

**GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES
COMMISSION**

**Rules and Regulations:
Officers' Pocket Guide
2009-2010**



May 2009

GSMFC No. 166

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FLORIDA
Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Ballyhoo (Halfbeaks, Balao, and Silver Stripe Halfbeaks)	None	Dependent on method of harvest and gear	
Black Drum	14 - 24 TL	500 lbs/person/day or 500 lbs/vessel/day	
Blue Crab	5 total width		
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish	Gulf - None	
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2/person/day, maximum of 6/vessel	
Dolphin	20 FL	Directed harvest – None Incidental bycatch – 10/person Permit required	
Flounder - Gulf, Southern, Summer, Fringed	12 TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs	
Groupers			
Goliath/Nassau	Prohibited	Prohibited	
Gag/Black	24 TL	Quota 8.8 MP	Quota on aggregate. Seasonal Closure Feb 15- Mar 15
Scamp	16 TL	Quota 8.8 MP	
Yellowfin	20 TL	Quota 8.8 MP	
Red	20 TL	Quota 5.31 MP	
Yellowmouth	20 TL	N/A	
Rock Hind/Red Hind	N/A	N/A	
Yellowedge/Misty Warsaw/Speckled Hind Snowy	N/A	6,000 lbs gutted weight combined Quota 1.02 MP	
Coney/Graysby/Tiger	N/A	N/A	
Golden Tilefish	N/A	N/A	
Tilefish, all	N/A	440,000 lbs gutted weight	
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	None	
Herring (Blueback and River Herring)	None	None	
Hogfish	12 FL	None	
Horseshoe Crab	None	25/person/day (100/person/day w/ ML# or Eel Permit)	
Almaco Jack	None	None	
Banded Rudderfish Lesser Amberjack	14 – 22 FL	None	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	None	
Lobster, Slipper	None	None - Possession of egg bearing lobster prohibited	
Lobster, Spiny	3 carapace (head) 5½ tail	Trap fishery -None Bully Net- 250/vessel Dive Fishery – Regional Permit required	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Mackerel, King	24 FL	July 1 until vessel limit reduced to 500 lbs - 1,250 lbs daily vessel From date of reduction until EEZ closes - 500 lbs daily vessel From date of EEZ closure till June 30 – no take
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	April 1 till EEZ closure - no limit from EEZ closure until March 31 - 500 lbs daily vessel
Mullet, Silver (White, Fantail, or Redeye)	None	Only allowed within 3 mile line Weekend Closures July 1 – Jan 31
Mullet, Striped (Black)	11 FL w/ a 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish	Only allowed within 3 mile line Season broadly Oct – Feb, but determined on regional basis
Oysters	3" in greatest dimension	20 bags/person/day or 20/vessel/day Additional regional limits apply
Permit	11 - 20 FL	2/person/day or 2/vessel/day
Pompano	11 - 20 FL	250/person/day or 250/vessel/day except for persons holding a Pompano Endorsement
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person/day or 2/vessel/day
Scallops, Calico	None	250 individual meats per 1lb sample
Shad (Alabama, American, Hickory)	None	10/person/day
Sharks	None	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day Permit required
Sheepshead	12 TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs
Shrimp (Brown, Pinkspotted, Pink, White, Roughneck, Roughback, Seabob)	None	Food Shrimp - Regional. Live Shrimp -5 gallons. Dead Shrimp, heads on, except in NE Region - 1 gallon
Snappers		
Red	13 TL (Gulf)	4/person/day
Vermilion	10 TL	None
Lane	8 TL	None
Gray	12 TL	None
Mutton	16 TL	10/person/day or 10/vessel/day May and June only
Yellowtail/Dog/Mahogany	12 TL	None
Schoolmaster	10 TL	None
Blackfin/Silk/Queen	12 TL	None
Black	N/A	N/A
Wenchman	N/A	N/A
Cubera	12 - 30 TL only 2 >30 TL	No limit under 30 TL >30 - 2/person/day or 2/vessel/day
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 24 TL	75/person/day or 75/vessel/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Stone Crab	2 3/4 claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 LJFL, 29 cleithrum to keel, or 33 lbs dressed	None Permit required
Triggerfish, Gray	12 FL	None
Triggerfish, Ocean	None	None
Tripletail	15 TL	10/person/ day or 10/vessel/day Permit required (Incidental bycatch 2/person/day or 2/vessel/day)
Wahoo	None	500 lbs Commercial Daily Limit Permit required
Weakfish (Gray Seatrout or Yellowmouth Trout)	12 TL	None

