

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

Additional information for freshwater/saltwater fishing and hunting information as well as the latest size limits, seasons, bag limits and online versions of all of the State's Wildlife Management areas are available at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Internet address @ <http://www.MyFWC.com>

Another important fiscal responsibility of the Office of the Tax Collector involves its work as an agent for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. In this capacity, the Tax Collector is responsible for the sale of hunting licenses, two types of fishing licenses (saltwater and freshwater), state waterfowl permits, game management permits, and the collection of all monies from these sales. Hunting, Freshwater Fishing and Saltwater Fishing licenses are good for 12 months from date of issuance, unless it's purchased for a shorter length of time. Licenses can be obtained through the Office of the Tax Collector, a subagent, which is a business that sells licenses as a courtesy to the public, on-line or by calling 1-888-Fish Florida or 1-888 Hunt Florida.

Are you considered a Florida Resident? Throughout this section on hunting and fishing licenses, you will see many references made to "Florida resident." Before you answer, read closely the Florida Resident section on page 54 as to how the State defines resident or you may find yourself in a courtroom before a judge having to pay a very hefty fine.

Obtaining a Fishing/Hunting License

Licenses can be purchased at any branch of the Manatee County Tax Collector. Locations in Bradenton include: **819 301 Boulevard West and 7411 Manatee Avenue W., Suite 200**. Ellenton: **4333 US Hwy 301 N**, Lakewood Ranch: **6007 111th St. E. (off SR70)**. All Wal-Marts and Kmarts in Manatee County sell licenses. Please see page 55 for a complete listing of subagents.

Obtaining a Duplicate Fishing/Hunting License

A duplicate license can be obtained from the Tax Collector's Office or a subagent for \$2.00 per permit.

Senior Citizen Fishing/Hunting License

Florida residents at least 65 years of age are entitled to fish and hunt for free. Previously our office issued a separate senior citizen license, but a change in State regulations allows residents 65 years of age and over to use their Florida Driver License as his or her free fishing license. NOTE: this license does not cover commercial fishing nor does it cover any federal fishing license requirements.

Penalties for Fishing/Hunting without a License

It is considered a civil penalty to fish without the proper license or stamp. It is generally a \$50.00 fine plus the cost of the amount of the applicable annual license or stamp. Any person who willfully refuses to post a bond or accept and sign the issued citation is also guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. For hunting without the proper license, the penalties can be more severe up to and including citations, fines, court costs and even the forfeiture of weapons and vehicles.

Free Fishing/Hunting License for the Disabled

Any FLORIDA resident is entitled to a 5-year freshwater, saltwater fishing and hunting license without a fee upon submission of proof of **total and permanent disability** to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Applications can be obtained from the Tax Collector's Office or from our website www.taxcollector.com. **Certification of disability must be provided** by one of the following agencies: Railroad Retirement Board, Worker's Compensation under Chapter 440, United States Veteran's Administration, any branch of the United States Armed Forces, State of Florida Department of Veteran's and Community Affairs – 100% Service Connected Disabled Veteran Identification Card (**must have the statement total and permanent disabled**) or documentation of **current** eligibility for SSI or SSDI **disability** benefits from Social Security Administration. Note: It does not cover the Federal Duck Stamp that is purchased at the U.S. Post Office.

FISHING LICENSES (Saltwater & Freshwater)

Who Doesn't Need a License

All anglers must possess a valid fishing license when **fishing**, with the following **exceptions**:

