About freshwater fishing licences

Any member of the public who is 16 years of age or older requires a freshwater fishing licence to sport fish for any species of fish in non-tidal waters, including salmon.

Anglers who are under 16 and residents of the province may sport fish without a licence but must abide by the regulations. Anglers who are under 16 years of age and not residents of BC may sport fish without a licence, but must be accompanied by a person 16 years of age or older who holds the appropriate licence(s). If an angler is an Indian, as defined in the Indian Act (Canada) and a resident of BC, they are not required to obtain any type of fishing licence or stamp to sport fish in non-tidal waters. For further licensing information, please refer to the Freshwater Fishing Synopsis at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations.

What the vendor can do online

On the Freshwater Fishing E-Licensing web site at http://www.fishing.gov.bc.ca the vendor can:

- Register a new angler in the system.
- Issue a fishing licence to an angler.
- Cancel a licence they have issued within 90 minutes.

- Reprint a fishing licence that was originally bought on-line. The vendor may or may not charge for reprinting.
- Settle the vendor’s account. “Settlement” means that the vendor pays the government a lump sum which is the total fees collected minus a commission.

Currently, an angler may buy a paper licence from a vendor or a Service BC Center. Anglers who have not yet purchased their freshwater fishing licence may buy a licence and pay by credit card online through the Freshwater Fishing E-Licensing system.

The Freshwater Fishing Licence does not include fishing in British Columbia’s tidal waters (i.e. coastal or salt water). Tidal fishing regulations and licences are under the jurisdiction of the Canadian federal government. See the federal government web site at http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish/Licensing/default_e.htm.
Types of fishing licences

1. Every angler who is 16 years of age or older will need to buy a Basic Licence which allows them to fish in BC during a given time period. A Basic Licence is required in order to purchase a Conservation Species Licence and/or a Classified Waters Licence.

2. Anglers who intend to fish for steelhead or keep special species or sizes of fish must buy a Conservation Species Licence (also called a Conservation Surcharge) for each species in addition to the Basic Licence. The special species are Steelhead, Non-Tidal Salmon, White Sturgeon, Kootenay Lake Rainbow Trout, Shuswap Lake Char, or Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout.

3. Anglers who intend to fish in one of B.C.’s specially designated trout streams must buy a Classified Waters Licence in addition to the Basic Licence. A Classified Waters Licence allows B.C. Residents to fish on any classified water in the province during the licensing year (April 1st to March 31st). For Non-Residents, the Classified Waters Licence is sold on a per diem basis and is date and water specific.

4. Anglers who wish to participate in the catch and release White Sturgeon fishery in the lower and middle freshwater portions of the Fraser River watershed must buy a White Sturgeon Conservation Licence in addition to the Basic Licence. White Sturgeon Conservation Licences are available for 1-day, 8-day and annual time frames.

Anglers who already have a paper licence

An angler who already has a paper Basic Licence for the current licensing year (April 1st to March 31st) cannot add electronic Conservation Surcharges and Classified Waters Licences to that Basic Licence.

The angler will have to buy these additional licences on paper from a vendor or Service BC Center. For locations please visit http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/lvs/

Residency

The angler’s residency will determine the fees for a fishing licence.

B.C. Resident means: your primary residence is in British Columbia, AND

(a) you are a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant, AND have been physically present in B.C. for the greater portion of each of 6 calendar months out of the immediately preceding 12 calendar months,

OR

(b) you are NOT a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant, but have been physically present in British Columbia for the greater portion of each of the immediately preceding 12 calendar months.

Canadian Not Resident in B.C. means: you are not a BC Resident but

(a) you are a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant,

OR

(b) your primary residence is in Canada, AND you have resided in Canada for the immediately preceding 12 months.

Not a Canadian Resident means: you are neither a BC Resident nor a Canadian Not Resident in B.C.
**Fees**

The fee for a fishing licence will depend on:

- the angler's **residency** (B.C. Resident, Canadian Not Resident in B.C., or Not a Canadian Resident);
- the type of **Basic Licence(s)** purchased (e.g. annual licence, 8-day licence or 1-day licence);
- any **Conservation Surcharges** added to the Basic Licence(s);
- any **Classified Waters Licences** added to the Basic Licence(s).

