



IFNPAC Q3 Meeting

Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council

Thursday, September 19, 2024
9:30 – 11:15 am
Rhode Island Commerce

RHODE
ISLAND

Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Approve Q2 Meeting Minutes**
- **Welcome DCYF to the Council**
- **RI Local Food Counts Study (moved up from Agenda #5)**
- **Vote on Proposed Sub-committee on Local & Healthy State Food Procurement**
- **State Planning & Food System Research Updates**
- **Hunger Elimination Taskforce (HETF) Action Workgroup**
- **Federal Funding Cliff for Local Food System**
- **Public Comment**

Welcome & Introductions

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Council Members



Department of Environmental Management (DEM)

Chair, Terry Gray, Director
Ken Ayars, Chief of Agriculture

Department of Health (RIDOH)

Randi Belhumeur, Health Program Administrator

RI Commerce Corporation (RICC)

Julianne Stelmaszyk, Director of Food Strategy

Department of Education (RIDE)

Jessica Patroliia, Child Nutrition Programs Coordinator

Department of Administration (DOA) *NEW MEMBER as of 9/16/24

Max Righter, Chief Procurement Specialist

Department of Corrections (DOC)

Terrence McNamara, Administrator
Physical Resources

Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)

Maria Cimini, Director

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Jenna Simeone, Assistant SNAP
Administrator

Department of Children Youth & Families (DCYF)

TBD

Rhode Island Local Food Count Methodology

IFNPAC

September 19, 2024



Definitions and timeframe

- “Local” = produced (grown, manufactured, significantly processed) within New England. Follows Vermont’s codified standard for local food, as detailed in State Act 129¹
- Timeframe = calendar year 2022
- 11 mutually exclusive food categories

¹ https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/doc_library/Local%20Definition%20Changes.pdf

Food categories

CATEGORY	PRODUCT DEFINITION	LOCALLY SOURCED DEFINITIONS
Meat & Meat Products	Any animal protein product composed of beef, pork, poultry, lamb, or game meats, not including dairy products, seafood, eggs, or plant-based meat substitutes.	<p>Universal criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets the product definition Sold in New England <p>For meat, eggs, and dairy products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets the universal criteria and, Derived from animals raised for one-third of its life (or one year, whichever is greater) and harvested in New England <p>For seafood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the universal criteria and, Harvested in New England waters <p>For fresh fruits and vegetables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets the universal criteria and, Grown in New England <p>For all other food categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets the universal criteria and, Comprised of a majority (>50% by volume, excluding water) of ingredients grown or substantially processed in New England, or Manufactured by a company headquartered in New England
Seafood Products	Any animal protein product composed of finfish, shellfish, or mollusks (eg. fresh haddock, smoked salmon, canned tuna, live lobster, frozen scallops, etc.)	
Dairy Products	Any fluid milk, cheese, cream, butter, ice cream, or yogurt product derived from the milk of cows, goats, sheep, or other animals.	
Eggs & Egg Products	Shell eggs or 100% egg products (eg. bulk liquid eggs, frozen egg patties, etc.) derived from poultry birds only.	
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	Raw, unprocessed fruit or vegetable, not including grains, grasses, nuts, seeds, or fruit or vegetable juices.	
Processed Fruits & Vegetables	Canned, frozen, or dried fruit or vegetables, including 100% juices, not including any grains, grasses, nuts, seeds, or fruit-flavored beverages that are not 100% fruit or vegetable juice.	
Grain Products & Baked Goods	Grains and processed grain-based products including breads, rolls, tortillas, flours, cakes, cookies, or other baked goods.	
Alcoholic Beverages	Beer, wine, spirits, or beverages with an alcohol content greater than 0.5% alcohol by volume.	
Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Any beverage other than bottled water, cream, fluid milk, or 100% fruit or vegetable juice with an alcohol content of $\leq 0.5\%$ alcohol by volume.	
Sweeteners	Sugar, molasses, corn syrup, honey, maple syrup/sugar, and other sweeteners.	
All other food products	Foods including nuts and nut butters, chocolate, confections, coffee and tea products, or any other food item, excluding water, not included in any of the previous categories.	

