2014 RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL

Saltwater Fishing

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The official regulations provided by the

Rhode Island Division of Fish & Wildlife - Marine Fisheries Section Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management







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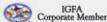
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2014 RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL

-Saltwater Fishing





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Welcome Letter



On behalf of Governor Chafee, I am pleased to introduce the second annual Rhode Island Saltwater Recreational Fishing Guide.

Rhode Island, the Ocean State, offers some the best saltwater recreational fishing around. Whether you fish the waters of Narragansett Bay and the salt ponds, the coastal waters stretching from Westerly to Little Compton, the Block Island surf, or the deep Atlantic offshore waters, Rhode Island anglers have many fantastic fishing opportunities throughout the year. Striped bass, summer flounder, bluefish, scup, black sea bass, and tautog are just a few of the many species that Rhode Island saltwater recreational anglers target and enjoy.

This guide is designed to help make the

great experience of saltwater fishing in Rhode Island even better. It's a guide designed to serve the interests of all saltwater fishermen - newcomers as well as seasoned anglers. It provides information on a variety of fishing-related issues, including current recreational fishing regulations. It also includes information on local fishing and boating access sites, commonly caught species, and other recreational fishing topics. It features information on the many local businesses that provide fishing-related services and supplies, such as party and charter boats, and bait and tackle shops.

This publication would not have been possible without the support of Rhode Island's saltwater fishing community. In fact, this is your publication, funded via your contributions to the federal Sportfish Restoration Program and the RI Recreational Saltwater License Program. Thanks to your support, the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM), through the Department's Marine Fisheries Section, carries out a range of programs and activities that support the interests of recreational fishermen. We build, manage, and maintain our fishing and boating access sites - and have just completed a major upgrade to the very popular boat ramp at Galilee. We monitor and conserve our local fish stocks, and pursue initiatives that maintain and improve opportunities for the RI recreational fishing community. This year, we held our ground on fluke regulations, pressed for a better scientific understanding of black sea bass with a view to liberalizing harvest limits; and expanded our special shore-mode scup program, providing more opportunities for shore fishermen to catch and keep scup. We continue to work shoulder-to-shoulder with RI's recreational fishing organizations on initiatives to promote fishing, such as the annual Galilee Fishing Tournament and Seafood Festival that happens in the fall. And we continue to engage in a range of outreach and education programs, like this guide!

We do these things because saltwater fishing is so important to the State. In addition to being fun for people of all ages, fishing is a great way to obtain fresh and healthy seafood. It is also an important economic driver. For all of these reasons, all of us at DEM are committed to doing all that we can to promote and support saltwater fishing in Rhode Island.

We hope this guide enhances your recreational fishing experiences, while encouraging you to be respectful of the environment and fellow anglers. Enjoy the magic of fishing in beautiful Rhode Island, and, most importantly, HAVE FUN.

Hope to see you on the water!

facet Bis

Janet Coit







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.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports RIDFW's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries and habitat

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Notable atches

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





Brendon Call

with a 10 pound fluke caught on a breezy day in July 2012 off of the Newport Bridge

Rich Hittinger, George Hehner, and Bob Murray

with some nice fluke



Corey Templeton

and his proud father, Rich with Corey's first striper caught on board 'Restless'



TJ Harris

with a striped bass caught on the vessel 'Play'n Hooky'



Greg Vespe

with a 40 pound Striped Bass he caught in June 2013



Kevin Robishaw

with a tagged bluefin tuna from the Mud Hole on board the charter boat 'Prowler'



Nick DeRosa

with a keeper-sized striper he caught in May 2013 on a kayak charter with Capt. Jerry Sparks



Kyle Morrissette

with a nice fluke and striper



Nina Tollefson

with a 25 pound striper she caught off of Jamestown in June 2013



Captain Mike Littlefield

with his son Michael's first bass on board BJ's Flippin out Charters

General Information

Our Mission...

The Division of Fish and Wildlife's 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 Fish and Wildlife 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 bottle1 n	nillion years
Monofilament fishing line	600 years
Plastic beverage bottle	450 years
Disposable diaper	450 years
Foamed plastic buoy	80 years
Aluminum can8	0-100 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:

Kevin Smith

Principal Marine Biologist 3 Fort Wetherill Rd. Jamestown, RI 02835 (401) 423-1941 RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov



Marine Fisheries Laboratory located in Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, RI

Rhode Island Environmental Police – Division of Law Enforcement

Steven H. Hall, 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

Interested in trying out a new data collection system?

Log your catch on the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife VOLUNTARY recreational on-line angler logbook. Just follow the link on the www.saltwater.ri.gov page to sign up and get started. For more information, please refer to page 8.



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 "phone book" 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 posses a valid license from on of the states listed above.

Please refer to pages 22 and 25 for information on lobster, shell-fish, 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.

Aquatic Resource Education Program (ARE)

The ARE program is an outreach and education program dedicated to teaching Rhode Islanders of all ages about the immense marine and freshwater resources that we have in our state. Federally funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Services's Sportfish Restoration fund and the Wallop-Breaux Act, this program provides a variety of educational opportunities including basic courses in saltwater recreational fishing, fly fishing and fly tying, family programs such as the Family Fishing Day on Prudence Island, as well as more advanced fishing opportunities such as the Fly Fishing Express. Additionally, the program educates school groups using traveling tide-pools, marine ecology field trips, and by training teachers state-wide in a variety of curricula including Project WILD/WILD Aquatic, Growing Up WILD, Project WET and WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands. The ARE program also facilitates aquaculture programs using anadromous fish in the popular Salmon in the Classroom and providing hatchery tours of our State hatcheries. Other programs include a fishing rod loan program and the First Fish Award. Educational materials such as the Common Saltwater Fish of Rhode Island poster, fishing pamphlets, and coloring books are provided to the public free of charge. All ARE programs are equipped for people with special needs. For more information, contact the ARE Program, RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife, Education Office (401) 539-0037 or kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov.