FLORIDA
Recreational Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Amberjack, Greater	30 FL (Gulf)	1/person/day (none captain and crew – for hire)	
Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	5 in aggregate	
Blue Marlin	99 FL	1/person/day in aggregate	
White Marlin	66 FL		
Sailfish	63 FL		
Black Drum	14 – 24 TL	5/person/day	
Bluefish	12 FL	10/person/day	
Bonefish	18 TL	1/person/day	
Cobia	33 FL	1/person 6/vessel (whichever is less)	
Crab, Blue		10 gallons whole/person/day	
Crab, Stone	2¾ Claw	1 gallon/person or 2 gallon/vessel (whichever is less)	
Spiny Lobster	>3 inch carapace	6/person/day	
Dolphin	20 FL Atlantic	10/person/day Not to exceed 60/vessel	
Flounder	12 TL	10/person/day	
Black Groupers	22 TL (Gulf)	5/person/day	
Gag Groupers	22 TL (Gulf)	2/person/day	
Red Grouper	20 TL	2/person/day	
Yellowfin & Yellowmouth Grouper	20 TL		5/person/day aggregate
Snowy Grouper	No Limit (Gulf)		
Scamp	16 TL (Gulf)		
Warsaw & Speckled Hind	No Limit	1/vessel/day	
Other Groupers	No Limit		
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person/day	
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person/day	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person/day	
Mullet, Striped & Silver		50 aggregate/person/day Feb-Aug 100/vessel Sept-Jan 50/vessel	
Permit & Pompano	11 – 20 FL	6 aggregate/day	
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person/day Not to exceed 2/vessel	
Red Drum	18 - 27 TL	1/person/day	
Black Sea Bass	10 TL (Gulf)	No Limit (Gulf)	
Shad	No Limit	10 aggregate/person/day	
Shark	No Limit	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day (whichever is less)	
Sheepshead	12 TL	15/person/day	
Shrimp		5 gallons/person/day or 5 gallons/vessel/day	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Snapper, Black & Wenchman			10/person/day aggregate
Snapper, Cubera	12 – 30 TL	Allowed 2 over 30" per vessel - not part of aggregate	
Snapper, Gray	10 TL	5/person/day	
Snapper, Lane	8 TL		
Snapper, Mutton	16 TL		
Snapper, Red	16 TL (Gulf)	2/person/day	
Snapper, Schoolmaster	10 TL		
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL (Gulf)		
Snapper, Others	12 TL		
Snook	28 – 33 TL (Gulf, Monroe Co., and Everglades Nat'l Park)	1/person/day Permit required	
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 20 TL (one over 20)	4/person/day South Region 5/person/day NW & NE Region	
Swordfish	47 FL	1/person/day or 3/vessel/day	
Tarpon		2 fish possession Requires Tarpon Tag	
Triggerfish, Gray	14 FL (Gulf)	No limit	
Tripletail	15 TL	2/person/day	
Wahoo		2/person/day	
Weakfish	12 TL	4/person/day	

Retention of Federally prohibited species is not allowed by state ordinance and Federal law.

ALABAMA
Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2
Gray Triggerfish	12 TL	No Bag Limit
Gag Grouper	24 TL	No Bag Limit
Red Grouper	18 TL	No Bag Limit
Black Grouper	22 TL	No Bag Limit
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	No Bag Limit
Scamp	16 TL	No Bag Limit
Striped Bass	16 TL	No Commercial Retention
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	No Bag Limit
Lane Snapper	8 TL	No Bag Limit
Gray Snapper	14 TL	No Bag Limit
Tripletail (Blackfish)	16 TL	3
Flounder	12 TL	No Bag Limit
King Mackerel	24 FL	No Bag Limit
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	No Bag Limit
Mullet	No Size Limit	No bag limit Jan 1- Oct 23, from October 24 - December 31, the possession limit on Mullet caught by snagging is 25/boat/day or 25/person/day from the shore
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	No Size Limit	Alabama waters close to the harvest of all Sharks when the Federal Shark Fishery Management quotas for Small Coastal Sharks and Large Coastal Sharks are reached
All other Sharks	No Size Limit	

Prohibited Species: Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Atlantic Angel Shark, Basking Shark, Bigeye Thresher, Dusky Shark, Longfin Mako, Nurse Shark, Smalltail Shark, Sand Tiger, Whale Shark, White Shark, Largetooth and Smalltooth.

