



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management
Office of Boat Registration and Licensing
235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767
Third Floor, Room 360

2026 New License Opportunities, Non-Resident Marine License Application

Customer ID: _____ Office Use only
Applicant Mailing Address **Residence Address**
Name: _____ Street: _____
Street: _____ City: _____ State ____ Zip _____
City: _____ State ____ Zip _____
DOB: _____ E Mail Address: _____
Height: _____ Weight: _____
Hair Color: _____ Eye Color: _____
Drivers License #/ Exp Date: _____ Occupation: _____

Has your commercial fishing license and/or permit been revoked or suspended in any state or jurisdiction?
☐ Yes ☐ No (Check One)

***** (APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 02/28/2026) *****

Reporting Method - Mandatory	Check Reporting Method	2026 Available Licenses/Endorsements		
Logbook \$25.00		Non-Resident Standard Fishing License – Fee Includes Endorsement		\$700.00
VTR \$0.00		Available Endorsements		
Electronic \$0.00			Unlimited Finfish (15)	\$0.00
			Logbook	\$25.00
		Buoy Colors:		

A total of Fifteen (15) Unlimited Finfish Endorsements and Twenty-One (21) Unlimited Shellfish Endorsements (resident only) will be issued on the Standard Fishing License in 2026. Application period runs January 1, 2026 through February 28, 2026. All determinations on the available endorsements will be made after the application deadline date of 2/28/2026. **DO NOT submit a check with this application.** The license/endorsement fee will be charged only if you are a successful applicant. You must submit a cover letter and justification as to your eligibility for this endorsement along with this application per criteria set forth in the Commercial & Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations. Prior paperwork submissions do not apply. **Please read all guidance document material prior to submission of this application and all supporting documentation.**

Note: You must complete requirements of Taxation Certification & submit along with this application for marine License.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to qualify for a non-resident license.

All vessels engaged in the RI fisheries must be commercially declared.

Under penalty of perjury, I declare I the information contained herein is true and accurate.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Notary Public: _____ Comm. Exp. _____
Applicant's Telephone #: _____

Note: Licensed fishers are obligated to comply with possession limits for finfish as provided in the Marine Fisheries listserve, dedicated phone line at (401) 423-1920, or webpage at: <https://dem.ri.gov/marinesizes>



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Taxation Certification Requirements

A new state law, enacted in 2004, requires everyone applying for any 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. Accordingly, all applicants for new or renewed commercial fishing licenses must first complete one of the following two requirements:

- a) Sign a Taxation Certification, certifying compliance with all state tax obligations as noted above; the form must also include the applicant's social security number or FEIN, or
- b) Furnish a Letter of Good Standing from the Tax Administrator. (401)574-8756.

The Taxation Certification form is available from DEM; it may be completed at the counter while applying for a license or may be filled out online and submitted as part of the online renewal process. Letters of Good Standing must be obtained from the RI Division of Taxation, Collections Division, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 (401) 574-8756. **DEM will not issue any new or renewed license until the applicant has submitted a properly completed Taxpayer Affidavit or a Letter of Good Standing.**

Any questions regarding the new tax law should be directed to the RI Division of Taxation at 401-574-8941.



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Taxpayer Certification

You are required to furnish your Social Security # or FEIN pursuant to Chapter 76 of Title 5 and Chapter 3 of Title 31 of the RI General Laws, as amended. Any person applying for any license or permit to conduct a business or occupation within Rhode Island or any person renewing a motor vehicle operator's license or motor vehicle registration within Rhode Island must have filed all required state tax returns and paid all taxes due the state or must have entered into a written installment agreement to pay delinquent state taxes that is satisfactory to the Tax Administrator. Failure to provide the

Department with your Social Security # or FEIN will result in you having to obtain a Letter of Good Standing from the RI Division of Taxation, One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908 **PRIOR** to the issuance or renewal of your license. If you have any questions regarding your tax status, please contact Taxation directly at 401-574-8941.

I hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I have filed all required state tax returns and have either paid all taxes due the state or have entered into a written installment agreement with the Rhode Island Division of Taxation.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Social Security # or FEIN _____

Marine License # _____



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New Marine License/Endorsement Opportunities Available for 2026

For the 2026 licensing year, there will be several new license/endorsement opportunities available. The new, openly available licenses are listed below. The application period for all new licenses is January 1 – February 28, 2026, Student Shellfish License holders have until June 30, 2026.

- 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 2026 Resident or Non-Resident Standard Fishing License Application & submit along with corresponding fee to the DEM Office of Boat Registration & Licensing no later than February 28, 2026.
- Student Shellfish License, available to any resident who is a full-time student and 23 years of age or younger as of 6/30/2026.
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, 2026.
- Over 65 Shellfish License, available to any resident who is 65 years of age or older as of 2/28/2026.
Please complete the 2026 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 28, 2026.
- Resident Green Crab License, available to any RI Resident
Please complete the 2026 Resident Green Crab License Application and submit along with corresponding fee to the DEM Office of Boat Registration & Licensing no later than February 28, 2026.

