

2019 RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL

Saltwater Fishing

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





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Saltwater Fishing

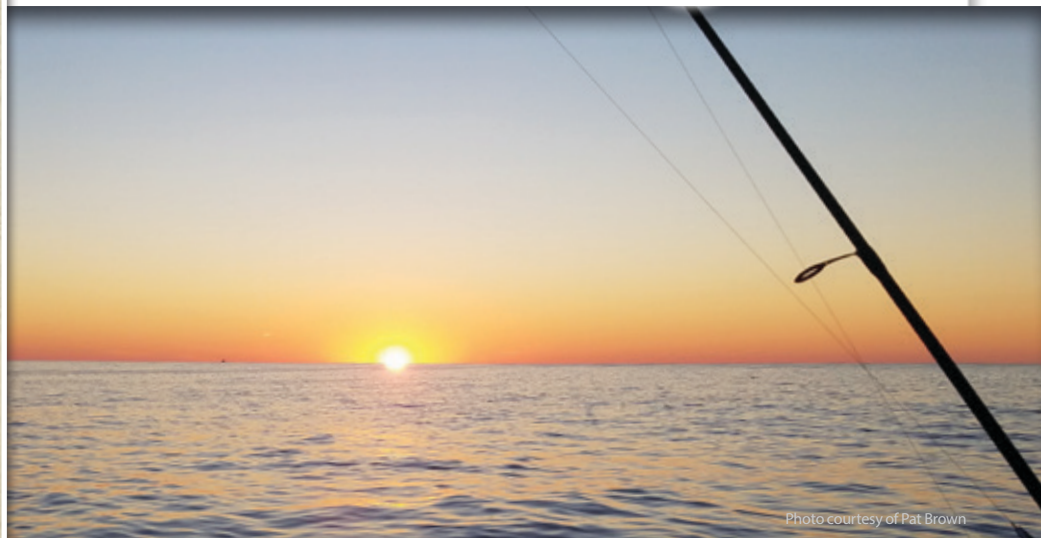


Photo courtesy of Pat Brown

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Welcome Letter

On behalf of Governor Raimondo, I am pleased to introduce the seventh annual Rhode Island Saltwater Recreational Fishing Guide. The Ocean State offers some of the best saltwater recreational fishing anywhere. Whether you fish the waters of Narragansett Bay or the coastal waters stretching from the south shore out to Block Island and beyond, anglers in Rhode Island have many fantastic opportunities to enjoy the diversity and abundance of our local catch.

As part of a larger network of recreational opportunities in the state, fishing plays an important role in connecting people with nature, promoting health, attracting tourism, and supporting a treasured tradition for Rhode Island families. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, there are approximately 175,000 recreational anglers (age 16+) in Rhode Island. And recreational fishing contributes more than \$130 million to the economy each year. People love to fish in the Ocean State!

This guide is written for both novice and seasoned anglers. I hope you will find it filled with useful information on our efforts to provide superior recreational fishing opportunities in Rhode Island as well as with helpful guidance on fishing regulations. In these pages, you will learn about new habitat restoration initiatives, APAIS Program, aquatic resource education programs, striped bass and summer flounder management, wind farm research and much more. Many local businesses that provide fishing-related services and supplies are also featured.

This is your publication, funded by contributions from saltwater anglers, including the federal Sportfish Restoration Program and the Rhode Island Recreational Saltwater License Program. Thanks to your support, our Marine Fisheries Division carries out a range of programs and activities supporting the interests of recreational fishermen. We monitor and conserve our local fish stocks. We work closely with recreational fishing organizations on initiatives like our special shore program for scup. And we continue to engage in outreach and education programs, such as this guide.

Getting people to and on the water is a core part of our mission at DEM. And we invest heavily in improving boating and fishing access to ensure anglers can easily reach their favorite spots on the water or along the shore. We're excited to report that two major construction projects will get underway this year. At the Quonochontaug Breachway in Charlestown, the existing boat launch will be reconstructed and a new, single-lane courtesy ramp featuring an improved design and orientation will be installed. This popular boat launch is widely used and provides boaters with access to Quonny Pond and Block Island Sound. And in the West Bay, a new timber fishing pier will be built at Rocky Point State Park. The 280-foot-long T-shaped pier will feature a shade structure, benches, solar lighting, and varied railing heights that will allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy access to Narragansett Bay.

DEM works in close partnership with the RI Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) to promote recreational fishing and introduce the sport to young Rhode Islanders through a popular fishing camp at Rocky Point State Park. The RISAA Foundation sponsored the first camp in 2016, teaching 50 children how to safely fish from boat and shore, some for the first time. Now in its fourth year, the camp takes place this summer from June 25-27. Little is more thrilling than casting a line and reeling in that first fish – especially on beautiful Narragansett Bay. Kudos to RISAA for bringing this camp to Rocky Point and inspiring both a love of fishing and for this park in our children! It is through efforts like this that we forge the next generation of environmental stewards.

Beyond the fun it brings, saltwater fishing is a great way to enjoy fresh, delicious seafood. From bluefish to scup to our beloved summer flounder, Rhode Island is well known for the wealth of seafood harvested year-round from our waters. But ultimately, whether you fish for fun or food, the common denominator is that you are part of a time-honored tradition made possible by Rhode Island's amazing marine life. And we are committed to expanding this special opportunity to explore the briny wonders of our state and to providing a sustainable future for our precious marine resources.

I hope this guide enhances your recreational fishing experiences. Be safe, respect the great outdoors and each other, and enjoy the magic of fishing in beautiful Rhode Island. Most importantly, HAVE FUN!

Janet Coit
Director



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About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries Section through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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This guide is also
available online at

eRegulations.com

Notable Catches

If you would like to share your notable catches with us and have the chance to see them in next year's fishing guide, please send pictures and information to RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov



Tom O'Brien

Caught his first false albacore shore fishing outside the harbor of refuge



Chuck Weishar

Got into some nice black sea bass when bottom fishing in Block Island Sound



Nathan Andrews

Landed this 20-inch fluke while fishing from shore, in Narragansett Bay



Robert Malouin

Taking advantage of some fast action False Albacore on the fly



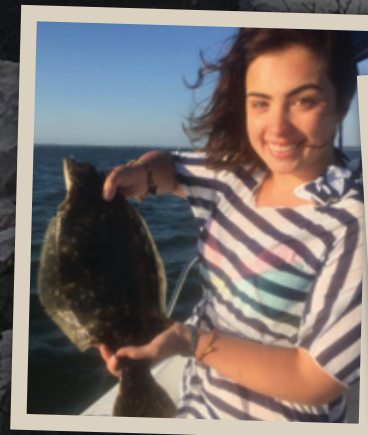
Pat Freeman

Hoisted this behemoth 13.5 pound tautog from the rocks while bottom fishing in RI



Ron Gravel

Took advantage of a bluebird day to enjoy some Rhode Island striped bass action



Maggie Rodrigue

Caught this nice fluke while bottom fishing in RI over the summer



Pat Harkin

Wrangled this hefty false albacore to the boat on a beautiful Fall day



Greg Snow

Of Snowfly Charters showing off the power of a barbie rod while landing this 30 inch striped while rec fishing



Sean Fitzgerald

Enjoying a cold fall day bottom fishing for tautog in Narragansett Bay

Background photo courtesy of Nathan Andrews

General Information

Our Mission..

The Division of Marine Fisheries 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. The Division is divided into three separate sections: Marine Fisheries, Freshwater Fisheries, and Wildlife Management.

The Marine Fisheries section conducts research and monitoring of marine species to support the effective management of finfish, crustaceans, and shellfish of commercial and recreational importance. Some of the programs and projects that the Division is responsible for to support the proper management of marine species are resource assessment surveys including the Division of Marine Fisheries trawl survey and the Narragansett Bay and Coastal Pond Seine Surveys, as well as shellfish relaying and transplants, sea and port sampling, stock assessment modeling work, and aquaculture and dredging project permit reviews. The Division is also responsible for developing and maintaining a wide array of regulations on marine species including setting seasons, size limits, harvest methods and equipment, and daily possession limits.

The Division provides information and outreach materials, including press releases, brochures, website, fact sheets, and this fishing guide to convey regulations and marine related topics to the regulated community and general public.

The Division also works closely and collaboratively with the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) to advise the DEM Director on a multitude of marine related matters.

Debris Decomposition Timeline

Glass bottle	1 million years
Monofilament fishing line	600 years
Plastic beverage bottle	450 years
Disposable diaper	450 years
Foamed plastic buoy	80 years
Aluminum can	80-100 years
Nylon fabric	50 years
Plastic bag	10-20 years
Cigarette filter	1-5 years
Untreated plywood	1-3 years
Cotton rope	1 year
Orange peel	2-5 weeks

If you have any questions about this guide or Rhode Island's marine recreational fisheries, please contact:

John Lake
Principal Marine Biologist
3 Fort Wetherill Rd.
Jamestown, RI 02835
(401) 423-1942
RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov



Marine Fisheries Laboratory located in Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, RI

Log your catch, try our new data collection app!

Download the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife VOLUNTARY recreational on-line angler logbook or download the SAFIS mobile application for iOS, Droid, or Windows. Just follow the link on the www.saltwater.ri.gov page to sign up and get started. Party/Charter boat captains using the app can increase their tautog bag limit. Email john.lake@dem.ri.gov for details.



Photo courtesy of Patrick Brown



Rhode Island Environmental Police – Division of Law Enforcement

John McIlmail, Acting Chief

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, 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 violations, please call:
(401) 222-3070**

Recreational Saltwater Fishing License

What Rhode Island Anglers Need to Know

In order to fish recreationally in Rhode Island marine waters, and in offshore federal waters, anglers and spearfishers must have a RI Recreational Saltwater Fishing License, OR a Federal Registration, OR a license from a reciprocal state.

Overview

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is a comprehensive new nationwide data collection and reporting system being implemented by NOAA Fisheries. All RI license information, as well as that collected by NMFS and other states, will be incorporated into a national registry of recreational anglers, enabling the new MRIP program to readily survey current fishermen and more accurately assess recreational catch and effort data. That information will lead to improved state-based assessments and more fair, accurate, and effective management programs for Rhode Island's marine recreational fisheries.

Reciprocal States

Rhode Island residents may use their RI Recreational Saltwater Fishing License to fish in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine.

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License holders from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine need not obtain a RI Saltwater Recreational Fishing License if they possess a valid license from one of the states listed above.

Please refer to pages 22 and 25 for information on lobster, shellfish, and other recreational licenses.



Recreational Saltwater Fishing License

License Type	Fee
RI residents (annually)	\$7.00
Non-residents (annually)	\$10.00
7-Day license	\$5.00

- Available online at: www.saltwater.ri.gov
- Also available from certain bait & tackle shops. A list of vendors can be found on the recreational license webpage.
- Applies in all RI waters, all offshore federal waters, and in all neighboring state waters for finfish and squid.
- Free for RI residents over 65 and for active military stationed in RI.
- No license needed for children under 16, nor for anglers on party & charter boats. See website for additional exemptions.

Dive Flag Awareness

SCUBA, skin-diving and snorkeling are all common activities in Rhode Island waters. When participating in any of these activities participants must display a flag warning boaters of their presence under water. Divers and boaters are required to follow the regulations below to ensure a safe and fun time above and below the water.

- Boaters must maintain a safe distance of 50 feet from a dive flag, unless the dive flag is in a place that obstructs navigation
- A warning flag shall be placed on a buoy at a place of the diver's submergence. The flag shall be red in color and at least twelve by twelve inches (12" x 12") with a white stripe running from the diagonal corners and the stripe one quarter (1/4) as wide as the flag.
- If not placed on a buoy, a warning flag shall be conspicuously flown upon a vessel which the diver is then using in the area. This flag shall meet the description above, however, it shall be at least eighteen by eighteen inches (18" x 18").
- The flag must only be flown during diving activity and should be taken down during transit
- No person shall use a dive flag in an area that obstructs navigation
- Divers should ascend slowly and cautiously, ensuring that they are within the 50 foot safety zone around the flag



Construction Of A New Boat Launch At Quonochontaug Pond

By Jillian Thompson, Conservation Engineer and Emily Koo, Public Access Coordinator, RI DEM Planning and Development

The Nature Conservancy in partnership with RI DEM Division of Planning & Development

In 2019, DEM will construct a new boat launch with a floating dock at Quonochontaug (Quonnie) Breachway in Charlestown, Rhode Island. A popular destination for boaters, anglers, paddlers, and summer tourists alike, Quonnie Pond offers picturesque views and sandy shoreline while the breachway connects boaters to Block Island Sound.