ALABAMA
Recreational Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	10/person	
Red Drum	16 – 26 TL	3/person - 1 oversized fish allowed in the 3 fish creel limit	
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2/person	
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person	
Spanish Mackerel	No size limit	15/person	
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3/person	
Gag Grouper	22 TL		5 fish Grouper aggregate
Red Grouper	20 TL	1/person in aggregate	
Black Grouper	22 TL		
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Greater Amberjack	30 FL	1/person	
Striped Bass	16 TL	2/person	
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL		20 fish aggregate for reef fish species for which there is no other bag limit
Vermillion Snapper (Beeliner)	10 TL		
Lane	8 TL	10/person in aggregate	
Flounder	12 TL	No creel limit	
Tripletail (Blackfish)	16 TL	3 per person	
Lesser Amberjack	14 - 22 FL	No Creel Limit	
Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	No Creel Limit	
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	No Creel Limit	
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	No Creel Limit	
Red Snapper	16 TL	2 per person in state and Federal waters June 1 through August 5	
Gray (Mangrove, Black)	12 TL	10 per person	
Tarpon	60 TL	\$50.00 tag required to possess, kill or harvest each tarpon	
Sharks			
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	1 per person per day	
Bonnethead	None	1 per person per day	
All Other Shark Species	54 FL	1 per person per day	

Prohibited Species: Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Atlantic Angel Shark, Bigeye Thresher, Dusky, Longfin Mako, Sand tiger, Basking, Whale, White, Nurse, Smalltail, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta.

MISSISSIPPI Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia ¹	33 FL	2
Mullet	10 TL	No Limit
Flounder	12 TL	Quota
Red Drum ²	18 - 30 TL	Quota ²
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	Quota
King Mackerel	24 FL	3000 lbs
Spanish Mackerel	14 FL	No Limit
Goliath Grouper	No Take	No Take
Nassau Grouper	No Take	No Take
Red & Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	No Limit
Black & Gag Grouper	24 TL	No Limit
Scamp	16 TL	No Limit
Red Snapper	15 TL	200 pounds
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	No Limit
Lane Snapper	8 TL	No Limit
Gray Triggerfish	12 TL	No Limit
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, and Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	No Limit
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	No Limit
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	No Limit
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	No Limit
Hogfish	12 FL	No Limit
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	No Limit
Bluefin Tuna	No Take	No Take
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	No Limit
Blue Marlin	No Take	No Take
White Marlin	No Take	No Take
Sailfish	No Take	No Take
Longbill Spearfish	No Take	No Take
Crabs - Hard Shells	5" TW ³	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	No Limit

¹ It is illegal to sell cobia caught in MS territorial waters or landed in MS.

² Commercial fishermen may retain one red drum over 30" TL.

³ Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

**MISSISSIPPI
Recreational Size and Possession Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia	33 FL	2
Flounder	12 TL	15
Red Drum ¹	18 - 30 TL	3
Spotted Seatrout	13 TL	15
King Mackerel	24 FL	2
Spanish Mackerel	No Limit	15
Red Snapper	16 TL	2
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	20 in aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	12 TL	
Almaco Jack	No Limit	
Goldface Tilefish	No Limit	
Anchor Tilefish	No Limit	
Tilefish	No Limit	
Blackline Tilefish	No Limit	
Blueline Tilefish	No Limit	
Goliath Grouper (Jewfish) ²	No Take	No Take
Nassau Grouper ²	No Take	No Take
Warsaw Grouper	No Limit	1/vessel
Red & Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	5 in aggregate
Black & Gag Grouper	22 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Other Groupers	No Limit	
Speckled Hind	No Limit	1/vessel
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, and Yellowtail Snappers	12 TL	10 in aggregate
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk & Wenchman Snapper	No Limit	
Greater Amberjack	28 FL	1
Lesser Amberjack and Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	5 in aggregate
Hogfish	12 TL	5
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	No Limit
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	3
Blue Marlin	99 lower jaw FL	No Limit
White Marlin	66 lower jaw FL	No Limit

