

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

([R.I. Gen. Laws §42-35-2.6](#))

Agency: Department of Environmental Management

Division: Marine Fisheries

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

Agency's reason for creation of the rule, including the agency's reasons for not accepting arguments made in testimony and comments:

➤ **Exit:entry ratio for the Unlimited Finfish Endorsement:** Three separate proposals were submitted to modify this exit:entry ratio:

- Proposal 1 (noticed in the proposed rule): Amend from 2:1 to 1:1. Would result in 27 new endorsements available for issuance in 2026.
- Proposal 2: Amend from 2:1 to 1:0. Would result in 0 new licenses available for issuance for 2026.
- Proposal 3: Amend from 2:1 to 3:1. Would result in 9 new endorsements available for issuance in 2026.
- Status quo: 2:1. Would result in fifteen new endorsements available for issuance in 2026.

Two comments were received on this matter: One comment in support of 1:1, and one comment in support of status quo 2:1. The final rule will maintain the current 2:1 ratio based on the recommendation of the RI Marine Fisheries Council and support by the Division.

The Director's decision memo, filed as a separate supporting document with the filing of the final rule, provides rationale for all final decisions.

Reasons for any change between the text of the proposed rule contained in the notice of proposed rulemaking and the text of the final rule:

The proposed change from 2:1 to 1:1 for this ratio as noticed was not adopted based on the recommendation of the RI Marine Fisheries Council.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.