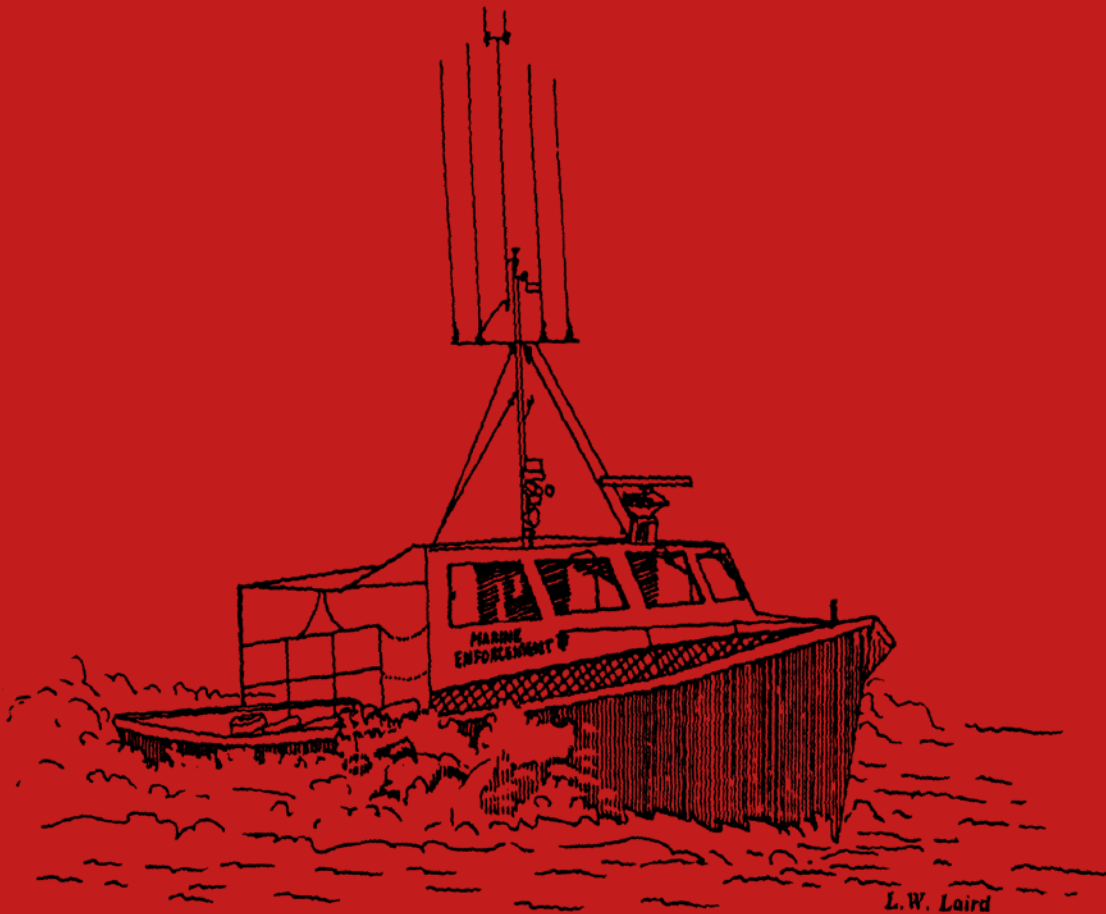


GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Law Summary 2011



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

Sept 2011

GSMFC No. 194

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 1, 2011; however, changes may occur in each state at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

**GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
Law Enforcement Committee**

Major Scott Bannon
Alabama Marine Resources Division

Colonel Walter Chatagner
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Office of Marine Patrol

Captain Rob W. Beaton
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation
Commission
Division of Law Enforcement

Assistant Chief Robert Goodrich, *Vice Chair*
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Fisheries Enforcement

Major Jeff Mayne, *Chair*
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Division of Law Enforcement

Harold M. Robbins, Jr.
Special Agent in Charge
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
Southeast Enforcement Division

Dr. Karen Raine
Senior Enforcement Attorney
NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement &
Litigation, Southeast Region

James R. Gale
Special Agent in Charge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement, Southeast Region

LCDR Carmen S. DeGeorge
U.S. Coast Guard – District Eight
Enforcement

Edited by
Debbie McIntyre
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
2404 Government Street
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564
(228) 875-5912
www.gsmfc.org



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALABAMA **1**

Commercial Saltwater Regulations 11

Recreational Saltwater Regulations 12

FLORIDA **14**

Recreational Saltwater Regulations 19

Commercial Saltwater Regulations 32

LOUISIANA **49**

Recreational Saltwater Regulations 70

Commercial Saltwater Regulations 122

MISSISSIPPI **137**

Commercial Saltwater Regulations 142

Recreational Saltwater Regulations 143

TEXAS **150**

Recreational Saltwater Regulations 161

Commercial Saltwater Regulations 187

GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS **231**

Recreational Saltwater Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters..... 234

Commercial Saltwater Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters 258

ALABAMA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Alabama. The information is current as of September, 2011, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations, please contact the Alabama Marine Resources Division (AMRD), P.O. Box 189, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 (251) 861-2882, or visit our web page at www.outdooralabama.com.

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:

- Certificate of employment if containing proof of permanent residency.
- Copy of home property tax.
- Copy of previous year's tax return (mailing address only).
- Health insurance forms with address.
- The last three months of a utility bill with mailing address.
- Student identification plus copy of residence agreement or any other proof of residence listed.
- 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.
- Health insurance card with address.
- Telephone calling card with address.
- Copy of school registration for non-driving students.
- Voter registration.
- 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

All licenses expire September 30 of each year.

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 AMRD 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

There are 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

All licenses expire September 30 of each year.

License

- Sell live shrimp for bait and operate one boat and one truck - \$101.00
- Sell live shrimp for bait and operate two boats and two trucks - \$201.00
(Limit – two boats or trucks per dealer)

Non-resident

Non-residents transporting and/or selling live or dead saltwater bait shall pay a license fee equal to that charged to an Alabama resident to conduct the same activity in the state of residence of the applicant and in no event less than double that of a citizen of the state of Alabama.

Place of Business

Shore Facility

A permanently erected building from which fishing bait and fishing supplies and tackle are routinely sold to the public; or

Vessel Place of Business Excluding Shrimp

A vessel that sells live or dead saltwater bait (excluding shrimp) to the public. Such vessel shall meet the requirements for a boat facility, shall provide a physical address where vessel will be docked or stored, shall not possess or attempt to possess or attempt to use a trawl, and shall make vessel immediately available for inspection. Such vessel shall have the words "Live Bait – No Shrimp" in letters at least six (6) inches high on both sides of the vessel; or

Vessel Place of Business Including Shrimp

A vessel that sells live or dead saltwater bait (including shrimp) from a designated location to the public. Marine Resources Division shall be notified of the GPS position of the designated location ten (10) working days prior to utilizing or moving such location. The vessel shall meet all the requirements of a shore facility and a boat facility, shall provide a physical address where

vessel will be docked or stored, shall not possess or attempt to possess or attempt to use a trawl, shall make a vessel immediately available for inspection. Such vessel shall have the words "Live Bait – For Sale" in letters at least six (6) inches high on both sides of the vessel.

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 fifty feet (50') as measured across main top line except when in an area temporarily closed to commercial shrimping or in a designated live bait area the trawl shall not exceed sixteen feet (16'). 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. Boats and Trucks licensed under a Vessel Place of Business Excluding Shrimp shall not possess or transport live or dead shrimp. These boats and trucks shall meet the same requirements as listed above except the words in six (6) inch high letters on each side of the boat or truck shall be "Live Bait – No Shrimp"

Bull minnow traps in possession onboard a boat on the waters of the state of Alabama or in use by a licensed live bait dealer shall be marked with the Alabama boat registration number.

Legal Size

No restrictions.

Pounds Allowed

Possession of no more than two standard shrimp baskets of shrimp (live or dead) per boat or truck. Possession of no more than four 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 five pounds.

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 or in areas designated by the Director only after purchasing an oyster dredge license and receiving written authorization from the ADCNR.

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 \$0.35/each at MRD Oyster Management Stations. Oystermen must check out at an Oyster Management Station before oystering on Public Bottoms and check back in to the same Oyster Management Station. No oysters shall be culled or sacked on board a boat in waters closed to the harvesting of oysters. No oysters taken from a public reef shall be culled upon a private reef. It shall be unlawful to possess oysters taken from a private lease and oysters taken from a public reef on board a boat at the same time.

SHELLFISH – CRABS

All licenses expire September 30 of each year.

Licenses

- Commercial - \$51.00
- Recreational – Saltwater Fishing License Required (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; each buoy shall be marked with the fisherman's identification number (assigned by the Marine Resources Division and remains the same for subsequent years). 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. Owners trap identification number must be painted or affixed to each side of the vessel used to harvest crabs from said traps.

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 to 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 Marker 18, 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 by 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 August 31 each year.

Required by any person who is 16 years of age or older, but has not yet reached the age of 65, who takes, catches, kills, possess or attempts to take catch, kill, or posses by the use of rod & reel, artificial bait, lure, fly, gig, cast net, bow, crab trap or spear.

Resident - \$21.20 - Annual

- 7-day trip - \$9.05

Nonresident – 7 Day

- Florida - \$30.00
- All other states - \$26.20

Nonresident – Annual

- Louisiana - \$90.00
- Florida - \$47.00
- All other states - \$45.40

Pier License

- Piers located in inside waters of the state - \$1,001.00

(Residents may fish without an additional license.)

Saltwater Pier License (license for individual)

Resident - \$6.00

Non-resident - \$11.00

(Valid only on public piers)

Saltwater Angler Registration

Any Alabama resident 16 years of age or older fishing in, attempting to fish in or possessing fish taken from those waters under the Marine Resources Jurisdiction shall be required to register.

It is included in an annual saltwater, 7 day trip and pier fishing license.

Required for residents over the age of 64, lifetime saltwater license holders and persons that utilize a pier that purchases the \$1001.00 pier license.

The registration is at NO COST.

Commercial Party Boat – Certified

All licenses expire September 30 of each year.

- 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

All licenses expire September 30 of each year.

- Resident - \$101.00
- Nonresident - \$201.00

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, 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.

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: Atlantic Angle Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Dusky Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Basking Shark, Whale Shark, White Shark, Smalltail Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Six Gill Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Caribbean Sharpnose Shark, Galapagos Shark, Narrow Tooth Shark, Night Shark, Seven Gill Shark, Six Gill Shark, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Atlantic Manta Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper

By-catch 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

All licenses expire September 30 of each year.

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 + must have 2010 license to purchase 2011 license.
- Commercial - \$301.00 + additional \$501.00 for roe mullet and Spanish mackerel permit. must have 2010 permit to purchase 2011 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. Must have license from previous year to purchase current year license.
- Commercial. Not available after June 1, 2008.

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 saltwater fishing license is 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. The minimum mesh size in the inside waters is 1½" (knot to knot).

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 1½" bar (knot to knot). A minimum mesh size of 2" bar is required for such nets used to take mullet in the Gulf & during the period from October 24 thru 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 2" or larger bar mesh during the period October 24 through December 31 of each year must have 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.

It shall be unlawful to use or possess a gill net, trammel net or other entangling net or seine in the Gulf of Mexico, including Pelican Bay, from March 15 through the day after Labor Day each year from 12:00 noon each Friday through 7:00 p.m. each Sunday.

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"(Old Little Lagoon Pass) which will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 12:00 midnight to 12:00 noon on Friday and from 7:00 pm. to from March 15 through May 12:00 midnight on Sunday 15. 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, , except from March 15 through 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. Monday through Thursday, 12:00 midnight to 12:00 noon on Friday and from 7:00 pm. to 12:00 midnight on Sunday. West of Old Little Lagoon Pass to the last house on Dauphin

Is.(located at Longitude 88 11.500). From March 15 through Labor Day, waters west of longitude 88°11'500" are open from 7:00 pm. Sunday to 12:00 noon Friday. From May 15 to October 2, 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. 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 otherwise process roe mullet aboard any boat or vessel in Alabama. All nets must be constantly attended by the licensee, and no dead fish or other dead seafood may be discarded within three (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.

SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSE

All licenses expire September 30 of each year.

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

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

- Resident and nonresident - \$101.00 per vehicle

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 Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	MAXIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES
Red snapper ^{1,5}			13 TL	
Cobia		2	33 FL	
Gag grouper ^{1,5}			24 TL	
Black grouper ^{1,5}			22 TL	
Red grouper ^{1,5}			18 TL	
Yellowfin grouper ^{1,5}			20 TL	
Scamp ^{1,5}			16 TL	
Florida pompano		3	12 TL	
Vermilion snapper ⁵			10 TL	
Lane snapper ⁵			8 TL	
Gray snapper ⁵			12 TL	
Tripletail		3	16 TL	
King mackerel ⁵			24 TL	
Greater amberjack ⁵			36 FL	
Mullet ²		25/ person or vessel		
Flounder			12 TL	
Gray triggerfish ⁵			12 TL	
All Sharks ^{3,4,5}			No size limit	

¹Commercial vessels which hold a valid Federal red snapper license and/or a Federal reef fish commercial vessel permit may land in Alabama up to their (IFQ) Individual Fishing Quota issued to them by NOAA. They are required to follow all pertinent Federal regulations.

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

³Recreational and commercial harvest of the following species are prohibited:

Shark - Atlantic angel, longfin mako, small tail, bigeye thresher, bignose, sevengill, white, dusky, sixgill, nurse, sand tiger, whale, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Galapagos, Narrowtooth, Night & Basking.

Sawfish - largetooth & smalltooth

Rays - Atlantic manta & spotted eagle

Grouper - Goliath & Nassau

⁴ Illegal to use chumming or bloodbaiting within 300 feet of the shoreline or any pier in the waters under the jurisdiction of Marine Resources Division.

⁵ When adjoining federal waters are closed then state waters are closed to the taking of Gulf Reef Fish, King Mackerel & sharks.

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 ¹	
Red drum	3	3	16 TL ¹	26 TL
Red snapper	2 ⁹	2 ⁹	16 TL	
Gray snapper	10 ⁹	10 ⁹	12 TL	
Vermilion snapper	Note ^{2,9}	Note ^{2,9}	10 TL	
Lane snapper	Note ^{2,9}	Note ^{2,9}	8 TL	
Spanish mackerel	15	15		
King mackerel	2 ⁹	2 ⁹	24 FL	
Greater amberjack	1 ⁹	1 ⁹	30 FL	
Striped bass	2 ³	2 ³	16 TL	
Gray triggerfish	Note ^{2,9}	Note ^{2,9}	14 FL	
Gag grouper	2/person in 4 grouper aggregate ⁹	2/person in 4 grouper aggregate ⁹	22 TL	
Black grouper	All groupers 4/person in aggregate ⁹	All groupers 4/person in aggregate ⁹	22 TL	
Red grouper	2/person in 4 grouper aggregate ⁹	2/person in 4 grouper aggregate ⁹	20 TL	
Yellowfin grouper	All groupers 4/person in aggregate ⁹	All groupers 4/person in aggregate ⁹	20 TL	
Scamp	All groupers 4/person in aggregate ⁹	All groupers 4/person in aggregate ⁹	16 TL	
Tarpon	Tag required	Tag required	60 TL	

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	MAXIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES
Florida pompano	3	3	12 TL	
Mullet	Note ^{4,5,6}	Note ^{4,5,6}		
Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead Sharks	1/person ^{7,9}	1/person ^{7,9}	None	
Other sharks	1/person ^{7,8,9}	1/person ^{7,8,9}	54 FL	
Tripletail	3	3	16 TL	
Flounder	10	10	12 TL	
Lesser amberjack	^{2,9}	^{2,9}	14 FL	22 FL
Banded rudderfish	^{2,9}	^{2,9}	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.

⁷Illegal to use chumming or bloodbaiting within 300 feet of the shoreline or any pier in the waters under the jurisdiction of Marine Resources Division.

⁸Recreational and commercial harvest of the following species are prohibited:

Sharks - Atlantic angel, longfin mako, small tail, bigeye thresher, bignose, sevengill, white, dusky, sixgill, nurse, sand tiger, basking, bigeye sixgill, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Galapagos, narrowtooth, night and whale

Sawfish -argetooth & smalltooth

Rays - Atlantic manta & spotted eagle

Grouper - Goliath & Nassau

⁹When adjoining federal waters are closed then state waters are closed to the taking of Gulf Reef Fish, King Mackerel & Sharks.

Fishing Regulations

Saltwater edition



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

Valid from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011

MyFWC.com

Contents

Dates and locations..... 1

Shows and events..... 1

Regional offices.....2

Snook gets extra protection3

You do not need a license
if you are..... 4

Costs for licenses.....4

Other saltwater fishing fees 4

Marine life regulations..... 5

Division of Law Enforcement (DLE).....5

Basic recreational saltwater
fishing regulations6-7

Recreational gear and spearing8

Artificial reef locations9

State records and slams9

Resource hotlines.....9

Blue crab regulations.....10

Know your Florida fish: Pompano & Permit.....11

Introduction

This publication is provided as a guide to Florida fishing laws and regulations. The Florida Administrative Code is the final authority on fishing laws. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) strives to ensure information in this booklet is accurate, but assumes no liability for any errors that occur in this publication. Contact the FWC if you have any questions on issues not covered in this booklet. This publication is valid only from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011.

How your license fee helps

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.

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

Obtain immediate license privileges, 24 hours a day, at MyFWC.com/License or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Processing fees will apply to telephone and Internet sales. Additional processing fees will apply to telephone and Internet sales.

2011 Commission meeting dates and locations

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

- February 23-24 – Apalachicola
- April 6-7 – Florida Public Safety Institute, Havana
- June 8-9 – Palm Coast

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

Shows and Events

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’s Marine Resources*.

<p>FL Sportsman Fishing & Boating Show Feb. 5-6, Ft. Myers 941-378-0411 floridasportsman.com/shows</p>	<p>FL Sportsman Fishing & Boating Show March 12-13, Jacksonville 941-378-0411 floridasportsman.com/shows</p>	<p>FWRI Marine Quest April 30, St. Petersburg</p>
<p>Florida State Fair Feb. 10-21, Tampa floridastatefair.com/state-fair</p>	<p>Kids’ Fishing Clinic March 26, Daytona Beach Sunglow Fishing Pier 850-488-6058</p>	<p>Kids’ Fishing Clinic May 7, Naples Naples City Fishing Pier 850-488-6058</p>
<p>Kids’ Fishing Clinic Feb. 26, Crystal River Fort Island Gulf Beach Fishing Pier 352-527-7543</p>	<p>Kids’ Fishing Clinic April 9, Panacea Wooley Park 850-488-6058</p>	<p>Kids’ Fishing Clinic June 25, Cape Canaveral Cruise Terminal 3 850-488-6058</p>
<p>Tampa Tribune Outdoor Expo March 4-6, Tampa Kids’ Fishing Clinic March 12, Fernandina Little Talbot Island State Park 850-488-6058</p>	<p>Kids’ Fishing Clinic April 16, Pensacola, Plaza De Luna 850-488-6058</p>	

For additional information please contact:

Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

Division of Marine Fisheries
Management
2590 Executive Center Circle East
Berkeley Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850-488-6058



Setting priorities and mobilizing FWC resources

Managing Florida's fish and wildlife requires talent, drive, wisdom, commitment and countless other qualities in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's 2,000 employees. It also takes public input and the best available science.

The FWC's structure calls for its seven-member board of commissioners to set priorities and mobilize its resources. Each level of management and every employee takes that guidance and addresses the situations at hand.

The process sounds simple and straightforward, but priorities and scientific realities change constantly, and available resources fluctuate amid economic challenges and new environmental developments.

Florida long ago passed the days when nature could bind its own wounds. Conservation is in the hands of people in the public and private sectors who are motivated to take up the cause. It always will be.

Habitat and species management plans are critical to our long-term success. However, size restrictions, bag limits and other regulations are among the tools we can use to ensure future generations share our rich natural heritage. This Commission has an underlying philosophy that regulations must not be more restrictive than necessary to conserve the abundant fish and wildlife that enrich our enviable Florida lifestyle.

These regulations reflect the science, public input and all the other factors that determine how much pressure we Floridians may place on our resources, at this time, without placing them at risk. As conditions change, the regulations will change as well, and deciding what the changes should be is a responsibility this Commission and all its employees are proud and honored to carry. At the same time, we realize the FWC is but a spearhead for the army of individuals and institutions who band together to ensure an enduring natural legacy.

We encourage everyone to Get Outdoors Florida! and enjoy the benefits of connecting with nature in our wonderfully diverse state. Thanks to the stewardship of generations who lived here before us, opportunities are boundless.

And while you're at it, take a kid with you. This is their Florida too, and they will be happier, healthier and even smarter for it.

Have fun out there, and be safe!

Rodney Barreto

Chairman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Contact us

Go to MyFWC.com for up-to-date information on recreational saltwater fishing regulations, news and events as well as resources, publications and videos.

Visit the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute online at research.MyFWC.com

For federal fishing regulations, please contact:

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
888-833-1844
Gulfcouncil.org

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
866-SAFMC-10
safmc.net

National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
727-824-5301
nmfs.noaa.gov

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

620 South Meridian Street
Farris Bryant Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 488-4676
(800) 955-8771 TDD

Commissioners

Rodney Barreto
Chairman, Miami
Richard A. Corbett
Vice Chairman, Tampa
Kathy Barco
Jacksonville
Ronald M. Bergeron
Ft. Lauderdale
Dwight Stephenson
Delray Beach
Kenneth W. Wright
Winter Park
Brian S. Yablonski
Tallahassee

Staff

Nick Wiley
Executive Director
Gregory L. Holder
Assistant Executive Director
Karen Ventimigli
Deputy Chief of Staff
Mark Robson
Director, Marine Fisheries Management

FWC regional offices*

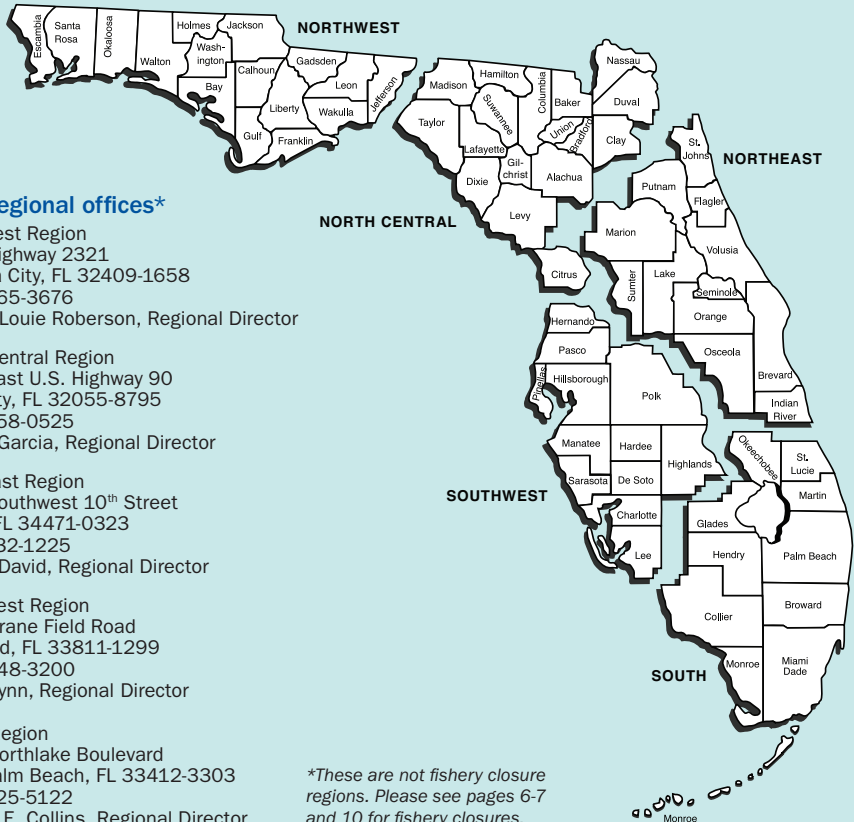
Northwest Region
3911 Highway 2321
Panama City, FL 32409-1658
(850) 265-3676
Lt. Col. Louie Roberson, Regional Director

North Central Region
3377 East U.S. Highway 90
Lake City, FL 32055-8795
(386) 758-0525
Roland Garcia, Regional Director

Northeast Region
1239 Southwest 10th Street
Ocala, FL 34471-0323
(352) 732-1225
Dennis David, Regional Director

Southwest Region
3900 Drane Field Road
Lakeland, FL 33811-1299
(863) 648-3200
Chris Wynn, Regional Director

South Region
8535 Northlake Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33412-3303
(561) 625-5122
Charles E. Collins, Regional Director



*These are not fishery closure regions. Please see pages 6-7 and 10 for fishery closures.

Snook gets extra protection

Record-breaking cold temperatures in the winter of 2010 impacted many of Florida's species, including fish. Certain species of fish in Florida cannot tolerate prolonged periods of cold weather; snook is one of these species. The FWC issued Executive Order 10-03 for snook, bonefish and tarpon to protect these important Florida gamefish species from further harm. The FWC took these actions to provide protection for these species and to give research scientists time to evaluate any potential damage that may have occurred to the stocks of these species during the unusual cold-weather period.

Since the cold weather incident, researchers with the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) continued their long-term monitoring programs of a variety of species. The researchers used this information, along with other data to assess the impact of the 2010 cold kill event on Florida's common snook populations as this species appeared to have been drastically affected by this cold weather event. Their findings were summarized in the Snook Cold Kill Report. These initial findings suggest there was a greater vulnerability to low water temperatures by smaller-sized common snook and indicate that adult snook in different parts of Florida were impacted differently by the cold kill. In addition, data suggests that there was likely a smaller impact from the cold kill on adult snook on the Atlantic Coast than on the Gulf Coast. Although Atlantic Coast snook suffered some level of mortality from the cold kill, a significant proportion of reproductive-sized fish survived to spawn.

The FWC Commissioners decided to take additional action to protect Florida's snook population after reviewing the latest available information on the status of the snook population and considering public input. The Commission ruled to reopen the recreational harvest season of snook on September 17, 2010 in Atlantic waters and maintain a closed season for snook in Gulf waters.

In Atlantic state waters, the snook fishery closed as normally scheduled on December 15, 2010, and remains closed until September 1, 2011. In Gulf state waters, Everglades National Park and Monroe County state and fed-

eral waters the snook fishery will remain closed until September 1, 2011. Anglers may still catch and release snook during snook harvest closures.

To learn more about snook research or to read the Snook Cold Kill Report, please visit research.MyFWC.com.

YOU support Florida's Snook Fishery!

Revenue generated through the purchase of the Snook permit is used exclusively for programs benefitting Florida's snook population. Major programs that are funded by the snook permit fee include stock enhancements, snook tagging programs, fishery-independent sampling and fishery-dependent sampling. fee include stock enhancements, snook tagging programs, fishery-independent sampling and fishery-dependent sampling.

Wildlife Alert Reward Program

Report fish and wildlife law violations by calling toll-free 1-888-404-FWCC (3922); on cell phones, dial *FWC or #FWC depending on service carrier; or click MyFWC.com/Contact. For more information, see page 9.

Make sure there are fish for tomorrow

Only half of Florida's anglers buy a license, but their license fees are a vital source of funding for fish and wildlife conservation. Seniors, youths and others that are exempt can contribute to fish and wildlife conservation simply by voluntarily buying a fishing license.

Each license you buy captures more Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration money and brings tackle and motor boat fuel taxes home to Florida.

Visit: MyFWC.com
Call: 888-FISH-FLORIDA



MyFWC.com



Buy your license online!

When you buy your license online, it's fast, convenient and saves time and travel.

You can obtain a license 24 hours a day at MyFWC.com/LICENSE and begin fishing immediately!

Licenses are also available toll-free at 1-888-FISHFLORIDA (1-888-347-4356). Processing fees apply to telephone and Internet sales.

Saltwater fishing in Florida...

What you must know before you go

Saltwater fishing licenses are sold online at MyFWC.com, at all county tax collectors' offices and at many license agents. Licenses may also be obtained over the telephone by dialing toll-free, 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). An additional fee is charged for telephone and Internet services. For any recreational licensing information not contained in this publication, please go to MyFWC.com/License.

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 and any family members residing with them.

Gold sportsman's license

- **\$100** (valid for one year). Includes:
 - Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses
 - Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading Gun, Turkey, Florida Waterfowl, Deer, Snook, and Spiny Lobster permits
- 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 spiny lobster, 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 the licenses require holders to obey fishing or hunting laws in effect at any given time.

You do not need a license if you are:

- A resident who is saltwater fishing from land or a structure fixed to land who has been determined eligible for the food stamp, temporary cash assistance, or Medicaid Program by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Proof of identification and a benefit issuance or program identification card issued by DCFS or the Agency for Health Care administration must be on your person when fishing.
- A child under 16 years of age.
- Any resident fishing for recreational purposes only, within her or his county of residence with live or natural bait, using poles or lines not equipped with a fishing line retrieval mechanism.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel – guide, charter, party boat that has a valid vessel license or charter captain license.
- A holder of a valid saltwater products license.
- A Florida resident 65 years of age or older and you possess proof of age and residency, such as a Florida driver's license or ID, or

Costs for licenses

In addition to the cost of licenses and permits specified in this section, license agents may charge an issuance fee for selling licenses or permits. **Note: all sales are final.**

Florida resident licenses

One-Year Shoreline Only License	\$0.00
Covers shoreline fishing only , not fishing from a watercraft or from shore reached by watercraft.	
One-Year License.....	\$17.00
Covers both watercraft and shoreline fishing.	
Five-Year License.....	\$79.00

Combination licenses (Florida residents only)

Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater.....	\$32.50
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater & Hunting.....	\$48.00
One-Year Gold Sportsman's License.....	\$100.00
One-Year Military Gold Sportsman's License.....	\$20.00
(Offers the same privileges as the Gold Sportsman's License. Available only to Florida residents who are active or retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, the National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard or the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, upon submission of a current military identification card and proof of Florida residency. Purchase at county tax collector's offices only.)	

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.....	\$17.00
Seven-day License	\$30.00
One-Year License.....	\$47.00

Permits

Snook Permit	\$10.00
Five-Year Snook Permit (Florida residents only).....	\$50.00
Spiny Lobster Permit	\$5.00
Five-Year Spiny Lobster Permit (Florida residents only).....	\$25.00
Tarpon Tag (available only at tax collector offices)	\$51.50

If you are required to have a license, even the \$0.00 shoreline license, you are required to purchase permits to harvest Snook and Spiny Lobster.

an optional no-cost Resident Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing Certificate.

- 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.
- 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 who possesses a no-cost Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate. In order to qualify for this, applicants must 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 from the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits also will be accepted.

Other saltwater fishing fees

Licenses (Charter Boat or Charter Captain) 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
Five to ten 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 Web site at MyFWC.com.



Jiangang Luo

Marine life regulations

Current Requirements for Recreational Marine Life Harvest:

- Recreational saltwater fishing license
- Organisms must be banded and kept alive
- A continuously circulating live well, aeration, or oxygenation system of adequate size to maintain these organisms in a healthy condition
- **Allowable Gear:** hand held net, drop net, rod, barrier net, slurp gun (use of quinaldine is prohibited)*
- **Bag Limit:** 20 organisms per person per day; only 5 of any one species allowed within the 20-organism bag limit
- **Possession Limit:** 2-day possession limit, 40 total organisms, no more than 10 of any one species allowed
- **Allowable substrate:** see species specifications in table
- **Closed areas:** Some closed areas exist**
- Sale of recreationally caught marine life organisms is prohibited

* Some organisms have additional gear limitations, see chart.

** Various closed areas exist. See regulations for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, and Florida's State Parks before collecting in these areas.

Additional rules apply to the collection of shells containing live organisms in Lee or Manatee counties.

See MyFWC.com for FAQs about marine life harvest and information about collecting shells with live organisms.

FWC Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)

The FWC's 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 888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cell phone users throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, or hail on VHF Channel 16.

Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹	SIZE LIMITS (total length unless otherwise noted)
Angelfish	No more than 5 per person per day in any combination	Gray, French Angelfish: 1½–8" slot limit Blue, Queen Angelfish: 1¾–8" slot limit Rock Beauty: 2–5" slot limit
Butterflyfish		1–4" slot limit
Filefish/Triggerfish	Except Gray and Ocean Triggerfish	
Gobies		Maximum size limit: 2"
Hamlets/Seabasses	Except reef fish ² and Longtail Bass	
Jawfish		Maximum size limit: 4"
Parrotfish		Maximum size limit: 12"
Porkfish		Minimum size limit: 1½"
Pufferfish, Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	
Tangs and Surgeonfish		Maximum size limit (fork length): 9"
Wrasse/Hogfish/Razorfish	Except Hogfish Snapper	Spanish Hogfish: 2–8" slot limit Cuban Hogfish: 3–8" slot limit

Other Marine Life fish include¹: Basslets, Batfish, Blackbar Soldierfish, Blennies, Brotulas (Black and Key), Cardinalfish, Clingfish, Cornetfish, Damselfish, Eels (Moray and Snake), Frogfish, Hawkfish, High-hat/Jackknife-fish/Spotted Drum/Cubbyu, Pipefish, Reef Croakers, Seahorses, Sleepers, Yellow Stingray, Sweepers, Toadfish, Trumpetfish, and Trunkfish/Cowfish.

Marine Life — Invertebrates

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹
Anemones	Corallimorphs and Zoanthids: No more than 5 polyps of each may be landed per person per day, must be harvested with a flexible blade no wider than 2". Corallimorphs must be harvested as single polyps only.
Conch, Queen	Harvest prohibited
Corals, Hard (Stony)	Harvest prohibited
Corals, Soft	No more than 6 octocoral colonies per person per day in any combination; harvest of attached substrate within 1" of base is permitted; harvest closes in response to federal octocoral closures
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs
Crab, Horseshoe	Harvest prohibited
Live Rock	Harvest prohibited
Octopods	Except Common Octopus
Sea Fans	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
Siphonophores/Hydroids	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
Sponges	Except Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef, and Velvet Sponges; no more than 5 sponges per harvester per day in any combination; harvest of substrate within 1" of base permitted north and west of the southernmost point of Egmont Key, no substrate allowed south of Egmont Key
Starfish	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

Other Marine Life invertebrates include¹: Brittlestars, Decorator (Furcate Spider) Crab, False Arrow Crab, Green Clinging (Emerald) Crab, Nimble Spray (Urchin) Crab, Red Mithrax Crab, Red-Ridged Clinging Crab, Spotted Porcelain Crab, Yellowline Arrow Crab, Fileclams, Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs, Sea Cucumbers, Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails, Starsnails, Featherduster Worms, and Calcareous Tube Worms.

Marine Life — Plants

SPECIES	LIMITS
Algae, Coralline Red	
Caulerpa	
Halimeda/Mermaid's Fan/Mermaid's Shaving Brush	One gallon of tropical ornamental marine plants per day in any combination; 2 gallon maximum possession limit

¹ Unless otherwise noted, combined bag limit of 20 marine life fish and invertebrates per person per day, only 5 of any one species allowed. A 2-day possession limit also applies (40 total organisms, only 10 of any one species).

² Such as groupers, snappers, seabass, and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on pages 6-7.

³ Bag limit of 2 live shells of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.

Basic recreational saltwater fishing regulations

This brief summary of regulations governs the taking of saltwater species in Florida state waters for personal use. It is not applicable to the commercial harvesting of these species. The absence of complete laws, rules and regulations in this summary does not relieve persons from compliance with 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 two fish per harvester per day (whichever is greater), is considered commercial quantities. A saltwater products license and commercial vessel registration are required to harvest commercial quantities of unregulated species. It is illegal to sell recreationally harvested fish without compliance with commercial license requirements. Issue Thirty Eight, January 2011. **Highlights indicate recent regulation changes.**

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Rec. Bag Limit	Remarks
Amberjack, Greater ▲●	28" fork Atlantic; 30" fork Gulf		1 per harvester per day	
Amberjack, Lesser and 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 harvester per day aggregate bag limit	Measured tip of lower jaw to fork. All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528. HMS permit required in federal waters.
Black Drum ▲◆T	Not less than 14" or more than 24"		5 per harvester per day	May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited.
Bluefish ▲	12" fork		10 per harvester per day	
Bonefish ◆▲	18"		1 per harvester 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 harvester or 2 per vessel, whichever is less per day (whole in shell)	Illegal to harvest from closed areas. Go to www.floridaaquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
Cobia (Ling) ▲	33" fork		1 per harvester or 6 per vessel per day, whichever is less	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit follow commercial regulations.
Crab, Blue		Sept. 20–Oct. 4 Gulf state waters beyond 3 miles closed to traps; federal waters closed to traps; Regional closures (see map on page 10)	10 gallons whole per harvester per day	5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.
Crab, Blue Land		July 1–Oct 31	20 per harvester 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 ¾" claw	May 16–Oct 14	1 gal. Stone Crab claws per harvester 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) S	Not less than 3" carapace measured in the water	April 1–Aug. 5 Exception: Sport Season (last consecutive Wed & Thurs of July each year)	Regular season: 6 per harvester per day	Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny Lobster permit required when license required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited. Special bag limit for 2-day Sport Season. Contact FWC regional office for current information on Sport Season.
Dolphin ▲	20" fork Atlantic		10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit follow commercial regulations.
Flounder ▲◆T	12"		10 per harvester per day	May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.
Gag ▲◆●	24" Atlantic & Monroe County	Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1–March 31 Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1–April 30	1 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 2 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	No more than 1 fish may be Gag or Black Grouper, either individually or in combination in Atlantic & Monroe County. Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain & crew on for-hire vessels.
Grouper, Black ▲◆●	22" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)		1 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 4 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	
Grouper, Red ▲◆●	20"		3 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 2 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	
Grouper, Snowy ▲●			1 per harvester per day Atlantic	Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Atlantic & Monroe County: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth ▲◆●	20"	Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1–March 31 Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1–April 30		
Grouper, Scamp ▲◆●	20" Atlantic & Monroe County; 16" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)			
Grouper, Warsaw and Speckled Hind ▲●			1 per vessel per day of each species	
Grouper, all others ▲●		Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1–March 31 for Rock Hind and Red Hind Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1–April 30 for Tiger, Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby		
Hogfish ▲●	12" fork		5 per harvester per day	
Mackerel, King ▲	24" fork		2 per harvester per day	Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters when federal waters are closed to all harvest. Check www.MyFWC.com/Fishing for most current regulations prior to fishing.
Mackerel, Spanish ▲	12" fork		15 per harvester per day	Transfer of Spanish Mackerel to other vessels at sea is prohibited.
Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver			50 aggregate per harvester per day; Aggregate vessel limits Feb. 1–Aug. 31: 100 per vessel; Sept. 1–Jan. 31: 50 per vessel	Mullet aggregate bag limit includes Striped and Silver. Call DMFM for additional restrictions in Pinellas and Charlotte counties.
Oysters	3"	June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties. July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas.	2 bags per harvester 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 floridaaquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
Permit & Pompano ▲T	Not less than 11" or more than 20" fork		6 per harvester per day aggregate of Permit and Pompano	May possess one over 20" of either Permit or Pompano included in the aggregate bag limit. Vessel restriction: no more than 2 permit and pompano over 20" fork length at any time in any combination. Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Permit: hook & line only.
Pompano, African ▲T	Not less than 24" fork		2 fish per harvester 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 harvester per day	Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Rec. Bag Limit	Remarks
Red Porgy ▲◆●	14" Atlantic		3 per harvester per day Atlantic	
Scallops, Bay		Sept. 11–June 30	2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester per day; no more than 10 gallons whole, or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime	Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Pasco-Hernando county line, to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County.
Sea Bass, Black ▲◆●	12" Atlantic; 10" Gulf		15 per harvester per day Atlantic	
Shad			10 aggregate per harvester per day	American, Alabama & Hickory are part of aggregate limit. Hook & line gear only.
Shark ▲ T	54" fork for all sharks except Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, finetooth and smooth dogfish		1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less	Hook and line gear only. See list below for prohibited species.
Sheepshead ▲◆T	12"		15 per harvester per day	Snatching prohibited.
Shrimp ▲		April & May closed to Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties	5 gallons heads on per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less	Contact FWC Regional Office for closed areas.
Snapper, Black and Wenchman ▲●			Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper, Cubera ▲◆●	12" (see remarks)		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit if under 30"	May possess no more than 2 Cubera Snapper over 30" per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less. 30" or larger not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Gray (Mangrove) ▲◆●	10"		5 per harvester per day	Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Lane ▲◆●	8"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit Atlantic	Gulf not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Mutton ▲◆●	16"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper, Red ▲◆●	20" Atlantic; 16" Gulf	July 24–May 31 Gulf	2 per harvester per day	Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit. Note: Check www.MyFWC.com/Fishing for most current regulations prior to fishing. Gulf: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Snapper, Schoolmaster ▲◆●	10"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper, Vermilion ▲◆●	12" Atlantic; 10" Gulf	Nov. 1–March 31 Atlantic	5 per harvester per day Atlantic; 10 per harvester per day Gulf	Vermilion Snapper not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit. Atlantic: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Snapper, all other ▲◆●	12"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	Includes: Blackfin, Dog, Mahogany, Queen, Silk & Yellowtail.
Snook (all species) ▲◆T	Not less than 28" or more than 32" Atlantic Not less than 28" or more than 33" Gulf of Mexico, Monroe County, Everglades Nat. Park	Closed through Aug. 31 2011 Gulf of Mexico, Monroe County, Everglades National Park	1 per harvester per day	Snook permit required when saltwater license required. State regulations apply in federal waters. Illegal to buy or sell snook. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.
Sponge, Commercial	Greater than 5" in greatest dimension measured across the top of the sponge		10 per harvester per day	Includes: Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef & Velvet sponge.
Spotted Seatrout ▲◆T	Not less than 15" or more than 20" (statewide) except one fish over 20" per person	Nov. and Dec. S. Region Feb. N.E. and N.W. Regions (see regional definitions below)	4 per harvester per day South Region 5 per harvester per day N.E. and N.W. Regions	May possess no more than 1 over 20"; included in the regional bag limit. See regional definitions below.
Swordfish	47" lower jaw fork length with head attached or 29" cleithrum to keel length if head removed.		1 per harvester per day, not to exceed a maximum of 4 per recreational (not for-hire) vessel or 15 per for-hire vessel per day	All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528. HMS permit required in federal waters.
Tarpon			2 fish possession limit	Requires \$50 tarpon tag to possess or harvest. Snatching and spearing prohibited. Boca Grande Pass has seasonal regulations. Contact DMFM for current information.
Tilefish, Golden ▲●			1 per harvester per day Atlantic	Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Atlantic: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Triggerfish (Gray) ▲●	12" fork Atlantic; 14" fork Gulf			Triggerfish except Gray and Ocean have live landing & live well requirements.
Tripletail ▲◆T	15"		2 per harvester per day	Hook & line gear only. No snatch hooks.
Wahoo ▲			2 per harvester per day	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit, follow commercial regulations.
Weakfish ▲◆	12"		1 per harvester per day	Regulations apply in parts of Nassau County only. See MyFWC.com for map

- ▲ Must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (heads, fins & tails intact).
- ◆ Measured as total length. Total length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.
- Additional gear rules apply. See Reef Fish Gear Rules page 8.
- T Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.

PROHIBITED SPECIES

It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell, or exchange the following species: Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Sawfish, Atlantic Angel Shark, Basking Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Sixgill Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Caribbean Sharpnose Shark, Dusky Shark, Galapagos Shark, Lemon Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Night Shark, Silky Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Sandbar Shark, Sevengill Shark, Sixgill Shark, Smalltail Shark, Spiny Dogfish, Whale Shark, White Shark, Manta Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Roundscale Spearfish, Sturgeon, Florida Queen Conch, Stony, Hard and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Bahama Starfish, and Longspine Urchin. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited. Puffer fish harvest is prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

ORNAMENTAL TROPICAL FISH, INVERTEBRATES AND PLANTS

See *Marine Life Regulations* on page 5.

FWC REGIONAL OFFICES

Northwest Region Panama City 850-265-3676; North Central Region Lake City 386-758-0525; Northeast Region Ocala 352-732-1225; Southwest Region Lakeland 863-648-3200; South Region West Palm Beach 561-625-5122; Wildlife Alert 888-404-FWCC (3922)

SEATROUT 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 (28°E, 35°N 82°E 48.398'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.

Harvester: Regardless of what species you are fishing for, bag limits are only for properly licensed individuals and those people exempt from licensing requirements who are actively harvesting. People harvesting may not exceed the individual bag limit and take someone else's bag limit. That is, people (including children) who are not actively harvesting or are not properly licensed (if license is required) may NOT be counted for the purpose of bag limits.



For saltwater fish identification, request a copy of FWC's *Fishing Lines* magazine or visit: MyFWC.com

Recreational gear

Additional regional gear restrictions may apply in your county. For further clarification, contact the local regional offices listed on page 2.

Reef fish gear rules (applies to species marked with ● on pages 6 and 7)

- **Gulf of Mexico:** These regulations require the use of a venting tool and dehooking device when recreationally or commercially fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. All persons aboard a vessel harvesting reef fish must possess and use non-stainless steel circle hooks when using natural baits.
- **Atlantic Ocean:** Recreational and commercial fishers are required to use dehooking devices as needed while fishing for reef fish.

These rules apply to the following species. For a complete species list, please visit MyFWC.com.

- Greater amberjack
- Banded rudderfish
- Black grouper
- Snowy grouper
- Yellowmouth grouper
- Warsaw grouper
- Grouper, all others
- Red porgy
- Black snapper
- Cubera snapper
- Lane snapper
- Red snapper
- Vermilion snapper
- Golden tilefish
- Lesser amberjack
- Gag grouper
- Red grouper
- Yellowfin grouper
- Scamp grouper
- Speckled hind
- Hogfish
- Black sea bass
- Wenchman snapper
- Gray snapper
- Mutton snapper
- Schoolmaster snapper
- Snapper, all other
- Gray triggerfish

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 types 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, weak fish 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.

