



EATING WITH THE ECOSYSTEM
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May 29, 2025

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Testimony in Support of HB 6157 (with recommended amendment)

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Kate Masury, and I serve as the Executive Director of Eating with the Ecosystem, a Rhode Island-based nonprofit that promotes a place-based approach to sustaining New England's wild seafood. Our organization works closely with commercial harvesters, chefs, seafood businesses, and community members to foster sustainable food systems and support ecological resilience. This includes building awareness and market opportunities for underutilized species like the invasive green crab.

I write today in support of HB 6157, with a recommendation that the committee revise the language to match the amended version of its companion bill, SB 938, which was passed by the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee earlier this week. The revisions in SB 938 clarify the licensing pathway for green crab harvesters and ensure that recreational harvesting remains free and unencumbered by new requirements—changes that simplify implementation while expanding access and aligning with the bill's ecological intent.

Green crabs are one of the most harmful invasive species in our region, threatening native shellfish like quahogs and degrading important coastal habitats. Lowering the barrier to harvest them is a practical, science-based solution with both environmental and economic benefits. As we continue to collaborate with harvesters and chefs to highlight the culinary and conservation potential of green crabs, bills like HB 6157—especially with the streamlined language now in SB 938—are critical to removing obstacles and encouraging participation.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 6157 with the recommended amendments that mirror SB 938. Doing so will help Rhode Island take meaningful action against an invasive species while supporting local food systems and community-based solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Masury
Executive Director
Eating with the Ecosystem