



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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

New License/Endorsement Opportunities Available for 2016

For 2016, *eight (8)* new commercial fishing license/endorsement opportunities will be available. Five of these new opportunities are the same as those that have been available since 2003, when the new licensing program went into effect. They are:

- § Commercial Fishing License (CFL) with:
 - (1) **Non-Restricted Finfish endorsement**, available to any resident or non-resident;
 - (2) **Shellfish Other endorsement**, available to any resident;
 - (3) **Non-Lobster Crustacean endorsement**, available to any resident.
- § **Student Shellfish License**, available to any resident who is a full-time student and 23 years of age or younger as of 6/30/2016, new 2016.
- § **Over 65 Shellfish License**, available to any resident who is 65 years of age or older as of 2/29/2016.

Three additional license/endorsement opportunities are being made available for 2016. A total of thirty three (33) new **Quahog endorsements** and twelve (12) new **Soft Shell Clam** endorsements on CFLs will be issued. The Quahog endorsement will allow the holder to commercially harvest quahogs at the basic harvest level, which is a 3-bushel per day statewide limit. The Soft Shell Clam endorsement will allow the holder to commercially harvest soft shell clams at the basic harvest level. Also a total of six (6) new **Restricted Finfish endorsements** on PELs will be issued. The Restricted Finfish endorsement will allow the holder to commercially harvest any of the six species of restricted finfish – summer flounder, scup, striped bass, black sea bass, tautog, and winter flounder – at the full harvest level.

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.

Who may apply for the new Quahog, Soft Shell Clam and Restricted Finfish endorsements?

Any resident (age restrictions may apply) may apply for a new Quahog endorsement and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement. Any resident or non-resident may apply for a new Restricted Finfish endorsement. [Note: in certain categories, age restrictions apply.]

Who may not apply for the new Quahog, Soft Shell Clam and Restricted Finfish endorsements?

Holders of Multi-purpose Licenses (MPURPs) or Principal Effort Licenses (PELs) with Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsements may not apply for a new CFL with Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement. Holders of MPURPs or PELs with Restricted Finfish endorsements may not apply for a new PEL with Restricted Finfish endorsement.

Will priority be given to certain applicants?

Yes. In accordance with the licensing statute (RIGL 20-2.1) and the associated *Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations* (available online at www.ri.state.us/dem under “Topics” and “Marine Fisheries”):

Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsements

1. First priority will be given to the following three categories of applicants*:

- A. Residents who have held, and actively fished, CFLs with Shellfish Other and/or Soft-shell Clam endorsements over the past two years.

Note: to meet the standard of “actively fished,” an applicant must be able to demonstrate by dated transaction records that they have fished in the shellfish fishery at least 75 days over the past two calendar years, with at least some activity in each of the two years.

- B. Residents who have held, and actively fished, PELs over the past two years.

Note: The same standard of “actively fished,” noted above, applies.

- C. Residents who have actively participated as a crew member in the shellfish fishery over the past two years, subsequent to their 16th birthday.

Note: To meet the standard of “actively participated,” an applicant must be able to demonstrate via one or more affidavits that they have fished in the shellfish fishery, resulting in RI landings with one or more licensed captains at least 75 days over the past two calendar years, with at least some activity in each of the two years, and with all of the activity occurring subsequent to their 16th birthday.

*Within each of the three priority categories, applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing, or actively participating (aged 16 or older), on a continuous basis.

2. Second priority will be given to the following two categories of applicants*:

- A. Residents who have held, and actively fished, CFLs endorsed in any fishery over the past two years.

Note: The same standard of “actively fished,” noted above, applies.

- B. Residents who have actively participated as a crew member in any fishery over the past two years, subsequent to their 16th birthday.

Note: The same standard of “actively participated,” noted above, applies.

*Within each of the two categories, applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing, or actively participating (aged 16 or older), on a continuous basis.

3. Third priority will be given to any RI resident, aged 16 or older.

Restricted Finfish endorsements

1. First priority will be given to the following three categories of applicants*:

- A. Residents who have held, and actively fished, CFLs with Non-Restricted Finfish endorsements over the past two years.

