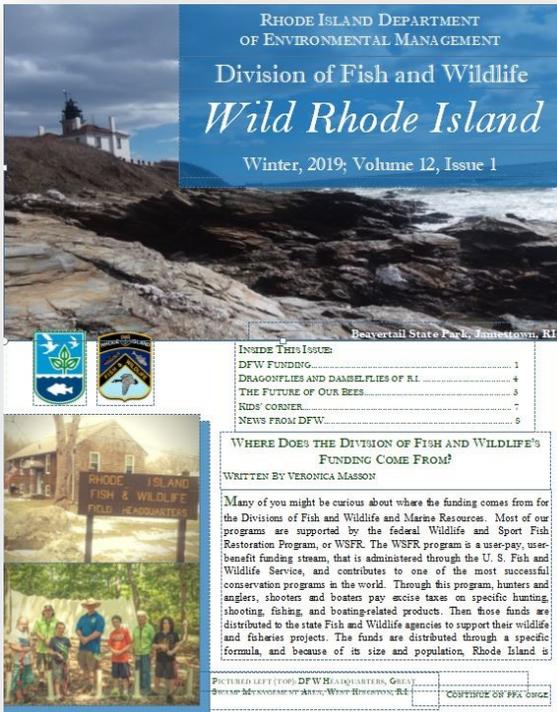




A Quarterly Publication from the RI Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife

## Improvements Coming to *Wild Rhode Island*

By Sarah Riley, WRI Editor/Designer

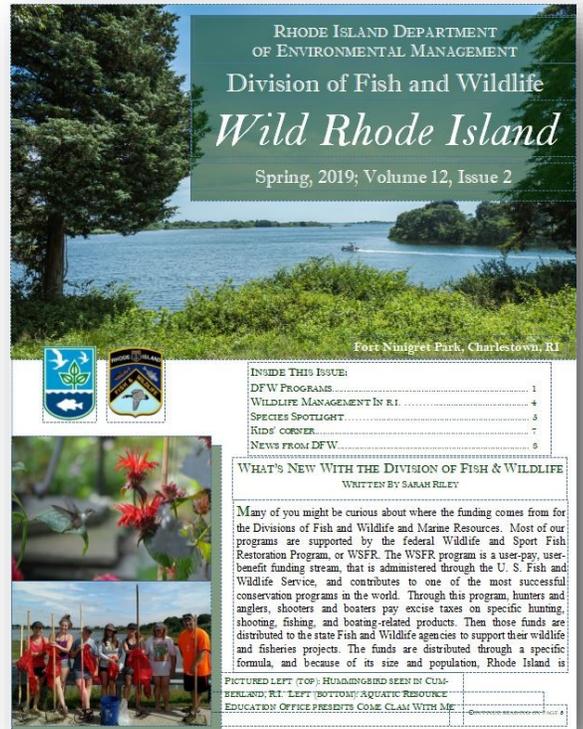


The Division of Fish and Wildlife is proud to announce that starting this winter, the *Wild Rhode Island* publication will undergo some big improvements and changes. The magazine will be getting a brand-new look, increased page count, and updated content so readers can stay up-to-date on our programs and projects, and learn more about Rhode Island's natural resources. Each issue will feature a state-owned Wildlife Management Area or State Park on the cover, with information about the location, access, facilities, habitat, wildlife/fisheries and more.

I am also excited to announce that in lieu of the Kids' Corner page here in *WRI*, our hardworking and dedicated Outreach Office will be creating an entirely separate e-magazine just for kids: *Wild Rhode Island Explorers!* We hope this will be a fun and educational read for kids, as well as a resource for parents and teachers. It will be available as a free, quarterly digital publication to anyone who would like to subscribe.

The DFW's newly designed magazine will showcase the beauty, value and importance of Rhode Island's natural heritage. We will continue to produce articles that educate our readers and highlight the hard work of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. As always, the staff here at DFW will continue improving our education and outreach programs.

Thank you for being a *Wild Rhode Island* reader. We appreciate your support and interest in the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife. Be sure to keep an eye out for the new and improved magazine. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to email me at [Sarah.Riley@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Sarah.Riley@dem.ri.gov).



