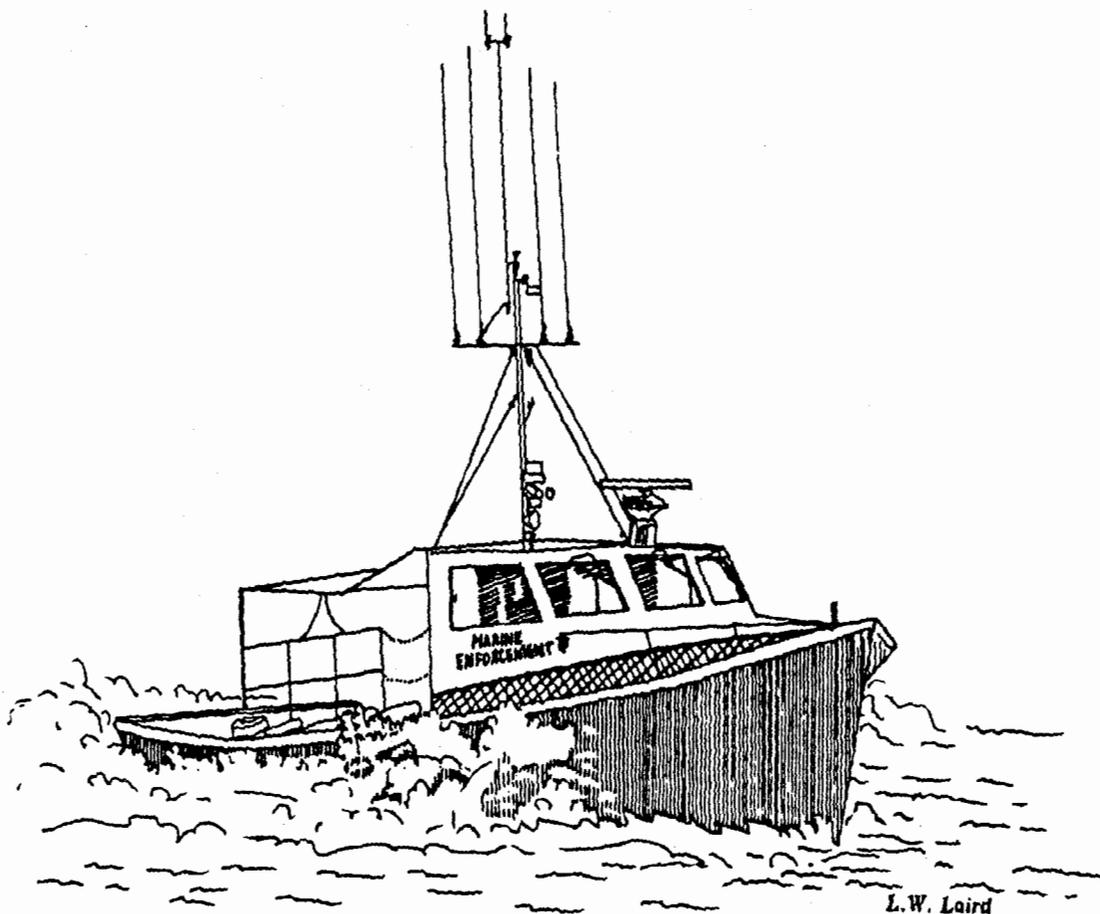


GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Law Summary 2004



A Summary of Marine Fishing Laws & Regulations for the Gulf States

January 2005

GSMFC No. 127

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

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for the Gulf States. Enforcement personnel of the Gulf States compiled it specifically for their use and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 2004; however, changes may occur in each state at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

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ALABAMA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Alabama. The information is current as of September 30, 2004; but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations, contact the Alabama Marine Resources Division (MRD), P.O. Box 189, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 (251-861-2882) or visit the web page at www.dcnr.state.al.us.

Residency Requirements

Annual Resident Freshwater or Saltwater Fishing License

Any person who has been a bona fide resident of this state for a period of not less than 90 days next preceding (the application) and who is between the ages of 16 and 65.

Use of Commercial Fishing Gear

A resident of the state of Alabama, as applicable to this article, shall be a person who has resided continuously in this state for 12 months next preceding the application for said license. Wholesale and retail licenses as prescribed in this section shall be issued in the same manner and under the same provisions as provided under other licenses.

Proof of Residency

A current valid Alabama's driver's license or two of the following:

1. certificate of employment if containing proof of permanent residency,
2. copy of home property tax,
3. copy of previous year's tax return (mailing address only),
4. health insurance forms with address,
5. the last three months of a utility bill with mailing address,
6. student identification plus copy of residence agreement or any other proof of residence listed,
7. military personnel with an out-of-state driver's license must have a copy of order of assignment to Alabama for a minimum of 30 days or have Alabama as home of record,
8. health insurance card with address,
9. telephone calling cards with address,
10. copy of school registration for non-driving students,
11. voter registration,
12. other legal documents that may establish residency after approval by the conservation department.

A non-driver identification card issued by the department of public safety is not acceptable proof of residency.

SHRIMP

Commercial License

Commercial Shrimp Boats

Under 30' - \$51.00

30'-45' - \$76.00

Over 45' - \$101.00

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

Recreational License

Boat License - \$16.00

(Nonresidents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents in the applicant's state of residence, except for the reciprocal state of 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 Limitation

No restrictions on mesh size. In inside waters (bay, 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 ten feet (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 sixteen feet (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 (68 shrimp or less per pound) are not to be taken in Alabama waters.

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, five (5) gallons per person per day. In designated exclusive bait areas, one (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, but areas may be closed by regulation. 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 sixteen feet (16') as measured across main top line. No mesh restrictions. Boats shall display the words "LIVE BAIT" in letters no smaller than six inches (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 water recirculation or commercial fish aerator and shall display

the words "LIVE BAIT" no smaller than six inches (6") high on each side of the truck.

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 boat 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 \$1,000.00 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 \$1,000.00 bond, and receiving written authorization from the ADCNR. Oyster dredges may be used in special dredge areas as set by regulation.

Size Limits

Oysters taken for either commercial or personal consumption must be at least three inches (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; 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 (five traps maximum)

Nonresidents 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 location.

Restrictions

No person, firm, or corporation shall take, catch, sell, transport, or possess blue crabs that measure less than five inches (5") carapace width as measured from the tip of one lateral spine to the tip of the opposite lateral spine. Provided, however, this limitation does not apply to soft-shelled crabs or to pre-molt crabs if the pre-molt crabs are taken solely for the purposes of shedding and held in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Exempted pre-molt crabs shall exhibit, at a minimum, a pink or red line on the back paddle fin, which is recognized by the crab industry as a preliminary pre-molt stage.

Soft-shell or pre-molt crabs must be held in a separate container, marked "peelers" or "busters," from those crabs of legal size while in the possession of fishermen.

Pre-molt crabs in the possession of, or held by, a dealer for sale or processing as soft-shell crabs are exempted from the minimum prescribed size limit, if identified as premolt crabs and held in separate containers marked "peelers" or "busters."

Crabs in a workbox shall not be subject to the minimum prescribed size limit while aboard the vessel. Commercial crab fishermen shall be allowed to have in possession aboard the vessel two workboxes. Crab boxes which are sealed or covered, other than by a grader, shall not be considered a workbox.

Commercial crab fishermen shall tag or mark any containers of Alabama crabs in possession, or that are sold, in a manner which will ensure that such commercial crab fisherman can be identified as the person who harvested the crabs. Such identification required shall be the full name of the crab fisherman and the number issued to the commercial crab fisherman by the MRD and the date on which the crabs were harvested. All containers of Alabama crabs in the possession of a dealer shall be tagged, marked, or otherwise identified in this manner. The identification number shall be assigned by the MRD when the fisherman purchases his or her commercial crab "catcher's" license. For subsequent years, the same identification number shall be assigned to the same commercial crab fisherman.

Crabs taken by a licensed live bait dealer for sale as bait shall not be subject to the minimum prescribed size limit.

Crabs taken for bait by licensed recreational shrimp boats shall not be subject to the minimum prescribed size limit, but such boats are limited to no more than the number of crabs held by a one (1) gallon container per boat per day.

Crabs taken by licensed commercial or recreational shrimp boats in waters open to commercial shrimping area limited to no more than one five-gallon container of legal size crabs in possession per boat unless the operator possesses a valid commercial "crab catcher's" license.

Persons, firms, or corporations may import crabs for commercial purposes from a licensed dealer or fisherman residing outside the state of Alabama, provided such crabs were taken and shipped pursuant to the state's laws and regulations. Containers of crabs shall be marked, tagged, or otherwise identified as required by the laws and regulations in that state.

A bill of sale or other proof of purchase showing the nonresident dealer's or fisherman's name and address, pounds or numbers of containers purchased, and date of purchase shall be maintained at the place of business for a period of one year and shall be available for inspection

and presented without delay upon request by a conservation enforcement officer or other authorized agent.

Persons who have caught crabs from the waters of another state may import those crabs into the state of Alabama for commercial purposes, provided said crabs were legally taken, licensed, and transported pursuant to that state's laws and regulations. Containers of crabs shall be marked or tagged with the fisherman's name, commercial crab fisherman's license number issued by the state, and the date of harvest.

Traps used to take crabs or other seafood shall not exceed twenty-seven (27) cubic feet in volume.

Each commercial crab trap shall be marked with at least one (1) buoy no smaller than six inches (6") in diameter. At least one-half (1/2) of the buoy shall be white. Buoys shall be attached to the traps by the use of weighted line to prevent the line from floating. Plastic bottles are prohibited for use as a commercial crab trap buoy.

It shall be unlawful to set or place in the waters of this state any commercial crab trap, which does not have attached a float marked with the identification number of the owner of the trap. Such number shall be at least one inch (1") in height, colored to be a definite contrast with the color of the float, of block character, and readable from left to right.

It shall be unlawful to remove crab traps from the water or remove crabs from crab traps during the hours from sunset from one (1) hour before sunrise the following day.

It shall be unlawful to set or place any commercial or recreational trap used for the taking of crabs or other seafood in the access canals of Heron Bay (west of and adjacent to State Highway 193) or within three hundred feet (300') of any navigational channel marked by a lawfully established system of waterway markers or any public boat launching ramp, Heron Bay Cutoff, or the mouth of the West Fowl River, Weeks Bay, Fish River, Magnolia River, any man-made canal, or in any manner so as to prevent ingress or egress to or from any pier, wharf, dock, marina, or boat launching ramp.

Plastic bottles are prohibited for use as a commercial crab trap buoy. It shall be unlawful to set or place any commercial trap used for the taking of crabs or other seafood in Mobile River, Dog River, Theodore Industrial Canal, Fowl River, the northwest arm of Heron Bay, Heron Bayou (off northwest arm of Heron Bay), Bayou Coden, Bayou La Batre, or their tributaries, in Mobile County, or Blakely River North of the charted position of Blakely River, Magnolia River, Bon Secour River north

of Channel Markers 7 and 8, Wolf Creek, Sandy Creek, Mifflin Creek, Hammock Creek, Roberts Bayou, Soldier Creek, Palmetto Creek, Old River (between Ono Island and Perdido Key), or their tributaries, in Baldwin County, or in any man-made canal [including but not limited to the following on Dauphin Island: Quivera Bay, Polaris Lagoon, Port Royal Lagoon, Lafitte Bay, Indian Bay, Indian Canal, Buchanan Bay, Columbia Bay, Colony Cove, Spanish Bay, Barcelona Bay, Confederate Bay, Salt Creek (Heron Bayou), Government Cut, and Billy Goat Hole].

It shall be unlawful to set or place any recreational trap used for the taking of crabs or other seafood in any area named in the above paragraph of this regulation, unless such trap shall be physically attached to a line to a pier, dock, piling, bulkhead, boathouse, or other structure, on or attached to the shore. Such line shall allow the crab trap to be placed no farther than a distance of ten feet (10') from the pier, dock, boathouse, or shoreline. No more than five (5) traps shall be allowed per property.

Recreational crab traps shall be marked with an orange floating, visible buoy not less than six inches (6") in diameter or width. The buoy shall have a legible letter "R" at least two inches (2") high, permanently affixed to it.

Crab traps which are no longer serviceable or in use shall be removed from the water by the owner thereof. No person shall intentionally damage or destroy crab traps or the floats or lines attached thereto.

Any unidentified, improperly marked, or illegally placed crab trap shall be considered a nuisance and may be confiscated by a conservation enforcement officer or other authorized agent of the ADCNR.

Any person, firm, or corporation taking, catching, selling, transporting, or possessing crabs shall have in their possession a valid license, if applicable, for such activity.

Such license shall be immediately available for inspection, upon request, by a conservation enforcement officer or other authorized agent.

FINFISH

Saltwater Rod and Reel License

Annual licenses expire one year from the date of issue.

Resident - \$16.00 annual

7-day trip - \$6.00

Annual Pier - \$6.00

(Residents only, fish from public piers.)

Nonresident - 7 Day

Florida - \$16.50

Louisiana - \$60.00

- Georgia - \$11.00
- Mississippi - \$17.85
- Tennessee - \$11.00
- All other states - \$11.00
- Nonresident – Annual
 - Florida - \$31.50
 - Louisiana - \$90.00
 - Georgia - \$31.00
 - Mississippi - \$33.85
 - Tennessee - \$31.00
 - All other states - \$31.00

Pier License

Piers located in inside waters of the state - \$1,001.00
 (Residents may fish without an additional license.)

Commercial Party Boat

Certified

- Up to 6 people - \$201.00
 - 7-25 people - \$301.00
 - Over 25 people - \$501.00
- (Persons onboard may fish without an additional license.)

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.

Saltwater fishing license requirements shall be applicable to such activities as provided within §9-11-53.1, 53.5, and 55.2 (Code of Alabama 1975) which occur south of the following line: beginning at the Mississippi state line – a meandering line following U.S. Highway 90 eastwardly to its junction with State Highway 188; State Highway 188 eastwardly to its junction with State Highway 193; State Highway 193 northwardly to its junction with State Highway 163; State Highway 163 northwardly to its intersection with Interstate Highway 10 (except the Theodore Industrial Canal); Interstate Highway 10 eastbound lane [except that portion of Interstate Highway 10 which lies north of state Highway 90 (Battleship Parkway) in which case the line follows the Parkway] to the Interstate Highway 10 intersection with U.S. Highway 98; U.S. Highway 98 southwardly and eastwardly to its intersection with State Highway 59; State Highway 59 southwardly to its intersection with Baldwin County Highway 20; Baldwin County Highway 20 eastwardly to its intersection with Baldwin County Highway 95; Baldwin Highway 95 northwardly to its intersection with U.S. Highway 98; U.S. Highway 98 eastwardly to its intersection with the western shore of Perdido Bay northwardly to the intersection of the Florida state line and the mouth of the Perdido River.

All commercial fishing operations, as well as recreational netting operations, and all gear used in any of such operations, and all gear used in any of such operations, in state jurisdictional waters south of Interstate 10 eastbound lane [except that portion of Interstate 10 which lies north of State Highway 90 (Battleship Parkway) in which case the line follows the Parkway] shall be subject to those laws, rules, and regulations of the ADCNR/MRD.

Recreational Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	MAXIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES
Cobia	2	2	33 FL	
Spotted seatrout	10	10	14 TL	
Red drum	3	3	16 TL ¹	26 TL
Red snapper	4	4	16 TL	
Snapper				
Gray	10	10	12 TL	
Vermilion	Note ²	Note ²	10 TL	
Lane	Note ²	Note ²	8 TL	
Spanish mackerel	15	15		
King mackerel	2	2	24 FL	
Greater amberjack	1	1	28 FL	
Striped bass	2 ³	2 ³	16 TL	
Gray triggerfish	Note ^{2,3}	Note ^{2,3}	12 TL	
Gag grouper	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	22 TL	
Black grouper	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	22 TL	
Red grouper	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	20 TL	
Yellowfin grouper	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	20 TL	
Scamp	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	All groupers 5/person in aggregate	16 TL	
Tarpon	Tag required	Tag required	60 TL	
Florida pompano	3	3	12 TL	
Mullet	Note ^{4,5,6}	Note ^{4,5,6}		
Atlantic sharpnose shark	2/person	2/person	None	
Other sharks	1/person	1/person	54 FL	
Tripletail	3	3	16 TL	
Flounder	No limit	No limit	12 TL	
Lesser amberjack	No limit	No limit	14 FL	22 FL
Banded rudderfish	No limit	No limit	14 FL	22 FL
Yellowfin tuna	No limit	No limit	27 CFL	
Bigeye tuna	No limit	No limit	27 CFL	

¹No allowance for undersized fish except: redfish – no undersized fish allowed, one (1) may exceed the maximum size. No undersize tolerance for speckled trout.

²There 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).

³When caught in areas designated as salt water.

⁴October 24 through December 31 – Possession limit on mullet caught by cast net or snagging is 25 fish per boat per day or 25 fish per person per day from shore.

⁵Unlawful to possess onboard a boat more than 25 mullet while cast netting or snagging in waters close to the use of gill nets.

⁶October 24 through December 31 – Unlawful to take mullet by cast netting or snagging in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, or the tributaries thereof.

Recreational and commercial harvest of the following sharks is prohibited: Atlantic angel, longfin mako, small tail, bigeye thresher, bignose, sevengill, white dusky, sitgill, nurse, sand tiger, and whale.

Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	MAXIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES
Red snapper ¹			15 TL	
Cobia		2	33 FL	
Gag grouper			24 TL	
Black grouper			22 TL	
Red grouper			20 TL	
Yellowfin grouper			20 TL	
Scamp			16 TL	
Florida pompano		3	12 TL	
Vermilion snapper			10 TL	
Lane snapper			8 TL	
Gray snapper			12 TL	
Tripletail		3	16 TL	
King mackerel			24 TL	
Greater amberjack			36 FL	
Mullet ²		25 per person or vessel		
Flounder			12 TL	
Gray triggerfish			12 TL	
Atlantic sharpnose shark			No size limit	
All other sharks			54 FL (30" dressed length)	

¹Commercial vessels which hold a valid federal red snapper Class 1 license and the federal reef fish commercial vessel permit may land in Alabama up to, but not to exceed, 2,000 lbs per vessel per trip of red snapper taken from Alabama waters; all other validly licensed Alabama commercial fishermen holding the red snapper Class 2 license and federal reef fish commercial vessel permit are restricted to landing in Alabama no more than 200 lbs per vessel per trip of red snapper taken from Alabama waters.

²October 24 through December 31 – taken by cast net or snagging.

Closed Season and Creel/Possession Limit on King Mackerel for Commercial Purposes

During such period of time that the federal waters (adjoining Alabama waters) are closed to the commercial harvest of king mackerel, it shall be unlawful to take, harvest, or possess, for commercial purposes, king mackerel, from the waters of the state of Alabama.

Season on Sharks for Commercial Purposes

During such period of time that the federal waters adjacent to Alabama waters are open to commercial harvest of small coastal sharks (SCS) or large coastal sharks (LCS) as defined by federal law or regulation, the Alabama waters of Mobile Bay, Bon Secour Bay, Mississippi Sound, and the Gulf of Mexico south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and west of Little Lagoon Pass (87°44'24"W longitude) shall be open to the harvest of such sharks for commercial purposes from 12:01 a.m. each Monday through 11:59 p.m. each Friday (no

weekends), except for commercial harvesting of sharks shall be prohibited from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. on each of the following holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. When federal waters adjacent to Alabama are closed to the commercial harvest of either shark management unit (SCS or LCS), it shall be unlawful to take, harvest, or possess, or attempt to take, harvest, or possess, for commercial purposes, sharks of such closed management unit from the waters of the state of Alabama.

Closed Season and Zero Possession Limit on Certain Species for Commercial Purposes

No person shall take, possess, or attempt to take or possess from the waters of the state of Alabama, for commercial purposes, any of the following species:

- Basking shark, *Cetorhinus maximus*
- White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*
- Bigeye sand tiger, *Odontaspis noronhai*

- ♦ Sand tiger, *Odontaspis taurus*
- ♦ White shark, *Rhincodon typus*
- ♦ Dusky shark, *Carcharhinus obscurus*
- ♦ Smalltooth sawfish, *Pristis pectinata*
- ♦ Largetooth sawfish, *Pristis pristis*
- ♦ Nassau grouper, *Epinephelus striatus*
- ♦ Goliath grouper (Jewfish), *Epinephelus itajara*

Bycatch Provisions on Sharks for Commercial Purposes

Regardless of the open or closed status of federal and Alabama waters regarding the directed harvest of sharks, gill net fishermen targeting other fish shall be allowed to keep, for commercial purposes, an incidental bycatch of dressed weight of sharks (carcasses and fins) – except those species listed above – totaling no more than ten percent (10%) by weight of other fish taken.

SALTWATER NETS

Purse Seine Licenses

- Resident - \$1,501.00
- Nonresident - \$3,001.00

Permits

Permits expire September 30 of each year. Recreational nets shall not exceed 300' in length; commercial nets shall not exceed 2,400' in length (main top line).

Resident

- Recreational - \$51.00
- Commercial - \$301.00 + additional \$501.00 for roe mullet and Spanish mackerel permit

Nonresident

- Recreational – pays the same fee as that charged an Alabama resident to conduct the same activity in applicant's state of residence provided nonresidents pay no less than twice the cost for license that Alabama residents pay.
- Commercial - \$1,501.00 + additional \$2,501.00 for roe mullet and Spanish mackerel permit

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 twenty-five feet (25') in length or four feet (4') in depth. A license made out to an individual is not transferable; licensee must be present when net is in use. A seafood dealer's 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 17, then to the southernmost point of the Isle aux Herbes (Coffee Island), thence eastward to the easternmost point of Marsh 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' with a color-contrasting float and every 300' with the fisherman's permit number. Recreational nets must be marked with the licensee's name and license number. The allowable depth commercial gill nets, trammel nets, and other entangling nets may vary by area.

Except as otherwise noted, gill nets, trammel nets, and other entangling nets used to catch any fish in Gulf waters 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 from the day after Labor Day 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 during the period October 24 through December 31 of each year shall be considered a roe mullet permit. 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 (5) hooks when used in Alabama waters under the jurisdiction of the MRD except from January 1 through April 30, when trotlines may be used to take legal species other than saltwater game fish east of Mobile Ship Channel and north of the line from MS#78 to Blakely R. Ch. #2 and due east to the shoreline. These trotlines cannot exceed 300' and 50 hooks.

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' of any man-made canal or the mouth of any river, stream, bayou, or creek; and within 300' of any pier, marina, dock, boat launching ramp, or certain "relic" piers. Recreational gill nets may not be used beyond 300' of the shoreline. It is unlawful to use any seine or net in any manner so as to block ingress or egress from any of the aforementioned structures. It is illegal to use recreational gill nets in Gulf waters and Pelican Bay.

Year round, gill nets, trammel nets, seines, haul seines, and other entangling nets are prohibited in Gulf waters within ¼ mile of shore, except (and subject to other provisions) waters east of longitude 87°47'826" which will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each day from March 15 through May 7. From October 2 through December 31, the waters east of Old Little Lagoon Pass to the Florida line are open 24 hours a day. From the day after Labor Day through March 14, Gulf waters within ¼ mile of shore will be open to netting west of Old Little Lagoon Pass in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, and the minimum mesh size for nets shall be 1⁹/₁₆" bar, except from March 15 through the Friday before Labor Day in waters west of Old Little Lagoon Pass. In Mobile and Baldwin Counties, waters shall be open from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each day. From March 15 through the Friday before Labor Day, waters west of longitude 88°11'500" are open 24 hours a day. From May 8 through Labor Day, all waters in the Gulf of Mexico east of Old Little Lagoon Pass to the Florida line are closed to gill nets, trammel nets, seines, haul seines, and other entangling nets. All waters of the Gulf of Mexico are closed during the Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day holidays. From January 1 through the day after Labor Day of each year, entangling nets are prohibited in certain waters in and around Dauphin Island.

It is illegal to remove the roe or other wise 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 (3) miles of Gulf beaches, 500' of any shoreline, or into any river, stream, bayou, or creek.

It is illegal to use or possess a gill net, trammel, or other entangling net that do not have a two inch (2") cork every five feet (5') or a six inch (6") buoy every fifty feet (50') on the top line.

FINFISH TAKEN AS BAIT BY BAIT PURSE SEINE Bait Fishery Defined – Fishery Restrictions

An experimental offshore bait purse seine fishery in Alabama's territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico for

schooling, pelagic fish species (listed below) to be marketed exclusively as bait is herein authorized. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to use a bait purse seine in Alabama's territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico, except as follows.

Gear Specifications

Purse seines utilized in taking or attempting to take bait fish species in the offshore territorial waters of the state of Alabama must be constructed entirely of one-half inch (½") knot to knot mesh webbing. This gear will be referred to in this rule as a "bait purse seine." The use of any purse seine in this bait fishery constructed of webbing sized other than as provided herein is illegal, and the possession onboard a boat in the waters of Alabama of a bait purse seine in which the webbing is sized other than as specified in this rule is prohibited.

Waters Open to the Fishery

The taking of finfish species as bait by bait purse seine shall be permitted in all of Alabama territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico south of a line one-fourth (¼) mile from the shoreline, including Pelican/Sand Island, seaward to a distance of three (3) miles from shore. These waters shall be open Monday through Friday except on state or national holidays. It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take bait species using a bait purse seine in any inside waters of the state of Alabama as defined by Rule 220-3-04(1) or in Pelican Bay [described as those waters encompassed by a line running south from Mobile Point Light at Fort Morgan to Sand Island Tower (Lighthouse)], then northwesterly along the contour of Sand/Pelican Island, and then from the west end of Pelican Island and to the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Park Pier, then east along the shoreline of Dauphin Island to the most southernmost tip of Dauphin Island and from this point southeastwardly across the mouth of Mobile Bay to Mobile Point Light at Fort Morgan.

Species Restrictions

A bait purse seine may lawfully be used for taking or attempting to take only the following fishes to be marketed expressly as bait:

- ♦ Round scad, *Decapterus punctatus*
- ♦ Rough scad, *Trachurus lathami*
- ♦ Bigeye scad, *Selar crumenophthalmus*
- ♦ Chub mackerel, *Scomber japonicus*
- ♦ Ladyfish, *Elops saurus*
- ♦ Blue runner, *Caranx crysos*

License Requirement

The operator of any vessel upon which a bait purse is possessed must hold a valid Alabama purse seine license.

Observer Requirement

Any vessel which a bait purse seine is possessed must have a bona fide fishery observer on board or comply with reporting requirements as determined by criteria established by the ADCNR/MRD Director when such vessel is away from port and on the fishing grounds.

Landing Requirement

All fish taken as bait by bait purse seine in Alabama waters by a duly licensed bait purse seine vessel must be landed in the state of Alabama.

Reporting Protocol

Each bait purse seine vessel operator must submit reports in standardized form detailing catch, fishing conditions, and fishing equipment by individual fishing trip to the ADCNR/MRD at weekly intervals. Reports will be submitted each Tuesday, detailing fishing activities for the previous Monday through Friday fishing week.

The bait purse seining activities conducted pursuant to this rule shall not be construed as purse seining for the purposes of §9-12-115.1, Code of Alabama 1975.

Bycatch Restrictions

It shall be unlawful in the territorial waters of Alabama to retain or possess any duly designated "game fish" onboard any vessel upon which a bait purse seine is concurrently possessed. Bycatch allowances for species other than game fish expressed as a percentage of targeted catch will be deferred until such time as representative biological and catch data can be compiled. Data regarding allowable bycatch (non-game fish) will be compiled on a per trip basis.

Closure Provisions

Due to the novelty of this fishery and a subsequent lack of data regarding its prosecution in the territorial waters of Alabama, this bait fishery shall be subject to immediate closure and/or reopening upon order of the ADCNR/MRD Director. Entry into the fishery may be limited or annual species-specific quotas may be developed as fishery data becomes available.

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the provisions of this regulation shall be punished as provided by law.

SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSE

Required of any person, firm, or corporation selling, brokering, trading, bartering, or processing any fresh or frozen seafood. To obtain a seafood dealer license, tax identification, 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.)

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

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 MRD Director, on blanks provided for that purpose.

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 MRD Director at monthly intervals the fisherman's name; license or permit number; species purchased; volume and price paid for the product; date and area of harvest; trip and fishing time; proper vessel identification; type, quality, and size of gear used; applicable mesh size of gear used; and date of purchase – provided that if the dealer outside the state of Alabama to which produce was sold fails to report as required, it will be the responsibility of the fisherman who sold the product to provide to the MRD Director 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, and be at least six inches (6") in height.



Commercial Fishing Regulations

2004-2005

Saltwater

Issue Two, July 2004

A Publication of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Industry Input is Key to Fishery Management

Recommendations from industry are key to developing effective fisheries management options. Fishermen and dealers are often unable or reluctant to attend and participate in FWC meetings and workshops. Fishermen who cannot attend are encouraged to send comments to the Commission and to respond to questionnaires. Feedback offered by one fisherman or dealer can make a difference. Industry participants can stay informed of rule developments and request of copies of meeting and agenda documents by contacting the Division of Marine Fisheries Commercial Outreach Program by phone at 850-922-4340 Extension 204 or by e-mail at SPLmail@fwc.state.fl.us or look for updates on the web at MyFWC.com/marine/Commercial_Fisheries_Information.htm.

FWC meetings and workshops are noticed in the Florida Administrative Weekly (FAW) and published on the web at MyFWC.com and FAW.dos.state.fl.us. Agenda documents appear approximately three weeks prior to a meeting. License holders with e-mail addresses are notified as new fisheries meeting or workshop information becomes available.

Rule Development: An Ongoing Process

The FWC is charged with establishing marine fisheries rules and meets six times a year to hear from staff and the public and handle administrative issues. Each spring the FWC develops a work plan outlining and prioritizing the fishery management issues to be addressed in the coming year. The plan is amended as new issues arise.

At the direction of the Commissioners, the Division of Marine Fisheries holds public workshops or distributes questionnaires to gather input from industry participants. Findings are presented at FWC meetings. Meeting attendees also have the opportunity to speak to the Commissioners. After hearing from staff and attendees, the Commissioners may direct the staff to prepare a draft rule or to gather more input or fisheries information.

Commissioners can make changes to a proposed rule up to and through the final public hearing. Depending on the complexity of an issue, a rule can be addressed at one or more workshops or commission meetings. The process can take as long as two years before a "Final Public Hearing" is held. Federal consistency rules, on the other hand, may be fast-tracked and go straight to the

final hearing stage without workshops. Upon final approval of the Commissioners, a new or amended rule is filed with the Department of State before being published in the administrative code. Notices of draft and final rules are advertised in the FAW. Being informed throughout the process allows industry to make recommendations to ensure effective fishery management and avoid unnecessary disruption of commercial operations.



Industry participation helps avoid unnecessary disruption of fisheries operations.