Note: to meet the standard of “actively fished,” an applicant must be able to demonstrate by dated transaction records that they have fished in the finfish fishery at least 75 days over the past two calendar years, with at least some activity in each of the two years.

- B. Residents who have held, and actively fished, PELs (in any fishery other than finfish) over the past two years.

Note: The same standard of “actively fished,” noted above, applies.

- C. Residents who have actively participated as a crew member in the finfish fishery over the past two years, subsequent to their 16th birthday.

Note: To meet the standard of “actively participated,” an applicant must be able to demonstrate via one or more affidavits that they have fished in the shellfish fishery, resulting in RI landings with one or more licensed captains at least 75 days over the past two calendar years, with at least some activity in each of the two years, and with all of the activity occurring subsequent to their 16th birthday.

*Within each of the three priority categories, applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing, or actively participating (aged 16 or older), on a continuous basis.

3. Second priority will be given to the following two categories of applicants*:

- A. Residents who have held, and actively fished, CFLs endorsed in any fishery over the past two years.

Note: The same standard of “actively fished,” noted above, applies.

- B. Residents who have actively participated as a crew member in any fishery over the past two years, subsequent to their 16th birthday.

Note: The same standard of “actively participated,” noted above, applies

*Within each of the two categories, applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing, or actively participating (aged 16 or older), on a continuous basis.

4. Third priority will be given to any RI resident, aged 16 or older.

5. Fourth priority will be given to any non-resident, aged 18 or older.

What will be the process for reviewing applications and determining who will obtain the new Quahog, Soft Shell Clam and Restricted Finfish endorsements?

§ Anyone may apply for the new endorsements by submitting an application, along with any/all accompanying documentation relating to priority status, to DEM between January 1, 2016 and February 29, 2016. Any application received after February 29, 2016 will not be subject to consideration. See the accompanying document entitled *Guidance for Applicants Seeking New Quahog Endorsements* for detailed guidance on qualifying for priority status and associated application requirements.

§ Immediately following February 29, 2016 DEM will conduct an initial review of the applications to determine which applicants have submitted appropriate documentation establishing priority status in any of the categories described above.

Any applications accompanied by inadequate or improper documentation – e.g., insufficient number of transaction records, bogus transaction records, affidavits that have not been notarized or are otherwise invalid, etc. – will not be considered in either of the first two priority categories. Moreover, fraudulent submittals may be referred to DEM’s Office of Law Enforcement for further investigation and possible enforcement action. Fraud on the part of any existing license holder, including a captain who signs an affidavit in support of a claim of crew member status that turns out to be false or inaccurate, may result in the suspension or revocation of the license held by the existing license holder.

§ For the 33 Quahog endorsements & 12 Soft Shell Clam endorsements:

§ Eleven (11) quahog endorsements will be made available to priority category 1A (holders of CFLs with Shellfish Other and/or Soft-shell Clam endorsements who have been actively fishing their licenses), Four (4) soft shell clam endorsements will be made available; Eleven (11) quahog endorsements will be made available to priority category 1B (holders of PELs who have been actively fishing their licenses in any fishery other than shellfish), Four (4) soft shell clam endorsements will be available; and Eleven (11) quahog endorsements will be made available to priority category 1C (crew members who have been actively participating in the shellfish fishery) and Four (4) soft shell clam endorsements will be available.

§ Within each of the three categories, applicants will be prioritized based on the length of time they have been actively fishing or actively participating on a continuous basis.

§ If, in any of the three categories, there are fewer eligible applicants than there are endorsements available for issue, the balance will be evenly distributed among the other two categories.

§ If necessary, a lottery will be held to select among an excess number of evenly matched applicants.

