



## **MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION CIRCULAR**

### **Connecticut Commercial and Recreational Fishing**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: CHANGES MAY BE MADE DURING THE YEAR THAT WON'T BE REFLECTED IN THIS CIRCULAR.**

This circular is provided to inform commercial and recreational license holders about Connecticut statutes and regulations governing the taking of lobsters, marine and anadromous finfish, squid, whelk (conch) and crabs using commercial fishing gear or for commercial purposes. For information pertaining to oysters, clams and bay scallops, contact local town clerks or the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture (203-874-0696).

The circular is intended to be a layman's summary of important rules and policies. The circular does not provide the exact wording of statutes or regulations or an exhaustive list of all pertinent statute and regulations. Interpretation or explanation of the material contained herein may be obtained from a CT DEEP Environmental Conservation Police Officer or staff from the CT DEEP Marine Fisheries Program:

**DEEP Marine Fisheries Program (860-434-6043) [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov)**

**DEEP Marine Environmental Conservation Police (860-434-9840) [deep.dispatch@ct.gov](mailto:deep.dispatch@ct.gov)**

For exact wording of regulations and statutes, please see:

- Commissioner Declarations: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Commissioner-Declarations>
- Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies: <https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal>
- Connecticut General Statutes: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/titles.htm>

License applications: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-FishingLicense>. Completed applications can be mailed or brought in-person to:

- **DEEP Licensing and Revenue Unit, P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371**  
Phone: 860-447-4300 [sportsmen.licensing@ct.gov](mailto:sportsmen.licensing@ct.gov)
- **DEEP Licensing and Revenue Unit, 79 Elm Street, First Floor, Hartford, Connecticut 06106**  
Phone: 860-434-3105 [sportsmen.licensing@ct.gov](mailto:sportsmen.licensing@ct.gov)

**Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

Bureau of Natural Resources

Marine Fisheries Program

333 Ferry Road

P.O. Box 719

Old Lyme, CT 06371

[deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov)

<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/ct-fishing>

## Staying informed

The Marine Fisheries Program offers several options for the public to stay informed regarding commercial fisheries management, including in-season possession and landing limit adjustments for quota managed species, notice of public hearings, reminders of open/closed seasons and other pertinent information.

### **Please use one or more of the following methods to stay informed:**

1. Join our email distribution list (listserv). To do this:
  - Address an email to [listserv@list.ct.gov](mailto:listserv@list.ct.gov).
  - You may leave the subject line blank.
  - In the body of the email, type the words: *subscribe DEEP\_marine\_fisheries* then leave one space and then type in your full name (all of this must appear on the same line).
  - **Note:** If you have an e-mail signature, header, and/or footer set up to be automatically included in your emails, you will need to delete these before sending the subscribe request.
  - After you send the email, you will receive an email indicating that you have successfully subscribed to the listserv.
2. Check the current commercial fishery trip limits for Connecticut by visiting the commercial trip limits webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL>
3. Call our 24-hour Commercial Fishery Possession Limit Phone Line at 860-434-6374 to hear a recording of the current quota managed species (summer flounder, scup and black sea bass) trip limits and other recent changes.
4. Call the Marine Fisheries Program at 860-434-6043 between the hours of 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

**The Marine Fisheries Program does not routinely distribute notices through broad postal mailings.** Please take advantage of the methods provided above to stay current on commercial fishing related news and information in our state.

If you have any questions or problems joining the email distribution list, contact the Marine Fisheries Program by phone at 860-434-6043 or by email: [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov).

## Table of Contents

<b>MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION CIRCULAR</b> .....	<b>I</b>
<b>STAYING INFORMED</b> .....	<b>II</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>III</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	<b>V</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	<b>V</b>
<b>GENERAL PROVISIONS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>WHAT TYPE OF LICENSE DO I NEED?</b> .....	<b>3</b>
RECREATIONAL FISHING .....	3
COMMERCIAL FISHING .....	3
FOR-HIRE FISHING, ECO-TOURISM .....	3
<b>OPEN ACCESS LICENSES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
RESTRICTED COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE .....	5
COMMERCIAL WHELK (CONCH) FISHING LICENSE .....	5
COMMERCIAL BLUE CRAB FISHING LICENSE .....	5
COMMERCIAL SHAD FISHING LICENSE .....	6
COMMERCIAL LANDING VESSEL OPERATOR’S LICENSE .....	7
COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL PERMIT .....	7
RESTRICTED COMMERCIAL LOBSTER POT FISHING LICENSE.....	8
COMMERCIAL BAIT FISHING LICENSE .....	7
MARINE POUND NET REGISTRATION .....	8
<b>LIMITED ACCESS LICENSES</b> .....	<b>9</b>
PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE .....	9
COMMERCIAL LOBSTER POT FISHING LICENSE .....	9
GENERAL COMMERCIAL FISHING (FINFISH) LICENSE, CREEL LIMITED (LICENSE HOLDERS CANNOT EXCEED SPORT FISHERY CREEL LIMITS WHEN USING HOOKS.) .....	10
GENERAL COMMERCIAL FISHING (FINFISH) LICENSE, NON-CREEL LIMITED (LICENSE HOLDERS CAN EXCEED SPORT FISHERY CREEL LIMITS WHEN USING HOOKS.) .....	10
QUOTA-MANAGED SPECIES ENDORSEMENTS.....	11
<b>COMMERCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>ELECTRONIC REPORTING</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>DEALER (RESALE) LICENSES</b> .....	<b>12</b>
SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSE.....	12
BAIT DEALER LICENSE.....	13
<b>FOR-HIRE REGISTRATIONS &amp; PERMITS</b> .....	<b>14</b>
PARTY OR CHARTER FISHING VESSEL REGISTRATION .....	14
HUNTING AND FISHING GUIDE REGISTRATION.....	15
ENVIRONMENTAL TOURISM VESSEL PERMIT .....	15
<b>PERSONAL USE LICENSES</b> .....	<b>15</b>
PERSONAL USE LOBSTER FISHING LICENSE .....	15
PERSONAL USE GILL NET FISHING LICENSE (FOR MENHADEN ONLY) .....	16
<b>GENERAL PROVISIONS – RECREATIONAL FISHING</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>GENERAL PROVISIONS – LOBSTERS</b> .....	<b>17</b>
SEASON .....	17
LICENSE REQUIREMENTS .....	17
TRAP TAGS.....	18
GEAR RESTRICTIONS .....	18
POSSESSION RESTRICTIONS .....	18

<b>GENERAL PROVISIONS – COMMERCIAL FINFISH.....</b>	<b>19</b>
PROHIBITED FINFISH GEAR TYPES .....	19
MINIMUM LENGTHS .....	20
MESH OF NETS IN CONNECTICUT WATERS.....	20
<i>Trawl Nets</i> .....	20
<i>Pounds, Trap nets, Fyke Nets, Weirs</i> .....	21
<i>Seines</i> .....	22
<i>Gill Nets</i> .....	22
<i>Scoop Nets for Taking American Shad</i> .....	22
<i>Minnow Seines and Traps</i> .....	22
<i>For Taking Only the Bait Species Listed in Appendix IV: Bait Species, see page 35.</i> .....	22
FISH POTS .....	22
CONSTRUCTION OF MINNOW TRAPS .....	22
WHELK POTS.....	22
AREAS OF THE INLAND DISTRICT OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING.....	23
<i>Connecticut River System</i> .....	23
<i>Housatonic River System</i> .....	23
<i>Quinnipiac River System</i> .....	23
<i>Thames River System</i> .....	23
<i>Quinebaug River System</i> .....	23
<i>French River System</i> .....	23
<i>Shetucket River System</i> .....	24
SPECIES–SPECIFIC AREA RESTRICTIONS .....	24
AREAS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING.....	24
SEASONS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING .....	25
PROHIBITED SPECIES .....	25
<i>Alewives and Blueback (River) Herring (Alosa pseudoharengus, Alosa aestivalis)</i> .....	25
<i>Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar)</i> .....	25
<i>Atlantic Sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus)</i> .....	25
<i>Rainbow smelt (Osmerus mordax)</i> .....	25
<i>Shark Species</i> .....	25
<i>Shortnose Sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum)</i> .....	26
<i>Trout / Charr</i> .....	26
SPECIES RESTRICTIONS .....	26
<i>American Eel (Anguilla rostrata)</i> .....	26
<i>American Shad (Alosa sapidissima)</i> .....	26
<i>Atlantic Herring (Clupea harengus)</i> .....	26
<i>Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS)</i> .....	26
<i>Include tunas, swordfish, sharks and billfishes. These species are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce, with consideration for the domestic and international aspects of these fisheries.</i> .....	26
<i>Bait Species (Including: Tidewater silverside, Atlantic silverside, Sand lance or Sand eel and Bay anchovy)</i> ..	27
<i>Black Sea Bass (Centropristis striata)</i> .....	27
<i>Blue Crabs (Callinectes sapidus)</i> .....	27
<i>Bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix)</i> .....	27
<i>Catfish Species</i> .....	28
<i>Coastal Sharks</i> .....	28
<i>Horseshoe Crabs (Limulus polyphemus)</i> .....	28
<i>Jonah Crab (Cancer borealis)</i> .....	29
<i>Monkfish (Lophius americanus)</i> .....	29
<i>Scup (porgy) (Stenotomus chrysops)</i> .....	29
<i>Smooth Dogfish (Mustelus canis)</i> .....	29
<i>Spiny Dogfish (Squalus acanthias)</i> .....	29
<i>Striped Bass (Morone saxatilis)</i> .....	29
<i>Summer Flounder (fluke) (Paralichthys dentatus)</i> .....	30
<i>Tautog (blackfish) (Tautoga onitis)</i> .....	30
<i>Whelk (conch), Channeled and Knobbed (Busycotypus canaliculatus and Busycon carica)</i> .....	31
<i>Winter Flounder (Pseudopleuronectes americanus)</i> .....	31

MULTI-STATE COMMERCIAL POSSESSION PROGRAM FOR SUMMER FLOUNDER DURING THE WINTER 1 PERIOD (JANUARY – APRIL).....	31
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE .....	33
APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE .....	33
APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS.....	34
APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES .....	35
APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT .....	36
APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS .....	36
APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED .....	37
APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE.....	37
APPENDIX IX: TRAWL NET MESH SIZE .....	38
APPENDIX X: GLOSSARY OF COMMERCIAL FISHERY LICENSING RELATED TERMS.....	39

## List of Tables

Table 1. Summary of license names and annual renewal requirements.....	1
Table 2. License Type Required by Activity .....	4
Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths specified in Current Commissioner Declarations: .....	20
Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing.....	25
Table 5. Demarcations between the Marine and Inland Districts .....	34
Table 6. Points Defining the Connecticut State Waters Boundary Line.....	37

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Trawl Net Mesh Size Options .....	38
Figure 2. Summer Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits .....	38
Figure 3. Winter Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits .....	38
Figure 4. Scup Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits .....	38
Figure 5. Black Sea Bass Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits .....	38



## General Provisions

1. **Important Licensing Changes:** The Horseshoe Crab hand harvest license was eliminated in 2024 through Public Act 23-6.
2. **License Moratorium:** Through Public Act 15-52 of the Connecticut General Assembly, the issuing of Principal Commercial Fishing Licenses (lobster pot fishing, otter trawling) Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing Licenses, and General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) Licenses (gill nets, commercial angling, fish pots, eel pots, trap nets, beach seines, scoop nets for commercial purposes) is prohibited unless the *applicant*: (1) held such a license or registration from June 1, 1995, through December 31, 2003, (2) purchased that license by March 31 of the previous year, and (3) designated for that license a primary vessel for which a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit had been purchased by December 31 of the previous year. Specific exceptions apply in the case of permanent transfers of a Principal Commercial Fishing License, a Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License, or a General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License. In cases of temporary incapacity of the license holder, the commissioner may temporarily reissue a license to a member of the license holder's immediate family or to a crew member.

**Table 1.** Summary of license names and annual renewal requirements.

License Name	Access	Renewal Deadline	Page
Commercial Landing Vessel Operator	Open	None	5
Restricted Commercial Fishing	Open	None	5
Restricted Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing <sup>2</sup>	Open	None	8
Whelk Fishing	Open	None	5
Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit	Open	<b>December 31<sup>1</sup></b>	7
Principal Commercial Fishing <sup>1</sup>	<b>Limited</b>	<b>March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	9
Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing <sup>1</sup>	<b>Limited</b>	<b>March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	9
General Commercial Fishing <sup>1</sup>	<b>Limited</b>	<b>March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	10
Quota-Managed Species Endorsement	<b>Limited</b>	<b>March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	11
<sup>1</sup> Holders of Principal Commercial Fishing, Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing and General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) Licenses <b>MUST ALSO</b> purchase a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit annually to preserve their limited access license renewal privileges. Renewal of both the limited access License AND a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit demonstrates the license holder's intent to continue active involvement in the fishery. <sup>2</sup> Trap allocation required.			

3. **License Transfers:** Active limited access licenses (Principal Commercial Fishing, Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing and General Commercial Fishing (Finfish)) are eligible for transfer provided they meet certain criteria. These criteria include:
  - the person transferring the license must have held that license and landed regulated species or owned a vessel that landed regulated species under the privilege of a quota managed species endorsement associated with the license and reported to the CT DEEP license-specific Connecticut commercial landings of finfish, lobsters, sea scallops, crabs or squid in at least five of the last eight years, in their Connecticut Commercial Logbooks, submitted electronic reports through a NOAA-approved software application or Federal VTRs, and
  - those commercial landings must have been made from at least 30 days of license-specific fishing activity in each of those five years, and
  - landings reported electronically, in logbooks or VTRs must be independently verified by Connecticut seafood dealer reports submitted to the CT DEEP, and
  - the person transferring or receiving the license cannot have a license, registration or vessel permit under suspension. Similarly, the person receiving the license cannot have had a license, registration, or vessel permit revoked or under suspension in the previous 12 months.

Resident fishing licenses may only be transferred to another Connecticut resident. Non-resident licenses are also transferrable and may be transferred to either a resident or non-resident.

4. **Carrying Licenses:** Personal use lobster and menhaden gill net licenses and all commercial fishing licenses, and fishing registrations must be carried during all times that the licensee or registration holder is engaged in the permitted activity. Divers and others taking lobsters without the use of a boat and General

Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License holders taking fish without the use of a boat must have their license available for inspection at their vessel or shore-based point of diving or fishing.

5. **Display of CT FISH Plates:** Except as otherwise noted, a numbered license plate will be issued with each license or registration and must be displayed from any vessel engaged in a licensed activity. Those engaging in licensed activity without the use of a boat must have the plate and their license available for inspection at their shore-based point of entry to the water.
6. **Required Reports:** With the exception of the Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit and the Party or Charter Fishing Vessel Registration, all license and registration holders are required to submit effort and landing reports. Reports must be completed as indicated either electronically through a NOAA-approved software application or on the forms provided with the fishing license or registration. Any person failing to report as required shall have committed an infraction and shall be subject to license suspension under the provisions of Section 26-61 of the General Statutes. Reporting requirements and penalties for failing to report apply to all persons engaged in a licensed activity, even if they have been operating without a license. Any person who falsifies a report of a quota-managed species landing, sale or purchase shall have committed a class D misdemeanor and shall be subject to license suspension under the provisions of Section 26-61 of the General Statutes. License holders are required to submit a complete report detailing the catch, effort and landing activities associated with:
  - all landings made in Connecticut regardless of where the fishing takes place; and
  - all fishing in Connecticut waters regardless of where the landings take place.

**If no such fishing activity took place during the reporting period, license holders must still submit a report indicating *Did Not Fish*.**

License holders who sell their catch out-of-state or directly to the public, must report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEEP. In the case of direct sales to the public or sales out of state, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate dealer report.

**Seafood dealers are required to report all purchase transactions from license holders who landed catch in Connecticut, no matter what waters that catch was taken from.** Dealers must submit a report indicating *None purchased* if no such purchases were made during the reporting period. Seafood dealers who also hold a federal permit are required by federal regulations to report electronically. Dealers who hold a federal permit must submit all reports for a reporting week (Sunday to Saturday) by midnight of the following Tuesday. Since data provided by dealers who hold a federal permit is shared with the DEEP, such dealers do not have to submit duplicate reports to the DEEP. Seafood dealers are however, bound by Federal reporting timeliness and/or DEEP timeliness requirements, whichever is more restrictive, and subject to the consequences of delinquent reporting. See page 12 for required seafood dealer report components.

7. **Report Confidentiality:** All mandatory license holder reports, shellfish data and marine fishery sampling data collected by the department or voluntarily submitted to the department are protected by CT General Statute and treated confidentially. Total landings and effort figures are provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service to be included in a national compilation of statistics. Individual catch reports or seafood dealer records, by law, cannot be released to anyone without the consent of the license holder. The identity of persons holding any endorsement, license, permit or registration is a matter of public record. By law, catch or landings data summarized by species, month and statistical reporting area constitute a public record. For example, bluefish landings by month for Long Island Sound (statistical area 611) may be reported publicly. Monthly landings by species and sub-area (e.g. logbook area 1) remains confidential and cannot be publicly disclosed, unless results are given in aggregate.
8. **Fishing in Federal Waters:** For information on fishing for, landing, or possession of fish, lobsters, squid and sea scallops taken from federal waters, contact DEEP Marine Fisheries at 860-434-6043 or NOAA Fisheries at 978-281-9300. For rules regulating fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna, or other Atlantic tunas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) or visit [hmspermits.noaa.gov](https://hmspermits.noaa.gov). For billfish or shark information, contact NOAA Fisheries at 1-301-427-8503.
9. **Research Set-Aside:** No person shall take any species from Connecticut waters under the Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program of NOAA Fisheries during a closed season or in excess of the possession limits. Vessels that are landing a species under the RSA Program from federal waters are exempt from the Quota-Managed Species Endorsement requirements for that species and from possession limits and closed seasons for that species, other than those specified by NOAA Fisheries for the RSA program.

