DSS, Health Department Provide Fishing Waivers to Eligible Residents

Beaufort, NC – For National Fishing and Boating Week, Carteret County Department of Social Services and Carteret County Health Department remind residents who receive Medicaid, Food Stamps, or Work First Family Assistance they qualify for a free twelve-month fishing licensing waiver. Upon request, the county Department of Social Services can issue a fishing license subsistence waiver, which can be renewed annually, to eligible residents.

According to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the number of subsistence license waivers granted in Carteret County increased by almost 56 percent from the 2014-2015 fiscal year to the 2017-2018 fiscal year. There were 750 subsistence license waivers granted in Carteret County; 966 in neighboring Craven County in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

“Issuing subsistence fishing license will allow those who cannot afford a fishing license to still fish for food for themselves”, states Clint Lewis, DSS Director. “It would also provide these fishers legal access, reducing the number of those fishing without a license in the county.”

Fishing waivers can be obtained at the Carteret County Department of Social Services at 210 Craven Street in Beaufort or the Carteret County Health Department at 3820 Bridges Street in Morehead City. DSS and Health Department offices are opened Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 5:00 p.m.
For more information on the NC Department of Environmental Quality fishing waiver program, please contact the Department of Social Services at 252-728-3181 or visit the North Carolina Environmental Quality’s website at [http://portal.nctdenr.org/web/mf/license-faq](http://portal.nctdenr.org/web/mf/license-faq).

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