

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES

Response to Comments on the
Changes to the Division of Coastal Resources
Port Operations Regulations and Berthing Management System
250-RICR-50-00-1

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has received comments on the proposed Changes to the Division of Coastal Resources *Port Operations Regulations and Berthing Management System* (250-RICR-50-00-1). Three individuals provided oral testimony during the public hearing held on October 27, 2020. Twenty-Six written comments were received during the public comment period from October 13, 2020 to November 14, 2020. Copies of all comments are on file and available for public review at the RI Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

Comments:

A total of (3) three public comments received at Public Hearing:

Commenters: David Spencer, Dennis Ingram, Russell Sylvester

All three comments made during the public hearing were similar and did not support the adoption of regulations to conduct dockside sales of lobster and crab as proposed they support fishers obtaining a direct sale license and conducting lobster and crab sales at other locations, other than Pier 9.

Twenty- Six comments received in writing:

Commenters: Dennis Ingram, David Spencer, Ian Sylvester, Melissa Moran, Stewart Braman, Robert Braman, Kayla Burley, Kathleen Sullivan, Mellenzie Violette, Karen Qaurer, Nancy Ingram, Alen Eagles, Walter Silvia, Peter Mondonca, Eileen Braman, Walter Canner, Jerry Scott, Michael Flemming, Phillip Feryozo, Kevin Parsonage, Russel Sylvester, James Violet, Victor Victor Garene, Anthony Greene, Nick Locir, Dana Mary Calabrese

All comments received in writing did not support the adoption of regulations pertaining to dockside sales. The majority were standardized and while not supporting dockside sales on Pier 9 they supported fishers obtaining a direct sales license and selling lobster and crab at locations other than Pier 9. Other written comments were more specific, they mostly stressed concerns about competition between the currently operated "lobster shack" and others selling lobster and crab dockside. Other concerns were price impacts to the rest of the commercial fleet, lack of significant dock side sale participation to make a change worth the effort, confusion with the customer base, the need to maintain a strong co-op, and concerns about the future of Pier 9 with the continuation of dockside sales of lobster and crab.

Response:

Proposed Changes to *Port Operations Regulations and Berthing Management System* (250-RICR-50-00-1) pertaining to lobster and crab dockside sales will not be adopted. Overwhelming public comment opposing these changes speaks to the strong sentiment held by the community in regard to the current operations on Pier 9.