§ If, after completing the above described first-tier process, there are still endorsements available, then the second tier of priority applicants will be considered. The balance of remaining endorsements will be evenly distributed among the two second-tier categories – i.e., category 2A (holders of CFLs, endorsed in any fishery, who have been actively fishing their licenses) and category 2B (crew members who have been actively participating in any fishery). Within each category, applicants will be prioritized based on the length of time they

have been actively fishing or actively participating on a continuous basis. If, in either category, there are fewer eligible applicants than there are endorsements available for issue, the balance will be distributed to the other category. If necessary, a lottery will be held to select among an excess number of evenly matched applicants.

§ If, after completing the above-described second-tier process, there are still endorsements available, then the third tier of applicants – residents who do not qualify for priority status – will be considered. If there are more applicants than there are endorsements available for issue, the endorsements will be issued by lottery.

§ For the 6 PEL Restricted Finfish endorsements:

§ Two (2) will be made available to priority category 1A (holders of CFLs with Non-Restricted Finfish endorsements who have been actively fishing their licenses); Two (2) will be made available to priority category 1B (holders of PELs who have been actively fishing their licenses in any fishery other than finfish); and Two (2) will be made available to priority category 1C (crew members who have been actively participating in the finfish fishery).

§ Within each of the three categories, applicants will be prioritized based on the length of time they have been actively fishing or actively participating on a continuous basis.

§ If, in any of the three categories, there are fewer eligible applicants than there are endorsements available for issue, the balance will be evenly distributed among the other two categories.

§ If necessary, a lottery will be held to select among an excess number of evenly matched applicants.

§ If, after completing the above described first-tier process, there are still endorsements available, then the second tier of priority applicants will be considered. The balance of remaining endorsements will be evenly distributed among the two second-tier categories – i.e., category 2A (holders of CFLs, endorsed in any fishery, who have been actively fishing their licenses) and category 2B (crew members who have been actively participating in any fishery). Within each category, applicants will be prioritized based on the length of time they have been actively fishing or actively participating on a continuous basis. If, in either category, there are fewer eligible applicants than there are endorsements available for issue, the balance will be distributed to the other category. If necessary, a lottery will be held to select among an excess number of evenly matched applicants.

§ If, after completing the above-described second-tier process, there are still endorsements available, then the third tier of applicants – residents who do not qualify for priority status – will be considered. If there are more applicants than there are endorsements available for issue, the endorsements will be issued by lottery.

§ If, after completing the above-described third-tier process, there are still endorsements available, then the fourth tier of applicants – non-residents who do not qualify for priority status – will be considered. If there are more applicants than there are endorsements available for issue, the endorsements will be issued by lottery.



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Guidance for Applicants Seeking New Restricted Finfish Endorsements

2016

As described in the accompanying document entitled *New License/Endorsement Opportunities Available for 2016*, six (6) new Restricted Finfish endorsements on Principal Effort Licenses (PELs) will be issued for 2016. As further described in the accompanying document, priority will be given to certain applicants for these endorsements. This document provides step-by-step guidance for applicants seeking these new endorsements, including: how to determine if you may qualify for priority status and what you need to do to establish such status and properly submit an application. Residents and non-residents, aged 16 or older for residents, aged 18 or older for non residents, who do not qualify for priority status but still wish to obtain the new endorsement are still encouraged to apply (see sections VI and VII below), since there is a chance that non-priority resident and non-resident applicants will be given consideration, pending the outcome of the prioritization process.

Any questions regarding the application process should be directed to DEM's Office of Boat Registration & Licensing at 401-222-6647.

I. Priority Status under Category 1A

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, go to section VII below.
If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you held a Commercial Fishing License (CFL) with a Non-Restricted Finfish endorsement over the past two years – i.e., in 2014 and 2015?

If no, go to section II below.
If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your CFL – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records that you have sold authorized finfish to RI licensed dealers on at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years.]

If no, go to section II below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given top consideration for the new Restricted Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application

by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a new Restricted Finfish endorsement on a PEL license. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active holder of a CFL with a Non-Restricted Finfish endorsement. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing on a continuous basis, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been actively fishing your CFL. ***All transaction records will be subject to verification by the Department in accordance with dealer reports submitted to the Department via the SAFIS reporting system. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.***

II. Priority Status under Category 1B

Q: Have you held a Principal Effort License (PEL) over the past two years – i.e., in 2014 and 2015?