On trips where fish will be landed under the RSA program, the vessel operator must, prior to departure and again prior to landing, contact the DEEP Environmental Conservation Police at 860-424-3503 and provide:

- the vessel's name;



- the vessel's federal permit number;
- the captain's name;
- the departure date and time;
- the estimated return date and time;
- the intended port of landing; and
- the RSA species.

10. **Boating Safety and Education Information:** There are a number of boating safety requirements in effect in Connecticut. For further information, contact DEEP Boating Education at 860-434-8638 or by emailing: [deep.boating@ct.gov](mailto:deep.boating@ct.gov) or call DEEP Marine Environmental Conservation Police at 860-434-9840.

## What type of license do I need?

### ***Recreational Fishing***

In the marine district, a recreational marine waters fishing license (MWFL) is required of any person aged 16 or older fishing from shore or private boat:

1. To take or assist in taking any fish or bait species by angling, spearfishing or snagging. The sale of any species is prohibited. See **Appendix IV: Bait Species** (page 35), **Appendix III: Demarcations between the Marine and Inland Districts** (page 34) and General Provisions – Recreational Fishing (page 16).
2. To take, for personal use only, menhaden, hickory shad, sea herring, eels, lampreys, and bait species (**Appendix IV: Bait Species**, page 35) by the use of:
  - cast nets;
  - minnow traps not more than 20 inches long and 15 inches in diameter;
  - scoop or scap nets not more than 36 inches in diameter;
  - umbrella nets not more than four feet in length by four feet in width;
  - seines not more than 30 feet in length; and
  - no more than two eel pots.
3. No fishing license is required in either the Inland or Marine Districts to take blue crabs for personal consumption. A Commercial Blue Crab Fishing License is required if the crabs are sold.
4. A Personal Use Lobster Fishing License is required to take lobsters. Authorized gears include up to 10 lobster pots and hand harvest including by skin or SCUBA diving. Sale is prohibited. See General Provisions – Lobsters, page 17.
5. A Personal Use Gill Net Fishing License is required to take menhaden by gill net. The gill net may not be more than 60 feet in length. No species other than menhaden may be taken. Sale is prohibited. See General Provisions – Commercial Finfish, page 19.

### ***Commercial Fishing***

A commercial fishing license is required to take or land any regulated species, i.e.: finfish, crustaceans, sea scallop, squid, horseshoe crab, whelk or bait species (see **Appendix IV: Bait Species**) for commercial purposes or to use any commercial fishing gear to take regulated species whether for personal use or for sale.

“Commercial fishing gear” as defined in 26-1(8) of the Connecticut General Statutes means any equipment commonly used to take regulated species, i.e. finfish, crustaceans, sea scallops, squid, horseshoe crabs, whelk or bait species for commercial purposes including, but not limited to, lobster pots, otter trawls, beam trawls, balloon trawls, mid-water trawls, sea scallop dredges, scoop nets, scap nets, seines, trap nets, fyke nets, crab traps, gill nets, trammel nets, set lines, long lines, hook and line, and if such fishing is conducted for commercial purposes, minnow seines, minnow traps, eel pots, fish pots, pound nets, throw nets or similar devices and any equipment listed as commercial fishing gear in regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

### ***For-Hire Fishing, Eco-Tourism***

A registration or permit is required to offer a vessel for a fee to serve as a platform for recreational fishing (Party or Charter Fishing Vessel Registration) or for purposes of education, observation and retention of marine or estuarine species collected using commercial fishing gear (Environmental Tourism Vessel Permit). A Hunting and Fishing Guide Registration is required to provide hunting and/or fishing guide services in this state.

**Table 2. License Type Required by Activity**

Activity	License required	CFVP <sup>4</sup> Required	Page
<b>Recreational (sale prohibited) in the marine district</b>			
Taking blue crabs, squid	No license required	No	N/A
Angling, spearfishing or snagging finfish	Marine Waters Fishing License	No	3
Taking certain finfish species by nets or traps for personal use	Marine Waters Fishing License	No	3
Taking lobster by hand/SCUBA or lobster pot (up to 10 pots)	Personal Use Lobster Fishing License	No	15
Taking menhaden only using a gill net (up to 60 feet in length)	Personal Use Gill Net Fishing License	No	16
Party or charter boat operation <sup>5</sup>	Party / Charter Boat Registration	No	14
Hunting or fishing guide services	Hunting and Fishing Guide Registration	No	15
<b>Commercial Fishing outside Connecticut state waters, and landing in Connecticut<sup>1,2</sup></b>			
Landing regulated species <sup>3</sup> taken outside Connecticut state waters using commercial fishing gear, or taken by any means for commercial purposes	Commercial Landing Vessel Operator's License. Note: Not required if you have a commercial fishing license authorizing fishing the same gear inside CT state waters.	Yes	5
Landing Atlantic Tunas taken outside Connecticut waters under the appropriate federal HMS permits, adhering to the federal restrictions of the species being landed.	Restricted Commercial Fishing License Note: Not required if you have a limited access commercial fishing license authorizing fishing the same gear inside CT state waters.	No	5
Landing regulated species taken outside Connecticut waters under the appropriate federal permits, adhering to the state or federal restrictions of the species being landed.	Commercial Landing Vessel Operator's License. Note: Not required if you have a limited access commercial fishing license authorizing fishing the same gear inside CT state waters.	Yes	5
<b>Commercial Fishing in Connecticut waters. Open access licenses<sup>1,2</sup></b>			
Minnow seining	Commercial Bait Fishing License	No	7
Gill netting for American shad	Commercial Shad Fishing License	No	6
Taking blue crabs	Commercial Blue Crab Fishing License	No	5
Using hook & line <sup>1</sup> or gill net (up to 200 feet, for menhaden only)	Restricted Commercial Fishing License	No	5
Lobster pot fishing (up to 50 pots) <sup>2</sup>	Restricted Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License	No	8
Whelk Fishing (taking more than 1/2 bushel daily)	Commercial Whelk Fishing License	No	5
Highly Migratory Species (HMS) taken in CT waters, under the appropriate federal permits, adhering to the federal restrictions of the species being landed	Restricted Commercial Fishing License	No	5
<b>Commercial fishing in Connecticut waters. Limited Access Licenses<sup>1,2,3</sup></b>			
Lobster pot fishing <sup>2</sup>	Principal Commercial or Lobster Pot Fishing License	Yes	9
Otter trawl, sea scallop dredge... fishing <sup>1</sup>	Principal Commercial Fishing License	Yes	9
Using gill nets, seines, traps, fish pots, cast nets, fykes, scaps, scoops, eel pots, hook and line <sup>1</sup> . Note: hook and line fishing in the Inland District is prohibited	General Commercial Fishing License	Yes	10
<p><sup>1</sup> The possession and landing of summer flounder, scup, black sea bass requires a limited access Quota-Managed Species Endorsement (page 11).</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The use of lobster pots requires a commercial lobster pot allocation. No <u>new</u> trap allocations are being issued at this time.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Regulated species: bait species, crustaceans, finfish, horseshoe crabs, sea scallops, squid or whelk.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> CFVP means Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit required for the gear or license listed.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Individual anglers on party and charter vessels are not required to be licensed to engage in sport fishing, but the vessel must have a Party and Charter Fishing Vessel Registration (page 14).</p>			

## Open Access Licenses

### ***Restricted Commercial Fishing License***

***Resident***..... **\$125.00**

***Non-resident***..... **\$250.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Engage in commercial fishing using hook and line to take and land squid and finfish (except for American shad or bait species), in the Connecticut marine district only (commercial angling is prohibited in the inland district) and to take menhaden only by use of a gillnet not more than 200 feet in length provided the net is manually set and retrieved and personally attended when in use.

1. See General Provisions – Commercial Finfish (Page 19).
2. **Species Endorsements:** Possession of summer flounder, scup or black sea bass also requires a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement (see page 11) for that species. These endorsements are limited access and can only be acquired through a qualifying license transfer. A limited amount of scup may be possessed without a species endorsement (see <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL> for current commercial fishery possession limits). No scup endorsement is required from October 1 through April 30 when scup is managed under a federal coastwide commercial quota.
3. Persons assisting the holder of a Restricted Commercial Fishing License are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of the Restricted Commercial Fishing License must be present when any activities authorized by the license are being conducted.
4. The terminal buoys of all gill nets and seines must be marked with the owner's license number.
5. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
6. **Report Required:** See page 12.
7. **Open Access:** This license is available for purchase with no requirement for past participation in commercial fishing. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

### ***Commercial Whelk (conch) Fishing License***

***All Applicants*** ..... **\$100.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Possess and land more than one-half bushel of whelk (conch) species for personal use or for sale. No license is required to take up to one-half bushel of whelk daily for personal use or for sale.

1. No additional fishing license is required to take whelk by hand or by whelk pot. A separate license is required to fish lobster pots, otter trawls or other gear to take whelk. See Limited Access Licenses & Quota Managed Species Endorsements on page 9 for the license required for each gear. Whelk may also be taken by clam or oyster dredge which requires appropriate permitting from the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture Program.
2. Persons assisting the holder of a Commercial Whelk Fishing License are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of a Commercial Whelk Fishing License must be present when any activities authorized by the license are being conducted.
3. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
4. **Report Required:** See page 12.
5. **Open Access:** This license is available for purchase with no requirement for prior participation in the lobster fishery. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

### ***Commercial Blue Crab Fishing License***

***All Applicants*** ..... **\$150.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Use scoop or dip nets, hand lines or manually operated and personally attended devices described below to take and land blue crabs for commercial purposes.

- Manually closed caging devices similar to the Star Crab Trap.
- Circular, toplless traps not exceeding 26 inches in diameter.
- Semi-circular or cylindrical traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter with hinged entrances or ends controlled by drawstrings.

1. Blue crabs taken by any means other than those stated above must be returned immediately, and without avoidable injury, to the water from which taken.
2. A Commercial Blue Crab Fishing License is required for each individual involved in the taking of blue crabs for commercial purposes. A license plate is not issued with the blue crab license.
3. No license is required for taking blue crabs for personal use and not for sale.
4. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
5. **Report Required:** See page 12.
6. **Open Access:** This license is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in commercial fishing. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

**Prohibited:**

1. Taking blue crabs from December 1 through April 30.
2. The taking, offering for sale or possession of egg bearing blue crabs or blue crabs from which the egg pouch or bunion has been removed.
3. The taking, offering for sale or possession of hard-shell blue crabs less than 5 inches measured from tip to tip of the longest shell spikes, or any soft-shell blue crab less than 3½ inches measured from tip to tip of the spikes.
4. The taking of blue crabs by lobster pot, trawl, pound net, seine, or any device other than those listed above.
5. Possession of uncooked blue crabs without the body shell (carapace) attached. Possession of more than two claws per body.
6. Use of Chesapeake-style box / cage traps.

### **Commercial Shad Fishing License**

**All Applicants** ..... **\$200.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Use gill nets, seines, dip or scoop nets in the main body of the Connecticut River south of the Putnam Bridge in Glastonbury/Wethersfield to take or land American shad.

1. The open season for taking American shad is from April 1 through June 15.
2. Persons assisting the holder of a Commercial Shad License are not required to be licensed. Commercial American shad license holders who wish to take catfish as a by-catch species during the shad season must also possess a General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License.
3. The terminal buoys of all gill nets and seines must be marked with the owner's license number.
4. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
5. **Report Required:** See page 12.

**Prohibited:**

1. The use of gill nets constructed of single or multiple strand monofilament is prohibited from sunrise to sunset. The monofilament twine thickness shall be no greater than 0.28mm (#69).
2. Taking finfish other than American shad, see General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License on page 10.
3. Commercial fishing for American shad from sundown Friday to sundown Sunday except by the use of a scoop net.
4. The use of nets with mesh size less than five inches stretched mesh.
5. Retention of American shad if taken by commercial gear in the following areas:
 

1. Salmon River	4. Eight Mile River	7. Upper Connecticut River*
2. Salmon River Cove	5. Scantic River	
3. Hamburg Cove	6. Farmington River	

\* In the main body of the Connecticut River upstream of the William H. Putnam Bridge on Route 3 (Glastonbury-Wethersfield).

6. **OPEN ACCESS:** This license is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in commercial fishing. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

### **Commercial Bait Fishing License**

**Marine Commercial Bait Fishing License ..... \$100.00**

**Inland Commercial Bait Fishing License ..... \$100.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Use seines, traps, dip nets, scoop nets, weirs or similar devices in the marine waters or inland waters respectively to take and land bait species. Use of gill nets or trawl nets is prohibited.

1. A listing of bait species is provided in **Appendix IV: Bait Species** (page 35).
2. A listing of demarcation lines between marine waters and the inland district is provided in **Appendix III: Demarcations between the Marine and Inland Districts** (page 34).
3. A listing of areas where inland commercial fishing is permitted is provided in **Areas of the Inland District Open to Commercial Fishing** (page 23).
4. All seines should be marked with the owner's plate number. All traps shall be buoyed and the buoys shall be marked in the same manner as pound nets (see page 8).
5. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
6. **Report Required:** See page 12.
7. **Open Access:** This license is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in commercial fishing. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

### **Commercial Landing Vessel Operator's License**

**All Applicants ..... \$500.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Operate a vessel used to land finfish, lobsters, squid, crabs including horseshoe crabs harvested legally elsewhere, whelk (See Commercial Whelk (conch) Fishing License), and sea scallops for personal use or for sale, taken in commercial fishing conducted exclusively outside of Connecticut state waters. Fishing in Connecticut waters is prohibited.

1. This license is issued to those who are not authorized to fish in Connecticut waters and to residents of states that do not issue commercial fishing licenses to Connecticut residents. Holders of a Connecticut commercial fishing license that covers the method used to take the catch are not required to obtain a landing license.
2. **Species Endorsements:** Possession of summer flounder, scup or black sea bass requires a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement (see page 11) for that species, except that up to 10 scup taken by lobster pots, may be possessed without a species endorsement. No scup endorsement is required from October 1 through April 30 when scup is managed under a federal coastwide commercial quota.
3. Taking more than one-half bushel of whelk requires a Commercial Whelk Fishing License (page 5).
4. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: REQUIRED.**
5. **Report Required:** See page 12. Bluefish landed for commercial purposes may also have to be reported weekly for quota monitoring purposes (see page 28).
6. **OPEN ACCESS:** This license is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in commercial fishing. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

### **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit**

**All Applicants ..... \$100.00**

**Authorizes:** Use of a vessel for activities authorized under the following licenses: Principal Commercial Fishing, General Commercial Fishing (Finfish license), Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing, Commercial Landing, or Commercial Pound Net Fishing. During commercial fishing, a holder of the relevant Connecticut commercial fishing license listed above must be present, except that unlicensed persons may operate a pound net with the permission of the pound net registrant.

1. Each vessel engaged in Principal Commercial Fishing, General Commercial Fishing (Finfish license), Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing, Commercial Landing, or Commercial Pound Net Fishing is required to have a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit. A license plate is not issued with the Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit.
2. While tending a pound net, only the principal vessel is required to have a vessel permit.
3. **Report Required:** None.

4. **Open Access:** This permit is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in commercial fishing. **However, holders of a limited access license (i.e. Principal Commercial Fishing License, General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License, Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License, or Commercial Horseshoe Crab Fishing License) must obtain a commercial fishing vessel permit annually in order to remain eligible to renew their limited access license.** This permit is not transferrable.

### ***Restricted Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License***

**Resident..... \$125.00**

**Non-resident..... \$250.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Use *not more than* 50 lobster pots or traps to take and land lobsters, crabs (excluding blue crabs) and finfish (except for American shad or bait species) for personal use or for sale.

**Note: If and until the department gets approval from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to issue new lobster pot allocations, this license can only be purchased by former limited access commercial lobster license holders who allowed their limited access license to lapse.**

1. The non-resident Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License is issued to residents of states other than Connecticut. Non-residents are prohibited from obtaining this license if their state does not allow Connecticut residents to obtain a license to take lobster in that state. For example, this license does not allow Rhode Island residents to take lobsters in Connecticut because Connecticut residents are prohibited from doing so in Rhode Island.
2. **Species Endorsements:** Possession of summer flounder, scup or black sea bass requires a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement (see page 11) for that species, except that up to 10 scup taken by lobster pots, may be possessed without a species endorsement.
3. **Lobster Pot Allocation:** A commercial lobster pot allocation is required to fish lobster pots under this license. Individual lobster pot allocations were established by regulation in 2000.
4. The use of any gear other than lobster pots is not allowed with this license.
5. Persons assisting the holder of a Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of the Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License must be present when any activities authorized by the license are being conducted.
6. For information on lobster and fish size, area, season and gear restrictions, see General Provisions – Lobsters (page 17) and General Provisions – Commercial Finfish (page 19).
7. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
8. **Report Required:** See page 12.
9. **Open Access:** This license is available for purchase with no requirement for prior participation in the lobster fishery. **However, holders of this license must have an existing commercial lobster pot allocation to make use of this license.** No new trap allocations are being issued at this time. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

### ***Marine Pound Net Registration***

**All Applicants ..... \$285.00**

**Authorizes the Registrant to:** Use a pound net to take finfish, crabs (other than blue crabs), squid, and whelk (See Commercial Whelk (conch) Fishing License) but not lobsters, blue crabs or horseshoe crabs. Registrant does not have to be present during fishing operations.

1. The applicant must include the location of the net on his application. All pound nets must be buoyed. The buoy must bear the registration number of the owner in black figures on a light background. The figures must be at least six inches long and each stroke must be at least 1/2 inch wide. The buoy must be maintained in a conspicuous place at or near the heart of the pound.
2. **The applicant must apply for and receive a “Structures, Dredging and Fill” permit issued by the DEEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs.**
3. **Species Endorsements:** Possession of summer flounder, scup or black sea bass requires a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement (see page 11) for that species. No scup endorsement is required from October 1 through April 30 when scup is managed under a federal coastwide commercial quota.
4. A Commercial Whelk Fishing License is required to take more than one-half bushel of whelk.
5. Pound nets shall not be used to take any fish in the area lying between lines drawn south in Long Island Sound to the New York state line from Fenwick Dock, Old Saybrook, and from Mill Creek (Mile Creek), Old

Lyme. Pound nets must be set at least one mile (5,280 feet) from the documented location of any other pound net.

6. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Required** for the principal vessel only, but not those vessels assisting a permitted vessel (see page 7).
7. **Report Required:** See page 12.
8. **Open Access:** This license is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in commercial fishing. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

## Limited Access Licenses

### ***Principal Commercial Fishing License***

**Resident**..... **\$285.00**

**Non-resident**..... **\$1,500.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Engage in commercial lobster pot fishing and otter trawl fishing (see **Appendix IX**) to take and land lobsters, crabs (excluding blue crabs), horseshoe crabs, sea scallops, squid, finfish (except for American shad or bait species) and whelk (see Commercial Whelk (conch) Fishing License) for personal use or for sale.

1. The non-resident Commercial Fishing License is issued to residents of states other than Connecticut. Non-residents are prohibited from taking or landing lobsters under this license if their state does not allow Connecticut residents to obtain a license to take lobster in that state. For example, this license does not allow Rhode Island residents to take lobsters in Connecticut because Connecticut residents are prohibited from doing so in Rhode Island. However, Rhode Island residents can trawl for fish in Connecticut because Connecticut residents are allowed to do so in Rhode Island waters.
2. **Species Endorsements:** Possession of summer flounder, scup or black sea bass requires a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement (see page 11) for that species, except that up to 10 scup taken by lobster pots may be possessed without a species endorsement. No scup endorsement is required from October 1 through April 30 when scup is managed under a federal coastwide commercial quota.
3. **Lobster Pot Allocation:** A lobster pot allocation is required to fish lobster pots under this license. Individual commercial lobster pot allocations were established by regulation in 2000.
4. Taking more than one-half bushel of whelk requires a Commercial Whelk Fishing License (page 5).
5. Persons assisting the holder of a commercial fishing license are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of the commercial fishing license must be present when any activities authorized by the license are being conducted.
6. For information on lobster and fish sizes and area, season and gear restrictions, see General Provisions – Lobsters (page 17) and General Provisions – Commercial Finfish (page 19). See **also Appendix VII: Areas in Which Trawling is Prohibited** (page 37).
7. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: REQUIRED.**
8. **Report Required:** See page 12.
9. **Limited Access:** This license is available only to those persons who: (1) held this license from June 1, 1995, through December 31, 2003, (2) purchased this license by March 31 in the previous year, and (3) designated for this license a primary vessel for which a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit had been purchased by December 31 of that previous year. To remain eligible for this license, license holders must renew this license by the license renewal deadline of March 31 and their associated Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit (CFVP) by December 31 of each year. **Failure to renew this license and associated CFVP annually will result in the permanent retirement of this license.** This license is transferrable provided transfer eligibility requirements are met (see page 1 for additional details).

### ***Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License***

**Resident**..... **\$190.00**

**Non-resident**..... **\$285.00**

**NOTE: Consider the open access Restricted Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License as a less expensive alternative to this license if you no longer plan to fish more than 50 pots.**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Engage in commercial lobster pot fishing to take and land lobsters, crabs (excluding blue crabs), sea scallops, squid, finfish (except for American shad or bait species) and whelk

(See Commercial Whelk (conch) Fishing License on page 5) for personal use or for sale. Either the Principal Commercial Fishing License or the Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License can be held; holding both is not a requirement.

1. The non-resident Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License is issued to residents of states other than Connecticut. Non-residents are prohibited from obtaining this license if their state does not allow Connecticut residents to obtain a license to take lobster in that state. For example, this license does not allow Rhode Island residents to take lobsters in Connecticut because Connecticut residents are prohibited from doing so in Rhode Island.
2. **Species Endorsements:** Possession of summer flounder, scup or black sea bass requires a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement (see page 11) for that species, except that up to 10 scup taken by lobster pots, may be possessed without a species endorsement. Black Sea Bass landed from commercial lobster pots must be reported weekly by calling 860-447-4323 (see page 27).
3. **Lobster Pot Allocation:** A commercial lobster pot allocation is required to fish lobster pots under this license. Individual lobster pot allocations were established by regulation in 2000.
4. The use of any gear other than lobster pots is not allowed with this license.
5. Taking more than one-half bushel of whelk requires a Commercial Whelk Fishing License (page 5).
6. Persons assisting the holder of a commercial lobster pot license are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of the commercial lobster pot license must be present when any activities authorized by the license are being conducted.
7. For information on lobster and fish size, area, season and gear restrictions, see General Provisions – Lobsters (page 17) and General Provisions – Commercial Finfish (page 19).
8. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: REQUIRED.**
9. **Report Required:** See page 12.
10. **Limited Access:** This license is available only to those persons who: (1) held this license from June 1, 1995, through December 31, 2003, (2) purchased this license by March 31 in the previous year, and (3) designated for this license a primary vessel for which a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit had been purchased by December 31 of that previous year. To remain eligible for this license, license holders must renew this license by the license renewal deadline of March 31 and their associated Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit (CFVP) by December 31 of each year. **Failure to renew this license and associated CFVP annually will result in the permanent retirement of this license.** This license is transferrable provided transfer eligibility requirements are met (see page 1 for additional details).

### **General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License, Creel Limited**

*(License holders cannot exceed sport fishery creel limits when using hooks.)*

<b>Resident</b> .....	<b>\$190.00</b>
<b>Non-Resident</b> .....	<b>\$250.00</b>

### **General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License, Non-Creel Limited**

*(License holders can exceed sport fishery creel limits when using hooks.)*

<b>Resident</b> .....	<b>\$375.00</b>
<b>Non-resident</b> .....	<b>\$625.00</b>

**NOTE: Consider the open access Restricted Commercial Fishing License as a less expensive alternative to this license.**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Use gill nets, seines, traps, fish pots, cast nets, fykes, scoop nets, eel pots or similar devices to take and land squid and finfish (except for American shad or bait species), for commercial purposes or for sale, in inland or marine waters in which the use of such gear is permitted; also, to use hook and line for commercial purposes in the marine district only (commercial angling is prohibited in the inland district).

1. See General Provisions – Commercial Finfish (Page 19).
2. **Species Endorsements:** Possession of summer flounder, scup or black sea bass requires a Quota Managed Species Endorsement (see page 5) for that species. No scup endorsement is required from October 1 through April 30 when scup is managed under a federal coastwide commercial quota.
3. Non-residents are prohibited from taking or landing eels if their state does not allow Connecticut residents to obtain a license to take or land eels in that state.



4. Persons assisting the holder of a General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of the General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License must be present during any fishing activities.
5. Taking more than one-half bushel of whelk requires a Commercial Whelk Fishing License (page 5).
6. This license is not required for, and does not authorize, the take of certain bait species. See Inland and Marine Bait License on page 7.
7. A list of species that may be taken commercially in the Inland District is provided in **Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District** (page 36).
8. All fyke and trap nets must be buoyed. The buoy shall be marked with the license number of the owner in black figures on a light background. These figures must be not less than six inches long and each stroke must be at least one-half inch wide. The buoy must be maintained in a conspicuous place at or near the heart of the trap or fyke.
9. Trap nets shall not be used to take any fish in the area lying between lines drawn south in Long Island Sound to the New York state line from Fenwick Dock, Old Saybrook and from Mill Creek (Mile Creek), Old Lyme.
10. The terminal buoys of all gill nets and seines must be marked with the owner's license number.
11. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: REQUIRED** (unless the activities authorized by this license are conducted without the aid of a boat (see page 7).
12. **Report Required:** See page 12.
13. **Limited Access:** This license is available only to those persons who: (1) held this license from June 1, 1995, through December 31, 2003, (2) purchased this license by March 31 in the previous year, and (3) designated for this license a primary vessel for which a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit had been purchased by December 31 of that previous year. To remain eligible for this license, license holders must renew this license by the application deadline of March 31 and their associated Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit (CFVP) by December 31 of each year. **Failure to renew this license and associated CFVP annually will result in the permanent retirement of this license.** This license is transferrable provided transfer eligibility requirements are met (see page 1 for additional details).

### ***Quota-Managed Species Endorsements***

***All Applicants* ..... \$15.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Possess and land state quota-managed species taken for commercial purposes. State quota-managed species include black sea bass, scup, summer flounder.

1. To qualify, applicants must have held a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement for the species of interest in the previous year. Black Sea Bass Quota-Managed Species Endorsements, Scup Quota-Managed Species Endorsements, and Summer Flounder License Quota-Managed Species Endorsement were last issued in 2003 to license holders that met certain criteria based on their commercial fishing history. New endorsements are not presently being issued.
2. In some cases, a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement is not required to take small quantities of quota-managed species when such quantities are exempt under agency regulations. For example, regulations allow 10 scup to be taken in commercial lobster pots without an endorsement for those species. Similarly, up to 100 scup can be taken by holders of a Restricted Commercial Fishing License without an endorsement. A Scup Quota-Managed Species Endorsement is not required from October 1 through April 30 when the species is managed under a federal coastwide commercial quota. Although bluefish and smooth dogfish are state-quota managed species, no endorsement is required to harvest these open access species.
3. License Endorsement Letter holders must purchase a license endorsement for each species they qualify for every year by the license renewal deadline of March 31 to retain their eligibility for their endorsement for that species. **Failure to renew a Quota-Managed Species Endorsement by the license renewal deadline will result in the permanent retirement of that endorsement.**
4. **Limited Access:** Quota-managed species license endorsements are available only to those persons who have previously qualified for endorsement based on past participation in the fishery and who renewed their individual endorsements by March 31 of the previous year. The only way to acquire a quota managed species endorsement(s) is via the acquisition of a limited access commercial fishing license that has undergone review by the Marine Fisheries Program through the license transfer process and confirmed as eligible based on statutory requirements (see page 1 for additional details).

## Commercial Reporting Requirements

Connecticut requires commercial fishermen to report trip-level data for every month permitted. Trip-level data are the catch, effort and landings from each commercial fishing trip. Reports must be completed either electronically through a NOAA-approved software application or in the commercial logbook provided with the fishing license or registration. All species must be reported. If there are no commercial trips in a given month, you must report Did Not Fish (DNF) to maintain your reporting compliance. DNF reports can be submitted by recording the months with no activity on the front cover of the logbook or by selecting your CT permit in the electronic application and selecting all days (or months) there is no activity.

For paper reporting, a trip catch logbook must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the logbook or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity.

For electronic reporting, you can enter real-time data with offline storage until you reach Wi-Fi. For non-federally permitted fishers, you are required to report all landings by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. All commercial vessels with federal permits must submit their electronic Vessel Trip Reports (VTR's) within 48 hours of the end of a trip (unless stricter reporting timelines are required).

License holders who sell their catch directly to the public, must report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEEP either in the logbook or electronic application.

Bluefish landed for commercial purposes may also have to be reported weekly for quota monitoring purposes (see page 27).

## Electronic Reporting

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) is a cooperative state-federal program that develops, implements, and operates fishery data collection and management systems:

<https://www.accsp.org/>. The ACCSP administers the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS). The SAFIS database stores permit, vessel, catch report and dealer report data for all East coast states and CT DEEP statistics personnel enter all paper and negative reports received into SAFIS eTRIPS (fisher) and eDR (dealer).

SAFIS e-TRIP and SAFIS e-DR provide the opportunity for commercial license holders, state licensed party and charter boat businesses and state licensed seafood dealers to fulfill their state reporting requirements by submitting reports online.

Once a commercial license holder or dealer has a user ID and password, the fishery data can be inputted electronically. Furthermore, once a commercial license holder or dealer has entered the fishery data, it can be viewed and utilized to compile and produce fishery records and reports.

**Getting Started:** If you are interested in submitting your reports electronically, please contact the CT DEEP Commercial Fisheries Statistics Program at 860-434-6043 or at [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov). We can provide you with a user ID, a password and assistance to get started reporting online.

You must have a SAFIS account to use eTRIPS and/or eDr. If you do not have a SAFIS account, contact the CT DEEP at 860-434-6043 or at [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov). If you have forgotten your SAFIS username and/or password, or are unsure, please contact the SAFIS helpdesk by calling 1-800-984-0810 or by emailing [mobile\\_support@accsp.org](mailto:mobile_support@accsp.org). You will need your name, birthdate, permit, license and/or operator number. Link to SAFIS application: [https://safis.accsp.org/safis\\_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101](https://safis.accsp.org/safis_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101).

## Dealer (Resale) Licenses

### Seafood Dealer License

**All Applicants** ..... **\$250.00**

1. **Authorizes the Licensee to:** Purchase, ship, consign, transfer, transport, barter, accept or pack any DEEP regulated species, except bait species, received directly from a CT commercial license holder. DEEP regulated species include: lobsters, crabs, horseshoe crabs, squid, sea scallops, finfish and whelk. A Seafood Dealer License is required to receive DEEP regulated species directly from a CT commercial license holder who landed that product in Connecticut, except that the ultimate consumer purchasing or otherwise receiving such product directly from a commercial license holder does not require a seafood dealer license. A license plate is not issued with the Seafood Dealer License. Holders of the Connecticut Seafood Dealer License and owners and employees of establishments in which lobster are sold may

possess lobsters imported from areas in which the minimum length is less than the LMA 6 minimum length or greater than the LMA 6 maximum length provided they follow Connecticut regulations (see page 17 for details).

2. Commercial license holders, markets, stores and restaurants selling lobsters directly to the public cannot possess or offer for sale lobsters less than the LMA 6 minimum length. Lobsters larger than the LMA 6 maximum length may be bought, sold, given away, offered for sale or possessed provided the lobsters are not taken from LMA 6 waters; and such lobsters are not greater than the maximum legal length in effect for the waters of the LMA or nation of origin; and any seafood dealer, wholesaler or shipper in possession of such lobsters possesses a manifest, bill of lading, invoice, purchase order, seafood dealer report or other written documentation identifying the vessel, state, lobster management area or nation of origin, as applicable, where such lobsters were received, the number of such lobsters received that are greater than said LMA 6 maximum length and the date such lobsters were received.
3. Persons interested in dealing in molluscan shellfish (clams, mussels, oysters) should contact the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture at [Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov](mailto:Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov) or 203-874-0696.
4. **Report Required:** All transactions from Connecticut license holders must be reported either electronically on NOAA-approved software or on forms provided for this purpose. These reports are required to be submitted at the end of each month or sooner as required. A report must be submitted for each month for which the purchaser is licensed, even if none of the identified resources were purchased from commercial license holders during that month. In this instance, complete and submit a negative report for the applicable month(s).

For each trip the dealer must report the following information regardless of where or how it was harvested (inshore or federal waters) or who harvested it (federally permitted or state-only permitted):

- **Dealer name and permit number; and**
- **The vessel name and permit number or hull number (state registration or USCG documentation number) of the vessel from which fish are purchased or received; and**
- **The date of purchase or receipt; and**
- **The vessel Trip Report Serial Number as supplied to the dealer by the vessel. This is the 14-digit electronic vessel trip report (eVTR) used by the harvesting vessel for each trip; and**
- **Vessels are not required to provide the vessel trip report serial number if they hold only state permits or if they are federally permitted only under other parts of this regulation such as American lobster and Atlantic Tunas; and**
- **The amount of each species by market category and unit of measure being reported (e.g., pounds, bushels, etc.); and**
- **The disposition, or how the fish will be used (e.g., human food, bait, pet food, reduction, etc.); and**
- **The price per unit of each species or total value by species per unit by market category (the price per unit may be submitted up to 16 days after purchase or receipt); and**
- **The port and state where the fish were landed; and**
- **The cage tag numbers for surf clams and ocean quahogs harvested under ITQ allocation.**

\*Additional data must be reported for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) (e.g., HMS catch area, BFT tag number, sale price, whether shark fins are naturally attached, etc.)

**Seafood dealers who also hold a federal permit are required by federal regulations to report electronically** see (page 12). Since that data is shared with the DEEP, such dealers do not have to submit duplicate reports to the DEEP. **Federally permitted seafood dealers are bound by Federal reporting requirements and must submit all reports for a reporting week (Sunday to Saturday) by midnight of the following Tuesday** and are subject to the consequences of delinquent or incomplete reporting.

See <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/seafood-dealer-reporting-greater-atlantic-region> for additional resources.

## ***Bait Dealer License***

***All Applicants*** ..... **\$63.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Possess for the purpose of sale, to sell or to offer for sale any bait species listed in **Appendix IV: Bait Species** (page 35). A license plate is not issued with the bait dealer license.

1. **Report Required:** Each bait dealer shall make an annual report on forms provided and submit to [deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov).

**Prohibited:** Possession of live carp or goldfish for any purpose on premises used by licensed bait dealers.

## For-Hire Registrations & Permits

### *Party or Charter Fishing Vessel Registration*

**All Applicants ..... \$315.00**

**NOTE:** Compare to Hunting and Fishing Guide Service Registration

**Authorizes the Registered Vessel to:** Operate as a party or charter boat or for-hire recreational vessel to take marine species in Connecticut waters or land marine species at Connecticut ports, regardless of where those species are taken (e.g. tidal waters of the inland district). A separate Party or Charter Fishing Vessel Registration is required for each vessel operated for this purpose. Operators carrying two or fewer customers may choose the Hunting and Fishing Guide Service Registration instead of the Party or Charter Fishing Vessel Registration.

1. Paying passengers are exempt from the Marine Waters Fishing License requirement.
2. The owner, operator, or captain of the vessel may sell the boat's or crew's share of any tuna species catch to a Federal Atlantic Tunas Permitted dealer as long as they meet all state and federal regulations. If landing with the intent of resale, the owner, operator or captain also needs a CT Seafood Dealer's License and a Federal Atlantic tunas dealer permit. The sale of any other species is prohibited. See [NMFS Permit Shop \(hmspermits.noaa.gov\)](https://hmspermits.noaa.gov) for additional resources.
3. A current passenger-for-hire license issued by the United States Coast Guard is required.
4. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
5. **Connecticut Report Required:** Daily (paper) logbook catch reporting is required on trips taking black sea bass. Contact [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov) for an option to report electronically. Federal permit holders who are required to report electronically (see below) need not complete and send a paper Connecticut logbook.