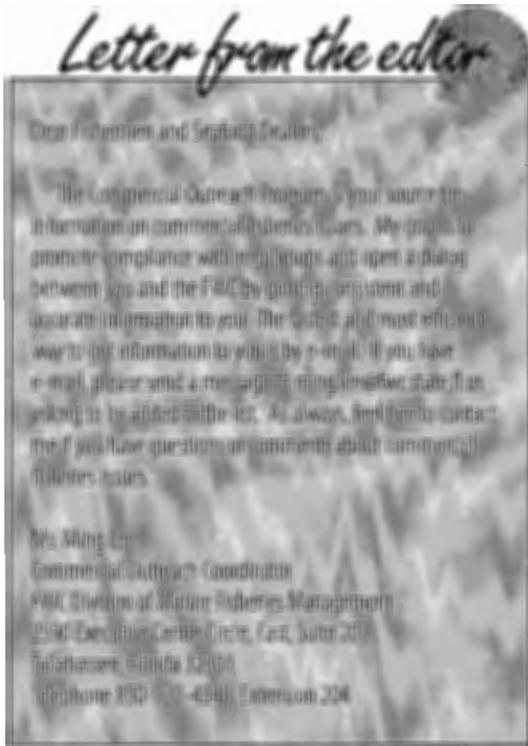
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*up-dated in this issue



Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management



These rules apply in state waters extending nine nautical miles off the Gulf coast and three nautical miles off the Atlantic coast. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rules may also extend to federal waters. The FWC is charged with establishing marine fisheries rules in Chapters 68B and 68E, Florida Administrative Code. License fees and penalties for fisheries violations rules and regulations in Chapter 370, Florida Statutes, are enacted by the Legislature. The official FWC marine fisheries regulations can be found at: <http://myfwc.com/marine/FWC68B.htm>. The FWC Division of Law Enforcement enforces fisheries laws in both state and federal waters.

Additional Regulations

Other federal and state regulations and permit requirements, local laws, and gear restrictions may apply when harvesting in state waters of Florida and the adjacent federal waters. Please contact the regional FWC Law Enforcement office before fishing. See page 16 to find the Law Enforcement Office nearest to you.

State and federal park regulations and permit requirements apply within park boundaries. Contact park personnel before harvesting in waters of a park or state recreation area.

For official federal regulations, please refer to Title 50, Part 600, Code of Federal Regulations, found online at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html> or contact the:

UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETINGS

July 15-16, Tallahassee September 22-24, Tampa
December 1-3, Key Largo

For more information about commission meeting dates, times, locations, and agendas visit our website at MyFWC.com and click on "Commission Meetings" on the left side of the page.

Emerging Commercial Fisheries Management Issues

The Division of Marine Fisheries will continue to gather input from blue crabbers and marine life collectors in the upcoming months. Other ongoing management issues include black seabass trap marking requirements, commercial rule reorganization, Apalachicola Oyster season and Spanish Mackerel in Martin County.

Learn about upcoming workshops by calling the Commercial Saltwater Licensing program at 850-487-3122 and dialing 7 to listening to the pre-recorded message.

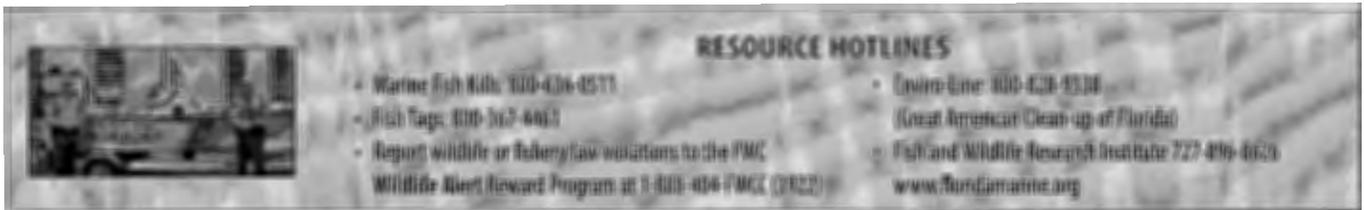
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
The Commons at River Gate
3018 N. U.S. Hwy. 301, Suite 1000
Tampa, Florida 33619-2272
813-228-2815 or Toll Free 888-833-1844
www.gulfcouncil.org

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
One Southpark Circle, Suite 306
Charleston, SC 29407
843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10
www.safmc.net

NOAA Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
727-570-5447
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms

For federal permit information contact the:

NMFS – Permit Department
9721 Executive Center Dr. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
727-570-5326
sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/permits.htm



Disclaimer: This unofficial summary has no legal effect and is provided for informational purposes only. For the official regulatory language, please refer to Chapter 370, Florida Statutes, and Chapters 68B and 68E, Florida Administrative Code. Fishery regulations are subject to change. This summary does not include regulatory changes that may have occurred after June 2004. Visit MyFWC.com/Marine to view official rule language.

COMMERCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Commercial Saltwater Fishing License Requirements

A Saltwater Products License (SPL), additional endorsements or permits (specified herein), and a commercial vessel registration are required to commercially harvest in state waters or sell any amount of saltwater products in Florida. Commercial harvest is considered harvest over the recreational bag limit or with certain gear as required by law. For species that do not have an established bag limit, more than 100 pounds or two fish per person per day (whichever is greater), is considered commercial quantities. An SPL and a commercial vessel registration are also required to harvest commercial quantities of unregulated species. A saltwater product is any marine fish, marine invertebrate, or marine plant, except non-living shells and salted, cured, canned, or smoked seafood.

A Restricted Species Endorsement (RS) is required to commercially harvest and sell the following species: Spanish Mackerel, King Mackerel, Black Drum, Spotted Seatrout, Grouper, Snapper, Red Porgy, Gray Triggerfish, Amberjack, Sea Bass, Tropical/ Ornamental "Marine Life", Black Mullet, Silver Mullet, Bluefish, Hogfish, Blue Crab, Stone Crab, Crawfish/Spiny Lobster, African Pompano, Florida Pompano, Permit, Sheepshead, Tripletail, Clams (Brevard County only), Shrimp, Flounder, and Cobia.

Additional species may be designated as restricted species by the Commission at any time. Licensed commercial fishermen must show proof of income from sales of saltwater products to a licensed wholesale dealer in the form of trip tickets or out-of-state landings reported under their license to qualify for the RS. Sales reported under a retail dealers license cannot be used to qualify for the RS. Additional qualification criteria and exemptions to the income requirements may apply for first-time applicants. First-time applicants should contact the FWC licensing program at the number listed below.

Additional licenses, endorsements, permits and certificates are required to commercially harvest and/or sell blue crab (V#), ornamental marine life (ML), crawfish/spiny lobster (C#), stone crab (X# or IX), and sponges (Q#); to use a purse seine (PS); to use a lampara net for the directed harvest of ballyhoo (L); and to simultaneously possess a gillnet and pompano harvested from federal waters in the Cape Sable/Hurricane Pass area (PE). Beginning in the 2004-05 season, a Commercial Dive Permit (CD#) is required to harvest spiny lobster by diving. Other endorsements are required to harvest food shrimp in Tampa Bay (TB), food and bait shrimp in the St. Johns River (DS/LS), and clams in Brevard County (KL). A Special Activity License (SAL) is required to use Quinaldine to collect "Marine Life" species. A Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Permit (AP) is required to harvest oysters in Apalachicola Bay. Federal permits are also required for some species. License requirements for regulated species are specified in the "Basic Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations" chart on pages 8 and 9.

All licensing requirements apply even if a species is harvested as incidental bycatch of another fishery.

No new Blue Crab, Marine Life, Lampara Net (ballyhoo) endorsements, Commercial Dive Permits or Tampa Bay Shrimping Licenses are available at this time.

A wholesale dealers license is required to purchase saltwater products from a harvester and sell products to retail dealers or other wholesale

dealers. A retail dealers license is required to purchase saltwater products from a wholesale dealer and sell products to the consumer unless licensed by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants. A FWC wholesale dealers license number is not required for transport of saltwater products that remain continuously under bond during transit from another state or country through Florida to a destination outside Florida.

Some licenses, endorsements or permits may not be available at this time. Contact the FWC's Commercial Saltwater Licensing (CSL) program to find out more about license and eligibility requirements and the availability to new applicants. Additional information and applications are available on-line at <http://marinefisheries.org/CommLicense.htm> or by contacting the CSL program at (850) 487-3122 or SPLMAIL@fwc.state.fl.us.

Sale and Reporting Requirements for Saltwater Products

It is unlawful for any unlicensed person to purchase or sell saltwater products. Penalties for unlicensed sale include criminal and civil fines of up to \$5,000, permanent revocation of license privileges, and imprisonment. Additional penalties for unlicensed sale by a person whose fishing privileges have been revoked or suspended include forfeiture of property involved in the offense.

Dealers are required to confirm that potential sellers hold all of the required licenses prior to purchasing any saltwater product. All dealers must report products when landed for the first time to the FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) Trip Ticket Reporting Office. Wholesale and retail dealers who harvest their own products under an SPL must also submit trip tickets.

Commercial fishermen can only sell their catch to a licensed wholesale dealer. Fishermen are strongly advised to always obtain and retain copies of their trip tickets and to compare them with their landings summaries produced by the FWRI on an annual basis. For reporting or landings information contact the FWC FWRI Trip Ticket Office at (727) 822-8783.

Commercial Possession and Transport of Saltwater Products

Florida law requires that an SPL be aboard vessels during commercial harvest of any saltwater products and during transport for sale by the harvester. All vessels used for commercial harvest must be commercially registered. Secondary vessels transported on, towed by, or connected to a primary vessel and used to deploy or retrieve seines or harvest fish in commercial quantities must be at least eight feet long and commercially registered.

Persons transporting saltwater products (other than a properly licensed commercial fisherman or other person transporting ordinarily-packaged retail products) must also have in their possession all related invoices, bills of lading or other documentation showing the number of containers and pounds of each species and the name, physical address, and dealer number of the wholesale dealer of origin/destination. A FWC wholesale dealers license number is not required for transport of saltwater products that remain continuously under bond during transit from another state or country through Florida to a destination outside Florida.

Where marine fisheries regulations do not otherwise prohibit possession or sale of saltwater products legally harvested outside waters of a



closed area or imported from another country or state, the burden of proof of the place of harvest and initial point sale of such products rests on the person or firm in possession. Invoices, receipts, original bills of sale, bills of lading, or other documentation are acceptable proof of lawful harvest or importation.

General Commercial Saltwater Fishing Prohibitions

Food fish may not be taken for the purpose of making oil, fertilizer or compost.

Hook and line gear must be tended at all times. Possession of longline gear (a line or a series of connected lines with more than 10 hooks) is prohibited in state waters except for persons in continuous transit across state waters to or from federal waters.

Spearfishing is prohibited within 100 yards of public bathing beaches, commercial or public fishing piers, and bridges where public fishing is permitted, or within 100 feet of a jetty, except the last 500 feet of a jetty that extends beyond 1,500 yards of the shoreline. The use and possession of spear guns (other than spear guns that are unloaded, properly stored, and in continuous transit across such waters) is prohibited in State parks or recreation areas. Spearfishing is prohibited from Long Key to the Dade/Monroe County line. Check with the nearest FWC Law Enforcement office to find out if other local spearfishing restrictions apply.

Use of firearms or explosives for harvest is prohibited. Harvest with or

possession of fish harvested with a powerhead or bangstick is prohibited in state waters. Powerheads may be used for personal protection only. Use of a rebreather to harvest any marine species is prohibited. Use of a rebreather is allowed for nonconsumptive purposes only. Simultaneous possession of a rebreather and fish is prohibited, except for persons in continuous transit from federal waters.

The harvest of marine fish with the aid of a spotter plane is prohibited, except for purposes of harvesting non-food fish with a purse seine.

Attaching a frame net, trawl, trap, net, or similar device to any operational bridge or causeway or associated structure, or using more than one such net from such structures is prohibited.

Use of poisons, drugs, or chemicals in marine waters is prohibited, unless authorized pursuant to a Special Activity License (SAL). See: Licensing Requirements.

Federal permit requirements apply in state waters for the commercial harvest of some species. Where Commission bag/size limits are more restrictive than federal limits for the same species, a person observed fishing in state waters is subject to state rules, and a person who has fished in federal waters and returned to port without stopping to fish in state waters is subject to federal regulations.

COMMERCIAL SALTWATER FISHING GEAR LIMITATIONS

The chart on pages 8 and 9 lists the allowable gear for each regulated species. Statewide and regional limitations also apply to possession and use of nets, trawls, and traps and may not be included in the chart. A summary of basic gear limitations for the use of nets, trawls, and traps is provided below. Contact your regional Law Enforcement Office for local regulations (see page 16).

Net Limitations

Food fish caught in any net and not kept due to bag, size, or other reason must be immediately returned to the water alive.

The use of gill and entangling nets is prohibited in all state waters (nine nautical miles from the Gulf coast and three nautical miles from the Atlantic coast). Any net (other than a hand thrown cast net) with a stretched mesh size larger than two inches is considered an entangling net. Any net (other than a hand thrown cast net or handheld landing or dip net) constructed wholly or partially of monofilament or multistrand monofilament material is also considered an entangling net.

The use of a cast net with a stretched length (the distance from the horn to the lead line with the net pulled tight) of more than 14 feet and fishing with more than two cast nets per vessel is also prohibited in state waters.

Use of more than four seines is prohibited in state waters. This limitation applies to primary vessels and secondary vessels aboard or connected to the primary vessel. No more than two lawful nets may be fished per vessel in nearshore and inshore waters (all waters landward of a line three nautical miles from the Gulf coast and one nautical mile from the Atlantic coast). A person not on a vessel may fish no more than

one such net.

The use of any net with a mesh area exceeding 500 square feet is prohibited in nearshore and inshore waters. Tying, connecting, or fastening two or more nets together in any way so as to exceed 500 square feet of mesh area is prohibited.

The use of trawls with a net or bag containing more than 500 square feet of mesh area is prohibited in nearshore and inshore waters.

Any vessel in state waters with gill or entangling nets aboard or more than four seines aboard and vessels in nearshore or inshore waters with any net with a mesh area larger than 500 square feet aboard (the trawl door or frame may not be deployed) must proceed as directly, continuously and expeditiously as possible from the place where the vessel is regularly moored to waters where use of such nets is lawful and back or to the licensed wholesale dealer where the catch is to be sold. This requirement does not apply to vessels containing or otherwise transporting dry nets that are rolled, folded, or otherwise properly stowed in "lock boxes" so as to make their immediate use impracticable.

In all waters of the state, the possession of gill and entangling nets or seines with a mesh area larger than 500 square feet is prohibited on any airboat, on any vessel with a forward-mounted primary power source that is less than 25 feet in length, and on any vessel less than 22 feet in length.

Violations of these net gear regulations are considered major violations. Civil penalties and license suspensions may be assessed.

Gill nets used in the federal gill net fishery must be marked at each end with the SPL number of the vessel operator or vessel from which it is

deployed. Seines must be tended and marked with the SPL number at each end.

Beach or haul seines, with the exception of nets used in the specified area of the the Southwest region, may not be soaked for more than one hour from the time the mesh first enters the water until the mesh is first retrieved. In the Southwest (SW) region (Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties, except inside waters) nets may be fished from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. Such nets may not be soaked for more than 12 hours from the time the first mesh is set until the first mesh is retrieved. In the area a seine net with one unattached wing is allowed; however, one end of the main net must be anchored on the shore, and a vessel with a white light visible from 360° and at least one mile must be anchored at the seaward end of the nets.

Purse seines or similar devices may not be used to take food fish other than tuna and menhaden. Lawfully used seines may have a pocket bunt on the middle of the seine with a mesh size less than two inches.

Use of trawls for the directed harvest of species other than shrimp and calico scallops is prohibited. When allowed by rule, other species harvested as bycatch may be retained. Refer to the official gear, shrimp and calico scallop regulations for specific trawling limitations and gear specifications.

Trap Limitations

Unless otherwise prohibited, finfish may be harvested in a lawful black sea bass or pinfish trap, or as bycatch in a lawful crab or crawfish trap (licensing requirements apply to bycatch). A lawful black sea bass trap may not exceed two feet in any dimension and must have a biodegradable panel and a throat not more than five inches high by two inches

wide. Black sea bass traps are prohibited south of Latitude 27° N (a line extending east and west through the Sarasota area on the west coast and Martin County on the east coast). A lawful pinfish trap may not exceed two feet in any dimension and must have a throat or entrance not more than inches high and ¾ inches wide. Possession of fish traps not otherwise allowed by rule is prohibited in state waters except for persons in continuous transit across state waters to or from federal waters.

Trap tagging requirements apply to stone crab and spiny lobster traps only. Stone crab, blue crab, and spiny lobster trap construction and trap/buoy/vessel marking specifications are summarized on pages 11-12. Refer to the official rules before building or buying traps.

The use of any trap is prohibited in designated areas off of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties during the following closed seasons.

Zone II - closed season Oct. 5 - May 20

Zone IV - closed season Oct. 5 - Dec. 1 & April 2 - May 20

Zone V - closed season Oct. 5 - Nov. 30 & Mar. 16 - May 20

The boundaries for these zones are expressed by longitude and latitude in 68B-38(2), F.A.C.

Trap theft or molestation is a felony crime; penalties include permanent loss of license.

A trap puller is prohibited on vessels other than a commercial vessel operated pursuant to a saltwater products license with a crawfish, stone crab or blue crab endorsement or other FWC authorization or a federal fish trap endorsement.

“REEF FISH” REGULATIONS

Species designated as “Reef Fish” are also designated as Restricted Species. An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) endorsement is required to sell any species designated as “Reef Fish”. A Federal Permit is also required to harvest in commercial quantities and sell “Reef Fish” species other than bank, black, or rock sea bass and red porgy harvested in the Gulf. No “Reef Fish” may be sold by or purchased from persons who do not hold the required state and federal permits.

Size and bag limits and closed seasons are listed in the chart on page 6. Allowable gear for the harvest of “Reef Fish” is limited to hook and line gear, black sea bass traps, and spearing. Possession of “Reef Fish”

harvested as incidental bycatch while targeting other species and with gear not allowed for the harvest of “Reef Fish” is limited to the recreational bag limit. Incidental bycatch of red porgy harvested in the Atlantic during the closed season is limited to one fish and may not be sold. Possession of a recreational and a commercial bag limit of greater amberjack on the same trip is prohibited.

If at any time adjacent federal waters are closed to commercial harvest of a “Reef Fish” species, corresponding state waters are also closed to the harvest of the affected species. During any such closure, purchase and sale of the affected species harvested from the closed area is prohibited.

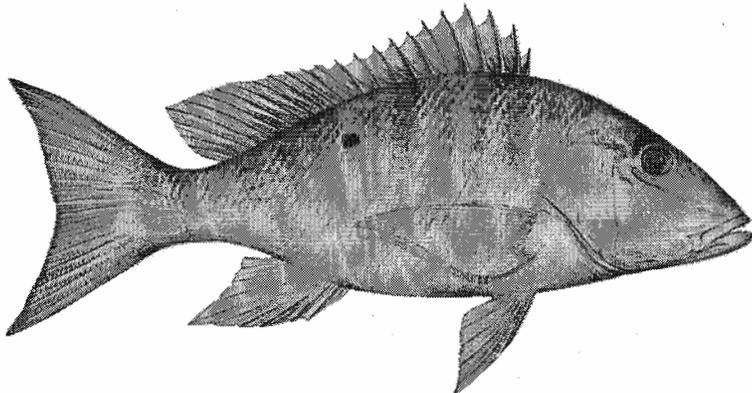
Species designated as “Reef Fish”:					
Groupers		Jacks	Snappers		Other
Black Grouper	Snowy Grouper	Greater Amberjack	Black Snapper	Queen Snapper	Hogfish
Coney Grouper	Tiger Grouper	Banded Rudderfish	Blackfin Snapper	Red Snapper	Red Porgy
Gag Grouper	Yellowedge Grouper	Lesser Amberjack	Cubera Snapper	Schoolmaster	Gray Triggerfish
Graysby	Yellowfin Grouper	Almaco Jack	Dog Snapper	Silk Snapper	
Misty Grouper	Yellowmouth Grouper		Gray (Mangrove) Snapper	Vermilion Snapper	
Red Grouper	Bank Sea Bass *		Lane Snapper	Wenchman Snapper	
Red Hind	Black Sea Bass*		Mahogany Snapper	Yellowtail Snapper	
Rock Hind	Rock Sea Bass*		Mutton Snapper		
Scamp					

*Harvest of bank, black, and rock sea bass is prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park



Commercial "Reef Fish" Size and Bag Limits and Closed Seasons				
SPECIES*	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	VESSEL/POSSESSION LIMIT	CLOSED SEASON	OTHER REGULATIONS
Groupers				
Black and Gag	24" TL	None	Atlantic & Monroe Co.: Mar. 1 - April 30 Gulf: Feb. 15 - Mar. 14	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Red	20" TL	None	Gulf except Monroe Co.: Feb. 15 - March 14	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Scamp - Gulf	16" TL	None	None	16" size limit applies to imported fish.
Scamp - Atlantic & Monroe Co.	20" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Yellowfin	20" TL	None	None	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Yellowmouth	20" TL	None	None	
Jacks				
Almaco jack	None	None	March, April, and May	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Banded rudderfish	14" - 22" FL	None	March, April, and May	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Greater amberjack	36" FL	Atlantic - 1,000 lbs. per vessel per day.	March, April, and May	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Lesser amberjack	14" - 22" FL	None	March, April, and May	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Sea Bass - Black	10" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish. See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Snappers				
Blackfin	12" TL	None	None	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Cubera	12" TL	None, except that possession of more than 2 fish 30" or longer per vessel per day is prohibited.	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Dog	12" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Gray (Mangrove)	12" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Lane	8" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Mahogany	12" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Mutton	16" TL	May - June: 10 per person per day or 10 per trip, whichever is more restrictive.	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Queen	12" TL	None	None	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Red - Gulf	15" TL	4 per person per day	Federal closure applies.	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Red - Atlantic	20" TL	2 per person per day	None	15" size limit applies to imports.
Schoolmaster	10" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Silk	12" TL	None	None	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Vermilion - Gulf	10" TL	None	None	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Vermilion - Atlantic	12" TL	None	None	10" size limit applies to imports.
Yellowtail	12" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Hogfish	12" FL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Red porgy - Atlantic	14" TL	50 lbs. daily vessel limit.	Jan. 1 - April 30	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.
Triggerfish - Gray	12" TL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish.

* All "Reef Fish" species must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (head & tails intact) FL = Fork Length TL = Total Length



MACKEREL REGULATIONS

The basic size limits and license requirements for kingfish and Spanish mackerel are listed in the chart on pages 8 and 9.

King Mackerel (Kingfish)

King mackerel are divided into two separate fisheries: the Atlantic fishery and the Gulf-Atlantic fishery. The groups are treated differently for management purposes. Bag limits vary by fishery, region, and season.

The boundaries between the Atlantic and Gulf-Atlantic fisheries shift between the summer and winter seasons. During the summer season (April 1 - Oct. 31), the Atlantic Fishery includes all Atlantic and Monroe County waters and the Gulf-Atlantic fishery includes all Gulf waters north of the Collier/Monroe County line.

During the winter season (Nov. 1 - March 31), the Atlantic fishery includes only the Atlantic waters north of the Volusia/Flagler County line and the Gulf-Atlantic Fishery includes all Atlantic waters south of the Volusia/Flagler County line and all Gulf waters east of the Alabama/Florida boarder.

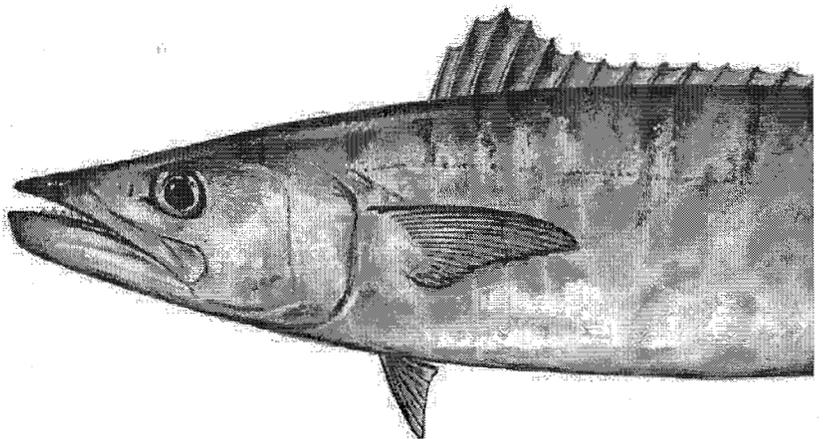
In both the Atlantic and Gulf-Atlantic fisheries, the trip limit for commercial harvest of king mackerel in state waters is reduced or closed in response to federal trip limit reductions and closures.

Spanish Mackerel

The commercial Spanish mackerel fishery is divided into Eastern and Western regions. The boundary separating the regions is 25°20.4' N. Latitude. (a line directly east from the Dade/Monroe County boarder to the outer limit of the EEZ). All Atlantic waters north of the boundary line comprise the Eastern Region. All Atlantic waters south of the boundary line and all state waters and adjacent federal waters in the Gulf comprise the Western Region. Although the trip limit for the commercial harvest of Spanish mackerel is reduced in response to federal trip limit reductions and closures, there is no closed season for the commercial harvest of Spanish mackerel in state waters. Transfer of fish between vessels is prohibited in the Eastern Region.

King Mackerel Vessel/Trip Limits:	
Newark, Ocean, St. Johns, and Flagler counties	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	3,500 lbs. daily vessel limit applies
From the date of the EEZ closure thru March 31:	Recreational limit
Volusia County	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	3,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru Oct. 31:	Recreational limit
From Nov. 1 until the EEZ closes:	50 fish daily vessel limit
From date of the EEZ closure thru March 31:	Commercial harvest prohibited
Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade counties	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	75 fish daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru Oct. 31:	Recreational limit
From Nov. 1, until the EEZ closes:	50 fish daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru March 31:	Commercial harvest prohibited
Monroe County	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	1,250 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru Oct. 31:	Recreational limit
From Nov. 1 until the bag limit is reduced:	1,250 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of the bag limit reduction until EEZ closes:	500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From EEZ closure thru March 31:	Commercial harvest prohibited
All Gulf coast counties except Monroe County	
From July 1 until the vessel limit is reduced to 500 lbs.:	1,250 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of the vessel limit reduction until the EEZ closes:	500 lb. daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru June 30:	Commercial harvest prohibited

Spanish Mackerel Vessel/Trip Limits:	
Atlantic (East Coast Region)	
From April 1 to Nov. 30:	3,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From Dec. 1 until the EEZ closes to unlimited harvest -	
Mon. - Fri.:	3,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
Sat. and Sun.:	1,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From date closure to unlimited harvest until EEZ closes:	1,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of closure until March 31:	500 lbs.
Gulf (West Coast Region)	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	Unlimited harvest
From the date the EEZ closes until Mar. 31	500 lbs. daily vessel limit



Basic Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations*

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	TRIP LIMIT/BAG LIMIT	CLOSED SEASON	OTHER REGULATIONS*
Baitfish	None	None	None	Local baitfish restrictions apply. See: Baitfish Regulations on page 11.
Ballyhoo (halfbeaks, balao, and silver stripe halfbeaks)	None	See: Baitfish Regulations.		Lampara Net Endorsement (L) and/or Purse Seine (PS) endorsement may be required. Allowable gear: Cast net, hook and line gear, landing or dip net, lampara net. Use of a lampara net prohibited Aug. 1 - Aug. 31. Prohibition applies to state and federal waters. License requirements and bag limits are determined by the method of harvest and gear used. See: Baitfish Regulations on p. 11.
Black Drum ▲ †	14" - 24" TL	500 lbs. per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less.	None	RS required. Prohibition on multiple or snatch hook applies to state and federal waters. Maximum size limit applies to sale. Harvest prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Blue Crab	5"	None. Bycatch in shrimp trawl 200 lbs. trip limit; other bycatch 10 gallons whole crabs per person per day	Regional	RS, V# required. Allowable gear: traps, dip or landing net, 1'X1' fold-up trap, hook and line, pushscrape or trotline. Trap specifications apply. Regional closures and restrictions apply. Other rules apply to peeler and live bait crab. See: Blue Crab Regulations on p. 11.
Bluefish ▲	12" FL	Atlantic north of Monroe County - 7,500 lbs. per vessel per day. Other state and federal waters - None.	None	RS required. Limits and gear restrictions apply in state and federal waters of the Atlantic north of Monroe Co. Nets must be tended. May set no more than 1 net per vessel. No more than 2 nets may be on a vessel, unless nets differ by 1/4" mesh size and 25 meshes in depth. Nets may not be soaked more than 1 hr. Specific gear restrictions and net marking requirements apply to nets other than purse seines. In Atlantic federal waters, nets must be no more than 600 yards long (connected or unconnected) with stretched mesh size no less than 3 inches. Size limit applies to sale of fish.
Blue Land Crab	None	20 crabs per person possession limit.	July 1 - Oct. 31	Allowable gear: by hand or landing or dip net. Use of bleach or other chemical solutions prohibited. Harvest from road or right-of-way or state park prohibited. Prohibitions do not apply to imported crabs. Possession, stripping, purchase, and sale of eggbearing crabs prohibited.
Clams, Hard	1" thickness across hinge	Sorted - None. Unsorted - 1 bushel per vessel.	None	Allowable gear: use of feet, hands, rakes, tongs. Rakes and tongs with more less than 7/8" space between teeth or bars or dividers in basket prohibited. Wire or net may not be used in basket of manual rakes and tongs. An RS and Brevard County Clam License are required to harvest hard clams in Brevard County. See: Hard Clam Regulations on p. 13.
Cobia (Ling) ▲	33" FL	2 fish per person per day, maximum of 6 per vessel.	None	RS required. May not possess a recreational bag limit and a commercial bag limit at the same time. Size limit applies to sale.
Dolphin ▲	20" FL	Directed harvest - None. Incidental bycatch - 10 fish per person.	None	Allowable gear: hook and line gear, longline gear (federal waters only), and spearing. Size limit applies to purchase and sale of fish.
Eels other than moray and snake eels	None	None	None	"Marine Life" regulations apply to moray and snake eels. See: "Marine Life" Regulations on p. 15. Harvest of spaghetti eels is prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Flounder - Gulf, southern, summer, fringed ▲ †	12" TL	Directed harvest - None. Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs. per person.	None	RS required. Allowable gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line gear, and spearing. In Volusia County, spearing with barbed spear having more than 3 prongs prohibited. Size limit applies to sale of fish.
Groupers ▲		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations on p. 5-6.
Herring (blueback and river herring)	None	None	None	Allowable gear: hook and line gear only. Spearing prohibited. See: Baitfish Regulations on p. 11.
Hogfish ▲		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations on p. 5-6.
Horseshoe Crab	None	25 crab per person per day or 100 per person per day w/ ML or eel permit.	None	Allowable gear: by hand or gig. Bag limits extend to docks, piers, bridges, beaches and adjacent fishing sites. A biomedical collection permit is required for collecting blood (crabs must be released alive in the area where collected).
Jacks (Amberjacks) ▲		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations on p. 5-6.
Jellyfish (Genera Rophilema & Stomopholus)	None	None	None	Harvest restrictions apply. See: Jellyfish Regulations on p. 15.
Lobster, Slipper	None	None	None	Possession of eggbearing lobster prohibited. Possession prohibited in designated areas of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Lobster, Spiny	3" carapace (head) 5 1/2" tail	Trap Fishery - None. Bully Net - 250 lobster vessel limit. Dive fishery - Regional. See: Spiny Lobster Regulations p. 12	April 1 - Aug. 5	RS, C# required. D# required for divers. Allowable gear: by diving, traps, hand-held net, hoop net (diameter no larger than 10'), or bully net (diameter no larger than 3'). Specific restrictions and requirements depend on the method of harvest. See: Spiny Lobster Regulations on p. 12.
Mackerel, King ▲	24" FL	See: King Mackerel Regulations.	Regional	RS, FP required for commercial harvest in federal waters and to exceed the recreational bag limit in state waters. Allowable Gear: Atlantic fishery - hook and line gear and spearing.
Mackerel, Spanish ▲	12" FL	See: Spanish Mackerel Regulations.	Regional	RS required. Allowable Gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line gear, or by spearing.
Mullet, Silver (white, fantail, or redeye) ▲	None	See: Mullet Regulations.	Regional	RS required. See Mullet Regulations on p. 10.
Mullet, Striped (black) ▲	11" FL w/ a 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish	See: Mullet Regulations.	Regional	RS required. See Mullet Regulations on p. 10.
Oysters	3" in greatest dimension.	20 bags per person or vessel per day, whichever is less. Additional regional limits apply. See: Oyster Regulations.	Regional	AP required in Apalachicola Bay. Allowable gear: by hand, diving, swimming, or leaning from vessels, wading, and by tongs. Use and possession of dredges or other mechanical devices is prohibited over beds. Harvest is prohibited between sunset or the posted daily closing time and sunrise. Local and regional restrictions and bag limits apply. See: Oyster Regulations on p. 13.
Permit ▲ †	11" - 20" FL	None	None	RS, PE required. Allowable gear: hook and line gear. Spearing prohibited. Size limit applies to sale and purchase of fish.

