

Summary of Changes to the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations

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3/28/01

PART III - MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL

3.6.23 - This action **ESTABLISHES Jenny's Creek** as a Shellfish Management Area and **DESCRIBES** the area. (This regulation becomes effective 4/17/01)

PART IV - SHELLFISH

4.29 - This action **CLOSES** Jenny's Creek Shellfish Management Area to shellfishing, in it's entirety until further notice. (This regulation becomes effective 4/17/01)

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.5 - This action **REDUCES** the legal minimum recreational possession size for **Striped bass** to 28" [from 29"] (This regulation becomes effective 4/17/01)

7.11.4 - This action **INCREASES** the legal minimum recreational possession size for **Scup** to 10" [from 9"] (This regulation becomes effective 4/17/01)

7.14.2 - This action **INCREASES** the legal minimum recreational possession size for **Black sea bass** to 11" [from 10"]; **ESTABLISHES** a bag limit of **25 fish** per day; and a closed season from March 1 through May 9 annually. (This regulation becomes effective 4/17/01)

PART XII - STRIPED BASS

12.1 - This action **ESTABLISHES** a no-closed recreational season status for **Striped bass**. The action further makes consistent the 28" legal minimum size established in section 7.5 above. (This regulation becomes effective 4/17/01)

PART XV - LOBSTER, OTHER CRUSTACEANS, and HORSESHOE CRABS

15.18 - This action **REFILES** the non-trap lobster possession limit regulations, removing them from temporary status. (This regulation becomes effective immediately upon filing)

3/14/01

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **INCREASES** the maximum commercial possession limit of **fluke** to 750 lbs. [from the 500 lbs.] for those commercial license holders who possess a Rhode Island Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate. The possession limit will remain at 200 pounds for all other commercial license holders. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 3/15/01)

3/06/01

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-1 - This action **CLOSES** the commercial **scup fishery** for the remainder of the Jan - April sub-period. The scup fishery is scheduled to reopen May 1, 2001. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 3/7/01)

7.14.1 - This action **CLOSES** the commercial **black sea bass fishery** for the remainder of the Jan - March sub-period. The black sea bass fishery is scheduled to reopen April 1, 2001 with a possession limit of 1,500 lbs. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM (3/7/01).

2/06/01

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **REDUCES** the maximum commercial possession limit of **fluke** to 500 lbs. [from the 1000 lbs.]

for those commercial license holders who possess a Rhode Island Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate. The possession limit will remain at 200 pounds for all other commercial license holders. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 2/7/01)

7.14.1 - This action **REDUCES** the maximum commercial possession limit of **black sea bass** to 4,500 lbs. [from 9,000 lbs.]. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM (2/7/01).

1/29/01

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-1 - This action **REDUCES** the maximum commercial possession limit of **scup** to 1000 lbs. [from 10,000 lbs.] as of 12:01 AM 1/30/01. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 1/30/01)

PART IV - SHELLFISH

4.8.1 - This action **CLARIFIES** the intention of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council that the tagging and labeling requirements for Shellfish Management Areas be consistent. (This regulation becomes effective 20 days from filing (2/18/01).

12/18/00

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT AREAS - holiday harvesting

This action **MAKES A HOLIDAY ADJUSTMENT** to the scheduled Monday, Wednesday, Friday shellfishing schedule set in certain shellfish management areas. Because a state holiday falls on Monday 12/25, and Monday 1/1/01, the alternate open day will be December 19th and December 26 respectively. Harvesting will be permitted between the usual hours of 8:00AM and 12:00 noon during these alternate days. (This regulation becomes effective 12/18/00)

12/15/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.15 - This action **PROHIBITS** the commercial harvest/possession of **spiny dogfish** and parts thereof within the territorial waters of the State of Rhode Island. (This regulation becomes effective 1/4/01)

7.16 - This action **ESTABLISHES** a recreational possession limit of **fifty (50) American eel per day** within the territorial waters of the State of Rhode Island. (This regulation becomes effective 1/4/01)

PART XV - LOBSTERS, OTHER CRUSTACEANS, AND HORSESHOE CRABS

15.21 - This action **ESTABLISHES** a possession limit of **twenty-five (25) blue crabs** when taken by methods other than scoop, crab net, trot or hand line. (This regulation becomes effective 1/4/01)

