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## Recreational License and Permit Requirements

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Recreational licenses and permits for residents and nonresidents are available at county tax collectors' offices. In addition, they are available from subagents, such as sporting goods stores or other retailers selling hunting or fishing equipment. All license, permit, and issuance fees may be subject to change pending the outcome of this year's legislative session. Prices listed include tax collector's fee. In addition to the cost of a license or permit given in this section, an issuance fee of \$.50 may be charged by the subagent selling the license or permit.

If you have a major credit card, the FWC offers you two ways to buy your hunting or fishing license without leaving your home.

- **Follow this link to information on buying your license directly over the internet.** \*(A \$2.25 + 2.5% surcharge of total sale per person will be added to your purchase)
- Dial toll-free, either **1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356)** or **1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)** from anywhere in the United States or Canada. (A \$3.25 + 2.5% surcharge of total sale per person will be added to your purchase)

With either method, you'll have a temporary license number within minutes, enabling you to hunt (in season) or fish right away. Your permanent license will be mailed within 48 hours.

The information below relates to **recreational** hunting and fishing only. For information on **commercial fishing** or taking furbearers, please consult the **Freshwater Fishing, Saltwater Fishing or Hunting** home pages. These pages also contain more detailed information about license requirements and exemptions.

**Florida Residence** - Any person who has resided in Florida for six continuous months prior to the issuance of a license and who claims Florida as their primary residence or Any member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in Florida (includes spouse and dependent children residing in the household).

For license and permit information (including application forms) regarding **Captive Wildlife, freshwater commercial fishing, and alligator trapping**, follow **this link**.







Home : [Marine Fisheries](#): [Recreational Saltwater Fishing License\(s\) Requirements](#):

## **Recreational Saltwater Fishing License(s) Requirements:**

[Lifetime Licenses](#) | [Recreational Fishing Licenses](#) | [For-Hire Licenses](#)  
[Vessel & Pier Licenses](#) | [Residency Requirements](#) | [Other Saltwater Licenses](#)

### **Lifetime Licenses**

The FWC issues Lifetime Licenses to Florida residents for hunting, freshwater fishing and saltwater fishing. Funds generated from the sale of these licenses will be invested, creating an endowment to support the long-term conservation of Florida's wildlife and fisheries resources.

For avid sportsmen who want the convenience of securing licensing, once and for all, for all your hunting, freshwater fishing and saltwater fishing activities, the Lifetime Sportsman's License is for you. Lifetime Licenses will remain valid for use in Florida even if you move out of state. For hunters and anglers who like a bargain, the cost of a Lifetime License is less than what would be spent on annual licenses, permits, and fees. The earlier the purchase is made, the bigger the savings. The Lifetime License is for parents, grandparents, and family friends who want to pass on the joys of outdoor recreation to young people and help ensure that today's youth have the natural resources to share hunting, freshwater fishing, and saltwater fishing with their children.

The Lifetime License is for conservationists who want to contribute to the long-term management of Florida's natural resources. Only interest from the trust fund will be appropriated. The principal will be held in perpetuity to ensure future funding for fish and wildlife programs. This endowment will ensure that Florida's natural resources are conserved today for the future and that your children can pass on your family's hunting and fishing tradition to their children.

[Purchase a Lifetime License](#)

### **Recreational Saltwater Fishing License**

You do not need a license if you are:

- Any child under 16 years of age.
- Any resident who is a member of the United States Armed Forces and not stationed in this state, when home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders.
- Any person fishing who has been accepted as a client for developmental disabilities services by the [Children and Family Services](#), provided the department furnishes proof thereof.
- Any resident fishing in saltwater from land or from a structure fixed to the land.

