



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

Three Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

Summary of Public Hearing Comments

Agency: Department of Environmental Management

Division: Marine Fisheries

Regulation title and identifier: Part 2 – Commercial Marine Fishing Licenses, Landing Permits, and Party and Charter Licenses (250-RICR-90-00-2)

Type of Filing: Amendment

Timetable for action on the proposed rule:

- Date of public notice: August 18, 2022
- Date of hearing: September 12, 2022
- End of comment period: September 22, 2022

Testimony and Comments:

The public hearing was recorded and is publicly available on the Division of Marine Fisheries YouTube channel [here](#). ***This document represents a synopsis of the comments provided; it does not include supporting details and rationale that may have been provided.***

1. Exit:entry ratio for the issuance of the Unlimited Finfish endorsement:

- ≈ 37 comments provided in support of amending the ratio from 1:2 to 1:1 (proposal # 2 as noticed).
- RI Commercial Rod and Reel Association in support of 1:1 (proposal # 2 as noticed).
- 1 comment in support of 2:1
- No comments provided in support of status quo 1:2

2. Exit:entry ratio for the issuance of the Unlimited Shellfish endorsement:

- No comments or testimony were provided.

3. Proposed rules for the issuance of the Multipurpose Vessel License (MVL):

- ≈ 35 comments provided in support of proposal # 1 as noticed; to delay issuance of licenses until 2024.
- RI Commercial Rod and Reel Association in support of proposal # 1 as noticed; to delay issuance of licenses until 2024.
- Seafreeze and Town Dock in support of the issuance of the license type, but to delay issuance until 2024 to allow for additional time to develop rules.
- 1 comment submitted to reduce the license fee and not to require VMS.
- 1 comment provided at the hearing by the Division of Law Enforcement that the rule, if adopted, include a provision that both the owner and operator be subject to penalties for non-compliance
- 1 comment provided at the hearing opposed to the absence of operator permit credentials in the proposed rule.