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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "QUAHOG WEEK 2019" FROM MARCH 25 TO MARCH 31

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Ruggerio, Algieri, Metts, and Lawson

Date Introduced: March 28, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is widely and increasingly recognized for its food industry;

2 and

3 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's booming local food sector now supports more than 60,000  
4 jobs throughout the State and continues to attract and inspire the imagination of entrepreneurs and  
5 innovators; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's fishing and seafood sector has been, and continues to be, a  
7 vital part of the Rhode Island food industry; and

8 WHEREAS, A recently completed study by the University of Rhode Island found that the  
9 total economic impact of the Rhode Island fisheries and seafood sector is nearly 4,400 jobs and  
10 \$540 million annually; and

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

13 WHEREAS, The quahog is the most economically important marine resource harvest  
14 from Narragansett Bay, with the quahog fishery being the fourth most valuable of all Rhode  
15 Island fisheries, following scallops, squid, and lobsters; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2018, over 22 million quahogs were harvested and landed in Rhode  
17 Island, with an off-the-boat value of \$4.7 million; and

18 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's commercial quahog fishery is characterized by independent  
19 owner/operators who typically work alone on small boats ranging up to twenty-five feet in length;  
20 and

1           WHEREAS, There are about 550 licensed commercial shell-fishermen and women  
2 engaged in the quahog fishery in Rhode Island, with about 250 engaged full-time and year-round;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island quahog fishery produces a steady supply of fresh product  
5 to the market throughout the year, thanks to a well-managed, sustainable resource and the grit and  
6 determination of the hard-working harvesters who brave harsh winter conditions to maintain a  
7 stable fishery and market; and

8           WHEREAS, Demand for quahogs tends to peak during the summer when stuffies and  
9 clam cakes are the main attractions, even though quahogs also make the perfect fare for  
10 chowders, pasta dishes, clams on the half-shell, and other scrumptious dishes during the fall,  
11 winter, and spring; 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 the creation of "Quahog  
16 Week," an annual statewide celebration that highlights the importance and appeal of Rhode  
17 Island's iconic clam; and

18           WHEREAS, "Quahog Week" has proven successful in increasing consumer awareness  
19 and demand and associated sales and market opportunities during a time of year when fresh local  
20 clams are readily available, but often overlooked; and

21           WHEREAS, The 4th Annual "Quahog Week" takes place in 2019 during the week of  
22 March 25-31; and

23           WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2019" features a large number of restaurants and markets  
24 throughout the State offering quahog-based specials on their menus and in their display cases; and

25           WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2019" also features two special events, free and open to the  
26 public, taking place at Whalers Brewing Company in South Kingstown and Hope & Main in  
27 Warren; and

28           WHEREAS, "Quahog Week 2019" also includes a State House event at which the Rhode  
29 Island Shellfishermen's Association will be shucking and serving freshly harvested quahogs,  
30 accompanied by quahog-based samplers prepared and served by the expert chefs from Johnson &  
31 Wales University's College of Culinary Arts; and

32           WHEREAS, All the public events associated with "Quahog Week 2019" are featured on  
33 the SeafoodRI.com website; now, therefore be it

34           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

1 hereby congratulates the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative, the Rhode Island Shell-  
2 Fishermen's Association, and the many partners who have joined together to make "Quahog  
3 Week 2019" a rousing success; and be it further

4         RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby takes this opportunity to herald our local quahog  
5 resource, local quahog fishery, and local seafood industry; and be it further

6         RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes and supports the many hard-working  
7 men and women who harvest quahogs and make them available to consumers, as well as the  
8 many restaurants and markets and food-based businesses committed to growing Rhode Island's  
9 food economy; and be it further

10         RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby encourages all Rhode Islanders to support Rhode  
11 Island's local quahog industry by enjoying a delicious Rhode Island quahog-based meal at their  
12 favorite restaurant, or at home, not just during this special week, but throughout the year; and be  
13 it further

14         RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing  
16 Collaborative, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and to Mr. Michael  
17 McGiveney, President of the Rhode Island Shellfisherman's Association.

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