The coastal salt ponds are an immense asset to public recreation and revenue in Rhode Island. The deepest and most saline, Quonnie Pond is over 700 acres in area with over 80 acres of salt marsh, which host vital fish and bird populations. Commonly caught fish species in the area include striped bass, black seabass, tautog, scup, summer flounder, and bluefish.

The breachway was once a natural channel that opened and closed periodically but was permanently opened by the Army Corp of Engineers in the 1950s with the placement of armor stone along the shoreline. These are the large granite rock walls that can be seen as you drive along West Beach Road to access the parking lot and launch area.

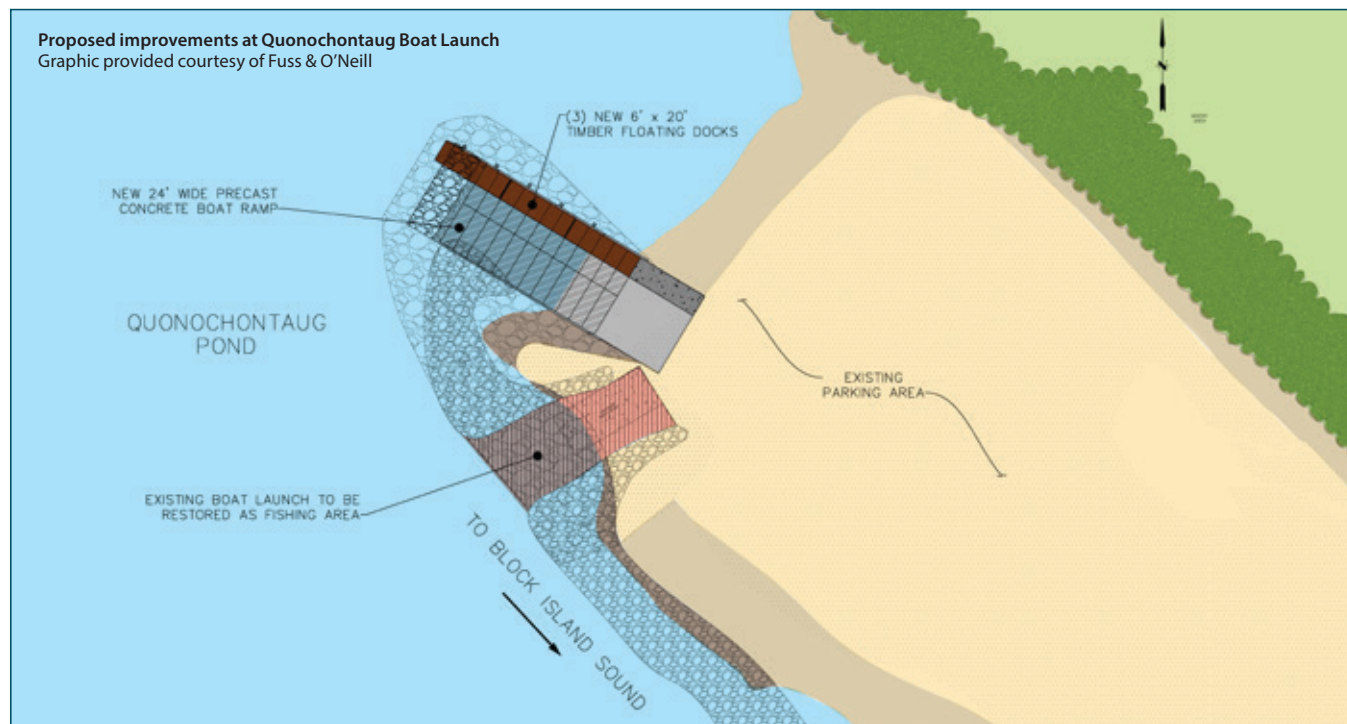
In early 2018, DEM, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, hired Fuss and O'Neill to develop a boat launch design that would provide safer access for boaters and improve users' launch and retrieval efforts. The improvements would complement the significant salt marsh restoration and enhancement at Quonnie Pond that was conducted by CRMC in late 2018 and early 2019.

Construction of the new boat launch is slated to begin in Fall of 2019. The boat ramp will be reoriented in a north-south direction so boaters can safely launch without having to fight the strong currents in the breachway channel. Improvements will include a new 24-foot wide precast concrete boat ramp and a 6-foot wide floating dock with cleats and rub rails for boaters to tie to when launching or retrieving their vessel.

The boat ramp slabs currently in place at Quonnie, originally installed in 1971, will be removed, and large flat stones will be put in their place, offering an additional fishing area.

Much of the funding for the project will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Program. The Sport Fish Restoration Program is a user-pay, user-benefit program that is derived from taxes on motorboat fuel, fishing equipment, and the purchase of some boats. A portion of the national funding is dedicated to DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife, specifically for boating access. This project is an excellent example of how those taxes are used for direct public benefit to improve and increase boating access to the waters of the state. The required matching funds for the project will be provided by the land value of the public access area at Quonnie and saltwater fishing license receipts.

Visit <https://www.ri.gov/DEM/boatrenewal/> for more information on boating registration requirements and <https://www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish> for more information on fishing licenses.



Is there another boating or fishing access site that you think needs improvement?

We would love to hear from you! Contact Emily Koo, Public Access Program Coordinator, at emily.koo@dem.ri.gov or (401) 222-2776 ext. 7277

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. 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 year is issued for each species of game fish caught that meet the minimum size requirements listed to the right. The Game Fish Award goes to the angler with the largest catch in that species category. 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 apply for an RI State Record, the angler must bring his or her 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. Below is the First Fish Award application. It can also be downloaded using the following link: www.dem.ri.gov/topics/fwttopics.htm. First Fish Awards are processed twice a year: once in the fall and prior to the opening day of the following year.

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

Qualifying Freshwater Weights or Lengths			
Smallmouth Bass	4 lbs.	Chain Pickerel	4 lbs.
Largemouth Bass	6 lbs.	Northern Pike	10 lbs.
Bluegill	9 in.	Brook Trout	2 lbs.
Pumpkinseed	8 in.	Brown Trout	3 lbs.
Black Crappie	12 in.	Rainbow Trout	3 lbs.
Yellow Perch	12 in.	Golden Rainbow Trout	3 lbs.
White Perch	15 in.	Brown Bullhead	13 in.
White Catfish	4 lbs.		

Qualifying Saltwater Weights			
Striped Bass	50 lbs.	Pollock	15 lbs.
Sea Bass	3 lbs.	Scup	2½ lbs.
Bluefish	18 lbs.	Hickory Shad	5 lbs.
Bonito	10 lbs.	Blue Shark	80 lbs.
Cod	20 lbs.	Mako Shark	150 lbs.
Winter Flounder	2 lbs.	Swordfish	200 lbs.
Summer Flounder	8 lbs.	Squeteague	8 lbs.
King Mackerel	3 lbs.	Tautog	10 lbs.
Mackerel	1 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna	450 lbs.
Yellowfin Tuna	125 lbs.	White Marlin	70 lbs.

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) 539-0037.



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 <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/first-fish.php> 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

The APAIS Program Gets an Upgrade!

By John Lake, Supervising Marine Biologist, Mike Bucko, Fisheries Technician,
Nathan Andrews, Fisheries Specialist, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

Rhode Island assumed the role of coordinating the Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) back in 2016. Since then, we have sought to improve the quality of our data by increasing productivity, efficiency, providing effective outreach, and refining our sampling frame. In simpler terms, RI APAIS is capitalizing on Rhode Island's many great fishing locations to collect the best data possible and interact with more anglers. Rhode Island staff have embraced their new role in the collection of recreational data and have met the challenge for the past 3 years. Actively engaging in the data collection process has allowed opportunities to expand the program through the hiring of additional staff, sampling during time periods that were previously not sampled, and developing new technologies.

For the past three years, RI Marine Fisheries has hired two or three additional field staff to collect more interviews. These additional staff make it possible for RI APAIS to record more interviews and improve our data, while at the same time reducing the percent standard error (PSE) around our catch estimates. The additional staff also provide flexibility to sample during times of the year which were previously unsampled. Notably, riding along and observing headboat trips between November and February. These staff members are also engaged in developing new technologies as tools to improve the programs. Additionally, these tools allow us to train staff to be better at collecting data, monitor fishing activity to direct sampling effort effectively, and improve data collection efficiency. The results have been very positive, Figure 1 displays our improvements in obtaining more angler intercepts.

Another exciting development is that, we are trading in our paper and pencils for new electronic tablets. This year, the APAIS program is going

digital with the Dockside Reporter! Instead of the big metal clipboards and papers which anglers have grown accustomed to seeing at the end of their fishing trip, Fisheries Technicians will be surveying across Rhode Island's shores with new electronic tablets equipped with new Dockside Interceptor App (DIA). RI APAIS staff have been working closely with staff from the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic Fishing Councils, NOAA Fisheries, and Harbor Light Software to develop the logic and flow of a digital version of the fishing survey. This year, 2019, is the first year for its field implementation and cumulates nearly three years of hard work.

Digital technology represents a whole suite of potential improvements to the recreational data collection process, notably in data quality and data collection efficiency. The new tablet-based system uses logic to prevent errors, thus improving both the quality and timeliness of the data by reducing the number of edits required for the data to be used for estimating catch rates. This new efficiency is particularly beneficial to the ACCSP who can now accept data via a digital upload, in lieu of paper forms. Data is submitted immediately after an assignment and immediately available for review. This "instant access" to the data is a vast improvement over the weeks-long process for paper forms to be scanned and uploaded to the MRIP database. Faster accesses to the data will allow for faster data analysis and an overall improved more efficient management process.

This digital transition is not just taking place in Rhode Island. From Maine to Florida, all states are going digital as part of a NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) objective. The transition to a digitally based data collection system is viewed as a "gamechanger" for recreational fisheries management and will continually be improved to address other aspects of the program. RI staff are continuing to make improvements to the Dockside Reporter and are key players in the rollout of the new system. We are not done yet! Currently, staff are developing an enhancement to the Dockside Reporter which will include a voice-to-text software system. The goal here will be to improve the speed and accuracy of collecting biological data at-sea on headboats. The future looks bright for RI Marine Fisheries APAIS Program. As always, if you see one of our Fisheries Technicians out in the field, we encourage you to take a minute out of your day to answer a few quick questions and measure your catch for that day. Don't forget to set the hook and set an example for other anglers by participating! Remember: Better Data, Better Fishing – You make it Possible.



Photo Credit: Sean Moreschi

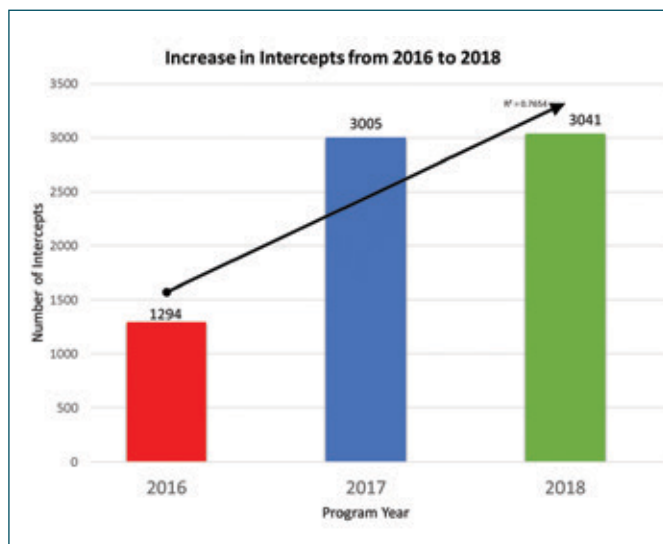


Figure 1: Number of Angler intercepts in Rhode Island per year between 2016 and 2018

Fishing Knots

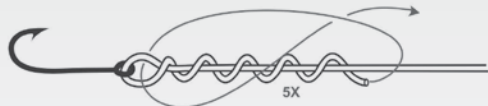
These and more fishing knots are available on waterproof plastic cards at www.proknot.com

Illustrations c 2011 John E Sherry

Improved Clinch Knot

The improved clinch knot has become one of the most popular knots for tying terminal tackle connections. It is quick and easy to tie and is strong and reliable.