First Fish Award Program

First Fish Awards are available for children catching their first fish. To receive an award, an angler must have caught a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or hand-line by legal means in Rhode Island. First Fish Awards can be processed with information on the child's catch without official weigh-in station verification. If keeping a fish, legal sizes must be adhered to. Applications can be downloaded using this link: http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/fwtopics.htm. First Fish Awards are sent as soon as possible. Please send completed applications to:

ARE Program RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place Exeter, RI 02882





For more information about the First Fish Award program, please contact Kimberly Sullivan at:

kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or (401) 539-0037

Article: Marine Fisheries Coastal Trawl Survey

COASTAL TRAWL SURVEY

Research Vessel John H. Chafee

Jan-H Ortozz

by Scott Olszewski, Principal Marine Biologist, RIDFW

The Research Vessel John H. Chafee is the Department of Environmental Management's Marine Fisheries Research Vessel. The research vessel is located at the DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries laboratory at Ft. Wetherill, in Jamestown, RI. The R/V Chafee was named after the late Senator John H. Chafee who was instrumental in securing funding through a \$625,000 federal grant, in addition to \$285,000 in restricted state funds for boating purposes.



Scott Olszewski. The R/V Chafee is a 50-foot Wesmac hull with a Caterpillar engine generating 700 hp. Now in its ninth year of operation, the R/V John H. Chafee has proven to be an integral part of the Department's mission "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."

About the Survey:

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Fish and Wildlife – Marine Fisheries Section, began monitoring finfish populations in Narragansett Bay in 1968, and continues through present day. The information collected provides monthly identification of finfish and crustacean assemblages in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island and Block Island Sounds.

Since the inception of the Rhode Island Coastal Trawl Survey, 5,764 tows have been conducted within Rhode Island territorial waters with data collected on 132 different species.

The methodology used in the allocation of sampling stations for the coastal trawl survey employs both random and fixed station allocations. Sampling stations were established by dividing Narragan-sett Bay into a grid of cells. The seasonal trawl survey is conducted in the spring and fall of each year and covers Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island and Block Island Sounds. Usually 44 stations are sampled each season. The monthly segment of the survey samples stations in Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound which are fixed sites.

At each station, an otter trawl equipped with a ¼ mesh inch liner is towed for twenty minutes at a speed of 2.5 knots, which translates into a distance of .83 nautical miles of sea floor covered.

Data on wind direction and speed, sea condition, air temperature and cloud cover as well as surface and bottom water temperatures, are recorded at each station. Catch is sorted by species. Length (cm/mm) is recorded for all finfish, skates, squid, scallops, whelk, lobster, blue crabs and horseshoe crabs. Similarly, weights (gm/kg) and numbers are recorded as well. Anecdotal information is also recorded for incidental plant and animal species.

Monitoring the State's fishery resources is essential for assessing stock status and developing management advice to a number of fishery management agencies including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) and the New England Fishery Management Council. Fisheries management has become increasingly reliant on fishery-independent surveys for resource information. Trawl survey results illustrate seasonal and monthly distribution trends, size/age composition, and indications of stock abundances. Conducted over many years, this survey provides trends in relative abundance and predictions of recruitment of many finfish species found throughout Rhode Island waters.

Besides ongoing data collection on the most important and common recreational fisheries, the coastal trawl survey also tracks the more uncommon visitors to Rhode Island waters. Some of which are occasionally found here and others being trapped tropical visitors from afar. Every year, around late summer to early fall, species normally found along the southern Atlantic coast are transported via the gulf stream and warm core rings, and deposited in and around Narragansett Bay. Species like Big Eye, Spot fin Butterfly fish, and Cobia are just a few that surprise even the most seasoned fishermen. Some years, more than others, the numbers and diversity of these species beg the question of changing ecosystems and more than ever warrant the need for continued monitoring of the coastal waters and bays of what is collectively called the Ocean State.

For more information on the Rhode Island DEM Coastal Trawl Survey please contact:

Scott Olszewski at the Fort Wetherill Marine Fisheries Lab Jamestown, RI 02835 (401)423-1934 scott.olszewski@dem.ri.gov

Rhode Island Game Fish Award Program

Annually, RIDEM-Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes anglers who have caught freshwater and saltwater game fish of notable size. Game Fish Awards are presented to anglers for each species of game fish caught that meet the minimum size requirements listed below. Only one award will be presented to an angler for each species per year. State Record Game Fish Awards are presented to the angler whose game fish catch is the largest to date of a species, as determined by Division records. To receive an award, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or hand-line by legal means in Rhode Island waters. To apply for a Game Fish Award or State Record Game Fish Award, an angler must bring his or her legally-caught fish to an official weigh-in station, such as a bait and tackle shop, sporting goods store or grocery fish department. The fish must be identified, measured, and weighed on a digital scale. The station operator will fill out a Game Fish Award Application and sign it. If keeping a fish, legal sizes must be adhered to in all cases. Game Fish Awards and State Record Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish are caught. Send completed applications for verification and processing to:

RIDEM - Fish & Wildlife 277 Great Neck Rd. West Kingston, RI 02892

Applications can be obtained on the DEM website. For questions on the Game Fish Award Program, write to the address above or call (401) 789-0281.