Spearing

Spearing is defined as "the catching or taking of a fish by bow-hunting, 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). Spearfishing is defined as "the catching or taking of a fish through the instrumentality of a hand or mechanically propelled, single or multi-pronged spear or lance, barbed or barbless, operated by a person swimming at or below the surface of the water." 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)
- Manta ray
- Tarpon
- Blue crab
- Red drum
- Pompano
- Tripletail
- Spotted eagle ray
- Sharks
- Goliath grouper
- Nassau grouper
- Weakfish
- African pompano
- Lobster
- Sturgeon
- Bonefish
- Snook
- Spotted seatrout
- Stone crab
- Permit
- Families of ornamental reef fish (surgeonfish, trumpetfish, angelfish, butterflyfish, porcupinefish, cornetfish, squirrelfish, trunkfish, damselfish, parrotfish, pipefish, seahorse, puffers, triggerfish except gray and ocean)

You may NOT spearfish (excluding bowfishing and gigging):

- 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.
- In Monroe County there are additional regulations spearfishing. For more information call 305-289-2320 or visit floridakeys.noaa.gov.

You may NOT spear, bowfish or gig:

- In Volusia County inland waters with the exception of flounder and sheepshead using a spear with three or fewer prongs.

New Artificial Reef Locations*

COUNTY	DEPLOY DATE	REEF NAME	MATERIAL	TONS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	DEPTH	RELIEF
Dade	9/8/10	M/V Shark	82' Steel Tug	UK	25°54.476' N	80°04.587' W	255	21
Dade	8/6/10	2010 School Steps	Concrete Steps and Ramps (85)	90.00	25°48.891' N	80°10.146' W	24	8
Dade	6/25/10	Eagle Scout Reef #2	Modules Concrete Reefballs (7)	UK	25°54.374' N	80°08.011' W	14	2
Dade	6/8/10	Mercy AR 2010-Rock	Rock Limestone Boulders (1620 Tons)	1620.00	25°44.330' N	80°12.531' W	13	7
Dade	6/3/10	Mercy AR 2010-Culverts	Concrete Rubble (34 Pieces)	UK	25°44.290' N	80°12.606' W	13	7
Escambia	5/9/10	Navarre Pier Reef Site #1	Concrete Deck Spans, Pilings and Caps (59)	815.75	30°18.000' N	87°12.600' W	45	6
Palm Beach	9/11/10	Jupiter Inlet Site	Limestone Boulders (~550 Tons)	550	26°57.900' N	80°03.910' W	34	10
Palm Beach	9/11/10	Jupiter Inlet Site	Concrete Pieces (10)	100.00	26°57.900' N	80°03.730' W	37	3
St Johns	8/15/10	Andy King Reef #1 and #2	Concrete Pilings (263)	1146.00	29°52.591' N	81°09.207' W	65	8
Volusia	8/3/10	Site 12SW	Concrete Culverts and Structures (246)	331.00	29°11.690' N	80°46.685' W	74	18
Volusia	8/1/10	Site 10NW	Concrete Culverts and Structures (240)	449.00	29°21.638' N	80°49.966' W	65	14
Volusia	7/30/10	Site 13NE	Concrete Culverts and Structures (169)	477.50	29°10.362' N	80°41.264' W	85	18
Volusia	7/28/10	Site 1South	Concrete Culverts and Pieces (195)	486.00	29°06.996' N	80°41.681' W	74	17
Volusia	7/26/10	Site 6SE	Concrete Culverts and Pieces (167)	459.00	29°02.866' N	80°43.175' W	71	11
Volusia	7/20/10	Site 7South	Concrete Pieces (110)	450.00	29°01.012' N	80°41.019' W	60	13

* Chart represents a small sample of the over 2,000 artificial reef sites in Florida; for additional artificial reef locations, go to MyFWC.com and click on "Fishing."

State records and 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.

For more information or to apply for a state record or grand slam, contact the FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management by calling 850-488-6058, or visit our Web site at MyFWC.com. Click on "Fishing." Entries are free!

Grand slam certificates

West Coast Grand Slam

Frank Diaz
Mark. D. Wysocki
Richard Silver
Scott K. Gamster
William D. Miller
Clifford Fox

East Coast Grand Slam

Michelle L. Cha-Kim
Richard Silver
Clifford Fox

South Florida Grand Slam

Nick Battaglia

Regional grand slam fishes

North Florida

red drum, spotted seatrout, cobia

West Coast

red drum, snook, tarpon

South Florida

bonefish, tarpon, permit

East Coast

red drum, tarpon, spotted seatrout

Wildlife Alert Reward Program



Report fish and wildlife law violations by calling toll-free 1-888-404-FWCC (3922); on cell phones, dial *FWC or #FWC depending on service carrier; or click MyFWC.com/Contact.

Do you have a photo of your prize catch and want to show it off?

If so, the FWC invites you to participate in the Ethical Angler Photo Recognition Program!

Send in your photo, along with a signed photo release form to EthicalAngler@MyFWC.com and your photo may appear on the next cover of the regulations! For additional information, please visit MyFWC.com/Fishing.

Resource information

Join the nation's largest conservation law enforcement agency—become an FWC law enforcement officer.

For more information contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-866-FWC-HIRE (392-4473) or visit MyFWC.com/Law

To purchase fishing licenses:
888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)
MyFWC.com/license

FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
727-896-8626, research.MyFWC.com

Red Tide Information Hotline
866-300-9399 toll free in Florida
727-552-2488 nationwide

FWC Division of Law Enforcement
888-404-FWCC (3922)

To report fish kills: 800-636-0511

To report fish tags: 800-367-4461
TagReturn@myfwc.com

Aquatic Toxins Hotline
888-232-8635

For up-to-date information on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill please visit MyFWC.com/OilSpill

To report sawfish sightings:
941-255-7403, sawfish@MyFWC.com

Shellfish harvesting questions
FDACS, 850-488-5471
floridaaquaculture.com

To report fish and wildlife law violations, call the Wildlife Alert Hotline:
888-404-FWCC (3922)

Bird entanglement
888-404-3922, 727-391-6211 for Tampa area

To report Lionfish sightings, please visit:
<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/SightingReport.aspx>
or call 1-877-STOPANS (877-786-9567)

To request Tarpon DNA sampling kits:
800-367-4461, TarponGenetics@myfwc.com

Blue Crab Regulations for Recreational Harvest

Requirements for Recreational Blue Crab Harvest

- Recreational saltwater fishing license.
- No more than 10 gallons of blue crab per day can be harvested or possessed.
- Egg-bearing blue crabs must be released.

Allowable Gear

Dip or landing net, drop net, fold-up trap, hook and line gear, push scrape, trotline, trap less than 1 cubic ft. in volume fished from a vessel, dock, or shore, and commercial-style, or standard, traps.

Commercial Style Traps

- If you are using commercial style traps you are allowed to use no more than 5 traps per person.
- Each trap must have a mesh size of 1.5 inches.
- Throats may only be located on vertical surfaces and may reach into the trap no more than 6 inches.
- Maximum dimension is 2 ft. x 2 ft. x 2 ft. or have a volume of 8 cubic ft. or less.
- Traps must have a buoy that is made of Styrofoam, cork, PVC, or polystyrene and be a bright color that can be easily distinguished, seen, and located. The buoy must be spherical in shape and be no less than 6 inches in diameter or some other shape that is no shorter than 10 inches in the longest dimension and the width at some point must exceed 5 inches, each buoy must have a legible "R" written on it (stands for recreational) at least 2 inches in height, and no more than 5 ft. of line can float on the surface of the water. Buoy requirements do not apply to traps tied to private property, such as a dock.
- Each trap must have at least three unobstructed escape rings with an inside diameter of 2³/₈ inches and at least one ring must be placed adjacent to each crab retaining chamber on a vertical surface.
- Each trap must have the harvester's name and address permanently affixed.
- Traps may only be worked from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

Closures to Commercial Style Traps

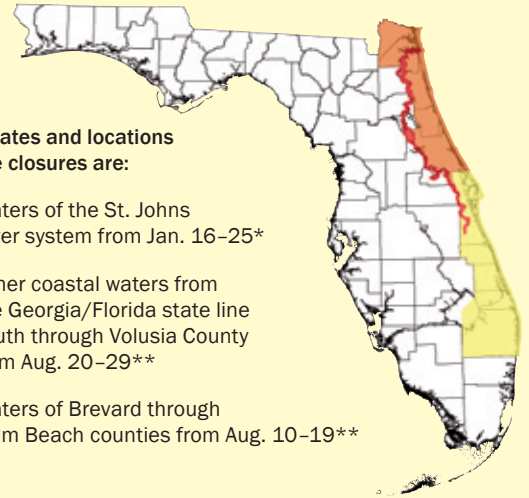
- There are six regional closed seasons to the harvest of blue crabs with traps to help clean up Florida's waters. Traps that remain in the water will be removed and disposed of by FWC.
- The closures apply only to standard recreational and commercial blue crab traps.
- During the closures, these traps must be removed from the water.
- The harvest of blue crabs by other gears, such as dip nets and fold-up traps, is allowed during the closures.
- The closures apply to recreational harvesters who use standard blue crab traps unless the traps are attached to private property, such as a dock.
- Closures will extend from the shoreline out to 3 nautical miles and include all inland waters in these regions.**
- Florida Statutes prohibit tampering with, collecting from or moving traps that are not yours, even during the above closures (F.S. 379.366(4)(b)).

* All waters of the St. Johns River, its associated lakes and tributaries from west of the St. Johns River's intersection with the Intracoastal Canal through and including Lake Hellen Blazes.

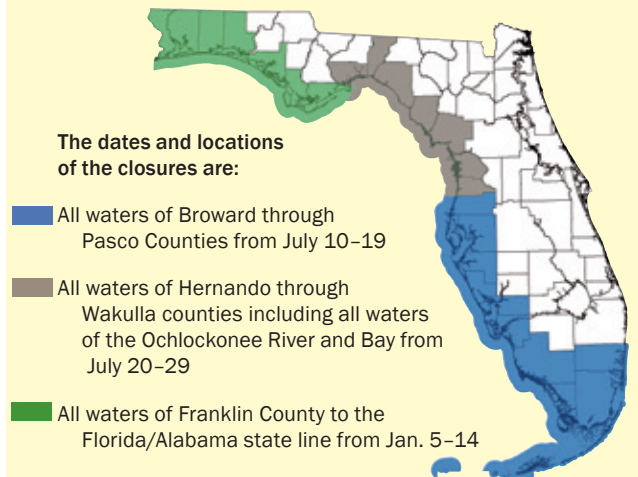
** Except all waters of the St. Johns River system.

In December 2010, the Commission amended the blue crab trap harvest closures so that they will take place every other year. This change will become effective on January 26, 2011, after the St. John's closure occurs from January 15–26, 2011.

Closures Occuring in Even Years



Closures Occuring in Odd Years



Get Involved!

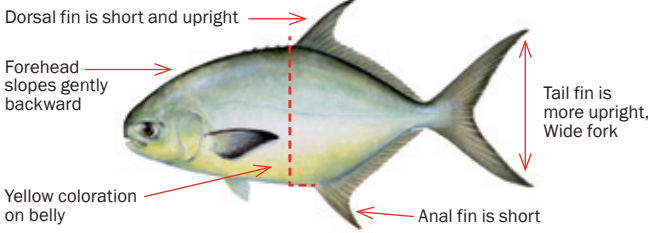
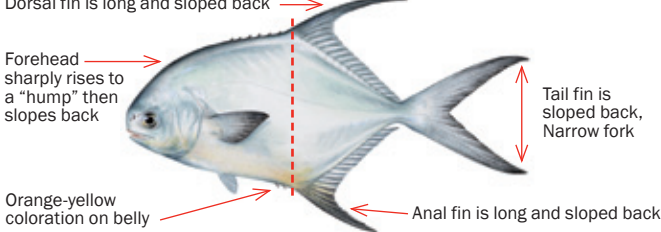
Volunteer groups may remove traps and trap debris from state waters during trap closures when they host an organized cleanup event and obtain authorization from the FWC.

More information about how you can help organize or participate in a cleanup event in your area is available online at:

MyFWC.com/Getinvolved/Getinvolved_Volunteer.htm

You can also email Cleanuptraps@MyFWC.com with questions or comments about volunteer cleanup events.

Florida Pompano & Permit Identification Please visit MyFWC.com/Fishing for identification of African pompano and palometa.

Species	Description	Identification
<p>Florida Pompano <i>Trachinotus carolinus</i></p>	<p>Can reach up to 25" and weigh 8 lbs.</p> <p>Body is generally mostly silver with a darker back.</p> <p>Yellow coloring on belly is common in juveniles and adults.</p> <p>Dorsal fin begins forward of anal fin.</p>	 <p>Dorsal fin is short and upright</p> <p>Forehead slopes gently backward</p> <p>Yellow coloration on belly</p> <p>Anal fin is short</p> <p>Tail fin is more upright, Wide fork</p>
<p>Permit <i>Trachinotus falcatus</i></p>	<p>Can reach up to 45" and weigh 50 lbs.</p> <p>Orange coloring on belly and/or pelvic and anal fin is common in juveniles.</p> <p>May have a black spot behind the pectoral fin.</p> <p>Dorsal fin begins over anal fin.</p>	 <p>Dorsal fin is long and sloped back</p> <p>Forehead sharply rises to a "hump" then slopes back</p> <p>Orange-yellow coloration on belly</p> <p>Anal fin is long and sloped back</p> <p>Tail fin is sloped back, Narrow fork</p>



Florida Wildlife Magazine

Articles and tips for anglers, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts. Order your subscription today online at FloridaWildlifeMagazine.com or call toll-free 866-967-5600.

Commercial Saltwater Regulations

July 2011



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

Table of Contents

Commission Meetings 2

The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)..... 3

Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations 3

NEW Lionfish and Stone Crab Updates..... 4

Federal Gulf Commercial Permits Requirments 5

Commercial Saltwater Fishing License Requirements..... 6

Commercial Saltwater Fishing Gear Limitations 7

“Reef Fish” Regulations..... 8 & 9

Mackerel Regulations..... 10 & 11

Mullet Regulations 11

Blue Crab Regulations..... 12

Stone Crab Regulations..... 13

Spiny Lobster (Crawfish) Regulations..... 13

Shellfish (Oysters, Clams & Mussels) Regulations 14

“Marine Life” Regulations (Tropical/Ornamentals)..... 15 & 23

Puffer Fish Ban 15

Basic Commercial Fishes Regulation Chart..... 16

Ballyhoo Regulations 22

NEW Permit, Florida Pompano and African Pompano Regulations..... 23

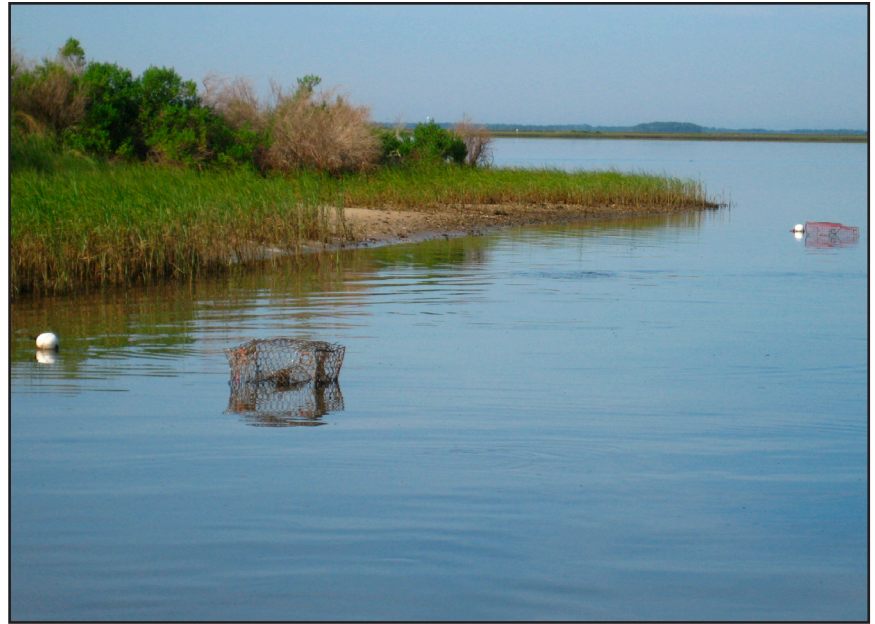
Baitfish Regulations 23

Commercially Prohibited Species 24

Industry Input is Key to Fishery Management 24

Planning a Move? 24

Photo credits: Cover photo courtesy of DOACS



Dear Friends,

Feedback offered by one fisherman or dealer can make a difference. Please keep the suggestions and photos coming, one of your photos could make the cover next year. If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fisheries newsletters, please contact: Dan Ellinor, Commercial Outreach Coordinator, Phone: 850-487-0554, Fax: 850-487-4847, e-mail: daniel.ellinor@MyFWC.com. As always, do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions about commercial fisheries issues.

Sincerely,

Dan Ellinor
 Commercial Outreach Coordinator
 FWC Division of Marine Fisheries
 2590 Executive Center Circle, East, Suite 203
 Tallahassee, Florida 32301
 Telephone 850-487-0554, Extension 204

2011 Commission Meetings

(Dates and locations are subject to change.)

The Florida Constitution authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to enact rules and regulations regarding the state’s fish and wildlife resources.

To do this, the 7 Commissioners meet **5 times** each year to hear staff reports, consider rule proposals and conduct other Commission business. Because stakeholder involvement is a crucial part of the process, we conduct Commission meetings at different locations across the state and offer citizens the opportunity to address the Commission about issues under consideration.

September 7-9, 2011 Naples, The Naples Grande 475 Seagate Drive
 Naples, FL 34103

November 16-17, 2011 Key Largo, Key Largo Grande Resort & Beach Club
 97000 South Overseas Highway Key Largo, FL 33037

For more information about workgroup and advisory board meeting dates, times and locations, and agendas visit our website at MyFWC.com.

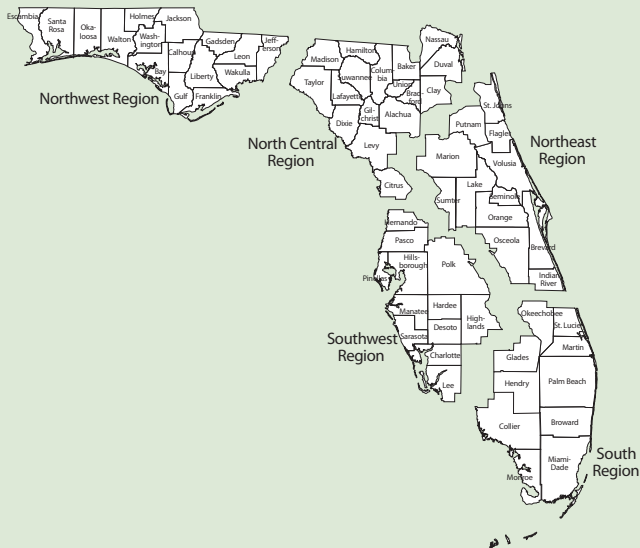
Disclaimer: This unofficial summary has no legal effect and is provided for informational purposes only. For the official regulatory language, please refer to Chapter 379, Florida Statutes, and Chapters 68B and 68E, Florida Administrative Code. Fishery regulations are subject to change. This summary does not include regulatory changes that may have occurred after June 2011. Visit MyFWC.com to view official rule language.

The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)

The Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and fishermen 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 violation of state fisheries, wildlife, or boating laws, 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 hail on VHF Channel 16.

FWC Regional Offices



Northwest Region

3911 Highway 2321
Panama City, FL 32409-1658
(850) 265-3676
Lt. Col. Louie Roberson,
Regional Director

North Central Region

3377 East U.S. Highway 90
Lake City, FL 32055-8795
(386) 758-0525
Roland Garcia,
Regional Director

Northeast Region

1239 Southwest 10th Street
Ocala, FL 34471-0323
(352) 732-1225
Dennis David,
Regional Director

Southwest Region

3900 Drane Field Road
Lakeland, FL 33811-1299
(863) 648-3200
Chris Wynn,
Regional Director

South Region

8535 Northlake Boulevard West
Palm Beach, FL 33412-3303
(561) 625-5122
Charles E. Collins,
Regional Director

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

620 South Meridian Street
Farris Bryant Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 488-4676
(800) 955-8771 TDD

Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations

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 include 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 379, Florida Statutes, are enacted by the Legislature. The official FWC marine fisheries regulations can be found at: myfwc.com. 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. 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.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607
(Toll Free) 888-833-1844
813-348-1711
www.gulfcouncil.org
Email: info@gulfcouncil.org

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4055 Faber Place Drive Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405
843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10
Email: safmc@safmc.net

RESOURCE HOTLINES

To Report Fish Kills: 800-636-0511
To Report Fish Tags: 800-367-4461

For federal contact information:

NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Ave South
St. Petersburg, Fl. 33702
727-824-5301
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

Highly Migratory Species Management Division

727-824-5399
HMS Automated toll free: 800-894-5528
http://nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms

NMFS-Permit Department

728-824-5326
Toll Free: 888-872-TUNA (8862)
http://hmspermits.noaa.gov

Sustainable Fisheries

727-824-5305
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms

Lionfish

Removing lionfish can help Florida's native marine fish habitats and provide a meal at the same time...

Florida has many fascinating saltwater fish species available in a multitude of shapes, sizes and colors. One fish that anglers and divers may encounter is the lionfish. These fish are intriguing in their own right but are not native to Florida and originate from the Indo-Pacific region. These fish are predatory reef fish that use their large spines, which possess venom, to protect themselves while they lay in wait to engulf small reef fish.

Since lionfish were first reported off Florida's Atlantic Coast in 1985, their life history has enabled them to build populations in Florida and other places along the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. Their lack of major predators in these waters has allowed them to increase in numbers, expand their range, and negatively alter the natural systems where they are found. Recently, a lionfish derby in the Florida Keys harvested 531 lionfish.

Commercial divers and anglers can remove lionfish they encounter to help control the numbers of these invasive fish. In Florida, lionfish have been documented in every coastal habitat from the shore around docks to ledges at 1,000 feet so look for these fish and be ready act as you are able. If you are comfortable in doing so, lionfish can be speared, caught with a hand net, as bycatch in traps or you may even catch one while fishing with a rod and reel. Remember, they have venomous spines so care should be taken when handling these fish; stings are rarely fatal.

A saltwater products license is required to harvest and sell lionfish. Be sure to check gear, and other general regulations for their harvest at MyFWC.com Removing lionfish can help Florida's native marine fish habitats and provide a meal at the same time. For more information about lionfish use these links:

USGS: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.html>

NOAA: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/stories/lionfish/factsheet.html>

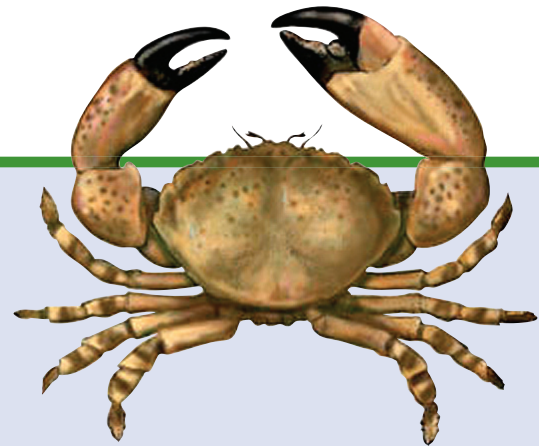


Stone Crab

FWC proposes extension of stone crab protection into federal waters.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) proposes an extension of stone crab protection into federal waters at the June commission meeting, the proposed rules would extend its state management regulations for stone crab into federal waters off Florida.

Currently, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has a federal fishery management plan in place for stone crabs. The Council recently voted to recommend the repeal of this plan to NOAA Fisheries Service (which has jurisdiction to manage stone crabs in federal waters) because the stone crab fishery is centered in Florida and the FWC already plays a leading role in stone crab stock assessments and management.



Most of the stone crab fishery occurs in state waters off Florida, and existing federal regulations for stone crab are the same as the FWC's rules. NOAA Fisheries Service intends to repeal the federal stone crab fishery management plan before this fall's opening of stone crab season on Oct. 15.

The proposed rules also will eliminate a federal form that would no longer be required after repeal of the federal stone crab plan.

Federal Gulf Commercial Permit Requirements

Gulf Commercial Federal 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, 263 13th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701, (telephone 877-376-4877), except for tuna permits, which may be obtained by calling 888-872-8862 or 978-281-9260.

Spiny lobster federal vessel permit or Florida commercial harvester license and certificates.

Required for: 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.

Required for: 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. Permit moratorium in effect. Shrimp trawlers must have a BRD installed on each net rigged for fishing.

Mackerel vessel permit:

Permit required: 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, but existing permits are transferable. There is no moratorium on issuance of Spanish mackerel permits, but these permits are not transferable.

Permit: King mackerel gillnet endorsement

Required for: Harvest of king mackerel in the Florida west coast subzone using a gillnet. Also requires a mackerel vessel permit. Permit moratorium, area restrictions, and restrictions on permit transfer in effect.

Reef fish vessel permit:

Required for: 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. Existing permits are transferable.

Aquacultured liverock permit:

Required for: Possession or harvest of cultivated live rock. Appropriate Florida state permits are also required to land liverock in Florida. Wild live rock possession or harvest is prohibited.

Allowable octocoral permit:

Required for: 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

Required for: 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 contact the Atlantic tunas information line (888-872-8862) or NMFS HMS Management Division at 978-281-9260.

Swordfish vessel permit:

Required for: Vessels must have a directed or incidental limited access permit for commercial harvest and sale of swordfish under quota.

Shark vessel permit

Required for: 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 bag limits.

Dealer Permits

Required for: A dealer permit is required for a dealer to receive Gulf reef fish harvested from federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A Gulf IFQ dealer endorsement is also required. Call 1-866-425-7627 for more information.

Other Requirements & Restrictions

- January 1—April 30 closure of “The Edges” 40 fathom contour, a 390 nautical square mile region northwest of Steamboat Lumps.

Boundaries:

NW = 28°51'N, 85° 16'W

NE = 28°51'N, 85° 04'W

SW = 28°14'N, 84° 54'W

SE = 28° 14'N, 84° 42'W

- Vessel monitoring systems are required onboard all vessels with federal commercial permits for Gulf reef fish, including charter vessels/headboats that also have a commercial reef fish permit.
- Entangling nets may not be used for directed harvest of reef fish.
- Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold
- Vessels with shrimp trawls or entangling net gear aboard may not exceed the recreational reef fish bag limits.
- Venting tools and dehooking devices are required on board all vessels participating in the reef fish fishery.
- The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks is required when using natural baits in the reef fish fishery.
- Commercial vessels are prohibited from retaining reef fish caught under the recreational size and bag/possession limits when commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish are on board.
- Reef fish as bait, except sand perch or dwarf sand perch is prohibited.
- 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 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 roller trawls, and power heads is prohibited.
- Reef fish gear is limited to no more than 3 hooks in a special management zone off Alabama. Nonconforming gear is restricted to bag limits, or for reef fish without a bag limit to 5% by weight of all fish aboard.
- Operators of vessels with Gulf of Mexico reef fish commercial or charter vessel/headboat permits comply with guidelines for proper care and release of incidentally caught smalltooth sawfish and sea turtles must and possess on board specific gear to ensure proper release of such species.
- A state may regulate vessels that are registered in that state and that are fishing in federal waters for species for which there are no federal fishery management plans or applicable federal regulations.
- 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.
- The use of longlines and buoy gear for reef fish is prohibited inside of 50 fathoms west 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 a bag limit, 5% by weight of all fish aboard. See page 15 for new buoy gear regulations.
- 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 Saltwater Fishing License Requirements

A Saltwater Products License (SPL) is required to commercially harvest or sell all saltwater products. An SPL may be issued in the name of an individual or a valid boat registration number issued in the name of the license applicant. Any vessel used to harvest commercial quantities of saltwater products must have a commercial vessel registration. Such license is not transferable if the vessel is sold.

A saltwater product is any marine fish, marine invertebrate or marine plant, except non-living shells and salted, cured, canned, or smoked seafood. Harvest over the recreational bag limit, use of certain gear as required by law, or possession of more than 100 lbs. per person per day of species with no established bag limit is considered commercial harvest. Possession of two or fewer fish with no established bag limit is not considered commercial harvest.

A Restricted Species Endorsement (RS) is required to commercially harvest and sell the following species: Spanish Mackerel, King Mackerel, Black Drum, Spotted Sea Trout, 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, Cobia, Wahoo and Dolphin. Additional species may be designated as restricted by the Commission at any time. Licensed commercial fishermen must show proof of income in the form of trip tickets or out-of-state landings reported under their license (along with a copy of the out of state license) to qualify for the RS. Sales reported under a retail dealer's license cannot be used to qualify for the RS. Additional qualification criteria or exemptions to the income requirements may apply for first-time applicants.

Additional licenses, endorsements, permits or certificates are required to commercially harvest and/or sell: blue crab (VH#, VS#, VN#, VI#), marine life (MLD#, MLN#, MLB#), crawfish/spiny lobster (C# or CD#), stone crab (X# or I#), sponges (Q#); to harvest shrimp (LS#, DS# and TB#) and clams (KL#) in designated areas; 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 (P#). Federal permits may also be required. Please contact the Federal Permitting office at 727-824-5326 prior to obtaining an SPL in order to determine if required Federal Permits are available for purchase. The "Basic Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations" chart on pages 16-22 lists additional requirements for

regulated species. These requirements apply even if a species is harvested as allowable incidental bycatch.

A wholesale dealer's license is required to purchase saltwater products from a producer and sell products to retail dealers or other wholesale dealers. A retail dealer's license is required to purchase saltwater products from a wholesale dealer and sell to the consumer unless licensed by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants. A wholesale dealer's license is not required for products entering the state through interstate or international commerce as long as the products are continuously bonded during transit through the state. Wholesale dealers are responsible for reporting all purchases from a producer to the commission.

Some licenses, endorsements or permits may not be available at this time. Contact the licensing office to determine license requirements for new applicants. Additional information and applications are available online at myfwc.com or by contacting the Office of Licensing and Permitting at (850) 487-3122 or SPLMAIL@myfwc.com.



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 in addition to penalties levied by the court. 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) 896-8626.

DID YOU KNOW...

- 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 for 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.

Commercial Saltwater Fishing Gear Limitations

The chart on pages 16-22 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 3).

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 are 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. Check rule number 68B-4.0081(3)(e) for how to measure a net. Tying, connecting, or fastening two or more nets together in any way so as to exceed 500 square feet of mesh area is prohibited.

No net may have more meshes attached per foot of corkline or leadline than 14 divided by the bar measurement of the mesh in the net. 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 or 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 in addition to court assessed criminal penalties

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 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 this 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 3 inches high and ¾ inches wide. Possession of fish traps not otherwise allowed by rule is prohibited in state.

Each black sea bass trap must have the trap owner's saltwater products license number permanently attached to the trap. Each buoy attached to such trap shall have the letter "B" and the owner's saltwater products license number affixed to it in legible figures at least 1.5 inches high.

Trap tagging requirements apply to stone crab, spiny lobster and blue crab. Stone crab, blue crab, and spiny lobster trap construction and trap/buoy/vessel marking specifications are summarized on pages 12-13. 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 defined by longitude and latitude in rule 68B-38(2), F.A.C.

Trap theft or molestation is a felony crime; penalties include permanent loss of license and trap certificates in addition to court assessed penalties.

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.

“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.

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 or

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 all reef fish species 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 that species. During any such closure, the purchase and sale of that 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	Yellowedge Grouper	Lesser Amberjack	Cubera Snapper	Schoolmaster	Gray Triggerfish
Graysby	Yellowfin Grouper	Almaco Jack	Dog Snapper	Silk Snapper	Golden Tilefish
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 Regulations

SNAPPERS	State Waters Florida	Federal Waters Gulf of Mexico	Federal Waters South Atlantic
Red	2 per person per day Atlantic: 20" TL Gulf: 13" TL	13" TL The Commercial red snapper fishery is managed under an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system. Anyone commercial fishing for red snapper must possess (IFQ) allocation and follow the established reporting protocol.	***CLOSED effective Jan 4, 2010***
Vermilion	Gulf: 10" TL Atlantic: 12" TL	10" TL	12" TL 315,523 lbs gutted weight (Jan-June); 302,523 lbs gutted weight (July-Dec)
Lane	8" TL	8" TL	8" TL
Gray (Mangrove)	12" FL	12" TL	12" TL
Mutton	16" TL May and June: 10 per person per day or 10 per trip (whichever is more restrictive)	16" TL	16" TL May and June: possession limited to 10 per person per day or per trip (whichever is more restrictive)
Yellowtail / Dog / Mahogany	12" TL	12" TL	12" TL
Schoolmaster	10" TL	12" TL	12" TL
Blackfin / Silk / Queen	12" TL		12" TL Effective January 31, 2011, harvest and retention of queen snapper, silk snapper beyond 240 feet in federal waters of the South Atlantic is prohibited
Black / Wenchman			
Cubera	12" TL 2 per person (not to exceed 2 per boat) for fish 30" TL or larger	12" TL	12" TL 2 per person (not to exceed 2 per boat) for fish 30" TL or larger off Florida
Reef fish as Bait	all fish must be landed in whole condi- tion; legal-sized whole fish may be used as bait but counted against bag limit	only sand perch & dwarf sand perch may be used for bait	must have heads and fins intact through landing

Commercial Regulations

GROUPERS	State Waters - Florida	Federal Waters Gulf of Mexico	Federal Waters South Atlantic
Goliath/Nassau	Harvest prohibited	Harvest prohibited	Harvest prohibited
Black	Gulf: 24" TL Atlantic & Monroe Co: Closed Jan-Apr	24" TL The Commercial grouper fishery is managed under an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system. Anyone commercial fishing for grouper must possess (IFQ) allocation and follow the established reporting protocol. Jan 1 - Apr 30 "Edges" closure	24" TL Closed Jan-Apr
Gag	Gulf: 24" TL Atlantic & Monroe Co: Closed Jan-Apr	24" TL Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System Jan 1 - Apr 30 "Edges" closure	24" TL Closed Jan-Apr
Red	Atlantic & Monroe Co: 20" TL, Closed Jan-Apr Gulf: 18" TL	18" TL Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System Jan 1 - Apr 30 "Edges" closure	20" TL Closed Jan-Apr
Scamp	Gulf: 16" TL Atlantic & Monroe Co: 20" TL, Closed Jan-Apr	16" TL Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System Jan 1 - Apr 30 "Edges" closure	20" TL Closed Jan-Apr
Yellowfin	20" TL Atlantic & Monroe Co: Closed Jan-Apr	20" TL Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System Jan 1 - Apr 30 "Edges" closure	20" TL Closed Jan-Apr
Yellowmouth	20" TL Atlantic & Monroe Co: Closed Jan-Apr	Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System Jan 1 - Apr 30 "Edges" closure	20" TL Closed Jan-Apr
Rock Hind/Red Hind	Atlantic & Monroe Co: Closed Jan-Apr	Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System Jan 1 - Apr 30 "Edges" closure	Closed Jan-Apr
Yellowedge/Misty Deep Water Grouper	N/A	No size limit - Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System	N/A
Warsaw/Speckled Hind Deep Water Grouper	Commercial harvest and sale prohibited	No size limit - Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System	1 of each per vessel trip May not be sold or traded: no transfer at sea
Snowy Deep Water Grouper	N/A	No size limit - Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System	No size limit.
Coney/Graysby/Tiger	Atlantic & Monroe Co: Closed Jan-Apr	N/A	Closed Jan-Apr
Golden Tilefish	N/A	Tilefish is managed under an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system. Anyone commercial fishing for Tilefish must possess (IFQ) allocation and follow the established reporting protocol.	No size limit - Annual quota = 295,000 lbs. with 4,000 lb. trip limit; trip limit reduces to 300 lbs. if 75% of quota has been taken on or before Sept 1
Tilefish (All: Golden, Goldface, Blueline, Sand, Blackline, Anchor)	N/A	Tilefish is managed under an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system. Anyone commercial fishing for Tilefish must possess (IFQ) allocation and follow the established reporting protocol.	N/A
Black Sea Bass	10" TL	10" TL (state rules apply)	10" TL Open June 1 - May 31

JACKS	State Waters - Florida	Federal Waters Gulf of Mexico	Federal Waters South Atlantic
Almaco jack	None	None	March, April, and May
Banded rudderfish	14" - 22" FL	None	March, April, and May
Greater amberjack	36" FL	Will close 12:01 a.m. local time June 18th, 2011.	March, April, and May
Lesser amberjack	14" - 22" FL	None	March, April, and May

King Mackerel (Kingfish)

King mackerel are divided into two separate fisheries: the Atlantic fishery and the Gulf-Atlantic fishery. 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 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 border.

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

King mackerel must be at least 24 inches in fork length to be harvested and a saltwater products license, a restricted species endorsement and a federal king mackerel permit must be held to harvest king mackerel commercially.

Colored areas in the vessel/trip limits chart correspond to colored area in the maps.

King Mackerel Vessel/Trip Limits:

Nassau, Duval, 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 Miami/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

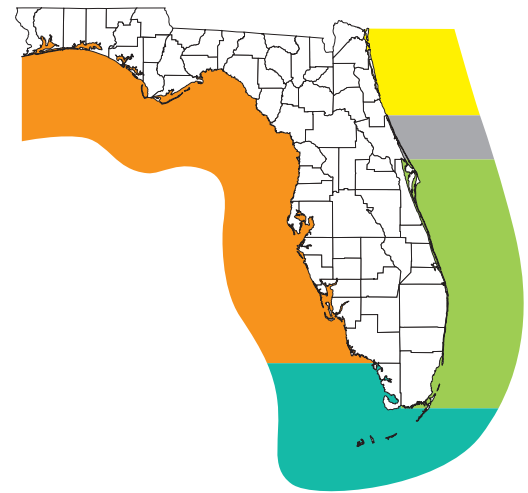
Monroe County

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 EEZ 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

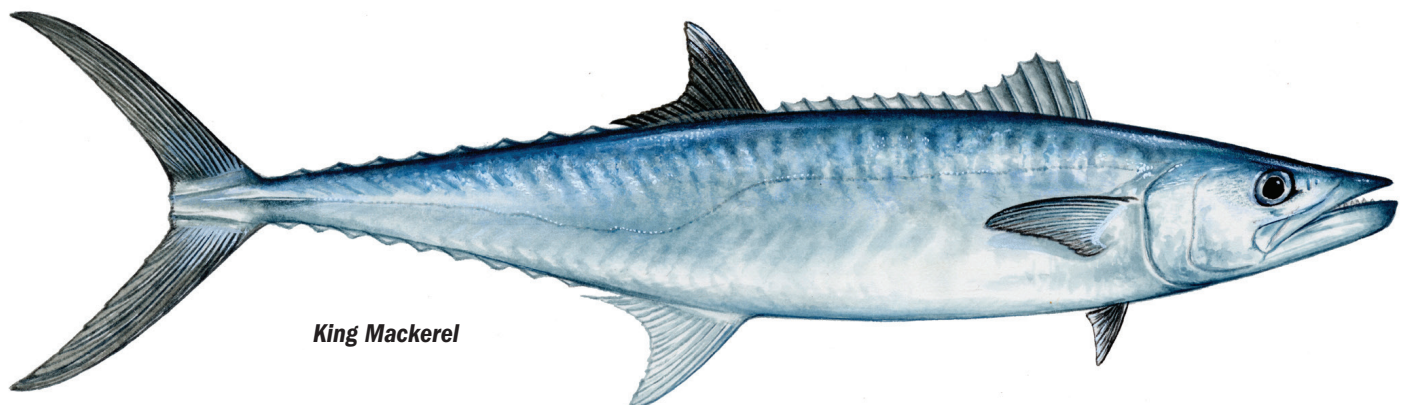
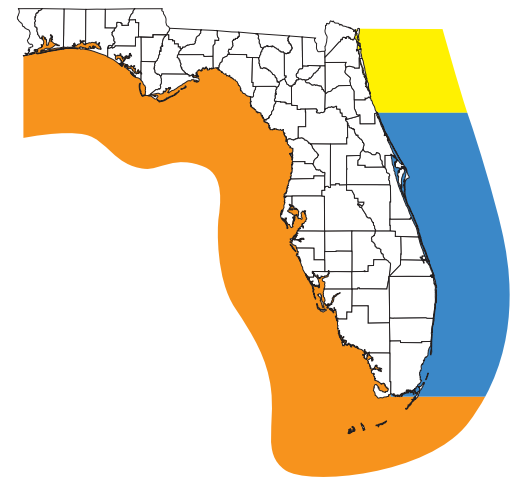
All Gulf coast counties except Monroe County

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

April 1 - October 31



November 1 - March 31



King Mackerel

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 Miami/Dade/Monroe County border to the edge 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.

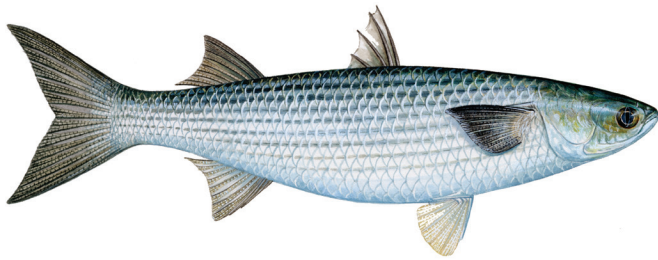
Spanish Mackerel Vessel/Trip Limits:

Eastern	
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.
Western	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	Unlimited harvest
From the date the EEZ closes until Mar. 31	500 lbs. daily vessel limit

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 or haul seines (no larger than 500 square feet, and no more than two may be fished per vessel), hook and line gear; and by spearing is prohibited. Spearfishing 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

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.

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, 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 Miami/Dade/Monroe County line.

During February, commercial harvest prohibited.

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.

* Refer to official area descriptions in the Mullet Rule 68B-39, F.A.C.

Blue Crab Regulations

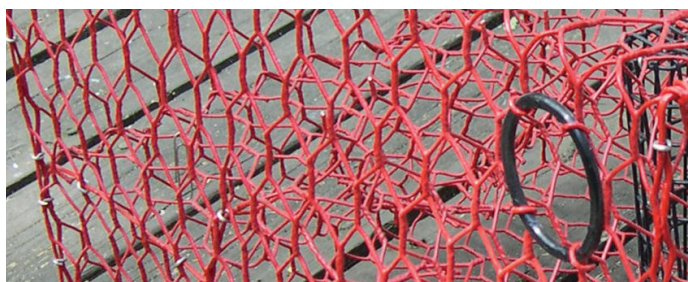
The blue crab effort management plan for the commercial blue crab fishery limits both the number of fishermen and traps in the blue crab fishery. A hard crab endorsement (VH, VN), soft crab (VS) and a blue crab incidental take (VI) endorsement can be associated with either an individual or vessel SPL. The cost of a blue crab endorsement fee is \$125 for a hard shell endorsement, \$250 for a soft shell endorsement and \$25 for the incidental take endorsement. **Endorsements must be renewed by September 30.** From these endorsement fees, \$25 is dedicated to the trap retrieval program with the retrieval fee waived for up to 5 traps retrieved during trap retrieval. Traps retrieved during closed season by FWC will be assessed a retrieval fee of \$10 per trap. Commission issued blue crab trap tags will be required on blue crab traps an annual fee of 50 cents per trap tag and can be ordered in increments of 50. Leasing or renting of endorsements, tags or traps is prohibited. Blue crab endorsements will be transferable from May 1, through the end of February, but the buyer must purchase the endorsement and trap tags. The buyer must also work no fewer than 14 days fishing blue crab on the buyer's/endorsement holder's vessel and document this activity at the time of transfer. **Requalification: Beginning with license year 2010/2011, the holder of a blue crab effort management endorsement must requalify for the endorsement number by documenting landings in at least one of the three previous license years. Each endorsement number will then be valid for three years from the date of requalification, but must still be renewed annually.**

A **hard crab (VH) endorsement** is required to harvest commercial quantities of hard shell blue. A VH endorsement entitles the owner to fish up to 600 inshore blue crab traps, and an additional 400 traps offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, **per endorsed SPL.** A total of 150 soft crabs per endorsed SPL may be landed daily as bycatch. Fishermen can maintain as many as three shedding tanks without possessing a soft shell crab endorsement.

A **soft crab (VS) endorsement** is required to harvest commercial quantities of soft shell crabs. A VS endorsement allows up to 400 peeler traps to be fished and allows the holder to operate a blue crab shedding facility with greater than 3 shedding tanks. Entities with more than one qualifying SPL are entitled to receive up to 250 additional traps per additional endorsed SPL.

A **hard crab (VN) endorsement** is a nontransferable blue crab endorsement that allows the endorsement holder to deploy 100 hard shell blue crab traps in any state waters where blue crab traps are allowed. A total of 150 soft crabs per endorsed SPL may be landed daily as bycatch. Fishermen can maintain as many as three shedding tanks without possessing a soft crab endorsement. **The non-transferable blue crab endorsement cannot be sold or otherwise transferred.** If the holder of a VN endorsement purchases a VH endorsement the non-transferable endorsement shall be forfeited.

A **blue crab (VI) incidental take endorsement** allows persons possessing a valid stone crab endorsement or persons who can demonstrate landings of blue crabs as bycatch using legal shrimping gear, to harvest and sell up to 200 pounds of blue crabs as bycatch, provided the amount does not exceed 200 pounds of blue crabs per vessel per trip.