The knot can be difficult to tie in lines in excess of 30 lb test. Five+ turns around the standing line is generally recommended, four can be used in heavy line. This knot is not recommended with braided lines.



1. Thread end of the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five or more turns around the standing line. Bring the end of the line through the first loop formed behind the eye, then through the big loop.



2. Wet knot and pull slightly on the tag end to draw up coils. Pull on the standing line to form knot with coils pressed neatly together.



3. Slide tight against eye and clip tag end.

Rapala Knot

The rapala knot is a popular method to tie a lure or fly to a line such that it can move freely and unimpeded by the knot.

1. Tie a loose overhand knot and feed the tag end through the eye and back through the overhand knot.



2. Make 3 turns around the standing line and bring tag end back through overhand knot.



3. Pass tag end through loop that is formed.

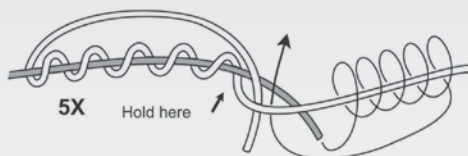


4. Moisten line. Pull on standing line while holding tag end to close knot. Pull on both tag and standing line to tighten knot down.



Blood Knot

Use this knot to join sections of leader or line together. It works best with line of approximately equal diameter.



1. Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring tag end back between the two lines. Repeat with other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.



2. Slowly pull lines or leaders in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather.

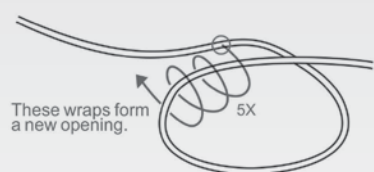


3. Pull tight and clip ends closely.

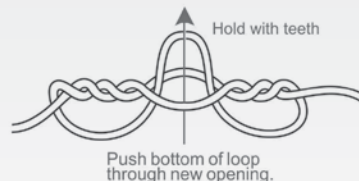
Dropper Loop Knot

This knot forms a loop anywhere on a line. Hooks or other tackle can then be attached to the loop.

1. Form a loop in the line at the desired location. Pull line from one side of loop down and pass it through and around that side of loop. Make 5+ wraps around the loop, keeping a thumb or forefinger in the new opening which is formed.



2. Press bottom of original loop up through new opening and hold with teeth. Wet knot with saliva and pull both ends in opposite directions.



3. Pull ends of line firmly until coils tighten and loop stands out from line.



Availability Chart

This chart shows the general availability of common finfish species in Rhode Island waters.
 * Please note that times of peak activity may vary due to water temperatures, prey availability, etc.

Important Recreational Species Availability Chart

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Black Sea Bass	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Bluefish	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Atlantic Cod	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
False Albacore/ Bonito	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR
Hickory Shad	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR
Mackerel	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR
Scup	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Squid	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Striped Bass	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR	POOR	POOR
Tautog (Blackfish)	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	GOOD	GOOD	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	POOR
Winter Flounder	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD

POOR



GOOD



GREAT



SEASON CLOSED



How to Properly Measure a Fish

Total Length Measurement

The **total length** is the maximum length of the fish, from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The best way to obtain this length is to push the fish's snout up against a vertical surface with the mouth closed and the fish laying along or on top of a tape measure. Measure to the tip of the tail or pinch the tail fin closed to determine the total length. **Do NOT use a flexible tape measure along the curve of the fish**, as this is not an accurate total length measurement. When measuring the total length of black sea bass, do NOT include the tendril on the caudal fin.



The **Correct** Way to Determine Total Length Measurement



The **Incorrect** Way to Determine Total Length Measurement

ATTENTION: Striped Bass Fin Clipping Regulation

All striped bass recreationally harvested over 34 inches must have their right pectoral fin completely removed. Only remove the right pectoral fin of fish over 34 inches that you intend to take home, do not remove any fins of fish when practicing catch and release fishing. This regulation helps ensure that any fish captured during recreational harvest cannot be sold commercially in Rhode Island or Massachusetts. No dealer in Rhode Island or Massachusetts can purchase a striped bass with its right pectoral fin clipped. Please do your part and help prevent the illegal sale of striped bass caught while recreational fishing.



Photo Credit: Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries

The right pectoral fin should be removed as close to the body of the fish as possible.



Photo courtesy of Lil Toot Charters



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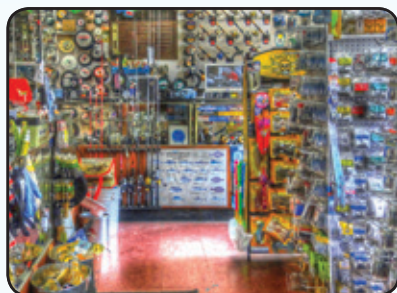
2019 Recreational Regulations

2019 Size, Season and Possession Limits

Species	Minimum Size	Open Season	Possession Limit
American Eel	9"	Open year round	25 eels/person/day or 50 eels/vsl/day for licensed party/charter vessels
Black Sea Bass	15"	June 24 - Aug. 31	3 fish/person/day
		Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	7 fish/person/day
Bluefish	No minimum	Open year round	15 fish/person/day
Monkfish (Goosefish)	17" whole fish 11" tail	Open year round	50 lbs of tails or 166 lbs whole/day
River Herring (alewives and blueback herring) & American Shad	Not applicable	CLOSED	Not applicable
Scup (shore and private / rental boat)	9"	Open year round	30 fish/person/day
Scup (special shore) ***	8"	Open year round	30 fish/person/day
Scup (party and charter)	9"	Jan. 1 - Aug. 31	30 fish/person/day
		Sept. 1 - Oct. 31	50 fish/person/day
		Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	30 fish/person/day
Striped Bass (see page 11 for fin clipping regulation)	28"	Open year round	1 fish/person/day
Summer Flounder (general)	19"	May 3 - Dec. 31	6 fish/person/day
Summer Flounder (special shore)***	17" (See Possession Limit)	May 3 - Dec. 31	2 fish @ 17" person/day 4 fish @ 19" person/day
Tautog (Blackfish) Max of 10 fish/ves/day during all periods, except licensed party / charter boats	16"	Apr. 1 - May 31	3 fish/person/day
		June 1 - July 31	CLOSED
		Aug. 1 - Oct. 14	3 fish/person/day
		Oct. 15 - Dec. 31	5 fish/person/day
Weakfish (Squeteague)	16"	Open year round	1 fish/person/day
Winter Flounder ** (Blackback)	12"	Mar. 1 - Dec. 31	2 fish/person/day

**The harvesting or possession of winter flounder is prohibited in Narragansett Bay north of the Colregs line (line from South Ferry Rd. in Narragansett to Fort Getty; Fort Wetherill to Fort Adams; and Sandy Pt. to High Hill Pt.), as well as in the Harbor of Refuge, Point Judith and Potter Pond.

***Special Shore Areas: While fishing from shore in the following areas, above special shore possession limits apply: India Point Park in Providence, Conimicut Park in Warwick, Stone Bridge in Tiverton, East and West walls in Narragansett, Rocky Point in Warwick, Fort Adams in Newport, and Fort Wetherill in Jamestown



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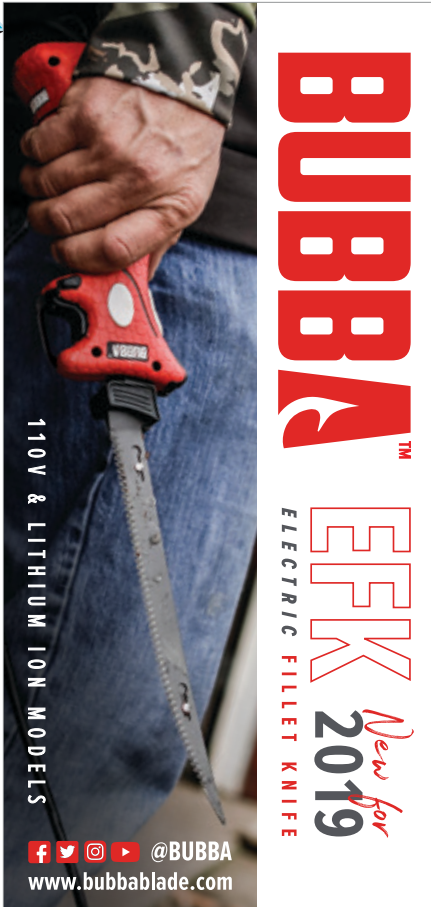
— Alabama's Black Belt —

State Records

Rhode Island Recreational State Records for Saltwater Species

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
Sea Bass	8 lbs. 7.25 oz.	26"	10/81	Block Island	K. McDuffie Pascoag, RI
Striped Bass	77 lbs. 6.4 oz	52"	6/11	Block Island	P. Vican E. Greenwich, RI
Bluefish	26 lbs.	39"	8/81	—	D. Deziel Woonsocket, RI
Bonito	13 lbs.	—	10/95	Westerly	R. Gliottone Exeter, RI
Cod	71 lbs.	—	6/65	—	M. Deciantis Warwick, RI
Summer Flounder	17 lbs. 8 oz.	—	1962	Narrow River	G. Farmer Warwick, RI
Winter Flounder	6 lbs. 7 oz.	23"	8/90	Galilee	A. Pearson Cranston, RI
King Mackerel	12 lbs. 3 oz.	40"	8/00	Point Judith	A. Camilleri Chester, CT
Atlantic Mackerel	1lb 1.6oz.	14"	11/18		T. Rovinelli Providence, RI
Pollock	28 lbs. 8 oz.	—	5/95	—	A. Jacobs Lincoln, RI
Scup	5 lbs.	20.25"	10/90	—	J. Yurwitz Block Island, RI
American Shad (Closed)	6 lbs. 8 oz.	25"	4/85	Runnins River	W. Socha Warren, RI
Hickory Shad	2 lbs. 11 oz.	20"	11/89	Narrow River	M. Pickering Lincoln, RI
Blue Shark	431 lbs. 2 oz.	12'6"	11/06	Cox Ledge	G. Gross Fairfield, NJ
Mako Shark	718 lbs.	10'6"	6/93	S. Block Island	W. Alessi Boston, MA
Swordfish	588 lbs.	—	8/18	Atlantic	L. Banfield Saunderstown, RI
Squeteague	16 lbs. 8.72 oz.	36"	5/07	Greenwich Bay	R. Moeller N. Kingstown, RI
Tautog	21 lbs. 4 oz.	—	11/54	Jamestown	C.W. Sunquist
Bluefin Tuna	1142 lbs.	—	9/71	Block Island	J. Dempsey
Yellowfin Tuna	265 lbs.	6'	10/97	The Dip	R. Hughes Arlington, MA
White Marlin	125 lbs.	8' 0.5"	8/87	S. Block Island	J. Luty, Sr. Preston, CT

If you believe you've caught a new Rhode Island State Record, bring it to an official weigh-in station to be weighed and measured using a digital scale. State record catches are determined annually once all data are received for that year. A list of official weigh-in stations can be found on Fish & Wildlife's Webpage at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/records.htm#stations>.



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Spatial Sex-Segregation in Rhode Island Fluke

By Joseph A. Langan, University of Rhode Island
Graduate School of Oceanography

For many Rhode Islanders, the opening of fluke season on May 1st is a sure sign of summer. Fluke, or summer flounder, support one of the most important commercial finfish fisheries on the Atlantic coast and one of the largest recreational fisheries in the United States (NMFS 2018). In fact, the recreational fishery is so significant that it is allocated a significant portion of the total annual fluke harvest, on par with the commercial fishery (NEFSC 2013). While fluke are managed as one coastwide stock, recreational harvest limits vary among states or groups of states (Terceiro 2018). This framework was created to allow states flexibility in how they meet their harvest limits for their respective recreational fisheries. However, it is important to consider fluke biology in developing these rules each year.