Qualifying Weights/Lengths

(Except First Fish Awards)

Saltwater						
Species	Weight/ Length					
Striped Bass	50 lbs					
Black Sea Bass	3 lbs					
Bluefish	18 lbs					
Bonito	10 lbs					
Cod	20 lbs					
Winter Flounder	2 lbs					
Summer Flounder	8 lbs					
King Mackerel	3 lbs					
Mackerel	1 lb					
Yellowfin Tuna	125 lbs					
Pollack	15 lbs					
Scup	21/2 lbs					
Hickory Shad	5 lbs					
Blue Shark	80 lbs					
Mako Shark	150 lbs					
Swordfish	200 lbs					
Squeteague	8 lbs					
Tautog	10 lbs					
Bluefin Tuna	450 lbs					
White Marlin	70 lbs					

Freshwater					
Species	Weight/ Length				
Smallmouth Bass	4 lbs				
Largemouth Bass	6 lbs				
Bluegill	9 in				
Pumpkinseed	8 in				
Black Crappie	12 in				
Yellow Perch	12 in				
White Perch	15 in				
White Catfish	4 lbs				
Chain Pickerel	4 lbs				
Northern Pike	10 lbs				
Brook Trout	2 lbs				
Brown Trout	3 lbs				
Rainbow Trout	3 lbs				
Brown Bullhead	13 in				

eLOGBOOK:

An innovative way to track recreational catch and effort!

Have you ever wanted a "one-stop shop" to keep track of recreational fishing trips and catches? The Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife (RIDFW) in conjunction with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) offer the voluntary eLOGBOOK application of the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) for just that purpose! As of February 2014, 212 Rhode Island anglers are already registered for the program, but that number consists mainly of party and charter boat captains since reporting is required for any tautog-dedicated party/charter trips. Now, RIDFW would like to spread the word to all recreational anglers.

So, what exactly is eLOGBOOK? eLOGBOOK is an online tool available to Rhode Island anglers that can track trip level data as well as provide summary reports. This program offers a simple way to maintain trip level information all in one place; anglers can enter data on kept and released fish, catches used for bait and for consumption, and which gear types were used to catch individual species. Anglers are also able to view and download their trip reports and view graphical summaries of the average lengths of species, number of fish caught per month, and number of fish caught per species. Other programs and methods can be used to view and summarize the data once the trip reports are downloaded from the website.

The data submitted by anglers remain completely confidential, and only RIDFW staff are able to view the data. This program is a highly valuable tool for management and provides an opportunity to characterize Rhode Island's recreational fisheries. Specifically, the data collected by this program provide a census for the tautog party/charter fishery, support for assessing minimum size limits and bag limits for scup and fluke, and the ability to characterize discards. The RIDFW encourages eLOGBOOK participation to help enhance the understanding of Rhode Island's recreational landings.

Any angler who would like to use this program and provide data for recreational fisheries management can register for the system! A link to the website can be found on the RIDFW website (http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/mftopics.htm) under the Saltwater Recreational Fishing License heading. From the log-in screen, new users will need to choose the "Click to Register" link. A username and password will be created after registration and emailed to you, and you can then start to enter data!

Be sure to check the RIDFW website periodically for updates, an upcoming video tutorial on using the program, and detailed instructions for entering recreational trip information. If you have any questions regarding the program or would like more information, please contact Kevin Smith, (401) 423-1941 or at kevin.smith@dem.ri.gov

Brief Instructions for Entering Trips:

- Create an account by clicking on the "Click to Register" link on the log-in page.
- After signing in, click on the "Create new logbook entry" button.
- Enter the trip date and fishing mode (e.g., from shore, private boat, etc.).
- Add effort information. The program asks for general area, gear type, number of lines or pots, fishing time, number of anglers, etc.
- Add Catch information. In this section you may enter quantity and lengths for both kept and released fish designated by the appropriate disposition.
- Lastly, add any additional notes about the trip in the designated box. Some anglers include weather information, more specific location information, and anything else that might be useful looking back on the trip in this field.
- 7. Click Save!







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.



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.





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. 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.

 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.



 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.



 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.





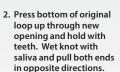
2. Slowly pull lines or leaders in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather.

3. Pull tight and clip ends closely.

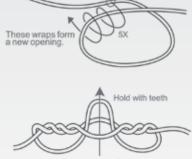
Dropper Loop Knot

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

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.



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



Push bottom of loop through new opening.



Article: Fishing The Ocean State's Waters

Public access projects

by Andres Aveledo, Conservation Engineer, RIDEM, Division of Planning and Development



In the Ocean State, fishing and boating are undeniably significant aspects of our culture, economy, and recreation. The fishing piers and boat ramps that provide access to saltwater fishing and boating activities are key components in maintaining this important part of our livelihood. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife invests heavily in the maintenance and expansion of this public asset.

A recent partnership with The Nature Conservancy has increased the capacity for the state to secure land, design improvements, and manage contracts related to public access through contract employees. This has served to cut costs and allows for a greater output of work. Members of both organizations meet regularly to prioritize work, discuss improvements, challenges, and ultimately keep public access infrastructure projects moving forward.

The work of the team is spread throughout the state at sites within wildlife management areas, as well as freshwater and saltwater access sites. The following will highlight the accomplishments, ongoing projects, future plans, and sources of funding for saltwater access sites.

Throughout the past two years, state projects for saltwater access infrastructure have totaled \$1.4 million, and an additional \$1.3 million has been pledged by DEM for municipal projects. These projects work to strengthen already established and popular fishing and boating destinations by providing much needed maintenance and reconstruction. They also improve accessibility for all anglers and boaters regardless of their physical handicap. Some recent project highlights

are as follows: The fishing pier at Colt State Park in Bristol has been extended to provide access to better fishing grounds, and sections with lowered railing have been provided to allow for ease of fishing from a wheelchair. Fishing accessibility has also been improved at Salty Brine State Beach in Narragansett with the construction of two platform extensions, which now extend out over the waters of the Point Judith Pond Breachway, a favored RI fishing destination. Construction is also now underway in Narragansett to rebuild and expand the Galilee Boat Ramp. The improvements to this ramp will greatly increase the efficiency and ease of use of the facility while providing for ADA accessibility.