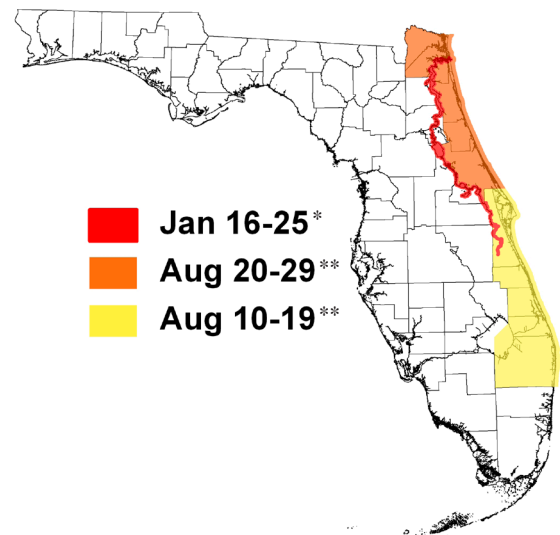
There are six regional closed seasons to the harvest of blue crabs with traps to help clean up Florida's waters. Traps that remain in the water will be removed and disposed of by FWC.

The dates and locations of the closures are:

- All waters of the St. Johns River system from Jan. 16–25*
- All other coastal waters from the Georgia/Florida state line south through Volusia County from Aug. 20–29**
- All waters of Brevard through Palm Beach counties from Aug. 10–19**

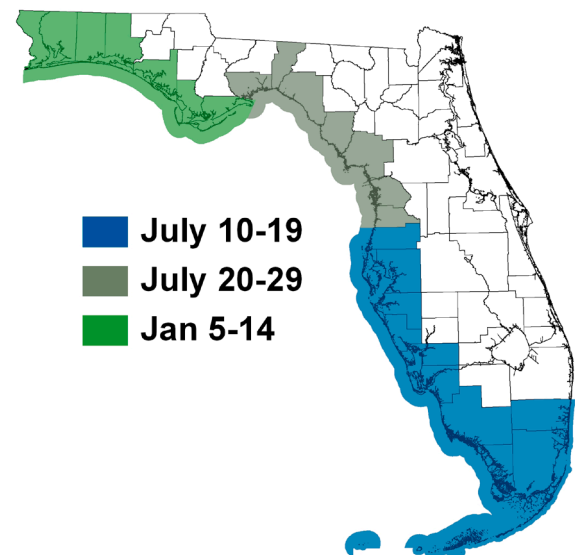
* All waters of the St. Johns River, its associated lakes and tributaries from west of the St. Johns River's intersection with the Intracoastal Canal through and including Lake Hellen Blazes

** Except all waters of the St. Johns River system



Blue crab closures that occur in odd years:

- All waters of Broward through Pasco Counties from July 10–19
- All waters of Hernando through Wakulla Counties including all waters Ochlockonee River and Bay from July 20–29
- All waters of Franklin County to the Florida/Alabama state line from Jan. 5–14



Stone Crab Regulations

Size and bag limits, closed seasons and license requirements are found in the chart on pages 16-22. An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) and Stone crab (X#) endorsement is required to commercially harvest and sell any stone crab. 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 valid 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 be 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 U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, 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 16-22.

An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) and Crawfish (C#) or (CD#) 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 any egg-bearing 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 valid 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 be 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. A dive permit was 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#. 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 are forfeited to the FWC.

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.



Shellfish (Oysters, Clams & 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 through 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 seasons and gear restrictions are listed in the chart on page 18.

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 reef from which they were harvested. Undersized oysters may number no more than five percent (by count) of 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 and transport and sale of bycatch or oysters

taken intetenchenloly is prohibited. Wholesale and retail dealers may not sell oysters unless they are labeled and traceable to the point of harvest.

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	Closed days/Areas/Bag limit
June 1 - Aug. 31	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.
July 1 – Sept. 30	20 Bags per person per day or vessel, which ever is less.
Sept. 1 - Nov. 15	Harvest is prohibited on Saturdays or Sundays.
Oct 1 - June 30	20 bags per person per day.
Nov. 16 - May 31	Harvest is allowed any day of the week, except upon notice of DACS, harvest will be prohibited on Saturdays and Sundays.

*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 page 16. 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 abutting property that is used for residential purposes or within 75 feet of any canal bank.

“Marine Life” Regulations (Tropical/Ornamentals) *more information on page 23*

Marine Life – Fish*		
Species	Remarks/Bag Limits ■	Size Limits (total length unless otherwise noted)
Angelfish▲	75 per person per day or 150 per vessel per day, whichever is less	Gray, French Angelfish: 1 1/2 -8” slot limit Blue, Queen Angelfish: 1 3/4 -8” slot limit Rock Beauty: 2-5” slot limit
Butterflyfish▲	50 per day/100 per vessel**	1-4” slot limit
Filefish▲/Triggerfish▲	Except Gray and Ocean Triggerfish	
Gobies▲		Maximum size limit: 2”
Hamlets▲/Seabasses▲	Except reef fish† and Longtail Bass	
Jawfish▲		Maximum size limit: 4”
Parrotfish▲		Maximum size limit: 12”
Porkfish	75 per day/150 per vessel**	Minimum size limit: 1 1/2”
Pufferfish▲, Burrfish▲, Balloonfish▲, Porcupinefish▲	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	
Seahorses▲	400 dwarf seahorses per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less	
Tangs▲ and Surgeonfish▲		Maximum size limit (fork length): 9”
Wrasse▲/Hogfish▲/Razorfish	Except Hogfish snapper; Spanish, Cuban Hogfish: 50 of each per day/100 total combined per vessel**	Spanish Hogfish: 2-8” slot limit Cuban Hogfish: 3-8” slot limit

Marine Life - Invertebrates	
Species	Remarks/Bag Limits ■
Anemones	Giant Caribbean anemone (Condylactis spp): 200 per day/400 per vessel***; Corallimorphs: 100 per day/200 per vessel**; Zoanthids: 1 gallon per day/2 gallons per vessel**; Corallimorphs and Zoanthids: must be harvested with a flexible blade no wider than 2”. Corallimorphs harvested as single polyps only.
Corals, Hard (Stony)	Harvest prohibited
Corals, Soft (Octocorals)	Harvest of attached substrate within 1” of octocoral base is permitted; harvest closes in response to federal octocoral closures
Crab, Emerald (Green Clinging)	400 per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs; Scarlet reef hermit (Paguristes cadenati): 1 quart per day/2 quarts per vessel**; Blue-legged/tricolor hermit crabs (Clibanarius tricolor): 1 quart per day/per vessel, whichever is less
Live Rock	Aquaculture only; live rock lease and/or state and/or federal permits required
Octopods	Except Common Octopus
Sea Fans	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
Siphonophores/Hydroids	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
Sponges	Except Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef, and Velvet Sponges; harvest of substrate within 1” of base permitted north and west of the southernmost point of Egmont Key, no substrate allowed south of Egmont Key
Starfish	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Starsnails (Lithopoma americanum, Lithopoma tectum, Astralium phoebium)	One gallon per day/ 2 gallons per vessel**
Urchins	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

*MLD or MLN required for use and possession of quinaldine used to harvest tropical fish (Special Activity License also required).

■ MLB endorsement holders using gears other than those listed in 68B-42.007 F.A.C.: 20 total marine life finfish per day.

▲Collection prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. See Chapter 68B-5 F.A.C. for other prohibited species including Bigeyes, Bonnetmouths, Congers, Dragonets, Goatfishes, Muraenesocids, Pikeblennies, Sand Stargazers, Scorpionfish, Sea chubs, False Morays, Soles, Spaghetti Eels, Squirrelfishes, Stargazers, Threadfins, and Tonguefishes. Collection of most fish species less than 8 inches total length is prohibited within John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park unless a minimum size limit is otherwise established by rule or law.

**Bag limit is per unique SPL number with a marine life endorsement; vessel possession limit is per vessel with two or more unique SPL numbers with marine life endorsements aboard.

†Such as groupers, snappers, sea bass, and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on page 8-9.



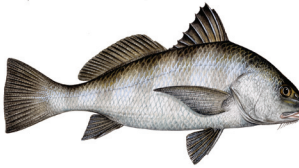




***Bag limit is per unique SPL number with unique marine life endorsement; vessel possession limit is per vessel with two or more unique SPL numbers with unique marine life endorsements aboard.




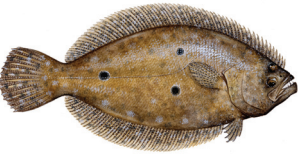





Other Marine Life fish include■: Basslets▲, Batfish▲, Blackbar Soldierfish▲, Blennies▲, Brotulas (Black and Key), Cardinalfish▲, Clingfish▲, Cornetfish▲, Damselfish▲, Eels (Moray and Snake) ▲, Frogfish▲, Hawkfish▲, High-hat▲/Jackknife-fish▲/Spotted Drum▲/Cubbyu▲, Pipefish▲, Reef Croakers▲, Sleepers, Yellow Stingray, Sweepers▲, Toadfish▲, Trumpetfish▲, and Trunkfish▲/Cowfish▲


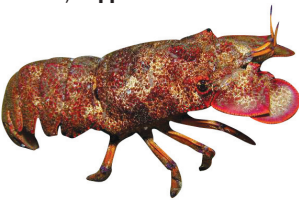
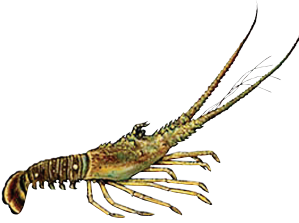


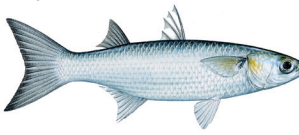


Other Marine Life invertebrates include: Brittlestars, Decorator (Furcate Spider) Crab, False Arrow Crab, Nimble Spray (Urchin) Crab, Red Mithrax Crab, Red Ridged Clinging Crab, Spotted Porcelain Crab, Yellowline Arrow Crab, Fileclams, Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs, Sea Cucumbers, Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails, Featherduster Worms, and Calcareous Tube Worms.

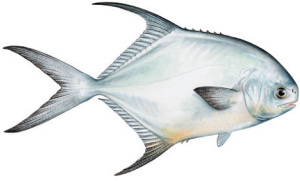







Marine Life plants include: Coralline red algae, Caulerpa, Halimeda/Mermaid’s Fan/Mermaid’s Shaving Brush


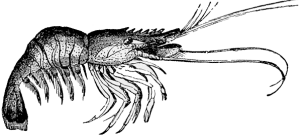

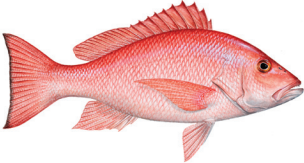

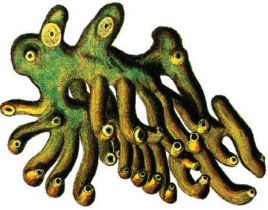

Basic Commercial Fishes Regulation Chart



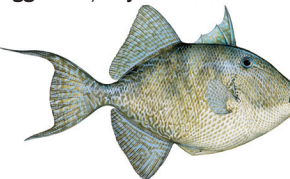
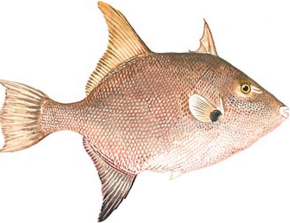
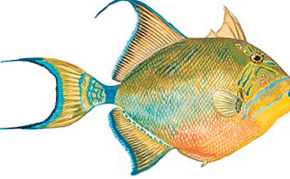
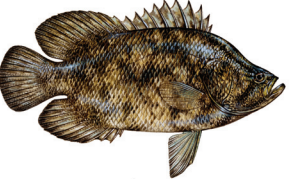
Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Baitfish 	None	None	None	Local baitfish restrictions apply. See: Baitfish Regulations. p. 23
Ballyhoo (halfbeaks, balao, and silver stripe halfbeaks) 	None	See page 22		*Lampara Net Endorsement (L) and/or Purse Seine (PS) endorsement may be required. Allowable gear: Cast net, hook and line, 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. p. 22
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. Bag limit applies regardless of the possession or use of additional vessels. Harvest prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Blue Crab 	5"			(VH,VS,VN) and*RS required. Gear and harvest specifications and size and bag limits differ for the various fishery segments (bycatch, peeler crabs, or live bait).
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 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 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. A Brevard County Clam License is required to harvest hard clams in Brevard County. See: Hard Clam Regulations on p. 14.

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
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	*FP & RS required. FP for Atlantic. Allowable gear: hook and line, 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	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs. shrimp trawls	None	*RS required. Allowable gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line, 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 pgs. 8 & 9.	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations. pgs. 8 & 9		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations. pgs. 8 & 9
Herring (blueback and river herring) 	None	None	None	Allowable gear: hook and line only. Spearing prohibited.
Hogfish ▲ 	12" FL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish
Horseshoe Crab 	None	25 crab per person per day or 100 per person per day w/ ML#	None	Allowable gear: by hand or gig. 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. p. 9		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations on p. 9

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Jellyfish 	None	None	None	Harvest 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 3 1/2" in the wing and 1 1/2" in the bag, no more than 2 wing nets with a perimeter no greater than 40 feet and a mesh size no less than 3 1/2", or more than 2 dip nets is prohibited.
Lobster, Slipper 	None	None	None	Possession of eggbearing lobster prohibited. Possession prohibited in designated area 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 - 250 lobster vessel limit. Spiny Lobster Regulations page 13	April 1 - Aug. 5	*RS, C# required. CD# required for divers. Allowable gear: by diving, traps, hand-held net, hoop net (diameter no longer 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 page 13
Mackerel, King ▲ 	24" FL	See: King Mackerel Regulations. p. 10	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 and spearing.
Mackerel, Spanish ▲ 	12" FL	See: Spanish Mackerel Regulations. p. 11	Regional	*RS required. Allowable Gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line, or by spearing.
Mullet, Silver (white, fantail, or redeye) ▲ 	None	See: Mullet Regulations on page 11	Regional	*RS required. See Mullet Regulations on on page 11.
Mullet, Striped (black) ▲ 	11" FL w/ a 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish	See: Mullet Regulations on page 11	Regional	*RS required. See Mullet Regulations on on page 11.
Oysters 	3" in greatest dimension.	20 bags per person or vessel per day, whichever is less. Additional regional limits apply. See: Oyster Regulations. p. 14	Regional	*AP required in Apalachicola Bay. Allowable gear: by hand, diving, swimming, or leaning from vessels, wading, and by tongs. Use and possession 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. 14.

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Permit ▲ † 	See new regulations at MyFWC.com			See new regulations at MyFWC.com
Pompano ▲ † 	See new regulations at MyFWC.com			See new regulations at MyFWC.com
Pompano, African · † 	See new regulations at MyFWC.com			See new regulations at MyFWC.com
Red Porgy ▲ 	14" TL	50 lbs. daily vessel limit (Atlantic)	Jan 1 - April 30	Incidental bycatch of Red Porgy harvested in the Atlantic during the closed season is limited to one fish and may not be sold.
Scallops, Calico 	None	250 individual meats per 1lb. sample.	None	Bycatch of other species prohibited. Gear and harvest specifications apply.
Shad (Alabama, American, hickory) 	None	10 fish per person	None	Allowable gear: hook and line only. Spearing 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. Spearing and filleting prohibited. Finning and removing heads 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. Gear and license requirements apply when retained as bycatch. Harvest and landing of some species prohibited. Hook and line only in state waters. See: Prohibited Species on p. 24.
Sheepshead ▲ † 	12" TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs. shrimp trawls	None	*RS required. Allowable gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line, and spearing.

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
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 pgs. 15 & 23. The term "Live Shellfish" includes mollusks and echinoderms such as clams, snails, starfish, brittle stars, urchins, sanddollars, 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.
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.	Regional	*RS required; other licenses required in Tampa Bay and St. Johns River (TB#, DS#, LS#). Regional harvest and gear restrictions, size and bag limits, closed seasons, license requirements, and fishing gear limitations apply. Shrimp may not be harvested as live bait and food shrimp on the same trip. Turtle Excluder Device (TED) required on all otter and skimmer trawls, except single try net or roller from trawl. Otter and skimmer trawls must have bycatch reduction device (BRD) installed.
Shrimp, Other 		See: "Marine Life" Regulations. pgs 15 and 23		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on pgs. 15 and 23.
Snappers ▲ 		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations. pgs. 8 & 9		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations. pgs. 8 & 9.
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.
Sponges, Others 		See: "Marine Life" Regulations. pgs. 15 & 23		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on pgs 15 and 23.
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 limit is prohibited. Purchase and sale prohibited after Sept. 5 (does not apply to imported fish). Size limit applies to sale of fish.

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Stone Crab 	2 3/4" claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons	May 16 - Oct. 14	*RS, X# or I# 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 page 13.
Swordfish 	47" lower jaw FL with head attached or 29" cleithrum to keel length if head removed, or 33 lbs. dressed	None	None	*FP required for harvest and sale. Spearing 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 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 ▲ 	14" FL	None		Size limit applies to imported fish
Triggerfish, Ocean 	None	None	None	Harvest prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Triggerfish, Other 		See: "Marine Life" Regulations. pgs. 15 and 23		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on pgs. 15 and 23.
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. Spearing prohibited. Size limit applies to sale of fish.




Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Tropical Ornamentals 		See: "Marine Life" Regulations. pgs. 15 and 23		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on pgs. 15 and 23..
Wahoo ▲ 	None	500 lb. Commercial Daily Limit	None	*RS & FP required on the Atlantic coast.
Weakfish (gray seatrout or yellow-mouth trout) ▲ 	12" TL	None	None	Spearing is prohibited. Size limit applies to sale of fish.

Chart Key

▲ Must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (head & tail intact)	C# = crawfish endorsement required.	MLD#, MLB#, MLN# = marine life endorsement required to species designated as "Marine Life" including "Live Shellfish" species such as urchins, starfish, starsnails, sanddollars.
† Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait or any snatch hook.	CD# = commercial dive permit required to harvest spiny lobster for commercial purposes by diving.	P# = pompano endorsement applies to Cape Sable-Hurricane Pass area federal gill net fishery only.
TL = total length measure; Tip of snout to tip of tail.	DS#/LS# = in St. Johns River, food shrimp or live shrimp production license required (moratorium in place for DS).	Q# = sponge endorsement.
FL = fork length measure; Tip of snout to fork of tail.	FP = federal permit.	RS = restricted species endorsement.
* 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	I# = 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#.	TB# = in Tampa Bay, food shrimp production license required (moratorium in place).
AP = Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services Apalachicola Bay Oyster harvesting license.	L# = lampara net endorsement required to harvest more than 10 gallons of Ballyhoo per vessel per day.	VH#, VS#, VN#, VI# = blue crab endorsements required to sell or harvest blue crab, harvest in commercial quantities, or harvest with more than 5 traps.
		X# = stone crab endorsement.

Ballyhoo Regulations

Ballyhoo (halfbeaks, balao, and silver stripe halfbeaks) License Requirements and Bag Limits by Method of Harvest and Gear Used:

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 both Purse Seine (PS) and Lampara Net (L) endorsements.	10 boxes of fish per vessel (limit one trip per day). ‡
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).

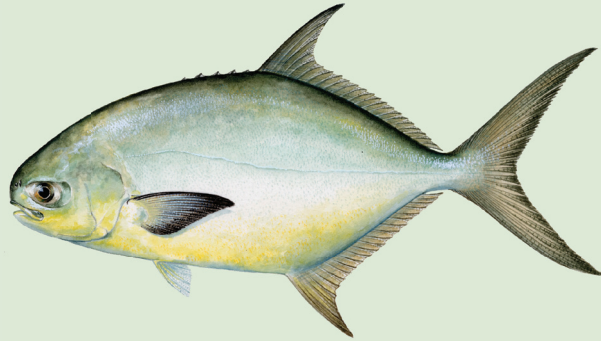
New Commercial Regulations for Permit, Florida Pompano, and African Pompano....

In June 2011, the Commission will amend the rule for permit, Florida pompano, and African pompano in order to provide increased protection for these important species. In the past, there were no regulations for these fish in federal waters adjacent to Florida.

The rule amendments proposed would create two separate management areas in Florida for permit. The "Special Permit Zone" (SPZ) would include all state and federal waters south of a line running due east from Cape Florida and south of a line running due west from Cape Sable. State and federal waters north of the SPZ would make up the other permit management zone. The commercial harvest of permit will be prohibited in the SPZ. While harvesting outside the SPZ there will be no direct harvest for permit; however there will be an allowable incidental bycatch trip limit of 250 fish when fishing in federal waters with nets targeting other species and allow the transit through state waters. In addition, the proposed rules would extend commercial gear, trip limits and size limits of permit, Florida

pompano and African pompano into federal waters.

A final public hearing on these rules will be held in June. For final regulation updates on these new rules please go to www.MyFWC.com/fishing/saltwater/commercial/. The new regulations take effect August 31, 2011.



Baitfish Regulations

Basic size and bag limits, closed seasons, license requirements, and gear allowances are listed on pages 6 and 7. 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 3.

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 can be no greater than 500 square feet in area (12'7" radius). Cast nets and/or modified lampara nets that 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.

"Marine Life" Regulations (Tropical/Ornamentals)

Marine Life Chart on Page 15

Florida's commercial marine life fishery involves harvest of live saltwater finfish, invertebrates and plants, primarily for the aquarium trade. These organisms are landed and sold alive to wholesalers, retailers and aquarium owners. An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) and Marine Life tiered endorsement is required for harvest of marine life species listed in rule 68B-42, F.A.C.

Marine Life Transferable Dive (MLD)

Required to harvest commercial quantities of listed marine life species using allowable gears, including harvest by diving. Initially issued to applicants with a reported income of at least \$5000 from landings of marine life species or live rock during one of the license years between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2003. The MLD is transferable to another person with an SPL & RS. **Requalification for this endorsement begins in 2010/2011, based on prior years landings.**

Marine Life Bycatch Endorsement (MLB)

Required to harvest commercial quantities of marine life as bycatch which does not include harvest by diving. For persons who collected marine life primarily as bycatch in other fisheries, with gear other than diving gear, and with reported sales of less than \$5000 during one of the qualifying years. The bycatch endorsement is also transferable.

Marine Life Non-Transferable Dive (MLN)

Required to harvest commercial quantities of marine life by diving using dive gear for persons who had less than \$5000 in marine life landings or held a state live rock lease or federal live rock permit during one of the qualifying years and wish to harvest by diving. This endorsement is only transferable to immediate family members in the event of death or disability.

Puffer Fish Ban

Puffer fish caught in Brevard County have been found to contain saxitoxin, which causes a response similar to paralytic shellfish poisoning in humans. A long term prohibition of the harvest of puffer fish on Florida's central east coast is necessary until it is determined that saxitoxin is no longer present in this area. The FWC has approved a rule that prohibits the harvest of all puffer fish (Genus Sphoeroides) from the waters of Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martian counties.

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 - unless from lease
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, Atlantic Angel Shark, Bigeye Sixgill Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Dusky Shark, Galapagos Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Night Shark, Sevengill Shark, Sixgill Shark, Smalltail Shark, Lemon Shark, Silky Shark, Sandbar Shark and Caribbean Sharpnose Shark		Urchin - Longspine

Commercially Prohibited Species

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 live 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.

Industry Input is Key to Fishery Management

Feedback offered by one fisherman or dealer can make a difference. Fishermen who cannot attend Commission meetings are encouraged to send comments to the Commission and to respond to questionnaires. The Division of Marine Fisheries Management Commercial Outreach Program can be reached by phone at 850-487-0554 Extension 204 or by e-mail at daniel.ellinor@myfwc.com or look for updates on the web at MyFWC.com.

Planning a Move?

Don't forget to let the office of licensing and permitting know your new mailing address! 850-487-3122

For Additional Information Please Contact:
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Division of Marine Fisheries Management
 2590 Executive Center Circle East Suite 203
 Berkley Building
 Tallahassee, Florida 32301
MyFWC.com



PRFRT. STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 TALLAHASSEE, FL
 PERMIT 20

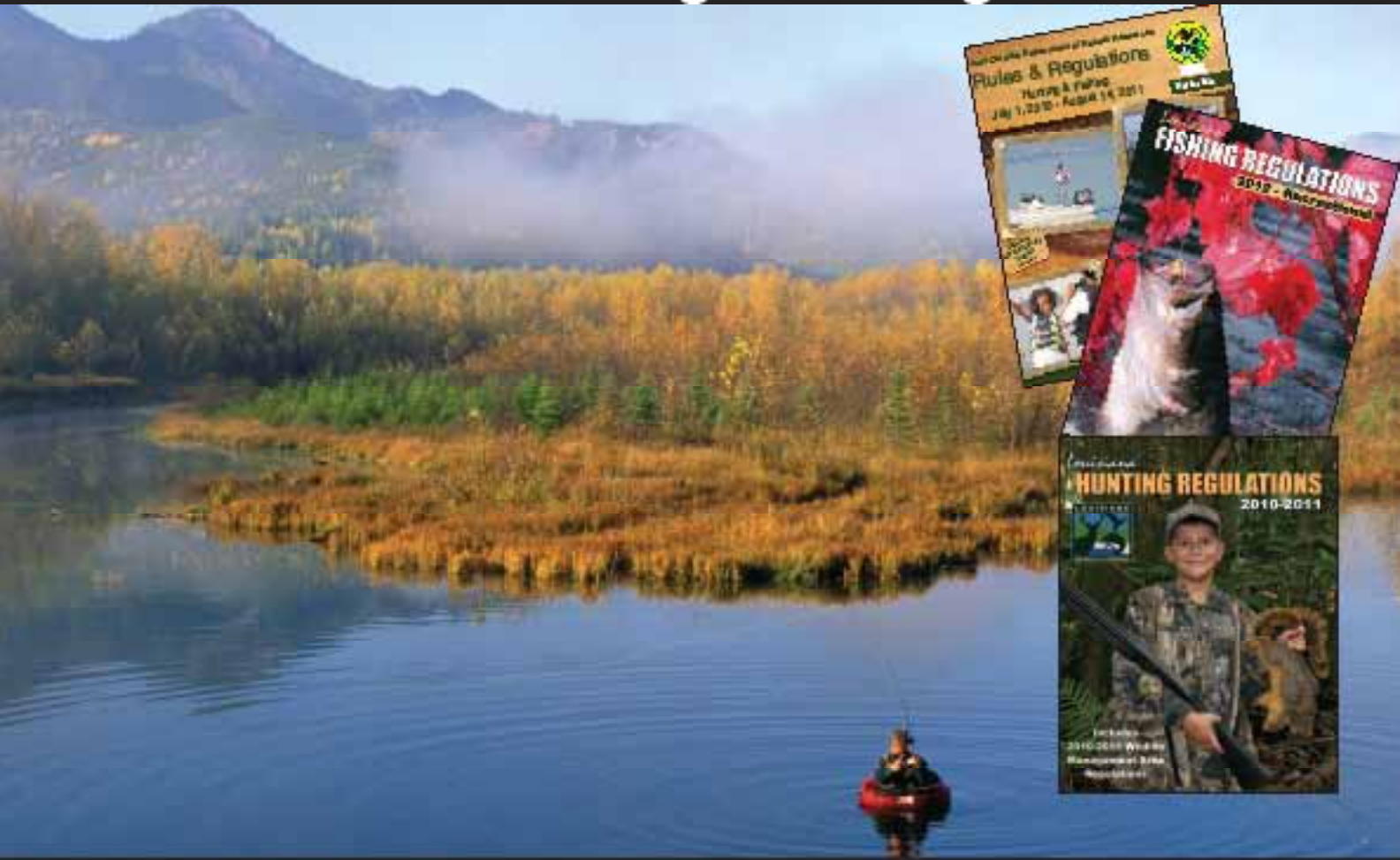
Louisiana

FISHING REGULATIONS

2011 - Recreational



You can now advertise in the official Louisiana State Hunting & Fishing Guidebooks!



- Guides / Outfitters
- Boat Sales & Repair
- Sporting Goods
- Fishing Products
- Fishing Tournaments
- Organizations



**LIBERTY PRESS
PUBLICATIONS**

LIBERTY PRESS PUBLICATIONS
OFFICIAL HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS

You can now reach every sportsman in Louisiana for an entire season by placing an ad in the Official Louisiana Fishing Regulations

Smart, Direct Advertising. That Works!

Call: 1-800-296-6402 for more information or see us online

www.huntandfishregs.com

4 LICENSES

7 GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION

General Regulations.....	7
Proper Care for Your Catch.....	8
Measuring Fish.....	8
Methods of Take.....	9
Additional Gear Restrictions.....	10
Recreational Crawfishing.....	11
Saltwater/Freshwater Line.....	12

13 DEFINITIONS

15 FRESHWATER FISHING

19 SALTWATER FISHING

23 OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recreational Shrimping.....	23
Recreational Crabbing.....	24
Recreational Oystering.....	25
Reptiles & Amphibians.....	26

27 WMA & REFUGE REGULATIONS

29 BOATING INFORMATION

Boating Safety.....	29
Rules of the Road.....	30
Clean Vessel Act Program.....	31
Voluntary Gulf of Mexico Communications Protocol.....	32

33 FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

DISCLAIMER

This publication is not an official copy of the laws in effect and should not be utilized or relied upon as such. It does represent an attempt by the publisher to present, as a public service, a partial summary of some of the laws in effect at the time of the printing of this publication. Substantive changes to the law may very well occur following the printing of this publication. For these reasons, the accuracy of the information contained within this publication cannot be guaranteed and the reader is cautioned that it is his responsibility to apprise himself of the laws in effect at any given time. These laws include those contained within the Louisiana Revised Statutes, particularly Title 56, the official regulations of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, federal laws, and any local or parish ordinances. State laws can be viewed on the legislative website: www.legis.state.la.us/.

Fishing regulations on state Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges may differ from those contained in this pamphlet. Consult the Wildlife Management Area Regulations portion of this pamphlet or contact the nearest Department office for WMA regulations.

This public document was published at a total cost of \$ 18,430. 300,000 copies of this public document were published in the first printing at a cost of \$ 18,430. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA to inform Louisiana residents and non-residents as to the rules and regulations governing the fishing resources of the State of Louisiana. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

P.O. Box 98000
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
225-765-2800

Bobby Jindal, Governor

Robert J. Barham, Secretary

Lois Azzarello, *Undersecretary*

Jimmy Anthony, *Assistant Secretary*

Randy Pausina, *Assistant Secretary*

John Roussel, *Deputy Assistant Secretary*

DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS

Kenneth Ribbeck, *Wildlife*

Bob Love, *Coastal & Non-game Resources*

Joe Shepard, *Fisheries*

Winton Vidrine, *Enforcement*

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Stephen J. Oats, *Chairman*

Patrick C. Morrow

Stephen W. Sagrera

Ronald Graham

Michael C. Voisin

Ann L. Taylor

Billy Broussard

For updated information and the latest regulations visit us online at

www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

Cover photo:

Nick Pellegrin, Houma, La., and his nephew Brady Bourgoyne, age 7, reeled in this hefty redfish in Grand Isle during the summer of 2010.

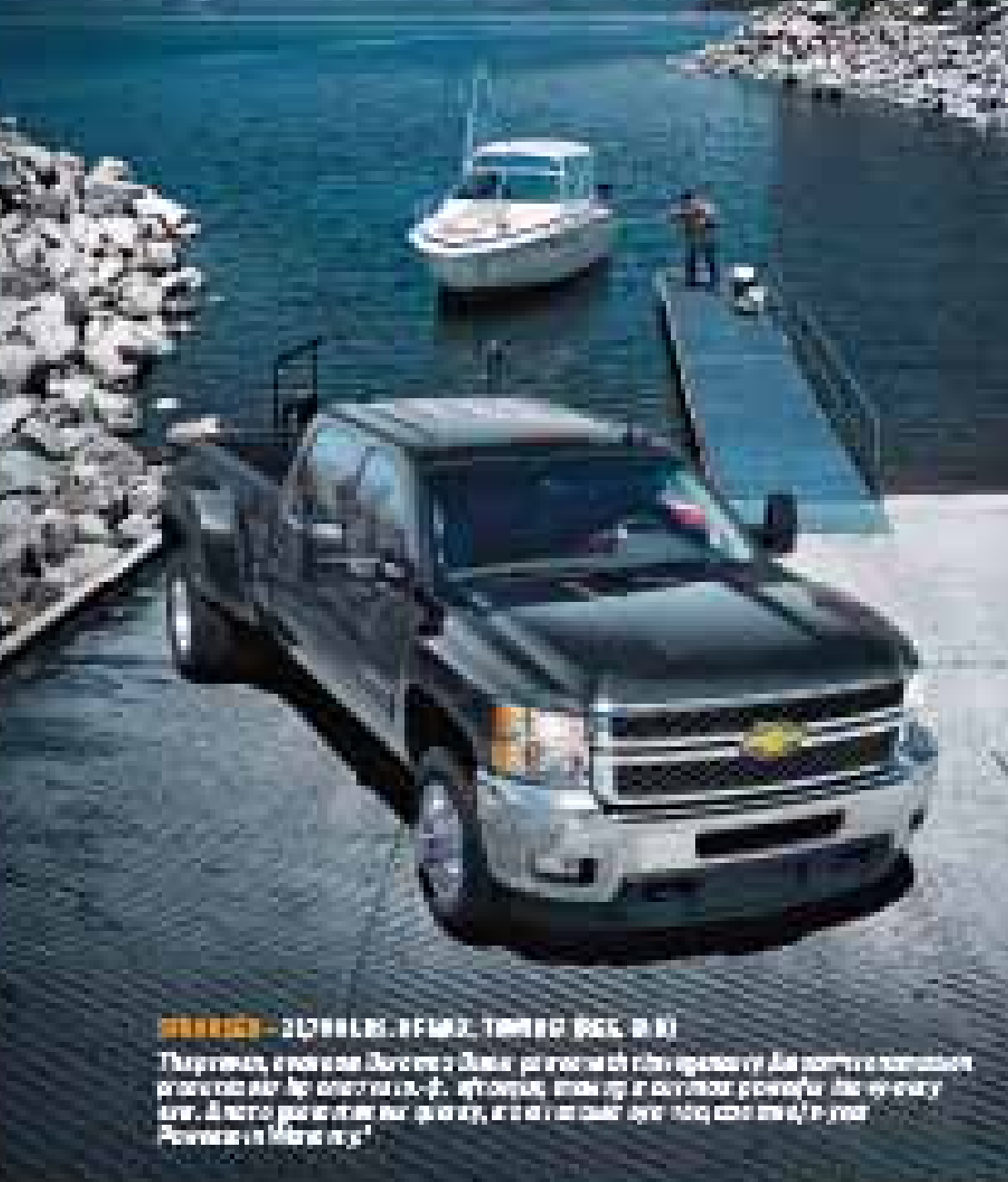
**HELP STOP
POACHING**

REPORT GAME VIOLATIONS

Operation Game Thief

1-800-442-2511

24 hours a day - 7 days a week



POWER – 3.7 LITER ECOTEC TURBO DIESEL I4

This power, eco-savvy 3.7-liter 4-cylinder turbo-diesel engine is a compact, turbocharged power plant that produces 151-hp and 277-torque, making it a powerful partner for the everyday user. A turbo gas engine for quality, and a diesel engine that can meet 10-year Powertrain Mileage.*



FRAME – FULLY BOLDED STEEL FRAME

These steel components are made of high-strength, fully cross-member frame. It offers a 4,000-lb payload capacity, such as your dog and flag. And the standard 10-year 100,000-mile warranty.



AXLES – COMPACT TRAILERING

A heavy-duty 3.5-ton axle is designed for heavy-duty use. It provides a smooth, steady ride, and the axle is designed to provide an exceptional towing experience. It's the perfect combination of strength and performance.



NEW

RESIDENT RECREATIONAL FISHING FEES		
Hook and Line (<i>cane pole</i>)	\$2.50	
Basic Fishing	\$9.50	
Saltwater License (<i>Basic Fishing required</i>)	\$5.50	
Senior Fish/Hunt ¹	\$5.00	
Charter Passenger License (<i>3-day</i>) ²	\$5.00	
LA Sportsman's Paradise License ³	\$100.00	
LA Disabled Basic Fishing ⁴	\$2.50	
LA Disabled Saltwater ⁴	\$2.50	
NON-RESIDENT (NR) RECREATIONAL FISHING FEES		
Basic Fishing Season	\$60.00	
Basic Fish Trip - 1 day	\$5.00	
Saltwater Season (<i>Basic Fishing required</i>)	\$30.00	
Saltwater Trip - 1 day ⁵	\$17.50	
Charter Passenger (<i>3-day</i>) ²	\$5.00	
Charter Skiff (<i>3-day</i>) ⁶	\$30.00	
NR Student Basic Fishing ⁸	\$9.50	
NR Student Saltwater Fishing (<i>Basic Fishing required</i>) ⁸	\$5.50	
MILITARY RECREATIONAL FISHING FEES		
Resident/NR Military Basic Fishing	\$9.50	
Resident/NR Military Saltwater	\$5.50	
Resident LA National Guard Fish/Hunt	\$50.00	
RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR FEES		
	Res.	NR
Crab Traps (limit 10)	\$15	\$60
Slat Traps (limit 5)	\$20	\$80
Trawls - up to 16 feet	\$25	\$100
Trawls - 16 feet to 25 feet	\$80	\$320
Oyster Tong (per tong)	\$5	\$20
Crawfish Traps (limit 35)	\$15	\$60
Pipes/Drums (limit 5)	\$10	\$40
Cans/Buckets (limit 5)	\$10	\$40
Wire Nets (limit 5) ⁷	\$20	\$80
Hoop Nets (limit 5) ⁷	\$20	\$80
LIFETIME LICENSE FEES		
Lifetime Fishing - age 5-13	\$200	
Lifetime Fishing - age 14 and up	\$300	
Lifetime Hunt/Fish - age 0-4	\$200	
Lifetime Hunt/Fish - age 5-13	\$300	
Lifetime Hunt/Fish - age 14 and up	\$500	
NR Lifetime Hunt/Fish	\$3,000	
Lifetime Resident Senior Hunt/Fish (60 or older)	\$50	
Lifetime Fishing Gear	10 times annual fee per gear type	

Recreational Fishing and Hunting licenses may be purchased by phone toll-free at 1-888-765-2602 or online at www.la.wildlifelicense.com. Methods of payment are Visa or MasterCard. An authorization number for immediate use will be provided and licenses will be mailed to each licensee. A convenience fee is assessed.

¹ **Senior Fish/Hunt License:** Any resident who turned 60 years of age on or after June 1, 2000 must obtain a senior fishing/hunting license to hunt or fish. This license is in lieu of basic and saltwater fishing, basic hunting, big game, bow, primitive firearms, LA duck license, turkey stamp and WMA hunting permit. It **does not** include special gear such as trawls, crab traps, crawfish traps, hoop nets, etc.

² Persons who fish from a charter vessel in saltwater areas of the state, with a licensed guide on board at all times, may possess a Charter Passenger License at a cost of \$5.00 that is valid for 3 consecutive days.

³ **Sportsman's Paradise License:** Includes Basic and Saltwater Fishing, Basic and Big Game Hunting, Bow, Primitive Firearms, Turkey, LA Duck and WMA Hunting Permit, and all recreational gear licenses (EXCEPT recreational trawls greater than 16 feet in length).

⁴ **LA Disabled Fishing and Saltwater:** See page 6.

⁵ **All inclusive.** No other license required.

⁶ Non-residents fishing under the direction of a charter operation in a licensed charter skiff in saltwater areas of the state may possess a non-resident charter skiff 3-day license at a cost of \$30.00 and shall be valid for three consecutive days.

⁷ **Recreational wire nets and recreational hoop nets** shall be used only in the geographical areas of the state designated as freshwater (see page 12).

⁸ **NR Student:** Applies to a nonresident who is enrolled as a full time student in an accredited college or university that has a physical campus in the state of Louisiana. Applicant must provide verification of his full-time status on the Department form available at <http://wlf.la.gov/licenses>. Any person fishing under "student license" must have on his person his student I.D. card indicating current full time status.

Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Commerce strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmentally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington D.C. 20240.

LICENSE DETAILS

Licenses are required for all persons taking or possessing fish.

RECREATIONAL LICENSES

All recreational licenses are valid from the date of purchase and expire on June 30 each year. New year licenses begin selling June 1 each year. In addition to other bona fide residency requirements, a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana ID Card (LA ID accepted only from persons who do not drive) issued by the Department of Public Safety is required to purchase resident recreational hunting and fishing licenses.

Persons who obtain resident licenses when not complying with the bona fide residency requirements as stated in the definition section (*page 13*) will be subject to criminal and/or civil sanctions.

Title 56, Section 302.1.C.(1) requires that all recreational anglers fishing south of the "saltwater line" for saltwater species have in their possession a Louisiana saltwater angler's license **IN ADDITION TO** a basic Louisiana fishing license **EXCEPT** those persons otherwise exempted. (See **Exceptions and Exemptions**) All regulations apply regardless of where the fish is taken.

A recreational fisherman must purchase and have in possession a valid basic recreational fishing license to possess fish in Louisiana waters or to use the following:

1. Bow and arrow
2. A barbed or barbless spear
3. Frog gig/catcher
4. Scuba Gear
5. Hook and Line (trot line)
6. Cast net with a radius not to exceed 8 ft. 6 in.
7. Rod and Reel

MILITARY RECREATIONAL LICENSES

Any person who possesses a military identification card that signifies that he is currently on active duty with any one of the armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard, or the spouse or dependent of such person, may be issued a license for hunting or recreational fishing in Louisiana for the same fee as that required of Louisiana residents.

Military licenses are valid only during that time when the licensee is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. The military identification card or dependent card **and** the appropriate license must be on the licensee's person at all times when he is engaged in hunting and fishing activities.

Any Louisiana resident who submits proof of his status as a member of the Louisiana National Guard or any reserve component of the United States armed forces may purchase in lieu of basic and saltwater fishing, basic hunting, big game, bow, primitive firearms, LA duck, turkey and WMA hunting permit, a license for \$50 to fish and hunt in Louisiana. Submit completed application with a copy of the applicant's:

1. Louisiana drivers license;
2. military identification card;
3. original letter from their commanding officer verifying that they are in "good standing" with the Louisiana National Guard or United States armed forces; and
4. money order for \$50.

Mail to: LDWF, Attention Sports License, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898. The application form is available online at: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/licenses or by calling 225-765-2887.

LIFETIME LICENSES

Lifetime Licenses are issued in lieu of Basic Fishing, Saltwater Fishing, Basic Hunting, Big Game, Bow, Primitive Firearms, LA Duck, Turkey and WMA hunting permit.

Applications are accepted by mail or in person at the Baton Rouge office only. **Allow three weeks processing time.** Lifetime license applications do not authorize hunting or fishing prior to receipt of the license document. The **original license document must be** in licensee's possession to legally hunt or fish. Applicants are required to have lived in Louisiana for the immediate 12 months prior to making application to qualify for resident rates. Mandatory documents required with completed application are a valid Louisiana driver's license issued a minimum of 12 months (no

substitutions) **AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Louisiana voter's registration card
2. Louisiana vehicle registration
3. Two previous years state tax filing, stamped by Department of Revenue & Taxation.

RECREATIONAL GEAR LICENSES

Recreational anglers ages 16 and over using any of the recreational gear must, in addition to their basic fishing license, purchase the applicable gear license. If fishing in saltwater areas of the state, a saltwater fishing license is also required. Lifetime fishing license holders must also purchase a gear license to use recreational gear.

EXCEPTIONS & EXEMPTIONS

Persons younger than 16 years of age and residents who were born prior to June 1, 1940 and have lived in the state for two years prior to application are not required to obtain the following licenses: Basic and Saltwater Fishing; Basic Hunting; Big Game; Bow; Primitive Firearms; LA Duck license or Turkey Stamp. Persons younger than 18 years of age are not required to have a WMA hunting permit. **PROOF OF AGE MUST BE CARRIED ON PERSON.**

Texas Reciprocal

Louisiana resident seniors, 65 years of age and older, that hold a Louisiana Fishing license are not required to purchase a Texas non-resident license to fish public waters in Texas, but shall comply with Texas law.

Louisiana resident anglers that reached age 60 before June 1, 2000 are required to possess a Louisiana fishing license when fishing in Texas, except in border waters. Louisiana residents from 17 to 64 years of age are required to purchase a non-resident fishing license when fishing in Texas, except when fishing in border waters.

Except for the Gulf of Mexico, Texas and Louisiana anglers possessing the necessary resident licenses, or those exempted from resident licens-

es for their state, are allowed to fish the border waters of Louisiana and Texas without purchasing non-resident licenses. Border waters include Caddo Lake, Toledo Bend Reservoir, the Sabine River and Sabine Lake.

Texas residents 65 years of age and older may legally fish Louisiana's public waters, both freshwater and saltwater, if they possess valid Texas Resident licenses issued by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Texas residents born before Sept. 1, 1930 must possess Texas Resident Fishing license(s) when fishing in Louisiana, except in border waters.

DISABILITY LICENSES

Resident veterans having a permanent service-connected disability classification of 50 percent or more and residents who are blind, paraplegic or multiple amputee shall upon identification and proof of disability satisfactory to the department, be issued recreational fishing and hunting licenses at no cost. This license is in lieu of Basic and Saltwater Fishing, Basic Hunting, Big Game, Bow, Primitive Firearms, LA Duck, Turkey and WMA Hunting

Permit. To qualify for this license, apply by mail or in person to the LDWF Baton Rouge office. Once approved, the license can be obtained annually from any license vendor location. Forms are available at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/licenses or by contacting Sports License at (225) 765-2887 for required forms.