Data sources

- Primary data sources:
 1. USDA Food Expenditure Series *State food sales, without taxes and tips, for all purchasers*
 - Details total food spending at home and away-from-home by state and year (does not detail channel)
 2. USDA Food Expenditure Series *Nominal food and alcohol expenditures, without taxes and tips, for all purchasers*
 - Details total national food spending at home and away-from-home across 23 channels (grocery stores, convenience stores, direct selling by farmers, limited-service restaurants, full-service restaurants, etc.)
- Local spending by channel estimated by multiplying state % of national total by national totals by channel.

Data sources (cont.)

1. USDA Food Expenditure Series *State food sales, without taxes and tips, for all purchasers*
2. USDA Food Expenditure Series *Nominal food and alcohol expenditures, without taxes and tips, for all purchasers*
3. Survey of institutional food purchasers from list compiled LFC research assistant (RA)
 - Survey was open to responses for three months with repeated prompts from RA to participate

Overview of RI survey contact list

ORGANIZATION CATEGORY	ENTITIES IDENTIFIED	CONTACT EMAIL FOUND	OPTED OUT OF SURVEY	EMAIL BOUNCED	SURVEY SENT
Advocacy organization	2	2	–	–	2
College / university	16	11	–	–	11
Correctional facility	6	6	–	–	6
Distributor / wholesaler	47	21	1	–	17
Farmer with direct sales	77	42	1	1	40
Food bank / pantry	2	–	–	–	–
Grocer / retailer	34	18	1	1	16
Healthcare facility / hospital	24	12	–	1	11
K-12 schools	65	35	–	1	34
Other	97	25	–	1	23
TOTAL	370	172	3	5	160

Overview of RI survey responses

ORGANIZATION CATEGORY	RESPONDENT COUNT	PROVIDED TOTAL PURCHASE DATA	PROVIDED LOCAL PURCHASE DATA	RESPONSE RATE ^a	% of STATE TOTAL	AVERAGE LOCAL % REPORTED
Correctional Facility	6	6	6	100.0%	75.6% ^b	0.0%
College / University	5	4	4	36.4%	18.1% ^c	15.3%
Grocer / Retailer	3	3	2	12.5%	0.7% ^d	0.5%
K-12 schools	4	2	2	5.9%	5.6% ^c	8.9%
Healthcare Facility	1	0	–	–	–	–
Other	1	0	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	20	15	14	8.8%	–	10.2%

^a Refers to respondents providing both total and local purchase data divided by total surveys sent

^b Percentage of total carceral capacity; <https://www.corrections.nh.gov/locations>; accessed May 6, 2024.

^c Percentage of total SY21-22 student enrollment reported in by the National Center for Education Statistics; <https://nces.ed.gov/>

^d Percentage of total grocer retail locations based USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program retailer list (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator> ; accessed May 6, 2024) cross-referenced with chain retailer corporate websites.

Considerations for future counts

- Continue to grow the contact database to include independent restaurants
- Proactive outreach to grocers and both large and small food retailers to increase sample size and coverage
- Additional outreach to K-12 districts, hospitals, and other institutions

Questions



HEAL Program Updates

Sarah Blau, MPH

State Nutrition Coordinator, HEAL

RHODE
ISLAND


01**HETF Action Group – Food Delivery**

Report on initial steps taken to address recommendations issued at Q2

02**Rhode Island Training School Tour**

Interest in coordinating larger tour for IFNPAC council members

03**Proposal for Consideration**

Sub-committee on local and healthy food procurement.

04**Request for Vote**



HETF Action Group Recommendations

Food Delivery

Landscape Assessment

- *Conduct a landscape review of food delivery activities serving medically vulnerable, homebound, elder, or food insecure populations.*
- *This review should include an assessment of local and national best practices and recommendations for the development of a coordinated, statewide food delivery system.*

Pilot Program

- *Develop and fund a pilot, coordinated, statewide food delivery system, based on recommendations from the landscape review, to connect food delivery services with organizations serving medically vulnerable, homebound, elder, or food insecure clients in need of food delivery.*

Approach

Preliminary steps to address recommendations, including involving entities that deliver meals statewide (MOW).



