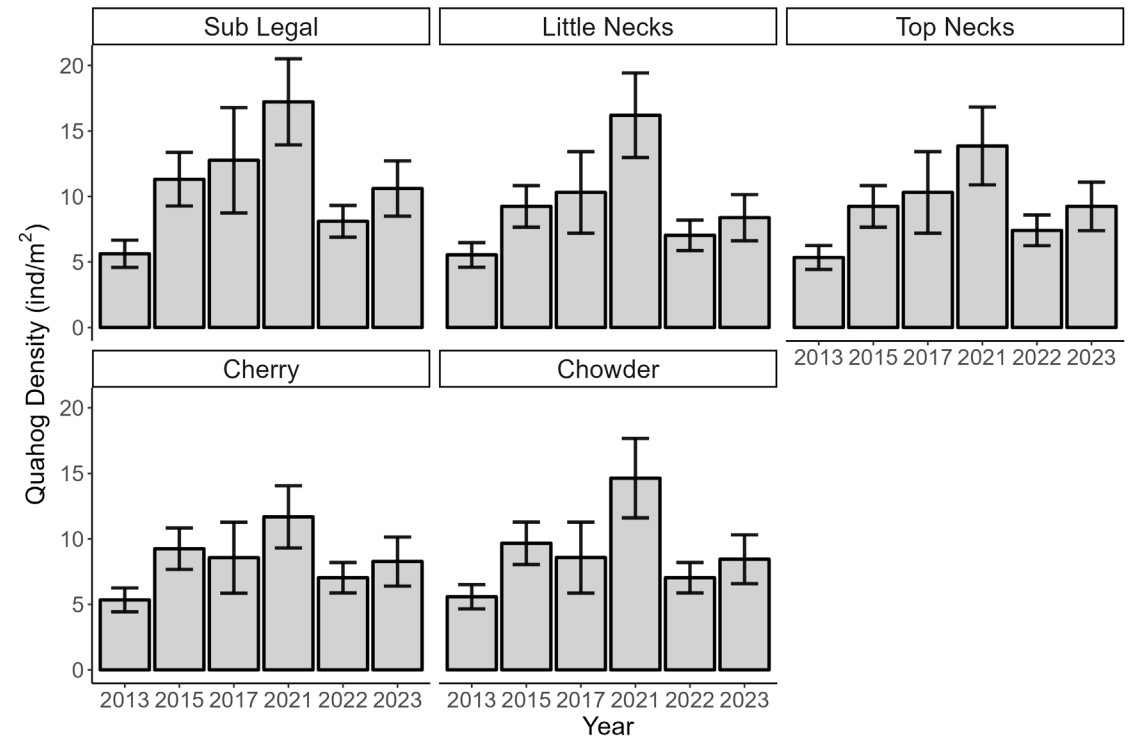
# 2. Dredge Survey – Providence River Conditional Area E



**Narragansett Bay Quahog Dredge Survey**  
Providence River Conditional Area E



**RIDEM - Quahog Dredge Survey**  
Conditional Area E



## 2. Quahog Simulator – 2023



- Simulator is used to estimate the number of days a certain number of quahogs may be harvested.
- Simulator uses catch rates of harvesters and the number of people fishing per day for Area E (2021-2023).
- Range of daily participants and catch rates between seasons examined, but no significant differences found
- Simulations resulted in similar catch distributions and recommendations.

# Providence River Area E 2024 Harvest Schedule



Commercial: Open 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. per the following schedule:

1. January 1 through May 20, 2023: Closed.
2. May 21 through June 26, 2023: Open each Monday and Wednesday; closed Memorial Day, May 29.
3. June 27, 2023: Open.
4. June 28 through September 2, 2023: Open each Monday and Wednesday.
5. September 3 through October 31, 2023: Open each Tuesday.
6. November 1 through December 9, 2023: Closed.
7. December 10 through December 31, 2023: Open one (1) weekday each week on the first (1st) weekday which is not closed due to water quality impairment; closed December 25.
8. Fishery closure 2023: The fishery will close once eighteen (18) days have been open to harvest for the months from May through November, and then reopen for the month of December 2023 per the above schedule.

# Providence River Harvest Schedule



- **Proposal #1**

- 21 days plus 3 days in December
- Open 8 AM – 11 AM, 6-bushel limit on the following days provided water quality allows:
  - **Spring Harvest 2024**
    - May 6, 13, 20, 22, 28
    - June 3, 10, 17, 19, 24, 26, 28
  - **Summer Harvest 2024**
    - July 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31
    - August 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, 30
  - **Fall Harvest 2024**
    - September 3, 9, 16, 23, 30
    - October 7, 14, 21, 28

- **December Holiday Harvest 2024**

- 8 AM – 11 AM with a 6-bushel limit for the week of December 16-20 Area E will be open the first 2 non-consecutive weekdays. Example: M and W, T and Th, or W and F.
- For the week of December 23-27 Area E will be open 1 day on the first available day either December 23, 26 or 27. Closed on December 24 and 25.



