

2021 -- H 6336

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING MAY 17-23, AS "QUAHOG WEEK 2021" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Vella-Wilkinson, Shanley, McNamara, Serpa, Filippi, Tanzi, and Corvese

Date Introduced: May 12, 2021

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 found that the total
5 economic impact of Rhode Island's fisheries and seafood sector is nearly 4,400 jobs and \$540
6 million 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, The quahog is the most economically important marine resource harvested
10 from Narragansett Bay; and

11 WHEREAS, Over 20 million quahogs with an ex-vessel value exceeding \$4 million are
12 harvested from Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island coastal waters on an average annual basis;
13 and

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

16 WHEREAS, There are over 500 licensed commercial shellfishermen and women
17 engaged in the quahog fishery in Rhode Island, with about 250 engaged full-time and year-round;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island quahog fishery produces a steady supply of fresh product

1 to the market throughout the year, thanks to a well-managed, sustainable resource and the grit and
2 determination of the hard-working harvesters; and

3 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's seafood retailers, namely markets and restaurants, provide
4 fresh Rhode Island quahogs to local consumers, enriching palates and bolstering our local food
5 economy; and

6 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island quahog fishery has withstood the challenges posed by the
7 pandemic, and the Rhode Island restaurant industry has held its own, with both now poised to
8 strengthen as our economy reopens and builds back; and

9 WHEREAS, Water quality improvements in Narragansett Bay have led to the opening of
10 1,908 acres of new shell-fishing waters in the lower Providence River in 2021, providing a
11 significant growth opportunity for the fishery; and

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

15 WHEREAS, A key outgrowth of the Collaborative has been "Quahog Week," an annual
16 statewide celebration that highlights the importance and appeal of Rhode Island's iconic clam;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, "Quahog Week" has proven successful in increasing consumer awareness
19 and demand and associated sales and market opportunities for quahogs; and

20 WHEREAS, The 5th annual "Quahog Week" takes place in 2021 during the week of May
21 17-23; and

22 WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2021" features a large number of restaurants and markets
23 throughout the State offering quahog-based specials on their menus and in their display cases, all
24 highlighted on the SeafoodRI.com website; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
26 congratulates the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative, the Rhode Island
27 Shellfishermen's Association, and the many partners who have joined together to make "Quahog
28 Week 2021" a premier statewide event; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That this House hereby encourages all Rhode Islanders to support Rhode
30 Island's local quahog and seafood industry by participating in "Quahog Week 2021" and enjoying
31 fresh Rhode Island quahogs throughout the year; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
33 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of the
34 State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative and the Rhode Island

1 Shellfishermen's Association.

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