



Rhode Island Commerce to join DEM in Spotlighting Ocean State’s Seafood-Producing Strength at 2024 Seafood Expo North America

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation ([Rhode Island Commerce](#)), in collaboration with the [Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative](#) chaired by the [Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management](#) (DEM), will highlight the tastiness and economic might of the Ocean State’s seafood sector at the upcoming [Seafood Expo North America](#) (SENA) conference.

Taking place from Sunday, March 10 through Tuesday, March 12 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, SENA is North America’s largest seafood event, featuring thousands of buyers and suppliers operating across the United States and around the world. Attendees include importers, exporters, wholesalers, restaurants, supermarkets, hotels and other retail and foodservice companies.

Rhode Island Commerce and DEM staff representing the RI Seafood Marketing Collaborative will be on-site throughout the duration of the conference in an effort to spotlight the state’s thriving seafood and aquaculture industries, which – [according to a joint study](#) by the University of Rhode Island and the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation – account for more than 4,300 jobs and drive more than \$420 million in statewide economic impact.

“With more than 400 miles of coastline and waters teeming with dozens of seafood species, Rhode Island is known as the Ocean State for a reason,” said **Rhode Island Secretary of Commerce Liz Tanner**. “Our geographical advantage, combined with our state’s deep talent pool and proven expertise in ocean technology, have helped Rhode Island plant its flag as a leader in this fast-growing sector. We look forward to showcasing these strengths in front of SENA’s global audience.”

“Fresh seafood is one of the many perks of life in the Ocean State, and the people and businesses who fish, catch, farm, process, deliver, sell, cook, and serve it are an integral part of Rhode Island’s economy,” said **DEM Director Terry Gray**. “Through the efforts of the Seafood Marketing Collaborative and by partnering with Rhode Island Commerce at terrific events like the Seafood Expo, DEM helps connect consumers with local seafood to drive demand and support our diverse seafood industry. From calamari to oysters to various species of finfish, RI seafood is well known around the world. Our seafood sector is a vital catalyst for our economy that energizes shoreside businesses, adds value throughout local supply chains, and raises awareness for [the RI Seafood brand](#).”

The state’s presence at this global conference comes as Rhode Island’s Director of Food Strategy, Julianne Stelmaszyk, continues to lead a statewide strategic planning process to

understand community and industry needs in the food system, including the seafood sector. This state food strategy will inform ongoing investments and support for Rhode Island seafood businesses.

Rhode Island Commerce and RI Seafood Marketing Collaborative leaders will be present at SENA at booth #2575.

Learn more about Rhode Island's thriving seafood industry at www.seafood.ri.gov.

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About Rhode Island Commerce

Rhode Island Commerce works with public, private and nonprofit partners to create the conditions for businesses in all sectors to thrive and to improve the quality of life for our citizens by promoting the state's long-term economic health and prosperity. We offer business assistance, access to funding and red tape reduction for companies of all sizes.

As a quasi-public agency, we are the official full-service, economic development organization for the state of Rhode Island. We serve as a government and community resource to help businesses expand in, and relocate to, Rhode Island.

Learn more at www.CommerceRI.com.

About the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative

Established by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 2011, the [Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative](#) is a public-private body that aims to support local fishers and seafood farmers and increase awareness and consumption of locally harvested species by the public. Its membership includes representatives from all key sectors of the commercial fishing, aquaculture, and seafood industries joined by representatives from URI, RI Sea Grant, and state agencies including DEM, which chairs the group, and the RI Commerce, Rhode Island Department of Health, and RI Coastal Resources Management Council. The trademarked [RI Seafood brand logo](#), which signifies that the products that bear the logo are locally landed or grown, is a core component of the Collaborative's efforts to support local fishers and small businesses and to increase awareness and consumption by the public of locally fished species.

About Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America

Seafood Expo North America/ Seafood Processing North America is North America's largest seafood exposition. Thousands of buyers and suppliers from around the world attend the annual, three-day exhibition to meet, network and do business. Attending buyers represent importers, exporters, wholesalers, restaurants, supermarkets, hotels, and other retail and foodservice companies. Exhibiting suppliers offer the newest seafood products, processing and packaging equipment, and services available in the seafood market. The exposition is sponsored by the National Fisheries Institute. SeafoodSource is the official media. The exposition is produced by

Diversified Communications, the international leader in seafood-industry expositions and media. The exposition is produced by Diversified Communications, the international leader in seafood-industry expositions and media. For more information, visit: www.seafoodexpo.com/north-america.