



## MWR initiates Fishing Program at NWS Earle

CAPT David "Fuzz" Harrison and MWR Director Mary Borree have both confirmed that MWR is instituting an MWR Fishing Program this year, and the fees collected from the issuance of fishing passes will benefit programs for military and their families at NWS Earle.

"We're happy that CAPT Harrison is allowing MWR to take over the program," Ms Borree said, "in the tough economic times we are all facing, this is an innovative means of being able to continue the high standards and variety of programs we can offer our military families."

Under terms of the new program, the first of its kind at NWS Earle, fishing passes will be issued to all military active duty and select reserves, not just those affiliated with NWS Earle, at no fee. Fishing permits will be issued to all other qualified fishermen for a \$30 annual fee, the only other cost involved for fishermen to use the Navy pier for their recreational activity.

"This means that each badged fisherman can bring along his family, or three other fishermen in his same car, with no additional fees," Ms Borree said.

Those eligible to apply for fishing badges, in addition to all active duty and members of the selected reserve, are tenants and federal civilian employees employed at Earle, retired military, retired federal civilian employees where Earle was their last duty station, disabled military veterans with an official statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs or from a branch of the armed forces certifying to a service connected disability, RV Park and Deer Run Lodging guests and full-time government contract employees assigned to NWS Earle as a primary job. Fees will be \$30 for each annual pass.

Ms Borree added that Muriel Smith, who currently handles reservations for the RV Park, will be in charge of the fishing program, and will issue applications from her office in C-56 between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Once applications are approved and the \$30 fee paid where necessary, applicants will then go to the Pass and ID office at the Mainside main gate to have their photos taken and secure their fishing badges and vehicular passes for admittance to the pier. Only those vehicles which have been approved and assigned the fishing pass will be admitted on the pier, Ms Borree said. All fishermen will still have to register with the guard on duty at the pier when arriving to fish.

Fishing hours will remain as they have been, which is from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Mondays through Fridays, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. There will continue to be restrictions when operations are being conducted, between 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, and limitations when ships are in port, the director explained.

All successful applicants will receive informational booklets outlining the regulations, which are spelled out in detail in NWS EARLEINST 5090.22 dated March, 2011.

Station regulations have also increased to 300 the number of badges that can be issued to retired military, retired federal employees and disabled military veterans; previously, that limit was set at 150 badges. NWS Earle regulations also expand the number of persons who can fish at any given time to include all those who arrive in no more than 75 vehicles, rather than 75 fishermen. "Restrictions are really limited to the number of vehicles, rather than the number of people, to ensure exiting from the pier in any emergency can be accomplished quickly and safely," Ms Borree explained.

Port Operations Chief Harry Hladun, a frequent fishermen himself, pointed out "the regular fishermen on the pier are the best. I'd go to bat for any of them as I do for my own men. They're aware of the privilege of fishing from the Navy pier, know how good the fishing is there, and are careful and responsive to the need to keep their own areas clean and observe all regulations. They have always enjoyed the conservation program conducted by the Environmental Department and will continue to be the good neighbors they are under the MWR program," he concluded.

"Everyone knows what a privilege it is to fish from the Navy pier," Ms Borree said, "extending as it does two and a half miles into Sandy Hook Bay and offering so much area enables fishermen to have a fully enjoyable experience, recreate in a wonderful way, and fish for a variety of species. In fact," she laughed, "fishing is so terrific from the pier they won't even have to talk about the one that got away!"

Persons wishing to find out more about the program, or make application for the badges, can contact Mrs. Smith at 449/866-2448 or by e-mail at [muriel.smith@navy.mil](mailto:muriel.smith@navy.mil).