

Basis Statement

Chapter 85: SALTWATER FISHING REGISTRY

Persons who hold a recreational fishing operator's license and own a private dock, pier or wharf and make that wharf available to customers for recreational fishing as part of a commercial enterprise will be required to report the name, address, date of birth and telephone number of those persons fishing from their private dock, pier or wharf.

In accordance with the revised reporting requirements in the new law, 12 M.R.S. §6312, effective July 6, 2011 ([P.L. Ch. 421, LD 210](#)), the information concerning who, where and how to report will be added. This rulemaking also repeals the saltwater fishing registry regulations pertaining to registry of agents, exemptions and striped bass endorsement for compliance with the same law.

Summary of Comments

A public hearing was held in Ellsworth, September 27, 2011 and in Yarmouth, September 28, 2011. No persons attended the public hearings and no written comments were received.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES Chapter 85: SALTWATER FISHING REGISTRY

85.01 Definitions

- A. Except as modified, the definitions contained in 12 M.R.S. §6001 shall apply to this Chapter, in addition to the following:

- (1) "Contact Information" for the Department of Marine Resources, unless otherwise noted, means the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575-0008; telephone (207) 633-9500; fax: (207) 633-9579. License Division, State House Station 21, Augusta, Maine 04333-0021; telephone: (207) 624-6550; fax: (207) 624-6024.

85.05 Reporting

- A. In accordance with 12 M.R.S. §6312(5) a person who holds a recreational fishing operator's license and owns a private dock, pier or wharf and makes that wharf available to customers for recreational fishing as part of a commercial enterprise shall report the name, address, date of birth and telephone number of those persons fishing from their private dock, pier or wharf.
All data and reports shall be submitted to the Department by the 10th day of the following month; for example, reports for the month of June must be submitted in time for the report to arrive at the Department by July 10th, unless otherwise noted. All data sent to DMR must be legible, coherent and in conformance with DMR specified standards on forms specified by the DMR.

~~85.02 Saltwater Registry Agents~~

~~A. Selection of Agents~~

~~The Commissioner may limit and prioritize the selection of agents based on the proximity of the applicant to coastal waters and degree of direct involvement by the applicant with the saltwater recreational fishing industry. The basic eligibility criteria for agents are:~~

- ~~(1) Each agent applicant must have the capability to register individuals and issue Striped Bass Endorsements through an Internet connection to a centralized database, using a computer and printer at the agent location.~~
- ~~(2) All agent applicants must submit an agent application form and the agent agreement form to the Department by a deadline to be announced by the Department. The initial application deadline may be extended at the discretion of the Department.~~
- ~~(3) Each agent applicant must demonstrate creditworthiness by authorizing the Department to perform credit checks with any credit organization, and must provide such assistance and any other supplemental information deemed necessary by the Commissioner for this purpose.~~

~~B. Operation Standards for Agents~~

- ~~(1) Upon selection, all new agents must complete training as required in the agent agreement form.~~
- ~~(2) All agents must ensure that all saltwater registrants and striped bass endorsement customers will be serviced in a timely, helpful, courteous manner by the agent's employees, and that all employees authorized to conduct registrations and issue striped bass endorsements are properly trained to complete sales transactions according to the Department requirements.~~
- ~~(3) All agents must accept the responsibility for compliance with all pertinent laws, regulations, Department policies, performance standards, and reporting and payment requirements regarding the sale or issuance of endorsements and registrations.~~
- ~~(4) All agents must agree to the terms and conditions specified in the Subscription Service Agreement with the Maine Information Network or successor.~~
- ~~(5) Agent agreements are not transferable or assignable to another person, location, business, or corporation.~~

~~C. Agent Reporting and Payment Requirements~~

- ~~(1) Department of Marine Resources Saltwater Registry agents will be billed on a monthly basis for sales completed during the previous month. Billing will be based on sales processed by the agent and recorded through the Saltwater Registry website. The website hosting company (InforME or successor) will act as the invoicing and collection agent for the Department. Agents are required to settle their accounts within 30 days or pay late fees as described in the Subscription Service agreement. The manner of payment to the DMR collection agent will be determined within the Subscription Service agreement.~~
- ~~(2) Agents not providing payment within a period of time described in the Subscription Service Agreement will be considered delinquent. Also, payments received that are rejected by the account holding bank will cause the agent to be considered delinquent. All agents must be responsible for payment of bank charges and costs to process a returned check and any other special fees or charges incurred by the Department due to the agent's activities.~~
- ~~(3) Submitting payment in full as invoiced by the collection agent indicates agreement on the detail of sales performed during the invoice period. Disputes about sales amounts will be resolved by the Department, the collection agent, and the agent, with the Commissioner having final determination. The agent has the burden of proof as to the disputed amounts.~~
- ~~(4) Agents are not required to submit periodic reports but they are required to monitor their sales account through the administrative features of the website on a regular basis. Agent activity reports will be generated from the website by the Department.~~

