

Order of the Commissioner Concerning Licensure of Commercial Fishermen

On June 29, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7DDD, wherein each commissioner was authorized to extend, as deemed reasonably necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic or its effects, any statutory or regulatory time requirements, decision-making requirements, hearings, or other time limitations or deadlines, procedures or legal process pertaining to matters under their respective jurisdiction, functions or powers for a period not to exceed 90 days, retroactive to June 28, 2020. Commissioners were authorized to issue any orders necessary to implement and effectuate the purposes of the Governor's Executive Order No. 7DDD. Commissioners are required to publicly post and maintain such orders on their respective websites.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 7M, dated March 25, 2020, action had already been taken by the Commissioner on two earlier occasions to allow additional time, through June 28, 2020, for commercial fishermen to renew their licenses. Today's order will extend the time for renewal of commercial fishermen licenses to September 9, 2020.

Commercial Fishing Licenses

In accordance with the authority granted pursuant to Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7DDD, dated June 29, 2020, I hereby order a third temporary waiver of the requirement set forth in section 26-142a(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes that the commissioner shall not renew any limited access commercial fishing license, the application and payment of which is received or postmarked after the March 31, 2020 application deadline. As authorized under the Governor's executive order, effective retroactively to June 28, 2020, I am extending this waiver, without additional approvals, until September 9, 2020, to avoid permanent forfeiture of those licenses due to the disruption of the commercial fishing license renewal process. Work of commercial fishing lends itself to the practice of social distancing.

I am retaining the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke a particular commercial fishing license or commercial fishing vessel permit pursuant to Sec. 26-142a of the Connecticut General Statutes. The relief provided pursuant to this waiver does not apply retroactively to commercial fishing licenses or permits which were permanently forfeited due to failure to renew by the application deadline in years prior to 2020. This relief also does not waive the requirements set forth in Sec. 26-142a for commercial fishermen to possess prescribed licenses and permits to engage in commercial fishing activity.

So ordered this 15th day of July, 2020.



Commissioner Katie S. Dykes