Gather existing resources

Review landscape assessments & existing literature



Identify timeline

Develop timeline & resources needed to complete landscape.



Convene partners for pilot initiatives

Central delivery model



Discuss opportunities and next steps

Connecting MOW, CWRI, RICFB, LS

Welcome Division of Children Youth and Families



RI Training School Tour

Focus included Harvest Kitchen Program and Farm to School curriculum

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Proposal for IFNPAC Sub-committee on Local and Healthy State Food Procurement

RIDOH

Healthy Eating, Active Living Program

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Responsibilities

The sub-committee would adopt two primary responsibilities:

completion of a report and action steps to address interagency level policy changes

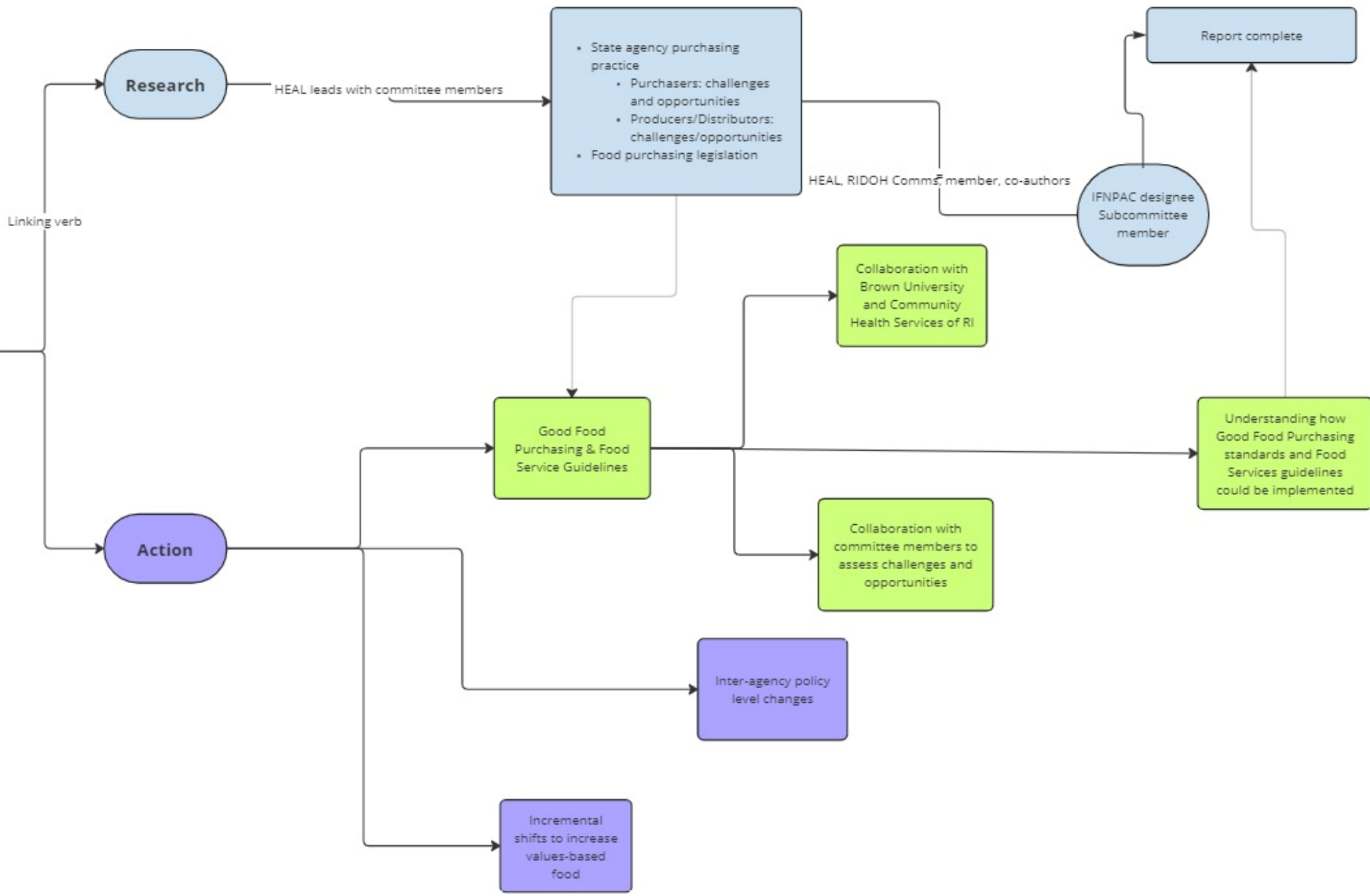
Report Writing

The subcommittee shall study and report on state agency vendor food purchasing practice, including the assessment of Good Food Purchasing standards.

Action Steps

The subcommittee shall assume an action-oriented focus and encourage policy change at the internal agency level. These changes could, for example, be related to the terms of the Prime Food Vendor Master Purchasing Agreement solicitation.

Healthy and Local Food Procurement





RI Commerce Food Strategy Program Updates

Juli Stelmaszyk and Alison Macbeth

Second Stage Food Business Economic Analysis and Feasibility Study – *funded via EDA grant*

UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF RI'S 2ND-STAGE FOOD BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT GROWTH

- Clear definition of “second-stage” food business cluster for Rhode Island’s economic development goals.
- Understanding of food cluster **economic trends, jobs, size and growth opportunities** (e.g. size of the market, potential job creation, etc)
- Needs assessment of the cluster which includes measurable and specific needs such as capital needs, infrastructure, etc.