15.22 - This action **INCREASES** the legal minimum size for possession of **blue crabs** to five inches (5") [from 4-1/8"] (This regulation becomes effective 1/4/01)

12/8/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **REDUCES** the maximum commercial possession limit of **fluke** as of 12:01 AM 12/10/00. The possession limit will be 200 pounds for those fisherman who possess a Rhode Island Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate. The possession limit will remain at 200 pounds for other commercial license holders. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 12/10/00)

11/29/00

PART XV - LOBSTERS, OTHER CRUSTACEANS, AND HORSESHOE CRABS

12.18 - This action **ESTABLISHES** a commercial possession limit on **lobsters** taken by methods other than traps. (This regulation becomes effective upon filing 11/29/00)

11/21/00

PART XII - STRIPED BASS

12.3 - This action **RE-OPENS** the commercial **striped bass** fishery for a five-day period. The fishery will open

12:01 AM 11/22/00 and close 12:01 AM 11/27/00. The possession limit remains at three (3) fish per license holder. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 11/22/00)

11/17/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **INCREASES** the maximum commercial possession limit of **fluke** as of 12:01 AM 11/18/00. The possession limit will be 600 pounds for those fisherman who possess a Rhode Island Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate. The possession limit will remain at 200 pounds for other commercial license holders. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 11/18/00)

11/6/00

PART IV - SHELLFISH

4.24.2 - This action **OPENS shore digging** within the Bissel Cove Shellfish Management Area. Shore digging will follow the Monday, Wednesday, Friday -- 8:00AM until noon schedule. This schedule begins the second Wednesday of December through April annually. [This regulation becomes effective 20 day from filing (11/26/00)]

4.25 - This action **OPENS boat harvesting** within the Upper Sakonnet Shellfish Management Area. Boat harvesting will follow the Monday, Wednesday, Friday -- 8:00AM until noon schedule. This schedule begins the second Wednesday of December through April annually. [This regulation becomes effective 20 day from filing (11/26/00)]

4.27 - This action **CLOSES boat harvesting** within the Potowomut Shellfish Management Area until the second Wednesday in December, 2001. [This regulation becomes effective 20 day from filing (11/26/00)]

4.28 - This action **OPENS boat harvesting** within the High Banks Shellfish Management Area. Boat harvesting will follow the Monday, Wednesday, Friday -- 8:00AM until noon schedule. This schedule begins the second Wednesday of December through April annually. [This regulation becomes effective 20 day from filing (11/26/00)]

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.14.1 - This action **CLOSES** the commercial fishery for **black sea bass** as of 12:01 AM on 11/7/00. The fishery is scheduled to reopen 1/1/2001. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 11/7/00)

11/1/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-2 - This action **CLOSES** the commercial fishery for **scup** as of 12:01 AM on 11/3/00. The fishery is scheduled to reopen 1/1/2001. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 11/3/00)

PART XII - STRIPED BASS

12.3 - This action **CLOSES** the commercial fishery for **striped bass** as of 12:01 AM on 11/3/00. The fishery is scheduled to reopen 6/1/2001. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 11/3/00)

10/25/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.14.1 - This action **REDUCES** the commercial possession limit for **black sea bass** to 1,000 pounds [from 2,000 pounds] until the remainder of the fourth quarter quota has been landed. This measure is taken in compliance with the Emergency Rule for the black sea bass fishery adopted by the ASMFC and the MAFMC. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 10/26/00)

10/20/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **REOPENS** the **commercial summer flounder fishery** at 12:01 AM on October 23, 2000 with a fifty (50) pound possession limit. The summer flounder fishery is scheduled to open the next sub-period 11/1/00 with a 300 pound possession limit. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 10/23/00)

10/6/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **REOPENS** the **commercial summer flounder fishery** from 12:01 AM on October 8, 2000 until 12:01 AM October 15, 2000. The possession limit during this one-week (7-day) period is fifty (50) pounds.

(This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 10/8/00)

9/29/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-1 - This action **REDUCES** the percentage of the **scup quota** that is required to trigger a decrease in possession limit for the Winter Period I. **FURTHER**, this action **REDUCES** the maximum legal possession limit for **SCUP** during the Winter Period II to 500 lbs. [from 4,000] (This regulation become effective 10/19/00)

7.11.2-2 - This action **CLOSES** the commercial scup fishery for all gear types for the remainder of the Summer-Fall Sub Period. (This regulations becomes effective 10/1/00 at 12:01 AM) NOTE: This fishery is scheduled to re-open 11/1/00 with a 500 lbs. possession limit.