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### The Division of Fish and Wildlife Mission Statement

*Our mission is to ensure that the freshwater, marine and wildlife resources of the state of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.*



*Wild Rhode Island* is a quarterly publication of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Printing is supported by the Aquatic Resource Education program (*Federal Aid Grant F-42-E*), the Hunter Safety Education Program, and Wildlife Outreach Coordination Program.

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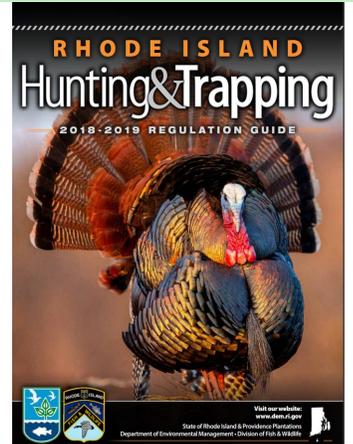
For a free subscription to *Wild Rhode Island* please call (401) 789-0281x35 or send an email to [Sarah.Riley@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Sarah.Riley@dem.ri.gov). Please indicate whether you would like to have the newsletter sent to you via email or US mail.

*Wild Rhode Island* is also available on the web at: [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov)

To report an environmental emergency or violation please call the RIDEM Environmental Police (401) 222-3070

**THE 2018-2019 RHODE ISLAND HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS GUIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE!**

Pick up a copy at the Division of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters in West Kingston, at the RIDEM Headquarters in Providence, or at any of the license vendors around the state. The guide is also available on the RIDEM website. For more information about hunting regulations, permits, or tagging procedures, contact the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife at [DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov](mailto:DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov) or call 401-789-0281.



**How to Tag Your Deer and Report Your Harvest:**

The new online licensing system has brought changes to deer tagging and harvest reporting procedures. Before you leave the house or license vendor, sign your hunting license and deer tags. After that, you will not need a pen until you report your harvest online. Before heading afield, grab a zip tie or string, along with a durable plastic bag, and put your license and tags inside the bag to protect them from the elements.

**BAG IT!** Congratulations on your successful deer harvest!

**TAG IT!** Your tag must be notched (zone, day, hour and month of harvest) before moving the deer for photos, field dressing or to leave the woods. Per Rhode Island law, the notched tag must be affixed to and remain with the deer. Use care to securely affix the tag so that the tag will not be lost when removing the deer from the woods, or transporting it to a check station, butcher, or your home.

**HELPFUL TIP:** It is recommended that you place your tag in a durable, clear plastic bag (such as a Ziploc® bag) to make sure your tag will not rip, tear, or become illegible from water, blood or dirt. Consider rolling up the bag with the tag inside, and placing it inside the deer's ear and tie the ear shut with a piece of string or zip tie.

**Reminder:** The notched tag must remain affixed to the deer at all times until the deer has been prepared for taxidermy or consumption.

**Report It!** Use your QR reader on your smartphone to scan your permit, or go to: [www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish](http://www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish). You must report your deer harvest within 24 hours. Once on the harvest reporting site, you will be asked a few questions to determine the age and sex of the animal, the location and method of harvest and information about your time afield (effort).

When you are finished reporting your deer online or over the phone, you will be given a harvest report confirmation number. This number confirms that you have reported your harvest. Write the number on your tag and keep the tag affixed to the deer until prepared for taxidermy or consumption.



## Meet the newest biologists! We are happy to welcome these hardworking and passionate employees to the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

### Dylan Ferreira, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Deer Program

Last year the Division of Fish and Wildlife welcomed Dylan Ferreira to join us as Rhode Island's deer biologist. Dylan worked for the Division for over four years as a wildlife technician while also working for, and volunteering his time to, many other wildlife agencies and organizations across the country. For the past several years Dylan has worked with various state agencies throughout New England on white-tailed deer, pine marten, snowshoe hare, and waterfowl research. These projects included GPS radio-collaring and tracking deer for a fawn mortality study with Connecticut DEEP, and working with White Buffalo Inc. as a wildlife technician in Ann Arbor, Michigan and Staten Island, New York.