Like many flatfish, fluke are sexually dimorphic. This means that the sexes are visibly different from each other. Specifically, females grow larger and faster than males (King et al. 2001). When recreational harvest is regulated by a minimum length limit, as is the case in Rhode Island, this dimorphism creates a risk of removing a disproportionate number of the females that are important for stock productivity. A series of studies in New Jersey conducted

between 2009 and 2016 illustrated this possibility. The researchers showed that the vast majority of fluke harvested by New Jersey anglers were female and as a result, went on to suggest a slot limit as a viable management alternative for the recreational fishery (Morson et al. 2012, 2015, 2017). However, these investigations also showed something fishy was going on—the sex ratio of a boat's catch varied depending on where it came from. Fluke landed in shallow waters seemed to be female more often than those caught in deeper habitats. While it has been observed in other flatfish like Pacific halibut (Loher et al. 2012) and American plaice (Swain 1997), spatial segregation of the sexes was not known previously in fluke. Furthermore, it was difficult to pull apart potential patterns of sex-segregation from patterns of fishing effort and angler behavior.

In order to get to the bottom of this phenomenon, a study was launched by researchers from the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) and the Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDMF). Rhode Island is unique in that the state is swimming in scientific survey data of its marine ecosystems. The weekly trawl survey conducted by GSO since 1959 is the longest of its kind in the

western hemisphere. In addition, RIDMF has conducted monthly and seasonal fish trawls at stations throughout Narragansett Bay and the Rhode Island and Block Island Sounds since 1979. Utilizing these two surveys, over 1,300 fluke were collected throughout Rhode Island state waters between May and October of 2016 and 2017. Each fish was measured and dissected to determine its sex. The proportions of each sex in each trawl were then compared to a suite of potential parameters, like bottom water temperature, month, and depth, to look for evidence spatial sex-segregation and understand what factors may influence it.

The results of this study showed that fluke harvested by recreational anglers in Rhode Island are indeed almost entirely female. For example, under the 18 in and 19 in minimum length limits used in the Rhode Island recreational fishery in 2016 and 2017 when the study was conducted, 93.0% and 97.7%, respectively, of the sampled “legal-sized” fluke were female. The size distribution of fluke in state waters was also found to vary throughout the season. Smaller fish were the first to arrive in May before large females reached the coastal zone in late-June and July. The large fluke then began to thin out in August as they presumably headed offshore to spawn. Interestingly, young-of-the-year fluke were also observed in the trawl samples. After being spawned in the fall and spending winter and spring growing in the shallow areas of Narragansett Bay and the coastal ponds, young-of-the-year fish appeared to move to deeper waters beginning in July. By October, these young fluke made up a large proportion of the fish remaining in state waters before they too migrated offshore.

Clear patterns of spatial sex-segregation were observed in the sampled fluke. Females were found to prefer shallow waters while males dominated deeper areas of the coastal zone. It is not known what causes these patterns, but it

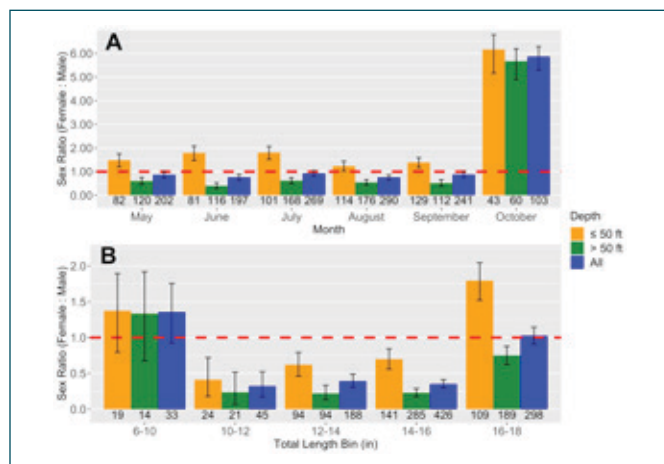


Figure 1. Sex ratios of sampled fluke by (A) month and depth categories and (B) size bin and depth categories: blue represents all depths, green is depths > 50 ft, and gold is depths ≤ 50 ft. An even sex ratio (1:1) is demarcated by the red horizontal dashed line. Sample sizes for month and depth category-size bin are labeled under each bar. The error bars represent the 95% confidence interval of each sex ratio estimate. Fluke > 18 in in length were excluded in (B) due to an extreme female skew.

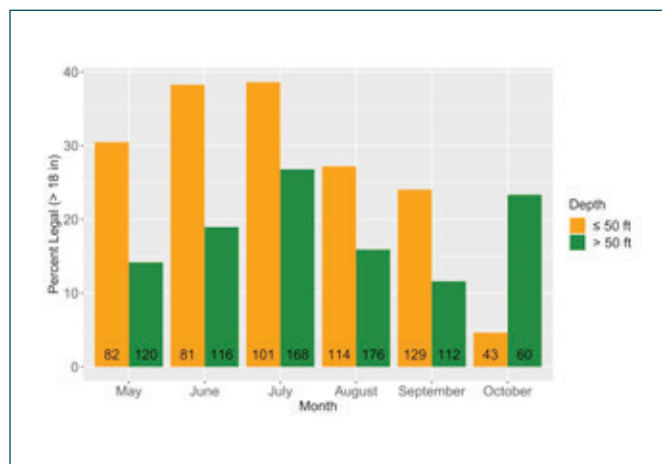


Figure 2. The percent of sampled fluke that were legal for recreational harvest under an 18 in minimum length limit by month and depth bin. Sample sizes for each month and depth bin are printed at the bottom of each bar.

may be because shallow habitats are warmer and thus help females to maintain their fast growth rates. That said, the sex ratio was not observed to respond to every change in water temperature. Further research will be needed to better understand why female fluke preferentially select shallower habitats.

The degree of sex-segregation also changed throughout the season. The catch in May tended to be dominated by small female fluke, before more males and large females moved inshore in June. These males and large females then moved offshore together beginning in August, leaving a population heavily skewed toward young female fluke by October (Figure 1). Samples from locations less than 50 ft deep were female-dominated throughout the season, while locations deeper than 50 ft were male-dominated in every month except October.

Thinking from the angler's perspective, these patterns combine to suggest a clear fishing strategy to find legal fluke. The proportion of fluke in the trawl samples legal for recreational harvest peaked in July (Figure 2). At locations less than 50 ft deep, nearly 40% of the July-captured fluke were larger than the 18" minimum length limit used to regulate the recreational fishery in 2016! All of the sampled "doormat" fluke (here considered fish >24 in) were also observed between mid-June and mid-August. If, however, you find yourself trying to catch those last few legal fluke late in the season, you will want to head for deeper waters. Deep areas of Rhode Island state waters become warmer than shallow habitats in October as Fall cooling begins to take effect.

In addition to identifying and characterizing patterns of spatial sex-segregation in fluke, a statistical model was constructed to predict the probability that captured sum-

mer flounder were female based upon their individual total lengths, the depth of the capture location, and the month of capture. The model was found to predict sex correctly in individual flounder nearly 80% of the time. When the model was applied to a large sample of fluke, at the scale of annual recreational catch for example, assigning each fluke proportionately between the sexes based upon the predicted female probability produced a very accurate estimate of the sample-wide sex ratio. In this manner, the model could be used to accurately predict the sex ratio of fluke harvested within Rhode Island waters using capture information that is commonly available to fisheries scientists. However, it is unclear how well the model would perform outside the immediate area. More research needs to be conducted in other locations before the results found in Rhode Island are used in fluke management coastwide. That being said, the clear and predictable patterns of fluke sex-segregation identified in this study suggest that implementation of more targeted spatial fluke management measures to preserve the female spawning stock may be possible in the future.

If you would like to learn more about this research, it was published in February 2019 as an open access scientific paper in Marine and Coastal Fisheries under the title "Evaluating Summer Flounder Spatial Sex-Segregation in a Southern New England Estuary" (<https://afspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/mcf2.10065>). This work was a contribution of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Institute and benefitted from monetary support of one of its participants by the National Science Foundation REU Program (OCE-1460819) hosted by the GSO Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Oceanography (SURFO).

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Striper and Fluke Assessment

By Jason McNamee, Chief of Marine Fisheries and Nicole Lengyel Costa
Principal Marine Biologist, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries



The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), formerly the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS), is a collaborative recreational data collection and estimation program that includes state, regional, and federal partners. Recreational data is collected from anglers and Captains through a suite of surveys, each designed to collect a unique piece of data that is used in the overall estimation of recreational catch and effort. Although the program has seen many improvements over the years, the findings of a 2006 review by the National Research Council prompted MRIP to make improvements to the design of several surveys.

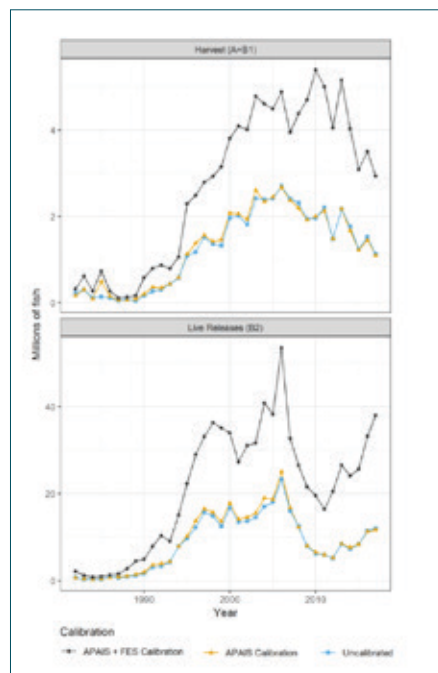


Figure 1. Comparison of calibrated and uncalibrated MRIP estimates of recreational harvest (top) and live releases (bottom) for Atlantic striped bass through 2017. Uncalibrated = original MRIP estimates; APAIS calibration = MRIP estimates after calibration to account for changes in the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). APAIS + FES calibration = MRIP estimates after calibration to account for APAIS changes and the change in effort estimation from the coastal household telephone survey to a mail-based fishing effort survey (FES). This figure is from NEFSC (2019).

One of the surveys, the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) has trained samplers go into the field at public locations, such as boat ramps and marinas, and interview anglers about the fishing trip they just completed. The sampler has a list of questions that they ask the angler designed to collect information regarding the species harvested and released, as well as the fishing trip itself. In 2013, APAIS implemented an improved survey design to address the potential for bias in survey results. To make the estimates generated under the new sampling design comparable to the pre-2013 estimates, a calibration model was developed. This model passed peer review in 2018 and became available for management use.

Also in 2018, a random-digit-dial telephone survey known as the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS), was discontinued and a new mail-based Fishing Effort Survey (FES) that began in 2015 was adopted as the source of recreational fishing effort data. The effort survey is used to estimate the number of fishing trips taken by shore and private boat anglers. Both the CHTS and FES were conducted side-by-side for three years (2015-2017) to facilitate the development of a calibration model that would be used to re-estimate historical effort data, similar to what was done for APAIS. The FES calibration model became available for use after it passed peer review in 2017. The APAIS and this effort survey are used in tandem to generate recreational fishing catch and effort information.

Recreational catch and effort estimates are important data sources for any species stock assessment. This data can inform the model about how much recreational fishing pressure a species is under and can characterize the recreational fishery removals from both harvest and releases. The 2018 benchmark stock assessments for striped bass and summer flounder were both peer reviewed in November 2018 at the Northeast Regional SAW/SARC 66 (NEFSC 2019). The benchmark stock assessments for these two species were the first to include the newly calibrated MRIP catch and effort estimates, and provided the first opportunity to look at the effects of the transition to the FES in 2018, and the calibration of historic catch and effort data using the APAIS and FES calibration models.

2018 Benchmark Striped Bass Stock Assessment

The 2018 benchmark striped bass stock assessment used recreational catch estimates from 1982 – 2017 as a source of removals in a statistical catch-at-age (SCA) model. Catch estimates included both direct harvest and live releases. The assessment compared uncalibrated harvest and dead release estimates to estimates that incorporated just the calibrated APAIS, as well as estimates that incorporated both the calibrated APAIS and FES. These comparisons showed that calibrated MRIP estimates were significantly higher than non-calibrated MRIP estimates, and that the incorporation of the FES calibration was largely responsible for the observed difference (Figure 1; NEFSC, 2019). Calibrated harvest estimates were on average 140% higher while calibrated live releases were on average 160% higher. Despite these differences, both the calibrated and non-calibrated estimates showed similar trends in spawning stock biomass (SSB) over time (NEFSC, 2019).