RIDEM also works with local municipalities to provide funding and technical assistance for cities and towns that apply for grants to develop fishing and boating infrastructure. Recent municipal partnerships will see the construction of a new boating access location in the City of Providence at the Gano Park Boat Launch. Further upstream on the Seekonk River, the Festival Pier Boat Ramp in the City of Pawtucket will also be renovated with help of RIDEM.



Recent Marine Public Access Projects

	•
	Lighting installation at Mt. Hope Boat Ramp
	Fishing Platform Extensions at Salty Brine State Beach
State Public	Colt State Park Fishing Pier Expansion & Maintenance
Access Projects	Reconstruction of the Galilee Boat Ramp (underway)
	Boat Ramp maintenance projects: Colt Park Boat Ramp Weaver Cove Boat Ramp Bold Pt. and Oakland Beach Boat Ramps (underway)
Municiple	Gano Park Boat Launch – City of Providence
Partnerships	Festival Pier Boat Ramp (underway) – City of Pawtucket

The bulk of the funding for these projects is sourced, through the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife, from the Federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, driven by a federal tax on the purchase of fishing equipment and motorboat or small engine fuels. These funds must be matched by 25 percent of non-federal funds. Some sources of non-federal match include revenue generated from the RI Saltwater Recreational Fishing License program, as well as funds from the RI Capital Development Fund. These local sources of funding are directly leveraged 3 to 1 with the Federal Sport Fish Restoration money to provide the funding necessary to improve the public infrastructure for fishing and boating that is highly valuable to Rhode Island residents.

Within the next couple of years RIDEM hopes to complete even more boating infrastructure projects. Plans are already in place to rebuild state boat ramps at Gull Cove in Portsmouth, Sakonnet Harbor in Little Compton, and Goddard Park in Warwick. RIDEM also plans to increase partnership with other local municipalities to help them improve boating access throughout the state.







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2014 Recreational Regulations

2014 Size, Season and Possession Limits

Species	Minimum Size	Open Season	Possession Limit			
American Eel	9"	Open year round	25 fish/person/day			
Black Sea Bass	13"	June 29 - Aug. 31	3 fish/person/day			
DidCK Sed DdSS	15	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)	10"	May 1 - Dec. 31	30 fish/person/day			
Charles Aven Dravisioner While Sching from those at India Daint Daylein Dravidance Cominging the Daylein Warming Change Dridge in Tiver						

Special Area Provisions: While fishing from shore at 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, or at Fort Wetherill in Jamestown, anglers may possess up to 30 scup, 9 inches or greater in length, from May 1 through December 31.

		May 1 - Aug. 31	30 fish/person/day
Scup (party & charter)	10"	Sept. 1 - Oct. 31	45 fish/person/day
		Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	30 fish/person/day
Striped Bass	28"	Open year round	2 fish/person/day
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	18"	May 1 - Dec. 31	8 fish/person/day
- (0) (0)	16"	Apr. 15 - May 31	3 fish/person/day
Tautog (Blackfish)		June 1 - July 31	Closed
Max of 10 fish/ves/day during all periods, except licensed party / charter boats		Aug 1 - Oct. 17	3 fish/person/day
during an periodas/except neerised party / charter souts		Oct. 18 - Dec. 15	6 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

Species with federal and state regulations: cod, haddock, pollock, witch flounder (gray sole), yellowtail flounder, American plaice (dab)

Please contact RIDFW for details

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



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State **Records**

Rhode Island State Records for Saltwater Species

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
Black Sea Bass	8 lbs., 7.25 oz.	26"	Oct. 1981	Block Island	K. McDuffie Pascoag, RI
Striped Bass	77 lbs. 6.4 oz.	52"	June 2011	Block Island	P. Vican East Greenwich, RI
Bluefish	26 lbs.	39"	Aug. 1981		D. Deziel Woonsocket, RI
Bonito	13 lbs.		Oct. 1995	Westerly	R. Gliottone Exeter, RI
Cod	71 lbs.		June 1965		M. Deciantis Warwick, RI
Summer Flounder	17 lbs., 8 oz.		1962	Narrow River	G. Farmer Warwick, RI
Winter Flounder	6 lbs., 7 oz.	23"	Aug. 1990	Galilee	A. Pearson Cranston, RI
King Mackerel	12 lbs., 3 oz.	40"	Aug. 2000	Pt. Judith Lighthouse	A. Camilleri Chester, CT
Atlantic Mackerel	OPEN				
Pollock	28 lbs., 8 oz.		May 1995		A. Jacobs Lincoln, RI
Scup	5 lbs.	20 1/4"	Oct. 1990	Block Island	J. Yurwitz Block Island, RI
American Shad	6 lbs., 8 oz.	25"	Apr. 1985	Runnins River	W. Socha Warren, RI
Hickory Shad	2 lbs., 11 oz.	20"	Nov. 1989	Narrow River	M. Pickering Lincoln, RI
Blue Shark	431 lbs., 2 oz.	151"	Nov. 2006	Cox Ledge	G. Kross Fairfield, N.J
Mako Shark	718 lbs.	10' 6"	June 1993	S. Block Island	W. Alessi Boston, MA
Swordfish	314 lbs.		June 1964		W. Goodwin Warwick, RI
Squeteague	16 lbs. 8.72 oz.	36"	May 2007	Greenwich Bay	R. Moeller North Kingstown, RI
Tautog	21 lbs., 4 oz.		Nov. 1954	Jamestown	C.W. Sunquist
Bluefin Tuna	1142 lbs., 12 oz.		Sept. 1981	Block Island	J. Dempsey
Yellowfin Tuna	265 lbs.	6′	Oct. 1997	The Dip	R. Hughes Arlington, MA
Tiger Shark	597 lbs.	11' 6"	July 1990	S. of Block Island	M.P. Strout Auburn, MA
White Marlin	125 lbs.	8' ½"	Aug. 1987	S. of 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.