Here at the Division, Dylan works on many wildlife programs, including the deer, waterfowl, bat and upland game programs, and he mentors youth hunters for the Hunter Education Program. Dylan has a degree in Natural Resource Conservation and Wildlife Ecology & Conservation from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dylan has been an avid hunter and sportsman his whole life, and has long carried a respect and appreciation for Rhode Island's wildlife. He is enthusiastic about his new responsibility to uphold the Division's mission in overseeing Rhode Island's deer population, and looks forward to engaging with the public and other stakeholders regarding natural resource management. Dylan will also be overseeing the New England Cottontail program as it continues to grow, and will continue to assist with our other wildlife programs. For information about his programs, you can email him at [Dylan.Ferreira@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Dylan.Ferreira@dem.ri.gov).



### Scott Buchanan, Wildlife Biologist, Herpetology Program

We are very excited to announce that the Division of Fish and Wildlife now has a dedicated reptile and amphibian biologist. Scott Buchanan will be joining us as our full-time herpetologist. This is a contract position with the Wildlife Management Institute, which has been a hugely successful and critically valuable collaboration. The primary objectives of the position are to implement conservation actions beneficial to reptile and amphibian populations (*e.g.*, habitat enhancement, climate change mitigation actions), as well as to develop outreach and volunteer opportunities for the public to raise awareness, assist, and engage with conservation efforts for these species.

Scott has an extensive background working with reptiles and amphibians in New England. He recently received his Ph.D from the University of Rhode Island where his research focused on landscape ecology and population genetics of freshwater turtles in Rhode Island. Prior to working on his Ph.D, Scott worked at Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) for six seasons as a herpetological technician and science communication specialist. During this time, he also completed his master's degree investigating the spatial ecology of hognose snakes at CCNS. Scott is thrilled for the opportunity to work in innovative and efficient ways to better understand, manage and protect populations of amphibians and reptiles in the state and region. He looks forward to engaging with the herpetological and conservation communities, and with the public to forward these goals. If you would like to contact him for more information, you can email him at [Scott.Buchanan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Scott.Buchanan@dem.ri.gov)





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## Fall Wild Game Recipes

Although not for everyone, wild game is a traditional staple of New England cuisine, and firmly planted in our history. It offers to some a new and unique culinary experience, and connects us to the traditions of our past. Try these recipes and see what you think, it may be better than you imagined!

### HASENPFEFFER (Rabbit in a spiced marinade sauce)

This traditional German dish is a great one to remember during small game season in the autumn. Although there are many different variations on this dish, they all include the basic ingredients of rabbit or hare (“Hase”) braised with onions in a spiced, wine-based marinade (“pfeffer”, meaning pepper).



- 1 rabbit (2½ pounds)**
- 1 large onion, chopped**
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour**
- 2 to 3 tablespoons butter**
- 1 cup (about 8 ounces) sour cream**
- 3 cups water**
- 3 cups white vinegar**
- ⅓ tsp lemon pepper**
- ⅓ tsp garlic powder**
- ⅓ tsp dried thyme**
- ½ tsp allspice**
- 2 tsp salt**
- ½ tsp pepper**
- 2 bay leaves**
- 8 whole cloves**

Combine in a large nonmetallic bowl; onion, vinegar, water and seasonings. Add rabbit pieces, cover and refrigerate for two days, turning occasionally. Remove meat; strain and save marinade. Pat dry the meat well and lightly coat the pieces with flour. In a large skillet, melt the butter and brown the meat. Slowly add 2 to 2½ cups reserved marinade. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until tender, about 30 minutes. Remove the meat and place it on a warm platter. Add the sour cream to the pan juices and stir it just until heated through. Spoon over rabbit. This meal goes very well with a roasted vegetable medley of carrots, brussel sprouts, squash and mushrooms.

### VENISON CASSEROLE

- 1 lb venison**
- 3 cups cooked wild rice**
- 1 cup chopped celery**
- 1 cup chopped onion**
- 1 cup chopped carrots**
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup**
- ½ lb chopped mushrooms**
- 1 cup beef broth**
- ½ cup bread crumbs**
- Salt and pepper to taste**



Brown the venison in a large skillet. Add the celery, onion, carrots and broth to the pan and simmer until onions are tender. Mix all of the ingredients, including the uncooked wild rice, and place it in a 3 quart casserole dish. Sprinkle bread crumbs over the top and cover. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. Enjoy!

