

RHODE ISLAND Freshwater Fishing

2025-2026 REGULATION GUIDE



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State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management • Division of Fish & Wildlife



Welcome Letter



On behalf of Governor Dan McKee, I am excited to welcome you to the **2025-26 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Regulation Guide**, a resource for Rhode Islanders and visitors who enjoy our lakes, rivers, and streams. It offers current freshwater fishing and recreational boating regulations and highlights the research and survey initiatives, fishing access improvements, and fishing opportunities provided by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife to support freshwater recreational opportunities in the Ocean State.

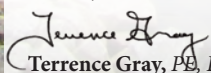
The Ocean State is known for its excellent and varied angling and boating opportunities. In the pursuit of largemouth and smallmouth bass, trout, northern pike (our largest freshwater game fish), or a variety of warm-water species and pan fish such as black crappie, yellow perch, sunfish, and pickerel, freshwater fishing in Rhode Island is a year-round activity. The excitement of fishing for trout on Opening Day and throughout the year, including fall trout fishing and winter ice fishing, ensures plenty of opportunities for awesome outdoor activities for people of all ages.

This guide is written for both new and experienced anglers and I hope you will find it as helpful as I do. In these pages, you will learn about our hatcheries' efforts to produce and distribute high quality fish across the state, how DEM Environmental Police work to encourage participation in fishing, boating, and conservation activities, recent natural changes to the aquatic ecosystems at the Beaver River, and so much more!

DEM's hatchery program stocks over 100 fishing areas with brook, rainbow, golden rainbow, and brown trout several times a year to accommodate the growing demand by resident and non-resident anglers. In 2024 alone, DEM stocked over 110,000 trout, with more frequent stockings throughout the spring, fall, and winter seasons expected to continue. Throughout the year, our dedicated hatchery staff are busy with initiatives to provide varied and plentiful fishing opportunities for recreational anglers. For those who would like to try the sport, we encourage you to participate during Free Fishing Weekend on May 3-4, when you can fish without the purchase of a freshwater fishing license or trout stamp. New or experienced anglers can also participate in one of our adult or children's Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) programs to hone their fishing skills or learn new ones like spin-casting or fly-fishing with our experienced instructors. DEM hosted the national 2024 ARE Association Biennial Training and Conference, with representatives from 34 states and two territories attending. The workshops focused on fishing training, recruitment, retention of new anglers, and breaking down barriers to fishing.

Recreational fishing is important to Rhode Island's economy, contributing more than \$130 million annually. There are an estimated 175,000 recreational anglers aged 16+ in Rhode Island, according to the USFWS National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. We appreciate Rhode Island's anglers and boaters, and this publication is made possible with your support and belongs to you. Recreational freshwater fishing and boating programs are funded by the USFWS Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act (Wallop-Breaux Amendment) through contributions from anglers and boaters on the sales of equipment, motorboat fuels, license sales, and Trout Stamps.

Serving as DEM's Director, I sincerely thank all anglers and boaters who have contributed to this valuable conservation program. We hope this guide enhances your fishing and boating experiences and that you feel encouraged and supported to get out there to one of Rhode Island's picturesque fishing areas and drop a line. The tranquility and connection to nature that one feels when fishing and boating can't really be measured. Whether you've been fishing all your life, are getting back into the sport, or trying it for the first time, I'm sure that you won't be disappointed. Remember: whether you reel in a state record fish or get skunked, time spent outdoors is always better than being stuck inside. Start your outdoor adventures today, be safe, and have fun!


Terrence Gray, PE, Director

"It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or disability."

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Office of the Secretary, Washington, D.C. 20240



About This Guide

This high-quality guide is brought to you by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.





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The fishing regulations in this guide are online at:





State of Rhode Island
Governor Daniel McKee

RI Department of Environmental
Management

Director
Terrence Gray

Deputy Director for Natural Resources
Jason McNamee

RI Division of Fish and Wildlife

Great Swamp Headquarters
277 Great Neck Road
West Kingston, RI 02892

401-789-0281 • dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov

Chief - Division of Fish and Wildlife
Phillip A. Edwards

Freshwater and Diadromous
Fisheries Section

Christine A. Dudley, Deputy Chief of
Freshwater and Diadromous Fisheries

Alan D. Libby, Supervising Fisheries Biologist

Patrick McGee, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Corey Pelletier, Principal Fisheries Biologist

Gabriel Betty, Senior Fisheries Biologist

Matthew Gendron, Fisheries Biologist

Kenneth C. Fernstrom, Senior Fisheries
Biologist - Hatcheries Manager

Veronica J. Masson, Federal Aid Coordinator

Aquatic Resource Education

Kimberly M. Sullivan,
Principal Fisheries Biologist

Aquatic Resource Education Coordinator

RI DFW Education Office

1B Camp E-Hun-Tee

Exeter, RI 02822

(401) 539-0019

kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov

Division of Law Enforcement

F. Dean Hoxsie, Chief

24hr Violation Line: (401) 222-3070



RHODE ISLAND Freshwater Fishing

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Photo by Kimberly S.

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On the cover: "Maggie's first time ice fishing and she caught a nice rainbow trout! She loves spending time with her daddy (Chris), especially outdoors!"

Photo submitted by Jocelyn P.

Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that the Freshwater and Wildlife resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.

This guide contains a partial compilation of state laws and regulations pertaining to freshwater fishing and other related information. For more detailed information, refer to Title 20 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island or visit www.dem.ri.gov

License INFORMATION

Fishing License Fees

License Type	Current Fee (online)	Current Fee (Vendor)	Fee as of 7/1/2025 (online)	Fee as of 7/1/2025 (Vendor)
Resident (or current member of the armed forces)	\$21.00	\$23.00	\$24.00	\$26.00
Combination (Hunting & Fishing)	\$38.00	\$40.00	\$43.00	\$45.00
Non-resident	\$38.00	\$41.00	\$41.00	\$43.00
Non-resident tourist (three (3) consecutive days)	\$18.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$22.00
Resident Trout Conservation Stamp	\$5.50	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.50
Non-resident Trout Conservation Stamp	\$5.50	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.50

Fishing License Information

1. A fishing license is required of any person 15 years of age or older wishing to catch or take fish in any freshwater stream or pond in the state (except as noted below).
2. A fishing license can be obtained on-line at RIO.RI.GOV, from authorized agents such as bait and tackle shops, retail department stores, as well as some city and town clerk offices.
3. RI fishing licenses are reciprocal with Connecticut only for Beach Pond, Killingly Pond, Hazard Pond, and Peck Pond, and with Massachusetts for Wallum Lake.
4. The fishing license must be available and shown upon request.
5. The fishing license expires on the last day of February annually.
6. The fishing license will be revoked for violation of fishing laws.
7. A fishing license is not required of minors younger than fifteen (15) years of age.
8. A fishing license is not required of any blind person.
9. A fishing license is not required of landowners or for members of their families when fishing from property on which they are domiciled.
10. A free, special, permanent license may be obtained by any veteran of the armed forces who currently has a 100% disability rating or by any individual who is 100% permanently disabled.
11. A free, special, permanent license may be obtained by any resident over 65 years of age.

- c. Any person with a 100% disability.
- d. Landowners or members of their families when fishing from property on which they are actually domiciled.
- e. Any person possessing trout taken from a lake or pond which shares a border with a neighboring state.
- f. Any person possessing privately-owned trout caught in privately-owned ponds.

Methods of Fishing

1. Unless otherwise specified, only a rod and reel or other hand-held and hand-operated device shall be used to catch fish in the fresh waters of the state. At no time shall a person place, operate, or super-intend more than two (2) of these devices for the purpose of catching fish, except as noted below, and no more than three (3) hooks may be attached to each device.
2. Suckers, fallfish, and carp may be taken by snares, spears, or bow and arrow.
3. For the purpose of fishing through the ice, up to five (5) lines with a single hook on each, personally attended, and held by any device designed for that purpose (tip-up), may be used. See Exception #14 for Beach Pond, and Exception #15 for Killingly and Hazard Pond, page 5.
4. Freshwater minnows, not including the young of any species of game fish, may be taken for bait with minnow traps, dip nets, and seines not greater than four feet (4 ft.) deep by eight feet (8 ft.) long and having a square mesh size not larger than one-fourth inch (1/4 in.) in any waters of this State. This regulation does not supersede minimum size limits of the fish listed in regulations or current alewife/blueback herring regulations as detailed in the Diadromous Fisheries section found on page 10.

Trout Conservation Stamp

1. A Trout Conservation Stamp is required of any person wishing to keep or possess a trout, salmon, or charr caught in Rhode Island waters or to fish in a "catch & release" or in a "fly fishing only" area.
2. A Trout Conservation Stamp can be obtained on-line at RIO.RI.GOV, from authorized agents such as bait and tackle shops, retail department stores, as well as some city and town clerk offices. Collector Trout Conservation Stamps can be purchased at DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licenses.
3. A Trout Conservation Stamp proof of purchase must be available and shown upon request.
4. The Trout Conservation Stamp expires on the last day of February annually.
5. A Rhode Island Trout Conservation Stamp is NOT required of the following:
 - a. Minors younger than fifteen (15) years of age.
 - b. Any resident or non-resident over 65 years of age.

Find your next adventure with your Rhode Island hunting and fishing license!

DEM is proud to offer convenient access to hunting and fishing licenses directly through our expanded online system or in-person at your local vendors. It's now easier than ever to purchase Rhode Island hunting and fishing licenses, permits, tags and stamps, so you can get outdoors and enjoy the many recreational opportunities made possible through conservation and management of Rhode Island's natural resources. Visit RIO.RI.GOV to access frequently asked questions and purchase your license today.