¹ Commercial fishermen may retain one Red Drum over 30" TL

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Sailfish	63 lower jaw FL	No Limit
Longbill Spearfish	No Take	No Take
Sharks - Large Coastals	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Pelagic	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Small Coastals	25 TL	4
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 ²	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	No Limit

² Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell

Retention of Federally prohibited species is not allowed by state ordinance and Federal law. Prohibited Sharks: Caribbean Sharpnose, Smalltail, Longfin Mako, Bigeye Thresher, Seven Gill, Bigeye Sixgill, Dusky, Bignose, Narrow Tooth, Galapagos, Night, Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Whale, Basking, and White Shark. Also Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta.

LOUISIANA
Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Swordfish	29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	Permit required
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person
Drum, Black	16 TL	Quota: 16-27 – 3,250,000 lbs >27 – 300,000 fish
Flounder, Southern	None	10/fisherman/day
Mackerel, King	24 FL	3,000 lb/trip Federal quota
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	Federal quota
Mullet, Striped		Permit required
Pompano		Permit required
Seabass, Black	8 TL	
Seatrout, Spotted	14 TL	Quota: 1 mil lbs
Sheepshead	10 TL	Federal Regulations Apply
Amberjack, Greater	36 TL	
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	
Hogfish	12 FL	
Triggerfish, Grey	14 FL	
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blue-line Tilefish, Dwarf Sandperch, Sandperch	None	
Gag, Black	24 TL	
Red, Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind	None	
Misty, Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None	Federal quota for Deep-Water Groupers
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit and IFQ required
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, Yellowtail, Gray Snappers	12 TL	None
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Lane Snapper	8 TL	None
Yellowfin, Bigeye, Bluefin Atlantic, Skipjack, Albacore	27 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply
Sharks - Large Coastal	None	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply
Sharks - Small Coastal		
Sharks - Pelagic		

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.

Louisiana's Shark regulations are the same as Federal except for closed season April, May and June in state waters.

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale and White.

LOUISIANA
Recreational Size and Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Marlin, Blue	99 LJFL	None
Marlin, White	66 LJFL	
Sailfish	63 LJFL	
Swordfish	29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	5/vessel/trip
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person/day
Drum, Black	16 TL	5/person bag and possession May retain 1 over 27 TL
Drum, Red	16 TL	5/person bag May retain 1 over 27 TL (Two-day bag limits allowed in possession off the water)
Flounder, Southern	None	10/person/day for each consecutive day on the water
Mackerel, King	24 FL	2/person/day (Two-day possession limit on multi- day trips on charter or head boats)
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	15/person/day (Two-day possession limit on multi- day trips on charter or head boats)
Mullet, Striped		100 lbs/person/day
Seabass, Black	8 TL	
Seatrout, Spotted	12 TL	25/person bag (15 fish/person and no more than 2 fish over 25 TL in specified waters of Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes in SW Louisiana)
REEF FISH		Reef fish possession - Two-day possession limit on multi- day trips on charter or head boats
Amberjack, Greater	30 FL	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser Rudderfish, Banded	14 - 22 FL slot	5/person/day in aggregate
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person/day
Gag, Black Grouper	22 TL	5/person/day in aggregate all Groupers - one Speckled Hind and one Warsaw Grouper per vessel - one Red Grouper per person - 2 Gag per person Closed season for Black and Red Feb 15 - Mar 14 Closed season for Gag Feb 1 – March 31
Red, Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Speckled Hind, Misty Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper	None	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw Grouper		
Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper	Take Prohibited	Take Prohibited
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person/day (Charter boat captain and crew bag limit is zero for all of these species)
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogany, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray Snapper	12 TL	10/person/day in aggregate (all Snapper except Red, Vermilion, and Lane)
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman	None	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	
Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead	None	1/person/day (each species)
Sharks other than Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead (not Prohibited)	54 FL	Aggregate 1/vessel/trip and in possession
Tuna, Yellowfin	27 CFL	3/person
Tuna, Bigeye		None
Tuna, Bluefin		

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

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale and White.