If no, go to section III below.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your PEL – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records (and/or verified dockside sales of lobsters or crabs) that you have sold authorized seafood to RI dealers on at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years.]

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given top consideration for the new Restricted Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a PEL with a Restricted Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active PEL holder, based on your activity over the past two years in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing on a continuous basis, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been actively fishing your PEL. ***All transaction records will be subject to verification by the Department in accordance with dealer reports submitted to the Department via the SAFIS reporting system (or, with regard to dockside sales of lobsters or crabs, per section 6.7-11(e) of the licensing regulations). DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.***

III. Priority Status under Category 1C

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday (for residents, 18th birthday for nonresidents), have you served as a crew member aboard one or more commercial fishing vessels engaged in the finfish fishery?

If no, go to section IV below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday (for residents, 18th birthday for non residents), have you been actively participating as a crew member – i.e., can you demonstrate via one or more affidavits signed by one or more RI licensed captains, that you have fished, resulting in RI landings, with that captain, or those captains, in the finfish fishery at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years; and all of the activity must have occurred subsequent to your 16th birthday for residents, 18th birthday for non residents.] Please be advised according to the Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations, (5.18) "Crew" is defined as an individual, aged (16) or older, employed for purposes of assisting in the operation of a commercial fishing vessel and its gear by another person licensed to fish commercially pursuant to these regulations. Applicants must submit a W2, 1099 or copies of checks or pay stubs to validate paid status. Failure to submit any of the required above documents will result in the applicant being excluded from this priority category.

If no, go to section IV below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given top consideration for the new Restricted Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a PEL with a Restricted Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active crew member, based on your activity in the finfish fishery. Along with your application, you must submit the affidavit(s) necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time, in years, they have been actively participating in the finfish fishery as crew members (aged 16 or older for residents, 18 or older for non residents), so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been employed in the fishery as a crew member (aged 16 or older, residents, 18 or older, non residents). ***All applicants should use the blank affidavit forms available from DEM (and posted on the website along with this document). All affidavits must be signed by licensed captains and notarized. Licensed captains must have held a RI commercial fishing license during the relevant period. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by one or more valid affidavits.***

IV. Priority Status under Category 2A

Q: Have you held a CFL with a Quahog, Shellfish Other, Soft-shell Clam, and/or Non-Lobster Crustacean endorsement over the past two years – i.e., in 2014 and 2015?

If no, go to section V below.

If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your CFL – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records (and/or verified dockside sales of crabs) that you have sold authorized seafood to RI licensed dealers on at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years.]

If no, go to section V below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given secondary consideration for the new Restricted Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016 indicating that you wish to obtain a new Restricted Finfish endorsement on a PEL. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active CFL holder. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing on a continuous basis, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been actively fishing your CFL. ***All transaction records will be subject to verification by the Department in accordance with dealer reports submitted to the Department via the SAFIS reporting system (or, with regard to dockside sales of lobsters or crabs, per section 6.7-11(e) of the licensing regulations). DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.***

V. Priority Status under Category 2B

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday (for residents, 18th birthday for non residents), have you served as a crew member aboard a commercial fishing vessel engaged in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries?

If no, go to section VI below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday (residents, 18th birthday for non residents), have you been actively participating as a crew member – i.e., can you demonstrate via one or more affidavits signed by one or more RI licensed captains, that you have fished, resulting in RI landings with that captain, or those captains, at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015 in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years; and all of the activity must have occurred subsequent to your 16th birthday for residents, 18th birthday for non residents.] Please be advised according to the Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations,

(5.18) "Crew" is defined as an individual, aged (16) or older, employed for purposes of assisting in the operation of a commercial fishing vessel and its gear by another person licensed to fish commercially pursuant to these regulations. Applicants must submit a W2, 1099 or copies of checks or pay stubs to validate paid status. Failure to submit any of the required above documents will result in the applicant being excluded from this priority category.