**SEND US YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE AND HAVE IT FEATURED IN A  
FUTURE ISSUE OF *WILD RHODE ISLAND***



FROM WOODS TO WATER,

# FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

WITH YOUR

## RHODE ISLAND HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE

DEM is proud to offer convenient access to hunting and fishing licenses in-person at sales agents across the state or directly through our expanded online system. 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.

DEM.ri.gov/huntfish is your entry point to help plan your next adventure and make the most of Rhode Island's great outdoors. There you can find maps of hunting areas and fishing access points, answers to frequently asked questions, and more!



[DEM.RI.GOV/HUNTFISH](http://DEM.RI.GOV/HUNTFISH)



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**HOW CAN I PURCHASE RHODE ISLAND HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES?**

Both resident and non-resident licenses, permits and stamps may be purchased online at [www.dem.ri.gov/huntfish](http://www.dem.ri.gov/huntfish), in person at DEM’s Boating Licensing & Registration Office in Providence, or at an authorized sales agent which includes some municipalities. Please check the [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov) website for a current list of authorized sales agents.

**CAN I REPORT MY DEER OR TURKEY HARVEST ONLINE?**

Yes! Log onto the online system to report your harvests. Deer harvests must be reported online within 24 hours; except during the first 4 days of the muzzleloader deer season when they must be physically checked at a state operated check station. Fall and spring turkey hunters must report their harvest online by midnight on the day of harvest.

**WHAT IS A RIHFID?**

Rhode Island’s outdoor licensing system issues a Rhode Island Hunting and Fishing Identification (RIHFID) number to every angler and hunter. Your RIHFID, pronounced RYE-FID, is unique to you and can be used to quickly access the system in the future so you can update your online profile, reprint lost or damaged licenses and permits, add additional permits, or renew licenses.

**WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO PURCHASE A FISHING OR HUNTING LICENSE?**

You will need a driver’s license, government-issued identification card, military identification, green card or passport number to verify your identity. If you are under 18, you may apply using your parent or guardian’s identification. Once you turn 18, you will need your own identification. If you are applying for a hunting license or archery permit, you will need your hunter safety certificate number or a previous hunting license from Rhode Island or another state. Please refer to Hunter Education FAQ’s for more information at [DEM.ri.gov/huntfish](http://DEM.ri.gov/huntfish).

**WHAT WILL MY LICENSE LOOK LIKE?**

Your license will print on an 8.5”x11” piece of paper. Every completed transaction produces a printable document which lists all active licenses and permits. Whether you purchased them online or at a vendor, your system profile will update every time you add a new license, permit, tag and/or stamp. If you damage or lose your license, simply log into the system using your email or RIHFID number and reprint when you need to. There is no cost for reprinting damaged or lost licenses.

**WHAT DO I SHOW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IF I’M ASKED FOR MY LICENSE?**

Rhode Island State law requires you to carry your signed license document with you. Check the DEM website or the annual Rhode Island regulation abstract for the full hunting and fishing rules, seasons and bag limits.

**I QUALIFY FOR A NO-COST LICENSE. HOW DOES THE ONLINE SYSTEM AFFECT ME?**

No-cost licenses are available if you are over 65 (RI resident only) or 100% totally disabled. Additionally, individuals who are active military qualify for a no-cost saltwater fishing license, and anyone with 100% disabled status are exempt from needing a recreational saltwater fishing license. If you qualify for a no-cost license, you may purchase your license in person at DEM, by mail or through the online system. In all cases, you must hold a current document from the federal agency that issued the disability decision. Please visit [DEM.ri.gov/huntfish](http://DEM.ri.gov/huntfish) for more information. If you already hold a no-cost permanent hunting or fishing license and would like to buy additional permits or privileges or would like to receive information about additional hunting or fishing opportunities, you must enter your information in the new system. The system will issue a new permanent license along with your RIHFID. You will then be able to access the online system to buy future permits.