- Landscape assessment of state-level economic development tools and policies to grow and retain second-stage food businesses



Second Stage Food Business Economic Analysis and Feasibility Study

UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF RI'S 2ND-STAGE FOOD BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT GROWTH

June - July 2024	Economic Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Conduct background review•Engage Advisory Council•Conduct industry research•Conduct program research suggested by needs identified in research•Determine growth opportunities and targets
August - September 2024	Industry Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Conduct Industry interviews•Conduct Secondary research•Compile inventory of assets•Conduct needs assessment and analysis
November 2024	Project Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Deliver final Report with research findings and recommendations

ENGAGEMENT AS OF 9/18/2024

- 69 food business entities contacted
- 31 meetings conducted
 - 12 site visits and 6 in-person interviews
- 13 virtual interviews



RI Local Food Brands Study

GROWING DEMAND FOR RI GROWN, CAUGHT AND HARVESTED FOODS

USDA FSMIP GRANT

- 1) determining the current and potential economic impact of our “buy local” brands as well as
- 2) conduct market research to strengthen the impact of the local food brand programs and determine the best marketing strategies to increase brand awareness, member participation and improve the economic impact of the brands.



Local Food Brands Study

MARKET RESEARCH, PROMOTION AND BRAND ADOPTION TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RHODE ISLAND FOOD BRANDS TO LOCAL & REGIONAL MARKETS

Phase 1	Summer & Fall 2024	Develop Economic Assessment Survey & Deploy Survey
Phase 2	Winter 2024/25	Deploy study findings and kick off strategy development
Phase 3	Winter 2025	Finalize strategies, establish retail partners and procure necessary supplies for testing
Phase 4	Spring - Summer 2025	Strategies Deployed and Tested
Phase 5	Fall 2025	Evaluate strategies and develop a report with updated toolkits

★ Oct 7 – Survey released!