BETTER FISHING

Better fishing through better datahow you make it possible

by The MRIP Communications and Education Team, Marine Recreational Information Program

Anyone who's ever put a line in the water and waited for a fish to strike has probably spent some time pondering this question: How many fish are down there, and how can anyone possibly know? The answer is a bit complex, but it's worth taking some time to understand – especially for anglers who are interested in ensuring there are plenty of fish out there to catch, both today and for generations to come. If you're a fisherman, the whole process of sustaining healthy and abundant fish stocks ultimately revolves around you.

How Does NOAA Fisheries Count Your Catch?

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the new and better way NOAA Fisheries is collecting, analyzing, and reporting recreational fishing data.



Here's how it works:

MRIP consists of three primary surveys.

- One survey is for catch, where shore-side interviewers record what people are catching, what they've kept and released as well as the length and weight of each fish. The catch survey results in estimates of the average number of fish caught and landed or released per trip.
- The second survey is a bimonthly telephone survey of shore and private boat fishing effort, where we ask residents of coastal county households how many shore and private boat fishing trips they made within the last two months.
- 3. The third survey is a weekly telephone survey of charter boat fishing effort, where we ask the captains or owners of a random sample of charter boats to report recent charter fishing trips and the number of anglers who fished on each trip.

To estimate the total catch, we multiply the average number of fish caught per angler trip by the number of angler fishing trips. More detailed information about the surveys can be found at our website, www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.

One very important thing to understand about this process is that the numbers we report are estimates, and that all estimates include an element of uncertainty. In public opinion polling, this uncertainty is often referred to as the "margin of error." In MRIP, we use a measure called the proportional standard error, or PSE. The size of the PSE tells us how precise the estimate is; the lower the PSE, the more precise the estimate. This measurement is a critical factor in the decision-making process when scientists evaluate fish stocks, and managers consider fishing regulations.

Why a New Catch Survey?

Although we call it "new," the survey has actually been in place since 2013. The modified



catch survey design, which was tested in North Carolina prior to implementation, is based upon recommendations made in a National Research Council review of NOAA Fisheries data collection methods. The new survey procedures ensure representative sampling of all types of fishing activity by eliminating potential sources of bias.

What is Different From the Previous Survey?

Working with teams of state and NOAA scientists, outside experts, fishermen, charter boat operators, and others, we have now fixed many of the issues identified by the National Research Council.

Many of the improvements to the survey design are things that anglers might notice every day. One of these is the fact that we're now sampling trips that end at night so we don't have to assume that these trips have the same catch rates as ones that end during the day. Also, the survey interviewers have much more rigorous schedules to follow. Specifically, samplers stay at specified locations for a specified amount of time, regardless of the amount and types of fishing activity. This schedule ensures that all types of fishing activity are included in the survey. Finally, we've created an online database of every public fishing sites between Louisiana and Maine. Moving the database online means we can keep it up to date in real time if, for instance, improvements are made to a boat ramp that will make it more popular, or a fishing pier is closed due to a storm. Plus, members of the public can use the register both to find fishing sites and to give us feedback if they find information that is outdated or incorrect.

Key Takeaways for the **Improved Catch Survey**

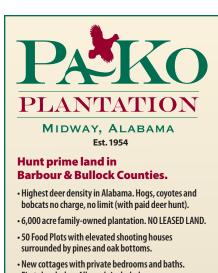
- We've REMOVED POTENTIAL SOURCES OF BIAS from the sampling design by better controlling where and when interviewing takes place.
- We're sampling during EVERY part of the day, including nighttime periods, during both weekends and weekdays.
- We will CONTINUE to intercept ALL eligible trips, regardless of catch. Trips with no catch are equally as valuable as trips with large catches.

- The new sampling methods are part of a much broader, top-to-bottom overhaul to both improve the quality of our estimates and improve stakeholder confidence.
- Future improvements to the catch surveys will address finer-scale customer needs, such as greater timeliness for estimate production and improved geographic resolution of estimates.
- · Each decision comes with a cost. Greater precision requires more sampling, which in turn requires the investment of more resources.

How You Make It All Possible ...

The improvements to our catch survey represent just one example of the many changes we are making through MRIP. Working in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, MRIP is designed to provide rigorous solutions for today's data demands, as well as the flexibility to evolve in the future. As new science emerges, or new management needs arise, or new ideas from anglers spur innovation, MRIP will be able to adapt and respond.

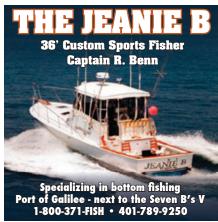
Despite all the changes, however, one thing will always remain constant. We can't fulfill our mission without the active support and participation of anglers. You are our "eyes and ears" on the water, providing us the information we need to understand what's happening in the fishery. You are the chief stewards of our coastal and marine ecosystems, continuing a role that fishermen have played for generations. And you are a critical voice in the process, whether you testify at a Council meeting, participate in your fishing club, or answer survey questions when you're asked. Ultimately, the goals of MRIP are the same as the goals of fishermen - to ensure that people who want to fish can fish, today and for generations to come. Maintaining that tradition rests on access to precise and trusted information. If you have any questions about this article or the MRIP program, please contact the Communications and Education Team Lead at Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov.



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Every Report Counts!

A sampler interviews all eligible anglers at an assigned site. It's just as important to interview anglers who didn't catch any fish as it is to interview anglers who caught many fish. Both types are needed to produce representative samples of all anglers.



Article: Keep Those Fish Alive!

TIPS TO REDUCE CATCH-AND-RELEASE MORTALITY

Keep those fish alive!