7.14.1 - This action **REDUCES** the maximum legal possession limits on the annual schedule that regulates the **black sea bass quota**. (This regulation becomes effective 10/1/00) NOTE: Beginning 10/1/00 the maximum possession limit for **black sea bass** is 2,000 lbs.

PART X - EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

10.11 - This action **INCREASES** the limit [to 500 lbs.] the trigger that requires the use of a minimum mesh size of 4.5" while commercially fishing for **scup** from November 1 through April 30 annually. (This regulation become effective 10/19/00)

9/15/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **REDUCES** the legal possession limit of **summer flounder** to 50 lbs. [from 300 lbs.] until 12:01 AM 9/24/00 when the summer flounder fishery will **CLOSE** for the remainder of the Summer II Sub-Period (through 10/31/00). (These regulations become effective at 12:01 AM 9/17/00)

9/8/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-2 - This action **REDUCES** the legal possession limit of **scup** to 100 lbs. [from 300 lbs.] for all commercial gear types through September 15, 2000. This action further reduces the opening possession limit for the September 16 - October 31 sub-period to 100 lbs. [from 1,000 lbs.]. (This regulation becomes effective 9/10/00 at 12:01 AM)

7.11.5 - This action establishes regulations for the landing, shipping, reporting, and transferring of **scup**. Further this action clarifies the definition of "Port". (These regulations become effective at 12:01 AM on September 12, 2000)

8/25/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-2 - This action **INCREASES** the legal possession limit of **scup** to 300 lbs. for all commercial gear types through September 15, 2000. This action further assigns a 300-pound per vessel bycatch to the floating trap fishery from September 1 through September 15, 2000. (This regulation becomes effective 8/28/00 at 12:01 AM)

8/15/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-2 - This action **RE-OPENS** the **scup** fishery with a legal possession limit of 100 lbs. (This regulation becomes effective 8/16/00 at 12:01 AM)

8/8/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-2 - This action **CLOSES** the **scup** fishery until September 1. The quota for the July 1-Sept 15 sub-period has been harvested. However, the scup fishery **will re-open** September 1 through September 15 with a possession limit of 300 lbs. in order to harvest the portion of the quota that was not harvested by the floating fish trap fishery and re-allocated to the "other gear types". The **scup** fishery will re-open September 16 with a 1,000-

pound possession limit, as scheduled. (This regulation becomes effective 8/9/00 at 12:01 AM)

7.14.1 - This action **CLOSES** the **black sea bass** fishery for the remainder of the July – Sept period. The **black sea bass** fishery is scheduled to re-open October 1, 2000 with a 4,000-pound possession limit. (This regulation becomes effective 8/9/00 at 12:01 AM)

8/3/00

The DEM Director filed regulations governing the Wet Storage of Shellfish. The purpose of these regulations is to establish wet storage of shellfish standards intended to protect public health, and to restore and enhance the states shellfish resources. The full text of the [regulations](#) are posted [here](#) in Adobe Acrobat format.

7/25/00

PART XII - STRIPED BASS trap industry

12.5 - This action **CLOSES** the **striped bass** fishery for the **floating fish trap** industry. The fishery is scheduled to reopen January 1, 2001. (This regulation becomes effective 7/26/00 at 12:01 PM)

6/30/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **CLOSES** the **summer flounder** (fluke) fishery for the remainder of the Summer I Sub-Period (6/1 - 8/31). (This regulation becomes effective 7/1/00 at 12:01 AM)

[On September 1, 2000 the summer flounder fishery is scheduled to open the Summer II Sub-Period with a possession limit of 300 lbs. for commercial license holders with a R.I. Summer Flounder Certificate, and 200 lbs. for those license holders without the Certificate.]

