



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Charles J. Fuschillo Jr.

Senator Fuschillo Joins Governor Cuomo in Announcing Refunds for Those Who Purchased Saltwater Fishing Licenses

CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO JR. August 5, 2011

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Saltwater Fishing License Fee Eliminated as Part of This Year's State Budget

Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. (R-Merrick) today joined with Governor Andrew Cuomo at the Freeport Boatman's Association in Freeport to announce that New York State will be issuing refunds to residents and charter boat operators who purchased saltwater fishing licenses for 2011, as well as those purchased "lifetime" saltwater fishing licenses. The saltwater fishing license fee was eliminated as part of the 2011-12 state budget.

"Saltwater fishing on Long Island is a major recreational activity and an important local industry which provides jobs and revenue for our economy. We eliminated the saltwater fishing license fee so that families could once again enjoy fishing in the waters off Long Island free of charge, as well as to lower business costs for charter boats. Those who bought licenses for this year, prior to the elimination of the fee, deserve to get their money back. That's exactly what is going to happen," said Senator Fuschillo.

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today began issuing refunds to individuals who purchased an annual saltwater fishing license for the 2011 season. Charter boat operators who purchased saltwater fishing licenses for 2011 will also receive refunds. Thousands of refunds have already been issued to residents who purchased "lifetime licenses."

Instead of charging for a saltwater fishing license, New York State now has a no-fee registration system. Anyone ages 16 years or older wishing to go saltwater fishing must register with DEC, either by going to usual outlets for sporting licenses or by going to DEC's website, www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html. After registering, residents will receive a card (or printable receipt if registering through the internet), which they should keep in their possession when fishing. The registration system is required by the federal government.

According to the DEC, all saltwater fishing license refunds are expected to be issued by the end of the summer.

Senator Fuschillo (right) is pictured with Governor Cuomo in Freeport at the announcement of the saltwater fishing license fee refunds.

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