

2026 -- H 8569

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING MAY 17-23, 2026, AS "QUAHOG WEEK 2026" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Chippendale,  
Paplauskas, Newberry, Santucci, Hull, J. Lombardi, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: May 21, 2026

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 4,300 jobs and  
6 approximately \$420 million in annual statewide economic activity; 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 of quahogs were harvested  
10 from 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 hardworking 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 additional shellfishing waters in the lower Providence River, providing a  
2 significant 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 10th annual "Quahog Week" takes place in 2026 during the week of  
10 May 17 through May 23; and

11 WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2026" features a large number of restaurants and markets  
12 throughout the State offering quahog-based specials on their menus and in their display cases.  
13 "Quahog Week 2026" will also feature special events; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
15 commemorates May 17-23, 2026, as "Quahog Week 2026" and congratulates the Rhode Island  
16 Seafood Marketing Collaborative, the Rhode Island Shellfishermen's Association, and the many  
17 partners who have joined together to make Quahog Week 2026 a premier statewide event; and be  
18 it further

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

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

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