



**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, Resident Marine License Application**

CID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Use only

**Applicant Mailing Address**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ RI 02 \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_

RI Driver's License #/Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Residence Address (Cannot be a PO Box)**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ RI 02 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Has your commercial fishing license and/or permit been revoked or suspended in any state or jurisdiction?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

Are you an active member of the military? ☐ Yes ☐ No To qualify, you must submit copy of Military ID

Are you an honorably discharged veteran? ☐ Yes ☐ No To qualify, you must submit copy of DD214

Do you hold a valid certificate from an accredited commercial apprenticeship approved by the Dept? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

		2026 Available Licenses/Endorsements		
Reporting Method Required	Check Below	Standard Fishing License-		\$
Logbook \$25.00		Endorsements		
VTR \$0.00		Check one or both below	Description	Fee
Electronic \$0.00			Unlimited Shellfish (21)	\$
			Unlimited Finfish (15)	\$
			Buoy Colors:	

A total of Twenty-One (21) new Unlimited Shellfish (resident only) & Fifteen (15) Unlimited Finfish Endorsements on the Standard Fishing License will be issued in 2026. Application period runs 01/01/2026 through 02/28/2026. All determinations on the available endorsements will be made after the application deadline date of 02/28/26. Please use this license application only for the new license opportunity issuance. The license/endorsement fees will be charged only if you are a successful applicant.

**Please DO NOT submit a check with this license application.** The fee (if awarded license) for the Standard Fishing License with one Unlimited Endorsement is \$300.00, the fee for the Standard Fishing License with two Unlimited Endorsements is \$375.00. You must submit a cover letter along with justification with this application as to your eligibility for the endorsement(s) per criteria set forth in the Commercial & Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations. Prior paperwork submissions do not qualify.

**Please read all guidance document materials prior to submission of this application along with all supporting documentation.**

Notes: You must complete requirements of Taxation Certification & submit along with this application for marine license. All vessels engaged in the RI commercial fisheries must be declared.

RIGL §20-1-3(10) "Resident" means an individual who has had his or her actual place of residence and has lived in the state of Rhode Island for a continuous period of not less than six (6) months.

Under penalty of perjury, I declare I am a Rhode Island resident and the information contained herein is true and accurate.

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>. Licensed shellfishers are obligated to comply with conditional closure areas as provided on DEM's dedicated phone line at (401) 222-2900. All Standard Fishing License holders with the Unlimited Shellfish endorsement must complete the 30-minute online shellfish tutorial located <https://www.ri.gov/dem/training/shellfish/> prior to the issuance of the license.



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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

2026 Department Affidavit  
In Support of a  
Standard Fishing License to the RI Department of Environmental Management

To establish priority status as an active, paid resident crew member, an applicant for a Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Shellfish and/or Unlimited Finfish must be able to demonstrate via one or more Affidavits signed by one or more RI licensed Captains that he or she fished with that Captain, or those Captains, at least 40 days during 2024 and 2025. [Note: the 40 days of activity must be documented by dated transaction records that demonstrate that the Captain (s) have sold authorized seafood to RI Licensed Dealers on at least 40 days and that some activity must have occurred in each of the two calendar years. Also, all of the activity must have occurred subsequent to the applicant's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Also: Captains must have held a valid RSTND, NRSTND or MPURP license during the relevant fishing period as well as having the vessel commercially declared. Additionally, crew members will be required to submit proof of being paid by the Captain (s) by submitting a W-2 form, 1099 form and/or paycheck stub (s) from a financial institution for each year worked along with the New License Opportunity Application by February 28, 2026.

