



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

Three Fort Wetherill Road

Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

Fiscal Note

Proposed Amendments to RIDEM Marine Fisheries regulations “Part 2 - Commercial Marine Fishing Licenses, Landing Permits, and Party and Charter Licenses”

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Administration
Office of Management and Budget

Fiscal Note for Proposed Administrative Rules (R.I.G.L. § 22-12-1.1)

Name of Rule:

Exit:entry ratio for the issuance of a Standard license with Unlimited Finfish Endorsement

FISCAL IMPACT*			
<i>State Revenues Proposal 1</i>		<i>State Revenues Proposal 2</i>	
FY 2024	-\$12,150	FY 2024	-\$12,150
FY 2025	\$2,475 - \$9,900	FY 2025	\$1,350 - \$5,400
FY 2026	\$2,475 - \$9,900	FY 2026	\$1,350 - \$5,400

*Actual revenue depends on whether each applicant has an existing base license and what if any, additional endorsements they add to their license. No state expenditures or city/town expenditures are anticipated.

Summary of Policy Change: Two Policy Alternatives:

Proposal #1:

Status quo – maintain the existing 1:1 exit:entry ratio for 2024, resulting in 33 unlimited finfish endorsements available for issuance in 2024.

Proposal #2:

Proposal from the commercial fishing industry to amend the current exit:entry ratio for the unlimited finfish endorsement to 2:1, resulting in 18 new endorsements being available for issuance in 2024.

Summary of State Fiscal Impact:

A total of 17 multipurpose fishing licenses and 15 standard fishing licenses with an unlimited finfish endorsement were not renewed in 2023. The base cost of these 32 licenses totals \$12,150 and although these licenses were not renewed in FY23, the funds generated from these license renewals would have been earmarked for FY24 spending. It is very challenging to quantify the new level of revenue that will be realized when new licenses are issued in 2024. This is due to the fact that those applicants selected may already possess a base license to which they would be adding an unlimited finfish endorsement, or they may not have a base license and would be receiving a new license entirely. Depending on the applicant, this may generate \$75 - \$300 per applicant for the base license. This does not include any additional endorsements they may elect to add to their license.

Proposal #1: 1:1

If the ratio is maintained at 1:1, 33 new endorsements are available to be issued in 2024. Based on a license/endorsement cost of \$75 - \$300 per applicant, this would result in a range of \$2,475 - \$9,900 being generated from these new licenses/endorsements in FY 2025 and FY 2026. The potential loss of revenue from FY 2024 to FY 2025 ranges from \$2,250 - \$9,675. Again, this is dependent on whether the applicant has an existing base license and other fishery endorsements.

Proposal #2: 2:1

If the ratio should be amended to 2:1, 18 new endorsements are available to be issued in 2024. Based on a license/endorsement cost of \$75 - \$300 per applicant, this would result in a range of \$1,350 - \$5,400 being generated from these new licenses/endorsements in FY 2025 and FY 2026. The potential loss of revenue from FY 2024 to FY 2025 ranges from \$6,750 - \$10,800. Again, this is dependent on whether the applicant has an existing base license and other fishery endorsements.

City or Town Impact: No city or town impact is anticipated.

Name of Rule:

Exit:entry ratio for the issuance of a Standard license with Unlimited Shellfish Endorsement

FISCAL IMPACT*			
<i>State Revenues Proposal 1</i>		<i>State Revenues Proposal 2</i>	
FY 2024	-\$43,350	FY 2024	-\$43,350
FY 2025	\$10,350 - \$41,400	FY 2025	\$3,450 - \$13,800
FY 2026	\$10,350 - \$41,400	FY 2026	\$3,450 - \$13,800

*Actual revenue depends on whether each applicant has an existing base license and what if any, additional endorsements they add to their license. No state expenditures or city/town expenditures are anticipated.

Summary of Policy Change: Two Policy Alternatives:

Proposal #1:

Status quo – maintain the existing 1:1 exit:entry ratio for 2024, resulting in 138 unlimited shellfish endorsements available for issuance in 2024.

Proposal #2:

Proposal from the commercial fishing industry to amend the current exit:entry ratio for the unlimited shellfish endorsement to 3:1, resulting in 46 new endorsements being available for issuance in 2024.

