

# RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Division of Marine Fisheries

---

### Pre-hearing Workshop

April 27, 2020



# Goals of the workshop



- Provide a forum for DMF to provide currently available information and rationale for each matter being considered for amendment.
- Provide a summary presentation of the proposals currently being considered.
- Provide a forum for interested persons to offer new proposals and/or revisions to proposals being considered, or to narrow down general management considerations into specific proposals; to obtain consensus when achievable.
- **IMPORTANT!** The workshop is not an official record of the public hearing. Comments on noticed proposals and/or alternative proposals must be made during the public comment period.

# Dates to remember



- **March 9:** Pre-hearing workshop.
- **April 27:** Pre-hearing workshop.
- **TBD:** Public Notice.
- **TBD:** End of public comment period.
- **TBD:** June RI Marine Fisheries Council.
- **Note:** Due to the Covid-19 emergency, there is no hearing planned. A hearing will only be held if requested by 25 or more persons, or by a group representing 25 or more persons, pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act § 42-35-2.8. If no hearing is held, comments may be submitted, as is standard procedure, in writing/email during the public comment period. Any request for a hearing must be made w/i 10 days of the date of the notice.
- Interested persons are strongly encouraged to speak with DMF staff as needed to fully understand proposals.

# Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate Program



## Background:

- Exemption Certificate program was created in 1996 to safeguard the RI Summer Flounder quota for RI residents.
- There has been no programmatic updates to align the program with management and fishery changes.
- Closed program does not foster new entrants into fishery that has significantly evolved since the programs inception.
- Current program does not allow for the flexibility needed by industry.
- Number of valid certificates is unclear. Many current certificates may be invalid according to rule and need to be reviewed and substantiated.

# Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate Program



## Proposal: Phased approach.

- **Phase 1:** Establish a new Certificate renewal process to renew existing valid certificates and identify invalid certificates.
  - Certificates could be deemed invalid due to improper vessel transfer, dropping of federal summer flounder fishing permit, etc.
  - Establish a renewal application form and required information.
  - Establish date of July 1, 2020 for the Department to notify current Certificate holders of renewal application deadline.
  - Establish renewal application deadline of September 1, 2020.
  - Re-issuance to vessels only, not individuals.
  - Denial of applications for certificates deemed invalid. Utilize existing appeal process.
  - Require annual renewal in short-term (longer timeframe in Phase 3).

# Summer Flounder Exemption Certificate Program



## **Phase 2:**

- Address additional industry proposals regarding fluke exemption certificates.

## **Phase 3:**

- Determine if the issuance of new Certificates is warranted:
  - Establish criteria and application process for the issuance of new Certificates.
  - Establish prioritization process, lottery or exit/entry type ratio could be considered.

End of Slides!



CoolClips.com