Pompano ▲ †	11" - 20" FL	250 fish per person or per vessel per day except for persons holding a *PE. See: "Pompano Regulations"	None	RS required. Size limit applies to purchase and sale of fish. Use of gear other than a beach or haul seine, cast net, and hook and line gear is prohibited in state waters. Gill nets may be used in designated federal waters. Additional gear limitations and exceptions to the bag limit apply to harvest in federal waters. See: "Pompano Regulations" on p. 10.
Pompano, African ▲ †	24" FL	2 fish per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less.	None	RS required. Allowable gear: hook and line gear. Spearfishing prohibited.
Puffer Fish	None	None	None	Harvest prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.
Red Porgy ▲		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations on p. 5-6.
Scallops, Calico	250 individual meats per 1lb. sample.	None	None	Bycatch of other species prohibited. Gear and harvest specifications apply. See: Calico Scallop Regulations on p. 14.
Shad (Alabama, American, hickory)	None	10 fish per person	None	Allowable gear: hook and line gear only. Spearfishing prohibited.
Sharks	None	1 shark per person per day or 2 sharks per vessel, whichever is less.	Federal closure applies in state waters.	FP required. Spearfishing and filleting prohibited. Finning prohibited in state waters. State waters close when adjacent federal waters close. Purchase and sale of sharks landed after the closure date is prohibited. A federal permit is required for sale. Federal regulations apply regardless of where sharks are harvested (use of traps prohibited). Gear and license requirements apply when retained as bycatch. Harvest and landing of some species prohibited. See: Prohibited Species on p. 14.
Sheepshead ▲ †	12" FL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs. per person	None	RS required. Allowable gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line gear, and spearfishing.
Seashells (Live Shellfish)	None	Manatee County - 2 shellfish of any single species per day. Lee County - Harvest Prohibited.	None	ML required for the harvest of some species. See: "Marine Life" Regulations on p. 15. The term "Live Shellfish" includes mollusks and echinoderms such as clams, snails, starfish, brittle stars, urchins, etc. Manatee and Lee county prohibitions on harvest do not apply to shells that are empty when collected or to live oysters, hard clams, sunray venus clams, and coquinas.
Snappers ▲		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations on p. 5-6.
Sponges, Commercial	5", wet, across the top.	None	None	Q# required. Commercial sponges = sheepswool, yellow, grass, finger, wire, reef, and velvet sponges. Size limit = measurement in greatest dimension across the top of the sponge and applies to possession and sale within the state. Hooks must be 5" wide. Diving prohibited, except in the Big Bend & Southwest Florida areas. See: Sponge Regulations on p. 12.
Sponges, Others		See: "Marine Life" Regulations.		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on p. 15.
Spotted Seatrout ▲ †	15" - 24" TL	75 fish per person per day or per vessel, whichever is less.	Sept. 1 - May 31	RS required. Allowable gear: cast net or hook and line. Spearfishing prohibited. Simultaneous possession of gill nets and seatrout is prohibited. Towing extra vessel to exceed bag/trip limit is prohibited. Purchase and sale prohibited after Sept. 5 (does not apply to imported fish). Size limit applies to sale of fish.
Stone Crab	2 3/4" claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons	May 16 - Oct. 14	RS, X# or IX required. Landings limited to legal size claws measured by a straight line from the elbow to the tip of the lower immovable finger. Transport and sale of intact crabs prohibited. License, trap and harvest specifications apply. See: Stone Crab Regulations on p. 11.
Swordfish	47" lower jaw FL, 29" cleithrum to keel length, or 33 lbs. dressed	None	None	FP required for harvest and sale. Spearfishing prohibited. Size limits apply to fish damaged by shark bites. "Lower jaw FL" = a straight-line measurement from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the caudal fin. "Cleithrum to keel length" = a curved measurement from the point of the cleithrum that provides the shortest measurement along the body contour to the anterior portion of the caudal keel. The cleithrum is the semicircular bony structure at the posterior edge of the gill opening. A dressed fish may have its head, viscera, and fins removed, but its backbone and remaining carcass must remain intact and not be halved, quartered or otherwise further reduced.
Triggerfish, Gray ▲		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations on p. 5-6.
Triggerfish, Ocean	None	None	None	Harvest prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Triggerfish, Other		See: "Marine Life" Regulations.		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on p. 15.
Tripletail ▲ †	15" TL	10 per person per day or per vessel, whichever is less. Incidental bycatch - 2 per person per day or per vessel, whichever is less.	None	RS required. Allowable gear: hook and line. Spearfishing prohibited. Size limit applies to sale of fish.
Tropical Ornamentals		See: "Marine Life" Regulations.		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on p. 15.
Weakfish (gray seatrout or yellow-mouth trout) ▲	12" TL	None	None	Spearfishing is prohibited. Size limit applies to sale of fish.

Shaded areas indicate recent rule changes.

- ▲ Must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (head & tails intact)
† Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait or any snatch hook.
TL total length measure; Tip of snout to tip of tail.
FL fork length measure; Tip of snout to fork of tail.
* A Saltwater Products License (SPL) is required for commercial harvest and sale of all saltwater products. Additional Licenses, Permits, and Endorsements may also be required. See: Commercial Saltwater Fishing License Requirements
AP Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services Apalachicola Bay Oyster harvesting license required.
C# Crawfish endorsement required.

- CD# Commercial dive permit required to harvest spiny lobster for commercial purposes by diving.
DS/LS In St. Johns River, food shrimp or live shrimp production license required (moratorium in place for DS).
FP Federal permit required.
IX Incidental catch endorsement required to sell up to 5 gallons of stone crab claws harvested in lawful commercial blue crab and spiny lobster traps by persons who hold a C# and/or V# and no X#.
L Lampara net endorsement required to harvest more than 10 gallons of ballyhoo per vessel per day. See: Baitfish Regulations.

- ML Marine life endorsement required to harvest or collect species designated as "Marine Life" including "Live Shellfish" species such as urchins, starfish, starsnails, (moratorium in place).
PE Pompano endorsement applies to Cape Sable-Hurricane Pass federal gill net fishery only. See "Pompano Regulations".
Q# Sponge endorsement required.
RS Restricted species endorsement required.
TB In Tampa Bay, food shrimp production license required (moratorium in place).
V# Blue crab endorsement required to sell or harvest blue crab, harvest in commercial quantities, or harvest with more than 5 traps (moratorium in place).
X# Stone crab endorsement required.

MULLET REGULATIONS

Striped (black) and silver (white, fantail, or redeye) mullet are designated as “Restricted Species”.

The minimum size limit for striped mullet is 11 inches (fork length), with an allowance for a quantity of undersized mullet not to exceed 10 percent of the total weight of all striped mullet possessed. Fork length is measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

The use of any gear other than cast nets (no more than 14 feet long, and no more than two per vessel), beach haul seines (no larger than 500 square feet, and no more than two may be fished per vessel), by hook and line gear; and by spearing is prohibited. Spearing is prohibited in fresh water. Simultaneous possession of any mullet species in excess of the recreational bag limit and any gill or entangling net is prohibited. This prohibition applies to mullet and gill nets in separate vessels or vehicles that are operated in coordination with one another, including towed vessels. Sale of mullet harvested with illegal gear is prohibited.

Mullet Bag Limits & Closures	
Striped and Silver Mullet	
Area	Regional Bag Limits and Closures
Statewide	Harvest is prohibited seaward of the 3-mile line (Gulf and Atlantic) and seaward of the Everglades National Park line in Florida Bay.
Statewide	Weekend Closure - July 1 - Jan. 31 commercial harvest prohibited 12:01 a.m. Sat. morning to 12:01 a.m. Mon. morning. Mullet harvested under the recreational bag limit during the weekend closure may not be sold or purchased.
Striped Mullet Only	
Area*	Regional Bag Limits and Closures
Pinellas County (Tampa Bay) - Riveria Bay and Bayou Grande (Papy's Bayou), Placido Bayou (Smack's Bayou), Snell Isle Harbour, and Coffee Pot Bayou, areas and certain connecting areas of Tampa Bay. And areas of Tampa Bay between the municipal pier head to just north of the southern tip of Weedon Island	Oct 1 - Jan. 31 - 5 mullet per person or per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive.
Manatee County - Manatee River upstream of a line from the eastern side of the mouth of Warner's Bayou northeasterly to the eastern side of the mouth of Tierra Ciega Cutoff	Nov. 1 - Jan. 31 - 50 mullet per person per day or per vessel, whichever is more restrictive.
Charlotte County - Peace River upstream of a line from Mangrove Point running northwesterly through the northeastern most point of Locust Point to the shoreline in the body of water known as Myakka Cutoff. Coral Creek upstream of its mouth on Gasparilla Sound	Nov. 1 - Jan. 31 - 50 mullet per person or per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive.
Charlotte County - Punta Gorda area	Nov. 1 thru the end of February, closed nightly 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Possession is prohibited during the nightly closure.
* Refer to official area descriptions in the Mullet Rule.	
Silver Mullet Only	
Area*	Regional Bag Limits and Closures
All Atlantic waters north of the Dade/Monroe County line	During February, commercial harvest prohibited.
* Refer to official area descriptions in the Mullet Rule.	

POMPANO REGULATIONS

The basic size and bag limits and license requirements for the harvest of pompano are listed in the chart on pages 8 and 9. The use of any gear other than a beach or haul seine, cast net, and hook and line gear is prohibited in state waters.

The established bag limit for pompano harvested in state and federal waters is 200 pompano per vessel per day, except that persons who have harvested pompano in adjacent federal waters between Cape Sable and Hurricane Pass (between 27°29' N. Latitude and 26° N. Latitude) and who possess an SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) and Pompano (P) endorsement and travel continuously and expeditiously across state waters may possess an unlimited quantity of pompano.

Simultaneous possession of pompano and gill or entangling nets is prohibited in state waters, except for persons aboard vessels in continuous non-stop transit across state waters who meet the criteria established above for exceeding the established bag limit or who possess an SPL and RS and no more than 200 pompano harvested as an incidental bycatch in gill or entangling nets fished for other species in federal waters only.

A gill net used for the directed harvest of pompano in federal waters must be at least 40 yards long, at least 20 meters deep at its shallowest point and have a stretched mesh size of at least 4 1/2 inches throughout. The mesh size requirement does not apply to nets used to harvest other targeted species where pompano is retained as an incidental bycatch.

BAITFISH REGULATIONS

Basic size and bag limits, closed seasons, license requirements, and gear allowances are listed on pages 8 and 9. All license requirements and general commercial fishing limitations apply to species harvested as baitfish. Local limitations also apply to the use of nets to harvest baitfish, such as herring, menhaden, or sardines, in waters off the coasts of Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Charlotte, Collier, Lee and Sarasota counties. Contact the regional FWC Law Enforcement Office before using nets to commercially harvest baitfish. See: FWC Law Enforcement Regional Offices on page 16.

A National Marine Sanctuary Permit is required to harvest ballyhoo or herring in the Newfound Harbor Key, Cheeca Rocks, Eastern Dry Rocks, Hens and Chickens, Rock Key and Sand Key sanctuary preservation areas (SPAs). All bycatch other than ballyhoo, balao, halfbeaks, or herring must be returned to the water alive. Lampara nets are prohibited in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Newfound Harbor Key SPA, and cast nets used in Newfound Harbor Key SPA must be no greater than 500 square feet in area (12'7" radius). Cast nets and/or modified lampara nets which are no greater than 500 square feet in area may be used in the Sand Key, Rock Key, Eastern Dry Rocks, Hens and Chickens, and Cheeca Rocks SPAs. Contact with or disturbance of the seabed is prohibited in the SPAs. Harvest of baitfish by hook and line in the Newfound Harbor Key, Cheeca Rocks, Eastern Dry Rocks, Hens and Chickens, Rock Key and Sand Key SPAs is prohibited.

Harvest Method	Gear Used	License Requirements	Bag Limit
Directed harvest	Cast net, hook and line gear, landing or dip net.	Saltwater Products License (SPL)	5 gallons fish per person per day or per vessel.
Directed harvest	Lampara net.	SPL with Gulf Purse Seine (PS) and Lampara Net (L) endorsements.	10 boxes of fish per vessel (limit one dip net used).
Incidental bycatch	Purse seine or lampara net.	SPL, PS	10 gallons per person per day or per vessel.
Incidental bycatch	All other gear.	SPL	5 gallons fish per person or per vessel per day.

‡ Boxes must have rectangular or square sides, a base and lid with a dimension no larger than 4.25 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet (the volume equivalent of 17 feet³).

BLUE CRAB & STONE CRAB REGULATIONS

Blue Crab Regulations

Size and harvest limits and license requirements for blue crab are found in the chart on pages 8 and 9. All license requirements apply to crabs retained as bycatch of other fisheries. Blue crabs are measured using a straight line from the tip of one lateral spine to the tip of the other lateral spine. The possession of a quantity of blue crabs smaller than five inches that is greater than five percent of the total number of crabs in each container possessed is prohibited. The size limit does not apply to peeler crabs or "live bait" crabs.

Peeler crabs must be kept in separate containers from other blue crabs. Peeler crab traps are not required to have escape rings and may only be baited with live male blue crabs. The established size limit does not apply to peeler crabs.

Undersized blue crabs harvested as "live bait crabs" must be maintained alive through landing and may only be purchased or sold as live bait. Live bait crabs may be harvested as a directed catch or with a dip or landing net or as bycatch in a live bait shrimp trawl. Harvest of live bait crab with a dip or landing net and with any other gear on the same trip is prohibited. Harvest of live bait crabs is limited to 10 gallons of whole crab per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less. Live bait crabs harvested in a live bait shrimp trawl are counted toward the 200 lb. bycatch limit for legal sized blue crab harvested with a shrimp trawl.

Blue crab trap specifications and trap, buoy, and vessel marking requirements apply. Traps, buoys, and vessels must display the V#. Trap tags are required. The FWC does not issue/sell tags for blue crab traps. Traps must be constructed of wire and no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet or a volume of 8 cubic feet with the entrance (throat) located on

a horizontal side of the trap. Each trap must have a degradable panel and at least three unobstructed escape rings (2 3/8" inside diameter) located on a vertical side of the trap as specified in the rule. Refer to the official rules before building or buying traps. Traps may be worked during daylight hours only. Pulling traps between sunset and sunrise is prohibited. Traps may not be abandoned or discarded in state waters or along the shore.

Harvest with blue crab traps is prohibited in federal waters (seaward of a line nine nautical miles off the Gulf coast and three nautical miles off the Atlantic coast). Soaking or use of blue crab traps is prohibited from Sept. 20 – Oct. 4 in waters of the Gulf seaward of 3 nautical miles. No trap may be left unattended for more than 72 hours. Buoyed traps are prohibited within 100 yards of fishing bridges or docks without consent of owner. In Volusia County inland waters, no more than 200 traps may be soaked or set, per V#. In designated canals within Pinellas and Lee counties, the use of more than five blue crab traps is prohibited.

Blue crabs harvested from fresh water may only be harvested with gear approved by the Commission for use in fresh water.

Possession or "stripping" of egg-bearing blue crabs is prohibited.

Stone Crab Regulations

Size and bag limits, closed seasons and license requirements are found in the chart on pages 8 and 9. Only legal sized claws may be possessed, transported, or sold. Crabs must be kept alive and damp in containers that do not compress them until the claws can be removed. Transport of intact stone crabs or bodies is prohibited. Spears, grains, grabs, or



hooks that can puncture or crush crabs are prohibited. Removal of claws from egg-bearing females is prohibited.

Trap certificates and tags are required for all stone crab traps. A tag must be securely attached to each trap. Stone crab trap specifications and trap, buoy, and vessel marking requirements apply. Traps, buoys, and vessels must display the X#. Traps must be constructed of wood, plastic, or wire and no larger than two feet by two feet by two feet or a volume of 8 cubic feet with the entrance (throat) located on a horizontal side of wire traps and on the top of wood and plastic traps. Each plastic trap must have a degradable panel. Each wire trap must have at least three unobstructed escape rings (2 3/8" inside diameter) located on a vertical side of the trap as specified in rule. Refer to the official rules before building or buying traps. Traps may be worked during daylight hours only. Traps may be baited and placed in the water 10 days before the season begins. Stone crab traps are prohibited in all navigation channels of Inland Coastal Waterways or channels marked by the COE, USCG, state, county or local governments. Pulling another person's trap without express consent of the owner and FWC Law Enforcement is prohibited. Traps must be removed from the water within 5 days after the end of the season.

SPINY LOBSTER (CRAWFISH) REGULATIONS

Size limits and closed seasons are found in the "Basic Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations" chart on pages 8 and 9.

An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) and Crawfish (C#) endorsement is required to commercially harvest and sell any spiny lobster.

Additional requirements apply to harvest by diving and with traps.

Spiny lobster retained as an incidental bycatch in a net or trawl other than a hand-held net may not exceed five percent of the total whole weight of all species possessed (all license requirements apply). Spiny lobster may only be sold by or purchased from persons who hold the required licenses and endorsements. A federal permit is required to possess "wrung" tails in or on state waters. Tails must be at least 5 1/2 inches in length (not including muscle tissue). Possession of undersized lobster is prohibited, except as provided for in the Spiny Lobster Trap Fishery section below. Undersized lobster may not be sold. Possession of egg-bearing spiny lobster is prohibited. Use of any device that could puncture or crush the lobster is prohibited.

The vessel limit for harvest with a bullynet is 250 lobster per vessel per day statewide.

Spiny Lobster Trap Fishery

Trap certificates and tags are required for all traps. A tag must be securely attached to each trap. Spiny lobster trap specifications and trap, buoy, and vessel marking requirements apply. Traps, buoys, and vessels must display the C#. Traps must be constructed of wood or plastic and no larger than three feet by two feet by two feet or the volumetric equivalent (12 cubic feet) with the entrance (throat) located on top of the trap. Each plastic trap must have a degradable panel. Refer to the official rules before building or buying traps. Traps may be baited and placed in the water beginning Aug. 1. Traps may be worked during daylight hours only. Traps may not be placed within 100 feet of the intercoastal waterway or any bridge or seawall. Pulling another person's trap without the express written consent of the owner and FWC Law Enforcement is prohibited. Traps must be removed from the water by April 5 each year. Harvest is prohibited in designated areas of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

A person aboard a vessel with a C# and trap certificates may harvest and possess while on the water 50 undersized spiny lobster (shorts) and one short per trap aboard the boat. Shorts must be released alive and unharmed upon leaving trap lines (livewell specifications apply). The allowance for shorts applies to the trap fishery only and sale is prohibited.

Spiny Lobster Dive Fishery

All vessels used by persons commercially harvesting lobster by diving, scuba or snorkel must display the Commercial Dive Permit (CD#) on the vessel SPL. A dive permit will only be issued to divers with trip ticket landings between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2003. Trap certificates cannot be held by a person with a CD#. After Jan. 1, 2005, no dive permits will be issued, renewed or replaced except those that were active in 2004-05. Dive permits not renewed by September 30, of each year will be revoked.

A 250 lobster per day vessel limit applies in Broward, Dade, Monroe, Collier and Lee counties and adjoining federal waters. Divers must permanently and conspicuously display a "divers down flag" placard on the vessel and affix the CD# to the diagonal stripe with 10" numbers visible from the air and 4" numbers visible from the water. Harvest from artificial habitat is prohibited. Divers must possess a carapace measuring device and measure lobster in the water. The use of bleach or chemical solutions or simultaneous possession of spiny lobster and any plastic container capable of ejecting liquid is prohibited. The recreational bag limit applies when diving at night.

SPONGE REGULATIONS

Sponge regulations are found in the "Basic Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations" chart on pages 8 and 9.

Harvest of sponges by diving is prohibited in state waters other than waters south and east of a line extending due south from Jefferson City (40°N longitude) to a line extending due west of the southernmost tip of Ignour Key and seaward of a line three (3) nautical miles off the coast in the area south of a line extending due west of the southern tip of Ignour Key to a line extending due west of the Collier/Monroe Co boundary (29° 24' min. N latitude). Harvest of sponges is prohibited in Biscayne National Park (boundaries specified on 60B-28.000).

SHELLFISH (OYSTERS, CLAMS AND MUSSELS) REGULATIONS

Shellfish may only be harvested from waters certified by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) as open for harvest. The DACS is authorized to describe, open and temporarily close any shellfish harvesting area. Vessels used to harvest shellfish must have a portable or U.S. Coast Guard approved marine sanitation device with a holding tank and any thru valve shut and fixed in a closed position. All vessels must have false bottoms and bulkheads fore and aft to prevent contact with bilge water. The presence of dogs or other animals on vessels is prohibited. Additional shellfish handling and area water quality requirements apply. Refer to Chapter 5-L, F.A.C.

Unauthorized harvest is prohibited within a distance of 25 feet from the lawfully marked lease boundaries or within the setback and access corridors within specifically designated high-density aquaculture lease areas and aquaculture lease areas and aquaculture use zones.

Oyster Regulations

Unless otherwise stated below the basic statewide bag limit and closed season and gear restrictions are listed in the chart on pages 8 and 9.

A bag equals two five-gallon buckets, one ten-gallon bucket, or 60 lbs. of culled oysters in the shell. Undersized oysters must be culled immediately upon harvest and returned to the water alive and unharmed. Undersized oysters may number no more than five percent (by count) unattached oysters per bag and no more than 15 percent (by count) attached (such that separation would destroy either oyster) per bag. Vessels connected together, such as towing, may only claim one bag limit all together. Commercial and recreational harvest by any person during the same day is prohibited. Bycatch from trawling or dragging any gear over a public oyster bar should be returned to the water as closely as possible to the beds where taken. Transport and sale of bycatch or oysters taken internationally is prohibited. Wholesale and retail dealers may not sell oysters unless they are labeled and traceable the point of harvesting.

Upon leaving an area, harvesters must pass through a monitoring station when in operation. Harvest on leased parcels is subject to the established rules unless otherwise exempted by the approved lease provisions.

Harvest from public reefs is prohibited from July 1 – Sept. 30, except as provided below.

In Wakulla, Dixie, and Levy Counties, harvest is prohibited from June 1 – Aug. 31.

In Indian River County, harvest is prohibited within 75 feet of the shoreline of the Indian River, any canal bank, or any privately owned submerged lands, or dock without written permission of the owner. In Volusia County, oysters harvested from an approved public bar may not be stockpiled onto a lease.

Oyster Harvesting In Apalachicola Bay* the following seasonal bag limits and closures apply:		
Season	Bag Limit	Closed Days/Areas
July 1 - Sept. 30	20 bags per person or vessel per day, whichever is less.	Harvest is prohibited on Fridays and Saturdays. Harvest is allowed only in areas referenced in paragraph 5L-1.003(1) Table 2 of the DACS Comprehensive Shellfish Control Code.
Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20 bags per person per day.	Harvest is prohibited on Saturdays and Sundays.
Nov. 16 - June 30	20 bags per person per day.	Harvest is allowed any day of the week, except that upon notice of DACS, harvest will be prohibited on Saturdays and Sundays until June 30.

*Apalachicola Bay includes St. George Sound, East Bay, Apalachicola Bay, and St. Vincent Sound and their canals, channels, rivers, and creeks; and Indian Lagoon and its canals, channels, rivers, and creeks.

Hard Clam Regulations

Unless otherwise stated below, the basic statewide clam size and bag limits, closed season and gear restrictions are listed in the chart on pages 8 and 9. Clams may only be harvested from waters certified by DACS as open for harvest.

There is a three percent (by count) per bag allowance for undersized clams. The possession of unsorted clams aboard vessels underway is prohibited. Harvest is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise (this restriction does not apply to properly permitted dredge operations.)

Vessel engines must be turned off during manual use of gear. Use of rakes, dredges, or mechanical devices is prohibited in grass beds and pulling such gear under power is prohibited except under a Special Activity License. Vessels must be equipped with shades to shield clams from the sun and cull boards or racks with unobstructed clear space to allow undersized clams to fall through. Undersized clams must be immediately returned alive to the place where taken.

In Apalachicola Bay, clams may only be harvested by hand, diving, swimming, or leaning from vessels, wading, and by tongs. The use of a dredge is prohibited. In Brevard County, divers must be certified. Harvest is prohibited within 75 feet of the Indian River or Banana River shoreline River abutting property that is used for residential purposes or within 75 feet of any canal bank.



CALICO SCALLOP REGULATIONS

The basic size and bag limits and closed seasons are found in the chart on pages 4 and 9. Harvest of calico scallops with gear other than another trawl is prohibited. Each calico scallop trawl must have a headrope no longer than 40 feet, a crowding edge perimeter no greater than 120 feet, a mesh area no greater than 200 square feet, a minimum mesh size of three inches, and a towed size smaller than 20'. No more than two unconnected trawls may be used. Trawls may not be towed for more than 25 minutes. Calico scallop trawls are exempt from the TED and BYD requirements in 60B-33 and may not be used for the directed harvest of any other species. Certain areas are closed to calico scallop harvest.

Harvest of calico scallops is prohibited in:

- All state waters shoreward of a line one mile seaward of the Calico Demarcation line;
- All waters of Jefferson, Taylor, Duval, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties;
- All waters of Manatee County east of the St. Marks Lighthouse;
- All waters shoreward of a line three miles seaward of the Calico Demarcation line in Manatee County, west of the St. Marks Lighthouse;
- All waters shoreward of a line three miles seaward of the Calico Demarcation line in Franklin and Gulf Counties;
- Designated waters of Citrus and Hernando counties (boundaries described in s. 60B-33.001);
- Designated waters in the Tortugas String Bait (boundaries described in s. 60B-33.004);
- Designated waters extending seaward of the shore in SW Florida from a point just south of Miggins Pass to a point in the Florida Keys just east of Boca Chica Key from Oct. 1 - May 31 (boundaries described in s. 60B-33.002); and
- Designated waters in the Florida East Coast String Bait during the months of April or May as specified in 60B-33.003.

See: Fishing Gear Limitations.

COMMERCIALLY PROHIBITED SPECIES

The following species may not be commercially harvested and/or sold in Florida.

Fish		Invertebrates
Bonefish	Snook	Coral – Black, Fire, Hard, Stony
Grouper – Goliath, Nassau, Warsaw, Speckled Hind	Spearfish	Crab - Mitten
Marlin – Blue, White	Sturgeon (Gulf or Atlantic)	Live Rock
Ray – Manta, Spotted Eagle	Tarpon	Queen Conch
Red Drum (Red fish)		Scallops – Bay
Sailfish		Seafans – Common, Venus
Sawfishes		Starfish - Bahama
Shark – Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Sand Tiger, Spiny Dogfish, Whale, White		Urchin – Longspine

The prohibition on the sale of Warsaw grouper and speckled hind does not apply to legally imported fish or fish harvested from federal waters.

Possession, harvest, destruction, and sale of fresh, uncleaned, or uncured sea fan, hard or stony coral or fire coral is prohibited (does not apply to such species harvested outside state waters or adjacent federal waters and lawfully entering the state through interstate or international commerce and with acceptable proof of origin documenting the initial place of harvest and original sales transaction).

The prohibitions on the harvest and possession of queen conch apply to Florida registered vessels in adjacent federal waters, but not to queen conch shells that are empty when collected. Licensed wholesale or retail dealers may possess conch meat when documentation is present to show that such meat was legally imported from a foreign country. Possession of shells with an off-center hole larger than 1/16 inch in diameter through the spire is prohibited in or on the waters of Florida.

Simultaneous possession of bay scallops and any trawl, drag, dredge or net other than a landing dip net is prohibited. Documentation on scallops harvested out-of-state and entering the state in interstate commerce must be maintained and presented upon request.

“MARINE LIFE” REGULATIONS (TROPICAL/ORNAMENTALS)

An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) and Marine Life (ML) endorsement is required to commercially harvest and sell species designated as “Marine Life” in Florida. However, no new ML endorsements are available at this time. A Special Activity License (SAL) is required to harvest “Marine Life” species with quinaldine. A permit issued by the Biscayne National Park superintendent is required to harvest “Marine Life” species in the park. Park permits may also be required in other parks.

Bag and size limits for species designated as “Marine Life” are specified in Chapter 68B-42, F.A.C. “Marine Life” must be landed in a live condition. A continuously circulating live well or aeration or oxygenation system capable of keeping marine life organisms alive through landing is required.

Harvest with gear other than a hand held dip net; a barrier net no more than 60 feet long and eight feet deep at any point with a stretched mesh size no more than ¾ inch; a drop net with a maximum dimension no more than 12 feet and a stretched mesh size no larger than ¾ inch; or a slurp gun is prohibited. Quinaldine may be used in state waters within the concentration amounts allowed by rule (a Quinaldine SAL is required). Use of collection bags and a single, blunt, nonferrous metal, fiberglass, or wood rod no longer than 36 inches and with a diameter of no more than ¾ inch is allowed.

Live bait shrimpers who hold the ML endorsement may harvest “Marine Life” species as incidental bycatch of roller frame trawls. Harvest of “Marine Life” species as an incidental bycatch of other targeted species with gear other than that specified above is limited to the recreational bag limit (all license requirements apply).