- Any person fishing from a for-hire vessel (guide, charter, party boat) that has a valid vessel license.
- Any person fishing from a vessel, the operator of which has a valid vessel license issued in the name of the operator of the vessel.
- Any person who holds a valid saltwater products license (SPL).
- Any person fishing for recreational purposes from a pier that has been issued a valid pier saltwater fishing license.
- Any resident fishing for a saltwater species in fresh water from land or from a structure fixed to land.
- Any resident fishing for mullet in fresh water who has a valid Florida freshwater fishing license.
- Any resident 65 years of age or older who has in her or his possession proof of age and residency or a no-cost Florida Resident Senior Citizen license. A no-cost license may be obtained from any tax collector's office upon proof of age and residency and must be in the possession of the resident during hunting, freshwater fishing, and saltwater fishing activities.
- Any employee of the commission who takes freshwater fish, saltwater fish, or game as part of employment with the commission, or any other person authorized by commission permit to take freshwater fish, saltwater fish, or game for scientific or educational purposes.

#### Disability Exemption Update

Help Florida Conserve: Purchase a License Even if Exempt

Purchase a Recreational Fishing License

#### **For-Hire License (Charter, Headboat, and Guide Operations)**

Charter, headboat and guide operations require this license to cover your passengers who are not required to hold a recreational fishing license.

<b>For-Hire Licenses</b>	
CHARTER CAPTAIN - 4 OR LESS CUSTOMERS	\$ 201.50
CHARTER CAPTAIN - 10 OR LESS CUSTOMERS	\$ 401.50
CHARTER CAPTAIN - 11 OR MORE CUSTOMERS	\$ 801.50
CHARTER BOAT - 4 OR LESS CUSTOMERS	\$ 201.50
CHARTER BOAT - 6 OR LESS CUSTOMERS	\$ 401.50
CHARTER BOAT - 10 OR LESS CUSTOMERS	\$ 401.50
CHARTER BOAT - 11 OR MORE CUSTOMERS	\$ 801.50
<b>** Note that the costs include tax collector surcharge</b>	

In order to purchase a charter boat license, you must register your boat as a commercial vessel. The vessel registration documentation will be required in order to obtain a state vessel license.

The license can be purchased at your local tax collectors office. The county you are doing business in may require you to have an occupational license.

The Coast Guard requires a Captain's License for all operators of for-hire vessels. In order to purchase a charter captain's license, you must have a Captain's license. You

can call 1-800-982-9374 for information on the Coast Guard Captain's license. This documentation will be required in order to obtain a state vessel license.

If you are operating a for-hire vessel in a Park or a Refuge, you may be required to have additional permits (example: Everglades National Park). Please check with the local Park or Refuge headquarters for any specific permitting requirements for those areas.

If you are operating a for-hire vessel in federal waters (outside of 9 nautical miles on the Gulf and 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic), some species do require a federal charter vessel/headboat permit in order to fish for them. Contact the National Marine Fisheries Management Service, Licensing and Permitting office at (727) 570-5326 for information on federal charter/headboat permits.

### **Vessel and Pier Licenses**

<b>Optional Licenses (Not Required)</b>	
Vessel - Recreational	
An optional license that is available to cover anyone saltwater fishing from a recreational vessel where no fee is paid.	\$ 2,001.50
Saltwater Fishing Pier	
An optional license issued to an owner, operator or custodian of a pier to cover everyone saltwater fishing from such pier.	\$ 501.50
** Note that the costs include tax collector surcharge	

The license can be purchased at your [local tax collectors office](#)

Additional License Information

[Regulations](#) | [Summarized Recreational Regs](#) | [Commercial Fisheries](#) |  
[News & Events](#) | [Fishing Lines Angler's Guide](#) |  
[Artificial Reefs](#) | [Recreational Licenses](#) | [Commercial Licenses](#) | [Fish Pictures](#) | [Related Links](#) |  
[DMF Home](#)

	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Five-Year Residents Only</b>
Wildlife Management Area Permit	\$26.50	\$126.50
Archery Permit	\$5.00	\$25.00
Muzzleloading Gun Permit	\$5.00	\$25.00
Turkey Permit	\$5.00	\$25.00
Turkey Permit (Nonresident)	\$100.00	
Florida Waterfowl Permit	\$3.00	\$15.00
Crossbow Permit	\$5.00	\$25.00
Migratory Bird Permit	Free*	

- Specific Wildlife Management Area Requirements & Maps

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### HUNTER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

A person born on or after June 1, 1975 **may not be issued a license** to take or attempt to take wild animal life in this state with the use of a firearm, gun (including a muzzleloading gun), bow or crossbow without first having successfully completed a hunter safety course. A valid hunter safety certification card must be presented prior to issuing a license which includes a hunting privilege (excluding lifetime licenses) for anyone who meets the above requirement. Individuals exempted from purchasing a hunting license but born on or after June 1, 1975 are exempted from the hunter safety requirement. Lifetime license holders born on or after June 1, 1975 whose licenses do not indicate on the face of the licenses that a hunter safety course has been completed must have in their possession the hunter safety certification card while taking or attempting to take wild animal life.