Summary of State Fiscal Impact:

A total of 17 multipurpose fishing licenses and 119 standard licenses with an unlimited shellfish endorsement were not renewed in 2023. The base cost of these 138 licenses totals \$43,350 and although these licenses were not renewed in FY23, the funds generated from these license renewals would have been earmarked for FY24 spending. It is very challenging to quantify the new level of revenue that will be realized when new licenses are issued in 2024. This is due to the fact that those applicants selected may already possess a base license to which they would be adding an unlimited shellfish endorsement, or they may not have a base license and would be receiving a new license entirely. Depending on the applicant, this may generate \$75 - \$300 per applicant for the base license. This does not include any additional endorsements they may elect to add to their license.

Proposal #1: 1:1

If the ratio is maintained at 1:1, 138 new endorsements are available to be issued in 2024. Based on a license/endorsement cost of \$75 - \$300 per applicant, this would result in a range of \$10,350 - \$41,400 being generated from these new licenses/endorsements in FY 2025 and FY 2026. The potential loss of revenue from FY 2024 to FY 2025 ranges from \$1,950 - \$33,000. Again, this is dependent on whether the applicant has an existing base license and other fishery endorsements.

Proposal #2: 3:1

If the ratio should be amended to 3:1, 46 new endorsements are available to be issued in 2024. Based on a license/endorsement cost of \$75 - \$300 per applicant, this would result in a range of \$3,450 - \$13,800 being generated from these new licenses/endorsements in FY 2025 and FY 2026. The potential loss of revenue from FY 2024 to FY 2025 ranges from \$29,550 - \$39,900. Again, this is dependent on whether the applicant has an existing base license and other fishery endorsements.

City or Town Impact: No city or town impact is anticipated.

Name of Rule:

Multipurpose Vessel License

FISCAL IMPACT*			
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>State Revenues Proposal 1</i>	<i>State Revenues Proposal 2</i>	<i>State Revenues Proposal 3</i>
FY 2024	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2025	\$8,250	-\$8,250 - \$38,500	\$38,500
FY 2026	\$8,250	-\$8,250 - \$38,500	\$38,500

*No state expenditures or city/town expenditures are anticipated.

Summary of Policy Change: Three Policy Alternatives:

Proposal #1:

Proposal from the DEM Division of Marine Fisheries to amend rule to provide for the issuance of 15 licenses beginning January 1, 2024. See proposed rule for full details of proposal.

Proposal #2:

Proposal from the commercial fishing industry to prohibit issuance of licenses indefinitely.

Proposal #3:

Proposal from the commercial fishing industry to amend rule to provide for the issuance of 70 licenses beginning January 1, 2024. See proposed rule for full details of proposal.

Summary of State Fiscal Impact:

As of July 1, 2022, a new Multipurpose Vessel License is established in R.I. Gen. Law § 20-2.1-5 for a fee of \$1,000. Per statute, the license is only available to resident Multipurpose Fishing License holders and the DEM Director has the authority to limit the number of Multipurpose Vessel Licenses issued. In 2023 there are currently 720 Multipurpose Fishing License holders. The 3 proposals range from no issuance indefinitely to issuance of up to 70 licenses. Since no issuance of these licenses occurred in 2023, there is a \$0 fiscal impact for FY24 for all three proposals.

For FY 2025 and 2026, the fiscal impact per license holder is the difference in cost (\$550) between the Multipurpose Fishing License (\$450) and Multipurpose Vessel License (\$1000). The total fiscal impact ranges from \$0 - \$38,500 depending on the proposal.

Proposal #1: Issuance of 15 Multipurpose Vessel Licenses

If 15 Multipurpose Vessel Licenses are issued in 2024, and the fiscal impact per license holder is \$550, then \$8,250 in revenue is anticipated to be generated in FY 2025 and FY 2026.

Proposal #2: Prohibit issuance of Multipurpose Vessel Licenses indefinitely

If the issuance of Multipurpose Vessel Licenses were prohibited indefinitely, the fiscal impact in FY 2025 and FY 2026 would be a loss ranging from \$8,250 - \$38,500. This loss is generated by not issuing either 15 or 70 licenses as proposed under proposals 1 and 3.