Species designated as “Marine Life”:		
Fish		
Angelfish - Gray*	Damselfish*	Sea basses except Rock, Bank, Black, Twospot †
Angelfish - French*	Filefish *	Seahorses*
Angelfish - Blue*	Frogfish (Sargassumfishes)*	Sharpnose Puffer
Angelfish - Queen*	Gobies*	Sleepers
Angelfish - Rock Beauty*	Hamlet †	Snake Eels*
Balloonfish	Hawkfish*	Spotted Drum*
Basslets*	High-hat	Striped Burrfish
Batfish	Hogfish - Cuban (Spotfin), Spanish	Surgeonfish*
Blennies	Jackknife-fish	Sweepers*
Butterflyfish*	Jawfish*	Tangs
Cardinalfish*	Moray Eels*	Toadfish*
Clingfish*	Parrotfish*	Triggerfish (except Gray and Ocean) *
Combtooth Blenny*	Pipefish *	Trumpetfish*
Cornetfish*	Porkfish	Trunkfish/cowfish*
Cubbyu	Reef Croakers	Wrasse/Razorfish*
Invertebrates		
Brittlestars	Crabs - Yellowline Arrow	Shrimp (Cleaner, Peppermint, Coral, and Snapping)
Calcareous Tubeworms	Featherduster Worms	Siphonophores/ Hydroids
Crabs - Blue-legged	Fileclams	Octocorals except Common, Venus Seafans
Crabs - Decorator	Nudibranchs	Sponges except Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef, and Velvet Sponges
Crabs - False Arrow	Octopods except Common Octopus	Starfish except Bahama
Crabs - Furcate spider	Sea Anemones (Giant Caribbean or “Pink-Tipped”)	Starsnails
Crabs - Nimble Spray	Sea Cucumbers	Upside-down jellyfish
Crabs - Polkadotted Hermit	Sea Fans except Common, Venus	Plants
Crabs - Spotted Porcelain	Sea Lillies	Caulerpa
Crabs - Thinstripe Hermit	Sea Slugs	Coralline Red Algae
Crabs - Tricolor Hermit	Sea Urchins except Longspine, Sand Dollars, Sea Biscuits	Halimeda/Mermaid’s Fan/ Mermaid’s Shaving Brush

*Harvest prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. † Any species of the Family Serranidae, except groupers of the genera Epinephelus and Mycteroperca, and seabass of the genus Centropomus. Chapter 68B-5 also prohibits harvest of otherwise unregulated species such as bigeye, bonnetmouths, clinid, conger, dragonets, false morays, goatfish, high-hat, muraenesocids, pike, blennies, porcupinefishes, puffers, sand stargazers, scorpionfishes, sea basses, sea chubs, soapfishes, soles, spaghetti eels, squirrelfishes, stargazers, threadfins, tonguefishes and some “Marine Life” species within the boundaries of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

JELLYFISH (GENERA ROPHILEMA AND STOMOPHOLUS)

Harvest of jellyfish with gear other than a cast net with a radius of no more than 12.5', a beach or haul seine, a paired trawl with a stretched mesh size no less than 3½" in the wing and 1½" in the bag, no more than two wing nets with a perimeter no greater than 40 feet and a mesh size no less than 3½", or more than two dip nets is prohibited. Seaward of a line three (3) miles from the Gulf coast and one (1) mile from the Atlantic coast, harvest of jellyfish with a paired trawl with a mesh area larger than 3,000 square feet and possession of more than two such trawls with a combined total maximum mesh area of more than 3,000 square feet is prohibited. Possession of any species other than jellyfish aboard a vessel targeting jellyfish is prohibited. Upside-down jellyfish are designated as a “Marine Life” species.





The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)

The Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and anglers as well as to enforce Florida's saltwater fishing and boating laws. FWC officers assist boaters who are in distress, provide advice and direction to those who are traveling Florida's coastline and waterways, and may issue citations for violations of state and federal fishing, wildlife, and boating laws.

In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife, or boating laws are being violated, call the Wildlife Alert Reward Program at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cellular phone users throughout the state, dial #FWC or *FWC depending on your location, or hailed on VHF Channel 16.

For Saltwater Fishing and Boating Questions, Contact the Nearest Regional Field Office Below

Northeast Region		North Central Region	
Ocala.....	352-732-1225	Jacksonville	904-270-2500
Titusville	321-383-2740	Lake City	386-758-0529
South Region		Crystal River.....	
Miami	305-956-2500	352-447-1633	
West Palm Beach	561-625-5122	Northwest Region	
Jupiter.....	561-624-6935	Panama City	
Special Enforcement Area		850-233-5150	
Marathon.....	305-289-2320	Carrabelle	
Southwest Region		850-697-3741	
Tampa.....	813-272-2516	Pensacola.....	
Lakeland	863-648-3203	850-595-8978	
Fort Myers	239-332-6971	Tallahassee Headquarters	
		Bureau of Field Operations	
		850-488-9924	

Planning a Move? Don't forget to let the licensing program know your new mailing address!

For Additional Information Please Contact:
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Division of Marine Fisheries
 2590 Executive Center Circle East
 Berkley Building
 Tallahassee, Florida 32301
 MyFWC.com



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FLORIDA RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

Issue January 2005, January 2005 A Publication of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

New Regulation Changes: Red Grouper, Dolphin, and Wahoo

Red Grouper

Effective January 3, 2005, red grouper regulations changed in Florida's Gulf of Mexico state waters. The new recreational bag limit is now two red grouper and is included within the aggregate bag limit of five grouper per day. Florida state waters extend out to nine miles in the Gulf of Mexico.

The new state regulation came about due to a recent change in federal regulations. Federal fisheries management agencies declared the red grouper stock in the Gulf of Mexico to be overfished in October 2000. This resulted in a 10-year rebuilding plan for red grouper where stock status and harvest rates will be assessed every three years. Since that time, the most recent assessment found spawning stocks to be too low. As a result, recreational and commercial regulatory changes were implemented in federal waters to decrease the rate of harvest in an effort to increase these spawning stocks. Therefore, to remain consistent with federal regulations, FWC adopted the recreational two-fish bag limit for red grouper in Florida's Gulf of Mexico state waters. The minimum size limit of 20-inches remains unchanged.

Dolphin and Wahoo

Effective January 2, 2005, recreational dolphin regulations changed. The recreational bag limit for dolphin will remain 10 per person per day, not to exceed 60 fish per vessel per day statewide. However, vessels licensed for more than 6-paying passengers (e.g. headboat/partyboat) will be allowed 10-dolphin per paying passenger statewide. A minimum size limit of 20-inches fork length for dolphin will also be applied in Florida's Atlantic Ocean state waters. Florida state waters extend out to three miles in the Atlantic Ocean. There is no minimum or maximum size limit for dolphin caught in Florida's Gulf of Mexico state waters.

Also effective January 2, 2005, wahoo was added as a regulated species for recreational fishing in Florida's state waters. The bag limit has been set at two fish per person per day statewide. There is no minimum or maximum size limit for this species.

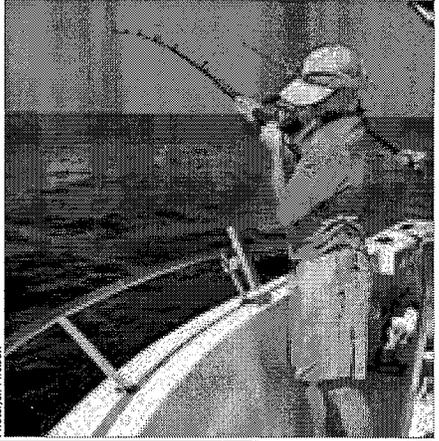
The new dolphin and wahoo regulations are in place due to recent changes in federal regulations. As a proactive effort, federal fisheries management agencies enacted these regulatory changes to

prevent overfishing of these two species. Along with these new regulations, the FWC rule will also require commercial vessels to have a federal commercial vessel permit, and require for-hire vessels wishing to sell dolphin and wahoo to obtain this federal commercial vessel permit. These rules also designate dolphin and wahoo as restricted species, meaning a restricted species endorsement is required to harvest this species commercially.

For more information about the new federal commercial vessel permit for dolphin and wahoo contact the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) at 727-570-5333.

For more information about a restricted species endorsement for dolphin and wahoo contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 850-487-3122.

New Regulations at a Glance:		
Red Grouper	Dolphin	Wahoo
Minimum size of 20", 2 per person per day, included within 5 aggregate Grouper limit.	Minimum size of 20" fork in Atlantic, 10 per person per day not exceeding 60 per vessel.	No minimum size, 2 per person per day.



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management



Fishing Regulations Inside!

BOATING AND ANGLING GUIDES TO FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Since 1992, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) has been producing a statewide series of educational boating and angling guides. Each guide describes a different bay or estuary and contains information for boaters and anglers about Florida's coastal and marine ecosystems. The guides also feature marina locations,

public boat ramp information, artificial reef coordinates, fishing tips, and information on the most commonly caught species in that area. Currently, there are 15 guides available, which include: Chotawhatchee Bay, Tampa Bay, Biscayne Bay (available in Spanish and English), and Lake Worth. As part of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, FWRI develops these guides through

cooperative efforts with other agencies and organizations. With over two million already in print, the guides are available for free at many marinas, tackle shops, boating supply stores, and other marine businesses. They can also be obtained directly from FWRI at (727) 896-8626. For a complete list of all available boater's guides log on to: <http://research.MyFWC.com>.



Visit the FWC booth at these upcoming events to pick up your copy of the *Recreational*

Saltwater Fishing Regulations and Fishing Lines: Angler's Guide to Florida Marine Resources

Daytona Beach Boat Show Kids' Fishing Clinic

January 15-16
 Daytona Beach (850) 488-6058

Florida Sportsman Show

January 29-30
 Ft. Myers (813) 839-7636

Florida Fishing College

February TBA
 Manatee County (941) 748-0411

Florida State Fair

February 10-21
 Tampa (800) 345-6308

Riverfest

February 20
 Citrus Springs (352) 488-6058

Florida Sportsman Show

February 24-27
 Ft. Walton Beach (813) 839-7636

Frank Sargent Hunting and Fishing Expo

March 4-5
 Tampa (813) 854-2100

"Ladies, Let's Go Fishing!"

March 4-6
 Ft. Lauderdale (954) 475-9068

Florida Sportsman Show

March 12-13
 Jacksonville (913) 839-7636

Shallow Water Expo

April TBA
 Tampa (813) 839-7636

FWRI Marine Quest

April 7-9
 St. Petersburg (727) 896-8626

Kid's Fishing Clinic

April 23
 Crystal River (352) 488-6058

"Ladies, Let's Go Fishing!"

April 22-24
 Suwanee (954) 475-9068

Kid's Fishing Clinic

April 30
 Panama City (813) 488-6058

Kid's Fishing Clinic

May 14
 Summerland Key (850) 488-6058

Kid's Fishing Clinic

May 21
 Panama City (813) 488-6058

Kid's Fishing Clinic

June 4
 Panama City Beach (850) 488-6058

Kid's Fishing Clinic

June 18
 Lemons Beach (850) 488-6058

Kid's Fishing Clinic

June 25
 Cape Canaveral (352) 488-6058



The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)

The Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and anglers as well as to enforce Florida's saltwater fishing and boating laws. FWC officers assist boaters who are in distress, provide advice and direction to those who are traveling Florida's coastline and waterways, and may issue citations for violations of state and federal fishing, wildlife, and boating laws.

Tallahassee Headquarters
Bureau of Field Operations..... 850-488-9924

For Saltwater Fishing and Boating Questions, Contact the Nearest Regional Field Office Below

Northeast Region
Ocala..... 352-732-1225
Titusville..... 321-383-2740

South Region
Miami..... 305-956-2500
West Palm Beach..... 561-625-5122
Jupiter..... 561-624-6935

Special Enforcement Area
Marathon..... 305-289-2320

Southwest Region
Tampa..... 813-272-2516
Lakeland..... 863-648-3203
Fort Myers..... 239-332-6971

North Central Region
Jacksonville..... 904-270-2500
Lake City..... 386-758-0529
Crystal River..... 352-447-1633

Northwest Region
Panama City..... 850-265-3676
Carrabelle..... 850-697-3741
Pensacola..... 850-595-8978

In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife, or boating laws are being violated, call **1-888-404-FWCC (3922)** or for cellular phone users throughout the state, dial **#FWC** or ***FWC** depending on your location, or hailed on **VHF Channel 16**.

Recreational Gear

Additional regional gear restrictions may apply in your county. For further clarification, contact the local DLE offices listed on this page.

Hook-and-Line Gear

Hook-and-line anglers must tend their gear at all times to prevent people, marine life, and shore life from becoming entangled in the line or injured by the hook. Also, it is against the law to intentionally discard any monofilament netting or line into or onto state waters. Monofilament line can entangle birds, marine mammals, marine turtles and fish often injuring or killing them.

Nets

The following type of nets may be used for recreational purposes in Florida waters:

» Bully nets (for lobster only) no greater than 3 feet in diameter.

» Frame nets and push nets (for shrimp only) no greater than 16 feet in perimeter.

» Hand held landing or dip nets no greater than 96 inches in perimeter.

» Cast nets measuring 14 feet or less stretched length (stretched length is defined as the distance from the horn at the center of the net with the net gathered and pulled taut, to the lead line). Cast nets may be used as harvesting gear for the following species only: black drum, bluefish, cobia, flounder, mullet, Florida pompano, red drum, sheepshead, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, spotted seatrout, weakfish, and unregulated species.

» Beach or haul seines measuring no larger than 500 square feet of mesh area, no larger than 2 inches stretched mesh size, not constructed of monofilament, and legibly marked at both ends with the harvester's name and address if a Florida resident. Non-residents using beach or haul seines for recreational purposes are required to have a commercial saltwater products license and legibly mark the seine at both ends with the harvester's saltwater products license number. Beach or haul seines may be used as harvesting gear for the following species only: black drum, bluefish, cobia, flounder, mullet, Florida pompano, red drum, sheepshead, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, weakfish, and unregulated species.

Explosives, etc.

The use of powerheads, explosives, chemicals or the discharge of firearms into the water to kill or harvest marine life is prohibited in state waters.

State Records & Slams

Congratulations to the following individuals who have qualified for new state fishing records and grand slam certificates! **State records** are administered by the "world record keepers", the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) in Dania, Florida. All-tackle records apply to fish caught on both conventional and fly tackle, and catches must be made in accordance with IGFA rules. The **Grand Slam Club** celebrates the variety of Florida game fishes and the achievement of anglers catching a particular set of three species in one day. There is a different slam for each of the state's four geographic regions and you do not need to keep the fish to qualify.

North Florida: redfish, spotted seatrout, cobia

West Coast: redfish, snook, tarpon

South Florida: bonefish, tarpon, permit

East Coast: redfish, tarpon, spotted seatrout

For more information or to apply for a state record or grand slam, contact the FWC Division of Marine Fisheries by calling 850-488-6058, or visit our website at www.MyFWC.com/Marine. Entries are free!

Florida State Records		
Conventional Tackle: Carl R. Jackson - Striped Bass - 43 lb 9 oz		
Grand Slam Certificates		
North Florida Grand Slam:	West Coast Grand Slam:	South Florida Grand Slam:
• Joey Landreman	• Paul Dana	• Harvey Kamm
• Dennis B. Buchbinder	• Joseph B. Hathaway	• Chris A. Winkler
• Jim Edgeworth	• Ron Parilla	• Elizabeth Whalley
	• Tom Reynolds	
East Coast Grand Slam:	• Clinton Astala	
• Bud Spicer	• Carl L. Thompson	

Saltwater Fishing in Florida... What You Must Know Before You Go

Saltwater fishing licenses are sold at all county tax collectors' offices and at many bait-and-tackle shops. Licenses may also be obtained over the telephone by dialing Toll Free, **1-888-347-4356**. For those with Internet access, licenses are now available on-line at **MyFWC.com/Marine**. An additional fee is charged for these services. For any recreational licensing information not contained in this publication, please call your local county tax collector office.

Florida Residents

When applying for a saltwater recreational fishing license, you are considered to be a Florida resident if you are:

- Any person who has resided in Florida for six continuous months prior to applying for a resident license and who claims Florida as their primary residence.
- Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is stationed in this state.

• Gold Sportsman's License (One-Year License includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Type I Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl, Snook and Crawfish Permits)... \$83.50. Florida residents may buy a lifetime saltwater fishing license or a lifetime sportsman license. Holders of lifetime saltwater fishing licenses may fish in saltwater for life and will pay no additional fees. The lifetime license fee includes the taking of snook or crawfish — which would otherwise require a separate fee. A lifetime sportsman license allows holders to fish in freshwater or saltwater and to hunt in Florida. Both of these licenses require holders to obey fishing or hunting laws in effect at any given time.

*Costs for the types of licenses:

Florida Resident Licenses	
One-Year License.....	\$13.50
Gold Sportsman's License.....	\$83.50
(One-Year License includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Type I Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl, Snook and Crawfish Permits)	
Five-Year License.....	\$61.50
Combination Licenses (Florida Residents Only)	
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater	\$25.50
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater & Hunting.....	\$35.50
Lifetime Saltwater Fishing License (Florida Residents Only)	
Age: 0-4.....	\$126.50
Age: 5-12.....	\$226.50
Age: 13 or older.....	\$301.50
Lifetime Sportsman License (Florida Residents Only)	
Age: 0-4.....	\$401.50
Age: 5-12.....	\$701.50
Age: 13 or older.....	\$1,001.50
Non-Resident Licenses	
Three-Day License.....	\$6.50
Seven-Day License.....	\$16.50
One-Year License.....	\$31.50
Additional Privilege Permit	
Snook Permit.....	\$2.00
Five-Year Snook Permit.....	\$10.00
Crawfish Permit.....	\$2.00
Five-Year Crawfish Permit.....	\$10.00

If you are not required to buy a license, you are not required to buy permits.

An additional \$.50 subagents fee will be charged for any license or permit not purchased directly from the county tax collector.

You Do Not Need A License If You Are:

- Any child under 16 years of age.
- A Florida resident saltwater fishing for recreational purposes from land or a structure fixed to the land — a pier, bridge, dock, floating dock, jetty or similar structure.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel — guide, charter, party boat — that has a valid vessel license.
- A holder of a valid saltwater products license
- A Florida resident — 65 years old or older and you possess either a Resident Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing Certificate or proof of age and residency.
- A Florida resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, who is not stationed in this state, while on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders. This does not include family members.
- Any person who has been accepted as a client for developmental services by the Department of Children and Family Services, provided the department furnishes proof thereof.
- A nonresident fishing for recreational purposes from a pier that has a valid pier saltwater fishing license.
- Fishing from a boat that has a valid recreational vessel fishing license.
- A Florida resident who is fishing for mullet in freshwater — with a valid Florida freshwater fishing license.
- A Florida resident fishing for saltwater fish in freshwater from land or a structure fixed to land.
- A Florida resident certified as totally and permanently disabled, who possesses a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate. Applicants need to provide a certification of total and permanent disability from the United States Armed Forces, Railroad Retirement Board, Florida Worker's Compensation or the United States Veterans Administration. Alternatively, current documentation for the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits also will be accepted.

Other Saltwater Fishing Fees

Vessel licenses are required for all vessels that charge a fee (for-hire vessels) to take passengers out to catch marine fish.

- Eleven or more customers ... \$ 801.50
- Ten or less customers \$ 401.50
- Four or fewer customers \$ 201.50

Optional fees include the annual Recreational Vessel fee (\$2,001.50) for not-for-hire pleasure craft and the annual Pier license (\$501.50). For charter licensing information, contact your local county tax collector's office or visit our website at MyFWC.com/Marine.

The money collected from saltwater fishing licenses is used to improve and restore fish habitat and for marine fisheries research, law enforcement, and public education on marine resources.



Spearing

Spearing is defined as “the catching or taking of a fish by bowhunting, gigging, spearfishing, or any device used to capture a fish by piercing its body. Spearing does not include the catching or taking of a fish by a hook with hook and line gear or by snagging (snatch hooking)”. The use of powerheads, bangsticks, and rebreathers remains prohibited. The following is a list of species which are **prohibited** for harvest by spearing. Any other species not listed which are managed by the Commission, and those not managed by the Commission are allowed to be harvested by spearing.

- » Billfish (all species)
- » Bonefish
- » Nassau grouper
- » Pompano
- » Families of ornamental reef fish (surgeonfish, trumpetfish, angelfish, butterflyfish, porcupinefish, cornetfish, squirrelfish, trunkfish, damsselfish, parrotfish, pipefish, seahorse, puffers, triggerfish except gray and ocean)
- » Spotted eagle ray
- » Tarpon
- » Spotted seatrout
- » African pompano
- » Sturgeon
- » Goliath Grouper
- » Red drum
- » Permit
- » Manta ray
- » Snook
- » Weakfish
- » Tripletail
- » Sharks
- » Blue Crab
- » Stone Crab
- » Lobster

You May NOT Spearfish (Excluding bowhunting and gigging):

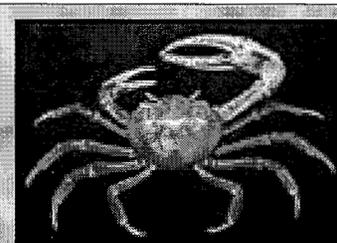
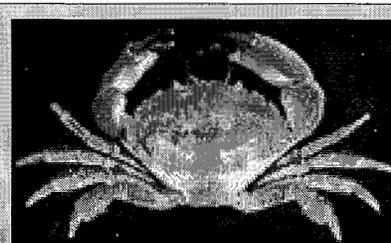
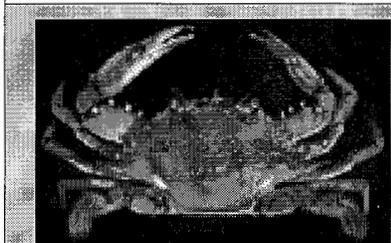
- » Effective July 1, 2001, spearfishing of marine and freshwater species in freshwater is prohibited. Possession of a spear gun in or on freshwater is also prohibited.
- » Within 100 yards of a public swimming beach, any commercial or public fishing pier, or any part of a bridge from which public fishing is allowed.
- » Within 100 feet of any part of a jetty that is above the surface of the sea – except for the last 500 yards of a jetty that extends more than 1,500 yards from the shoreline.
- » In Collier County and in Monroe County from Long Key north to the Dade County line.
- » For any fish for which spearing is expressly prohibited by law.
- » In any body of water under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks. (Possession of spearfishing equipment is prohibited in these areas, unless it is unloaded and properly stored.) Fishermen who catch and/or sell fish harvested by spearing are subject to the same rules and limitations that other anglers in the state are required to follow.

Did you know....

Three crab species are regulated in Florida?

They are the blue crab, the stone crab, and the blue land crab. Please refer to the table on pages 4-5 of this publication for the most current regulations regarding these three species.

Blue Crab	Stone Crab	Blue Land Crab
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A swimming crab able to tolerate a wide range of salinities. • They can grow to 5 to 7-inches and have been found up to 9-inches across the shell (carapace). • They prefer soft bottom habitats in bays and estuaries, but the females will migrate offshore to spawn. • They feed on a variety of plant and animal matter, living or dead. • Found throughout Florida. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A walking crab found from shallow water to about 80 feet deep in long burrows and rocky crevices. • They can grow up to 6-inches across the shell (carapace). • One claw is specifically for crushing and the other is for slicing and tearing. • Only claws are harvested; both claws can be taken if they are of legal size. • They feed on clam- and snail-like mollusks. • There are two species of stone crab; both species and their hybrids are found throughout Florida waters. All are regulated under one “stone crab” rule. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large land burrowing crab typically found near the shoreline; adults are rarely found farther than 5-miles from the shoreline. • They can grow to over 4- inches across the shell (carapace). • One claw is commonly larger than the other. • They return to the sea only to drink and breed. • They are mainly vegetarians, but will occasionally eat large insects. • Primarily found in south Florida.





For Additional Information Please Contact:
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Division of Marine Fisheries Management
 2590 Executive Center Circle East
 Berkley Building
 Tallahassee, Florida 32301
 MyFWC.com/Marine

New Artificial Reef Locations*

COUNTY	DEPLOYDATE	REEFNAME	MATERIAL	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	DEPTH	RELIEF
MARTIN	6/28/04	Railroad Tie Patch Reef (yellow, black & pink)	Railroad Ties	27° 11.701' N	80° 02.140' W	93	14
DADE	5/26/04	Gimrock 504 Barge	Steel Deck Barge & Concrete Barriers	25° 42.420' N	80° 04.500' W	248	10
BROWARD	4/26/04	Eternal Reef	18 Eternal Reef Balls	28° 08.551' N	80° 04.894' W	65	6
BROWARD	4/29/04	Miss Dania Beach	126 Ft Freighter	26° 00.605' N	80° 05.502' W	71	27
DADE	3/27/04	Aluminum Vessel	34' X 11' X 10' Aluminum Vessel	25° 56.915' N	80° 07.782' W	30	10
VOLUSIA	6/29/04	Port Authority Site #4	165'x32'x32' Tall Steel Ship	29° 19.198' N	80° 44.770' W	84	32
FLAGLER	5/12/04	George Hanns Reef	Concrete Pilings, Bridge Deck, 55 Reef Balls and 1 Cube	29° 35.850' N	80° 54.530' W	70	15
COLLIER	6/14/04	Rock Reef 4	Limestone Boulders	26° 18.326' N	81° 52.286' W	24	10
CHARLOTTE	7/16/04	Novak Reef 04-buoy#3	Concrete Culverts of Various Sizes	26° 48.644' N	82° 19.539' W	30	13
LEE	6/11/04	ARC-Reef Balls	84 Reef Balls of Various Sizes	26° 24.898' N	82° 24.672' W	57	5
LEE	8/27/04	ARC-seaguard	60 Ft. Long Steel Hulled Sailboat	26° 24.963' N	82° 24.719' W	57	13
SARASOTA	6/2/04	I-1, Lynn Silvertooth, Site #39	40 Concrete Pilings, 30 Concrete Pier Caps	27° 17.155' N	82° 35.881' W	30	10
SARASOTA	3/29/04	I-1, Lynn Silvertooth Reef Balls	18 Reef Balls Floating Deployment	27° 17.155' N	82° 35.955' W	30	5
PINELLAS	5/17/04	Sand Key Nourishment Reef #2	30 Pieces Power Poles Various Sizes	27° 53.475' N	82° 51.210' W	14	2
PINELLAS	8/25/04	Sand Key Nourishment Reef, imr#1	Power Poles Various Sizes	27° 53.418' N	82° 51.239' W	20	4
PINELLAS	6/17/04	Pinellas South Reef	Steel Barge 75x24x6', Upright, East-West	27° 43.335' N	82° 58.485' W	50	9
PINELLAS	6/18/04	Pinellas South Reef	Steel Barge 110x50x10', Upright, SW To NE	27° 43.363' N	82° 58.584' W	50	12
PINELLAS	6/17/04	Pinellas South Reef	Steel Barge 114x28x7', Upright	27° 43.388' N	82° 58.622' W	50	10
PINELLAS	4/8/04	Veterans Reef	29 Pieces Culverts Various Sizes	28° 02.916' N	83° 00.802' W	44	9
FRANKLIN	4/9/04	St George Island Bridge Reef-center	Single Concrete Bridge Span	29° 30.000' N	84° 49.068' W	75	10
BAY	6/8/04	Carbody	38 Reef Balls	29° 53.874' N	85° 32.573' W	60	6
BAY	4/22/04	Carbody	37 Goliath Reef Balls	29° 53.884' N	85° 32.600' W	60	6
BAY	8/9/04	Bobby Guilford Site	Concrete Rubble	29° 53.235' N	85° 32.620' W	65	8
OKALOOSA	6/8/04	Starfish Reef, Patch #1	15 Walters Tetrahedrons	30° 08.969' N	86° 37.670' W	100	10
OKALOOSA	4/22/04	Starfish Reef, Patch #8	15 Walters Tetrahedrons	30° 08.920' N	86° 37.807' W	103	10
ESCAMBIA	6/28/04	Pat Donnelly Reef	27 Goliath Reef Balls	30° 04.686' N	87° 11.145' W	90	5
ESCAMBIA	6/22/04	Rusty B Reef	30 Goliath Reef Balls And 40 Tons of Rock	30° 04.753' N	87° 11.384' W	89	5
ESCAMBIA	6/2/04	Brown Barge Middle School	1 Goliath Ball and 4 Pallet Balls	30° 06.512' N	87° 11.638' W	91	5
SANTA ROSA	6/30/04	Santa Rosa Marine Resort II	30 Goliath Reef Balls	30° 04.899' N	87° 11.683' W	85	5
SANTA ROSA	7/12/04	Santa Rosa Marine Resort II	30 Goliath Reef Balls	30° 04.900' N	87° 11.700' W	85	5

*Chart represents a small sample of the over 2,000 artificial reef sites in Florida; for additional artificial reef locations go to MyFWC.com/Marine/ar/index.asp

2005 Commission Meetings Dates and Locations

Subject to change regarding availability of appropriate facilities to hold the meeting.

February 2-4, Panama City April 13-15, Tallahassee

June 15-17, Daytona Beach July 14-15, Tallahassee

For more information about Commission meeting dates, times, locations, and agendas visit our website at MyFWC.com and click on "Commission Meetings" on the left side of the page.

