**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management**
**Division of Marine Fisheries**

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# Summary of Comments

Agency: Department of Environmental Management
Division: Marine Fisheries
Regulation: Part 2 – Commercial Marine Fishing Licenses, Landing Permits, and Party and Charter Licenses (250-RICR-90-00-2)

Type of rulemaking: Regular rulemaking

Type of filing: Amendment

Timetable for action on the proposed rule:

- Date of public notice: September 2, 2025
- Date of hearing: September 15, 2025
- End of comment period: October 3, 2025

Proposed rules and comments received:

a. Proposed amendment to the exit:entry ratio for Unlimited Finfish endorsement *(section 2.7.4(C)(4)(a))*:
    - Industry proposal #1 (noticed): Change ratio from 2:1 to 1:1: **Would result in 27 new endorsements available for issuance** in 2026.
    - Industry proposal #2: Change ratio from 2:1 to 1:0: **Would result in 0 new licenses available for issuance for 2026.**
    - Industry proposal #3: Change ratio from 2:1 to 3:1: **Would result in 9 new endorsements available for issuance** in 2026.
    - Current ratio 1:1 (status quo): **Would result in 15 new endorsements available for issuance for 2026.**

    **Comments received:**
    - 1 comment in support of status quo; opposed to proposal #2
    - 2 comments in support of industry proposal # 1, change ratio from 2:1 to 1:1

a. Division proposal to add due dates for electronic negative reports *(section 2.7.8(E)(2)):*

**Comments received:** 1 comment in support of this proposal

b. Division proposal to require reporting compliance prior to the transfer of a new license upon sale of a license holder's vessel and/or gear *(section 2.7.4(C)(5)):*

**Comments received:** 1 comment in support of this proposal

d. Division proposal to delete instances of obsolete licenses *"Commercial Fishing License (CFL)"* and *"Principal Effort License (PEL)"* as found in section 2.7.6 *"Prioritization in the Issuance of New Licenses" (section 2.7.6):*

**Comments received:** No comments were received

e. Division proposal to modify rule to clarify restricted finfish species *(section 2.7.3(C)(1)):*

**Comments received:** No comments were received

f. Division proposal to adopt rules for the issuance of a commercial green crab license *(section 2.7.3(A)(6) and 2.7.3(F)(15)):*

**Comments received:** No comments were received

**IMPORTANT!** The public hearing was recorded and is publicly available on the Division of Marine Fisheries YouTube channel here. ***This document serves only as a tally of support, opposition, or alternative proposals received, as provided in written and oral comments received; it does not include supporting details, rationale, or discussion of matters not specific to the proposed rules.***