~~D. Agent Agreement Periods and Termination of Agent Services~~

~~Each agent must enter into an agreement with the Department on a form prescribed by the Department. The location where sales of licenses and registrations are allowed shall be stated in the Agreement. Agent agreements will be terminated in any of the following events:~~

- ~~(1) The agent no longer wishes to act as a sales agent at the designated sales location.~~
- ~~(2) The agent sells or leases the business to another party or otherwise attempts to transfer or assign the agreement.~~
- ~~(3) The Commissioner terminates the agency agreement because of one of the following:
 - ~~(a) Failure to comply with pertinent laws, rules, policies, or performance standards as determined by the Commissioner;~~
 - ~~(b) Delinquencies or failure by the agent in making payments, or otherwise complying with the terms of this rule or the agent agreement, as determined by the Commissioner;~~
 - ~~(c) Changing conditions, circumstances, or legal requirements as determined by the Commissioner;~~
 - ~~(d) Low volume of sales by the agent as determined by the Commissioner.~~~~

~~When the Commissioner determines that an agency agreement will be terminated, the Commissioner will notify the agent in writing.~~

~~Upon termination of the agreement for any reason, the agent must return all materials, records and supplies provided as part of the agent sales program, and shall any pay remaining balance owed to the website hosting company.~~

85.03 Registry Exemptions

~~The exemptions for New Hampshire Licensed Fishermen and Persons with Disabilities, as provided by Title 12 MRS §6312(3) are further defined as follows:~~

~~A. New Hampshire Licensed Fishermen~~

~~A person that possesses a valid New Hampshire saltwater recreational fishing license that meets the requirements of 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 600.1415 and 600.1416 (2009) engaging in recreational saltwater fishing within Maine's territorial waters northerly of the Maine and New Hampshire Border to a line drawn from the active light house on Cape Neddick to navigational aid Whistle 'R 22A' is exempt from the registry requirements of [12 M.R.S. §6312](#).~~

~~B. Persons with Disabilities~~

~~Persons with the following disabilities are exempted from the registry requirement if they apply for and are granted a waiver from the Commissioner. If a waiver is granted, it remains valid for the life of the license holder, provided that the individual's eligibility to obtain a license from the Department has not been revoked or suspended.~~

~~When applying for a waiver, the applicant must provide sufficient evidence of the disability, as described below.~~

~~(1) Individuals who are blind~~

~~The application for a waiver must be accompanied by a letter from a licensed, physician, optometrist or ophthalmologist certifying that the applicant is permanently blind. "Blind" means having visual acuity for a distance vision of 20/200 if the widest diameter of field of vision subtends to an angle no greater than 20 degrees.~~

~~(2) Paraplegics~~

~~The application for a waiver must be accompanied by a letter from a licensed physician certifying that the individual has lost, or who has permanently lost the use of, both lower extremities.~~

~~(3) Individuals who have an acquired brain injury~~

~~The application for a waiver must be accompanied by a letter from a licensed physician certifying that the individual has a head injury as defined by Title 22, §3086.~~

~~(4) Individuals who have a mental handicap~~

~~The application for a waiver must be accompanied by a letter from a licensed physician or psychologist certifying that the individual has mental retardation, as defined in Title 34-B, §5001, subsection 3.~~

~~(5) Disabled veterans~~

~~The application for a waiver must be accompanied by a letter from the Veterans Administration certifying that the individual~~

~~(a) has a service-connected disability evaluated at 100%, or~~

~~(b) has a service-connected disability evaluated at 70% or more, who has served in a combat zone during any armed conflict in which participants were exposed to war risk hazards.~~

85.04 Striped Bass Endorsement

~~A Striped bass endorsement issued in accordance with [12 M.R.S. §6312](#) is required for registrants who land or possess striped bass. This includes any incidental catch or bycatch of striped bass as well as the landing of striped bass for the purposes of a "catch and release" fishery. The landing or possession of striped bass for any amount of time shall be considered prima facie evidence of the need to possess a striped bass endorsement by an individual required to be registered.~~