



## **2023 Multi-State Possession Program for Summer Flounder Applications Available**

Applications for the 2023 Multi-State Possession Program for Summer Flounder are now available.

The Multi-State Possession Program for Summer Flounder allows qualifying commercial fishermen to simultaneously carry summer flounder possession limits for Connecticut and cooperating states during the same fishing trip but does not permit commercial fishermen to land more than the Connecticut summer flounder landing limit in Connecticut. The program is limited to the commercial summer flounder Winter Period 1 only (January 1 through April 30, inclusive).

Qualifying commercial fishermen wishing to participate in the Multi-State Possession Program for Summer Flounder can request a Multi-State Summer Flounder Possession Limit Application from the Marine Fisheries Program by sending an email to [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov), by calling 860.434.6043 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, or by accessing it directly from the CT DEEP website using the link below.

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

### **Multi-State Possession Program for Summer Flounder FAQs**

#### **Who can participate in the program?**

To be eligible, applicants must have:

- **A 2023 CT commercial fishing license**
- **A 2023 CT commercial fishing vessel permit**
- **A CT summer flounder endorsement letter**
- **A current privilege to land summer flounder in at least one cooperating state (cooperating states are limited to Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York)**
- **No convictions for violations of state or federal commercial fishing regulations or laws within the past three years**
- **Demonstrated compliance with reporting requirements (i.e. no delinquent logbooks)**

#### **How the program works:**

- Interested parties *must submit* an application.
- DEEP will review the application. If your application is approved, DEEP will issue you a Letter Of Authorization to participate in the 2023 multi-state possession program.
- The Letter Of Authorization permits you to possess summer flounder possession limits only for CT and any other cooperating states from which you have received approval to participate in that state's complementary program.
  - You may only retain multiple state possession limits on the vessel associated with the CT commercial fishing vessel permit that you put on your program application.
  - You must apply to the program of each cooperating state you plan to land in on a multi-state trip and receive authorization from that state to participate in their multi-state program.
  - **Your CT authorization letter alone does not permit you to retain multiple state's possession limits.** You must receive authorization from each individual state before retaining that state's possession limit on a multi-state possession limit trip.

- Your letter of authorization will expire at the end of the 2023 Winter 1 Season (April 30, 2023). You must re-apply to the program each year.

### **What species are included in the multistate possession limit program?**

At this time, Connecticut's regulations (RCSA Section 26-159a-29) that authorize this program limit it to the possession of summer flounder only.

### **Who are the cooperating states in CT's multi-state possession limit program?**

Connecticut's regulations (RCSA Section 26-159a-29) that authorize this program define "cooperating states" as states other than Connecticut with which Connecticut shares either a water or land boundary that have enacted rules enabling commercial fishermen licensed by that state to participate in the program, and that have provided notice to the Commissioner of DEEP of intent to cooperatively participate in the program.

### **What will program participants be required to do on a multi-state possession limit trip?**

- Store summer flounder catch intended for landing in various states in separate totes, with a written sign indicating the intended port of landing.
- Only land summer flounder between the hours of 0600-2000.
- Call (860-424-3503) or e-mail ([deep.dispatch@ct.gov](mailto:deep.dispatch@ct.gov)) DEEP at least two hours prior to landing in CT, and provide intended port and facility of landing, estimated time of landing, total weight of summer flounder to be landed in CT, and intended ports of landing and total weight of summer flounder to be landed in cooperating states.
- The landings curfew and enhanced call-in requirement only apply to multi-state possession limit trips. If you are only retaining and landing your CT possession limit on a given trip, you may land at any time, and are only required to call-in prior to offload rather than two hours prior to landing.
- Outside of the ability to retain multiple state possession limits, program participants must follow all other applicable commercial fishing laws and regulations (for example, you must still call-in prior to leaving for a fishing trip during the Winter 1 Season).

### **Can I lose my program privileges?**

Program privileges will be revoked if any program participant:

- Is issued an infraction, misdemeanor summons, or notice of violation of any state or federal commercial fishing regulation.
- Does not report landings as required in Section 26-157b-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- Exceeds the summer flounder multi-state possession limit they are entitled to.
- Violates any provision of Chapter 490 of Connecticut General Statutes or related Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- Has their program privileges revoked by a cooperating state.

### **What happens if my program privileges are revoked?**

- The fishing vessel associated with the CT commercial fishing vessel permit on your application is no longer eligible to participate in the program.
- You may apply to DEEP for restoration or reinstatement of your program privileges within 30 days of receiving notice of revocation. The DEEP Commissioner may hear your appeal and make a ruling on whether program privileges should be restored.
- In the event that an individual whose privileges are revoked does not appeal to DEEP within 30 days, or upon appeal does not have their privileges restored, they may not re-apply to the program for a period of five years from the date of revocation.

### **Staying Informed:**

Visit: [www.ct.gov/deep/commercialfishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/commercialfishing) for all current commercial fishery possession limits, notices to fishermen, additional license forms and other useful information concerning commercial and recreational fishing in Connecticut.

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