For all species, the DEEP participates in NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) by conducting interviews with marine recreational anglers in order to collect fishing trip and catch information. In 2003, NOAA Fisheries initiated a new "For Hire Survey" under the then MRFSS now MRIP to improve both data collection and estimation methods in the charter and party/head boat fishery. As part of the survey, DEEP personnel perform dockside interviews with charter boat anglers upon trip completion and conduct angler interviews while at sea onboard party/head boats to gather data on catch and catch composition. The DEEP only interviews vessels operating from Connecticut ports. In the other part of the survey, vessel captains are randomly contacted by telephone to estimate fishing effort. The submission of a state report form is not required (other than for black sea bass) at this time.

6. **Federal Permit Holders:** Vessels permitted to fish under Federal Northeast Multi-species (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan requirements must submit Vessel Trip Reports (VTR's) to NOAA Fisheries.

Effective March 12, 2018, electronic vessel trip reporting is required for **all** vessels issued a Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) charter/party permit for any of the following species **when** carrying passengers for hire:

- |                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| ◆ Summer Flounder | ◆ Scup                           |
| ◆ Black Sea Bass  | ◆ Atlantic Mackerel              |
| ◆ Squid           | ◆ Butterfish                     |
| ◆ Bluefish        | ◆ Tilefish, golden and blue line |

Electronic reports must be submitted through a NOAA-approved software application following the completion of a fishing trip. See Electronic Reporting page 12.

For more information, contact the Greater Atlantic Regional Coordinator for recreational fisheries at 978-281-9218. You may also contact your local port agent for up-to-date rules:

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sed/portagents/portagents.html> or visit GARFO's recreational fishing web page: <https://greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/recfishing/>.

7. **Open Access:** This registration is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in the fishery. There is no requirement to renew this registration by an application deadline. This registration is not transferrable.

## ***Hunting and Fishing Guide Registration***

***All Applicants* ..... \$100.00**

**NOTE:** Compare to Party or Charter Fishing Vessel Registration.

**Authorizes the Registrant to:** Conduct hunting or fishing guide services (aiding, assisting or instructing any person in the taking of fish or wildlife while in the fields, forests or on all waters of the state in exchange for any form of remuneration).

1. All customers must be issued the appropriate hunting or fishing license. Customers under this registration are not exempt from the marine waters fishing license.
2. A current passenger-for-hire license issued by the United States Coast Guard is required when operating a vessel on navigable waters (Long Island Sound, Connecticut River below the Bulkeley Bridge, Housatonic River below the Derby Dam and the entire Thames River) for the purposes of providing guide services.
3. When providing guide services that entail the use of a vessel to take or land marine species, no more than two customers shall be on board.
4. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
5. **Report Required:** None.
6. **Open Access:** This registration is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in the fishery. There is no requirement to renew this registration by an application deadline. This registration is not transferrable.

## ***Environmental Tourism Vessel Permit***

***All Applicants* ..... \$100.00**

**Authorizes the Permittee to:** Use a vessel for a fee for purposes of education and observation, and retention of unregulated marine and estuarine resources. Holders of a scientific collector's permit issued to accredited persons and institutions are not required to obtain the environmental tourism cruise vessel permit.

1. Each vessel engaged in the permitted activity must be issued an Environmental Tourism Vessel Permit.
2. Use of fishing gear not authorized for use by commercial fishing license holders is subject to conditions established by the Department. Contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program for further information.
3. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
4. **Report Required:** None

## **Personal Use Licenses**

### ***Personal Use Lobster Fishing License***

***All Applicants* ..... \$60.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Use not more than ten lobster pots or traps, hand harvest, skin-dive or SCUBA dive to take and land lobsters for personal use (not for sale). When fishing with lobster pots or traps, the license holder may also possess crabs other than blue crabs and finfish. Personal Use Lobster Fishing License holders may not set, haul or have in the water more than ten pots per day. Closed season: September 8 through November 28, annually. See Personal Use Guidelines: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/fishing\\_forms/PU\\_Lobster\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/fishing_forms/PU_Lobster_Guidelines.pdf).

1. All pots must be tagged. Tags must be purchased using the same application with which you purchase your license.
2. Those who accompany and assist the license holder when setting and tending pots or traps require no license. However, the license holder must be present when pots or traps are set or tended. Each person engaged in taking lobsters by hand, skin diving or SCUBA diving requires a license.
3. A recreational Marine Waters Fishing License is not required for fish taken in lobster pots under a Personal Use Lobster Fishing License. Recreational minimum sizes, creel limits and seasons apply (see General Provisions – Recreational Fishing on page 16).
4. See General Provisions – Lobsters on page 17 for specific information on lobster gear.
5. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**

6. **Report Required:** A daily record of the number of lobsters caught and effort used is required on the form provided for this purpose. The report form must be submitted at the end of the year. Persons failing to report will be prohibited from renewing their license. Report may be obtained: [https://portal.ct.gov//media/DEEP/fishing/fishing\\_forms/PULOBpdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov//media/DEEP/fishing/fishing_forms/PULOBpdf.pdf)
7. **Open Access:** This license is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in the fishery. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

### **Personal Use Gill Net Fishing License (for menhaden only)**

**All Applicants** ..... **\$100.00**

**Authorizes the Licensee to:** Use a single personally attended gill net not more than 60 feet in length to take and land menhaden (bunker) for personal use, from marine waters only.

1. The gill net must be tended by the license holder at all times.
2. A recreational Marine Waters Fishing License is NOT required in addition to the Personal Use Gill Net Fishing License.
3. Please see the Personal Use Gillnet Guidelines for additional information: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/fishing\\_forms/PU\\_Gillnet\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/fishing_forms/PU_Gillnet_Guidelines.pdf).
4. The terminal buoys of all gill nets must be marked with the owner's license number.
5. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit: Not Required.**
6. **Report Required:** A Personal Use Gill Net for Menhaden Annual Catch Report is Required: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/fishing\\_forms/PUGNETpdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/fishing_forms/PUGNETpdf.pdf). The form is available online and provided with the issuance of the license. The report form must be submitted at the end of the year. Persons failing to report will be prohibited from renewing their license.
7. **Open Access:** This license is available for purchase with no restriction based on past participation in the fishery. There is no requirement to renew this license by an application deadline. This license is not transferrable.

### **General Provisions – Recreational Fishing**

**Marine Waters Fishing Licenses (MWFL)** are required for anyone 16 years of age or older to take or assist in taking by any method fish or bait species in the marine district or to land marine fish and bait species in the state taken from federal waters or from the waters of any other state. A freshwater fishing license is required to fish for any species in the inland district.

1. Annual MWFLs are issued on a calendar year basis and expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
2. MWFL's can be obtained online from the DEEP web site: <https://portal.ct.gov/CTOutdoorLicenses>
  - **DEEP Field Offices** (please call to confirm hours of operation):
    - Marine Headquarters: 860-447-4300, M-F 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Closed 12:30-1:00 daily.
    - Eastern District: 860-295-9523, M-F 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
    - Western District: 860-485-0226, M-F 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
    - Franklin WMA: 860-642-7239, M-F 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
    - Session Woods: 860-675-8130, M-F 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
  - **DEEP Main Office** 79 Elm St, Hartford:
    - License & Revenue: 860-424-3105, M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
  - **Participating town halls and tackle shops:** To locate a vendor near you: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/fishing/general\\_information/townclerkretailagentspdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/fishing/general_information/townclerkretailagentspdf.pdf) and select *designated vendor*).
3. The cost is \$10 for residents, \$15 for out-of-state visitors, and free (but still required) for any CT resident 65 years of age or older. There are additional options for day rates, Armed Forces Members, Intellectually disabled or blind and physically disabled individuals. See General Information for Marine Fisheries Licenses and Permits for resources on where to purchase: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep-fishinglicense>.
4. MWFLs are reciprocal to marine fishing licenses issued by New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine.
5. Exceptions to the license requirement include:
  - People rowing a boat or operating the motor of a boat from which other persons are taking or attempting to take fish,
  - Anyone fishing as a passenger on a registered party, charter, or head boat registered in Connecticut that is operating solely in the marine district,

- State residents participating in a fishing derby that the DEEP Commissioner has authorized in writing as long as no fees are charged for the derby, it lasts one day or less, and it is sponsored by a nonprofit civic service organization (these organizations are limited to one derby in any calendar year).
- Anyone participating in a group fishing event conducted by a qualified tax-exempt organization licensed to hold such an event for certain disadvantaged individuals.

**Tagging:** Tagging fish in the marine district is prohibited unless the person applying the tag is doing so under a tagging program consistent with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's standards for scientific tagging programs. Further restrictions apply to the tagging of striped bass (see page 29).

**Culling or High-Grading:** The practice of "culling or "high-grading" is prohibited. Any fish placed on a stringer, in a container, cooler, live well or similar device, or otherwise not immediately released to the water shall count against the daily creel limit.

**Tournaments:** No person, club, or organization shall conduct, in Connecticut marine waters, a fishing tournament or derby that is open to persons sixteen years of age or older without having first registered such tournament or derby. Please contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program for registration details.

**Length limits, creel limits, and open seasons** are specified in DEEP regulations and posted at fishing locations throughout the state. These regulations are subject to change at any time in order to comply with interstate fishery management plans. For current information, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Saltwater-Fishing-Guide/Species-Regulations> or contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program. Fish less than the minimum length may not be possessed in Connecticut, regardless of where taken. Lengths are total lengths (tip of the snout to the end of the tail, excluding the tail filament for black sea bass). Any fish less than the minimum length shall, without avoidable injury, be returned immediately to the water from which taken. Creel limits apply on the waters or shores of this state, regardless of where taken.

## General Provisions – Lobsters

### Season

1. The closed season for Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 (Long Island Sound and western Block Island Sound) is September 8 through November 28, inclusive, and applies to both recreational and commercial fisheries and all gears. Between those dates possession of lobsters taken from LMA 6 or from traps with LMA 6 trap tags is prohibited.
2. All lobster gear must be removed from the water during the closure, except that the ASMFC plan allows license holders two weeks at the beginning of the closure period (September 8 through September 21) to remove gear and two weeks prior to the late fall reopening (November 15 through November 28) to redeploy the gear. Traps cannot be baited until one week prior to reopening (November 22).
3. Lobster pots remaining in the water during the closure to fish for whelk must meet the definition of a whelk pot and have the door on the top either removed or secured in the open possession. The take and landing of lobsters during the season closure is prohibited.

### License Requirements

1. A license to take lobsters from Connecticut waters, or a Commercial Landing Vessel Operator's License is required to bring lobsters ashore or possess them in Connecticut waters, except when the lobsters are brought from ashore or obtained from a person or business licensed to take or sell lobsters. In addition, any person in Connecticut waters, in possession of lobsters taken from the waters of another state must have in their possession a valid license issued by that state.
2. Unless otherwise allowed by DEEP regulation or the General Statutes, persons not licensed to set or tend lobster pots are prohibited from doing so unless the license holder is present (for exceptions, see item 3). A license holder must have written permission from the owner with him while fishing in order to possess, tend or set the pots of that person. Both license holders must carry the same type of lobster license. Regardless of this permission, however, a holder of a personal use lobster license may not haul, check, or take lobsters from more than ten pots in one day.
3. A lobster pot license holder may allow another license holder to haul pots with their pot tags for up to 30 trips in a year without authorization from the department. They may request permission from the DEEP to have *one* other license holder haul their pots for more than 30 trips in a year if the other licensee is a family member, employer, employee or partner. Contact the Marine Fisheries Program for more information.
4. License holders who wish to take lobsters in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (outside of Long Island Sound and greater than 3 miles from shore) must possess a federal lobster fishing permit. Holders of a federal lobster permit and a Connecticut license must obey the more restrictive of the federal or state regulations when landing in Connecticut. In 1995, the National Marine Fisheries Service implemented a

limited access program for lobstering in the EEZ. Persons who did not qualify to lobster in the EEZ based on their fishing history prior to March 25, 1991, are prohibited from doing so for the duration of the moratorium.

### **Trap Tags**

1. DEEP regulations establish lobster pot limits in Long Island Sound and the rules for tagging lobster pots. Please refer to the information mailed with your *Lobster Trap Tag Authorization* (commercial fishery) in February or March of each year and information provided with your license for further information on obtaining pot tags.
2. Individual trap allocations have been implemented for most other Lobster Management Areas. If you are a Connecticut resident with a federal lobster permit, you must receive your authorization to purchase lobster pot tags from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. A *Fishing Area Election Form* will be mailed to each Federal Permit Holder when the *Lobster Trap Tag Authorization* is mailed in February or March.

### **Gear Restrictions**

1. Lobster pots fished in Connecticut waters may not exceed 22,950 cubic inches, in any combination of length, height and width.
2. Lobster pots used in Connecticut waters must have an approved escape vent in the parlor section of the pot. Lath spacing is an acceptable means of venting traps. See **Appendix VI: Escape Vents and Escape Panels in Lobster Pots**, page 36.
3. Wire or plastic lobster pots must contain escapement panels having a degradable fastener or opening. See **Appendix VI: Escape Vents and Escape Panels in Lobster Pots**, page 36.
4. The CT fishing license plate number must be legibly branded on the top of all live cars, lobster pots and similar devices, in figures not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in height. The license plate number must be branded or painted on all lobster pot buoys in figures not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height. If lobster pots are purchased from another license holder, removal or obliteration of his number is prohibited. The original owner's number should be left intact, and the new number added. Retain a bill of sale to prove ownership.
5. All lobster buoys fished by an individual must be of the same color or pattern of coloration (you select the color and pattern of your choice) and one buoy must be displayed in a conspicuous location on your vessel while engaged in lobstering (from departure to return).
6. Setting, tending, or assisting in setting or tending lobster pots or lobster holding cars from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise is prohibited.
7. Setting lobster pots so that the buoys are deployed in navigation channels marked by U.S. Coast Guard channel markers is prohibited.
8. Setting the buoys of lobster pots in "fairways" at any time, or mooring areas from May 1 - October 15 is prohibited when such areas are formally designated as prohibited areas in an approved Harbor Management Plan. License holders should check with local authorities to determine the status of harbor management measures in their area.
9. Taking lobsters with spears or hooks of any kind is prohibited. Possession of lobsters taken by any method that pierces the shell is prohibited.

### **Possession Restrictions**

1. The possession of any lobster bearing external eggs, or the possession of any lobster from which external eggs have been removed is prohibited. Any lobster bearing external eggs under the tail (abdomen) must be returned immediately, and without avoidable injury, to the water from which taken.
2. Possession of female lobsters bearing a notch or indentation at least 1/8 inch in depth, with or without setal hairs, and tapering to a point in the flipper next to, and to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the lobster. Possession of lobsters mutilated so that such a mark might be obscured is also prohibited.
3. **Minimum Lobster Length:** The minimum legal length is 3-3/8 inches carapace length for Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 (Long Island Sound and western Block Island Sound). Possession of any lobster less than the LMA 6 size length is prohibited. All such lobsters must be returned immediately, and without avoidable injury, to the water from which taken.

Holders of the Connecticut Seafood Dealers License and owners and employees of establishments in which lobster are sold may possess lobsters imported from areas in which the minimum length is less than the LMA 6 minimum length, provided: (1) such lobsters are not taken from Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6



(the waters of Long Island Sound and western Block Island Sound) or landed in Connecticut; and (2) such lobsters are not less than the minimum legal length in effect for the waters of the LMA, state or country of origin and are not less than 3¼ inches carapace length, regardless where taken; and (3) such lobsters are not bartered, exchanged, sold or offered for sale to retail consumers in this state; and (4) the seafood dealer, wholesaler or shipper possesses a manifest, bill of landing, invoice, purchase order or other written documentation identifying the state, lobster management area or country of origin of the lobsters received, the number of lobsters received that are less than the LMA 6 minimum length and the date received. The documentation shall be retained for a period of six months and made available to law enforcement officers upon request. While seafood dealers, wholesalers and shippers can possess lobsters less than the LMA 6 minimum length, for sale outside of Connecticut, commercial license holders, markets, stores and restaurants selling lobsters to the public **must** adhere to and not possess or sell lobster less than the LMA 6 minimum length.

4. **Maximum Lobster Length:** The maximum legal length is 5¼ inches carapace length for Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 (Long Island Sound and western Block Island Sound).

No person shall buy, sell, give away, offer for sale or possess, any lobster with a carapace length greater than the LMA 6 maximum length, except that when all of the following conditions are met: (1) such lobsters are not taken from LMA 6 (Long Island Sound) waters; and (2) such lobsters are not greater than the maximum legal length in effect for the waters of the LMA or nation of origin; and (3) any vessel used by said person to land such lobsters shall have a valid federal limited access American lobster permit issued pursuant to 50 CFR 697.4; and (4) any seafood dealer, wholesaler or shipper in possession of such lobsters possesses a manifest, bill of lading, invoice, purchase order, seafood dealer report or other written documentation identifying the vessel or state of origin, lobster management area or nation of origin, as applicable, where such lobsters were received, the number of such lobsters received that are greater than the LMA 6 maximum length and the date such lobsters were received. The seafood dealer, wholesaler or shipper shall retain such documentation for a period of six months from the date such lobsters were received and shall be made available to law enforcement officers upon request.

