

**QUICK GUIDE TO 2016 CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES.**

OPEN ACCESS COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES (Pages 1 - 3). These licenses are available to the public even if you have not held a commercial fishing license in the past. For open access commercial fishing licenses use the [Open-Access License Application](#). For Personal Use Lobster or Gill Netting use the [Recreational License Application](#). Refer to the 2016 [Marine Fisheries Information Circular](#) (Info Circ.) for complete details. Unless otherwise noted no Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit is required for these licenses.

<b>IF you want to:</b>	<b>THEN the license you need is:</b>	<b>THIS license allows you to:</b>	<b>Info Circ.</b>	<b>OTHER requirements / Notes:</b>
Fish commercially using a hook and line (angling).	Restricted Commercial Fishing License.	<p>Take &amp; land squid and finfish (other than American shad or bait species) by angling in CT state waters.</p> <p>This license also allows the holder to land and sell fish in this state that were legally taken by commercial angling in federal waters or the waters of another state. This license is not “creel limited.” (See pg. 4).</p> <p>No license is required for other anglers assisting the license holder. This license also allows menhaden to be taken by gill net. See below.</p>	Pg. 11	<p><b>A Quota-Managed Species License Endorsement is also required to harvest summer flounder, black sea bass or more than 60 scup under this license. The tautog limit under this license is 4 fish.</b></p> <p>When engaged in commercial fishing all fish onboard are subject to the commercial fishing regulations (size, possession limit, open season..) and no person onboard may possess fish under recreational fishing regulations. Fee: \$125 Residents/\$250 Nonresidents.</p>
Fish commercially using a gill net to take menhaden only.	Restricted Commercial Fishing License.	<p>Take &amp; land menhaden only using a gill net not more than 200 feet in length. The gill net must be manually set and retrieved and be personally attended at all times. This license also allows certain fish species and squid to be taken by angling. See above.</p>	Pg. 11	<p>Fee: \$125 Residents/\$250 Nonresidents.</p>

IF you want to:	THEN the license you need is:	THIS license allows you to:	Info Circ.	OTHER requirements / Notes:
Fish commercially for whelk (conch).	Whelk Fishing License.	Take & land more than one-half bushel of whelk daily (no license is required to take less than one-half bushel daily). If fishing with whelk pots, no other license is required.	Pg. 12	Whelk taken by means other than whelk pot (lobster pot, otter trawl...) require a separate license for that gear. See Limited Access fishing licenses. Fee: \$100.
Lobster commercially using up to 50 lobster pots.	Restricted Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License.	Take & land lobsters and other regulated species (fish, squid, whelk*, rock crabs), except blue crabs, using up to 50 lobster pots. *more than one-half bushel of whelk daily requires a whelk fishing license.	Pg. 12	<b>A Lobster Pot Allocation is required.</b> Allocations were made in 2000. <b>No new allocations are available at this time.</b> Fee: \$125 Residents/\$250 Nonresidents.
Blue crab commercially.	Commercial Blue Crab Fishing License.	Take & land blue crabs using scoop nets, hand lines or manually operated and personally attended devices approved by the commissioner.	Pg. 13	Fee: \$150.
Fish commercially for American shad	Commercial Shad Fishing License.	Take & land American shad by gill net, seine, or scoop net. Connecticut River only.	Pg. 10	Fee: \$200.
Fish commercially for bait species.	Inland Bait OR Marine Bait License.	Take & land bait species by seine, trap, scoop net or weir. Separate licenses are issued to fish in the Inland and Marine Districts.	Pg. 14	See page 35 of the <a href="#">Marine Fisheries Information Circular</a> for a list of bait species, i.e. species that may be taken under these licenses. Fee: \$100.

