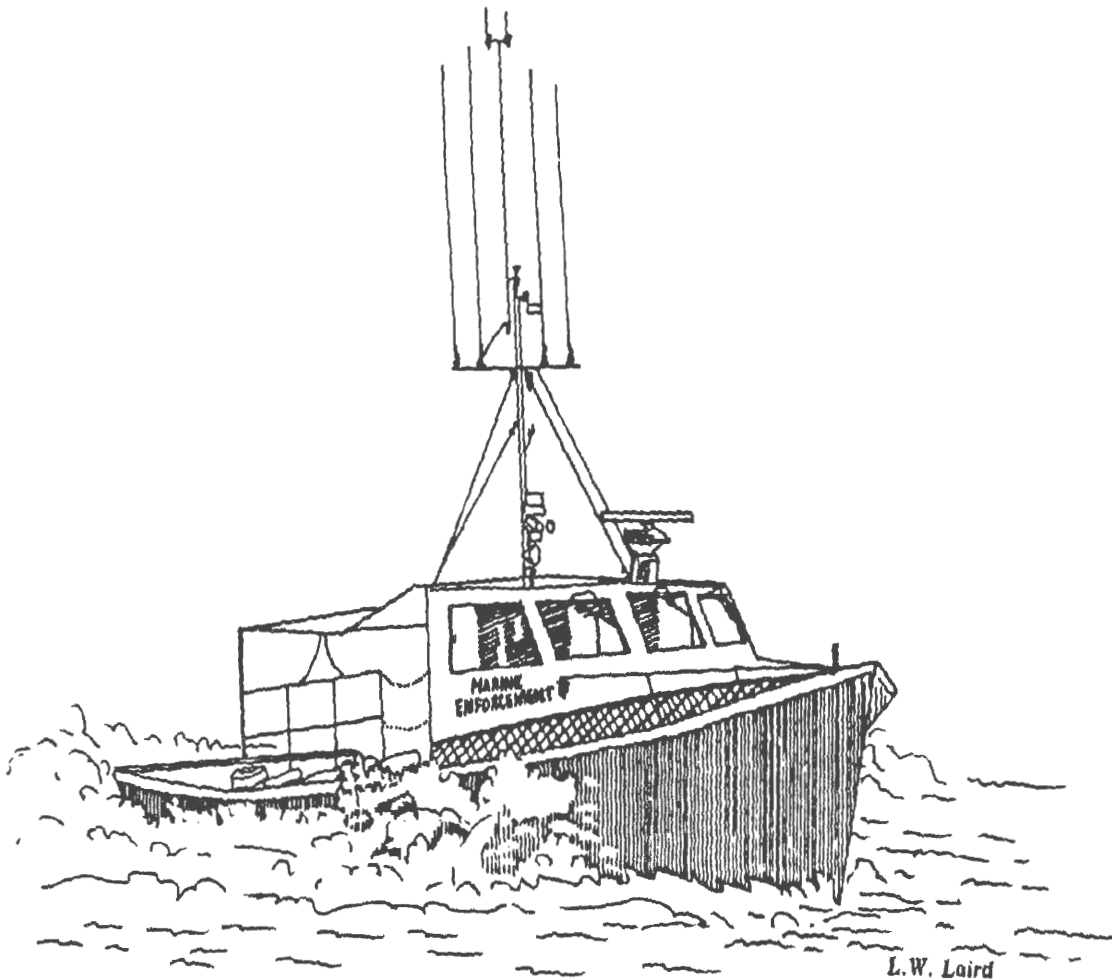


GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

**Law Summary
1997**



**A Summary of
Marine Fishing Laws and Regulations
for the Gulf States**

September 1997

GSMFC No. 49

This publication is an unofficial compilation of marine fishing laws and regulations developed for the information and convenience of enforcement personnel. *For definitive regulations, contact the various agency enforcement personnel.*

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for the Gulf States. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1997, but changes may occur in each state at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations in each state contact the enforcement personnel listed on the various state maps.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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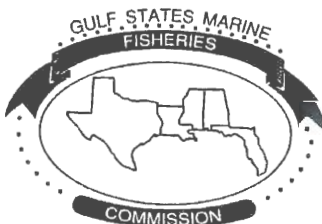
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MARINE FISHERY LAWS AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE GULF STATES

ALABAMA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Alabama. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1997, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact Marine Resources Division (MRD), P.O. Box 189, Dauphin Island, AL 36528 (334/861-2882).

SHRIMP

Commercial License

Commercial Shrimp Boats

Under 30' - \$51.00

30' - 45' - \$76.00

Over 45' - \$101.00

(Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents in the applicant's state of residence - except for reciprocal state Mississippi. Non-resident licenses are sold only by MRD offices.)

Recreational License

\$16.00 boat license

(Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents in the applicant's state of residence - except for reciprocal state Mississippi.)

Commercial Season

Set by regulation/Prohibited in permanently closed areas and designated exclusive bait areas.

Recreational Season

Prohibited in areas closed to commercial shrimping and permanently closed areas. Shrimping is allowed throughout the year in designated exclusive bait areas from 4:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Commercial Gear Limitations

No restrictions on mesh size. In inside waters (bays, sounds, etc.) a trawl or trawls used together cannot exceed 50' as measured along the main top line. No more than two trawls may be used at the same time (not including a try trawl, which cannot exceed 10' on the main top line). No restrictions on trawl size offshore (Gulf of Mexico) - (other commercial specifications apply). Trawl wings shall be cut and tied to the wing line only on points, and it shall be illegal to use a trawl or trawls on which the length of the top leg line exceeds the length of the bottom leg line (the length of the leg line being defined as the distance from the rear of the trawl door to the beginning of the wing). Webbing or netting shall not be hung, tied, or otherwise connected between the rear of the trawl board or door and the adjacent wing line or between the top leg line and bottom leg line of any trawl so as to extend the width of any trawl or trawls over the legal width (50').

Recreational Gear Limitations

One trawl, size not to exceed 16' as measured along the main top line. There are no restrictions on mesh size.

Commercial Legal Size

Shrimp smaller in size than 68 count are not to be taken in Alabama waters (68 shrimp or less per pound).

Recreational Legal Size

No restrictions in areas open to commercial shrimping and designated exclusive bait areas.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

In areas open to commercial shrimping, 5 gallons per person per day. In designated exclusive bait areas, 1 gallon per boat per day.

LIVE BAIT

License

Sell live shrimp for bait and operate one boat and one truck - \$51.00

Sell live shrimp for bait and operate two boats and two trucks - \$101.00 (Limit two boats or trucks per dealer)

Shore Facility

Permanently erected building from which fishing bait and fishing supplies and tackle are routinely sold to the public.

Season

No closed season. Prohibited in permanently closed areas. Designated exclusive bait areas are open to live bait dealers year around from 4:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Gear

One trawl per boat. Trawl shall not exceed 16' as measured across main top line. No mesh restrictions. Boats shall display the words "LIVE BAIT" in letters no smaller than 6" high on each side of the boat and shall have a tank with a spray system operated by a pump or commercial fish aerator or a live well with forced water exchange. Trucks must have a wooden or fabricated transport tank with recirculating water or commercial fish aerator.

Legal Size

No restrictions.

Pounds Allowed

Possession of no more than one standard shrimp basket of shrimp live or dead per boat or truck. Possession of no more than three standard shrimp baskets of shrimp live or dead per place of business.

Restrictions

Drags shall not exceed 20 consecutive minutes before retrieving trawl and sorting bait shrimp into the live tank. Shrimp can be sold alive or dead. Dead shrimp must have heads attached and be packaged and sold in lots no greater than one pound.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS**License Requirements**

All licenses expire September 30 of each year.

Persons are allowed to take up to 100 oysters for personal consumption without a Catcher's License.

Commercial Oyster Catcher - \$26.00 — Required by all persons (must be in possession) taking oysters for commercial purposes.

Oyster Dredge - \$26.00 — Required before an oyster dredge can be used along with evidence that a \$1000 bond has been secured.

Seasons

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and the Alabama Department of Public Health are authorized to open and close areas during all or parts of the year. Taking oysters from a closed area for any reason is a misdemeanor. Taking oysters from open areas before or after time as set by regulation is prohibited. Transporting oysters at night through closed areas is prohibited.

Gear

Oysters may be taken from public reefs and water bottoms by hand or oyster tongs. Oyster dredges may be used by owners or lessees of private oyster reefs only after purchasing an Oyster Dredge License, posting a \$1000 bond, and receiving written authorization from the ADCNR.

Size Limits

Oysters taken for either commercial or personal consumption must be at least 3" in length (5% undersize tolerance). Oysters must be culled on the reef where they are taken.

Possession Limits

Unlawful to take or have in possession more than the number of sacks of oysters per boat per day as set by regulation.

Leases

Persons, firms, or corporations desiring to lease oyster bottoms shall make application in writing to the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed. It is the duty of each lessee to have established an accurate survey by a registered surveyor of the bottoms, beds, or reefs under his control, and each corner shall be clearly marked and defined with the lessee's name clearly attached. Intermediate markers shall be placed and plat of the area filed with the MRD together with a list of any persons using said lease area (list must be updated every 30 days).

Restrictions

It is unlawful to drag any seines over the public reefs or private oyster grounds. Oysters taken commercially must be sacked (not more than ¼ Alabama barrel per sack) and each sack tagged before landing. Tags may be purchased for \$0.25/each at MRD offices or authorized agents.

SHELLFISH - CRABS**Licenses**

Commercial - \$51.00

Recreational - No license (5 traps maximum)

Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents to conduct the same activity in the applicant's state of residence, or not less than twice the amount of resident license.

Restrictions

It shall be unlawful to set or place any trap used for the taking of crabs in any marked navigational channel or within 100 yards of any public boat launching ramp. Traps shall not exceed 27 cubic feet in volume. It is unlawful to take crabs from traps belonging to another without written authorization. Each commercial crab trap shall be marked with at least one buoy no smaller than 6" in diameter, and ½ of the buoy shall be white. It is unlawful to remove commercial crab traps from the water or remove crabs from commercial crab traps during the hours from sunset to 1 hour before sunrise the following day. The harvesting of crabs with crab traps is prohibited in waters north of a line established by the eastbound lane of Interstate 10 highway, except for the portion of Interstate 10 lying north of Highway 90 (Battleship Parkway) where the line shall follow Battleship Parkway.

Legal Size

It shall be unlawful to sell for commercial purposes blue crabs smaller than 5" in width as measured across the widest points of the upper shell, except for soft-shelled or pre-molt crabs or crabs sold for use as bait. (Live bait shrimp dealer license required if crabs are sold as bait.)

FINFISH**Saltwater Rod and Reel License***

Resident - \$16.00 Annual

7-day trip - \$6.00

Annual Pier (fish from public piers - residents only) - \$6.00

Nonresident - 7 day

Florida - \$16.00

Louisiana - \$52.00

Georgia - \$11.00

Mississippi - \$15.00

Tennessee - \$16.00

All Other States - \$11.00

Nonresident - Annual

Florida - \$31.00

Louisiana - \$67.00

Georgia - \$31.00

Mississippi - \$31.00

Tennessee - \$31.00

All Other States - \$31.00

*Annual licenses expire one year from the date of issue.

Pier License - \$1000.00 (Piers located in inside waters of state may purchase license - allows residents to fish without additional license.)

Commercial Party Boat (Persons onboard may fish without additional license.)

Certified Up to 6 People - \$201.00

7 - 25 People - \$301.00

Over 25 People - \$501.00

Commercial Hook and Line License

Resident - \$101.00 + annual saltwater rod and reel license

Nonresident - \$201.00 + annual saltwater rod and reel license

It is unlawful to possess in Alabama any species of saltwater fish or seafood product taken in federal waters or the waters of another state unlawfully in violation of any applicable federal or other state creel, possession, or size limit.

It is unlawful to sell speckled trout, red drum, and tarpon caught in state waters. Season closes for red snapper, king mackerel, and shark upon closure of federal waters. No allowance for undersize fish.

Recreational Size and Possession Limits for Alabama are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Cobia		2	33 FL	
Spotted seatrout		10	14 TL	
Red drum		3	16 TL	26 TL
Red snapper		5	15 TL	
Snapper --		10 ¹		
Gray			12 TL	
Mutton			12 TL	
Yellowtail			12 TL	
Vermilion		No limit*	8 TL	
Lane		No limit*	8 TL	
Spanish mackerel		10		
King mackerel		2	20 FL	
Greater amberjack		1*	28 FL	
Striped bass		6 ²	16 TL	
Grouper		5 ³	20 TL	Gag grouper 20" TL
Tarpon		Tag required	60 TL	
Florida pompano		No limit	12 TL	
Mullet ⁴		25 per person or vessel		

¹10 = ten fish in aggregate

²When caught in areas designated as salt water

³5 = five fish in aggregate (groupers)

⁴October 24-December 31 taken by cast net or snagging

*There is a 20-fish aggregate bag limit for reef fish species for which there is no other bag limit (including banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack).

No allowance for undersized fish, except: speckled trout - 2; redfish - no undersized fish allowed, 1 may exceed the maximum size

Commercial Size and Possession Limits for Alabama are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Red snapper ¹			15 TL	
Cobia		2	33 FL	
Gag grouper			20 TL	
Striped bass ²			16 TL	
Florida pompano			12 TL	
Vermilion snapper			8 TL	
Lane snapper			8 TL	
Gray snapper			12 TL	
Mutton snapper			12 TL	
Yellowtail snapper			12 TL	
King mackerel			20 FL	
Greater amberjack			36 FL	
Mullet ³		25 per person or vessel		

¹Commercial vessels which hold a valid federal red snapper endorsement to the federal reef-fish commercial vessel permit may land in Alabama, up to, but not to exceed, 2000 pounds per vessel per trip of red snapper taken from Alabama waters; all other validly licensed Alabama commercial fishermen holding the federal reef-fish commercial vessel permit are restricted to the landing in Alabama of no more than 200 pounds per vessel per trip of red snapper taken from Alabama waters.

²When caught in areas designated as salt water.

³October 24-December 31 taken by cast net or snagging.

SALTWATER NETS

Purse Seine Licenses

Resident - \$1500.00
Nonresident - \$3000.00

Permits

Permits expire September 30 of each year.

Recreational nets shall not exceed 300' in length; commercial nets shall not exceed 2400' in length (main top line).

Resident Recreational - \$51.00

Resident Commercial - \$301.00 plus additional \$501.00 for roe mullet and Spanish mackerel permit.

Non-resident Commercial - \$1500.00 plus additional \$2500.00 for roe mullet and Spanish mackerel permit.

Non-resident Recreational - pays the same fee as that charged Alabama resident to conduct same activity in applicant's state of residence provided non-residents pay no less than twice the cost for license that Alabama residents pay.

Permits for commercial net and seine permits shall only be issued to persons who purchased such licenses in two of five years from 1989 through 1993 and who have proof of 50% of their gross income from fishing or persons who purchased such a license in all five years and have filed annual income tax returns in all years.

All nets and seines must be licensed except seines used for taking bait. Bait seines shall not exceed 25' in length or 4' in depth. A license made out to an individual is not transferable; licensee must be present when net is in use. A seafood dealers license is also required if fish are sold to other than an Alabama seafood dealer. A license is not required for cast nets when used recreationally by Alabama residents.

Restrictions

It shall be unlawful to use purse seines for the taking or attempting to take fishes of other than those of the families Clupeidae (menhaden and herrings) and Engraulidae (anchovies). The starting date for the commercial menhaden season in the territorial waters of Alabama shall be the third Monday in April and the closing date shall be November 1 of each year (both dates inclusive). The taking of menhaden by purse seine shall be permitted only in those waters of Mississippi Sound and the Gulf of Mexico as described: Mississippi Sound and the Gulf of Mexico west of a line extending from the southernmost tip of Point aux Pines to Bayou La Batre channel marker number 17, then to the southernmost point of the Isle aux Herbes (Coffee Island), thence eastward to the easternmost point of March Island, then southward to Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Range Beacon "C," thence southward into the Gulf of Mexico for a distance of three (3) miles, except those waters lying within a radius of one (1) mile from the western point of Dauphin Island."

Gill nets must be marked every 100 feet with a color contrasting float and every 300 feet with the fisherman's permit number. Recreational nets must be marked with the licensee's name and license number. The allowable depth of commercial gill nets, trammel nets, and other entangling nets may vary by area.

During the period January 1 through October 1 of each year, gill nets, trammel nets, and other entangling nets used to catch any fish in gulf water in Alabama's territorial jurisdiction must have a minimum mesh size of 1¼" bar (knot to knot). A minimum mesh size of 1⅞" bar is required for such nets used to take mullet during the period October 24 through December 31 of each year for all Alabama coastal waters under the jurisdiction of the MRD, and only strike nets may be used in certain waters of Bon Secour Bay during this period. Any person using a 1⅞" or larger bar mesh net during the period October 24 through December 31 of each year shall be considered a roe mullet fisherman and must possess a roe mullet permit. These restrictions do not apply to coastal rivers, bayous, creeks, or streams. In these areas (with the exception of Delvan Bay, Grand Bay, Polecat Bay, and those portions of the Blakely and Apalachee Rivers south of the I-10 Causeway), the minimum mesh size shall be 6" stretched mesh. The minimum mesh for nets used in these excepted areas shall be generally the same as previously described by season for other coastal waters.

The use of purse seines to catch mullet is prohibited. Commercial and recreational gill net fishermen may use only one net at any time; however, commercial fishermen may possess more than one such net. No hook and line device may contain more than five hooks when used in Alabama waters under the jurisdiction of the MRD.

Gill nets, trammel nets, seines, purse seines, and other entangling nets are prohibited in any marked navigational channel, Theodore Industrial Canal, Little Lagoon Pass, or any man-made canal; within 300 feet of any man-made canal or the mouth of any river, stream, bayou, or creek; and within 300 feet of any pier, marina, dock, boat launching ramp, or certain "relic" piers. Recreational gill nets may not be used beyond 300 feet of any shoreline, and they may not extend into the water beyond the end of any adjacent pier or block ingress or egress from any of the aforementioned structures.

From January 1 through October 1 of each year, gill nets, trammel nets, seines, haul seines, and other entangling nets are prohibited within 0.25 miles of shore, except (and subject to other provisions) waters east of longitude 87°59' which will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each day from March 15 through the Thursday before Memorial Day. From October 2 through December 31 only mullet may be caught with 1⅞" minimum mesh nets in these waters during these hours.

From January 1 through the day after Labor Day of each year, entangling nets are prohibited in certain waters in and around Dauphin Island. From the first day after Labor Day through October 23 of each year, possession of mullet aboard a boat with net gear is prohibited in Mobile Bay north of the Intercoastal Waterway and east of the Dauphin Island Bridge and west of the Bon Secour River Channel.

It is illegal to remove the roe or otherwise process roe mullet aboard any boat or vessel in Alabama. All nets must be constantly attended by the licensee, and no dead fish or other dead seafood may be discarded within three miles of the gulf beaches, 500 feet of any shoreline, or into any river, stream, bayou, or creek.

SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSE*

Required of any person, firm, or corporation selling, brokering, trading, bartering, or processing any fresh or frozen seafood.

Resident Seafood Dealer - \$201.00

Nonresident Seafood Dealer - \$401.00 or the same fee that is charged an Alabama resident in their state if Alabama residents are charged more than \$401.00.

To obtain a seafood dealer license, tax identification number, proof of business license, and appropriate health permit are required (if applicable).

*License required for each place of business (“place of business” means a permanent structure on land or a vehicle from which seafood is sold or purchased if owner/operator does not have a licensed permanent structure.

SEAFOOD DEALER VEHICLE LICENSE

Resident and nonresident - \$101.00 per vehicle

Only holders of a valid Alabama Seafood Dealer License may purchase a seafood dealer vehicle license.

