

The waters in western Louisiana form a mutual border with Texas, so Louisiana and Texas have a reciprocal agreement that allows Louisiana and Texas recreational fishermen to fish border waters (except the Gulf of Mexico) under their resident license from their home state. They are not required to purchase a nonresident license. Those exempted from resident licenses for their state (see above) are also included in this agreement. Border waters include:

- Caddo Lake
- Toledo Bend Reservoir
- Sabine River
- Sabine Lake
- Sabine Pass

Louisiana residents age 65 or older are not required to purchase a Texas nonresident license to fish in any Texas public waters (both freshwater and saltwater), but they must have a valid Louisiana resident senior fishing license(s) and comply with Texas law. Louisiana residents from 17 to 64 years of age are still required to purchase a Texas nonresident fishing license when fishing in Texas waters, except border waters.

Likewise, Texas residents age 65 or older may fish in any Louisiana public waters (both freshwater and saltwater) as long as they possess any type of valid Special Texas Resident license for seniors and comply with Louisiana law. This includes Texas residents born before September 1, 1930.

Saltwater/Freshwater Line

Louisiana's **saltwater/freshwater line** extends easterly from the Texas state line all the way to the Mississippi state line. Areas north of this line are freshwater. Areas south of this line are saltwater, including Lakes Maurepas, Pontchartrain, and St. Catherine, Chef Menteur Pass (except a 7/10-mile section from Bayou Sauvage south to the Intracoastal Waterway), the Rigolets, Unknown Pass, Pass Manchac, the Intracoastal Waterway, and the portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel from the Intracoastal Waterway south to the Gulf of Mexico.

The line runs from the Intracoastal Waterway from the Texas-Louisiana boundary to its junction with Louisiana Highway 27 at Gibbstown, south to Louisiana Highway 82, east to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway from Forked Island to Bayou Barataria to the Harvey Canal, the Harvey Canal to the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River to the Industrial Canal, the Industrial Canal to the Intracoastal Waterway, the Intracoastal Waterway to the Rigolets in Orleans Parish to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Bridge, and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad right-of way from the Orleans Parish line to the Mississippi state line.

If you're fishing and/or possessing saltwater fish, you must have a [Saltwater Fishing License](#) in addition to a [Basic Fishing License](#). Louisiana has many areas where you can catch fresh and saltwater species side by side. Instead of trying to determine exactly where the saltwater line is, the best practice is to purchase the additional [Saltwater Fishing License](#) if you're fishing anywhere in south Louisiana and plan to catch any saltwater species.

Recreational Fishing Licenses and Permits

If you're age 18 or older, you must have a **Basic Fishing License** to fish recreationally in Louisiana waters. This license includes all legal means/gear for catching freshwater species.

If you're fishing south of the [saltwater line](#)*, you must also have a **Saltwater License** (unless you are fishing south of the saltwater line and targeting and possessing freshwater fish only, then you only need to possess a Basic Fishing License). This license includes all legal means/gear for catching saltwater species.

Please note that if you're fishing with a pole or hook and line without a reel and without artificial bait or any of the following: dip nets, landing nets, minnow traps, crab nets, or crab lines, you just need a **Hook and Line License**; no other license is required. Learn more about [crabbing license requirements](#).

*State law has designated a [saltwater line](#) across south Louisiana; this line divides fresh and saltwater areas of the state. Louisiana has many areas where you can catch fresh and saltwater species side by side. Instead of trying to determine exactly where the saltwater line is, the best practice is to purchase the additional saltwater license if you're fishing anywhere in south Louisiana and plan to catch any saltwater species.

[BUY A LICENSE](#)



[UPDATE YOUR LICENSE INFORMATION](#)



[GET A RECREATIONAL OFFSHORE LANDING PERMIT](#)



[CONNECT YOUR LDWF LICENSES TO LA WALLET](#)



[GET A RECREATIONAL SALTWATER BOWFISHING PERMIT](#)





Login/Create Account

Find your existing account or create a new one

Existing Customers

Choose an identification option to find an existing account.

If you have had an LDWF license in the past, look up your account below.

Last 4 digits of SSN

Last Name

Date of Birth

Search Accounts

First Time Customers

If you have never purchased a license in Louisiana, please create a new customer account to make purchases.

Create Account

By finding or creating an account, you agree to the following conditions:

License and Permit Sales

Know the law! View a copy of the current regulations at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/>

The licenses and permits for which you are eligible to purchase will be displayed once your customer record is identified. Select the items for purchase and enter the payment method. For your convenience, VISA, MasterCard and Discover are accepted for online payment.

Unauthorized Use of this Website

Retailers and/or proprietors shall not use this web site to process over-the-counter transactions on behalf of a customer. If you are interested in becoming an Authorized License Agent, please contact the LDWF at 1-800-256-2749.