**IS THERE AN ADDED FEE IF I PURCHASE MY LICENSES AND PERMITS ONLINE?**

No, there are no added fees if a license or permit is purchased online. The fees, by law, already include an “agent commission” that goes towards system development, operation, support and maintenance.

**IS THERE AN ADDED FEE WHEN I PURCHASE AT AN AGENT LOCATION OR A MUNICIPALITY?**

Yes, there are Enhanced Access Fees (EAF) as follows: Resident: \$2 per license and \$.50 permit, Non-resident: \$3 per license and \$1 permit. There are no EAFs for Recreational Saltwater fishing licenses or No-cost licenses. Enhanced Access Fees offset the administrative costs to bill, track and account for the transactions from sales agent locations and for system development, operation, support and maintenance. The agent commission, which is included in the license or permit fee, goes to the sales agent to offset their costs for processing and printing your license at their location.

**IS THERE AN ADDED FEE IF I PURCHASE AT DEM?**

There is no additional fee if you pay with cash or a personal check. If you use a credit or debit card to pay for your license, there is a credit card processing fee.

**WHAT PAYMENT TYPE DOES THE ONLINE SYSTEM ACCEPT?**

The online system accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Rhode Island Interactive, who provides this service, is fully secure and a PC/DSS certified payment provider. Payment types accepted at sales agents may vary by location.



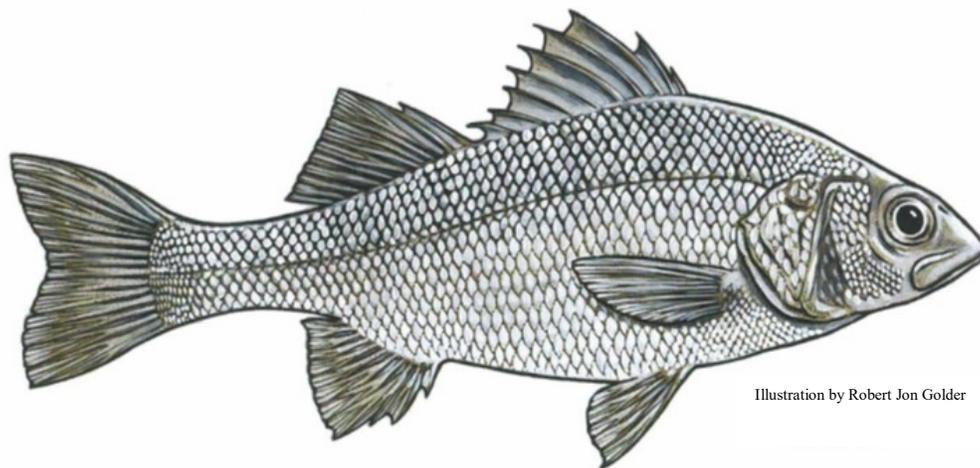
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## Species Spotlight: White Perch (*Morone americana*)

