

What You Need to Know about Saltwater Fishing Licenses in Florida

Sport fishing is a multi-billion dollar industry in Florida. In 2006, anglers spent over \$4.4 billion dollars in the state. An important contributor to this revenue is the sale of fishing licenses. Between 2006 and 2007 over 1.5 million licenses were sold in Florida. However, this statistic does not reflect the true number of anglers who fish here because *not all anglers are required to have a license*. It is important to educate yourself about when a saltwater fishing license is needed and why they are important to sport fishing.

A saltwater fishing license is **NOT** needed for...

- Children under 16 years of age
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel that has a valid vessel license or charter captain's license
- Holders of a valid saltwater products license
- Florida residents 65 years of age or older
- Florida residents who are a member of the U.S. armed forces, who is not stationed in Florida, while on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders
- Any person accepted as a client for developmental services by the Dept of Child and Family Services
- Nonresidents fishing from a pier with a valid pier saltwater fishing license
- Fishing from a boat that has a valid recreational vessel fishing license
- Florida resident fishing for saltwater fish in freshwater from land or a structure fixed from land
- Florida residents who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate

2009 Shoreline Exemption

Beginning August 1st, 2009 Florida residents saltwater fishing for recreational purposes from shore or a structure fixed to land such as a pier, jetty, bridge, floating dock or similar structure will be required to obtain a shoreline fishing license unless they have a regular saltwater fishing license. **Beginning July 1, 2010, the shoreline license is free to resident anglers, but still required.** Anglers who order their license over the phone or via the Internet will still have to pay a processing fee.

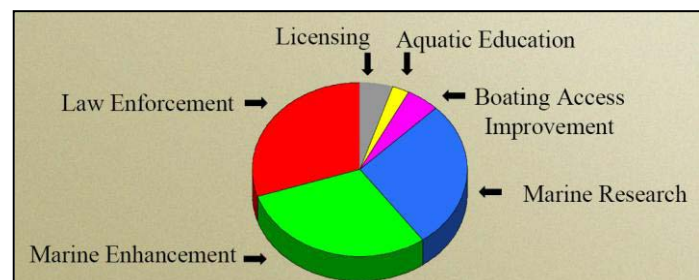
The license provides all of the same exemptions as a regular license, including senior citizens, children, disabled people who meet certain qualifications, active-duty military personnel while home on leave, and anglers who fish from a licensed pier. In addition, the shoreline license requirement includes two new exemptions: 1) anglers drawing food stamps, temporary cash assistance or Medicaid, and 2) anglers fishing in their home counties who use cane poles or other gear that does not depend on mechanical retrieval.

Who is considered a Florida resident?

- Any person who has resided in Florida for six continuous months prior to applying for a resident license and who claims Florida as their primary residence
- Any member of the U.S. Armed forces who is stationed in the state.

How are the funds generated from the sale of fishing licenses used?

- Fish habitat restoration
- Marine fisheries research
- Boating access improvements
- Law enforcement
- Licensing
- Aquatic education



Source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Where can I purchase a Florida saltwater fishing license?

- All county tax collector's offices*
- Most tackle shops/ sports retailers
- By telephone: 1-888-FISH FLORIDA (347-4356)
- Online: www.myFWC.com/license

*An additional subagent fee is charged for licenses not purchased directly from the county tax collector

How much is a saltwater fishing license?*

- Anglers have several options to choose from when purchasing a license depending on their resident status, length of time fishing, and/or species they are targeting.
- To learn more about the different types of fishing licenses offered by FWC, contact them at 1-888-347-4356.

*These prices were current at the time of this publication (7/29/2010): Consult with FWC or your tax collector's office for the most up to date prices.

Why should I consider purchasing a license if I'm not required to have one?

- The more licenses purchased by anglers, the more federal aid the state gets to support sport fish conservation and restoration projects.
- License sales bring tackle and motor boat fuel taxes back to Florida and help support the economy.



Resident Saltwater Fishing Licenses		
	Annual	Five-Year
Gold Sportsman's License (includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Deer, Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Crossbow, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl, Snook and Lobster permits)	\$100.00	
Military Gold Sportsman's License (includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Deer, 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 Saltwater Fishing	\$17.00	\$79.00
Saltwater/Freshwater Fishing Combo	\$32.50	
Saltwater/Freshwater Fishing/Hunting Combo	\$48.00	
Saltwater Shoreline License	Free	
Nonresident Saltwater Fishing Licenses		
Nonresident Annual Saltwater Fishing	\$47.00	
Nonresident 3-Day Saltwater Fishing	\$17.00	
Nonresident 7-Day Saltwater Fishing	\$30.00	
Saltwater Fishing Permits (Resident and Nonresident)		
If you are not required to buy a license, you are not required to buy permits (except tarpon)		
	Annual	Five-Year Residents only
Snook Permit	\$10.00	\$50.00
Lobster Permit	\$5.00	\$25.00
Tarpon Tag	\$51.50	

Sources:

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2008. Florida Saltwater Fishing Regulations
- U.S. Census Bureau: 2007. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

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Solutions for your Life

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