

**Polk County
Saddle Creek Park Commercial Fishing Program
Guidelines and Rules**

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Notification of the application period will be posted on the Polk County web site www.polk-county.net. The posting will include application period commencement date.
- A \$100 non-refundable application fee must be submitted with each application. Cash or checks will be accepted. Checks must be made payable to Polk County Board of County Commissioners.
- Application forms will be available at the County's Parks and Recreation office located at 515 East Boulevard Street, Bartow or the Saddle Creek Park office located at 3716 Morgan Combee Road, Lakeland. Applications and fees must be hand-delivered at the above listed locations. No applications will be accepted by mail.
- The applications will only be accepted during County business hours and days. The applicant is responsible for verifying operating hours prior to submittal of the application.
- Applicant must possess a valid Florida Commercial Fishing License and be a minimum of 18 years old at time of application.
- Applicant will be required to pass a background check. Felony convictions for violent crimes, drugs, thefts, molestations, and Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) rules violations will be grounds for disqualification.
- The County will provide background screenings for two people (applicant and one additional helper). The background check of an additional assistant will be at the expense of the applicant.

PERMITS

- Ten (10) permits will be issued. The first 10 applicants that pass the background check are eligible for permits.
- The permit fee is \$2,900 and must be paid in full within fifteen (15) County working days after the background check has cleared and applicant has been notified. Failure

to pay will result in disqualification and the permit will be offered to the next qualified applicant. Payment must be made in cash or check made payable to the Polk County Board of County Commissioners.

- Applicants will be notified by mail, e-mail, and/or phone number as provided on application.

Rules

- Permits are valid for Saddle Creek Park only.
- Permits are valid for the harvest of Tilapia and Brown Hoplo only. All other fish and wildlife must be immediately released unharmed, including but not limited to: Black Bass, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Redcal Sunfish, Warmouth Sunfish, Red Breasted Sunfish, Spotted Sunfish, other species commonly known as Bream, White Bass, Striped Bass, White/Striped Bass, Hybrids, Sunshine Bass, Grass Carp, all members of Genus Ictalurus commonly known as Catfish, all members of the Genus Cichla commonly known as Peacock Bass. The County and FWC reserve the right, at any time, to inspect and verify the size, number and type of fish harvested.
- Fishing shall be accomplished by cast net only. Only one cast net may be thrown per permit holder. Spare cast nets are permitted on board; however, only one cast net can be in use at any time.
- Fishing will be allowed from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., Sunday through Friday. Commercial fishing is prohibited Fridays beginning at 5:01 a.m. through Sunday at 9:59 p.m.
- There will be no seasonal closure during the permit term; however, the County reserves the right to void the permits at any time if a decline in sport fish recruitment or harm to the habitat occurs. If the permits are voided for the above stated purpose, the County will reimburse the permit holders at a prorated rate based on permit fee and number of months remaining in the permit term.
- The permit holder is responsible for removing all trash generated by the commercial fishing activity from the park during each fishing trip.
- Plecos (*Pterygoplichthys*) may be euthanized and returned immediately back to the water or removed from the Park.

- Each permit holder is allowed no more than two helpers to provide assistance. The helpers must be a minimum of 16 years of age and must be accompanied at all times by the permit holder. The helper(s) must follow all rules of the program and is the sole responsibility of the permit holder.
- The permit holder shall save, indemnify and hold harmless Polk County, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and all of their officers, agents, employees and servants from and against all loss, claims, demands, payments, suites, actions, attorney's fees recoveries, and judgments of every nature and description, including, without limitation, claims for death of or injury to persons, or damage to property of others, resulting from the performance of the commercial fishing activity or through the negligence of the permit holder or helper(s), or through any improper or defective machinery, implement of appliances used by their permit holder or helper(s) brought or recovered against him/her by reason of any act or omission of the permit holder or any other person or entity for whom the permit holder is responsible in the execution of the commercial fishing activity or in the guarding of it.
- The County reserves the right to suspend and/or revoke permits for any violations of the program rules/guidelines and/or civil, criminal violation that occur related to this program.
- Permit holders are required to notify law enforcement personnel at the 24-hour dispatch center at 888-404-3922 prior to fishing.
- Permit holders must notify the Saddle Creek Park office by phone at (863) 499-2613 each day of each fishing trip and report the name of the permit holder, names of all assistants, and vehicle tag number of vehicle that will be left in the park that night.
- Permit holders must provide copies of the certified weight receipts for each fishing trip weekly. The receipts must include date of catch and permit holder's signature. For each trip that results in no fish being harvested, the permit holder is required to submit a note indicating no fish harvested, trip date and permit holder's signature. The reports must be submitted to the Saddle Creek Park office no later than close of business each Tuesday of every week. The reports may be hand delivered or mailed to 3716 Morgan Combee Road, Lakeland or faxed to 863-499-2615.

SADDLE CREEK PARK COMMERCIAL FISHING PROGRAM
2017 APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Name of Applicant: _____
2. Physical Home Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Daytime Telephone: _____ Evening Telephone: _____
Mailing Address: _____
3. E-mail Address: _____
4. Date of Birth: _____
5. Florida Driver's License Number: _____
6. Florida Commercial Fishing License Number: _____
7. Name of Assistant(s): _____

Special Conditions:

I acknowledge the following:

- The information I provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Any false and misleading information may be grounds for forfeiting my application.
- I have read and agreed to the terms and conditions of the Saddle Creek Park Commercial Fishing Program Guidelines and Rules.
- There is a \$100 NON-REFUNDABLE processing fee that covers the background check of the applicant and one (1) assistant. The background check of an additional assistant will be at the expense of the applicant.
- Background check Information is needed for the applicant and assistant(s) that includes: full legal name; social security #, last known home address; and copy of Driver's License.
- Applicant will need to provide a copy of their Commercial Fishing License and any renewals within the permit period.

Applicant Signature

Date

COUNTY USE ONLY:

RECEIVED: _____ APPLICANT #: / 10

BACKGROUND COMPLETE: _____ \$100 _____ \$2900 _____