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General INFORMATION

Prohibited Activities:

1. Fishing in any freshwater stream or pond within this state without a valid fishing license (except as noted on page 2).
2. Fishing in any designated trout stream or designated trout pond of the state, unless otherwise regulated, between 11:59 PM on last day of February to 6 AM on the second Saturday of April, annually.
3. Possessing trout, salmon, or charr during the seasonal closure.
4. Using corn for bait in any designated trout waters.
5. Chumming in any designated trout waters.
6. Snagging fish in any fresh waters.
7. Using any substance injurious to fish life in any stream or freshwater pond within the state except by permit issued by the DEM.
8. Detonating any explosive within any stream or freshwater pond within the state.
9. Selling of any freshwater fish including, but not limited to, trout, largemouth or smallmouth bass, pickerel, northern pike, Atlantic salmon, American shad, or yellow perch taken from any freshwater stream, river, or pond within the State.
10. Stocking any freshwater stream or pond, public or private, within the state with ANY species of fish without having first obtained a permit from the DEM. For more information, call (401) 789-0281.
11. Releasing any live bait into the freshwaters of the state.
12. The use as bait of any variety of gold fish (*Carassius auratus*) in the fresh waters or estuarine waters of the State.
13. The importation, sale, or possession of any variety of non-native fish, including, but not limited to goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), or fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) for use as bait in the fresh waters of the State.
14. Selling any live freshwater minnows for bait or possessing more than one hundred (100) live freshwater minnows without first having procured the appropriate license from the DEM.
15. Tagging, branding, marking, or otherwise willfully mutilating any fish which is to be released alive into any freshwaters of the state except by special permit issued by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
16. It is prohibited that any person use foot gear with external felt soles or other natural or synthetic porous material capable of absorbing liquid that is attached to the soles of wading foot gear in any freshwaters of the state. This shall include any waters shared with adjacent states in which any RI Fishing regulations apply.
17. The taking of any fish in the freshwaters of the state by net, seine, trawl, or similar device, except for a dip net, for the landing of a fish caught by hook and line and the taking of baitfish, is prohibited. Cast nets and gill nets shall be prohibited.
18. The taking of any fish in the freshwaters of the state by any means other than angling, utilizing a hook(s) and fishing line, except for carp, suckers, and fallfish, which may be taken by snares, spears, or bow and arrow.
19. Transport of any plant or plant part into or out of any Rhode Island waterbody on boats, vessels, other water conveyances, vehicles, trailers, fishing supplies, or any other equipment, with the exception of authorized research activities, such as species identification and management activities.

FREE Fishing Days May 3rd and 4th, 2025

Neither a Freshwater Fishing License nor a Trout Conservation Stamp will be required by residents or non-residents on the 3rd and 4th of May 2025.

GO FOR THE GOLD and Get a Golden Pin!

Are you up for the challenge?

The golden rainbow trout will be stocked on opening day this year and will be stocked in ponds across Rhode Island! And, like last year, our golden trout pin contest will be limited to the first three weeks after opening day!

From April 12, 2025 - May 5, 2025, if you catch a golden rainbow trout, you will be eligible to receive the coveted golden trout pin. Simply take a picture and send it to dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov. Remember, submissions need to be received no later than May 5th to be eligible for the pin.



Fluorescent Orange Requirement

PER REGULATION: All users, including anglers, of State Management Areas are required to wear 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange, worn above the waist and visible in all directions from the second Saturday in September to the last day of February and the third Saturday in April to the last day of May annually, and during established mourning dove season and wild turkey season. 500 square inches is required by all users of management areas and undeveloped state parks during all portions of shotgun deer seasons. Fluorescent camouflage does not meet these requirements. The hunter orange must be worn above the waist and be visible in all directions. Examples are a hat that covers 200 square inches or a combination of a hat and vest covering 500 square inches.



Seasons, Creel Limits, and Minimum Size Limits

Fish	Exceptions*	Season	Creel Limit**	Minimum Size
Trout	1-5, 10-16	Apr. 12 - Nov. 30	5	8"
	3-5, 10-16	Dec. 1 - Feb. 28	2	8"
Atlantic Salmon (migratory)	CLOSED see page 10			
Domestic (landlocked) Atlantic Salmon	1-3, 5, 8, 10-16	Apr. 12 - Feb. 28	2	11"
Northern Pike	1, 6, 14-16	No Closed Season	2	24"
Chain Pickerel	1, 6, 14-16	No Closed Season	5	14"
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass (Black Bass)	1, 7, 14-16	No Closed Season	5	12"
American Eel	1, 9, 14-16	No Closed Season	25	9"
River Herring (Alewives, Blueback herring), Shad & Smelt	CLOSED see page 10			
All Other Freshwater Fish	1, 14-16	No Closed Season	None	None
Striped Bass	17	No Closed Season	1	28" - <31" ***

*** Circle hooks must be used when fishing with bait.

** Creel Limit: Number of fish per person per day

* Exceptions as listed below:

Exceptions

- All lengths are measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.
- The open season on all species of trout, salmon, charr shall close annually on the last day of February at midnight and shall commence at 6:00 AM on the second Saturday of April, annually.
- From the second Saturday in April through November 30th annually, the daily creel and possession limits for trout shall be five (5) fish. From December 1st through the last day of February, annually, the daily creel and possession limits for trout shall be two (2) fish.
- The minimum size of all trout or charr species taken from the waters of the state shall be eight inches (8"). This applies to both wild and stocked trout.
- A **Trout Conservation Stamp** is required of an angler who wishes to (a) keep or possess a trout, domestic (landlocked) salmon, or charr or (b) fish in a designated 'catch and release' area or in a 'fly fishing only' area. See page 2 for more information.
- The daily creel and possession limits for northern pike shall be two (2) fish and the minimum size shall be twenty-four inches (24"). The daily creel and possession limits for chain pickerel shall be five (5) fish and the minimum size shall be fourteen inches (14").
- The daily creel and possession limits for black bass (largemouth and smallmouth bass) shall be five (5), either singularly or in aggregate and the minimum size shall be twelve (12) inches. No person shall possess any black bass less than twelve (12) inches in length.
- The daily creel and possession limit for domestic (landlocked) Atlantic salmon (*Salmo Salar*) in the fresh waters of Rhode Island shall be two (2) fish per day and shall be included in the daily limit for trout, salmon, or charr. The minimum size limit for domestic or land-locked Atlantic Salmon is eleven inches (11"). No person shall take any Atlantic salmon from the Pawcatuck River downstream of the Potter Hill Dam.
- The recreational creel or possession limits for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) shall be twenty-five (25) fish per day, per person and the minimum size shall be nine inches (9"). No person shall take an eel from the freshwaters of the state unless in possession of a valid RI Freshwater Fishing License. There will be no closed season. No American eel may be commercially harvested from the freshwaters of the state and offered for sale without a valid commercial fishing license per RI Marine Fisheries (RIMF) regulations. If harvesting commercially with a valid commercial license from the freshwaters of the state, fishermen must adhere to regulations as set forth in RIMF regulations 250-RICR-90-00-3.
- The creel and possession limit for trout or charr taken in the Wood River between Route 165 and Barberville Dam at Arcadia Road shall be limited to two (2) fish from the second Saturday in May through the last day of February (taken singularly or in aggregate).
- With the exception of designated 'catch and release' areas, any legally caught trout, salmon, or charr taken from the fresh waters of Rhode Island shall be immediately released alive into the waters from which they were taken or shall be killed at once and become part of the daily creel limit.
- That portion of the Falls River, Exeter, from the bridge at Austin Farm road downstream approximately 2 miles to the bridge off Brook Trail is designated a 'no kill' or 'catch and release' area. Fishing is permitted only with artificial lures equipped with a single barbless hook or a single barbed hook which has been crimped. All fish caught must be returned to the water immediately. The possession of any trout while fishing in this section of the river shall be *prima facie* evidence that said trout, salmon or charr were taken in violation of this regulation.
- Beaver River, Richmond—the portion from the confluence of the Beaver River and the Pawcatuck River, upstream to the New London Turnpike, Richmond, shall be designated as a 'no kill', 'catch and release', area. Fishing shall be permitted with artificial lures equipped with a single barbless hook; all fish caught shall be returned to the water immediately. The possession of any trout, salmon, or char while fishing shall be *prima facie* evidence that said trout, salmon, or charr was taken in violation of these Rules and Regulations.
- Beach Pond, Exeter—Trout season will open on the second Saturday of April at 6:00 AM and close at midnight on the last day of February, annually. Rhode Island regulations apply for trout, charr, black bass, and chain pickerel. The daily possession and creel limits for Atlantic salmon shall be one (1) per Connecticut regulations. Also in accordance with CT regulations, six (6) lines with a single hook each may be used while ice fishing.
- Killingly Pond, Glocester and Hazard Pond, West Greenwich—Rhode Island regulations apply for black bass (largemouth and smallmouth bass), and chain pickerel. Six (6) lines with a single hook each may be used while ice fishing in accordance with CT regulations.
- Wallum Lake, Burrillville—Rhode Island Regulations apply.
- Striped bass, although a regulated marine species, are often caught in some freshwater rivers of the state recreationally. In these instances, please note that marine regulations will apply, please refer to RI Marine Fisheries Regulations 250-RICR-90-00-7.

General INFORMATION

Fish Consumption Advisory

Since 1986, the FDA has issued warnings about mercury levels in various fish including freshwater species. The RIDEM and Department of Health wants our anglers to be familiar with the following information:

Fish is Good

- Fish is a good source of protein.
- Fish has many vitamins and minerals.
- Fish is low in fat.
- Fish can be part of a healthy diet. A healthy diet helps children grow and develop properly.

Mercury is Bad

- Mercury is a type of metal found in nature. It is used in thermometers, batteries, lamps, and other products. Sometimes mercury gets into ponds, lakes, rivers, soil, and air through pollution.
- When mercury pollutes the water, it can get into the fish where they live. If you eat fish with mercury, it can harm your baby when you are pregnant or breast feeding.
- Babies born to mothers who have a lot of mercury in their bodies may develop more slowly and have problems learning. Young children can also be harmed by mercury.
- High levels of mercury in the body can cause harm to an adult's kidneys and brain.
- You cannot see, taste, or smell mercury in fish. Mercury cannot be cut away, cleaned or cooked out of fish. The best way to avoid mercury is to know which fish to choose and how much to eat.

Advice for Those Who Fish:

- Choose stocked trout to eat. See page 7 for trout stocking locations.
- Vary where and what types of fish you eat.
- Eat smaller fish (in accordance with RIDEM size limits).
- Avoid fish with the most mercury: bass, pike, and pickerel.
- Limit meals of black crappie and eel to one meal per month.
- Do not eat fish from private ponds, with no public access and those that are not stocked by the state.