A resident applicant who is totally and permanently disabled and receiving federal social security disability benefits must submit a current award letter from Social Security and a valid Louisiana driver's license. A resident who received disability retirement income from a retirement system whose members are exempt from social security pursuant to the Railroad Retirement Insurance Act (Act 45 U.S.C. 231) or because they are employees of the state or a political subdivision of the state that has not voluntarily agreed to participate in federal social security under 42 U.S.C. 418, may purchase a basic recreational fishing license for a fee of \$2.50 and a saltwater license for a fee of \$2.50. To qualify for this license, apply by mail or in person to

the LDWF Baton Rouge office. Once approved, the license can be obtained annually from any license vendor location. **This exemption does not apply to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.** Contact Sports License at (225) 765-2887 for additional information.

A resident who is required to use one or more **artificial limbs or permanent braces** for mobility or a single amputee, upon identification and proof of disability satisfactory to the department, is eligible for fishing and saltwater licenses at no cost. To qualify for this license, apply by mail or in person to the LDWF Baton Rouge office. Once approved, the license can be obtained annually from any license vendor location.

As defined in R.S. 47:463.4(E), **Mobility impaired persons** that are bona fide residents of Louisiana, in possession of valid identification and over 60 years of age may use one legal slat trap and/or one hoop net greater than 18x8 feet, without a license, for the purpose of catching catfish for home consumption.



LDWF

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

For specific information, contact your local Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Office.

Baton Rouge	225-765-2999
Minden	318-371-3049
Monroe	318-343-2417
Alexandria	318-487-5634
Lake Charles	337-491-2580
Opelousas	337-948-0257
New Iberia	337-373-0032
Thibodaux	985-447-0821
New Orleans	504-284-2023

The following digest includes a summary of assorted statutes contained in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes as well as relevant rules and regulations adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to implement additional restrictions in emergency situations in order to protect fish and wildlife resources.

NOTICE TO OFFSHORE FISHERMEN

Louisiana recreational and commercial anglers fishing offshore beyond the Louisiana boundary are in federal waters and are subject to rules and regulations that may differ from those in state waters. To ensure that you are in compliance with federal regulations, you should contact the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at 813-348-1630, toll free 1-888-833-1844 (write 2203 Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607 for informational pamphlet, e-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org; webpage: www.gulfcouncil.org); or the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727) 824-5305.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Taking or harassment of any of the following species is a violation of state and federal laws: Louisiana pearlshell mussel, inflated heelsplitter mussel, fat pocketbook mussel, pink mucket mussel, American burying beetle, sea turtles, gopher tortoise, ringed sawback turtle, dusky gopher

frog, brown pelican, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, whooping crane, Eskimo curlew, piping plover, interior least tern, ivory-billed woodpecker, red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's warbler, whales (blue, finback, sei, sperm), West Indian manatee, Florida panther, Louisiana black bear, pallid sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, shovelnose sturgeon.

PROHIBITED SPECIES

Possession of these animals is also prohibited: basking shark, white shark, bigeye sand tiger shark, sand tiger shark, whale shark, Atlantic angel shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, smalltail shark, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, narrowtooth shark, night shark, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher shark, longfin mako, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltooth sawfish, largetooth sawfish, Nassau grouper and Goliath grouper.

SPECIALY REGULATED AREAS

In addition to the general statewide fishing regulations, state wildlife refuges and wildlife management areas, national refuges, and certain local areas may have special regulations or restrictions on fishing. See "Fishing Regulations on WMAs and Refuges" in this pamphlet (page 27) or contact the nearest LDWF office for WMA regulations.

For complete requirements regarding the taking of fish in federal waters obtain a "Recreational Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters" pamphlet from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (see *contact info in previous section: "Notice to Offshore Fishermen"*)

CUSTOMER SERVICE

We at Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are interested in providing quality customer service. If you would like to voice your comments or concerns regarding the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, please fill out a comment card when you visit one of our offices located throughout the state. You can also go to the customer service portion of LDWF's web page at: www.wlf.louisiana.gov, click on "About LDWF," then click on "Customer Service,"

and fill out a comment card. We would appreciate any comments you have to offer.

RELEASING FISH

Due to the increasing number of species with size and creel limits, anglers are required to release many of the fish they catch. If handled properly, released fish have a very good chance to live, grow and provide further opportunities for Louisiana anglers. Proper handling techniques include:

1. When angling, do not use a slack line. Set the hook immediately. This will reduce the chance of getting the hook deeper into the throat or gut, and increase chances of survival.
2. If a fish is to be released, do not let the fish become exhausted. Retrieve it quickly.
3. Do not handle the fish more than absolutely necessary and do not take it from the water if possible. Handle with a wet hand, wet towel or wet glove to minimize removal of mucus (slime). Use a landing net only when necessary. Do not let the fish flop on a dry deck or beach.
4. Use one of several tools available to remove the hook from the fish if the hook is visible and not in the gills.
5. Where practical, use barbless hooks or flatten down the barb with pliers to make hook removal easier.
6. A circle hook, used properly decreases the chance for deep hooking compared to J-style or kahle hooks.
7. If the hook is deeply buried, cut the leader close to the hook.
8. Immediately put the fish back into the water. If it is sluggish, gently hold it and move it forward and back to get water moving across the gills.

Even fish that seem in poor shape have a chance of survival. Treating them with care increases that chance. By conscientiously working to reduce stress on released fish, all anglers benefit.

PROPER CARE FOR YOUR CATCH

Louisiana's anglers are accustomed to abundant catches of bass, bream, sac-a-lait and various saltwater fish. A common problem, however, is improper handling of fish intended for the table.

Quickly ice down fish. This sounds elementary, but there are those who get swept up in the thrill of catching fish and forget this important step. Fish should be placed on ice immediately upon being caught. Be sure you have ample ice before leaving the dock.

Take full advantage of your ice. This means pouring the ice out of the bag and making sure there is a layer of ice above and below the fish.

Fish placed in an ice/water slurry chill faster than those placed on ice alone. Leave water in your ice chest as long as an adequate amount of ice stays in the water. Water temperatures will stay at or near 32 degrees Fahrenheit and help keep fish cool.

Another technique effective in keeping fish fresh on hot days or for extended periods is to gut the fish and pack the body cavities with ice. That chills the fish faster.

CAUTION: It is illegal to fillet saltwater finfish before returning to the dock. This means that those with camps in the marshes and swamps must keep their fish intact, though gutting is allowed. For the purpose of consumption at sea aboard the harvesting vessel, a person shall have no more than two pounds of finfish parts per person on board the vessel, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish and such finfish does not exceed applicable bag limits.

Bank and surf anglers often use stringers and live baskets to hold their catch. If using a stringer, put the stringer through the jaw tissue and not the gills.

Those using baskets should be aware that overcrowded fish can easily die. Anglers with live wells on their boats also should be aware of this danger.

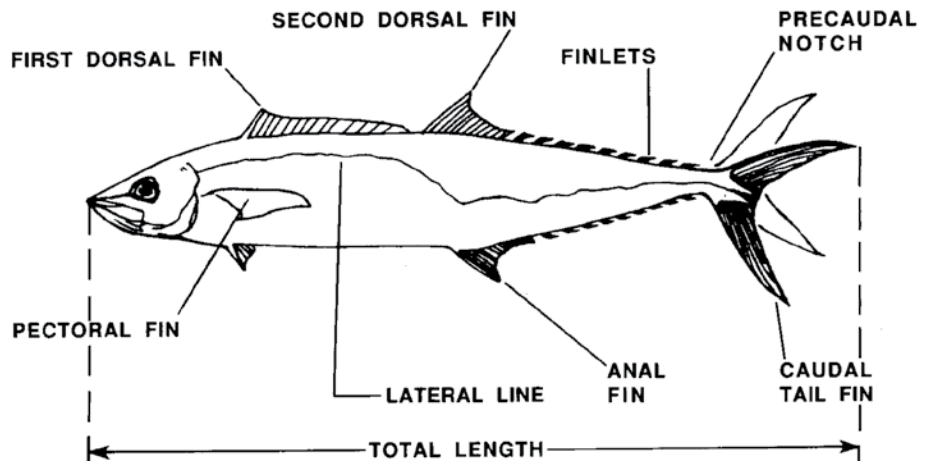
A bit of attention to details will ensure that fish stay fresh longer and taste better when cooked. It may take a few more minutes, but the result will be a more enjoyable and memorable trip.

HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

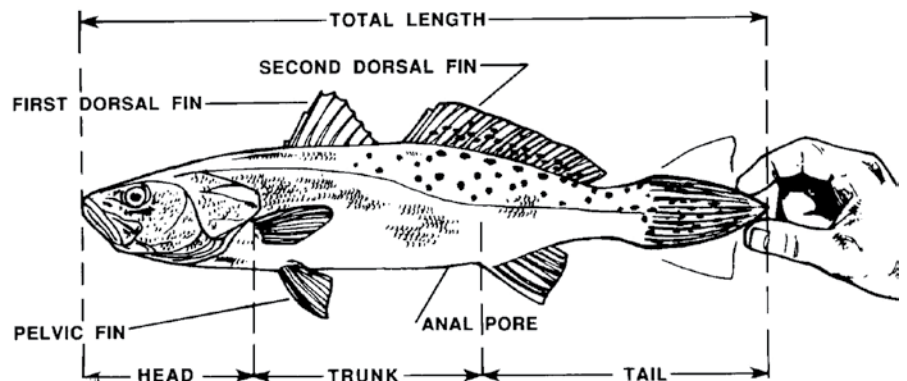
Use these guidelines to measure a fish correctly (refer to illustrations):

1. Place the fish on its side on a flat board with the jaw closed.
2. **Total length** - Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin. Adjust the tail by rotating (Example 1) or by squeezing (Example 2) to obtain the maximum length of the fish. (illustration 1)
3. **Fork length** - Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. (illustration 2)
4. **Lower jaw fork length** - Measure in a straight-line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail. (illustration 3)
5. **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. (illustration 4)
6. **Carcass length** - Measure curve from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel. (illustration 4)

illustration 1



Example 1. Rotating.



Example 2. Squeezing.

illustration 2

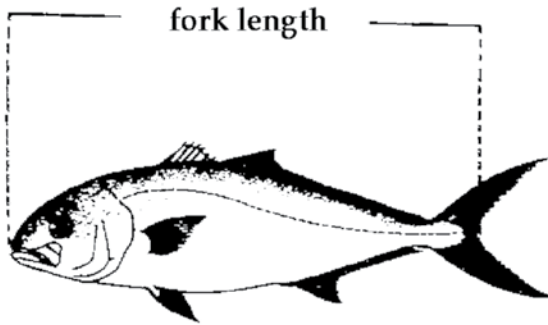


illustration 3

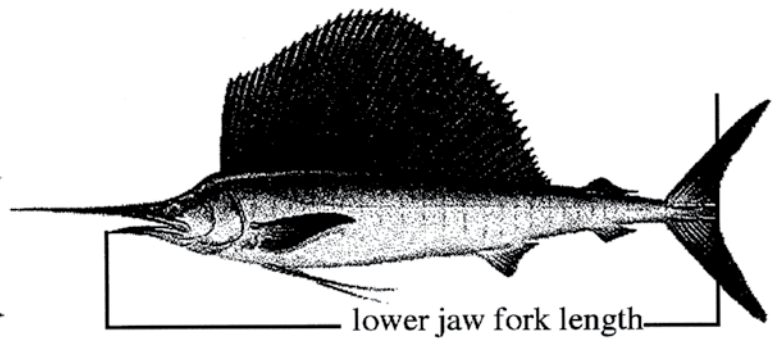
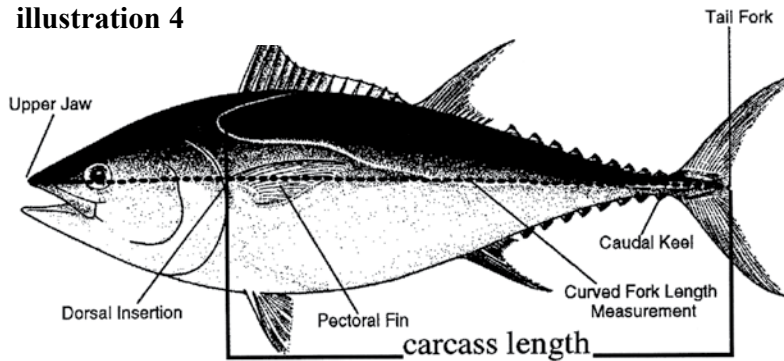


illustration 4



METHODS OF RECREATIONALLY TAKING FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER FISH

Freshwater and saltwater recreational fish may be taken by means of rod, fishing pole, hook and line, trolling line, handline, bait casting, fly casting apparatus, crawfish nets, by use of the devices known as yos or trigger devices, bow and arrow, recreational hoop nets, recreational wire nets, recreational slat traps, standard spearing equipment used by a skin diver sport fishing in saltwater or fresh water when submerged in the water, recreational pipes, recreational buckets, recreational drums, recreational tires and recreational cans, and by no other means except a barbless spear or a multi-pronged barbed gig that may be used in saltwater for taking flounder. **NOTE:** Certain species of game fish may not be taken with some gear listed above. Crossbows are not a legal method.

No person shall take or possess fish taken by means of spears, poisons, stupefying substances or devices, explosives, guns, tree-topping devices, electricity or any instrument

or device capable of producing an electric current used in shocking said fish. No person shall take or possess recreational fish taken by means of snagging devices, not including bow and arrow. **Catfish** may be taken by means of snagging devices. **Paddlefish**, commonly called spoon-bill catfish, are not catfish and cannot be legally harvested by means of snagging. **Garfish** may be taken by means of spears and bows and arrows. It shall be unlawful to possess any of the prohibited instruments, weapons, substances or devices set out herein above with the intent to take fish.

Minnnows, crawfish, shrimp and other legal bait species, not including game fish, may be taken with legal cast nets, minnow traps, dip nets and bait seines when taken in compliance with all other laws. Legal bait species may be taken with bait seines with a maximum mesh size not exceeding one-quarter inch mesh bar, one-half inch mesh stretched and thirty feet in length. Bait seines must be operated

on foot and solely by hand, without any pulley, mechanical device or mechanical assistance whatsoever. Dip nets may not exceed three feet in diameter and must be operated solely by hand, by no more than one person and without any mechanical assistance whatsoever.

Bream (*Lepomis* spp.) may not be taken as bait for sportfishing purposes in any form of trap except at Toledo Bend Reservoir, where a minnow trap not exceeding 24 inches in length and having a throat no larger than one inch by three inches may be used to take bream for non-commercial bait purposes.

Silver carp and **bighead carp** may also be taken by boats, dip nets, spears and by snagging.

Skin divers fishing for recreational purposes in fresh water, when submerged in the water and using standard spearing equipment, any person using a bow and arrow or any person using or possessing nets or traps, including recreational hoop

nets, recreational slat traps, recreational pipes, recreational buckets, recreational drums, recreational tires and recreational cans may not take or possess any game fish as defined in R.S. 56:8 (see definitions) except red drum may be taken for recreational purposes using a bow and arrow or by skin divers using standard spearing equipment while submerged in water.

Mobility impaired persons, as defined in R.S. 47:463.4(E), that are bona fide residents of Louisiana and

over 60 years of age, may use a single recreational **hoop net** in any waters of the state. The net must be no greater than 18 feet by eight feet. Catch is restricted to catfish and used only for home consumption.

Recreational **wire nets** and recreational **hoop nets** shall be used only in the geographical areas of the state designated as freshwater (see page 12).

Recreational **crawfish traps** shall be marked with a waterproof

tag, provided by the fisherman, with the name and recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag. The minimum mesh size for the nets used to harvest wild crawfish shall be a hexagon of three-quarters by eleven-sixteenths of one inch. This measurement shall be from wire to wire, and any coating on the wire shall not be considered in computing the measurements.

ADDITIONAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS

In addition to the general method of take restrictions, some Louisiana waterbodies have specific gear restrictions and are listed below.

BLACK LAKE, CLEAR LAKE AND PRAIRIE LAKE

Yo-Yo restrictions

No yo-yo or trigger device with a hook in the water may be left unattended between two hours after official sunrise and one-half hour after official sunset. The device will be considered unattended if the user cannot be located and identified within the immediate vicinity of the device.

Hoop nets and wire nets

Hoop nets and wire nets must be marked with a waterproof tag with the name and address of the fisherman and his fishing license number.

CADDO LAKE

Yo-Yo restrictions

- A. No resident shall have set in the water for the taking of recreational or commercial fish in Caddo Lake more than 24 yo-yos or other trigger devices. Each yo-yo or other trigger device shall be clearly marked with the name and address of the user.
- B. No resident shall leave a yo-yo or trigger device unattended in Caddo Lake while it is set in the water for taking fish, except from one-half hour after official sunset to two hours after official sunrise. A yo-yo or trigger device shall be deemed unattended when the user cannot be immediately located for identification there-with without leaving the location of the yo-yo or trigger device.

- C. No person who is a nonresident shall set in the water, use or leave a yo-yo or trigger device at any time in Caddo Lake.

CHICOT LAKE

Yo-Yo restrictions

- A. Fishing with the use of yo-yos or trigger devices shall be permitted on Chicot Lake only from Nov. 1 - March 1 of each year.
- B. Not more than 24 yo-yos or trigger devices shall be allowed per boat.
- C. Each yo-yo must be tagged with the name of the responsible party, the registration number of the boat and the date and time the yo-yo was set.
- D. All yo-yos must be attended and re-tagged at least every 48 hours.

CYPRESS LAKE AND BLACK BAYOU RESERVOIR, BOSSIER PARISH

Hoop nets, wire nets and slat traps

- A. Hoop nets, wire nets and slat traps are prohibited from March 1 - Oct. 31 of each year.
- B. All hoop nets, wire nets and slat traps shall be removed from the lakes prior to March 1 of each year.

LAKE D'ARBONNE

Yo-Yo restrictions

- A. No more than 50 yo-yos, or trigger devices, shall be allowed per person.
- B. Each yo-yo, or trigger device, shall be clearly tagged with the name, address and telephone number of the owner or user.
- C. When used, each yo-yo or trigger device, shall be checked at least once every 24 hours, and all fish,

and any other animal caught or hooked, shall be immediately removed from the device.

- D. Each yo-yo or trigger device must be rebaited at least once every 24 hours.
- E. When not being used in accordance to the above regulations, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be removed immediately from Lake D'Arbonne.
- F. No yo-yo or trigger device shall be attached to any metallic object.

Trotline Restrictions

- A. All trotlines must be marked, tagged, and dated with the owner or user's name, address, phone number and the date of placement. The trotline must be marked on each end with a floating object that is readily visible.
- B. No person shall set more than three trotlines with a maximum of 50 hooks per trotline.
- C. All trotlines must be removed from Lake D'Arbonne when not in use.
- D. All trotlines must have an eight foot cotton leader on each end of the trotline to insure that if the trotline is left unattended, the cotton leader will deteriorate and the line will sink.
- E. All trotlines must be attended daily while in service.

LAKE LAFOURCHE, CALDWELL PARISH

Yo-Yo restrictions

- A. No more than 50 yo-yos, or trigger devices, shall be allowed per person.
- B. Each yo-yo, or trigger device, shall be clearly tagged with the name, address and telephone number of the owner or user.

- C. When used, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be checked at least once every 24 hours, and all fish and any other animal caught or hooked, shall be immediately removed from the device.
 - D. Each yo-yo or trigger device must be rebaited at least once every 24 hours.
 - E. When not being used in accordance to the above regulations, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be removed immediately from Lake Lafourche.
 - F. No yo-yo or trigger device shall be attached to any metallic object.
- D. Yo-yos or trigger devices shall be attached only to a tree or pier. No materials shall be nailed to a tree, and no line shall be attached from tree to tree for the purpose of attaching a yo-yo or trigger device.

Trotline Restrictions

- A. All trotlines must be marked, tagged, and dated with the owner or user's name, address, phone number and the date of placement. The trotline must be marked on each end with a floating object that is readily visible.
- B. No person shall set more than three trotlines with a maximum of 50 hooks per trotline.
- C. All trotlines must be removed from Lake Lafourche when not in use.
- D. All trotlines must have an eight foot cotton leader on each end of the trotline to insure that if the trotline is left unattended, the cotton leader will deteriorate and the line will sink.
- E. All trotlines must be attended daily while in service.

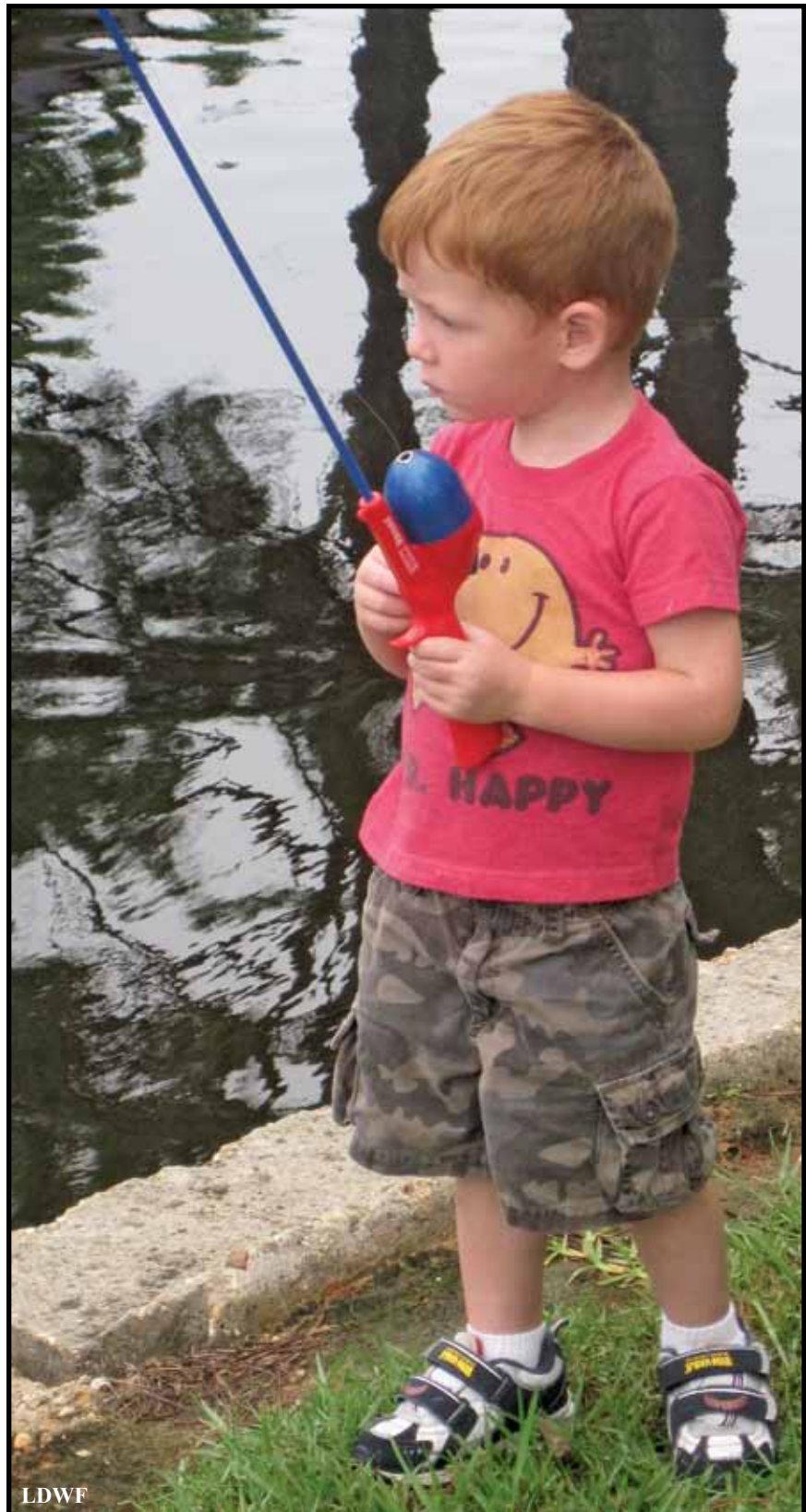
POVERTY POINT

No person shall possess, set, or use any recreational hoop nets, recreational wire nets, yo-yos, trotlines, or slat traps.

LAKE SAINT JOSEPH, TENSAS PARISH

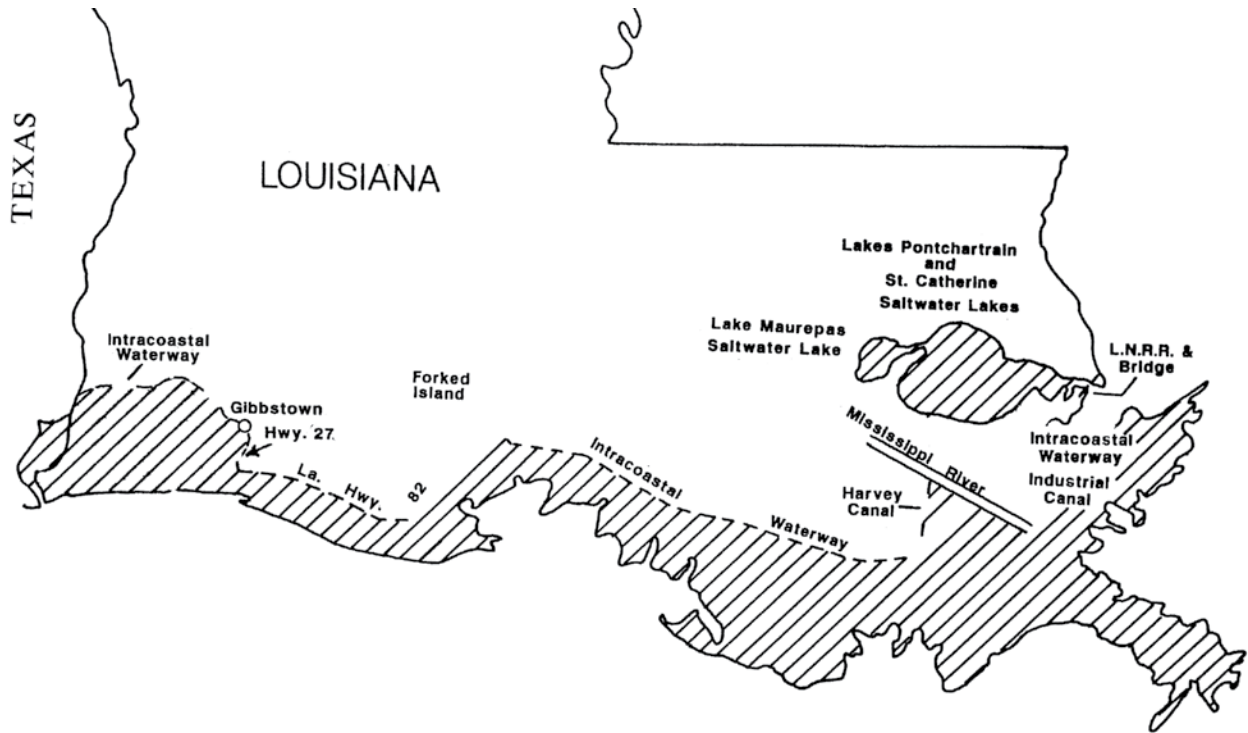
Yo-Yo restrictions

- A. Fishing with the use of yo-yos or trigger devices shall be permitted On Lake Saint Joseph from Dec. 1 - March 15 of each year under the following conditions:
- B. Not more than 24 yo-yos or trigger devices shall be allowed per boat.
- C. Each yo-yo or trigger device shall be clearly tagged with the name of the owner and the owner's telephone number.



LDWF

SALTWATER - FRESHWATER LINE



For the purposes of regulating certain fisheries the legislature recognized the historic division of the state into saltwater and freshwater areas based on the variations of flora and fauna found within these two divisions. The legislature further recognized that the exact line of demarcation cannot be precisely located due to constant changes in water salinity caused by winds, tides, and rains. The legislature therefore legally defined the freshwater and saltwater areas by describing a line from the Texas state line, easterly to the Mississippi state line. The areas south of the described line, plus a number of saltwater lakes and waterways, were designated as saltwater areas and all other areas north of the described line were designated as freshwater areas.

LOUISIANA SALTWATER LINE DEFINITION

Title 56, Section 322-The Intracoastal waterway from the Texas-Louisiana boundary to its junction with Louisiana Highway 27 at Gibbstown, and then south to Louisiana Highway 82 and then east to its junction with the Intracoastal

Waterway at Forked Island, the Intracoastal Waterway from Forked Island to Bayou Barataria to the Harvey Canal, the Harvey Canal to the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River to the Industrial Canal, the Industrial Canal to the Intracoastal Waterway, the Intracoastal Waterway to the Rigolets in Orleans Parish to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad bridge, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad right-of-way from the Orleans Parish line to the Mississippi state line.

The areas south of the above described line, plus the saltwater lakes known as Lake Maurepas, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake St. Catherine, Chef Menteur Pass (except that seven-tenths of a mile section from Bayou Sauvage south to the Intracoastal Waterway), the Rigolets, Unknown Pass, Pass Manchac, Intracoastal, and that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel from the Intracoastal Waterway south to the Gulf of Mexico, shall be designated as saltwater areas.

Persons fishing and/or possessing saltwater fish in these areas are required to have in addition to the

basic fishing license a saltwater fishing license.

FEDERAL WATERS (EEZ)

A very easy way to tell if you are in state or federal waters is to pull up to the nearest platform. If the platform is in state waters it will have a placard with a State Lease Number. If the platform is in federal waters it will be designated with an OCS number. By utilizing a block map you can also estimate your position. The platform will be designated with an area and block number. For instance if you see ST-128 X, OCS 00498 you will be in federal waters at South Timbalier 128 platform X.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Angle:** to fish with rod, fishing pole or hook and line, with or without a reel.
2. **Bait seine:** a net measuring no more than 30 feet in length with a mesh size not exceeding 1/4-inch mesh bar, 1/2-inch mesh stretched, and operated solely by foot without any mechanical device, pulley or mechanical assistance whatsoever.
3. **Bait species:** all species of fish and other aquatic life utilized for bait.
4. **Bandit gear:** vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved with rods and with line retrieved by manual, electric or hydraulic reels. (Use prohibited in state waters)
5. **Bona fide resident:**
 - A. any person who has resided in this state continuously during the 12 months immediately prior to the date on which he applies for any license and who has manifested his intent to remain in this state by establishing Louisiana as his legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following, as applicable.
 - i. If registered to vote, he is registered to vote in Louisiana.
 - ii. If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana driver's license.
 - iii. If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana registration for that vehicle.
 - iv. If earning an income, he has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.
 - B. any person who possesses a resident license from any other state shall not qualify for a resident license in Louisiana.
6. **Can:** a metal container of not more than 55-gallon capacity which is set for the purpose of taking fish.
7. **Cast net:** a light circular net of vegetable or synthetic materials and weighted around its perimeter that is thrown by hand over the water.
8. **Crab dropnet:** any device constructed with vegetable, synthetic, or metal fibers and without flues or throat, attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crabs. This device shall be operated solely by hand and fished in a stationary, passive manner.
9. **Crab trap:** a cube-shaped, device constructed of wire, no larger than 30 inches 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 seven inches 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 one and one-half times the vertical diameter of the opening.
10. **Crawfish net:** any device constructed with vegetable or synthetic material without flues or throats attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crawfish.
11. **Crawfish trap:** any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throats or flues not exceeding two inches and which is used for the express purpose of taking crawfish.
12. **Dip net:** a net, usually a deep mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic materials, on a fixed frame not to exceed three feet in diameter attached to a handle and held and worked exclusively by hand without any mechanical assistance and by no more than one individual.
13. **Finfish:** (*noun*) any of numerous cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates that characteristically swim with fins, breathe with gills and are covered with skin or scales.
14. **Fish:** (*noun*) all finfish, shellfish and crustaceans and all other species of aquatic life.
15. **Fork length:** distance from tip of snout to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure some fish with deeply forked tails, such as amberjack.
16. **Freshwater recreational fish:** any species of freshwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
17. **Fyke net:** any cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic fibers having throats or flues which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing, with vertical panels of net wings set obliquely on one or both sides of the mouth of the cone-shaped net.
18. **Game fish:** all of the following species of freshwater and saltwater fish.
 - A. **Freshwater game fish:** largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*), shadow bass (*Ambloplites ariommus*), black or white crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*, *P. annularis*), white bass (*Morone chrysops*), yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), hybrid striped bass (striped bass-white bass cross or striped bass-yellow bass cross) and any species of bream (*Lepomis sp.*).
 - B. **Saltwater game fish:** any sailfish (*Istiopharus platypterus*), blue marlin (*Makaira indica*), black marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), hatchet marlin (*Tetrapturus spp.*), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), and red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*).
19. **Hook:** any curved or bent device attached to a line for the purpose of taking fish or alligator and consisting of not more than one eye and one shank with no more than three barbs.
20. **Hoop net:** a cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials having throats or flues and which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing.

21. **Landing net:** means a net, usually a mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic material on a fixed frame attached to a handle held and operated by hand for the sole purpose of assisting in the landing of fish legally caught by other legal gear.
22. **Lead or wing net:** a panel of netting of any mesh size or length, with or without weights and floats, attached to one or both sides of the mouth of a cone-shaped net having flues or throats, and set so as to deflect or guide fish toward the mouth of the net.
23. **Licensee:** any resident or nonresident lawful holder of an effective license duly issued under the authority of the department.
24. **Lower jaw fork length (LJFL):** longest distance from tip of lower jaw to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure billfish such as marlin, swordfish and paddlefish.
25. **Mesh size:** the full measure of the mesh as found in use when measured as follows:
 - A. **Bar measure** is the length of the full bar stretched from the near side of one knot to the far side of the other after being tarred, treated or otherwise processed.
 - B. **Stretched measure** is the full stretched distance from the near side of one knot to the far side of the opposite knot diagonally across the mesh. This measurement shall not be applicable to weaved or woven nets commonly used for menhaden fishing.
 - C. In woven nets, stretched measure is the full stretched distance of the opening of the mesh; bar measure is one-half of stretched measure.
26. **Monofilament:** a single untwisted synthetic filament.
27. **Nonresident:** any person who is not a bona fide resident as that term is defined by R.S. 56:8(69). See **Bona fide resident**.
28. **Possess:** in its different tenses, the act of having in possession or control, keeping, detaining, restraining or holding as owner, or as agent, bailee or custodian for another. When possession of fish or other wildlife is prohibited, reference is made equally to such fish or other wildlife coming from without the state as to those taken within the state.
29. **Recreational purposes:** a purpose other than deriving or attempting to derive an income of any kind from the harvest of fish. "Income" as used herein shall not include a prize or award offered as a prize in a fishing tournament.
30. **Reptiles and amphibians:** native frogs, toads, turtles, snakes, lizards and salamanders.
31. **Saltwater fish:** all species of finfish which normally inhabit the saline waters of the marine and estuarine environment for most of their life cycle.
32. **Saltwater recreational fish:** any species of saltwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
33. **Shellfish:** an aquatic invertebrate species having a shell. These species include, but are not limited to, oysters, clams, crawfish, shrimp, crabs and other mollusks and crustaceans.
34. **Slat trap:** any device, used solely for the capture of catfish, which is cylindrical, rectangular, or square in cross section configuration, constructed of slats forming the length of the trap, with at least one pair of slats spaced at least one inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than six feet in length, two feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone-shaped throats, flues or entrances.
35. **Slot limit:** protective size limits denoting that fish within the range, inclusive of stated measurements, must be returned to the water immediately.
36. **Take:** in its different tenses, the attempt or act of hooking, pursuing, netting, capturing, snaring, trapping, shooting, hunting, wounding or killing by any means or device.
37. **Test trawl:** a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the headline or headrope.
38. **Total length:** the longest measurable distance from the outermost portion of the snout lengthwise to the outermost portion of the caudal fin.
39. **Transport:** in its different tenses, the act of shipping, attempting to ship, receiving or delivering for shipment, transporting, conveying, carrying or exporting by air, land or water, or by any means whatsoever.
40. **Trawl:** any net, generally funnel-shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. The term "trawl" also means and includes plumb staff beam trawls that do not exceed 16 feet, and 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 under way.
41. **Trigger:** any tension-loaded rubber band or spring device that contains several feet of line and a hook or hooks, which is baited and set, and which automatically hooks and plays a fish.
42. **Wing net:** see **Lead net**.
43. **Wire net:** a cone-shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials, with a mesh no less than one inch square or two inches stretched, having throats or flues and which is stretched over wire of five inch mesh or greater to support the webbing.

FRESHWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Bass, Black (Largemouth, spotted)*	no size limits EXCEPT as follows	10 daily, of any size EXCEPT as follows:
Atchafalaya Basin, Lakes Verret/ Palourde, Fausse Point/Dauterive Areas**	14" min total length	10 daily
Toledo Bend Reservoir	largemouth - 14" min total length spotted* - no size limit	8 daily in aggregate
Eagle Lake	16" min total length	10 daily
Caddo Lake (Caddo Parish)	14" to 17" protected slot limit***	10 daily No more than four over 17" total length
Poverty Point Reservoir	15" to 19" protected slot limit***	8 daily No more than one over 19" total length
Caney Creek Lake (Jackson Parish)	15" to 19" protected slot limit***	8 daily No more than two over 19" total length
False River (Pointe Coupee Parish)	14" min total length	5 daily
Spanish Lake (St. Martin and Iberia parishes)	16" to 21" protected slot limit***	8 daily No more than two over 21" total length
Black Bayou (Bossier), Chicot Lake (Evangeline), Cross Lake (Caddo), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides), John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (Red River) and Vernon Lake (Vernon)	14" to 17" protected slot limit***	8 daily No more than four over 17" total length
Bass, Striped or Hybrid Striped (or any combination thereof)	n/a	5 daily No more than two over 30" total length
Bass, White	none	50 daily, EXCEPT 25 at Toledo Bend
Bass, Yellow	none	50 daily, EXCEPT no limit at Toledo Bend
Bowfin (Choupique)	16" min total length	No limit
Buffalo Fish (or their hybrids)	16" min total length	25 per day
Catfish, Blue	12" min total length	<i>See Catfish Possession Limit section for more information</i>
Catfish, Channel	11" min total length	
Catfish, Flathead	14" min total length	
Crappie	none	50 daily, EXCEPT 25 at Poverty Point
Crawfish	none	150 pounds daily
Freshwater Drum (Gaspergou)	12" min total length	25 per day
Frogs and Turtles	none	<i>See Reptiles and Amphibians section</i>
Paddlefish	30" max lower jaw fork length	Two per person (<i>see Paddlefish Possession Limits section for specific rules</i>)
Shad	none	50 pounds daily
Sturgeon	n/a	No legal harvest or possession
Other Freshwater Game Fish	none	No limit

*NOTE: For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass is defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on the tongue.

**See official 2011 Louisiana Fishing Regulations Pamphlet for area descriptions.

***Fish falling within a protected slot limit must be immediately released.

ADDITIONAL FRESHWATER FISHING INFORMATION

DAILY BAG LIMIT

No person shall take in any one day more than the daily bag limit as set by law for any species of fish.

POSSESSION

No person shall have in his possession more than twice the daily bag limit of any kind of freshwater recreational fish; except that only one day's bag limit of black bass may be in possession while on the water and except that only a one day's bag limit of all species of fish may be in possession while on the water at Toledo Bend Reservoir; and except that the possession limit for catfish is as identified under **Catfish**; and except that only one day's bag limit of crappie may be in possession while on the water at Poverty Point.

All freshwater game fish caught in any type of recreational or commercial net or trap must be returned immediately to the water from which taken without avoidable injury.

All regulations regarding these species apply whether caught in salt or fresh water areas.

SALE OF CERTAIN FRESHWATER FISH PROHIBITED

No person shall purchase, sell, exchange or offer for sale or exchange, or possess or import with intent to sell or exchange any freshwater or saltwater game fish, or any fish taken recreationally or taken with any recreational gear.

PROHIBITED FRESHWATER FISH

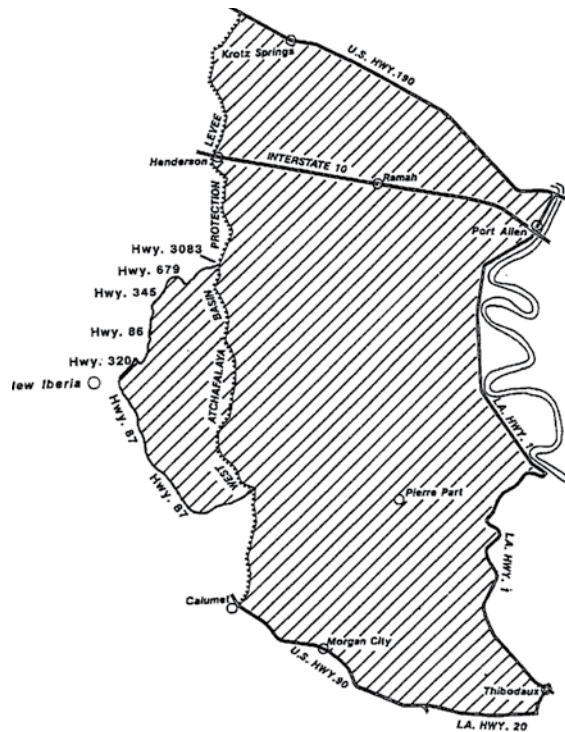
No person may possess or sell in this state the following fishes: all species of piranha, tilapia and carp (except koi or common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus*); Rio Grand Cichlid; freshwater electric eel (*Electrophorus* sp.); rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*); all members of the families *Synbranchidae* (Asian swamp eels), *Channidae* (snakeheads), *Clariidae* (walking catfishes), and *Trichomycteridae* (pencil catfishes).

No fish of any species from outside the state shall be liberated within the state except upon written permission of the Secretary.

No fish of any species shall be liberated into state waters without written permission of the Secretary.

Exotic species of Asian carp (silver, bighead, black and grass) taken recreationally from state waters must not be returned to the water and may not be possessed alive.

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN, LAKE VERRET-PALOURDE AREA AND LAKE FAUSSE POINT-DAUTERIVE AREA



The area south of U.S. 190 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee (WABPL) to the intersection of LA 1 and U.S. 190 due north of Port Allen, west of LA 1 from U.S. 190 to LA 20 in Thibodaux, north and west of LA 20 from LA 1 to U.S. 90, north of U.S. 90 from LA 20 to the WABPL, east of the WABPL from U.S. 90 to the Corps of Engineers (USACE) Locks on the WABPL at the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal (CDNC), north of and including the CDNC from the USACE Locks on the WABPL to Highway 87, north and east of Highway 87 from the CDNC to Highway 320, east of Highway 320 from Highway 87 to Highway 86, south and east of Highway 86 from Highway 320 to Highway 345, east of Highway 345 from Highway 86 to Highway 679, south and east of Highway 679 from Highway 345 to Highway 3083, south of Highway 3083 from Highway 679 to the WABPL and east of the WABPL from Highway 3083 to U.S. 190.

CATFISH POSSESSION LIMITS

The possession limit for catfish caught recreationally shall be 100. The 100 fish may be a single species, or a combination of blue, channel or flathead catfish. A recreational fisherman may possess a maximum of 25 undersize catfish of a single or combination of all three species within the 100 fish possession limit.

PADDLEFISH POSSESSION LIMITS

The incidental take and possession of paddlefish is allowed under the following conditions: The taking or possession of paddlefish is closed in all saltwater areas of the state and in border waters shared with Texas. All possessed paddlefish must be dead. The possession or transportation of live paddlefish is prohibited. All paddlefish possessed on the waters of the state shall be maintained intact. No person shall possess paddlefish eggs on the waters of the state which are not fully attached to the fish. The daily take and possession limit of paddlefish is two per person. All paddlefish greater than 30 inches lower jaw fork length must be returned to the water immediately. (See section on “Measuring Fish” for an illustration).

Releasing aquarium fish or unused bait into state waters is ILLEGAL.

NOXIOUS AQUATIC PLANTS IMPORTATION PROHIBITED



NOTICE TO FISHERMEN AND BOATERS

With increasing frequency, introduced aquatic plants are creating serious aquatic habitat problems in many areas of the state. To minimize the spread of these plants in Louisiana waters we recommend the following: check boats (live wells, ice chests, fishing tackle, etc.) and trailers for the presence of aquatic vegetation prior to departing the launch site. If present, we encourage you to remove **ALL** plant material and dispose of it in a manner that will prevent introduction into other waterbodies.

No person shall at any time import or cause to be transported into the jurisdiction of the state of Louisiana from any other state or country, any of the invasive noxious aquatic plants listed below, without first obtaining an Invasive, Noxious Aquatic Plant permit from the department:

1. *Eichhornia azurea* (rooting or anchoring hyacinth)
2. *Elodea canadensis* (elodea)
3. *Hydrilla spp.* (hydrilla)
4. *Lagarosiphon muscoides* & *Lagarosiphon major* (African elodea)
5. *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian watermilfoil)
6. *Najas marina* (marine naiad)
7. *Najas minor* (slender naiad)
8. *Panicum repens* (torpedo-grass)
9. *Pontederia spp.* (pickerelweed)
10. *Spirodela oligorrhiza* (giant duckweed)
11. *Trapa* (waterchestnut)
12. *Melaleuca quinquenvia* (kapok tree)
13. *Pistia stratiotes* (water lettuce)
14. *Salvinia spp.* (salvinia)
15. *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife)
16. *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth)

RECREATIONAL CRAWFISHING

CRAWFISH TRAP

Any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throats or flues not exceeding two inches and which is used for the express purpose of taking crawfish. Crawfish traps are typically of the pillow style or cone style with minimum mesh size no smaller than 3/4 inches by 11/16 inches. No more than 35 traps may be used per person while fishing recreationally for crawfish. Crawfish traps shall be marked with a waterproof tag, provided by the fisherman, with the name and recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag.