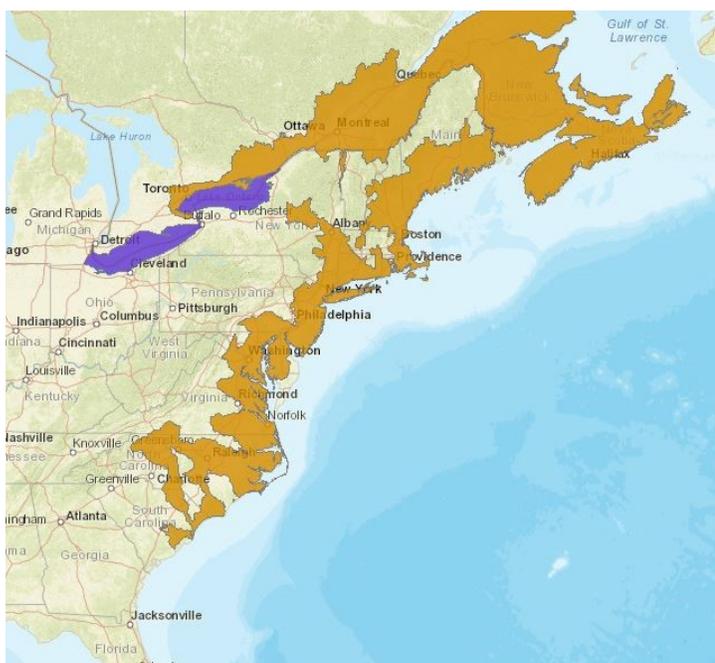
By Hannah Fox, DFW Freshwater Fisheries

**Introduction.** The White Perch (*Morone americana*) is a native semi-anadromous species that is widely distributed throughout Rhode Island. White perch is a member of the Moronidae family and is closely related to another common anadromous fish species, the striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). Both species of Moronidae are called temperate basses, meaning that they are “true” basses or “sea” basses.



**Habitat.** White perch can be found in both the brackish waters of local estuaries and in freshwater environments. Landlocked individuals in Rhode Island are a result of previous stockings (Libby, 2013). The preferred habitat consists of substrates that contain mainly clay, mud and silt. White perch can be found at various water depths, as they move to deeper water during the day and move to more shallow waters at night. This type of movement provides protection since they do not utilize rocks, man-made structures, or vegetation as shelter. Found only in North America, the white perch range from Peedee River, South Carolina up to the northern parts of St. Lawrence-Lake Ontario drainage, Quebec, Canada.

**Life History.** The white perch is semi-anadromous. Their seasonal movements in the spring include migrating to freshwater tributaries to spawn, and returning back to brackish water (mixture of freshwater and saltwater) in the fall. However, they are not considered to be anadromous because they do not make the full migration into the sea. Spawning is generally related to water temperature. For spawning to occur, the water temperatures must reach between 10°C to 15.5°C [50°F to 60°F]. Fecundity (the ability to produce an abundance of offspring) for the white perch relies on the size and age of the adult. At the time of spawning, females can release between 50,000 to 150,000 eggs (Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2018). As the “fry” stage continues grow, they will drift with the river current to the nutrient-rich estuarine systems. They will remain here for up to one year. Subsequently, the juveniles will migrate along the shoals of local beaches and will return to brackish waters in times when the water is rough. As a result of decreasing water temperatures in the fall, juveniles will remain in deep pools found in local estuaries. At this time in their lifecycle, juvenile white perch will feed mainly on zooplankton. Females and males reach maturity in approximately two to four years. When the juveniles reach maturity, they will start their migration to freshwater, and continue the life cycle of the white perch. The average lifespan for white perch is approximately 17 years. The diet of adult white perch consists of small fish, insects, detritus, fish eggs, and fish larvae.



**Description.** The color of white perch ranges from dark gray to olive brown along the dorsal area, silver on the

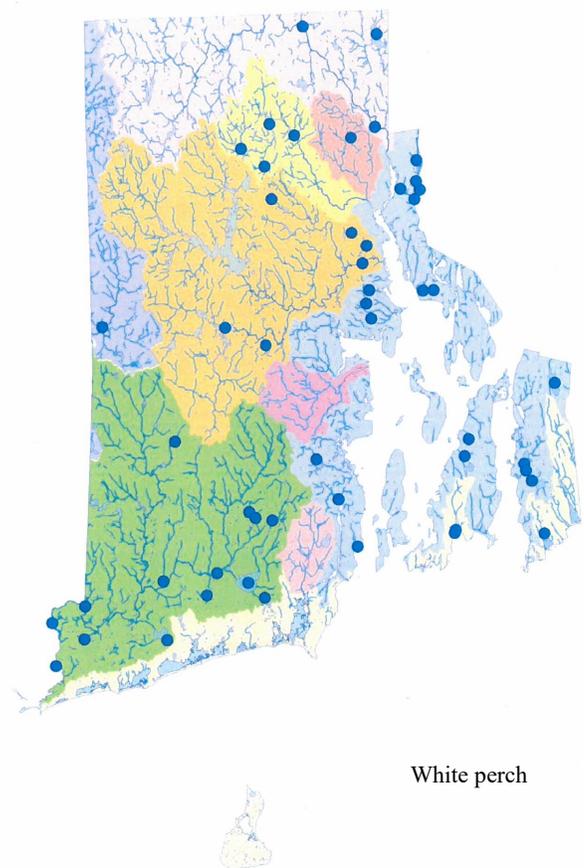
sides, and white below. Unlike the long stream-lined body of the striped bass, the body of the white perch is short and deep-bodied. An interesting feature of the white perch are the binate dorsal fins that are just barely connected. One difference between the striped bass and the white perch are the three anal spines. The three anal spines of the striped bass are evenly graduated, versus the non-evenly graduated anal spines of the white perch. Rhode Island scientific records show that the average length of the white perch to be 12 inches (305 mm) (Libby, 2013).