1. Florida *residents* 65 years of age and over and children under 16. *RESIDENTS* who are 65 and over must carry their Florida Driver License as proof of residency. (Note: Residents are defined as those citizens who have resided in the State for 6 continuous months and have State specified proof. To be eligible to purchase a resident's license, you must provide the office with a Florida Driver License, at least 6 months old. It cannot be a Florida Identification card or a "Florida Only" License.)
2. The "Cane Pole Law" allows a resident to fish in the county of his/her residence with live or natural bait, using poles or hand lines that are not equipped with a reel, for non-commercial purposes; however a valid fishing license/stamp is required to fish by any method in a fish management area. No license/stamp is required to fish in a private fishing pond.
3. Residents who are **totally *and* permanently disabled** and present authorized disability statements to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are exempt and will receive a special exemption license. Contact the Tax Collector's Office for the application that must be completed or visit our website www.taxcollector.com.
4. Any resident who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who is not stationed in this State, when fishing while home on leave, for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders. (The exemption refers to the person on leave, not the family.)
5. Any person fishing from a boat which has a valid saltwater/freshwater vessel license.
6. Any resident/non-resident fishing from a pier which has been issued a pier saltwater fishing license providing a fee was paid to fish from the pier.
7. Any person who holds a valid commercial saltwater products license other than the owner, operator or custodian of a boat for which a saltwater recreational fishing license is required. (Only one individual aboard a boat to which a commercial saltwater products license has been issued may claim exemption at any given time.)

8. Any individual who has been accepted by the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services for developmental services.
9. For a saltwater license, any person who has been assigned by a court to a HRS authorized rehabilitation program involving training in Florida aquatic resources.
10. Any Florida resident who is fishing for mullet in freshwater and has a valid Florida Freshwater Fishing License.

Who Does Need A License:

1. Anyone fishing from a boat. Each person fishing must have a license with them.
2. Anyone fishing from a sandbar or other land mass that is accessible only by boat, or by swimming/wading through water.
3. Anyone diving who takes, attempts to take, or possesses any marine fish.
4. All non-Florida residents who are fishing.
5. Anyone who operates any boat where a fee is paid either directly or indirectly for the purpose of taking, attempting to take, or possessing any marine fish for noncommercial purposes.

Note: This list does not cover all activities where a license is required, just some of the more common ones. Also, in addition to a fishing license, a permit is required to take or attempt to take snook and crawfish and other fish. See the latest Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulations for more information.

Fishing License Costs

<u>License or Stamp</u>	<u>Purchased at Tax Collector</u>	<u>Purchased at Subagent</u>
<i>Freshwater License</i>		
Resident (1 year)	\$17.00	\$17.50
Non-Resident (7-day)	\$30.00	\$30.50
Non-Resident (1 year)	\$47.00	\$47.50
Non-Resident (3-day)	\$17.00	\$17.50
 Resident Combination Fresh- water Fishing & Hunting	 \$32.50	 \$33.00
 Resident Combination Fresh- Water, Saltwater Fishing	 \$32.50	 \$33.00
 Resident Combination Fresh- Water, Saltwater Fishing & Hunting License	 \$48.00	 \$48.50
<i>Saltwater License</i>		
Resident (1 year)	\$17.00	\$17.50
Non-resident (3 day)	\$17.00	\$17.50
Non-resident (7 day)	\$30.00	\$30.50
Non-resident (1 year)	\$47.50	\$48.00
Snook Stamp	\$10.00	\$10.50
Lobster Stamp	\$5.00	\$5.50
Tarpon Tag	\$51.50	N/A

Shoreline Fishing Licenses

Effective August 1, 2009, any Florida residents age 16-64 who fish from shore or a pier (without a pier-fishing license) are required to have a Resident Shoreline Fishing License. The fee for this license was repealed during the 2010 legislative session, and is now available at a no cost as of July 1, 2010. The license is still required, but now can be obtained for no additional fee. To fish from a boat or land accessible only by boat, a full saltwater fishing license is required. Non-Florida residents are not eligible, and must purchase a full saltwater fishing license. For more information, exemptions, and requirements, visit MYFWC.com.

Pier Fishing Licenses

If the pier has a license, the anglers fishing on it require no further fishing licenses. At this time, there are three piers that have licenses in Manatee County: Bradenton Beach Pier, located at 200 Bridge Street and Rod & Reel Pier, 875 N. Shore Driv, Anna Maria and the Skyway State Fishing Pier, Terra Ceia. Please check to ensure the pier you fish from has a pier license. The cost for a pier license is \$501.50 and is valid for 12 months from date of issue. Note: if the pier does not have a license, then all non-residents of Florida must individually purchase the appropriate fishing license.