Planning for RI's Food Strategy 2030



- ✓ 2024 - 2030
- ✓ Planning supported by backbone agencies Commerce, RIDEM & RIDOH
- ✓ Co-created and “whole of government” approach
- ✓ Dynamic and iterative
- ✓ Equity-centered and participatory planning informed by impacted communities, industries and stakeholders
- ✓ Accessible and measurable impact metrics

Planning for RI's Food Strategy 2030

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

EQUITY-CENTERED

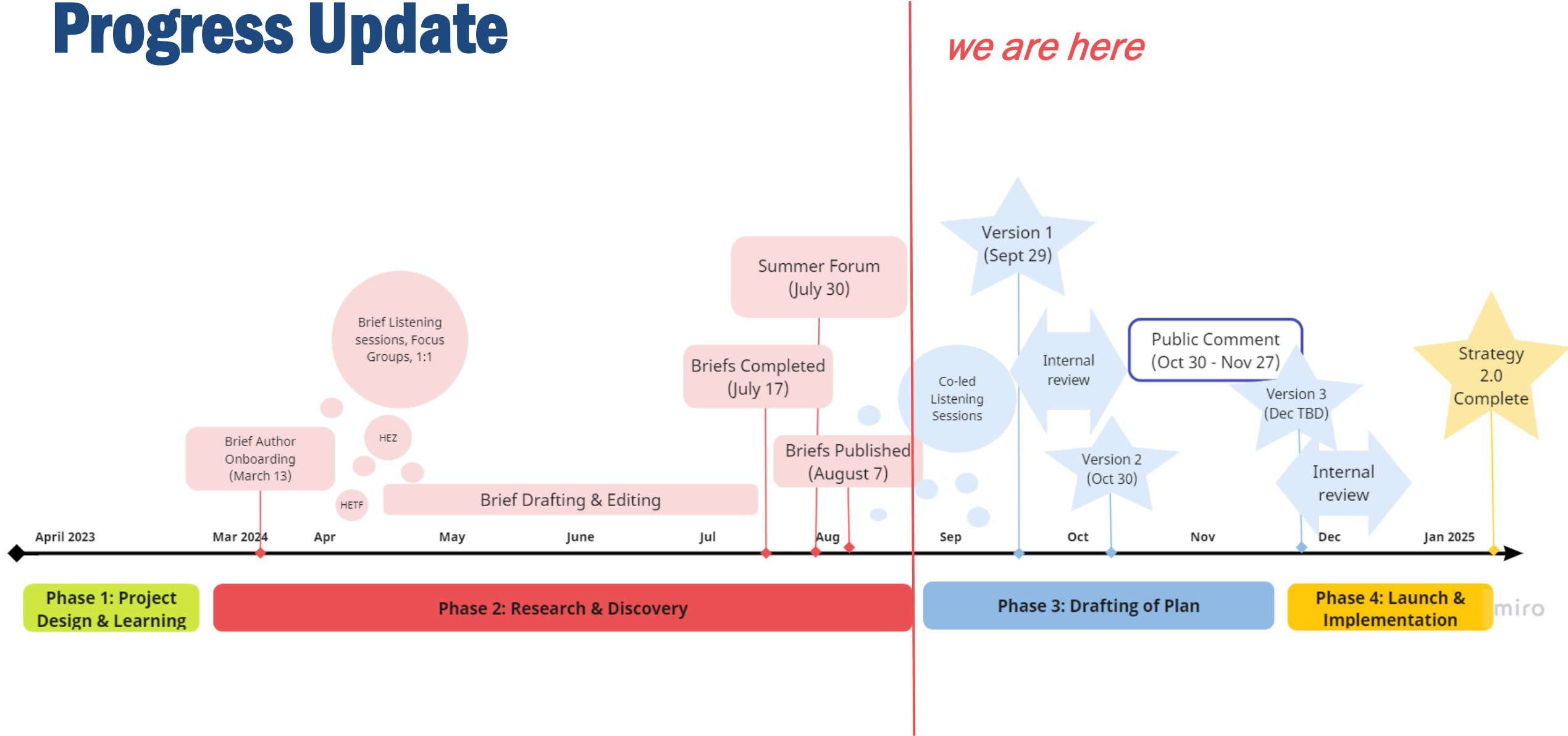
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