**Species impacts.** White perch are ecologically important to Rhode Island’s marine life. They play a critical part in the trophic level as they connect the small invertebrates and apex predators in the food web.

There are two common saltwater sportfish species in Rhode Island that prey upon the white perch: the striped bass and bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*).

Trying to quantify the white perch fishing effort is difficult because the majority of the individuals are caught as by-catch while fishing for striped bass. With fishing restrictions implemented on striped bass, this can have a positive impact on white perch populations

In other parts of their range, white perch are found to be an invasive landlocked species. There is concern for the species being landlocked because of their fecundity and their competitiveness for resources over the other species of fish. This could ultimately have a negative effect on the ecology of the water body that they cohabitate.



White perch

**Status.** The current status of the State’s freshwater white perch populations is thought to be stable. The status of the marine/estuarine population in RI is unknown and consequently, is classified in the State’s Wildlife Action

Plan as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, however, lists the white perch as a species of “Least Concern.” Though protection for white perch is not currently needed in freshwater, the protection for populations found in local estuarine waters may be needed. With recent field research, white perch have been found during the annual Juvenile Alewife Inventory on the upper portions of the Narrow River. At this time, young-of-the-year have been found migrating outwards during the late summer and early fall as they are leaving the freshwater systems. More research is required to determine abundance in coastal populations.

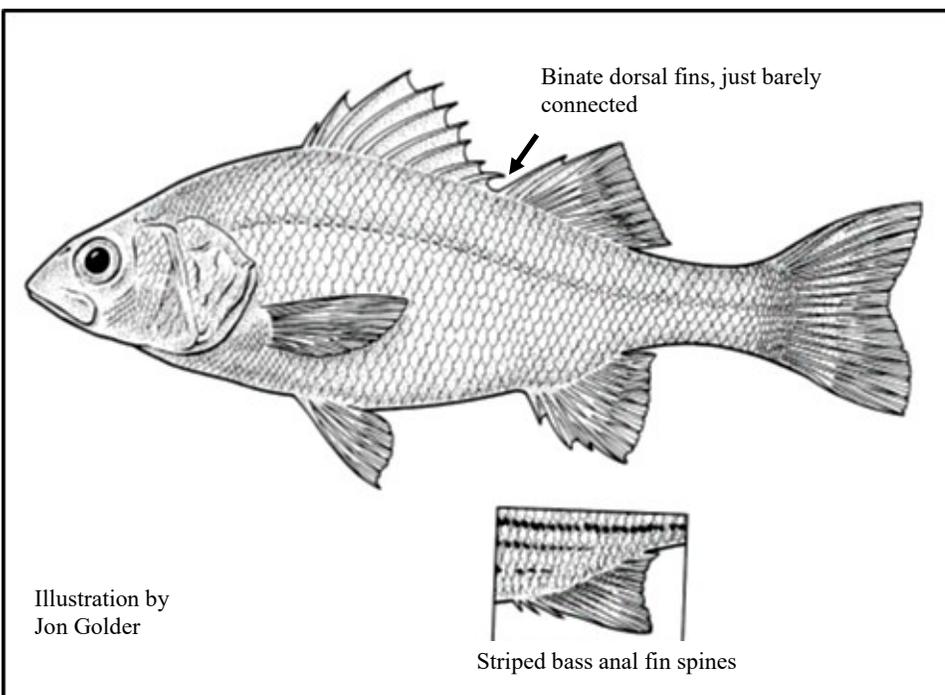


Illustration by Jon Golder

Striped bass anal fin spines

## Species Spotlight: White Perch continued

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Fish Illustrations by Robert Jon Golder

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## Sign up for the DFW Outreach Office Monthly Update!