TEXAS
Commercial Bag and Length Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT
Amberjack, Greater	34 after 9/1/09	1/person and 2 possession
Drum, Black	14 -30 slot	No Limit with commercial finfish fisherman's license
Catfish: Blue & Channel	14	25/person in any combination 50 possession (50/person in Lake Livingston)
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14	No Limit
Cobia	37	2/person and 4 possession
Flounder: all species, their hybrids, and subspecies	14	30/person commercial finfish 5/person and 50% bycatch rule applies to licensed commercial shrimp boats after 9/1/09 November rod & reel only and limit 2
Mackerel, King	27	2/person and 4 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14	15/person and 30 possession
Mullet: all species their hybrids & subspecies	No Limit (Feb – Sept) 12 (Oct – Jan)	No Limit
Snapper, Lane	8	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15	4/person and 8 possession (circle hook and line only)
Snapper, Vermilion	10	No Limit
Shark: All species, their hybrids & subspecies	64	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, and Bonnethead	24	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	14 15 after 9/1/09	No Limit with commercial finfish license
Tripletail	17	3/person and 6 possession
Gag Grouper	22 after 9/1/09	2/person and 4 possession after 9/1/09
Triggerfish	16 after 9/1/09	20/person and 40 possession after 9/1/09

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale and White.

Note: All measurements are in Total Length not Fork Length

TEXAS
Recreational Bag and Length Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	DAILY BAG
Amberjack, Greater	34 after 9/1/09	1/person and 2 possession
Bass: Striped, its hybrids and subspecies	18	5 in any combination/person 10 possession
Catfish: Channel and Blue Catfish, their hybrids and subspecies	12	25 in any combination/person 50 possession
Catfish, Flathead	18	5/person and 10 possession
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14	No limit
Cobia	37	2/person and 4 possession
Drum, Black	14 - 30 slot	5/person and 10 possession May include one over 52 inches
Drum, Red	20 - 28 slot	3/person and 6 possession Fish over 28 inches must carry purchased tags
Flounder: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	14	5/person total bag and possession (after 9/1/09) November rod & reel only and limit 2
Grouper, Goliath (formerly Jewfish)	Catch and release only	0
Mackerel, King	27	2/person and 4 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14	15/person and 30 possession
Marlin, Blue	131	No Limit
Marlin, White	86	No Limit
Mullet: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	No Limit 12 maximum (Oct-Jan)	No Limit
Sailfish	84	No Limit
Seatrout, Spotted	15 – 25 slot	10/person statewide 5/person in Lower Laguna Madre 1 fish may be retained over maximum
Shark: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	64	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, and Bonnethead	24	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	14 15 after 9/1/09	5/person and 10 possession
Snapper, Lane	8	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15	4/person and 8 possession
Snapper, Vermilion	10	No Limit
Snook	24 - 28 slot	1/person and 2 possession
Tarpon	85	1/person and 2 possession
Triggerfish	16 after 9/1/09	20/person 40 possession (after 9/1/09)
Gag Grouper	22	2/person and 4 possession
Tripletail	17	3/person and 6 possession

FEDERAL WATERS
Commercial Size and Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ
Vermilion	10 TL	None
Lane	8 TL	
Mutton	16 TL	
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany	12 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Tilefish	None	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	
Almaco Jack, Gray Triggerfish, Vermilion Snapper, Lane Snapper Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, Blue line Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish	None	20/per person in reef fish aggregate
Groupers		
Black, Gag	24 TL	Quote: 8.8 M lbs
Red, Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind	none	
Misty, Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None	6,000 lbs gutted weight trip limit
Goliath, Nassau		
Hogfish	12 FL	None
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Commercial closure Mar - May
Stone Crab	2 ¾ claw	None - Closed season 5/16-10/14
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	None - Closed season 4/1-8/5
Cobia	33 FL	2/person
King Mackerel	24 FL (Up to 5% by weight may be undersized)	Hook and line – 1,250 lbs/trip Gill net – 25,000 lbs/trip

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Bluefin and Bigeye Tuna	None	Quota Permit required
Yellowfin		
Albacore, Skipjack, Blackfin		
Blue Marlin	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
White Marlin		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	1 per person up to a maximum of 3 per vessel
Red Drum	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Sharks - Large Coastal	None	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply
Sharks - Small Coastal		
Sharks - Pelagic		

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale and White.