SEAFOOD REPORTING AND LANDING REGULATION

Alabama code requires that each and every person, firm, or corporation holding a seafood dealer’s license issued by the commissioner of conservation and natural resources or his or her authorized agent shall under oath make a monthly report to the Director of the MRD, on blanks provided for that purpose by the Director.

All saltwater finfish commercially harvested in the state of Alabama, except those lawfully taken by purse seine, shall be landed in this state and reported through a properly licensed Alabama seafood dealer. Persons who are transporting commercially harvested saltwater finfish out of the state of Alabama must have in their possession proof that said finfish were first landed and reported to a licensed Alabama seafood dealer.

Commercially harvested living marine products other than saltwater finfish taken from Alabama waters including, but not limited to, oysters, crabs, shrimp, other marine invertebrates and live rock, may be landed outside the state of Alabama provided the dealer to which products are sold provides to the Director of MRD at monthly intervals the fisherman’s name and license or permit number, the species purchased, the volume and price paid for the product, date and area of harvest, and date of purchase; provided that if the dealer outside the state of Alabama to which product was sold fails to report as required, it will be the responsibility of the fisherman who sold the product to provide to the Director of the MRD at monthly intervals the above required information.

All motor vehicles, trailers, or semi-trailers transporting aquatic products for commercial purposes are required to exhibit the inscription “FISH” on the rear of the vehicle. The inscription shall read from left to right, be attached or painted on the vehicle in block Arabic letters of good proportion in contrasting color to the background and be at least 6 inches in height.

FLORIDA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Florida. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1997, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact an office of the Florida Marine Patrol (FMP). General headquarters: Division of Law Enforcement, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 (904/488-5600).

Commercial License

Saltwater products license (SPL) is required to engage in trapping stone crabs, blue crabs, the harvest of crawfish, commercial trawling for shrimp and non-resident sponge fishing. A SPL is issued in the name of an individual or a valid boat registration number. A SPL is required to sell saltwater products (your harvest) and can only be sold to a licensed wholesale dealer.

Resident individual - \$50.00

Non-resident - \$200.00

Alien individual - \$300.00

Resident vessel - \$100.00

Non-resident vessel - \$400.00

Alien vessel - \$600.00

Note: Vessel SPL covers captain and crew onboard vessel.

Recreational Saltwater Fishing

Resident 10-day - \$11.50

Resident 1-year - \$13.50

Non-resident 3-day - \$6.50

Non-resident 7-day - \$16.50

Non-resident 1-year - \$31.50

(Above licenses available through sub-agent for an additional \$.50 each.)

ANNUAL COMMERCIAL VESSEL SALTWATER FISHING -

11 or more customers - \$801.50

5-10 customers - \$401.50

4 or less customers - \$201.50

OPTIONAL PIER SALTWATER FISHING - \$501.50

OPTIONAL RECREATIONAL VESSEL - \$3001.50

SHRIMP

Turtle Excluder Device

A turtle excluder device (TED) is required in all trawls in state waters. The possession aboard any vessel in or on state waters any trawl rigged for fishing that does not have a qualified TED installed therein is prohibited except for the following types of gear: 1) a single try net; 2) a roller frame trawl; 3) an experimental trawl authorized by the NMFS; 4) trawls operated on the inside waters with a headrope length not greater than 35' and a perimeter around the leading edge not exceeding 105'.

Commercial Season

Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties: In Escambia Bay and above a line running east from Robinson Point in Blackwater Bay and east of a line running north across Alexon Point in East Bay, season is closed from January 1 through September 15. All bayous in Escambia County, from Brooks Bridge at Fort Walton Beach west to the Bob Sikes Bridge, and those parts of Five Mile Bayou, west of the bridge of State Road 85 crossing Garnier's Bayou are closed to shrimping. During open seasons, shrimping is allowed only during the hours of 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. daily.

Franklin and Wakulla Counties: All areas north of the Gorrie Memorial Bridge are permanently closed. From April 1 to June 15; the area from Cape San Blas to Cape St. George, 3 miles seaward, is closed to nets exceeding 18' on the cork line. From March 1 to May, shrimping is prohibited in designated waters adjacent to Wakulla County. From July 15 to September 15, the Apalachicola Bay and St. Vincent Sound are closed during the daylight hours. Shrimping is closed in a portion of the Carrabelle River west and north of State Road 30 and in that portion of the Ochlockonee Bay west of State Road 30 all year.

Citrus, Pasco and Hernando Counties: Shrimping in designated areas during designated dates is prohibited.

Taylor County: Except as provided in subsection (4), no person shall operate any trawl within the following described area: Beginning at a point on the shoreline of the gulf on the north side of the channel at Steinhatchee; thence westerly along the line of navigational buoys marking the north side of said channel to flashing light number "1" marking the outer extent of said channel; thence westerly to navigational flashing light number "18"; thence northwesterly to navigational flashing light number "22"; thence north-northwesterly to a privately maintained flashing light at Gamble Point near the mouth of the Aucilla River; thence southeasterly along the shoreline along the gulf to the point of beginning. (4) A person possessing a live bait shrimping license issued by the department pursuant to Section 370.15, FL Statutes, may operate a trawl or trawls within the area described in subsection 3 if each of the following conditions is met: (a) the person is harvesting live bait shrimp using no more than 2 roller frame trawls; (b) neither the upper or lower horizontal beam on a roller frame trawl so used is greater than 15 feet in length. (5) As used in this rule: (a) "roller frame trawl" means a trawl with all of the following: 1. a rectangular rigid frame to keep the mouth of the trawl open while being towed; 2. the lower horizontal beam of the frame has rollers to allow the trawl to roll over the bottom and any obstructions while being towed; 3. the trawl opening is shielded by a grid of vertical bars spaced no more than 3" apart; 4. the trawl is towed by attaching a line or towing cable to a tongue located above or at the center of the upper horizontal beam of the

frame; 5. the trawl has no doors attached to keep the mouth of the trawl open. (b) "Trawl" means a net in the form of an elongated bag with the mouth kept open by various means and fished by being towed or dragged on the bottom.

Lee County: Shrimping prohibited within a designated area.

Tortugas Shrimp Bed: Shrimping prohibited except for live bait shrimping under permit.

Florida East Coast Shrimp Bed: Night shrimping prohibited September through May.

Recreational Season

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp season apply. Non-commercial trawls are required to be registered with the department.

Commercial Gear Limitations

See net limitation information following this section.

Statewide food shrimp production: Brine box is prohibited. Inshore waters - a single try net with a headrope length not greater than 10' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 30' is allowed. Other than inshore waters - a single try net with a headrope length not greater than 20' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net no greater than 60' is allowed. Prohibits the harvest of shrimp for food shrimp, live bait, or recreational on the same trip.

The state is divided into 5 regions for the purpose of lawful allowed gear in each region for the harvest of food shrimp. The regions and the legal harvest gear are as follows:

Each person harvesting shrimp in or on state waters as a food shrimp producer shall possess shrimp that are of legal size; average count not exceeding 47 shrimp per pound with heads-on or 70 shrimp per pound with heads-off.

No person harvesting shrimp in or on state waters as a food shrimp producer shall use a brine box to separate shrimp from other species or possess a brine box aboard the vessel for such harvest.

A person harvesting shrimp in or on the inshore waters of the state may use a single try net with a headrope length not greater than 10' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 30' if such try net is pulled immediately in front of another trawl or trawls or is not connected to another trawl in any way. Such try net shall have a mesh size no smaller than that allowed in this chapter for trawls in the region where used.

A person harvesting shrimp in or on the waters of the state other than inshore waters may use a single try net with a headrope length not greater than 20' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net greater than 60' if such try net is pulled immediately in front of another trawl or trawls or is not connected to another trawl in any way. Such try net shall have a mesh size no smaller than that allowed in this chapter for trawls in the region where used.

No person harvesting shrimp in or on the waters of the state shall operate as a food shrimp producer and as a live bait shrimp producer or recreational harvester on the same trip.

Northwest Region Food Shrimp Production (all state waters of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties):

No person shall harvest shrimp in the inshore waters of the region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than: (a) a roller frame trawl meeting the following specifications: 1) neither the upper or lower horizontal beam is greater than 16' in length; 2) the vertical bars shielding the trawl opening are spaced no further than 3" apart; 3) no more than 4 such trawls shall be towed by a single vessel at any time; (b) an otter trawl meeting either of the following specifications: 1) a single otter trawl with a headrope length not greater than 50' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 150'; or 2) two otter trawls, each with a headrope length not greater than 25' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 75'. Two trawls meeting these specifications may be connected and each attached to a sled, used in lieu of the inner door on each trawl, if a separation of at least 10 feet is maintained between the two trawls at all times during trawling. 2) no trawl shall be used for food shrimp production in the inshore waters of the Northwest Region that has a mesh size less than 3/4" bar measurement in the body of the net and 5/8" bar measurement in the cod end. In any trawl with a rigid turtle excluder device (TED), the section of netting surrounding the device shall have a mesh size no smaller than 1/2" bar measurement and shall be no more than 50 meshes in total length.

Big Bend Region Food Shrimp Production (state waters of Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco Counties):

(1) No person shall harvest shrimp in the region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than a roller frame trawl meeting the following specifications: (a) Beginning January 1, 1994, neither the upper or lower horizontal beam on a roller frame trawl so used is greater than 16' in length; (b) the vertical bars shielding the trawl opening are spaced no further than 3" apart; (c) no such trawl shall have a mesh size less than 3/4" bar measurement in the body of the net and 5/8" bar measurement in the cod end; (d) no more than four such trawls shall be towed by a single vessel at any time. (2) Each person harvesting shrimp in the region as a food shrimp producer shall comply with Rule 46-38.003.

Southwest Region Food Shrimp Production (state waters of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier Counties):

(1) No person shall harvest shrimp in the inshore waters of the region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than: (a) a roller frame trawl meeting the following specifications: 1) Neither the upper or lower horizontal beam on the roller frame trawl so used is greater than 16' in length; 2) the vertical bars shielding the trawl opening are spaced no further than 3" apart; 3) no more than four such trawls shall be towed by a single vessel at any time; (b) an otter trawl meeting either of the following specifications: 1) Except in Tampa Bay, a single otter trawl with a headrope length not greater than 25' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 75'; or 2) In Tampa Bay, no more than two otter trawls, each with a headrope length not greater than 25' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not

greater than 75'. Two trawls meeting these specifications may be connected and each attached to a sled, used in lieu of the inner door on each trawl, if a separate of at least 10' is maintained between the two trawls during trawling. (2) No trawl shall be used for food shrimp production in the inshore waters of the Southwest Region that has a mesh size less than 7/8" bar measurement in the body of the net and 1/2" bar measurement in the cod end. In any trawl with a rigid TED, the section of netting surrounding the device shall have a mesh size no smaller than 5/8" bar measurement and shall be no more than 50 meshes in total length.

Southeast Region Food Shrimp Production (state waters of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade and Monroe Counties): No person shall harvest shrimp in the inshore waters of the Southeast Region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than: (1) a wing net meeting the following specifications: (a) no wing net shall have an opening larger than 28' around the perimeter; (b) no more than two wing nets shall be attached to or fished from a single vessel; (c) no wing net shall be fished by towing or dragging it over the bottom; (2) a frame net meeting the following specifications: (a) no frame net shall have an opening larger than 28' around the perimeter; (b) no more than one frame net shall be fished from a single vessel and no frame net shall be fished from a vessel also using wing nets; (c) no frame net shall be fished by towing or dragging it over the bottom.

Northeast Region Food Shrimp Production (state waters of Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, and Brevard Counties, including all of the St. Johns River): (1) Except as provided for Volusia County in Rule 46-3.008(3)(g), no person shall harvest shrimp in the inshore waters of the region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than: (a) a roller frame trawl meeting the following specifications: 1) neither the upper or lower horizontal beam on a roller frame trawl used is greater than 16' in length; 2) the vertical bars shielding the trawl opening are spaced no further than 3" apart; 3) no more than four such trawls shall be towed by a single vessel at any time; (b) an otter trawl meeting the following specifications: 1) the trawl shall have a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 100'; 2) no more than one such trawl shall be towed by a single vessel at any time. (2) No trawl shall be used for food shrimp production in the inshore waters of the Northeast Region that has a mesh size less than 3/4" bar measurement in the body of the net and 5/8" bar measurement in the cod end. In any trawl with a rigid TED, the section of netting surrounding the device shall have a mesh size no smaller than 1/2" bar measurement and shall be no more than 50 meshes in total length.

Recreational Gear Limitations

Allowable recreational harvest gear: landing or dip net with an opening no larger than 96 inches around the perimeter; cast net; push net; one frame net with an opening no larger than 16' around the perimeter; shrimp trap; beach or haul seine no greater than 100' in length; a single otter trawl with a headrope length no greater than 16' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 48'; baited area during daylight hours.

Commercial Legal Size

The taking or possession of food shrimp of a size smaller than 47 count heads-on or 70 count heads-off.

Recreational Legal Size

No size limit.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No Limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

5 gallons heads-on per person or vessel whichever is less.

LIVE BAIT

License

SPL required. In St. Johns River (Duval County) a live bait production license is required.

Season

All year.

Gear

All live bait shrimp boats must be equipped with live bait shrimp tanks. St. Johns River - Duval County. Net cannot exceed 60' perimeter measurement. Live bait tank required.

Legal Size

No restrictions.

Pounds Allowed

In all counties no more than 5 gallons of dead shrimp are allowed on board.

Restrictions

Harvest gear is limited to roller frame trawls only throughout the state except in St. Johns River and Volusia County.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS AND CLAMS

License Requirements

Oysters and clams can only be harvested from approved shellfish harvesting areas.
Oyster Harvesting License - Required for Apalachicola Bay only.

Resident - \$100.00
Non-resident and Alien - \$500.00
Oyster Relaying Permit - No Charge.
Oyster Leases - \$5.00/acre

Seasons

Season is closed between June 1 and September 1 of each year in Dixie and Levy counties. All other areas July through September.

Gear

Dredges may be used for harvesting oysters or clams on private leases after posting a \$3000 bond and securing a special activity license.

Size Limits

Minimum size for oysters is 3". Minimum size for clams is 1" thick.

Commercial Limits

Bag limits are established in certain areas of the state for oysters.

Leases

Information available from the Division of Marine Resources, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Restrictions

Oysters and clams can only be harvested from an approved shellfish harvesting area.

Recreational

Harvest limited to two (2) bags per person or boat whichever is less per day.

SHELLFISH - CRABS

Licenses

An SPL is required to fish with more than five blue crab or stone crab traps.
Saltwater Products License - Required by the fisherman to sell any saltwater product and allows sale only to a licensed wholesale dealer.

Restrictions

Stone crab season is closed between May 15 and October 15.

Legal Size

Hardshell blue crabs must be 5" in width if sold. Stone crab claws must have 2¼" forearm length.

Recreational

Allowed five (5) blue crab traps or less without an SPL.
Allowed five (5) stone crab traps or less without an SPL.

SHELLFISH - LOBSTERS

License

\$100.00

Season

August 6-March 31 for spiny lobster. Trap may be placed in the water five days prior to season. Traps must be removed from the water by April 5. There is a special two-day non-trap recreational spiny lobster season the last Wednesday and successive Thursday prior to August 1.

Gear

Wood slat traps and plastic traps with a degradable panel located on the top horizontal section of the trap. Trap can be no larger than 3'x2'x2' or equivalent.

Vessel and Gear Identification

Each trap must have a trap tag and a buoy or be attached to a trap trotline; all traps and buoys must have the trap number permanently affixed. Buoy numbers shall be at least 2" high. The buoy color and trap number must be displayed on boats working traps so as to be readily identifiable from both the air and water. Trap tags are issued by the department at a cost of \$.50 per tag.

Size Restrictions

Spiny lobsters minimum size is more than 3" carapace or 5½" tail measurement if separated from head. Separating the head from tail of lobster is prohibited in state waters.

Harvest Limitations

Egg bearing lobsters must be returned to the water unharmed. The stripping of eggs or removal of the pleopods from the lobster is prohibited. The bag limit during the 2-day recreational season is 6 spiny lobster per person per day in Monroe County only. A bag limit of 12 spiny lobster per person per day is allowed in all other areas during the 2-day recreational season.

Recreational bag limit during regular season is 6 lobsters per person or 24 per boat whichever is greater.

Traps worked during daylight hours only. The working of another's traps without written permission is prohibited.

FINFISH

Size and possession limits are shown on the summary of regulations table beginning on page 13.

SALTWATER NETS

No gill or entanglement nets allowed in state waters.

Licenses

All commercial nets are required to be licensed with a SPL. SPL numbers must be attached to net.

Restrictions

Illegal Possession of Seines and Nets - prohibits possession of any fishing seine or net in any county that the use is prohibited by law. Use of purse seines, gill nets and pound nets, etc. - it is illegal to take food fish from within or without the waters of the state, with a purse seine, purse gill nets, or other net using rings or other devices on the lead line thereof, through which a purse line is drawn, or pound nets, or to take any food fish so taken for sale or shipment. Seines and pocket bunts - in any county where seines are not prohibited on the open gulf or Atlantic Ocean, such seines may have a pocket bunt on the middle of the seine of a mesh size less than that provided by law. No net may be pulled up on shore where seining is prohibited. Such nets may be gathered, taken in, or taken up by power in the Gulf and Atlantic Ocean, except in Dade and Palm Beach counties. A special activity license must be obtained for the use of gear and equipment for exploration of offshore fishery resources.

Each net fished with, set, or placed in the water shall be tended. Until May 1, 1994, in Nassau, Duval, and St. Johns counties only, the requirements of this subsection shall not apply to any person fishing with, setting, or placing a net seaward of the Colregs Demarcation Line during the period beginning January 1 and continuing through April 30 of each year.

Each net fished with, set, or placed in the water shall be marked in the following manner: (a) During the period beginning one hour before official sunrise and ending one hour after official sunset, an international orange float with a diameter of at least 12" or an end buoy equipped with a high flier (a vertical rod rising at least 24" above the surface of the water) displaying a net signal flag shall be affixed at each end of the cork line of the net. The net signal flag shall be triangular, have dimensions no smaller than 12"x18"x18", and have a white circle at least 6" in diameter on a field of bright orange. During the period beginning one hour after official sunset and ending one hour before official sunrise, a white light visible 360° from a distance of not less than one mile shall be affixed at each end of the cork line of the net. If one end of a net is retained aboard the vessel during a fishing operation, such end need not be marked with float, high flier with net signal flag, or light. At all times, corks or floats of contrasting color shall be affixed at no greater than 100-yard intervals along the cork line of the net. (b) Each such float, high flier with net signal flag, light, and cork or float of contrasting color shall be legibly marked with a SPL number which matches either: (1) the SPL number issued for the vessel on which the net is possessed or from which the net is deployed, or (2) the SPL number of the operator of the vessel on which the net is possessed or from which the net is deployed.

The term "tend" means that the person fishing with, setting, or placing the net in the water is either: (1) within 300 yards of the net and using vessel movement and noise to force fish into the meshes of the net where they become entangled or trapped; or (2) within 50 yards of the net if the vessel used is not in constant motion; or (3) physically present at the net if the net is fished from shore or from a structure attached to shore. The term "net" shall be construed broadly to include all manner of gill and trammel nets and seines, except purse seines. This rule shall not apply to person using gill and trammel nets in the waters of Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties, which person shall comply with Rule 46-4.007. This rule shall apply to persons using seines in these counties. This rule shall not be construed to allow net fishing in closed areas or the use of any fishing gear otherwise prohibited by law or rule.

Use of Seine Nets in St. Johns County - Only cast nets or recreational nets can be used in the saltwaters of St. Johns County and within ¼ mile seaward of the beaches and coast, between May 1 and September 15 of each year and only cast nets and recreational nets can be used on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays during the remainder of the year.

