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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

**COMMEMORATING APRIL 23RD-29TH AS "QUAHOG WEEK 2023" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senator Alana DiMario

Date Introduced: April 19, 2023

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

- 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 4,400 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, In 2021, over 17.5 million quahogs with an ex-vessel value exceeding \$4
- 10 million were harvested 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 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 7th annual "Quahog Week" takes place in 2023 during the week of
10 April 23 through April 29; and

11 WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2023" 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 2023" also features two special events, one at The Guild in
15 Warren on April 26 and the other at Narragansett Brewery in Providence on April 27, both free
16 and open to the public, with details provided on the SeafoodRI.com website; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby commemorates April
18 23-29, 2023, as "Quahog Week 2023" and congratulates the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing
19 Collaborative, the Rhode Island Shellfishermen's Association, and the many partners who have
20 joined together to make Quahog Week 2023 a premier statewide event; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate 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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