



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE (CRFL) EXEMPTION PERMIT
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
(REV 2025-12)

Applications are to be completed and signed by the individual or, if the owner is a corporation, agency, university or organization, the Responsible Party of the organization that is to be permitted. Businesses requesting a permit must have the Responsible Party (business agent) complete and sign the application. The Responsible Party (business agent) is the person who coordinates, supervises, or otherwise directs operations of a business entity, such as a corporate officer or executive-level supervisor of business operations and is the person responsible for use of the issued permit in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Individuals applying for a permit for another under the authority of Power of Attorney must submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of the Power of Attorney and current picture identification.

Eligibility Requirements

This permit is for an individual or organizations, seeking exemption from recreational fishing license requirements to conduct an organized fishing event held in coastal or joint fishing waters. The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit shall only be issued when all required information is submitted in writing a minimum of **30 days** prior to the event.

Individual applicants or Responsible Party (business agents) for business applicants must provide a **PHOTOCOPY** of one of the following current picture identifications:

- Driver's License; or
- State Identification (issued by DMV); or
- Military Identification; or
- Passport; or
- Resident Alien Card (green card)

To facilitate processing, indicate whether you have any other North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries license issued in the name that you are applying. Enter the Participant Identification Number (PID) listed on these other licenses. This number is located to the right of the word *Participant #* on your license.

If you are applying as a business, university, or organization, you must provide:

- State tax identification number assigned by the North Carolina Department of Revenue; or federal tax identification number; or Social Security number.
- If incorporated, **PHOTOCOPY** of Articles of Incorporation and list of current corporate holders.
- If organization, a **PHOTOCOPY** of the Articles of Organization and list of current corporate holders.
- If written agreement partnership, **PHOTOCOPY** of written partnership agreement.
- If not incorporated, an organization, or written partnership, a **PHOTOCOPY** of current assumed name statements, filed with Register of Deeds in the business county, and a **PHOTOCOPY** of business privilege tax certificates, if applicable.

A CRFL Exemption Permit Application:

- Advise if there will be any local, state or federal government involvement and provide written documentation substantiating involvement.
- Provide a written explanation of the purpose of the event.
- Advise if there are any cost or requirements for an individual participating in the event.
- An estimate on the number of people participating in the event.
- Sign the application.
- Complete, sign, and notarize (if new application) the Permit Application Certification form.

Fees:

- There is no cost for this permit.

All permit requests are reviewed by NC Division of Marine Fisheries staff. Conditions may be placed upon the permit.

You are required to notify the Division of Marine Fisheries of any address or residency changes within 30 days. Incomplete applications submitted without required documentation will be deemed incomplete and returned to you unprocessed.

Mail to: **North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**
 License Office
 PO Box 769
 Morehead City, NC 28557



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE (CRFL) EXEMPTION PERMIT APPLICATION
(REV 2025-12)

Purpose of CRFL Exemption Request (Check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical/Mental Limitations Specify:	<input type="checkbox"/> Military Appreciation Specify:	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Purposes Specify:	<input type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged Youth Specify:

Government Involvement, if applicable (sponsor, partner, etc.) – Attach written documentation substantiating involvement, if applicable. (CHECK ONE)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Local (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> State (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Institution (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> None (not applicable)

Contact Person (First, MI, Last)	Contact Person's Date of Birth	Contact Person's Telephone No.
	/ / <small>MO DAY YR</small>	() -

Physical Location(s) of Event	Date(s) of Event	Time(s) of Event	Estimate of people participating in the event.

Is there any cost or requirement for someone to participate in this event? (i.e. Tournament fees, Registrations, etc) (CHECK ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. If yes, explain:

Signature: _____
 Applicant signature
Must be signed to be valid

_____ Date



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE (CRFL) EXEMPTION PERMIT**

NC DMF OFFICE USE ONLY (REV 2025-12)

Applicant's Name: _____ PID# _____

Date Received by License Office: _____

License Office (Check One):

Information on Application is complete

Information on Application IS NOT complete

Comments: _____

Recommendation: (Approve, Deny, Further Investigation) Indicate recommendation and initial.

SECTION REVIEWERS	Initials	Approve	Deny	Comments
L&S Section Chief				
District Manager Fisheries Management				
Marine Patrol Captain				

DIRECTOR/DEPUTY DIRECTOR:

Approved for Permit

Not Approved for Permit

Special Conditions placed on Permit:

Director / Deputy Director

Date

Issued By: _____
Signature

Issue Date: _____ / _____ / _____
MO DAY YR



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
PERMIT APPLICATION CERTIFICATION & GENERAL PERMIT
CONDITIONS FORM
(REV 2025-12)**

OFFICE USE ONLY	Year _____
PID # _____	
PERMIT # _____	
DMF Staff: _____	

Certification Statement *(This section must be completed by applicant)*

- I, _____ certify that:
- All the information provided on this application and any supporting documentation provided is true, accurate, and complete. And further, for renewals, any changes in information or supporting documents have been provided at the time of renewal. I understand that any false information or fraudulent disclosures may result in termination of appropriate licenses, permits and related documents, revocation or suspension of marine fisheries licensing and other privileges, and in possible criminal prosecution.
 - I am a resident of the State of: _____
If claiming resident status in North Carolina, I certify further that (check one):
 I have been a legal resident for more than six months, or
 If domiciled in North Carolina between 60 days and six months, I have completed and submitted with this application a notarized Certificate of Eligibility for North Carolina Residency.
 - For permits, I certify that:
 - I currently have no marine fisheries licenses, permits, endorsements, or registrations under suspension or revocation and the privilege to hold such licenses, permits, endorsements, or registrations is not revoked or suspended.
 - I have not been convicted of four or more violations in any jurisdiction related to state or federal law or regulations involving or related to marine or estuarine resources during the previous three years.
 - I understand that as a condition of accepting a permit from the Division of Marine Fisheries, I agree to abide by all conditions of the permit and agree, that if conditions of the permit as identified for the permit are violated, or if false information was provided in the application for initial issuance, renewal or transfer, the permit may be suspended or revoked by the Fisheries Director.
 - NC General Statute §113-221 requires the NC Division of Marine Fisheries to provide a current copy of the rules governing activities authorized by the license you are purchasing. You have the right to request a current rulebook in hardbound. The document is available on the Division of Marine Fisheries website on the "Rules and Regulations" webpage at <http://deq.nc.gov/dmf-rules>.
 - I have been provided a copy of the permit rules and conditions that apply. I acknowledge failure to abide by all permit rules as well as conditions may result in suspension or revocation of the permit. For violation of general or specific permit conditions, permits may be suspended or revoked for 10 days, 30 days, or up to 6 months depending on the 3-year history of violations.

15A NCAC 03O .0502 Permit Conditions: General

- It shall be unlawful to violate any permit condition.
- The following conditions shall apply to all permits issued by the Fisheries Director:
 - it shall be unlawful to:
 - operate under the permit except in areas, at times, and under conditions specified on the permit.
 - operate under a permit without having the permit or copy thereof in possession of the permittee or the permittee's designees at all times of operation and the permit or copy thereof shall be ready at hand for inspection, except for a Pound Net Set Permit.
 - operate under a permit without having a current picture identification in possession and ready at hand for inspection.
 - refuse to allow inspection and sampling of a permitted activity by an agent of the Division of Marine Fisheries.
 - fail to provide complete and accurate information requested by the Division in connection with the permitted activity.
 - provide false information in the application for initial issuance, renewal, or transfer of a permit.
 - hold a permit issued by the Fisheries Director if not eligible to hold any license required as a condition for that permit as stated in Rule .0501 of this Section.
 - fail to provide reports within the timeframe required by the specific permit conditions.
 - fail to keep such records and accounts as required by the rules in this Chapter for determination of conservation policy, equitable and efficient administration and enforcement, or promotion of commercial or recreational fisheries.
 - assign or transfer permits issued by the Fisheries Director, except for a Pound Net Set Permit as authorized by 15A NCAC 03J .0504.
 - the Fisheries Director or the Fisheries Director's agent may, by conditions of the permit, impose on a commercial fishing operation and for recreational purposes any of the following restrictions for the permitted purposes:
 - specify time;
 - specify area;
 - specify means and methods;
 - specify record keeping and reporting requirements;
 - specify season;
 - specify species;
 - specify size;
 - specify quantity;
 - specify disposition of resources;
 - specify marking requirements; and
 - specify harvest conditions.
 - unless specifically stated as a condition on the permit, all statutes, rules, and proclamations shall apply to the permittee and the permittee's designees.