Licenses Are Now Available on the Web! MyFWC.com

On the Internet... For current federal regulations and information:

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
www.gulfcouncil.org

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
www.safmc.noaa.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

RESOURCE HOTLINES

- To Report Fish Kills: 800-636-0511
- Fish Taps: 800-367-4461
- Division of Law Enforcement: 800-804-3922
- To report wildlife law violations, call Wildlife Alert Network: 800-804-FWCC (3922)
- Fish & Wildlife Research Institute: 727-496-0026 <http://research.myfwc.com>
- To Purchase Fishing Licenses: 800-347-4374

* The Fishing Lines: Angler's Guide to Florida Marine Resources is now on the Web at: MyFWC.com/Marine

Basic Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

This is a brief summary of regulations governing the taking of saltwater species in Florida for personal use. It is not intended or designed to provide specific information on commercial harvesting of these species. The failure to include complete laws, rules, and regulations in this summary does not relieve persons from abiding by those laws, rules, or regulations. State waters extend to 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic and 9 nautical miles on the Gulf. Federal rules apply beyond state waters. For species that do not have an established bag limit, more than 100 pounds or 2 fish per person per day (whichever is greater), is considered commercial quantities. A saltwater products license and commercial vessel registration is required to harvest commercial quantities of unregulated species. *Issue Twenty Six, January 2005*

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Rec. Bag Limit	Remarks
Greater Amberjack ▲	28" fork		1 per person per day	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish ▲	Not less than 14" or more than 22" fork		5 Aggregate of lesser amberjack and banded rudderfish	
Billfish ▲	Sailfish 63" Blue Marlin 99" White Marlin 66"		1 per person per day Aggregate bag limit	Measured tip of lower jaw to fork. Federal regulations apply in state waters. All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528
Black Drum ▲ ♦ †	Not less than 14" or more than 24"		5 per person per day	May possess one over 24"
Bluefish ▲	12" fork		10 per person per day	
Bonefish ♦	18"		1 per person per day	
Clams-Hard	1" thick across hinge	May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise	one 5 gal. bucket per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is less per day	Illegal to harvest from closed areas. Go to www.floridaaquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas
Cobia (Ling) ▲	33" fork		1 per person or 6 per vessel per day whichever is less	A saltwater products license and a restricted species endorsement are needed to sell cobia or exceed the one-fish daily bag limit
Crab-Blue		Sept. 20 - Oct. 4 Traps only. NW of Suwannee River and beyond 3 miles	10 gallons whole per person	5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited
Crab-Blue Land		July 1 - Oct 31	20 per person per day	Trapping prohibited, harvest of egg bearing females prohibited, harvest prohibited in state parks and from the right-of-way of federal, state or county maintained roads
Crab-Stone	2 3/4" claw	May 16 - Oct. 14	1 gal. Stone Crab claws per person or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less	5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited
Crawfish ▲ (Spiny Lobster)	Larger than 3" carapace measured in the water	April 1 - Aug. 5 Exception: Sport Season - last consecutive Wed. & Thurs. of July each year	6 per person per day	Recreational trapping prohibited. Crawfish permit required when license required. Special bag limit for 2-day Sport season Call DLE for current information on Sport season
Dolphin ▲	20" fork Atlantic		10 per person per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day statewide	A saltwater products license, a restricted species endorsement and a federal commercial vessel permit are needed to sell dolphin, exceed the 10-fish bag limit, or exceed 60 per vessel per day statewide
Flounder ▲ ♦ †	12"		10 per person per day	May be harvested by spearing
Grouper-Black & Gag ▲ ♦	24" Atlantic & Monroe County 22" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)		2 per person per day Atlantic & Monroe County 5 per person per day Gulf (excluding Monroe Co.)	Included within 5 per person per day Grouper aggregate bag limit
Grouper-Red, ▲ ♦	20"		2 per person per day	Included within 5 per person per day Grouper aggregate bag limit
Grouper- Yellowfin & Yellowmouth ▲ ♦	20"		Included within 5 per person per day Grouper aggregate bag limit	
Grouper-Scamp ▲ ♦	20" Atlantic & Monroe County 16" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)		Included within 5 per person per day Grouper aggregate bag limit	
Grouper-Warsaw ▲ Speckled Hind			1 per vessel per day of each species	Included within 5 per person per day Grouper aggregate bag limit
Grouper-all others ▲			Included within 5 per person per day Grouper aggregate bag limit	Includes: Coney, Graysby, Misty, Red Hind, Rock Hind, Snowy, Tiger, Yellowedge
Hogfish ▲	12" fork		5 per person per day	
Mackerel-King ▲	24" fork		2 per person per day	Bag limit in Gulf-Atlantic fishery reduced to 1 when federal waters are closed to all harvest. Call DLE for details
Mackerel-Spanish ▲	12" fork		15 per person per day	Transfer of Spanish Mackerel to other vessels at sea is prohibited
Mullet-Striped (Black) & Silver			Feb. 1 - Aug. 31, 50 per person per day, aggregate of striped & silver mullet maximum 100 aggregate per vessel	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, 50 per person or per vessel. Contact DLE for additional restrictions in Pinellas & Charlotte counties.
Oysters	3"	June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties. July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas	2 bags per person or vessel, whichever is less per day 1 Bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell.)	Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas. Harvest from approved shellfish areas only. Go to www.floridaaquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas
Permit & Pompano ▲ †	Not less than 11" or more than 20" fork		6 per person per day aggregate of Permit and Pompano.	May possess one over 20" of either Permit or Pompano Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited
Pompano-African ▲ †	Not less than 24" fork		2 fish per person or per vessel per day whichever is less.	Hook & line gear only
Red Drum (Redfish) ▲ ♦ †	Not less than 18" or more than 27"		1 per person per day	Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited
Red Porgy ▲ ♦	14" Atlantic		1 per person per day Atlantic	
Scallops-Bay		September 11 - June 30	2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per person per day, no more than 10 gallons whole, or 1/2 gallon meat per vessel anytime	Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Pasco-Hernando county line (near Aripeka-latitude 28 degrees, 26.016 minutes North), to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County (longitude 85 degrees, 25.84 minutes West). Any bay scallops harvested and possessed must be landed within the allowable harvesting area

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Rec. Bag Limit	Remarks
Sea Bass-Black ▲ ◆	10"		20 per person per day Atlantic	
Shad			10 Aggregate per person per day	American, Alabama, and Hickory are part of aggregate limit. Hook and line gear only
Shark			1 per person or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less	Practice of finning and filleting at sea prohibited. See list below for protected species
Sheepshead ▲ †	12" (See Remarks)		15 per person per day	Measured from the most forward point of the head to the rear center edge of the tail, snatching prohibited
Shrimp		April & May closed to Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, & Clay counties	5 gallons heads on per person or vessel per day, whichever is less	Must be landed in a whole condition Contact DLE for closed areas
Snapper-Black & Wenchman ▲			Included within 10 per person per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper-Cubera ▲ ◆	Not less than 12" or more than 30" (see remarks)		Included within 10 per person per day snapper aggregate bag limit if under 30"	Allowed 2 Cubera Snapper over 30" per person or vessel per day which ever is less. 30" or larger not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit
Snapper-Gray (Mangrove) ▲ †	10"		5 per person per day	Included within 10 per person per day Snapper aggregate bag limit
Snapper-Lane ▲ ◆	8"		Included within 10 per person per day Snapper aggregate bag limit if harvested from Atlantic	Lane Snapper harvested from the Gulf of Mexico not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit
Snapper-Mutton ▲ ◆	16"		Included within 10 per person per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper-Red ▲ ◆	20" Atlantic 16" Gulf	Nov. 1 - April 14 Gulf Only	2 per person per day Atlantic. 4 per person per day Gulf	Included within 10 per person per day. Snapper aggregate bag limit
Snapper-Schoolmaster ▲ ◆	10"		Included within 10 per person per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper-Vermilion ▲ ◆	10"		10 per person per day Atlantic	Vermilion Snapper not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit
Snapper-all other ▲ ◆	12"		Included within 10 per person per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	Includes Blackfin, Dog, Mahogany, Queen, Silk and Yellowtail
Snook ▲ ◆ † (All species)	Not less than 26" or more than 34"	Dec. 15-Jan. 31 statewide; June, July, Aug. - Atlantic; May, June, July, Aug. - Gulf, Monroe County, Everglades Nat. Park	2 per person per day-Atlantic; 1 per person per day-Gulf, Monroe County, Everglades Nat. Park	Snook permit required when saltwater license required. State regulations apply in federal waters. Illegal to buy or sell snook.
Sponge- Commercial	Greater than 5" in greatest dimension measured across the top of the sponge		10 per person per day	Includes sheepswool, yellow, grass, glove, finger, wire, reef & velvet sponge
Spotted Seatrout ▲ ◆ †	Not less than 15" or more than 20" (statewide) except One fish over 20" per person	N.E. and N.W. regions - February S. Region - November and December (See regional definitions below)	N.E. and N.W. regions - 5 per person per day S. Region - 4 per person per day	(See regional definitions below)
Swordfish ▲	47" lower jaw fork length		1per person or 3 per vessel whichever is less.	Lower jaw fork length is the straight-line measurement from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail.All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528
Tarpon			2 fish possession limit	Requires \$50 tarpon tag to possess or harvest. Snatching prohibited.
Triggerfish (Gray) ▲ ◆	12"			All species of Triggerfish except Gray and Ocean have live landing & live well requirements
Tripletail ▲ ◆ †	15"		2 per person per day	
Wahoo ▲			2 per person per day	A saltwater products license, a restricted species endorsement and a federal commercial vessel permit are needed to sell wahoo or exceed the 2-fish bag limit
Weakfish ▲ ◆ †			4 per person per day	

▲ Must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (heads & tails intact) ◆ Measured as total length. † Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.

ORNAMENTAL TROPICAL FISH AND PLANTS

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT (Total length) Spanish Hogfish 2" Spotfin Hogfish 3" Porkfish 11/2"
MAXIMUM SIZE LIMIT (Total length) Angelfish (except Rock Beauty) 8" Butterflyfish, Jawfish 4" Rock Beauty 5" Gobies 2" Spanish Hogfish 8" Spotfin Hogfish 8"
BAG LIMIT Fishes / Invertebrates: 20 per person per day. No more than 5 Angelfish and no more than 6 Octocoral colonies **PLANTS:** 1 gallon per person per day
 Live landing and live well requirements. Harvest in Biscayne National Park & John Pennekamp State Park prohibited.

PROTECTED SPECIES

It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell, or exchange the following species:

Nassau Grouper, Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Sawfish, Basking Shark, Whale Shark, Spotted Eagle Ray, Sturgeon, White Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Manta Ray, Spiny Dogfish, Longspine Urchin, Stony, Hard and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Florida Queen Conch and Bahama Starfish. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited.

SEATRUT REGIONS

"Northeast Region" means all state waters lying north of the Flagler-Volusia County Line to the Florida-Georgia border, and adjacent federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters.

"Northwest Region" means all state waters north and west of a line running due west from the westernmost point of Fred Howard Park Causeway (28E9.350'N 82E48.398'W.), which is approximately 1.17 nautical miles south of the Pasco-Pinellas County Line to the Florida-Alabama border, and adjacent federal EEZ waters.

"South Region" means state waters lying between the Flagler-Volusia County Line on the Atlantic Ocean and the southern boundary of the Northwest Region on the Gulf of Mexico in Pinellas County and adjacent federal EEZ waters.

LOUISIANA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine fishery laws and regulations for Louisiana. The information is current as of September 30, 2004, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000 (225-765-2980) or visit the web site at www.wlf.state.la.us.

Residency Requirements

A "bona fide resident" means any person who has resided in this state continuously during the twelve months immediately prior to the date on which he applies for any license and who has manifested his intention to remain in the state by establishing Louisiana as his legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following, as applicable:

- ♦ If registered to vote, he is registered to vote in Louisiana.
- ♦ If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, he is in possession of a Louisiana driver's license, or, if over the age of fifteen years and not licensed to drive, he is in possession of a special identification card issued by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections under the provisions of R.S. 40:1321.
- ♦ If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, he is in possession of a Louisiana registration for that vehicle.
- ♦ If earning an income, he has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.
- ♦ As a corporation or other legal entity, a resident shall be any which is incorporated or otherwise organized under and subject to the laws of Louisiana, and which is domiciled in Louisiana and has a permanent physical location of business in Louisiana where records are held in compliance with R.S. 56:306.5.
- ♦ Any person, corporation, or other legal entity, which possesses a resident license from any other state or country, shall not qualify for a resident license in Louisiana.

SHRIMP

Commercial Licenses

Commercial licenses are valid for one year beginning January 1 of each calendar year and expire on December 31 of the same calendar year.

All commercial shrimp fishermen must possess the following licenses:

Commercial Fisherman

Resident - \$55.00

Nonresident - \$460.00

Vessel

Resident - \$15.00

Nonresident - \$60.00

Gear

Resident Shrimp Trawl - \$25.00 per trawl

Nonresident Shrimp Trawl - \$100.00 per trawl

Resident Butterfly - \$25.00 per net

Nonresident Butterfly - \$100.00 per net

Resident Shrimp Gear Fee (Annual) - \$10.00

Nonresident Shrimp Gear Fee (Annual) - \$10.00

Recreational Licenses

Recreational licenses are valid for one year (Jul 1-Jun 30 of the following year). 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.

Shrimp trawls 25' in length or less may be licensed recreationally. Recreational shrimpers using trawls measuring 16' in length or less are limited to no more than 100 lbs (heads on) of shrimp per boat per day.

Recreational shrimpers using trawls measuring no greater than 25' in length are limited to 250 lbs (heads on) of shrimp per boat per day. Shrimp trawls in excess of 25' must be licensed commercially. Recreational shrimpers may not sell their catch.

Gear Types and Fees

Shrimp Trawls

Resident - \$25.00 per trawl (not to exceed 16' in length)

Nonresident - \$100.00 per trawl (not to exceed 16' in length)

Resident - \$80.00 per trawl (not to exceed 25' in length)

Nonresident - \$320.00 per trawl (not to exceed 25' in length)

Recreational fishermen must possess a basic and saltwater sports fishing license to use a recreational gear license unless exempt by age. Recreational fishermen with a basic sport fishing license may use a cast net up to 8½' in radius and take up to 50 lbs of shrimp per day per boat or vehicle for bait or home

consumption purposes only. Depending on season, daily limits of 10 lbs (closed season) and 25 lbs (open season) apply to LDWF Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges.

Inside/Outside Waters

The state divided shrimping waters into two classes, inside and outside waters. The lines of demarcation between these two classes extending from the coastal boundary between Texas and Louisiana and terminating at the coastal boundary between Mississippi and Louisiana are described in R.S. 56:495.

Commercial Season

Inside waters – the Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year based upon biological and technical data. The spring inshore shrimp season shall begin on or before the third Monday in May; no season shall begin on a Sunday.

Outside waters – the Commission will set seasons based upon biological and technical data.

Recreational Season

Same as commercial season.

Commercial Gear Limits

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 boards that do not exceed 16’ 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:

- 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.
- Two trawls of each which shall not exceed 25’ along the cork line, 33’ along the lead line, and have trawl doors no larger than 6’ in length and 34” in height and in addition, one test trawl.
- 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. 56:499. No person shall take saltwater shrimp with any trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net with a mesh size less than $\frac{5}{8}$ ” square or $1\frac{1}{4}$ ” stretched.

In Shrimp Management Zone 2 from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, mesh size must not be less than $\frac{3}{4}$ ” bar or $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” stretched mesh during the fall inshore shrimp season.

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 persons on a vessel may use a double butterfly net having individual net frames no 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, 12’ measured vertically, or 20’ diagonally 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. In state offshore territorial waters, each trawling vessel may only use nets that do not exceed a total maximum per vessel of 130’ of cork line and 165’ of lead line.

Recreational and Commercial Gear Limitations

Recreational trawls must be 25’ or less in length measured along the cork line. Trawls, skimmer nets, and wing nets cannot have a mesh size less than $\frac{5}{8}$ ” or $1\frac{1}{4}$ ” stretched, except for that portion of Shrimp Management Zone 2 from the Atchafalaya River west to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island where mesh size shall be a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ ” bar by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” stretched. Butterfly nets and skimmer nets are only allowed commercially.

Commercial Legal Size

Fishermen may not catch or possess aboard a vessel saltwater white shrimp that average smaller in size than 100 per pound, unless having legal documentation that they were taken in another state or country. From October 15 through the third Monday in December, there shall be no count on saltwater white shrimp taken or possessed. There is no count restriction on any shrimp during the spring open season. There is no count restriction on sea bob taken in state outside waters during any season. There is no count restriction on bait shrimp.

Recreational Legal Size

All commercial shrimp rules and regulations apply.

Crab Trap Capture

Recreational and commercial shrimp fishermen are required to return unserviceable crab traps captured incidentally to the shore for proper disposal. Shrimp fishermen who catch serviceable crab traps without a float shall return the trap to the water with a common float attached. A common float is defined as an all-white, plastic, one-gallon or larger bleach bottle. The owner of the crab trap shall return the common float to any shrimper for reuse. Serviceable crab traps are defined as any crab trap of legal construction and condition maintained in such a manner with the potential to harvest crabs. Maintained condition shall include being legally tagged, legally marked with a float and float line attached, and two escape rings affixed whether obstructed or not.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

- 100 lbs per day per vessel or vehicle with use of a shrimp trawl not exceeding 16'
- 50 lbs per day per vessel or vehicle with use of cast nets not exceeding 8½' radius

Louisiana Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges have special restrictions on the taking of shrimp; refer to local enforcement for regulations.

LIVE BAIT

Special Bait Dealers Permit - \$100 + \$1,000 bond to LDWF

The Commission adopted rules and regulations for a "special bait dealers permit" to allow the taking of live bait shrimp by qualified permit holders during the closed season between the spring and fall inshore shrimp seasons. Persons allowed to take live shrimp for sale during closed season between the spring and fall seasons as bait must possess a special bait dealers permit. Permit applications are accepted from Jan 1

through Apr 30 each year. Mail all applications to the department via certified mail. Persons desiring to catch their own bait may catch shrimp in cast nets (up to 8½' in radius), bait traps, dip nets (up to 3' diameter and hand operated), or seines (less than 30' and foot operated). A basic and saltwater sports fishing license is required to take bait with a cast net.

Season

During the closed season, bait shrimp may be taken in state inside waters, but only with cast nets up to 8½' in radius, bait traps, dip nets (up to 3' diameter and hand operated), or seines less than 30' in length with no mechanical devices and a mesh size of ¼" square bar and ½" stretched mesh.

SHELLFISH

Blue Crabs

Recreational Licenses

Resident Crab Trap - \$10.00 (10 trap maximum)

Nonresident Crab Trap - \$40.00 (10 trap maximum)

Resident Crab Trap Trotline - \$1.00 per trap (10 trap maximum)

Nonresident Crab Trap Trotline - \$4.00 per trap (10 trap maximum)

A basic and saltwater sports fishing license is required to use a recreational gear license unless exempt for age. Recreational harvest of crabs using a dip net and/or baited lines (without hooks or traps) does not require a license.

Commercial Licenses

Resident Crab Trap - \$25.00

Nonresident Crab Trap - \$100.00

Resident Commercial Fisherman License - \$55.00

Nonresident Commercial Fisherman License - \$460.00

Resident Crab Trap Trotline - \$1.00 per trap (25 trap maximum)

Nonresident Crab Trap Trotline - \$4.00 per trap (25 trap maximum)

Resident Vessel License - \$15.00

Nonresident Vessel License - \$60.00

Resident Soft-Shell Crab Shedder License - \$100.00

Nonresident Soft-Shell Crab Shedder License - \$400.00

For commercial license year 2005, no person shall be issued a commercial crab trap license unless that person possessed a valid commercial crab trap license during any one of the previous three years.

An operator of a soft-shell shedding facility is required to obtain a soft-shell crab shedder's license

unless they possess a wholesale/retail dealer license. A wholesale/retail dealer license is required if the soft-shell crab shedder purchases premolt or buster crabs from commercial fishermen.

Gear Restrictions

Crab may be taken with any legal crab trap, trawl, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net or cast net. Dredges cannot be used for the intentional taking of crabs. A crab trap is defined as cube-shaped, constructed of wire, no larger than 30" on any side and with either a bait box or materials providing cover or shelter for peeler crabs. The entrance funnels must extend no further than 7" into the inside of the trap with the openings to the entrance funnels on the vertical wall of the trap such that the horizontal diameter of each opening is at least 1½ times the vertical diameter of the opening. A legal crab trap must have a solid float (6" minimum diameter), a non-floating buoy line (¼" minimum diameter), be marked, and have escape rings. A crab trap shall be marked with a 1½" stainless steel self-locking tag attached to the center of the trap ceiling or a plastic bait box cover, containing the commercial fisherman's license number or the recreational fisherman's trap license number legibly engraved or embossed. Each trap shall have a minimum of two 2⁵/₁₆" diameter escape rings, one in each chamber. Escape rings shall be rigid and attached to the vertical, outside walls flush with the floor or baffle. Rings may be blocked from Mar 1-Jun 30 and from Sep 1-Oct 31. Fishermen in Lake Pontchartrain with a soft-shell crab shedder's license shall be exempt from escape ring mandates.

Crabbers must return unserviceable traps to shore for proper disposal. Serviceable crab traps are defined as any crab trap of legal construction and condition maintained in such a manner with the potential to harvest crabs. Maintained condition shall include being legally tagged, legally marked with a float and float line attached, and two escape rings affixed whether obstructed or not. A fisherman with a crab trap license may raise and check any trap with a common float (an all-white, plastic, one-gallon or larger bleach bottle) to determine ownership. Shrimp fishermen who catch an otherwise serviceable crab trap without a float may return the trap to the water with a common float.

Size/Possession Restrictions

Commercial fishermen may take blue crabs of legal size in unlimited quantities. The minimum commercial size limit is 5" carapace width. Any blue crab under 5" must be returned immediately to the water without avoidable injury. A 10% tolerance of

undersized crabs is allowed. Crabs in a workbox are not subject to the minimum commercial size limits while held aboard the vessel. If not using a grader, each fisherman may have one workbox; if using a grader, each fisherman may have two workboxes under the grader. Premolt, "buster," or peeler crabs less than 5" are exempt from commercial size limits. Recreational crabbers have a 144-crab possession limit. There is no minimum size limit for recreational crabbers.

Time Restrictions

The baiting, tending, checking, or removing of crab traps, the contents of serviceable crab traps or their lines, buoys, or markers is prohibited in public waters from ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise. Crab traps that are no longer serviceable or in use must be removed from the water and properly disposed of or stored.

Area Restrictions

Crab traps cannot be set in navigable channels or entrances to streams. Crab traps must be placed so vessels can safely navigate. Metal tackle or metal crab traps shall not be used in any of the public waters north of the Intracoastal Canal in the Calcasieu River or in any body of water comprising the Calcasieu River System north of the Intracoastal Canal, or in the waters of Vermilion Bay from Cypremont Point one mile offshore to Blue Point. Traps are prohibited in Tchefuncte River.

Commercial gear (trawl, trotline, traps) or commercial fishing is not allowed from the Grand Isle shoreline out to the one fathom curve.

Other Restrictions

All crabs in the egg or berry stage taken by any means must be immediately returned to the water. A legally licensed commercial crab fisherman may have in his workbox an incidental take of crabs in the berry stage in an amount equal to not more than 2% of the total number of crabs in his possession.

No person may intentionally damage or destroy serviceable crab traps, floats or lines, or remove the contents thereof, other than the licensee or his agent.

Commercial fishermen must tag or mark any crabs sold with their commercial fisherman's license number, name, and date harvested.

Stone Crabs

Landing whole stone crabs is prohibited. Live stone crabs may be held aboard a vessel while on the water until the claws are removed. After claw removal, the

crabs shall be returned to the waters in which taken. Minimum claw size is 2¼" (propodus length). There is no minimum recreational size limit on stone crabs.

Oyster Licenses

- Resident Commercial Oyster Harvester - \$100.00
- Nonresident Commercial Oyster Harvester - \$400.00
- Resident Recreational Oyster Tong - \$5.00 per tong
- Nonresident Recreational Oyster Tong - \$20.00 per tong
- Resident Commercial Oyster Tong - \$30.00 per tong
- Nonresident Commercial Oyster Tong - \$240.00 per tong
- Resident Commercial Oyster Dredge - \$25.00 per dredge
- Nonresident Commercial Oyster Dredge - \$200.00 per dredge
- Resident Commercial Fisherman - \$55.00
- Nonresident Commercial Fisherman - \$400.00
- Resident Vessel License - \$15.00
- Nonresident Vessel License - \$60.00
- Out-of-State Oyster Landing Permit - \$100.00

A basic and saltwater sports fishing license is required to use a recreational gear license unless exempt for age.

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.

The 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; however, the Commission has authority to extend the season to May 15. Areas are subject to closure by the Louisiana 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).

No 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 take elsewhere for commercial purposes. When taken for personal consumption, recreational fishermen may take two sacks per person from the natural reefs during open season.

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

Any person who qualifies and desired 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 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.

RECREATIONAL LICENSES

Residents and nonresidents under 16 years of age and residents 60 years of age or older prior to June 1, 2000, 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. A resident Senior Hunt/Fish License is required for persons who turn 60 years of age after June 1, 2000. Proof of age must be carried on person. A recreational gear license is required for all persons using recreational gear except persons under the age of 16.

Military

In order to recreationally hunt or fish in the state of Louisiana, any U.S. citizen who is not a Louisiana resident but is issued a military I.D. from the U.S. Armed Forces signifying current active military duty, shall be eligible to purchase annual nonresident military hunting and fishing licenses. The fee for nonresident active military licenses shall be equal to that of the annual resident license fees.

Any Louisiana resident, issued a military I.D. from the U.S. Armed Forces signifying current active military duty, shall be issued a resident active military Hunt/Fish License for a fee of \$5.00. This license shall be in lieu of basic and saltwater fishing licenses, basic hunting, big game, bow, muzzleloader, state duck lease, turkey stamp, and WMA hunting permit. The resident shall carry the military I.D.,

resident active military Hunt/Fish License, and Louisiana driver's license on his person at all times when engaged in hunting and fishing activities. Military licenses are valid only during the time when the licensee is on **Active Duty** in the U.S. Armed Forces.

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 be issued a basic and saltwater fishing license without the payment of any fees thereof, upon identification and proof of disability satisfactory to the Department.

All other resident recreational fishermen shall purchase an annual Basic and Saltwater Fishing License for \$9.50. Licenses are available on Jun 1 and expire Jun 30 the following year. All other nonresidents must purchase a Basic Fishing License for \$60.00 for Jun 1-Jun 30, or a basic 4-day license for \$15.00, or a basic 1-day license for \$5.00.

Additional Licenses

- Resident Hook and Line - \$2.50
- Resident Saltwater - \$5.50
- Nonresident Saltwater - \$30.00
- Nonresident Saltwater Trip (4 Day) - \$45.00
- Nonresident Saltwater Trip (1 Day) - \$15.00

Recreational Gear Licenses (required in addition to the basic fishing license)

- Resident Slat Traps (Up to 5) - \$20.00
- Nonresident Slat Traps (Up to 5) - \$80.00

Lifetime Licenses (proof of residency required)

- Resident Basic and Saltwater - \$300.00
- Resident Basic and Saltwater (5-13 years old) - \$200.00
- Resident Combination Fishing and Hunting - \$500.00
- Resident Combination Fishing and Hunting (Birth to 4 years old) - \$200.00
- Resident Combination Fishing and Hunting (5-13 years old) - \$300.00
- Nonresident Combination Fishing and Hunting - \$3,000.00

OTHER WILDLIFE FISHING

Wildlife Management Areas

Commercial operations are not allowed on WMAs unless specified. Check with local enforcement for specific areas.

Commercial Fishermen

A commercial fisherman with a Fresh Product License may sell their own catch to a consumer in state but is required to keep trip ticket records and comply with record submissions. Commercial fishermen who sell their catch to anyone other than a Louisiana licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer are required to purchase and possess a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers License and are required to comply with all regulations governing wholesale/retail seafood dealers.

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 that 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.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

- Resident Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer - \$105.00
- Nonresident Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer - \$405.00
- Resident Reptile & Amphibian Transport - \$30.00
- Nonresident Reptile & Amphibian Transport - \$120.00
- Resident Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer Vehicle or Business - \$250.00
- Nonresident Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer Vehicle or Business - \$1,105.00
- Alien Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer Vehicle or Business - \$2,210.00
- Resident Seafood Retail Dealer - \$105.00
- Nonresident Seafood Retail Dealer - \$405.00
- Alien Seafood Retail Dealer - \$810.00
- Transport License - \$30.00
- Alien Transport License - \$60.00
- Resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (Up to 6 Passengers) - \$250.00
- Resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (Over 6 Passengers) - \$500.00
- Nonresident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (Up to 6 Passengers) - \$1,000.00
- Nonresident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (Over 6 Passengers) - \$2,000.00

The reptile and amphibian transport license can only be purchased by and 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, wholesale/retail dealer's seafood license, or retail seafood 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.

WHOLESALE/RETAIL SEAFOOD DEALERS AND RETAIL SEAFOOD DEALERS LICENSES
"Fish" (in quotation marks) in this section means all finfish, shellfish, and crustaceans.

License Requirements

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers are any individual, person, firm, association, corporation, partnership, or any legal entity recognized by law that buys, handles by any means whatsoever any species of "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed, or unprocessed in Louisiana for sale or resale, including bait species, whether on a commission basis or otherwise. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers include, but are not limited to, any person who makes sales of seafood on a wholesale basis including any dock, distributor, broker, fish factory, platform, processing plant, or anyone shipping fish out of or into the state for resale.

A wholesale/retail seafood dealer is the only licensee who can legally purchase "fish" from a commercial fisherman and resell such fish. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers are not required to obtain a soft-shell crab shedder's license or a reptile and amphibian dealers license. They are required, however, to abide by regulations of those particular activities. If a wholesale/retail dealer license is in the name of an individual, the license is only valid for that individual.

Retail Seafood Dealers are any individual person, firm, association, corporation, partnership, or any legal entity recognized by law that only buys, acquires, or handles by any means whatsoever any species of "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed, or unprocessed in Louisiana for sale. Retail seafood dealers may only purchase fish from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer. Retail seafood dealers may only sell "fish"/seafood directly to the consumer for personal or household use. Retail seafood dealers are not authorized to make wholesale transactions (sales intended to be resold). Restaurants or grocers that sell raw "fish" such as oysters or sushi are required to obtain a retail seafood dealer license if purchasing such fish from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer. If a retail seafood dealer license is in the name of an individual, the license is only valid for that individual. Retail seafood dealers are not authorized to purchase fish from a commercial fisherman.

Restaurants and Retail Grocers who only purchase "fish"/seafood whether fresh, frozen, processed, or unprocessed from a licensed Louisiana wholesale/retail seafood dealer and only sell such "fish" fully prepared by cooking for immediate consumption by the consumers are exempt from these license requirements.

Restaurants and retail grocers who pick up "fish"/seafood directly from wholesale/retail seafood dealers themselves and transport such "fish"/seafood are required to purchase a retail seafood dealers license and applicable transport license(s). Persons exempt from license requirements are required to maintain records as provided below.

Purchases Sales

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers shall only purchase from a validly licensed commercial fisherman or another licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer. When purchasing species of "fish"/seafood from commercial fishermen for which a permit is required, they may only purchase "fish"/seafood from those commercial fishermen who possess the required permit. Permits include, but are not limited to: mullet, reef fish, shark, spotted seatrout, tuna, etc. (permits include both state and federal). When purchasing "fish"/seafood from out-of-state sellers and bringing the "fish"/seafood into Louisiana, "fish"/seafood shall only be purchased from those persons legally licensed to sell "fish"/seafood in that state. When out-of-state sellers bring "fish"/seafood in Louisiana for resale regardless of the type of transportation used must possess a Louisiana wholesale/retail seafood dealer license. Out-of-state buyers purchasing "fish"/seafood from a Louisiana licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer are not required to be licensed when receiving the shipment by that licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer.

Retail Seafood Dealers shall only purchase "fish"/seafood from a licensed Louisiana wholesale/retail seafood dealer. When purchasing "fish"/seafood from out-of-state sellers and bringing the fish into Louisiana, "fish"/seafood shall only be purchased from those persons legally licensed to sell fish in that state. When out-of-state sellers bring fish into Louisiana they must be legally licensed in Louisiana. Retail seafood dealers may only sell "fish"/seafood directly to consumers.