If no, go to section VI below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given secondary consideration for the new Restricted Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016 indicating that you wish to obtain a PEL with a Restricted Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active crew member, based on your activity in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries. Along with your application, you must submit the affidavit(s) necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively participating as crew members (aged 16 or older, residents, 18 or older, non residents), so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been employed as a crew member (aged 16 or older residents, 18 or older, non residents). ***All applicants should use the blank affidavit forms available from DEM (and posted on the website along with this document). All affidavits must be signed by licensed captains and notarized. Licensed captains must have held a RI commercial fishing license during the relevant period. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by one or more valid affidavits.***

VI. Priority Status under Category 3

Q: Are you a RI resident aged sixteen (16) or older?

If no, you do not qualify for a new Restricted Finfish endorsement.

If yes, as a RI resident aged 16 or older, you will be given consideration for the new Restricted Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. Pursuant to that process, if there are any endorsements remaining after the five priority categories are exhausted, they will be issued, by lottery if necessary, to resident applicants aged 16 or older who do not qualify for priority status. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a PEL with a Restricted Finfish endorsement.

VII. Priority Status under Category 4

Q: Are you a non-resident of RI aged eighteen (18) or older?

If no, you do not qualify for a new Restricted Finfish endorsement.

If yes, as a non-resident of RI aged 18 or older, you will be given consideration for the new Restricted Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. Pursuant to that process, if there are any endorsements remaining

after the six priority categories are exhausted, they will be issued, by lottery if necessary, to non-resident applicants aged 18 or older who do not qualify for priority status. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a PEL with a Restricted Finfish endorsement.



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Guidance for Applicants Seeking New Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam Endorsements

2016

As described in the accompanying document entitled *New License/Endorsement Opportunities Available for 2016*, thirty three (33) new Quahog endorsements and twelve (12) new Soft Shell Clam endorsements on Commercial Fishing Licenses (CFLs) will be issued for 2016. As further described in the accompanying document, priority will be given to certain applicants for these endorsements. This document provides step-by-step guidance for applicants seeking these new endorsements, including: how to determine if you may qualify for priority status and what you need to do to establish such status and properly submit an application. Residents, aged 16 or older, who do not qualify for priority status but still wish to obtain the new endorsement are still encouraged to apply (see section VI below), since there is a chance that non-priority resident applicants will be given consideration, pending the outcome of the prioritization process.

Any questions regarding the application process should be directed to DEM's Office of Boat Registration & Licensing at 401-222-6647.

I. Priority Status under Category 1A

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, you do not qualify for a new Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement.
If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you held a Commercial Fishing License (CFL) within the Shellfish Sector (endorsement category other than you are applying) over the past two years – i.e., in 2014 and 2015?

If no, go to section II below.
If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your CFL – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records that you have sold authorized seafood to RI licensed dealers on at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015 in the shellfish fishery ? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years.]

If no, go to section II below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given top consideration for the new Quahog endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a new Quahog

and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement on your CFL. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active holder of a CFL with a Quahog, Shellfish Other and/or Soft-Shell Clam (in Shellfish sector other than what you are applying for) endorsement. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing on a continuous basis, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been actively fishing your CFL. ***All transaction records will be subject to verification by the Department in accordance with dealer reports submitted to the Department via the SAFIS reporting system. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.***

II. Priority Status under Category 1B

Q: Have you held a Principal Effort License (PEL) over the past two years – i.e., in 2014 and 2015?

If no, go to section III below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your PEL – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records (and/or verified dockside sales of lobsters or crabs) that you have sold authorized seafood to RI licensed dealers at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years.]

If no, go to section III below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given top consideration for the new Quahog and/or Soft Shell endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Quahog endorsement and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active PEL holder, based on your activity over the past two years in the finfish, shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing on a continuous basis, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been actively fishing your PEL. ***All transaction records will be subject to verification by the Department in accordance with dealer reports submitted to the Department via the SAFIS reporting system (or, with regard to dockside sales of lobsters or crabs, per section 6.7-11(e) of the licensing regulations). DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.***

III. Priority Status under Category 1C

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday, have you served as a crew member aboard a commercial fishing vessel engaged in the shellfish fishery?

