

General Information The Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) is required to recreationally take finfish in the state's coastal fishing waters, which include sounds, coastal rivers and tributaries and out to three miles in the ocean. Recreational anglers, who catch fish in the ocean greater than three miles offshore, are required to have a coastal recreational fishing license in order to bring fish back to shore in North Carolina. Finfish harvested is for personal consumption only and cannot be sold.

Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL)

1. **Who must purchase a CRFL?** Individuals 16 years or older who want to recreationally finfish in any water designated as coastal or joint waters of North Carolina must purchase a CRFL. The exceptions are:
 - a. An individual who holds a resident/nonresident lifetime infant, youth, adult, over 70, disabled sportsman, lifetime comprehensive fishing license, hunting/fishing basic disabled veteran or hunting/fishing basic totally disabled license issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) before Jan. 1, 2006.
 - b. An individual who holds a lifetime legally blind or adult care home license, regardless of when it was issued.
2. **Where can I fish with a CRFL?** To fish recreationally in coastal waters managed by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), you will need a CRFL.
 - To fish in public, inland fishing waters, you need an inland fishing license, available from the WRC.
 - To fish in the joint waters managed by both DMF and WRC, you will need a CRFL or an inland fishing license.
 - The boundaries between coastal, inland and joint fishing waters are marked with signs posted adjacent to the affected waters.
3. **What types of individual CRFLs are available and what do they cost?** Several individual CRFLs are available to accommodate a variety of needs and situations. These include:
 - short-term licenses
 - annual licenses
 - lifetime licenses, valid for the lifetime of the holder
 - unified licenses, include hunting/statewide fishing privileges.
 A list of these licenses can be found on page 13.
4. **Where can I purchase my CRFL?**
 - a. Go to the WRC Web site, www.ncwildlife.org.
 - b. Visit a WRC wildlife service agent. Most are located in bait-and-tackle shops, hunting and sporting goods stores and larger chain stores across the state.
 - c. Call toll-free, (888) 248-6834. Hours of operation: 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday.
 - d. Visit one of six DMF offices located on the coast. For locations, go to the DMF Web site, www.ncfisheries.net.
5. **I live in a coastal county, but I have a private pond on my property that I have stocked. Do I need a CRFL to fish in my pond?** No, private ponds are exempt from any licensing requirements.
6. **Do I need a CRFL to fish in my county of residence?** Yes, the new legislation repeals the natural-bait exemption for fishing in public and inland waters.
 - Any person 16 and older fishing in North Carolina public waters (excluding private ponds) must have a fishing license.
 - People who receive Food Stamps, Medicaid or Work First Family Assistance may receive a subsistence waiver through their county Department of Social Services.
- This annual waiver allows the holder to fish recreationally with hook-and-line in inland waters (with the exception of designated Public Mountain Trout Waters), joint and coastal waters.
7. **What types of blanket CRFLs are available? Who is eligible to purchase one?** Two types of blanket CRFLs are available only through DMF offices:
 - a. For-Hire Blanket — a person who operates a “for-hire boat” (i.e., charter boat) may purchase a CRFL for each vessel that will allow all individuals on the for-hire boat who do not hold a CRFL to fish in coastal fishing waters that are not joint fishing waters. This license does not authorize individuals to fish recreationally in inland or joint fishing waters.
 - b. Ocean Fishing Pier Blanket — a person who operates or owns an ocean fishing pier and who charges a fee to allow a person to fish recreationally from the pier may purchase an Ocean Fishing Pier Blanket CRFL. This license allows all individuals who do not hold an individual CRFL to engage in recreational fishing in coastal waters while on the pier.
8. **Is there a CRFL boat license I can buy so my guests do not have to purchase a CRFL?** Yes, owners of vessels 23' or longer can purchase a Block of Ten 10-day CRFLs through DMF offices for \$150. Purchasing a block allows vessel owners to issue 10-day licenses to anglers aboard their vessels. Vessels must be registered in North Carolina or documented with the United States Coast Guard. Purchasers of this license are required to provide DMF the name, address and telephone number of all anglers issued a 10-day license.
9. **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.
10. **Are anglers who use gigs and castnets to harvest finfish recreationally required to have this license?** Yes.
11. **Do I need a CRFL license to fish from a privately owned pier?** Yes.
12. **Can I sell my catch if I have a CRFL?** No. Seafood harvested under the license is for personal consumption and cannot be sold.
13. **Are there any rules or regulations for recreational finfishing?** Yes, individuals possessing this license must comply with the state's recreational size and possession limits, which can change frequently. To view the most up-to-date version of these limits, visit www.ncdmf.net/recreational/recguide.htm or call the DMF at (800) 682-2632 or (252) 726-7021 to receive a copy. A CRFL is required for ANY type of recreational finfish harvest not included under the Recreational Commercial Gear License. This includes fishing with hook-and-line, spears, gigs, bait-and-line, seines less than 30 feet, dip nets, landing nets and cast nets. The Recreational Commercial Gear License (RCGL) can be purchased from all DMF offices and WRC license agents throughout the state. The cost is \$35 for residents and \$250 for nonresidents. License agents charge an additional \$1 fee. For more information on RCGL, visit www.ncdmf.net/license/RCGL.htm.
14. **Are there any additional requirements of those who hold a CRFL?** Individuals possessing this license are required to comply with all DMF sampling and survey programs.
15. **Does a landowner need a CRFL if fishing from his/her pier or property?** Yes.