Non-Licensed Restaurants and Retail Grocers shall only purchase "fish"/seafood from licensed Louisiana wholesale/retail seafood dealers (see exemptions). If a restaurant or retail grocer purchases "fish"/seafood

from out of state they shall possess a wholesale/retail seafood dealer license or a retail seafood dealer license. Restaurants or retail grocers who pick up "fish"/seafood directly from wholesale/retail seafood dealers themselves and transport such "fish"/seafood are required to purchase a retail seafood dealer license and applicable transport license.

Records

Wholesale/retail seafood dealers, retail seafood dealers, restaurants, and retail grocers shall keep and maintain in the English language:

- ♦ Records of the quantity and species of "fish"/seafood (fresh, frozen, processed, or unprocessed) acquired; records of fish/seafood acquired from commercial fishermen are required to be documented on department-issued trip tickets.
- ♦ The date the "fish"/seafood was acquired and the full name and license number of the commercial fisherman, wholesale/retail dealer, or the out-of-state sellers from whom the "fish"/seafood was acquired.
- ♦ Records of the quantity and species of "fish"/seafood sold and the name and license number of the person to whom the "fish"/seafood was sold.

When sold to the consumer, the records shall indicate the quantity, species, and date the "fish"/seafood was sold to the consumer. Records shall be maintained for three years and shall be available and open to inspection by the LDWF. Purchases made from fishermen for which a permit is required shall document the commercial fisherman's permit number on the records. When creel limits apply to commercial species, records shall also indicate the number or head count of such species.

Reporting

Monthly Returns to the LDWF. Any wholesale/retail seafood dealer buying "fish" or seafood from anyone other than a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer shall complete trip tickets documenting each transaction. On or before the tenth of each month, the dealer shall submit all the previous month's trip tickets and a submission sheet. For more information on monthly dealer reports call 225-765-2973.

Oyster Severance Tax. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers purchasing oysters from persons harvesting oysters in Louisiana are responsible for and shall pay an oyster severance tax on or before the tenth day of the month.

Shrimp Excise Tax. Louisiana R.S. 56:506 enacted in the 2002 Regular Session of the Legislature requires an excise tax on all saltwater shrimp taken from state waters and on all shrimp imported into the state. Tax is assessed at the rate of 15¢ per barrel of 210 lbs or 210 lb equivalence. With heads removed, shrimp is computed at 125 lbs per barrel or its equivalence. Imported peeled shrimp is computed at 75 lbs per barrel. The first wholesale/retail dealer to whom the shrimp is first delivered makes payment of the excise tax. On imported shrimp brought to cold storage, the dealer storing, brokering, or distributing the shrimp pays the tax. The taxes and reports required must be filed no later than the tenth day of the succeeding month.

Promotion and Protection of Wild Caught Shrimp Fee. For license years 2005 and 2006, any wholesale/retail seafood dealer who is required to pay excise tax on shrimp pursuant to R.S. 56:506 shall also pay an annual fee of \$150 (resident) or \$600 (nonresident). Any wholesale/retail seafood dealer who bought, sold, acquired, handled, or purchased in excess of 250,000 lbs (head on weight) during the previous license year shall pay an additional fee of \$1,000. Fees paid pursuant to this section (506.1) shall be indicated on the original valid wholesale/retail seafood dealer license. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class three violation.

For more information on oyster severance tax, shrimp excise tax, and wild shrimp fees, call 225-765-5193.

Shipping Requirements

All vehicles used for the commercial transportation of “fish”/seafood must be marked with the name and address of the company. Shipments containing fish shall be plainly marked; records, tags, or certificates to show the names of the consignor and the consignee, with an itemized statement of the number of pounds of fish or seafood and the names of each kind of species contained therein, must accompany all shipments of “fish”/seafood. All operators and drivers of any form of commercial transport who are in the act of loading, unloading, or transporting “fish”/seafood shall have in their possession one of the following licenses.

Commercial Fisherman’s License – only valid for a commercial fisherman transporting his own catch to a wholesale/retail seafood dealer.

Transport License – if purchased in connection with a wholesale/retail seafood dealer license, authorizes to deliver “fish”/seafood to another wholesale dealer; if purchased in connection

with a retail seafood dealer license, only valid to pick up “fish”/seafood from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer and transport product to the place of business of the retail seafood dealer; if purchased in connection with a commercial fisherman’s license, only valid to transport that fisherman’s catch to a wholesale/retail seafood dealer to be sold for that commercial fisherman. Dealers are responsible for all activities which take place under the authority of a transport license issued in the name of that dealer.

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License – good for all activities of wholesale/retail seafood dealers. Vehicles shipping seafood out of state commercially must have a wholesale/retail seafood dealer license or a transport license purchased in connection with a wholesale/retail seafood dealer license.

Exemptions

Persons who produce and harvest catfish or crawfish in private ponds are not required to possess a license in order to sell their catfish or crawfish. Any person may purchase catfish or crawfish from persons who harvest catfish or crawfish in private ponds. A seafood wholesale/retail dealer license is required to resell. Persons who harvest catfish or crawfish in private ponds are not required to possess a license to transport their own catfish or crawfish from private ponds to the first point of sale.

FINFISH

Restrictions

It is illegal to possess any gill net-trammel net seine on the saltwater areas of the state except during mullet fishing season, special pompano strike nets, or traversing to the EEZ. There are special requirements in place for persons traversing to the EEZ with illegal gear.

Requirements exist to enter the commercial net fishery for mullet. There are gear restrictions, special permits, seasons, times, and methods of taking commercial mullet. For information about the commercial finfish fisheries, contact the LDWF Enforcement Division.

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

No commercial gear shall be issued to any nonresident 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 herring-like and menhaden fisheries.

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 in herring-like and menhaden species. It is illegal to enter state

waters with purse seine and speckled trout or red drum on the same vessel.

SHARK

All Louisiana state waters out to the seaward boundary of the Louisiana Territorial Sea shall be closed to recreational and commercial harvest of all sharks between Apr 1-Jun 30 each year. A person subject to a bag limit shall not possess at any time, regardless of the number of trips or the duration of a trip, any shark in excess of the bag limits. The practice of "finning," (i.e., removing only the fins and returning the remainder of the shark to the sea) is prohibited within and without Louisiana waters.

Recreational Size and Possession Limits

Species	Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit
BILLFISH		
All persons conducting a tournament involving score keeping for awards for Atlantic billfish must register with the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center. All owners/operators of vessels recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tuna, shark, swordfish, billfish) in or from the EEZ must obtain and possess a Federal Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Angling Permit. www.nmfspermits.com/tournamentInstructions.asp		
Marlin, Blue	99" min LJFL	
Marlin, White	66" min LJFL	
Sailfish	63" min LJFL	
Swordfish	29" carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	5/vessel/trip
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33" min FL	2/person/day
Drum, Black	16" min TL	5/person bag and possession with only 1 over 27"
Drum, Red* (Redfish)	16" min TL	5/person bag with only 1 over 27"
Flounder, Southern		10/person/day for each consecutive day on the water
Mackerel, King**	24" min FL	2/person/day
Mackerel, Spanish**	12" min FL	15/person/day
Mullet, Striped		100 lbs/person/day
Seabass, Black	8" min TL	
Seatrout, Spotted* (Speckled Trout)	12" min TL (no more than 2 fish over 25" TL in possession in specified waters of Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes in SW LA)	25/person bag
REEF FISH**		
Amberjack, Greater	28" min FL	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser Rudderfish, Banded	14" min FL and 22" max FL	5/person/day in aggregate
Hogfish	12" min FL	5/person/day

Species	Size Limit	Bag & Possession Limit
Gag, Black Grouper	22" min TL	5/person/day in aggregate (all groupers, excluding Jewfish and Nassau with not more than on Speckled Hind and one Warsaw Grouper per vessel)
Red, Yellowfin Grouper	20" min TL	
Scamp	16" min TL	
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Speckled Hind, Misty Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw Grouper		
Jewfish, Nassau Grouper	Take Prohibited	Take Prohibited
Red Snapper	16" min TL	4/person/day
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogany, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray Snappers	12" min TL	10/person/day in aggregate (all snapper except Red, Vermilion, and Lane)
Mutton Snapper	16" min TL	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman		Included in 10 fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10" min TL	20/person/day in aggregate
Lane Snapper	8" min TL	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	12" min TL	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish		Included in 20 fish aggregate
SHARK¹		
Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead	None	1/person/day (each species)
Sharks other than Atlantic Sharpnose and not in Prohibited Species Group	54 min FL	Aggregate 1/vessel/trip and in possession
Prohibited Species ²	No Take Allowed	No Take Allowed
TUNA³		
Tuna, Yellowfin	27" CFL	3/person
Tuna, Bigeye	27" CFL	
Tuna, Bluefin	27" CFL	
Atlantic Bluefin, Yellowfin, Bigeye, Skipjack, Albacore		

LJFL – straight-line length from tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail

TL – total length (measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin)

FL – fork length (measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail)

Carcass Length – curved measure from back edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel

CFL – curved fork length (measure from the tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body)

Dressed Weight – weight of the carcass after gutted, headed, and finned

Harvest of Jewfish, Nassau Grouper, Basking Shark, White Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Whale Shark, Smalltooth and Largetooth Sawfish is prohibited.

*Two-day bag limits allowed in possession off the water (not while fishing or in a boat)

**Two-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats

¹All Louisiana state waters shall be closed to the recreational and commercial harvest of all sharks between Apr 1- Jun 30 each year.

²See Shark Species Group Definitions

³Requires a federal permit to harvest or transport in state waters

Commercial Size and Possession Limits

Species	Size Limit	Possession Limits/Quota	Season
Sailfish, blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, hatchet marlin, white marlin, and red drum are game fish in Louisiana and may not be commercially harvested, sold, bartered, traded, or exchanged. Contact the LDWF Enforcement Division for specific requirements governing commercialization of these species.			
Recreational and commercial fishermen must keep tuna, which have size requirements, heads and tails intact unless carcass length is in excess of the minimum total length. Recreational fishermen are required to maintain sharks fully intact.			
Bowfin eggs (roe) that are not naturally connected to the whole fish cannot be possessed by fishermen while on the water.			
Swordfish ¹	29" carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight		
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33" min FL	2/person	
Drum, Black	16" min TL	Quota: 16"-27" – 3,250,000 lbs >27" – 300,000 fish	Sep-Aug 31 or when respective quota is filled
Flounder, Southern*	None	10/licensed fisherman/day	
Mackerel, King	24" min FL	3,000 lb/trip federal quota	Opens Jul 1 until federal quota filled
Mackerel, Spanish	12" min FL	Federal quota	Open until federal quota filled
Mullet, Striped ²			3 rd Mon in Oct until 3 rd Mon in Jan
Pompano ¹			Aug 1 – Oct 31
Seabass, Black	8" min TL		
Seatrout, Spotted ² (Speckled Trout)	14" min TL	Quota: 1 mil lbs	3 rd Mon in Nov until Apr 31 or when quota filled
Sheepshead	10" min TL		
Reef Fish¹			
Amberjack, Greater	36" min TL		Closed Mar 1 – May 31
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14" min FL and 22" max FL		
Hogfish	12" min FL		
Triggerfish, Grey	12" min TL		
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish, Dwarf Sandperch, Sandperch			

Species	Size Limit	Possession Limits/Quota	Season
Shallow-Water Groupers		Federal quota for Shallow-Water Grouper species group	Jan 1 until federal quota is filled
Gag, Black	24" min TL		Black, Gag, and Red closed Feb 15-Mar 15
Red, Yellowfin	20" min TL		
Scamp	16" min TL		
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind	None		
Deep Water Groupers			
Misty, Snowy, Yellowedge, Warsaw, Speckled Hind	None	Federal quota	Jan 1 until federal quota filled
Red Snapper	15" min TL		2004: First 10 days each month starting with Feb until 2/3 of the quota is filled. First 10 days each month starting with Oct until the remainder of the quota is filled.
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogany, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray Snappers	12" min TL		
Mutton Snapper	16" min TL		
Vermilion Snapper	10" min TL		
Lane Snapper	8" min TL		
Tunas¹			
Yellowfin, Bigeye, Bluefin	27 CFL		
Atlantic, Skipjack, Albacore			
Sharks¹			
Large Coastal		4,000 lbs/trip dressed weight, Federal quota	All shark harvest is prohibited from Apr 1 to Jun 30
Small Coastal, Pelagic		Federal quota	

LJFL = Straight line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail.

TL = Total length measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin.

FL = Fork length measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

Carcass length = curve measure from back edge of gill opening to anterior portion of the caudal keel.

CFL = Curved fork length measure from the tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body.

Dressed weight = weight of the carcass after it has been gutted, headed, and finned.

Sailfish, blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, hatchet marlin, white marlin, and red drum are game fish in Louisiana and may not be commercially harvested. Harvest of Jewfish and Grouper is prohibited.

*All southern flounder caught as bycatch on a shrimping vessel may be retained and sold.

¹Requires a Federal permit to harvest or transport in state waters.

²Requires a state permit.

Note: Some of the species listed here may have seasons, quotas, trip, or possession limits, etc. established before or during the year that are not part of the permanent state rules listed here. For updated information about the commercial finfish fisheries, contact the LDWF Enforcement Division.

Shark Species Group Definitions

Small Coastal Sharks

- ♦ Bonnethead shark
- ♦ Atlantic sharpnose shark
- ♦ Blacknose shark
- ♦ Finetooth shark

Large Coastal Sharks

- ♦ Great hammerhead
- ♦ Scalloped hammerhead,
- ♦ Smooth hammerhead
- ♦ Nurse shark
- ♦ Blacktip shark
- ♦ Bull shark
- ♦ Lemon shark
- ♦ Sandbar shark
- ♦ Silky shark
- ♦ Spinner shark
- ♦ Tiger shark

Pelagic Sharks

- ♦ Porbeagle shark
- ♦ Shortfin mako

- ♦ Blue shark
- ♦ Ocean whitetip shark
- ♦ Thresher shark

Prohibited Species

No person shall take, possess, purchase, sell, barter, exchange, or attempt to possess, purchase, sell, barter, or exchange any of the following species or parts thereof: basking shark, white shark, bigeye sand tiger, sand tiger, whale shark, smalltooth sawfish, largetooth sawfish, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, narrowtooth shark, night shark, Atlantic angel shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, smalltail shark, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher shark, longfin mako, sevengill shark, sixgill shark. Notwithstanding other provisions of this part, a person may fish for, but not retain, white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) with rod and reel only under a catch and release program, provided the person releases and returns such fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury.

Louisiana – Other Commercial License Fees

COMMERCIAL LICENSES	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
All commercial licenses expire on December 31 each year, unless otherwise noted.		
Commercial Fisherman's License	\$55.00	\$460.00
Senior Commercial Fisherman's License*	20.00	N/A
Apprentice	27.00	230.00
Vessel License (required south of saltwater line)	15.00	60.00
Mullet Permit (captain only) ^{1,2}	100.00	400.00
Mussel Harvester Permit (captain only) ¹	100.00	1,000.00
Pompano Permit (captain only) ^{1,4}	No fee	No fee
Oyster Harvester (captain only) ¹	100.00	400.00
Oyster Tong (per tong)	30.00	240.00
Oyster Dredge	25.00	200.00
Out-of-state Oyster Landing Permit	100.00	N/A
Shrimp Trawl (per trawl)	25.00	100.00
Butterfly Net (per net)	25.00	100.00
Skimmer Net (per net)	25.00	100.00
Shrimp Gear Fee (one-time annually)	10.00	40.00
Hoop Net (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Freshwater Fish Seine (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Freshwater Trammel Net (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Freshwater Gill Net (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Purse/Menhaden Seine (per seine)	505.00	2,020.00
Dip/Cast Nets (per net type)	25.00	100.00
Crab Trap (any legal number)	25.00	100.00

COMMERCIAL LICENSES	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
Crab Drop Net	25.00	100.00
Crab Trap Trot Line (per trap, maximum of 25)	1.00	4.00
Slat Trap (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Minnnow Trap (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Eel Pot (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Cans, Buckets, Pipes, Drums (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Set Lines (Trot, Bush, etc.; any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Flounder Gigs (per gig)	25.00	100.00
Spear Gun (per spear gun)	25.00	100.00
Mullet Strike Net (per net)	250.00	1,000.00
Pompano Strike Net (per net)	250.00	1,000.00
Saltwater Rod & Reel (any legal number) ^{2,3}	250.00	1,000.00
Spotted Seatrout Permit ²	100.00	400.00
Traversing Permit	No fee	No fee
Crawfish Traps (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Wire Net (any legal number)	25.00	100.00
Shark Permit	No fee	No fee
Freshwater Shad Seine	25.00	N/A
Shad Gill Net (Lakes Verret & Palourde or Lac des Allemands)	25.00	N/A
Freshwater Shrimp Net	25.00	N/A

*Must be a Louisiana resident 70 years or older when making application.

¹Commercial fisherman's license required.

²Must meet qualifying criteria. For more information, call 225-765-2898.

³Each person onboard must have a commercial fisherman's license.

⁴Must meet qualifying criteria. For more information, call 504-568-5688

DEALER LICENSES	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer – Business	250.00	1,105.00
Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer – Vehicle	250.00	1,105.00
Seafood Retail Dealer – Business	105.00	405.00
Seafood Retail Dealer – Vehicle	105.00	405.00
Seafood Transport – Wholesale/Retail Dealer	30.00	30.00
Seafood Transport – Retail Dealer	30.00	30.00
Four Year Wholesale/Retail – Vehicle/Bus	1,000.00	4,420.00
Four Year Retail – Vehicle/Business	420.00	1,620.00
Four Year Transport	120.00	120.00
Seafood Transport – Commercial Fisherman	30.00	30.00
Soft Shell Crab Shedder	100.00	400.00
Fresh Products (Commercial Fisherman's License required)	20.00	120.00
Fresh Products – spouse	\$5.00	N/A
Fish Farmer	15.00	N/A
Reptile & Amphibian Collector (under 16)	10.00	N/A
Reptile & Amphibian Collector	25.00	200.00
Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer	105.00	405.00
Reptile & Amphibian Transport	30.00	120.00
Alligator Parts Dealer (expires Jun 30)	50.00	N/A
Mussel Buyer's Permit*	150.00	600.00
Charter Boat Fishing Guide (up to 6 passengers)	250.00	1,000.00
Charter Boat Fishing Guide (more than 6 passengers)	500.00	2,000.00

*Seafood wholesale/retail dealer license required.

OTHER LICENSES	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
Bow & Arrow Gear	\$25.00	\$100.00
Garfish Gig (per gig)	25.00	100.00
Non Game Quadruped – Exhibitor	10.00	N/A
Non Game Quadruped – Breeder	25.00	N/A
Game Breeder (\$50 inspection fee to raise deer and birds of prey)	25.00	N/A
Fur Buyer	25.00	100.00
Fur Dealer (\$500 deposit is required of residents and \$1,000 for nonresidents)	150.00	300.00
Hunting Preserve	200.00	N/A
Coyote Trapping Permit	25.00	N/A

MISSISSIPPI

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Mississippi. The information is current as of June 1, 2004, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), Office of Marine Patrol, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Fifth Floor – Suite A, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530 (228-432-7708) or visit the web site at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

Residency Requirements

A “resident” means a person, firm, or corporation that is domiciled in this state. A “domicile” means a person’s principal or primary place of abode in which a person’s habitation is fixed and to which the person, whenever absent, has the present intention of returning after departure of absence there from, regardless of the duration of the absence. The burden of proving domicile in the state shall be on the person claiming the status. A person holding a current driver’s license shall be deemed to be domiciled within the state issuing the license. If a person does not hold a current driver’s license the following evidence may be considered for establishing, but is not necessarily determinative of domicile: residence for income or other tax purposes, homestead exemption receipt or other means prescribed by the Mississippi Commission of Marine Resources (MCMR). In the case of minors, domicile of the parents shall be used as evidence of the minor’s domicile.

SHRIMP

Each freight boat, ice boat, and catching boat used in catching or transporting saltwater shrimp taken from the waters of the state of Mississippi for sale in their fresh state, or for canning, packing, freezing or drying, shall first obtain from the MCMR an annual privilege license and pay a license fee at the following rates.

Commercial License

Shrimp Boat under 30’
Resident - \$50.00
Nonresident - \$100.00
Shrimp Boat 30’-45’
Resident - \$75.00
Nonresident - \$100.00
Shrimp Boat over 45’
Resident - \$100.00
Nonresident - \$200.00

The captain shall purchase a license entitled “Captain’s License.” This license shall be purchased at the same time the vessel license is purchased. The fee for a captain’s license shall be a minimum of ten dollars (\$10.00). The individual registered as the captain of the vessel may be substituted after notification and the approval of the Deputy Director or authorized designee.

Recreational License

Each recreational vessel engaging in shrimping with a net having a cork line length of sixteen feet (16’) or less shall pay an annual resident license fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) or an annual nonresident license fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00).

Commercial Season

Trawling is prohibited north of the Intracoastal Waterway (tugboat channel) after sunset of December 31, except by license live bait dealers. Shrimp season is officially opened by public notice at such a time that the 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

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 fifty feet (50’) along the head rope and sixty feet (60’) along the foot rope or not more than two nets, each measuring no more than twenty-five feet (25’) on the head rope and thirty-two feet (32’) on the foot rope. Trawl boards on double rig, commercial shrimp vessels are limited to a 6’x34” maximum door size. Single rig nets are not affected. A test (or try) trawl no larger than twelve feet (12’) along the head rope and fifteen feet (15’) along the foot rope used with boards not more than thirty feet (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 twenty-four feet (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 parts per thousand (100 ppt) and is used to aid in separating the shrimp from the bycatch.

No nonresident shall be issued a commercial fishing license for the taking of saltwater shrimp using any type of net if that nonresident’s state of domicile prohibits the

issuing of commercial fishing licenses to residents of this state to engage in like activity.

During open seasons and in open areas, saltwater shrimp may be taken only with shrimp trawls, trawls, butterfly nets, skimmer nets, push trawls, beach seines, and cast nets.

Recreational Gear Limitations

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

Commercial Legal Size

Shrimp smaller than 68 count (68 shrimp or less per pound) 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 lbs (with heads on) per person, per day 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 MCMR 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 per pound.

Gear

Trawls cannot be larger than sixteen feet (16') on the head rope and twenty-two feet (22') on the footrope, except areas west of Bayou Caddy where trawls may be twenty-five feet (25') on the head rope and thirty-two feet (32') on the footrope.

Legal Size

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

Pounds Allowed

No more than thirty pounds (30 lbs) of dead shrimp are allowed onboard at any time.

Restrictions

Live bait dealers must mark their boats with the words "LIVE BAIT" in letters no smaller than six inches (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 the 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 twelve hours (12 hrs). No bulk sales of dead shrimp are permitted; dead shrimp may be sold only with heads on and in sixteen-ounce (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 twenty-four hour period.

Fish Retained for Consumption

Licensed vessels may keep in whole, for personal consumption only, the following types of fish which are caught in the shrimp nets or trawls of the vessel: white trout, croaker, black drum, ground mullet, sheepshead, gaftopsail catfish, and flounder. The cumulative total of fish shall not exceed twenty-five pounds (25 lbs). In addition, a vessel may keep three-dozen (36) blue crabs. This exemption for personal consumption does not apply to fish or crabs that are otherwise illegal to possess or catch.

SHELLFISH – OYSTERS AND CLAMS

License Requirements

Each vessel used to catch, take, carry, or transport oysters from the reefs of the state of Mississippi, or engaged in transporting any oysters in any of the waters within the territorial jurisdiction of the state of Mississippi, for commercial use, shall annually, before beginning operations, be licensed by the MCMR and pay the following license fees:

Tonging

Resident - \$50.00

Nonresident - \$100.00

Dredging

Resident - \$100.00

Nonresident - \$200.00

Each person catching or taking oysters from the waters of the state of Mississippi for personal use shall obtain a

permit from the MCMR and pay an annual recreational oyster permit fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). Oysters caught under a recreational permit shall not be offered for sale. The limit on allowable catch of oysters for recreational purposes shall be three (3) sacks per week. The MDMR shall issue tags of a distinguishing color to designate recreationally harvested oysters, which shall be tagged on the same day of harvest in the manner prescribed below.

Season

Season is regulated by legal notice from the MCMR, and notice thereof will be duly published in local newspapers and released to both 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 hands (cooning), with tongs, or by using a dredge. Dredges for oystering may not exceed one hundred forty pounds (140 lbs) in weight nor may they have in excess of sixteen (16) teeth. Teeth on the dredge must be five inches (5") or less. Restrictions on the maximum number of dredges carried will be established by the MCMR.

It is unlawful for any person to catch or take oysters by means of dredging in any of the waters designated as tonging reefs by the MCMR.

The MCMR shall designate certain areas as tonging reefs. The MCMR shall mark the boundaries of the areas designated by appropriate poles, stakes, or buoys of material that will not injure watercraft. The MCMR may authorize the taking of oysters on reefs designated as tonging reefs by dredge, drag, or scoop if the MCMR finds that the dredging, dragging, or scooping is necessary to manage the resource properly. Any dredging, dragging, or scooping authorized under this section shall be for a specific time period as provided by the MCMR.

Unless otherwise authorized under this section, any boat or vessel which catches or takes oysters by means of dredges, drags, or scoops (other than hand tongs) from any of the areas described in this section or with a dredge or dredges in the water shall have all oysters onboard the boat or vessel declared to be contraband. The oysters shall be taken and confiscated by the MDMR or marine law enforcement officer without court procedure. The captain and crew of the boat or vessel, promptly upon being ordered to do so, shall transport the oysters to a point on the public reefs of the state where the boat or vessel is found and there scatter the oysters according to the instructions of the enforcement officers. Any person who violates this section shall be punished as provided in §49-15-63.

Size Limits

Oysters taken in state waters must be at least three inches (3") long from hinge to bill. At times, however, the MDMR may adjust this limit upon public notice to that effect.

Limits

Recreational and commercial catch limits are set annually (set by Mississippi State Statute 97-15-29).

Leases

The MCMR conducts a program of oyster leasing. Any resident of the state may lease state water bottoms 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.

Shell Retention Fee

The MCMR shall assess and collect a shell retention fee for the shells taken from waters within the territorial jurisdiction of the state of Mississippi as follows.

Commercial and recreational harvesters – fifteen cents (15¢) per sack paid to the MDMR on the day of harvest;

Initial oyster processor, dealer, or factory first purchasing the oysters – fifteen cents (15¢) per sack paid to the MDMR no later than the tenth day of the month following the purchase on forms submitted by the MDMR;

Commercial harvesters transporting their catch out of state – fifty cents (50¢) per sack paid to the MDMR on the day of harvest.

Funds received from the shell retention fee shall be paid into a special fund in the state treasury to be appointed by the Legislature for use by the MCMR to further oyster production in this state, which includes "planting" oysters and/or cultch materials.

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. 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 shell-stock dealer's name and identification number if the oysters are to be sold. The MDMR shall number all tags issued and shall maintain a record of those tags. The MCMR, at its discretion, may adopt any regulations regarding the tagging of oysters and other shellfish. 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
- Recreational Crabbing - \$5.00
(Six pots or traps only)

Restrictions

Crabs may also be taken by trawl; however, the trawls 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. Commercial shrimp vessels are allowed to have in their possession three-dozen (36) crabs for personal consumption.

Crab pots or traps must be visibly marked with the license number (MI #) of the owner or registered color code on the buoy. A crab trap float line must be of material easily cut with a knife. It shall be unlawful to have any sponge (egg-bearing) crabs at any time in the state of Mississippi regardless of where harvested. All sponge crabs shall immediately be returned to the water alive. 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 (6) crab traps or whenever caught crabs are to be offered for sale. All areas north of the CSX Railroad bridges in the three coastal counties are closed to commercial crabbing.

Beginning January 1, 2004, all crab traps placed in or on the marine waters of the state of Mississippi shall utilize the following materials to permanently mark the crab trap for ownership: a stainless steel, aluminum, or plastic tag must be attached to the trap. The tag used to mark the

traps must be legibly and permanently stamped with raised letters containing the applicable licensed crab fisherman's full name. The minimum height of the letters must be at least $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch. The tag shall be supplied by the crab fisherman.

All crab traps or pots placed in the marine waters of the state of Mississippi must be marked with a float of at least six inches in height, six inches in length, and six inches in width (6"x6"x6"). The float must have a highly-visible color. Buoys shall be attached to crab traps by use of a weighted or non-floating line.

All resident and nonresident recreational crab fishermen utilizing traps or pots must possess a valid recreational crab trap license for a fee of five dollars (\$5.00). This requirement applies to individuals between the ages of 16 and 65. Any resident citizen who is blind, or paraplegic, or a multiple amputee, or adjudged by the Veterans' Administration as having a total service-connected disability, or adjudged totally disabled by the Social Security Administration shall not be required to purchase or have in his possession a recreational crab license while engaged in such activities. Any resident exempt under this section shall have on his person, while fishing, proof of residency and age or disability.

Legal Size

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

Season

The MCMR may establish a closed season or seasons for the use of crab traps in the public waters of this state. The MCMR may designate the closed season as not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days per year. Any crab trap remaining in the public waters after the expiration to the seventh day of a closed season shall be considered abandoned and can be removed for proper disposal. The first seven days of the closed season shall be a period of time for crab fishermen to remove traps from the water; however, harvest of crabs caught in traps is prohibited during this time. The MCMR shall publish the season closure dates and areas in a closing order to the general public.

FINFISH

Licenses

Any resident between the ages of 16 and 65, fishing in the marine waters of the state shall obtain a saltwater sports fishing license for a fee of four dollars (\$4.00). This license shall be valid in any waters south of Interstate 10. Any resident citizen who is blind, or paraplegic, or a multiple amputee, or adjudged by the Veterans'

Administration as having a total service-connected disability, or adjudged totally disabled by the Social Security Administration shall not be required to purchase or have in his possession a saltwater sports fishing license while engaged in such activities. Any resident exempt under this section shall have on his person, while fishing, proof of residency and age or disability.

The MCMR shall prescribe the forms, types, and fees for nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses except that the fee for a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license shall not be less than twenty dollars (\$20.00). The MCMR shall require a nonresident to purchase a nonresident freshwater fishing license and a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license if the nonresident's state requires both licenses for a nonresident to fish in its marine waters.

All residents engaged in charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the MCMR at a fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the MCMR. The MCMR shall set the fees for nonresident vessel licenses. Crewmembers and customers of the licensed vessels shall not be required to purchase an individual resident or nonresident saltwater fishing license while sponsored by the licensed vessels. An operator of a licensed vessel shall be required to report

the number of customers to the MDMR as required by the MCMR, and the information shall be kept confidential and shall not be released, except to other fisheries management agencies or as statistical data. All nonresident vessels engaged in saltwater sport fishing tournaments, not to exceed an aggregate of twenty (20) days per calendar year, shall not be required to purchase an annual license as provided under this subsection.

The saltwater sports fishing license is required for all recreational methods of finfish harvest. Any resident who purchases a lifetime sportsman's license shall be entitled to fish in the marine salt waters of the state and shall be exempt from the purchase of a saltwater sports fishing license.

