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 w/public hearing

Type of filing: Amendment

Timetable for action on the proposed rule:

- Date of public notice: August 13, 2026
- Date of hearing: September 8, 2026
- End of comment period: September 16, 2026

Proposed rules and comments received:

1. **Multipurpose Vessel License (MVL):**

   - **Proposal 1 (Division):** Extend the current term of the Multipurpose Vessel License for five (5) years and lessen the eligibility requirements consistent with the current activity standard for the issuance of commercial fishing licenses.

     Proposed Rules:

     - *Section 2.7.4(C)(2)(e)(9)*: Term of Multipurpose Vessel License: No Multipurpose Vessel Licenses will be issued after December 31, ~~2026~~ 2031. During the ~~2027~~ 2032 license renewal period, any person who was issued a Multipurpose Vessel License ~~holder in 2026~~ must surrender their Multipurpose Vessel License to be re-issued their consigned Multipurpose Fishing License.
     - *Section 2.7.4(C)(2)(e)(2)(DD):* The Multipurpose Fishing License must meet the standard of actively fished whereby the license holder must have held the license for a minimum of the immediate two (2) ~~in each year for the~~ preceding ~~five (5)~~ calendar years~~. A~~, and demonstrate by dated transaction records, with fishing activity verified by SAFIS dealer or dockside sales reporting, a minimum of forty (40) legal landings ~~over~~ in

the preceding two (2) ~~preceding~~ calendar years, pursuant to a valid Rhode Island license. ~~must have occurred on the same vessel that will be named on the Multipurpose Vessel License.~~

- **Proposal 2 (Industry):** Eliminate the activity standard requirement and lessen the time frame requirement for the fishing business to be in good standing with the state.

Proposed Rule *(section 2.7.4(C)(2)(e)(2)(DD) and 2.7.4(C)(2)(e)(2)(EE)(i):*
~~(DD) The Multipurpose Fishing License must meet the standard of actively fished in each year for the preceding five (5) calendar years. A minimum of forty (40) landings over the two preceding calendar years must have occurred on the same vessel that will be named on the Multipurpose Vessel License.~~

(EE)(i) The business or corporation must be registered with the State of Rhode Island for the preceding ~~five~~ one (1~~5~~) calendar year~~s~~ and in good standing.

Comments received:

	Support for Proposal 1	Support for Proposal 2	Opposed to Proposal 1	Opposed to Proposal 2	Other
Written*	0	3	1	1	2
Hearing*	0	0	1	1	0

* Note: When the same person provides a comment both orally at the hearing and a written comment, the above tally includes only the written comment.

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 summary of public comments received, as provided in written and orally at the public hearing; it does not include supporting details, rationale, or discussion of matters not specific to the proposed rules.***