6/22/00

PART I - LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

1.3 - Defines various terms relating to the **lobster trap tag program** (see below). (This regulation becomes effective 7/12/00)

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **REDUCES** the legal maximum possession limit of **summer flounder** (fluke) to 50 lbs. [from 100 lbs.] (This regulation becomes effective 6/23/00 at 12:01 AM)

PART XV - LOBSTERS, OTHER CRUSTACEANS, AND HORSESHOE CRABS

15.14.1 through 15.14.1-13 - (new) These regulations establish the Rhode Island **lobster trap tag program**. (These regulations become effective 7/12/00)

6/13/00

PART XV - LOBSTERS, OTHER CRUSTACEANS, AND HORSESHOE CRABS

15.24 - (new section) These EMERGENCY regulations filed by the DIRECTOR establish regulations for **horseshoe crabs** *Limulus polyphemus*. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 6/14/00)

6/9/00

PART XV - LOBSTERS AND CRUSTACEANS

15.18 - This action **repeals this section** that limited the possession of lobsters taken by gear or methods other than traps. (This regulation becomes effective 6/29/00)

5/26/00

PART I - LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

1.3 - **Further defines Trip Limit (Possession Limit)** (This regulation becomes effective 6/16/00)

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.5 - Updates this section to reflect the 4.14.00 filing that increased the **recreational possession size for striped bass to 29"**. (This regulation becomes effective 6/16/00)

7.9.2 - Adds language to make the intent more specific regarding the **commercial possession of tautog**. (This

regulation becomes effective 6/16/00)

PART X - EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

10.3.1 - Clarifies the intent of this regulation by removing superfluous language. (This regulation becomes effective 6/16/00)

10.11.1 - For **otter trawlers harvesting scup**, this action reduces the pounds-in-possession amount that triggers the use of 4.5" minimum mesh size. (This regulation becomes effective 6/16/00)

PART XI - COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

11.19 - This action **moves south the northernmost line of the Coastal Marine Life Management Area** (CMLMA), thus reducing the area south of this line where it is legal to possess winter flounder (with a permit). (This regulation becomes effective 6/16/00)

11.19.4 - Updates language and references to the new above-mentioned lines of the CMLMA. (This regulation becomes effective 6/16/00)

11.19.5 - This action makes it a condition of the CMLMA Winter Flounder Permit that, upon the request of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the permitted vessel is required to take a sea sampler onboard. (This regulation becomes effective 6/16/00)

5/17/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action **CLOSES** the **summer flounder** (fluke) fishery. (This regulation becomes effective 5/18/00 at 12:01 AM)

[This commercial fishery is scheduled to re-open June 1 at 100 lbs. possession limit. Additionally, this fishery is scheduled to begin a new sub-period September 1, 2000 when the possession limit will begin at 300 lbs. for commercial license-holders with a R.I. Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate, and at 200 lbs. for those commercial license-holders without the Certificate.]

5/15/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action reduces the maximum legal possession limit for **summer flounder** (fluke) to 100 pounds [from 300]. This possession limit applies to all commercial licensees whether or not they hold a R.I. Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate. (This regulation becomes effective 5/16/00 at 12:01 AM)

7.11.2-2 - According to current harvest report, the DFW is following the pre-determined reduction schedule for **scup** quota (for gear types other than floating fish traps) as follows: On 5/16/00 at 12:01 AM the scup quota will be reduced to 100 lbs. per vessel; then on 5/17/00 at 12:01 AM the fishery will close for the remainder of the May-June sub-period. (This regulation becomes effective 5/16/00 at 12:01 AM)

5/9/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.9; 7.9.1; 7.9.2 - This action opens the 2000 commercial TAUTOG fishery and establishes the schedule by which the annual allocation will be harvested. (These regulations become effective ON FILING[5/9/00])

4/28/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.11.2-2 - This action reduces the possession limit for the scheduled May 1 summer-fall opener for SCUP to 1,000 lbs. per vessel [from the previously determined 2,500 lbs. per vessel]; additionally, the action establishes the total allocation of SCUP quota for the 2000 summer-fall sub-period; the trip limit per vessel for floating traps; and the trip limit per vessel for gear types other than floating fish traps with the schedule by which the Division will reduce the legal maximum possession limits. (These regulations become effective 5/1/00 at 12:01 AM)

4/14/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action decreases the maximum legal possession limit for summer flounder (fluke) to 300 pounds [from 500] for commercial licensees who hold a R.I. Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate. (This regulation

becomes effective 5/1/00 at 12:01 AM)

