



## RHODE ISLAND

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

#### DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

3 Fort Wetherill Road

Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Monday, April 11, 2022; 6:00 PM**

**In-person:**

URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium  
215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett

**Virtual (Zoom):**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89521861032>

Meeting ID: 895 2186 1032

Dial in #: 1-929-205-6099

## **RULES PROPOSED FOR AMENDMENT**

1. **Part 2 - Commercial Marine Fishing Licenses, Landing Permits, and Party and Charter**

**Licenses:** Re-organization of the rule for improved organization, readability, clarity, and flow, and for consistency with recently amended statutes. Proposed changes include the following:

- Section 2.7.1(B): Exemption to license requirements added to rule for clarification; consistent with [R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-4-1](#).
- Section 2.7.3: New license and endorsement types added consistent with amended statute R.I. Gen. Laws [§ 20-2.1-4](#), [§ 20-2.1-5](#), and [§ 20-2.1-6](#). “Commercial Fishing License” and “Principal Effort License” eliminated from rule consistent with statute. New license types “Standard Resident License”, and “Standard Non-Resident License” added. No changes to Multipurpose, Student Shellfish, and Sixty-five and Over Shellfish licenses.
  - “Restricted Finfish Endorsement” eliminated; now is “Unlimited Finfish Endorsement”. Fees amended consistent with amended statute
  - “Lobster Endorsement” and “Non-lobster Crustacean Endorsement” eliminated; these are now “Unlimited Crustacean Endorsement” and “Limited Crustacean Endorsement”. Fees amended consistent with amended statute
  - “Quahaug”, “Soft-shell Clam”, and “Whelk” Endorsements eliminated. These species will all now available for harvest under the new “Unlimited Shellfish Endorsement”. Eligibility criteria and availability of licenses criteria, all

currently different for each species (i.e., exit:entry ratio of 1:1 for the Quahaug Endorsement and 5:1 for the SS Clam endorsements; possession of Quahaug or SS Clam Endorsement required to be eligible for a Whelk Endorsement) must now be amended to reflect this change. The proposal is to provide for an exit:entry ratio of 1:1 for the Unlimited Shellfish Endorsement. Fee amended consistent with amended statute.

- Floating Fish Trap Endorsement: This endorsement type is being removed from the rule consistent with amended statute. The Floating Fish Trap permit requirements, including eligibility and other regulations as identified in [Part 6](#), remain unchanged. The permit fee remains unchanged.
- License and fishery endorsement fees: Fees have been amended consistent with the amended statute.
- Landing Permits: Landing permit types and fees have been amended consistent with changes to statute R.I. Gen. Laws [§ 20-2.1-7](#).
- Party and Charter Licenses: Section 2.10 “Party and Charter Licenses” added to rule consistent with statute R.I. Gen. Laws [§ 20-2-27.1](#). Fees for license consistent with amended statute. Reporting requirements formerly located in “Data Reporting” section have been relocated to this section.
- Former section 2.7.6(C)(4): These license types are being eliminated under the new licensing structure. Under the new structure, persons who previously held a CFL/PEL with Quahaug endorsement, which were exempted from the license fee, will be issued a Standard license with Unlimited Shellfish endorsement for 2023, which is a fee based license. Over-65 Shellfish license (quahaug only) remains a free open access license

NOTE: No new licenses or endorsements will be made available until January 1, 2023 (other than “transfers”), as the application period for a new 2022 license/endorsement will have passed upon effective date of this filing. These proposed changes, which align the regulations with the newly amended legislation, will be followed by the typical annual licensing regulatory cycle (i.e. workshop, hearing, Council meeting) beginning in late summer upon conclusion of this regulatory filing.

[Public Notice](#)

[Proposed Rule](#)

Interested parties are invited to submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendments until **April 27, 2022**. Send comments by mail or email to:

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