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## New license needed for fishing at beach

Sarasota County Tax Collector Barbara Ford-Coates announced that beginning Saturday, Aug. 1, Florida residents fishing from the shore in saltwater bodies need either the new resident shoreline license or the resident saltwater license for all saltwater fishing. This includes fishing from a dock or a pier unless it is a licensed pier. If purchased in the Tax Collector's office, the license cost is \$9 for the shoreline and \$17 for the resident saltwater. An additional fee of 50 cents is added at retail locations and, depending on the license, around \$3 if purchased online or by phone.

"According to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, this new law will eventually save money for anglers," said Ford-Coates, "because it includes an exemption from future federal regulation which will cost \$15 to \$25."

In addition to the usual fishing license exemptions for senior citizens (65 and older), children (16 and under) and active-duty military home on leave, the new law also exempts people drawing food stamps, temporary cash assistance or Medicaid as well as those fishing with cane poles. Anyone qualifying for an exemption needs to carry a Florida picture ID and proof of their exemption. One other exemption is available for those who are totally and permanently disabled, but they need to mail an application to the commission in Tallahassee. The application is available from the Tax Collector's office or at [www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com](http://www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com).

Fishing licenses can be purchased at any Tax Collector's office, at [www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com](http://www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com) or by calling 1-888-347-4356. Licenses also can be purchased from state licensed subagents at 13 retail locations throughout Sarasota County. A list of subagents is available at [www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com](http://www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com).

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