



# GOING FISHING?

## *What to Know Before You Go*

**North Carolina now requires that all anglers age 16 and older have a valid Coastal Recreational Fishing License (also known as a CRFL or saltwater fishing license) to fish in the state's coastal and joint waters.**

Don't wait to purchase a fishing license! The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has two quick and easy ways to purchase a fishing license before hitting the beach:

- Call 1(888) 248-6834, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. and Sun. (May 1 - Sept. 30)
- Visit [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org). Click on "Purchase Licenses" on the top left side of the home page.

### **Most Common Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses**

Resident 10-day .....	\$5
Non-resident 10-day .....	\$10
Resident annual .....	\$15
Non-resident annual .....	\$30
Resident age 65 (or older) .....	\$15

Other annual and lifetime Unified Hunting, Inland and Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses are available. Visit [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) for a complete list.

The Coastal Recreational Fishing License is administered by:



N.C. Wildlife Resources  
Commission  
[www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)



N.C. Division of  
Marine Fisheries  
[www.ncfisheries.net](http://www.ncfisheries.net)

# Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) FAQs

**Who has to purchase a Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL)?** Any person 16 years or older who wants to fish recreationally in any water designated as coastal and joint waters of North Carolina must purchase a CRFL. Exceptions:

- Individuals who hold a resident/nonresident lifetime infant, youth, adult, over 70, disabled sportsman, lifetime comprehensive fishing license, hunting/fishing basic disabled veteran or hunting/fishing basic total disabled license issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission before Jan. 1, 2006.
- Individuals who hold a lifetime legally blind or adult care home license, regardless of when it was issued.

**Do I need a CRFL to fish on a charter boat?** Yes, unless the charter boat has purchased a “blanket” license, which allows everyone on the boat to fish in coastal and joint waters without a license.

**Do I need a CRFL to fish from a public or private pier?** Yes, unless the public pier has purchased a “blanket” license.

**Do I need a CRFL to fish from the shore?** Yes, if you are fishing recreationally for finfish in coastal waters.

**Do I need a CRFL to harvest crabs, mussels, clams, lobsters, shrimp and other shellfish?** No, the license is only required for the recreational harvest of finfish.

**Do anglers who use gigs and castnets to harvest finfish recreationally need to have this license?** Yes.

**Can I sell my catch if I have a CRFL?** No. Seafood harvested under the license is for personal consumption and cannot be sold.

**If I have a CRFL, can people fish on my private boat without purchasing a license?** No, they must all have a license if you are fishing in coastal waters, unless they are under age 16.

**July 4 is North Carolina's Free Fishing Day when everyone - residents and nonresidents - fish for free!**