



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

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Supplemental Document

(summary of noticed and alternate proposals for consideration)

Part 3 – Finfish

Public hearing February 28, 2024

1. **Recreational striped bass management (section 3.8.1(F)):**

Proposal #1: Division proposal to adopt a recreational filleting rule. Rule is needed to maintain compliance with the ASMFC Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for striped bass. See the proposed rule for details.

2. **2024 commercial general category striped bass management (section 3.8.2(A)):**

Proposal #1 (Industry proposal):

Season	Allocation	Poss. limit
May 29—July 5 <u>June 11 – Dec. 31</u>	50 <u>100%</u>	5 fish/person/day
July 6—Dec. 31	50%	5 fish/person/day

- Possession/Sales permitted:
 - Possession permitted only from 8:00pm Monday through 8:00pm Thursday of each week when the fishery is open. Possession is prohibited at all other times.
 - Sale permitted only 12:00 am Tuesday through 8:00 pm Thursday of each week when the fishery is open. Sale is prohibited at all other times.

Proposal #2 (Industry proposal):

Season	Allocation	Poss. limit
May 29—July 5 <u>July 9 – Dec. 31</u>	50 <u>100%</u>	5 fish/person/day
July 6—Dec. 31	50%	5 fish/person/day

- Possession/Sales permitted:
 - Possession permitted only from 8:00pm Monday through 8:00pm Thursday of each week when the fishery is open. Possession is prohibited at all other times.
 - Sale permitted only 12:00 am Tuesday through 8:00 pm Thursday of each week when the fishery is open. Sale is prohibited at all other times.

Proposal #3 (Industry proposal):

Season	Allocation	Poss. limit
May 29—July 5 <u>June 11 – June 20</u>	50%	5 fish/person/day
July 6 <u>9</u> – Dec. 31	50%	5 fish/person/day

- **Possession/Sales permitted:**
 - **Possession permitted only from 8:00pm Monday through 8:00pm Thursday of each week when the fishery is open. Possession is prohibited at all other times.**
 - **Sale permitted only 12:00 am Tuesday through 8:00 pm Thursday of each week when the fishery is open. Sale is prohibited at all other times.**

3. **Commercial floating fish traps striped bass management (section 3.8.2(B)):**

Proposal #1 (Division proposal): Modify reporting requirements from every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to “no more than twenty-four hours after landing”; consistent with reporting requirements as currently found in Part 7 “Dealers”. See the proposed rule for details.

Proposal #2 (Industry proposal): Modify the trigger for when the possession limit is reduced from unlimited to 500 lbs/licensee/day from 70% to 90%.

4. **Striped bass tagging (section 3.8.2(E)):**

Proposal #1 (Division proposal): Clarify that striped bass must be tagged at “the point of sale”. See the proposed rule for details.

5. **Menhaden management (section 3.21.2(A)):**

Proposal #1 (Division proposal): Clarify language in several sections; no regulatory changes proposed. See the proposed rule for details.

Proposal #2 (Industry proposal):

- Move the Sakonnet River boundary for the fall opening on September 1. See proposed rule for details
- Increase the possession limit for the September 1 fall opening on September 1 from 25,000 lbs/vessel/day to 120,000 lbs/vessel/day

Proposal #3 (Industry proposal):

- Establish a weekly possession limit regardless of MMA status:
 - **Seasons:**
 - April 1 – May 31
 - September 1 – December 31 (or until quota exhausted)

- Possession Limit:
 - 25,000 lbs/vsl/week
 - Closed on Friday each week
- Additional Comments on Proposal #3 from Industry:
 - Change the season to January 1 – December 31
- Additional Consideration on Proposal #3 from the Division:
 - Establish as a multi-year pilot program
 - Require an application and permit to participate
 - Limit the number of participants
 - Require additional restrictions similar to other opt-in programs:
 - VMS requirement
 - Add a rule like Massachusetts stipulating that recreational users must be avoided
 - Add additional closures: Saturday, Sunday, official State holiday, or prior to sunrise or following sunset

6. **2024 commercial bluefish management (section 3.17.2):**

Proposal #1 (Industry proposal):

Season	Poss. limit
Jan. 1 – April 30	1,000 lbs/bi-week
May 1 – Nov. 15 <u>Oct. 15</u>	6,000 lbs/week
Nov. 16 <u>Oct. 16</u> – Dec. 31	500 lbs/week <u>10,000 lbs/week</u>

Proposal #2 (Industry proposal):

Season	Poss. limit
Jan. 1 – April 30	1,000 lbs/bi-week
May 1 – Nov. 15 <u>Oct. 15</u>	6,000 lbs/week
Nov. 16 <u>Oct. 16</u> – Dec. 31	500 lbs/week <u>20,000 lbs/bi-week</u>

7. **2024 recreational scup management (section 3.7.1):**

- MAFMC requiring a **10% coastwide reduction** in 2024

Northern Region (MA, RI, CT, NY) proposal #1:

Sector	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
Gen. rec.	10.5" <u>11"</u>	May 1 – Dec. 31	30 fish/day
Party/ Charter	10.5" <u>11"</u>	May 1 – Aug. 31	30 fish/day
		Sept. 1 – Oct. 31	40 fish/day

		Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	30 fish/day
Shore	9.5”	May 1 – Dec. 31	30 fish/day

- Proposal achieves a **4.7% reduction** for RI; 10% for the region

Northern Region proposal #2:

Sector	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
Gen. rec.	10.5”	May 1 – Dec. 31	30 <u>9</u> fish/day
Party/ Charter	10.5”	May 1 – Aug. 31	30 <u>9</u> fish/day
		Sept. 1 – Oct. 31	40 <u>20</u> fish/day
		Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	30 <u>9</u> fish/day
Shore	9.5”	May 1 – Dec. 31	30 <u>9</u> fish/day

- Proposal achieves a **15.7% reduction** for RI; 11.7% for the region

Northern Region proposal #3:

Sector	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
Gen. rec.	10.5” <u>11”</u>	May 1 <u>April 1</u> – Dec. 31	30 <u>20</u> fish/day
Party/ Charter	10.5” <u>11”</u>	May 1 <u>April 1</u> – Aug. 31	30 <u>20</u> fish/day
		Sept. 1 – Oct. 31	40 fish/day
		Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	30 <u>20</u> fish/day
Shore	9.5” <u>10”</u>	May 1 <u>April 1</u> – Dec. 31	30 <u>20</u> fish/day

- Proposal achieves a **9.2% reduction** for RI; 11.5% for the region

8. **2024 recreational summer flounder management (section 3.9.1):**

- A **28% reduction** is required for 2024

Proposal # 1:

Sector	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
Gen. rec.	18” <u>18.5”</u>	May 3 – Dec. 31 <u>June 4 – Sep. 15</u>	4 <u>3</u> fish/day
Special Shore	18” <u>18.5”</u> (2 of the fish min. size = 17”)	May 3 – Dec. 31 <u>June 4 – Sep. 15</u>	4 <u>3</u> fish/day

- Proposal achieves an estimated **28.6% reduction** for RI

Proposal # 2:

Sector	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
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Gen. rec.	18" <u>18.5"</u>	May 3 – Dec. 31 <u>May 24 – Aug. 26</u>	4 <u>3</u> fish/day
Special Shore	18" <u>18.5"</u> (2 of the fish min. size = 17")	May 3 – Dec. 31 <u>May 24 – Aug. 26</u>	4 <u>3</u> fish/day

- Proposal achieves an estimated **28.5% reduction** for RI

Proposal # 3:

Sector	Min. size	Season	Poss. limit
Gen. rec.	18" <u>19"</u>	May 3 <u>April 1</u> – Dec. 31	4 <u>6</u> fish/day
Special Shore	18" <u>19"</u> (2 of the fish min. size = 17")	May 3 <u>April 1</u> – Dec. 31	4 <u>6</u> fish/day

- Proposal achieves an estimated **34.4% reduction** for RI

9. **Commercial possession limit clarification (throughout rule):** Division proposal to clarify commercial possession limits as “per person” in addition to “per vessel” for several species throughout the rule to provide for possession limits when not fishing from a vessel.