- Trout from private vendors stocked into private ponds may be eaten.
- Do not eat any fish from the following ponds (with the exception of trout): Yawgoog Pond, Windcheck Pond, Meadowbrook Pond, Quidnick Reservoir, and the lower Woonasquatucket.
- Catch and release fishing is recommended in Mashapaug Pond and the Woonasquatucket River along with other urban ponds and rivers.
- Pregnant women and young children should limit their fish intake to include those fish that have tested low in mercury: stocked trout in freshwater, salmon, light tuna, shrimp, Pollock and catfish in marine waters.

For more information:

Visit <https://health.ri.gov/healthrisks/poisoning/mercury/about/fish/> or call the Health Hotline at 1-800-942-7434.

Freshwater Fishing Area Restrictions

1. **FLY FISHING ONLY:** The following waters are restricted to the use of artificial flies, a conventional fly rod, and a single action reel: Deep Pond (Arcadia), Exeter; A.L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield; and Upper Rochambeau Pond, Lincoln.
2. **CHILDREN ONLY:** The following waters are restricted to fishing by persons fourteen (14) years of age or younger: Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter; Scott Evans Memorial Pond (Biscuit City), S. Kingstown; and Seidel's Pond, Cranston. The following pond is open to children fourteen (14) years of age or younger between the second Saturday of April through Memorial Day: Silvia Memorial Children's Pond (formerly Lloyd Kenney Pond), Hopkinton. For the first two (2) days of the season April 12th & 13th the following ponds are restricted to persons

fourteen (14) years of age or younger: Cass Pond in Woonsocket, Geneva Pond and Brook in North Providence, Slater Park Pond in Pawtucket, Silvy's Brook and Pond in Cumberland, Lapham Pond in Burrillville, and Ponderosa Park Pond in Little Compton.

Wheelchair Accessible Fishing Areas in Rhode Island

Carbuncle Pond - Coventry

Gorton Pond - Warwick

Hope Valley Grange Fishing Dock - Hope Valley

Lower Shannock Brook - Richmond

Silver Spring Lake - North Kingstown

Upper Melville Pond (Thurston Gray Pond) - Portsmouth

Upper Roaring Brook - Exeter

Westerly Boat Ramp - Westerly

Olney Pond - Lincoln

CHILDREN ONLY:

Scott Evans Memorial Pond (Biscuit City) - South Kingstown



The Ethical Angler:

1. Keeps only the fish they need.
2. Does not pollute; properly disposes of trash or packs it back.
3. Honors angling and boating skills.
4. Observes angling and boating safety regulations.
5. Respects other anglers' rights.
6. Respects property owners' rights.
7. Passes on knowledge and angling skills to friends and family.
8. Practices proper catch and release and does not put live fish on stringer, waiting to catch a larger fish.
9. Supports local conservation efforts.
10. Does not release live bait, non-native plants, fish or invertebrates, into RI waters. It's against the law.
11. Does not leave offal from cleaning fish at fishing sites, on land or in the water; instead, packs it back or buries it out of sight.
12. Promotes the sport of angling.
13. Does not transport any plant, fish, amphibian, reptile or invertebrate from one water body to another.



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Designated Trout Waters

Name	Location
Abbots Run Brook	Cumberland
Adamsville Brook & Pond	Tiverton & Little Compton
Alton Pond	Richmond & Hopkinton
Ashaway River	Hopkinton
Ashville Pond	Hopkinton
Barber Pond	South Kingstown
Beach Pond	Exeter
Big River	West Greenwich
Blackstone River	Cumberland & Lincoln
Branch River	Burrillville
Brandy Brook	Glocester
Breakheart Brook	Exeter
Breakheart Pond	Exeter & West Greenwich
Brickyard Pond	Barrington
Browning Mill Pond	Exeter
Brushy Brook	Hopkinton
Bucks Horn Brook	Coventry
California Jim's	South Kingstown
Carbuncle Pond ⁴	Coventry
Carolina Trout Pond	Richmond
Cass Pond ³	Woonsocket
Chepachet River	Glocester & Burrillville
Chickasheen Brook	South Kingstown
Clear River	Burrillville
Deep Pond (Arcadia) ¹	Exeter
Dexter Pond - Rt 6 (private owner), open to public	Scituate
Dolly Cole Brook	Foster
Dundery Brook	Little Compton
Eight Rod Farm Pond	Tiverton
Falls River	Exeter & West Greenwich
Flat River	Exeter
Foster Green Acres Pond	Foster
Frenchtown Park Pond	East Greenwich
Frosty Hollow Pond ²	Exeter
Geneva Brook & Pond ³	North Providence
Gorton Pond ⁴	Warwick
Harris River	Woonsocket
Hopkins Mill Pond	Foster
Hunt River	E. Greenwich & N. Kingstown
J.L. Curran Reservoir (Upper and Lower)	Cranston
Lapham Pond ³	Burrillville
Meadow Brook	Richmond
Meadow Brook Pond	Richmond
Upper Melville Pond (Thurston Gray Pond) ⁴	Portsmouth
Lower Melville Pond	Portsmouth
Memorial Park Pond	Lincoln
Meshanticut Pond	Cranston

Name	Location
Moosup River	Coventry
Moscow Brook	Hopkinton
Mowry, A.L. Pond ¹	Smithfield
Olney Pond ⁴	Lincoln Woods Park, Lincoln
Parris Brook	Exeter
Pawcatuck River ⁴	Hopkinton, Richmond, Charlestown, Westerly
Pawtuxet River (north branch)	Scituate & Cranston
Pawtuxet River (south branch)	Coventry & West Warwick
Peck Pond	Burrillville
Ponaganset River	Foster
Ponderosa Park Pond ³	Little Compton
Potowomut Pond	Warwick
Roaring Brook & Ponds ⁴	Exeter
Round Top Brook	Burrillville
Round Top Ponds	Burrillville
Saugatucket River	South Kingstown
Scott Evans Mem. Pond (Biscuit City) ^{2 & 4}	South Kingstown
Seidel's Pond ²	Cranston
Shippee Saw Mill Pond	Foster
Silver Spring Lake ⁴	North Kingstown
Silvia Memorial Children's Pond (formerly Lloyd Kenney Pond) ³	Hopkinton
Silvy's Brook Diamond Hill Park ³	Cumberland
Silvy's Pond Diamond Hill Park ³	Cumberland
Simmons Mill Pond	Little Compton
Slater Park Pond ³	Pawtucket
Spring Grove Pond	Glocester
Stafford Pond	Tiverton
Sylvester's Pond	Woonsocket
Tarbox Pond	West Greenwich
Tarkiln Pond	Burrillville & North Smithfield
Ten Mile River	East Providence
Tiogque Lake	Coventry
Tiverton Trout Pond	Tiverton
Tucker Pond	South Kingstown
Upper Rochambeau Pond ¹	Lincoln
Wallum Lake	Burrillville
Watchaug Pond	Charlestown
Willett Pond	East Providence
Winsor Brook	Foster
Wood River	Exeter, Hopkinton & Richmond
Woonasquatucket River	Smithfield
Wyoming Pond	Hopkinton & Richmond

All designated trout waters are stocked prior to the opening day of trout season. Numbers following area names refer to the following:

¹ Fly fishing only. See page 6 for more information.

² Minors fourteen (14) years of age and younger, only.

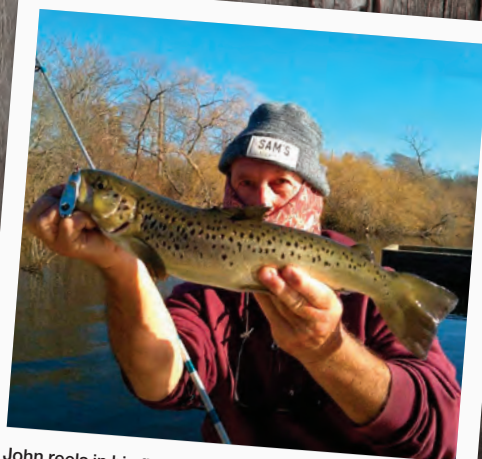
³ Minors fourteen (14) years of age or younger during specified times of the year. Please refer to page 6 for more information.

⁴ Wheelchair accessible. See page 6 for more information.

2024 Fishing HIGHLIGHTS

Fishing Highlights of the 2024-2025 Fishing Season

Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures for the
2024-2025 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Guide.



John reels in his first salmon of 2025!

Photo Credit: John M.



Rylie's stoked for this beautiful bass.

Photo Credit: Rylie B.



Emily rekindled her childhood hobby
with a personal best bass.

Photo Credit: Emily L.



Dylan knew he'd get a great catch on this trip.

Photo Credit: Dylan R.



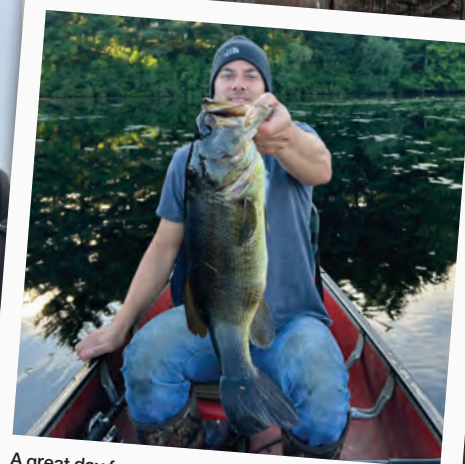
'My First Trout!'

Photo Credit: Charlie C.



Even with the snow, still seeing rainbows.

Photo Credit: Todd T.



A great day for a great catch!

Photo Credit: Mark M.

