

Commercial Fishing Licenses

Information

Commercial Fishing licenses require pre-approval through an application process. This document provides instructions on how to purchase once you have been pre-approved and provides instructions on how to edit your license to keep your crew and boat information up to date. If you have any questions, please email Miranda.Westphal@wisconsin.gov.

Instructions for purchase

1. Visit [Go Wild \[https://gowild.wi.gov\]](https://gowild.wi.gov). If you need assistance logging into your account, please see the [Logging Into Your Individual Account tutorial](#) or [Logging into Your Organization Account tutorial](#).
2. **Dashboard** – Click on **Purchase Products**, in the ‘License Catalog’ tile.
3. **Product Catalog** – in the **Featured Products** section you will see the Great Lakes Commercial Fishing License – Lake Superior and/or the Great Lakes Commercial Fishing License – Lake Michigan, depending on what you were approved for.
 - a. **Lake Michigan purchasers:**
 - i. **Optional Add-on at cost:** add-on a [Rough Fish Contract](#) and/or an [Additional Boat](#) as necessary. You are able to add only one additional boat through this process, if you need to add on more, once you are at your cart or you already have a license on account, click into the Misc/Other catalog tab and locate the additional boat product.
 - ii. Proceed through the various questions about your boat, hailing port, and landing ports.
 - iii. Crew information will need to be completed for your entire crew. For each crew member, enter in their full name, and select the crew type (you can only have 4 crew members designated for ice fishing at one time, there is no restriction on the number for open water fishing). Leave the remaining crew fields blank.
 1. [For Fleets](#): If you have multiple licenses in a fleet, the crew only needs to be entered for one of the licenses in the fleet. For subsequent licenses with your fleet, you do not need to enter in crew unless you want additional crew members.
 - iv. If you added an additional boat, proceed through the various questions about your boat.
 - b. **Lake Superior purchasers:**
 - i. **Optional Add-on at cost:** add-on an [Additional Boat](#) as necessary. You are able to add only one additional boat through this process, if you need to add on more, once you are at your cart or you already have a license on account, click into the Misc/Other catalog tab and locate the additional boat product.
 - ii. Proceed through the various questions about your boat, hailing port, and landing ports.
 - iii. Crew information will need to be completed for your entire crew. For each crew member, enter in their full name, and select the crew type (you can only have 4 crew members designated for ice fishing at one time, there is no restriction on the number for open water fishing). Leave the remaining crew fields blank.

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1. **For Fleets:** If you have multiple licenses in a fleet, the crew only needs to be entered for one of the licenses in the fleet. For subsequent licenses with your fleet, you do not need to enter in crew unless you want additional crew members.
 - iv. If you added an additional boat, proceed through the various questions about your boat.
4. **Checkout** – You will proceed through checkout – if you need further assistance, please see the [Checkout tutorial](#). After checkout you will be able to print your receipt and license – this will also be emailed to the email on account.
 - a. **Boat and Crew Listing Document** – you will need to sign this document and maintain it for your records (this includes if you added on any additional boats which will be included in their own section on your documents). You can also print multiple versions of this to provide to the various crew members.
 - i. Crew members may have a digital copy of the license in lieu of a paper copy in their possession during fishing operations.
 - ii. Licensees must have a paper copy during fishing operations.
 - b. **Rough Fish Contract (Lake Michigan only)** – if you added this to your license, you will receive the contract and will need to sign/date and return it per the instructions on the form.

Instructions for editing

1. Visit [Go Wild \[https://gowild.wi.gov\]](https://gowild.wi.gov). If you need assistance logging into your account, please see the [Logging Into Your Individual Account tutorial](#) or [Logging into Your Organization Account tutorial](#).
2. Dashboard – Click on **Manage Your Licenses**, in the 'License History' tile.
3. Locate the **Great Lakes Commercial Fishing product(s)**.
4. The listing of the crew and port info are clickable links.

Great Lakes Commercial Fishing License - Lake Superior (Resident) - DBA: Business Name 123456	 Commercial Fishing Crew Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Boat and Port Info	Active	6/18/2025 - 12/31/2026	Print
Great Lakes Commercial Fishing <u>Additional Boat</u> - Lake Superior (Resident)	 Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Boat and Port Info	Active	1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026	Print

5. Once you click on the link, the original information you entered will show, you can click on the **Edit** bottom towards the bottom of the information which will open up the fields for editing.
 - a. If any crew members left and you don't have a name to enter in as a replacement, then just remove the name and uncheck the crew type.
6. Select **Save** at the bottom after all edits have been completed. You will land back on your Current Licenses Page – from here you can click on the **Print** icon to reprint your documents. The new information will reflect immediately on the documents.