7.7.4 - This action increased the recreational legal minimum possession size for summer flounder to 15-1/2" [from 15"]; and sets the open recreational season at May 10 through October 2, annually; and sets the closed recreational season at October 3 through May 9, annually. (Effective 5/4/2000)

7.9 - Sets May 1 as the first day of the year for legal possession of tautog. (Effective 5/4/2000)

7.9.1 - Changes the legal possession limit and sets a season for tautog as follows: May 1 through October 14 - 3 fish per day; then October 15 through December 31 - 10 fish per day. (Effective 5/4/2000)

7.9.3 - Eliminates verbiage so that Charter and Party boats possession limits for tautog are the same as the standard recreational limits. (Effective 5/4/2000)

7.11.2-1 - Removes language that closed the Summer-Fall sub-period for scup; and it removes language that allowed floating fish trap fishery to resume a scup bycatch possession of 100 lbs. (Effective 5/4/2000)

7.14.1 - Updates the commercial annual possession limit schedule for black sea bass. (Effective 5/4/2000)

7.14.2 - Removes the 20-fish recreational possession limit for black sea bass. (Effective 5/4/2000)

PART XII - STRIPED BASS

12.1 - Increases the recreational minimum legal possession size of striped bass to 29" [from 28"]; additionally, this action sets an open season of April 23 through November 30, annually; and a closed recreational striped bass season from December 1 through April 22, annually. (Effective 5/4/2000)

12.3 - This action adjusts the commercial striped bass possession schedule by increasing the September possession limit to three (3) fish [from 2]. (Effective 5/4/2000)

12.5 - Sets a range for legal possession size for striped bass in the floating fish trap net fishery. That range is: a minimum total length of 24 inches to a maximum total length of 40 inches. This action also removes verbiage that closed the 1999 trap net fishery. (Effective 5/4/2000)

3/30/00

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action decreases the maximum legal possession limit for summer flounder (fluke) to 500 pounds [from 1,000] for commercial licensees who hold a R.I. Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate. (This regulation becomes effective 3/31/00 at 12:01 AM)

PART X - EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

10.3.1 - New section establishing regulations for power hauling shellfish apparatus. (This regulation becomes effective 4/19/00).

2/16/00

COMMERCIAL SCUP FISHERY CLOSED for remainder of Winter sub-period.

Current regulations require that this fishery close once the period allocation has been landed. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service the entire quota will be landed on or about 2/17/00; therefore the fishery will close at 12:01 AM 2/17/2000. The new sub-period begins 5/1/2000. (This regulation becomes effective February 17, 2000 at 12:01 AM.)

2/7/00

COMMERCIAL SCUP POSSESSION LIMIT REDUCED TO 1,000 POUNDS

The National Marine Fisheries Service, according to the Fishery Management Plan, has determined that 85% of the 1,082,000 lbs January-through-April quota will be landed by 2/5/2000. Therefore, the legal commercial possession limit for SCUP is reduced to 1,000 pounds. (This regulation becomes effective February 8, 2000 at 12:01 AM)

12/28/99

PART IV - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 - This action increases the maximum legal possession limit for summer flounder (fluke) to 1,000 pounds until further notice. (This regulation becomes effective 12/29/99 at 12:01 AM)

7.11.1-1 - The Winter Sub Period for SCUP will open at 10,000 pounds. (This regulation becomes effective 1/1/2000 at 12:01 AM)

12/17/99

COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS FISHERY CLOSED through end of year

The commercial BLACK SEA BASS fishery is closed in order to comply with the federal closure. The closure is in effect through the remainder of the fourth period (12/31/99). In accordance with 3.2.1-1 of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulations, a notice terminating this fishery has been provided to the local press, and a notice of the closure has been submitted to the Secretary of State. (This notice is effective on 12/20/99)

The first period of the pre-determined schedule for 2000 begins 1/1/2000 and running through 3/31/2000, at that time the maximum legal possession for black sea bass will be 11,000 lbs.