Only cast nets can be used in the following areas of St. Johns County and adjacent salt waters: 1) one mile radius of the center of Mantanzas Inlet Bridge. 2) In the waters of Salt Run, St. Augustine Inlet, Mantanzas River, North River or the ICW, or water adjacent to any of the aforementioned waters, lying north of Mickler-O'Connell Bridge, South of Vilano Beach Bridge across the ICW and inland of a line drawn from headland to headland across the mouth of St. Augustine Inlet. 3) On the Atlantic Ocean beaches and beach areas, within 1 mile north and south of the center of St. Augustine Inlet, and within 1 mile seaward of such beaches, and a line drawn from headland to headland across the mouth of the St. Augustine Inlet. 4) On the Atlantic Ocean beaches and beach areas, within 2 miles north and 2 miles south of the center of St. Augustine Beach Pier, and within 1 mile seaward of such beaches and beach areas.

The use of seines is prohibited in the salt waters of St. Johns County, within 1 mile seaward of the beaches and coast, exceeding 1300' in length or having mesh less than 2½". Only recreational nets can be used in the salt waters of St. Johns County or within 1 mile seaward of the Atlantic Ocean beaches and coast without a \$250 permit. Such permit entitles the holder to use no more than one seine or net at any time. Said permit required to be in the holder's possession when the net is in use.

Recreational Nets - In St. Johns County a seine or similar net not exceeding 100' in length, with mesh not smaller than 2½" set and hauled solely by hand and without use of any motor-driven boat or vehicle. No recreational net may be set or hauled within 100' of any other recreational or commercial net. Prohibits the use of a recreational net after sunset or before sunrise between May 1 and September 15. Only one container of fish per net in use can be retained by the holder of a permit. All fish in excess and all unwanted species shall be returned alive to the water when caught.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

Resident Retail Seafood Dealer

Primary Location - \$25.00

Secondary Location - \$10.00

Non-resident Retail Seafood Dealer

Primary Location - \$200.00

Secondary Location - \$25.00

Alien Retail Seafood Dealer

Primary Location - \$250.00

Secondary Location - \$50.00

Resident County Wholesale Seafood Dealer - \$300.00

Non-resident County Wholesale Seafood Dealer - \$500.00

Alien County Wholesale Seafood Dealer - \$1000.00

Resident State Wholesale Dealer - \$450.00

Non-resident State Wholesale Dealer - \$1000.00

Alien State Wholesale Dealer - \$1500.00

Note: Since local regulations governing the taking of saltwater products may exist, you should contact the Marine Patrol District Office nearest the location where you will be engaging in these activities for additional information.

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Recreational Bag Limit	Remarks
Amberjack ▲ R	28" fork (Greater amberjack only)	***	3 per person per day 1 per person per day-Monroe Co. only Aggregate of all species	Aggregate total applies to all species having a bag limit (greater & lesser amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish). Illegal to sell, purchase, or exchange greater amberjack less than 36" fork length. Illegal to sell any amberjack during April or May.
Billfish	Sailfish 57" Blue Marlin 86" White Marlin 62"	***	1 per person per day Aggregate bag limit	Species includes marlin, spearfish, and sailfish. Illegal to buy or sell. Federal size limits apply. Hook and line only.
Black drum ▲ R	Not less than 14" or more than 24"	***	5 per person per day	Illegal to possess more than one over 24".
Mullet (all species) R	***	***	50 per vessel or person, whichever is less per day	Mullet is not a restricted species west of the Ochlockonee River.
Bluefish ▲ R	12" fork	***	10 per person per day	
Bonefish	18"	***	1 per person per day	Illegal to buy or sell. Possession limit one.
Clams-hard	1" thick across hinge	***	One 5 gallon bucket per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is less per day	Illegal to harvest from closed areas. Call FMP for current information.
Cobia (ling) ▲	33" fork	***	2 per person per day	
Crab-blue R S	***	***	10 gallons whole per day	SPL with RS & blue crab endorsements required to use over 5 traps. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.
Crab-stone R S	2¼" claw	May 15 to October 15	1 gallon stone crab claws per person or 2 gallons per vessel, whichever is less	SPL with RS & stone crab endorsements required to use over 5 traps. Trap requirements apply. Illegal to possess whole crabs.
Crawfish R S ▲ Spiny lobster	Larger than 3" carapace	April 1 - August 5 Exception: Sportsmen - last consecutive Wednesday & Thursday of July each year	24 per vessel or 6 per person per day, whichever is greater	SPL with RS endorsements required to use traps. Crawfish stamp required. Special bag limit for 2-day sportsman's season. Call FMP for current information on sportsman's season.
Dolphin ■	***	***	10 per person per day	20" size limit for sale.
Flounder ▲ R ■ ◆	12"	***	10 per person per day	May be harvested with a gig.
Grey triggerfish ▲ ■	12"	***	***	
Grouper ▲ R ■	20"	***	5 aggregate of all species per person per day	Includes yellowfin, red, black, gag, misty, scamp, yellowmouth, and yellowedge. Harvest of nassau and jewfish prohibited.
Grouper-warsaw ■ speckled hind	***	***	1 per vessel per day	Not counted in grouper aggregate bag limit.
Hogfish ▲ R ■	12" fork	***	5 per person per day	

Mackerel-king ▲ R	20" fork	***	2 per person per day	Bag limit in Gulf-Atlantic fishery reduced to 1 when federal waters are closed to all harvest. Call FMP for details.
Mackerel-Spanish ▲ R ◆	12"	***	10 per person per day	Length is measured from tip of nose to rear center of tail. Transfer of Spanish mackerel to other vessels at sea is prohibited.
Oysters	3"	June, July, August in Dixie, Wakulla, and Levy counties July, August, September in all other areas.	2 bags per person or vessel, whichever is less per day	Apalachicola Bay has summer and winter seasons/areas. Harvest from approved shellfish areas only. Call FMP for current information.
Permit ▲ R ■ ◆	Not less than 10" or more than 20"	***	10 per person per day of permit and pompano, 10 aggregate	May possess one over 20". Sale prohibited for permit more than 20".
Pompano ▲ R ■ ◆	Not less than 10"	***	10 per person per day of permit and pompano, 10 aggregate	May possess one over 20". Sale prohibited for pompano more than 20".
Pompano-African ▲ R ◆	Not less than 24"	***	2 fish per person per vessel/day, whichever is less	Hook & line gear only.
Red drum ▲ ■ (redfish)	Not less than 18" or more than 27"	***	1 per person per day	Gigging, spearing, snatching prohibited. Illegal to buy or sell native red drum.
Red porgy ▲ ■	12" on Atlantic Coast	***	***	
Scallops-bay	***	September 10 - June 30	2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per person, no more than 10 gallons whole or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime	Restricted harvest areas apply to certain state waters. Call FMP for current information.
Sea bass ▲ ■	8"	***	***	Size limit applies to all sea basses (Centropristitis).
Shad	***	***	Aggregate 10 per person per day	American, Alabama, and hickory are part of aggregate limit. Hook and line gear only.
Shark	***	***	1 per person/2 per vessel, whichever is less	Protected species. The practice of finning is prohibited.
Sheepshead ▲ R ■ ◆	12"	***	15 per person per day	Sheepshead may not be harvested by a gig.
Shrimp	***	***	5 gallons head on per vessel per day	Must be landed in a whole condition. Contact FMP for closed areas.
Snapper-cubera ▲ R ■	Not less than 12" or more than 30"	***	10 per person per day, aggregate bag limit	No more than two 30" or larger per person or vessel, whichever is less. Over 30" included in aggregate bag limit.
Snapper-gray ▲ R ■ (mangrove)	10"	***	5 per person per day, aggregate bag limit	No more than 10 snappers aggregate of all snappers with a bag limit.
Snapper-lane ▲ R ■	8"	***	10 bag limit applies toward aggregate of all snappers if harvested in Atlantic.	Lane snapper harvested in Gulf of Mexico not subject to aggregate bag limit.

Snapper-mutton ▲ R ■	16"	***	10 per person per day, aggregate bag limit	No more than 10 snappers aggregate of all snappers with a bag limit.
Snapper-red ▲ R ■	15" Gulf 20" Atlantic	***	5 Gulf of Mexico per day 2 Atlantic per day	No more than 10 snappers aggregate of all snappers with a bag limit.
Snapper-schoolmaster ▲ R ■	10"	***	10 per person per day, aggregate bag limit	No more than 10 snappers aggregate of all snappers with a bag limit.
Snapper-vermilion ▲ R ■	8" Gulf 10" Atlantic	***	*** (Gulf) 10 (Atlantic) per day	Not counted in snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper-all other ▲ R ■	12"	***	10 aggregate of all snappers with a bag limit	Includes blackfin, cubera under 30", dog, mahogany, queen, silk, and yellowtail snappers.
Snook ▲ ■	Not less than 24" or more than 34"	December 15 - January 31 of each year and June, July, August	2 per person per day	Illegal to possess more than one over 34 inches. Illegal to buy or sell. Snook stamp required.
Spotted seatrout ▲ R ■	<i>S Region</i> : not less than 15"-not more than 20" <i>NW Region</i> : not less than 15"-not more than 20" <i>NE Region</i> : not less than 15"-not more than 20"	Regions closed: <i>S</i> - November & December <i>NW</i> - February <i>NE</i> - December, January, February	<i>S</i> - 5 fish per person per day <i>NW</i> - 7 fish per person per day <i>NE</i> - 5 fish per person per day	May possess one fish over the maximum size limit. The <i>South</i> region is defined as all state waters lying between the Volusia/Flagler county line on the Atlantic extending to Pinellas/Pasco line on the gulf. The <i>Northwest</i> region is defined as all state waters north and west of Pinellas/Pasco. The <i>Northeast</i> region is defined as all state waters north of Volusia/Flagler line.
Tarpon	***	***	2 per person per day	Illegal to buy or sell - requires \$50 tarpon tag to possess or harvest.
Tripletail ▲ R ◆	15"	***	2 per person per day	Hook and line gear only. No snatch hooks.
Weakfish ▲	12"	***	4 per person per day	

S - saltwater products license

R - restricted species

▲ - must remain in whole condition (heads & tails intact) until landed ashore.

■ - gear restrictions apply, contact the nearest FMP.

◆ - length for these species is defined as the most forward point of the head to the rear center edge of the tail.

It is illegal to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell, or exchange the following species: nassau grouper, jewfish, sawfish, sawshark, basking shark, whale shark, spotted eagle ray, sturgeon.

LOUISIANA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Louisiana. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1997, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000 (504/765-2985).

SHRIMP

Commercial Licenses

All Commercial Shrimp Fishermen must purchase the following licenses:

Commercial Fisherman
Resident - \$55.00
Non-resident - \$460.00

Vessel
Resident - \$15.00
Non-resident - \$60.00

Gear
Resident Shrimp Trawl - \$25.00 per trawl
Non-resident Shrimp Trawl - \$100.00 per trawl
Resident Butterfly - \$25.00 per net
Non-resident Butterfly - \$100.00 per net
Resident Skimmer Net - \$25.00 per net
Non-resident Skimmer Net - \$100.00 per net

No fee is required for use of a test trawl when used with another trawl for which the gear fee has been paid, maximum test trawl length is 16' cork line - 20' lead line.

Recreational License

Shrimp trawls 16' or less may be licensed recreationally; shrimp trawls in excess of 16' must be licensed commercially. The maximum limit for recreational shrimpers is 100 pounds, heads on, per boat, per day.

Gear types and fees are as follows:

Shrimp Trawls (resident) - \$25.00 per trawl not exceeding 16' in length.
Shrimp Trawls (non-resident) - \$100.00 per trawl not exceeding 16' in length.

You must possess a basic sports fishing license to use a recreational gear license unless exempt by age. Recreational fishermen with a basic sports fishing license may use a cast net up to 8½' in radius and take up to 50 pounds of shrimp per day per boat for bait purposes only.

Commercial Season

In state inside waters, the Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year based upon biological and technical data. No open season shall begin on a Sunday. In state outside waters, season will be set by the Commission based upon biological and technical data.

Recreational Season

Same as commercial season.

Commercial Gear Limitations

By definition, a trawl means any net (generally funnel-shaped) pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. The term "trawl" also means and includes plumb staff beam trawls that do not exceed sixteen feet, that do not use otter boards but are held open laterally by a horizontal beam and vertically by two vertical beams (plumb staffs), and that are used while the vessel is underway. No vessel may pull more than the following trawl rigging in inside waters. (A) One trawl which shall not exceed 50' in length along the cork line and 66' along the lead line and in addition, one test trawl; (B) two trawls each of which shall not exceed 25' along the cork line, 33' feet along the lead line, and have trawl doors no larger than 6' in length and 34" in height and in addition, one test trawl; (C) two trawls which shall not exceed 25' along the cork line, 33' along the lead line and have no more than two outer trawl doors no larger than 8' in length and 40" in height and no more than two inner sled doors, and in addition, one test trawl. It shall be legal for a vessel in Breton and Chandeleur sounds to pull no more than one or two trawls, either or both of which cannot exceed 65' along the cork line and 82' along the lead line in length, plus one test trawl. Saltwater shrimp may be taken by means of trawls, butterfly nets, skimmer nets, or cast nets and by no other means except as provided in R.S. 56:497(B) and R.S. 56:571. No person shall take saltwater shrimp with any trawl, skimmer net or butterfly net with a mesh size less than 5/8" square or 1¼" stretched. No trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net may be used in closed waters. No person shall use a double butterfly net having an individual net frame more than 12' measured horizontally or vertically, whichever distance is greater, each or a single stationary butterfly net having an individual net frame greater than 22' measured horizontally or vertically, whichever distance is greater, except that persons on a vessel may use a double butterfly net having individual net frames of not more than 16' measured horizontally or 12' measured vertically, each. No person on a vessel shall use a double skimmer net having an individual net frame more than 16' measured horizontally or 12' measured vertically, or with a lead line measuring more than 28' for each net. No person shall tie individual skimmer nets together to exceed the herein stated specifications. Operation of butterfly and skimmer nets shall in no way impede or restrict normal navigation. No person shall use sweeper devices, leads, extensions, wings, or other attachments in conjunction with or

attached to butterfly nets. Skimmer nets and butterfly nets may be mounted no more than 24" from side of vessel. From January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1999, trawls in excess of 130' cork line (165' lead line) cannot be used in Louisiana offshore territorial waters.

Recreational and Commercial Gear Limitations

Trawls must be 16' or less in length measured along the cork line. Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than $\frac{5}{8}$ " bar or 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " stretched. Mesh size during the fall inshore shrimp season shall be not less than $\frac{5}{8}$ " square x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " stretched except from the mouth of Atchafalaya River west to the western shore of Vermilion Bay shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ " square x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ stretch.

Commercial Legal Size

You may not catch or possess aboard a vessel saltwater white shrimp that average more than 100 per pound, unless you have legal documentation that they were taken in another state or country. During the time period from October 15 through the third Monday in December there shall be no count on saltwater white shrimp taken or possessed. There are no count restrictions on any shrimp during the spring open season. There are no count restrictions on sea bobs taken in state outside waters during any season. There are no count restrictions on bait shrimp.

Recreational Legal Size

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp apply.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

100 pounds per day per vessel with use of a shrimp trawl not exceeding 16'.

LIVE BAIT

Licenses

Live bait dealers are controlled by Commission action. Persons allowed to take live shrimp for sale during closed season between the spring and fall seasons as bait must have a proper license and post \$1,000 bond with the LDWF.

Persons desiring to catch their own bait may catch shrimp with cast nets (up to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in radius), bait traps, dip nets (up to 3' diameter and hand operated), seines (less than 100' and foot operated). A basic sports fishing license is required to take bait with a cast net.

Season

During the closed seasons, bait shrimp may be taken in state inside waters, but only with cast nets up to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in radius, bait traps, dip nets (diameter of no more than 3' and hand operated) or seines less than 100 feet in length with no mechanical devices.

Gear

Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than $\frac{5}{8}$ " bar or 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " stretched. However, during closed seasons when seine nets are used, the bait seine must be $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh or less. Permitted trawls cannot exceed 25' in length. Mesh size during all inshore season shall be not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ " square or 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " stretched.

Legal Size

No restrictions.

Pounds Allowed

No dead shrimp allowed in possession while trawling and operating under permit; dead shrimp may be sold at place of business in lots not exceeding 48 ounces for bait only.

Restrictions

During the closed season, no bait shrimp may be taken in state waters with a butterfly net or trawl. A qualified bait dealer may get a special permit to take bait shrimp with a trawl not larger than 25' during the closed season between the spring and fall seasons.

SHELLFISH - CRABS

Recreational Licenses

Special qualifications exist to obtain a commercial crab license.

Resident Recreational Crab Trap - \$10.00 — Required for use of no more than 10 traps.

Non-resident Recreational Crab Trap - \$40.00 — Required for use of no more than 10 traps.

Resident Recreational Crab Trap - Attached to a trotline (up to 10 traps) - \$1.00/trap

Non-resident Recreational Crab Trap - Attached to a trotline (up to 10 traps) - \$4.00/trap

You must possess a basic sports fishing license to use a recreational gear license unless exempt for age. Recreational harvest of crabs using a dipnet and/or baited lines (without hooks or traps) does not require a license.

Commercial Licenses

Resident Commercial Crab Trap - Attached to a trotline (up to 25 traps) - \$1.00/trap

Non-resident Commercial Crab Trap - Attached to a trotline (up to 25 traps) - \$4.00/trap

Resident Commercial Crab Trap/Dropnet Gear License - \$25.00

Non-resident Commercial Crab Trap/Dropnet Gear License - \$100.00

Resident Commercial Fisherman License - \$55.00

Non-Resident Commercial Fisherman License - \$460.00

Resident Vessel License - \$15.00
Non-Resident Vessel License - \$60.00.
Resident Soft-Shell Crab Shedder License - \$100.00
Non-Resident Soft-Shell Crab Shedder License - \$400.00

A license to shed soft-shell crabs may only be purchased by a licensed commercial fisherman or wholesale/retail dealer.

A commercial fisherman's license and vessel license are required for commercial fishing in saltwater in addition to any required gear license.

Restrictions

Taking adult female crabs in the so-called berry stage (or with eggs attached) is strictly prohibited, and if caught must be returned to the waters alive.

Commercial Legal Size

Hardshell blue crabs must be 5" in width, crabs less than 5" in width may be taken for the purpose of producing soft crabs only and must be held separately from those crabs of legal size and shall be identified as busters or peelers.

Recreational Legal Size

There are no minimum size restrictions for recreational crabbers.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS

Licenses

Resident Recreational Oyster Tong (per tong) - \$5.00
Non-resident Recreational Oyster Tong (per tong) - \$20.00
You must possess a basic sport fishing license to use a recreational gear license, unless exempt for age.
Resident Commercial Oyster Tong (per tong) - \$30.00
Non-resident Commercial Oyster Tong (per tong) - \$240.00
Resident Commercial Oyster Dredge (per dredge) - \$25.00
Non-resident Commercial Oyster Dredge (per dredge) - \$200.00
Resident Commercial Oyster Harvester - \$100.00
Non-resident Commercial Oyster Harvester - \$400.00
Resident Commercial Fisherman - \$55.00
Non-resident Commercial Fisherman - \$400.00
Resident Vessel License - \$15.00
Non-resident Vessel License - \$60.00
Out-of-State Oyster Landing Permit - \$100.00

The licensed commercial fisherman harvesting or possessing oysters in state waters must purchase an oyster harvester license, in addition to any and all licenses otherwise required.

Seasons

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission designates when natural reefs are open for fishing; generally, natural reefs may be fished from the first Wednesday after Labor Day through April 1 of the next year. Some consideration for an extension can be made to May 10 depending on supply. The owner of an oyster lease, or his designee, with written permission, may fish oysters at any time of year on their lease. Areas opened by the Commission may, however, be closed by the Department of Health and Hospitals for health reasons. It is illegal to take oysters at night.