REGIONALITY & RESILIENCE



Progress Update

we are here



Phase 1: Project Design & Learning

Phase 2: Research & Discovery

Phase 3: Drafting of Plan

Phase 4: Launch & Implementation

miro

Approach

LEARN

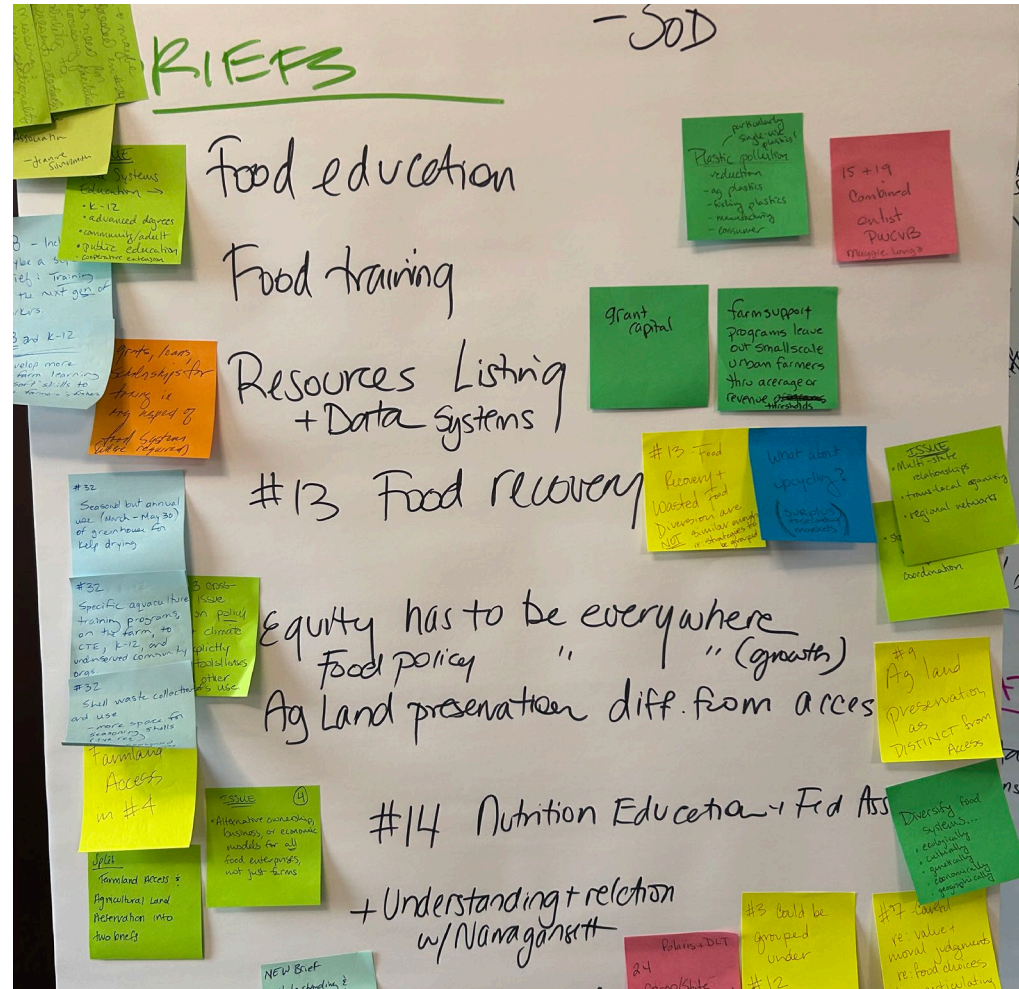
from others plans, existing research and relationships

ENGAGE

stakeholders, impacted communities and decision-makers

CO-CREATE

for collective impact and shared measurement



Approach

LEARN

from others plans, existing research and relationships

- ✓ *Landscape analysis of other plans VT, NH, HA, San Diego*
- ✓ *5 Year Relish Rhody Retrospective*
- ✓ *23 Food Strategy Briefs by 70+ Co-Authors & Contributors*
- ✓ *20+ existing research & reports*