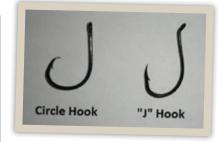
by Kevin Smith, Principal Marine Biologist, RIDFW

Many Rhode Island recreational anglers engage in catch-and-release fishing practices with the goal of releasing healthy fish and watching them swim away to live another day. Mortality of caught-and-released fish is a large concern, thus, it is important for anglers to take care in how they catch, handle, and release fish to increase chances of survival. Here are a few tips to help those



Artificial Lures:

When using artificial lures, there are a variety of ways to reduce the risk of injury to both the fish and angler. Anglers can remove additional hooks on artificial lures, cut treble hooks down to one, or completely replace treble hooks with single hooks.



Circle Hooks:

fish survive, grow, and produce future generations:

Using circle hooks instead of typical "J" hooks can increase the chances of survival for released fish. Circle hooks are designed to hook fish in the corner of the mouth and dramatically reduce the chance of "gut-hooking" a fish. Using circle hooks also eliminates the need to set the hook when a fish bites.



Hook Barbs:

The barbs found on many hooks are designed to keep bait and caught fish on the hook. If anglers plan on releasing fish, it can be advantageous to either bend hook barbs down with a pair of pliers or to file off the barb completely. The absence of the barb will make hook removal much easier and reduce damage to the fish.



Fight Time:

Reducing fight time is important when engaged in catch-and-release fishing. When hooked fish fight and struggle to escape, they experience a great deal of stress and can undergo harmful metabolic changes. Using the proper sized gear can help reduce the amount of time it takes to land the fish.



Hook Removal:

Hook removers, needle nose pliers, nail clippers, and wire cutters are all tools that can assist in removing a hook with minimal damage to the fish. If a fish is "gut-hooked," then the best option is to not try to remove the hook but cut the line as close to the hook as possible, and release the fish.



Handling, Reviving, and Release:

Keep fish in the water for as long as possible. Wet hands or use a cloth to protect the fish's scales and protective mucous coating. Do not lift fish by the gills or eyes. Do not lift larger fish only by the lips or mouth and support the stomach area. When it's time to release the fish, place the fish in the water head-first. If the fish does not swim off right away, you can revive it by gently pushing it back and forth in the water, to restore oxygen levels, until the fish swims off on its own.

Availability Chart

This chart shows the general availability of common finfish species in Rhode Island waters.

Important Recreational Species Availability Chart

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

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

^{*} Please note that times of peak activity may vary due to water temperatures, prey availability, etc.

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 blueblack. 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.

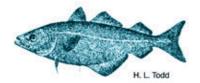


Scientific Name: Stenotomus chrysops **Identification:** Silvery, iridescent. Concave dorsal profile, small teeth and lunate pointed tail.



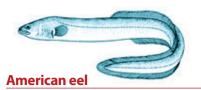
Atlantic cod

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.



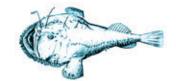
Scientific Name: Anguilla rostrata **Identification:** Dorsal fin begins far behind the pectoral fin, and the lower jaw projects beyond upper jaw.



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 purplebrown spots. Very common.



Green Crab

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



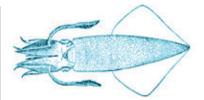
Blue Crab

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



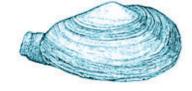
Eastern Oyster

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



Northern Quahaug (Hard Shell Clam)

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



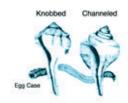
Soft Shell Clam (steamer)

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 canaliculatus & Busycon carica.

Identification: Grooved or knobbed beige or yellowish gray shell. Often covered with a hairy outer shell layer. Distinctive egg case.