Any person authorized to issue a license may collect and retain, for each saltwater fishing license issued, the additional authorized fee. The fees collected from the sale of resident and nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses shall be deposited into the Seafood Fund and shall be used solely for the management of marine resources.

Participants in the *Very Special Fishing Olympics* are exempt from this section. July 4th of each year is designated as "Free Saltwater Sports Fishing Day." Any person may saltwater fish without a license on this day.

Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	MAXIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES
Red drum	Quota ¹	Quota ¹	18 TL	1 over 30 TL
Spotted seatrout	Quota ²	Quota ²	14 TL	
Mullet	No Limit	No Limit	10 TL	
Cobia ³	2	2	37 TL	
Spanish mackerel	No Limit	No Limit	14 FL	
Red snapper	Quota	Quota	16 TL	
Flounder	Quota ⁴	Quota ⁴	12 TL	

¹There is a 35,000 lb annual commercial quota.

²There is a 40,000 lb limit.

³No commercial sale of cobia is allowed.

⁴There is a 74,000 lb annual commercial quota.

An annual total allowable catch (TAC) for commercial landing of flounders will be set at 74,000 lbs beginning March 1, 2002 and ending September 30, 2002. Thereafter, the commercial fishing season will begin October 1, 2002, ending September 30 of each following year.

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.

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

Recreational Size and Possession Limits

It is illegal for recreational anglers to sell, offer for sale, barter, or trade any of his/her catch.

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	24 FL	No Limit
Red snapper	4	4	16 TL	
Flounder	15	15	12 TL	No Limit

SHARK

It shall be unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess more than four (4) of the following shark species in aggregate per person per day:

Small Coastal Sharks

- ♦ Atlantic sharpnose, *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*
- ♦ Finetooth, *Carcharhinus isodon*
- ♦ Blacknose, *Carcharhinus acronotus*
- ♦ Bonnethead, *Sphyrna tiburo*

It shall be unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess more than one (1) of the following shark species per person per day and no more than three (3) of the following shark species in aggregate per vessel per day:

Large Coastal Sharks

- ♦ Sandbar, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*
- ♦ Blacktip, *Carcharhinus limbatus*
- ♦ Spinner, *Carcharhinus brevipinna*
- ♦ Silky, *Carcharhinus falciformis*
- ♦ Bull, *Carcharhinus leucas*
- ♦ Tiger, *Galeocerdo cuvieri*
- ♦ Lemon, *Negaprion brevirostris*
- ♦ Nurse, *Ginglymostoma cirratum*
- ♦ Scalloped hammerhead, *Sphyrna lewini*
- ♦ Great hammerhead, *Sphyrna mokarran*
- ♦ Smooth hammerhead, *Sphyrna zygaena*

Pelagic Sharks

- ♦ Shortfin mako, *Isurus oxyrinchus*
- ♦ Porbeagle, *Lamna nasus*
- ♦ Thresher, *Alopias vulpinus*
- ♦ Blue, *Prionace glauca*
- ♦ Oceanic whitetip, *Carcharhinus longimanus*

It shall be unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess any of the following species of sharks:

- ♦ Sand tiger, *Odontaspis taurus*
- ♦ Bigeye and tiger, *Odontaspis noronhai*
- ♦ Whale, *Rhincodon typus*

- ♦ Basking, *Cetorhinus maximus*
- ♦ White, *Carcharodon carcharias*
- ♦ Dusky, *Carcharhinus obscurus*
- ♦ Bignose, *Carcharhinus altimus*
- ♦ Galapagos, *Carcharhinus galapagensis*
- ♦ Night, *Carcharhinus signatus*
- ♦ Caribbean reef, *Carcharhinus perezii*
- ♦ Narrowtooth, *Carcharhinus brachyurus*
- ♦ Caribbean sharpnose, *Rhizoprionodon porosus*
- ♦ Smalltail, *Carcharhinus porosus*
- ♦ Atlantic angel, *Squatina dumerili*
- ♦ Longfin mako, *Isurus paucus*
- ♦ Bigeye thresher, *Alopias superciliosus*
- ♦ Sevengill, *Heptranchias perlo*
- ♦ Sixgill, *Hexanchus griseus*
- ♦ Bigeye sixgill, *Hexanchus vitulus*

LEGAL SIZES

It shall be unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess any of the following name species of fish under the lengths prescribed:

- Spotted seatrout – 14” TL
- Red drum – 18” TL
- Cobia – 37” TL
- Greater amberjack – 28” FL
- Red snapper – 16” TL
- Vermilion snapper – 10” TL
- Lane snapper – 8” TL
- Gray, mutton, and yellowtail snapper – 12” TL
- Nassau and yellowfin – 20” TL
- Gag, red and black grouper – 22” TL
- Scamp – 16” TL
- Gray triggerfish – 12” TL
- King mackerel – 24” TL
- Small coastal sharks – 25” TL
- Large coastal sharks – 37” TL
- Flounders – 12” TL

Saltwater sports fishermen 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 the state adjoining Mississippi and meet that state's minimum size and creel requirements. Said saltwater sports fishermen must possess a valid saltwater sports fishing 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

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

Resident Gill and Trammel Net - \$100.00

Resident Charter, Party - \$200.00

Commercial Hook and Line - \$100.00 (+ \$100 for each person onboard)

The hook and line license fisherman is required to purchase an additional license which costs an additional \$100.00. This license is a Commercial Fisherman's License. It is also required that each person onboard the vessel actively engaged in fishing must also purchase a Commercial Fisherman's License.

Resident Menhaden Boat/Net - \$150.00

Restrictions

Saltwater finfish may be taken from Mississippi waters by any of the following methods:

- ♦ hook and line,
- ♦ trotline,
- ♦ throw line,
- ♦ 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 with a maximum ¼" bar),
- ♦ brill net,
- ♦ shrimp trawl,
- ♦ trammel net,
- ♦ gill net,
- ♦ wing net,
- ♦ beach and purse seines (all must be under 1,200' in total length with a minimum 1½" square stretched mesh size and 1¾" square mesh October 15-December 15),

- ♦ fish traps (smaller than 1½" 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 1,200' 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 1,200' 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 1,200' in length. King mackerel fishing is defined as fishing activity in which the sole purpose is to catch king mackerel; 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 a mesh size 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 1¾" square (3½" stretched) or larger. 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 MDMR Executive Director or his designee.

Purse seines may not exceed 1,500' in length, except those expressly to catch menhaden and must have a mesh size no smaller than ½" square (1" stretched). 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 1,200' 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 (1) mile of Horn, Ship, and Petit Bois Islands year round; 4) within 1,500' 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 lb catch limit for red drum and the 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 is unlawful for a person to use a gill net, trammel net, entanglement net, or like contrivances for the taking of fish in marine waters within one half (½) mile of the shoreline of the state of Mississippi between the boundaries of Louisiana to the west and Alabama to the east.

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 form 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.

GILL NET ORDINANCE

Section 1 – Definitions

Mullet fishing shall be defined as a fishing activity where the sole purpose is to catch mullet (*Mugil* sp.). It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, while engaged in any mullet fishing activity or “set” to catch in excess of ten percent (10%) of weight of species other than mullet.

King mackerel fishing shall be defined as fishing activity where the sole purpose is to catch king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*). It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, while engaged in any net fishing activity or “set” to catch in excess of ten percent (10%) by weight of species other than king mackerel while king mackerel fishing.

Commercial eel fishing shall be defined as a fishing activity using traps or pots where the sole purpose is to catch American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to retain any fish or shellfish other than adult eels while engaged in commercial eel fishing. An adult eel shall be defined as an eel at least six inches (6”) in length.

Approved degradable material shall be defined as a material after which one year of immersion in water loses at least 50% of its tensile strength and for which a field test must be available to analyze the material for authenticity or the net must have a placard issued by the DMR which will be permanently attached to the net certifying that the net is made of an approved degradable material. Any material approved by the CMR under Ordinance 5.012 shall be deemed an “approved degradable material” for the purposes of this ordinance, regardless of whether the material meets the 50% loss in tensile strength after one year of immersion in water.

The possession of a gill net, trammel net, or like contrivance, or any other equipment prohibited for use in the taking or harvesting of seafood under this chapter on a vessel on the marine waters of this state where the use of the net, contrivance or equipment is prohibited, shall constitute *prima facie* evidence that an offense has been committed to take or harvest seafood with nets, contrivances or equipment prohibited by this chapter, unless the vessel is: a) anchored or moored at a

permanent facility intended for the mooring of vessels; b) traveling directly between a marina, harbor, or public boat launching facility and a U.S. Coast Guard marked and maintained navigational channel; or c) traveling within a U.S. Coast Guard marked and maintained navigational channel.

Section 2

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to catch, take, or carry away any saltwater fish by or with any gill nets, trammel nets, purse seines, seines, fish traps (except permitted eel traps), or any other like contrivances, in the territorial waters of the state of Mississippi within 1,200' of any public pier owned and operated by hotels or motels for the use of their patrons and guests for swimming and fishing or any harbor or within 1,200' of the shoreline of Deer Island.

Section 3

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to catch, take, or carry away any saltwater fish by or with any gill nets, trammel nets, purse seines, seines, fish traps, and other like contrivances except permitted eel traps in the following areas of the state of Mississippi:

- A) Within any river, bayou, creek, canal, stream, tributary, lake, bay, inlet, or other water sources entering into areas defined as salt waters under the jurisdiction of the CMR, except Point aux Chenes Bay, Middle Bay, Jose Bay, L'Isle Chaude, Heron Bay, Pascagoula Bay, south of a line beginning at a point on the shoreline at the southern terminus of range lines R7W and R6W near Camp Lamotte; thence southeasterly along the most direct line to the southernmost point of Twin Islands; thence easterly along the most direct line to the southern point of Rabbit Island; thence easterly along the most direct line to the Beacon "Occ R 4 sec 100 ft" on the eastern side of Litton Shipbuilding [Northrup Grummond]; thence southeasterly following the shoreline to the southeastern most point of land adjoining the entrance to Yazoo Lake and South Rigolets and Biloxi Bay south of a line drawn between Marsh Point and Grand Bayou. These restrictions in Subsection A shall not apply to mullet fishing in Pascagoula Bay south of the CSX Railroad Bridge.
- B) Within fifteen hundred feet (1,500') from the shoreline between U.S. Highway 90 Bridge and the north shore of Bayou Caddy in Hancock County.
- C) Within any area that could block the mouth of any river, bayou, creek, canal, stream, tributary, lake, bay, inlet, channel, or other water source entering into areas defined as salt waters under the jurisdiction of the CMR. Areas defined as salt waters under the jurisdiction of the CMR are

specified by the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Public Notice 2276 in accordance with §49-15-23 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated.

- D) Within an area formed by a line running one (1) mile from the shoreline of Cat, Ship, Horn, Petit Bois, and Round Islands, or from the shoals of Telegraph Keys and Telegraph Reef (Merrill Coquille), during the period from May 15 to September 15 of each year.
- E) Within twelve hundred feet (1,200') of any private piers, which extend a distance of 75' or more from the shoreline, except when mullet fishing.
- F) Within three hundred feet (300') of any private piers which extend a distance of 75' or more from the shoreline when mullet fishing.
- G) All of the aforementioned piers must be in usable condition with boards spaced in such a way that persons can walk the entire distance of the pier.

Section 4

Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 2 and 3, above, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to set, use, or possess a gill or trammel net in the marine waters of the state of Mississippi contrary to the following restrictions:

- A) From 6:00 a.m. to 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.
- B) From 6:00 p.m. to 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 Jackson County to Marsh Point in Ocean Springs, Jackson County.
- C) 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.
- D) 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 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.
- E) 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 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.

- F) No gill or trammel net shall be set within one quarter (¼) mile of another gill or trammel net.
- G) Gill and trammel nets must be attended at all times from a distance of no greater than the length of the boat in use.
- H) 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 DMR Executive Director or his designee. Any material that has not been approved by the CMR by the October 15, 1996, CMR meeting must meet the requirements of the approved degradable materials definition.

Section 5

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to engage in commercial eel fishing activities by trap or pot in all areas defined as salt waters under the jurisdiction of the CMR by Public Notice 2276 in accordance with §49-15-23 of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, without first obtaining a commercial eel permit from the DMR.

Section 6

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to use at any time trammel nets, gill nets, seines, or any other like contrivances in excess of twelve hundred feet (1,200') in length. Except when fishing gill and trammel nets between October 15 through December 15 of each year, nets must be of a mesh size of 1½" square, 3" stretch or larger, and it shall be unlawful for any boat to use more than one such net. Between October 15 through December 15 of each year, gill and trammel nets must be a mesh size of 1¾" square, 3½" stretch or larger, and it shall be unlawful for any boat to use more than one such net.

Section 7

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation other than licensed menhaden vessels engaged in menhaden fishing to use or have in possession purse seines in excess of fifteen hundred feet (1,500') in length. Said nets must be of a mesh size of ½" square, 1" stretch mesh or larger.

Section 8

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to engage in commercial eel fishing as defined herein using:

- A) Traps with a diameter in excess of two feet (2') or a length in excess of four feet (4') or a muzzle or throat with an opening in excess of two inches (2") maximum measurement.
- B) Traps with a mesh size smaller than ½" x 1".
- C) Pots larger than 24"x24"x15" or having a throat in excess of two inches (2"), maximum measurement.

Section 9

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to leave a gill net, trammel net, purse seine, seine, or any other net like contrivance governed by the restrictions set forth in this Ordinance unattended in the waters of this state, and at least one person shall be required to stand by, within one boat length of the boat using said net, at all times the net is in the water. It shall be further unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to use or have in their possession a gill net, trammel net, seine, or like contrivance on the waters of this state without a visible buoy attached every one hundred feet (100') clearly marked with the license number or owner's full name thereon.

Section 10

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to use or have in their possession in or on the waters of this state any fish traps, fish pots, eel traps, eel pots, or like contrivances that are not clearly marked with the owner's full name, permit, or license number. It shall further be unlawful for said person, firm, or corporation to fail to check and empty each trap, pot, or like contrivance at least once every 48 hours.

Section 11

The CMR, in accordance with the provisions of a duly adopted Commission management plan published and filed with the Secretary of State, or in accordance with a management plan developed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, may establish TAC rates for commercial and recreational fishermen. Said catch rates, may apply to red drum, spotted seatrout, mullet, brown shrimp, white shrimp, blue crabs, or any other species of fish or shellfish which the Commission deems necessary to advisable. Furthermore, the Commission may close a fishery or disallow the taking of any particular species of fish or shellfish by commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, or both commercial and recreational fishermen in response to catches meeting or exceeding a TAC established by order of the Commission. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to violate any of the provisions of such management plans as approved by the Commission or to exceed the TAC levels which may be established annually for any species of fish or shellfish.

Section 12

An annual TAC for commercial landings of red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) has been set a thirty-five thousand pounds (35,000 lbs) beginning October 1, 1990 and ending September 30 of each following year.

Section 13

An annual TAC for commercial landings of spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) has been set at forty thousand pounds (40,000 lbs) beginning October 1, 1995 and ending September 30 of each following year.

Section 14

It shall further be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to sell, offer for sale, barter, trade or purchase cobia landed in Mississippi. Cobia and any species of finfish that have an established annual quota and are landed legally elsewhere and/or transported into or within Mississippi for sale, must be accompanied by an affidavit or certificate from a foreign country. Cobia and any species of finfish that have an established annual quota and are raised on permitted aquaculture facilities must be accompanied by a bill of lading with the permit number attached and may be sold below the prescribed minimum lengths.

Section 15

The restrictions, with the exception of Section 11, outlined in this ordinance do not apply to brill nets, cast nets, drop nets for crabs, small mesh beach seines not exceeding 100 feet (100') in length and having a mesh size not to exceed 1/4" bar (1/2" stretch), trawls for the catching of shrimp, purse seines for the catching of menhaden, or nets, traps, or pots for experimental purposes approved and duly permitted by the CMR.

Section 16

Any person, firm, or corporation convicted by violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and penalized in accordance with §49-15-63 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. Violations of more than one section or subsection of this ordinance, or part thereof, shall be considered separate offenses and punished as such.

Section 17

Each section and subsection of this ordinance shall be declared separable, and if any section or subsection or part thereof shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the balance of said ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSE

- Interstate Commerce - \$20.00
- Resident Seafood Dealer - \$100.00
- Resident Seafood Processor - \$500.00
- Resident Menhaden Processor - \$500.00
- Transport Permit - \$100.00

A nonresident will pay the same fee for a license that a Mississippi resident is charged as a nonresident if the fee is more than that listed. For a detailed listing of license fees contact the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources at (228) 374-5000.

TEXAS

Information in this section is current as of September 1, 2004 and may change due to Texas Legislative or Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) 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 (TPWD), 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744 (1-800-792-1112), (1-512-389-4628), or visit the web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Residency Requirements

A resident is defined as a person who has lived continuously in Texas for more than six months or any members of the Armed Services (and their dependents) on active duty.

SHRIMP

Shrimp License Management

A limited entry plan for the Texas bay and bait shrimp fishery became effective June 1995. The TPWD 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

Gulf Shrimp Boat License

Resident - \$495.00

Nonresident - \$1,485.00

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 Boat Shrimp License

Resident - \$382.80

Nonresident - \$825.00

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, or exchange.

Bait Shrimp Boat License

Resident - \$348.00

Nonresident - \$750.00

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 - \$30.00

Nonresident - \$120.00

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 License

Resident

Sportfishing License - \$23.00

Temporary (3-day) - \$12.00

Temporary (10-day) - \$15.00

Nonresident

Sportfishing License - \$50.00

Temporary (5-day) - \$30.00

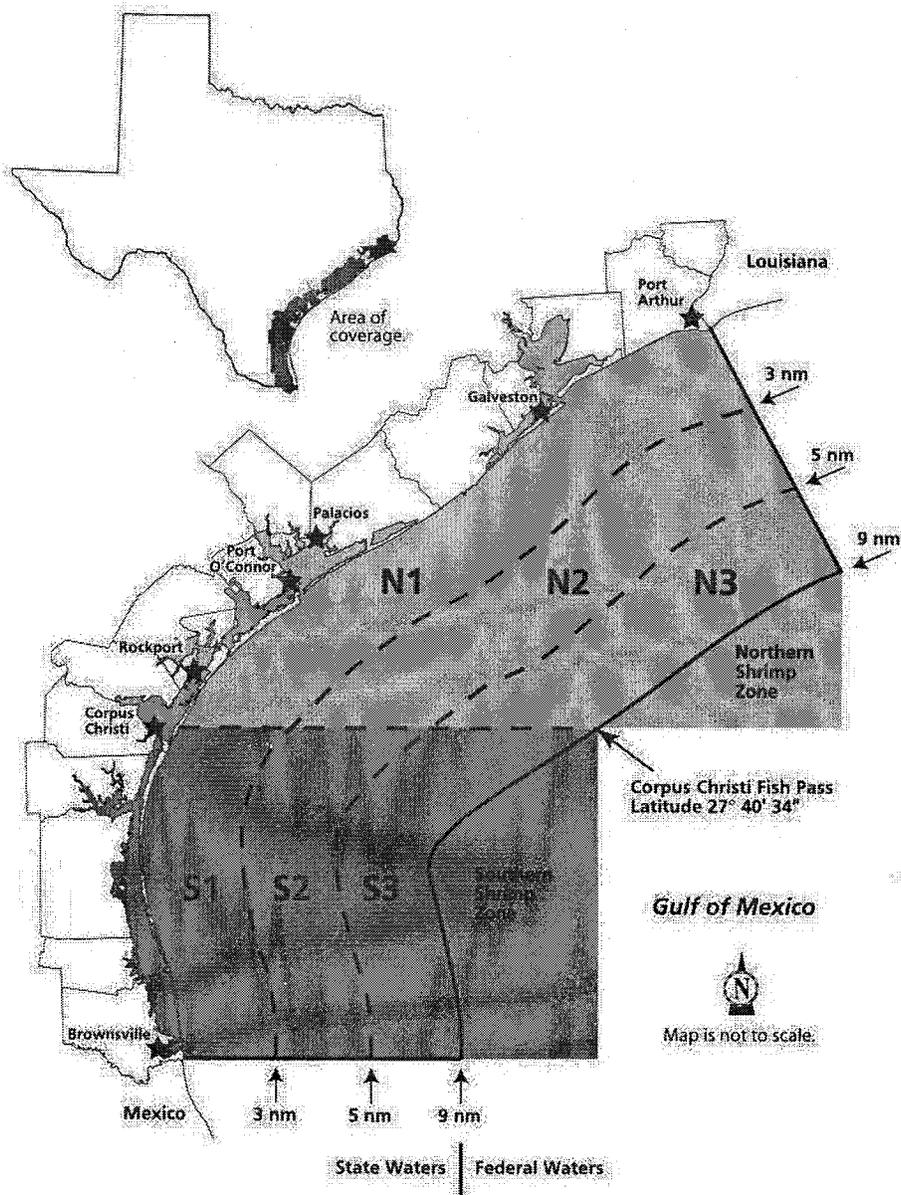
Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$10.00

Individual Bait Shrimp Trawl Tag - \$35.00

OUTSIDE WATERS

**Commercial Gulf-Shrimp Boats – Seasons, Limits, and Gear Restrictions
Shrimp Zones**

**MAP OF GULF SHRIMP
FISHERY MANAGEMENT ZONES**



Southern Shrimp Zone

[South of a line from Corpus Christi Fish Pass (Latitude 27°40'34") to the Mexican Border]

MAP SEGMENTS	LOCATION	SEASON (DATES)	HOURS	LIMITS	TRAWL REQUIREMENTS						
The state outside waters of the Southern Shrimping Zones are CLOSED TO SHRIMPING as follows:											
S1 & S2	Inside 5 nautical miles	Night Shrimping All Year	30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING							
S1 & S2	Inside 5 nautical miles	Winter Season <i>closed</i> Dec 1-Feb 15 Feb 16-May 15*	Day & Night	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING							
S1, S2, & S3	Inside 9 nautical miles	Summer Season <i>closed</i> May 15*-Jul 15*	Day & Night	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING							
Federal Waters	9-20 nautical miles	Summer Season <i>closed</i> May 15*-Jul 15*	IMPORTANT NOTICE: The rules regarding the Summer Closed Season for federal waters off Texas may have changed before publication of this guide. For current rules, please call the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727-570-5305) or contact the nearest TPWD Fisheries Enforcement Office.								
The state outside waters of the Southern Shrimp Zone are OPEN TO SHRIMPING as follows:											
S3	5-9 nautical miles	Jul 16*-Nov 30	Day & Night	Bag: No limit Size: No limit	Number of Trawls: No limit Trawl Size: No limit Approved BRDs required Approved TEDs required						
		Dec 1-May 15*	Day & Night	Bag: No limit Size: No limit							
S2	3-5 nautical miles	Jul 16*-Nov 30	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	Bag: No limit Size: No limit	Mesh Size: Not less than 8¾" over 5 stretched meshes						
S1	Inside 3 nautical miles	Jul 16*-Nov 30	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	Bag: No limit Size: No limit	Number of Trawls: No more than two (2)						
					Approved BRDs required Approved TEDs required						
					Mesh Size: Not more than 8¾" over 5 stretched meshes						
					Trawl Size: Otter trawls must have doors at least 3' long as measured along the door centerline from leading tip of door to trailing edge of door, and each net cannot exceed any of the following dimensions as measured along an uninterrupted cork line from leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the cork line.						
					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Door Length</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total Width</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3' or more but less than 4'</td> <td style="text-align: center;">71'</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4' or more but less than 5'</td> <td style="text-align: center;">73'</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Door Length	Total Width	3' or more but less than 4'	71'	4' or more but less than 5'	73'
Door Length	Total Width										
3' or more but less than 4'	71'										
4' or more but less than 5'	73'										

MAP SEGMENTS	LOCATION	SEASON (DATES)	HOURS	LIMITS	TRAWL REQUIREMENTS	
					5' or more but less than 6'	75'
					6' or more but less than 7'	77'
					7' or more but less than 8'	79'
					8' or more but less than 9'	81'
					9' or more but less than 10'	83'
					10' or more but less than 11'	85'
					11' or more but less than 12'	87'
					12' or more but less than 13'	89'
					Try Nets Otter trawls – 21' total width; doors 450 sq in Beam trawls – not to exceed 10' in width	
<p>*Special Notice: These dates may be changed by the TPWD providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours notice on new opening dates. BRD – bycatch reduction device TED – turtle excluder device</p>						

Northern Shrimp Zone

[North of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass (27°40'34") to the Louisiana border]

MAP SEGMENTS	LOCATION	SEASON (DATES)	HOURS	LIMITS	TRAWL REQUIREMENTS
The state outside waters of the Northern Shrimp Zone are CLOSED TO SHRIMPING as follows:					
N1 & N2	Inside 5 nautical miles	Night Shrimping All Year	30 minutes after sunset 30 minutes before sunrise	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	
N1 & N2	Inside 5 nautical miles	Winter Season <i>closed</i> Dec 1-Feb 15	Day & Night	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	
N1, N2, & N3	Inside 9 nautical miles	Summer Season <i>closed</i> May 15*-Jul 15*	Day & Night	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	
Federal Waters	9-200 nautical miles	Summer Season <i>closed</i> May 15*-Jul 15*	IMPORTANT NOTICE: The rules regarding the Summer Closed Season for federal waters off Texas may have changed before publication of this guide. For current rules, please call the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727-570-5305) or the nearest TPWD Law Enforcement Office.		
The state outside waters of the Northern Shrimp Zone are OPEN TO SHRIMPING as follows:					
N3	5-9 nautical miles	Jul 16*-Nov 30 Dec 1-May 15	Day & Night	Bag: No limit Size: No limit	Number of trawls: No limit

MAP SEGMENTS	LOCATION	SEASON (DATES)	HOURS	LIMITS	TRAWL REQUIREMENTS																				
N2	3-5 nautical miles	Feb 16-May 15*	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	Bag: No limit Size: No limit	Trawl Size: No limit Approved BRDs required Approved TEDs required Mesh Size: Not less than 8¼" over 5 stretched meshes																				
N1	Inside 3 nautical miles	Feb 16-May 15* Jul 16*-Nov 30	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	Bag: No limit Size: No limit	Number of Trawls: No more than two (2) Approved BRDs required Approved TEDs required Mesh Size: Not more than 8¼" over 5 stretched meshes Trawl Size: Otter trawls must have doors at least 3' long as measured along the door centerline from leading tip of door to trailing edge of door, and each net cannot exceed any of the following dimensions as measured along an uninterrupted cork line from leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the cork line.																				
					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Door Length</th> <th>Door Width</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3' or more but less than 4'</td> <td>48'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4' or more but less than 5'</td> <td>50'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5' or more but less than 6'</td> <td>52'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6' or more but less than 7'</td> <td>54'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8' or more but less than 9'</td> <td>58'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9' or more but less than 10'</td> <td>60'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10' or more but less than 11'</td> <td>62'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 or more but less than 12'</td> <td>87'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12' or more</td> <td>89'</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Door Length	Door Width	3' or more but less than 4'	48'	4' or more but less than 5'	50'	5' or more but less than 6'	52'	6' or more but less than 7'	54'	8' or more but less than 9'	58'	9' or more but less than 10'	60'	10' or more but less than 11'	62'	11 or more but less than 12'	87'	12' or more	89'
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SHELLFISH – OYSTERS

Commercial Oyster Licenses

Commercial Oyster Boat License

Resident (Type 306) - \$420.00

Nonresident (Type 406) - \$1,680.00

Required for each boat used to transport 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 instrument.

Commercial Oyster Boat Captain’s License

Resident (Type 309) - \$30.00

Nonresident (Type 433) - \$120.00

Required of any person who operates a commercial oyster boat while taking oysters from the public waters of this state.

Commercial Fisherman’s License

Resident (Type 370) - \$120.00

Nonresident (Type 470) - \$300.00

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 (Type 328) - \$12.00

Nonresident (Type 428) - \$48.00

Required when using a sport oyster dredge or tongs to take oysters.

Resident Saltwater Fishing Package License - \$33.00

Resident All Water Fishing Packages - \$38.00

Special Resident Saltwater Fishing Package - \$16.00

Special Resident All-Water Fishing Package - \$21.00

Resident “Day Plus” Saltwater Fishing Package

First Purchase: One Day - \$16.00 + additional days \$4.00/day

Later Purchase: \$6.00 + additional days \$4.00/day

Resident July-August Saltwater Fishing Package - \$30.00

Nonresident Saltwater Fishing Package License - \$60.00

Nonresident All Water Fishing Package License - \$65.00

Nonresident “Day Plus” Saltwater Fishing Package

First Purchase: One Day - \$22.00 + additional days \$8.00/day

Later Purchase: One Day - \$12.00 + additional days \$8.00/day

Commercial Oyster Season

Season is open from November 1 through April 30 except on all private leases with permits from the TPWD 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 onboard 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 14” 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 onboard 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” and 3” 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 unculled 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 the TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division.

SHELLFISH – CRABS

On June 20, 1997, legislation was passed authorizing the TPWC to establish a license limitation system for the Texas commercial crab fishery.

Commercial Crab Licenses

Commercial Crab Fisherman's License

Resident (Type 338) - \$600.00

Nonresident (Type 438) - \$2,400.00

Required for any person who takes crabs from the waters of this state for pay for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose.

General Commercial Fisherman's License

Resident (Type 372) - \$24.00

Nonresident (Type 340) - \$180.00

Required for any person operating a boat bearing a commercial crab fisherman's license or crab fishing under the license of a commercial crab fisherman.

Recreational Crab Licenses

Resident Saltwater Fishing Package License - \$33.00

Special Resident Saltwater Fishing Package - \$16.00

Resident "Day Plus" Saltwater Fishing Package

One day - \$16.00 + additional \$4.00/day

One day later purchase - \$6.00 + additional \$4.00/day

Resident July-August Saltwater Fishing Package - \$30.00

Nonresident Saltwater Fishing Package License - \$60.00

Nonresident "Day Plus" Saltwater Fishing Package

One day - \$22.00 + additional \$8.00/day

One day later purchase - \$12.00 + additional \$8.00/day

Commercial Crab Season

No closed season for the taking of crabs other than the closure established by the TPWC. 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 other than the closure established by the TPWC. 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 or sell a female crab that has its abdominal apron detached, to fail to return immediately a stone crab to the waters where caught, or to remove or possess onboard a vessel on public waters the left claw from the stone crab.

Size Limits – May not possess blue crabs less than 5" in width, measured across the widest point of the body from the 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" long as measured from the tip of the immovable claw to the first joint behind the claw.

Gear Restrictions

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 untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller or containing at least one sidewall, not including the bottom panel with a rectangular opening to smaller in either dimension than 3"x6". 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.

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 freshwaters 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 2⅜" 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 6" in height, 6" in length, and 6" in width and marked with the crab fisherman's license plate number at least 2" high in contrasting color attached to the crab trap; to fish a crab trap in public waters that is marked with a buoy made of 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 noncommercial 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 2⅜" 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 noncommercial purposes that is not marked with a floating white buoy not less than 6" in height, 6" in length, and 6" in width, bearing a 2" wide center stripe of contrasting color attached to the crab trap.

