

2024 -- H 8260

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING MAY 11-18, 2024, AS "QUAHOG WEEK 2024" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Solomon, Shekarchi, Blazejewski,  
Chippendale, Shanley, Craven, Caldwell, McGaw, and Speakman

Date Introduced: May 09, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island proudly supports its burgeoning food industry; and

2 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's fishing and seafood sector is a key component of the Rhode  
3 Island food industry; and

4 WHEREAS, A recent study by the University of Rhode Island finds that the total  
5 economic impact of Rhode Island's fisheries and seafood sector is nearly 4,300 jobs and \$420  
6 million in statewide economic impact annually; and

7 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island quahog fishery plays a particularly important role in the  
8 history, culture, and economy of the State; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2022, approximately 397,000 meat pounds were harvested from  
10 Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island coastal waters; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's commercial quahog fishery is characterized by over 500  
12 independent owner/operators who typically work alone on small boats and often in harsh  
13 conditions; and

14 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island quahog fishery produces a steady supply of fresh product  
15 to the market throughout the year, thanks to a well-managed, sustainable resource and the grit and  
16 determination of the hard-working harvesters; and

17 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's seafood retailers provide fresh Rhode Island quahogs to local  
18 consumers, enriching palates and bolstering our local food economy; and

19 WHEREAS, Water quality improvements in Narragansett Bay have led to the opening of

1 1,908 acres of new shellfishing waters in the lower Providence River, providing a significant  
2 growth opportunity for the fishery; and

3 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative was established by the  
4 Rhode Island General Assembly in 2011, for the purpose of promoting and advancing the  
5 interests of Rhode Island's seafood industry; and

6 WHEREAS, A key initiative of the Collaborative has been "Quahog Week," an annual  
7 statewide celebration that highlights the importance and appeal of Rhode Island's iconic clam;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The 8th annual "Quahog Week" takes place in 2024 during the week of May  
10 11 through May 18; and

11 WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2024" features a large number of restaurants and markets  
12 throughout the State offering quahog-based specials on their menus and in their display cases, all  
13 highlighted on the SeafoodRI.com website; and

14 WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2024" will also feature special events, with details provided  
15 on the SeafoodRI.com website; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
17 commemorates May 11-18, 2024, as "Quahog Week 2024" and congratulates the Rhode Island  
18 Seafood Marketing Collaborative, the Rhode Island Shellfishermen's Association, and the many  
19 partners who have joined together to make Quahog Week 2024 a premier statewide event; and be  
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That this House hereby encourages all Rhode Islanders to support Rhode  
22 Island's local quahog and seafood industry by participating in Quahog Week and enjoying fresh  
23 RI quahogs throughout the year; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
25 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing  
26 Collaborative, and the Rhode Island Shellfishermen's Association.

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