

Connecticut DEP Announces Saltwater License Now Required in Connecticut

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today, July 2, 2009, announced that a saltwater fishing license, now required by state law to fish in Long Island Sound, can be conveniently purchased online through the DEP Web site, at the offices of most town clerks and at many retail outlets and bait and tackle shops. Lawmakers authorized the marine fishing license during the 2009 General Assembly Session, and it was signed July 1 by Governor Rell. The Connecticut program will pre-empt a federal program that would have required CT anglers to register with and pay a fee to the federal government. The new law keeps license fees in Connecticut.

Provisions of the new marine fishing license include:

- A cost of \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents,
- Required for anyone 16 years of age or older,
- Free for anyone 65 years of age or older but must still be obtained annually
- Reciprocal to marine fishing licenses issued by New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine provided that state offers the same privilege to holders of a Connecticut Marine Waters Fishing License.

Marine Waters Fishing License

- Exceptions including:
 - 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 party, charter, or head boat registered in Connecticut operating solely in the marine district,
 - State residents participating in a fishing derby that the DEP 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).

The requirement for the marine fish license goes into effect immediately and DEP Environmental Conservation Police will begin checking for licenses immediately; however the DEP's initial focus will be on public education and awareness.