CRAWFISH NET

Any device constructed with vegetable or synthetic material without flues or throats attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crawfish.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A recreational basic fishing license in addition to a recreational crawfish trap gear license is required to use crawfish traps in public wa-

ters, with a limit of 35 traps per licensed fisherman. Any person using crawfish nets, dip nets, hand lines, or bait seines for the purpose of taking crawfish for recreational purposes shall not be required to purchase or possess a basic recreational fishing license or be required to purchase a gear license. However, persons using crawfish nets, dip nets, hand lines, or bait seines on LDWF WMAs or refuges must possess a basic recreational fishing license or a Wild Louisiana Stamp.

METHODS OF TAKE

Crawfish may be taken with any legal crawfish trap, crawfish net, hoop net, wire net, handline, bushline, bait seine, dip net or cast net (not to exceed 8.5 feet in radius).

SEASONS

There is no closed season for wild crawfish harvest.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

There is no minimum size for crawfish. The bag and possession limit for crawfish is 150 lbs daily per person in state waters.

WMAs, STATE REFUGES & FEDERAL REFUGES

These areas may have specific regulations regarding open seasons, harvest and gear restrictions. For state-regulated areas please consult the WMA and Refuge Regulation section of this pamphlet. For National Wildlife Refuges, please contact the area offices as follows:

- North Louisiana Complex:
318-726-4222
- Central Louisiana Complex:
318-253-4238
- Southeast Louisiana Complex:
985-882-2000
- Southwest Louisiana Complex:
337-598-2216

For fishing information on the Indian Bayou Recreational Area within the Atchafalaya Basin contact the Corps of Engineers at 337-585-0853.



LDWF (Mike Harbison)

NOTICE TO OFFSHORE FISHERMEN

Louisiana recreational and commercial anglers fishing offshore beyond the Louisiana boundary are in federal waters and are subject to rules and regulations that may differ from those in state waters. To ensure that you are in compliance with federal regulations, you should contact the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at 813- 348-1630, toll free 1-888-833-1844 (write 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607 for informational pamphlet, e-mail gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org or visit: www.gulfcouncil.org. All persons possessing fish in Louisiana waters must be in possession of applicable basic or saltwater license. Contact your local Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Agent for specific information (*numbers listed on page 7*).

GENERAL NOTES

All finfish caught in saltwater areas of the state except tuna and swordfish possessed by a recreational angler shall have the head and caudal fin intact until set or put on shore. Garfish may have the head and caudal fin removed prior to the fish being set or put on shore as long as a sufficient patch of skin, that clearly identifies the fish, is retained on the fish. Tuna, swordfish and shark possessed by a recreational angler shall not be skinned or scaled until set or put on shore. Tuna which have minimum size requirements may have head removed if carcass length is in excess of minimum total length.

Fillets may not be possessed on the water, except for the purpose of consumption at sea aboard the harvesting vessel, a person shall have no more than two pounds of finfish parts per person on board the vessel, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish and such finfish does not exceed applicable bag limits. These provisions shall not apply to bait species.

Saltwater finfish caught or transported by a recreational fisherman, while license is in effect, are presumed to have been taken in Louisiana waters, for license requirements.

All regulations regarding these species apply whether caught in fresh or salt water areas.

DEFINITIONS (BILLFISHES)

For purposes of this section, the following words and phrases have the meaning ascribed to them in this subsection, unless the context clearly shows a different meaning:

1. **Dressed weight:** weight of the carcass after it has been gutted, headed and finned.
2. **Carcass Length:** curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.
3. **Lower Jaw Fork Length:** straight-line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail.
4. **Curved Fork Length:** tip of upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body.
5. **Trip:** a fishing trip, regardless of the number of days' duration, that begins with departure from a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp and that terminates with return to a dock, berth, beach, seawall or ramp.

Unless otherwise established, there are no size limits on species not listed and unless otherwise noted, possession limits for saltwater fish are the same as the daily bag limit.

SALTWATER STATE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
COMMON COASTAL SPECIES		
Cobia (Ling or Lemon Fish)	33" min fork length	2 daily per person
Drum, Black	16" min total length	5 daily per person - bag and possession No more than one over 27" max total length
Drum, Red (Redfish) ¹		5 daily per person - bag ² No more than one over 27" max total length
Flounder, Southern	none	10 daily per person (for each consecutive day on the water)
Mackerel, King ³	24" min fork length	2 daily per person
Mackerel, Spanish ³	12" min fork length	15 daily per person
Mullet, Striped	none	100 lbs. daily
Seatrout, Spotted (Speckled Trout) ⁴	12" min total length	25 daily per person - bag ² ; 15 daily per person with no more than two over 25" (in specified areas)
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ⁵		
Marlin, Blue	99" min lower jaw fork length	none
Marlin, White	66" min lower jaw fork length	
Sailfish	63" min lower jaw fork length	
Shark, Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead ⁶	none	1 daily per person - possession
Shark, Others (EXCEPT prohibited, silky and sandbar) ⁶	54" min fork length	1 in aggregate per vessel per trip - possession. No silky or sandbar sharks or prohibited species.
Swordfish ⁷	29" min carcass length or 33 lbs. min dressed weight 47" min length (lower jaw to tail fork)	1 per person or 4 per vessel per trip
Tuna, Bigeye ⁸	27" min curved fork length	none
Tuna, Bluefin ⁸		none
Tuna, Yellowfin ⁸		3 daily per person
REEF FISH ³		
Grouper, Black and Gag ^{9,10}	22" min total length	5 daily in aggregate No more than one speckled hind and one Warsaw grouper per vessel and not more than one red grouper per person included in the bag limit. ^{3,9}
Grouper, Red and Yellowfin ^{9,10}	20" min total length	
Grouper, Scamp ^{9,10}	16" min total length	
Grouper, Goliath and Nassau	Take Prohibited	Take/Possession prohibited
Snapper, Red ^{10,11}	16" min total length	2 daily per person ²
Snapper, Mutton	16" min total length	10 daily per person in aggregate ³
Snapper, Queen, Blackfin, Silk and Wenchman	none	
Snapper, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Gray (mangrove), Yellowtail, Dog and Mahogany	12" min total length	
Snapper, Lane	8" min total length	20 daily per person in aggregate ³
Snapper, Vermilion	10" min total length	
Almaco Jack	none	
Gray Triggerfish	14" min fork length	
Tilefish, Goldface, Blackline, Anchor and Blueline Tilefishes	none	
Amberjack, Greater ¹⁰	30" min fork length	1 daily per person ³
Amberjack, Lesser and Banded Rudderfish	14" min fork length 22" max fork length	5 daily per person in aggregate
Hogfish	12" min fork length	5 daily per person
Seabass, Black	8" min total length	none

EXPLANATION OF SALTWATER CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

¹ Red Drum (Redfish), and Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout):

Recreational saltwater anglers may possess a two day's bag limit on land; however, no person shall be in possession of over the daily bag limit in any one day or while fishing or while on the water, unless that recreational saltwater angler is aboard a trawler engaged in commercial fishing for a consecutive period of longer than 25 hours. Take or Possession of **red drum** in federal waters is prohibited.

² Two days' bag limit allowed in possession off of the water, not while fishing or in a boat.

³ Two day limit allowed in possession only on charter vessels and headboats on multi day trips, if the vessels have two licensed operators as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips more than 12 hours, and if each angler has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel verifying the length of the trip.

⁴ Seatrout, Spotted (Speckled Trout): 12" minimum total length. 25 fish per person daily bag limit. **EXCEPT:** 15 fish daily take and possession limit, with no more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25" total length, regardless of where taken, in a defined area of Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes in southwestern Louisiana. Within those areas described here, including coastal territorial waters: south of Interstate 10 from its junction at the Texas-Louisiana boundary eastward to its junction with Louisiana Highway 171, south to Highway 14, and then south to Holmwood, and then south on Highway 27 through Gibbstown south to Louisiana Highway 82 at Creole and south on Highway 82 to Oak Grove, and then due south to the western shore of the Mermentau River, following this shoreline south to the junction with the Gulf of Mexico, and then due south to the limit of the state territorial sea, under the authority of the provisions of R. S. 56:325.1(A), the daily take and possession limit shall be 15 fish, regard-

less of where taken, with no more than two spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches total length. Those spotted seatrout exceeding 25" in length shall be considered as part of the daily recreational take and possession limit.

⁵ Highly Migratory Species: All owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit. Similar to Atlantic tunas permits, 2011 Atlantic HMS permits will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2011.

Federal regulations currently require a federal HMS angling permit for all owners/operators of recreational vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Those regulations also require an Atlantic HMS Charter/ Headboat permit for all charter or headboat fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic HMS in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. For information contact the National Marine Fisheries Service Permitting Office at 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) or visit NMFS Permit Shop at: <http://www.nmfspermits.com/initialapp.asp>.

Recreational tournament operators: A person conducting a tournament involving scorekeeping or awards for highly migratory species including Atlantic billfish, swordfish, tuna and sharks (whether or not retained), must register with the NOAA Fisheries Permit Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL, 33701 or by FAX to 727-824-5398. The registration must be in writing, at least four weeks prior to commencement of tournament fishing. A tournament registration form is available upon request from the above address or can be requested by FAX to 727-824-5398. NOTE: Federal regulations currently require registration

of all fishing tournaments involving the catch and/or landing of any HMS in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

⁶ Sharks: CLOSED SEASON: All Louisiana state waters out to the seaward boundary of the Louisiana Territorial Sea shall be closed to the recreational and commercial harvest and possession of all sharks between April 1 and June 30 of each year.

Small Coastal Sharks:

Atlantic sharpnose shark; bonnethead shark; blacknose shark; finetooth shark

Large Coastal Sharks:

blacktip shark; nurse shark; smooth hammerhead; bull shark; sandbar shark*; spinner shark; great hammerhead; scalloped hammerhead; tiger shark; lemon shark; silky shark*

*NOTE: Recreational harvest of sandbar and silky sharks (ridgeback sharks) is not allowed.

Pelagic Sharks:

blue shark; porbeagle shark; thresher shark; oceanic whitetip shark; short-fin mako

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:

Atlantic angel shark; Caribbean sharpnose shark; sand tiger shark; basking shark; dusky shark; sevengill shark; bigeye sand tiger shark; Galapagos shark; sixgill shark; bigeye sixgill shark; largetooth sawfish; smalltail shark; bigeye thresher shark; longfin mako; smalltooth sawfish; bignose shark; narrowtooth shark; whale shark; Caribbean reef shark; night shark; white shark.

Sharks taken under a recreational bag limit shall not be sold, purchased, exchanged, bartered or attempted to be sold, purchased, exchanged or bartered. 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 mentioned above. The practice of "finning," that is, removing only the fins and returning the remain-

der of the shark to the sea, is prohibited within and without Louisiana waters. 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.

⁷ **Swordfish:** Recreational fishing vessels shall not possess more than four swordfish per vessel per trip. Swordfish taken under a recreational bag limit shall not be sold, purchased, exchanged, bartered, or attempted to be sold, purchased, exchanged or bartered. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of swordfish between vessels on state or federal waters.

⁸ **Tuna:** Person subject to the jurisdiction of the state, fishing for tunas within or without Louisiana state waters, are subject to both state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Federal regulations on recreational harvest of tunas change often, especially for bluefin tuna. Prior to harvest of tuna, be aware of the most

current federal regulations on harvest, including sizes, bag limits and closed seasons. The “Atlantic Tunas Regulations Brochure” is available at <http://hmspermits.noaa.gov/library.asp> and announcements of changes may be accessed via the web at <http://hmspermits.noaa.gov/news.asp>.

All bluefin tuna must be reported within 24 hours of landing to NMFS by calling 888-872-8862 or visiting www.hmspermits.noaa.gov. For further information regarding angling category permits please call the NMFS HMS Division at 888-872-8862.

Permanent Louisiana regulations on tuna harvest may be superseded by seasonal changes within the federal regulatory system. See websites referenced above for current federal regulations.

⁹ **Grouper:** *NOTE: A closed season has been established for recreational harvest of gag, black and red grouper, effective Feb. 15 - March 14 of each year in Louisiana state waters. As of the publication date of this pamphlet, modified rules on bag limits were*

being considered. Please refer to the LDWF website for current information:

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/seasons and www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/regulations.

Other seasons and rules are currently in place in Federal waters off of Louisiana. Please check those rules at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org/> under “Fishing Regulations.”

¹⁰ No harvest of red snapper, greater amberjack or grouper of any species is allowed for the captain and crew of vessel, under charter (their creel limit is zero).

¹¹ **Snapper, Red:** A federal recreational quota for red snapper is in effect. The recreational season for harvest of red snapper is scheduled to open **June 1**. For red snapper season information check the LDWF website at:

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/seasons and www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational/saltwater/regulations.



LDWF (Mike Harbison)

RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING

To recreationally shrimp, a person will need basic and saltwater licenses. To use a trawl, a person will additionally need a gear license for a trawl which can be purchased at any license issuing facility.

AREAS

Grand Isle Beach closed out to 500' May to September by Commission action.

Shrimping areas in Louisiana are divided into inshore waters, the off-shore territorial sea and the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The line (shrimp line) that separates inside waters from outside territorial waters generally follows the coastline, although there are some exceptions. For specific boundary locations check with your local Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Agent. Maps of the shrimp line are available at a charge of \$10 per map by writing the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 220, New Orleans, LA 70122. Please specify which area of the coast you are interested in. The line that separates state territorial waters from the EEZ generally follows the Louisiana coast three miles from shore. For specific boundary locations, particularly in the Grand Isle and Marsh Island area, you should contact your local Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Agent.

For management purposes, both state inside and state outside territorial waters are divided into three shrimp management zones:

Zone 1: extends from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River.

Zone 2: extends from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island.

Zone 3: extends from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana/Texas state line.

NOTE: Restricted areas exist within WMAs, refuges and other areas which may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local Wildlife and Fisheries Office or Enforcement

Agent and the WMA section of this pamphlet.

Night shrimping, between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, is prohibited in Vermilion Bay, East and West Cote Blanche Bays, and Atchafalaya Bay, from the western shore of Vermilion Bay to the western shore of the Atchafalaya River and the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel out to Eugene Island as described by the inside-outside line in R.S. 56:495.

Taking shrimp with saltwater trawls from May 1 - Sept. 15 each year is prohibited in state waters on the south side of Grand Isle from Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass in Jefferson Parish, from the southeast side of the Caminada bridge to the northwest side of Barataria Pass at Fort Livingston, extending from the beach side of Grand Isle to a distance of 500 feet beyond the shoreline into the Gulf of Mexico.

TRAWLING

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

Trawling is prohibited in Lake Maurepas and that portion of Lake Pontchartrain from the shoreline to 1.25 miles out from the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line east to the eastern shore of South Point, from South Point to North Shore along the railroad bridge west from North Shore to Goose Point.

Trawling is prohibited between the railroad bridge and Interstate 10 in Lake Pontchartrain.

Trawling at night is prohibited in Cameron Parish sections of Calcasieu Lake, the Black Lake Bayou System, Grand Bayou and Little Burten's Ditch. Trawling at night is prohibited in Grand Lake and White Lake.

Trawls are prohibited in the waters of Bayou Judge Perez (Bayou Hermitage) from its entrance into Lake Judge Perez (Bayou Hermitage) to Devils Bayou, a distance of approximately one mile, located in Plaquemines Parish.

Trawling north of the LA Highway 631 Bridge at Des

Allemands, Louisiana, and in Lake Des Allemands, its streams and tributaries, is prohibited.

Trawling is prohibited in the cove immediately adjacent to Cypremort Point State Park landward of a line from Blue Point to Cypremort Point to the shoreline.

SEASONS

Trawls cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during closed season. Shrimp seasons are flexible and are fixed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission based upon biological and technical data relative to shrimp populations in Louisiana waters. Generally, the spring inshore season will begin in early to mid May and may extend into July. The fall inshore season usually begins near mid-August and typically extends into December. The shrimp season in Louisiana's outside territorial waters is generally open year round **EXCEPT** for a closed season in portions of state outside waters which may be set during the late winter to early spring months usually beginning in December or January and extending into March or April. The shrimp season in the federal waters of the Gulf outside (south) of Louisiana's territorial waters is usually open all year; these waters are controlled by the federal government. A federal shrimp vessel permit is required for all vessels fishing shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ.

Information concerning federal shrimp vessel permits, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) and Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD) requirements and exemptions can be obtained by contacting the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727) 824-5312 for TEDs or (727) 824-5305 for BRDs or at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

SIZE LIMIT

There is no size limit on any saltwater shrimp taken during the spring open season nor is there any size limit on brown shrimp or seabobs taken during any open season in Louisiana. There is, however, a minimum possession count on white shrimp taken in either inside or outside (offshore) waters of Louisiana of 100 count

(whole shrimp per pound). This size restriction applies to the taking or possession of such shrimp aboard a vessel, **EXCEPT** during the period from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December when there shall be no possession count on white shrimp taken or possessed. When more than 50 percent by weight of the shrimp taken or possessed is seabobs or brown shrimp, then the maximum allowable amount of undersized white shrimp taken or possessed shall not exceed 10 percent by weight of the total shrimp taken or possessed.

METHODS OF TAKING

During open seasons, saltwater shrimp may be taken with trawls or cast nets and by no other means. Bait shrimp may be taken at any time, even during the closed season, with cast nets less than 8.5 feet in radius, hand operated dip nets with a diameter not to exceed three feet, bait traps, and bait seines less than 30 feet with a maximum mesh size of 1/4 inch bar, 1/2 inch stretched mesh which are

manually operated on foot only.

Cast Nets, Dip Nets, Bait Seines: A recreational angler may use dip nets, bait seines, and cast nets not to exceed 8.5 feet in radius, but shall not take at anytime more than 50 pounds of shrimp during closed season and 100 pounds of shrimp per day during the open season, in the aggregate, per day per boat or vehicle, regardless of the number of persons thereon, provided the shrimp taken are used for bait or for the fisherman's own consumption and are not sold, traded or otherwise permitted to enter into commerce. Certain WMAs and state or federal refuges may have different rules, consult local LDWF office or Enforcement Agent for specifics. (See **WMA and Refuge** section).

Trawls: Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8 inch bar or 1.25 inches stretched. In Zone 2 from the western shore of the Atchafalaya River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, mesh size must not be less than 3/4 inch bar or 1.5 inches

stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season. No net or beam trawl used for taking fish or shrimp from the saltwater areas of the state shall be left unattended, as defined in R.S. 56:8(102) except such legal nets or trawls which are attached to a wharf at a camp and which are tagged with a department tag issued in conjunction with the gear being used.

During the open shrimping seasons, trawls 25 feet and less may be used for recreational purposes; recreational shrimpers using trawls 16 feet in length or less are limited to 100 pounds (heads on) of shrimp per boat per day, and recreational shrimpers using trawls exceeding 16 feet but not exceeding 25 feet in length are limited to no more than 250 pounds of (heads-on) shrimp per day per boat, provided the shrimp taken are used for bait or the fisherman's own consumption and are not sold, traded or otherwise permitted to enter commerce. **A recreational trawl license is required.** (See **License** section for license prices).

RECREATIONAL CRABBING

A recreational basic fishing and saltwater license in addition to a recreational crab trap gear license is required to use crab traps, with a limit of 10 traps per licensed fisherman.

METHODS OF TAKING

Crabs or stone crabs may be taken with any legal crab trap, crab dropnet, trawl, hoop net, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net or cast net. Dredges shall not be used for the intentional taking of crabs.

The taking of crabs by means of trawls in inside waters is permitted only during the open season for shrimp and with a legal mesh size (see **Shrimp Trawls**).

No person shall possess adult female crabs in the berry stage (i.e., carrying the eggs or young attached to the abdomen). All crabs in the berry stage taken by any means shall be returned immediately to the waters. Gear restrictions may exist within certain WMAs, refuges or other areas. Consult your local Wildlife and Fisheries Office or Enforcement

Agent. (See **WMA and Refuge** section).

CRAB TRAPS

A crab trap is a cube-shaped device, constructed of wire, no larger than 30 inches 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 seven inches 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 one and one-half times the vertical diameter of the opening.

The baiting, tending, checking or removing of serviceable crab traps in use, the contents of such crab traps or their lines, buoys or markers is prohibited in public waters from one half hour after legal sunset until one half hour before legal sunrise.

No crab traps shall be set in navigable channels or entrances to streams. Traps must be placed so vessels can safely navigate.

Crab traps which are no longer serviceable or no longer in use shall be removed by the owner and properly disposed of or stored by him.

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

Each crab trap shall be marked with a two-inch stainless steel self locking tag attached to the center of the trap ceiling. Tags shall be supplied by the fishermen and shall have the recreational crab trap gear license number printed thereon. Crabbers are allowed to use a durable plastic bait box marker as an alternate means of tagging crab traps. Crab traps may be attached to a trotline to which at least one end is attached to a nonfloating line and a visible float of at least six inches in diameter or two-gallon volume size. Crab traps located in areas designated as freshwater north of the northern bank of the Intracoastal Waterway and west of Louisiana Highway 70 and those areas located

on the eastern side of the Mississippi River and inland from the saltwater line are not required to be marked with a float and float line, unless the trap is placed in a lake. Each crab trap on a trotline shall be registered with the department and shall have attached thereto a tag bearing the crab fisherman's license number. **This is the LDWF # at the top of your license.**

All crab traps are required to be marked with a solid float at least six inches in diameter. The float must be attached to the trap with a non-floating line at least 1/4 inch in diameter. West of Highway 70 - no mark required.

Each crab trap shall have a minimum of two escape rings. All escape rings shall be placed on the vertical outside walls flush with the trap floor or baffle with at least one ring located in each chamber of the trap. The

minimum sizes of the rings shall be two and five sixteenths inches in inside diameter, not including the ring material. Rings shall be rigid and attached to the trap with material of a smaller diameter than the wire strands of the trap. Escape ring openings may be obstructed with material that prevents or hampers exit of crabs from April 1 - June 30 and from Sept. 1 - Oct. 31.

Metal tackle or metal crab traps shall not be used in any of the public waters north of the Intracoastal Waterway 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 Cypremort Point one mile offshore to Blue Point.

Crab traps are prohibited in the Tchefuncte River.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

There is no minimum recreational size limit for blue crabs. The daily and possession limit is 12 dozen per person, daily and in possession.

There is no minimum recreational size limit for stone crabs or stone crab claws. Certain WMAs and state and federal refuges may have different possession limits. Consult local LDWF offices or Enforcement agents for specifics (*see page 27 "WMA and Refuge Regulations"*)

Any person using crab nets or crab lines for the purpose of taking crabs for recreational purposes shall not be required to purchase or possess a basic recreational fishing license or be required to purchase a gear license. However, persons using crab nets or crab lines on LDWF WMAs or refuges must possess a basic and saltwater recreational fishing license or a Wild Louisiana Stamp.

RECREATIONAL OYSTERING

SEASONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission designates which public oyster areas are open for fishing by opening or closing the season as biological data indicate. The owner of an oyster lease or his designee, with written permission, may fish oysters at any time of year on their lease. **NOTE:** Areas opened by the Commission may, however, be closed by the Department of Health and Hospitals for public health reasons. Information on closed areas is available from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or from the Department of Health and Hospitals.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

All oysters taken from public oyster areas must be three inches or greater in length from hinge to mouth. A lessee of private oyster areas may be permitted to take undersized oysters from public areas for bedding purposes only. Size restrictions do not apply to oysters taken from a private lease.

Recreational oyster fishermen may harvest oysters only with the written permission of the lease holder

or in public oyster areas open for the harvesting of oysters. Recreational oyster harvesters are limited to two sacks per person per day for personal consumption. Recreational oyster fishermen are also required to possess a basic and saltwater fishing license in addition to a gear license for recreational gear used.

METHODS OF TAKING

Recreational oyster harvest for home consumption is limited to tonging or gathering by hand. A recreational tonging license is required for each tong in use and a recreational basic and saltwater fishing license is required for persons 16 to 59 inclusive for taking oysters by hand. Any resident who turned 60 years of age on or after June 1, 2000 shall be required to purchase a senior fishing license to take oysters.

LEASES

Any person who qualifies and who desires to lease a part of the bottom of any state waters shall present to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a written application and cash deposit

of such amount as determined by LDWF.

RESTRICTIONS

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

The taking of oysters one half hour after sunset until one half hour before sunrise is prohibited.

Oysters taken from the reefs of this state either for sale or consumption shall be landed in Louisiana, except with an out of state oyster landing permit and in compliance with all other rules and regulations.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Reptile and Amphibian regulations apply to frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes, turtles and related species. They do not include alligators.

In order to collect non protected reptiles and/or amphibians for non commercial purposes (personal use as food, bait, etc), all residents and non residents must possess a Basic Resident or Nonresident Fishing License.

Removal of nesting or nest tending animals is prohibited.

Traps must be checked daily.

Turtle traps must be open above water to allow breathing, be marked as "turtle trap," and be constructed as a horizontal, single throated device. No additional gear license is required for a turtle trap.

Possession of finfish while turtle trapping is prohibited.

Use of gasoline to flush animals from hiding places is prohibited.

Natural cover such as stumps and logs may not be destroyed while searching for animals.

Frogs may be taken using any visible light and mechanical devices known as frog catchers or with devices that puncture the skin such as gigs and spears.

Possession of firearms while taking or hunting frogs at night is prohibited.

BULLFROGS (*RANA CATESBEIANA*) AND PIG FROGS (*RANA GRYLIO*)

May be taken year round except during the months of April and May.

No person shall take or possess bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) that are less than five inches in length, nor take or possess pig frogs (*Rana grylio*) that are less than three inches in length. Length is measured from the tip of the muzzle to the posterior end of the body between the hind legs.

EXCEPTION: Frogs under the legal length may be taken from privately owned ponds or waters by the owner thereof or his authorized repre-

sentative and may be sold for the purpose of stocking ponds or waters.

ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLES (*MACROCLEMYS TEMMINCKI*)

No size limit. **Bag limit:** One per day per person, per vehicle.

DIAMONDBACK TERRAPINS (*MALACLEMYS TERRAPIN*)

May not be taken by trap of any kind and may not be taken between April 15 and June 15. Must measure 6 inches or more carapace length.

TURTLE EGGS

No turtle eggs may be taken except for those of the red eared slider (*Trachemys scripta*), wherever found.

BOX TURTLES

No more than four box turtles of the genus *Terrapene* may be possessed at any time, and only two may be taken per day.

RESTRICTED - THREATENED/ ENDANGERED REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

The following species may not be taken or collected from the wild in Louisiana: tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); southern red backed salamander (*Plethodon serratus*); Webster's salamander (*Plethodon websteri*); mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus*); red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*); and threatened or endangered species: green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*); Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*); leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*); loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*); gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*); ringed map turtle (*Graptemys oculifera*); dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevosa*).

FISHING REGULATIONS ON WMAs AND REFUGES

A Wild Louisiana Stamp, hunting license or fishing license shall be required for use of department administered lands including wildlife refuges and wildlife management and habitat conservation areas. Persons under 16 years of age and 60 years of age or older are exempt from this requirement. Persons attending official functions of private, non-profit and charitable organizations recognized as tax exempt under the provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code shall be exempt from this requirement.

The operation of boats with internal combustion engines within designated limited access areas (LAAs), on some coastal wildlife management areas is restricted during waterfowl hunting season from Sept. 1 - Jan. 31. Limited access areas exist within the Atchafalaya Delta, Pass a Loutre, Pointe aux Chenes and Salvador WMAs. LAAs are posted with signage at access points around the perimeter. Any vessel with a movable outdrive system may enter a LAA as long as the boat's internal combustion engine is trimmed up out of the water in an inoperable position. Vessels with fixed props must adhere to the no operation rule. Trolling motors may be used to access and navigate within a LAA while hunting or fishing.

ATCHAFALAYA

Camping and Houseboat Mooring: allowed only in designated areas.

DEWEY W. WILLS

Crawfish: Limited to 100 pounds per person per day.

FORT POLK

Fishing: Special regulations pertaining to fishing are posted at specific lakes.

GRASSY LAKE

Sport Fishing: Same as outside EXCEPT permitted only after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season on Smith Bay, Red River Bay and Grassy Lake proper.

Crawfishing: March 1 - July 31. Recreational only. 100 lbs per boat or group daily.

LAKE BOEUF

All nighttime activities prohibited, including frogging.

MANCHAC

Crabs: No crab traps allowed. Attended lift nets are allowed.

OUACHITA

Crawfish: March 15 - June 30. 100 pounds per person per day limit. Night crawfishing prohibited. No traps or nets left overnight.

Waterfowl Refuge: North of LA Hwy. 15 closed to all fishing during duck season including early teal season.

PASS-A-LOUTRE

Oyster: harvesting is prohibited.

Camping and Houseboat Mooring: allowed only in designated areas.

POINTE-AUX-CHENES

All nighttime activities prohibited.

Recreational Fishing: Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only. During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be permitted. Size count to conform with open season requirements. During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) may be taken for bait. Oyster harvesting is prohibited. Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or hand lines for recreational purposes only. Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none are to remain set overnight. Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day. Crawfish may be harvested in unrestricted portions of the WMA and shall be limited to 100 pounds per boat or group. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight. The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish is for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited.

Vessels/Vehicle: All boats powered by internal combustion engines having horsepower ratings above 25 h.p. are not allowed in the Grand Bayou, Montegut and Pointe-aux-Chenes water management units. Public is permitted to travel anytime through the WMA for access purposes only, in the waterways known as Grand Bayou, Humble Canal, Little Bayou Blue and Grand Bayou Blue. All other motorized vehicles, horses and mules are prohibited unless authorized by LDWF.

POMME DE TERRE

Sport Fishing: Same as outside EXCEPT allowed only after 2 p.m. only during waterfowl season.

Crawfish: March 1 - July 31. Recreational only. 100 lbs. per boat or group daily.

RED RIVER

Crawfish: Allowed on Yakey Farms wetland restoration projects **March 15 - July 31.** 100 lbs. per person per day maximum of five wire traps per person. No traps or nets left overnight. No motorized watercraft.

RUSSELL SAGE

Crawfish: 100 pounds per person per day limit.

SALVADOR/TIMKEN

All nighttime activities prohibited including frogging.

Recreational Fishing: Shrimp may be taken by the use of cast nets only. During the inside open shrimp season, 25 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum shall be permitted. Size count to conform with open season requirements. During the inside closed season, 10 pounds per boat per day (heads on) maximum may be taken for bait. Fish may be taken only by rod and reel or hand lines for recreational purposes. Crabs may be taken only through the use of hand lines or nets; however, none are to remain set overnight. Twelve dozen crabs maximum are allowed per boat or vehicle per day. Crawfish may be

harvested in unrestricted portions of the WMA and shall be limited to 100 pounds per boat or group. Fishing gear used to catch crawfish shall not remain set overnight. The harvest of all fish, shrimp, crabs and crawfish are for recreational purposes only and any commercial use is prohibited. Boats powered by internal combustion engines having horsepower ratings above 25hp are permitted only in oil company access canals, Louisiana Cypress Canal, the Netherlands Pond including the West Canal, Lakes “Baie Des Chactas” and “Baie Du Cabanage” and the Rathborne Access ditch. Use of mudboats powered by internal combustion engines with four cylinders or less is permitted in interior ditches from Sept. 4 - Feb. 1. Pulling boats over levees, dams or water control structures or any other activities which cause detriment to the integrity of levees, dams and water control structures is prohibited.

SHERBURNE

Crawfishing: March 1 - July 31. Recreational crawfishing only on the Sherburne WMA. Crawfish harvest limited to 100 pounds per vehicle or boat per day. No traps or nets left overnight. No motorized water craft allowed on farm complex.

SODA LAKE

Sport Fishing: April 1 - Aug. 31.

SPRING BAYOU

Sport Fishing: Same as outside **EXCEPT** allowed after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season.

Crawfish: March 1 - July 31.

Recreational only, 100 lbs. per person or group daily.

ROCKEFELLER WILDLIFE REFUGE, STATE WILDLIFE REFUGE (VERMILION) & MARSH ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE

Trawling: prohibited.

Trotlines, Jug Lines, Trammel and Gill Nets and Traps: prohibited.

Commercial Fishing: All commercial fishing and use of any commercial

fishing gear on the refuge is prohibited. **Commercial fishing gear or trawls** shall not be permitted in possession while participating in sport fishing on the refuge. Commercial fishing gear may be in possession for non-stop access directly across the refuge or for safe harbor only.

Shrimp: Twenty-five pounds of shrimp (heads on) per boat or vehicle per day is allowed during the inside open shrimp season as established by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Ten pounds of shrimp (heads on) for bait purposes may be caught during the closed season. Shrimp may be harvested only by cast net on the refuge and only for sport fishing or home consumption use. When harvesting shrimp with a cast net, contents shall be dumped in a container and not on the ground.

Crawfish: May be harvested from the open portion of the refuge and 100 pounds per boat or vehicle is allowed per day. Set nets may be used but must be attended and removed from the refuge daily. No commercial harvest is allowed.

Crabs: May be harvested from the open portion of the refuge and 12 dozen crabs are allowed per boat or vehicle per day. **NOTE:** No commercial harvest is allowed on Marsh Island, State Wildlife and Rockefeller refuges.

Oysters: May be harvested by tonging (properly licensed) or by hand collection from the natural reefs. One gallon per boat or vehicle per day is allowed and oysters must be opened at the reef and the shells returned to the reef. Taking of oysters on the reef is dependent upon Department of Health and Hospitals’ approval and may be closed at any time by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Vessels: Speed boat racing and water skiing are prohibited. All boat traffic shall honor no wake zones and shall keep wave wash to a minimum. Pulling boats over or around levees, dams or water control structures is prohibited. Jet skis and air boats are prohibited.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INDIAN BAYOU AREA

Crawfishing: Feb. 1 - Aug. 31. Additional Permit required, available Jan. 1.

BOATING SAFETY

BOATING SAFETY COURSE

No person born after Jan. 1, 1984, shall operate a motorboat powered by a motor in excess of ten horsepower unless he/she has successfully completed a boating safety class approved by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). A person who has completed an approved boating safety class shall be in possession of evidence of such completion when operating such a boat.

A motorboat may be operated if any person on board or participating in any boating activity from the motorboat is over the age of eighteen and, if required to, has completed a boating safety course.

For information on Boating Safety courses, see the LDWF website at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (LIFEJACKETS)

Boats under 16 feet in length must have a Type I, II or III wearable USCG approved personal flotation device on board for each person in the vessel, including anyone in a tow-behind activity.

Boats 16 feet or longer must have a Type I, II or III wearable USCG approved personal flotation device for each person aboard or being towed, plus a Type IV USCG approved throw cushion or ring buoy.

All persons onboard a boat under 16 feet propelled by a handtiller outboard motor must wear a Type I, II, III or V USCG approved personal flotation device while the boat is underway.

Children 16 years old or younger must wear a properly sized and fitted, USCG approved personal flotation device at all times when the vessel is underway with the main source of propulsion.

All personal flotation devices must be in serviceable condition, readily accessible, and of the proper size for the wearer.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS

Navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

Rowboats, canoes and pirogues must have a white light to be displayed when operating between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

Any vessel at anchor must display a white 360-degree light at the highest location visible to all points of the horizon.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER (MUST BE USCG APPROVED)

A vessel of any length must have a fire extinguisher when it has any of the following:

- Inboard engine.
- Closed compartments where portable fuel tanks may be stored.
- Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or not completely filled with flotation materials.
- Closed living spaces.
- Closed storage compartments in which flammable or combustible materials may be stored.
- Permanently installed fuel tanks are installed and fuel tanks of 10 gallons or more.

VENTILATION SYSTEM

Any gasoline-powered vessels (except outboards) that are constructed in a way that may entrap gasoline fumes must be fitted with either a natural or powered ventilation system.

BACKFIRE FLAME ARRESTER

All vessels using a gasoline-powered engine must have the carburetor or carburetors fitted with USCG approved flame arrestors.

ENGINE CUT-OFF SWITCH

Boats under 26 feet that are propelled by a handtiller outboard motor manufactured with an engine cut-off switch and greater than 10 horsepower must have an engine cut-off switch link attached to the operator, the operator's clothing or, if worn, the operator's personal flotation device while underway.

MUFFLERS

All vessels must be equipped with an efficient muffler or exhaust system that is capable of adequately muffling the exhaust of the vessel.

HORNS/WHISTLES

All vessels 16 feet and over must have a horn.

All vessels must have a horn in periods of restricted visibility.

VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS

Any watercraft used on coastal waters including territorial seas up to a point where the waters are less than two miles wide shall be equipped with USCG approved visual distress signaling devices. **The following watercraft shall be exempt when operating between sunrise and sunset:**

- Recreational boats less than 16 feet in length.
- Boats participating in organized events, which have been permitted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Open sailboats not equipped with propulsion machinery and less than 26 feet in length.
- Manually propelled boats.

DIVER-DOWN FLAGS

Scuba divers and snorkelers must display a "diver down" flag that marks their diving area. Vessels should remain at least 100 feet away from the flag. The diver-down flags are either red with a white diagonal stripe for Louisiana waters or a blue and white flag for federal waters.

BOATING ACCIDENTS

If involved in a boating accident, the operator must stop his or her vessel at the scene of the accident and give assistance to anyone injured or minimize any danger caused by the accident, unless doing so would seriously endanger his or her vessel or passengers. Give his or her name, address and identifying number of the vessel in writing to anyone injured in the accident and to the owner of any damaged property. Boat operators involved in an accident resulting in death or injury to a person or property damage in excess of \$500 must report it to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the nearest law enforcement agency, or the state police by the most prompt means of communication. As well a written report on an accident resulting in death or injury to a person or property damage in excess of \$500 must be filed with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries within five days. Accident reports are available from any regional Wildlife and Fisheries office or on our website at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

RULES OF THE ROAD

The following regulations shall dictate the operation of vessels upon the waters of the state and shall set forth a standard of operation. In construing and complying with these rules, due regard shall be had to all dangers of navigation and collision and to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the vessels involved, which may make a departure from the rules necessary to avoid immediate danger.

1. Vessels passing head-on shall each keep to their respective right.
2. A vessel overtaking another vessel may do so on either side, but must grant the right-of-way to the vessel being overtaken.
3. When vessels are passing at right angles, the vessel on the left will yield right-of-way to vessel on the right.
4. Motorboats shall yield right-of-way to non-motor powered boats except as follows:
 - A. When being overtaken by non-powered vessels.
 - B. For deep draft vessels that have to remain in narrow channels.
 - C. When vessel is towing another vessel.
5. Motorboats must maintain a direct course when passing sailboats.
6. A vessel approaching a landing dock or pier shall yield the right-of-way to any departing vessel.
7. A vessel departing shoreline or tributary shall yield right-of-way to through traffic and vessels approaching shoreline or tributary.
8. Vessels will not abruptly change course without first determining that it can be safely done without risk of collision with another vessel.
9. If an operator fails to fully comprehend the course of an approaching vessel he must slow down immediately to a speed barely sufficient for steerageway until the other vessel has passed.
10. Vessels yielding right-of-way shall reduce speed, stop, reverse or alter course to avoid collision. Vessel with right-of-way shall hold course and speed. If there is danger of collision, all vessels will slow down, stop or reverse until danger is averted.
11. Vessels will issue warning signals in fog or weather conditions that restrict visibility.
12. No mechanically propelled vessel shall be operated so as to traverse a course around any other vessel underway or any person swimming.
13. In a narrow channel, vessels will keep to the right of mid-channel.
14. Vessels approaching or passing another vessel shall be operated in such manner and at such a rate of speed as will not create a hazardous wash or wake.
15. No vessel shall obstruct or interfere with take-off, landing or taxiing of aircraft.
16. All vessels shall be operated at reasonable speeds for given conditions and situations and must be under the complete control of the operator at all times.
17. No person shall, under any circumstances, operate a vessel in excess of an established speed or wake zone.
18. No vessel or person shall obstruct or block a navigation channel, entrance to channel, mooring slip, landing dock, launching ramp, pier or tributary.
19. Vessels shall keep at least 100 feet clearance of displayed diver's flag.
20. Operator shall maintain a proper lookout.

NOTE: For a more comprehensive compilation of boating and vessel requirements, see the LDWF website at www.wlf.louisiana.gov for a printable version of "Handbook of LA Boating Laws and Regulations." For more information on boating regulations or safe boating courses visit the LDWF website or phone 225-765-2984.

SAFETY TIPS

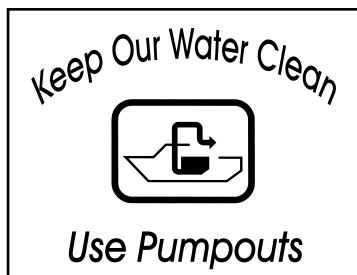
FILING A FLOAT PLAN

- Before going out on a vessel it is always a good idea to leave a float plan.
- Leave it with a relative or friend.
- A float plan should describe the vessel, its registration number, size, hull color and engine type. Note the boat landing that is to be used to unload the boat and the area where you intend to fish with names of lakes and bayous, etc.
- List the number and names of passengers and any cell phone numbers and VHF radio call sign of the vessel.

FALLS OVERBOARD

- Don't stand in a moving boat.
- Don't sit on gunwales, seatbacks or bow area of the boat.
- Don't lean over the side for any reason.
- Always hold on to something when moving in a stationary boat and never move about in a boat when it is underway.
- Always wear a personal flotation device when the boat is underway.

CLEAN WATER - DO YOUR PART



Clean water is important to all of us. One way for boaters and anglers to help protect and improve the quality of our waters is to eliminate the overboard discharge of sewage. Sewage discharges are unsightly and may contain disease-carrying bacteria and viruses. The microorganisms can contaminate shellfish beds and areas used for swimming, fishing and skiing. The decaying of sewage can also degrade aquatic habitats by depleting oxygen in the water.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

1. Use shore-side toilet facilities before going out on the water.
2. Dispose of waste from portable toilets or on-board sewage holding tanks properly.

3. Don't throw anything overboard.
4. Bring cut fishing line ashore.
5. Avoid discharging bilge waste into the water.
6. Be careful when fueling; try to prevent spills.

Boaters can legally and conveniently dispose of waste at properly installed and operated marine pumpout and portable toilet wash-down stations.

The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grant Program reimburses marina owners up to 75 percent of the cost of approved pumpout and washdown station installations or improvements. For more information on boat sewage disposal facilities or the CVA Grant Program, please contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at (225) 765-2864, or visit the Louisiana CVA web page by going to www.wlf.louisiana.gov, clicking on "Boating," clicking on "Programs" then clicking on "Clean Vessel Program."

IT'S THE LAW!

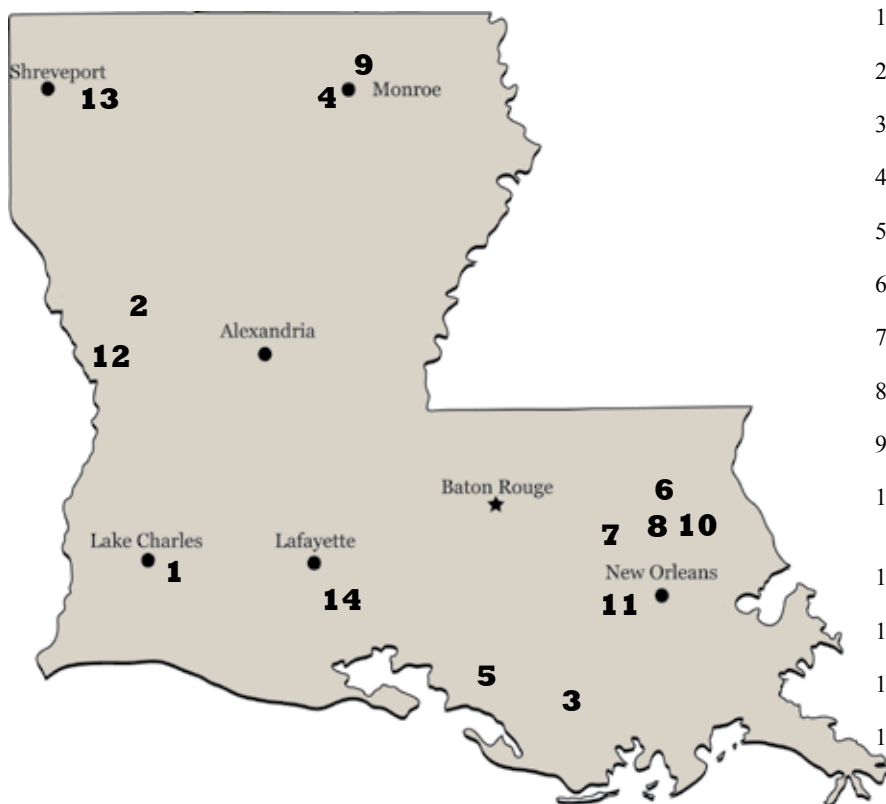
Federal and state laws prohibit the discharge of untreated sewage from vessels within Louisiana's navigable waters. This includes territorial seas within the three mile limit. Federal and state laws also prohibit the discharge of sewage (treated and untreated) within No Discharge Zones.

Recreational vessels with installed toilets must have an operable Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) certified by the U.S. Coast Guard. Portable toilets are not considered as installed and are not subject to MSD regulations. However, it is illegal to empty portable toilets overboard.

MSDs may have a Y-valve that, when in position, allows direct discharge of raw sewage. Boat operating in U.S. territorial waters must have the Y-valve secured in a closed position to prevent discharges.

To report boat sewage violations, contact your regional Wildlife and Fisheries office, the U.S. Coast Guard, or the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at (225) 219-3640.

The numbers on the map refer to the marinas with sewage disposal facilities listed below. The waterbodies they serve are in parenthesis. Please call for hours, services offered, cost (if any) or other information.



