



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street

2401 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2401

Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

March 2, 2006

Dear County Director of Social Services

Re: New Fishing License Requirement

During its 2005 Session, the General Assembly made a number of changes to North Carolina's fishing license requirements. Senate Bill 1126, among other things, requires a Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) for anyone wanting to fish recreationally in North Carolina's coastal waters. In addition, the new legislation repeals the natural-bait exemption for freshwater fishing in public waters. Beginning **January 1, 2007**, anyone fishing in North Carolina (with the exception of private ponds) in North Carolina must have a fishing license. The only exceptions are children under 16 and people who receive Food Stamps, Medicaid, or Work First Family Assistance.

While the full text of the new legislation can be found at:

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1126v8.htm>, the specific text relevant to local departments of social services is as follows:

(d) Resident Subsistence Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver. – A county department of social services shall issue a Resident Subsistence Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver to an individual who receives benefits from Medicaid, Food Stamps, or Work First Family Assistance through the county department of social services and who requests a waiver. This waiver shall be issued at no charge. This waiver is valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance. This waiver shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State. This waiver authorizes the waiver holder to fish with hook and line for all fish in all inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters, except for public mountain trout waters, and to engage in recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters. County departments of social services shall supply the Wildlife Resources Commission with the name, mailing address, and telephone number of each individual who receives a waiver."

Staff have been working with the other state agencies to ensure a method as simple as possible for issuance of the license waivers. You will be getting more information as this process moves forward, but in general terms, we anticipate an automated solution. This would mean that if an

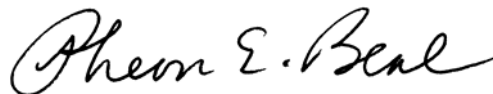
individual asks for the waiver, your designated staff would enter information into a simple automated system and print out a “waiver” that looks much like the actual fishing license. There will be training conducted for your staff later in the year.

To ensure that fishermen are notified of the new requirement, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, in collaboration with our Division, are developing several pieces of information. First, the attached 3 x 5 card will be available shortly. The cards (English on one side, Spanish on the other) will be handed out through various means, such as game wardens, park rangers, and license purchasing agents. Based on the wording of this card, a small poster will be developed. We will provide you with a copy of the poster when available so you can post it in your agency.

As stated earlier, you will be getting additional information as we move forward toward implementation. But, we wanted to alert you to this change and provide you copies of information as it is available.

If you have questions about this new fishing license requirement and its impact on your agency, don't hesitate to contact Jane Smith at 919-872-8404 or jane.smith@ncmail.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pheon E. Beal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Pheon E. Beal

Attachments

jbs