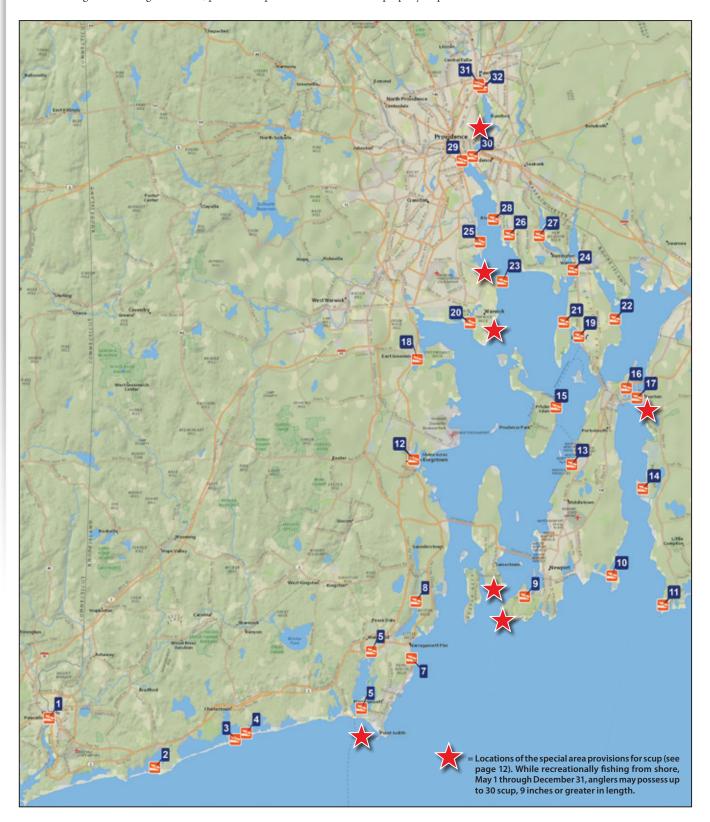
Common Periwinkle

Scientific Name: Littorina littorea **Identification:** Usually brown, black or gray shell, sometimes will 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.
	2	Quonochontaug Breachway	Off West Beach Rd., concrete plank ramp	3 ft.
Charlestown	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.
	7	Monahan's Dock	East side of Ocean Rd., at South Pier Rd., concrete — steep drop	3 - 4 ft.
South Kingstown	8	Narrow River	Off Pettaquamscutt Rd., between Middle Bridge Rd. and Bridgetown Rd., 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.
	13	Weaver Cove	On Burma Road. South of Melville complex	4 ft.
Portsmouth	16	Gull Cove	Rte. 138. Linked concrete planks	2 ft.
	17	Stone Bridge	Off Rt. 138 at junction of Park Ave and Point Rd., at Teddy's Beach	3 ft.
Tiverton	14	Fogland	End of Fogland Rd., at High Hill Rd. Linked concrete planks	N/A
Prudence Island	15	Homestead	On Prudence Island, off Narragansett Ave., north of Prudence Variety	N/A
East Greenwich	18	Greenwich Cove	Pole #6, Crompton Ave.	N/A
	19	Independence Park	At the foot of Church St., off of Rt.114	N/A
Bristol	21	Colt State Park	Off of Hope St. (Rt. 114), concrete ramp	4 ft.
	22	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
	20	Oakland Beach	Warwick Cove. Oakland Beach Ave. Take last left. East Side of Oakland Beach. Concrete ramp	<4 ft.
Warwick	23	Conimicut Point	Northeast end of Shawomet Ave., off Symonds Ave. Linked concrete ramp	<2 ft.
	25	Gaspee Point	Passeonkquis Cove. Southwest end of Gaspee Point Dr., off Narragansett Pkwy. Concrete and asphalt ramp	2 ft.
Barrington	26	Haines Park	On Bullock's Cove, off Metropolitan Park Dr. Concrete slab	4 ft.
barrington	27	Barrington	Off of Rt. 114 North. Cement Slab	N/A
	27	Sabin Point Park	Off Bullock's Point Ave. Hard packed sand	N/A
East Providence	30	Bold Point	Off Veteran's Memorial Pkwy., via Mauran Ave. at the end of Pier Rd. Concrete slab	4 ft.
Providence	29	Collier Park	Concrete Slab	N/A
	31	Old State Pier	End of Tim Healey Way, off of School St. (Rt. 114). Concrete slab	N/A
Pawtucket	32	Pawtucket	East Side of Taft St., just south or 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

Lobster/Crab Regulations

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/rimf5.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.



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.



Article: Properly Handling Shellfish

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/shellfsh.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 "Part IV Shellfish", "Part V Bay Scallops", "Part VIII Oysters" 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 shall 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 Transplant Bed, 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/rimf4.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/shellfsh.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/fish-wild/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 = 2.75 inches width or
4.75 inches length
* Measured in a straight line parallel to the

Daily Possession Limits for Quahogs, Soft-Shell Clams, Surf Clams,

Mussels, and Oysters (Bay Scallops Excluded) in:

Shellfish Management Areas

long axis of the animal.

Resident (no sale) = 1 peck each per person Licensed Non-Resident (no sale) = ½ peck each per person

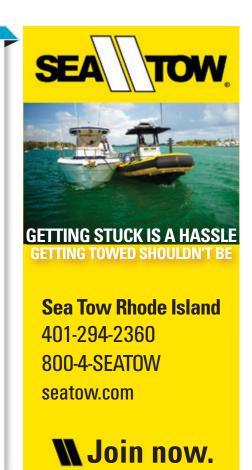
Non-Management Areas

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







Article: Tautog Fishing Event

SECOND ANNUAL

Collaborative scientific tautog fishing event!

by Kevin Smith, Principal Marine Biologist, RIDFW

On a cold and windy Veterans' Day morning, five charter boats carrying scientists and Narragansett families braved the weather and left the Port of Galilee looking to catch tautog. They steamed through the Harbor of Refuge and took the turn past Point Judith Lighthouse and continued heading north. In no time, the vessels stopped several hundred yards off of Scarborough Beach and anchored above scattered rock piles. Green crabs were prepped and put on the hook — the hunt was on! Using 3 to 5 ounce sinkers, the bait plummeted to the bottom and disappeared out of sight. The strong west winds caused the vessels to swing back and forth,

making it difficult to keep the bait on the bottom, but surprisingly the

first bite occurred almost instantly. The captains apparently knew exactly where to go, as fish started being caught left and right, in a matter of minutes. After several hours of fishing and buckets full of fish, the vessels pulled anchor and returned to port. The families had fresh fish for dinner; the scientists had samples to study; and everyone left with a smile and cold fingers.

This was the second year in a row that the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), in conjunction with the RI Party and Charter Boat Association and the Narragansett Department of Parks and Recreation, helped turn a scientific fish monitoring survey into a recreational fishing experience for Narragansett families.

The popular event began last year as a pilot program, when Dan Costa, port manager in DEM's Division of Coastal Resources, suggested that DEM's annual tautog collection would provide the perfect venue for a collaborative charitable event with the RI Party and Charter Boat Association. Every year, the Division of Fish & Wildlife is required to collect 200 samples of tautog in a diverse range of sizes for analysis in its scientific monitoring program. The samples collected are measured and aged, and the resulting data are used in the age structured stock assessment for that species.

Several partners worked together last year to bring the idea to fruition, including supervising marine biologist Jason McNamee of DEM's



Division of Fish and Wildlife, John Rainone of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association, and Steven Wright and Tom Tessitore of the Narragansett Department of Parks and Recreation. One lucky family from the Narragansett Parks and Recreation assistance program was chosen to participate in a free tautog fishing trip aboard Captain John Rainone's "L'il Toot" charter boat on the day after Thanksgiving. The family had an opportunity to enjoy a fun day of recreational fishing for tautog, and also helped collect fish samples for DEM's monitoring program. Nicole Lengyel, a principal marine biologist in the Division of Fish and Wildlife, was onboard the vessel to coordinate the scientific collection.