Additional Standard Fishing Licenses/Endorsement opportunities are being made available for 2026 via the priority selection process. A total of Twenty-One (21) 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 Fifteen (15) 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 2026 New License Opportunity Application and submit along with all supporting documentation to the DEM Office of Boat Registration & Licensing no later than February 28, 2026.

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 vessels employed in the commercial fishery must be declared with the Department, application link, Commercial Vessel Declaration/Boat Plate Application: <https://dem.ri.gov/management-services/commercial-marine-license-forms>

All applications & supporting documentation must be mailed, or hand delivered by February 28, 2025 to the DEM, Office of Boat Registration & Licensing 235 Promenade St., Room 360 Providence, RI 02908-5767, 401-222-6647.



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***Guidance for Applicants Seeking New Standard Fishing Licenses
with Unlimited Finfish Endorsement***

2026

As described in the accompanying document entitled *New Standard Fishing License/Endorsement Opportunities Available for 2026*, Fifteen (15) new Standard Fishing Licenses with Unlimited Finfish endorsement will be issued in 2026. As further described in the accompanying document, priority will be given to certain applicants for these endorsements. This document provides guidance for applicants seeking the new Standard Fishing License and endorsement, 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 by February 28, 2026. Residents and nonresidents aged eighteen and older 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. All applications & supporting documentation must be mailed, or hand delivered by February 28, 2026 to the DEM, Office of Boat Registration & Licensing 235 Promenade St., Room 360 Providence, RI 02908-5767.

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 Standard Fishing License (RSTND) with limited finfish endorsement over the past two years – i.e., in 2024 and 2025?

If no, go to section II below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your Resident Standard Fishing license (RSTND) in the limited finfish sector – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records that you have sold authorized limited finfish to RI licensed dealers on at least 40 days during 2024 and 2025? [Note: the 40 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 Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2026, indicating that you wish to obtain a new Standard Fishing license with Unlimited Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active holder of a RSTND with a limited 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 RSTND. ***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 been actively fishing a Resident Standard Fishing License (RSTND) in another Unlimited fishery sector other than finfish over the past two years – i.e., in 2024 and 2025?

If no, go to section III below.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your Resident Standard Fishing License (RSTND) in another Unlimited fishery sector – 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 40 days during 2024 and 2025? [Note: the 40 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 Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2026, indicating that you wish to obtain a Standard Fishing License with an Unlimited Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active RSTND holder, based on your activity over the past two years in any fishery. 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 RSTND. ***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 in 2024, per section 2.7.5 D 1 (2) 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. Third Priority Status under Category 1C

Q: Subsequent to your 16th birthday for residents, 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, 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 40 days during 2024 and 2025? [Note: the 40 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. Please be advised according to the Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations, Part 1, Section 1.7 – “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 for each year worked 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, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given top consideration for the new Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2026, indicating that you wish to obtain a Standard Fishing License with an Unlimited Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as a resident 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 along with a W2, 1099, or copies of checks or pay stubs for each year worked. 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, 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.). ***All applicants must use the blank Department 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 RSTND, NRSTND or MPURP 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 RSTND with an Unlimited/Limited Shellfish or Unlimited/Limited crustacean endorsement over the past two years – i.e., in 2024 and 2025?

If no, go to section V below.

If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your RSTND– 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 40 days during 2024 and 2025? [Note: the 40 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 Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2026 indicating that you wish to obtain a new Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active RSTND 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 RSTND. ***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 in 2024, per section 2.7.5 D 1 (2) 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, 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, 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 40 days during 2024 and 2025 in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries? [Note: the 40 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.] Please be advised according to the Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations, Part I Section 1.7 – “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 for each year worked 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, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given secondary consideration for the new Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement, in

accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2026 indicating that you wish to obtain a Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active Crewmember, 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 along with a W2, 1099 or copies of checks or pay stubs for each year worked. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time they have been actively participating as crew members (aged 16 or older, 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). ***All applicants must use the blank Department 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 RSTND, NRSTND or MPURP 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. Third Priority Status under Category 3

Q: Are you a person that falls under the categories below?

- A. A resident active member of the military (must provide copy of current Military ID #)
- B. A resident military Veteran who has been honorably discharged (must provide form DD-214 or other approved document from RI Department of Veterans Affairs.)
- C. A resident person that holds a valid certificate from an accredited commercial fishing apprenticeship program approved by the Department (Must provide copy of certificate of completion of program.)

If no, go to section VII below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this category and will be given tertiary consideration for the new Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2026 indicating that you wish to obtain a Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active military, veteran, or accredited apprentice, based on meeting the appropriate qualification above. Along with your application, you must submit either a copy of your current active military ID, or a copy of form DD-214 or other approved document from the RI Department of Veterans Affairs, or a copy of a certificate of completion from a Department approved commercial fishing apprenticeship program to qualify for priority status.

VII. Priority Status under Category 4

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

If no, go to section VIII below.

If yes, as a RI resident aged 18 or older, you will be given consideration for the new Standard Fishing License with Unlimited 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 18 or older who do not qualify for priority status.

To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2026, indicating that you wish to obtain a Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement.

VIII. Priority Status under Category 5

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

If yes, as a non-resident of RI aged 18 or older, you will be given consideration for the new Standard Fishing License with Unlimited 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 above 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 28, 2026, indicating that you wish to obtain a Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Finfish endorsement.