12/10/99

PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES FISH/SHELLFISH

7.7.2-2 – This action increases the maximum legal possession limit for summer flounder (fluke) to 400 lbs. (from 300). The maximum legal possession limit will be 1,000 on 1/1/2000 when the Winter Sub-Period begins. (This regulation becomes effective 12/11/99 at 12:01 AM)

11/16/99

PART IV - SHELLFISH

4.10.4-1; 4.22.2-1; 4.24.3-1; and 4.27 -- this action allows designated shellfish management areas to now be open during legal state holidays if the holiday falls on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday of the previously determined winter schedule.(This regulation becomes effective 12/6/99)

4.10.4-3; 4.22.2-3; 4.24.3-3; 4.27 -- this action regulates shellfishers to cull, bag, and tag prior to: leaving the approved harvest area; removing the product from the boat; or offering the product for sale.(This regulation becomes effective 12/6/99)

4.12.1 and 4.26.2 -- updated language (These regulations become effective 12/6/99)

10/5/99

COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS FISHERY CLOSED

The commercial STRIPED BASS quota has been met, and in accordance with Rhode Island Marine regulation 12.3, a notice terminating this fishery has been provided to the local press, and a notice of the closure has been submitted to the Secretary of State. (This notice is effective on 10/5/99)

9/29/99

PART VII

7.7.2-2 - the commercial possession of SUMMER FLOUNDER [FLUKE] is PROHIBITED for the remainder of the Summer II Sub-Period [through 10/31/99]. The 11/1/99 opening of the Winter Sub-Period is scheduled to begin with a maximum legal possession limit of 300 pounds. (This regulation becomes effective 9/30/99 at 12:01 AM)

9/13/99

PART VII

7.7.2-2 - this action reduces the maximum legal commercial possession of SUMMER FLOUNDER [FLUKE] to 100 pounds [from 300] until further notice. (This regulation becomes effective 9/16/99 at 12:01 AM)

7.11.2-1 - this action reduces the maximum legal commercial possession of SCUP to 4,000 lbs. [from 8,000] when the Winter Period II opens on 11/1/99. (This regulation becomes effective 9/16/99 at 12:01 AM)

9/9/99

PART VII

7.11.2-2 - this action closes the commercial fishery for SCUP for the remainder of the Summer-Fall Sub-Period.

The fishery will re-open for the Winter Sub-Period II on 11/1/99. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 9/10/99) [NOTE: floating fish trap companies are on a separate quota and are not affected by this closure]

8/31/99

PART XV

15.11 - this action delays the scheduled 9/1/99 increase in the legal minimum size for lobsters until 6/1/2000. On 6/1/2000 the legal minimum gauge size will increase from 3-1/4" to 3-9/32". This action further delays the previously scheduled 6/1/2000 - 3-15/16" increase until further notice. (This regulation becomes effective immediately upon filing)

8/23/99

PART VII

7.11.2-2 - this action allows overages in fish trap scup quota to be made available for all gear types (This regulation becomes effective 9/12/99)

PART XVI

Sections 16.1-1 - 16.5 - this action changes the menhaden season for purse seiners; it closes certain areas to ALL purse seiners; closes certain areas on Sundays and Holidays (This regulation becomes effective 9/12/99)

8/4/99

PART VII

Section 7.7.2-2 - reduces the maximum legal possession of summer flounder (fluke) to 0 pounds/NO POSSESSION [from 50 lbs.] (Effective 8/5/99 12:01 AM)

NOTE: the possession of 300 pounds beginning 9/1/99 still stands at this time

PART XI

Section 11.19 and 11.19.3 - 7 - this action REVERSES the filing of 7/15/99 that reduced the area within the Coastal Marine Life Management Area (CMLMA) where winter flounder fishing is permitted. (Effective upon filing)

PART XII

Section 12.5 - The fish trap fishery, having exceeded the quota for striped bass, is closed to harvesting striped bass until 1/1/2000. [formerly scheduled to open 9/1/99 for remainder of quota]. (Effective 20 days from filing)

7/21/99

PART XII

Section 12.5 - The striped bass quota allocated to floating fish trap fishery has been harvested for this period. This action closes the fish trap fishery for striped bass. The fishery re-opens 9/1/99. (Effective immediately upon filing.)

PART XV

Section 15.11 - In compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) lobster management plan, this action establishes a schedule for increases in the legal minimum possession size for lobsters. 9/1/99 - increase to 3 9/32" ; 6/1/2000 - increase to 3 15/16". (Effective 20 days from filing, 8/10/99.)