Size/Possession Limits

All oysters taken from natural reefs must be 3" or greater in length from hinge to mouth. A lessee of private oyster grounds may be permitted to take undersized oysters for bedding purposes only (under special regulations).

Not more than ten 1½-bushel sacks per boat per day may be taken from Calcasieu and Sabine lakes (in the event of a closure of the open season for more than seven days, 15 1½-bushel sacks per boat per day may be taken for three consecutive calendar days following reopening). Unlimited elsewhere for commercial purposes. Recreational fishermen may take two sacks per person if oysters are taken for personal consumption.

Oysters may be taken from public oyster beds by dredges, scrapers, and tongs. Dredges and scrapers used shall be no larger than 6' in width measured along the tooth bar. The dredge teeth shall be no longer than 5" in length and there shall be no more than seven dredges in use on any one vessel.

Any person who qualifies and who desires to lease a part of the bottom of any state waters shall present to the Secretary of the LDWF a written application and cash deposit of such amount as determined by the department. Lessees, under the supervision of the department, shall stake off and mark the leased water bottoms in order to locate accurately and fix the limits of the water bottoms embraced by each lease. Areas shall also be prominently marked with signs which state the lease number and name or initials of the lessee.

Restrictions

No person shall trawl or seine over any privately leased bedding grounds or oyster propagating place which is staked off, marked, or posted as required by law or regulation.

Culling oysters, which is the act of discarding undersized oysters or dead shell, shall be performed only on the open designated public grounds or on private leases on which the fisherman is authorized to take oysters. At no time will the act of culling oysters be permitted in areas closed to harvesting oysters.

Oysters may only be landed out of state by lease holders from privately leased areas with a permit to do so.

FINFISH

Recreational Size and Possession Limits for Louisiana are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Speckled trout	25	50 off water only	12	
Red drum	5	10 off water only	16	1 over 27
Cobia	2	2	37	
Black drum	5	5	16	1 over 27
Red snapper**	5	5	15	
King mackerel*	2	2	14	
Spanish mackerel	10	10	14	
Queen, mutton ¹ , schoolmaster, blackfin, cubera, gray ¹ , dog, mahogany, silk, yellowtail snappers ¹ and wenchman**	10 (in aggregate)	10*	12	
All grouper**	5 (in aggregate)	5*		
Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper			20	
Lane and vermillion snapper	No limit	No limit	8	
Jewfish	Harvest prohibited			
Greater amberjack**	1	1	28 FL	
Black seabass	No limit	No limit	8	
Mullet	100 pounds per person year round			

*Charter vessels and head boats are allowed two daily bag limits on multi-day trips under two conditions: 1) the vessel has two licensed operators as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips of over 12 hours and 2) each passenger has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

**Charter vessels and headboats permitted by the NMFS under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fishes are allowed two daily bag limits under conditions described above.

Commercial Size and Possession Limits for Louisiana are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Speckled trout*			14	
Sheepshead			10	
Black drum**			16	
Spanish mackerel			14	
King mackerel			14	
Red snapper			15	
Gray, mutton, yellowtail snapper			12	
Lane and vermillion snapper			8	
Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper			20	
Jewfish	Harvest prohibited			
Cobia	2	2	37	
Greater amberjack			36 FL	
Flounder - shrimp vessel		100 lb. per shrimp vessel		
Flounder - other legal means		10 per licensed fisherman per day		
Mullet				
Bowfin			22	

*Annual harvest quota of 1 million pounds.

**Fishermen required to possess a special "Black Drum" permit in order to harvest fish greater than 27" TL.

***Fishermen fishing shark must obtain a permit.

****Fishermen must possess a Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Permit to commercially harvest/sell reef fish.

Recreational Licenses

Residents and non-residents under 16 years of age and residents 60 years of age and older, who have resided within the state for two years prior to application, shall not be required to obtain licenses, permits, or pay fees to fish recreationally. Proof of age must be carried on person.

A recreational gear license is required of all persons using recreational gear, no exemptions except for certain military personnel as stated below.

Persons in the armed forces of the U.S. and their resident dependents shall, for license purposes, be allowed to purchase and use resident licenses.

Any citizen of the state of Louisiana on active duty in the armed forces of the U.S. and who is assigned to an active duty post located outside the state of Louisiana shall not be required to obtain a license (including recreational gear license) or pay a fee to fish while visiting the state, provided that he has in his possession proper written evidence that his absence from his active duty assignment is authorized.

Veterans having a permanent service connected disability classification of 50% or more and who are Louisiana residents or resident persons who are blind, paraplegic, or multiple amputees shall upon identification and proof of disability satisfactory to the department, be issued sports licenses without the payment of any fees thereof. Any resident who is a single amputee shall upon identification and proof of disability satisfactory to the department, be issued a basic and saltwater fishing license without the payment of any fees thereof.

All other Resident recreational fishermen shall purchase an annual Basic Fishing License for \$5.50. Licenses are available on May 1 and expire on June 30 of the following year. All other non-residents must purchase a Basic Fishing License for \$31.00 for the period from May 1 through June 30 or a basic 3-day (\$10.00) or 7-day (\$26.00) license.

Additional Licenses

- Resident Hook and Line License - \$2.50
- Resident Saltwater License - \$5.50
- Non-resident Saltwater License - \$36.00
- Non-resident Saltwater - 7 Day - \$26.00
- Non-resident Combo - 3 Day - \$34.00
- Non-resident Basic Fish Trip - 3 Day - \$10.00
- Recreational gear licenses required in addition to the basic fishing license:
- Resident Hoop Nets (up to 5) - \$20.00
- Non-resident Hoop Nets (up to 5) - \$80.00
- Resident Slat Traps (up to 5) - \$20.00
- Non-resident Slat Traps (up to 5) - \$80.00
- Lifetime Licenses:
- Resident Basic and Saltwater - \$300.00
- Resident Basic and Saltwater (under 14 years of age) - \$200.00
- Resident Combination Fishing and Hunting - \$500.00
- Resident Combination Fishing and Hunting (under 14) - \$300.00
- Non-resident Combination Hunting and Fishing - \$3,000.00

Sailfish, blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, hatchet marlin, white marlin and red drum are game fish in Louisiana and may not be offered for sale.

All saltwater finfish except tuna, garfish, swordfish and sharks possessed by recreational fishermen shall have the head and caudal fin intact when set or put on shore from a vessel. Bowfin eggs (roe) that are not naturally connected to a whole fish cannot be possessed by fishermen, while on the water. All tuna, garfish, swordfish, and sharks possessed by a recreational fisherman shall not be skinned or scaled until set or put on shore from a vessel.

OTHER COMMERCIAL FISHING

Licenses

A commercial fisherman taking fish, including bait species, from state waters or possessing fish in the state must purchase a commercial fisherman's license. It is unlawful for the owner of a licensed commercial fishing vessel to permit any person not holding a valid, original commercial fisherman's license to operate such licensed vessel while the vessel is engaged in commercial fishing or while in possession of fish for sale in the waters of the state. Violation subjects the vessel owner to revocation of license and seizure of the vessel and all fish and equipment aboard. Helpers or persons assisting, or engaged in, operations while aboard commercial fishing vessels need not have a commercial fisherman's license in his name as long as the captain or owner of the vessel while aboard the vessel has in his name a valid and original commercial fisherman's license. A commercial fisherman may only sell to a Louisiana wholesale/retail dealer. Only one commercial fisherman's license is required for each menhaden seine being used to take menhaden or other herring-like fish.

A commercial fisherman must possess a valid and original commercial gear license whenever using or possessing such gear on the fishing grounds. In the event more than one gear type is in possession on the fishing grounds a gear license for each gear type must be in possession. A gear license is required for each piece of gear or each type of gear in use or in possession, whichever is applicable. It is unlawful for a commercial gear licensee to permit a person not holding a valid, original commercial fisherman's license to use gear under privilege of the commercial gear license. Violation subjects the commercial gear licensee to revocation of the commercial gear license and seizure of gear.

A vessel must be licensed whenever engaged in commercial fishing or whenever possessing fish for sale in the saltwater areas of the state. Vessel licenses are issued in the name of the owner (person having legal ownership of the vessel; includes association, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity) of the vessel and shall list the owner's name and address, the vessel name and registration or documentation number, and any other information required by the department.

Other Commercial Licenses	Resident	Non-resident
Commercial Fisherman	\$ 55.00	\$ 460.00
Hoop Net	25.00	100.00
Freshwater Gill Net	25.00	100.00
Trammel Net	25.00	100.00
Fish Seine	25.00	100.00
Slat Trap	25.00	100.00
Purse/Menhaden	505.00	2020.00
Saltwater Gill Net	250.00	1000.00
Vessel	15.00	60.00
Minnnow Trap	25.00	100.00
Cans, Buckets, Pipes, Drums, Tires	25.00	100.00

Spear Gun	25.00	100.00
Wire Net	25.00	100.00
Mullet Permit	100.00	400.00
Set Line (Trot, Bush, Long, etc.)	25.00	100.00
Dip/Cast Net	25.00	100.00
Flounder Gig	25.00	100.00
Eel Pots	25.00	100.00
Reptile & Amphibian Collector	25.00	200.00
Reptile & Amphibian Collector (under 16 years of age)	10.00	N/A
Crawfish Traps	25.00	100.00

Restrictions

Passage of new legislation has implemented strict requirements to enter the commercial net fisheries for finfish. Gear restrictions, special permits, seasons, times, and methods of taking commercial finfish have recently taken place. For information about the commercial finfish fishery, contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division.

No commercial gear license for gill nets and purse seines shall be issued to any non-resident whose domiciliary state prohibits the use of those nets in commercial fishing. It is illegal to use or employ any aircraft including fixed wing aircraft, dirigibles, balloons, helicopters, or any other form of aerial surveillance in the airspace of this state to assist in the taking of finfish except in the fisheries of menhaden and herring-like fish.

Mesh size of hoop or wire nets must be at least 1" square or 2" stretched after treating with tar or copper. The use of monofilament for any type net is prohibited in saltwater areas of the state. The use of purse seines is prohibited in inside waters. The use of purse seines is prohibited except for taking of menhaden and herring-like species. It is illegal to enter state waters with purse seine and speckled trout or red drum on same vessel.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

- Resident Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer - \$105.00
- Resident Reptile & Amphibian Transport License - \$30.00
- Non-resident Reptile & Amphibian Transport License - \$120.00
- Non-resident Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer - \$405.00
- Resident Wholesale/Retail Dealer Vehicle or Business- \$250.00
- Non-resident Wholesale/Retail Dealer Vehicle or Business - \$1,105.00
- Resident Seafood Dealer - \$105.00
- Non-resident Seafood Dealer - \$405.00
- Transport License - \$30.00
- Resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (up to 6 passengers) - \$250.00
- Non-resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (up to 6 passengers) - \$1,000.00
- Resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (over 6 passengers) - \$500.00
- Non-resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (over 6 passengers) - \$2,000.00

Note: Reptile and Amphibian Transport License can only be purchased by an in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License or a Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Transport licenses can only be purchased by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License or Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Persons operating under a transport license are prohibited from buying and selling, by any means whatsoever, any species of fish, except when a person transporting fish under the privilege of a Louisiana transport license purchased in connection with a Louisiana wholesale/retail dealer's license buys fish for or on behalf of the wholesale/retail dealer to whom such transport license was issued and only transports such fish to that wholesale/retail dealer. Transport licenses are freely transferable between vehicles.

MISSISSIPPI

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Mississippi. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1997, but change may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Marine Law Enforcement, 298 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530 (228/432-7708).

SHRIMP

Commercial License

Shrimp Boat under 30' - \$60.00
Shrimp Boat 30'-45' - \$85.00
Shrimp Boat over 45' - \$110.00
Captain's License - \$10.00

A resident of another state will be charged the same fee for a license as a Mississippi resident would be charged for a license in that state.

Recreational License

Resident - \$15.00

Commercial Season

Trawling is prohibited north of the Intracoastal Waterway (tugboat channel) after sunset of December 31, except by licensed live bait dealers. Shrimp season is officially opened by public notice at such a time that the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) has determined that the shrimp have reached legal size (statistically probable in the second week of June).

Additionally, the area south of the Intracoastal Waterway will be closed after April 30 of each year and prior to the opening of the season for shrimp.

Recreational Season

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp apply.

Commercial Gear Limitations

It shall be unlawful to use a bib, tongue, or any like device (except Siamese trawls), between January 1 and the third Monday in August.

Shrimp may be taken in any manner south of a line formed by the barrier islands of Cat, Ship, Horn, and Petit Bois. North of this line (within Mississippi Sound), shrimp may only be taken with a single net measuring no larger than 50' along the headrope and 60' along the footrope or not more than two nets, each measuring no more than 25' on the headrope and 32' on the footrope. A test (or try) trawl no larger than 12' along the headrope and 15' along the footrope used with boards not more than 30' in length is permitted.

In addition, the wings of push-nets (chopsticks) may not be attached to the rigid supports or poles for a distance greater than 24' on each side.

No saltboxes may be used for either recreational or commercial shrimpers. "Saltbox" shall mean any container or similar device in which the salinity is greater than one hundred (100) parts per thousand and is used to aid in separating the shrimp from the bycatch.

Recreational Gear Limitations

Holders of a recreational shrimping license are limited to the use of a single net measuring no larger than 16' on the cork line. Persons catching shrimp with cast or brail nets shall not remove the heads of the shrimp on site. Cast or brail nets cannot exceed 12' maximum radius or length.

Commercial Legal Size

Shrimp smaller than 68-count are not to be taken.

Recreational Legal Size

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp apply.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

No limit. Limit of 50 pounds when caught by cast or brail nets.

LIVE BAIT

Licenses

Live Bait Dealer - \$50.00
Live Bait Boat - \$100.00
Captain's License - \$10.00 (required for a live bait license holder)

Written application for live bait licenses must be made to the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources between January 1 and April 30 preceding the license year.

Season

Live bait trawling is permitted only during the hours between 30 minutes before sunrise and ending at sunset; areas are not opened to live bait shrimp until shrimp average at least 100 count.

Gear

Trawls cannot be larger than 16' on the headrope and 22' on the footrope, except areas west of Bayou Caddy where trawls may be 25' on the headrope and 32' on the footrope.

Legal Size

Shrimp of 100-count to the pound are the minimum legal size for licensed live bait dealers.

Pounds Allowed

No more than 30 pounds of dead shrimp allowed onboard at any time.

Restrictions

Live bait dealers must mark their boats with the words "LIVE BAIT" in letters no smaller than 6" high on both the port and starboard sides of the boat. The name of the bait camp must be similarly displayed on the boat and transport vehicle. Fish caught coincidental to a live bait operation may be retained and sold for chum; however, if crabs are to be kept, the dealer is also required to hold a valid Mississippi crab license. Fish retained must be of legal size. Live bait camps must meet the following special requirements: each camp must have adequate holding and aerating systems which must be cleaned of dead shrimp at least every 12 hours; no bulk sales of dead shrimp are permitted; dead shrimp may be sold only with heads on and in 16 oz. containers. No more than five 16 oz. containers may be sold to an individual in one day. Someone must be readily available to serve customers during appropriate hours, and each live bait-dealer application must include these hours which must be at least eight per 24 hour period.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS AND CLAMS**License Requirements**

Tonging - \$50.00

Dredging - \$100.00

Recreational (Residents Only) - \$10.00

Seasons

Season is regulated by legal notice from the Commission on Marine Resources, and notice thereof will be duly published in local newspapers and released to both the radio and television media. During open season, oysters may be taken only during daylight hours.

Gear

Oysters may be taken by any of the traditional methods of oystering in the state of Mississippi, that is, by hand (cooning), with tongs, or by using a dredge. Dredges for oystering may not exceed 115 pounds in weight nor may they have in excess of 16 teeth. Restrictions on the maximum number of dredges carried will be established seasonally by the Commission on Marine Resources.

Size Limits

Oysters taken in state waters must be at least 3" long from hing to bill. At times, however, the MDMR may decrease this limit upon public notice to that effect.

Limits

Recreational and commercial catch limits are set annually (set by state statute 97-15-29).

Leases

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources conducts a program of oyster leasing. Any resident of the state may lease state waterbottoms for the purpose of oyster culture. Oysters taken from private lease areas must be so designated by tags indicating the official leased number issued by the MDMR.

Restrictions

Both recreational and commercial harvesters must purchase a license from the MDMR. Oysters may be taken only from those waters approved for shellfish harvest by the MDMR. The harvesting, shucking, processing, and sale of oysters must also conform to all regulations specified by the MDMR. Following heavy rains, natural reefs and leased areas may be temporarily closed. Such closures are published in local newspapers and released to local television and radio media. Oysters taken from state waters must be tagged. These tags are issued by the MDMR at officially designated check-in/check-out stations. These stations will be identified in the opening order for oyster season. Both commercial and recreational oystermen must check in at the designated check station before going to reefs and must check out at the same station. Station hours are from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. during harvest. Tags are issued at the time of inspection. Each tag must be completed with the catcher's name, date caught, area caught, and the shell-stock dealer's name and identification number if the oysters are to be sold. Oysters taken from other than state waters must be accompanied by a bill of lading indicating the point of origin. Oysters taken for personal consumption must also be inspected, and a tag will be issued for each sack. Such tags will identify that the contents are not to be sold.

SHELLFISH - CRABS**Licenses**

Commercial Crabbing - \$75.00

Restrictions

Crabs may also be taken by trawl; however, the trawl must not exceed the maximum allowable dimensions specified for shrimp and must comply with all other regulations governing the use of a trawl. All crabs incidentally caught in trawls must be immediately returned to the water unless the boat operator holds a valid state crab fishing license. Crab pots or traps must be visibly marked with the license number (MI #) of the owner or a registered color code on the buoy.

A crap trap float line must be of material easily cut with a knife. It shall be unlawful to have any sponge crabs (egg-bearing crabs, except for those taken legally in another state) at any time. All sponge crabs shall immediately be returned to the water alive during this period. It is illegal to remove crabs from traps for which one is not specifically licensed. A valid crabbing license must be obtained when using in excess of six crab traps or whenever crabs caught are to be offered for sale.

Legal Size

All crabs (except for peeler crabs and soft-shell crabs) must be larger than 5" measured from the tip of one lateral spine across the back of the shell to the tip of the opposite lateral spine.

FINFISH

Commercial Size and Possession Limits for Mississippi are as follows:

Species	Daily Bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Red drum	Quota*	Quota*	18 TL	1 over 30 TL
Spotted seatrout	Quota**	Quota**	14 TL	
Mullet	No Limit	No Limit	10 TL	
Cobia***	2	2	37 TL	
Spanish mackerel	No Limit	No Limit	14 FL	
Red snapper	Quota	Quota	15 TL	

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell, offer for sale, barter, trade or purchase any red drum smaller than the minimum legal length established in Mississippi for red drum or red drum taken from the waters of the state of Mississippi during a closed commercial season for red drum.

*There is a 35,000 lb annual commercial quota.

**There is a 40,000 lb limit.

***No commercial sale of cobia is allowed.

Saltwater fishermen cannot use multiple-point hooks (i.e., treble hooks) when fishing with live, dead, or cut bait.

Recreational Size and Possession Limits for Mississippi are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Red drum*	3	3	18 TL	1 over 30 TL
Spotted seatrout	15	15	14 TL	No Limit
Cobia **	2	2	37 TL	No Limit
King mackerel	2	2	20 FL	No Limit
Red snapper	5	5	15 TL	

*The sale, offering for sale, purchase, barter or trade of red drum caught by saltwater sports fishermen is prohibited.

