



## RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767 TDD 401-222-4462  
Office of Boat Registration & Licensing 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 360 401-222-6647

### ***New Marine License/Endorsement Opportunities Available for 2024***

Please be advised Article 7 of the RI General Laws has been amended and includes a restructuring of commercial marine licenses & fee increases, effective July 1, 2022. All CFL and PEL licenses and accompanying restricted and non-restricted species endorsements have been converted into Standard Fishing Licenses with either Limited or Unlimited fishery sector endorsements. Multipurpose Licenses, Student Shellfish Licenses and the Shellfish over 65 licenses as well as gear and data reporting endorsements have not changed. For the 2024 licensing year, there will be several new licenses/standard fishing license/endorsement opportunities available. Some of the opportunities are the same as those that have been available since 2003. The new, openly available licenses are listed below. The application period for all new licenses is January 1 – February 29, 2024.

- Standard Fishing License with:
  - (1) Limited Finfish, available to any resident or non-resident.
  - (2) Limited Shellfish, available to any resident.
  - (3) Limited Lobster Crustacean, available to any resident.Please complete the 2024 Resident Standard Fishing License Application & submit along with corresponding fee to the DEM Office of Boat Registration & Licensing no later than February 29, 2024.
- Student Shellfish License, available to any resident who is a full-time student and 23 years of age or younger as of 6/30/2024. Please complete the Student Shellfish License Application, submitting proof of full time student status and corresponding fee to the DEM Office of Boat Registration & Licensing no later than June 30, 2024.
- Over 65 Shellfish License, available to any resident who is 65 years of age or older as of 2/29/2024. Please complete the 2024 Resident Standard Fishing License Application/Over 65 Shellfish License Application (selecting the Shellfish Over 65 license) and submit to the DEM Office of Boat Registration & Licensing no later than February 29, 2024.

Effective January 2024, 15 new Multipurpose Vessel Licenses will be issued. A multipurpose vessel license shall allow the vessel owner to designate any operator to engage in commercial fishing for all marine species aboard their owned vessel, provided the vessel owner has consigned a multipurpose fishing license to the department. The department may then re-issue the consigned multipurpose fishing license to the commercially declared fishing vessel as a multipurpose vessel license. Please complete the Multipurpose Vessel License application and submit all required documentation no later than February 29, 2024.

Additional Standard Fishing Licenses/Endorsement opportunities are being made available for 2024 via the priority selection process. A total of forty-eight (48) new Unlimited Shellfish Endorsements will be issued to residents on the Standard Fishing License. The endorsement will allow the holder to commercially harvest all shellfish species at the full harvest levels. Also, a total of eighteen (18) new Unlimited Finfish Endorsements on the Standard Fishing License (open to both residents and

nonresident applicants) will be issued. The Unlimited Finfish endorsement will allow the holder to commercially harvest all species of finfish – including the restricted species summer flounder, scup, striped bass, black sea bass, and tautog, – as well as all non-restricted finfish species at the full harvest levels. Please complete the 2024 New License Opportunity Application and submit along with all supporting documentation to the DEM Office of Boat Registration & Licensing no later than February 29, 2024.

State Law requires everyone applying for (any type of) new license from the State to first certify that they have filed all required state tax returns and paid all taxes due to the State or entered into a written installment agreement with the Tax Administrator to pay delinquent state taxes. See the document entitled *New Taxation Certification Requirements* for more information.

**Note:** All applicants issued a Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Shellfish Endorsement, Student Shellfish License or Over 65 Shellfish License must complete the 30 minute Shellfish Harvester’s online tutorial located at: <https://www.ri.gov/dem/training/shellfish/> prior to license/endorsement issuance.

All applications & supporting documentation must be mailed, or hand delivered by February 29, 2024, to the DEM, Office of Boat Registration & Licensing 235 Promenade St., Room 360 Providence, RI 02908-5767.