**Notes about fees:**

- An annual fee is one that is valid for a licensing year. A licensing year is from April 1st through March 31st.
- The total fee for a Basic Licence, a Conservation Species Licence or a Classified Waters Licence includes a surcharge which is contributed to the **Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF)**. Visit the HCTF website at www.hctf.ca for further information.
- A B.C. Resident who is severely and permanently **disabled** may be eligible to purchase a Basic Licence for a reduced fee. Those who have already qualified may purchase a Basic Licence for $1.00. Those individuals who would like to apply may do so at a Service BC office or by completing an application form and mailing to a Service BC office or Fish & Wildlife Branch in Victoria. Applications are available on the Ministry of Environment’s web site at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/licences/disabled.html
- A B.C. Resident who is **65 years of age** or older at the time of licence purchase is eligible to buy a Basic Licence for a reduced fee.

**Fees for reprinting a licence:**

A vendor can reprint a fishing licence that was originally bought online. The vendor may or may not charge for this. Anglers can reprint their licence online for **free** if they bought the original licence online.
How to get to the vendor web site

Step 1 – Go to www.fishing.gov.bc.ca

Go to web address www.fishing.gov.bc.ca to see the Freshwater Fishing E-Licence home page.

This page provides information about E-Licences, fees, and links to further information about freshwater fishing.

Click on the yellow Issue Licences button in the right column of the screen.

Freshwater Fishing E-Licence

A Message from the Minister

On September 6, 2007, the B.C. Government launched a new e-licensing service to make it easier than ever for anglers to purchase recreational fishing licences.

Last year, I committed to establishing a modern, user-friendly system for selling British Columbia freshwater fishing licences. It was time to replace the traditional paper-based system that has served us well for many years. Read more...

BARRY FERNEK
Minister of Environment

About the Freshwater Fishing E-Licence

This web site allows individuals to purchase and pay online for a Freshwater Fishing Licence for recreational purposes.

The Freshwater Fishing Licence does not include fishing in British Columbia’s coastal tidal waters. Tidal (saltwater) fishing regulations and licences are under the jurisdiction of the Canadian federal government. See the link to “Government of Canada” in the right column of this page.

What you will need to buy an e-licence online

You can buy a recreational fishing licence over the Internet by clicking the “Buy a licence online” link at the top of the right column of this web page.

If you already have a paper licence for the current licensing year, you cannot add additional licences online. You can purchase additional paper licences from a fishing licence vendor.

To buy an e-licence you will need:

- A BC resident fishing licence
- A valid credit or debit card
- Access to a computer with a web browser and internet connection

Frequently Asked Questions for anglers

You will need Adobe Reader to print your licence and view the Tutorial.

More About Fishing

- About recreational freshwater fishing from the Government of B.C.
- Commercial licensing
- Government of Canada tidal waters (saltwater) fishing licence
- DFOWC: Webs site of the freshwater fisheries society of B.C.
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Find a fishing guide who issue fishing licences
Step 2 – Enter your BCeID Logon ID and password

BCeID is an online service that makes it possible for you to obtain a single Logon ID and password to sign in securely to all BCeID-participating Government online services, including the Freshwater Fishing E-Licensing system.

For further information, please visit www.bceid.ca

Once you have obtained your BCeID, attempt to logon through the Vendor, Issue Licences button at www.fishing.gov.bc.ca

Once this has been attempted, contact your Service BC Centre to commence the activation process. You cannot use the system until your BCeID has been activated.

After logging on, you will see the last few times that you logged on to the Freshwater Fishing E-Licensing system.

Click the yellow Next button.
Main Menu

The Freshwater Fishing Licence main menu will appear.

You can come back to this screen any time by clicking Main Menu in the left column of any screen.
How to register a new angler

What is “registration”?

“Registration” means entering the angler’s name, address, birth date and other information into the Freshwater Fishing E-Licensing system. This information will appear on the printed licence.

When the angler is registered, the system automatically assigns them an Angler Number. You need the Angler Number before you can issue a licence to the angler.

You can register the angler and give them their Angler Number. It is important to remind the angler to remember their Angler Number. They will need it in order to log back into the system for future licence purchases.

Alternatively, the angler can register themselves online and get their own Angler Number, or they can go to a Service BC centre.

If the angler already has an Angler Number, you do not need to register them again.

If the angler is already registered but forgotten their Angler Number, you can phone the E-Licensing Help Desk at 1-877-855-3222 and government staff will look up the Angler Number for you.

Step 1 – Enter the angler’s information

On the Main Menu, click Register New Angler.

Enter the angler’s information on the Register New Angler screen. Click the yellow Register button.

Note that you must enter information in the fields that have a red asterisk beside the field name, e.g. * City.

If the angler does not have a phone number, enter 10 digits that they will remember in order to log back into the system for future licence purchases.