I understand that any violation of permit conditions may result in suspension or revocation of the permit.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

NOTARY

State: _____ County: _____

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this _____ day and year of _____, _____

Notary Public: _____ My Commission expires: _____



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE (CRFL)
EXEMPTION PERMIT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FORM
(REV 2025-12)**

OFFICE USE ONLY	Year _____
PID # _____	
PERMIT # _____	
DMF Staff: _____	

For violation of specific permit conditions (as specified on this form), a Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit may be suspended or revoked in accordance with 15A NCAC 03O .0504.

Legal Authority:

Authority for the Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit is specified in G.S. 113-169.1, 15A NCAC 03O .0501, 03O .0502, and 03O .0503.

Specific Permit Conditions:

It shall be unlawful for the responsible party seeking exemption from recreational fishing license requirements for eligible individuals to conduct an organized fishing event held in Joint or Coastal Fishing Waters without first obtaining a Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit. **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(1)**

The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit shall only be issued for recreational fishing activity conducted solely for the participation and benefit of one of the following groups of eligible individuals:

Individuals with physical or mental impairment; **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(2)(A)**

Members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents, upon presentation of a valid military identification card. **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(2)(B)**

Individuals receiving instruction on recreational fishing techniques and conservation practices from employees of state or federal marine or estuarine resource management agencies or instructors affiliated with educational institutions; and; **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(2)(C)**

Disadvantaged youths as set forth in 42 U.S. Code 12511. For the purpose of this Paragraph, educational institutions include high schools and other secondary educational institutions. **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(2)(D)**

The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit shall be valid for the date, time, and physical location of the organized fishing event for which the exemption is granted, and the duration of the permit shall not exceed one year from the date of issuance. **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(3)**

The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit shall only be issued if all of the following, in addition to the information required in Rule .0501 of this Section, is submitted to the Fisheries Director, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the event:

The name, date, time, and physical location of the event; **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(4)(A)**

Documentation that substantiates local, state, or federal involvement in the organized fishing event, if applicable; **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(4)(B)**

The cost or requirements, if any, for an individual to participate in the event; and **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(4)(C)**

An estimate of the number of participants. **15A NCAC 03O .0503(d)(4)(D)**

Five days prior to the event, the coordinator of the permit must contact Marine Patrol dispatch (252-515-5500) with a list of all vessel captains, corresponding vessel documentation numbers, or state registration numbers. They must also provide the exact location where participants will board fishing vessels. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (G.S. 113-169.1)

The instructors are required to have in their possession the enclosed permit while participating in the exempted fishing activity. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (G.S. 113-169.1)

Participants/students are only covered by the permit while they are in the presence of the permit holder or designee. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (G.S. 113-169.1)

Each vessel or other locations (surf fishing) involved with the events are required to have in their possession the enclosed permit while participating in the exempted fishing activity. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (G.S. 113-169.1)

Exempted Members of the United States Armed Forces fishermen must have their Military ID for inspection. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (G.S. 113-169.1)