5. Any license holder that **elects** to fish in more than one LMA must abide by the most restrictive minimum gauge size (and maximum gauge size, if applicable) in effect for all of the areas elected, regardless of where the lobsters are taken.
6. Lobster gauges for determining compliance with the minimum length are available for purchase only from certain local outlets. It is recommended that this type gauge be used and that it be checked frequently for accuracy. The following procedure should be used to measure lobsters for minimum size: Insert one end of the gauge into the rear of the eye socket (to the rear of the eye). Hold the gauge perpendicular to the body shell and parallel with the "center line" of the shell. If the gauge does not reach the rear end of the body shell (between the body and the tail), the lobster can be kept. If the gauge fits over the shell, it must fit tightly for the lobster to be kept. Any movement between the gauge and the body shell is proof that the lobster is less than the minimum length and must be returned to the water.
7. In Connecticut waters, trawlers with trawl gear capable of taking lobsters may not possess more than 100 lobsters, per trip or per day whichever is more restrictive. This limit applies to the aggregate of all persons on board. By Act of the New York legislature, trawlers on the New York waters of Long Island Sound may not possess lobsters. Consequently, New York trawlers may not possess lobsters on Connecticut waters. For fishing by methods other than lobster pots in offshore waters outside of Long Island Sound, the possession of more than 100 lobsters per day up to a maximum of 500 lobsters per trip is prohibited, regardless of the length of the trip.
8. Lobsters taken by hand or by SCUBA divers must be measured immediately on capture (before the lobsters are placed in a dive bag). Those taken by other gear types must be measured immediately on removal from the gear used to take them. Personal use license holders can retain fish, but not blue crabs, for personal use according to the sport fishery creel limits.
9. Federal law prohibits the possession of **any** lobster parts by holders of a federal permit to take lobsters, regardless of where the lobsters were taken. For holders of a Connecticut license that do not also hold a federal lobster permit, the landing or possession on the waters of this state of any portion of a lobster including meat, claws or tails, except when legally brought into such waters from ashore or except for immediate personal consumption, is prohibited.

## General Provisions – Commercial Finfish

### *Prohibited Finfish Gear Types*

1. Roller rig gill nets used to encircle bluefish are prohibited. Roller rig gill net is defined as a gill net that is set or retrieved mechanically, electrically, or hydraulically. In addition, the use of purse seines or pair trawls to take bluefish is prohibited.

2. Spears or spearing of any kind is defined as a recreational activity subject to all sport-fishing restrictions (length and creel limits, etc.). Commercial fishing with spears is prohibited.
3. Purse seines.

### **Minimum Lengths**

Listed in Table 3. are the minimum commercial legal lengths (total length – TL) of marine fish regulated by the CT DEEP. Regardless of where they were taken, fish less than these lengths may not be possessed if taken by commercial fishing gear or for commercial purposes, and they may not be bought, sold, offered for sale or possessed in a place where fish are offered for sale. Any fish less than the minimum length taken by commercial fishing gear shall, without avoidable injury, be returned immediately to the water from which taken.

The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection has statutory and regulatory authority under several circumstances to declare and adjust closed seasons, closed areas to fishing, specify conditions for operating commercial fisheries, and to establish and adjust possession and length limits. Declaration authority may be used to protect species threatened with undue depletion, to adjust harvest levels consistent with efficient management of a species, and to conform to regulations adopted under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act or by other regional management authorities such as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. See: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Commissioner-Declarations> to determine current rules for both the recreational and commercial fisheries. See: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL> for current commercial trip limits and quota-managed species graphs.

**Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths specified in Current Commissioner Declarations:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Minimum length (total length)</b>
American eel	9 inches
Atlantic tomcod	7 inches
Black sea bass	11 inches
Bluefish	9 inches
Fluke (summer flounder)	14 inches <sup>1</sup>
Monkfish (goosefish)	17 inches, 11 inches tail size
Red drum (South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico)	Maximum length of 27 inches
Scup (porgy)	9 inches
Tautog (blackfish)	16 inches <sup>2</sup>
Weakfish	16 inches
Winter flounder	12 inches
Striped bass legally taken from another state's waters and landed in CT	28–31 inch harvest slot limit
<b>The minimum lengths for the species listed below are the lengths specified in 50 CFR § 648.83(a) (i.e. Federal Regulations) See: <a href="https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-648/subpart-F/section-648.83">https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-648/subpart-F/section-648.83</a></b>	
American plaice	Redfish (Gulf of Maine)
Atlantic cod	Witch flounder
Haddock	Yellowtail flounder
Pollock	
<sup>1</sup> There is a special restriction on filleting summer flounder (fluke). While engaged in commercial fishing activities, possession of summer flounder fillets less than 14 inches in length is prohibited unless the "rack" (carcass) of the fish from which the fillet was removed has been retained and is at least 14 inches in length. This regulation does not prohibit filleting summer flounder on shore or dockside.	
<sup>2</sup> All commercially harvested tautog must be tagged prior to landing or offload with a commercial tautog tag issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to the left opercula bone (gill plate) such that the identifying year, state and number on the tag is clearly visible. Tags must be retained with processed or fileted tautog and be available for inspection until the processed of fileted fish is sold to the final consumer.	

### **Mesh of Nets in Connecticut Waters**

All measurements below are stretched mesh, when wet after use.

#### **Trawl Nets**

For the purposes of the following trawl net rules, *codend* is the retaining bag of the net. The *minimum mesh size* is the maximum opening of any single mesh, measured when wet after use as the median of 11 consecutive measurements taken at least 5 meshes from the lacings parallel to the longitudinal axis of the

net. The *body of the net* is the main part of the net immediately behind (posterior to) the footrope, excluding the wings. The *extension of the net* is that part of the net between the body and the codend. A *fly net* is an otter trawl constructed of a minimum of 5½ inch stretched mesh webbing in the wings and forward body (belly) section extending at least 12 meshes or 5½ feet along the longitudinal axis of the net. See **Appendix IX** for Figures 1-5 which depict trawl net mesh size, page 38.

The use of trawl gear in Connecticut is prohibited from March 1 through April 14, except for the use of fly net gear for sea herring (see item 1 below). At other times, the trawl net minimum mesh size in Connecticut waters is 5½ inch diamond or 6 inch square mesh in the cod end, with the following exceptions:

1. From May 1 through October 31, inclusive, when in possession of more than 100 pounds of summer flounder or from November 1 through April 31, inclusive, when in possession of more than 200 pounds of summer flounder, no person shall use any trawl net with a mesh size in the body, extension or codend less than 5½ inches diamond mesh or 6 inches square mesh.
2. From November 1 through April 30, inclusive, if a person on a vessel is in possession of 100 pounds or less of winter flounder or 200 pounds or less of summer flounder, he may use a fly net with a codend mesh of any size to take Atlantic herring.
3. From May 1 through October 31 inclusive, no person shall use any trawl net with a mesh size less than 4½ inches diamond mesh or 5 inches square mesh with the following exceptions:
  - A person may use a trawl net with mesh of any size in the body and wings of the net provided the codend is at least 75 meshes in length and the terminal 75 meshes of the codend have a mesh size of no less than 5 inches diamond mesh or 5½ inches square mesh.
  - For the taking of squid from May 15 through July 31, inclusive, a person may use a trawl net with a mesh of any size provided the codend mesh size is no less than 1-7/8 inches diamond mesh and no more than 100 pounds of scup or 100 pounds of black sea bass are in his possession.
  - For the taking of butterfish and squid from October 1 to October 31, a person may use a trawl net with a mesh of any size provided the codend mesh size is no less than 3 inches (diamond mesh) and no more than 200 pounds of scup or 100 pounds of black sea bass are in possession.
4. No person shall possess more than 100 pounds of winter flounder while fishing with a trawl net with a codend mesh less than 6½ inches diamond mesh or 6½ inches square mesh.
5. From May 1 through October 31, inclusive, no person shall possess more than 200 pounds of scup while fishing with a trawl net that does not:
  - have a mesh size of at least 5 inches diamond mesh or 5½ inches square mesh throughout the entire net; or
  - have a codend at least 75 meshes in length and the terminal 75 meshes of the codend have a mesh size no less than 5 inches diamond mesh or 5½ inches square mesh.
6. From May 1 to October 31, inclusive, no person shall possess more than 100 pounds of black sea bass unless the net has a codend of at least 75 meshes in length and the terminal 75 meshes of the codend have a mesh size no less than 5 inches diamond mesh or 5½ inches square mesh.

The following restrictions pertaining to the use of trawl gear also apply:

1. In Connecticut waters, no person shall possess any codend or trawl net with mesh sizes smaller than specified in paragraphs 1 through 6 above on any vessel having winter flounder, summer flounder, black sea bass or scup on board in excess of the limits specified in paragraphs 1 through 6 unless the codend is detached from the main body of the net or the entire trawl net is removed and detached from the net reel or is covered on a net reel and is bound securely and unavailable for immediate use.
2. The use of any means, device or material, including but not limited to ropes, lines, liners, net strengtheners, or double nets, which obstructs or diminishes the size of the meshes in the top of the codend or of that part of the net which does not contact the seabed during normal fishing activity, is prohibited. All netting in trawl nets not made on a braiding machine, whether of braided or twisted twine, whether machine or handmade, shall have only one knot, which shall be the weavers knot or sheet bend. The ends of the twine, called bars, that exit the knot shall be constructed so that their lay does not cross or twist.
3. Any person who takes winter flounder or summer flounder while fishing with a codend with a mesh size less than 5½ inches diamond or 6 inches square, and any person who takes scup or black sea bass while fishing with a codend with a mesh size less than 4½ inches diamond or five inches square mesh, shall separate these fish by species and keep these fish apart from the main catch. All threshold limits specified in paragraphs 1 through 6 above shall apply to the aggregate of all persons onboard the vessel.
4. No bottom trawl net shall be equipped with rollers or cookies in excess of 6 inches in diameter.

### **Pounds, Trap nets, Fyke Nets, Weirs**

Mesh size shall be not less than 2 inches.

**Seines**

Mesh size shall be not less than 2½ inches except:

1. For taking American shad – not less than 5 inches,
2. For taking lamprey eels – not less than 2 inches,
3. For taking tomcod, not less than 1½ inches and 50 feet of the center or bunt of each seine shall be not less than 1¼ inches.
4. The terminal buoys of all seines must be marked with the owner's license number.

**Gill Nets**

1. **Inland District:** Mesh size shall be not less than 5 inches except that gill nets used for taking white perch, catfish species, and yellow perch shall have a mesh not less than 3½ inches.
2. **Marine District:** Mesh size shall be not less than 3 inches except that:
  - For taking American shad, not less than 5 inches,
  - For taking tomcod, not less than 1¼ inches,
  - For taking white perch, yellow perch, and catfish species, not less than 3½ inches.
3. The use of gill nets constructed of single or multiple strands of monofilament is prohibited for taking American shad from sunrise to sunset. The twine thickness of any such gill net shall be no greater than 0.28mm diameter (#69).
4. The terminal buoys of all gill nets must be marked with the owner's license number.

**Scoop Nets for Taking American Shad**

Mesh size shall be not less than 5 inches.

**Minnow Seines and Traps**

For Taking Only the Bait Species Listed in **Appendix IV: Bait Species**, see page 35.

Mesh size may be any size.

**Fish Pots**

1. Fish pots shall only be used to take fish; the taking of lobsters and blue crabs in fish pots is prohibited.
2. Fish pots cannot be more than 6 feet long, wide or high.
3. Escape vents are required and must be at least 3.1 inches circular or 2¼ inches x 2¼ inches square. Escapement ("ghost") panels are also required and, when open, must have an opening of at least 7¾ inches x 7¾ inches square or which allows the entire end or side of a trap to be open. The panel must be held closed by ungalvanized, uncoated wire not more than 3/32 inches thick, magnesium alloy fasteners or timed release "pop up" devices, or untreated natural fiber such as cotton, hemp, or jute string 3/16 inches in thickness or smaller. Escape vents and panels may not be placed on the bottom of the pots.
4. Fish pots and their buoys must have the commercial finfish plate number on them in numbers at least ¾ inches high.

**Construction of Minnow Traps**

1. Minnow traps for the taking of bait species only shall have a length of not more than 36 inches and a diameter of not more than 18 inches.
2. Minnow traps shall be equipped with not more than 2 funnels and the entrance opening shall not exceed 1½ inches in diameter.
3. Minnow traps shall not be equipped with leader or wing.

**Whelk Pots**

1. No person shall use whelk pots except for the taking of whelk.
2. No person shall use in the waters of this state a whelk pot, trap or similar device with a volume larger than 22,950 cubic inches.
3. Whelk pots shall have an unobstructed opening on the top side of no less than 140 square inches, and each side of the opening shall be at least 10 inches in length.
4. No person shall use any whelk pot and the buoys thereof unless such whelk pot is marked legibly with the commercial fishing license plate number and the buoy is so marked with numbers not less than three-quarters of an inch in height.
5. All whelk pot buoys used by any person in the waters of this state shall be of uniform color or uniform pattern of coloration, such color or pattern to be determined by such person. Any person engaged in whelk

fishing shall maintain one of such person's whelk pot buoys on such person's vessel in a position visible from all directions.

6. No person shall set, tend or assist in setting or tending any whelk pot, trap or similar device for the catching of whelk on any leased shellfish bed without the permission of the lease holder.
7. All bait used in whelk pots, traps or similar devices shall be wholly contained within a mesh bag.
8. No person shall from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, set, tend or assist in setting or tending any whelk pot, trap or similar device for the catching of whelk or any live car or other device in which whelks are kept in the water after having been removed from the pots, traps or trawls in which they were caught.

### ***Areas of the Inland District Open to Commercial Fishing***

In the Inland District, commercial fishing is permitted only in the following areas and only for the species listed in **Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District**, see page 36.

#### **Connecticut River System**

1. The main body of the river from the I-95 Bridge at Old Saybrook-Old Lyme to the Massachusetts-Connecticut state line (for American shad, only south of the Putnam Bridge in Glastonbury).
2. The coves and portions of tributaries which are subject to tidal fluctuation except the Farmington River and its coves and flood waters and the Salmon River and its coves and flood waters (except for American shad).
3. The temporary or seasonal pools formed by the floodwaters of the Connecticut River.
4. That portion of the Hockanum River lying within the boundaries of the township of East Hartford.
5. Bait species as defined in **Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District** on page 36 may be taken for commercial purposes in the Hockanum River and its impoundments or portions of impoundments within the township of East Hartford.
6. That portion of the Blackhall River which lies within the inland district and which is subject to tidal fluctuation.
7. That portion of the Lieutenant River which lies within the inland district and which is subject to tidal fluctuation.

#### **Housatonic River System**

1. The main body of the river from the Merritt Parkway upstream to the Derby electric plant in Derby.
2. The coves and portions of tributaries subject to tidal fluctuation.
3. The temporary or seasonal pools formed by the floodwaters of the Housatonic River within the limits established by item 1 above.
4. The impoundments known as Lake Housatonic and Lake Zoar may be fished commercially for eels, carp and suckers only.

#### **Quinnipiac River System**

1. The main body of the river lying between the marine-inland district demarcation line (Route 17) and a point five hundred feet downstream of the Hanover Dam, Meriden.
2. The coves and portions of tributaries subject to tidal fluctuation.
3. Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the river and its impoundments to a point five hundred feet downstream of the Hanover Dam, Meriden.

#### **Thames River System**

1. The main body of the river which lies within the inland district (500 feet north of the Route 1 / I-95 Bridge) and which is subject to tidal fluctuation (Norwich Harbor).
2. The coves and portions of tributaries subject to tidal fluctuation.
3. The temporary or seasonal pools caused by floodwaters within the limits established by item 1 above.

#### **Quinebaug River System**

Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the main body of the river from the Massachusetts state line downstream to the bridge on Route 6 at Danielson and from its impoundments or portions of impoundments from the Massachusetts state line downstream to Providence Street in Putnam.

#### **French River System**

1. The main body of the river lying within the boundaries of the township of Thompson.
2. Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the main body of the river and its impoundments lying within the township of Thompson.

### **Shetucket River System**

1. Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the main body of the river and its impoundments from the junction of the Willimantic River and Natchaug River downstream to the Scotland Dam, Windham.
2. Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the main body of the river and its impoundments from the Route 97 Bridge in Sprague downstream to the bridge on Route 12 in Lisbon-Norwich.

### **Species-Specific Area Restrictions**

1. White perch, catfish species, and yellow perch may be taken for commercial purposes only in the following specified areas of the Connecticut and Thames Rivers:
  - The Chester Cove in the town of Chester, and from the I-95 bridge in Old Saybrook-Old Lyme to Whalebone Creek range light number forty but not including Hamburg Cove and the Eight Mile River in the township of Lyme.
  - The Thames River, its coves and floodwaters from 500 feet north of the I-95 bridge, New London-Groton to the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge, Montville-Preston. **In the Thames River, these species may not be taken with gill nets or trawl nets.**

### **Areas Closed to Commercial Fishing**

1. Commercial fishing with hook and line is prohibited in all areas of the inland district.
2. Navigable channels as indicated by Coast Guard channel markers. This area closure applies only to the buoys of lobster pots, fish pots, eel pots, and to anchored or fixed gill nets, trap nets, fyke nets and pound nets.
3. The use of fixed commercial fishing gear is prohibited in "fairways" on a year-round basis and mooring areas from May 1-October 15, if such fairways and mooring areas are identified as prohibited areas in a Harbor Management Plan approved by the DEEP. Unbuoyed lobster pots, fish pots, eel pots, or pots set in such a way that the buoys are not placed in the fairways or mooring areas are not prohibited. Fairways are defined as unmarked harbor navigation channels as established through the local harbor management planning process. For information regarding the status of Harbor Management Plans in your area, contact local authorities.
4. That portion of North Cove, as indicated by posters and known as Fall River, in the township of Essex.
5. The following areas of the shores of Long Island Sound are restricted by statute from certain types of commercial fishing. Information on these areas can be obtained from the sources indicated in the introduction of this circular. Also, note **Appendix I: Inshore Trawl Line** (page 33) and **Appendix II: Offshore Trawl Line** (page 33).
  - Nets and seines in Darien, Stamford and Greenwich.
  - Use of seines in Norwalk Harbor.
  - Nets in the Pawcatuck River.
  - Nets north of Long Beach and Penfield Reef.
  - Trawls in the Thames River. See **Appendix I: Inshore Trawl Line**, see page 33.
  - Gill nets in the Thames River above the Amtrak Bridge.
  - Trawls or gill nets in the Mystic River above a line extending from the southern extremity of Morgan Point in Noank to the southern extremity of Ram Point on Mason Island.
  - Trawls or gill nets in the Niantic River above the Amtrak Bridge.
  - Seines in the Mystic River.
  - Purse nets in the Thames River above the Amtrak Bridge.
  - Nets in Milford Harbor.
  - Nets in Chester Cove, Wright's Cove, and Keney Cove.
  - Use of nets in Long Island Sound adjacent to Stratford.
  - Use of trawls in the Poquonock River.
  - Selected parts of the Connecticut River.
6. No person shall use, set or tend and otter trawl, beam trawl, sink gillnet or anchored gillnet in the following areas of Long Island Sound:
  - Falkner Island Gear Restricted Area. An area approximately 22.5 mi<sup>2</sup> within the rectangle bounded by: 41°12.5'N 72°43.5'W, 41°12.5'N 72°36.0'W, 41°09.5'N 72°43.5'W, 41°09.5'N 72°36.0'W.