1. Bowtie Marina, Lake Charles - \$5.00 (Contraband Bayou) 337-478-0130
2. Cypress Bend Park, Negreet (Toledo Bend) 318-256-4118
3. Downtown Marina, Houma - \$5.00 (Bayou Terrebonne/GIWW) 985-873-6428
4. Forsythe Point, Monroe (Ouachita River) 318-329-4101
5. Lake End Park, Morgan City - \$5.00 (Lake Palourde) 985-380-4623
6. Marina Beau Chene, Mandeville - \$5.00 (Tchefuncte River) 985-845-3454
7. Marina Del Ray, Madisonville - \$10.00 (Tchefuncte River) 985-845-4474
8. Mariner's Village Marina, Mandeville (Lake Pontchartrain) 985-626-1517
9. Moon Lake Resort, Monroe (Ouachita River) 318-322-2300
10. Northshore Marine Sales & Service, Inc., Mandeville - \$5.00 (Bayou Castine) 985-626-7847
11. Orleans Marina, New Orleans (Lake Pontchartrain) 504-288-2351
12. Pleasure Point Landing, Toro (Toledo Bend) 318-565-4810
13. Plum Orchard Park, Doyline (Lake Bistineau) 318-987-7275
14. New Iberia Boat & Sewerage Pumpout Facility, New Iberia - \$5.00 (Bayou Teche) 337-365-9493

VOLUNTARY GULF OF MEXICO MARINE COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

The voluntary Gulf of Mexico (GOM) communications protocol is an agreed communications format that identifies methods of notification, recommended frequencies and generally accepted two-way marine VHF radio protocols. It is for use in GOM Outer Continental Shelf areas and State Territorial Waters adjacent to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The objective is to provide a common voluntary marine communications protocol for GOM resource users to use in alerting parties that will be interacting in the same general area. This protocol will provide a common communication format for notification and feedback between offshore platform and rig operators and others in responding to the safety needs of all GOM resources users.

Any vessel operator (commercial, for hire (charter/headboat), recreational fishermen, sport divers and oil and gas contractors and operators) proposing to approach either fixed or floating drilling, production and support facilities or oil and gas transportation infrastructure should utilize the GOM communications protocol.

PROTOCOL

Any vessel approaching either a fixed or floating offshore facility with the intent of tying to or remaining around (within 1,500 feet of) that facility for any purpose, should contact as far in advance as practical that specific facility using a marine VHF radio on Channel No. 16. All offshore facilities are identified by signage that identifies the Area, Block, Platform and Operator.

This protocol helps GOM offshore facility operators identify vessels approaching or mooring and gives shared resource users a common communication tool. If vessels fail to establish communications, a facility operator is faced with the task of evaluating the vessel's intent. Communications will help operators make a judgment on the activity and help access if the vessel poses a threat to the people or facility.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO FISHERMEN WHEN FISHING AROUND OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION PLATFORMS

Most offshore fishermen target oil and gas production platforms as their fishing location of choice. Petroleum platforms, commonly referred to as "rigs," provide recreation for fishermen and scuba divers because they act as artificial reefs, attracting and establishing aquatic communities, including highly sought food and sport fishes. Also, offshore facilities serve as navigation points for small marine craft. Manned facilities can also provide a haven for small craft operators forced to abandon their vessels during storms or following accidents.

Generally this interaction between fishermen and offshore platform personnel takes place without incident. However, periodically, a fisherman or scuba diver may be asked by platform personnel to move to another location. This request is generally made when certain potentially dangerous activities are taking place onboard the platform and is made for the safety of both platform personnel and the fisherman.

Some of these potential hazards to fishermen occur when construction or maintenance activities are underway. These activities frequently require use of marine support vessels that limit access to the facility and require frequent movement and the possibility for entanglement in anchor lines or mooring hardware exists. Platform cranes making lifts can expose vessels and personnel to dropped objects, and overhead work, such as blasting, welding and burning or painting, can also potentially expose people and equipment to falling debris and equipment. These activity types are easy to see and the request to move is easily understood. Some activities taking place on offshore platforms that may also be dangerous are not as easily seen, and therefore, a request to move may be misunderstood. Activities such as well perforating, poisonous gas releases (red flashing light) or emergency shut downs that may require significant venting or flaring may not

be visible from the sea surface. Perforating activities require elimination of radio transmissions to help prevent an inadvertent triggering of the explosive charges. Gas releases, some of which may be poisonous (red flashing light), have the potential to drift to the water surface and envelop a vessel, where an open flame or spark could set off the gas.

Therefore, if asked by platform personnel to move to another structure, please understand the request is made for your safety, the safety of the personnel on board the platform and the safety of the facilities. Please observe common courtesy and move to another location.

EXAMPLE

Contact Request: "Eugene Island 313 "A" Platform, this is M/V Duck, M/V Duck, on Channel 16"

Response: "Eugene Island 313 "A" back to M/V Duck. Switch to Channel No. _____."

Follow Up on New Channel: "M/V Duck back; we are 5 miles out and in route to your location for _____ (offloading, fishing, diving, bird watching, etc) and request assistance in determining your current facility status."

Recognition: "Eugene Island 313 "A" back; we have no current marine traffic or hazardous operations but expect a supply boat later today." If the facility was planning operations that might preclude safe positioning of marine craft or if potentially hazardous lifting or well work is scheduled, the operator would so inform the vessel.

Notification: "M/V Duck back; we are a 25 foot sport fisherman out of Cocodrie with a total of five people on board and will approach your location at 0900 hours and estimate our stay at three hours."

The approaching vessel has established contact, identified its intent to approach or moor, its purpose, and estimated its time of arrival and time at location. The operator is now alerted to the fact that the vessel is approaching with the intent of being in the area and can validate actual activities by visually observing the vessel and its crew.

LOUISIANA FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The following information on fish consumption advisories has been furnished by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH). The Louisiana Departments of Health and Hospitals, Environmental Quality and Wildlife and Fisheries coordinate in the issuance of advisories.

Unless the fish species is specifically addressed in the details of these advisories, please limit consumption of all species in an advisory area to four meals per month. Louisiana fish consumption advisories are based on the estimate that the average Louisiana resident eats four fish meals per month (a meal is considered to be half a pound of fish for adults and children). If you or your family members eat more than four meals of fish a month from local water bodies, you might increase your health risks. You can contact the Office of Public Health toll free at 1-888-293-7020 or visit www.dhh.louisiana.gov/ for more information about eating fish that contain chemicals.

Readers should be aware that the information provided is a summary of the information available at the time of printing. Advisories may be changed or added at any time. Additional information on mercury and health advisories can be found on the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Internet address at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov>.

CONTAMINANTS IN FISH

Almost everywhere you look in Louisiana there is water, and where there is water, people catch and eat fish. However, in a few Louisiana waters, fish and shellfish have chemical contamination in amounts that may be harmful to your health if you were to eat too much over a long period of time.

These contaminants are in the environment because of various reasons such as natural deposition, industrial discharges, leaking landfills and misuse of pesticides. Fish take in the contaminants from water, sediments and food. Larger, older fish and fish that eat other fish tend to accumulate more contaminants than smaller, younger fish.

The Office of Public Health evaluates chemicals in fish to determine if the fish are contaminated and pose a health threat to children, pregnant women, adults or (when indicated) subsistence anglers. A fish consumption advisory is issued when unacceptable levels of chemical contaminants have been found in the fish file.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

Fish consumption advisories in Louisiana are based on chemical levels in the fish file. Advisories are issued at very conservative levels to insure the safety of individuals consuming fish. Advisories provide guidance regarding fish consumption for each species of fish. They do not tell you to stop fishing or to stop eating fish. Just be selective about the fish you or your family eat. None of the fish in Louisiana are contaminated enough to cause harm after a single or a few meals. The health risk comes from eating contaminated fish often and regularly over a long period of time.

HEALTH ADVICE AND GUIDELINES

Contaminants found in Louisiana fish can be grouped into two categories: organic chemicals (HCB, HCB, PCBs and Dioxin) and metals (mercury, lead). Organic contaminants build up in fish fat deposits and just under the skin, more than in the muscle tissue (filet). Metals are distributed evenly throughout the fish and cannot be removed from the filet by cooking or cleaning.

HOW TO REDUCE ORGANIC CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION IN FISH

- Remove all organs and skin. Organs and skin can be high in fat and organic chemicals.
- Trim off fatty areas shown in black on drawing. This includes belly fat, side fat and back fat. Organic contaminants concentrate in fat.
- Bake or broil skinned, trimmed fish on a rack or grill so fat drips off. Throw away drippings.
- When fish are poached or fried, throw away the broth or oil. Keep

smaller fish to eat. Usually, younger, smaller fish are less contaminated than larger, older fish.

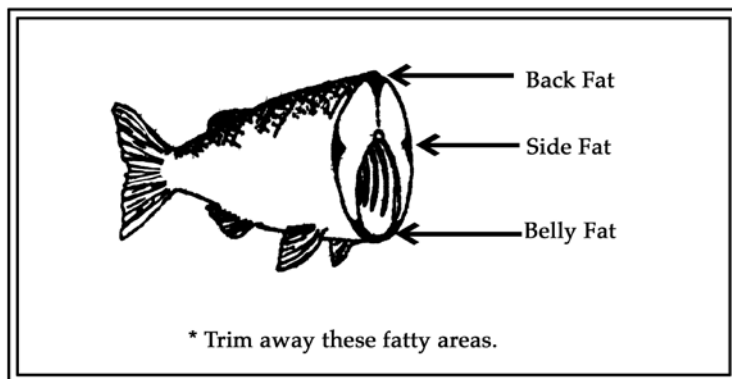
- Eat fewer predator fish such as bass, gar or pickerel. Contaminants bioaccumulate in predator fish.
- Vary diet by eating a variety of fish, shellfish, meat and poultry.
- Vary source of fish, seafood, meat, poultry and wild game.

CONSUMPTION ADVICE FOR WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT, NURSING OR MIGHT BECOME PREGNANT AND FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (EPA AND FDA, 2004)

By following these three recommendations for selecting and eating fish or shellfish, women and young children will receive the benefits of eating fish and shellfish and be confident that they have reduced their exposure to the harmful effects of mercury. Follow these same recommendations when feeding fish or shellfish to a young child, but serve smaller portions.

1. Do not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel or tilefish, as these contain high levels of mercury.
2. Eat up to 12 ounces a week of a variety of fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury. The five most commonly eaten fish that are low in mercury are shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock and catfish. Up to six ounces a week of albacore ("white") tuna may be consumed since this variety contains more mercury than light tuna.
3. Check local advisories about the safety of fish caught by family and friends in your local lakes, rivers and coastal areas. If no advice is available, eat up to six ounces per week of fish caught in local waters. Do not consume any other fish that same week.

CLEANING METHOD TO REDUCE ORGANIC CONTAMINATION IN FISH



A “meal” is considered to be a half-pound (8 oz.) in size. Unless the fish species is specifically addressed in the details of the advisory, please limit consumption of all species in an advisory area to four meals per month. Louisiana fish consumption advisories are based on the estimate that the average Louisiana resident eats four fish meals per month. If you or your family eat more than four meals of fish a month from local water bodies, you might increase your health risks. You can contact the Office of Public Health toll free at 1-888-293-7020 for more information about eating fish that contain chemicals.

LOUISIANA HEALTH/FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES (MERCURY)						
LOCATION	BOUNDARIES	PARISH	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION		ISSUE DATE	LAST REVIEWED
			<i>Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 7</i>	<i>Other adults and children over the age of 7</i>		
Amite River Drainage Basin	Amite River from the Mississippi state line to its confluence with Lake Maurepas, Colyell Creek, the Amite River Diversion Canal and the Petite Amite River	East Feliciana, St. Helena, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension	Limit bigmouth buffalo, largemouth bass, spotted bass, white crappie (sac-a-lait), freshwater drum (gaspergou) and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit bigmouth buffalo, largemouth bass, spotted bass, white crappie (sac-a-lait), freshwater drum (gaspergou) and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	07/01/04	03/10/04
Bayou Bartholomew	Bayou Bartholomew from the LA/AR state line to its confluence with the Ouachita River	Morehouse	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than one meal per month combined.	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than four meals per month combined.	01/99; 05/29/03	03/10/04
Bayou Bonne Idee	Bayou Bonne Idee from its headwaters near Jones, Louisiana to its confluence with the Boeuf River east of Oak Ridge.	Morehouse	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit largemouth bass and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit largemouth bass and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	07/01/04	12/04/03
Bayou Chene & Bayou Lacassine	Bayou Chene from its headwaters near Jennings to its confluence with Bayou Lacassine, and Bayou Lacassine from its headwaters near Lacassine to its confluence with Bayou Misere.	Jefferson Davis, Calcasieu, Cameron	Limit largemouth bass and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit largemouth bass and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	03/08/06	2005
Bayou de Loutre & associated lakes (Phillips, Hatley and Hudson)	Bayou De Loutre from the Arkansas state line to its confluence with the Ouachita River including Phillips, Hatley, and Hudson Lakes	Union	No consumption of any species.	Limit consumption of all species to no more than two meals per month combined.	11/20/00; 05/29/03; 07/01/04	03/10/04

LOCATION	BOUNDARIES	PARISH	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION		ISSUE DATE	LAST REVIEWED
			<i>Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 7</i>	<i>Other adults and children over the age of 7</i>		
Bayou des Cannes	Bayou des Cannes from its origin near Ville Platte to its confluence with the Mermentau	Acadia, Evangeline	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel), black crappie (sac-a-lait) or freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than one meal a month combined.	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel), black crappie (sac-a-lait) or freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals a month combined.	10/97; 05/29/03	04/11/02
Bayou DeSiard	Bayou DeSiard from its headwaters to its confluence with the Ouachita River	Ouachita	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than one meal per month combined.	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than four meals per month combined.	05/29/03	09/04/02
Bayou Dorcheat	Bayou Dorcheat from the Arkansas State Line to its confluence with Lake Bisteneau.	Webster	Limit largemouth bass, spotted bass, black crappie, freshwater drum (gaspergou), flathead catfish and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit largemouth bass, spotted bass, black crappie, freshwater drum (gaspergou), flathead catfish and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meal per month combined.	07/01/04; 03/08/06	2005
Bayou Liberty	The entire length of Bayou Liberty	St. Tammany	Limit largemouth bass, crappie (sac-a-lait), freshwater drum (gaspergou) and redear sunfish consumption to no more than one meal a month combined.	Limit largemouth bass, crappie (sac-a-lait), freshwater drum (gaspergou) and redear sunfish consumption to no more than four meals a month combined.	01/31/97; 05/29/03	03/10/04
Bayou Louis	Bayou Louis from its headwaters to its confluence with the Ouachita River including Lake Louis (Lovelace Lake)	Catahoula	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than one meal per month combined.	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than four meals per month combined.	05/29/03	09/04/02
Bayou Nezpique	Headwaters of Bayou Nezpique to the Mermentau River 65.0 miles	Acadia, Allen, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis	No more than six meals per year of bowfin (choupique, grinnel) or no more than one meal per month of largemouth bass, from the advisory area.	No more than two meals per month of bowfin, or no more than four meals per month of largemouth bass, from the advisory area.	02/11/09	
Bayou Plaquemine Brule	Bayou Plaquemine Brule from its origin near Opelousas to its confluence with the Mermentau River	Acadia, St. Landry	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption. Limit largemouth bass, crappie (sac-a-lait) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than one meal a month combined.	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) to two meals per month; Limit largemouth bass, crappie (sac-a-lait) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals a month combined.	10/96; 05/29/03	04/11/02
Bayou Queue De Tortue	Bayou Queue de Tortue from its headwaters near Cankton, La. to its confluence with the Mermentau River east of Lake Arthur, La.	Acadiana, Lafayette, Vermillion	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month .	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month .	07/01/04	03/10/04

LOCATION	BOUNDARIES	PARISH	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION		ISSUE DATE	LAST REVIEWED
			<i>Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 7</i>	<i>Other adults and children over the age of 7</i>		
Big Alabama Bayou	The entire length of Big Alabama Bayou from the boat landing at Hwy 975 to near the Atchafalaya River Pilot Channel	Pointe Coupee, Iberville, St. Martin	Limit consumption of all species to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit consumption of all catfish species to no more than two meals a month ; Limit consumption of all other species to four meals a month combined.	05/29/03	09/04/02
Black Bayou Lake	Black Bayou Lake only	Caddo	Limit largemouth bass and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit largemouth bass and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	03/08/06	2005
Black Bayou Lake	Black Bayou Lake only	Ouachita	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption.	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to one meal a month .	05/29/03	09/04/02
Black Lake	Black Lake only	Natchitoches	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption; Limit largemouth bass, white bass, crappie (sac-a-lait) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than one meal a month combined.	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) to two meals per month ; Limit largemouth bass, white bass, crappie (sac-a-lait) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals a month combined.	10/96; 05/29/03	09/04/02
Blind River	The Blind River only	St. James, Ascension, Livingston, St. John the Baptist	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month .	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals a month .	04/23/98; 05/29/03	12/04/03
Boeuf River	The Boeuf River from the confluence with Lake Lafourche to the confluence with the Ouachita River	Caldwell, Franklin, Richland, Catahoula	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than one meal per month combined.	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than four meals a month combined.	05/29/03	03/10/04
Bogue Chitto River	The Bogue Chitto River from MS/LA state line to the Pearl River Navigation Canal	St. Tammany, Washington	Limit consumption of all bass species and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit consumption of all bass species and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) to no more than four meals a month combined.	08/96; 05/29/03	03/10/04
Bogue Falaya and Tchefuncte Rivers	The Bogue Falaya from its headwaters to its confluence with the Tchefuncte and the Tchefuncte from its headwaters to Lake Pontchartrain	Washington, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa	No largemouth bass or crappie (sac-a-lait); Limit freshwater drum (gaspergou), spotted bass and catfish consumption to no more than one meal a month combined	Limit largemouth bass and crappie (sac-a-lait) consumption to no more than two meals a month combined; Limit freshwater drum (gaspergou), spotted bass and catfish consumption to no more than four meals a month combined.	05/29/03	09/04/02
Caddo Lake	Caddo Lake Only -32,640 acres	Caddo	No more than six meals per year of bowfin (choupique, grinnel) from the advisory area.	No more than two meals per month of bowfin from the advisory area.	02/11/09	

LOCATION	BOUNDARIES	PARISH	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION		ISSUE DATE	LAST REVIEWED
			<i>Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 7</i>	<i>Other adults and children over the age of 7</i>		
Calcasieu River Drainage Basin	Calcasieu River from Hwy 26 to the Saltwater Barrier north of Lake Charles, the West Fork Calcasieu River, Houston River, Hickory Creek, Beckwith Creek, English Bayou and Little River	Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Allen	No largemouth bass, bowfin (choupique, grinnel) or freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption.	Limit largemouth bass, bowfin (choupique, grinnel) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than two meals per month combined.	11/20/00; 05/29/03; 07/01/04	03/10/04
Chicot Lake	Chicot Lake only	Evangeline	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption. Limit largemouth bass to no more than one meal per month .	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than two meals a month ; Limit largemouth bass consumption to no more than four meals per month	05/97; 05/29/03	09/04/02
Cheniere (Brake) Lake	Cheniere (Brake) Lake only	Ouachita	No consumption of bowfin (choupique, grinnel) and limit consumption of largemouth bass to no more than two meals per month .	Limit consumption of bowfin (choupique, grinnel) to no more than two meals a month ; Limit consumption of largemouth bass to no more than four meals per month .	07/01/04	03/10/04
Clear Lake (Lake Edwards)	Clear Lake - 2,944 acres	DeSoto	No more than one meal per month of black crappie, bowfin (choupique, grinnel), largemouth bass, or bigmouth buffalo combined, from the advisory area.		02/11/09	
Cocodrie Lake	Cocodrie Lake - 6,099 acres	Evangeline, Rapides	No more than six meals per year of bowfin (choupique, grinnel), or no more than one meal per month of largemouth bass, black crappie, or bigmouth buffalo combined, from the advisory area.	No more than two meals per year of bowfin, or no more than three meals per month of largemouth bass or bigmouth buffalo, combined, from the advisory area.	02/11/09	
Corney Lake	Corney Lake only	Claiborne	Limit largemouth bass or bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit largemouth bass or bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	05/29/03	09/04/02
Crooked Creek Reservoir	Crooked Creek Reservoir - 370 acres	Evangeline	No more than one meal per month of largemouth bass from the advisory area.	No more than four meals per month of largemouth bass from the advisory area.	02/11/09	
Grand Bayou Reservoir	John K. Kelley-Grand Bayou Reservoir	Red River	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption. Limit largemouth bass consumption to no more than one meal per month .	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) and largemouth bass consumption to two meals per month .	05/29/03	09/04/02

LOCATION	BOUNDARIES	PARISH	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION		ISSUE DATE	LAST REVIEWED
			<i>Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 7</i>	<i>Other adults and children over the age of 7</i>		
Gulf of Mexico	Gulf of Mexico waters off of all coastal parishes	Coastal Parishes	No consumption of king mackerel; Limit cobia, blackfin tuna and greater amberjack consumption to no more than one meal per month .	No consumption of king mackerel greater than 39 inches in total length; Limit consumption of king mackerel 39 inches or less in total length to no more than two meals per month ; Limit consumption of cobia, blackfin tuna and greater amberjack to no more than four meals per month combined.	09/04/97; 03/08/06	2005
Henderson Lake Area	Henderson Lake, Lake Bigeux and all waters within the area bounded on the north by the St. Landry/St. Martin Parish line, on the east by the West Atchafalaya River levee, on the south by Hwy 3177 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin levee	St. Martin	Limit largemouth bass, crappie (sac-a-lait) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than one meal per month .	Limit largemouth bass, crappie (sac-a-lait) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	01/31/96; 05/29/03	12/04/03
I-10 Canal and Work Canal	The canal that is between the I-10 bridges (between Whiskey Bay and Ramah) and the canal known as Work Canal, which runs north to south and intersects the I-10 Canal.	Iberville	Limit largemouth bass, black crappie and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit largemouth bass, black crappie, bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	07/01/04	03/10/04
Iatt Lake	Iatt Lake only	Grant	Limit largemouth bass and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit largemouth bass and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	03/08/06	2005
Ivan Lake	Ivan Lake only	Bossier	No consumption of bowfin (choupique, grinnel). Limit consumption of largemouth bass to no more than one meal per month .	Limit consumption of bowfin (choupique, grinnel) to no more than two meals a month ; Limit consumption of largemouth bass to no more than four meals a month .	11/20/00; 05/29/03	09/04/02
Kepler Creek Lake	Kepler Creek Lake only	Bienville	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption.	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to one meal per month .	05/29/03	09/04/02
Lake Vernon	Lake Vernon only	Vernon	Limit largemouth bass, flathead catfish, redear and bluegill sunfish (bream) consumption to no more than one meal a month .	Limit largemouth bass, flathead catfish, redear and bluegill sunfish (bream) consumption to no more than four meals a month combined.	03/08/06	2005

LOCATION	BOUNDARIES	PARISH	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION		ISSUE DATE	LAST REVIEWED
			<i>Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 7</i>	<i>Other adults and children over the age of 7</i>		
Lake Bistineau	Lake Bistineau only	Webster, Bossier, Bienville	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month .	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month .	08/97; 05/29/03	09/04/02
Little River/Catahoula Lake Area	Catahoula Lake, Little River, Old River, Black River, Saline Lake, Larto Lake (Saline-Larto Complex), Shad Lake and Associated Water Bodies	Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides	No largemouth bass, white bass, freshwater drum (gaspergou), flat-head catfish or bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption; Limit white crappie consumption to no more than two meals per month combined.	Limit largemouth bass, white bass, freshwater drum (gaspergou), flat-head catfish and bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than two meals per month ; Limit white crappie consumption to no more than four meals a month combined.	11/20/00; 05/29/03	03/10/04
Old River (Nibletts Bluff)	From headwaters to confluence with Sabine River 10.6 miles	Calcasieu	No more than six meals per year of bowfin (choupique, grinnel), or no more than two meals per month black crappie or redear sunfish combined, or no more than one meal per month of freshwater drum, largemouth bass or spotted bass combined, from the advisory area.	No more than three meals per month of freshwater drum, or no more than two meals per month of bowfin from the advisory area.	02/11/09	
Ouachita River	LA/ARK border to the confluence of the Tensas River including any lakes that are inside the levee system or within the Ouachita River flood plain	Ouachita, Union, Morehouse, Caldwell, Catahoula	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than one meal per month combined.	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel); Limit consumption of other fish species to no more than four meals per month combined.	07/92; 05/29/03	03/10/04
Pearl River	The entire length of the Pearl River	St. Tammany, Washington	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption. Limit bass, bigmouth buffalo and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	No bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption; Limit bass, bigmouth buffalo and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	01/31/97; 05/29/03	03/10/04
Saline Bayou and Saline Lake	From headwaters of Saline Bayou in Bienville Parish to, and including, Saline Lake in Winn and Natchitoches parishes	Bienville, Winn, Natchitoches	No more than six meals per year of largemouth bass, or no more than three meals per month of carp, freshwater drum, longear sunfish, or war-mouth combined, or no more than two meals per month of black crappie, or no more than one meal per month of bowfin (choupique, grinnel) or spotted bass combined, from the advisory area.	No more than three meals per month of bowfin or spotted bass combined, or no more than two meals per month of largemouth bass, from the advisory area.	02/11/09	

LOCATION	BOUNDARIES	PARISH	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION		ISSUE DATE	LAST REVIEWED
			<i>Women of childbearing age and children under the age of 7</i>	<i>Other adults and children over the age of 7</i>		
Seventh Ward Canal	The Seventh Ward Canal (southwest of Abbeville)	Vermilion	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel), flathead catfish, white crappie (sac-a-lait) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel), flathead catfish, white crappie (sac-a-lait) and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	07/97; 05/29/03	03/10/04
Tangipahoa River	The Tangipahoa River from the LA/MS state line to Lake Pontchartrain	Tangipahoa	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel), flathead catfish, largemouth bass, spotted bass and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel), flathead catfish, largemouth bass, spotted bass and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	05/29/03	09/04/02
Tew Lake	Tew Lake only	Catahoula	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than one meal per month .	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than four meals per month .	07/01/04	12/04/03
Tickfaw River Area	The Tickfaw River (from MS/LA state line to Lake Maurepas), the Blood River, Natalbany River, Lizard Creek, and Ponchatoula Creek	St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Livingston	Limit freshwater drum (gaspergou), largemouth bass, bowfin (choupique, grinnel) and white crappie (sac-a-lait) consumption to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit freshwater drum (gaspergou), largemouth bass, bowfin (choupique, grinnel) and white crappie (sac-a-lait) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	07/08/02; 05/29/03	11/19/01
Toledo Bend Reservoir	The entire reservoir	Desoto, Sabine	No consumption of bowfin (choupique, grinnel). Limit consumption of largemouth bass and freshwater drum (gaspergou) to no more than one meal per month combined.	Limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) consumption to no more than two meals per month combined; Limit largemouth bass and freshwater drum (gaspergou) consumption to no more than four meals per month combined.	07/19/01; 05/29/03	09/04/02

LOUISIANA HEALTH/FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES (OTHER CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS)					
LOCATION	AREA	PARISH	FISH & SHELLFISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES	POLLUTANT	DATES
Bayou d'Inde	6 miles	Calcasieu, Cameron	Fish/shellfish consumption of no more than 2 meals a month; no swimming, water sports & contact with bottom sediments	HCB, HCBd, PCBs	(issued 1/87; reviewed 4/92, 10/94 and 7/99)
Capitol Lake	0.12 miles	East Baton Rouge	No fish consumption; Sediment contamination	PCBs	(issued 8/83; reviewed 11/94)
Devil's Swamp, Devil's Swamp Lake, Bayou Baton Rouge	7 sq. miles	East Baton Rouge	Fish consumption of no more than 2 meals a month, no water contact sports, no Swimming	HCB, HCBd, PCBs, lead, mercury, arsenic	(issued 10/87; expanded advisory area 7/93)
Sibley Lake	3.4 sq. miles	Natchitoches	Instructions on proper fish trimming, cleaning and cooking must be followed. Select one of the two options: large-mouth bass or crappie- 1 meal/week; or channel catfish, stripped bass- 1 meal/month. Do not eat shad, gar or carp.	PCBs	(issued 2/89, reviewed 6/94, revised 1/96, reviewed 3/17/00)
Wham Brake near Swartz	7.2 sq. miles	Ouachita, Morehouse	No fish consumption	Dioxin	(issued 11/87; reviewed 3/94, 11/96, and 11/01)
Bayou Lafourche (Hwy 80 overpass to I-20)	2 miles	Ouachita, Richland	Fish consumption of all species of no more than 2 meals per month	Dioxin	(issued 3/94; revised 11/96, reviewed 11/01)
LOCATION	AREA	PARISH	INFORMATIONAL HEALTH ADVISORIES	POLLUTANT	DATES
Calcasieu Estuary	37 miles	Calcasieu, Cameron	Long term fish consumption may cause health risks	HCB, HCBd, PCBs	(issued 4/92; reviewed 10/94)
Bayou Olsen at Lake Charles	0.5 miles	Calcasieu	Avoid sediment contact, fish/shellfish consumption limits	Chloroform, misc.chemicals	(issued 1/89, reviewed 10/94)
Tensas River	83 miles	Franklin, Tensas, Madison, Richland	Long-term fish consumption may cause health risk	DDT, Toxaphene	(issued 2/92)
Bayou Bonfouca, Slidell	7 miles	St. Tammany	No swimming or sediment contact	Creosote	(issued 11/87); (revised 12/98)

LOUISIANA ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM

Fisheries scientists have long recognized that, on the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico, oil and gas platforms provided hard substrate, to which various marine organisms quickly attached. The resulting food chain formation served to attract many fish species, just as occurs on natural reefs.

Oil and gas platforms are the destination of more than 70 percent of all recreational offshore fishing trips originating in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Artificial Reef Program was established in 1986 to offset the loss of recreational and commercial fishing opportunities associated with the removal of offshore oil and gas platforms.

To date, the Artificial Reef Program has constructed 61 offshore reefs utilizing the components of 256 oil and gas structures. In addition, the program has created the world's largest artificial reef from the Freeport sulphur mine located seven miles south of Grand Isle. The reef is in approximately 50 feet of water and has 30 feet of clearance. The program has also deployed 40 armored personnel carriers and one offshore tug. Through the cooperation of civic groups, the department has created 22 inshore reefs composed of shell, limestone and reef balls.

The coordinates for the deployed structures and materials can be found on the LDWF web site at: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/programs/habitat/artificialreef.cfm> or obtained by calling 225-765-2375.



**LOUISIANA SHRIMP.
THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.
(natural, wild and succulent flavor)
YOU CAN TASTE IT.**

For a list of Louisiana shrimp suppliers and recipes,
visit us online at www.LouisianaShrimp.com.



ONLY DIRECTV GIVES YOU

the most HD and the best exclusive sports packages

PR. PRICES START AT
\$29.99 PER MONTH
 30-day Low Price



Including these sports favorites:

For a limited time get:

FREE
PER INSTALL
ON NEW TV CHANNELS

Low Price Guarantee

LOCAL CHANNELS INCLUDED
IN MOST AREAS

2 FREE
UPGRADES
ON NEW & RECENTLY LAUNCHED

3000+ CHANNELS

Free one-time **per install** on new TV channels

Local channels included on new packages

Free receiver with new HD or HD2 service

Free two **upgrades** on new & recently launched

3000+ channels

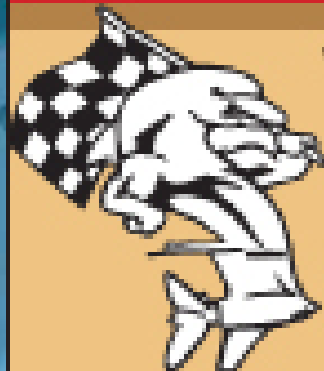
Some restrictions apply. See directv.com for details.

Ask about our special offers!

- 1** CALL 800-367-7905
- 2** SELECT service package
- 3** ENJOY DirectV

Switch today!
1-800-367-7905 or directv.com

NO CANCELLATION FEES

OUTCAST MARINE INC

We Repair
ALL
Outboard
Motors

Authorized Parts & Service Dealer For:



16780 Hwy. 90

Des Allemands, LA 70030

985-758-6044

THE *original*
PITMAN FRYER!

TOUGH, DURABLE
and it's **PORTABLE!**



**"The Best
Frying Apparatus
Ever Made!"**

PITMAN'S
HEAVY DUTY, INC.

13003 HWY 371 • DIXIE INN, LA

(318)377-4776

Enumrod Casting Poles and Spinning Poles
FUN, NEW, REDUCE CLUTTER!

Atherley Enterprises **800-216-8589**
compactfishing@gmail.com



90 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ONE YEAR WARRANTY

www.MyCompactFishing.com

FLORIDA FISHING & HUNTING

BASS 2 1/2 day 1 night & 8 doc. shiners \$220.
CRAPPIE / BLUEGILL 2 1/2 DAY 1 NIGHT \$100.
WILD HOG AND GATOR YEAR-ROUND HUNTS
WILD BOAR 1 person \$100. (all processed free)
ALLIGATOR (free processing, hide & all meat)
0-12ft. \$2405. / 8-0ft. \$1405 + a FREE wild boar hunt
DUCK 1 person 1 day \$100. / 2 day 1 night \$240
(883) 287-8484 or (883) 948-1742

www.RONSGUIDESERVICE.com

**Find Fishing regulations and information
for all 50 states at:
www.huntandfishregs.com**

John L. Morris Roland Martin
Kill Dance
Venice LA - South Pass

FISHING AHEAD
NEXT 75 MILES

Buras • Empire • Myrtle Grove • Point a la Hache • Venice
Plaquemines Parish
Yes we are
OPEN
Now Booking Trips for 2011

Best Jones
Buras LA

Myrtle Grove

Point a la Hache

Empire LA - Tarpon

you can fish anywhere,
but you catch fish in
Plaquemines Parish, LA
www.plaquemines tourism.com
Buras • Empire • Myrtle Grove • Point a la Hache • Venice

WE'RE ALL EQUIPPED WITH LIFE SAVING DEVICES

If an adult suddenly collapses, perform Hands-Only CPR.

Call 911

1. Show your hand and feet. 2. In the center of the chest.

Hands can do incredible things.

handsonlycpr.org

American Heart Association
Keep it simple. Save lives.

Big Lake, Big Fish, Big Fun!

Mark your calendars for the B.A.S.S. Elite Tournament scheduled for Toledo Bend on April 14 - 17, 2011.

toledobendlakecountry.com • LouisianaTravel.com

The Angler's First Stop



 **Academy**[®]
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

academy.com

RIGHT STUFF. LOW PRICE. EVERYDAY!



Visit academy.com • Store Locator • Gift Cards • Credit Cards



facebook.com/academysportsandoutdoors



twitter.com/academy_com

Visit one of our 14 Louisiana store locations.

Louisiana

COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

2011





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

P.O. Box 98000
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
225-765-2800

Bobby Jindal, Governor

Robert J. Barham, Secretary

Lois Azzarello, *Undersecretary*

Jimmy Anthony, *Assistant Secretary*

Randy Pausina, *Assistant Secretary*

John Roussel, *Deputy Assistant Secretary*

DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS

Kenneth Ribbeck, *Wildlife*

Bob Love, *Coastal & Non-game Resources*

Joe Shepard, *Fisheries*

Winton Vidrine, *Enforcement*

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Stephen J. Oats, *Chairman*

Patrick C. Morrow

Stephen W. Sagera

Ronald Graham

Michael C. Voisin

Ann L. Taylor

For updated information and the latest regulations visit us online at

www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

**HELP STOP POACHING
REPORT GAME VIOLATIONS**

Operation Game Thief

1-800-442-2511

24 hours a day - 7 days a week

2 Commercial Fishing Licenses

Commercial License Fees.....2
General Information.....4
Charter Boat License Information.....5
Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers And Retail Seafood Dealer Licenses, Restaurants & Fresh Products License.....6

10 Definitions

14 General Regulations and Information

Restrictions & Methods of Take.....14
Additional Gear Restrictions.....15
Saltwater-Freshwater Line.....16
Measuring Fish.....17
Prohibited Noxious Aquatic Plants.....18

19 Freshwater Commercial Fishing

24 Saltwater Commercial Fishing

30 Other Commercial Activities

Commercial Crabbing.....30
Commercial Shrimping.....31
Commercial Oystering.....34
Reptiles and Amphibians.....35

37 WMA & Refuge Regulations

38 Boating Information

Voluntary Gulf of Mexico Communications Protocol.....38

DISCLAIMER

This publication is not an official copy of the laws in effect and should not be utilized or relied upon as such. It does represent an attempt by the publisher to present, as a public service, a partial summary of some of the laws in effect at the time of the printing of this publication. Substantive changes to the law may very well occur following the printing of this publication. For these reasons, the accuracy of the information contained within this publication cannot be guaranteed and the reader is cautioned that it is his responsibility to apprise himself of the laws in effect at any given time. These laws include those contained within the Louisiana Revised Statutes, particularly Title 56, the official regulations of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, federal laws, and any local or parish ordinances. State laws can be viewed on the legislative website: www.legis.state.la.us/.

Fishing regulations on state Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges may differ from those contained in this pamphlet. Consult the Wildlife Management Area Regulations portion of this pamphlet or contact the nearest Department office for WMA regulations.

This public document was published at a total cost of \$?????. 300,000 copies of this public document were published in the first printing at a cost of \$..... This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA to inform Louisiana residents and non-residents as to the rules and regulations governing the fishing resources of the State of Louisiana. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Commerce strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington D.C. 20240.

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES

COMMERCIAL LICENSE FEES

All commercial licenses expire on December 31 each year, unless otherwise noted.

	Resident	Non-Resident
Commercial Fisherman's License	\$55	\$460
Apprentice	\$27.50	\$230
Vessel License (required south of saltwater line)	\$15	\$60
Mussel Harvester Permit (captain only)	\$100	\$1,000
Oyster Harvester Permit (captain only)	\$100	\$400
Oyster Tong (per tong)	\$30	\$240
Oyster Dredge (per dredge)	\$25	\$200
Public Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit ¹	\$15	\$60
Shrimp Trawl (per trawl)	\$25	\$100
Butterfly Net (per net)	\$25	\$100
Skimmer Net (per net)	\$25	\$100
Shrimp Gear Fee (one-time annually)	\$10	\$40
Senior Commercial License (residents 70 years and older - includes Commercial Fisherman and certain Gear Licenses ONLY)	\$20	N/A
Hoop Net (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Freshwater Fish Seine (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Freshwater Trammel Net (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Freshwater Gill Net (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Freshwater Shrimp Net License	\$25	N/A
Dip Net	\$25	\$100
Crab Trap (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Crab Trap Gear Fee	\$10	\$40
Crab Drop Net	\$25	\$100
Slat Trap (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Minnow Trap (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Eel Pot (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Cans, Buckets, Pipes, Drums (any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Cast Net	\$25	\$100
Set Lines (trot, bush, etc. - any legal number)	\$25	\$100
Flounder Gig (per gig)	\$25	\$100
Spear Gun (per spear gun)	\$25	\$100
Mullet Permit (captain only) ¹	\$100	\$400
Mullet Strike Net (per net)	\$250	\$1,000
Freshwater Shad Seine	\$25	\$100

COMMERCIAL LICENSE FEES <i>(continued)</i>				
	Resident		Non-Resident	
Shad Gill Net	\$25		\$100	
Pompano Permit (captain only)	No Fee		No Fee	
Pompano Strike Net (per net)	\$250		\$1,000	
Saltwater Rod & Reel (any legal number) ^{1,2}	\$250		\$1,000	
Shark Permit	No Fee		No Fee	
Spotted Seatrout Permit ¹	\$100		\$400	
Traversing Permit	No Fee		No Fee	
Purse/Menhaden Seine (per seine)	\$505		\$2,020	
Crawfish Traps (any legal number)	\$25		\$100	
Out-of-State Oyster Landing Permit	\$100		\$100	
Special Bait Dealer Permit ³	\$110		N/A	
Wire Net (any legal number)	\$25		\$100	
CHARTER LICENSE FEES				
	Resident		Non-Resident	
Charter Boat Fishing Guide (up to 6 passengers)	\$250		\$1,000	
Charter Boat Fishing Guide (more than 6 passengers)	\$500		\$2,000	
Mothership License (carrying up to 6 skiffs)	\$1,000		\$1,000	
Mothership License (carrying more than 6 skiffs)	\$2,000		\$2,000	
Charter Skiff License (per skiff - 2 persons per skiff limit)	\$50		\$50	
DEALER LICENSE FEES				
	Resident	Non-Resident	4-year Resident	4-year Non-Resident
Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer - Business	\$250	\$1,105	\$1,000	\$4,420
Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer - Vehicle	\$250	\$1,105	\$1,000	\$4,420
Seafood Retail Dealer - Business	\$105	\$405	\$420	\$1,620
Seafood Retail Dealer - Vehicle	\$105	\$405	\$420	\$1,620
Seafood Transport - Wholesale/Retail Dealer	\$30	\$30	\$120	\$120
Seafood Transport - Retail Dealer	\$30	\$30	\$120	\$120
	Resident		Non-Resident	
Wholesale Out-of-State Crab Shipping	\$100		\$100	
Retail Out-of-State Crab Shipping	\$100		\$100	
Seafood Transport - Commercial Fisherman	\$30		\$30	
Fresh Products (Commercial Fisherman License required)	\$20		\$120	
Fresh Products - Spouse	\$5		N/A	
Domesticated Aquatic Organism License (fish farming)	\$15		\$400	
Reptile & Amphibian Collector (under 16)	\$10		N/A	
Reptile & Amphibian Collector (16 years of age and older)	\$25		\$200	
Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retailer Dealer	\$105		\$405	
Reptile & Amphibian Transport	\$30		\$120	
Non-Resident Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer (3-day)	N/A		\$75	

DEALER LICENSE FEES (continued)

	Resident	Non-Resident
Alligator Parts Dealer (expires June 30)	\$50	\$50
Alligator Parts Retailer (expires June 30)	\$5	\$5
Mussel Buyer's Permit ⁴	\$150	\$600
Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit	\$250	\$1105
ADDITIONAL LICENSE FEES		
Bow and Arrow Gear	\$25	\$100
Garfish Gig (per gig)	\$25	\$100
Non-game Quadruped - Exhibitor	\$10	\$10
Non-game Quadruped - Breeder	\$25	\$25
Game Breeder (\$50 inspection fee to raise birds of prey)	\$25	N/A
Fur Buyer (expires June 30)	\$25	\$100
Fur Dealer (\$500 deposit is required of residents and \$1,000 for non-residents - expires June 30)	\$150	\$300
Resident Hunting Preserve (expires June 30)	\$200	N/A

¹ Must meet qualifying criteria - Application deadline is April 30, 2011. For more information call 225-765-2898.

² Each person on board must have a Commercial Fisherman's License.

³ Must meet qualifying criteria - application deadline is April 30, 2011. For more information call 225-765-2373.

⁴ Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer License required.

**A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S
LICENSE IS
NON-TRANSFERABLE**

Persons taking fish, whether recreationally or commercially, and persons involved in the fish industry, including wholesale/retail dealers and transporters, and vessels involved in the fish industry must be licensed.

COMMERCIAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Persons and vessels engaged in commercial fishing activities for which a license is required shall show an original, valid license upon demand to duly authorized agents of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The person in charge of the operation of each vessel engaged in commercial fishing activities must have in his possession, and in his name, a valid, original Commercial Fisherman's License. This person must also have in his possession a gear license indicating that the applicable gear fee has been paid, and if fishing south of the saltwater line (*see page 16*), a valid and original vessel license. If harvesting oysters, mullet, mussels, spotted seatrout, shark or pompano, a commercial fisherman must also have in his possession, and in his name, the applicable

Oyster Harvester's License, Mullet Permit, Mussel Harvester Permit, Spotted Seatrout Permit, Shark Permit or Pompano Permit.

COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S LICENSE

A commercial fisherman taking fish, including bait species, from state waters or possessing fish in the state must purchase and possess a commercial fisherman's license.

All persons on board a vessel with commercial rod and reel in use must possess a valid commercial fisherman's license.

A licensed commercial fisherman may only sell to a wholesale/retail dealer. Any commercial fisherman may transport his catch to licensed Louisiana wholesale/retail dealers located within the state. A commercial fisherman may sell his own catch in-state to the consumer with a fresh products 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 their

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.

SENIOR

Resident commercial fishermen who are 70 years of age or older may apply for a Senior Commercial Fisherman and Gear License for \$20. This license is non-transferable and includes gear licenses, unless qualifications are required. The crab trap gear fee will be required if the senior commercial fisherman will use crab traps, and the shrimp gear fee will be required if using shrimp trawls, skimmers or butterfly nets.

FRESH PRODUCTS LICENSE

A validly licensed commercial fisherman must possess a fresh products license if selling fish to a consumer within the state. He must also file monthly reports with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. A commercial fisherman may purchase a secondary fresh products license which will allow the commercial fisherman to continue to fish while the spouse sells the catch.

COMMERCIAL GEAR LICENSE

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.

A commercial gear license (except for a menhaden purse seine) can only be purchased by a person possessing a valid commercial fisherman's license.

Gear licenses are transferable, but only to persons holding a valid commercial fisherman's license and of the same residency status. Gear licenses issued to a resident fisherman cannot be transferred to a non-resident. Violation subjects the commercial gear licensee to revocation of the commercial gear license and seizure of gear.

No commercial gear license shall be issued to any non-resident whose domiciliary state prohibits the use of similar gear in commercial fishing.

COMMERCIAL VESSEL LICENSE

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.