ENGAGE

stakeholders, impacted communities and decision-makers

CO-CREATE

for collective impact and shared measurement

Food Strategy Briefs will inform priorities – to be published Oct/Nov

40 Co-Authors have developed issue briefs

Cross-Cutting

- Climate change & environmental sustainability
- Food Policy & Regulations
- Economic Development
- Equity & Community Well-Being

Examples of Issue & Market Brief topics:

- Stewardship of Food Producing Lands
- Food Business Viability
- Supply chain infrastructure and resilience
- Labor & Workforce Development
- Food Innovation & Technology
- Wasted Food Source Reduction & Recovery
- Consumer Demand, Eating Behaviors and Foodways



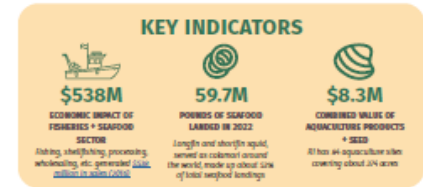
From our state appetizer, calamari, to our state shell, the quahog, Rhode Island's cultural identity and gastronomic traditions are rooted in the sea

Rhode Island's fisheries and seafood sector has been estimated to support 3,174 jobs and contribute over [\\$538 million](#) in revenue to the state's economy. Rhode Island's commercial fisheries and aquaculture industries are an essential component of the State's economy and cultural heritage that contribute to local jobs and carry on the longstanding traditions of harvesting natural resources from local waters that began with the Narragansett Indian Tribe. The sustainable management and stewardship of coastal waters, offshore fisheries, and commercial ports are essential to ensuring the viability of seafood and aquaculture industries.

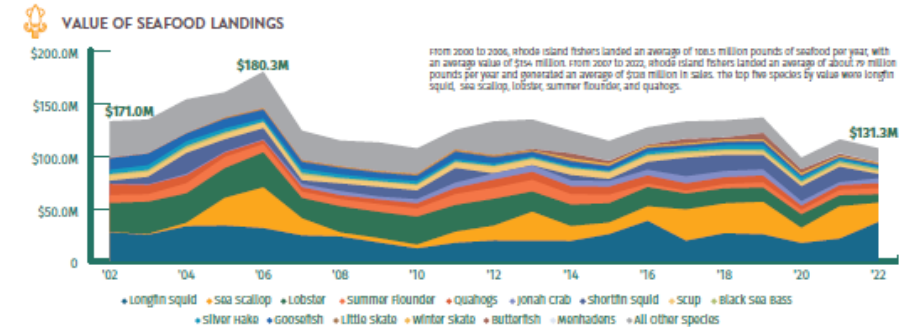
Current Conditions

[Commercial fisheries in Rhode Island](#) trace back over 350 years, with local Indigenous populations relying on the ocean's natural resources for thousands of years before that. The [first aquaculture lease](#) was granted in 1798 to cultivate two acres in the Providence River near Sabin Point for oysters. Currently, Rhode Island has 22 commercial ports that provide opportunities to land seafood within the state. Of these, Galilee (Point Judith), North Kingstown (Wickford), and Newport are the top three ports, by value, of species landed in the state.

The Port of Galilee is Rhode Island's largest commercial fishing port, comprising 38 acres of commercial property managed by [RI Division of Coastal Resources](#). Currently, RIDEM DCR manages 27 commercial land leases in the Port of Galilee. State ownership and management of these land leases in Galilee provide a stable working waterfront



to support this intricate web of businesses. Businesses in the Port support a larger coastal community and include seafood wholesalers, processors, and distributors that have a global reach in seafood markets. This community supports all aspects of the working waterfront, with Galilee viewed as a one-stop shop for the commercial fishing fleet in Rhode Island and beyond. While working waterfront businesses and communities continue to thrive in Rhode Island, they face significant and compounding challenges. RIDEM has



Sources: [Marine Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program](#) and [NOAA Fisheries](#). Adjusted for inflation to 2022 dollars.

