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

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

WHEREAS, A recent study by the University of Rhode Island finds that the total economic impact of Rhode Island's fisheries and seafood sector is nearly 4,400 jobs and $540 million annually; and

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

WHEREAS, The quahog is the most economically important marine resource harvested from Narragansett Bay; and

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

WHEREAS, In 2021, over 14.3 million quahogs with an ex-vessel value exceeding $4 million were harvested from Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island coastal waters; and

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

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's seafood retailers, namely markets and restaurants, provide
WHEREAS, Water quality improvements in Narragansett Bay have led to the opening of
1,908 acres of new shellfishing waters in the lower Providence River, providing a significant
growth opportunity for the fishery; and
WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative was established by the
Rhode Island General Assembly in 2011 for the purpose of promoting and advancing the interests
of Rhode Island’s seafood industry; and
WHEREAS, A key outgrowth of the Collaborative has been "Quahog Week," an annual
statewide celebration that highlights the importance and appeal of Rhode Island’s iconic clam;
and
WHEREAS, “Quahog Week” has proven successful in increasing consumer awareness
and demand and associated sales and market opportunities for Rhode Island quahogs; and
WHEREAS, The 6th annual "Quahog Week" takes place in 2022 during the week of May
15-21; and
WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2022" features a large number of restaurants and markets
throughout the State offering quahog-based specials on their menus and in their display cases, all
highlighted on the SeafoodRI.com website; and
WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2022" also features two special events, one at Whaler's
Brewing Company in Wakefield on May 17 and the other at Narragansett Brewery in Providence
on May 19, both free and open to the public, with details provided on the SeafoodRI.com
website; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims May 15-21,
2022, to be “Rhode Island Quahog Week” and congratulates the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing
Collaborative, the Rhode Island Shellfishermen’s Association, and the many partners who have
joined together to make Quahog Week 2022 a premier statewide event; and be it further
RESOLVED, That this Senate furthermore encourages all Rhode Islanders to support
Rhode Island’s local quahog and seafood industry by participating in Quahog Week and enjoying
fresh RI quahogs throughout the year; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Terrence Gray, Acting Director, Rhode
Island Department of Environmental Management.