**FEDERAL WATERS
Recreational Size and Bag Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Snappers		
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person Not included in the 20-reef fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Included in the 20-reef fish aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	10 per person in Snapper aggregate Includes all Snappers except Red, Vermilion, and Lane
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany	12 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Almaco Jack, Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, Blue line Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish	None	20/per person in reef fish aggregate
Groupers		
Black, Gag	22 TL	5 per person in aggregate except Goliath Grouper and Nassau Grouper.
Red, Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Yellowedge, Misty, Snowy, Red Hind	None	Only 1 Red Grouper per person in aggregate
Speckled Hind, Warsaw	None	1 per vessel
Goliath, Nassau	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Hogfish	12 FL	5 per person
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	Included in 20 reef fish aggregate
Greater Amberjack	30 FL	1 per person
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	5 fish aggregate limit excluded from 20 reef fish aggregate limit
Stone Crab	2 ¾ claw	Florida daily limit is 1 gallon/person, 2 gallons/vessel
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	April – August season No egg bearing females
Cobia	33 FL	2/person
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person including for-hire captain and crew
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person
Bluefin and Bigeye Tuna	27 curved FL	None
Yellowfin	27 FL	3 per person

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Albacore, Skipjack, Blackfin	None	None
Blue Marlin	99 LJFL	None
White Marlin	66 FL	
Sailfish	63 FL	
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	1 per person up to a maximum of 3 per vessel
Red Drum	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose Bonnethead	None	1/person
All Other Sharks (except prohibited)	54 TL	1/vessel

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale and White.

Notes

Federal Permit Quick Guide / Gulf of Mexico

Fish	Charter/Headboat	Commercial	Recreational	Dealer
Amberjack	RCG	RR	None	RD
Atlantic Tunas	None	HMS (general/longline)	HMS Angling	TD
Blackfin Tuna	None	None	None	None
Blue Marlin	HMS	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited
Bluefish	CHG	None	None	None
Bonito	None	HMS (general/longline)	None	TD
Cero Mackerel	CHG	None	None	None
Cobia	CHG	None	None	None
Dolphin	CHG	None	None	None
Groupers	RCG	RR	None	RD
Grunts	RCG	RR	None	RD
Hogfish	RCG	RR	None	RD
Jacks	RCG	RR	None	RD
King Mackerel	CHG	KM	None	None
Little Tunny	CHG	None	None	None
Porgies	None	None	None	None
Red Snapper	RCG	RR & Red Sn. Endors.	None	RD & Red S. End
Sailfish	HMS	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited
Shark	HMS	SKD / SKI	HMS Angling	SH
Shrimp	None	Shrimp EEZ	None	None
Snappers	RCG	RR	None	RD
Spadefish	None	None	None	None
Spanish Mackerel	CHG	SM	None	None
Spiny Lobster	None	LC/LT	None	None
Striped Marlin	HMS	Prohibited	None	Prohibited
Swordfish	HMS	SFD / SFI / SFH	HMS Angling	SD
Tilefishes	RCG	RR	None	RD
Triggerfishes	RCG	RR	None	RD
Tripletail	CHG	None	None	None
Wahoo	None	None	None	None
White Marlin	HMS	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited

Permit Types & Codes

Charter/Headboat - Limited Access & Moratorium

CHG - Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagic - no sale
RCG - Gulf of Mexico Charter / Headboat for Reef Fish - no sale
HMS - Charter/headboat, may sell tuna when not on a charter handgear only (* when on a cml trip)

Commercial Permits - Limited Access & Moratorium

KM - King Mackerel - 3000 lb / trip
SM - Spanish Mackerel
RR - Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish *
Red Snapper Vessel Endorsment
LC - Spiny Lobster
LT - Spiny Lobster Tailing
SFD - Swordfish Directed - no limit open season, or 15 closed season with longline, 2 other gear *

SKD - Shark Directed 33 large coastal, no limit small coastal or pelagic

SKI - Shark Incidental - 5 large coastal, 16 small coastal and pelagic
HMS - General Category Tuna - handgear only *
HMS - Tuna Longline * no longline use in state waters (must have cml sword & shark of some type)
Shrimp - Shrimp EEZ

Commercial Dealer

RD - Reef Fish Dealer *
Red Snapper Endorsement*
TD - Atlantic Tuna Dealer *
SH - Shark Dealer (* fish from federal waters)
SD - Swordfish Dealer *

Recreational

HMS Angling - Highly Migratory Species / recreational tunas, sharks, billfishes, swords (* for certain tunas)



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

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