# Providence River Harvest Schedule

- **Proposal #1**

- **Proposal for potential unused 2024 harvest days in 2025**

- At the end of this 2024 schedule if there are any remaining 3-hour openings from the 21-day schedule (not counting December openings) they will be converted to 2-hour openings during 2025.
- Area E will be open for 2 hours only, 8 AM – 10 AM at a 6-bushel limit.
  - Example: 2 days remaining x 3 hours = 6 hours, therefore 3 days with 2-hour openings only (8AM – 10AM)
  - 2025 openings to begin on February 10. Any other remaining 2-hour openings will be February 17, March 3, 17, 31, and April 14, and 28.



# Providence River Harvest Schedule

- **Proposal #2**

- Open 8 AM – 11 AM at a 6-bushel limit

- May 7, 14, 21, 23, 28
- June 4, 11, 18, 25
- July 1, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- August 6, 13, 20, 27, 29
- September 3, 10, 17, 24
- October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

- Winter schedule (for any unused days)

- Open 8 AM – 11 AM at a 6-bushel limit

- January 27
- February 10, 24
- March 10, 24
- April 7, 21

\*A total of 34 days between May and December. Seven days between January and April

# Providence River Harvest Schedule



**SAP Motion for the commercial harvest schedule for the Providence River during 2024:**

Motion should include:

- No. of days
- Date ranges
- Time of day (3-hr, 8-11)
- Possession limit, vessel limit

# Providence River Harvest Schedule



**Motion:** to recommend to the Council the following **commercial winter** harvest schedule for the Providence River during 2024:

Every other week on Mondays starting February 10, 2025 for 2 hours per day, from 8AM-10AM at a 6-bushel limit on the following days:

February 10, 24

March 10, 24

April 7, 21

*Motion made by:* M.M.

*Motion 2nd by:* K.M.

*Yea:* B.B., D.E., D.G., J.G., J.M., M.M., K.M., G.S., R.T., E.T.

*Nay:*

*Abstain:*

**Vote: 10 – 0 – 0**

# Providence River Harvest Schedule



**Motion:** to recommend to the Council the following **commercial December** harvest schedule (2024) for the Providence River:

## December Holiday Harvest 2024

8 AM – 11 AM with a 6-bushel limit for the week of December 16-20 Area E will be open the first 2 non-consecutive weekdays. Example: M and W, T and Th, or W and F.

For the week of December 23-27 Area E will be open 1 day on the first available day either December 23, 26 or 27. Closed on December 24 and 25.

***Motion made by: B.B.***

***Motion 2nd by: M.M.***

***Yea:*** B.B., D.G., J.G., J.M., M.M. K.M., G.S., R.T., E.T.

***Nay:***

***Abstain: D.E.***

**Vote: 9 – 0 – 1**

# Providence River Harvest Schedule



**Motion: to recommend to the Council the following **commercial** harvest schedule (2024) for the Providence River:**

21 days, open 8 AM – 11 AM, 6-bushel limit on the following days provided water quality allows:

## Spring Harvest 2024

May 6, 13, 20, 22, 28

June 3, 10, 17, 19, 24, 26, 28

## Summer Harvest 2024

July 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31

August 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, 30

## Fall Harvest 2024

September 3, 9, 16, 23, 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

***Motion made by: J.G.***

***Motion 2nd by: D.G.***

***Yea: B.B., D.G., J.M., J.G., M.M., K.M., G.S., R.T., E.T.***

***Nay:***

***Abstain: D.E***

**Vote: 9 – 0 – 1**

# Providence River Harvest Schedule



## 1. **Recreational** harvest schedule for the Providence River during 2024

### Status Quo:

- Recreational shore digging: Open daily, at the one peck per person per day from sunrise until sunset.
- Recreational other than shore digging: Closed

# Providence River Harvest Schedule



**Motion: to recommend to the Council the following **recreational** harvest schedule for the Providence River during 2024:**

Default schedule by consensus

*Motion made by:*

*Motion 2nd by:*

*Yea:*

*Nay:*

*Abstain:*

**Vote: 0 – 0 – 0**

# Providence River Area E time restriction proposal from the Division of Law Enforcement



No person shall engage in the taking of shellfish when the area is closed as specified in this Part. All gear used in the taking of shellfish shall be stowed when the area is closed. Possession of Quahogs within the area shall be prohibited on scheduled open days thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled end of harvest.

# Providence River Area E time restriction proposal from the Division of Law Enforcement



**Motion:** to recommend to the Council the following **time restriction** proposal for the Providence River Area E Management Area:

No person shall engage in the taking of shellfish when the area is closed as specified in this Part. All gear used in the taking of shellfish shall be stowed when the area is closed. Possession of Quahogs within the area shall be prohibited on scheduled open days forty-five (45) minutes after the scheduled end of harvest.

*Motion made by: J.M.*

*Motion 2nd by: D.E.*

*Yea:* B.B., DE, DG, JM, MM, RT, ET, KM

*Nay:*

*Abstain:*

**Vote: 8 – 0 – 0**

# 2024 Shellfish Transplants



- \$75K for transplants during 2024-2025
- Aiming for two transplants in May
- Looking for feedback on where to transplant from and to for this year.



## 8. Any Other Matters?



## 9. Adjourn