**The sale of cobia is prohibited.

Saltwater sportsfishermen not fishing in the waters of the state of Mississippi may transport and land spotted seatrout and red drum with size and creel limits less than those above, provided such fish were legally taken in the waters under the jurisdiction of a state adjoining Mississippi and meet that state's minimum size and creel requirements. Said saltwater sportsfishermen must possess a valid saltwater sportsfishing license as may be required in the state where the fish were caught. In the absence of minimum size requirements in an adjoining jurisdiction, Mississippi law will prevail.

SALTWATER NETS

Licenses

- Resident Recreational (Hook and Line) - \$4.00*
- Resident Gill & Trammel Net - \$100.00

Resident Charter, Party - \$200.00
Commercial Hook and Line - \$100.00
Resident Menhaden Boat/Net - \$150.00

*Valid for recreational hook and line fishing south of U.S. Interstate Highway 10. Saltwater sport fishermen are not permitted to sell, barter, trade, or offer for sale any saltwater fish caught or landed in Mississippi.

Restrictions

Saltwater finfish may be taken from Mississippi waters by any of the following methods: hook and line, trotline, throwline, spear, gig, bow and arrow, cast net, and brail nets (less than 12' maximum radius; no freshwater species may be in possession while using cast or brail net), small-mesh beach seine (under 100' in length and with a maximum ¼" bar), Brill net, shrimp trawl, trammel net, gill net, wing net, beach and purse seines (all must be under 1200' in total length and with a minimum 1½" square stretched mesh size and 1¾" square mesh October 15-December 15), fish traps (smaller than 1"x½" mesh size). Only single point hooks may be used while fishing with live, dead, or cut bait (artificial lures/baits excluded).

Nets, seines, or traps used for catching fish other than mullet are not permitted within 1200' of any pier or harbor. Mullet fishing is defined as any net fishing activity in which 90% or more of the total catch by weight consists of mullet. Mullet fishing using fish traps, seines, or nets other than cast or brail nets is not permitted within 1200' of any public or hotel/motel pier nor within 300' of any private pier, provided that such piers are in usable condition and extend 75' or more from the shoreline. Nets must not exceed 1200' in length. King mackerel fishing is defined as fishing activity in which the sole purpose is to catch king mackerel; and the catching in excess of 10% by weight of species other than king mackerel while net fishing for king mackerel is prohibited. All nets except purse seines and trawls used for mullet fishing must be of mesh sizes 1½" square (3" stretched) or larger. Between October 15 through December 15 of each year, gill and trammel nets must be of a mesh size of one and three-fourths (1¾) inch square, three and one-half (3½) inch stretch or larger, and it shall be unlawful for any boat to use more than one (1) such net. On and after January 1, 1997, all gill and trammel nets must be constructed of an approved degradable material. An approved degradable material list will be on file with the Executive Director of the MDMR or his designee.

Nets must not exceed 1200' in length. Purse seines may not exceed 1500' in length, except those used expressly to catch menhaden and must have a mesh size no smaller than ½" square (1" stretched). Mullet fishing using fish traps, seines, or nets other than cast or Brill nets is not permitted within 1200' of any public or hotel/motel pier nor within 300' of any private pier, provided that such piers are in usable condition and extend 75' or more from the shoreline. Nets or seines must be attended at all times from a distance no greater than the length of the boat in use. All nets, regardless of type, must be clearly marked with the owner's name or license number on floats or buoys placed at intervals of 100' or less. All fish traps or pots and eel traps or pots must be clearly marked with the owner's full name, permit, or license number. All fish traps or pots and eel traps or pots must be checked and emptied at least once every 48 hours.

Nets, seines, or fish traps are not permitted in any of the following areas: 1) within any river, bayou, creek, canal, stream, tributary, lake, bay, inlet, or other water source entering into salt waters except: Point aux Chenes Bay, Middle Bay, Jose Bay, L'Isle Chaude Bay, Heron Bay, South Rigolets, Biloxi Bay, south of a line between Marsh Point and Grand Bayou, parts of Pascagoula Bay; 2) within 1200' of the shoreline of Deer Island; 3) within one mile of the shorelines of Cat or Round islands or from the shoals of Telegraph Keys or Telegraph Reef during the period from May 15 through September 15 of each year and within one mile of Horn, Ship, and Petit Bois islands year round; 4) within 1500 feet from the shoreline between the U.S. Highway 90 bridge and the north shore of Bayou Caddy in Hancock County.

Nets, seines, or fish traps are not permitted within 100' of the mouth of any bay, bayou, creek, canal, stream, lake, inlet, channel, or tributary or within any areas that would block the mouth of any such water body. Boats are permitted to use only one approved net as specified.

When landing reports, as required by law, indicate that the 35,000 pound catch limit for red drum and the total allowable catch (TAC) for commercial spotted seatrout landings (beginning October 1 through September 30 each year) have been reached, the DMR will, with adequate notice, issue a news release and public notice closing state waters to the commercial net fishing for red drum and spotted seatrout for the remainder of that year. Purse seines may not be used to catch in excess of 5% by weight in any set of the net any of the following: spotted seatrout, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, dolphin, pompano, cobia, or jack crevalle. It is illegal for any vessel carrying a purse seine to have onboard in excess of 10% by weight of the total catch, any of the aforementioned species. It is illegal for any vessel carrying a purse seine to have onboard any quantity of red drum. Commercial fishermen are not permitted to have in their possession any Atlantic bluefin tuna.

It shall be unlawful to use and or set a gill net within ½ mile of the Mississippi shoreline. From 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., no gill and trammel nets shall be set or otherwise used for the taking of aquatic life within one-half (½) nautical mile of the shoreline or any manmade structure attached to the shoreline from Bayou Caddy in Hancock County to Marsh Point in Ocean Springs, Jackson County.*

From 6:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m., no gill and trammel nets shall be set or otherwise used for the taking of aquatic life within one-quarter (¼) nautical mile of the shoreline or any manmade structure attached to the shoreline from Bayou Caddy in Hancock County to Marsh Point in Ocean Springs, Jackson County.*

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to possess fish in, or in contact with, any gill or trammel net in a boat in the marine waters of Mississippi in the St. Louis Bay north of the CSX Railroad Bridge; in Biloxi Bay north of a line drawn between Marsh Point and Grand Bayou; in Pascagoula Bay north of the CSX Railroad Bridge.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to set or otherwise use a gill or trammel net in the marine waters of Mississippi or to possess fish in, or in contact with, a gill or trammel net in a boat in the marine waters of Mississippi between 6:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to set or otherwise use a gill or trammel net in the marine waters of Mississippi or to possess fish in, or in contact with, a gill or trammel net in a boat in the marine waters of Mississippi between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on legal holidays established by the Mississippi legislature and as set forth in Mississippi Code Annotated §3-3-7.

No gill or trammel nets shall be set within one-quarter (¼) nautical mile of another gill or trammel net.

Gill and trammel nets must be attended at all times from a distance of no greater than the length of the boat in use.*

**Major changes are forthcoming in this law.*

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

Interstate Commerce - \$20.00

Resident Seafood Dealer - \$100.00

Resident Seafood Processor - \$200.00

Resident Menhaden Processor - \$500.00

Transport Permit - \$100.00

A non-resident will pay the same fee for a license that a Mississippi resident is charged as a non-resident if the fee is more than that listed.

TEXAS

Information in this section is current as of September 1, 1997 and may change due to Texas Legislative or Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission action(s). This section is only a brief and incomplete summary of Texas fishing regulations. More detailed information can be obtained by contacting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744 (1-800-792-1112) or (512) 389-4628.

SHRIMP

Shrimp License Management

A limited entry plan for the Texas bay and bait shrimp fishery became effective in June 1995. An individual must have held a valid bay and/or bait license on April 1, 1995 to be eligible to participate in the fishery beginning September 1, 1995. The department may renew a bay or bait license only if the person seeking renewal owns the commercial bay and/or bait shrimp boat for which the license renewal is sought and held the bay and/or bait license during the preceding year.

Commercial Shrimp Licenses

Resident: An individual who has resided continuously in this state for more than six months immediately before applying for a license.

Non-resident: An individual who has not resided continuously in this state for at least six months immediately before applying for a license.

Gulf Shrimp Boat License (Resident \$275.00/ Non-resident \$1025.00): Required for each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in the Gulf of Mexico or "outside" waters of the state for taking shrimp and other aquatic products for pay, barter, sale, or exchange or for boats unloading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters.

Bay Shrimp Boat License (Resident \$195.00/Non-resident \$525.00): Required for each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in the inside major bay waters of the state for taking shrimp for pay, barter, sale, or exchange.

Bait Shrimp Boat License (Resident \$195.00/Non-resident \$525.00): Required for each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in the inside waters of the state for taking bait shrimp for pay, barter, sale, or exchange.

Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's License (Resident \$25.00/Non-resident \$100.00): Required of any person who operates a commercial shrimp boat catching or attempting to catch shrimp and other aquatic products from the public waters of this state or unloading or attempting to unload in this state shrimp and other aquatic products taken from waters outside this state.

Recreational Shrimping Licenses

- Resident Sportfishing License - \$19.00
- Temporary (3-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$10.00
- Temporary (10-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$12.00
- Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$30.00
- Temporary (5-day) Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$20.00
- Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$7.00
- Individual Bait Shrimp Trawl Tag - \$23.00

Commercial Shrimping Seasons

Gulf:

The "outside waters" within 7 fathoms are closed to night shrimping (30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise) throughout the year.

The "outside waters" are closed from 30 minutes after sunset on May 15 to 30 minutes after sunset on July 15. The closing and opening dates of this season may be changed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission or the Executive Director to provide for an earlier or later season. The closing date may be changed with a 72-hour public notice, and the season may be reopened with a 24-hour public notice. The closed season shall not exceed 75 days.

The "outside waters" within 7 fathoms are closed from December 16 through February 1. Seabobs may be taken in this closed season only during daylight hours and only by commercial gulf shrimp boats. The catch taken during this period may not include more than 10 percent by weight or numbers shrimp of other species than seabobs.

Major Bays-Inside Waters:

Spring open season in "major bays" is from May 15 to July 15 from 30 minutes before sunrise to 2:00 p.m.

Fall open season in "major bays" is from August 15 to December 15 from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Winter open season in "major bays" south of the Colorado River is from February 1 to April 15 from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

Bait Season-Inside Waters:

Season open year round. Legal shrimping hours: August 15 through March 31 - 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset; April 1 through August 14 - 30 minutes before sunrise to 2:00 p.m. There is a special 1:00 a.m. to 30 minutes before sunrise season in the Laguna Madre in Nueces County only. Check with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for information.

Recreational Shrimping Season

Same as commercial shrimp seasons.

Gear Restrictions

A beam trawl or otter trawl with a bag-shaped net which is used to catch shrimp. Beam Trawl: A trawl, without wings, the mouth of which is held open by a rigid beam of wood or metal. Otter Trawl: A funnel-shaped trawl, with wings, the mouth of which is held open by floats and weights and spread by trawl doors fastened to the wings.

Commercial Gear Restrictions

Trawl Size-Gulf:

No width restriction except during the winter closed season while shrimping for seabobs. During the winter closed season, no more than one trawl not exceeding 25' measured between the doors along an uninterrupted corkline including any and all add on devices.

A try net not exceeding 21' in width as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add on devices, or a beam trawl not exceeding 10' in width may also be used. Try net doors or boards may not exceed 450 square inches.

Fall Open Season-Major Bays Inside Waters:

Net may not exceed 95' in width measured from leading tip of door to leading tip of door along the uninterrupted corkline including any and all add on devices.

A try net not exceeding 21' in width as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add on devices, or a beam trawl not exceeding 10' in width may also be used. Try net doors or boards may not exceed 450 square inches.

Spring & Winter Open Seasons-Major Bays Inside Waters and Bait Season-Inside Waters:

Net may not exceed a total measurement as described in the chart below as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add on devices. Doors may not be less than 3' in length as measured along the door centerline from the leading tip to the trailing edge of the door.

Doors	Trawl	Doors	Trawl
3'-4'	40'	4'-5'	42'
5'-6'	44'	6'-7'	46'
7'-8'	48'	8'-9'	50'
9'-10'	52'	10' or more	54'

In the case of a beam trawl, the beam trawl shall not exceed 25' in width as measured along the beam in its fully extended position.

A try net not exceeding 21' in width as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add on devices, or a beam trawl not exceeding 10' in width may also be used. Try net doors or boards may not exceed 450 square inches.

Recreation Gear Restrictions

Trawl: Trawl may not exceed 20' in width as measured from back of door along an uninterrupted corkline including any and all add on devices. Doors or boards may not exceed 15"x30" each or a total of 450 square inches each.

Commercial Shrimp Size Restrictions

There are no size restrictions on shrimp caught under a Gulf, Bay, or Bait Commercial Shrimp Boat License, except: Shrimp caught under a Bay License in Major Bays-Inside Waters from August 15 through October 31 are required to average in count 50 heads-on or less.

Recreation Size Restrictions

Commercial shrimp size restrictions apply.

Commercial Shrimp Bag Limits

Gulf: No limit on amount of shrimp taken.

Major Bays & Bait Bays-Inside Waters: During fall and winter open season in major bays-inside waters, under a Bay License, there is no limit on amount of shrimp taken. During the spring open season in major bays-inside waters, under a Bay License, no more than 600 pounds of shrimp per boat per day may be taken. During bait season in bait bays-inside waters, under a Bait License, no more than 200 pounds of shrimp per boat per day may be taken. Fifty percent (50%) of commercial bait shrimp onboard must be kept in a live condition except from August 16 through November 15.

Recreational Shrimp Bag Limits

Gulf: 100 pounds per person per day for personal use; 2 quarts per person or 4 quarts per boat if two or more licensed persons onboard for bait purposes.

Major Bays and Bait Bays: 15 pounds per person per day for personal use in major bays; 2 quarts per person or 4 quarts per boat if two or more licensed persons onboard for bait purposes.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS

Commercial Oyster Licenses

Commercial Oyster Boat License (Resident \$350.00/Non-resident \$1400.00): Required for each boat used to transport or for taking oysters for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose from the public waters of this state by utilizing a dredge, tongs, or other mechanical means.

Commercial Oyster Boat Captain's License (Resident \$25.00/Non-resident \$100.00): Required of any person who operates a commercial oyster boat while taking oysters from the public waters of this state.

Commercial Oyster Fisherman's License (Resident \$100.00/Non-resident \$250.00): Required of any person who takes oysters from the public waters of this state for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose.

Recreational Oyster Licenses

Sport Oyster Boat License (Resident \$10.00/Non-resident \$40.00): Required when using a sport oyster dredge or tongs to take oysters.

Resident Sportfishing License - \$19.00

Temporary (3-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$10.00

Temporary (10-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$12.00

Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$30.00

Temporary (5-day) Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$20.00

Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$7.00

Commercial Oyster Season

Season is open from November 1 through April 30 except on all private leases with permits from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where there is no closed season. During open season oysters may be taken only from sunrise to sunset.

Recreational Oyster Season

Same as commercial oyster season. Oysters may be taken only from waters approved by the State Commissioner of Health.

Commercial Gear Restrictions

Oyster Dredge: Not more than 48" in width across the mouth. No more than two barrel capacity. May not use more than one dredge. May not have more than one dredge connected in any manner to a winch, chain, or other lifting device during the open public season. May not have on board any dredge(s), other than the one connected to a winch, chain, or other lifting device, unless secured below deck, to or on the wheelhouse, or to the deck in such a manner as to not be readily accessible for use.

Recreational Gear Restrictions

Oyster Dredge: Not more than 48" in width across the mouth. May not have more than one dredge connected in any manner to a winch, chain, or other lifting device during the open public season. May not have on board any dredge(s), other than the one connected to a winch, chain, or other lifting device, unless secured below deck, to or on the wheelhouse, or to the deck in such a manner as to not be readily accessible for use.

Size Limits

Commercial and Recreational: It is unlawful for any person to take or possess a cargo of oysters more than 15% of which are between ¾ inch and 3 inches measured from beak to bill or along an imaginary line through the long axis of the shell.

Oyster Bag Limits

Commercial: Commercial boats are limited to not more than 50 barrels of legal oysters. Not more than two barrels of uncultured oysters are permitted onboard while fishing on a reef.

Recreational: It is unlawful to take or possess more than two bushels of legal sized oysters per person.

Leases

Leases are granted to individuals upon approval of Coastal Fisheries Division.

SHELLFISH - CRABS

On June 20, 1997, legislation was passed authorizing the Texas Parks and Wildlife to establish a license limitation system for the Texas commercial crab fishery. Issues regarding eligibility, transferability, and appeals are not final at this time and may affect future eligibility for this fishery.

Commercial Crab Licenses

General Commercial Fisherman's License (Resident \$20.00/Non-resident \$150.00): Required for any person who catches aquatic products from the waters of this state for pay for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose.

Commercial Fishing Boat License (Resident \$15.00/Non-resident \$60.00): Required of each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in taking aquatic products except menhaden, oysters, and shrimp from the public waters of the state or for boats unloading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters for pay, barter, exchange, sale, or any commercial purpose.

Commercial Crab Trap Tag (\$1.50): Required to be attached to each commercial crab trap placed in public waters.

Recreational Crab Licenses

Resident Sportfishing License - \$19.00

Temporary (3-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$10.00

Temporary (10-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$12.00
Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$30.00
Temporary (5-day) Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$20.00
Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$7.00

Commercial Crab Season

No closed season for the taking of crabs. No person may remove crab traps from the water or remove crabs from crab traps during the period from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

Recreational Crab Season

No closed season for the taking of crabs. No person may remove crab traps from the water or remove crabs from crab traps during the period from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

Crab Restrictions

Possession and Sale: It is unlawful to possess egg bearing (sponge) crabs of any species, to purchase or sell a female crab that has its abdominal apron detached, to fail to return immediately a stone crab to the waters where caught, remove or possess onboard a vessel on public waters the left claw from a stone crab.

Size Limits: May not possess blue crabs less than 5 inches in width, measured across the widest point of the body from tip of spine to tip of spine. Not more than 5%, by number, of undersized crabs may be possessed if placed in a separate container at the time of taking. Each right stone crab claw retained must be at least 2½ inches long as measured from the tip of the immovable claw to the first joint behind the claw.

Gear Restrictions

Commercial: It is unlawful to fish for commercial purposes with more than 200 crab traps at one time; to fish a crab trap in the fresh waters of the state; to fish a crab trap that exceeds 18 cubic feet in volume and is not equipped with at least two escape vents (minimum 2¾ inches inside diameter) in each crab retaining chamber and located on the lower edge of the outside trap walls; to fish a crab trap that is not equipped with a degradable panel*; to fish a crab trap for commercial purposes that is not marked with a floating white buoy not less than six inches in height, six inches in length, and six inches in width attached to the crab trap; to fish a crab trap in public waters that is marked with a buoy made of a plastic bottle of any color or size; to fish a crab trap in public salt waters without a valid gear tag that has a date that is more than 30 days old attached to the buoy.

Recreational: It is unlawful to fish for non-commercial purposes with more than six crab traps at one time; to fish a crab trap in the fresh waters of the state; to fish a crab trap that exceeds 18 cubic feet in volume and is not equipped with at least two escape vents (minimum 2¾ inches inside diameter) in each crab retaining chamber and located on the lower edge of the outside trap walls; to fish a crab trap that is not equipped with a degradable panel*; to fish a crab trap for non-commercial purposes that is not marked with a floating white buoy not less than six inches in height, six inches in length, and six inches in width, bearing a two inch wide center stripe of contrasting color, attached to the crab trap.

*Degradable panel - the trap lid tie-down strap secured to the trap at one end by a simple loop of untreated jute or sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390, #530) or containing at least one sidewall, not including the bottom panel with a rectangular opening no smaller in either dimension than three by six inches. Any obstruction placed in this opening may not be secured in any manner except it may be laced, sewn, or otherwise obstructed by a single length of untreated jute or sisal twine knotted only at each end and not tied or looped more than once around a single mesh bar.