Commonly Caught SPECIES

Commonly Caught Fish Species



AMERICAN EEL
Anguilla rostrata



BROWN BULLHEAD
Ameiurus nebulosus



BLACK CRAPPIE
Pomoxis nigromaculatus



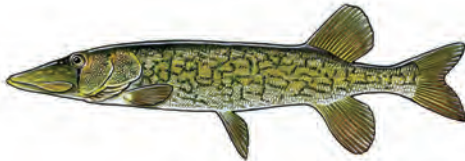
BLUEGILL
Lepomis macrochirus



BROOK TROUT
Salvelinus fontinalis



BROWN TROUT
Salmo trutta



CHAIN PICKEREL
Esox niger



COMMON CARP
Cyprinus carpio



GOLDEN SHINER
Notemigonus crysoleucas



LARGEMOUTH BASS
Micropterus salmoides



NORTHERN PIKE
Esox lucius



PUMPKINSEED
Lepomis gibbosus



RAINBOW TROUT
Oncorhynchus mykiss



REDBREAST SUNFISH
Lepomis auritus



SMALLMOUTH BASS
Micropterus dolomieu



WHITE CATFISH
Ameiurus catus



WHITE PERCH
Morone americana



YELLOW PERCH
Perca flavescens

Diadromous Fish REGULATIONS

Diadromous Fish Regulations

1. No person shall land, catch, take or attempt to catch or take any alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) or blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*) from any fresh waters or marine waters of the State of Rhode Island. Possession of any alewives or blueback herring, at any time, is prohibited and shall be evidence, *prima facie*, that said herring was taken in violation of this regulation.
2. No person shall erect any artificial obstruction/damming to fish passage in any stream or in any way alter the natural stream bottom to hinder the passage of fish.

Shad:

No person shall take any American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) from the fresh waters of the state.

Salmon:

No person shall take any Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) from the Pawcatuck River downstream of the Potter Hill Dam.

Smelt:

No person shall take any smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) by any means from any stream or river system in the state.

American Eel:

The recreational creel or possession limit for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) shall be twenty-five (25) fish per day, per person, either singular or in aggregate, and the minimum size shall be nine (9) inches from tip of snout to tip of tail. No person shall possess any American eel less than nine (9) inches in total length. No person shall take an eel from the freshwaters of the state unless in possession of a valid RI Freshwater Fishing License. There will be no closed season. No American eel may be commercially harvested from the freshwaters of the state



and offered for sale without a valid commercial license per RI Marine Fisheries (RIMF) regulations. If harvesting commercially with a valid commercial fishing license from the freshwater of the state, fishermen must adhere to regulations as set forth in RIMF regulations Part VII (Minimum Sizes of Fish/Shellfish), section 7.16.1.

Fish Ladders:

1. Trespass within or any obstruction of the entrance or exit of any fish ladder in the State is prohibited.
2. For the purpose of regulating diadromous fishes, all fish ladders owned and operated by the state will be set aside as fish cultivation facilities pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Chapters 20-12-1 and 20-12-5.
3. Per General Laws Chapters 20-12-1, 20-12-4 and 20-12-5, fishing is prohibited within 1/2 mile of fish ladder mouth or outlet.

Rhode Island Environmental Police

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, Rhode Island's 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 emergencies or violations, call (401) 222-3070, 24hr line.



Protect Our Native Species from Disease and Invasives

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO TAKE FISH OF ANY SPECIES FROM ANY BODY OF WATER AND STOCK IT IN RHODE ISLAND WATERS!

By taking fish from either in-state or out-of-state water bodies and placing it in another body of water in RI, you risk introducing disease and parasites to native fish. You also risk introducing invasive species to that waterway. Invasive species overtake the native species and significantly alter stream ecology. For more information or for stocking permits, please call (401) 789-0281.

Saltwater/Freshwater Boundaries

River	Town	Interface
Pawcatuck River	Westerly	The downstream side of the bridge crossing US Route 1
Mastuxet Brook	Westerly	Point at which the brook empties into Mastuxet Cove
King Tom / Ninigret Ponds	Charlestown	Spillway at the South end of King Tom Pond
Factory Pond Outlet	South Kingstown	Seaward opening of culvert under Teal Road
Mill Pond Outlet to Cards Pond	South Kingstown	Bridge on Moonstone Beach Road crossing west neck of Cards Pond
Smelt Brook	South Kingstown	Bridge closest to the outlet into Point Judith Pond
Saugatucket River	South Kingstown	Downstream side of the Main Street Bridge in Wakefield
Gilbert Stuart Brook	North Kingstown	Point at which the river empties into the Pettaquamscutt (Narrow) River
Wesquage Pond	Narragansett	Culvert at the outlet to Bonnet Shores Beach
Annaquatucket River	North Kingstown	Point at which river empties into Bissel Cove
Cocumcussoc Brook	North Kingstown	Bottom of the first riffle upstream of Wickford Cove
Potowomut River	North Kingstown/ East Greenwich	Forge Road spillway
Maskerchugg River	East Greenwich	Boston Post Road (US Route 1) spillway
Gorton Pond Outlet	Warwick	West of the Amtrak Railroad Bridge
Tuscatucket Brook	Warwick	Downstream side of the West Shore Road Bridge
Old Mill Creek	Warwick	Entirely tidal
Warner Brook	Warwick	Draper Avenue Bridge
Buckeye Brook	Warwick	Point at which the stream empties into Narragansett Bay
Lockwood Brook	Warwick	Downstream side of West Shore Road Bridge
Spring Green Pond Outlet	Warwick	Downstream side of the Warwick Avenue (RI Route 117A) Bridge
Pawtuxet River	Warwick/ Providence	Narragansett Parkway spillway
Woonasquatucket River	Providence	Downstream side of US Route 1N Bridge
Moshassuck River	Providence	Point of confluence with the Woonasquatucket River
Blackstone/Seekonk River	Pawtucket	Main Street spillway
Ten Mile River	East Providence	Omega Pond spillway
Annawomscutt Brook	Barrington	Pilling Chain Company spillway on Bay Spring Avenue
Mussachuck Creek	Barrington	Downstream side of the Washington Road Bridge
Runnins River	East Providence/ Seekonk, MA	Downstream side of Mink Street (RI 114A) Bridge
Kickamuit River	Warren	The downstream side of the Rte 103 bridge.
Sin and Flesh Brook	Tiverton	Downstream side of the Highland Avenue Bridge
Nonquit Pond	Tiverton	Bridge at Pond Bridge Road
Pachet Brook	Tiverton	Downstream side of the West Main Road (RI Route 77) Bridge
Dundery Brook	Little Compton	Downstream side of Swamp Road Bridge
Cold Brook	Little Compton	Point at which the brook empties into Quicksand Pond
Maidford River	Middletown	Downstream side of Paradise Avenue Bridge
Goose Neck Cove	Newport	Entirely tidal
Lily Pond	Newport	Outlet
Almy Pond	Newport	Outlet
Prince Pond (Tiffany Pond)	Barrington	Point at which the stream enters the Barrington River.

Boating Regulation GUIDELINES

Boating Regulation and Policy Guidelines

The following is a brief summary of Rhode Island's boating regulations. For detailed information, please refer to Division of Enforcement's *The Handbook of RI Boating Laws and Regulations*, Title 46 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island or contact the Division of Enforcement.

1. DEM Conservation and Boating Safety Officers, harbormasters, and police officers have authority to enforce state laws and regulations on all state tidal and non-tidal waters.
2. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person operating a vessel on Rhode Island waters to refuse to stop or move on the oral command of a DEM Conservation or Boating Safety Officer, a harbormaster, or a police officer.
3. Every motorboat operating on the waters of the state must be numbered in accordance with the laws and regulations of this state, with applicable federal law, or with an approved numbering system of another state. The number must be prominently displayed on each side of the bow of the boat.
4. Required Safety Equipment:
 - a. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) - All vessels must have at least one approved type I, II, III, or V PFD for each person on board. **NEW in 2024:** For all vessels less than 16 ft. (4.9 meters) in length including canoes, kayaks, sailboats, kiteboards and paddleboards, operators and passengers shall wear a US Coast Guard approved PFD at all times while underway regardless of age. For vessels 16 feet long or longer, one additional, throw able type IV PFD is required.
 - b. Fire Extinguishers - All mechanically-propelled vessels except those that are less than 26 feet long and powered by outboard motors, must carry one B-I USCG-approved fire extinguisher. Motorboats 26 feet to 40 feet in length and longer must carry either two (2) B-I USCG-approved fire extinguishers or one B-II extinguisher. Vessels 40 feet to 65 feet must carry three B-I or one B-I and one B-II.
 - c. Visual Distress Signals (VSD) - Vessels used on RI waters must be equipped with proper visual distress signals that are USCG approved, in serviceable condition, and readily accessible. Vessels under 26 ft. require 3 night VSDs while those 26 feet or longer require both 3 day and 3 night VSDs.
 - d. Whistle (horn) and Bell - All vessels must carry an efficient sound-producing device (whistle or horn). Vessels 12 meters (36 feet) in length or longer must also carry a bell.
5. All motorboats must carry and display the proper navigation lights for their size class when operating between sunset and sunrise and during daylight periods of reduced visibility.
6. All vessels equipped with an engine must have a factory-type muffler or exhaust water manifold installed on the engine or another effective muffling system for noise reduction purposes.
7. No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel or manipulate any water skis, surfboard, or similar device in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of another.
8. Any person transporting a child under thirteen (13) years of age in a recreational vessel less than 65 ft. in length on the waters of this state, shall require that the child wear a personal flotation device approved by the USCG when underway unless below deck or in a closed cabin.
9. No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel in any harbor or inlet or any pond or other confined body of water in this state in excess of forty-five (45) miles per hour during the hours from sunrise to sunset and twenty-five (25) miles per hour during periods of darkness or other periods of restricted visibility.
10. RI law prohibits anyone from boating while intoxicated (BWI). This includes the operation of any powerboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, water skis, sailboard, or similar device. Intoxicated means a person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or drugs such that his/her thought or actions are impaired causing danger to others. RI law sets blood alcohol limit for boating while intoxicated at 0.08% or greater.
11. Any person SCUBA diving, skin diving, or snorkeling in any area where power or motorboats are operated shall place a diver's warning flag on a buoy at a place of his or her submergence. No person shall operated a motorboat within fifty (50) feet of a displayed diver's flag.
12. Prohibited is the transport of any plant or plant part into or out of any Rhode Island waterbody on boats, vessels, other water conveyances, vehicles, trailers, fishing supplies, or any other equipment, with the exception of authorized research activities, species identification and other management activities.

