

# Marine Fisheries

## Shellfish License for North Carolina Residents Without a Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL)

**What Activities Require This License?** The Shellfish License for North Carolina residents without a Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL) allows the commercial harvest and sale of shellfish, such as clams, oysters, mussels, conchs, whelks, and scallops. The shellfish license holder does not need a Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL) or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License (RSCFL) to harvest and sell commercial quantities of shellfish.

**What Is The Purpose of This License?** To license and identify North Carolina resident commercial fishermen who wish to harvest commercial quantities of shellfish for sale. Another purpose is to provide a lower cost license for shellfish harvesting than the SCFL.

**Who Issues This License?** N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), License and Statistics Section.

**How Much Will This License Cost?** \$50 for residents; nonresidents are not eligible for this license. \$10 replacement fee.

**What Are My Payment Options for License Application Fees?** Check, cash, or credit card.

**If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check?** If applying in-person for a license at any NCDMF Office, the application and check, cash, or credit card are submitted at the time of purchase. If renewing a license by mail the applicant must submit the application and check to the NCDMF, License Office, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557. Please make all checks payable to NCDMF.

**Where Can I Get The Application For This License?** Contact any N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries license office. Visit the following link for license sales locations: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/about-division-marine-fisheries/division-marine-fisheries-offices>.

**How Long Will It Take To Review My Application?** No review required for this license. Any North Carolina resident may obtain this license.

**Where Do I Submit My Application?** Any N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries License Office. Visit the following link for license sales contact information: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/about-division-marine-fisheries/division-marine-fisheries-offices>.

**How Long Is My License Valid?** All licenses are valid for up to one year and expire on June 30th.

**Notes/Comments:** This license is non-transferable. A Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration is required for vessels used to harvest shellfish for commercial purposes. Military personnel whose home base is in NC are eligible to purchase a shellfish license. Businesses are ineligible for Shellfish Licenses.

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** General Statute 113-169.2, NC Fisheries Rules for Coastal Waters 15A NCAC 30.0101(a).

**Link:** <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>

### Statewide Contact Information:

NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
License and Statistics Section  
3441 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
Telephone: (252) 515-5500 or 1-800-682-2632