Proposal #3: Issuance of 70 Multipurpose Vessel Licenses

If 70 Multipurpose Vessel Licenses are issued in 2024, and the fiscal impact per license holder is \$550, then \$38,500 in revenue is anticipated to be generated in FY 2025 and FY 2026.

City or Town Impact: No city or town impact is anticipated.

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TITLE 250 – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER 90 – MARINE FISHERIES

SUBCHAPTER 00 – N/A

PART 2 – Commercial Marine Fishing Licenses, Landing Permits, and Party and Charter Licenses

2.7.3 License Types, Fees, and Applicability

A. Resident licenses

1. Standard Resident License. Authorizes the commercial harvest of marine fisheries by residents pursuant to the fishery endorsement held.
2. Multipurpose Fishing License: Authorizes the commercial harvest by residents of all marine species, unless otherwise prohibited for harvest.
3. Student Shellfish License: Authorizes the commercial harvest by residents of bay quahaug.
4. Over Sixty-Five (65) Shellfish License: Authorizes the commercial harvest by residents of bay quahaug.
5. Multipurpose Vessel License: Authorizes a resident commercial fishing vessel owner to designate a resident or non-resident operator who is at least eighteen (18) years of age to engage in commercial fishing for all marine species, unless otherwise prohibited for harvest, aboard their owned vessel.

B. Non-resident licenses

Standard Non-Resident License: Authorizes the commercial harvest of marine fisheries by non-residents pursuant to the fishery endorsement held.

C. Fishery Endorsements

1. Unlimited Finfish: Authorizes the commercial harvest of restricted and non-restricted species of finfish and squid unless otherwise prohibited for harvest pursuant to Part 3 of this Subchapter. Restricted finfish species shall include black sea bass, summer flounder, striped bass, tautog, and scup harvested from May 1 through September 30.
2. Limited Finfish: Authorizes the commercial harvest of only non-restricted species of finfish and squid unless otherwise prohibited for harvest pursuant to Part 3 of this Subchapter. Non-restricted finfish species shall include all species not identified as restricted species.

3. Unlimited Shellfish: Authorizes the commercial harvest of all species of shellfish by residents unless otherwise prohibited for harvest pursuant to Part 4 of this Subchapter.
4. Limited Shellfish: Authorizes the commercial harvest of all species of shellfish by residents unless otherwise prohibited for harvest pursuant to Part 4 of this Subchapter, excluding bay quahaug, soft-shell clam, and whelk.
5. Unlimited Crustacean: Authorizes the commercial harvest of all species of crustacean unless otherwise prohibited for harvest pursuant to Part 5 of this Subchapter.
6. Limited Crustacean: Authorizes the commercial harvest of all species of crustacean unless otherwise prohibited for harvest pursuant to Part 5 of this Subchapter, excluding lobster.

D. Gear Endorsements

1. Gill Net: Authorizes the commercial use of a gill net by residents in the marine waters of Rhode Island pursuant to Part 6 of this Subchapter. No person shall set, haul, and/or maintain a commercial gill net in the marine waters of Rhode Island without holding a valid Gill Net Endorsement issued by the Director. An endorsement is not required for commercial gill netting for bait in accordance with Part 6 of this Subchapter.
2. Purse Seine: Authorizes the commercial use of a purse seine pursuant to Part 6 of this Subchapter. No person shall operate a purse seine in the marine waters of Rhode Island without holding a valid Purse Seine Endorsement issued by the Director.
3. Mid Water/Pair Trawl: Authorizes the commercial use of a mid-water/pair trawl these gear types pursuant to Part 6 of this Subchapter. No person shall operate a mid-water/pair trawl in the marine waters of Rhode Island without holding a valid Mid Water/Pair Trawl Endorsement issued by the Director.

