

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Title of Rule: Commercial Marine Fishing Licenses, Landing Permits, and Party and Charter Licenses

Rule Identifier: 250-RICR-90-00-2

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: September 2, 2025

Hearing Date: September 15, 2025

End of Public Comment: October 3, 2025

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-17.1

20-2.1

and 20-2.2

R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-1-4 and in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

a. Proposed amendment to the exit:entry ratio for Unlimited Finfish endorsement (*section 2.7.4(C)(4)(a)*):

o Industry proposal #1 (noticed): Change from 2:1 to 1:1 (for every 2 licenses not renewed/retired, 1 Standard license with Unlimited Finfish endorsement available for issuance). **Would result in 27 new endorsements available for issuance in 2026.**

o Industry proposal #2: Amend ratio from 2:1 to 1:0: **Would result in 0 new licenses available for issuance for 2026.**

o Industry proposal #3: Change from 2:1 to 3:1 (for every 3 licenses not renewed/retired, 1 Standard license with Unlimited Finfish endorsement available for issuance). **Would result in 9 new endorsements available for issuance in 2026.**

o Current ratio 1:1: **Would result in 15 new endorsements available for issuance for 2026.**

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

c. 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)*)

d. 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*).

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

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)*)

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until October 3, 2025 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Peter Duhamel
Department of Environmental Management
3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, RI 02893
peter.duhamel@dem.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: September 15, 2025

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium
215 South Ferry Road
narragansett, RI, 02882

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-423-1927 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

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.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.