"In addition to the scientific benefits, this special project is providing several Narragan-sett families with an opportunity to take part in a fun-filled day of fishing on a charter vessel and to bring home some freshly-caught fish," said DEM Director Janet Coit. "All in all, this collaborative project is providing a boost to our science and a deepened appreciation for the variety of marine life in our seas for the participating families."

Steve Wright, director of the Narragansett Parks and Recreation Department said, "This annual program provides a unique opportunity for deserving families from Narragansett to go fishing on a local charter boat and at the same time help DEM collect important scientific data. The Narragansett Parks and Recreation Depart-

ment is pleased to partner with DEM and the RI Party and Charter Boat Association to offer this opportunity to local families."

This program would not have been possible without the generous contributions of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association and its members, who donated their time and talents to help local families participate in this collaborative event.

Due to the success of last year's event, the program was expanded this year. Five vessels from the RI Party and Charter Boat Association, all of which are docked in the Port of Galilee, participated in the event and accommodated several Narragansett families. They include charter boats "Priority Too," operated by Captain Rick Belavance; "Sea Devil," operated by Captain Kelly Smith; "L'il Toot," operated by Captain John Rainone; "Bare Bones," operated by Captain Steven Anderson; and "Carol J," operated by Captain Paul Johnson.

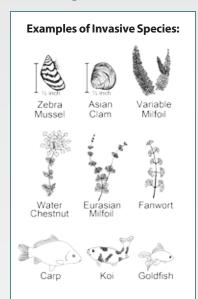
Several DEM staff members volunteered their time for the event, including Dan Costa, Jason McNamee, Nicole Lengyel, Kevin Smith, and Chris Deacutis.

If you would like more information or have any questions about the Annual Collaborative Scientific Tautog Fishing Event please contact the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife - Marine Fisheries at (401) 423-1920.





The Spread of Aquatic 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

www.dem.ri.gov





Article: Investigating Artificial Reefs

INVESTIGATING

Artificial reefs in Narragansett Bay

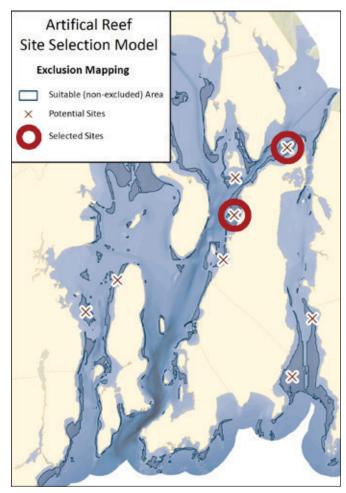
by Nicole Lengyel, Principal Marine Biologist, RIDFW

In 2013, the RI Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) began a five-year experimental artificial reef project to investigate the benefits of artificial reefs in RI. The project is 75% funded through Sportfish Restoration (SFR) funds, and 25% funded by TNC and funds from the RI saltwater recreational fishing license.

The project will use concrete reef balls to create three 0.25 acre experimental artificial reefs in Narragansett Bay. In order to appropriately site the artificial reefs, a TNC site selection model was used to map out suitable and non-suitable areas in Narragansett Bay. The data used in the model included depth, sediment type, dissolved oxygen, benthic fauna, ship track density, and submerged aquatic vegetation. Current DEM surveys, mooring fields, and fishing activity were also taken into consideration during the site selection process. Three potential locations in the Bay were identified and presented to stakeholders for their feedback. Four sites at each of the three potential locations were then surveyed in the field to groundtruth the data used in the site selection model. One of the four sites in each potential location was identified as a primary site and a second alternative site was also chosen should an unanticipated problem arise with the primary site. Permit applications were submitted to the appropriate agencies in early 2014 and are currently under review. Baseline data collection at all three artificial reefs as well as three nearby natural reefs will commence in the summer. Upon approval of project permits, artificial reefs will be constructed and subsequently monitored for the duration of the project period.

Post-construction monitoring to evaluate whether artificial reefs are increasing abundance and biomass of important sportfish species or merely attracting them from other areas in the Bay will be multi-faceted. A side-scan sonar survey will be performed to verify the location, layout and vertical relief of reef materials at each location. Each year from June through September a survey will be conducted at each natural and artificial reef. During each survey divers will conduct a fish census where finfish will be identified and enumerated and live video will be recorded. Fish traps will be used to capture target species for the tag-recapture component of the monitoring. Benthic scrapings will also be collected from reef material to characterize the benthos and monitor succession on the reefs. Recreational anglers will be interviewed to determine the level of fishing activity and thus exploitation rate on the reefs.

At the end of the project period in 2017, researchers will analyze the collected data to determine the benefits of artificial reefs in RI. The data collected from this study will be used to finalize an Artificial Reef Plan for the State of Rhode Island. The plan will not only provide an overview regarding the proper citing and materials to be used in artificial reef construction but will make recommendations for future projects in Narragansett Bay, RI.



GIS credit: Kevin Ruddock, TNC



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G WILLIE MAKIT CAPT. BILL GOULD(401) 466-5151 / (203) 245-7831
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LINESLIDER FISHING CHARTERS CAPT. ERIC GUSTAFSON(401) 439-5386
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RIVER REBEL CHARTERS

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CAPT. ERIC THOMAS(401) 524-7239

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RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov

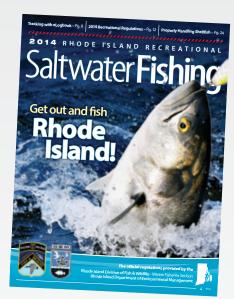


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2014 Tide Table — Newport, RI

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

●= New Moon ○ = Full Moon

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

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