E. Other (non-fishery or gear) Endorsements

1. Paper Catch and Effort Harvester Logbook
 - a. Authorizes the license holder to use a paper harvester catch and effort logbook in lieu of electronic reporting to report catch and effort information. No person shall report by a paper harvester catch and effort logbook without holding a valid Paper Catch and Effort Harvester Logbook Endorsement issued by the Director.
 - b. If declared as the reporting method, the Paper Catch and Effort Harvester logbook endorsement fee must be paid at the time of application.
 - c. Paper Catch and Effort Harvester logbook submissions will not be accepted by a license holder who does not hold the endorsement.
2. Dockside Sales Endorsement
 - a. Authorizes the sale of live lobsters and crabs directly to consumers at dockside. Only live lobsters and crabs may be sold under the endorsement. Sales of shellfish and finfish to anyone other than licensed dealers are prohibited. No

person shall sell live lobsters and crabs directly to consumers at dockside without holding a valid Dockside Sales Endorsement issued by the Director.

- b. Only the licensee/permittee, or a regularly employed crew member of the licensee/permittee, may sell lobsters and crabs at dockside under the Dockside Sales Endorsement. To be eligible to conduct such sales, a crew member must first receive written authorization from the licensee/permittee. Such authorization shall be in the form of a type-written statement, signed and dated by the licensee/permittee that expressly authorizes the crew member to act on behalf of the licensee/permittee with regard to dockside sales. The statement shall further specify: the name of the crew member, the name of the vessel from which the sales are conducted, and the month and year that the crew member began working on the vessel. The statement shall be kept on the vessel and be available at all times for inspection by Department personnel. A crew member who is acting on behalf of a licensee/permittee must comply with all applicable Regulations governing dockside sales, as set forth herein, and the licensee/permittee shall be responsible for any violations of Regulations by the crew member.
 - c. Licensees/permittees offering live lobsters and crabs for sale at dockside must meet all applicable and current Federal and State laws and Regulations governing harvest and possession relating to the species being sold.
 - d. Licensees/permittees offering live lobsters and crabs for sale at dockside must meet all applicable and current Federal, State, and local laws and Regulations governing retail sales operations, including but not necessarily limited to those governing taxation, signage, noise, and hours of operation.
 - e. Licensees/permittees offering live lobsters and crabs for sale at dockside may only sell live lobsters and crabs that they harvested, and all sales must be made from the vessel that harvested the product, unless otherwise authorized by the Director.
 - f. Sales at dockside may only be to the final consumer – i.e. the individual(s) who will be consuming the product - and no resale of, or commercial transaction involving, the product beyond the final consumer is authorized.
 - g. Licensees shall include, on all landing reports and other data submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service and/or the Department, the lobsters and crabs offered for sale at dockside to the general public.
 - h. Application for a Dockside Sales Endorsement is not subject to an application deadline.
3. Research Set Aside Endorsement: Authorizes the landing of marine species for sale in Rhode Island in accordance with RSA quota obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service. Both the endorsement and the permit must be obtained prior to the landing of RSA quota for State quota monitored species in Rhode Island.

F. Annual Fees

1. Standard License with one (1) limited fishery endorsement
 - a. Resident: One hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00)
 - b. Non-resident: Three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00)
2. Standard License with two (2) limited fishery endorsements
 - a. Resident: Two hundred dollars (\$200.00)
 - b. Non-resident: Seven hundred dollars (\$700.00)
3. Standard License with three (3) limited fishery endorsements
 - a. Resident: Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00)
 - b. Non-resident: One thousand fifty dollars (\$1,050.00)
4. Standard License with one (1) unlimited fishery endorsement
 - a. Resident: Three hundred dollars (\$300.00)
 - b. Non-resident: Seven hundred dollars (\$700.00)
5. Standard License with one (1) unlimited fishery endorsement and one (1) limited fishery endorsement
 - a. Resident: Three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00)
 - b. Non-resident: One thousand fifty dollars (\$1,050.00)
6. Standard License with two (2) unlimited fishery endorsements
 - a. Resident: Three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375.00)
 - b. Non-resident: One thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400.00)
7. Standard Resident License with one (1) unlimited fishery endorsement and two (2) limited fishery endorsements
 - a. Resident: Four hundred dollars (\$400.00)
 - b. Non-resident: One thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400.00)
8. Standard Resident License with two (2) unlimited fishery endorsements and one (1) limited fishery endorsements
 - a. Resident: Four hundred twenty-five dollars (\$425.00)
 - b. Non-resident: One thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750.00)
9. Standard Resident License with three (3) unlimited fishery endorsements: Four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00)

