

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-226

AN ACT AUTHORIZING DUAL LANDINGS OF FISH IN THE STATE.

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

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

compliance with a variety of laws, this provision has no fiscal impact.

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.