Are you interested in our education programs like Come Clam With Me and Come Bird With Me, but you also want to know about fly tying classes, wild game cooking classes, volunteer opportunities, and more? Well, the Division of Fish and Wildlife Outreach Office is combining forces to produce a monthly update for subscribers so that they can stay informed of upcoming classes and events. It's one-stop-shopping for all the information you need about all of DFW's great public programs. There will also be features like volunteer programs, species of the month, and a calendar of events. If you are already on their email list, don't worry, it will still get emailed to you at the beginning of every month! To be added to the list, email our Wildlife Outreach Coordinator at [Mary.Grande@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Mary.Grande@dem.ri.gov).



### RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife Monthly Outreach Update

### *Wild Rhode Island Explorers Coming Soon!*

Stay tuned for the Division of Fish & Wildlife's very first kids' e-magazine *Wild Rhode Island Explorers*, set to begin publishing in 2019. It will be created and distributed by the DFW Wildlife Outreach Office and feature educational information about Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife, public programs for children and families, suggested reading lists, puzzles and more! Email [Mary.Grande@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Mary.Grande@dem.ri.gov) or [Sarah.Riley@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Sarah.Riley@dem.ri.gov) for more information.



## We Want To Know What YOU Want To Read About!

*Wild Rhode Island* is designed and compiled with readers in mind. We want to provide a publication that is informative, engaging and fun. If there are topics you would like covered, questions you have about DFW, species you would like to know about, or comments about this magazine, let us know! Email [Sarah.Riley@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Sarah.Riley@dem.ri.gov) with your suggestions!

**Kid's Corner!** Presented by the Aquatic Resource and Hunter Education Program

# It's Fall Migration Time for

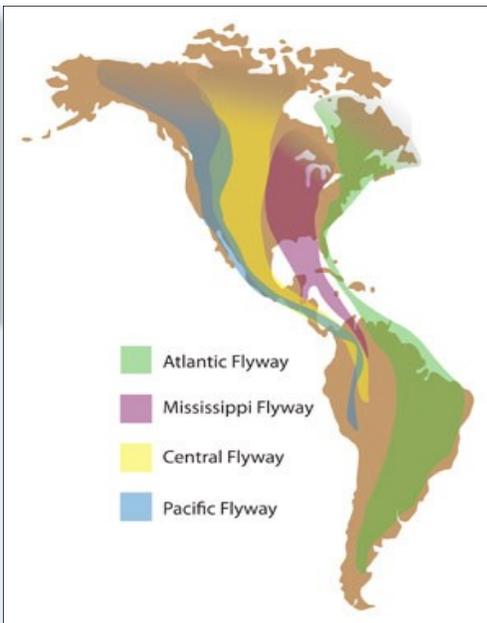


# WATERFOWL!



Some birds fly down from up north to join us for winter!

Some birds leave us in the fall and fly south!



## What's a flyway?

A flyway is a bird migration route. It's like a superhighway that birds use to migrate between seasons. There are **four** major flyways! Which flyway is Rhode Island in?

Can you name the birds flying to and from Rhode Island?

- Canada goose
- northern pintail
- green-winged teal
- wood duck
- mallard
- blue-winged teal

## News from the Division of Fish and Wildlife

Sign up for the DFW Outreach Office Monthly Update so you can stay up to date on upcoming classes and events. Included in the email update is information about upcoming classes through the Aquatic Resource and Hunter Education Office, volunteer opportunities, wildlife outreach programs, and more. Email our Wildlife Outreach Coordinator at [Mary.Grande@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Mary.Grande@dem.ri.gov).

### Meet the DFW Outreach Team!

Kim Sullivan, Aquatic Resource Education

Karen Unsworth, Hunter Education

Jess Peña, Aquatic Resource & Hunter Education

Scott Travers, Aquatic Resource & Hunter Education

Mary Grande, Wildlife Outreach

Jen Brooks, Volunteer Program

Sarah Riley, Editor/Designer for the *Wild Rhode Island* newsletter

Amanda Freitas, Wildlife Action Plan Community Liaison

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