For more information, contact: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, www.ncwildlife.org, (919) 707-0391 or Division of Marine Fisheries, www.ncfisheries.net, local (252) 726-7021, toll-free (800) 682-2632.

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE TYPE DESCRIPTIONS

Following is a list of short-term, annual and lifetime coastal recreational fishing licenses valid in coastal and joint waters.

SHORT-TERM LICENSE *Short-term licenses are valid for the period specified on the license.*

- **Coastal Recreational Fishing 10-Day:** Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters during the 10-day period specified on the license. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.

ANNUAL LICENSE *Annual licenses are valid for 12 months from the date of issuance.*

- **Coastal Recreational Fishing:** Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters during a license term. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.

LIFETIME LICENSE *Lifetime licenses are valid for the lifetime of the license holder.*

- **Adult Coastal Recreational Fishing (ages 12 & older):** Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.
- **Youth Coastal Recreational Fishing (ages 1-11):** Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.
- **Infant Coastal Recreational Fishing (under age 1):** Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.
- **Age 65 (or older) Coastal Recreational Fishing:** Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.
- **Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing:** Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters for residents who are 50 percent or more disabled veterans as determined by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters. Refer to page 11 for application instructions.
- **Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing:** Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters for residents who are totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters. Refer to page 11 for application instructions.

	Resident	Nonresident
• Coastal Recreational Fishing 10-Day	\$5.00	\$10.00
• Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$15.00	\$30.00
• Adult Coastal Recreational Fishing (ages 12 & older)	\$250.00	\$500.00
• Youth Coastal Recreational Fishing (ages 1-11)	\$150.00	\$150.00
• Infant Coastal Recreational Fishing (under age 1)	\$100.00	\$100.00
• Age 65 (or older) Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$15.00	N/A
• Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$10.00	N/A
• Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$10.00	N/A

UNIFIED HUNTING, INLAND AND COASTAL RECREATION FISHING LICENSE TYPE DESCRIPTIONS

Following is a list of annual and lifetime unified hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing licenses valid in coastal and joint waters.

ANNUAL UNIFIED LICENSE *Annual licenses and privileges are valid for 12 months from date of purchase.*

- **Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing:** Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents during a license term. Includes the privileges of hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.

Additional Privilege License Available:

- **HIP Certification (federal requirement):** Needed to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, doves, rails, gallinule, snipe and woodcock).

- **Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License:** Statewide inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents during a license term. Includes the privileges of fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.

