

FOR-HIRE LICENSES

The below table and illustration summarize the current N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries For-Hire licenses. A for-hire license is required to take paying passengers fishing in coastal waters. If you operate a for-hire vessel in federal waters (outside of 3 miles), you may need a federal charter vessel/headboat permit before fishing for certain species. Blanket licenses cover the individual licensing requirements of the paying passengers. The non-blanket vessel license requires each individual passenger to obtain their own Coastal Recreational Fishing License. The U.S. Coast Guard requires guides and captains operating for-hire vessels to comply with their licensing requirements. For questions, please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries License Office in Morehead City or call 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021.

	NON-BLANKET VESSEL N.C.	BLANKET VESSEL (CRFL)	FOR-HIRE CAPTAINS (CRFL)
Cost	N.C. Resident - \$25 Nonresident - \$37.50	<=6 passengers \$250 resident (\$312.50 non-resident) >6 passengers \$350 resident (\$437.50 non-resident)	<=6 passengers \$250 resident (\$312.50 non-resident) >6 passengers \$350 resident (\$437.50 non-resident)
Requirements to Purchase	USCG License not required to purchase	USCG License not required to purchase	USCG License suitable for passenger rating required to purchase
Requirements to Operate	USCG license required to operate vessel	USCG license required to operate vessel	USCG license required to operate vessel
Other Requirements			All vessels operated by the holder of the Captains license must also be licensed with either one of the for-hire vessel licenses or a Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration with a For-Hire Endorsement.
Intended Purpose	Intended for: low cost license for dive boats and charter vessels not wishing to provide recreational license privileges to passengers.	Intended for: charter boats and head boats wishing to provide recreational license privileges to passengers.	Intended for: guides with multiple vessels wishing to provide recreational license privileges to passengers on all vessels.
Comments	Similar to the old for-hire permit but with a fee.	No net price increase over old license with exception of increase for nonresidents.	Some cost savings and more flexibility for guides compared to old license.
Vessel Decal Issued by DMF	4" X 6" For-Hire Decal Only	4" X 6" For-Hire Decal Only	No Decal if customer is purchasing the For-Hire Captains License Only. CFVR Decal AND 4" X 6" For-Hire Decal for Vessels Getting the CFVR with For-Hire Endorsement

FOR-HIRE LICENSES

Owner/Operator of Sportfishing Boat

Inshore Guide with Two or More Boats

Owner of Offshore Headboat

Dive Boat Owner/Operator



Recommended License

	Blanket or Non-blanket For-Hire VESSEL License	CAPTAINS License for Individual	Blanket For-Hire VESSEL License for > 6 passengers
Costs	N.C. Resident - \$25 Non-blanket Nonresident - \$37.50 Non-blanket	N.C. Resident <= 6 passengers is \$250 Nonresident <=6 passengers is \$312.50	N.C. Resident is \$350 Nonresidents is \$437.50
	N.C. Resident Blanket <= 6 passengers is \$250 Nonresident Blanket <= 6 passengers is \$312.50	N.C. Resident >6 passengers is \$350 Nonresident >6 passengers is \$437.50	
	N.C. Resident blanket >6 passengers is \$350 Nonresident Blanket >6 passengers is \$437.50	Requires a Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration with a for-hire endorsement on each vessel	
Optional License	Options: Captains License for Owner/Operator if vessel already has a Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration	Options: Blanket or Non-Blanket Vessel License for each boat	Options: Captains License for Owner/Operator if vessel already has a Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration