

Attention License Holders

Please read carefully prior to renewing your marine license. The below changes relate to renewals only. (The Department will soon be announcing the availability of a limited number of new Quahog and Restricted Finfish endorsements for 2008 – this communication does not cover that issue.)

Changes Regarding Shellfish

Effective for the 2008 licensing year, the non-quahog shellfish endorsement is no longer a valid endorsement. There are now three shellfish endorsements: *Quahog*, *Soft-Shell Clam*, and *Other Shellfish*. For holders of PELs and CFLs, a *Quahog* endorsement is needed to harvest quahogs commercially, and a *Soft-Shell Clam* endorsement is needed to harvest soft-shell clams commercially. The *Other Shellfish* endorsement allows for the commercial harvest of shellfish species other than quahogs and soft-shell clams. There is a control date of 12/31/2007 for soft shell clams.

PEL and CFL applicants who held a *Quahog* endorsement in 2007 may renew that endorsement for 2008, as per prior years. There is no change regarding that endorsement category. [For PELs, the fee remains \$150 for the license, which includes one endorsement; no fee for those aged 65+. For CFLs, the fee remains \$50 for the license, plus \$25 for the endorsement.]

PEL applicants who held a *Quahog* and/or *Non-Quahog* endorsement in 2007 may also obtain a *Soft-Shell Clam* and/or *Other Shellfish* endorsement for 2008, at a fee of \$75 for each additional endorsement. [No fee for those aged 65+.]

CFL applicants who held a *Non-Quahog* endorsement in 2007 may also obtain a *Soft-Shell Clam* and/or *Other Shellfish* endorsement for 2008, at a fee of \$25 for each additional endorsement.

Multi-purpose (MPURP) license holders are not affected by any of these changes relating to shellfish.

Changes Regarding Gear Endorsements

Effective for the 2008 license year, there are two new gear endorsements: *Purse Seine* and *Mid-Water/Pair Trawl*. There is a control date of 12/31/2007 for both new gear endorsements

Any MPURP license holder, or any CFL or PEL holder (resident and non residents) who possesses, or obtains, a restricted and/or non restricted finfish endorsements and wishes to deploy either a purse seine and/or a mid-water/pair trawl, must obtain either or both of the applicable endorsements for 2008. It will be illegal to employ either of these gear types in RI waters in 2008 unless the applicable gear endorsement is obtained with the license during the license application/renewal period. There is a fee of \$20 for each endorsement. Holders of the endorsements must meet various terms and conditions before deploying the gear; consult Section 6.8-7 of DEM's *Rules and Regulations Governing Marine Fisheries Management* (December 7, 2007) for details.

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Please make the choices directly on the renewal application forms and submit the appropriate fees. If you have any questions, please contact the Office at (401) 222-6647. Thank you.