

## **Order of the Commissioner Concerning Licensure of Commercial Fishermen and Certification of Commercial Forest Practitioners**

On March 25, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7M, wherein each commissioner was authorized to extend, as deemed reasonably necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic or its effects, any statutory or regulatory time requirements, decision-making requirements, hearings, or other time limitations or deadlines, procedures or legal process pertaining to matters under their respective jurisdiction, functions or powers for a period not to exceed 90 days. Commissioners were authorized to issue any orders necessary to implement and effectuate the purposes of the Governor's Executive Order No. 7M. Commissioners are required to publicly post and maintain such orders on their respective websites. On March 30, 2020, in accordance with the authority granted pursuant to Executive Order No. 7M, I granted initial temporary waivers of the requirements to obtain a renewal of a commercial fishing license and a renewal of commercial forest practitioner certification. With my March 30, 2020 order, I did not use the entire 90-day period authorized by the Governor. I am, however, using the full 90-day period now with the additional temporary waivers described below.

### **Commercial Fishing Licenses**

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

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

### **Commercial Forest Practitioners**

In accordance with the authority granted pursuant to Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7M, I hereby order a second temporary waiver of the requirements set forth in section 23-65h(c)(4) of the Connecticut General Statutes, for renewal of commercial forest practitioner certifications, effective retroactively to March 15, 2020, to extend the time for compliance, without additional approvals, until June 28, 2020. Work of commercial forest practitioners lends itself to the practice of social distancing. The commissioner retains the right to deny, suspend, or revoke a particular certification pursuant to Sec. 23-65o of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**So ordered this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2020.**



**Commissioner Katie S. Dykes**