



COMMERCIAL FISHERIES CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND NEWSLETTER

April/May 2026

CFCRI Project Updates

Seafood Donation Program - March & April Updates

March and April have gone well for seafood donations with March donations totaling 16,418 pounds and April totaling 17,768 pounds. If you would like to stay updated on the program, make sure to check out our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for monthly updates. In addition, if you would like to donate to the program, you can make a check out to the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island and mail it to P.O. Box 5161, Wakefield, RI 02880.



Sea to School - 2025 to 2026 School Year Update

With the 2025-2026 school year coming to a close for K-12 students very soon, we have some exciting news to share with you all regarding the Sea to Schools program. We hosted a total of six tasting events across the state in the last four months. A majority of the 520 students surveyed had overwhelmingly positive feedback. Furthermore, as of the end of March, students across Rhode Island had the option to purchase Monkfish sliders for school lunches. To see the breakdown of student opinions on the sliders, check out the graph to the right. Thank you to our partners, Chartwells, Eating with the Ecosystem, Farm Fresh Rhode Island, and Tony's Seafood, as this would not have been possible without their help.

With the inclusion of sliders in schools, the Sea to School program is looking to expand into other local, sustainable products. If you have any suggestions, please [email Shaye Rooney](#).



● Love It (46%) ● Like It (40%) ● Not for Me (14%)

2026 CFCRI Apprenticeship

The 2026 Commercial Fishing Apprenticeship Application period is officially closed! We will keep everyone updated when the program starts in late May. In the meantime, if you are a former apprentice or a captain and would like to get involved during the program, please reach out to Fred Mattera via [email](#) or [phone](#).

Upcoming Events

DEM Expired Marine Flare Collection Events

Do you have expired marine flares that you need to get rid of safely? Well, good news! DEM is hosting collection events throughout May: **May 9th in Warwick and May 16th in Narragansett**. Each event will take place from **9 am to 3 pm**. For specific locations and more details, check out [DEM's Events page](#).

Fishing Partnership May & June Trainings

Fishing Partnership has a variety of training sessions available over the next two months. If you are interested, [please sign up on their website](#). Additional details are provided with each calendar event, including the coordinating Navigator's contact information.

 Safety & Survival Training MAY 18 Eastport, Maine 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	 Drill Conductor Certification MAY 19 Eastport, Maine 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Safety & Survival Training MAY 21 Southwest Harbor, Maine 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	 Drill Conductor Certification MAY 22 Southwest Harbor, Maine 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 First Aid & CPR Training JUN 10 South Kingston, Rhode Island 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	 Fishing Vessel Stability Class JUN 16 Narragansett, Rhode Island 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

2026 Quahog Week!

Quahog Week is back from **May 17th to the 23rd**. You can even find CFCRI on the 19th at Narragansett Brewery from 5 to 7 pm. For more details about the events, head to [RI Seafood's website!](#)



New England Fishery Management Council - June Meeting

The New England Fishery Management Council is holding a meeting from June 23rd to 25th at the Hilton Hotel in Mystic, Connecticut. The agenda for this event is not available yet; however, a [3-meeting outlook](#) is available covering their April through September meetings. Speaking of April, you can now also view all the [documents](#) covering what happened during the April meeting in Portland. Please visit their website for more details about all of these events.

Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation's Inaugural Captain's Cup

The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation is hosting its inaugural Captain's Cup golf tournament on **June 28th at the Richmond Country Club**. Proceeds from the event go toward supporting CFRF in all its research endeavors.

[Team registration](#) is open at **\$600 for a foursome** (\$150 per player), which includes lunch, green fees, and cart fees. If you are interested in playing but don't have a full team, players are encouraged to [email Mike Long](#) to be added to the waitlist; depending on space, they will match you with a team. For those who aren't interested in playing but would still like to support the event, there are [opportunities to sponsor](#) or help by donating items for the raffle and silent auction on the day of the event. Check out [CFRF's website](#) for all the event details!



Additional Updates

Open Comment Period for Proposed Implementation of Framework 17 for Monkfish Fishery Management Plan

NOAA is looking for comments on Framework Adjustment 17 for the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan. **The comment period is open until May 26th.** This proposal aims to set the monkfish specification for the 2026 fishing year, along with the project specifications for 2027 and 2028, streamline the Annual Catch Limit Overage Accountability Measure trigger, and add specifications for the fishery. For more specific details, check out the [NOAA's website](#), and if you would like to comment, head to [Regulations.gov](#).

ROSA FINsights

The Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) has an open FINsights form on its website. FINsights is an open line of communication among fishermen, captains, and other industry members to share observations, concerns, or knowledge about offshore wind development and its interactions with local fisheries. The hope with this form is to shape ROSA research priorities, and help find gaps in the current knowledge. Head to [ROSA's website](#) to fill out the form, and email any relevant attachments, such as photos and documents, to info@rosascience.org.

C3 Wellbeing

Are you looking for help with finding child or elder care assistance, business development services, wellness services & trainings, or succession planning and mediation services? Land & Sea Tother offers help with finding all of those and more for individuals involved with farming, forestry, or fishing industries in Rhode Island. All you have to do is call [1-800-445-1195](tel:1-800-445-1195), and a staff member from C3 Being will help you. To learn more about the program visit [Land & Sea Together's website](#) under the How We Help section.

2013 ISUZU Reefer/Refrigerated Truck for Sale

CFCRI is currently selling our 2013 ISUZU Reefer/Refrigerated Truck. The vehicle has 94,500 miles with an asking price of \$22,500, firm. It is a reliable reefer/refrigerated truck in the Class 4 category with a GVW of 14001-16000 pounds. For more details, check out our [Ad on Craigslist](#), and if you or someone you know is interested in buying it, [call](#) or [email](#) Fred Mattera.



CFRF's License Plates are STILL AVAILABLE!

Commercial and Combination license plates are still available for pre-order from the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation for the state of Rhode Island. At this time, however, the Passenger Plates pre-order is closed and currently in production. If you still want to purchase a Passenger Plate, once current production is complete, you can order it directly through the RI DMV. For those who were in the initial pre-order group for Passenger Plate and HAVEN'T picked them up yet, DMV will automatically mail them to the address on file for registration.

As a reminder, each plate costs \$42.50, with \$20 of the proceeds going to CFRF. Andrew Lloyd Goodman, an Assistant Professor at the Community College of Rhode Island, designed the plate, which features eight species found in Rhode Island waters. For more information about the plates, mail-in, and online forms, visit [CFRF's website](#).

Additional Information & News

Check out some more information and news articles below on topics that we weren't able to cover in this issue!

[Ocean oxygen data: how to measure, how to manage?](#)

[Developing an Ergonomic Sea Scallop Knife Handle](#)

[Defining "Fishery Sensitive" Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal](#)

[These fish look like Jabba the Hutt. Now, RI kids are eating monkfish at school.](#)

[Secretary Rollins Announces the Creation of the USDA Office of Seafood](#)

[State school systems partner with Bay2Tray to serve blue catfish, save Bay](#)

[Students get a taste of the sea in fisheries program](#)

Who We Are

The Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island is the home for the Ocean State's commercial fishing community. The center was founded to preserve commercial fishing as a profession, culture, and way of life through promoting the sustainability of the resource. Achieving true sustainability in our fisheries is a difficult and complicated feat. But CFCRI believes in cultivating an environment of open communication and encouraging the sharing of knowledge about our ocean and its resources. In the pursuit of sustainable seas, our approach is innovative, our lens is optimistic, and our goals are ambitious.

Our members believe in commercial fishing as a profession, a culture and a way of life. We seek to preserve the sanctity of our community, the solvency of our small business and the sustainability of the fishery resource. The Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island is our headquarters to bring fishermen, scientists, managers, and elected officials together in a collaborative effort to improve our fisheries and our understanding of the marine environment so that the proud heritage of our industry continues nobly through future generations.

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