



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 45

January Session, 2019

Substitute Senate Bill No. 226

Senate, March 12, 2019

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING DUAL LANDINGS OF FISH IN THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) The Commissioner of
2 Energy and Environmental Protection shall enter into an agreement
3 with the state of Rhode Island, the state of New York or both, to
4 provide for a dual-landing agreement that authorizes commercial
5 fishermen who are licensed in this state and Rhode Island or New
6 York, as applicable, to take fish from state and federal waters in an
7 amount that exceeds such commercial fisherman's daily limit in an
8 agreement state but not more than the total daily limit for such
9 commercial fisherman among the states that are a party to such
10 agreement. Such agreement shall be limited to the Winter I Summer
11 Flounder season. Pursuant to such agreement, such commercial
12 fisherman shall separate such take by the daily limits allowed in each
13 such state and complete any such landing in each state by the hour
14 specified in such agreement. Any such agreement shall allow for such
15 agreement to be extended to commercial fishermen licensed in this

16 state and any other state with which Connecticut shares either a water
17 or land boundary. The Department of Energy and Environmental
18 Protection may board the vessel of any commercial fisherman who
19 makes a take pursuant to such an agreement in order to inspect for
20 compliance with the terms of any such agreement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Up to 7,500	Up to 7,500

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to enter into a dual landing agreement with Rhode Island, New York, or both. The agreement must: 1) authorize licensed commercial fishermen to take fish from state and federal waters in an amount that exceeds their daily limit per state, and 2) be limited to the winter flounder season, which is generally January through April.

Provision of this agreement requires vessels to obtain a commercial fishing landing permit at any additional site it offloads its daily catch. There is a cost of \$500 for this permit, and it is estimated that up to 15 vessels would obtain the permit under the agreement. As such, the bill could result in a revenue gain of up to \$7,500 annually, based on the number of vessels who obtain the permit.¹

Additionally, the bill allows DEEP to board vessels to inspect for compliance with the agreement. As DEEP is already patrolling state waters and boards vessels as it deems necessary to inspect for compliance with a variety of laws, this provision has no fiscal impact.

¹ In 2018, there were 42 commercial landing permits issued, generating \$21,000.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of vessels that obtain a permit.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 226*****AN ACT AUTHORIZING DUAL LANDINGS OF FISH IN THE STATE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to enter into a dual landing agreement with Rhode Island, New York, or both. The agreement must authorize licensed commercial fishermen to take fish from state and federal waters in an amount that exceeds their daily limit per state, but not more than the total daily limit for all states party to the agreement.

The agreement must be limited to the Winter I Summer Flounder season, which generally runs January through April. It must also require fishermen to separate their take by the daily limits allowed in each state and complete their landings by a specified hour. The bill allows DEEP to board vessels to inspect for compliance with the agreement.

Lastly, the agreement must allow for the ability to extend it to any other state with which Connecticut shares a water or land boundary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (02/25/2019)