- Connecticut River Mouth Gear Restricted Area. An area approximately 9 mi<sup>2</sup> within the rectangle bounded by: 41°16.0'N 72°23.5'W, 41°16.0'N 72°19.0'W, 41°14.0'N 72°23.5'W, 41°14.0'N 72°19.0'W.

### Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing

The table below lists species-specific closed seasons for commercial fishing. Refer also to Prohibited Species beginning on page 25.

**Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing**

Species	Closed Season (all dates inclusive)
Alewives and blueback herring	Closed year round until further notice.
American shad <sup>1</sup>	June 16 thru March 31
Blue crabs	December 1 thru April 30
Horseshoe crabs <sup>1</sup>	July 8 thru the third day following the last full or new moon, whichever occurs later, in May.
Yellow perch, white perch, and catfish <sup>2</sup> species	April 1 thru September 30
Tautog (blackfish)	May 1 thru June 30
	September 1 thru October 7
	December 25 thru March 31
Tomcod	April 16 thru November 30
Winter flounder	March 1 thru April 14
<sup>1</sup> Closed on weekends and around the first new or full moon in June within the open season. See Species Restrictions for details.	
<sup>2</sup> American shad anglers may take catfish species during the shad season if the license holder also holds a General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License.	

### Prohibited Species

The following species may not be taken or possessed in Connecticut regardless of where taken. Any of these species taken incidentally shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which they were taken. These prohibitions apply to both recreational and commercial fishing unless otherwise noted.

#### Alewives and Blueback (River) Herring (*Alosa pseudoharengus*, *Alosa aestivalis*)

See the Connecticut Angler's Guide for exemptions for land locked river herring.

#### Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)

Except for recreational broodstock fishing, as provided for in Section 26-112 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

#### Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*)

#### Rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*)

No person shall take from or possess any rainbow smelt taken from the marine district or from those areas of the inland district open to commercial fishing (see page 23).

#### Shark Species

*Prohibited shark species (regardless of federal permit)*

- Atlantic angel (*Squatina dumerili*)
- Basking (*Cetorhinus maximus*)
- Bigeye sand tiger (*Odontaspis noronhai*)
- Bigeye sixgill (*Hexanchus vitulus*)
- Bigeye thresher (*Alopias superciliosus*)
- Bignose (*Carcharhinus altimus*)
- Caribbean reef (*Carcharhinus altimus*)
- Caribbean sharpnose (*Rhizoprionodon porosus*)
- Dusky (*Carcharhinus obscurus*)
- Galapagos (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*)
- Longfin mako (*Isurus paucus*)
- Narrowtooth (*Carcharhinus brachyurus*)
- Night (*Carcharhinus signatus*)

- Sandbar (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*)
- Sand tiger (*Odontaspis Taurus*)
- Shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)
- Sevengill (*Heptranchias perlo*)
- Sixgill (*Hexanchus griseus*)
- Smalltail (*Carcharhinus porosus*)
- Whale (*Rhincodon typus*)
- White (*Carcharodon carcharias*)

### **Shortnose Sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)**

#### **Trout / Charr**

Commercial take prohibited. See the Connecticut Angler's Guide for recreational measures for trout and charr (brook trout).

### **Species Restrictions**

**The commercial possession limits apply to the aggregate of all persons aboard the vessel per trip or per day whichever is the longer period of time.**

See previous sections for other applicable rules. See **Appendix IV: Bait Species** (page 35) for bait species and **Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District** (page 36) for restrictions on commercial fishing in the inland district. **Federal permit holders must comply with federal rules, regardless of where the fish are taken.**

#### **American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)**

Minimum length - 9 inches. The taking of glass eels, elvers and sliver eels is prohibited. Glass eels are transparent larval American eels less than 4 inches in length and elvers are post-larval eels 4-6 inches in length. Silver eels are sexually mature adults that take on a deep silvery and black coloration when they leave rivers and streams to return to the ocean to spawn. Most silver eels greater than 16 inches in length are female.

#### **American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*)**

American shad may be taken from the Connecticut River system only. No American shad shall be taken for commercial purposes from Friday night at sundown to Sunday night at sundown. The closed season is June 16 through March 31.

#### **Atlantic Herring (*Clupea harengus*)**

The taking of Atlantic herring is prohibited when federal waters outside of Long Island Sound are closed to the taking of herring. The landing of Atlantic herring from any herring management area that is closed to the taking of Atlantic herring in Connecticut is prohibited.

#### **Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS)**

Include tunas, swordfish, sharks and billfishes. These species are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce, with consideration for the domestic and international aspects of these fisheries.

Commercial anglers must hold the appropriate federal permit, the general category, Harpoon, or charter/headboat category permit *with* the commercial sale endorsement to harvest and sell, Atlantic tunas and swordfish. The owner of a vessel with an HMS permit agrees, as a condition of the permit, to comply with all applicable federal and state regulations, regardless of where the fishing occurs, including in state waters. When fishing in the waters of a state with more restrictive regulations, the more restrictive regulations must be followed. Commercial anglers who hold the appropriate HMS permit(s) may land hook and line caught fish in Connecticut under the Restricted Commercial Fishing License, adhering to the federal restrictions for the species being landed. If you are landing and selling for the purpose of resale, you also need a CT Seafood Dealer's License and a Federal Atlantic tunas dealer permit.

Holders of an HMS commercial permit may only sell to a seafood dealer who holds a FEDERAL HMS DEALERS PERMIT. If you are fishing on a for-hire trip in federal waters, harvesting tuna species with an HMS charter/headboat category permit *with* a commercial sale endorsement, you may land and sell in Connecticut (to a Federal Atlantic Tunas Permitted Dealer) with a CT Party Charter License, adhering to the federal restrictions for the species being landed. If you are landing and selling for the purpose of resale, you also need a CT Seafood Dealer's license and a Federal Atlantic Tunas dealer permit.



If an individual wishes to land and sell HMS tunas in CT on a non-for-hire trip (ie. no fee paying passengers aboard), harvesting tuna species under the appropriate federal HMS permit(s) they must also hold a CT Restricted commercial fishing license- even if they are fishing on a vessel that has a party/charter registration.

If an individual who holds a CT party/charter permit wishes to land and sell HMS species other than tunas in CT, they must hold a restricted commercial fishing license, regardless of whether the vessel they are fishing on holds a CT party/charter registration; as the CT party/charter registration only allows for the sale of Atlantic tuna species.

Commercial fishing for billfish is not allowed since the sale or purchase of billfish is prohibited.

**Atlantic tunas**, such as bluefin tuna quota status or retention limits:

<https://hmspermits.noaa.gov> for pelagic longline quota updates <https://secatchshares.fisheries.noaa.gov/>.

More detailed information on tunas: HMS Management Division (Gloucester, MA) phone: 978- 281-9260

**Regulatory Updates for Atlantic sharks, swordfish, and tunas:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/overview>

HMS Management Division (Silver Spring, MD) phone: 301-427-8503

**Bait Species (Including: Tidewater silverside, Atlantic silverside, Sand lance or Sand eel and Bay anchovy)**

1. No person shall take or land, on a daily basis, two hundred pounds or more of any of the following bait species: Tidewater silverside (*Menidia peninsulae*), Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*), Sand lance or sand eel (*Ammodytes tobianus*), or Bay anchovy (*Anchoa mitchilli*).

**Black Sea Bass (*Centropristis striata*)**

1. Commercial fishery moratorium – The landing or possession of black sea bass in Connecticut is prohibited unless the license holder has in his possession a *Black Sea Bass Quota-Managed Species Endorsement* issued under qualification criteria revised in December 2003. **These endorsements must be purchased annually by March 31<sup>st</sup>** and are now printed on your commercial license. See Quota-Managed Species Endorsements on page 11.
2. **When there is an allowance for the commercial harvest of black sea bass from lobster pots without an endorsement required and in the possession of lobster, there is a mandatory weekly call-in.** The Marine Fisheries Program implements the mandatory weekly call-in reporting requirement for black sea bass landings from lobster pots to allow for timely monitoring of black sea bass and is implemented under authority CGS Sec. 26-157b. When the allowance is effective, a commercial harvester landing black sea bass from lobster pots is required to contact the Marine Fisheries Program weekly. The deadline is 2359 hours on Monday for the prior fishing week. The reports must be received by calling 860-447-4323 and leaving a message with the following information: name, commercial fishing plate number, the reporting week ending date (reporting weeks run Sunday through Saturday) and total pounds of black sea bass landed from lobster pots during the reporting week. This does not apply to personal use lobster license holders. **Note: Black Sea Bass endorsement holders may not be in possession of black sea bass taken from lobster pots in addition to the prevailing possession limit for endorsement holders** (i.e., endorsement holders may not be in possession of 660 pounds of black sea bass; the possession limit for endorsement holders is 600 pounds, until the possession limit is changed, regardless of gear type used).
3. Current commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are available: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL>, via 24-hour call-in line at 860-434-6374 (recorded message providing current possession limits) or by calling the Marine Fisheries Program at 860-434-6043. When fishing multiple gears the **most restrictive** trip limit is applied.
4. See Trawl Nets on page for information related to trawl mesh size-related possession limits.

**Blue Crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*)**

1. Size limit is 5 inches for hard shell crabs and 3½ inches for soft-shell crabs.
2. Closed season: December 1 through April 30.
3. Possession of uncooked blue crabs without the body shell (carapace) attached is prohibited. Only two claws per crab body may be possessed.

**Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*)**

1. Use of pair trawls, purse seines, or roller rig gill nets to take bluefish is prohibited.
2. The bluefish commercial fishery is managed under a state quota. The commercial fishing season opens on January 1 and closes December 31, or upon reaching 100% of the quota, whichever comes first.

Commercial license holders may take an amount equal to the creel limit at any time but, if taken during a closed commercial period, bluefish may not be sold.

3. Current commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are available: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL>, via 24-hour call-in line at 860-434-6374 (recorded message providing current possession limits) or by calling the Marine Fisheries Program at 860-434-6043.
4. **Quota Monitoring and Bluefish Catch Reporting:** DEEP has suspended the weekly reporting requirement for commercial license holders landing bluefish. Weekly monitoring may be reinstated in the future, if required, to meet the quota-monitoring obligations of the bluefish fishery management plan. License holders will be notified of any changes in this requirement. All license holders authorized to take bluefish are still required to submit monthly logbooks that include a daily record of catch.

### **Catfish Species**

License holders targeting American Shad may take catfish during the American shad season if the license holder also possesses the General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License.

### **Coastal Sharks**

1. No person shall take from Connecticut waters, and no person shall possess, sell, exchange, or offer for sale or exchange in Connecticut regardless of where it was taken, any species of shark other than spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) and smooth dogfish (*Mustelus canis*) except that:
  - A holder of an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service may possess non-prohibited shark species in accordance with all provisions of 50 CFR 635: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-635> including but not limited to possession limits, minimum lengths and seasonal closures, provided that no shark species shall be harvested from Connecticut Waters when federal waters are closed to harvest for that species; or
  - a holder of a Scientific Collector's Permit issued by the department may possess certain shark species for research or display purposes if specifically authorized to do so under the terms of the permit; or
  - a holder of a display permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the provisions of 50 CFR 635.32 may possess shark species authorized by the terms of such permit.

### *Sportfishing*

2. No sport angler shall possess or land sharks that do not have the head, tail and fins naturally attached to the carcass. Sharks may be gutted and may be bled by making an incision at the base of the caudal peduncle provided the tail is not removed. No sport angler shall fillet a shark at sea or cut a shark into pieces at sea.
3. No sport angler shall take sharks by any method other than rod and reel or handline.

### *Commercial*

4. No commercial license holder shall possess or land sharks that do not have the tail and fins naturally attached to the carcass. Fins may be cut as long as they remain attached to the carcass by natural means with at least a small portion of uncut skin. Sharks may be gutted and may be bled by making an incision at the base of the caudal peduncle provided the tail is not removed. No commercial license holder shall fillet at sea or otherwise cut sharks into pieces at sea.
5. No commercial license holder shall take sharks from Connecticut waters by any method other than rod and reel, handline or trawl net, except that smooth dogfish and spiny dogfish may also be taken by gill net.
6. No person shall purchase any sharks from commercial license holders for resale unless such person, in addition to possessing a valid Connecticut Seafood Dealer License, also possesses a federal shark dealer permit issued pursuant to 50 CFR 635.4 <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-635>

### **Horseshoe Crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*)**

1. Effective October 1, 2023, no person shall engage in the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs or the eggs of horseshoe crabs from the waters of this state.
2. Horseshoe crabs may be taken by otter trawl fishing without a Horseshoe Crab Hand-Harvest Quota-Managed Species Endorsement. Persons may also possess legally acquired dead horseshoe crabs being used for bait.
3. Commercial fishery possession limit:
  - In the trawl fishery, 25 crabs.

4. The taking of horseshoe crabs is restricted to holders of the Principal Commercial Fishing License (by trawl). See Horseshoe Crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*) on page 28 for details.
5. The open season for the taking of horseshoe crabs begins on the third day following the last full or new moon, whichever occurs later, in May and ends after July 7.
6. During the open season, no horseshoe crab shall be taken from Friday at 6:00 PM through Sunday at 6:00 PM.
7. Lunar Closure: No person shall engage in the harvest of horseshoe crabs during the period beginning two days prior to the date of the first full or new moon in June of each year, whichever occurs earlier, and ending two days after the date of said moon.

#### **Jonah Crab (*Cancer borealis*)**

1. A commercial license that allows lobster trap fishing is required to take Jonah crabs by traps. All traps must meet the lobster trap requirements, including trap tags.
2. The minimum carapace width is 4¾ inches.
3. The possession of egg-bearing females is prohibited.
4. The vessel possession limit in the non-trap fishery is 1,000 crabs per day or per trip, whichever is the longer period of time.
5. Jonah crabs must be landed whole. Possession of claws detached from the body is prohibited, except when in possession of the body and no more than two claws per clawless body.
6. The recreational possession limit, including catch by personal use lobster pot fishing, is 50 crabs per day or per trip, whichever is the longer period of time.

#### **Monkfish (*Lophius americanus*)**

The possession limit for monkfish livers is 10% of the weight of whole fish on board or 25% of the weight of tails on board (see Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths specified in Current Commissioner Declarations, minimum fish length section for minimum length of whole fish and tail length). Federal permit holders must comply with federal rules on fishing for monkfish, regardless of where the fish are taken.

#### **Scup (porgy) (*Stenotomus chrysops*)**

1. Commercial fishery moratorium – The landing or possession of scup in Connecticut is prohibited from May 1 through September 30 unless the license holder has in his possession a *Scup Quota-Managed Species Endorsement* issued under qualification criteria revised in December 2003. **These endorsements must be purchased annually by March 31<sup>st</sup>** and are now printed on your commercial license. See Quota-Managed Species Endorsements on page 11. Contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program for information on qualification criteria.
2. See Trawl Nets on page 20 for information related to trawl mesh size-related possession limits.
3. Current commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are available: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL>, via 24-hour call-in line at 860-434-6374 (recorded message providing current possession limits) or by calling the Marine Fisheries Program at 860-434-6043.
4. When fishing multiple gears the least restrictive trip limit is applied.

#### **Smooth Dogfish (*Mustelus canis*)**

1. Smooth dogfish fins must remain naturally attached, removing the fins of smooth dogfish is a violation of the ASMFC Coastal Shark Fishery Management Plan.
2. Current commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are available: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL>, via 24-hour call-in line at 860-434-6374 (recorded message providing current possession limits) or by calling the Marine Fisheries Program at 860-434-6043.
3. **Closure:** If 100% of the Connecticut smooth dogfish quota specified in the ASMFC Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks has been landed, the fishery is closed.

#### **Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*)**

1. The possession of dogfish fins without the rest of the fish is prohibited.
2. Current commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are available: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL>, via 24-hour call-in line at 860-434-6374 (recorded message providing current possession limits) or by calling the Marine Fisheries Program at 860-434-6043.
3. **Closure:** If 100% of the quota specified in the ASMFC Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish has been landed, or 100% of the quota specified by NOAA has been landed, the fishery is closed.

#### **Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)**

1. Permitted Gear – Angling only. Spear fishing or the use of a gaff is prohibited in Connecticut waters.

2. Striped bass which are legally taken by spear in Rhode Island or New York waters, in compliance with the laws of those two states, are permitted to be transported across the waters of this state to be landed at Connecticut ports as long as they meet Connecticut's minimum length and possession limits.
3. **Sale of striped bass taken from Connecticut waters is prohibited.** If taken from the waters of a state in which commercial fishing is allowed, they may be sold in Connecticut, but only if they meet the current Connecticut length restrictions. Moreover, they must be tagged with a tag from the state of origin. License holders wishing to know the status of the fishery in New York or Rhode Island must contact the marine fishery management agency in those states.
4. Landing of Striped Bass – Striped bass may not be landed with the head or tail removed.
5. Hybrid "Striped Bass" – Artificially reared hybrid striped bass (one parent *Morone saxatilis*) less than the minimum length may be possessed and sold if the retailer maintains documentation attesting to the point of origin (the hatchery or fish farm).
6. Tagging of striped bass is prohibited unless the person applying the tag is participating in a program approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the striped bass is greater than 16 inches total length.