Natural Shorelines are Good for Fishing

By keeping shorelines natural, you can help protect water quality and improve fish habitat. A shoreline without trees and shrubs can get washed away, making the water muddy and unsuitable for fish. If you live near a lake or a river, plant a buffer strip along the water's edge using trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other native plants. Trees and other vegetation filter pollution and provide shade, shelter, habitat, and food critical for bass, trout, and other fish to thrive and reproduce. Keep your favorite fishing spots well vegetated! For more tips and information, visit <http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/index.cfm>



Decontaminate Your Gear:

CLEAN



Remove all debris on:

- ☐ Boat, Motor
- ☐ Trailer, Gear
- ☐ Anchors, Paddles
- ☐ Lines, Straps

DRAIN



Pull boat plug & drain:

- ☐ Motors
- ☐ Bait Buckets
- ☐ Live Wells
- ☐ Canoes & Kayaks

DRY



Dry gear & equipment:

- ☐ Hang or leave in sun
- ☐ Dry before traveling to another lake, pond, river, or reservoir



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

To report invasive animals, contact: Division of Fish and Wildlife (401) 789-0281
To report invasive plants, contact: Office of Water Resources (401) 222-4700

Management Area BOATING REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

Boating Information: Management Area Ponds & Lakes

Pond	Town	Regulation
A.L. Mowry Pond	Smithfield	1, 3
Alton Pond	Hopkinton	5, 16-21
Asa Pond	South Kingstown	4, 16-21
Ashville Pond	Hopkinton	7, 16-21
Barber's Pond	South Kingstown	5, 6, 16-21
Blue Pond	Hopkinton	5, 16-21
Bowdish Reservoir	Glocester	10, 16-21
Breakheart Pond	Exeter	7, 15, 16-21
Browning Mill Pond	Richmond	5, 16-21
Carbuncle Pond	Coventry	5, 16-21
Carolina Trout Pond	Richmond	1, 3
Carr Pond	North Kingstown	5, 16-21
Chapman Pond Westerly	Westerly	7, 16-21
Clarkville Pond Glocester	Glocester	5, 16-21
Deep Pond (Arcadia)	Exeter	3
Frosty Hollow Pond	Exeter	1, 3
Great Swamp Dike	West Kingston	2, 16-21
Gristmill Pond	Glocester	3
Indian Lake	South Kingstown	7, 8, 16-21
John L. Curran Reservoir	Cranston	7, 15, 16-21
Keech Pond	Glocester	7, 16-21
Lake Washington	Glocester	5, 16-21
Little Round Top Pond	Burrillville	1, 3
Locustville Pond	Hopkinton	7, 16-21
Lower Roaring Brook Pond	Exeter	3
Olney Pond	Lincoln	13, 14, 16-21
Pascoag Reservoir	Glocester	12, 16-21
Pawtuxet River (Hope)	Scituate	5, 16-21
Peck Pond	Burrillville	3
Round Top Pond	Burrillville	3
Shippee Saw Mill Pond	Foster	5, 16-21
Silver Spring Lake	North Kingstown	5, 16-21
Simmons Mill Pond	Little Compton	5, 16-21
Smith and Sayles Reservoir	Glocester	7, 16-21
Spring Lake	Burrillville	5, 16-21
Stafford Pond	Tiverton	9, 16-21
Tucker Pond	South Kingstown	7, 16-21
Union Pond	Burrillville	5, 16-21
Upper Roaring Brook Pond	Brook Pond Exeter	4, 16-21
Wakefield Pond	Burrillville	11, 16-21
Wilson Reservoir	Burrillville	7, 9, 16-21
Woonasquatucket Reservoir (Stump Pond)	Smithfield	7, 16-21

1. Definition: Float Tube — any device manufactured and sold for use as a fishing float tube. Float tubes are prohibited on the following ponds: Little Round Top Pond, Burrillville; A.L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield; Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter; and Carolina Trout Pond, Richmond.
2. Boating is prohibited within the impoundment created by the Great Swamp dike, within the Great Swamp Management Area during the period September 1st through March 31st annually except by licensed migratory bird hunters. All motors are prohibited at all times.
3. Boats are prohibited on the following ponds: Round Top and Little Round Top Ponds, Burrillville; Peck Pond, Burrillville; Deep Pond — Arcadia, Exeter; Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter; Gristmill Pond, Glocester; Carolina Trout Pond, Richmond; Lower Roaring Brook, Richmond; A.L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield.
4. The launching, hauling, or operation of boats with motors of any kind is prohibited from state-owned and/or operated ramps on the following ponds: Asa Pond, South Kingstown; and Upper Roaring Brook Ponds, Exeter.
5. The launching, hauling, and operation of boats with motors of any kind, except electric trolling motors, is prohibited from state-owned and/or operated ramps on the following bodies of water: Spring Lake

& Union Pond, Burrillville; Carbuncle Pond, Coventry; Shippee Saw Mill Pond, Foster; Clarkville Pond and Lake Washington, Glocester; Alton Pond and Blue Pond (no ramp), Hopkinton; Carr Pond and Silver Spring Lake, North Kingstown; Simmons Mill Pond, Little Compton; Browning Mill Pond, Richmond; Pawtuxet River (Hope), Scituate; and Barber's Pond, South Kingstown.

6. Per town ordinance: No person shall operate any motorboat, except a motorboat propelled by an electric motor, on the waters of Barber's Pond within the territorial limits of the Town of South Kingstown.
7. The use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from state-owned and/or operated ramps is prohibited on the following bodies of water: Wilson Reservoir, Burrillville; Keech Pond, Smith & Sayles Reservoir (Sand Dam), Glocester; Woonasquatucket Reservoir (Stump Pond), Smithfield; Indian Lake and Tucker Pond, South Kingstown; Ashville and Locustville Ponds, Hopkinton; Chapman Pond, Westerly; Breakheart Pond, Exeter; and John L. Curran Reservoir, Cranston.
8. Per town ordinance: No person shall operate any motorboat with a motor in excess of 10 horsepower on the waters of Indian Lake, within the territorial limits of the Town of South Kingstown.
9. No person shall use any motor in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched or hauled from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Stafford Pond, Tiverton, and Wilson Reservoir, Burrillville, with the exception that the use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Stafford Pond, Tiverton, and Wilson Reservoir, Burrillville, is permitted for organized fishing activities possessing a valid permit from RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife; as described in 'Fishing Activities Requiring a Permit' on page 19 of this 2025-2026 Freshwater Fishing Guide.
10. **REGULATION CHANGE:** No person shall use any motor in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched or hauled from the state-owned and/or operated boat ramp on Bowdish Reservoir in the George Washington State Campground, Glocester, with the exception that permitted organized fishing activities, i.e. tournaments shall be allowed to use motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on the waters of Bowdish Reservoir at the state-owned launching ramp in the George Washington State Campground, Glocester, between the Saturday before Memorial Day and Labor Day of each year, inclusive. See Page 19, Fishing Activities Requiring A Parking Permit, of this 2025-2026 Freshwater Fishing Guide.
- NEW POLICY (2024):** Bowdish Reservoir Boat Ramp Non-Camper Parking Reservation Policy: All non-campers launching a vessel from the Bowdish Reservoir boat ramp, in the George Washington State Campground, Glocester, between the second Friday in April through October 31, must make a parking reservation whether parking or not, by filling out a permit application at: <https://dem.ri.gov/bowdish-reservoir-boat-ramp-parking>; or refer to page 14 for permit application QR code. Three parking spaces and one handicapped parking space will be designated for non-campground users. Campground users may not reserve or use these spaces. For more information, please contact Gabriel Betty at gabriel.betty@dem.ri.gov.
11. The use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from the state-owned ramp on Wakefield Pond, Burrillville, is prohibited at all times. The use of any motor on a boat from this state-owned ramp, except electric trolling motors, is prohibited from June 20th to September 20th of any year, inclusive.
12. No person shall use any motor in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched or hauled from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Pascoag Reservoir at the state-owned launching ramp on Schoolhouse Road, Glocester, with the exception that permitted organized fishing activities, i.e. tournaments, shall be allowed to use motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on the waters of Pascoag Reservoir at the state-owned launching ramp on Schoolhouse Road, Glocester, between the Saturday before Memorial Day and Labor Day of each year, inclusive.

Management Area BOATING REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

13. The operation of boats with motors of any kind, except electric trolling motors, is prohibited on the waters of Olney Pond in Lincoln Woods State Park on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays between the Saturday before Memorial Day and Labor Day of each year, inclusive.
14. The operation of boats with motors of any kind, except electric trolling motors, owned by persons other than the State of Rhode Island with motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower is prohibited upon Olney Pond in Lincoln Woods State Park except with official written permission from the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife.
15. Only vehicles launching or landing a boat will be permitted to park in designated boat trailer areas, unless otherwise designated.
16. The mooring of boats, the parking of vehicles, or engaging in any other activity on land or water so as to obstruct the use of a boat launching ramp by others, is prohibited.
17. Boats shall be launched only at designated areas.
18. Boats shall be tied up at state boat ramps for no longer than 30 minutes.
19. Fishermen utilizing State Management Areas and designated undeveloped State Parks are required to wear fluorescent orange during hunting seasons as referenced in the Park and Management Area Rules and Regulations. See page 4 for more information.
20. Prohibited is the transport of any plant or plant part into or out of any Rhode Island waterbody on boats, vessels, other water conveyances, vehicles, trailers, fishing supplies, or any other equipment, with the exception of authorized research activities, species identification and other management activities.

Request Parking Permit for Bowdish Reservoir



A permit is required for non-camping boaters who wish to park and launch a vessel at the boat ramp located at the George Washington State Campground from the second Friday in April through October 31.

dem.ri.gov/bowdishparking



Outdoors

Is your boat registered in Rhode Island?



We are moving to the RIO system. Please take a few minutes to create an account to save time when your renewal becomes due.

dem.ri.gov/boatreg

Your one-stop shop for RI fishing, hunting & boating licenses & permits

Start your adventure today!

rio.ri.gov

Is That Algal Bloom On My Favorite Pond Harmful?

RIDEM and RI Department of Health (DOH) are working together to keep your fishing experience safe. During the summer, fall and into the winter months, when the water levels are low and temperatures are high, RI DOH scientists sample bodies of water for blue-green algae (also known as Cyanobacteria) toxins. If toxin levels are too high, warnings are issued and signs are posted to refrain from recreational activities on that particular body of water. Here is a little more information about Cyanobacteria:

What is Cyanobacteria?

Cyanobacteria is a blue-green algae that occurs naturally in freshwater systems. High temperatures and excess sunlight can lead to algal 'blooms' which have the potential to produce toxins that are harmful to both human and animals. The toxins are released when the algae begin to die off or are ingested.

How do you identify a blue-green algal bloom?

Blooms generally occur in late summer or early fall when the water level is low and water temperature is high. There are no visual signs that a blue-green algae bloom is producing the harmful toxins; however, identifying an algae bloom may help you avoid the chance of exposure. Blue-green algae blooms are normally bright green or blue green in color, but can also be brown, red or purple. Water may appear cloudy and may produce an odor. The color of the algal bloom is a clue; however, confirmation of blue-green algae can only be identified using a microscope. Water samples should be tested for toxin presence.

What are the health risks?

Humans who come in contact with the blue-green algae toxins can develop rashes, blisters, hives, and nose and eye irritation. If swallowed, humans may experience diarrhea, vomiting, or neurotoxicity (numb lips, tingling fingers and toes, dizziness). Pets

or livestock that ingest the Cyanobacteria toxins can experience sickness, paralysis and even death. Neurotoxicity in animals is characterized by salivation, weakness, staggering, difficulty breathing, and convulsions.

What can you do to avoid Cyanobacteria toxins?

Adhere to all posted signs. Do not drink, swim, or fish in affected water bodies. Avoid contact with water that is discolored or has scum on the surface. Do not drink untreated water, whether algae blooms are present or not.

What does the state do to reduce human/pet exposure to the Cyanobacteria toxins?

Not all species of blue-green algae produce toxins and the blue-green algae that can produce the toxins may not. Toxins can be detected through laboratory tests. Water testing is conducted throughout the summer and results are reported to RI Department of Health and RIDEM. **IF TOXINS ARE FOUND, A PRESS RELEASE AND ADVISORY IS ISSUED AND SIGNAGE IS POSTED AT THE POND. RIDEM WILL NOT STOCK AFFECTED PONDS WITH TROUT.**

Where can I get more information?

For more information, visit <https://health.ri.gov/healthrisks/harmfulalgaeblooms/>.

Largemouth Bass Virus

The largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV) has been found to occur at three locations in Rhode Island: Olney Pond in Lincoln Woods State Park, Echo Lake in Pascoag, and Watchaug in Charlestown Pond. While LMBV has only proven fatal to largemouth bass, the virus has been found in some sunfish species such as bluegill and pumpkinseed. Common symptoms of the virus include hyper-buoyancy, spiral swimming, and lethargy, which are attributed to damage to the swim bladder. Infected fish may not exhibit any signs of the virus until it is activated by stressful environmental conditions such as high water temperatures, low oxygen levels, droughts, secondary injuries, or bacterial infections. These are conditions that could trigger LMBV and potentially cause fish kills. While fish health biologists have indicated that LMBV is a naturally occurring fish virus that does not pose a human health risk for people who eat or handle infected fish, all freshwater fish should be thoroughly cooked before being consumed. DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife advises anglers to minimize the spread of LMBV by not transplanting any fish from one water body to another; draining, cleaning and drying boats, motors and fishing gear between each use; not releasing bait fish into any water body; minimizing the stress to bass caught and released as much as possible during periods of high water temperatures; and reporting all fish kills to the Department at (401) 222-3070.



Photo submitted by Emily L.

Big Changes in the Beaver River

Sometimes Mother Nature is on Our Side

By Corey Pelletier

In 2021, RIDEM Fish and Wildlife changed the regulations for the Beaver River, designating the river as catch-and-release only and removing it from the list of trout stocked waters. These changes were implemented to further protect the wild Brook Trout population in the river, addressing added pressures from competition with stocked trout for food and habitat resources, and angler harvest.

Despite these protections, wild Brook Trout in the system still experience natural stressors that influence their growth and survival. Being a cold water-dependent species, they typically inhabit streams that have significant groundwater contribution, which help to maintain cold water temperatures. This is in part the case in the Beaver River, but because the river's origins begin as a series of ponds,

water temperatures become very warm during summer months. Ponds act as thermal sinks, or large areas of surface water that collect solar radiation, which heat water much more than a flowing stream channel. Therefore, groundwater contribution in a stream channel is often not sufficient to mitigate the effects of warm pond-water outflow on a hot summer day. Summer water temperatures often become well above



The image above shows the impoundment in December 2023, within a week after the dam had breached. The second photo shows the impoundment in July of 2024, where you can see how new vegetation growth blankets the areas previously submerged.



the tolerable threshold of wild Brook Trout, forcing them to move and find suitable habitat. The Beaver River is no exception to this.

This brings us to one location in Richmond, RI, where the Beaver River runs through—the Beaver River Preserve—owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. Within this approximately 270-acre preserve, a pond existed by means of an earthen dam—until 2023. During a high precipitation storm event in December of 2023, high flows burst through the dam at the Beaver River Preserve, eliminating the storage of water in the ponded area. This allowed the Beaver River to return to its natural channel, leaving mud flats with the exposed rhizomes of aquatic vegetation.

After some review of historical aerial imagery, the story of the pond at the Beaver River Preserve was not as it seemed. From the earliest available imagery of the area (1939 Aerial Photographs, RIDEM Environmental Resource Map), there was no pond at the site despite the presence of the earthen dam. This indicated that the dam had likely been built in the previous century and used as a source of power generation for a mill, like the history of many other Rhode Island dams. But sometime prior to 1938, the dam was breached either by human hands or naturally. In the following years of imagery, no pond can be seen. That is until the early 1980s when the first stages of a pond began to form again. From the 1980s through 2020, imagery indicates the pond continued to grow. Interestingly, the return of the pond coincided with the recolonization of beavers in the 1980s. The section of dam that blew out in 2023 consisted of 40+ years of material from Mother Nature's engineer, the beaver!

In the broader picture, this natural process completed the work for conservation organizations working to restore cold water habitat, healthy fish populations, and clean water. Freshwater ponds and lakes are abundant throughout Rhode Island, most of which were created in the 19th and 20th centuries for mill power, flood retention, and recreation. Unfortunately, many of these human-created waterbodies negatively affect the ecosystems downstream by way of altering fish communities, introducing excessive nutrients, and promoting conditions that allow invasive species to flourish. Furthermore, dams act as barriers within stream and river networks, restricting upstream movement for fish and other aquatic animals. This can cause significant impacts to populations, limiting the ability of fish to access habitats necessary for spawning, feeding, and relief from high water temperatures and flood events. With that being said, the value of lakes and ponds across the state vary considerably. Natural resource managers and conservation groups are currently focused on identifying human-built dams which negatively impact cold water streams and serve little function in the way of property value, recreation and other ecosystem functions. This was the case with the pond on the Beaver River Preserve. Based



University of Rhode Island students, during their Wetlands Ecology lab, collect invertebrate samples in the new stream channel within the Beaver River Preserve.

on years of monitoring conditions at this site, water temperatures became elevated throughout the summer months, negatively impacting the population of wild Brook Trout and other aquatic organisms downstream.

Now that the dam is gone, a perfect opportunity for monitoring the post-removal condition arises. RIDEM, The Nature Conservancy, and the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association began collecting a wide range of data on the fish community, water temperature, plant community, macro-invertebrates and more. We have also brought in help from URI's Freshwater Wetlands class to conduct a long-term study on the macro-invertebrate community. This will be important to assess how dam removal affects the community of underwater insects that serves as the primary source of food for fish and other animals in the river.

I may have left you wondering where the beavers went. Well, they are still there and have relocated their water storage engineering to the east, impounding a small tributary which flows into the river. This has allowed the Beaver River

to remain free flowing. The topic of beavers can be a controversial one, given the problems that they can cause for roadway infrastructure, among other things. Beavers are native to the landscape and fulfill important roles in the ecosystem. As with many other species coexisting on the same landscape with us humans, we must carefully manage them when issues arise, but allow them to carry on with their natural functions on the landscape.

For now, this natural transformation of the Beaver River back to its free flowing, pre-settlement condition is a welcome change. Moreso, it provides us with a case study to better understand changes to a river when a dam is removed. As you can see from the photos, the mud flats don't last long and new terrestrial life takes over almost immediately, transitioning the drained area to a flourishing grass meadow within the first growing season. We are eager to continue our monitoring and see what happens next. Stay tuned for future updates and take a hike at this beautiful preserve to see the change yourself!

RI DEM Divisions Working Together for Conservation

By Sergeant Sheila Paquette, RIDEM Environmental Police

DEM is responsible for managing Rhode Island's natural resources, including thousands of acres of conservation land that support wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation. The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) plays a key role in overseeing regulations and providing education to protect these areas.

Last Spring, RI DEM Environmental Police Officers (EPOs) had the opportunity to interface with the public in a different capacity. With a community grant received from the Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council, DLE collaborated with the Division of Fish and Wildlife's outdoor education programs by attending and assisting at their education events. The events included public talks to scouts as well as a nighttime walk exploring vernal pools. As students attended these sessions, they were able to interact with Division of Law Enforcement Patrol Officers in a way that encouraged cooperative efforts of stewardship. Officers spent time alongside the students and attendees, sampling from the water, discussing habitat, and explaining why it is important for the enforcement of those regulations and laws.

At our core is the Game Warden approach and it is in line with our mission: to protect our natural resources and ensure compliance with all environmental conservation laws through law enforcement and education, while constantly maintaining the health and safety of the public. DLE strives to have a more proactive philosophy on our enforcement and education, by attending local public education events and supporting civic and nonprofit groups. Working alongside DFW biologists and staff contributes to a this cooperative philosophy for habitat protection and natural resource education. We look forward to building on this partnership and achieving even greater success together in the future.



Photo credit: Abby C.



Photo credit: DEM archive

Left: Officer Murtha helps Lizzie reel in a beautiful rainbow trout at the Aquatic Resource Education training pond.

Right: Officer Evans talks turtles at the annual USFWS/RIDEM "Cops and Bobbers" event.

Anglers: You Can Help Us Combat Turtle Poaching!

Your passion for the outdoors brings you to some of the most important places for our native wildlife. You are advocates for the conservation of wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend. The native turtle species of the Northeast are facing a new threat — poaching. Removing even individual turtles can have permanent consequences for populations already under tremendous pressure. It is against Rhode Island law to possess or remove from the wild, any native amphibian or reptile. Here's how you can help:

What to look for:

- Individuals with bags poking around in fields, wetlands, or along streams, or flipping over logs and rocks.
- Unmarked traps set in wetlands. A trap set for research purposes will be clearly labeled.
- Cars parked near forested areas with collection equipment — like nets, containers, and pillowcases — visible inside.
- Unattended backpacks or bags left in the woods, along a trail, or near roads.