**GEAR LICENSES ARE
NON-TRANSFERABLE WHEN
QUALIFICATIONS EXIST**

CHARTER BOAT FISHING LICENSES

**NEW APPLICANTS MUST APPLY IN PERSON
IN THE BATON ROUGE OFFICE ONLY.
RENEWALS MAY BE MAILED IN OR
HANDLED IN PERSON AT THE BATON
ROUGE LOCATION ONLY.**

CHARTER BOAT FISHING GUIDE LICENSE

Guides operating charter fishing vessels in saltwater areas of the state must possess a Charter Boat Fishing Guide License. The license is required for resident and non resident guides. A saltwater guide may not possess a spotted seatrout permit.

The annual fee for a **Resident** Charter Boat Fishing Guide License is \$250 per vessel for those carrying no more than six passengers and \$500 per vessel for boats carrying more than six passengers.

The annual fee for the **Non-resident** Charter Boat Fishing Guide License is \$1,000 per vessel for those

carrying no more than six passengers and \$2,000 per vessel for boats carrying more than six passengers.

To qualify for purchase of a Charter Boat Fishing Guide License, the captain of a charter vessel must present his valid captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard, a valid driver's license and his Louisiana recreational fishing license. The guide license is valid for one year beginning Jan. 1 of each year.

MOTHERSHIP AND CHARTER SKIFF LICENSES

A Mothership License shall be required for charter fishing operation which does not have a charter boat fishing guide present and consists of a large vessel carrying small skiffs that will be used by no more than two people for fishing purposes. The main motorized vessel shall carry a Mothership License and the captain must have a valid captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard on his person. For vessels carrying up to six skiffs, the license fee shall be \$1,000 per year.

For those vessels carrying more than six skiffs, the license fee shall be \$2,000 per year.

In addition, each skiff is required to have a Charter Skiff License which identifies the charter vessel to which it is attached. A licensed skiff shall only be used for fishing purposes while the charter vessel with which it is identified is located in Louisiana territorial waters. Each Charter Skiff License shall be issued for an annual cost of \$50 per skiff.

The Mothership License and the Charter Skiff License shall be valid for one year, beginning on Jan .1 of each calendar year and expiring on Dec. 31 of the same calendar year.

Licensing requirements for individuals fishing under the direction of a mothership operation or a charter guide are listed in the recreational regulations pamphlet or on the Web at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

LICENSE/PERMIT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

License/permit applicants must complete and sign an application form, which can be obtained by contacting the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commercial License Section at 225-765-2898. If applying by mail, remittance for license fees must be in the form of money order or cashier's check payable to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries. Applications applied for by mail may take up to four weeks for processing. License/permits may be applied for in person at the Baton Rouge office (2000 Quail Drive). Office hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. **NOTE: an original valid license/permit must be in possession in order to engage in the licensed/permitted activity. Under no circumstance is a copy of a license/permit or application and/or proof of payment thereof acceptable in lieu of the original license/permit.**

LICENSE PREREQUISITES

The Mussel Harvester Permit, Oyster Harvester License and Shark, Spotted Seatrout and Mullet Permits can only be obtained by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License. The Mussel Buyer's Permit can only be purchased by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Seafood Transport Licenses can only be purchased by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License, Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License or Seafood Retail Dealer's License. Convictions of some offense types may disqualify applicants.

Gear licenses are only temporarily transferable (allowing another to use) to a person of same residency status and if qualifications exist to a qualified fisherman. Some gear licenses are not transferable.

WHOLESALE/RETAIL SEAFOOD DEALERS AND RETAIL SEAFOOD DEALER LICENSES, RESTAURANTS & FRESH PRODUCTS LICENSE

“Fish” (in quotation marks) in this section means all finfish, shellfish and crustaceans.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers:

Any individual person, firm, association, corporation, partnership or any legal entity recognized by law that buys or 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

Reptile and Amphibian Dealer's License. They are required, however, to abide by regulations of those particular activities. If a Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license is in the name of an individual, the license is only valid for that individual. If you are applying for a new Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license in a business name, you must submit a copy of the occupational license or the registration certificate filed with the Secretary of State, if Federal Tax ID is not obtained.

Any wholesale/retail seafood dealer who exports or attempts to export outside the state of Louisiana any crabs, softshell crabs, boiled crabs, containerized crabmeat or containerized pasteurized crabmeat shall be required to purchase a Wholesale Out-of-State Crab Shipping license in addition to his Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license. The Wholesale Out-of-State Crab Shipping license shall be issued in the same manner as a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license and shall be issued only to a person who is a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer.

Retail Seafood Dealers:

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 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 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’s license if purchasing such “fish” from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer. If a Retail Seafood Dealer’s 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.

Any retail seafood dealer who exports or attempts to export outside of the state of Louisiana any crabs, softshell crabs, boiled crabs, containerized crabmeat or containerized pasteurized crabmeat shall be required to purchase a Retail Out-of-State Crab Shipping license in addition to his Retail Dealer's license. The Retail Out-of-State Crab Shipping license shall be issued in the same manner as the Retail Seafood Dealer's license and shall be issued only to a person who is a licensed retail seafood dealer.

Wholesale/retail seafood dealers and retail seafood dealers may purchase a license for a four-year period at four times the cost of the annual license fee.

Restaurants and Retail Grocers:

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 consumer 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 Dealer’s 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 fisherman for which a permit is required, they may only purchase “fish”/seafood from those commercial fisherman 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 into Louisiana they must be legally licensed in Louisiana. Persons out of state purchasing “fish”/seafood in Louisiana for resale regardless of the type of transportation used must possess a Louisiana Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer’s License. Out of state buyers purchasing “fish”/seafood for resale 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. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers may be required to obtain certain federal permits when purchasing federally regulated species from commercial fisherman. For information regarding federal permits, contact 727-570-5326 or 1-888-USA-TUNA.

Fresh Products Licensees:

Shall only sell to the consumer and are required to maintain “trip ticket” records and file monthly reports as required in the **Reporting** Section below.

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’s License or a Retail Seafood Dealer’s 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’s License and applicable transport license.

RECORDS

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers, Retail Seafood Dealers, Fresh Products Licensees, Restaurants and Retail Grocers:

Shall keep and maintain in the English language:

1. records of the quantity and species of “fish”/seafood (fresh, frozen, processed or unprocessed) acquired;

2. 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 seller from whom the “fish”/seafood was acquired;
3. 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, and shall state 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 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 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 by head count of such species.

Wholesale/retail seafood dealers purchasing from commercial fishermen and fresh products licensees are required to document such transactions on LDWF issued trip tickets.

REPORTING

Monthly Returns to the Department:

Any wholesale/retail seafood dealer buying “fish” or seafood from anyone other than a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer and fresh products licensee 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. Computerized trip tickets are available to wholesale/retail dealers. For more information on monthly dealer reports or computerized trip tickets call 225-765-2371.

All “fish”/seafood purchased by a wholesale/retail seafood dealer from persons other than licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealers which are not reported as required are deemed to have been illegally possessed or purchased by the purchasing wholesale/retail seafood dealer.

Severance Tax (oyster):

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 following month.

Shrimp Excise Tax:

La. 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. The tax is assessed at the rate of 15 cents per barrel of 210 pounds or 210 pounds equivalence. If the heads have been removed the shrimp will be computed at 125 pounds per barrel

or its equivalence. Imported peeled shrimp will be computed at 75 pounds per barrel. Payment of the excise tax is by the first wholesale/retail dealer to whom the shrimp is first delivered. On imported shrimp brought to cold storage, the tax is to be paid by the dealer storing, brokering or distributing the shrimp. The taxes and reports required are to be filed no later than the tenth day of the succeeding month.

Shrimp excise taxes shall be payable to the department on or before the tenth day of the month following the date of sale. Upon failure to pay excise taxes when due, a penalty of 10 percent per month, not exceeding 30 percent in the aggregate, calculated upon the excise tax due, shall be levied and collected by LDWF in addition to the tax due. If there is a delinquency in the filing of reports and in the payment of taxes due as required above, demand for payment shall be made by LDWF as soon thereafter as possible, coupled with the warning that the license of the delinquent shall be revoked unless report is made and taxes paid. After demand for payment and warning, LDWF may seize any shrimp or parts of products thereof in the possession of a person liable for taxes and penalties due and sell them for payment of the tax and penalties. Any surplus from the proceeds of sale, after deducting all costs and charges, taxes and penalties due, shall be paid to the owner of the shrimp or parts or products thereof seized. At any time after demand for payment and warning the licenses of any person who fails to make monthly reports and to pay excise taxes due shall be revoked by the department and shall remain until all reports are made and all taxes due are paid with accrued penalties. Any person who refuses or fails to pay the excise taxes due or to make monthly reports as aforesaid, and whose license has been revoked, is hereby prohibited from buying and selling or otherwise engaging in the disposition of shrimp or parts or products thereof and other seafoods under the jurisdiction of this department.

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 or 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:

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

2. Transport License:

- a. if purchased in connection with a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license authorizes to deliver "fish"/seafood to and for a wholesale dealer.
- b. if purchased in connection with a Retail Seafood Dealer's 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
- c. if purchased in connection with a Commercial Fisherman's license, only valid to transport that commercial 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 authority of a transport license issued in the name of that dealer.

3. Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealers License: good for all activities of wholesale/retail seafood dealers.

Vehicles commercially shipping seafood out of state must have a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license or a Transport License purchased in connection with a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's license.

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

Commercial fishermen who sell their catch to anyone other than a Louisiana licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer or transport their catch out-of-state are required to purchase and possess a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's License and are required to comply with all regulations governing wholesale/retail seafood dealers.

A validly licensed commercial fisherman may sell his catch to a consumer within the state if he is also the holder of a valid Fresh Products license.

EXEMPTIONS

Persons who produce and harvest catfish or crawfish in private ponds shall not be required to possess any license in order to sell their crawfish or catfish. Any person may purchase crawfish or catfish from persons who harvest crawfish or catfish in private ponds. A seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license is required to purchase products to be resold.

Persons who harvest crawfish or catfish in private ponds shall not be required to possess any license to transport their own crawfish or catfish from the private pond to the first point of sale.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Angle:** to fish with rod, fishing pole or hook and line, with or without a reel.
2. **Bait seine:** a net measuring no more than 30 feet in length with a mesh size not exceeding 1/4 inch mesh bar, 1/2 inch mesh stretched, and operated solely by foot without any mechanical device, pulley or mechanical assistance whatsoever.
3. **Bait species:** all species of fish and other aquatic life utilized for bait.
4. **Bandit gear:** vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved by manual, electric or hydraulic reels.
5. **Bona fide resident:**
 - A. Any person who has resided in this state continuously during the 12 months immediately prior to the date on which he applies for any license and who has manifested his intent to remain in this state by establishing Louisiana as his legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following, as applicable:
 - I. If registered to vote, he is registered to vote in Louisiana.
 - II. If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana drivers license.
 - III. If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana registration for that vehicle.
 - IV. If earning an income, he has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.
 - B. As to 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 is domiciled in Louisiana and has a permanent physical location of business in Louisiana where records are held.
 - C. 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.
6. **Butterfly net:** a fixed, frame mounted net, used to fish near surface waters, which is suspended from the side or sides of a boat, pilings, floats, rafts or shore installation.
7. **Can:** a metal container of not more than 55 gallon capacity which is set for the purpose of taking fish.
8. **Cast net:** a light circular net of vegetable or synthetic materials and weighted around its perimeter that is thrown by hand over the water.
9. **Charter boat fishing guide:** any person who operates a vessel for hire and derives income from the bringing of recreational fishermen upon waters in saltwater areas within the state for the purpose of taking fish.
10. **Commercial fish:** all designated freshwater commercial fish and designated saltwater commercial fish found in the waters of the state.
11. **Commercial fisherman:** any person who derives income from harvesting fish. "Income" as used herein shall not include a prize or award offered as a prize in a fishing tournament. (See also **Nonresident Commercial Fisherman**).
12. **Common carrier:** any agency or person transporting passengers or property of any description for hire.
13. **Crab dropnet:** any device constructed with vegetable, synthetic or metal fibers and without flues or throat, attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for the purpose of taking crabs. This device shall be operated solely by hand and fished in a stationary, passive manner.
14. **Crab trap:** a cube-shaped device, constructed of wire, no larger than 30 inches 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 seven inches 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 one and one-half times the vertical diameter of the opening.
15. **Crawfish net:** any device constructed with vegetable or synthetic material without flues or throats attached to a wire frame that forms a net basket and is used for taking crawfish.
16. **Crawfish trap:** any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throats or flues not exceeding two inches and which is used for the sole purpose of taking crawfish. Crawfish traps are typically of the pillow style or cone style with minimum mesh size no smaller than 3/4 inch by 11/16 inch.

- 17. Crawfish farmer:** a person who farms or cultivates crawfish commercially in private ponds.
- 18. Crawfish harvester:** a person who harvests wild crawfish commercially without participating in the growing of the crawfish.
- 19. Dip net:** a net, usually a deep mesh bag of vegetable or synthetic materials, on a fixed frame not to exceed three feet in diameter attached to a handle and worked exclusively by hand without any mechanical assistance and by no more than one individual.
- 20. Eel pot:** any device not to exceed 48 inches in length and with an outside mesh size not smaller than two inches, constructed with throats or flues not larger than three inches in diameter at their narrowest point and not larger than five inches in diameter at their widest point, and which is used solely for the purpose of taking eel. No lead or wing shall be connected to or used in conjunction with any eel pot. Any fish other than eel taken in this gear must be immediately returned unharmed to the water.
- 21. Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** zone which falls within a line conterminous with the seaward boundary of each of the coastal states and a line drawn in such a manner that each point on it is 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured.
- 22. Finfish (noun):** any of numerous cold blooded aquatic vertebrates that characteristically swim with fins, breathe with gills and are covered with skin or scales.
- 23. Fish (noun):** all finfish, shellfish and crustaceans and all other species of aquatic life.
- 24. Fish dealer - retail:** persons, excluding restaurants, purchasing fish or seafood whether whole, dressed or fresh frozen for sale within the state to the consumer only.
- 25. Fish dealer - wholesale:** persons purchasing fresh or frozen fish for resale to dealers or to ship out of state.
- 26. Fishing gear:**
- A. any vessel and,
 - B. any equipment, whether or not attached to a vessel, which is used in the commercial handling or harvesting of living marine resources.
- 27. Fork length:** distance from tip of snout to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure some fish with deeply forked tails, such as amberjack.
- 28. Freshwater recreational fish:** any species of freshwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
- 29. Freshwater commercial fish:** any species of freshwater fish taken by a commercial fisherman. Freshwater commercial fish do not include any species of game fish.
- 30. Fyke net:** any cone shaped net of vegetable or synthetic fibers having throats or flues which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing, with vertical panels of net wings set obliquely on one or both sides of the mouth of the cone shaped net.
- 31. Game fish:** all of the following species of freshwater and saltwater fish:
- A. **Freshwater game fish:** largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*), shadow bass (*Ambloplites ariommus*), black or white crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*, *P. annularis*), white bass (*Morone chrysops*), yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), hybrid striped bass (striped bass-white bass cross or striped bass-yellow bass cross) and any species of bream (*Lepomis sp.*)
 - B. **Saltwater game fish:** any sailfish (*Istiopharus platypterus*), blue marlin (*Makaira indica*), black marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), hatchet marlin (*Tetrapturus spp.*), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*) and red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*).
- 32. Gill net:** any net of one or more layers not customarily used for shrimp or menhaden fishing, with a mesh of such size and design as to be used primarily to catch or entangle fish by the gills or other bony projections.
- 33. Hook:** any curved or bent device attached to a line for the purpose of taking fish or alligator and consisting of not more than one eye and one shank with no more than three barbs.
- 34. Hoop net:** a cone shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials having throats or flues and which are stretched over a series of rings or hoops to support the webbing.
- 35. Lead or wing net:** a panel of netting of any mesh size or length, with or without weights and floats, attached to one or both sides of the mouth of a cone shaped net having flues or throats, and set so as to deflect or guide fish toward the mouth of the net.
- 36. Length (of seines, trawls, or other netting):** the full measure of the extended net as in use or in possession on the fishing grounds, when measured along the cork line between the points where the webbing is attached to the rope at either end, and does not include the additional rope used for pulling the net or attaching it to the arm-poles or trawl boards.

- 37. Licensee:** any resident or nonresident lawful holder of an effective license duly issued under the authority of the department.
- 38. Longline gear:** a line which is over 440 yards long to which gangions and hooks are attached that is deployed horizontally and which may be retrieved by an electric or hydraulic hauler. Longline gear shall not mean a trotline as defined in R.S. 56:8(101).
- 39. Lower jaw fork length (LJFL):** longest distance from tip of lower jaw to midline of caudal fin. Used to measure billfish such as marlin and swordfish.
- 40. Menhaden seine:** a purse seine used to take menhaden and herring like species.
- 41. Mesh size:** the full measure of the mesh as found in use when measured as follows:
- A. Bar measure** is the length of the full bar stretched from the near side of one knot to the far side of the other after being tarred, treated, or otherwise processed.
 - B. Stretched measure** is the full stretched distance from the near side of one knot to the far side of the opposite knot diagonally across the mesh. This measurement shall not be applicable to weaved or woven nets commonly used for menhaden fishing.
 - C.** In woven nets, stretched measure is the full stretched distance of the opening of the mesh; bar measure is one half of stretched measure.
- 42. Minnow trap:** any device with throats or flues not to exceed one inch in width which is used for the sole purpose of taking minnows for bait.
- 43. Monofilament:** a single untwisted synthetic filament.
- 44. Mullet strike net:** a gill net that is not more than 1,200 feet long and with a mesh size of not less than three and 1/2 inches stretched that is not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used. A mullet strike net shall not be an unattended net as defined in R.S. 56:8 (102).
- 45. Nonresident commercial fisherman:** means any person who is not a bona fide resident as that term is defined by R.S. 56:8 (69). (See **Bona fide resident**)
- 46. Nonresident commercial fishing boat:** any boat or vessel registered in any state other than Louisiana, or which has not continually been registered in this state for a period of more than 12 months, or which is not owned by any person who is a bona fide resident, and which is used for the purpose of taking or assisting in taking or catching fish from the waters of this state for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter or exchange.
- 47. Pompano strike net:** a gill net that is not more than 2,400 feet long and with a mesh size of not less than five inches stretched that is not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used. A pompano strike net shall not be an unattended net as defined in R.S. 56:8(102).
- 48. Possess:** in its different tenses, the act of having in possession or control, keeping, detaining, restraining or holding as owner, or as agent, bailee or custodian for another. When possession of fish or other wildlife is prohibited, reference is made equally to such fish or other wildlife coming from without the state as to those taken within the state.
- 49. Processing:** any method of preparing fish or fish products for market including drying to a point of dehydration, canning, salting, packing or packaging of alligators or parts, breeding, freezing and cooking for immediate consumption, but not simple packing of fresh fish in a sack, bag, package, crate, box, lug or vat.
- 50. Purse seine:** any net or device commonly known as a purse seine and/or ring net that can be pursed or closed by means of a drawstring or other device that can be drawn to close the bottom of the net or the top of the net or both. Such nets are constructed of mesh of such size and design as not to be used primarily to entangle fish by the gills or other bony projection.
- 51. Recreational purpose:** a purpose other than deriving or attempting to derive an income of any kind from the harvest of fish. "Income" as used herein shall not include a prize or award offered as a prize in a fishing tournament.
- 52. Reptiles and amphibians:** Native turtles, snakes, lizards, frogs, toads and salamanders.
- 53. Saltwater commercial fish:** any species of saltwater fish taken for commercial purposes. Saltwater commercial fish do not include any species of game fish.
- 54. Saltwater recreational fish:** any species of saltwater fish taken for recreational purposes.
- 55. Saltwater fish:** all species of finfish which normally inhabit the saline waters of the marine and estuarine environment for most of their life cycle.
- 56. Seine:** any net used to enclose or entrap fish either in a bag or where its ends are pulled together on a vessel or a shore and constructed with a mesh of such size and design as not to be used primarily to entangle fish by the gills or other bony projections (see **Purse seine**).

- 57. Shad gill net:** a net having a mesh size no less than two inches stretch and no more than four inches stretched. May not exceed 1,200 feet in length and must have attached to each end a one-gallon jug painted international orange and with the words “Shad Gill Net” in black and must have waterproof tags with the name and license number of the fisherman in accordance with R. S. 56:320(F).
- 58. Shad seine:** seine with a mesh size not less than one-inch bar and two inches stretched and not more than two-inch bar and four inches stretched. A shad seine may not be constructed of monofilament.
- 59. Shellfish:** an aquatic, invertebrate species having a shell. These species include, but are not limited to, oysters, clams, crawfish, shrimp, crabs and other mollusks and crustaceans.
- 60. Skimmer net:** a net attached on two sides to a triangular frame and suspended from or attached to the sides of a boat, with one corner attached to the side of the boat and one corner resting on the waterbottom. A ski and one end of the lead line are attached to the corner of the frame that rests on the waterbottom and the other end of the lead line is attached to a weight which is suspended from the bow of the boat.
- 61. Slat trap:** any device, used solely for the capture of catfish, which is cylindrical, rectangular or square in cross section configuration, constructed of slats forming the length of the trap, with at least one pair of slats spaced at least one inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than six feet in length, two feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone shaped throats, flues or entrances.
- 62. Slot limit:** protective size limits denoting that fish within the range, inclusive of stated measurements, must be returned to the water immediately.
- 63. Strike net:** any gill net, trammel net or seine not anchored or secured to the water bottom or shore and which is actively worked while being used.
- 64. Take:** in its different tenses, the attempt or act of hooking, pursuing, netting, capturing, snaring, trapping, shooting, hunting, wounding or killing by any means or device.
- 65. Test trawl:** a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the leadline.
- 66. Total length:** the longest measurable distance from the outermost portion of the snout lengthwise to the outermost portion of the caudal fin.
- 67. Trammel net:** any device composed of layers of netting material attached to one or more float lines or one or more weighted bottom lines, with the layers being constructed of fine mesh and of larger mesh so that a fish attempting to pass through the device pushes the smaller mesh through the larger mesh creating a pocket or compartment in which the fish is entrapped, entangled or restricted.
- 68. Transport:** in its different tenses, the act of shipping, attempting to ship, receiving or delivering for shipment, transporting, conveying, carrying or exporting by air, land or water, or by any means whatsoever.
- 69. Trawl:** any net, generally funnel shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. The term “trawl” also means and includes plumb staff beam trawls that do not exceed 16 feet, and 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 under way.
- 70. Trigger:** any tension loaded rubber band or spring device that contains several feet of line and a hook or hooks, which is baited and set, and which automatically hooks and plays a fish.
- 71. Trotline:** any set line which is four hundred forty yards or less to which hoop drops are tied at various intervals or gangions and hoods are attached and which may be retrieved manually or by electric or hydraulic haulers.
- 72. Unattended net:** any net in the water to which the licensee thereof cannot be immediately located for identification within 200 feet thereof.
- 73. Wing net:** See **Lead net**.
- 74. Wire net:** a cone shaped net of vegetable or synthetic materials, with a mesh no less than one inch square or two inches stretched, having throats or flues and which is stretched over wire of five inch mesh or greater to support the webbing.

GENERAL REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The following digest includes a summary of certain relevant statutes contained in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and relevant rules and regulations adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to implement additional restrictions in emergency situations in order to protect fish and wildlife resources.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Taking or harassment of any of the following species is a violation of state and federal laws: Louisiana pearlshell mussel, inflated heelsplitter mussel, fat pocketbook mussel, pink mucket mussel, American burying beetle, sea turtles, gopher tortoise, ringed saw-

back turtle, Mississippi gopher frog, brown pelican, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, whooping crane, Eskimo curlew, piping plover, interior least tern, ivory-billed woodpecker, red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's warbler, whales (blue, finback, sei, sperm), West Indian manatee, Florida panther, Louisiana black bear, pallid sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon.

SPECIALLY REGULATED AREAS

In addition to the general statewide fishing regulations, state wildlife refuges and wildlife management areas, national refuges, federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and certain local areas may have special regulations or restrictions on fishing. For more complete information, see your local wildlife enforcement agent or the current Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

RESTRICTIONS & METHODS OF TAKING FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER FISH

Commercial finfish may be taken with any pole, line, the device known as yo-yo, the device known as a trigger device, handline, with any trotline wherein hooks are not less than 24 inches apart, with approved slat traps, cans and minnow traps, with legal seines and nets, with bows and arrows or by any skin diver in saltwater or fresh water, when submerged in the water and using standard spearing equipment, and by no other means. In the saltwater areas of the state, as defined in R.S. 56:322, commercial finfish may be taken by commercial saltwater rod and reel (see **License prerequisites** for requirements). Eel may be taken for commercial purposes using eel pots and other legal gear as provided herein. Certain species of finfish have specific regulations regarding gear and have permits required for harvest.

No person shall take or possess fish taken by means of spears (except for taking flounder in saltwater areas and garfish), poisons, stupefying substances or devices, explosives, guns, tree-topping devices, lead nets (except lead nets are permitted on hoop nets when set in overflowed regions when the water is out of the actual bed of the natural stream or lake and the hoop net is set 500 feet from the actual stream bed), electricity or any instrument or device capable of producing an electrical current used in shocking said fish. No person shall take or possess game fish taken by means of snagging devices (not including bow and arrow). Catfish may be taken by means of snagging

devices. Garfish may be taken by means of spears and bows and arrows. It shall be unlawful to possess any of the prohibited instruments, weapons, substances or devices set out herein above with the intent to take fish in violation of the provisions of this section.

No nets or beam trawls used for taking fish or shrimp from saltwater areas of the state shall be left unattended, except legal nets or trawls which are attached to a wharf at a bona fide inhabitable camp, which shall be tagged with an LDWF issued tag. Hoop nets, without leads, may be left unattended in the saltwater areas of the state for the sole purpose of taking legal commercial catfish species.

No person shall use or deploy within the state territorial waters bandit gear or longline gear. A person may possess bandit gear or longline gear aboard a vessel within state territorial waters so long as such gear is not in use or deployed to take fish. No person shall possess fish taken within the state territorial waters using bandit gear or longline gear.

No person shall take or attempt to take fish by means of an elevated trotline, except in exempt areas. Contact a local wildlife enforcement agent.

Eels may be taken for commercial purposes using eel pots. Eel pots shall be fished only in areas of the state which are south of the saltwater line and in designated

saltwater lakes, excluding Lake Maurepas, except that LDWF may issue permits to fish eel pots in these otherwise prohibited areas under provisions in the under-utilized species act.

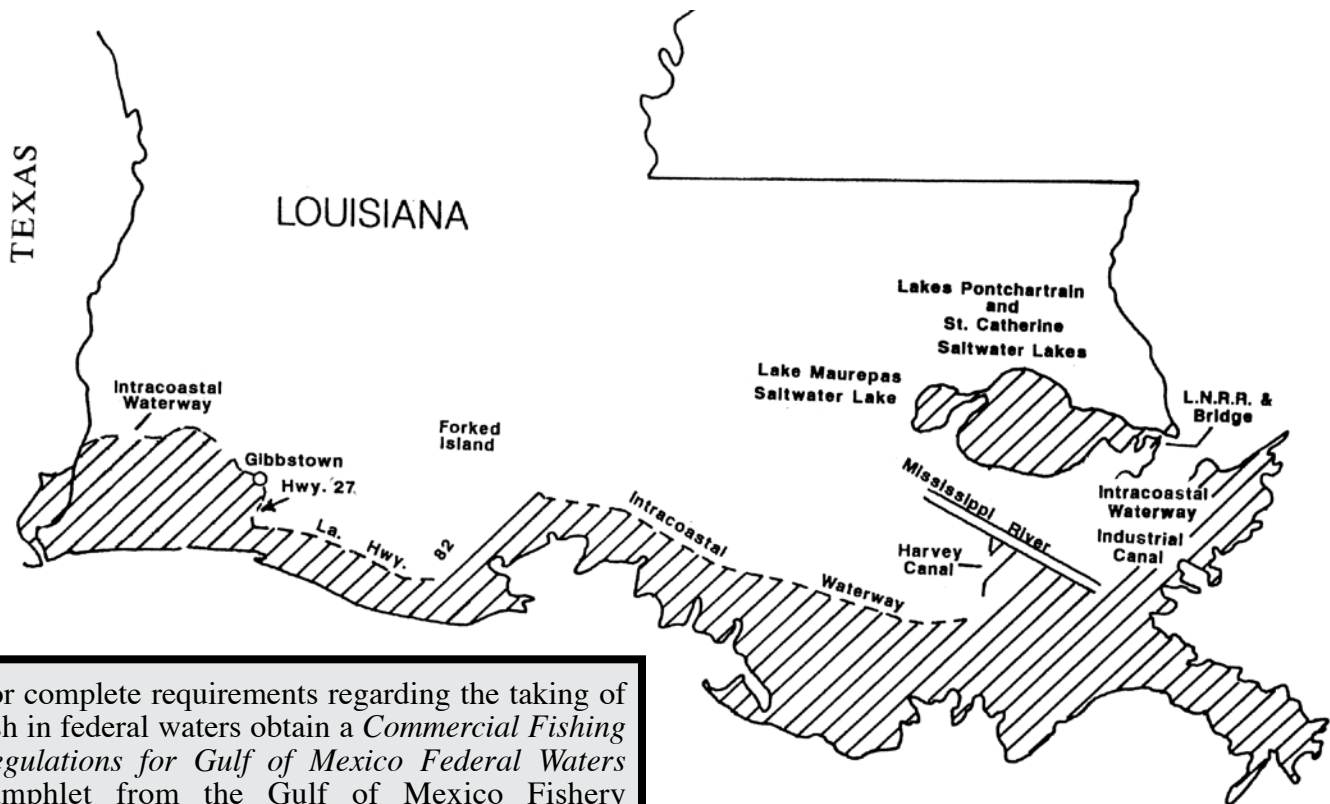
All fishing operations shall be conducted in such a way that the nests of fish or the natural hiding places of young fish are not destroyed. Nets shall not be hauled out upon the shore in such a way that any fish which may happen to be taken therein cannot be returned to the waters without injury.

No person shall obstruct the free passage of fish in any of the streams, lakes, bayous or in any body of water including crevasses, coulees and canals in marsh and swamp areas of the state by any means whatsoever, provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to water control structures or dams for the retention of water for conservation purposes. No obstructions including trawls, butterfly nets, fyke nets, wings or leads, seines, gill nets or trammel nets, which interfere with the free passageway of fish as defined herein, shall be set within 500 feet of the mouth of any inlet or pass, or within 500 feet of any water control structures, dams or weirs. Wings and leads are permitted on hoop nets in overflowed regions where the water is out of the actual bed of the natural stream or lake but not within the restricted 500 foot area. The possession of fish caught in leads or wings is prohibited. Wings and leads on hoop nets south of the saltwater line, as defined in R.S. 56:322(A), are permitted. However, the use of monofilament leads or wings shall be prohibited south of the saltwater line. No pair of wings or leads shall be within 100 feet of each other and no single lead shall exceed 25 feet in length. Free passageway for fish means a minimum passageway opening of five feet in width extending from the surface to the bottom of the water in the deepest portion of the water.

No person shall possess or have on board any vessel a gill net, trammel net, strike net or seine in the saltwater areas of the state, except as provided in R.S. 56:333 for the commercial taking of mullet, R.S. 56:320.3 for traversing, or R.S. 56:406 for the commercial taking of pompano.

The Louisiana Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1995, Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, changed many aspects of commercially harvesting saltwater finfish. Persons involved in these activities should contact LDWF's Enforcement Division for accurate information.

SALTWATER - FRESHWATER LINE



For complete requirements regarding the taking of fish in federal waters obtain a *Commercial Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters* pamphlet from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100

Tampa, FL 33607

Phone: 813-348-1630.

E-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org.

Web: www.gulfcouncil.org

For the purposes of regulating certain fisheries the legislature recognized the historic division of the state into saltwater and freshwater areas based on the variations of flora and fauna found within these two divisions. The legislature further recognized that the exact line of demarcation cannot be precisely located due to constant changes in water salinity caused by winds, tides, and rains. The legislature therefore legally defined the freshwater and saltwater areas by describing a line from the Texas state line, easterly to the Mississippi state line. The areas south of the described line, plus a number of saltwater lakes and waterways, were designated as saltwater areas and all other areas north of the described line were designated as freshwater areas.

LOUISIANA SALTWATER LINE DEFINITION

Title 56, Section 322 - The Intracoastal waterway from the Texas-Louisiana boundary to its junction with Louisiana Highway 27 at Gibbstown, and then south to Louisiana Highway 82 and then east to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway at Forked Island, the Intracoastal Waterway from Forked Island to Bayou Baratavia to the Harvey Canal, the Harvey

Canal to the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River to the Industrial Canal, the Industrial Canal to the Intracoastal Waterway, the Intracoastal Waterway to the Rigolets in Orleans Parish to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad bridge, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad right-of-way from the Orleans Parish line to the Mississippi state line.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the waters of the Intracoastal Waterway in Orleans Parish from the overhead power lines at the Interharbor Navigation Canal east to the Rigolets shall be considered both salt and fresh water for the purposes of authorizing the taking or possessing fish or the use or possession of gear. Commercial fishing operations in these waters shall not interfere with normal commercial traffic.

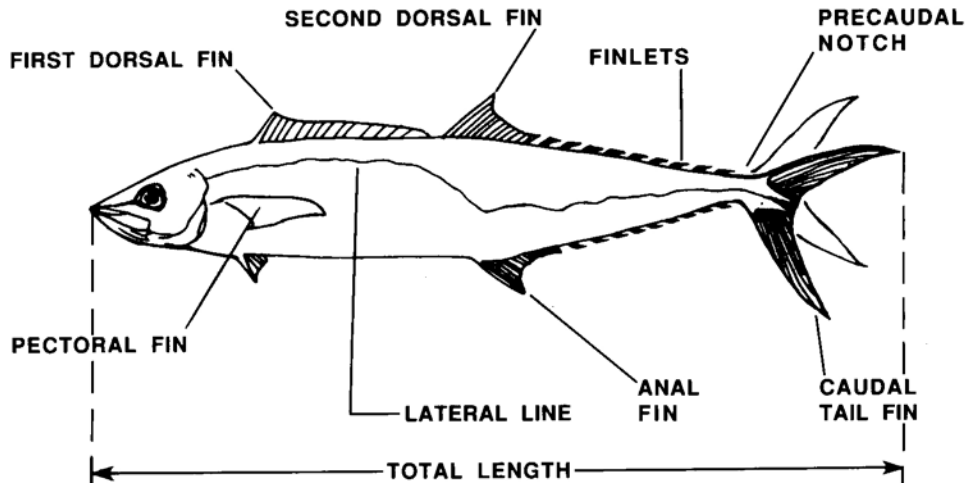
The areas south of the above described line, plus the saltwater lakes known as Sabine Lake, Calcasieu Lake, including that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel which actually adjoins Calcasieu Lake, West and East Pass of the Calcasieu River and Oyster Bayou in Cameron Parish, Lake Maurepas, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake St. Catherine, Chef Menteur Pass (except that seven-tenths of a mile section from Bayou Sauvage south to the Intercoastal Waterway), the Rigolets, Unknown Pass, Pass Manchac, and that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel from the Intracoastal Waterway south to the Gulf of Mexico, shall be designated as saltwater areas.

HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

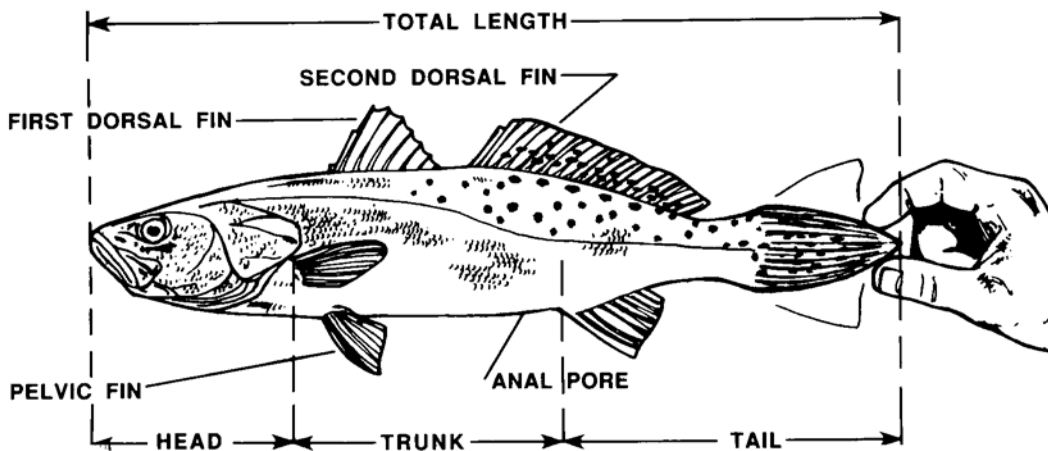
Use these guidelines to measure a fish correctly (*refer to illustrations*):

1. Place the fish on its side on a flat board with the jaw closed.
2. **Total length** - Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin. (*illustration 1, example 1*)
3. **Total length** - Squeeze the tail fin together or turn it in a way to obtain the maximum overall length. (*illustration 1, example 2*)
4. **Fork length** - Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. (*illustration 2*)
5. **Lower jaw fork length** - Measure in a straight line length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail. (*illustration 3*)
6. **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. (*illustration 4*)
7. **Carcass length** - Measure curve from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel. (*illustration 4*)

illustration 1



Example 1. Total length measurement.



Example 2. Total length measurement.

illustration 2

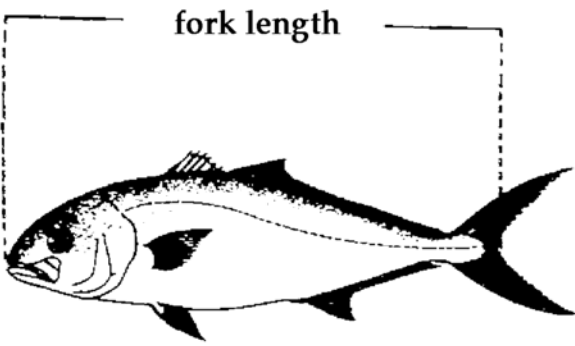


illustration 3

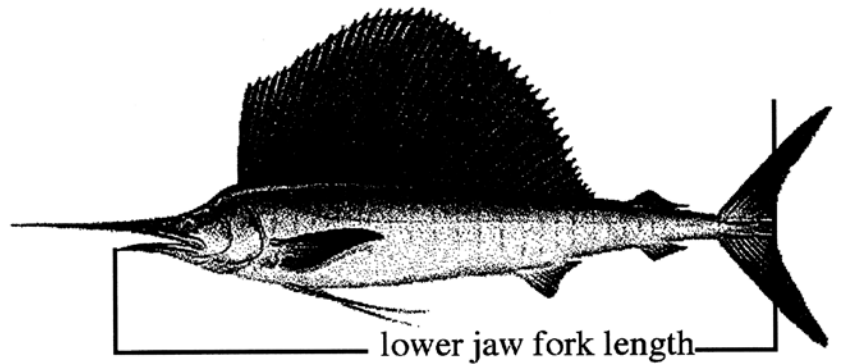
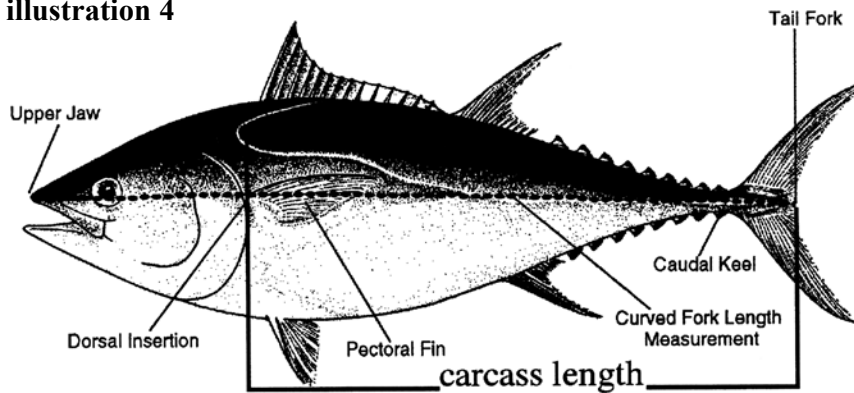


illustration 4



PROHIBITED NOXIOUS AQUATIC PLANTS IMPORTATION

No person shall at any time import or cause to be transported into the jurisdiction of the state of Louisiana from any other state or country, any of the invasive noxious aquatic plants listed below, without first obtaining an Invasive, Noxious Aquatic Plant permit from the department:

1. *Eichhornia azurea* (rooting or anchoring hyacinth)
2. *Elodea canadensis* (elodea)
3. *Hydrilla* spp. (hydrilla)
4. *Lagarosiphon muscoides* & *Lagarosiphon major* (African elodea)
5. *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian watermilfoil)
6. *Najas marina* (marine naiad)
7. *Najas minor* (slender naiad)
8. *Panicum repens* (torpedograss)
9. *Pontederia* spp. (pickerelweed)
10. *Spirodela oligorrhiza* (giant duckweed)
11. *Trapa* (waterchestnut)
12. *Melaleuca quinquenvia* (kapok tree)
13. *Pistia stratiotes* (water lettuce)
14. *Salvinia* spp. (salvinia)
15. *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife)
16. *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth)

NOTICE TO FISHERMEN AND BOATERS

With increasing frequency, introduced aquatic plants are creating serious aquatic habitat problems in many areas of the state. To minimize the spread of these plants in Louisiana waters we recommend the following: check boats (live wells, ice chests, fishing tackle, etc.) and trailers for the presence of aquatic vegetation prior to departing the launch site. If present, we encourage you to remove **ALL** plant material and dispose of it in a manner that will prevent introduction into other waterbodies.

FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING

FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR

All commercial fishing by means of gill nets, seines, strike nets and trammel nets is prohibited in Lake Charles, Moss Lake and Prien Lake. These areas remain open for the use of hoop nets and trot or set lines.

For the taking of commercial fish, a person may have in possession or in use the following:

Cast Net: any cast net used for commercial purposes.

Crawfish Trap: any device constructed of coated wire with the opening of its throats or flues not exceeding two inches used for the sole purpose of taking crawfish. Crawfish traps are typically of the pillow style or cone style with minimum mesh size no smaller than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch by $\frac{11}{16}$ inch.

Gill Net: minimum mesh of not less than three inches square or six inches stretched after treating with tar or copper. No gill net in use shall exceed 1,200 feet in length.

Hoop Net: mesh of not less than one inch square or two inches stretched after treating with tar or copper.

Seine: minimum mesh of not less than two inches square or four inches stretched after treating with tar or copper. No seine in use shall exceed 1,200 feet in length.

Shad Gill Net: Only shad and skipjack herring may be taken with special shad gill net licenses in Lake Palourde, Lake Verret, Lac Des Allemands, all of the waterways in Iberville Parish, and those portions of the parishes of Iberia, St. Martin, and St. Mary located between the guide levees of the Atchafalaya Basin, but is specifically not authorized to do so in the streams, bayous, canals, and other water bodies connected with the specified lakes. However, a commercial fisherman may keep other commercial fish species up to a maximum of 25 fish. All fish on board the vessel shall have the head and caudal fin intact. A single shad gill net having a mesh size no less than one-inch bar or two inches stretched and no more than two-inch bar or four inches stretched may be used per licensee per vessel. The net may not exceed 1,200 feet in length and must have attached to each end a one-gallon jug painted international orange and with the words "Shad Gill Net" in black and must have waterproof tags with the name and license number of the fisherman in accordance with R. S. 56:320(F). Each shad gill net shall be placed at least 50 feet from the tree line. The net can-

not be left unattended. The season will be closed during the months July - October each year. Shad and skipjack may be taken after sunset and before sunrise during open season. However, there shall be no commercial taking of shad or skipjack on any Saturday or Sunday. During the open season, there shall be no daily take or possession limit for the commercial harvest of shad and skipjack by properly licensed shad gill net commercial fishermen. Only strike fishing is authorized. Once deployed, the shad gill net shall remain stationary until fish are being removed from the net or the net is retrieved from the water.

Shad Seine: Shad, skipjack herring and any other legal-sized freshwater commercial fish may be taken with a shad seine. All fish on board the vessel shall have the head and caudal (tail) fin intact. A single shad seine having a mesh size no less than one-inch bar and two inches stretched and not more than two-inch bar and four inches stretched, not constructed of monofilament, may be used per licensee, per vessel and cannot be left unattended. The net may not exceed 1,200 feet in length and must have attached to each end a one gallon jug painted international orange and with the words "Shad Seine" in black lettering and must have waterproof tags with the name and license number of the fisherman in accordance with R.S. 56:320(F). A shad seine may only be fished in the freshwater areas of the state, but it shall not be used in the bodies of water where seine use is prohibited nor the Pearl River or the Pearl River navigational canal. There shall be no daily take or possession limit for the commercial harvest of shad and skipjack taken by properly licensed shad seine commercial fishermen.

Slat Trap: any device, used solely for the capture of catfish, which is cylindrical, rectangular or square in cross section configuration, constructed of slats forming the length of the trap, with at least one pair of slats spaced at least one inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap and which is no more than six feet in length, two feet in diameter or width and which has one or more cone shaped throats, flues or entrances.

Trammel Net: minimum mesh of not less than three inches square or six inches stretched after treating with tar or copper. No trammel net in use shall exceed 1,200 feet in length.

Trotline: hooks must be a minimum of 24 inches apart. Use of elevated trotlines is prohibited in certain areas.

Wire Net: mesh size must not be less than one square inch or two inches stretched.

