

Using a Cast Net

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries

General regulations

- There are no regulations limiting the mesh size or diameter of cast nets used in North Carolina coastal waters.
- A cast net may be used year-round in all coastal waters of North Carolina.

Catching shrimp with a cast net

- Cast nets are considered recreational gear. No license or permit is needed when using a cast net to catch shrimp for recreational purposes.
- Sale of shrimp caught for recreational purposes is prohibited. A commercial fishing license is required to sell catch.
- When using a cast net for recreational purposes in any Coastal Fishing Waters, 48 quarts of shrimp with heads on, or 30 quarts of shrimp with heads off, may be kept per person per day or per vessel, if a vessel is used.
- If more than one person aboard a vessel possesses a valid [Recreational Commercial Gear License](#), 96 quarts of shrimp with heads on, or 60 quarts of shrimp with heads off, may be kept.
- Fishermen may use bait when cast netting for shrimp, but all poles, markers, or buoys must be removed from the water when not actively netting.

Catching finfish with a cast net (including bait fish)

- If a cast netter plans to keep any finfish caught, including minnows and/or bait fish, a Coastal Recreational Fishing License is required.
- Sale of recreational catch is prohibited. A commercial fishing license is required to sell catch.
- North Carolina recreational size and bag limits apply. These may be found at <https://deq.nc.gov/recreational-size-bag-limits> or by calling (252) 726-7021. Smartphone users may locate them by scanning the following QR code:

