COMMERCIAL FISHERIES CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND NEWSLETTER

Fall 2026

NEWS FROM THE CENTER

Seafood Donation Program

July and August were great months for seafood donations, with July totaling 19,847 pounds and August totaling 13,859 pounds. That also brought the end to the 6th year of the Seafood Donation. During this time, we have officially donated over 900,000 pounds of product, and over $1 million in revenue went to the RI Seafood Industry. As always, thank you to all of our partners who have helped make this project possible!

More exact numbers will be coming in our Impact report, which will be coming out later this year! In the meantime, please help support the program by donating or helping with product. You can make a check payable to the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island and mail it to P.O. Box 5161, Wakefield, RI 02880, or contact us if you have Rhode Island seafood you would like to sell.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fishing Partnership October & November Trainings

Fishing Partnership has a variety of training sessions available in October and November. 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.

A Golden Opportunity: Reimagining Scup

Eating with the Ecosystem is hosting a discussion at **the UNITED in Westerly on October 8th** to talk about a research project led by the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation in partnership with Quonnie Fish Co., Eating with the Ecosystem, and the URI Food Science Lab. To learn more about the talk and get tickets, check out **the UNITED website**!

DERA Program Extension

Are you thinking about getting a new engine? The Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) may interest you! The project's application deadline has been extended to **October 2nd, 2026**. The project aims to reduce diesel use in ways that benefit the environment and the economy. Eligible applicants include independent owner-operators (IOOs), fleet operators, local businesses, municipalities, and others who meet the program requirements. For more details about the project or application, head to **DEM's website**. If you have any questions, reach out to Jay Gallup at RI Engine, who has experience with the program.

National Future Fishermen Summit

The **National Future Fishermen Coalition** is hosting the first-ever **National Future Fishermen Summit**, taking place in **Seattle, WA on November 20th**. This summit is the first of its kind and aims to connect young commercial fishermen across the country and spark dialogue. The summit takes place during the Pacific Marine Expo. To attend the summit, you **MUST** sign up for the expo. Summit and expo sign-up is free if you do so **IN ADVANCE** of the event. If you want to go, please contact **Shaye Rooney** for details about possible access to a scholarship fund to cover travel expenses for the event.

NEYFA's Greenhorn Apprenticeship

The **New England Young Fisherman's Alliance's Greenhorn Apprenticeship** is accepting applications! The apprenticeship is a four-week hands-on program to prepare candidates for working on the water. Training includes five days at sea, safety training, certifications, and a $1,500 completion stipend. Spaces are limited; apply ASAP. To learn more and apply, head to the Alliance's website. The program begins in March 2027 in **Portsmouth, New Hampshire**!

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Fuel Price Impact Survey

The **Fishery Friendly Climate Action Campaign** and CFCRI are looking for individuals to **fill out a survey** about the impact of high fuel prices on the industry. This survey aims to communicate how the industry is being affected to policymakers and to advocate for various forms of relief.

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**, and a staff member from C3 Wellbeing 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 **Commercial Truck Trader**, and if you or someone you know is interested in buying it, **call** or **email** Fred Mattera.

NEWS & INFORMATION

Draft Regional Compensation Program Framework

This Draft Framework is intended to form the basis of the Fisheries Compensation Program for the Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind Program, which includes 11 states. Public comments on the draft framework will be accepted until **November 3rd**. Comments may be submitted **electronically here** or by email at **Contact@RFAInfo.com**

READ DRAFT →

PRESENTATION →

New USDA partnership seeks to 'fully integrate' seafood into federal funding, services

The USDA is partnering with the University of Maine and the Local Catch Network to help the Office of Seafood integrate fishing and seafood businesses into existing USDA programs and funding opportunities.

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Operation: Get Paid

Crew agreements/contracts are a binding written agreement between the owner/captain and the crew member. Validating a crew member's share is based on the deduction of trip expenses to determine the boat share to the owner and the crew share to be divided among the number of crew. Without this arrangement, it becomes guesswork and leads to disgruntled crew members. Belief in transparency is paramount in maintaining a content captain and crew.

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Vineyard Wind Turbine Blade Event Environmental Study

Vineyard Wind has released an environmental impact study to report the findings of site-specific studies related to the GE Vernova wind turbine blade incident that took place in July 2024.

READ NOW →

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 it's 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CFCRI PROUDLY REPRESENTS

Ocean State Fisherman's Association | RI Commercial Fisherman's Association | RI Lobstermen's Association RI Shellfishermen's Association | RI Monkfishermen's Association | Point Judith Fishermen Memorial Foundation | RI Party & Charter Boat Association | Eastern New England Scallop Association | Pt. Judith Scholarship Foundation