10. Multipurpose Fishing License: Four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00)
11. Multipurpose Vessel License: One thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)
12. Gill Net endorsement: Twenty dollars (\$20.00)
13. Purse Seine endorsement: Twenty dollars (\$20.00)
14. Mid Water/Pair Trawl endorsement: Twenty dollars (\$20.00)
15. Paper Catch and Effort Harvester Logbook endorsement: Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
16. Dockside Sales endorsement: Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
17. Research Set Aside endorsement: Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
18. Student Shellfish License: Fifty dollars (\$50.00)
19. Over Sixty-Five (65) Shellfish License: There is no fee.
20. Grace period late fee: Two hundred dollars (\$200.00)

Title 20 Fish and Wildlife

Chapter 2.1 Commercial Fishing Licenses

R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-2.1-5

§ 20-2.1-5. Resident licenses, endorsements, and fees.

The director shall establish, as a minimum, the following types of licenses and endorsements set forth in this section. In addition, the director may establish any other classes and types of licenses and endorsements, consistent with the provisions of this chapter and with adopted management plans that may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter:

(1) Types of licenses.

(i) Standard resident commercial fishing license. Rhode Island residents shall be eligible to obtain a standard resident commercial fishing license; the license shall allow the holder to engage in commercial fishing in fisheries sectors dictated by the fishery endorsement(s) associated with the license. Fishery endorsements shall be established by the department consistent with fishery management plans developed pursuant to this chapter.

(ii) Multipurpose license. All multipurpose purpose license holders as of December 31 of the immediately preceding year shall be eligible to obtain a multipurpose license that shall allow the holder to engage in commercial fishing in all fisheries sectors.

(iii) Student shellfish license. A resident twenty-three (23) years or younger shall pay fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a student commercial license to take shellfish upon provision of proof of full-time student status. An individual qualified to obtain a license must submit an application to the department of environmental management no later than June 30; a license application shall be deemed valid if submitted to the department prior to the close of regular office hours on June 30 or if postmarked by June 30.

(iv) Over sixty-five (65) shellfish license. A resident sixty-five (65) years of age and over shall be eligible for a shellfish license to shellfish commercially and there shall be no fee for this license.

(v) Multipurpose vessel license. Any multipurpose license holder shall be eligible to obtain a multipurpose vessel license that shall allow the vessel owner to designate any operator to engage in commercial fishing for all marine species aboard their owned vessel, provided the vessel owner has consigned a multipurpose fishing license to the department. The department may then re-issue the consigned multipurpose fishing license to the commercially declared fishing vessel as a multipurpose vessel license. The director has the authority to limit the number of multipurpose vessel licenses issued annually by rule. The fee for a multipurpose vessel license shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(2) Fees.

(i) Standard resident commercial fishing license.

(A) Standard resident commercial fishing license plus one limited fishery endorsement: The fee shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

(B) Standard resident commercial fishing license plus two limited fishery endorsements: The fee shall be two hundred dollars (\$200).

(C) Standard resident commercial fishing license plus three limited fishery endorsements: The fee shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(D) Standard resident commercial fishing license plus one unlimited fishery endorsement: The fee shall be three hundred dollars (\$300).

(E) Standard resident commercial fishing license plus one unlimited fishery endorsement and one limited fishery endorsement: The fee shall be three hundred fifty dollars (\$350).

(F) Standard resident commercial fishing license plus two unlimited fishery endorsements: The fee shall be three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375).

(G) Standard resident commercial fishing license plus one unlimited fishery endorsement and two limited fishery endorsements: The fee shall be four hundred dollars (\$400).

(H) Standard resident commercial fishing license plus two unlimited fishery endorsements and one limited fishery endorsement: The fee shall be four hundred twenty-five dollars (\$425).

(ii) Multipurpose license: The fee shall be four hundred fifty dollars (\$450).

(3) Vessel declaration and fees.

