

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS
89 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02888**

IN RE: Interstate Navigation Company – New Fast Ferry Report and Interstate’s Application to Modify its Fast Ferry Water Carrier Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN Certificate No. W-1169 dated January 18, 2012) and to relinquish its Conventional Ferry Water Carrier Certificate No.’s 2 and 3 (dated June 25, 1954).

(Order in Response to: Motion to hold in abeyance for the summers of 2014 and 2015 that portion of Interstate Navigation Company’s CPCN No. W-1169 that authorizes Interstate to provide seasonal one-way fast ferry service from Point Judith to Newport)

DOCKET NO. D-13-19

ORDER

Whereas: As an introduction to this Order, the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) hereby incorporates by reference the following nine (9) topic-related Division Orders: Order No. 18728, issued on October 3, 2006; Order No. 19477, issued on October 31, 2008; Order No. 19599, issued on March 17, 2009; Order No. 19919, issued on February 26, 2010; Order No. 20625, issued on January 12, 2012; Order No. 20659, issued on February 29, 2012; Order No. 20727, issued on May 7, 2012; Order No. 20730, issued on May 8, 2012; and Order No. 21032, issued on May 9, 2013.

The Division will not summarize the foregoing decisions in this Order, for to do so would take considerable time. Instead, in the interest of administrative economy, the Division has incorporated these previous decisions

into the instant decision. For a comprehensive history of the travel of these related docket matters, and the Divisions decisions thereon, please refer to the individual decisions cited above.

Whereas: On March 10, 2014, the Interstate Navigation Company (“Interstate”) filed a “motion to hold in abeyance for the summers of 2014 and 2015 that portion of Interstate Navigation Company’s CPCN No. W-1169 that authorizes Interstate to provide seasonal one-way fast ferry service from Point Judith to Newport.” Interstate filed the motion in the context of former Docket No. D-13-19, as the instant motion is related to fast ferry authority originally conferred by the Division through that docket.

In support of its motion, Interstate explains that “[f]or a number of reasons, not the least of which is that Interstate sold virtually no passenger tickets to anyone interested in traveling early in the morning from Point Judith to Newport during the summer of 2013, Interstate will, on a trial basis, be overnight berthing its Newport to Block Island fast ferry in Fall River, Massachusetts, instead of Point Judith, Rhode Island.” In its filing, Interstate further explains that its fast ferry “will travel in the morning from Fall River to Newport, where it will then run between Newport and Block Island. In the evening, it will then return to Fall River.”

Interstate emphasizes that the change of overnight berthing from Point Judith to Fall River “is an experiment” and that Interstate does not know if the change “will generate any significant passenger traffic between Fall River and

Newport and/or Block Island...” In furtherance of conducting this experiment, Interstate states that it “will be instituting this service in the summer of 2014.”

Whereas: The Division has examined the ridership numbers provided by Interstate in support of its motion. That evidence reflects that Interstate carried no passengers to Newport, from Point Judith, in 2013. Predicated on this fact, the Division finds Interstate’s motion for a temporary suspension of authority to be reasonable.

The Division also recognizes the “interstate” nature of the planned fast ferry services between Fall River and Newport, and that Division approval for such transportation services is not required.

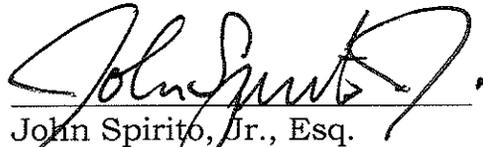
Now, therefore, it is

(21389) ORDERED:

1. That Order No. 18728, issued on October 3, 2006; Order No. 19477, issued on October 31, 2008; Order No. 19599, issued on March 17, 2009; Order No. 19919, issued on February 26, 2010; Order No. 20625, issued on January 12, 2012; Order No. 20659, issued on February 29, 2012; Order No. 20727, issued on May 7, 2012; Order No. 20730, issued on May 8, 2012; and Order No. 21032, issued on May 9, 2013 are hereby adopted as the introduction to this Order and, by necessity, incorporated by reference.
2. That Interstate’s March 10, 2014 motion “to hold in abeyance for the summers of 2014 and 2015 that portion of Interstate Navigation Company’s CPCN No. W-1169 that authorizes Interstate to provide

seasonal one-way fast ferry service from Point Judith to Newport” is hereby granted.

Dated and Effective at Warwick, Rhode Island on March 13, 2014.



John Spirito, Jr., Esq.
Hearing Officer

APPROVED:



Thomas F. Ahern
Administrator