The impact of these data on the assessment findings was also significant. In order for the striped bass population to be able to support the larger recreational removals indicated by the newly calibrated MRIP estimates, the model estimated that there was also a higher level of SSB than previously indicated. Although the 2018 SCA model shows a similar declining trend in female SSB to that of the 2013 SCA model, the decline since 2012 became much sharper. The striped bass population is defined as overfished when the female SSB is below the estimate of female SSB in 1995, the year the striped bass population was declared restored. Female SSB in 2017 was estimated at 68,476 mt, a value below the SSB threshold of 91,436 mt, indicating the striped bass stock is overfished.

The fishing mortality rate (F) that will maintain the striped stock at the SSB threshold is the defined as the F threshold. In the 2018 SCA model the F threshold was estimated to be 0.240 and F in 2017 was estimated to be 0.307, indicating the stock is experiencing overfishing.

While the newly calibrated MRIP estimates are thought to be a major factor contributing to the finding that the striped bass stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring, other contributing factors include the reduced bag limits

from Addendum IV and sizeable year classes that have not yet fully recruited to the fishery and are increasing discards in the Chesapeake Bay and along the coast.

At its February 2018 meeting, the striped bass board tasked the Technical Committee (TC) with determining the removals needed to reduce fishing mortality down below the target and threshold levels by 2020. The TC will report back to the Board in May at which time the Board will also discuss the striped bass stock assessment report and peer review reports, and determine if action in response to the assessment findings is necessary.

2018 Benchmark Summer Flounder Stock Assessment

Similar to the striped bass stock assessment, the 2018 benchmark summer flounder stock assessment used recreational catch estimates from 1982 – 2017 as a source of removals in a statistical catch-at-age (SCA) model. Catch estimates included both direct harvest and live releases, but only a portion of the live releases are considered removals (dead). The assessment compared uncalibrated harvest and dead release estimates to estimates that incorporated both the calibrated APAIS and FES. As was the case for striped bass, these comparisons showed that calibrated MRIP estimates were significantly higher than non-calibrated MRIP estimates, with the FES calibration being the main driver of the difference in the new estimates. Calibrated harvest estimates increased total harvest by an average of 29% over the time period analyzed. The differences generally



Striped Bass photo credit: Lucky Lady Charters

scaled the biomass of the population up, but the trends through time were similar to the old estimates.

The impact of the newly calibrated data on the summer flounder assessment was similar to striped bass with regard to increasing the population size to support the additional removals (Figure 2; NEFSC, 2019). However, in the case of summer flounder, stock status (relative to current reference points) and model diagnostics improved with the new data. One of the big differences between striped bass and summer flounder is in the proportion of the removals that are attributed to the recreational fishery. For striped bass, recreational harvest represents the vast majority of the removals, while for summer flounder, it represents just over half of the removals. This may be one of the factors driving the different outcomes between the two models with regard to how the models reacted to the new calibrated data.

Stock status and working through those issues with striped bass will be the main challenge for that fishery in the coming year. For summer flounder, the challenge will be how to contend with the resource allocation between the recreational and commercial fisheries. As a case in point, the commercial quota will increase signifi-

cantly in 2019, but recreational regulations will stay close to what they are now due to the fact that the recreational harvest was higher than earlier projections anticipated due to the calibration, while the commercial fishery was constrained to the quota. Deciding how to handle this effect of the recalibration will likely keep fishery managers busy over the coming couple of years.

There are a number of other species scheduled to have their assessments updated in 2019, including some important recreational species such as black sea bass, scup, and bluefish. It remains to be seen how these species assessments may react to the calibrated data. Bluefish is similar to striped bass with regard to it having mostly recreational harvest so may have a significant change. Scup has only a small portion that is recreational so may not change much. Black sea bass is similar to summer flounder with about half of the fishery coming from recreational harvesters, but black sea bass has a fairly complex spatial assessment, therefore the impact is hard to prognosticate. Regardless, the newly calibrated data has consequential implications and the results of this change in our understanding of the recreational fisheries will continue to play out over the coming years for important recreational species.

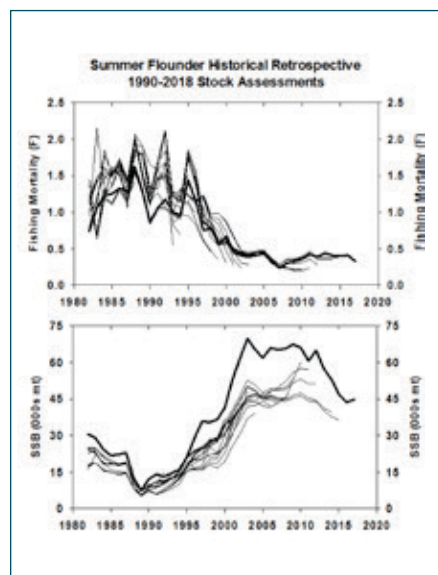


Figure 2. Historical retrospective of the 1990-2018 stock assessments of summer flounder. The heavy solid lines are the 2018 SAW-66 estimates, while the thinner lines represent previous assessment outcomes for fishing mortality (top panel) and spawning stock biomass (bottom panel). This figure is from NEFSC (2019).

References

Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). 2019. 66th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (66th SAW) Assessment Summary Report. US Dept Commer, Northeast Fish Sci Cent Ref Doc. 19-01; 40 p. Available at: <https://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/crd/crd1901/>

Commonly Caught Species

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Common Fish



Winter flounder (Blackback)

Scientific Name: *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*

Identification: Nearly straight lateral line and blunt snout. Eyes on right side.



Summer flounder (Fluke)

Scientific Name: *Paralichthys dentatus*

Identification: Eyes on left side. Large mouth with teeth.



Tautog (Blackfish)

Scientific Name: *Tautoga onitis*

Identification: Highly arched head, blunt snout and thick lips.



Black Sea Bass

Scientific Name: *Centropristis striata*

Identification: Gray, brown or blue-black. Rounded caudal fin.



Striped Bass

Scientific Name: *Morone saxatilis*

Identification: Grayish-green above, silvery on sides with distinct horizontal stripes.



Bluefish

Scientific Name: *Pomatomus saltatrix*

Identification: Series of stout conical teeth, and first dorsal fin is much lower than the second with 7-9 dorsal spines.



Weakfish (Squeteague)

Scientific Name: *Cynoscion regalis*

Identification: Long second dorsal fin, slender body and absent chin barbel.



Scup (Porgy)

Scientific Name: *Stenotomus chrysops*

Identification: Silvery, iridescent. Concave dorsal profile, small teeth and lunate pointed tail.



Atlantic cod

Scientific Name: *Gadus morhua*

Identification: Pale lateral line, chin barbel, large eyes, square tipped tail and spotted color pattern.



Pollock

Scientific Name: *Pollachius virens*

Identification: Forked tail, projecting lower jaw and greenish color without spots.



American eel

Scientific Name: *Anguilla rostrata*

Identification: Dorsal fin begins far behind the pectoral fin, and the lower jaw projects beyond upper jaw.



Alewife and Blueback Herring (River Herring)

Scientific Name: *Alosa pseudoharengus* and *Alosa aestivalis*

Identification: Deep body and spot located just behind the gill cover.



Monkfish (Goosefish)

Scientific Name: *Lophius americanus*

Identification: Depressed body and huge mouth.



Spiny dogfish

Scientific Name: *Squalus acanthias*

Identification: Gray or brownish with large sharp dorsal spines.



Atlantic menhaden

Scientific Name: *Brevoortia tyrannus*

Identification: Large scaleless head nearly one third total body length.

Common Invertebrates



American Lobster

Scientific Name: *Homarus americanus*
Identification: Greenish brown with blue patches near joints of appendages.



Atlantic Rock Crab

Scientific Name: *Cancer irroratus*
Identification: Beige or yellowish shell with numerous closely spaced purple-brown spots. Very common.



Green Crab

Scientific Name: *Carcinus maenas*
Identification: Usually dark green. Found under rocks and in intertidal zones. Very common.



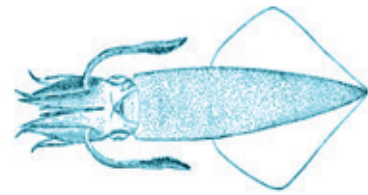
Blue Crab

Scientific Name: *Callinectes sapidus*
Identification: Blueish gray shell. Fingers of claws are bright blue in males and red in females.



Horseshoe Crab

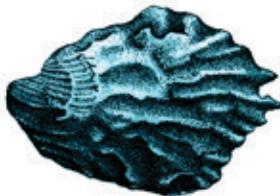
Scientific Name: *Limulus polyphemus*
Identification: Olive green or brownish shell. Long spike-like tail.



Atlantic Longfin Squid

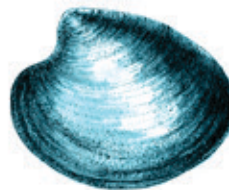
Scientific Name: *Loligo pealeii*
Identification: White or translucent gray with tiny red or purple spots with expand and contract.

Common Shellfish



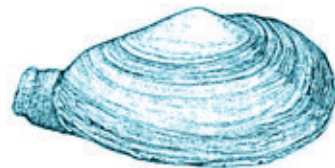
Eastern Oyster

Scientific Name: *Crassostrea virginica*
Identification: Grayish white, variable shape, found at or below low tide level.



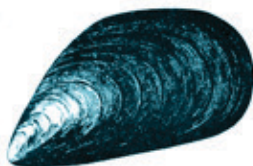
Northern Quahog (Hard Shell Clam)

Scientific Name: *Mercenaria mercenaria*
Identification: Shell ranges from light gray to black. Found in shallow water.



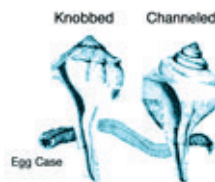
Soft Shell Clam (steamer)

Scientific Name: *Mya arenaria*
Identification: Chalky white shell. Lives deeply burrowed in sediment. Common in intertidal zone and shallow water.



Blue Mussel

Scientific Name: *Mytilus edulis*
Identification: Blue or blue-black. Common in beds near low tide and attaches to rocks and shells with fibers.



Channeled & Knobbed Whelk

Scientific Name: *Busycotypus canalliculatus* & *Busycon carica*.
Identification: Grooved or knobbed beige or yellowish gray shell. Often covered with a hairy outer shell layer. Distinctive egg case.



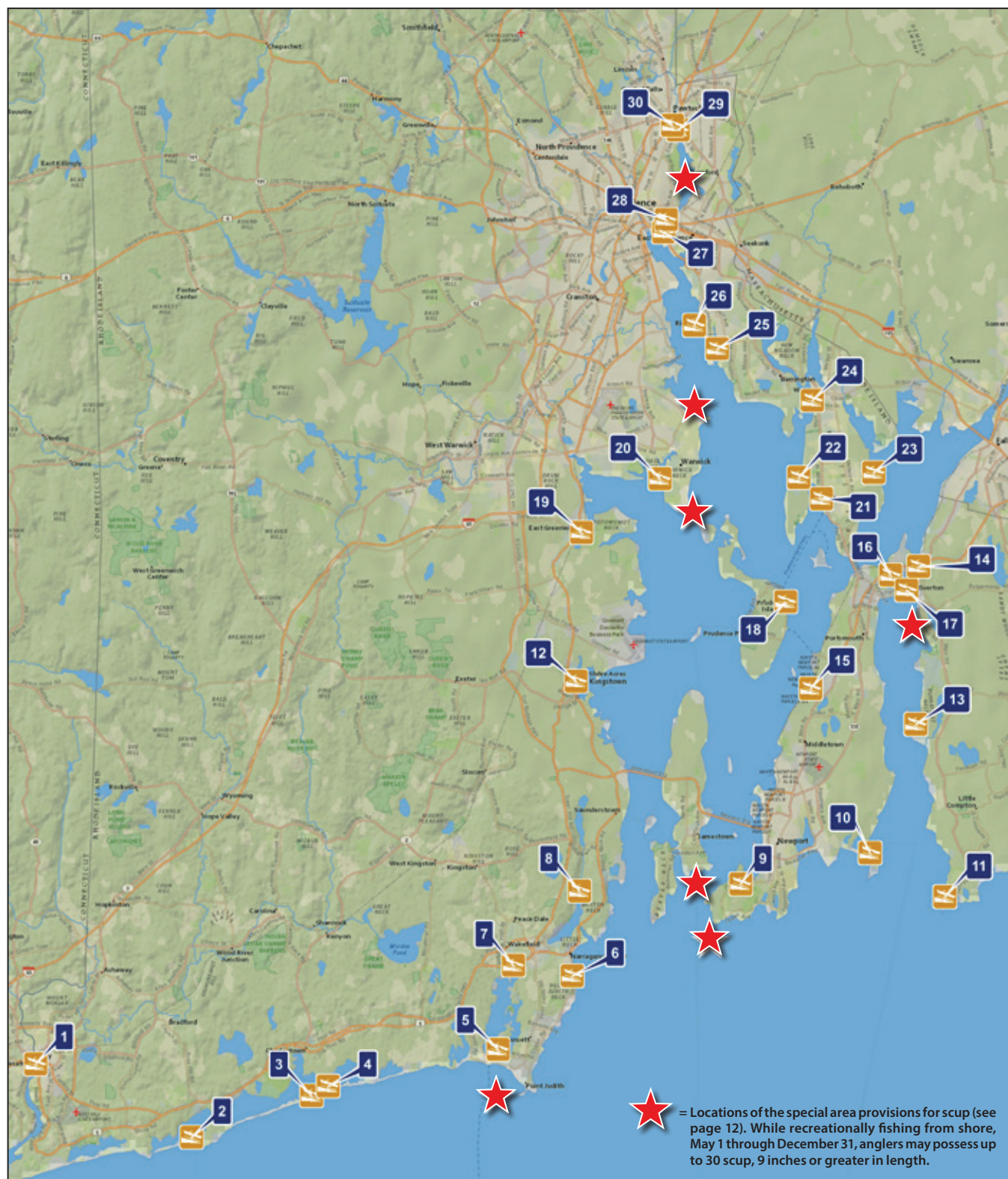
Common Periwinkle

Scientific Name: *Littorina littorea*
Identification: Usually brown, black or gray shell, sometimes with white spiral lines. Most common periwinkle in the rocky intertidal zone.