Selling the Fish you Catch

If you plan to sell the fish you catch, you will need a Saltwater Products License. It is obtained through the Saltwater Licenses and Permit Section. For more information, call 850-487-3122. To sell freshwater fish, contact the Freshwater Fisheries Division at 850-488-3641.

Boat Licenses

To cover the occupants in a boat so that they can fish without each needing a license, a boat owner can purchase two different types of licenses:

1. **Boat Saltwater Fishing License.** There are 3 categories of this license depending on the number of passengers aboard.
 - A. License to carry 11 or more customers \$801.50
You must bring a valid Commercial Certificate of Boat Registration, and your current Certificate of Inspection (U.S. Coast Guard Form, CG-841.)
 - B. License to carry 5 to 10 customers \$401.50
You must bring a valid Commercial Certificate of Boat Registration, and either your current Certificate of Inspection (U.S. Coast Guard Form, CG-841) or a current Coast Guard License to operate or navigate passenger carrying boats.
 - C. License to carry no more than 4 customers \$201.50
You must bring a valid commercial Certificate of Boat Registration, and either your current Certificate of Inspection (U.S. Coast Guard Form, CG-841) or a current Coast Guard License to operate or navigate passenger carrying boats.
2. **Recreational Boat License.** The fee for this license is \$2,001.50 per 12 month period. This license can only be purchased at your local Tax Collector's Office. Please call for more information.

COMBINATION & MULTI-YEAR LICENSES

Annual Resident Sportsman’s License (Freshwater & Hunting)

The Florida Resident Sportsman’s license, costing \$80.50, satisfies all State requirements for recreational hunting (including Management Area Stamp: Management Area Permit, Waterfowl Permit, Turkey Permit, Archery Permit and Muzzleloading Permit) and **freshwater** fishing for Florida Residents. **Not** included in the Resident Sportsman’s License are the Federal Duck Stamp, Resident Trapping License, Resident Commercial Fishing License, Resident Retail Fish Dealer’s License and Saltwater Fishing License.

Annual Resident Gold Sportsman’s License (Saltwater, Freshwater & Hunting)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is now offering the Gold Sportsman’s License, costing \$100.00. This license, only available to Florida Residents, will include the following privileges: Saltwater Fishing, Snook Permit, Crawfish Permit, Freshwater Fishing, Hunting, Management Area Permit, Waterfowl Permit, Turkey Permit, Archery Permit and Muzzleloading Permit.

Florida residents who are either active or retired military can purchase the Military Gold Sportsman’s License for \$20.00, this license contains the same privileges as listed above and is only available at the Tax Collector’s Offices. Proof of Florida residency and an active or retired military ID card is required. *(This license is not available to military dependents or retired reserve dependents.)*

5-Year License

Florida Residents can purchase different types of five-year licenses.

Five-Year Saltwater Fishing License	\$79.00
Five-Year Freshwater Fishing License	\$79.00
Five-Year Hunting License	\$79.00
Plastic Card Fee	\$4.00

Note: License does not include any type of permits, however, five-year permits can be purchased from the Tax Collector’s Office and range from \$10.00 to \$151.50.

Lifetime License

Florida Residents can purchase a lifetime license for Saltwater, Freshwater, Hunting or a combination license. The fee is based on your age at the time of purchase. A certified copy of the birth certificate is required for applicants 12 years of age and under. Two proofs of ID proving residency are required.