***I hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am a RI licensed commercial fisherman, that I serve as the Captain of the commercial fishing vessel(s) identified below, and that \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of crew member) has served as a paid crew member on my boat(s) during 2024 and/or 2025 for the period indicated below. Please make note of additional years worked and days fished for each year (if applicable) on the reverse side of this Affidavit. Applicants must submit a W2, 1099 or copies of checks or pay stubs to validate paid status for each year worked. Failure to submit any of the required above documents along with the New License Opportunity Application will result in the applicant being excluded from this priority category.***

***I understand that fraud on the part of any existing license holder, including, but not limited to a Captain who signs an Affidavit in support of a claim of paid 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 and will deem crew member ineligible for consideration of new license/endorsement. I have reviewed this Affidavit with my crew member and we agree all information contained herein is valid.***

Name of Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Captain & contact telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Number (s) of Declared Vessel (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Fishery in which Applicant was/is Engaged as crew member: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of activity {check either box; if second box is checked, provide estimate for # of days}:

- ☐ Applicant fished with me at least 40 days during 2024 and 2025.  
☐ Applicant fished with me \_\_\_\_\_ days during 2024 and/or \_\_\_\_\_ days during 2025.

***This Affidavit must be notarized (Captain's signature requires Notary Public):***

Sworn to before me a Notary Public this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires



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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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

**2026**

As described in the accompanying document entitled *New Standard Fishing License/Endorsement Opportunities Available for 2026*, Twenty-One (21) new Resident Standard Fishing Licenses with Unlimited Shellfish 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 aged eighteen or 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 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 previously held a Resident Standard Fishing License RSTND with limited shellfish 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 shellfish sector – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records that you have sold authorized shellfish 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 Shellfish 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 Shellfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active holder of a Resident Standard Fishing License with a Limited Shellfish 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 shellfish 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 in 2024) 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 Shellfish 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 Shellfish 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. Priority Status under Category 1C**

Q: Subsequent to your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday for residents, have you served as a crew member aboard one or more commercial fishing vessels engaged in the shellfish fishery?

If no, go to section IV below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Subsequent to your 16<sup>th</sup> 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 sector 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Shellfish 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 Shellfish 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 Department 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 shellfish 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). ***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 RI 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 Finfish, 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 Shellfish 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 Shellfish 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, 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: Are you a resident who subsequent to your 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 finfish 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 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.] Please be advised according to the Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Licensing Regulations, Part1 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 Shellfish 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 Shellfish 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 Department 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), 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 Captain(s) and notarized. Licensed Captain(s) 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. Priority Status under Category 3**

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

- A. A resident active member of the military (must provide 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 Shellfish 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 Shellfish 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, you do not qualify for a new Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Shellfish endorsement.

If yes, as a RI resident aged 18 or older, you will be given consideration for the new Standard Fishing License with Unlimited Shellfish 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 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 Shellfish endorsement.



**Rhode Island**

**Department of Environmental Management**

**Office of Boat Registration and Licensing**

235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767  
Third Floor, Room 360

## RI Shellfish Harvester Education & Certification Program

January 2026

DEM launched an education and certification program in 2018 that is mandatory for everyone who commercially harvests and lands shellfish in RI. The goal of the program is to ensure that shellfish harvesters deliver a safe product to shellfish dealers and, in turn, to shellfish consumers. **This course must be completed prior to the issuance of a new shellfish license/endorsement.**

**In accordance with US FDA requirements and new regulations adopted by DEM in 2018, holders of all applicable commercial licenses and landing permits must obtain certification via the new program. Applicants must submit a Certificate of Completion prior to license issuance (new applicants only).**

The certification requirement applies to:

- All holders of commercial shellfish licenses -- i.e., Standard Fishing Licenses with Unlimited Shellfish endorsement; Over 65 Shellfish Licenses, and Student Shellfish Licenses.
- All holders of Multipurpose Licenses who harvest shellfish; and
- All holders of Landing Permits who land shellfish.

The certification requirement applies to both License/Permit renewals and new Licenses/Permits, beginning in 2018. Certification is valid for 5 years, after which re-certification will be required.

### **To obtain certification:**

**Complete a 30-minute online tutorial, which is available here:**

<https://www.ri.gov/dem/training/shellfish/>



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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.