Access Sites

Please see below for a map of saltwater boating access sites throughout Rhode Island. The sites are State-owned and currently in usable condition. A list of these locations with brief descriptions is found on page 21. More boating access sites, such as town-owned ramps, and additional information can be found on the Marine Fisheries website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/boatlnch.htm#salt>.

When utilizing these boating access sites, please be respectful of other users and properly dispose of all trash and waste.



Town	Site #	Name	Description	Depth at MLW
Westerly	1	Main Street	Main St., concrete slab ramp	4 ft.
Charlestown	2	Quonochontaug Breachway	Off West Beach Rd., concrete plank ramp	3 ft.
	3	Charlestown Breachway	West end of Charlestown Beach Rd., linked concrete slabs	3 ft.
	4	Charlestown	Off of Charlestown Beach Rd. Natural Shoreline, gravel base	N/A
Narragansett	5	Galilee	Corner of Galilee Rd., and Great Island Rd., southeast side of Great Island Bridge. Linked concrete planks - double ramp	4 ft.
	6	Monahan's Dock	East Side of Ocean Rd., at South Pier Rd., concrete - steep drop	3 - 4 ft.
South Kingstown	7	Narrow River	Off Middlebridge Rd. on Pollock Ave., concrete planks	3 ft.
	8	Marina Park	Route 1., concrete slabs	N/A
Newport	9	Fort Adams	Off Harriston Ave.	3 ft.
Middletown	10	Third Beach	Concrete ramp. Parking fee when beach is open	N/A
Little Compton	11	Sakonnet Point	Sakonnet Point Rd. (Rt. 77). North side of Town Landing Rd., linked concrete planks	2 ft.
North Kingstown	12	Wilson Park	East end of Intrepid Dr., off Post Rd., Rt. 1, near fire station. Linked concrete plank - moderately steep	3 ft.
Tiverton	13	Fogland	End of Fogland Rd., at High Hill Rd. Linked concrete planks	N/A
	14	Sakonnet River Bridge	Underneath new Sakonnet bridge., off Riverside Dr. concrete planks, strong currents	N/A
Portsmouth	15	Weaver Cove	On Burma Rd. South of Melville complex. Concrete slabs	4 ft.
	16	Gull Cove	Accessed via turnoff from RI 138 E/24 E. Linked concrete planks	2 ft.
	17	Stone Bridge	Off Rte. 138 at junction of Park Ave and Point Rd., at Teddy's Beach	3 ft.
Prudence Island	18	Homestead	On Prudence Island, off Narragansett Ave., north of Prudence Variety	N/A
East Greenwich	19	Greenwich Cove	Pole #6, Crompton Ave. Concrete slab	N/A
Warwick	19	Goddard	Goddard State Park	N/A
	20	Oakland Beach	Warwick Cove. Oakland Beach Ave. Take last left. East side of Oakland Beach. Concrete ramp	<4 ft.
Bristol	21	Independence Park	At the foot of Church St., off of Rt. 114. Linked concrete slab	N/A
	22	Colt State Park	Off of Hope St. (Rt. 114), concrete ramp	4 ft.
	23	Annawanscutt	Annawanscutt Dr., off Metacom Ave. (Rt. 136), past Veteran's Home. Linked concrete planks	>2 ft.
Warren	24	Warren	West side of Water St., at Wheaton St., cement slab	N/A
Barrington	25	Haines Park	On Bullock's Cove, off Metropolitan Park Dr. concrete slab	4 ft.
East Providence	26	Sabin Point	Off Bulluck's Point Ave. Hard packed Sand	N/A
	27	Bold Point	Off Veteran's Memorial Pkwy., via Mauran Ave. at the end of Pier Rd. Concrete slab	4 ft.
Providence	28	Gano Park	End of of East Transit St. Concrete slab	N/A
Pawtucket	29	Festival Pier	End of Tim Healey Way, off of School St. (Rt. 114). Concrete slab	N/A
	30	Pawtucket	East side of Taft St., just south of Rt. 95 bridge. Linked concrete planks	N/A

* Please note that some boating access sites may require a permit or fee for parking and/or use.

N/A= Information not available

Recreational Lobster License

- Available to Rhode Island residents only
- Allows for personal use only (not for sale)



Types of licenses available:

Lobster	
Non-Commercial Pot License	\$40.00 yr
Non-Commercial Diver License	\$40.00 yr

Licenses can be obtained through the Office of Boat Registration and Licensing located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 or online at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/manserv/hfb/boating/commfish.htm>

- All lobsters must be measured IMMEDIATELY.
- Those measuring less than 3-3/8" carapace length must be returned immediately to the water from which taken.
- The POSSESSION of egg-bearing or v-notched lobsters is prohibited.
- Mandatory v-notching of all egg-bearing females in LCMA 2 (includes all RI state waters).
- No person shall raise or unduly disturb any lobster pot or trap within the territorial waters of this State between the hours of one (1) hour after sundown and one (1) hour before sunrise.
- Recreational possession limit for licensed residents:
 - » Pots – 5 pots/recreational license
 - » Divers – 8 lobsters/day

Blue Crabs

- State Residents Only – no license needed

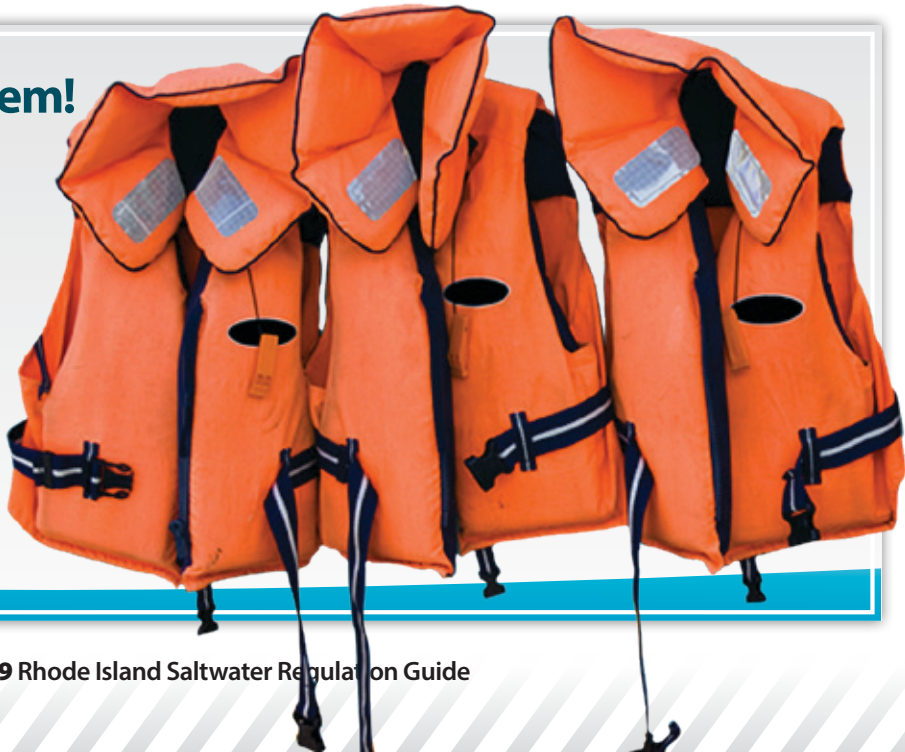


- All Blue Crabs measuring less than 5" spike to spike shall be returned to the water immediately.
- No person shall possess, take, or attempt to take more than 25 blue crabs from any of the waters in this state except when taking by crab net, dip net, scoop net, hand line or trot line.
- Harvesting of blue crabs is prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- The POSSESSION of egg-bearing crabs is prohibited.

****This is only a brief summary of the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife's regulations. For more information or to view the actual regulations please visit RIDFW's website at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/mftopics.htm>****

Life Jackets; Wear Them!

- Always remember to wear a life jacket.
- Make sure your life jacket is U.S.C.G. approved.
- Take the time to ensure a proper fit.
- Life jackets meant for adults do not work for children.
- Children under 13 years old must wear a life jacket.



Equipment Regulations

Escape Vents (Lobster, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Pots)

Minimum size	Lobster	Scup	Black Sea Bass
Rectangular	2" x 5-3/4"	2-1/4" x 5-3/4"	1-3/8" x 5-3/4"
Square	None	2-1/4" x 2-1/4"	2" X 2"
Two Circular	2-5/8" diameter	3.1" diameter	2.5" diameter

Diving Baskets

Bar Spacing	1" x 2-1/2" minimum
Bag	2" minimum

Spacing Requirements for Tongs and Bullrakes

Tooth Spacing	1" minimum
Head Construction	1" x 2-1/2" minimum

Bay Scallop Regulations:

Bay Scallops may only be harvested using dip nets from the second Saturday of November until sunrise the first day of December. Other appropriate methods, such as snorkeling, diving, or dredges, may be used from December 1st until December 31st. For additional information and restrictions, please visit http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimf_shell.pdf.

Scuba

Shellfishing using SCUBA gear is prohibited in Point Judith, Ninigret, Green Hill Pond, Quonochontaug Pond, Charlestown Pond and Potter Pond.

Gill Nets, Otter Trawling, Seines, Etc.

Please contact RIDFW to request area specific regulations.



Beach Seines, Recreational Bait Nets

Marine species may lawfully be taken for personal use provided that all existing minimum size and possession limit restrictions for the species possessed are adhered to. Also, a limit of 2 quarts per person is allowed for all unregulated marine species. Nets being used cannot exceed four (4) feet in depth and 20 feet in length.

Marking of Traps

The owner of every trap, pot, or other stationary contrivance used for the taking of marine fish, shellfish, crustaceans, or other invertebrates being fished in the waters of this state, and the owner of any trap or pot for catching, or cars or other contrivance for keeping lobsters shall mark each such trap, pot, or contrivance, together with the buoy which is attached thereto, with the name or names of the owners thereof or the person or persons using the same, and the license number or numbers of such person or persons. Each such lobster or crab pot buoy shall display that person's stated color scheme, and this color scheme shall also be displayed on the boat used by that person in tending that gear. The use of floating line within eight feet of the surface is prohibited.

Pole ☒ Bait ☒ Lures ☒

LICENSE? ☐

**Buy Your RI Saltwater
Fishing License Online.**

www.saltwater.ri.gov



Department of
Environmental
Management

TECHNIQUES

How to handle shellfish with love



Shellfish are one of Nature's most perfect foods – **healthful, nutritious and delicious.** However, if shellfish are not kept cold they can cause illness (like many other raw foods). These tips ensure that the shellfish you serve are as perfect and healthful as Nature intended



Harvesting Shellfish

Before you set out to “dig your own” there are basic guidelines to follow. The first is to dig in approved waters. The RI Dept. of Environmental Management regulates and manages shellfish growing areas. They monitor water quality for conditions such as bacterial/viral loads and “red tide.” To ensure you are harvesting from approved waters you can check the maps and descriptions at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/mapfile/shellfish.pdf> and get updates on closures on the DEM hotline at 401-222-2900. The wild harvest of oysters is prohibited from May 16 – Sept 14 annually.