#### **Summer Flounder (fluke) (*Paralichthys dentatus*)**

1. Commercial fishery moratorium – The landing or possession of summer flounder in Connecticut is prohibited unless the license holder has in his possession a *Summer Flounder Quota-Managed Species Endorsement* issued under qualification criteria revised in December 2003. **These endorsements must be purchased annually by March 31<sup>st</sup>** and are now printed on your commercial license. See Quota-Managed Species Endorsements on page 11. Contact the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program for information on qualification criteria.
4. See Trawl Nets on page 20 for information related to trawl mesh size-related possession limits.
5. Current commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL>, via 24-hour call-in line at 860-434-6374 (recorded message providing current possession limits) or by calling the Marine Fisheries Program at 860-434-6043.
6. Special restriction on filleting – While engaged in sport fishing activities, possession of summer flounder filets less than recreational minimum length is prohibited unless the "rack" (carcass) of the fish from which the fillet was removed has been retained and is at the recreational size limit. This regulation does not prohibit filleting summer flounder on shore or at the dockside.
7. Special restriction on filleting – While engaged in commercial fishing, possession of summer flounder filets less than 14 inches in length is prohibited unless the "rack" (carcass) of the fish from which the fillet was removed has been retained and is at least 14 inches in length. This regulation does not prohibit filleting summer flounder on shore or at the dockside.

#### **Tautog (blackfish) (*Tautoga onitis*)**

1. No holder of any limited-access commercial fishing license, Commercial Landing Vessel Operator's License or Marine Pound Net Registration permitted to take tautog from the waters of this state or to land tautog in Connecticut, regardless of where such fish are taken, shall possess more than 10 tautog. No holder of a Restricted Commercial Fishing License, or *creel limited* General Commercial (finfish) License may possess or land more than 3 tautog.
2. Closed Season – No person engaged in commercial fishing shall take, bring ashore, or possess any tautog, wherever taken, except during the open season. Please refer to <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-TL> for current commercial regulations.

**MANDATORY Commercial Tagging Program** Any person engaging in commercial fishing for tautog or commercial license holders in possession of tautog with the intent to sell, barter, trade, or consume must abide by the following provisions for commercial tautog tagging adopted under Amendment 1 to the Tautog Fishery Management Plan of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

1. No person engaged in commercial fishing may land or offload tautog without first affixing a commercial tautog tag issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (department) to the left opercula bone (gill plate) of all tautog to be landed or offloaded, such that the identifying number on the commercial tag is clearly visible.
2. Commercial license holders may only land or offload tautog affixed with commercial tautog tags issued by the department during the same calendar year as the landing or offloading event.
3. No commercially landed tautog shall be sold, purchased, bartered, traded, or consumed in Connecticut unless it bears a commercial tautog tag as defined in Amendment 1 to the Tautog Fishery Management Plan of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.
4. No person shall transfer commercial tautog tags between individuals or fish.

5. Any person issued commercial tautog tags by the department in any calendar year must return any unused tags and submit a report of tag use to the department by February 15 of the following calendar year. Failure by any person to return unused tags, submit required reports, or account for disposition of tags issued previously may result in loss of future privilege to obtain commercial tautog tags.
6. Any tautog tagged with a commercial tautog tag must remain tagged until it reaches the final consumer. Processed or fileted tautog shall be packed with the commercial tautog tag originally affixed to that tautog. Tags must be retained with processed or fileted tautog and be available for inspection until the processed or fileted tautog is sold to the final consumer.
7. A commercial tautog tag request form must be submitted to DEEP Marine Fisheries. Tags will then be distributed by DEEP Marine Fisheries via mail. Tautog tag requests forms can be found: <https://portal.ct.gov/commercial-tautog-tagging> or you may request by email [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov) or by calling 860-434-6043 to request a tagging form. There is no charge for tags. DEEP highly recommends use of the purpose-built applicator for these tags. Applicators are available from the vendor at: <https://www.nationalband.com/asmfc-tautog-tag-applicator/>.

#### **Whelk (conch), Channeled and Knobbed (*Busycotypus canaliculatus* and *Busycon carica*)**

1. Minimum size: 4.75 inches in shell length or 1 15/16 inches in shell height implemented August 1, 2022. **Effective January 1, 2024: 5 inches in shell length or 2 inches in shell height. Effective January 1, 2026: 5 ¼ inches in shell length or 2 1/8 inches in shell height; and effective January 1, 2028: 5 ½ inches in shell length or 2 ¼ inches in shell height.**
  - a. Shell length shall be defined as the longest length of the shell from the spire apex to the siphonal canal and shell height shall be the distance along a straight perpendicular line from a point on the opercular side of the shell to the farthest point of the top of the shell. Shell height is measured with the whelk retracted, and shell placed with the operculum stably positioned against a flat surface. To properly measure shell height using a gauge: Minimum legal shell height shall be the shell height specified in this subdivision between opposing parallel surfaces, measured with the whelk retracted and shell placed with the operculum stably positioned against one of the parallel surfaces. The whelk shall be considered legal-sized if it does not fit between the opposing parallel surfaces.
  - b. Whelk measuring less than the minimum shell length or shell height shall not comprise by number more than three percent of whelk in possession by any person, except holders of a commercial whelk fishing license may possess whelk measuring less than the minimum size provided: any such licensee is actively fishing in a designated shellfishing area with written permission of the shellfish lease holder, any whelk measuring less than the minimum size are stored in a container separate from all other catch, such whelk are kept covered with a fabric wetted with sea water, and such whelk are released, without avoidable injury, to the waters of Long Island Sound on the same day that they were taken and prior to landing or off loading, provided no such whelk shall be released onto any shellfishing ground leased by another lease holder under section 26-149 of the Connecticut General Statutes and designated under the provisions of section 26-227 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
  - c. Holders of a license to harvest shellfish issued by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to section 26-192c of the Connecticut General Statutes who are in possession of clams or oysters harvested from a designated shellfishing area may possess and land whelk measuring less than the minimum size provided: any whelk measuring less than the minimum size are stored in containers with clams and oysters prior to landing, such whelk are separated from clams and oysters after landing and held in cages stored in sea water, and such whelk are released, without avoidable injury, to the waters of Long Island Sound not later than 24 hours after landing, provided no such whelk shall be released onto any shellfishing ground leased by another lease holder under section 26-149 of the Connecticut General Statutes and designated under the provisions of section 26-227 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

#### **Winter Flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*)**

1. Commercial fishery season closure – March 1 through April 14, inclusive.
2. Commercial fishery possession limits - 50 pounds or 38 fish unless the fish were taken in federal waters under a federal groundfish permit.
3. Transfer of winter flounder between vessels at sea is prohibited.

See Trawl Nets on page 20 for information related to trawl mesh size-related possession limits.

#### **Multi-State Commercial Possession Program for Summer Flounder during the Winter 1 Period (January – April)**

The purpose of the Multi-State Possession Program is to allow qualifying commercial license holders to simultaneously carry summer flounder possession limits for Connecticut and cooperating states during the

same fishing trip. The program is limited to commercial summer flounder Winter Period 1 (January 1 through April 30, inclusive). The program permits qualifying commercial license holders to simultaneously carry summer flounder possession limits for Connecticut and cooperating states during the same fishing trip but does not permit commercial license holders to land more than the Connecticut summer flounder landing limit in Connecticut. The program in no way supersedes the annual quota that determines total allowable annual commercial landings of summer flounder (i.e. it does not allow for an increase in total annual commercial harvest of summer flounder).

**Commercial harvesters wishing to participate in this program must contact the Marine Fisheries Program at [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov) or 860-434-6043.** To qualify, individuals must have the privilege of landing summer flounder in at least one of the other participating states (including, but not limited to, New York and Rhode Island, and Massachusetts). Note that some other states may include Black sea bass in the Multi-State Possession Program, however Connecticut is not a participating state. The application can be found at: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/fishing\\_forms/Multi-State-SFL-Application-Fillable.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/fishing_forms/Multi-State-SFL-Application-Fillable.pdf)

## Appendices

### ***Appendix I: Inshore Trawl Line***

By Act of the General Assembly:

No person may use any otter trawl in any waters shoreward of the following described line: From the southern extremity of Stonington Point, Stonington; to the east end of the Stonington inner breakwater; follow the breakwater; from the west end of the breakwater to Wamphassuc Point. From the southern extremity of Dodge's Island, Stonington to the southern extremity of Ender's Island, Stonington; straight line to the southern extremity of Mason Point, Stonington; from the southerly extremity of Ram Point, Stonington straight line to the southern extremity of Morgan Point, Groton; from the entrance to Venetian Harbor, Groton to the southern extremity of Mumford Point, Groton; from the western extremity of Bushy Point Beach, Groton to the southern extremity of Avery Point, Groton; from the western extremity of Eastern Point, Groton, to the old New London Harbor lighthouse, New London; from the southern extremity of Magonk Point, Waterford; to the southern extremity of Millstone Point, Waterford; to the one fathom contour of Niantic Bay, thence to the southwest extremity of Black Point, East Lyme straight line to Buoy C5 at Seal Rock, East Lyme; thence to the southern extremity of Lands End, East Lyme; thence to the mouth of the Three Mile River, Old Lyme; straight line to Hatchett Point, Old Lyme; straight line from Hatchett Point, Old Lyme to Hawk's Nest Beach Point, Old Lyme. From the eastern extremity of Griswold Point, Old Lyme to Buoy 2 Old Saybrook Channel Entrance; thence to the southern extremity of Old Saybrook Point. From Cornfield Point, Old Saybrook to the mouth of the Oyster River, Old Saybrook; straight line to Chapman Point, Old Saybrook; straight line to Old Kelsey Point, Westbrook, from Money Point, Westbrook to Lobster Rock, Westbrook; from Lobster Rock, Westbrook to Buoy 3A Westbrook mouth of the Menunketesuck River; from Buoy 3A Westbrook to Kelsey Point, Clinton; to Hammonasset Point, Madison. From Hogshead Point, Madison to the southern extremity of Grass Island, Guilford; to the southern extremity of Mulberry Point, Guilford; to the southern extremity of Vineyard Point, Guilford; to the southern extremity of Outer Island, Branford; to the southern extremity of Haycock Point, Branford; from Haycock Point, Branford to the northeast extremity of Spectacle Island, Branford; from the southwest extremity of Spectacle Island, Branford to the flag pole at Mansfield Point, Branford; from the flag pole at Mansfield Point, Branford to the southern extremity of South End, East Haven; to the southern extremity of Morgan Point, East Haven to the southwest ledge on the east breakwater, New Haven; to the Luddington Rock breakwater to the west breakwater light in West Haven; to Oyster River Point, West Haven; to the southern extremity of Merwin Point, Milford to the southern extremity of Pond Point, Milford; to Welch's Point, Milford; to Buoy 7 Milford Outer Harbor; from Buoy 7 Milford Outer Harbor to Buoy 5 to the northwest corner of Charles Island, Milford; from the northwest corner of Charles Island, Milford to the southwest corner of Charles Island, Milford; to the south end of the outer breakwater at the Housatonic River to the southern extremity of Stratford Point, Stratford and Point No Point, Stratford. From Point No Point, Stratford to the southerly end of the east breakwater at Pleasure Beach, Bridgeport; to the south end of the west breakwater at Seaside Park, Bridgeport; to Buoy 4 Black Rock Harbor, Bridgeport. From Buoy 4 Black Rock Harbor, Bridgeport to Pine Creek Point, Fairfield; from Pine Creek Point, Fairfield to Buoy 4 Southport Harbor, Fairfield; from Buoy 4 to the southern extremity of Frost Point, Westport; to the southern extremity of Sherwood Point, Westport; to the southern point of Cedar Point, Westport; to Buoy 1 Georges Rock, Westport; to Buoy 2 Cockenoe Shoal; to Buoy 24 Westport to Buoy N28 Norwalk; to Buoy 3 Darien Five Mile River Entrance; to the Fish Island Buoy, Darien; to Long Neck Point, Darien. From Long Neck Point, Darien to Buoy 2 Cove Rocks, Stamford; to the southeast extremity of Shippan Point, Stamford; from the southwest extremity of Shippan Point, Stamford to the east end of the breakwater, Stamford Harbor; from the west end of the breakwater, Stamford Harbor to Gong 1 Greenwich South Reef; to Buoy 3 Greenwich Harbor Entrance; to the northeast extremity of Great Captain's Island, Greenwich; from the southwest extremity of Great Captain's Island, Greenwich to Byram Point.

### ***Appendix II: Offshore Trawl Line***

The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies provide that no person shall use a vessel greater than 26 feet in length to trawl in any waters north of a line beginning at the southerly tip of the Byram River breakwater to buoy N2 which is two-tenths of a nautical mile southwest of Great Captain Island to buoy N34, which is one-half nautical mile south of Greenwich Point in Greenwich to buoy R32, which is eight-tenths of a nautical mile south of Shippan Point in Stamford to buoy R24A, which is nine-tenths of a nautical mile south of Pecks Ledge in Norwalk to buoy R24, which is nine-tenths of a nautical mile southeast of the southern tip of Cockenoe Reef in Norwalk to buoy BH, which is one and four-tenths nautical miles southeast of Penfield Reef Light in Bridgeport to a point midway between buoy R18 and buoy R20, which point is one and six-tenths nautical miles south of Point No Point in Stratford and thence towards the west end of the west breakwater at New Haven Harbor and west of a line drawn from the Stratford Shoal light to the easterly breakwater of the Housatonic River in Milford.

### ***Appendix III: Demarcations between the Marine and Inland Districts***

The following table describes the demarcations between the Marine and Inland Districts for the rivers, coves, and embayments along the Connecticut shoreline:

**Table 5. Demarcations between the Marine and Inland Districts**

<b>Water Body</b>	<b>Town(s)</b>	<b>Demarcation Line</b>
Alewife Cove	New London-Waterford	Entirely in marine district
Back River	Old Saybrook	Entirely in marine district
Baker's Cove	Groton	Entirely in marine district
Beebe Cove	Groton	Entirely in marine district
Blackhall River	Old Lyme	Route 156
Branford River	Branford	Montowese Street
Bride Brook	East Lyme	First railroad crossing
Bruces Brook	Bridgeport-Stratford	Stratford Avenue
Byram River	Greenwich	First railroad crossing
Clinton River	Clinton (Indian River)	Route 1
Connecticut River	Old Lyme-Old Saybrook	First highway bridge (I-95)
Cove River	West Haven	Shore Road Route 122
Duck River	Old Lyme	Entirely in marine district
East Creek	Guilford	Tide gates at Guilford dock
East River	Guilford-Madison	Route 1
Farm River	East Haven	Route 142
Five Mile River	Darien-Norwalk	Route 136
Four Mile River	East Lyme-Old Lyme	First railroad crossing
Goodwives River	Darien	Entirely in marine district
Graniteville (Millstone) Brook	Waterford	First railroad crossing
Hammonasset River	Clinton-Madison	Route 1
Hammonds Cove	Waterford	Entirely in marine district
Horse Neck Brook	Greenwich	Junction with mouth of harbor
Housatonic River	Milford-Stratford	Merritt Parkway
Indian Harbor	Greenwich	First railroad crossing
Indian River	Milford	Route 122
Jordan Cove	Waterford	First railroad crossing
Lieutenant River	Old Lyme	Route 156
Menunketesuck River	Westbrook	Route 1
Mianus River	Greenwich	Dam north of Boston Post Road
Mile Creek	Old Lyme	Entirely in marine district
Mill River	Fairfield	Dam at Harbor Road
Mill River	New Haven	Tide gates at State Street
Muddy Brook	Westport	Route 136
Mumford Cove	Groton	Entirely in marine district
Mystic River	Stonington-Groton	500 feet north of U.S. Route 1
Neck River	Madison	Route 1
Negro Brook	Stratford	Route 110
Niantic River	East Lyme-Waterford	Golden Spur Bridge on Route 1-A
Noroton River	Darien-Stamford	Boston Post Road
Norwalk River	Norwalk	Wall Street
Oyster River	Milford	Route 122
Oyster River	Old Saybrook	Route 1
Palmer's Cove	Groton	Entirely in marine district
Pataganset Cove	East Lyme	First railroad crossing
Patchogue River	Westport	Route 1
Pawcatuck River	Stonington	500 feet north of Route 1



Water Body	Town(s)	Demarcation Line
Pequonnock River	Bridgeport	North Avenue
Pequot-Sepos Cove	Stonington	500 feet north of Route 1
Poquonnock River	Groton	500 feet north of Route 1
Pumpkin Ground Brook	Stratford	Route 110
Quiambaug Cove	Stonington	500 feet north of Route 1
Quinnipiac River	New Haven	Route 17
Rippowam River	Stamford	First railroad crossing
Rooster River	Bridgeport	North Avenue
Sasco Brook	Westport	Buckley's Mill Dam above Route 1
Saugatuck River	Westport	Kings Highway
Shaws Cove	New London	Entirely in marine district
Stonington Harbor	Stonington	Lambert Cove and Quana duck Cove (500 ft north of Rt 1)
Stony Brook	Westport	Riverside Avenue
Thames River	Groton-New London	500 feet north of Route 1
Three Mile River	Old Lyme	First railroad crossing
Tokeneke Brook	Darien	Old Farm Road
Wepawaug River	Milford	Route 122
Wequetequock River	Stonington	500 feet north of Route 1
West River	Guilford	Route 146
West River	West Haven	Tide gates at Orange Avenue
Winthrop Cove	New London	Entirely in marine district

#### Appendix IV: Bait Species

The following species listed here, to the exclusion of all other species, may be taken commercially in the inland district under an inland commercial bait license, or in the marine district under a marine commercial bait license. These species may also be offered for sale as bait species under a bait dealer's license. These species can also be taken for personal use using approved gears under recreational fishing licenses.