SHELLFISH - MUSSELS

Commercial Licenses

General Commercial Fisherman's License (Resident \$20.00/Non-resident \$150.00): Required for any person who catches aquatic products from the waters of this state for pay for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose.

Commercial Fishing Boat License (Resident \$15.00/Non-resident \$60.00): Required of each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in taking aquatic products except menhaden, oysters, and shrimp from the public waters of the state or for boats unloading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters for pay, barter, exchange, sale, or any commercial purpose.

Commercial Mussel and Clam Fisherman's License (Resident \$30.00/Non-resident \$800.00): Required of any person who takes mussels, clams, or their shells from the public waters of this state for commercial purposes.

Shell Buyer License (Resident \$100.00/Non-resident \$1500.00): Required to purchase for commercial use mussel and clam shells that have been taken from public waters.

Recreational Licenses

Resident Sportfishing License - \$19.00
Temporary (3-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$10.00
Temporary (10-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$12.00
Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$30.00
Temporary (5-day) Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$20.00
Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$7.00

Open Season

Season is open year round. May be taken only from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. May be taken for consumption only from waters approved by the State Commission of Health. Not all public fresh waters are open to the taking of mussels and clams. Check with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for information on closed areas.

Gear Restriction

May be taken by hand only.

Bag and Possession Limits

Commercial Limits: Mussel clam shells and pearl which have been harvested legally under the bag limit of 25 pounds per day of whole mussels and clams or 12 pounds of mussel and clam shells may be sold in jewelry or collectibles.

Recreational Limits: No person may take or possess, for personal use, more than 25 pounds of whole mussels and clams, or 12 pounds of mussel and clam shells, from the public waters of this state per day.

Size Limits

No person may take or possess mussels and clams, including their shells, of the following species that will pass through a ring with an inside diameter (I.D.) specified for that species.

Species	Ring I.D. in Inches
Washboard, <i>Megaloniais nervosa</i>	4.00
Threeridges and roundlakes, <i>Amblema</i> sp.	2.75
Mapleleaves and pimplebacks, <i>Quadrula</i> sp.	2.75
Tampico pearlymussel, <i>Cyrtoniais tampicoensis</i>	2.75
Bleufer, <i>Potamilus purpuratus</i>	2.75
All other species of freshwater mussels	2.50

FINFISH**Commercial Finfish Licenses**

General Commercial Fisherman's License (Resident \$20.00/Non-resident \$150.00): Required for any person who catches aquatic products from the waters of this state for pay for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose.

Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License (Resident \$75.00/Non-resident \$150.00): Required for any person who takes finfish for commercial purposes from the coastal waters of this state. Exemptions for holders of an individual Bait Dealer license, a Shrimp Boat Captain's License, and crew members on a licensed shrimp boat or licensed menhaden boat.

Commercial Fishing Boat License (Resident \$15.00/Non-resident \$60.00): Required of each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in taking aquatic products except menhaden, oysters, and shrimp from the public waters of the state or for boats unloading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters for pay, barter, exchange, sale, or any commercial purpose.

Recreational Licenses

- Resident Sportfishing License - \$19.00
- Temporary (3-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$10.00
- Temporary (10-day) Resident Sportfishing License - \$12.00
- Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$30.00
- Temporary (5-day) Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$20.00
- Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$7.00

Commercially Protected Finfish

The following finfish taken from Texas state waters may not be purchased, transported, or possessed for the purpose of sale, or offered for sale: bass of the genus *Micropterus*, striped bass, white bass, yellow bass, flathead catfish, crappie, red drum, jewfish, blue marlin, white marlin, muskellunge, Northern pike, sailfish, sauger, spotted seatrout, snook, longbill spearfish, tarpon, walleye, or hybrids of any of these fish. With a Texas Finfish Import License any person in this state may receive directly from another state or country, or import, transport, or sell for resale commercially protected finfish. To be lawfully imported, sold, or purchased in Texas, bass of the genus *Micropterus*, crappie, flathead catfish, red drum, striped bass, white bass, or a hybrid of these fish must be farm raised and fed a prepared feed containing 20% or more of plant protein or grain by-products as a primary food source.

COMMERCIAL SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSE

Wholesale Fish Dealers License (\$525.00 for each place of business)/Wholesale Fish Truck Dealers License (\$325.00 for each truck used as a place of business): Required for any person who operates a place of business and buys for the purpose of selling, canning, preserving, processing, or handling for shipments or sale aquatic products to retail or wholesale fish dealers, hotels, restaurants, cafes, or consumers.

Retail Fish Dealers License (\$46.00 for each place of business except trucks)/Retail Fish Truck License (\$86.00 for each truck used as a place of business): Required for any person who operates a place of business and buys aquatic products for the purpose of sale to consumers only.

Texas Finfish Import License (\$75.00): Required of any person in this state receiving any commercially protected finfish directly from another state or country, or importing, transporting, or selling for resale these fish in this state.

NET RESTRICTIONS

All public waters in Texas are closed to the use of any type of nets, except minnow seines and cast nets, to take finfish.

Size and Possession Limits for Texas Saltwater Finfish (all sizes are total length measurements as measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of a squeezed tail or turned tail if a fork-tailed fish to obtain the maximum overall length).

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
COMMERCIAL				
Amberjack, greater	1	2	32	
Drum, black*	5	10	14	30
Catfish, gafftopsail			14	
Flounder	60**	60*	14	None
Cobia	2	4	37	
Spanish mackerel	7	14	14	
King mackerel	2	4	23	
Mullet*			No minimum	12***
Pompano, Florida			9	
Snapper, lane			8	
Snapper, red	5	10	15	
Snapper, vermilion			8	
Sharks	5	10		
Sheepshead*	5	10	12	None
Fishermen holding a finfish fisherman license are exempt from bag limits on black drum, sheepshead, and flounder.				
RECREATIONAL				
Notice - There may be exceptions on certain lakes -- check digest.				
Amberjack, greater	1	2	32	
Bass, striped	5	10	18	None
Catfish, gafftopsail			14	
Cobia	2	4	37	
Drum, black	5	10	14	30
Drum, red***	3	6	20	28
Flounder	10	20	14	None
Jewfish	0	0	catch and release only	
Mackerel, king	2	4	23	

Mackerel, Spanish	7	14	14	
Marlin, blue			114	
Marlin, white			81	
Mullet*			No minimum	12 during Oct/Nov/ Dec/Jan
Sailfish			76	
Seatrou, spotted	10	20	15	
Sharks	5	10		
Sheepshead	5	10	12	
Snapper, lane			8	
Snapper, red	5	10	15	
Snapper, vermilion			8	
Snook	1	2	24	28
Tarpon (tarpon over 80" may be retained with special trophy tag)	0	0	catch and release only	
Black bass, large mouth small mouth	5**	10**	14	0
Catfish, flathead	5	10	18	None
Catfish, channel and blue	25**	50**	12	None
Crappie, white and black	25**	50**	10	0
Walleye	5	10	16	0

*Special Regulation: Bag and possession limits for black drum and sheepshead do not apply to the holder of a valid Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License.
**Special Regulation: The daily bag and possession limit for the holder of a valid Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License is 60 flounder, except on board a licensed commercial shrimp boat.
***Special Regulation: During the period October through January, no mullet more than 12 inches in length may be taken from public waters or possessed on board a vessel.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

NMFS Permits and Regulations Branch 813-570-5326

NMFS nationwide federal fishing violations hotline 800-853-1964

NMFS 24-hour tuna information line 888-USA-TUNA

NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division 301-713-2347

South Atlantic Fishery Mgmt. Council 803-571-4366

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Comm. 228-875-5912

U.S. Coast Guard, 7th District (Florida east of St. Marks) 305-536-5654

U.S. Coast Guard, 8th District (St. Marks, Florida to Texas) 504-589-6298

NMFS Enforcement Field Offices
Niceville, FL 850-729-8628
Carriere, MS 228-798-9535
Dickinson, TX 281-337-1503
Harlingen, TX 956-423-3450
Marathon, FL 305-743-2093

State Agencies:

Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Marine Resources
information or to report state fishing violations 334-861-2882
334-968-7576
to report violations after hours 334-454-1515

Florida Marine Fisheries Commission
information 904-487-0554
to report state fishing violations 800-DIALFMP
800-342-5367
cellular phone - *FMP

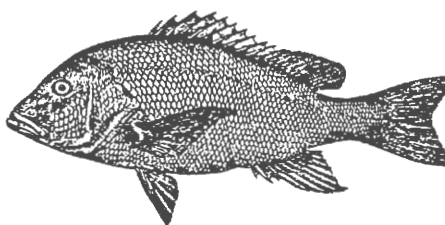
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
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Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
information 228-385-5860
to report state fishing violations 800-237-6278

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
information 800-792-1112
to report state fishing violations 512-389-4848
or 713-649-0708

**COMMERCIAL
FISHING REGULATIONS
FOR
GULF OF MEXICO
FEDERAL WATERS**

October 1997



**Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council
The Commons at Rivergate
3018 U.S. Hwy. 301 N., Suite 1000
Tampa, Florida 33619-2266**

**813-228-2815
888-833-1844 (TOLL-FREE)
813-225-7015 (FAX)**

**e-mail: gulf.council@noaa.gov
web page: www.gulfcouncil.org**



This leaflet was prepared for general informational purposes in October 1997 and has no legal force or effect. Fishing regulations are subject to change. A separate summary of recreational fishing regulations is available from the Council. This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA67FC00042.

**Report federal fishing violations:
24 hour toll-free hotline: 1-800-853-1964**

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- o Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold.
- o The use of longlines and buoy gear for reef fish is prohibited inside of lines approximating 50 fathoms west and 20 fathoms east of Cape San Blas, Florida. Vessels fishing within this zone and possessing longlines or buoy gear may not exceed the recreational bag limits and for reef fish without bag limits, 5 percent by weight of all fish aboard.
- o Stressed areas for reef fish begin at the shoreward boundary of federal waters and generally follow the 10 fathom contour from the Dry Tortugas to Sanibel Island; the 20 fathom contour to Tarpon Springs; the 10 fathom contour to Cape San Blas; the 25 fathom contour to south of Mobile Bay; the 13 fathom contour to Ship Island, Mississippi; the 10 fathom contour off Louisiana; and the 30 fathom contour off Texas. In designated "stressed areas" use of fish traps, roller trawls, and power heads is prohibited.
- o Reef fish gear is limited to no more than 3 hooks in a special management zone off Alabama. Nonconforming gear is restricted to bag limit or for reef fish without a bag limit to 5 percent by weight of all fish aboard.
- o Entangling nets may not be used for directed harvest of reef fish.
- o Vessels with shrimp trawls or entangling net gear aboard may not exceed the recreational reef fish bag limits.
- o A reef fish trap endorsement is required for using traps, and vessels are limited to 100 traps. Traps must be returned to shore at the end of each trip and must have degradable panels, mesh no smaller than 1" x 2", 1.5" hexagon, or 1.5" by 1.5". Inside 300' contour, traps may not exceed 33 cu.ft. Two 2" x 2" escape windows required on two sides excluding the bottom (4 openings). Hinges and fasteners of degradable panel or access door must be constructed of either untreated jute string of no more than 3/16" diameter or magnesium alloy. Buoy and trap identification required. Traps (or the ends of a string of traps) must be buoyed and may not be tended at night. Pop up buoys are prohibited. Fish traps will be phased out after 2007.
- o A state may regulate vessels that are registered in that state and are fishing in federal waters for species for which there are no federal fishery management plans or applicable federal regulations, or for which the appropriate fishery management plan has delegated management to the state and the state rules are consistent with federal regulations.
- o All fish except for bait and oceanic migratory species taken from federal waters must have heads and fins intact through landing. Legal size fish within a bag limit may be consumed at sea.
- o Riley's Hump near the Dry Tortugas is closed to all fishing in May and June.

ERRATA AND UPDATE SHEET

A supplemental "errata and update sheet" will be periodically published to indicate changes in fishing regulations since this pamphlet was published. Contact the Gulf Council to obtain the most recent supplement.

COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS - as of October 1997

Species	Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
Cobia (ling)	Minimum 33" fork length	Daily bag and possession limit of 2/person	
King Mackerel	Minimum 20" fork length	<p>EASTERN ZONE: FL east coast sub-zone 11/1 until 75% sub-quota - 750 lbs./trip. Then 500 lbs./trip. (If 75% of quota not filled by 2/15, limit remains at 750 lbs./trip until quota filled or 3/31, whichever comes first.) 4/1 to 10/31 - South Atlantic regulations apply, refer to South Atlantic Council regulations pamphlet.</p> <p>FL west coast sub-zone: Gill nets 7/1 until gear quota - 25,000 lbs./trip.</p> <p>FL west coast sub-zone: Hook and line 7/1 until 75% gear quota - 1,250 lbs./trip. Then 500 lbs./trip until gear quota filled.</p> <p>WESTERN ZONE: no trip limits</p>	quota (subdivided as shown): 2.5 million lbs. Gulf group 1.73 million lbs. EASTERN ZONE 0.865 MP FL-east sub-zone 0.865 MP FL-west sub-zone 0.4325 MP gill nets 0.4325 MP hook and line 0.77 million lbs. WESTERN ZONE
Spanish Mackerel	Minimum 12" fork length	none	quota: 3.99 million lbs. Gulf group. Season opens 4/1 and closes when quota is filled.
REEF FISH			
<u>Snappers</u> Red Snapper	15" total length (16" total length effective 1/1/98)	2,000 lbs./trip with endorsement 200 lbs./trip without endorsement (A 2-tier red snapper license system has been proposed to replace the endorsement system in 1998.)	quota = 4.65 million lbs. - 3.06 million lbs. on a Feb. 1 opening, remainder on a Sept. 2 (1997) or Sept. 1 (1998+) opening, and open first 2 weeks of each month until quota is reached.
Vermilion	10" total length	none	
Lane	8" total length	none	
Gray (Mangrove)	12" total length	none	
Mutton	12" total length	none	
Yellowtail	12" total length	none	
Queen	none	none	
Schoolmaster	none	none	
Blackfin	none	none	
Cubera	none	none	
Dog	none	none	
Mahogany	none	none	
Silk	none	none	
Wenchman	none	none	
<u>Deep-Water Groupers</u>			quota: 1.6 million lbs.
Misty	none	none	(includes scamp after shallow-water grouper quota is filled.)
Snowy	none	none	
Yellowedge	none	none	
Warsaw	none	none	
Speckled Hind	none	none	
<u>Shallow-Water Groupers</u>			quota: 9.8 million lbs.
Red	20" total length	none	(includes all groupers other than those classified as deep-water groupers)
Yellowfin	20" total length	none	
Black	20" total length	none	
Gag	20" total length	none	
Scamp	none	none	
Yellowmouth	none	none	
Rock Hind	none	none	
Red Hind	none	none	
<u>Protected Groupers</u>			
Jewfish	Harvest prohibited		
Nassau grouper	Harvest prohibited		
Black seabass	8" total length	none	A proposal to remove federal management of black sea bass is under review by NMFS.
Greater amberjack	(commercial) 36" fork length	none	A proposed commercial closed season during March, April and May is under review by NMFS.
OTHER SPECIES			
Red Drum		Harvest prohibited in federal waters.	

Species	Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
SHELLFISH			
Stone Crab	Minimum 2 3/4" claw	none	Season Closed 5/16 - 10/14
Spiny Lobster	Carapace more than 3" or Tail more than 5 1/2" Divers must measure in water. See note below.	none	Season Closed 4/1 - 8/5
Shrimp	None, but white shrimp taken in the EEZ and transported to Louisiana must comply with the minimum size limit of that state.	none	Royal red shrimp - 392,000 lbs. tail weight. Royal red shrimp season opens 1/1 and closes when quota is filled.
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES			
<u>Tuna</u> Bluefin	<u>Size Categories</u> school - 27" to <47" CFL large school - 47" to <59" CFL small medium - 59" to <73" CFL large medium - 73" to <81" CFL giant - 81" + CFL curved fork length - see below	Quotas and trip limits vary by size, permit category and allowable days. Telephone the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Management Division's toll-free 24 hour information line for updates on closure notices, inseason quota adjustments, and updates of commercial landings for Atlantic bluefin tuna 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888- 872-8862).	
Bigeye Yellowfin Albacore Skipjack Bonito	27" CFL 27" CFL none none none	none none none none none	No quota.
<u>Billfish</u> Blue Marlin White Marlin Sailfish Longbill spearfish	No commercial fishery allowed. Sale prohibited.		
Swordfish	29" carcass length or 33 lbs., dressed weight (gutted, headed, and finned). No allowance for undersized fish.	31,600 lbs./trip. Directed fishery closed when quota is reached. Directed fishery bycatch limit of 15 fish/trip allowed during closures. 5 fish/trip non-directed bycatch allowance for squid, mackerel, butterfish, and otter trawl fisheries. 2 fish/trip non-directed bycatch allowance for other fisheries	annual directed fishery 1997 quota: 2,164 metric tons (4.77 million lbs.) dressed weight, 1998 proposed quota: 2,098.6 metric tons (4.63 million lbs.). Quota is divided into two 6-month semi-annual seasons. The fishing year is June 1 through July 31. annual bycatch quota: 300 metric tons (661 thousand lbs.) dressed weight. quota allocations by gear apply.
<u>SHARKS</u>	Ratio of wet fins to dressed carcass not to exceed 5 Percent. Sharks not retained must be released uninjured. Trip reports required. Dealer permits required. Semi-annual quotas may be adjusted downward or upward to reflect over or under harvest in the preceding period.		
Large Coastals	none	4,000 lbs./trip	quota: 642 MT DW per 6 months
Small Coastals	none	none	quota: 880 MT SW per 6 months
Pelagics	none	none	quota: 290 MT DW per 6 months
<u>Protected Sharks</u> Basking shark White shark Bigeye sand tiger Sand tiger Whale shark	Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited		
CORAL AND CORAL REEFS			
Allowable Octocorals			quota: 50,000 colonies
Live Rock	Harvest or possession of wild live rock is prohibited. Harvest and possession of aquacultured live rock allowed by permitted individuals.		
Other Marine Life Organisms	Marine life organisms from the EEZ harvested or possessed by Florida residents or landed in Florida are subject to Florida's Marine Life Rule. Contact Florida Marine Fisheries Commission for more information (850-487-0554).		

Fork length: Tip of snout to fork of tail
Curved fork length: Tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body
Carcass length: Curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel
Total length: Tip of snout to tip of tail
Dressed weight: Fish has been gutted and the head and fins removed, but is otherwise in whole condition.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS:																
Stone Crab	Stone crab traps must have a biodegradable panel, and must be permanently marked with their Florida stone crab permit number and color or their federal number and color.															
Spiny Lobster	Only diving, bully nets, hoop nets, and traps not to exceed 2'x2'x3' allowed. Bycatch of 5% allowed with trawls. Removal of spiny lobster tail allowed only when fishing exclusively in the EEZ on a trip of 48 hours or more, and requires a tailing permit.															
Cobia (ling)	Drift gill nets are prohibited.															
Allowable Octocorals	Allowable octocoral means an erect, nonencrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia, except the seafans Gorgonia flabellum and G. ventalina, plus the attached substrate within 1 inch of an allowable octocoral. Note: An octocoral with attached substrate exceeding 1 inch is considered to be live rock and not allowable octocoral.															
Tuna - Bluefin	Allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, bandit gear, purse seine nets. Incidental catch allowed with purse seine nets, fixed gear, traps, longline.															
Tuna - others	Allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, bandit gear, purse seine nets, longline, and drift gillnet.															
Billfish	Retention prohibited on longline and driftnet vessels; must be released in water alive.															
Swordfish	Allowable gear: only drift gill nets less than 2.5 km, harpoons, and longlines may target, other gear is incidental catch. (dressed = gutted, headed and finned.)															
Reef Fish	A Gulf Council proposal to remove sea basses, grunts and porgies from federal management is under review by NMFS.															
Sharks	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Large Coastals:</td> <td>Sandbar Blacktip Dusky Spinner</td> <td>Silky Bull Bignose Narrowtooth</td> <td>Galapagos Night Caribbean reef Tiger</td> <td>Lemon Nurse Scalloped hammerhead Great hammerhead Smooth hammerhead</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Coastals:</td> <td>Atlantic sharpnose Smalltail</td> <td>Blacknose Finetooth</td> <td>Atlantic angel Bonnethead</td> <td>Caribbean sharpnose</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pelagics:</td> <td>Shortfin mako Longfin mako</td> <td>Thresher Bigeye thresher</td> <td>Oceanic whitetip Sevengill</td> <td>Bigeye sixgill Porbeagle Blue Sixgill</td> </tr> </table> <p>Illegal to remove the fins and return remainder of shark to sea.</p>	Large Coastals:	Sandbar Blacktip Dusky Spinner	Silky Bull Bignose Narrowtooth	Galapagos Night Caribbean reef Tiger	Lemon Nurse Scalloped hammerhead Great hammerhead Smooth hammerhead	Small Coastals:	Atlantic sharpnose Smalltail	Blacknose Finetooth	Atlantic angel Bonnethead	Caribbean sharpnose	Pelagics:	Shortfin mako Longfin mako	Thresher Bigeye thresher	Oceanic whitetip Sevengill	Bigeye sixgill Porbeagle Blue Sixgill
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Pelagics:	Shortfin mako Longfin mako	Thresher Bigeye thresher	Oceanic whitetip Sevengill	Bigeye sixgill Porbeagle Blue Sixgill												

COMMERCIAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: (Earned income qualification criteria apply to mackerel, reef fish and shark permits.)	
Permit	Required For:
Spiny lobster federal vessel permit or Florida commercial harvester license and certificates	Florida commercial harvester license and certificates required for harvest or possession in excess of the bag limits in the EEZ off Florida or to land or sell in Florida. Federal vessel permit required for harvest or possession in excess of the bag limits in the EEZ other than off Florida or sale other than Florida.
Spiny lobster tail-separation permit	Possession of a separated spiny lobster tail in or from the EEZ aboard a vessel. Also requires a spiny lobster federal vessel permit or Florida state license and certificates.
Mackerel vessel permit	Harvest of king or Spanish mackerel under quota and in excess of the bag limits. A proposal for separate permits for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel, and a king mackerel permit moratorium, is under review by NMFS.
King mackerel gillnet endorsement	Harvest of king mackerel in the Florida west coast subzone using a gillnet. Also requires a mackerel vessel permit.
Reef fish vessel permit	Harvest and sale of all reef fish listed in the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan under quota (where applicable) and in excess of the bag limits (where applicable), except jewfish and Nassau grouper (for which all harvest is prohibited). Issuance of new reef fish permits is under a moratorium until December 31, 2000. Existing permits are transferable.
Red snapper endorsement	Required in addition to a reef fish permit to harvest red snapper at the 2,000 pound trip limit. Other reef fish permitted vessels are limited to 200 pounds. No new endorsements are being issued, and endorsements are non-transferable except to another vessel owned by the endorsement holder, immediate family members or in case of death or disability of the endorsement holder. The red snapper endorsement system will expire after 1997. A permanent 2-tier red snapper license system beginning in 1998 is under review by NMFS.
Fish trap endorsement	Required in addition to a reef fish permit to harvest reef fish using fish traps. No new fish trap endorsements are being issued. Existing fish trap endorsements are transferable through February 7, 1999. Thereafter, endorsements are non-transferable except to another vessel owned by the endorsement holder, immediate family members or in case of death or disability of the endorsement holder. After February 7, 2007, all fish trap endorsements become invalid and the use of fish traps to harvest reef fish will be prohibited.
Aquacultured live rock permit	Possession or harvest of cultivated live rock. Appropriate Florida state permits are also required to land live rock in Florida. Wild live rock possession or harvest is prohibited.
Allowable octocoral permit	Harvest or possession of allowable octocoral, other than allowable octocoral that is landed in Florida. Appropriate Florida state permits are required to land allowable octocoral in Florida.
Atlantic bluefin tuna permit - General category Atlantic bluefin tuna permit - Charter/headboat Atlantic bluefin tuna permit - Harpoon boat Atlantic bluefin tuna permit - Purse seine boat Atlantic bluefin tuna permit - Incidental catch	Vessels must have one of these permits to sell Atlantic bluefin tuna. Separate quota and gear restrictions apply to each category. An Atlantic bluefin permit will not be issued for more than one category.
Tuna (other)permit - Commercial Tuna (other)permit - Charter/headboat	Vessels must have one of these permits to sell albacore, Atlantic bonito, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna or yellowfin tuna.(An Atlantic bluefin permit, shark permit, or swordfish permit is also valid to harvest "other" tuna.) Purse seine harvest is restricted to those vessels with Atlantic bluefin tuna permits that reported landings of "other" tunas during 1989-1993.
Swordfish vessel permit	Commercial harvest and sale of swordfish under quota.
Shark vessel permit	Harvest and sale of sharks listed in the management unit of the Atlantic Sharks Fishery Management Plan under quota and in excess of the bag limits.

Applications for permits may be obtained from National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Koger Building, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702 (telephone 813-570-5326).

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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NMFS nationwide federal
fishing violations hotline 800-853-1964

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violations 334-968-7576
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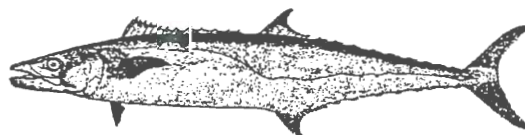
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to report state fishing violations 800-237-6278

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
information 228-385-5860
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Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
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RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

October 1997



Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council
The Commons at Rivergate
3018 U.S. Hwy. 301 N., Suite 1000
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Report federal fishing violations:
24 hour toll-free hotline: 1-800-853-1964

OTHER REEF FISH REQUIREMENTS

- o Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold.
- o Stressed areas for reef fish begin at the shoreward boundary of federal waters and generally follow the 10 fathom contour from the Dry Tortugas to Sanibel Island; the 20 fathom contour to Tarpon Springs; the 10 fathom contour to Cape San Blas; the 25 fathom contour to south of Mobile Bay; the 13 fathom contour to Ship Island, Mississippi; the 10 fathom contour off Louisiana; and the 30 fathom contour off Texas. In designated "stressed areas" use of fish traps, roller trawls, and power heads is prohibited.
- o Reef fish gear is limited to no more than 3 hooks in a special management zone off Alabama. Nonconforming gear is restricted to bag limit or for reef fish without a bag limit to 5 percent by weight of all fish aboard.
- o Recreational red snapper fishing is required by law to be managed under a recreational quota. When the recreational quota (currently 4.47 million pounds) is projected to be reached, the recreational fishery will be closed for the remainder of the year. For information on the current status of the red snapper recreational quota, contact the NMFS Fishery Operations Branch at 813-570-5305.
- o A state may regulate vessels that are registered in that state and are fishing in federal waters for species for which there are no federal fishery management plans or applicable federal regulations, or for which the appropriate fishery management plan has delegated management to the state and the state rules are consistent with federal regulations.
- o All fish except for bait and oceanic migratory species taken from federal waters must have heads and fins intact through landing. Legal size fish within a bag limit may be consumed at sea.
- o Riley's Hump near the Dry Tortugas is closed to all fishing in May and June.

ERRATA AND UPDATE SHEET

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RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS - as of October 1997

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
SHELLFISH			
Stone Crab	Minimum 2 3/4" claw	5/16 - 10/14	
Spiny Lobster	More than 3" carapace. Divers must measure in water.	4/1 - 8/5 There is a special 2 day non-trap recreational season, to be the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.	6/person, and no transfer at sea between boats. (During the 2-day special recreational season, 12/person off Florida except 6/person for Monroe County - Florida Keys)
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
Cobia (ling)	Minimum 33" fork length	none	2/person
King Mackerel	Minimum 20" fork length	none	2/person for all vessels.
Spanish Mackerel	Minimum 12" fork length	none	Same as state limit but not to exceed 10/person.*
REEF FISH			
<u>Snappers</u> Red Snapper	15" total length (16" total length eff. 1/1/98)	Season closes when recreational quota is projected to be reached.	5/person
Vermilion Lane	10" total length 8" total length	none none	No limit. No limit.
Gray Mutton Yellowtail Queen Schoolmaster Blackfin Cubera Dog Mahogany Silk Wenchman	12" total length 12" total length 12" total length none none none none none none none none	none none none none none none none none none none	10/person in Aggregate (includes all snappers except red, vermilion and lane).
<u>Groupers</u> Red Yellowfin Black Gag Scamp Yellowmouth Rock Hind Red Hind Speckled Hind Misty Snowy Yellowedge Warsaw	20" total length 20" total length 20" total length 20" total length none none none none none none none none none	none none none none none none none none none none none none none	5/person in aggregate of all groupers
<u>Protected Groupers</u> Jewfish Nassau grouper	Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited		
Greater Amberjack	(recreational) 28" fork length	none	1/person
<u>Aggregate Reef Fish Bag Limit Species</u> Vermilion Snapper Lane Snapper *Black Sea Bass	8" total length 8" total length 8" total length	none none none	20/person of all listed species in aggregate (i.e., all reef fish species not otherwise subject to a bag limit). (* Note: the Gulf Council has proposed removing sea basses, grunts and porgies from federal management, and removing from the aggregate reef fish bag limit those species that are listed in the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan as in the fishery but not in the management unit. If approved, the species marked by an asterisk would no longer be subject to the aggregate reef fish bag limit. These proposals are under review by NMFS.)
Lesser Amberjack Almaco Jack Banded Rudderfish *Red Porgy *Grass Porgy *Jolthead Porgy *Knobbed Porgy *Littlehead Porgy *Pinfish	*White Grunt *Tomtate *Pigfish *Dwarf Sand Perch *Sand Perch Gray Triggerfish *Queen Triggerfish	*Bank Sea Bass *Rock Sea Bass Goldface Tilefish Blackline Tilefish Anchor Tilefish Blueline Tilefish Tilefish	
OTHER SPECIES			
Red Drum	Harvest prohibited in federal waters.		

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES			
<u>Tuna</u> Bluefin	<u>Size Categories</u> school - 27" to <47" CFL large school - 47" to <59" CFL small medium - 59" to <73" CFL large medium - 73" to <81" CFL giant - 81" + CFL curved fork length - see below	Bag limits are subject to sub-quotas by size and permit categories, change seasonally, and are reduced to zero when sub-quotas are filled. Telephone the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Management Division's toll-free 24 hour information line for updates on bag limits and quotas: 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888- 872-8862).	
Bigeye Yellowfin	27" CFL 27" CFL	none none	none none
Albacore Skipjack Blackfin Atlantic Bonito	none none none none	none none none none	none none none none
<u>Billfish</u> Blue Marlin White Marlin Sailfish Longbill spearfish	Minimum size lower jaw to tail fork 86" 62" 57" none	none none none none	none none none none
Swordfish	29" carcass length or 33 lbs. dressed weight	none	none
<u>SHARKS</u> Atlantic sharpnose other sharks <u>Protected Sharks</u> Basking shark White shark Bigeye sand tiger Sand tiger Whale shark	none none Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited	none none none none none none	2/person 2/vessel in aggregate
CORAL AND CORAL REEFS			
Allowable Octocorals	Attached substrate within 1 inch of octocoral is allowed.	Season closes when quota of 50,000 colonies is reached	6 colonies per day
Live Rock	Harvest and possession of live rock is prohibited (except for permitted aquaculture operations).		
Other Marine Life Organisms	Marine life organisms from the EEZ harvested or possessed by Florida residents or landed in Florida are subject to Florida's Marine Life Rule. Contact Florida Marine Fisheries Commission for more information.		

ADDITIONAL REMARKS:	Persons on qualified charter or headboat trips in excess of 24 hours may possess 2 days' bag limits of reef fish species, king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.
Stone Crab	Claws may not be removed from egg-bearing females. Illegal to land whole crab. Measures apply off Florida's west coast and the Keys
Spiny Lobster	Removal of tail prohibited at sea. See commercial regulations for trap use. No spears, hooks, or piercing devices. No taking of spiny or slipper lobsters that are berried (egg-bearing).
Cobia (ling)	The 2 day bag limit allowance for charter vessels and headboats <u>does not</u> apply to cobia
Red snapper	Red snapper have a recreational quota of 4.47 million pounds, and the red snapper fishery will close when the recreational quota is projected to be reached.
Allowable Octocorals	Allowable octocoral means an erect, nonencrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia, except the seafans Gorgonia flabellum and G. ventalina, plus the attached substrate within 1 inch of an allowable octocoral. Note: An octocoral with attached substrate exceeding 1 inch is considered to be live rock and not allowable octocoral.
Tuna - Bluefin	Tuna permit holders are required to report by telephone all recreationally caught bluefin tuna. Call 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) and select the catch reporting option. For information about fishing under the NMFS tag and release program when bag limits are closed, call 1-800-437-3936.
Tuna - others	All tunas must be landed in round or eviscerated form with one pectoral fin intact. Head removal allowed. Caudal fin must be intact on bluefin.
Billfish	No retention unless taken by rod and reel. Sale prohibited. Head, fins and bill must be intact through landing.
Swordfish	dressed = gutted, headed and finned.
Sharks	Dogfish are not included in the shark limits. See commercial regulations for complete list of sharks under management. Sale prohibited without permit; sharks not retained must be released uninjured. Limits allowed in both groups. Illegal to remove the fins and return remainder of shark to sea.

Fork length: Tip of snout to fork of tail]]
Curved fork length: Tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body
Carcass length: Curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel
Total length: Tip of snout to tip of tail

RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS - as of October 1997

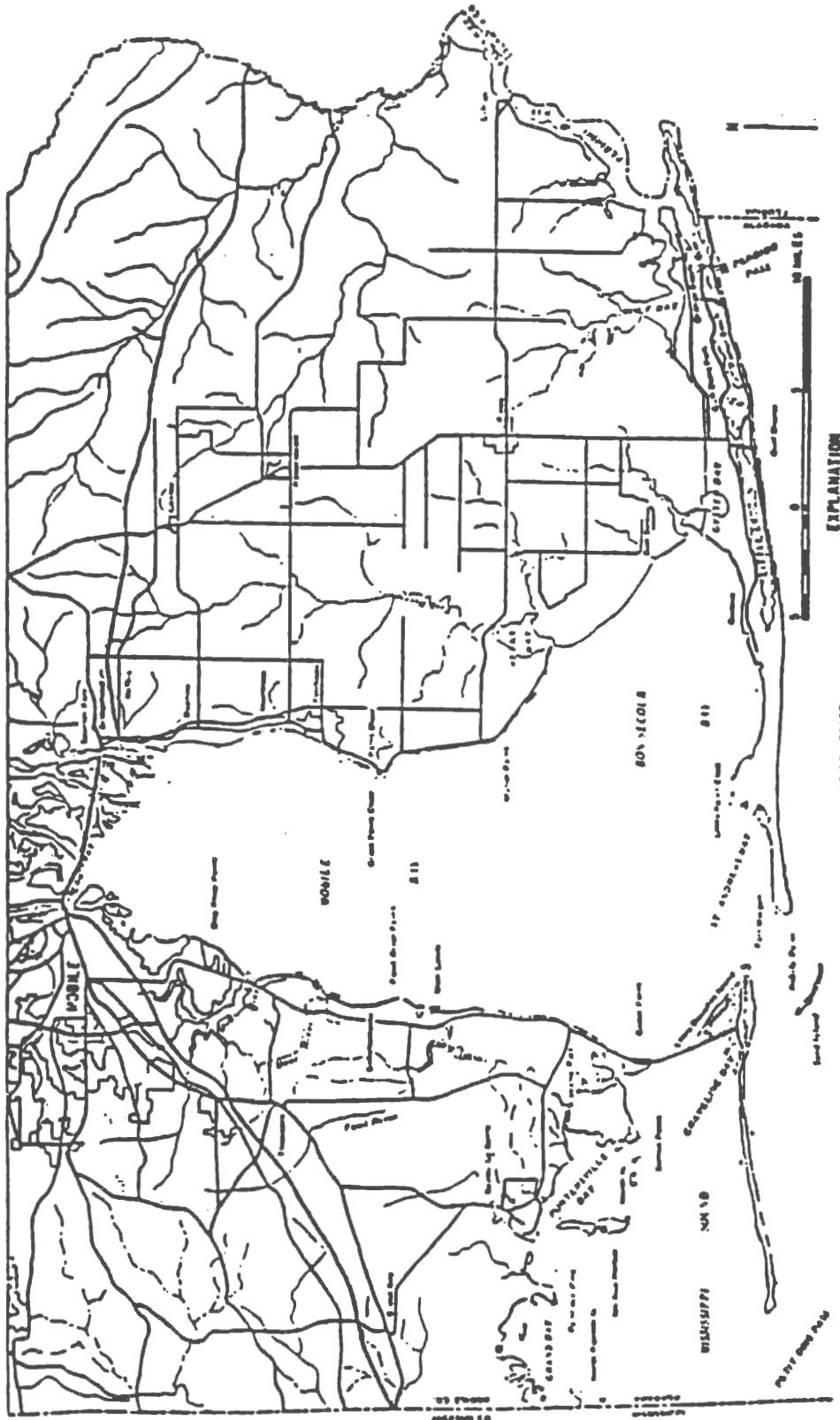
Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
SHELLFISH			
Stone Crab	Minimum 2 3/4" claw	5/16 - 10/14	
Spiny Lobster	More than 3" carapace. Divers must measure in water.	4/1 - 8/5 There is a special 2 day non-trap recreational season, to be the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.	6/person, and no transfer at sea between boats. (During the 2-day special recreational season, 12/person off Florida except 6/person for Monroe County - Florida Keys)
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
Cobia (ling)	Minimum 33" fork length	none	2/person
King Mackerel	Minimum 20" fork length	none	2/person for all vessels.
Spanish Mackerel	Minimum 12" fork length	none	Same as state limit but not to exceed 10/person.*
REEF FISH			
<u>Snappers</u> Red Snapper	15" total length (16" total length eff. 1/1/98)	Season closes when recreational quota is projected to be reached.	5/person
Vermilion Lane	10" total length 8" total length	none none	No limit. No limit.
Gray Mutton Yellowtail Queen Schoolmaster Blackfin Cubera Dog Mahogany Silk Wenchman	12" total length 12" total length 12" total length none none none none none none none none	none none none none none none none none none none	10/person in Aggregate (includes all snappers except red, vermilion and lane).
<u>Groupers</u> Red Yellowfin Black Gag Scamp Yellowmouth Rock Hind Red Hind Speckled Hind Misty Snowy Yellowedge Warsaw	20" total length 20" total length 20" total length 20" total length none none none none none none none none none	none none none none none none none none none none none none none	5/person in aggregate of all groupers
<u>Protected Groupers</u> Jewfish Nassau grouper	Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited		
Greater Amberjack	(recreational) 28" fork length	none	1/person
<u>Aggregate Reef Fish Bag Limit Species</u> Vermilion Snapper Lane Snapper *Black Sea Bass	8" total length 8" total length 8" total length	none none none	20/person of all listed species in aggregate (i.e., all reef fish species not otherwise subject to a bag limit). (* Note: the Gulf Council has proposed removing sea basses, grunts and porgies from federal management, and removing from the aggregate reef fish bag limit those species that are listed in the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan as in the fishery but not in the management unit. If approved, the species marked by an asterisk would no longer be subject to the aggregate reef fish bag limit. These proposals are under review by NMFS.)
Lesser Amberjack Almaco Jack Banded Rudderfish	*White Grunt *Tomtate *Pigfish	*Bank Sea Bass *Rock Sea Bass Goldface Tilefish Blackline Tilefish Anchor Tilefish Blueline Tilefish Tilefish	*Hogfish
*Red Porgy *Grass Porgy *Jolthead Porgy *Knobbed Porgy *Littlehead Porgy *Pinfish	*Dwarf Sand Perch *Sand Perch Gray Triggerfish *Queen Triggerfish		
OTHER SPECIES			
Red Drum	Harvest prohibited in federal waters.		