If no, go to section IV below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday, have you been actively participating as a crew member – i.e., can you demonstrate via one or more affidavits signed by one or more RI licensed captains, that you have fished, resulting in RI landings, with that captain, or those captains, in the shellfish fishery at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years; and all of the activity must have occurred subsequent to your 16th birthday.] Please be advised according to the Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations, (5.18) “Crew” is defined as an individual, aged (16) or older, employed for purposes of assisting in the operation of a commercial fishing vessel and its gear by another person licensed to fish commercially pursuant to these regulations. Applicants must submit a W2, 1099 or copies of checks or pay stubs to validate paid status. Failure to submit any of the required above documents will result in the applicant being excluded from this priority category.

If no, go to section IV below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given top consideration for the new Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active crew member, based on your activity in the shellfish fishery. Along with your application, you must submit the affidavit(s) necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time, in years, they have been actively participating in the shellfish fishery as crew members (aged 16 or older), so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been employed in the fishery as a crew member (aged 16 or older). ***All applicants should use the blank affidavit forms available from DEM (and posted on the website along with this document). All affidavits must be signed by licensed captains and notarized. Licensed captains must have held a RI commercial fishing license during the relevant period. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by one or more valid affidavits.***

IV. Priority Status under Category 2A

Q: Have you held a CFL with a Restricted Finfish, Non-Restricted Finfish, and/or Non-Lobster Crustacean endorsement over the past two years – i.e., in 2014 and 2015?

If no, go to section V below.

If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your CFL – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records (and/or verified dockside sales of crabs) that you have sold authorized seafood to RI licensed dealers on at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years.]

If no, go to section V below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given secondary consideration for the new Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a new Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement on your CFL. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active CFL holder. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively fishing on a continuous basis, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been actively fishing your CFL. ***All transaction records will be subject to verification by the Department in accordance with dealer reports submitted to the Department via the SAFIS reporting system (or, with regard to dockside sales of crabs, per section 6.7-11(e) of the licensing regulations). DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.***

V. Priority Status under Category 2B

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday, have you served as a crew member aboard a commercial fishing vessel engaged in the finfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries?

If no, go to section VI below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday, have you been actively participating as a paid crew member – i.e., can you demonstrate via one or more affidavits signed by one or more RI licensed captains, that you have fished, resulting in RI landings, with that captain, or those captains, at least 75 days during 2014 and 2015 engaged in the finfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries? [Note: the 75 days of activity must have spanned both calendar years, meaning that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years; and all of the activity must have occurred subsequent to your 16th birthday.] Please be advised according to the Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations, (5.18) “Crew” is defined as an individual, aged (16) or older, employed for purposes of assisting in the operation of a commercial fishing vessel and its gear by another person licensed to fish commercially pursuant to these regulations. Applicants must submit a W2, 1099 or copies of checks or pay stubs to validate paid status. Failure to submit any of the required above documents will result in the applicant being excluded from this priority category.

If no, go to section VI below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given secondary consideration for the new Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016 indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active crew member, based on your activity in the finfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries. Along with your application, you must submit the affidavit(s) necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively participating as crew members (aged 16 or older), so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been employed as a crew member (aged 16 or older). ***All applicants should use the blank affidavit forms available from DEM (and posted on the website along with this document). All affidavits must be signed by licensed captains and notarized. Licensed captains must have held a RI commercial fishing license during the relevant period. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority category any application that is not accompanied by one or more valid affidavits.***

VI. Priority Status under Category 3

Q: Are you a RI resident aged sixteen (16) or older?

If no, you do not qualify for a new Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement.

If yes, as a RI resident aged 16 or older, you will be given consideration for the new Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. Pursuant to that process, if there are any endorsements remaining after the five priority categories are exhausted, they will be issued, by lottery if necessary, to resident applicants aged 16 or older who do not qualify for priority status. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 29, 2016, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Quahog and/or Soft Shell Clam endorsement