Approach

LEARN

from others plans, existing research and relationships

ENGAGE

stakeholders, impacted communities and decision-makers

CO-CREATE

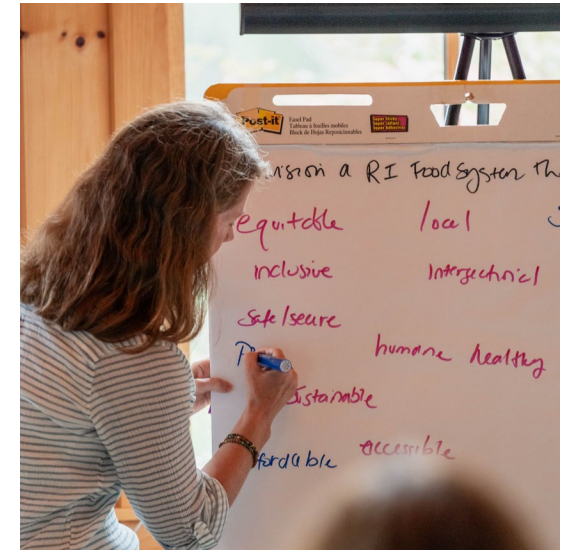
for collective impact and shared measurement

- ✓ 30 person Advisory Board
- ✓ Engaged 200+ subject matter experts and community members
- ✓ July 2024 Food Ecosystem Forum 50+ organizations & agencies and Tribal government
- ❑ **4-5 Co-Facilitated Listening Sessions**
 - ✓ **RI State Agency Listening Session 9/12**

RI Food Strategy Summer Forum

July 2024 - Tilted Barn Brewery

- 80 participants
- [52 organizations](#), associations, Tribal governments and state agencies represented
- 10 RI small businesses supported





Approach

LEARN

from others plans, existing research and relationships

ENGAGE

stakeholders, impacted communities and decision-makers

CO-CREATE

for collective impact and shared measurement

- ✓ 30-person Advisory Board
- ✓ July 2024 Food Ecosystem Forum 50+ organizations & agencies
- ❑ **4-5 Co-Facilitated Listening Sessions**
 - ✓ **RI State Agency Listening Session 9/12**
- ❑ **IFNPAC Agencies contribute and own implementation**
- ❑ **Draft Food Strategy complete, internal review**
- ❑ **Public Comment**
- ❑ **Plan complete 2025 and implementation begins**

ALIGNED WITH RI STATE AND REGIONAL PLANS

**Food, Agriculture
and Fisheries:**
20+ plans
200+ mentions
35 policy priorities

2030 Future of the Ocean State	Ocean State Accelerates	RI Food Policy Council Priorities 2023-2030	2024 Farm & Sea to School Strategic Plan	RI Climate Update 2022
Energy	Solid Waste 2038	RI Water 2030	Water Quality 2035	RI Comprehensive Planning Standards Guidance
RI State Land Use Policies and Plan	Forest Resources Management Plan	Urban and Community Forestry Plan	Ocean State Outdoors (SCORP)	A Greener Path: Greenspace and Greenways for Rhode Island's Future
State Airport System Plan	RI State Rail Plan 2024	Moving Forward Rhode Island 2040	Historic Preservation	RI Five Year Strategic Housing Plan

New England Feeding New England - RI State Brief

*How might IFNPAC
support
implementation and
monitor progress
towards 2030 goals?*

a) The council shall examine issues regarding the identification and development of solutions to regulatory and policy barriers to developing a strong sustainable food economy and healthful nutrition practices.

(b) The council shall collaborate with other task forces, committees, or organizations that are pursuing initiatives or studies similar to the purposes and duties outlined in this chapter.

(c) The council shall collaborate with, serve as a resource to, and receive input from food policy councils in the state.

(d) The council shall examine any other program and policy issues the council considers pertinent.
History of Section.

P.L. 2012, ch. 37, § 3; P.L. 2012, ch. 38, § 3.



Hunger Elimination Task Force Workgroup Recommendations

*improving emergency food coordination between State,
municipal, and nonprofits*

Federal Funding Cliff for Local Food System

Public Comment





NEXT IFNPAC MEETING Q4 2024

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

9:30am-11:00am

RI Commerce

**RHODE
ISLAND**