6/15/99

PART VII

Section 7.7.2-2 - reduces the maximum legal possession of summer flounder (fluke) to 50 pounds [from 100], and provides for the opening of the previously established Fall Sub Period with a maximum legal possession of 300 pounds on 9/1/99. (This regulation becomes effective at 12:01 AM 7/16/99.)

Section 7.11.2-2 - based on remaining fish trap quota, this action reopens the scup fishery to floating fish traps with a possession limit of 100 pounds until further notice. (This regulation becomes effective at 12:01 AM 7/16/99.)

PART XI

Section 11.19 - this action reduces the area where winter flounder fishing is permitted within the Coastal Marine Life Management Area (CMLMA) (This regulation becomes effective at 12:01 AM 8/4/99.)

Section 11.19.3, .4, .5, .6, & .7 - this action closes the upper portion of the CMLMA in Narragansett Bay to fishing for winter flounder. The portion of the CMLMA that remains open to winter flounder fishing is still subject to the 300-pound possession limit (100 lbs. in the ponds), seasons, and the reporting requirement. (This regulation becomes effective at 12:01 AM 8/4/99.)

PART XII

Section 12.3 - strikes the words 'rod and reel' so that fishing by rod and reel is not the only fishing method affected by the possession limits established in this section. (This regulation becomes effective at 12:01 AM 8/4/99.)

6/9/99

PART VII

Section 7.9.2 - having met the 1999 annual quota, this action closes the commercial tautog fishery until further notice. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 6/11/99.)

5/25/99

PART VII

Section 7.7.2-2 - reduces the legal maximum commercial possession of fluke to no possession, [from 300 lbs.]. (The 6/1/99 possession of 100 lbs. still holds) (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/26/99.)

Section 7.11.2-2 - closes the scup fishery to floating fish traps until the year 2000. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/28/99.)

5/12/99

PART VII

Section 7.7.2-2 - reduces the legal maximum commercial possession of fluke to 300 lb. Additionally, on June 1, 1999 the possession limit will be further reduced to 100 lb. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/13/99.)

Section 7.11.2-2 - a 60% projected harvest of the seasonal quota has triggered the predetermined reduction in the possession limit for scup for those harvesting with floating fish traps to 10,000 lb.

5/7/99

PART X

Section 10.5 - increases the escape vent size for lobster traps by 1/16 of an inch. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 6/1/99.)

PART XV

Section 15.13 - increases the escape vent size for lobster traps by 1/16 of an inch. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 6/1/99.)

4/30/99

PART VII

Section 7.11.2-2 - reduces the legal maximum commercial possession of scup to 2500 lb. [from 5000 lb.] Additionally, in the description of the distribution of quota for scup, poundage was changed to percentages. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/1/99.)

Section 7.11.2-3 - the varying range in pounds of possession of scup is now 0 - 10,000 lb. [from 200 - 10,000 lbs]. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/1/99.)

Section 7.14.1 - the existing possession distribution for black sea bass was renewed for 1999. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/20/99.)

4/23/99

PART IV

Section 4.25 - closes boat harvesting; permits shoredigging sunrise-sunset daily. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/13/99.)

PART VII

Section 7.7-1 - Summer flounder Sub-periods - data changes and quota distribution. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/13/99.)

Section 7.7.4 - Summer flounder Recreational Regulations - set annual season [May 29 - September 11]. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/13/99.)

Section 7.9 - Tautog - set annual commercial season [May 15 - quota]. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01

AM 5/13/99.) Section 7.9.2 - set commercial tautog quota. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/13/99.)

PART XII

Section 12.3 - Striped Bass Size/Possession Limits in the Commercial Striped Bass Fisheries - insert the words rod and reel into last sentence. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 5/13/99.)

3/25/99

PART VII

Section 7.7.2-2 - reduces the legal maximum commercial possession of fluke to 400 lb. [from 1000 lb.] (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 3/26/99. Last off-load 8 PM 3/25/99)

2/22/99

PART III

Section 3.6.21 - better defines the lines of the Potowomut Management Area. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 3/14/99.)

PART IV

Section 4.8 - adds the Potowomut Management Area to that section. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 3/14/99.)

12/28/98

PART VII

Section 7.7.2 - the trip limit for summer flounder will be 1000 lb. (This regulation becomes effective 12:01 AM 1/1/99.)