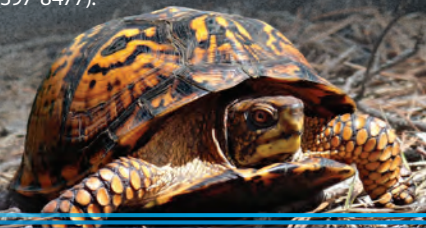
What to do if you see something suspicious:

- Maintain a safe distance and protect yourself.
- Note your exact location, and call the 24-hr RIDEM Law Enforcement hotline (401-222-3070) when it's safe to do so.
- If you are safe, try to take photographs that can corroborate your report. For example, the license plate of a car, or the serial number on a turtle trap.

What not to do:

- Do not confront suspicious persons, or try to stop a crime yourself. Leave that to law-enforcement professionals.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has an anonymous tip line — 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477).



Fishing Activities Requiring a Permit

1.18 Permits are required for organized fishing tournaments for state fishing and boating access areas and for the following private access areas: Johnson's Pond (Flat River Reservoir) in Coventry, and Waterman Reservoir, Glocester. Permits are required for six (6) or more persons and/or three (3) or more boats. Applications for the issuance of a permit must be submitted to the Division a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the tournament. An organization may cancel a permitted fishing activity without penalty as long as written notice of cancellation is received at least three (3) weeks prior to the event. Failure to provide timely written notice shall result in a one (1) year revocation of an organization's eligibility to receive a permit for any organized fishing activity. Exceptions for unforeseen occurrences (e.g. weather, natural disaster) will apply at the discretion of the Division. The decision of revocation shall rest entirely with the Division. Permit applications may be obtained by contacting RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892, Tel: (401) 789-7481. Applicants must complete all required information. The Division reserves the right to limit the number of activities per location, per day, time period, or deny a permit for reasons of overuse or conflict with other activities.

a. The applicant must indicate on the application whether the fishing activity is a 'closed' or an 'open' activity. *A closed fishing activity is an event having a fixed or restricted number of participants. An open fishing activity is an event having an unrestricted number of participants.*

- 1.** If the tournament is closed, the number of boats, vehicles, and participants must be entered on the application. The permit must be retained on site by the sponsor along with the list of participants and boat registration numbers.
- 2.** If the tournament is open, the names of all participants and registration numbers of each boat on the day of the tournament must be made available to RIDEM Division of Law Enforcement. An estimated count of all participants, vehicles and boats shall be forwarded to the Division at least five (5) days prior to the start of the tournament.

3. Regardless if a fishing tournament is 'closed' or 'open', the organization must provide a report to the Division within five (5) days of the termination of the tournament which includes: the number of hours fished, the number of boats, numbers of participants, and, as applicable, the total number of largemouth bass and smallmouth bass caught as well as the total weight of all largemouth bass and all smallmouth bass processed at weigh-in. This report may be sent as a letter to RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife or by completing the Bass Tournament Count Form. Failure to complete and submit the required information within five (5) days shall render the organization ineligible to conduct further organized fishing events for one year from the said event. Such revocation shall include any events for which a permit was previously issued.


- b.** Applicants requesting a permit for a municipal or private ramp shall be responsible to obtain additional permits for these areas, if necessary.
- c.** These regulations shall not be interpreted as superseding any special boat ramp or state management area regulations.
- d.** Permits along with lists of participants and boat registrations, if applicable, shall be available during the tournament for law enforcement purposes and must be clearly displayed in the windshield of the contact's vehicle.

For more information, contact Gabriel Betty at gabriel.betty@dem.ri.gov or 401-789-0281

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RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife's Publications:

Dragonflies and Damselflies of Rhode Island

By: Virginia Brown, Illustrated by Nina Briggs



Dragonflies and Damselflies of Rhode Island, a compilation of three decades of inventorying and monitoring dragonflies and damselflies inhabiting the state. This is the first time these species have been comprehensively compiled and identified in a publication specific to Rhode Island.

Price: \$20.00 purchase by mail (check or money order only).

Order form available by emailing DEM. DFW@dem.ri.gov or from:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/publications/index.php>

Inland Fishes of Rhode Island

By: Alan D. Libby, Illustrated by Robert Jon Golder

RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife published Rhode Island's first freshwater fish guide, which identifies more than 70 fishes found in over 377 pond and stream locations throughout Rhode Island! With gorgeous color images as well as black and white scientific illustrations, each fish is addressed with a detailed description and color location map. Originally \$26.75, this publication has been reduced to \$18.75! This is the perfect gift for any angler!

Amphibians of Rhode Island

By: Christopher J. Raithel

Amphibians of Rhode Island provides meticulous accounts of the state's 18 native frogs, toads, and salamanders and their respective habitats accompanied by beautiful photographs depicting multiple life stages. Far more than a field guide, the author combines an exhaustive search of the historical record and four decades of intense personal study to provide comprehensive information on the state-wide distribution, demography,

seasonal movement, reproduction and development, research needs, and conservation status of each species.

Price: \$20.00

Purchase Options for Inland Fishes in Rhode Island and Amphibians of Rhode Island:

- DEM Division of Boating and Licensing located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence. Cash, check or credit (with \$1.50 convenience fee).
- Great Swamp Fish and Wildlife Headquarters located at 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, office hours 8:30am–4pm, check or money order only.
- On-line, mail-in order form: Print, complete and send along with check or money order only <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/fish-wildlife/reports-publications>.

Ways to stay informed:

- Sign up for our 'Wild Rhode Island' Newsletter to keep up-to-date with RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife. The full-color quarterly newsletter is available online only. For more information or to be added to our email list, please contact Sarah Riley at 401-789-0281 or sarah.riley@dem.ri.gov.
- Kids can sign up for the 'Wild Rhode Island Explorer', a quarterly magazine just for kids, available on-line or in full-color print. This publication features interviews with biologists, information about native species, and so much more! For more information or to sign up, email mary.gannon@dem.ri.gov.
- Monthly Fish and Wildlife Outreach email: Receive free, up-to-date information about fishing, hunting, and wildlife outreach events as well as Division volunteer opportunities. To sign up, please contact kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or mary.gannon@dem.ri.gov.
- Follow us on Facebook: Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife Outdoor Education @RIFishwildlife or www.facebook.com/RIFishwildlife. Get event updates, up-to-date stocking information, learn about RI species, and more.
- Follow us on Instagram @ri.fishandwildlife.

Tips for Releasing Live Fish

If fish are to be taken as part of the daily creel limit, they should be killed immediately and kept cool until they can be prepared for the table. If an angler wishes to release a live fish, either because it is undersized or because they are practicing catch and release fishing, the following procedures are recommended:

1. Land the fish as quickly as possible to minimize stress to the fish. Playing a fish to the point of exhaustion will lessen its chance for survival.
2. Wet your hands before handling the fish; dry hands will remove the fish's protective slime layer and leave the fish open to bacterial and fungal infections.
3. Handle the fish carefully. Do not use excessive force when grasping the fish. Do not put fingers into the gill cavities or eye sockets. A wet glove can be a useful aid in grasping the fish because it reduces the amount of pressure needed to hold the fish securely.
4. Gently remove the hook to minimize damage. A pair of long-nose pliers will make the job easier.
5. If you are intentionally practicing catch and release fishing, use artificial lures with single, barbless hooks, or circle hooks to minimize damage to the fish.
6. Do not attempt to remove a hook that is deeply embedded in the gullet. Instead, cut the line off as close to the hook as possible and release. The fish will have a better chance of survival if the hook is left in place; the hook will eventually disintegrate.
7. Return the fish to the water as quickly as possible. Lower it back into the water in an upright position and move it back and forth in the water to force water across its gills. Once the fish revives, allow it to swim away.

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Why Do You Fish?

Thank you to those of you who shared your 2024 'Why Do You Fish?' stories. This year we had an overwhelming response; here are some of our favorites. We hope you will continue to enjoy fishing in RI and making more memories in 2025.



Fishing is more than fishing. What others call boring, I call it relaxing. I just love being outdoors. Especially out on a beautiful lake or river just clearing my mind and getting away from work and the responsibilities of life just for awhile. Whether I catch something or don't, my time out there observing nature and challenging the fish is always satisfying. Also, making great memories. The excitement of having a fish on your line, reeling it in, the joy of releasing the fish or taking the fish home and feed your family. I could go on forever.

– Ilka B.



It is where I find peace in this crazy world we live in.

– Kenny C.



The reason why I fish is to stay active in the outdoors. RI is a beautiful state and any day on the water is a good day..., made better by catching fish and enjoying nature.

– Tom H.



"I've been fishing for nearly 50 yrs and I'm addicted. RI does not get the credit it deserves for the great Freshwater fishing it has. I beg to differ, proof is in the pictures."

– Andrew H.



First Fish Award

APPLICATION



DID YOU CATCH YOUR FIRST FISH? PLEASE CUT OUT, COMPLETE, AND SEND THIS FORM TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE AND GIFT FROM THE RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE!

You can also visit <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/first-fish.php> to print out a copy.

NAME: _____ DATE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TOWN _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL (optional): _____ FISH SPECIES: _____

WHERE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH: _____

WEIGHT OF FISH: _____ LENGTH OF FISH (tip of snout to tip of tail): _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (parent, grandparent, or other responsible adult): _____

RETURN TO: RI Division of Fish and Wildlife / Aquatic Resource Education Program
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place / Exeter, RI 02882

Rhode Island Game Fish Award Program

Each year, RIDEM-Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes anglers who have caught freshwater and saltwater game fish of notable size with our Game Fish Award program. To be eligible, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means in Rhode Island waters. Fish must be caught in Rhode Island waters open to the public without charge, fee, special permission or membership (private pond restricted to use by club members or their guests are not considered open to the public, even if no fee is charged). To accommodate both 'catch and release' and harvest fishing, the angler can either take a photo of the fish using a hand-scale and ruler or bring the catch to an official weigh station. The angler must then complete the Game Fish / State Record Award Application, available at www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/records/index.php. One award per person per year is issued for each species of game fish caught that meet the minimum size requirements listed. Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish was caught.