IF you want to:	THEN the license you need is:	THIS license allows you to:	Info Circ.	OTHER requirements / Notes:
Operate a vessel used to land fish, lobsters, sea scallops... taken outside CT waters.	Commercial Landing Vessel Operator's License	Operate a commercial fishing vessel to land commercially caught species taken exclusively outside Connecticut waters.	Pg. 9-10.	<b>A Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit is also required.</b> A Quota Managed Species Endorsement is required to harvest summer flounder, scup or black sea bass. The Commercial Landing Vessel Operator's License is NOT required if you have a license to fish the gear being used in CT state waters. <a href="#">Vessel Permit Application</a> . Fee: \$500.
Party/Charter fish.	Party/Charter Fishing Vessel Registration.	Use a vessel to carry paying anglers to fish for marine species.	Pg. 16	Use the <a href="#">Vessel Permit Application</a> . Compare to Guide Registration below. Fee: \$315.
Guide (Hunting & Fishing)	Hunting and Fishing Guide Registration.	Provide guide services (aid, assist, instruct) to hunters and anglers for a fee.	Pg. 16	Available online and at licensing outlets where sport fishing licenses are sold. Compare to Party/Charter Registration above. Fee \$100.
Lobster by use of up to 10 pots and/or by hand including SCUBA diving.	Personal Use Lobster Fishing License.	Use not more than ten lobster pots, hand harvest, skin or SCUBA dive to take lobsters for personal use and not for sale.	Pg. 17	<b>NOTE NEW LOWER FEE: <del>\$120</del> \$60.</b>
Use a small gill net to take menhaden only.	Personal Use Gill Net Fishing License.	Use a single personally attended gill net not more than 60 feet in length to take menhaden only for personal use and not for sale.	Pg. 17	Consider the alternative Open Access "Restricted Commercial Fishing License" on page 1 of this Quick Guide. Fee: \$100.

LIMITED ACCESS COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES (Pages 4 & 5). Renewal requirements. **Note: These licenses and endorsements are available only to fishermen who held such license(s) between June 1, 1995 and December 31, 2003.** Effective January 1, 2016 all Limited Access Licenses must be renewed annually by the Application Deadline. Licenses not renewed and meeting the OTHER Requirements below will be retired. Use the [Limited Access License Application](#) to apply for these licenses and the [Vessel Permit Application](#) to apply for your Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit. Refer to the 2016 [Marine Fisheries Information Circular](#) (Info Circ.) at the page referenced for complete details.

IF you want to <u>renew</u> a:	Application Deadline for renewal is:	OTHER Requirements / Notes:	Info Circ.
Commercial Fishing License (Otter Trawl & Lobster Pot Fishing) (now a Principal Commercial Fishing License)	March 31.	The “Primary vessel for this license” indicated on your Limited Access Fishing License application must have a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit. The Vessel Permit may be purchased at any time during 2016.	Pg. 6
Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License (Lobster Pot Fishing Only)	March 31.	The “Primary vessel for this license” indicated on your Limited Access Fishing License application must have a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit. The Vessel Permit may be purchased at any time during 2016. Consider the alternative Open Access “Restricted Commercial Lobster Pot Fishing License” on page 2 of this Quick Guide.	Pg. 6 & 7

IF you want to <u>renew</u> a:	Application Deadline for renewal is:	OTHER Requirements / Notes:	Info Circ.
Finfish License – Creel Limited (now a General Commercial Fishing License)	March 31.	The “Primary vessel for this license” indicated on your Limited Access Fishing License application must have a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit. The Vessel Permit may be purchased at any time during 2016. Consider the alternative Open Access “Restricted Commercial Fishing License” on page 1 of this Quick Guide.	Pg. 7 & 8
Finfish License – Non-Creel Limited (General Commercial Fishing License)	March 31.	The “Primary vessel for this license” indicated on your Limited Access Fishing License application must have a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit. The Vessel Permit may be purchased at any time during 2016. Consider the alternative Open Access “Restricted Commercial Fishing License” on page 1 of this Quick Guide.	Pg. 7 & 8
Horseshoe Crab Hand Harvest License (Not required if you hold a General Commercial Fishing (Finfish) License)	March 31.	Obtain a Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit for the “Primary vessel for this license” indicated on your Limited Access Fishing License application, IF a vessel is used to take horseshoe crabs. The Vessel Permit may be purchased at any time during 2016. A Horseshoe Crab Hand Harvest Endorsement is also required.	Pg. 8 & 9
Summer Flounder Endorsement	March 31.	New \$15 fee. No new endorsements available.	Pg. 9
Scup Endorsement	March 31.	New \$15 fee. No new endorsements available.	Pg. 9
Black Sea Bass Endorsement	March 31.	New \$15 fee. No new endorsements available.	Pg. 9
Horseshoe Crab Hand Harvest Endorsement	March 31.	New \$15 fee. No new endorsements available.	Pg. 9