(i) The department shall require the owner and/or the operator of a commercial fishing vessel to declare the vessel on the owner/operator's commercial fishing license. The declaration shall be made at the time of initial license issuance and each renewal, or prior to the vessel being used for commercial fishing by the owner and/or operator if the first usage of the vessel for commercial fishing occurs during the course of a year after the license has been issued or renewed. If the declaration is for a vessel of less than twenty-five feet (25') in length, the declaration shall be transferable to another vessel less than twenty-five feet (25') in length, provided the vessel is identified as a commercial fishing vessel while it is being used for commercial fishing by displaying a plate as provided in § 20-2.1-4.

(ii) The annual fee for each vessel declaration shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first twenty-five feet (25') or under, plus fifty cents (\$0.50) per foot for each whole foot over twenty-five feet (25'); this declaration fee shall entitle the holder to a decal. The holder of a valid decal for twenty-five feet (25') in length or under may obtain a plate from the department for display on a vessel twenty-five feet (25') in length that is being used temporarily for commercial fishing; the annual fee for a plate shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

(4) Gear endorsements and fees.

(i) Gill net endorsements. A person who holds a multipurpose license, or a vessel with a multipurpose vessel license, is also eligible to apply for a commercial gill net endorsement in accordance with the provisions of this section. The fee for a commercial gill net endorsement shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00). Applicants who possessed a gill net endorsement as of the immediately preceding year may obtain a gill net endorsement for the immediately following year. New gill net endorsement opportunities shall be established by the department by rule, pursuant to applicable management plans.

(ii) Other endorsements. The department may establish by rule any endorsements that may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this chapter and facilitate participation in a specific fishery; the fee for such endorsement shall not be greater than two hundred dollars (\$200). This endorsement shall be issued only in a manner consistent with the general requirements of this chapter, including specifically those governing residency.

(5) New licenses.

(i) Eligibility. For new standard resident commercial fishing and multipurpose licenses, priority shall be given to applicants who have held a commercial fishing license for two (2) years or more; applicants with military service; and applicants who have completed a department authorized commercial fishing training program, with preference to family members and crew members of a license holder who is retiring his or her license.

(ii) Priority or preference applicants. A new license shall be granted to priority/preference applicants who have acquired a vessel and/or gear from a license holder who has retired a license, provided, that as the result of any such transaction, for each license retired, not more than one new license may be granted, nor may the nominal effort, including the total number of licenses, in a fishery subject to effort controls or catch restrictions be increased.

(iii) Availability of new or additional licenses. New standard resident commercial fishing and multipurpose licenses that increase the total number of licenses in the fishery may be made available by rule consistent with management plan for issuance effective January 1, in any year, based on status of resource and economic condition of fishery. Priority for new licenses shall be given to Rhode Island residents.

(6) Retirement of licenses. Issuance of a commercial fishing license shall not be deemed to create a property right such that the license can be sold or transferred by the license holder; fishing licenses shall be surrendered to the state upon their nonrenewal, forfeiture, or revocation.

(7) Issuance of temporary operator permits in cases of medical hardship. The department shall make available, as necessary, temporary operator permits to provide solely for the continued operation of a fishing vessel upon the determination of medical hardship of a license holder who has actively fished. Temporary operator permits shall be subject at a minimum to the conditions and restrictions that applied to the license holder.

(8) Issuance of new licenses to family members in cases of medical incapacity. Upon determination of medical incapacity, an actively fished license may be surrendered to the department for the purpose of the concurrent issuance of a new license to a resident family member.

(9) Issuance of new licenses upon the sale of a commercial fishing business. Upon the sale of a commercial fishing business, as defined by rule, a new license may be issued to the buyer upon the

surrender of the seller's license to the department for the purpose of the concurrent issuance of a new license.

(10) Transfer of vessels and gear. Vessels and gear may be sold, transferred, or disposed at the sole discretion of the owner; provided, however, that the subsequent level of use of the gear may be restricted in Rhode Island waters in order to accomplish the purposes of a duly adopted management plan or other duly adopted program to reduce effort.

History of Section.

P.L. 2002, ch. 47, § 4; P.L. 2004, ch. 8, § 3; P.L. 2004, ch. 16, § 3; P.L. 2015, ch. 177, § 1; P.L. 2015, ch. 199, § 1; P.L. 2021, ch. 162, art. 7, § 5, effective July 1, 2022.