Saltwater Fishing License Fees (includes permits, except Tarpon Tag)

4 years of age or younger	\$126.50
5 –12 years of age	\$226.50
13 years of age or older	\$301.50

Freshwater Fishing License Fees

4 years of age or younger	\$126.50
5 –12 years of age	\$226.50
13 years of age or older	\$301.50

Hunting License (includes permits and Management Area)		
4 years of age or younger		\$201.50
5 –12 years of age		\$351.50
13 years of age or older		\$501.50
Sportsman (Saltwater, Freshwater, Hunting and permits)		
4 years of age or younger		\$401.50
5 –12 years of age		\$701.50
13 – 63 years of age		\$1001.50
Age 64 and up		\$13.50

HUNTING LICENSES

<u>License or Stamp</u>	<u>Tax Collector Fee</u>	<u>Subagent Fee</u>
Hunting License		
Resident (1 year)	\$17.00	\$17.50
Sportsman License	\$80.50	\$81.00
Gold Sportsman License	\$100.00	\$100.50
Non-Resident (1 year)	\$151.50	N/A
Non-Resident (10 day)	\$46.50	\$47.00
Resident Combination Freshwater Fishing & Hunting	\$32.50	\$33.00
Resident Combination Freshwater, Saltwater Fishing and Hunting	\$48.00	\$48.50

Federal Duck Stamp

Any person 16 years of age and older attempting to take wild ducks in Florida must possess a Federal Duck Stamp in addition to a valid hunting license, a Florida Waterfowl Permit and a no-cost Migratory Bird Permit. The Federal Duck Stamp privilege may be purchased at our office for \$17.50 and will be valid for 45 days. During that time the customer will be mailed the actual pictorial Federal Duck Stamp by an outside vendor, which will remain valid until June 30th. A Federal Duck Stamp can also be purchased on the Internet. <https://www3.wildlifelicense.com/fl/start.php> or by calling 1-888-486-8356.

Federal Migratory Bird Permit

The name is misleading, because it is not really a permit, but a survey that is completed by all hunters who attempt to take migratory birds. It is to be issued whenever a hunter indicates they intend to take migratory birds. There is no cost for this permit. ALL hunters taking migratory birds must have this permit!

Other Hunting Related Services and Permits

Other services and permits available from your Tax Collector's Office include: Management Area, Archery, Muzzle-loading, State Waterfowl Permits, Quota Hunt Applications.

ARE YOU A FLORIDA RESIDENT?

Throughout this section on hunting and fishing licenses you saw many references made to “Florida resident.” Are you a Florida resident? Before you answer make sure you read closely how the State defines resident or you may find yourself in a courtroom before a judge paying a very hefty fine.

Florida residency has *nothing* to do with any of the following:

- ? Whether or not you pay taxes in Manatee County
- ? Whether or not you own a home or land in Manatee County
- ? Whether or not you were born in Manatee County
- ? Or, how many years you have lived in Manatee County.

It doesn't matter how much in taxes you've paid, how many homes you own or whether you've lived here 40 years or 40 days, *if you are a Florida resident and you drive, you **MUST** possess a Florida Driver License that was issued at least 6 months prior.* Note: not a Florida ID card and not a “FL-ONLY” license. In addition, if you are a Florida resident, you must surrender any driver license from any other state or country.

When stopped by law enforcement while fishing, you will be asked for two items: your license and your legal ID (driver license). If you present law enforcement with a Resident's License and then provide him or her with an out of state driver license, you most likely will be ticketed. In addition, if you claim to be a Florida resident, all vehicles owned must have Florida titles and license plates. Claiming Florida residency may impact homestead claims and taxes owed in other states where you own property or spend time. Consult a lawyer or an accountant if you have concerns.

If you don't drive and are claiming to be a Florida resident, be prepared to provide the following to our office and to keep on your possession when fishing:

- ? Florida Driver License (Not FL Only)
Or if in the military
- ? Military Orders showing that the applicant is stationed in Florida.
Or
- ? Current Florida Homestead Exemption Card (no date requirement).
Or
- ? Florida Voter's Registration Card at least six months old

Note: The State has access to driver license records from other states to determine if you have an active license in another state. Filing a false statement with an official is a violation of law and can result in prosecution.