- **Unified Subsistence Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver:** Statewide basic inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents who receive Medicaid, Food Stamps, or Work First Family Assistance through the County Department of Social Services. Includes fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and fishing in trout waters on game lands. License Waiver can be obtained through the County Department of Social Services upon request.

Additional Privilege License Available:

- **Special Trout Fishing:** Needed to fish in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters. Includes trout fishing on game lands.

	Resident	Nonresident
• Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$55.00	N/A
• HIP Certification (federal requirement)	FREE	N/A
• Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$35.00	N/A
• Unified Subsistence Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver	FREE	N/A
• Special Trout Fishing	\$10.00	N/A
• Unified Adult Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing (ages 12 & older)	\$675.00	\$1350.00
• Bear/Wild Boar Hunting	N/A	\$125.00
• HIP Certification (federal requirement)	FREE	FREE
• Unified Youth Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing (ages 1 - 11)	\$450.00	\$450.00
• Unified Infant Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing (under age 1)	\$275.00	\$275.00

UNIFIED LIFETIME LICENSE *Lifetime licenses are valid for the lifetime of the license holder. The privilege license and HIP Certification are valid for 12 months from date of purchase.*

Hunting and Fishing:

- **Unified Adult Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing (ages 12 & older):** Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.

Additional Privilege License and Certification Available:

- **Bear/Wild Boar Hunting:** Needed by nonresidents, in addition to the lifetime sportsman license, to hunt bear or wild boar.

- **HIP Certification (federal requirement):** Needed to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, doves, rails, gallinule, snipe and woodcock).

- **Unified Youth Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing (ages 1 - 11):** Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.

- **Unified Infant Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing (under age 1):** Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.

	Resident	Nonresident
<p>• Unified Age 65 (or older) Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing: Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. <i>Additional Certification Available:</i> HIP Certification (federal requirement): Needed to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, doves, rails, gallinule, snipe and woodcock).</p>	\$30.00	N/A
<p>• Unified Disabled Veteran Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing: Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents who are 50 percent or more disabled veterans as determined by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. Refer to page 11 for application instructions. <i>Additional Certification Available:</i> HIP Certification (federal requirement): Needed to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, doves, rails, gallinule, snipe and woodcock).</p>	FREE	N/A
<p>• Unified Disabled Veteran Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing: Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents who are 50 percent or more disabled veterans as determined by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. Refer to page 11 for application instructions. <i>Additional Certification Available:</i> HIP Certification (federal requirement): Needed to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, doves, rails, gallinule, snipe and woodcock).</p>	\$110.00	N/A
<p>• Unified Totally Disabled Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing: Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents who are totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. Refer to page 11 for application instructions. <i>Additional Certification Available:</i> HIP Certification (federal requirement): Needed to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, doves, rails, gallinule, snipe and woodcock).</p>	FREE	N/A
<p>• Unified Totally Disabled Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing: Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents who are totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include federal duck stamp), fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. Refer to page 11 for application instructions. <i>Additional Certification Available:</i> HIP Certification (federal requirement): Needed to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, doves, rails, gallinule, snipe and woodcock).</p>	\$110.00	N/A
<p>FISHING:</p>		
<p>• Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing: Statewide inland and coastal recreational fishing. Includes fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.</p>	\$450.00	N/A
<p>• Unified Legally Blind Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing: Statewide fishing in all public waters for residents who have been certified by the Dept. of Health and Human Services as being legally blind. Includes fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and fishing in trout waters on game lands. Refer to page 11 for application instructions.</p>	FREE	N/A
<p>• Unified Adult Care Home Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing: Statewide fishing in all public waters for residents of an adult care home. Includes fishing in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and fishing in trout waters on game lands. License valid during time of residency at adult care facility. Call (888) 248-6834 to obtain an application.</p>	FREE	N/A