For more information and class schedules, contact the nearest regional FWC office.

Panama City	(850) 265-3676
Lake City	(386) 758-0525
Ocala	(352) 625-2804
Lakeland	(863) 648-3200
West Palm Beach	(561) 625-5122

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**1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)**

<b>FRESHWATER FISHING LICENSES</b>	
<b>Resident</b>	

	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Five-Year</b>
Annual	\$13.50	\$61.50
Freshwater/Saltwater Fishing Combo	\$25.50	
Freshwater Fishing/Hunting Combo	\$23.50	
Freshwater/Saltwater Fishing/Hunting Combo	\$35.50	
<b>Resident 64 or Older Sportsman's License</b> (includes Freshwater Fishing and Hunting licenses; and Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Crossbow, Turkey, Florida Waterfowl permits, Snook Permit and Lobster Permit)	\$13.50	
<b>Sportsman's License</b> (includes Freshwater Fishing and Hunting Licenses; and Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Crossbow, Turkey, Florida Waterfowl permits)	\$72.50	
<b>Gold Sportsman's License</b> (includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Crossbow, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl, Snook and Lobster Permits)	\$88.50	
<b>Military Gold Sportsman's License</b> (includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Crossbow, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl, Snook and Lobster Permits) (sold only at tax collector's office)	\$20.00	
<b>Nonresident</b>		
7-Day	\$16.50	
Annual	\$31.50	

- Other Freshwater License & Permit Information

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<b>SALTWATER FISHING</b>		
<b>Resident</b>		
	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Five-Year</b>
<b>Gold Sportsman's License</b> (includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Crossbow, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl,	\$88.50	

Snook and Lobster Permits)		
<b>Military Gold Sportsman's License</b> (includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Crossbow, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl, Snook and Lobster Permits) (sold only at tax collector's office)	\$20.00	
Annual	\$13.50	\$61.50
Lobster Permit	\$2.00	\$10.00
Snook Permit	\$2.00	\$10.00
Tarpon Tag	\$51.50	
<b>Nonresident</b>		
	<b>Annual</b>	
Annual	\$31.50	
Nonresident 3-Day	\$6.50	
Nonresident 7-Day	\$16.50	
Snook Permit	\$2.00	
Lobster Permit	\$2.00	
Tarpon Tag	\$51.50	

- Am I exempt from purchasing a saltwater fishing license?
- **How does my license purchase help Florida's marine resources?** (PDF)
- Other Saltwater License and Permit Information

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<b>LIFETIME LICENSES - For Florida Residents Only (Sold only at Tax Collectors' offices)</b>	
<b>Lifetime Sportsman's License</b> (includes hunting, freshwater fishing and saltwater fishing licenses; and wildlife management area, archery, muzzleloading gun, crossbow, turkey, Florida waterfowl, snook and Lobster permits)	
4 years or younger	\$ 401.50
5-12 years	\$ 701.50
13 years and older	\$1,001.50

<b>Lifetime Hunting License</b> (includes hunting license; and wildlife management area, archery, muzzleloading gun, crossbow, turkey, and Florida waterfowl permits)
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4 years or younger	\$201.50
5-12 years	\$351.50
13 years or older	\$501.50

<b>Lifetime Freshwater Fishing License</b>	
4 years or younger	\$126.50
5-12 years	\$226.50
13 years or older	\$301.50

<b>Lifetime Saltwater Fishing License (includes snook and Lobster permits)</b>	
4 years or younger	\$126.50
5-12 years	\$226.50
13 years or older	\$301.50

**For more information or for applications for Lifetime licenses contact your county tax collector's office or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.**

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