You may leave other fields blank. For a description of the information required in each field, click the help icon:
Step 2 – Write down the Angler Number

The Angler’s Licences screen is displayed, showing that the angler does not yet have any current licences.

The Angler Number is shown at the top right. The Angler Number will appear on the printed fishing licence. **Remind** the angler to record and remember their Angler Number as they will require it, along with their Birth Date and Phone Number in order to log back into the system for any future licence purchases.
How to search for and update an angler’s information

Click Search for Angler on the Main Menu.

Enter the requested information and click Search at the bottom of the screen.

If no information is returned, contact the Help Desk at 1–877-855-3222. Government staff will look the number up for you. If the angler has never had an Angler Number, see “How to register a new angler” in this Reference Guide.

The Angler’s Licences screen will appear, which will allow you to:

- update the angler’s personal information (e.g. address or phone number) by clicking the yellow Update button, or
- purchase additional licences by clicking the Add Licence(s) button.
How to issue a fishing licence

Step 1 – Get the Angler Number

You will need the angler’s Angler Number before you can issue a fishing licence.

- If the angler already has an Angler Number:
  Click Search for Angler on the Main Menu. See “How to search for an angler” in this Reference Guide. The Angler’s Licences screen will appear.

- If the angler does not have an Angler Number:
  Click Register New Angler on the Main Menu. See “How to register a new angler” in this Reference Guide. The system will provide a new Angler Number, and then the Angler’s Licences screen will appear.

- If the angler already has an Angler Number but has forgotten it:
  Call the Help Desk at 1-877-855-3222, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Government staff will look up the Angler Number for you, then you can click Search for Angler on the Main menu.

If you cannot reach the Help Desk, you can either ask the customer to come back later when the Help Desk is open, or you can register them as a new angler to obtain a new Angler Number. To register, click Register New Angler on the Main Menu. If you do this, they will have to buy a new Basic Licence with their new Angler Number.

You cannot add licences to their existing Basic Licence under their old Angler Number.

Why can’t you look up the Angler Number yourself? B.C.’s protection of privacy legislation does not allow you to look up personal information such as the angler’s address and phone number. The angler must give you this information themselves, either by giving you their existing Angler Number, or giving you their personal information when they register.

Step 2 – Click “Add Licence(s)”

The Angler’s Licences screen displays the current licences that the angler has already bought. (The screen on the right shows that this angler does not have any current licences.)

Click the yellow Add Licence(s) button to add more licences.
Step 3 – Select the licences the angler wants to buy

On the **Buy Freshwater Fishing Licence(s)** screen, click a yellow Add button to sell each desired licence, i.e. a Basic Licence, Conservation Surcharge, Classified Waters Licence, or a Reprint of an existing licence.

When you click an Add button, one of the pop-up windows below will appear.

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Step 4 – Add a Basic Licence

If the angler wants to buy a Basic Licence, click the yellow **Add a Basic Licence** button on the **Buy Freshwater Fishing Licence(s)** screen. A pop-up window will appear. Enter the requested information then click the **Save** button.

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Step 5 – Add a Conservation Surcharge

(also called a Conservation Species Licence)

If the angler wants to buy a Conservation Surcharge, click the yellow **Add a Conservation Surcharge** button on the **Buy Freshwater Fishing Licence(s)** screen. A pop-up window will appear. Enter the requested information then click the **Save** button.
Step 6 – Add a Classified Waters Licence

If the angler wants to buy a Classified Waters Licence, click the yellow Add a Classified Waters Licence button on the Buy Freshwater Fishing Licence(s) screen.

A pop-up window will appear. Enter the requested information then click the Save button.

Step 7 – Create the licence

On the Buy Freshwater Fishing Licence(s) screen, you can enter anything in the Vendor Reference Number that you wish, such as your sales transaction number or any relevant text (e.g. “Sold by Dave”).

Review licence data with customer for accuracy. If you wish to remove a licence product prior to issuing, click the blue box marked with an X at the end of that line, then click the yellow Issue button to create the licence.
Step 8 – Print the licence

Make sure your printer is turned on, connected to the computer, and loaded with 8.5” x 11” paper.

On the Licensing Confirmation screen, click the yellow Print Season Licence button.

You can print this screen and give it to the customer.

A preview of the licence will appear in a window inside the Licence Form screen. Please be patient: it may take a few seconds for the licence to appear.

Click the printer icon at the top of the window inside the screen (i.e. not the printer icon at the top of your browser screen).