Transporting Shellfish

Make sure your shellfish stay cold on the trip home. The optimal temperature to preserve flavor and safety is 35° to 45° F. Here are a few options:

- Keep shellfish on ice, not in water, and in the shade for the trip home.
- Using a cooler with ice or cold packs is the best choice.



Storing Shellfish

Fresh shellfish can last for several days if properly stored in your refrigerator below 45° F. Freezing shellfish will kill them, and they should not be held in melted ice water. Make sure they are not contaminated by other foods that might drip on them. Allowing shellfish to warm up can allow bacteria to grow, increasing the risk of illness.



Cooking Shellfish

Make sure there are no dead or gaping shellfish, live shellfish will close tightly when tapped. Shellfish should smell fresh - like an ocean breeze. Avoid raw or undercooked shellfish if you are immune compromised*, but fully cooking will eliminate bacteria.

* The elderly, as well as those individuals who suffer from liver disease, diabetes, HIV, or are taking medications that suppress their immune system, can be at risk for serious illness from bacteria that may be associated with raw or undercooked poultry, eggs, hamburger and shellfish (especially in summer). Ask your doctor if you are not sure.



For more information
about shellfish safety issues visit the following websites:
www.ECSGA.org/safety or www.safeoysters.org



Shellfish Regulations

Shellfishing is prohibited statewide between sunset and sunrise.

Oysters – The season is open from September 15 to May 15 (inclusive).

Scallops – The season opens sunrise the first Saturday in November and closes at sunset on December 31.

Consult “Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulations: Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations for specific shellfishing regulations. <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimftoc.htm>

Resident Recreational Shellfishing – No License Required

Any resident of this State may, without a license, take quahogs, soft-shelled clams, mussels, surf clams, oysters (in season), and bay scallops (in season). Harvested shellfish may not be sold or offered for sale. (See below for possession limits in Shellfish Management Areas and Non-Management Areas).

Non-Resident Recreational Shellfishing – Licensed Individuals Only

Holders of a non-resident shellfishing license may take quahogs, soft-shelled clams, mussels, surf clams, oysters (in season). (See below for possession limits in Shellfish Management Areas and Non-Management Areas). There is no taking of lobsters, blue crabs, or bay scallops by non-residents.

Non-Resident Property Owners

A nonresident landowner who owns residential real estate in Rhode Island assessed for taxation at a value of not less than thirty thousand dollars may, with proof of property ownership, obtain an annual, non-commercial, non-resident shellfish license for a fee of twenty-five dollars. This license holds the same restrictions and allowable daily catch limits as a licensed non-resident.

Shellfish Management Areas:

Potter, Point Judith, Ninigret (Charlestown), Quonochontaug, and Winnapaug (Brightman) Ponds, Greenwich Bay, Bristol Harbor, Potowomut (Areas A, B and C), and Bissel Cove, Kickemuit River, High Banks, Mill Gut, Jenny’s Creek (closed until further notice). Additionally, certain Shellfish Management Areas, have limited fishing days and seasonal requirements for commercial harvest.

Area specific regulations may apply. Consult “Part IV Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations at http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimf_shell.pdf

Shellfishing Areas with Harvest Restrictions Due to Water Quality:

Certain areas are subject to permanent, seasonal, and rainfall-induced shellfishing closures. Consult <http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/mapfile/shellfish.pdf> for current maps and regulations or contact the Division of Water Resources at

(401) 222-3961. For current rainfall-induced closure restrictions call (401) 222-2900. Please be responsible; be aware of all harvesting restrictions.

Spawner Sanctuaries and Shellfishing Moratoria:

Certain waters of the state are permanently closed to shellfishing, allowing maintenance, restoration, and enhancement wild broodstock. Areas include portions of Winnapaug Pond, Quonochontaug Pond, Ninigret Pond, Potter Pond, Potowomut, and Jenny’s Creek in its entirety. Consult “Part IV Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimf4.pdf>

Minimum Sizes for Shellfish:

Quahog = 1 inch hinge width
Soft-Shelled Clam* = 2 inches
Oyster* = 3 inches
Bay Scallop = No seed possession
Surf Clam* = 5 inches
Channeled or
Knobbed Whelks = 3 inches width or 5
3/8 inches length

* Measured in a straight line parallel to the long axis of the animal.

Daily Possession Limits for Quahogs, Soft-Shell Clams, Surf Clams, Mussels, and Oysters (Bay Scallops Excluded) in:

Shellfish Management Areas

Resident (no sale) = 1 peck each per person

Licensed Non-Resident (no sale) = ½ peck each per person

Non-Management Areas

Resident (no sale) = 1/2 bushel each per person

Licensed Non-Resident (no sale) = 1 peck each per person

Dry Measure Equivalents

1 peck = 2 gallons
½ peck = 1 gallon
1 bushel = 8 gallons
½ bushel = 4 gallons

Whelks

1/2 bushel per person
1 bushel per vessel max
Residents only

The your most up-to-date regulations online.



eRegulations.com

Progress of Ongoing Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects in Rhode Island State Waters



The Nature Conservancy



By Eric Schneider, Principal Marine Biologist and Patrick Barrett, Fisheries Specialist, RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

Fish Habitat Enhancement Work in the Coastal Ponds Along RI's South Shore

As reported in the 2018 RI Recreational Fishing Magazine in an article entitled, "Improving juvenile fish populations by enhancing fish habitat – evaluating the use of oyster reefs as a tool to increase fish productivity", the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM), Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are partnering on a multi-year research program in collaboration with Drs. Jon Grabowski and Randall Hughes of Northeastern University to determine if the practice of establishing oyster reefs in shallow coastal waters can be used as a tool to improve the abundance and productivity of juvenile recreationally important fishes such as black sea bass, tautog, scup, summer flounder, and winter flounder. For context, studies in the Mid-Atlantic have shown that creating oyster reefs can increase the abundance, growth, and survival of juvenile finfish (e.g., Grabowski et al. 2005, Peterson et al. 2003, zu Ermgassen et al. 2016), and work in the Gulf of Mexico found an increase in fish and invertebrate biomass (e.g., Humphries and La Peyre 2015) on restored reefs compared to unenhanced habitats. Despite these successes, this approach has not yet been evaluated in a temperate region of the Northwest Atlantic. That is, until now.

Since this work began in 2014, we have constructed 8 fish habitat enhancement (FHE) reefs in Ninigret Pond and 9 FHE reefs in Quonochontaug Pond. The general approach has been to conduct habitat and fish monitoring survey work prior to creating the FHE reefs, in order to establish a baseline for future comparisons; construct the FHE reefs and seed them with juvenile oysters; and then conduct post-enhancement surveys to determine if there are changes in fish assemblages. In both ponds, we continue post-enhancement monitoring to evaluate fish assemblages utilizing the FHE reefs and associated control sites, as well as monitor the health of the FHE reefs themselves.

Although we're still analyzing data, preliminary results show that species diversity has increased at the FHE reef sites in Ninigret and black seabass and tautog abundance has in-

creased at FHE reefs compared to pre-enhancement (i.e., these sites before the FHE reefs were constructed) and control sites (i.e., adjacent sites where no FHE reefs were built) in both Ninigret and Quonochontaug Ponds. This initial response is generally consistent with our expectations, as well as results from other studies (e.g., Grabowski et al. 2005). Continued monitoring and data analyses will better inform our understanding of the usefulness of this technique for other areas in Rhode Island and the Region.

For more information please contact Eric Schneider (RI DFW) at Eric.Schneider@dem.ri.gov or William Helt (TNC) at William.Helt@TNC.org.

Fish Habitat Enhancement Work in the Providence and Seekonk Rivers in Upper Narragansett Bay

In 2016, the RI Recreational Fishing Magazine included an article entitled, "Enhancing and Restoring Urban Fish Habitats – New Life for the Providence and Seekonk Rivers?" described the start of a project to assess whether there are locations in the Providence and Seekonk Rivers that have improved to a state that may allow for fish habitat enhancement or restoration techniques.

For background: historically the head of estuaries, like the Providence and Seekonk Rivers in Narragansett Bay, contained some of the highest quality and important habitats for fish. Over time these habitats became degraded due to decades of impacts from poor water quality. Recent advances in stormwater management as well as dramatic improvements in the treatment of wastewater (e.g., by municipal wastewater treatment facilities) has improved the water quality in these areas. This begged the question, has the fish habitat improved in the urban Providence and Seekonk Rivers and are there now locations where restoration and/or enhancement practices may now be appropriate? That question is the focus of the collaborative study between the RI DMF and TNC.

Beginning in 2016, RI DMF and TNC began to collect information about the benthic habitat and fish utilizing these areas. To document the fish assemblages in these areas, we are hauling a beach seine and setting fish pots at 12 locations from Conimicut Point up through the head of

the Seekonk River. To assess the benthic habitat in these areas we are towing an underwater sled equipped with a video camera and water quality sonde. These videos are later analyzed to classify the substrate and habitat, as well as document the current state of the benthos in these areas at a given time. The habitat information captured by the video are used in combination with fisheries data to help determine potential locations for habitat restoration and enhancement practices.

For example, this information has been extremely helpful in evaluating the potential for creating an artificial reef at the Sabin Point Fishing Pier. More specifically, DMF in partnership with TNC are in the process of obtaining permits to install a small artificial reef to enhance habitat and fishing opportunities at the Sabin Point Fishing Pier in East Providence. As part of this work, DMF and TNC will be conducting pre- and post-enhancement monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of artificial reefs as an enhancement tool in RI state waters. We expect this project will serve as a model for artificial reef projects in RI by improving habitat, increasing local abundance of fish, and providing societal benefits through increased fishing opportunities.

For more information about the Providence and Seekonk River Survey work please contact William Helt (TNC) William.Helt@TNC.org. For more information about the Sabin Point Artificial Reef Project please contact Patrick Barrett (RI DFW) Patrick.Barrett@dem.ri.gov.

Literature Cited:

Grabowski, J.H., Hughes A.R., Kimbro D.L., and M.A. Dolan. 2005. How habitat setting influences restored oyster reef communities. *Ecology* 86, 1926–1935.

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zu Ermgassen, P.S., Grabowski, J.H., Gair, J.R., and S. P. Powers. 2016. Quantifying fish and mobile invertebrate production from a threatened nursery habitat. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 53(2), 596–606.

What have we learned about fishing around the Block Island Wind Farm?

By Julia Livermore, Supervising Marine Biologist,
RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

As offshore wind development ramps up in Southern New England waters, and in the United States in general, it is a logical to take a step back from new development and consider what was learned from the Block Island Wind Farm (BIWF). The Deepwater Wind project, involving five six-megawatt turbines off Block Island's southeastern shore, served as an ideal pilot project on which to base a variety of research specific to the region. Studies have been conducted on the biology of the area and on the commercial and recreational fisheries operating nearby; two Rhode Island Sea Grant research projects focused directly on impacts to the fishing industry.

One such project sought to learn how the BIWF and its corresponding electricity transmission system to the mainland have affected the marine community and how marine resource users' perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors were affected by potential impacts. This study involved analysis of data collected by Deepwater Wind, LLC-contracted scientists and fishermen via an otter trawl survey and a ventless lobster pot survey. To date, limited environmental changes have been detected through analysis of those data sources. However, interviews with recreational and commercial fishermen revealed that there are conflicting views on this topic. Some respondents felt that there was limited to no impact on fisheries, while other respondents felt that there was a reduction of fish in the area during construction. Certain fishers noted the following: more recreational fishing in the area than before the BIWF; foundations acting as an artificial reef; creation of new habitat by mussels on the turbine foundations; and attraction of cod to the area. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDEM DMF) will continue to analyze data collected at the BIWF for two more years' worth of monitoring and attempt to investigate some of these perceptions where the data allow.

