



## **GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL USE GILL NET FOR MENHADEN LICENSE IN CONNECTICUT**

(Rev. 04/2023)

**PERSONAL USE GILL NET LICENSE ..... \$100.00**

**ALL GILL NETS MUST BE PERSONALLY ATTENDED AT ALL TIMES BY THE  
PERSONAL USE GILL NET LICENSE HOLDER.**

### **AUTHORIZES THE LICENSEE TO:**

Take menhaden (“bunker”) for personal use, not for sale, from marine waters only, by the use of a single tended gill net not more than 60 feet in length.

### **LICENSING AND NUMBERING REQUIREMENTS**

A license is required by any person engaged in taking menhaden by use of a gill net. No license is required by those who accompany and assist the license holder when setting and tending the gill net, however, the license holder must be present whenever the gill net is set or tended.

Licenses must be carried by the license holder during all times that the holder is engaged in the permitted activity. A numbered license plate will be issued with each license and must be displayed from all vessels engaged or assisting in use of a gill net.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

A daily record of gill netting activity is required on the form provided for this purpose. The completed form must be submitted to the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program at the end of the year. A report indicating "did not fish" is required if you did not use a gill net during the reporting period.

**Persons failing to report will be prohibited from renewing their license.**

Individually identifiable catch information is confidential and protected by the Connecticut General Statutes from disclosure for any reason other than fisheries management, research, development, and conservation law enforcement.

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR PERSONAL USE GILL NET LICENSE**

1. *Personal Use Gill net* licenses are issued to the individual identified on the license application and are non-transferable. Licenses are valid for a calendar year.
2. Each *Personal Use Gill net* license holder is authorized to use a single gill net of not more than 60 feet in length to take menhaden from Connecticut marine waters for personal use.
3. All gill nets must be personally attended at all times by the *Personal Use Gill net* license holder.
4. The sale of any catch from the net is prohibited.
5. The taking of any species other than menhaden from the net is prohibited.
6. Any vessel used to tend a gill net must display the license plate supplied with the license. Mark the end buoys of your gill net with your license plate number.
7. The minimum mesh size for all gill nets authorized under this license is 3" stretched, when wet after use.



## GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR PERSONAL USE GILL NET LICENSE (CONTINUED)

8. Personal-use gill nets may only be used in the **marine** waters of the State where not otherwise prohibited (see prohibited areas below). Demarcation lines between inland and marine districts are detailed in the Anglers Guide and the Marine Fisheries Information Circular. Contact the Marine Fisheries Program for more information.
9. Connecticut marine water areas closed to gill nets:
  - a) Connecticut River easterly of a straight-line extending northerly from the western tip of Griswold Spit to the easterly abutment of the first railroad bridge in the town of Old Lyme (therefore, gill nets are prohibited in the Lieutenant, Back and Black Hall rivers, as well);
  - b) Darien in the waters north and west of a line drawn from the southeasterly point of Hay Island in the town of Darien to the southeasterly point of Indian Rocks and thence to the southeasterly point of Great Island, also in Darien;
  - c) Fairfield in the waters north of a line drawn from the breakwater on what is known as Long Beach to the Penfield Reef lighthouse, and thence along said Penfield Reef to the shore or mainland in the town of Fairfield;
  - d) Mystic River;
  - e) Niantic River above the first railroad crossing;
  - f) Pawcatuck River, between sunset on Friday and sunrise on Monday from March twentieth to June first;
  - g) Thames River above the first railroad crossing.
10. Placing any fixed net or gear in U. S. Coast Guard marked navigable channels is prohibited. The setting of fixed fishing gear is prohibited in mooring areas from May 1st through October 15th, and throughout the year in "fairways" if such areas are defined in an approved Harbor Management Plan. For the purposes of this regulation, "fairway" is defined as a harbor channel which is not marked by USCG channel markers but is designated as a navigation channel in an approved Harbor Management Plan, and mooring area is defined as an area in which vessels are commonly moored with permanent mooring tackle. Consult local authorities for information on any approved Harbor Management Plans. Fixed fishing gear includes gill nets anchored or tied in a fixed position.
11. This license type is not affected by the commercial fishing license moratorium specified in section 26-142b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

### For further information, contact:

**DEEP MARINE FISHERIES PROGRAM (860)434-6043**

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

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-FishingLicense>