

Nonresident Recreational Marine Fishing License (NRMFL)

Background

In June 2021, [Act 48](#) was passed into law, requiring nonresidents of Hawai‘i to obtain a recreational marine fishing license to fish in Hawai‘i. This law has been codified at [Hawaii Revised Statutes \(HRS\) §188-72](#) “Nonresident recreational marine fishing license; application; fees; restrictions.” DAR subsequently adopted administrative rules to implement the NRMFL, [Hawaii Administrative Rules \(HAR\) § 13-74-11](#), which took effect on May 2, 2024.

License Details

The NRMFL would be required for any non-Hawaii resident to fish for, take, or catch any marine life for recreational or non-commercial purposes. A resident would be anyone who has:

- (1) established their primary residence and worked in the State continuously for a period of twelve months or longer immediately prior to applying for, or obtaining a license or permit
or
- (2) filed or paid the individual's State income taxes for the previous tax period
or
- (3) has established domicile in the State, as evidenced by documentation showing the individual's address, including:
 - (A) A valid driver's license;
 - (B) A valid identification card;
 - (C) A valid school identification card; or
 - (D) Any other official document issued to the individual within the last thirty days from a government agency, financial institution, insurance company, or utility company in the State.

Exemptions include:

- a) Non-residents under the age of 15 years; and
- b) Members of the U.S. armed forces on active duty in the State, their spouses, and their minor children

License fees:

1-Day: **\$20**

7-Day: **\$40**

Annual: **\$70**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Where are the revenues from the NRMFL going?

A: All revenues will be deposited into the Department's sport fish special fund pursuant to [HRS §187A-9.5](#). The statute defines specifically how these funds may be used:

1. For programs and activities to implement title 12, subtitle 5, including the provision of state funds to match federal grants under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, for projects concerning sport fish
2. For acquisition of the use, development, or maintenance of trails and accessways into public fishing areas, fishery management areas, marine life conservation districts, or private lands where public sport fishing is authorized
3. For research programs and activities concerning sport fish conservation and management.

Q: Will charter operators be required to sell or administer licenses?

A: No, the licensing requirement will fall solely on the nonresident fisher.

Q: Will charter operators be responsible for enforcing the NRMFL?

A: No, charter operators will have no legal obligation to ensure that nonresident clients are licensed. However, operators are encouraged to inform their clients about the nonresident license requirement.

Q: How will this license be made available to the public?

A: DAR has developed an online licensing system, available at <https://fishing.hawaii.gov/>, that allows users to purchase a license online from a computer or mobile phone.