RI State Record Award

The Division of Fish and Wildlife maintains state records on each species of game fish caught in Rhode Island waters. To be eligible, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means in Rhode Island waters. Fish also must be caught in Rhode Island waters open to the public without charge, fee, special permission or membership (private pond restricted to use by club members or their guests are not considered open to the public, even if no fee is charged). To apply for an RI State Record, the angler must bring their legally-caught fish to an official weigh-in station. The fish must be identified, measured, and weighed on a Rhode Island certified, digital scale. The station operator must fill out a Game Fish/State Record Award Application and sign it. State Record Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish was caught. For a list of official fish weigh-in locations and applications please visit www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/records/index.php.

First Fish Award Program

First Fish Awards are available for children who catch their first fish in Rhode Island. To qualify, an angler must have caught a fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means. Applications can be processed without the need for an official weigh-in. The First Fish Award application can be found on page 22 or it can be downloaded: <https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/kidsapp.pdf>. First Fish Awards are processed twice a year: once in the fall and prior to the opening day of the following year.

Completed Applications

Please send all completed applications to: RIDEM- Fish & Wildlife, 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place, Exeter, RI 02822, for verification and processing. For questions about any of these award programs, email kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or call (401) 539-0019.

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

Qualifying Freshwater Lengths and Weights		
Species	Length (in)	Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	12 in.	0.9 lbs.
Bluegill	9 in.	0.5 lbs.
Brown Bullhead	13 in.	0.99 lbs.
Carp	32 in.	29 lbs.
Chain Pickerel	25 in.	4 lbs.
Landlocked Atlantic Salmon	16 in.	2 lbs.
Largemouth Bass	22 in.	6 lbs.
Northern Pike	34 in.	10 lbs.
Pumpkinseed	8 in.	0.3 lbs.
Smallmouth Bass	19 in.	4 lbs.
Trout: Brook Trout	16 in.	2 lbs.
Trout: Brown Trout	19 in.	3 lbs.
Trout: Golden Rainbow Trout	20 in.	3 lbs.
Trout: Rainbow Trout	20 in.	3 lbs.
White Catfish	20 in.	4 lbs.
White Perch	15 in.	1.6 lbs.
Yellow Perch	12 in.	0.85 lbs.

Qualifying Saltwater Lengths and Weights		
Species	Length (in)	Weight (lbs)
Black Sea Bass	20 in.	4 lbs.
Blue Shark	72 in.	80 lbs.
Bluefin Tuna	90 in.	450 lbs.
Bluefish	32 in.	14 lbs.
Bonito	25 in.	8 lbs.
Chub Mackerel	14 in.	1 lb.
Cobia	48 in.	50 lbs.
Cod	38 in.	20 lbs.
False Albacore	24 in.	5 lbs.
Gray Triggerfish	17 in.	3 lbs.
Haddock	30 in.	10 lbs.
Hickory Shad	18 in.	2 lbs.
King Mackerel	19 in.	3 lbs.
Mackerel	15 in.	1 lb.
Mahi Mahi (common dolphinfish)	30 in.	8lbs.
Mako Shark	90 in.	300 lbs.
Pollock	36 in.	15 lbs.
Scup	13 in.	2.5 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	24 in.	4.5 lbs.
Squeteague (Weakfish)	24 in.	4.5 lbs.
Striped Bass	Currently ineligible for Gamefish Award*	
Summer Flounder	25 in.	6 lbs.
Swordfish	70 in.	170 lbs.
Tautog	23 in.	10 lbs.
Wahoo	50 in.	4 lbs.
White Marlin	72 in.	70 lbs.
Winter Flounder	16 in.	3 lbs.
Yellowfin Tuna	56 in.	125 lbs.

* Please note: Striped bass is ineligible for the Gamefish Award Program since the qualifying length threshold is not within the slot limit regulations of 28"-31". If regulations permit, the species will be returned to the award list.



Photo by Nick R.

Sportfishing RECORDS

RI Sportfishing Records 2024 - Freshwater

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
Atlantic Salmon Domestic, stocked (landlocked)	21 lbs. 9 oz.	41 in.	01/2004	Barber Pond	R. Maldonis - Arlington, MA
Black Crappie	3 lbs.	15 in.	07/1976	Watchaug Pond	R. Sevegny - Pawtucket, RI
Bluegill	2 lbs. 1 oz.	12 in.	08/1987		C. Rizzo - Pascoag, RI
Brown Bullhead	4 lbs. 9.44 oz.	18.5 in.	08/1998		H. Laramée - Cumberland, RI
Carp	32 lbs. 8 oz.	37 in.	06/2001	Tiogogue Lake	S. Wasilewski - Hope Valley, RI
Chain Pickerel	6 lbs. 14 oz.	27.75 in.	08/2005	Beach Pond	T. Egan - Hope Valley, RI
Largemouth Bass	11 lbs. 3.2 oz.	25 in.	04/2016	Johnson's Pond	B. Migliore - Sterling, CT
Northern Pike	35 lbs.	47.5 in.	10/1987	Hundred Acre	D. LaRose - Coventry, RI
Pumpkinseed	13.6 oz.	10.5 in.	08/2020	Block Island	J. Agosta - Rye, NY
Smallmouth Bass	5 lbs. 15 oz.	22.5 in.	09/1977	Wash Pond	B. Ferris - Wakefield, RI
Trout: Brook Trout	3 lbs. 12 oz.	21 in.	10/1984	Wyoming Pond	R. Boucher, Jr. - Warwick, RI
Trout: Brown Trout	7 lbs. 9 oz.	26 in.	04/2000	Wallum Lake	R. Groleau - Blackstone, MA
Trout: Golden Rainbow Trout	12 lbs. 9.12 oz.	29.75 in.	04/2019	Olney Pond	J. Lopez, Jr. - Central Falls, RI
Trout: Rainbow Trout	15 lbs. 12 oz.	29 in.	01/2024	Peck Pond	Z. Taylor - Pascoag, RI
White Catfish	16 lbs. 12 oz.	33 in.	08/1994	Tiogogue Lake	L. Angell - Coventry, RI
White Perch	2 lbs. 7.28 oz.	16.25 in.	11/2018	Narrow River	P. Warner - Narragansett, RI
Yellow Perch	2 lbs. 4 oz.	13.5 in.	02/1987	Pascoag Reservoir	D. LaRochelle - Glendale, RI

Visit RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife's GREAT SWAMP SHOOTING RANGE



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West Kingston, RI 02892

*Continue past the office complex and follow
the signs to the range.*

Open seasonally through spring,
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*(The range is not open unless a Range Safety
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Target shooters, archers, and hunters are welcome to visit the Great Swamp Shooting Range, Rhode Island's only free and public shooting range situated within the Great Swamp Management Area in West Kingston.

**It is mandatory to obtain a free permit prior to utilizing the Great
Swamp Shooting Range**

For more information and permit applications:

Visit www.dem.ri.gov/greatswamprange

Contact the Range Supervisor at

Branton.Elleman.CTR@dem.ri.gov or (401) 575-6331.



RI Sportfishing Records 2024 - Saltwater

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
American Shad (Closed)	6 lbs. 8 oz.	25 in.	04/1985	Runnins River	W. Socha - Warren, RI
Atlantic Mackerel	1 lb. 6.4 oz.	16 in.	2024	Block Island	A. Johnson - Warwick, RI
Blue Shark	431 lbs.	—	11/2006	Cox Ledge	G. Gross - Fairfield, NJ
Bluefin Tuna	1142 lbs. 12 oz.	—	09/1971	Block Island	J. Dempsey
Bluefish	26 lbs.	—	08/1981	—	D. Deziel - Woonsocket, RI
Bonito	13 lbs.	—	10/1995	Westerly	R. Gliottone - Exeter, RI
Chub Mackerel	2.4 lbs.	17.5 in.	11/2024	Point Judith	L. DiLella - Boonton, NJ
Cod	71 lbs.	—	06/1965	—	M. Deciantis - Warwick, RI
False Albacore	19.56 lbs.	35 in.	08/2023	Block Island	C. Simonds - Manchester, MA
Gray Triggerfish	4 lbs. 8 oz.	22 in.	10/2021	—	G. Castonguay - Berkley, MA
Hickory Shad	2 lbs. 11 oz.	20 in.	11/1989	Narrow River	M. Pickering - Lincoln, RI
King Mackerel	12 lbs. 3 oz.	40 in.	08/2000	Point Judith	A. Camilleri - Chester, CT
Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish)	37lbs. 8.96 oz.	59 in.	8/2024	Fish Tails	R. Kennedy - Rensselaer, NY
Mako Shark	718 lbs.	12 ft. 6 in.	06/1993	S. Block Island	W. Alessi - Boston, MA
Pollock	28 lbs. 8 oz.	—	05/1995	—	A. Jacobs - Lincoln, RI
Scup	5 lbs.	20.25 in.	10/1990	—	J. Yurwitz - Block Island, RI
Sea Bass	8 lbs. 7.25 oz.	26 in.	10/1981	Block Island	K. McDuffie - Pascoag, RI
Squeteague	16 lbs. 8.72 oz.	36 in.	05/2007	Greenwich Bay	R. Moeller - N. Kingstown, RI
Striped Bass	77 lbs. 6.4 oz. 52"	52 in.	06/2011	Block Island	P. Vican - E. Greenwich, RI
Summer Flounder	17 lbs. 8 oz.	—	1962	Narrow River	G. Farmer - Warwick, RI
Swordfish	588 lbs.	—	08/2018	Atlantic	L. Banfield - Saunderstown, RI
Tautog	21 lbs. 9 oz.	33 in.	11/2021	Newport	P. Newman - New Milford, NJ
Tiger Shark	597 lbs.	11 ft. 6 in.	07/1990	S. Block Island	M.P. Strout - Auburn, MA
White Marlin	125 lbs.	8 ft. 0.5 in.	08/1987	S. Block Island	J. Luty, Sr. - Preston, CT
Winter Flounder	6 lbs. 7 oz.	23 in.	08/1990	Galilee	A. Pearson - Cranston, RI
Yellowfin Tuna	265 lbs.	6 ft.	10/1997	The Dip	R. Hughes - Arlington, MA



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