Once printed, have the customer review and sign, then collect fees.
System Outages – Electronic/Paper Licence Issuing Procedures

Reporting outages – Questions should be directed to your Service BC office during government business hours. If you discover that the E-Licensing System is down outside of government business hours, you can report by e-mail to VendorOutageContact@gov.bc.ca

Issuing Paper/Electronic Licences – Angling Vendors can issue a paper Conservation Surcharge stamp, a Classified Waters Licence, or a White Sturgeon Licence to an angler who produces a valid Basic E-Licence in the following circumstances only:

- The E-Licensing System is experiencing a scheduled or unscheduled outage.
- The angler is in an area where they cannot access the E-Licensing System and the local Vendor has not yet been set up in the E-Licensing System.

To issue a Conservation Surcharge(s):

1. The angler must produce a valid Basic E-Licence
2. The vendor will complete in full, a paper Non-Tidal Angling Licence with the angler’s licence information, including name, address, phone number, sex, date of birth, valid from and to dates, date of issue and residency status.
3. Enter the Basic “E-Licence” number (example – BC01234) beside the signature line.
4. Enter zero in the Total Payable box as no fee is charged for the paper licence.
5. Indicate the same Basic Licence type as shown on the E-Licence. Do not mark as a duplicate licence.
6. “Issue date” will be the issue date of the paper licence.
7. “Valid From” date for an annual licence will be the same as the issue date of the paper licence.
8. “Valid From” and Valid To” dates for a one or eight day licence will be the same as indicated on the E-Licence.
10. Enter the “Basic E-Licence” number (example – BC01234) in the Basic Licence Number field provide on the Conservation Surcharge.
11. Affix the stamp to the paper basic licence in the appropriate species box. Also check the species box.
12. Have the angler sign the licence.
13. Collect the fee for the Conservation Surcharge(s).
14. Provide the original paper licence to the angler and advise them to keep it with their Basic E-Licence at all times when fishing.

To issue a Classified Waters Licence or White Sturgeon Licence:

1. The angler must produce a valid Basic E-Licence
2. The vendor will complete in full, a Classified Waters Licence or White Sturgeon Licence using the angler’s “Basic E-Licence” number (example – BC01234).
3. Have the angler sign the licence.
4. Collect the licence fee(s).
5. Provide the original to the angler and advise them to keep the Classified Waters Licence or White Sturgeon Licence with their Basic E-Licence at all times when fishing.

Record the paper licence as an “Outage Licence” on your monthly Vendor Sales Report and submit the counterfoils to your Service BC Centre along with your payment. Although there is no fee charged for the “Outage Licence”, vendors will receive commission for completion of the licence.
How to cancel a licence

The 90 minute time period

On the Licence Form screen, you can click the yellow Return to Angler’s Licences button to view the angler’s purchases.

A blue Cancel button will appear beside each purchase for 90 minutes after you have issued the licence (the timeout period). You can cancel a purchase by clicking this button.

You can cancel a licence when:
• the customer leaves the store without paying for the licence, or
• the customer has made a mistake and wants to purchase a different licence, or the customer changes their mind and does not want to buy the licence.

Angler’s Licences during the timeout period

During the timeout period, a blue Cancel button will be displayed beside each purchase on the Angler’s Licences screen.

The Cancel button will no longer appear after the timeout period has expired, Anglers who want a licence cancelled or refunded after the 90 minutes must be referred to the Fish & Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment in Victoria.
How to reprint a licence

About reprints

If the angler has purchased an E-Licence from the E-Licensing website through a vendor, at a Service BC Centre or by the angler themselves, and is no longer in possession of a printed copy, you can reprint the licence.

You can reprint the licence at no charge or for a fee. Fees for reprints not including GST are:
- BC Senior $1.00
- BC Disabled $1.00
- Licence Reprint $10.00

You cannot reprint a licence that was issued manually (i.e. not online). It is not in the computer system.

Advise anglers to transfer catch quota to all copies of their fishing licence.

Note: Commission is paid when a fee is charged for a licence reprint.

Step 1 – Search for the angler’s licences

In order to reprint a fishing licence, you will need the Angler Number, Phone Number and Birth Date to search for the angler in the system and locate the licence(s) purchased.

If the angler doesn’t know their Angler Number, you can phone the Help Desk at 1-877-855-3222 and government staff will look up the Angler Number for you.

Once you have entered the angler’s information, click Search for Angler on the Main Menu.
Example 1 – How to reprint a licence at no charge

On the Angler’s Licences screen, click the yellow Print Season Licence button at the bottom of the screen.

A preview of the licence will appear in a window inside the Licence Form screen. Please be patient: it may take a few seconds for the licence to appear.

Click the printer icon at the top of the window inside the screen (i.e. not the printer icon at the top of your browser screen).

Give the printed licence to the customer.
Example 2 – How to reprint a licence for a fee

Step 1 – Choose to reprint a licence

On the Angler's Licences screen, click the yellow Add Licence(s) button.

On the Buy Freshwater Fishing Licences screen, click the yellow Add a Licence Reprint button.
Step 2 – Select the type of reprint

In the Add a Licence Reprint popup window, select the licence you want to print. Click the Save button.

Step 3 – Create the reprint

On the Buy Freshwater Fishing Licence(s) screen, the purchase is shown under the heading “Licence Reprints”.

You can enter anything in the Vendor Reference Number field if you wish, such as your sales transaction number or text relevant to your business (e.g. “Sold by Dave”).

Click the yellow Issue button to create the reprint.
Step 4 – Print the licence

Make sure your printer is turned on, connected to the computer, and loaded with 8.5” x 11” paper.

On the Licensing Confirmation screen, click the yellow Print Season Licence button.

A preview of the licence will appear in a window inside the Licence Form screen. Please be patient: it may take a few seconds for the licence to appear.

Click the printer icon at the top of the window inside the screen (i.e. not the printer icon at the top of your browser screen).

Give the printed licence to the customer.
How to settle the vendor’s account

What is “settlement”?  
The contract between the vendor and the Government requires that the vendor pay to the Government the total of sales minus a commission.

At times agreed in the contract, the vendor will initiate an “account settlement” by printing a Settlement Report of all licences sold through the online E-Licensing system and submitting the report to Service BC with payment (total sales minus commission).

If the vendor has also sold licences manually (not online), the vendor will also submit a Vendor Sales Report for these sales to Service BC with the total payment. Service BC will accept the payment and enter it into the government’s accounting record.

Step 1 – Enter a settlement date

Click Settle Account on the Main Menu.

On the Settle Account screen, enter a Settlement Date and click the yellow Next button.

Your Settlement Report will include all licences issued between the last Settlement Report and the Settlement Date.
Step 2 – View the list of licences ready to be settled

On the Settle Account screen, the vendor can:

- settle the account and print the Settlement Report, or
- start again using a different settlement date, or
- return to the Main Menu without settling.

Choose your Next Step and click the yellow Next button.

Step 3 – Complete the settlement and print the Settlement Report

If you have chosen to settle the account, a preview of the Vendor Settlement Report will appear in a window inside the Vendor Settlement screen. Please be patient: it may take a few seconds for the report to appear.

Click the printer icon at the top of the window inside the Vendor Settlement screen (i.e., not the printer icon at the top of the browser screen).

Note: If the Freshwater Fishing E-Licensing System is unavailable due to a scheduled or unscheduled “outage”, you can create your Settlement Report online and submit it to Service BC with payment after the System is restored. Normally Service BC can terminate a vendor’s contract if the Settlement Report is late three times. However, lateness due to a system outage will not count for this purpose. If neither of the two options above resolves the issue, please consult your Service BC Centre for further instruction.
How to view and print past Settlement Reports

Step 1 – Enter search criteria

Click View Past Settlements on the Main Menu.

On the View Past Settlements screen:

- enter % in the Settlement ID field to see a list of all past Settlement Reports, or
- enter a “From” and “To” date in the Settlement Date fields to see a list of reports that were settled by Service BC during that period, or
- enter a “From” and “To” date in the Created Date fields to see a list of Settlement Reports that you created during that period.

Click Search in the lower right corner of the screen.

Step 2 – View list of past Settlement Reports

The Past Settlements screen displays a list of past settlements, dates and amounts.

Click on the Settlement ID number to see a Settlement Report.

You can also click Search in the lower right corner of the screen to search again, perhaps using a different date range.
Step 3 – View and print a past Settlement Report

If you clicked on a Settlement ID number on the Past Settlements screen, the selected Settlement Report will be displayed in a window of the Vendor Settlement screen.

Click the printer icon at the top of the window inside the Vendor Settlement screen (i.e. not the printer icon at the top of the browser screen).

Questions or comments?

On many of the E-Licence screens, you can click the Help icons to see information about how to complete specific fields.

You can also click the larger Help icon at the top right of every screen, which will display a popup window containing all help topics.

If the online help text doesn’t answer your question, you can contact your Service BC Centre during government business hours.

Thank you!

Thank you for using this e-service from the Government of British Columbia.