(1) Golden shiner or "pond shiner" (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*); (2) common shiner (*Luxilus cornutus*); (3) fallfish (*Semotilus corporalis*); (4) creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*); (5) spottail shiner or "river bait" (*Notropis hudsonius*); (6) bridle shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*); (7) blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*); (8) longnose dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*); (9) pearl dace (*Margariscus margarita*); (10) bluntnose minnow (*Pimephales notatus*); (11) fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*); (12) cutlips minnow (*Exoglossum maxillingua*); (13) chub sucker (*Erimyzon oblongus*); (14) banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanus*); (15) mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*); (16) striped killifish (*Fundulus majalis*); (17) tidewater silverside<sup>2</sup> (*Menidia beryllina*); (18) Atlantic silverside<sup>2</sup> (*Menidia menidia*); (19) sand lance<sup>2</sup> or "sand eels<sup>2</sup>" (*Ammodytes* spp); (20) bay anchovy<sup>2</sup> (*Anchoa mitchilli*); (21) sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegatus*); (22) mullet species (*mugil* spp.); (23) frogs (except northern leopard frogs); (24) perch bugs; (25) helgramites; (26) mayfly nymphs; (27) other aquatic insects; (28) crayfish; (29) green crabs (*Carcinus maenas*); (30) fiddler crabs (*Uca* spp.); (31) hermit crabs (*Pagurus* spp.); (32) Asian (Japanese) shore crab (*Hemigrapsus sanguineus*); and (33) shrimp (families Crangonidae, Palaemonidae and Penaeidae).

In addition to the bait species listed above, the following species, **if legally taken under the appropriate commercial license** and meeting the minimum legal length requirements specified in this information circular, may be offered for sale as bait under a bait dealer's license: (1) menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*); (2) alewives<sup>1</sup> (*Alosa pseudoharengus*); (3) blueback or "glut" herring<sup>1</sup> (*Alosa aestivalis*); (4) American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*); (5) butterfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*); (6) Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*); (7) Silver Hake (Whiting) (*Merluccius bilinearis*); (8) Atlantic Longfin squid (*Loligo* sp.); (9) Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*); (10) hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*); and (11) horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*).

<sup>1</sup> See page 25 for details regarding the emergency prohibition of the taking of alewives and blueback herring.

<sup>2</sup> See page for 27 for regulated daily limit of 200 pounds per day.

## **Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District**

- a. Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)
- b. Common sucker (*Catostomus commersonii*)
- c. American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)
- d. Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- e. Atlantic tomcod or "frostfish" (*Microgadus tomcod*)
- f. Hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*)
- g. American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) – in the main stem Connecticut River only, south of the Putnam Bridge in Glastonbury.
- h. ~~Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*)~~ **Fishery Closed**
- i. ~~Blueback (glut or river) herring (*Alosa aestivalis*)~~ **Fishery Closed**
- j. White perch (*Morone americana*)
- k. Yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*)
- l. Catfish species (*Ictalurus spp.*)
- m. Bait species: (1) golden shiner or "pond shiner" (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*); (2) common shiner (*Luxilus cornutus*); (3) fallfish (*Semotilus corporalis*); (4) creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*); (5) spottail shiner or "river bait" (*Notropis hudsonius*); (6) bridle shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*); (7) blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*); (8) longnose dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*); (9) pearl dace (*Margariscus margarita*); (10) bluntnose minnow (*Pimephales notatus*); (11) fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*); (12) cutlips minnow (*Exoglossum maxillingua*); (13) chub sucker (*Erimyzon oblongus*); (14) banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanus*); (15) mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*); (16) striped killifish (*Fundulus majalis*); (17) tidewater silverside (*Menidia beryllina*); (18) Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*); (19) bay anchovy (*Anchoa mitchilli*); (20) sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegatus*); (21) mullet species (*Mugil spp.*); (22) frogs (except northern leopard frogs); (23) perch bugs; (24) helgramites; (25) mayfly nymphs; (26) other aquatic insects; (27) crayfish; (28) shrimp (families Crangonidae, Palaemonidae and Penaeidae).
- n. Any species of crustaceans provided lobsters and blue crabs meet minimum legal size requirements and are taken by legal methods.

## **Appendix VI: Escape Vents and Escape Panels in Lobster Pots**

- a. All lobster pots used in Connecticut waters must have an escape vent in the catch compartment (parlor) of the pot. The vent must be in an unobstructed location and must measure either 2 inches by 5-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches rectangular or must consist of two 2-5/8 inch circular openings.  
 Minimum escape vent sizes for pots used outside of Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 (Long Island Sound) vary according to the minimum legal size of lobsters. Any license holder authorized to fish in more than one LMA must adhere to the most restrictive measures, regardless of where fishing is taking place.
- b. All lobster pots made of material other than wood and used for the taking of lobsters in Connecticut waters shall be constructed so as to contain, on any side of the catch compartment (parlor), an escapement panel which, when open, will provide an unobstructed opening not less than 3-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches by 3-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches.  
 If constructed of wood, the escapement panel must include a rectangular escape vent not less than 2 inches by 5-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches and, on the long axis, be composed of lath not thicker than 3/8 of an inch.  
 If constructed of material other than wood, the escapement panel may be hinged and must be held in the closed position with either a) non-stainless uncoated, ferrous wire, the stock of which is not more than 3/32 of an inch in diameter or b) untreated natural fiber such as cotton, sisal, hemp, or manila.  
 All such pots and traps found in use that do not contain such escapement panels may be seized by any authorized representative of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and disposed of as determined by the Commissioner.
- c. Holders of a federal permit to take lobsters from the EEZ may, for complying with the escapement panel provision in the EEZ, use a "bungee cord" to hold the trap door shut, as long as the cord is attached with untreated non-stainless/uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32 inch (0.24 cm) in diameter and in such a way that when the untreated material degrades, the door of the trap will pivot open freely.

### Appendix VII: Areas in Which Trawling is Prohibited

- a. The use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices west of the LORAN C 14935 line at Kimberly Reef near Madison is prohibited from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.
- b. The use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices is prohibited north of the line described in **Appendix I: Inshore Trawl Line** (page 33). Furthermore the use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices from any vessel greater than 26 feet in length is prohibited north and west of the lines described in **Appendix II: Offshore Trawl Line** (page 33).

In addition, from Friday one hour after sunset to Sunday one hour before sunset, trawling is prohibited inside a line from the southern tip of the Old Saybrook west breakwater to Buoy R8 to the shoreline at 72 degrees 18 minutes west longitude in Old Lyme.

In addition, the use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices from any vessel greater than 44 feet in length is prohibited in Connecticut waters north of a line running from shore to shore through Buoy C5 at Three Foot Rock in East Lyme and Buoy N6 at Black Rock in Waterford.

- c. The use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices from any vessel greater than 44 feet in length is prohibited in Connecticut waters west of 73 degrees longitude unless the vessel operator has been authorized to operate a vessel of this size in this area.
- d. The use of otter trawls on designated oyster beds, without the permission of the bed leaseholder is prohibited. For copies of oyster bed boundaries, contact the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture at 203-874-0696.

### Appendix VIII: Connecticut State Waters Boundary Line

The points described in the following table define the Connecticut State waters boundary line from Greenwich, CT to Stonington, CT.

**Table 6. Points Defining the Connecticut State Waters Boundary Line**

Chart Number	Latitude	Longitude	Magnetic Course	Loran TDs		
				W	X	Y
12363	40° 59.32' N	73° 39.62' W	166° / 194°	No reliable TDs		
	40° 59.02' N	73° 39.41' W	149° / 211°	15360.2	26915.0	43987.0
	40° 57.05' N	73° 36.78' W	88° / 272°	15346.8	26887.5	43964.5
	40° 57.87' N	73° 32.85' W	88° / 272°	15320.3	26856.5	43966.5
	40 59.78' N	73 23.70' W	89° / 271°	15259.7	26784.9	43969.9
	41° 01.57' N	73° 15.00' W	89° / 271°	15203.5	26712.0	43959.5
	41° 03.40' N	73° 06.10' W	89° / 271°	15141.0	26645.0	43973.0
12354	41° 04.65' N	73° 00.00' W	89° / 271°	15098.9	26594.5	43973.3
	41° 06.67' N	72° 50.00' W	89° / 271°	15030.4	26513.0	43974.0
	41° 08.69' N	72° 40.00' W	90° / 270°	14961.0	26430.9	43974.1
	41° 10.79' N	72° 29.45' W	90° / 270°	14888.0	26343.0	43974.1
	41° 12.22' N	72° 22.25' W	90° / 270°	14838.0	26282.5	43972.5
	41° 13.57' N	72° 15.38' W	90° / 270°	14790.0	26225.0	43972.5
	41° 14.94' N	72° 08.35' W	90° / 270°	14741.5	26166.0	43971.9
13214	41° 15.52' N	72° 05.41' W	74° / 286°	14720.5	26140.5	43971.4
	41° 17.43' N	72° 01.18' W	89° / 271°	Reliable TDs are not available for Fishers Island Sound		
	41° 18.62' N	71° 55.80' W	125° / 235°			
	41° 18.26' N	71° 54.48' W	35° / 325°			
	41° 19.85' N	71° 53.70' W	134° / 226°			
	41° 19.14' N	71° 52.00' W	91° / 269°			
	41° 19.22' N	71° 51.57' W	69° / 291°			
41° 19.45' N	71° 51.15' W	44° / 316°				
	41° 19.76' N	71° 50.92' W				

For additional reference links, see: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/fishing/saltwater/connecticutstateboundarylineinlongislandsoundpdf.pdf>

## Appendix IX: Trawl Net Mesh Size

Figure 1. Trawl Net Mesh Size Options

Trawl Net Mesh Size Options											
4½" diamond or 5" square mesh size in the entire net. May 1 – Oct 31						Standard Mesh: 5½" diamond or 6" square codend mesh size.			Mar 1 - Apr 14: Trawling Prohibited †		Std Mesh
Mesh in body and wings may be of any size IF: the codend is at least 75 meshes long AND the terminal 75 meshes of the codend are 5" diamond or 5½" square mesh. May 1 – Oct 31						Atlantic herring fly nets, codend mesh any size. Nov 1 – Apr 30					
For squid, 1-7/8" diamond codend mesh size. May 15 – Jul 31			For squid and butterfish, 3" diamond codend mesh. Oct 1 – Oct 31								
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr

Summer flounder (Figure 2), winter flounder (Figure 3), scup (Figure 4) and black sea bass (Figure 5) have possession threshold limits that are dependent on the time of year and mesh size and/or net configuration. In addition, summer flounder, scup and black sea bass are quota-managed species and also have quota-dependent possession limits that vary according to the percentage of the quota landed. No person may possess more than the lesser of these two possession limits. † Fishing for Atlantic herring with a fly net is permitted during this period.

Figure 2. Summer Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits

Summer Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits											
More than 100 pounds? Mesh in body, extension or codend mesh must be at least 5½" diamond or 6" square.						More than 200 pounds? Mesh in body, extension and codend must be at least 5½" diamond or 6" square.			Mar 1 - Apr 14: Trawling Prohibited †		200, 5½, 6
100 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1.						200 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1.					
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr

Figure 3. Winter Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits

Winter Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits											
More than 100 pounds? Codend mesh must be at least 6½" diamond or 6½" square mesh.						Mar 1 - Apr 14: Trawling Prohibited †			100, 6½		
100 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1.											
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr

Figure 4. Scup Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits

Scup Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits											
More than 200 pounds? Throughout the entire net, the mesh must be at least 5" diamond or 5½" square. or Mesh in the body and wings may be of any size BUT: the codend must be at least 75 meshes long AND the terminal 75 meshes of the codend must be at least 5" diamond or 5-½" square.						Any quantity Any mesh or net option in Figure 1.			Mar 1 - Apr 14: Trawling Prohibited †		Any
200 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1. Note: if using a squid net (1-7/8 in. codend, May 15 – Jul 31), only 100 lbs. or less of scup may be possessed.											
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr

Figure 5. Black Sea Bass Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits

Black Sea Bass Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits											
More than 100 pounds? Mesh in the body and wings may be of any size BUT: the codend is at least 75 meshes long AND the terminal 75 meshes of the codend are at least 5" diamond or 5-½" square.						Any quantity Any mesh or net option in Figure 1.			Mar 1 - Apr 14: Trawling Prohibited †		Any
100 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1.											
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr

## **Appendix X: Glossary of Commercial Fishery Licensing Related Terms**

The following commercial fishing related terms are defined in the Connecticut General Statutes (Section 26-1 Definitions.) pertaining to "Fisheries and Game" Chapter 490 (DEEP managed fisheries):

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_490.htm#sec\\_26-1](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_490.htm#sec_26-1)

26-1. Definitions.

(6) "Commercial fisherman" means any person, firm or corporation engaged in commercial fishing.

(7) "Commercial fishing" means taking or attempting to take any regulated species for commercial purposes or by the use of any commercial fishing gear.

(8) "Commercial fishing gear" means any equipment commonly used to take regulated species for commercial purposes including, but not limited to, lobster pots, otter trawls, beam trawls, balloon trawls, midwater trawls, sea scallop dredges, scoop nets, scap nets, seines, trap nets, fyke nets, crab traps, gill nets, trammel nets, set lines, long lines, hook and line if such fishing is conducted for commercial purposes, minnow seines, minnow traps, eel pots, fish pots, pound nets, throw nets or similar devices and any equipment listed as commercial fishing gear in regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(16) "Regulated species" means the following species or species groups: Bait species, crustacea, finfish, horseshoe crabs, sea scallops, squid or whelk.

(17) "Seafood dealer" means (A) a person, firm or corporation, other than the ultimate consumer, who purchases, ships, consigns, transfers, transports, barters, accepts or packs any regulated species, except bait species directly from a commercial fisherman for resale, or (B) a commercial fisherman who sells, ships, consigns, transfers or barters his or her own catch of such species to anyone other than a seafood dealer.

(19) "Sport fishing" means taking or attempting to take any regulated species whether from salt, brackish or fresh water by any method other than by commercial methods specified by law and regulations of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for commercial purposes.

(20) "Taking" means shooting, pursuing, hunting, fishing, killing, capturing, trapping, snaring, hooking and netting any species of wildlife and attempting to shoot, pursue, hunt, fish, kill, capture, trap, snare, hook, net or catch any species of wildlife or any act of assistance to any other person in taking or attempting to take such wildlife whether or not such act results in the capture of any such wildlife.

(23) "Wildlife" means all species of invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals which are *ferae naturae* or wild by nature.

The following terms are defined in the Connecticut General Statutes (26-142a) pertaining to commercial fisheries and related licensing and reporting: [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_490.htm#sec\\_26-142a](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_490.htm#sec_26-142a)

(1) "Application deadline" means March thirty-first of each year;

(2) "Commercial bait fishing" means commercial fishing by use of seines, traps, scaps, scoops, weirs or similar devices to take and land bait species;

(3) "Commercial blue crab fishing" means commercial fishing by use of scoop nets, hand lines or manually operated and personally attended devices approved by the commissioner to take and land blue crabs only;

(4) "Commercial fishing vessel" means a commercial landing vessel, or a vessel used to engage in commercial lobster pot fishing, otter trawl fishing, general commercial fishing or pound net fishing. "Commercial fishing vessel" does not include any skiff used to aid the primary pound net fishing vessel;

(5) "Commercial landing vessel" means a vessel used to land regulated species taken in commercial fishing conducted exclusively outside the waters of this state;

(6) "Commercial lobster pot fishing" means commercial fishing by use of lobster pots only to take and land regulated species other than blue crabs;

(7) "Commercial shad fishing" means commercial fishing by use of gill nets, seines, scap or scoop nets to take and land American shad only;

(8) "Environmental tourism vessel" means a vessel used to carry passengers for hire and operated for the purpose of providing a platform for education and observation and collection of marine or estuarine species using commercial fishing gear under conditions specified in the permit issued under this section;

(9) "General commercial fishing" means commercial fishing by use of gill nets, seines, traps, fish pots, cast nets, fykes, scaps, scoops, eel pots, hook and line or similar devices to take and land squid, finfish other than American shad or bait species, or commercial fishing for horseshoe crabs by hand;

(10) "Limited access license" means any endorsement, license, permit, or registration required under this section, the number of which may be limited by the commissioner or by a provision of the general statutes;

- (11) "Otter trawl fishing" means commercial fishing by use of otter trawls, beam trawls, balloon trawls, mid-water trawls, sea scallop dredges or any similar device to take and land regulated species other than blue crabs;
- (12) "Party or charter fishing vessel" means a vessel used to carry passengers for hire and operated for the purpose of providing a recreational fishing platform to take and land marine regulated species;
- (13) "Personal use gill net fishing" means the use of a gill net of not more than sixty feet in length to take menhaden only for personal use and not for sale;
- (14) "Personal use lobster fishing" means: (A) The use of not more than ten lobster pots to take lobsters and finfish only for personal use and not for sale whenever such finfish are taken incidental to lobster fishing and in accordance with recreational fishery creel limits, length limits and seasons adopted pursuant to section 26-159a, or (B) the taking of lobsters for personal use only by hand or by skin or scuba diving;
- (15) "Pound net fishing" means commercial fishing by use of pound nets or similar devices to take regulated species other than lobsters or blue crabs;
- (16) "Principal commercial fishing license" means a license authorizing both commercial lobster pot fishing and otter trawl fishing;
- (17) "Quota-managed species" means a regulated species managed through a state-wide seasonal or annual commercial harvest limit;
- (18) "Restricted commercial fishing" means: (A) Commercial fishing by use of hook and line to take squid and finfish, other than American shad or bait species, or (B) the taking of menhaden by use of a gill net that is not more than two hundred feet in length and that is manually set and retrieved and personally attended to when in use; and
- (19) "Restricted commercial lobster pot fishing" means commercial fishing by only the use of not more than fifty lobster pots for the taking and landing of regulated species other than blue crabs.