SHELLFISH – MUSSELS

Commercial Licenses

General Commercial Fisherman’s License

Resident - \$24.00

Nonresident - \$180.00

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 purposes.

Commercial Fishing Boat License

Resident - \$18.00

Nonresident - \$72.00

Required of each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used to 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 purposes.

Commercial Mussel and Clam Fisherman’s License

Resident - \$36.00

Nonresident - \$960.00

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 - \$120.00

Nonresident - \$1,800.00

Required to purchase for commercial use mussel and clam shells that have been taken from public waters.

Recreational Licenses

Resident Freshwater Fishing Package - \$28.00

Resident All Water Fishing Package - \$38.00

Special Resident Freshwater Fishing Package - \$11.00

Special Resident All Water Fishing Package - \$21.00

Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$10.00

Call the TPWD at 1-899-792-1112 for information on other freshwater and saltwater fishing packages.

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 TPWD for information on closed areas.

Gear Restrictions

May be taken by hand only.

Bag and Possession Limits

No person may take or possess more than 75 lbs of whole mussels and clams 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. (INCHES)
Washboard, <i>Megalonaias nervosa</i>	4.00
Threeridges and roundlakes, <i>Amblema</i> sp.	2.75
Mapleleaves and pimplebacks, <i>Quadrula</i> sp.	2.75
Tampico pearly mussel, <i>Cyrtonaias tampicoensis</i>	2.75
Bleufer, <i>Potamilus purpuratus</i>	2.75
All other species of freshwater mussels	2.50

FINFISH LICENSE MANAGEMENT

A limited entry plan for the Texas finfish fishery became effective September 1, 2000. The TPWD may renew a finfish license only if the person seeking renewal meets the eligibility requirements included historical participation in the fishery from September 1, 1997 through April 20, 1999.

Commercial Finfish Fisherman’s License

Residents - \$360.00

Nonresident - \$1,440.00

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 - \$18.00

Nonresident - \$72.00

Required of each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in taking aquatic products except menhaden, finfish, oysters, and shrimp from the public waters of the state or for boats uploading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters for pay, barter, exchange, sale, or any commercial purpose.

Recreational Licenses

Resident Freshwater Fishing Package - \$28.00

Resident All Water Fishing Package - \$38.00

Special Resident Freshwater Fishing Package - \$11.00

Species Resident All Water Fishing Package - \$21.00

Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$10.00

Call the TPWD at 1-800-792-1112 for information on other freshwater and saltwater fishing packages.

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 - \$825.00 for each place of business

Wholesale Fish Truck Dealers License - \$561.00 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 - \$92.50 for each place of business except trucks

Retail Fish Truck License - \$171.60 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 - \$90.00

Required for 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

In Texas, all public waters 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 (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 size).

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION	MINIMUM LENGTH (INCHES)	MAXIMUM LENGTH (INCHES)
Commercial				
Greater amberjack	1	2	32	No limit
Black drum	No limit	No limit	14	30
Gafftopsail catfish	No limit	No limit	14	No limit
Flounder	60	60	14	None
Cobia	2	4	37	No limit
Spanish mackerel	2	4	27	No limit
King mackerel	2	4	27	No limit
Mullet	No limit	No limit	No minimum	12 during Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan
Lane snapper	No limit	No limit	8	No limit
Red snapper	4	8	15	No limit
Vermilion snapper	No limit	No limit	10	No limit
Sharks	1	2	24	No limit
Sheepshead	No limit	No limit	12	No
Fishermen holding a finfish fisherman license are exempt from bag limits on black drum and sheepshead.				
Recreational				
<i>There may be exceptions on certain lakes, check with TPWD.</i>				
Greater amberjack	1	2	32	No limit
Striped bass	5	10	18	None
Gafftopsail catfish	No limit	No limit	14	No limit
Cobia	2	4	37	No limit
Black drum	5	10	14	30
Red drum	3	6	20	28
Flounder	10	20	14	None
Jewfish	0	0	Catch & Release Only	Catch & Release Only
King mackerel	2	4	27	No limit
Spanish mackerel	15	30	14	No limit
Blue marlin	No limit		131	No limit
White marlin	No limit	No limit	86	No limit
Mullet	No limit	No limit	No minimum	12 during Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan
Sailfish	No limit	No limit	84	No limit
Spotted seatrout	10	20	15	25*
Sharks	1	2	24	No limit
Sheepshead	5	10	12	No limit
Lane snapper	No limit	No limit	8	No limit
Red snapper	4	8	15	No limit
Vermilion snapper	No limit	No limit	10	No limit
Snook	1	2	24	28
Tarpon (tarpon over 80" may be retained with special trophy tag)	0	0	Catch & Release Only	Catch & Release Only
Small mouth, large mouth, and black bass	5	10	14	0

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION	MINIMUM LENGTH (INCHES)	MAXIMUM LENGTH (INCHES)
Flathead catfish	5	10	18	None
Channel and blue catfish	25	50	12	None
White and black crappie	25	50	10	No limit
Walleye (only 2 can be less than 16")	5	10	16*	No limit

- ♦ 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 onboard a licensed commercial shrimp boat.
 - ♦ Special regulation: During October through January, no mullet more than 12" in length may be taken from public waters or possessed onboard a vessel.
 - ♦ An individual may take an additional red drum per license year over the maximum length of 28" provided a red drum tag is attached to the fish.
- *One spotted seatrout over 25" may be retained per day.

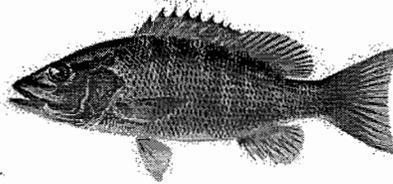
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

NMFS Operations Branch	272-570-5305
NMFS Permits and Regulations Branch (see below for tuna permit applications)	272-570-5326
To apply for permits on line : nmfspermits.com	
NMFS nationwide federal fishing violations hotline	800-853-1964
NMFS 24-hour tuna information line (also for tuna permit applications)	888-872-8862 978-281-9260
NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division	301-713-2347
South Atlantic Fishery Mgmt. Council	843-571-4366
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Comm.	228-875-5912
CCA fishing violation hotline	866-WE ENFORCE (933-6367)
U.S. Coast Guard, 7th District (Florida east of St. Marks)	305-415-6778
U.S. Coast Guard, 8th District (St. Marks, Florida to Texas)	504-589-6237
Regional Office for Law Enforcement NMFS Enforcement Field Offices	272-570-5344
Marathon, FL	305-743-3110
Niceville, FL	850-729-8628
Stennis Space Center, MS	228-688-2920
Baton Rouge, LA	225-769-5477
Austin, TX	512-916-5401
Galveston, TX	409-770-0812
Harlingen, TX	956-423-3450
State Agencies:	
Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Marine Resources	
information or to report state fishing violations	251-861-2882 251-968-7576
24 hr voice mail to report state fishing violations	251-476-1256
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	
information	850-488-4676
to report state fishing violations	850-488-9924
cellular phone	888-404-FWCC (3922) *FWC
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries	
information	225-765-2800
to report state fishing violations	800-442-2511
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources	
information and to report state fishing violations	228-374-5000
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.	
information	800-792-1112
to report state fishing violations	512-389-4848 or 281-842-8100 or 800-792-GAME

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 FISHING REGULATIONS FOR GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS December 2004



Gray Snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*)

Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council
The Commons at Rivergate
3018 N. U.S. Hwy. 301, Suite 1000
Tampa, Florida 33619-2272

813-228-2815

888-833-1844 (TOLL-FREE)

813-225-7015 (FAX)

e-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org

web page: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>



This leaflet was prepared for general informational purposes in October 2004 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.

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

This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA04NMF4410020.

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 and south 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 Vessels fishing traps other than fish traps, stone crab traps, or spiny lobster traps 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.
- 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 Closed areas: EEZ portion of Tortugas North - fishing and anchoring of fishing vessels prohibited. Coordinates are 24°40' N. lat., 83°06' W. long./ 24°46' N. lat., 83°06' W. long./24°46' N. lat., 83°00' W. long./thence along the seaward limit of Florida's waters to 24°40' N. lat., 83°06' W. long.
Tortugas South - fishing and anchoring of vessels prohibited. Coordinates are 24°33' N. lat., 83°09' W. long./ 24°33' N. lat., 83°05' W. long./24°18' N. lat., 83°05' W. long./ 24°18' N. lat., 83°09' W. long.
The Madison and Swanson site and Steamboat Lumps site off the west central coast of Florida are closed to all fishing except for highly migratory species. Coordinates are 29°17' N. lat., 85°50' W. long./ 29°17' N. lat., 85°38' W. long./29°06' N. lat., 85°50' W. long./29°06' N. lat., 85°38' W. long. for the Madison and Swanson Site and 28°14' N. lat., 84°48' W. long./28°14' N. lat., 84°37' W. long./28°03' N. lat., 84°48' W. long./28°03' N. lat., 84°37' W. long. for the Steamboat Lumps site.
Pelagic longlining for highly migratory pelagic is prohibited from the DeSoto Canyon area. Contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at 301-713-2347 for detailed coordinates.

COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS - as of December 1, 2004

Species	Minimum Size Limit (unless noted)	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
Cobia (ling)	33" fork length	Daily bag and possession limit of 2/person	
King Mackerel	Minimum 24" fork length Maximum of 5% by weight may be undersized. Fork length: Tip of snout to fork of tail	EASTERN ZONE: FL east coast subzone 11/1-3/31 50 fish per trip until quota filled. 4/1 to 10/31 - South Atlantic regulations apply, refer to South Atlantic Council regulation pamphlet for Atlantic-group. FL west coast subzone: Gillnets 6:00 A.M. day after the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal holiday until gear quota reached - 25,000 lbs./trip. FL west coast subzone: Hook-and-line 7/1 until 75% gear quota - 1,250 lbs./trip. Then 500 lbs./trip until gear quota filled. WESTERN ZONE: 3,000 lbs./trip until quota filled The gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in or from the Gulf EEZ is closed each fishing year from July 1 until 6:00 a.m. on the day after the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal holiday. The gillnet fishery also is closed during all subsequent weekends and observed Federal holidays, except for the first weekend following the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday which will remain open to the gillnet fishery provided a notification of closure of that fishery has not been filed. Weekend closures are effective from 6:00 a.m. Saturday to 6:00 a.m. Monday. Holiday closures are effective from 6:00 a.m. on the observed Federal holiday to 6:00 a.m. the following day.	Quota (subdivided as shown): 3,264,000 lbs. Gulf group EASTERN ZONE: 2,252,160 lbs FL-east subzone 1,041,624 lbs. FL-west subzone 1,210,536 lbs. Northern Hook-and-line 168,912 lbs. Southern Gillnets 520,812 lbs. Southern Hook-and-line 520,812 lbs WESTERN ZONE: 1,011,840 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	12" fork length	none	quota: 5.187 million lbs. Gulf group. Season opens 4/1 and closes when quota is filled.
REEF FISH			
<u>Snappers</u> Red Snapper	15" total length	2,000 lbs./trip with Class 1 red snapper license 200 lbs./trip with Class 2 red snapper license Commercial harvest prohibited without a Class 1 or 2 red snapper license in addition to a reef fish vessel permit.	Red snapper fishery closed during January. quota = 4.65 million lbs. - 3.06 million lbs. on a Feb. 1 opening (open first 10 days of each month until sub-quota filled), remainder on a Oct. 1 opening (open first 10 days of each month until sub-quota is reached).
Vermilion Lane Gray (Mangrove) Mutton Yellowtail Mahogany Schoolmaster Dog Cubera Blackfin Queen Silk Wenchman	10" total length 8" total length 12" total length 16" total length 12" total length 12" total length 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	Total length: Tip of snout to tip of tail
Deep-Water Groupers Misty Snowy Yellowedge Warsaw Speckled Hind	none none none none none	none none none none none	
<u>Shallow-Water Groupers</u> Black Gag Red Yellowfin Scamp Yellowmouth Rock Hind Red Hind	24" total length 24" total length 20" total length 20" total length 16" total length none none none	none none none none none none none none	quota: 8.80 million lbs. gutted weight for all shallow-water groupers in aggregate A red grouper quota of 5.31 mp gutted weight is included in the shallow-water grouper quota. Shallow-water grouper quota closure occurs when either the shallow-water grouper or red grouper quota is reached, whichever occurs first.
<u>Protected Groupers</u> Goliath Grouper (Jewfish) Nassau grouper	Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited	NOTE: PROPOSED TRIP LIMITS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW AND COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2005. CHECK WITH THE GULF COUNCIL OR NOAA FISHERIES FOR UPDATES.	Seasonal closure on commercial harvest and a prohibition on sale of gag, black, and red grouper from February 15 th to March 15 th .
Gray Triggerfish	12" total length	none	none
Hogfish	12" fork length	none Fork length: Tip of snout to fork of tail	none
Greater amberjack	(commercial) 36" fork length	none	Commercial closed season during March, April, and May
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14" to 22" fork length slot limit	none none	none none

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
OTHER SPECIES			
Red Drum		Illegal to harvest or possess in federal waters.	
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.	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*			
Tuna Bluefin	<u>Categories - curved fork length (CFL)</u> General - 73" CFL Longline - 73" CFL Harpoon - 81" CFL with allowance of 2 fish per trip 73-81" CFL Purse seine - 81" CFL with few allowances for smaller fish	Quotas and retention limits vary by permit category. Telephone the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Management Division's toll-free 24 hour information line (888-872-8862) for updates on closure notices, inseason quota adjustments, and updates of commercial landings for Atlantic bluefin tuna. For further information on tuna regulations, call the Highly Migratory Species Division at 978-281-9260. Curved fork length (CFL): Tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body curved fork length	
Bigeye Yellowfin Blackfin Albacore Skipjack Bonito	27" CFL 27" CFL none none none none	none none none none none none	No quota.
Billfish Blue Marlin White Marlin Sailfish Longbill spearfish	99" LJFL 66" LJFL 63" LJFL retention prohibited	Sale of billfish prohibited. Blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish may be harvested by rod-and-reel recreational anglers only. Possession prohibited on board a vessel using or having on board a pelagic longline. Billfish must be released without removing them from the water in a manner that will maximize survival. Lower jaw fork length (LJFL): tip of lower jaw to fork of tail.	
Swordfish	29" cleithrum to caudal keel, 47" LJFL, or 33 lbs., dressed weight (gutted, headed, and finned). No allowance for undersized fish.	<u>Directed limited access permit</u> - No limit during open season, 15 fish per trip during closed season if longline is aboard, 2 fish per trip if using handgear other than harpoon, or 0 fish per trip with harpoon. <u>Incidental limited access permit</u> - 5 fish/trip with trawl, 2 fish per trip any other gear. <u>Handgear limited access permit</u> - During open season, no limit. During closed season, 2 fish per trip if not using a harpoon.	The fishing year is from June 1 to May 31. Quotas are adjusted annually based on over- and underharvests, overages of the dead discard allowance, and changes in the amount allocated to the U.S. Please call the Highly Migratory Species Division at 301-713-2347 for details.
SHARKS			
Ratio of wet fins to dressed carcass not to exceed 5 Percent. Illegal to remove the fins and return remainder of shark to sea. 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 proceeding period.			
Large Coastal Ridgeback Non-Ridgeback	none	4,000 lbs dressed weight./trip-with <u>directed limited access permit</u> ; or 5 fish /trip- with <u>incidental limited access permit</u> *	quota: 1,017 metric tons dressed weight (mt dw)
Small Coastal	none	no limit with <u>directed limited access permit</u> ;	quota: 454 mt dw
Pelagic	none	16 small coastal or pelagic sharks with <u>incidental limited access permit</u> *	Shortfin mako, thresher, & oceanic whitetip quota: 488 mt dw Porbeagle quota: 92 mt dw Blue shark quota: 273 mt dw
Protected Sharks Atlantic angel Bigeye sixgill Caribbean reef Galapagos Night Sixgill	Basking Bigeye thresher Caribbean sharpnose Longfin mako Sand tiger Smalltail Whale	Bigeye sand tiger Bignose Dusky Narrowtooth Sevengill White	Harvest prohibited
*Listed species, minimum size limits, and quota limits for highly migratory species are subject to changes. For up to date information, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at 1-301-713-2347. ** Dressed length is measured from origin of 1 st dorsal fin to pre-caudal pit.			
CORALS AND CORAL REEFS			
Allowable Octocorals			quota: 50,000 colonies (Gulf and Atlantic)
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 Fish and Wildlife Commission for more information (850-488-9924).		

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. Traps must meet Florida construction guidelines.																														
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.																														
Shrimp	Bycatch reduction devices required west of 85°30' W. Long; Prohibited areas to shrimping include the Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary, Texas Flower Gardens, and the Florida Middle Ground (see next page for other protected areas); Traps are prohibited for the harvest of royal red shrimp.																														
Cobia (ling)	Drift gill nets are prohibited.																														
Allowable Octocorals	Allowable octocoral means an erect, nonencrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia, except the seafans <i>Gorgonia flabellum</i> and <i>G. ventalina</i> , 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, and purse seine nets. Incidental catch allowed with purse seine nets (when targeting other Atlantic tunas), fixed gear, traps, and longline.																														
Tuna - others	Allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, bandit gear, purse seine nets, and longline.																														
Billfish	Retention prohibited on longline vessels; must be released in the water in a manner that will maximize survival.																														
Swordfish	Allowable gear: Longline, handline, harpoon, rod-and-reel, and bandit. Incidental catch allowed with squid trawl.																														
Reef Fish	Sea basses, grunts, and porgies have been removed from federal management, and may be subject to state regulations even if caught in federal waters.																														
Sharks:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Large Coastals:</td> <td>Sandbar</td> <td>Silky</td> <td>Tiger</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ridgeback Species:</td> <td>Blacktip</td> <td>Spinner</td> <td>Lemon</td> <td>Bull</td> <td>Great hammerhead</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Ridgeback Species:</td> <td>Nurse</td> <td>Smooth hammerhead</td> <td>Scalloped hammerhead</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Coastals:</td> <td>Atlantic sharpnose</td> <td>Blacknose</td> <td>Bonnethead</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pelagics:</td> <td>Shortfin mako</td> <td>Thresher</td> <td>Oceanic whitetip</td> <td>Blue</td> <td>Porbeagle</td> </tr> </table>	Large Coastals:	Sandbar	Silky	Tiger			Ridgeback Species:	Blacktip	Spinner	Lemon	Bull	Great hammerhead	Non-Ridgeback Species:	Nurse	Smooth hammerhead	Scalloped hammerhead			Small Coastals:	Atlantic sharpnose	Blacknose	Bonnethead			Pelagics:	Shortfin mako	Thresher	Oceanic whitetip	Blue	Porbeagle
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COMMERCIAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: (Earned income qualification criteria apply to mackerel, reef fish, and shark permits.) 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 727-570-5326), except for tuna permits, which may be obtained by telephoning 888-872-8862 or 978-281-9260.																															
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.																														
Stone crab 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.																														
Shrimp	Permit required for all vessels that intend to fish for shrimp in EEZ waters of the Gulf of Mexico.																														
Mackerel vessel permit	Harvest of king or Spanish mackerel under quota and in excess of the bag limits. Issuance of new king mackerel permits is under a moratorium until October 15, 2005 but existing permits are transferable. There is no moratorium on issuance of Spanish mackerel permits, but these permits are not transferable.																														
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 goliath grouper and Nassau grouper (for which all harvest is prohibited). Issuance of new reef fish permits is under a moratorium until December 31, 2005. Existing permits are transferable.																														
Red snapper Class 1 or 2 license	A Class 1 red snapper license is required in addition to a reef fish permit to harvest red snapper at the 2,000 pound trip limit. A Class 2 red snapper license is required in addition to a reef fish permit to harvest red snapper at the 200 pound trip limit. Other reef fish permitted vessels are prohibited from commercial harvest. No new red snapper licenses are being issued, but existing red snapper licenses are transferable.																														
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. 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.																														
Commercial tuna categories: General, Longline, Purse seine, Harpoon, Charter/headboat	Vessels must have one of these permits to sell Atlantic bluefin tuna, albacore, Atlantic bonito, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna or yellowfin tuna. Separate Atlantic bluefin quota and gear restrictions apply to each category. For further information on required permits for tuna and other highly migratory species, contact the Atlantic tunas information line (888-872-8862) or the NMFS HMS Management Division at 978-281-9260.																														
Swordfish vessel permit	Vessels must have a directed or incidental limited access permit for commercial harvest and sale of swordfish under quota.																														
Shark vessel permit	Vessels must have a directed or incidental limited access permit for 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.																														
FISH LENGTHS																															
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																														
Total length: Tip of snout to tip of tail	Carcass length: Curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel																														
Dressed weight: Fish has been gutted and the head and fins removed, but is otherwise in whole condition																															

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

NMFS Operations Branch 727-570-5305
NMFS Permits and Regulations Branch 727-570-5326
(see below for tuna permit applications)
to apply for permits online: nmfspermits.com

NMFS nationwide federal fishing violations hotline 800-853-1964
NMFS 24-hour tuna information line 888-872-8862
(also for tuna permit applications) 978-281-9260
NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division 301-713-2347
NMFS Swordfish/Billfish Recreational Reporting 800-894-5528
South Atlantic Fishery Mgmt. Council 843-571-4366
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Comm. 228-875-5912
CCA fishing violation hotline 866- WE ENFORCE (933-6367)
U.S. Coast Guard, 7th District 305-415-6778
(Florida east of St. Marks)
U.S. Coast Guard, 8th District 504-589-6237
(St. Marks, Florida to Texas)
Regional NMFS Office for Law Enforcement 727-570-5344
NMFS Enforcement Field Offices
Marathon, FL 305-743-3110
Niceville, FL 850-729-8628
Stennis Space Center, MS 228-688-2920
Baton Rouge, LA 225-769-5477
Austin, TX 512-916-5401
Galveston, TX 409-770-0812
Harlingen, TX 956-423-3450

State Agencies:

Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Marine Resources
information or to report state fishing violations 251-861-2882
251-968-7576
24 hr voice mail to report state fishing violations 251-476-1256

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
information 850-488-4676
to report state fishing violations 850-488-9924
888-404-FWCC (3922)
cellular phone *FWC

Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
information 225-765-2800
to report state fishing violations 800-442-2511

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
information and to report state fishing violations 228-374-5000

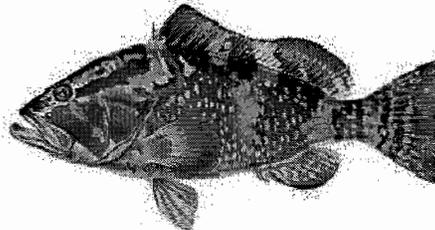
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
information 800-792-1112
to report state fishing violations 512-389-4848
or 281-842-8100
or 800-792-GAME

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.

RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

December 2004



Red Grouper (*Epinephelus morio*)

Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council
The Commons at Rivergate
3018 N. U.S. Hwy. 301, Suite 1000
Tampa, Florida 33619-2272

813-228-2815

888-833-1844 (TOLL-FREE)

813-225-7015 (FAX)

e-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org

web page: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>



This leaflet was prepared for general informational purposes in October 2004 and has no legal force or effect. Fishing regulations are subject to change. A separate summary of commercial fishing regulations is available from the Council.

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

WHAT IS THE GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL?

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils that were established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery plans which are designed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Council consists of 17 voting members who are: the Southeast Regional Administrator of NMFS (or his designee), the directors of the 5 Gulf state marine resource management agencies (or their designees), and 11 members who are nominated by the state governors and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce for three year terms (and can serve for a maximum of three consecutive terms). In addition, there are 4 nonvoting members representing the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of State, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Council meets every two months at various locations around the Gulf coast. Before final action on any proposed rule change is taken, public hearings are held throughout the Gulf as well as public testimony at the Council meeting where final action is scheduled. Proposed rule changes are then submitted to NMFS for further review and approval before being implemented.

When reviewing potential rule changes, the Council draws upon the services of knowledgeable people from other state and federal agencies, universities and the public who serve on panels and committees (see below).

Advisory Panels: recreational and commercial fishermen, charterboat operators, buyers, sellers, and consumers who are knowledgeable about a particular fishery.

Scientific and Statistical Committees: economists, biologists, sociologists, and natural resource attorneys who are knowledgeable about the technical aspects of fisheries in the Gulf.

Stock Assessment Panels: biologists who are trained in the specialized field of population dynamics, and who assess the available biological data and advise the Council on the status of stocks and level of allowable biological catch.

Persons interested in joining any of the above panels should contact the Council for information on how to apply.

This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA04NMF4410020.

Species	Minimum Size Limit (unless otherwise indicated)	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
OTHER SPECIES			
Red Drum	Illegal to harvest or possess in federal waters.		
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES			
<p>All HMS species (except blackfin tuna) require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries. Permits are available by calling 1-888-872-8862 or at http://www.nmfspermits.com. No sale permitted for HMS species caught under an angling permit. Additional recreational reporting requirements apply for swordfish, billfish and Atlantic bluefin tuna. For complete HMS regulations, contact the NOAA Fisheries HMS Management Division at 1-727-570-5447 or http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/.</p> <p>For updates on tuna quota monitoring and tuna retention limit adjustments, anglers may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9305, or visit http://www.nmfspermits.com. For further information on tunas, contact the HMS Management Division located in Gloucester, Massachusetts at (978) 281-9260.</p> <p>Recreational swordfish and billfish landings should be reported at 800-894-5528.</p>			
<u>Tuna</u> Bluefin	27" CFL	Bag limits are subject to sub-quotas by size and permit categories, change seasonally, and are reduced to zero when sub-quotas are filled. CFL - Curved fork length: Tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body.	
Bigeye Yellowfin Albacore Skipjack Blackfin	27" CFL 27" CFL none none none	none none none none none	none 3/person none none none
<u>Billfish</u> Blue Marlin White Marlin Sailfish Longbill spearfish	Minimum size lower jaw to tail fork 99" 66" 63" harvest prohibited	none none none	none none none
Swordfish	whole fish: 47" lower jaw to tail fork, or 29" carcass length or 33 lbs. dressed weight*. Carcass length is a curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.	none	1/person up to a maximum of 3/vessel
<u>SHARKS</u> Atlantic sharpnose Bonnethead other sharks	none none 54" fork length	none none none	1/person 1/person 1/vessel in aggregate
<u>Prohibited Sharks-Recreational Harvest</u> Atlantic angel Basking Bigeye sand tiger Caribbean reef Caribbean sharpnose Bigeye sixgill Bigeye thresher Bignose Dusky Galapagos Longfin mako Narrowtooth Night Sand tiger Sevengill Sixgill Smalltail Whale White			Harvest prohibited for these species.
CORAL AND CORAL REEFS			
Allowable Octocorals	Attached substrate within 1 inch of octocoral is allowed.	Fishery season regulated by state of Florida rules	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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for more information (850-487-3122).		

ADDITIONAL RULES	
Charter vessels/Headboat 2-day bag limit allowance	Persons on qualified charter vessels or headboats with two captains for trips in excess of 24 hours may possess 2 days' bag limits of reef fish species, king mackerel and Spanish mackerel. 1-day bag limits apply on all other species and trips regardless of length.
Stone Crab	Claws may not be removed from egg-bearing females. Illegal to land whole crab. Florida daily limit of claws is 1gallon/person, 2gallons/vessel.
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.
Allowable Octocorals	Allowable octocoral means an erect, nonencrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia, except the seafans <i>Gorgonia flabellum</i> and <i>G. ventalina</i> , 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.

RECREATIONAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:	
Permit	Required For:
Charter vessel/headboat coastal pelagics permit	Charter vessels and headboats fishing for mackerels, cobia, little tunny, cero, dolphin, bluefish. Note: Issuance of new permits is under a moratorium effective June 16, 2003
Charter vessel/headboat reef fish permit Charter vessel/headboat coastal migratory pelagics permit	Charter vessels and headboats require a reef fish permit when fishing for snappers, groupers, amberjack, tilefish, hogfish, and gray triggerfish, and a coastal migratory pelagics permit when fishing for bluefish, cero, cobia, dolphin, little tunny, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel.
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.
Highly migratory species (HMS) Charter/headboat permit	HMS Charter/headboat permit is required for all charter or headboats that fish for or possess an HMS.
HMS Recreational Angling Permit	Owners of vessels used to fish recreationally for Atlantic HMS Atlantic tunas (other than blackfin), billfish, sharks and swordfish).

Applications for permits other than HMS permits may be obtained from National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Koger Building, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702 (telephone 727-570-5326). HMS permits can be purchased online at <http://www.nmfspermits.com> or by calling 1-888-872-8862.

AREA CLOSURES

- The following locations off the west-central coast of Florida are closed to all fishing November 1 - April 30. Surface trolling for species other than reef fish is allowed May 1 - October 31.

Madison/ Swanson Marine Reserve

NW corner 29°17' N. lat., 85°50' W. long.
NE corner 29°17' N. lat., 85°38' W. long.
SW corner 29°06' N. lat., 85°50' W. long.
SE corner 29°06' N. lat., 85°38' W. long.

Steamboat Lumps Marine Reserve

NW corner 28°14' N. lat., 84°48' W. long.
NE corner 28°14' N. lat., 84°37' W. long.
SW corner 28°03' N. lat., 84°48' W. long.
SE corner 28°03' N. lat., 84°37' W. long.

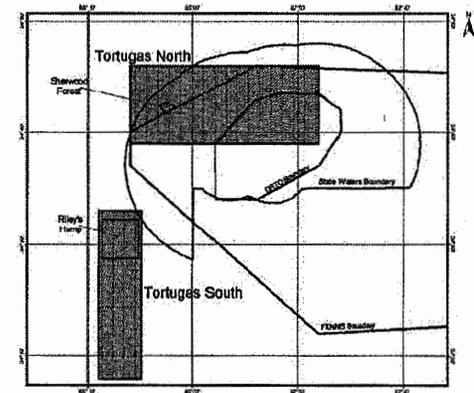
- The following locations off the south coast of Florida are closed to all fishing. Anchoring of fishing vessels is also not allowed in the Tortugas sites. The boundaries of the areas are as follows:

Gulf of Mexico EEZ portion of Tortugas North Ecological Reserve

NW corner 24°40' N. lat., 83°06' W. long.
NE corner 24°46' N. lat., 83°06' W. long.
SW corner 24°46' N. lat., 83°00' W. long.
thence along the seaward limit of Florida's waters to 24°40' N. lat., 83°06' W. long.

Tortugas South Ecological Reserve

NW corner 24°33' N. lat., 83°09' W. long.
NE corner 24°33' N. lat., 83°05' W. long.
SW corner 24°18' N. lat., 83°05' W. long.
SE corner 24°18' N. lat., 83°09' W. long.



STATE AUTHORITY IN FEDERAL WATERS

- 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.

HEAD AND FINS ATTACHED RULE

- All fish except for bait and oceanic migratory species taken from federal waters must have heads and fins intact through landing. Up to 1½ pounds of finfish per person is exempt from the head and fins intact rule for personal consumption provided the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish.