

## How to Fish with Your Trailblazers Club

Once you have grown your club and members have shown an interest in fishing, follow these five steps to get started!

1. Find a local fishing area
2. Study Fish Species and Regulations
3. Purchase Fishing Licenses if needed
4. Fill the Tackle Box
5. Go Fish!

### Find a Local Fishing Area

If you and your members are new to fishing, we would recommend starting at a local fishing area to get the hang of things. The Fishing Access Map page linked below on the NC Wildlife Resources Commissions Website is a great resource to find what water bodies have public fishing access near you. Some areas even participate in the “Tackle Loaner Program” which can be a good place to start if you do not have any gear yet. Once you have your location, pick a time after school or a weekend for your club to take a fishing trip.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission Website: [Where to Fish in North Carolina](#)

### Study Fish Species and Regulations

Before you fill your tackle box, be sure to figure out what species of fish will be found at your location and if there are any specific regulations. Once you determine the species of fish you might catch, this will help you to know what type of lures and gear to bring with you on your trip.



Meeting idea: Request that interested club leaders/members create a fun way to learn about fish species and share with the rest of the members (ex: Jeopardy). Content could include identification, diet, lures that can be used to catch the species, and any fun facts.

Additional fishing instructions and species facts can be found on the [“Take Me Fishing”](#) website.

### Purchase Fishing Licenses If Needed

Individuals **16 years of age or older** using any type of bait or gear to catch fish in North Carolina’s public waters must possess a valid North Carolina fishing license. This license requirement does not apply to private ponds. If your club members are under the age of 16, they are exempt from the fishing license requirement, and you can skip this step.

#### Where to Purchase

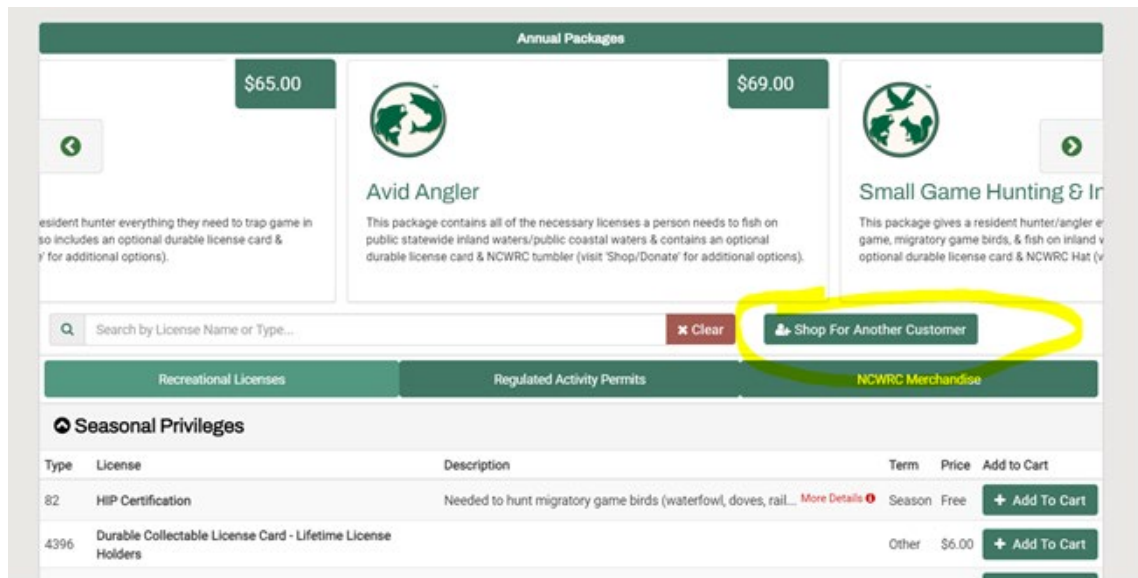
Fishing Licenses can be purchased online or at an in-person [Wildlife Service Agent](#), such as your local Walmart. Costs vary depending on the duration of the license you choose. If you would like to use your Trailblazer funds to purchase licenses at one time for your students online, you can follow the instructions below to purchase multiple licenses under one transaction.

1. Have students create their WRC profile on the [GO Outdoors NC](#) portal and remind them to record the WRC# assigned to them once their profile is completed. By default, the website asks for the WRC ID when signing up, but if the individual has never made a



profile they need to click “More Login Options” to select one of the other ID fields. Each student will need another form of ID such as the last 4 digits of their social security number or driver’s license.

2. Once all profiles have been created, gather the following information from each student to purchase licenses under one transaction: **Name, Date of Birth, WRC#**
3. After the correct license has been added to the cart, you can click the “**Shop for Another Customer**” button to add the next student’s license.



## Fill the Tackle Box

It can be easy to get overwhelmed by the variety of fishing lures when purchasing tackle, so if you are a beginner be sure to get the following items or look for a tackle starter kit.

- Fishing poles
- Bobbers
- Jig heads & Hooks
- Soft plastic grubs/worms
- Sinkers/weights
- Pliers

Other items to gather include a **first aid kit**, a **towel**, **sun protection**, and **bug spray**. Before you use your gear in water.



Meeting suggestion: Learn how to tie a fishing hook and practice casting outside in a safe area at your school. [“How to Fish” Video](#)

## Go Fish!