**MANATEE COUNTY
FISHING & HUNTING LICENSE SUBAGENTS***

Bradenton Area

Dick's Sporting Goods	4124 14 th Street West	751-6900
Sports Authority #386	201 Cortez Road West	752-0331
Wal Mart #528	2911 53rd Avenue East	750-0073
Wal Mart #1004	5315 Cortez Road West	798-9341

East Bradenton/Myakka

Wal Mart #3474	6225 East State Road 64	798-9341
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West Bradenton

Corky's Live Bait & Tackle	10103 Cortez Road West	792-7901
Cortez Fishing Center	12507 Cortez Road West	795-7796
K-Mart #7321	7350 Manatee Avenue West	792-1223
Wal Mart #1004	5315 Cortez Road West	798-9341

Island/Cortez Area

Annie's Bait & Tackle	4334 127 th Street West	794-3580
Corky's Live Bait & Tackle	10103 Cortez Road West	792-7901
Cortez Fishing Center	12507 Cortez Road West	795-7796
Island Discount Tackle	5503 Marina Drive	779-2838

Palmetto/Ellenton Area

K-Mart #4893	6126 US Hwy 301 North	729-3711
Wal Mart #3370	508 10 th Street East	723-2199

South County Area

Wal Mart #1171	8320 Lockwood Ridge Road	351-6969
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You can now purchase your Fishing and Hunting license over the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week by visiting www.MyFWC.com

*Subagents sell Hunting and Fishing Licenses. If you would like information on becoming a Subagent, please contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 850-488-3641.

Office of Boating Safety • Federal Requirements
www.uscgboating.org

Partial list—go to www.uscgboating.org for complete listing

Pollution Regulations	The Refuse Act of 1888 prohibits throwing, discharging or depositing any refuse matter of any kind including trash, garbage, oil, and other liquid pollutants into the waters of the United States.			
Fire Extinguishers	Coast Guard Approved fire extinguishers are required on boats when a fire hazard could be expected from the motors or the fuel system. Coast Guard Approved extinguishers required for boats are hand portable, either B-I or B-II classification and have a specific marine type mounting bracket. Check the website for further information: www.uscgboating.org			
Navigation Lights	Recreational vessels are required to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and other periods of reduced visibility (fog, rain, haze, etc.)			
Sound Producing Devices	Vessels 39.4 feet/12 meters or more in length are required to carry on board a whistle or horn, and a bell. Any vessel less than 39.4 feet/12 meters in length may carry a whistle or horn, or some other means to make an efficient sound signal to signal your intentions and to signal your position in periods of reduced visibility.			
Visual Distress Signal (VDS)	All vessels used on coastal waters, the Great Lakes, territorial seas, and those waters connected directly to them, up to a point where a body of water is less than two miles wide, must be equipped with U.S.C.G. Approved visual distress signals.			
Life Jackets (PFDs)	All recreational boats must carry one wearable (Coast Guard approved) PFD (Type I, II, III or Type V-PFD) for each person aboard. Effective Dec. 23, 2002, all children under 13 years of age are required to wear CG approved life jacket while aboard recreational vessels underway, except when below decks. (Inflatable PFDs are prohibited)			
Boating Under the Influence (BUI)	The Coast Guard and every state have stringent penalties for violating BUI laws. Penalties can include large fines, suspension or revocation of boat operator privileges, and jail terms. When the Coast Guard determines that an operator is impaired, the voyage may be terminated. The operator may be arrested or detained until sober, or turned over to the state or local authorities.			
Vessel Safety Check	A Vessel Safety Check (VSC) is a FREE check to boaters who wish to be sure that their vessel meets all federal and state equipment requirements. Vessel Examiners performing this service have been trained to look for some of the more common problems, which might occur on vessels or their associated safety equipment.			
State Numbering	Plain black letters/numbers not less than 3" in height must be painted or permanently attached to each side of the forward half of the vessel (or striking color to local waters). Lettering must be in plain, vertical block characters. The validator stickers must be affixed within 6" of the registration number.			
Certificate of Number (State Registration)	All undocumented vessels equipped with propulsion machinery must be registered in the state of principal use. A certificate of number must be displayed on your vessel. The owner/operator of a vessel must carry a valid CON whenever the vessel is in use.			
Equipment	Class A (less than 16ft.)	Class 1 (16 to less than 26ft.)	Class 2 (26 to less than 40ft.)	Class 3 (40 to less than 65ft.)