We make it easy! Check out our Web site: www.ncwildlife.org


- ◆ Purchase hunting, fishing and trapping licenses
- ◆ Report a Big Game Harvest
- ◆ Locate a nearby wildlife service agent
- ◆ Check status of permit hunts
- ◆ Register for a Hunter Education course
- ◆ Renew vessel registration
- ◆ Register for a Boating Education course
- ◆ View updated game lands maps
- ◆ Browse for fishing publications
- ◆ Find a local shooting range
- ◆ Register for wildlife programs for children and adults at any of our Wildlife Education Centers
- ◆ Browse for habitat management publications
- ◆ Purchase Wild Store products, including *Game Lands Map Book*
- ◆ Request a *Regulations Digest* or *Permit Hunting Opportunities Guide*
- ◆ Purchase a subscription to *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine



www.ncwildlife.org

UNIFIED HUNTING, INLAND AND COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE (CRFL) TYPES

and Associated Privilege Licenses

 "X" indicates the privileges authorized for each license type.		P R I V I L E G E S																										
		Big Game		HUNTING													OTHER											
				Basic Hunting																								
Deer	Bear	Boar	Turkey	Squirrel	Rabbit	Migratory Game Birds (5)	Quail	Grouse	Pheasant	Raccoon	Opossum	Bobcat	Crow	Beaver	Groundhog	Coyote	Controlled Shooting Preserves	Waterfowl (5) (6)	Game Lands (hunting)	Trapping	Game Lands (trapping) (7)	Basic Fishing	Trout Fishing	Public Trout Waters	Special Device Fishing	Nongame Fish	Bow & Arrow	Coastal Recreational Fishing
RESIDENT LICENSE TYPES																												
Price	Hunting, Inland & CRFL																											
\$55	Annual Unified Sportsman/CRFL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$675	Lifetime Adult Sportsman/CRFL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$450	Lifetime Youth Sportsman/CRFL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$275	Lifetime Infant Sportsman/CRFL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$30	Unified Age 65 & Older Sportsman/CRFL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$110	Unified Disabled Vet Sportsman/CRFL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$110	Unified Totally Disabled Sportsman/CRFL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Additional Hunting Privileges																												
Free	HIP Certification (1) (2)						X												X									
Fishing																												
\$5	10-Day – CRFL																											X
\$15	Annual CRFL																											X
\$35	Annual Unified Inland/CRFL																					X	X	X		X	X	
Free	Annual Subsistence Inland/CRFL Waiver																					X				X	X	
\$250	Lifetime Adult CRFL																											X
\$150	Lifetime Youth CRFL																											X
\$100	Lifetime Infant CRFL																											X
\$15	Age 65 & Older CRFL																											X
\$10	Disabled Vet CRFL																											X
\$10	Totally Disabled CRFL																											X
\$450	Lifetime Unified Inland/CRFL																					X	X	X		X	X	
Additional Inland Fishing Privilege																												
\$10	Trout Fishing (3)																							X	X			
NONRESIDENT LICENSE TYPES																												
Price	Hunting, Inland & CRFL																											
\$1,350	Lifetime Adult Sportsman/CRFL	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$450	Lifetime Youth Sportsman/CRFL	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$275	Lifetime Infant Sportsman/CRFL	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Additional Hunting Privileges																												
Free	HIP Certification (1) (2)						X												X									
\$125	Bear/Wild Boar (4)		X	X																								
Fishing																												
\$10	10-Day – CRFL																											X
\$30	Annual CRFL																											X
\$500	Lifetime Adult CRFL																											X
\$150	Lifetime Youth CRFL																											X
\$100	Lifetime Infant CRFL																											X

Additional Information

- (1) Required to hunt Federal Migratory & Waterfowl birds.
 - (2) Must also possess either a basic hunting, comprehensive hunting or sportsman's license.
 - (3) Must also possess a valid inland fishing license.
 - (4) Must also possess either a basic hunting or sportsman's license and a big game license.
 - (5) Must also have the HIP Certification.
 - (6) Must also possess a Federal Duck Stamp.
 - (7) Trapping on game lands requires a Game Lands License and a Trapping License.
- = Lifetime Licenses

Please note: For the convenience of the reader, major regulation changes appear in RED.