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES			
<u>Tuna</u> Bluefin	<u>Size Categories</u> school - 27" to <47" CFL large school - 47" to <59" CFL small medium - 59" to <73" CFL large medium - 73" to <81" CFL giant - 81" + CFL curved fork length - see below		Bag limits are subject to sub-quotas by size and permit categories, change seasonally, and are reduced to zero when sub-quotas are filled. Telephone the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Management Division's toll-free 24 hour information line for updates on bag limits and quotas: 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888- 872-8862).
Bigeye Yellowfin	27" CFL 27" CFL	none none	none none
Albacore Skipjack Blackfin Atlantic Bonito	none none none none	none none none none	none none none none
<u>Billfish</u> Blue Marlin White Marlin Sailfish Longbill spearfish	Minimum size lower jaw to tail fork 86" 62" 57" none	none none none none	none none none none
Swordfish	29" carcass length or 33 lbs. dressed weight	none	none
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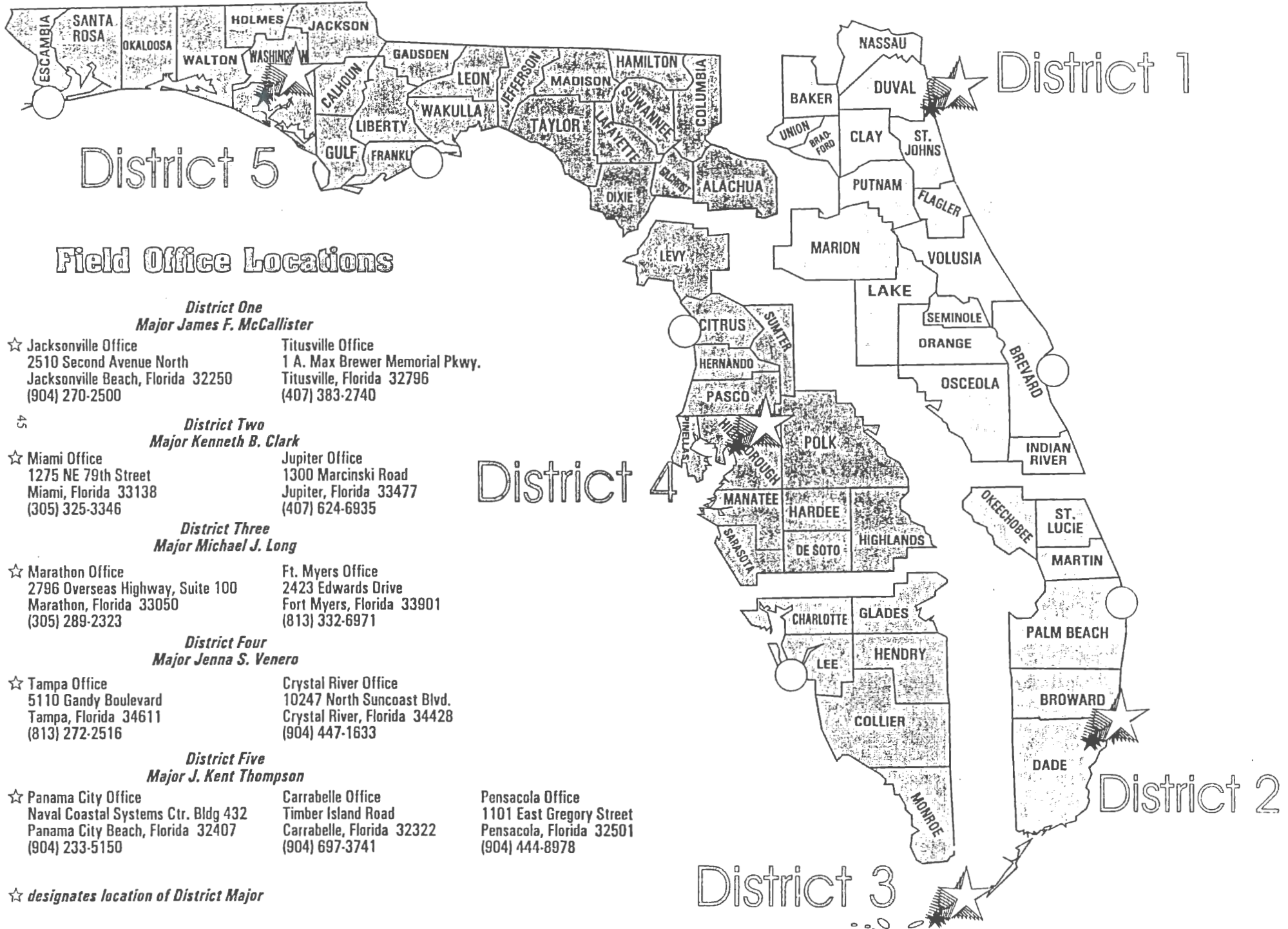
ALABAMA



Major Jerald K. Waller
Marine Resources Division
P.O. Box 189
Dauphin Island, AL 36528
(334) 861-2882

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

Florida Marine Patrol



Field Office Locations

District One Major James F. McCallister

- ☆ Jacksonville Office
2510 Second Avenue North
Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32250
(904) 270-2500
- ☆ Titusville Office
1 A. Max Brewer Memorial Pkwy.
Titusville, Florida 32796
(407) 383-2740

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District Two Major Kenneth B. Clark

- ☆ Miami Office
1275 NE 79th Street
Miami, Florida 33138
(305) 325-3346
- ☆ Jupiter Office
1300 Marcinski Road
Jupiter, Florida 33477
(407) 624-6935

District Three Major Michael J. Long

- ☆ Marathon Office
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 100
Marathon, Florida 33050
(305) 289-2323
- ☆ Ft. Myers Office
2423 Edwards Drive
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
(813) 332-6971

District Four Major Jenna S. Venero

- ☆ Tampa Office
5110 Gandy Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 34611
(813) 272-2516
- ☆ Crystal River Office
10247 North Suncoast Blvd.
Crystal River, Florida 34428
(904) 447-1633

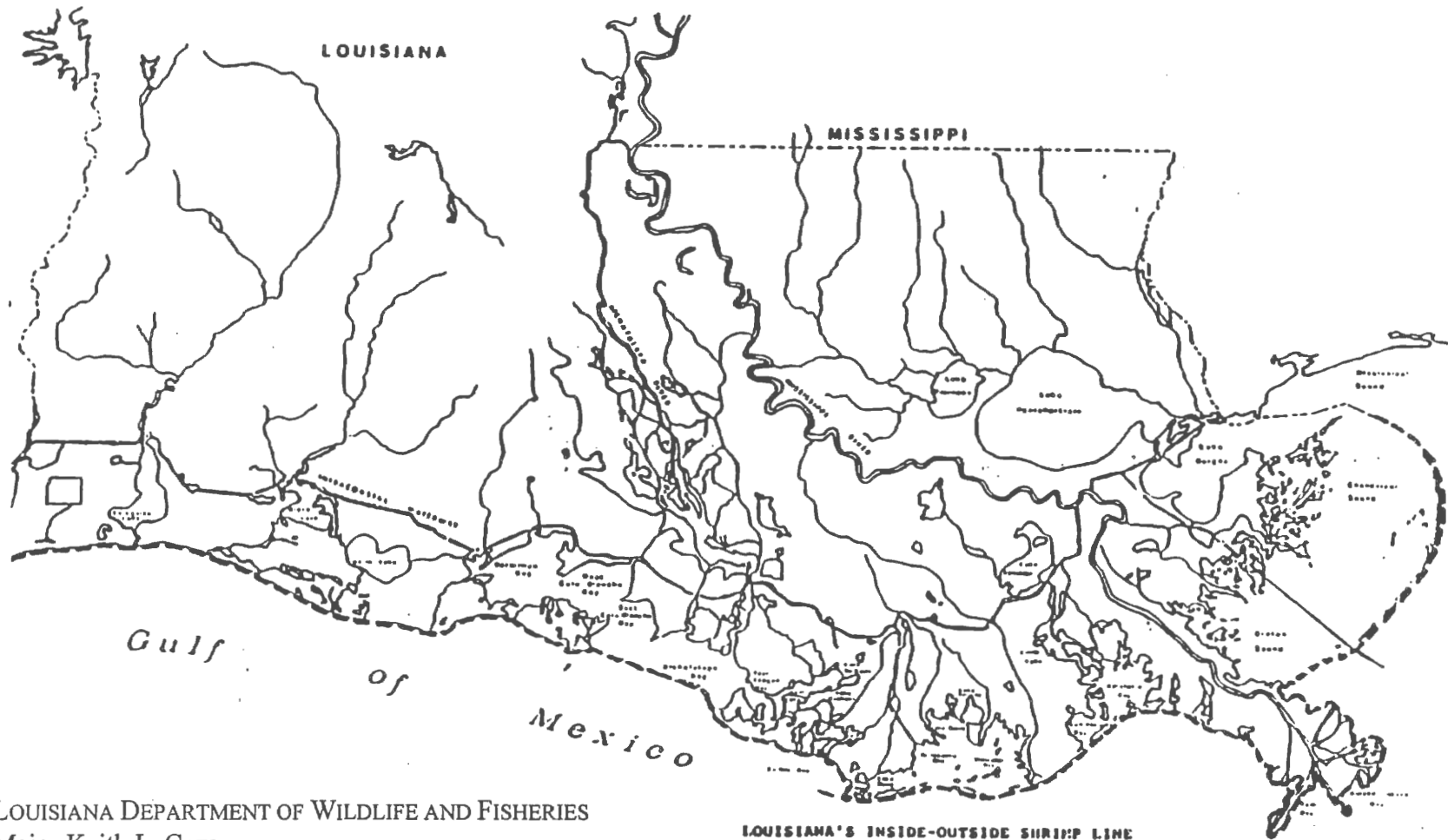
District Five Major J. Kent Thompson

- ☆ Panama City Office
Naval Coastal Systems Ctr. Bldg 432
Panama City Beach, Florida 32407
(904) 233-5150
- ☆ Carrabelle Office
Timber Island Road
Carrabelle, Florida 32322
(904) 697-3741
- ☆ Pensacola Office
1101 East Gregory Street
Pensacola, Florida 32501
(904) 444-8978

☆ designates location of District Major

LOUISIANA

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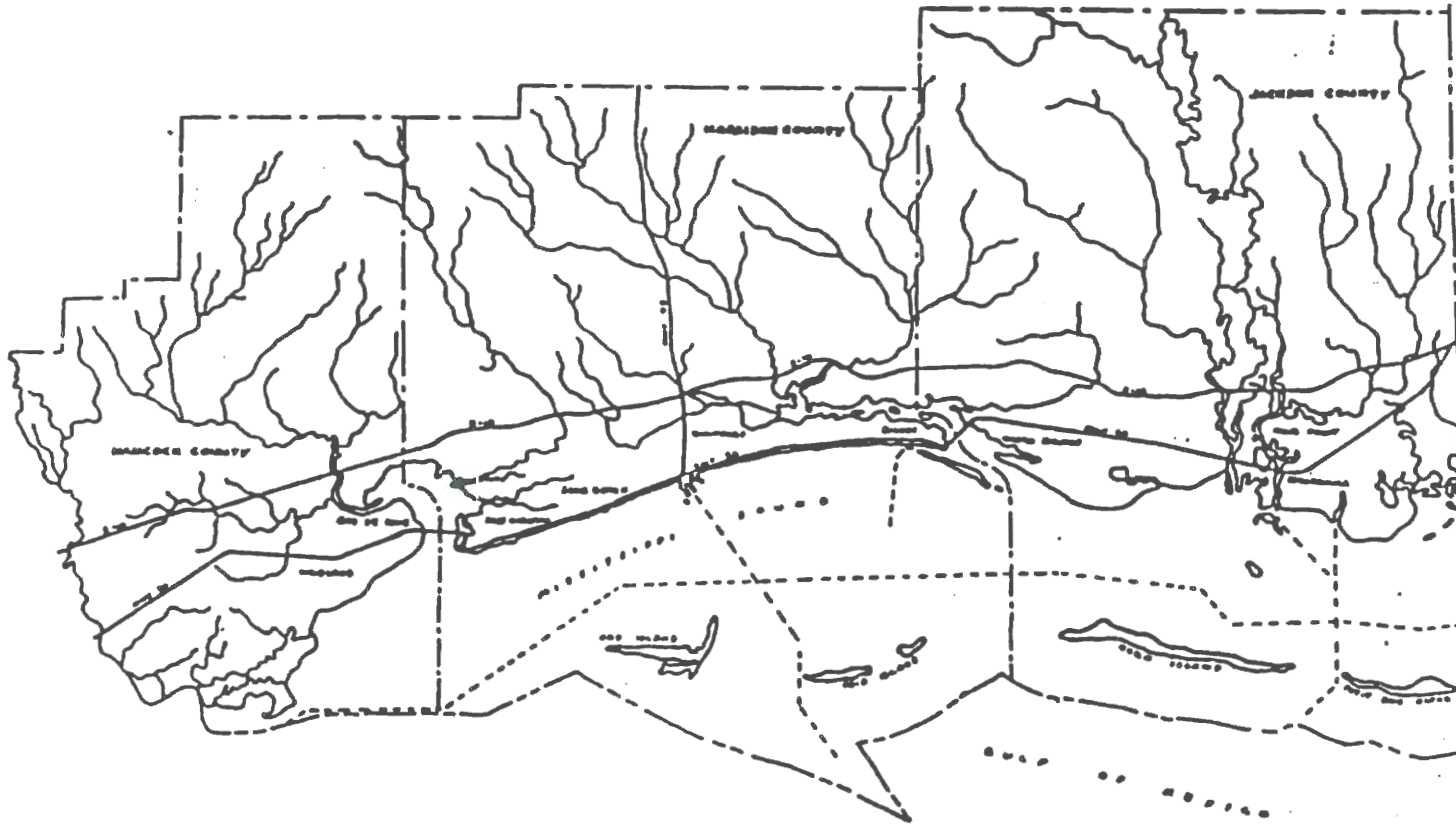
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
Major Keith LaCaze
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2985

LOUISIANA'S INSIDE-OUTSIDE SHRIMP LINE

MISSISSIPPI

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S

Mississippi Gulf Coast



47

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS
MISSISSIPPI MARINE ENFORCEMENT

1-800-294-5551
(228) 432-7708

TEXAS

Dennis Johnston, Director
 Aquatic Law Enforcement
 4200 Smith School Road
 Austin, Texas 78744
 (512) 389-4628

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
 24-Hour Communication
 (713) 649-0708

Director of Field Operations
 Roy Lawrence, Director II
 (512) 389-4846

Region IV

Regional Commander Wes Clogston
 (281) 931-6471

District Supervisors:

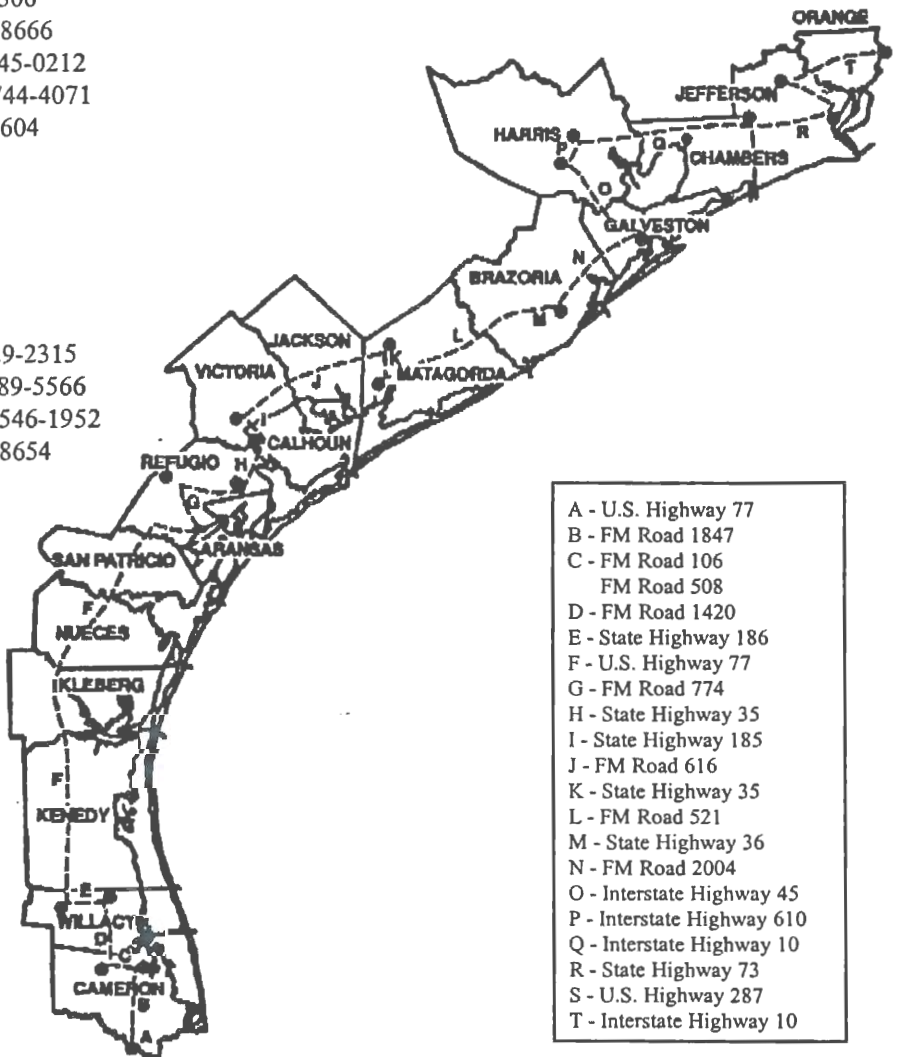
- Capt. Rex Mayes (512) 575-6306
- Capt. Pete Kendall (409) 892-8666
- Capt. Richard Herzog (713) 645-0212
- Capt. Preston Miculka (409) 744-4071
- Capt. Bill Colbey (409) 285-2604

Region X

Regional Commander Don Parker
 (512) 289-5566

District Supervisors:

- Capt. Johnnie Muery (512) 729-2315
- Capt. Myles Galceran (512) 289-5566
- Capt. Rojelio Gonzales (210) 546-1952
- Capt. Gary Palmer (512) 592-8654



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Enforcement Division



1 - Harlingen
SA T. Rodriguez
(956) 423-3450

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SA C. Tyer
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3 - Carriere
ASAC R. Dearmin
SA A. Emerson
(228) 798-9535

4 - Niceville
SA A. Coker
SA G. Houghaboom

5 - St. Petersburg
ASAC B. Spraitz
FPO G. Freselli
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SA K. Moran
(813) 893-3650

6 - Sarasota
SA D. O'Brien
(941) 359-3920

7 - Marathon
SA C. Fuss
SA R. Gregory
(305) 743-2093

8 - Miami
SA R. Stefanescu
(305) 361-4224

9 - Titusville
ASAC P. Raymond
SA J. Noone
SA C. Oravetz
(407) 269-0004

10 - Brunswick
SA D. Smith
(912) 261-8242

11 - Charleston
SA T. Dunn
(803) 308-9861
Charleston Lab
SA Colbert
(803) 762-8543

12 - Elizabeth City
SA J. Radonski
(919) 808-2393