A second, ongoing study is investigating recreational fishing around the BIWF with the goal of understanding the experience of anglers

fishing at or near the wind farm and how the regional angling community perceives the wind farm and its impacts. This project kicked off in 2018 with interviews of recreational fishers in Rhode Island. In 2019, surveys will be sent to 2,500 saltwater anglers who live or fish in Rhode Island in hopes of capturing input from both in-state and out-of-state anglers. If you receive one of these surveys, please tell us about your fishing experience. As we prepare for more offshore wind development, we need your direct input to learn how the BIWF has affected the recreational fishing industry.

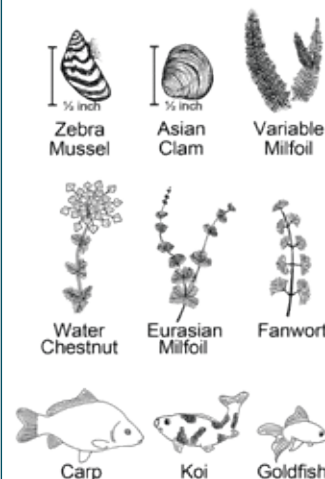
Findings from both studies will be considered during the permitting and review process of larger scale projects. While the BIWF provides a great base for our understanding of effects of wind farms in the region, the scale of future projects will be much larger and effects may therefore be different. Further research and long-term, comprehensive monitoring will be needed to understand potential environmental and fishing effects, as there are currently limited data available for this part of the world. The RIDEM is committed to working with the fishing community to improve data collection and decision-making on these projects. If you have questions about wind development effects or recommendations for future research, please contact Julia Livermore (julia.livermore@dem.ri.gov; 401.423.1937). Refer to the Rhode Island Sea Grant website for more details on both projects.

- 1 Livermore, J., McNamee, J., Dalton, T. 2016. Understanding Marine Resource User Response to Ecological Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy: A Case Study of the Block Island Wind Farm
- 2 Ten Brink, T., Dalton, T. 2018. Perceptions of commercial and recreational fishers on the potential ecological impacts of the Block Island Wind Farm (U.S.). *Frontiers in Marine Science*. 5:439. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2018.00439
- 3 Bidwell, D., Smythe, T., Dalton, T., Livermore, J. 2018. Assessing Impacts of the Block Island Wind Farm on Recreational Saltwater Fishing



The Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species!

Examples of Invasive Species:



Attention Boaters: Inspect vessel carefully before & after use!

- Remove **ALL** weeds and plant fragments from water craft & trailer before & after use
- Drain boat & motor far from water; allow to dry before next use
- Clean off all waders, boots and gear after use in any waterbody
- Do not release bait of aquarium fish, shellfish or plants

For more information contact:

RI Department of Environmental
Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife
(407) 789-0281 or (401) 789-7481

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Party & Charter Boat Notable Catches

If you would like to share your notable catches with us and have the chance to see them in next year's fishing guide, please send pictures and information to RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov



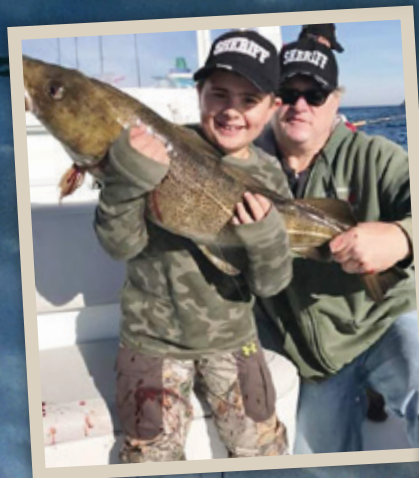
Stuff It Charters

Ryan Pagano with a green bonito, caught off the south shore of Rhode Island



Lady K Charters

Two future highliners holding a 42 pound striper, landed fishing with Capt. Steve Babigian



Captain Sheriff's Fishing Charters

A 16 pound cod caught near Block Island by 2018 RISAA Junior Angler of The Year, Nathaniel Pakuris



L'il Toot Charters

Genevieve Labbe, her husband and her sons on their annual striper fishing trip during August 2018



Fish'nTales Adventures

A nice black sea bass caught aboard the F/V Northeastern fishing out of Newport, RI



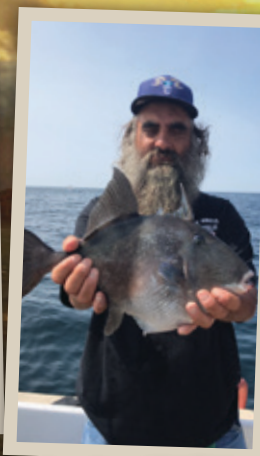
Patterson Guide Service

Taking advantage of the late Summer false albacore action



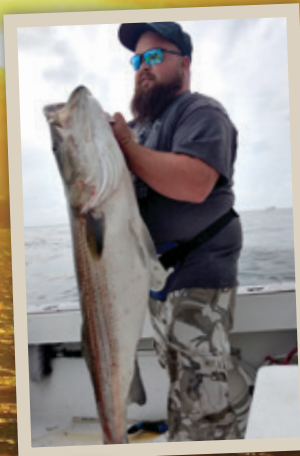
No Fluke Fishing Charters

Captain Dave Monti putting customers on some healthy codfish in RI waters



Priority Fishing Charters

Captain Rick Bellavance hooked up this lucky angler with a nice gray triggerfish.



Jackhammer Fishing Charters

Capt. Jack Carpenter putting some happy customers on the stripers during 2018

2019 Tide Table — Newport, RI

High tide predictions between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM (adjusted for daylight savings time)

● = New Moon ○ = Full Moon

	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. (2020)	Feb. (2020)	Mar. (2020)	Apr. (2020)
1	6:15 AM	6:55 AM	7:11 AM	8:30 AM	9:51 AM	10:20 AM	11:40 AM	11:04 AM	12:00 PM	12:39 PM	12:02 PM	2:25 PM
2	6:54 AM	7:39 AM	8:00 AM ●	9:21 AM	10:44 AM	11:12 AM	12:34 PM	11:55 AM	12:43 PM	1:27 PM	12:52 PM	3:26 PM
3	7:31 AM	8:23 AM ●	8:50 AM	10:14 AM	11:38 AM	12:06 PM	12:30 PM	12:46 PM	1:27 PM	2:22 PM	1:48 PM	4:33 PM
4	8:09 AM ●	9:10 AM	9:41 AM	11:07 AM	12:33 PM	1:03 PM	1:28 PM	1:37 PM	2:15 PM	3:26 PM	2:52 PM	5:35 PM
5	8:48 AM	9:59 AM	10:34 AM	12:02 PM	1:29 PM	2:01 PM	2:27 PM	2:30 PM	3:10 PM	4:30 PM	3:59 PM	6:03 AM
6	9:31 AM	10:51 AM	11:28 AM	12:57 PM	2:28 PM	3:03 PM	3:25 PM	3:22 PM	4:09 PM	5:25 PM	5:00 PM	6:57 AM
7	10:17 AM	11:45 AM	12:24 PM	1:54 PM	3:31 PM	4:07 PM	4:17 PM	4:12 PM	5:03 PM	6:16 PM	5:54 PM	7:48 AM ○
8	11:06 AM	12:41 PM	1:20 PM	2:53 PM	4:35 PM	5:06 PM	5:00 PM	4:57 PM	5:52 PM	6:39 AM	7:19 AM	8:37 AM
9	11:59 AM	1:39 PM	2:17 PM	3:55 PM	5:35 PM	5:57 PM	5:39 PM	5:40 PM	6:12 AM	7:28 AM ○	8:08 AM ○	9:27 AM
10	12:55 PM	2:37 PM	3:16 PM	4:57 PM	6:25 PM	6:14 AM	6:15 PM	6:21 PM	6:58 AM ○	8:16 AM	8:57 AM	10:17 AM
11	1:54 PM	3:37 PM	4:17 PM	5:55 PM	6:42 AM	6:54 AM	6:30 AM	6:37 AM	7:45 AM	9:05 AM	9:46 AM	11:10 AM
12	2:55 PM	4:38 PM	5:17 PM	6:16 AM	7:23 AM	7:29 AM	7:04 AM ○	7:18 AM ○	8:33 AM	9:56 AM	10:37 AM	12:06 PM
13	3:57 PM	5:36 PM	6:12 PM	7:04 AM	8:00 AM	8:03 AM ○	7:41 AM	8:01 AM	9:22 AM	10:50 AM	11:30 AM	1:03 PM
14	4:59 PM	6:01 AM	6:35 AM	7:47 AM	8:35 AM ○	8:35 AM	8:20 AM	8:48 AM	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	12:25 PM	2:02 PM
15	5:56 PM	6:53 AM	7:23 AM	8:27 AM ○	9:08 AM	9:09 AM	9:04 AM	9:39 AM	11:09 AM	12:43 PM	1:23 PM	3:02 PM
16	6:22 AM	7:42 AM	8:08 AM ○	9:05 AM	9:42 AM	9:45 AM	9:52 AM	10:32 AM	12:06 PM	1:42 PM	2:23 PM	4:06 PM
17	7:14 AM	8:28 AM ○	8:51 AM	9:42 AM	10:17 AM	10:25 AM	10:46 AM	11:28 AM	1:03 PM	2:47 PM	3:26 PM	5:07 PM
18	8:02 AM ○	9:13 AM	9:33 AM	10:18 AM	10:55 AM	11:10 AM	11:43 AM	12:26 PM	2:02 PM	3:55 PM	4:33 PM	6:00 PM
19	8:49 AM	9:58 AM	10:13 AM	10:54 AM	11:37 AM	12:01 PM	12:42 PM	1:25 PM	3:07 PM	4:57 PM	5:36 PM	6:25 AM
20	9:35 AM	10:43 AM	10:54 AM	11:32 AM	12:24 PM	12:57 PM	1:45 PM	2:27 PM	4:13 PM	5:49 PM	6:10 AM	7:05 AM
21	10:22 AM	11:28 AM	11:34 AM	12:12 PM	1:17 PM	1:58 PM	2:48 PM	3:29 PM	5:13 PM	6:18 AM	6:56 AM	7:40 AM
22	11:10 AM	12:12 PM	12:14 PM	12:56 PM	2:16 PM	3:03 PM	3:51 PM	4:30 PM	6:05 PM	7:00 AM	7:36 AM	8:14 AM ●
23	11:58 AM	12:56 PM	12:54 PM	1:45 PM	3:21 PM	4:09 PM	4:50 PM	5:25 PM	6:33 AM	7:39 AM ●	8:12 AM	8:48 AM
24	12:47 PM	1:40 PM	1:37 PM	2:41 PM	4:29 PM	5:13 PM	5:43 PM	6:16 PM	7:18 AM ●	8:15 AM	8:46 AM ●	9:23 AM
25	1:36 PM	2:24 PM	2:24 PM	3:44 PM	5:33 PM	6:10 PM	6:11 AM	6:44 AM	8:00 AM	8:50 AM	9:19 AM	10:00 AM
26	2:26 PM	3:12 PM	3:17 PM	4:50 PM	6:05 AM	6:39 AM	7:00 AM ●	7:31 AM ●	8:41 AM	9:24 AM	9:52 AM	10:41 AM
27	3:17 PM	4:04 PM	4:16 PM	5:53 PM	6:59 AM	7:29 AM ●	7:48 AM	8:16 AM	9:19 AM	9:58 AM	10:27 AM	11:26 AM
28	4:09 PM	4:58 PM	5:17 PM	6:25 AM	7:49 AM ●	8:18 AM	8:35 AM	9:01 AM	9:57 AM	10:36 AM	11:05 AM	12:17 PM
29	4:59 PM	5:50 PM	6:15 PM	7:19 AM	8:39 AM	9:07 AM	9:24 AM	9:47 AM	10:36 AM	11:17 AM	11:48 AM	1:11 PM
30	5:45 PM	6:21 AM	6:47 AM	8:10 AM ●	9:29 AM	9:56 AM	10:13 AM	10:32 AM	11:15 AM		12:36 PM	2:07 PM
31	6:11 AM		7:39 AM ●	9:00 AM		10:47 AM		11:16 AM	11:55 AM		1:28 PM	

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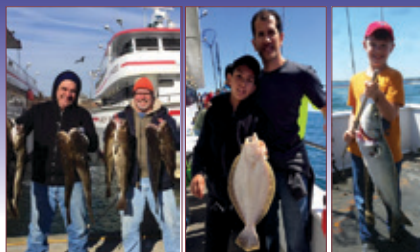
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