All gill nets and trammel nets must be tagged with a waterproof tag attached to the corkline at each end of the net, no more than three feet from the edge of the webbing. The tags must contain the fisherman's full name (no initials) and commercial fisherman's license number. The tags are to be supplied by the commercial fisherman.

FRESHWATER AREAS CLOSED TO NETTING

Use of gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines are prohibited in the following waterbodies:

- Caddo Lake
- False River Lake
- Lake Concordia
- D'Arbonne Lake
- Lake Bartholomew
- Lake Claiborne

Use of gill nets, trammel nets, fish seines and hoop nets are prohibited in the following waterbodies:

- Anacoco Bayou (that portion between Anacoco Lake and Lake Vernon)
- John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (wire nets prohibited also)
- Caney Creek Reservoir
- Anacoco Lake
- Bundicks Lake
- Chicot Lake
- Cross Lake
- Lake Bistineau
- Lake Vernon

Toledo Bend Reservoir (Louisiana portion): Hoop nets are prohibited March 1 - May 15 each year only in that portion of Toledo Bend Reservoir from a point north of Logansport where the lake enters Texas, and south to a point on the lake where the Texas Duck Refuge Canal intersects the Old Channel of the Sabine River.

NOTICE CONCERNING FISHING IN LOUISIANA/MISSISSIPPI BORDER WATERS

When commercial fishing in Mississippi border waters, as defined in "Reciprocal License Agreement - Mississippi & Louisiana, November 2000" (copy available upon request), trot lines, snag lines, hoop nets, gill nets and trammel nets may be tagged with a waterproof tag containing the fisherman's full name (no initials) and commercial fisherman's license number, in lieu of tags required by Mississippi regulations. The tag shall be placed within five feet of one end on trot and snag lines, on the first hoop on hoop nets, and on the float line within five feet of one end on gill and trammel nets. Fishermen shall supply their own tags.

Louisiana fishermen using slat traps or slat baskets in Mississippi border waters are required to obtain tags from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

FRESHWATER FISH SPECIES PROHIBITED

No person may possess or sell in this state the following fishes: all species of piranha, tilapia and carp, except koi or common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus*); Rio Grand cichlid; freshwater electric eel (*Electrophorus* sp.); rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*); all members of the families *Synbranchidae* (Asian swamp eels), *Channidae* (snakeheads), *Clariidae* (walking catfishes) and *Trichomycteridae* (pencil catfishes).

Asian carp (grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) and black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)) taken in state waters may be possessed and sold by properly permitted commercial fishermen or by any commercial fisherman provided the fish is dead.

FRESHWATER MUSSELING

Areas Closed to Freshwater Musseling

- A. Areas officially recognized as saltwater areas.
- B. Amite River from the junction with Bayou Manchac to the Mississippi State Line.
- C. All of Rapides and Grant Parishes except the main channel of the Red River.
- D. Bayou Bartholomew in Morehouse Parish from the Arkansas state line to its confluence with the Ouachita River.
- E. Additional areas may be closed at any time by notice from the Secretary.

Mussel Harvester Permit: A freshwater mussel harvester is required to purchase a Commercial Fishing License and a Mussel Harvester Permit to commercially harvest mussels.

SIZE AND TAKE LIMITS

Commercial fishermen must return all undersized fish to waters without injury. Any commercial species upon which there is no specified size limit may be taken in any size and quantity.

Five percent of each species of commercial fish by number may be smaller than the legal limit, EXCEPT channel catfish of which 10 percent by number may be smaller than the legal limit.

Commercial fishermen, wholesale/retail seafood dealers, retail seafood dealers, restaurants or retail grocers shall not sell, purchase, barter, trade or exchange or attempt to sell, purchase, barter, trade or exchange undersized fish.

BLUE CATFISH (*Ictalurus furcatus*)

12 inches minimum total length.

BUFFALO (*Ictiobus spp.*)

16 inches minimum total length.

CHANNEL CATFISH (*Ictalurus punctatus*)

11 inches minimum total length, 8 inches collar boned.

FLATHEAD CATFISH (*Pylodictis olivaris*)

14 inches minimum total length.

FRESHWATER DRUM (*Aplodinotus grunniens*)

12 inches minimum total length.

BOWFIN (*Amia calva*)

22 inches minimum total length. Fishermen are prohibited, while on the water, from possessing bowfin

eggs (roe) that are not naturally connected to a whole fish. The taking of bowfin with nets or bowfin body parts, including eggs (roe), is prohibited during the months of December, January and February, EXCEPT in Assumption, Avoyelles, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Terrebonne, Tangipahoa and West Baton Rouge parishes and in the areas know as Bayou Courtableau, Bayou Teche, Lake Dauterive, Lake Fausse Point, Vermilion River, Carencro Bayou, Queue de Tortue Bayou, Bayou Nez Pique, Mermentau River, Bayou Lacassine, Sabine River and the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway that is bounded by the East and West levees of the Atchafalaya Basin and is south of U.S. Highway 190.

MULLET

May be taken in hoop nets in the freshwater areas of the state. Mullet taken in freshwater may not be possessed in saltwater, at night, or taken with a hoop net with leads on it.

PADDLEFISH (*Polyodon spathula*)

Commonly called spoonbill catfish. Taking or possession of whole or any body parts, including roe (eggs) is prohibited.

PALLID, ATLANTIC AND SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

Taking or possession of whole or any body parts, including roe is prohibited.

FROGS

See **Reptiles and Amphibians** section.

ADDITIONAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS

BLACK LAKE/CLEAR LAKE/PRAIRIE LAKE

No yo-yo or trigger device with a hook in the water may be left unattended between two hours after official sunrise and one-half hour after official sunset. The device will be considered unattended if the user cannot be located and identified within the immediate vicinity of the device. Hoop nets and wire nets must be marked with a waterproof tag with the name and address of the fisherman and his fishing license number.

BOGUE CHITTO RIVER

The use of seines, nets and webbing for the taking of fish in Bogue Chitto River from where it enters the state in the northern part of Washington Parish to where it enters into the Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish is prohibited. The taking of fish from logs, buckets, barrels, drums or natural or artificial nesting areas by hand grabbing is also prohibited in this area.

LAKE BRUIN

The use of fish nets in Lake Bruin is prohibited EXCEPT that a special recurring commercial fishing season allowing the use of gill and trammel nets greater than or having at least a minimum of three and one-half inch bar and seven inches stretched, and allowing the use of slat traps is permitted. The season commences each year at sunrise on Nov. 1 and closes at sunset on the last day of February the following year. Commercial fishermen must obtain a Lake Bruin Commercial Fishing Permit in order to participate in this special season. The permit is issued at no cost on a seasonal basis and must be renewed for each season. Please contact the Baton Rouge Office for more information. The permittee must also file a report to LDWF of his catch no later than 15 days following the closure of the season. Commercial fishing will be allowed only during daylight hours except that gear can remain

set overnight but fish captured shall be removed during daylight hours only.

CADDO LAKE

No resident shall have set in the water for the taking of commercial fish in Caddo Lake more than 24 yo-yos or other trigger devices. Each yo-yo or other trigger device shall be clearly marked with the name and address of the user. No resident shall leave a yo-yo or trigger device unattended in Caddo Lake while it is set in the water for taking fish, except from one-half hour after official sunset to one-half hour before official sunrise. A yo-yo or trigger device shall be deemed unattended when the user cannot be immediately located for identification therewith without leaving the location of the yo-yo or trigger device. No person who is a nonresident shall set in the water, use or leave a yo-yo or trigger device at any time in Caddo Lake.

LAKE CHARLES

Fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet prohibited.

CHICOT LAKE

Fishing with the use of yo-yos or trigger devices shall be permitted on Chicot Lake only from Nov. 1 - March 1 of each year. Not more than 24 yo-yos or trigger devices shall be allowed per boat. Each yo-yo must be tagged with the name of the responsible party, the registration number of the boat and the date and time the yo-yo was set. All yo-yos must be attended and re-tagged at least every 48 hours.

CYPRESS LAKE AND BLACK BAYOU RESERVOIR, BOSSIER PARISH

The use of gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines is prohibited. Hoop nets, wire nets and slat traps are prohibited from March 1 - Oct. 31 of each year. All hoop nets, wire nets and slat traps shall be removed from the lakes prior to March 1 of each year.

LAKE D'ARBONNE

No more than 50 yo-yos, or trigger devices, shall be allowed per person. Each yo-yo, or trigger device, shall be clearly tagged with the name, address and telephone number of the owner or user. When used, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be checked at least once every 24 hours, and all fish and any other animal caught or hooked, shall be immediately removed from the device. Each yo-yo or trigger device must be rebaited at least once every 24 hours. When not being used in accordance to the above regulations, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be removed immediately from Lake D'Arbonne. No yo-yo or trigger device shall be attached to any metallic object. All trotlines must be marked, tagged and dated with the owner or user's name, address, phone number and the date of

placement. The trotline must be marked on each end with a floating object that is readily visible. No person shall set more than three trotlines with a maximum of 50 hooks per trotline. All trotlines must be removed from Lake D'Arbonne when not in use. All trotlines must have an eight foot cotton leader on each end of the trotline to insure that if the trotline is left unattended, the cotton leader will deteriorate and the line will sink. All trotlines must be attended daily while in service.

FOOL RIVER, FRANKLIN PARISH

Fish seines prohibited.

LACASSINE BAYOU (*that portion of the bayou that flows through the Lacassine National Refuge*)

Gill nets, trammel nets and hoop nets prohibited March 1 - Nov. 30 each year.

LAKE LAFOURCHE , CALDWELL PARISH

No more than 50 yo-yos, or trigger devices, shall be allowed per person. Each yo-yo, or trigger device, shall be clearly tagged with the name, address and telephone number of the owner or user. When used, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be checked at least once every 24 hours, and all fish and any other animal caught or hooked, shall be immediately removed from the device. Each yo-yo or trigger device must be rebaited at least once every 24 hours. When not being used in accordance to the above regulations, each yo-yo or trigger device shall be removed immediately from Lake Lafourche. No yo-yo or trigger device shall be attached to any metallic object. All trotlines must be marked, tagged, and dated with the owner or user's name, address, phone number and the date of placement. The trotline must be marked on each end with a floating object that is readily visible. No person shall set more than three trotlines with a maximum of 50 hooks per trotline. All trotlines must be removed from Lake Lafourche when not in use. All trotlines must have an eight foot cotton leader on each end of the trotline to insure that if the trotline is left unattended, the cotton leader will deteriorate and the line will sink. All trotlines must be attended daily while in service.

LAKE PROVIDENCE

Gill nets and trammel nets prohibited, EXCEPT during a special recurring commercial fishing season allowing the use of gill and trammel nets greater than, or having at least a minimum of three and one-half inches bar and seven inches stretched. The special season commences each year at sunrise on Nov. 1 and closes at sunset on the last day of February the following year.

MOSS LAKE

Fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls over 16 feet prohibited.

NANTACHIE LAKE

Netting prohibited.

OLD RIVER LAKES (*Vidalia & Deer Park, Concordia Parish, and Lake Louis, Catahoula Parish*)

Fish seining on the Louisiana sides of Old River Lake, Vidalia and Deer Park, Concordia Parish, is prohibited EXCEPT that fish seining is legal under a special permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Please contact the Baton Rouge office for more information.

POVERTY POINT LAKE

All freshwater commercial fish netting prohibited. In addition, no person shall possess set or use any yo-yos, trot lines or slat traps.

PRIEN LAKE

Fish seines, trammel nets, gill nets, butterfly nets and shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet prohibited.

LAKE SAINT JOSEPH, TENSAS PARISH

Fishing with the use of yo-yos or trigger devices shall be permitted on Lake Saint Joseph from Dec. 1 - March 15 of each year under the following conditions: Not more than 24 yo-yos or trigger devices shall be allowed per boat. Each yo-yo or trigger device shall be clearly tagged with the name of the owner and the owner's telephone number. Yo-yos or trigger devices shall be attached only to a tree or pier. No materials shall be nailed to a tree, and no line shall be attached from tree to tree for the purpose of attaching a yo-yo or trigger device.

TCHEFUNCTE RIVER

Seines, nets, webbing or traps of any kind and all types, including slat traps, for the taking of fish in the Tchefuncte River, and its tributaries, from its origin in Washington Parish to where it empties into Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish, are prohibited.

NOTE: Sanctuaries exist within WMAs, refuges and other areas which may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local LDWF office or Enforcement Agent or the current hunting regulations pamphlet.

GENERAL PROHIBITION OF NETTING IN IMPOUNDMENTS DURING DRAWDOWN PERIODS

All fresh water impoundments shall be closed to use of commercial fish netting during water drawdown periods, unless otherwise specified by LDWF based upon biological and technical data; the closure to begin on the date the drawdown control structure is opened and continued until the lake returns to full pool following closure of the structure.

FRESHWATER BAIT SEINES, CAST NETS, DIP NETS AND MINNOW TRAPS

A person may have in possession or in use for the sole and only purpose of taking minnows, shrimp and other baits permitted by law, seines of 1/4 inch mesh or less and measuring 30 feet or less in length, cast nets with a radius of less than eight and one-half feet, dip nets and minnow traps (See **Recreational and Commercial Licensing Requirements**).

SALTWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING

Circle hook: a fishing hook designed and manufactured so that the point is turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular or oval shape.

Dehooking device: a device intended to remove a hook embedded in a fish to release the fish with minimum damage.

Venting device: a device intended to deflate the swim bladder of a fish to release the fish with minimum damage.

GENERAL

Commercial fishermen must be properly licensed to commercially harvest and sell fish. Specific state and federal permits are required for certain fisheries.

Commercial gear must be properly licensed when used in state waters. Use or possession of certain commercial gear requires qualification. See **Commercial Gear License** section of this pamphlet for more information.

Commercial vessels must be properly licensed whenever taking or possessing fish for sale in Louisiana saltwater areas.

Any commercial species for which there is no specified size or take limit may be taken in any size or quantity.

Commercial fishermen must return all undersized fish to waters without injury.

Five percent of each species of commercial fish by number may be smaller than the legal limit, EXCEPT channel catfish, of which 10 percent by number may be smaller than the legal limit.

Commercial fishermen, wholesale/retail seafood dealers, retail seafood dealers, restaurants or retail grocers shall not sell, purchase, barter, trade or exchange or attempt to sell, purchase, barter, trade or exchange any undersized fish.

Possession of red drum or spotted seatrout on board any vessel on which there is a gill net, strike net, hoop net, trammel net or seine is prohibited.

All finfish in or from saltwater areas, except tuna, swordfish and sharks, possessed by a commercial fish-

erman shall have the head and caudal fin intact until set or put on shore or when sold. Shark fins shall not be possessed aboard a fishing vessel unless naturally attached to the original shark carcass by at least some portion of uncut skin. All garfish possessed by a commercial fisherman in the saltwater areas of the state may have the head and caudal fin removed, but shall retain a strip of skin sufficient to clearly identify the fish until set or put on shore or when sold. All finfish shall be measured in accordance with applicable law.

For the purpose of consumption at sea onboard the harvesting vessel, a person shall have no more than two pounds of finfish parts per person on board the vessel, provided that the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish.

When on a commercial finfish fishing trip all finfish in possession are deemed to be used for commercial purposes. This means finfish possessed must comply with commercial sizes, limits, seasons and other commercial requirements.

It shall be unlawful for any person 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 fishing for menhaden and herring like fish.

NOTE: Sanctuaries exist within WMAs, refuges and other areas which may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing. Consult your local LDWF Office or Enforcement Agent or the WMA section of this pamphlet.

SALTWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR AND RESTRICTIONS

Some commercial gears are restricted to specific fisheries, and are described under each of those fisheries.

Saltwater Gill Nets, Seines, Trammel Nets: use or possession is prohibited in the designated saltwater areas of the state.

The use of bandit and longline gears are prohibited in state waters.

Gears Limited to Federal Waters:

Bandit gear: vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel and with line retrieved by manual, electric or hydraulic reels (cannot be used in state waters).

Longline gear: a line which is over 440 yards long to which gangions and hooks are attached that is deployed horizontally and which may be retrieved by an electric or hydraulic hauler. Longline gear shall not mean a trotline as defined in R.S. 56:8(101) (cannot be used in state waters).

Saltwater Gill Net for EEZ: A traversing permit is required from LDWF for transport of gill nets, trammel nets, seines and strike nets across state waters for use in federal waters. Permittees must notify LDWF four hours before leaving port to traverse or fish under the conditions of the Traversing Permit and immediately upon returning from the permitted trip. LDWF shall be notified by calling 1-800-442-2511 or 225-765-2441 (24 hours).

Legal Gears in State Waters:

Cast Net: any cast net used for commercial purposes or cast nets exceeding eight and one-half feet in radius.

Commercial rod and reel: any rod and reel used for commercial purposes.

Qualifying criteria for Rod and Reel gear licenses are:

1. applicant must provide positive proof that they held a valid commercial gear license for saltwater gill nets during any two years of the years 1993, 1994, and 1995.
2. applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than 50 percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994 or 1995.

Hoop Net: One inch square or two inches stretched mesh (minimum) after treating with tar or copper. Hoop nets without leads may be left unattended in saltwater areas for the sole purpose of taking catfish.

Trawl: any net generally funnel-shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. This gear is only allowed to be used in waters where and when the shrimp season is open.

Trotline: any set line which is 440 yards or less to which hoop drops are tied at various intervals or gangions and hoods are attached and which may be retrieved manually or by electric or hydraulic haulers.

OTHER SPECIES PROHIBITED COMMERCIALY

Sailfish, blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, hatchet marlin, white marlin and red drum are designated game fish with the commercial sale or purchase prohibited unless fish are imported and tagged with metal self locking tags placed in one operculum of each fish. Tags to be issued by the official conservation agency of the state from which the fish were taken and showing the originating water body and identity of the issuing agency, EXCEPT that red drum need only be accompanied by a bill of lading in accordance with L.R.S. 56:327 and 327.1, or unless certified by LDWF as having been raised and taken in accordance with a certified aquaculture program or a valid mariculture permit pursuant to L.R.S. 56:579.1. LDWF must be notified at 1-800-442-2511 or (225) 765-2441 prior to importation of these fish.

SIZE AND TAKE LIMITS

COBIA (LING OR LEMON FISH)

33 inches minimum fork length. Two fish per person. Licensed commercial fishermen may only possess and sell two fish per trip.

DRUM

Black: 16 inches minimum total length. There is an annual harvest quota of 3.25 million pounds for black drum measuring 16-27 inches total length, and an annual harvest of 300,000 fish measuring longer than 27 inches total length. Fishing year begins Sept. 1.

Red: Commercial take of red drum is prohibited.

FLOUNDER, SOUTHERN

10 fish for each licensed fisherman for each consecutive day on the water EXCEPT any commercial

shrimping vessels may retain and any commercial fisherman may sell all Southern flounder caught as bycatch on any shrimping trip.

MACKEREL

King: 24 inches minimum fork length. There is a 3,000 pound trip limit in effect. Fishing year begins July 1. (Federal permit is required when fishing in federal waters.)

Spanish: 12 inches minimum fork length. (Federal permit is required when fishing in federal waters.)

SHEEPSHEAD

10 inches minimum total length.

MENHADEN

Legal Gear - Purse Seine: Cannot be used to take finfish other than menhaden or herring like species. Use is otherwise prohibited in inside or outside waters as delineated in LA. R.S. 56:495.

Regular Menhaden Season: The season for the taking of menhaden as well as processing of menhaden shall be from the third Monday in April through Nov. 1. The menhaden season shall apply to all waters seaward of the inside-outside line described in R.S. 56:495 including waters in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and in Chandeleur and Breton Sounds LAC 76:VII.307.D. All other inside waters and passes are permanently closed to menhaden fishing.

Menhaden Bait Season: runs from after the close of the regular menhaden season until Dec. 1. If the quota has not been reached by Dec. 1, then, beginning on April 1 of the following year, bait gulf menhaden may be taken until LDWF determines that the quota (3,000 metric tons) has been met. Any menhaden taken pursuant to this special season shall be sold only for use as bait. The Secretary shall grant special permits for the taking of menhaden during the special bait season.

Anyone legally harvesting menhaden cannot possess more than 5 percent, by weight, of any species other than menhaden and herring-like species.

MULLET, STRIPED

Mullet Permit: The commercial fisherman (captain) is required to qualify and purchase a mullet permit to commercially harvest mullet. Mullet permit required in addition to other licenses, qualifications exist.

Qualifying criteria for Mullet Permit are:

1. applicant must have possessed a valid saltwater gill net license during two of the years 1993, 1994 or 1995.
2. applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than fifty percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994 or 1995.

Legal Gear - Mullet Strike Net: Mullet may only be taken commercially with a mullet strike net. One and three-fourth inches square or three and one-half inches stretched mesh (minimum). No mullet strike net in use can exceed 1,200 feet in length or be unattended by the licensee thereof. Mullet strike nets may only be used in state waters for the legal taking of striped mullet with a special mullet permit during the commercial season.

Commercial season: From the third Monday in October until the third Monday in the following January. No commercial harvest of mullet is allowed

outside this season. Mullet strike nets may be used Monday through Friday from sunrise to sunset. Only one mullet strike net may be in use from any vessel at any time. A commercial fisherman must have in possession a valid LDWF mullet permit in his name for legal harvest and sale. Mullet strike nets must be tagged with an LDWF issued tag. No other fish may be possessed when mullet fishing.

Strike net gear licenses are non-transferable.

POMPANO, FLORIDA

Pompano Permit: A commercial fisherman is required to obtain a pompano permit to commercially harvest and sell pompano using a pompano strike net in Breton and Chandeleur sounds during the pompano season.

Legal Gear - Pompano Strike Net: In addition to other legal gears, Florida pompano can be harvested with pompano strike nets in seasons and areas described below. Two and one-half inches square or five inches stretched mesh (minimum). No pompano strike net in use shall exceed 2,400 feet in length or be unattended by the licensee thereof. Pompano strike nets may only be used for the legal taking of pompano in the waters in excess of seven feet in depth and beyond 2,500 feet from land within the Chandeleur and Breton Sound areas described in R.S. 56:406(A)(2). Pompano strike nets may be used from Aug. 1 - Oct. 31 of each year.

REEF FISH

To commercially harvest or sell certain reef fish species listed below (triggerfishes, amberjacks, wrasses, snappers, groupers and tilefishes) whether taken within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana, fishermen must possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Resources. Contact:

National Marine Fisheries Service,
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-5305

(For permit related inquiries 727-824-5326)

For a person on board a vessel to fish for or possess Gulf Reef fish in the Gulf EEZ, the vessel must possess on board and such person must use the gear as specified below:

1. Non-stainless steel circle hooks - required when fishing with natural baits for reef fish
2. Dehooking device - at least one device is required and must be used to remove hooks embedded in Gulf reef fish with minimum damage.
 - A. The hook removal device must be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without re-engaging during the removal process.
 - B. The dehooking end must be blunt and all edges rounded.

- C. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Gulf reef fish fishery.
3. Venting tool - at least one venting tool is required and must be used to deflate the swim bladders of Gulf reef fish to release the fish with minimum damage.
- A. This tool must be a sharpened, hollow instrument, such as a hypodermic syringe with the plunger removed, or a 16-gauge needle fixed to a hollow wooden dowel. A tool such as a knife or an ice pick may not be used.
- B. The venting tool must be inserted into the fish at a 45 degree angle approximately 1-2 inches (2.54-5.08 cm) from the base of the pectoral fin.
- C. The tool must be inserted just deep enough to release the gases, so that the fish may be released with minimum damage.

Amberjack, Greater: 36 inches minimum fork length. Closed season March 1 - May 31 each year.

Amberjack, Lesser: 14 inches minimum fork length and 22 inches maximum fork length.

Rudderfish, Banded: 14 inches minimum fork length and 22 inches maximum fork length.

Seabass, Black: Eight inches minimum total length.

Triggerfish, Grey: 14 inches minimum total length.

Grouper*: Commercial harvest of grouper species is limited to those persons possessing a federal commercial vessel permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Resources, and the applicable federal Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) vessel account.

Goliath (formerly called Jewfish): Take or possession of Goliath grouper within or without the waters of Louisiana is prohibited.

Nassau Grouper: Take or possession of Nassau grouper within or without the waters of Louisiana is prohibited.

Shallow-Water Grouper:

Black: 24 inches minimum total length.

Gag: 24 inches minimum total length.

Red: 18 inches minimum total length.

Scamp: 16 inches minimum total length.

Yellowfin: 20 inches minimum total length.

Deep-Water Grouper: Misty, Snowy, Yellowedge, Warsaw Groupers and Speckled Hind: no minimum lengths.

Snapper:

Lane: Eight inches minimum total length.

Mutton: 16 inches minimum total length.

Vermilion (beeliner): 10 inches minimum total length. (Closed season April 22 - May 31)

Yellowtail: 12 inches minimum total length.

Schoolmaster: 12 inches minimum total length.

Cubera: 12 inches minimum total length.

Mahogany: 12 inches minimum total length.

Dog: 12 inches minimum total length.

Gray (mangrove): 12 inches minimum total length.

Hogfish: 12 inches minimum fork length.

Red*: 13 inches minimum total length.

Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish, Dwarf Sandperch and Sandperch: no minimum limits.

**Commercial regulations for harvest of reef fish include additional regulations required under the NMFS Reef Fish Permit System. Persons involved in the commercial harvest of these species should contact their local and federal enforcement agents for details on these regulations*

Commercial red snapper, grouper and tilefish harvest regulations include several changes to reflect requirements for Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) regulations. In addition to a requirement for a federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish, in order to fish for, possess or land Gulf red snapper, any species of grouper or any tilefish species, the appropriate federal IFQ vessel account must have been issued to the vessel. Appropriate IFQ allocation must be assigned that is at least equal to the pounds of red snapper, grouper and tilefish landed/docked at a shore side location or off loaded. On the last fishing trip of the year a vessel may exceed by 10 percent the remaining IFQ allocation. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange or barter any red snapper in excess of any possession limit for which federal commercial license, permit and appropriate allocation were issued.

In addition to the requirement for a federal dealer permit for Gulf reef fish, for a dealer to receive Gulf red snapper, any species of grouper or any tilefish species from a commercial fishing vessel he must have a federal Gulf IFQ dealer endorsement. For a person aboard a vessel with a federal Gulf red snapper IFQ vessel account to sell to anyone other than a permitted dealer, such person must also have a federal Gulf IFQ dealer endorsement. The owner or operator of a vessel landing red snapper, groupers or tilefish species is responsible for calling National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement at least three hours, but no more than 12 hours, in advance of landing to report the time and location of landing and the name of the IFQ dealer where the red snapper, groupers or tilefish species are to be received, and the estimated gutted weight of red snapper, grouper and tilefish for each federal IFQ share category (red snapper, gag, red grouper, deep-water grouper, other shallow-water grouper, and tilefish species). At-sea or dockside transfer of commercial red snapper, groupers or tilefish species from one vessel to another vessel is prohibited.

SEATROUT, SPOTTED (SPECKLED TROUT)

Spotted Seatrout Permit: In addition to other commercial fishing licenses a qualified commercial fisher-

man must have in possession a valid Spotted Seatrout permit to commercially harvest and sell spotted seatrout. (See **License Section** for qualifying criteria). The commercial fisherman (captain) is required to qualify and purchase a spotted seatrout permit to commercially harvest and sell spotted seatrout. A saltwater guide may not possess a spotted seatrout permit.

Qualifying criteria for Spotted Seatrout Permit are:

1. applicant must have possessed a valid saltwater gill net license during two of the years 1993, 1994 or 1995.
2. applicant must provide positive proof, in the form of state and federal income tax returns, including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form, submitted in accordance with procedures established by the commission, that the applicant has derived more than 50 percent of his income earned from the capture and sale of seafood species in at least two of the three years, 1993, 1994 or 1995.

Legal Gear: Spotted seatrout may be taken only by properly licensed and permitted commercial rod-and-reel fishermen. No commercial gear other than commercial rod-and-reel may be used or in possession to take spotted seatrout. All persons on board a vessel commercially fishing for spotted seatrout shall be validly licensed commercial fishermen. Only the spotted trout permit holder may sell spotted seatrout.

Size: 14 inches total minimum total length, with an annual harvest quota of one million pounds.

Seasons/Times: The commercial taking or harvesting of spotted seatrout is prohibited within Louisiana waters west of the Mermentau River. Commercial fishing begins on the second day of January until the last day of December or until the quota is reached, whichever comes first. Spotted seatrout may not be taken commercially during the period from official sunset on Friday through official sunrise on Monday, and there shall be no possession of spotted seatrout in excess of the recreational limit during the period between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

However, a person holding a permit for the commercial taking or possession of spotted seatrout may take or possess an amount not to exceed the legal recreational limit of spotted seatrout between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the open season and at any time during the closed season if that person also possesses a basic recreational fishing license and a saltwater fishing license.

It is illegal to possess spotted seatrout on a vessel where there is a gill net, strike net, hoop net, trammel net or seine or other commercial gear. No person shall qualify for a charter boat fishing guide license and a spotted seatrout permit during the same licensure period.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

Tuna, swordfish and sharks possessed by a commercial fisherman shall not be skinned or scaled until

set or put on shore or when sold. Those species of tuna which have minimum size restrictions may have the head removed as long as the carcass length without the head exceeds the minimum size requirement.

Shark:

NOTE: *There are proposed rules that could significantly modify rules for the harvest of sharks. Harvesters and wholesale/retail dealers interested in harvesting shark should remain aware of the current regulations.*

Persons commercially fishing for shark are required to obtain a shark permit from LDWF. In addition to other commercial licenses and state shark permits, persons commercially fishing for sharks in federal waters are required to have a federal shark permit.

Note: There is a trip limit of 33 fish per trip and per day for large coastal sharks, which are the following: great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse shark, blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, sandbar shark, silky shark, spinner shark, tiger shark. Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit shall not possess any sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in possession a valid Federal Shark Research permit under 50CFR635.32(1). The act of "finning" and possession of fins in excess of 5 percent of the weight of shark carcasses are prohibited. All sharks aboard a vessel shall have fins naturally attached to the original shark carcass by at least some portion of uncut skin. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of sharks between vessels on state or federal waters. All Louisiana state waters out to the seaward boundary of the Louisiana Territorial Sea shall be closed to the commercial harvest of all sharks between April 1 - June 30 of each year. The fishing year for shark shall begin on Jan. 1. The opening date for the commercial shark season may be set at some date other than Jan. 1, and the closure of the fishery may be done on short notice as quotas are achieved, so participants in this fishery must remain aware of seasons as well as the potential for other rule changes.

Shark Permit: A commercial fisherman is required to acquire a shark permit to commercially harvest shark.

Prohibited Shark 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:

Atlantic angel shark

Caribbean sharpnose shark

sand tiger shark

dusky shark

bigeye sand tiger shark

sixgill shark

largetooth sawfish

bigeye thresher shark

smalltooth sawfish

narrowtooth shark

Caribbean reef shark

white shark

basking shark

sevengill shark

Galapagos shark

bigeye sixgill shark

smalltail shark

longfin mako

bignose shark

whale shark

night shark

Swordfish: 29 inches carcass length or 33 pounds dressed weight. To commercially harvest, possess or sell swordfish, whether within or outside Louisiana state territorial waters, fishers must possess a valid Federal Commercial Swordfish Permit aboard the vessel. No person aboard any vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of swordfish between vessel on state or federal waters.

Tuna: In addition to state required commercial fishing licenses, to commercially harvest, possess or sell Atlantic bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna and albacore, whether within or outside Louisiana state territorial waters, fishers must possess a valid Federal Commercial Tuna Permit (1-888-USA-TUNA).

Person subject to the jurisdiction of the state, fishing for tunas within or without Louisiana state waters, are subject to both state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Federal regulations on recreational harvest of tunas change often, especially for bluefin tuna. Prior to harvest of tuna, be aware of the most current federal regulations on harvest, including sizes, bag limits and closed seasons. The “Atlantic Tunas Regulations Brochure” is available at: <http://www.nmfspermits.com/library.asp> and announcements of changes may be accessed via the Web at: <http://www.nmfspermits.com/newes.asp>.

Following are permanent Louisiana regulations on tuna harvest, which may be superseded by seasonal changes within the federal regulatory system. See websites referenced above for current federal regulations.

Yellowfin: 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)

Bigeye: 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)

Bluefin: 27 inches Curved Fork Length (CFL)

OTHER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

COMMERCIAL CRABBING

GENERAL

Commercial fishermen shall tag, mark or otherwise identify any crabs that are sold, in a manner which will ensure that such commercial fisherman can be identified as the person who harvested the crabs. The identification required herein shall include the commercial fisherman's name, license number and date on which the crabs were harvested.

Any commercial fisherman identified as having sold undersized crabs to a wholesale/retail dealer shall be subject to penalties for the taking and possession of undersized crabs.

SEASONS

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has authority to prohibit the use of crab traps in state waters during a 16 consecutive-day period between Feb. 1 - March 31 of each year and during a 14 consecutive-day period which includes the opening day of the spring inshore shrimp season.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

Hard shell crabs: Five inches in width as measured from point to point of the upper shell, EXCEPT when held for processing as soft crabs or sold to a processor for the making of soft shell crabs. Crabs under the minimum size limit shall be returned immediately to the waters from which taken without avoidable injury.

Maximum possession of whole stone crab is one stone crab per each crate of blue crabs or group of blue crabs equivalent to one crate.

Premolt crabs: Premolt crabs less than five inches in width held by a fisherman for processing as softshell crabs or sold by him to a processor for the making of softshell crabs must be identifiable as premolt crabs and must be held in a separate container marked "peelers" or "busters" while in the possession of the fisherman. Crabs in the premolt stage are no further from molting than having a white line on the back paddle fin.

Minimum commercial size limits do not apply to crabs held in a work box. Each fisherman may have one work box if not using a grader, or two work boxes if using a grader.

Stone crabs: Stone crabs (*Menippe adina*) may be taken by the same method as blue crabs, however only the claws may be landed. Minimum claw length is 2 3/4 inches forearm (propodus) measured from the immovable anterior-most tip of the claw to the base of the joint. Whole stone crabs may be possessed on the

vessel until the claws are removed after which time the crab shall be returned to the waters from which taken.

By-catch: A licensed commercial fisherman may retain for personal consumption finfish caught as by-catch in crab traps up to an aggregate of 25 finfish per vessel per day. No freshwater game fish, no red drum and no spotted seatrout may be kept as a part of this aggregate. Any fish retained are subject to recreational size and possession limits. In addition, any licensed commercial fisherman holding a gear license which allows him to take finfish for commercial purposes, may possess any finfish caught under that gear license up to the commercial possession limit allowable for such finfish and such fish shall not be required to be separated from the by-catch allowed above.

METHODS OF TAKING

Crabs may be taken with any legal crab trap, crab dropnet, trawl, skimmer net, butterfly net, trotline, handline, bushline, dip net or cast net. Dredges shall not be used for the intentional taking of crabs.

The taking of crabs by means of trawls in inside waters is permitted only during the open season for shrimp and with a legal mesh size (see **Shrimp - Trawls**).

No person shall possess or sell adult female crabs in the berry stage (i.e., carrying the eggs or young attached to the abdomen). All crabs in the berry stage taken by any means shall be returned immediately to the waters. However, a legally licensed commercial crab fisherman may have in his work box an incidental take of crabs in the berry stage equal to not more than 2 percent of the total number of crabs in his possession.

Crab Traps: The baiting, tending, checking or removing of crab traps, the contents of crab traps or their lines, buoys or markers is prohibited in public waters from one half hour after legal sunset until one half hour before legal sunrise.

It is the responsibility of the crabber to place traps so vessels can safely navigate and to properly dispose of his unserviceable traps on shore. No crab traps shall be set in navigable channels or entrances to streams. A crabber who retrieves his trap with a commission approved common float shall return the common float to any shrimper for reuse.

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

Crab fishers may utilize a plastic bait box cover to mark trap ownership or a two inch stainless steel, self-locking tag attached to the center of the trap ceiling. Either must be legibly engraved or embossed with the commercial fisherman's license number. Crab traps may be attached to a trotline to which at least one end is attached to a non floating line and a visible float of at least six inches in diameter or half gallon volume size. Crab traps located in areas designated as freshwater north of the northern bank of the Intracoastal/Waterway and west of LA Highway 70 and those areas located on the eastern side of the Mississippi River and inland from the saltwater line are not required to be marked with a float and float line unless the trap is placed in a lake. Each crab trap on a trotline shall be registered with the department and shall have attached thereto a tag bearing the crab fisherman's license number.

All crab traps must be marked with a solid float, six inches in diameter or greater, attached with a non-floating line 1/4 inch minimum diameter or better. Each crab trap must have a minimum of two escape rings 2 5/16 inches in inside diameter, excluding the ring material. Rings must be placed on the vertical outside walls flush with the trap floor or baffle with at

least one ring located in each chamber of the trap. Except from April 1 - June 30 and from Sept. 1 - Oct. 31, escape rings shall not be obstructed with any material that hampers or prevents exit of crabs. Escape ring mandates shall not apply to crab traps placed in Lake Pontchartrain.

Metal tackle or metal crab traps shall not be used in any of the public waters north of the Intracoastal Waterway 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 Cypremort Point one mile offshore to Blue Point.

Crab traps are prohibited in the Tchefuncte River.

SOFT SHELL CRAB SHEDDERS LICENSE

The owner or operator of any soft shell crab shedding facility must purchase a wholesale/retail seafood dealer license. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers who shed soft shell crabs or operate soft shell crab shedding facilities shall on or before the tenth of each month submit to LDWF on forms specified by the department, information relative to the amount of soft shell crabs produced.

COMMERCIAL SHRIMPING

AREAS

Shrimping areas in Louisiana are divided into inside waters, the outside territorial sea and the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The line (shrimp line) as described in LA R.S. 56:495(A) that separates inside waters from outside territorial waters generally follows the coastline, although there are some exceptions. For specific boundary locations check with your local LDWF enforcement agent. Maps of the shrimp line are available at a charge of \$10 per map by writing the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Oyster Lease Survey Section, Post Office Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000. Please specify which area of the coast you are interested in. The line that separates state territorial waters from the EEZ generally runs along the Louisiana coast three miles from shore. For specific boundary locations, particularly in the Grand Isle and Marsh Island area, you should contact your local LDWF Enforcement Agent.

For management purposes, both state inside and state outside territorial waters are divided into three shrimp management zones:

- a. **Zone 1** extends from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River.
- b. **Zone 2** extends from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island.
- c. **Zone 3** extends from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana/Texas state line.

NOTE: Restricted areas exist within certain WMA, state and federal refuges and other areas. These areas may be closed to certain gear types or methods of fishing and different possession limits may apply. Consult your local Wildlife and Fisheries Office or enforcement agent or the WMA section of this pamphlet.

SEASONS

Shrimp seasons are flexible and are fixed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission based upon biological and technical data relative to shrimp populations in Louisiana waters. Generally, the spring inshore season will begin in early to mid May and may extend into July. The fall inshore season usually begins in early to mid August and extends into December. The shrimp season in Louisiana's territorial waters is generally open year-round EXCEPT for a closed season in portions of state outside waters which may be set during late fall to early winter, usually beginning in mid to late December and extending into April or May. The shrimp season in the federal waters of the Gulf outside (south) of Louisiana's territorial waters is usually open all year; these waters are controlled by the federal government. A federal shrimp vessel moratorium permit is required for all vessels fishing for shrimp in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Information concerning federal shrimp vessel moratorium permits, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) and Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) requirements and exemptions can be obtained by contacting the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office,

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

There is no size limit on any saltwater shrimp taken during the spring open season nor is there any size limit on brown shrimp or seabobs taken during any open season in Louisiana. There is, however, a possession count on saltwater white shrimp taken in either inside or outside (offshore) waters of Louisiana of 100 count (whole shrimp per pound). This size restriction applies to the taking or possession of such shrimp aboard a vessel, EXCEPT during the period from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December when there shall be no possession count on saltwater white shrimp taken or possessed. When more than 50 percent by weight of the saltwater shrimp taken or possessed is seabobs or brown shrimp, then the maximum allowable amount of undersized white shrimp taken or possessed shall not exceed 10 percent by weight of the total saltwater shrimp taken or possessed.

METHODS OF TAKING

During open seasons, saltwater shrimp may be taken with trawls, butterfly nets, skimmer nets or cast nets and by no other means. Bait shrimp may be taken at any time, even during the closed season, with cast nets less than eight and one-half feet in radius, hand operated dip nets with a diameter not to exceed three feet, bait traps, and bait seines less than 30 feet with a maximum mesh size of 1/4 inch bar mesh which are manually operated on foot only. Trawls, butterfly nets or skimmer nets cannot be used for any purpose in state waters during closed season.

NOTE: Federal law requires that all shrimp trawlers with a power retrieval system must have approved Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) installed in each trawl except test nets with headrope lengths of 12 feet or less. Test nets with headrope lengths of 12 feet or less are limited by tow-time restrictions. Also, in federal waters, federal law requires shrimp trawlers to install approved Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in each trawl.

Trawls:

1. Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8 inch bar or one and one-fourth inches stretched. Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 3/4 inch bar or one and one-half inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season for the area of Zone 2 from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River.
2. In inshore waters vessels may use one trawl measuring 50 feet or less in length along the corkline and 66 feet or less along the lead line; or two trawls which shall not exceed 25 feet each along the corkline, 33 feet or less along the lead line and have trawl doors no larger than 8 feet in length and 43 inches in height; or two trawls which shall not exceed 25 feet each along the corkline, 33 feet

along the lead line and have no more than two outer trawl doors no larger than eight feet in length and 43 inches in height and no more than two inner sled doors, EXCEPT that each vessel may, in addition, pull a test trawl. In state outside territorial waters (from the beach to three miles offshore in most areas), each shrimping vessel may only use nets that do not exceed a total maximum per vessel of 130 feet of cork line and 165 feet of lead line, in addition to one test trawl.

3. In Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described by the "double rig" line in LA R.S. 56:495.1(A)(2), two trawls may be used, each measuring 65 feet or less in length along the corkline and 82 feet or less in length along the lead line, plus one test trawl.
4. "**Test trawl**," as used in this section, means a trawl which is not more than 16 feet along the corkline or 20 feet along the lead line or head rope. The length of trawls is the full measure of the extended net as in use or in possession on the fishing grounds, when measured along the cork line between the points where the webbing is attached to the rope at either end, and does not include the additional rope used for pulling the net or attaching it to the arm-poles or trawl boards.
5. In federal offshore waters (EEZ), up to four trawls may be used of any size, plus one test trawl.
6. Trawling, skimming and butterflying is prohibited in Lake Maurepas and that portion of Lake Pontchartrain from the shoreline to 1 1/4 miles out from the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line east to South Point, from South Point to North Shore along the railroad bridge west from North Shore to Goose Point.
7. Trawling, skimming and butterflying is prohibited between the railroad bridge and Interstate 10 in Lake Pontchartrain.
8. No person shall trawl, seine or use a skimmer net over any privately leased bedding grounds or oyster propagating place which is staked off, marked or posted as required by law or regulation.
9. Trawling at night is prohibited in the Cameron Parish sections of Calcasieu Lake, the Black Bayou system, Grand Bayou and Little Burtons Ditch (all in the Calcasieu Lake area) and in Grand Lake and White Lake.
10. Use of skimmer nets is prohibited at night in Calcasieu Lake; however, skimmer nets may be used during day and night in all areas of Cameron Parish west of the western shore of Calcasieu Lake.
11. Trawling, skimming and butterflying at night is prohibited in Grand Lake and White Lake.
12. All commercial fishing with butterfly nets and trawls longer than 16 feet is prohibited in Lake Charles, Moss Lake and Prien Lake.
13. Night shrimping, between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, is prohibited in Vermilion Bay, East and West Cote Blanche Bays and Atchafalaya Bay to the western

shore of the Atchafalaya River and the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel out to Eugene Island as described by the inside-outside line in R.S. 56:495; EXCEPT in the following area: In the waters of Southwest Pass at Marsh Island south of a line drawn from the following points: the most southeastward point of Southwest Pass at 29 degrees 36 minutes 47 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 00 minutes 32 seconds west longitude east southeast to the Green Light Channel Marker Number 21 at 29 degrees 36 minutes 44 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 00 minutes 21 seconds west longitude; thence northeast to a point located at 29 degrees 37 minutes 34 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 59 minutes 36 seconds west longitude; thence southeast to the western shore of Big Charles Bayou at 29 degrees 36 minutes 43 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 59 minutes 17 seconds west longitude.

14. Trawls and butterfly nets are prohibited in the waters of Bayou Judge Perez (Bayou Hermitage) from its entrance into Lake Judge Perez (Lake Hermitage) to Devils Bayou, a distance of approximately one mile, located in Plaquemines Parish.
15. Trawling, skimming or butterflying north of the LA Highway 631 bridge at Des Allemands and in Lake Des Allemands, its streams and tributaries, is prohibited.
16. Taking shrimp with saltwater trawls from May 1 - Sept. 15 each year is prohibited in state waters on the south side of Grand Isle from Caminada Pass to Barataria Pass in Jefferson Parish, from the southeast side of the Caminada bridge to the northwest side of Barataria Pass at Fort Livingston, extending from the beach side of Grand Isle to a distance of 500 feet beyond the shoreline into the Gulf of Mexico.
17. Trawling is prohibited in the cove immediately adjacent to Cypremont Point State Park landward of a line from Blue Point to Cypremont Point to the shoreline.

Butterfly and Skimmer Nets:

1. Butterfly and skimmer nets with a mesh size less than 5/8 inch bar or 1 1/4 inches stretched are prohibited. Butterfly and skimmer nets cannot have a mesh size less than 3/4 inch bar or one and one-half inches stretched during the fall inshore shrimp season for the area of Zone 2 from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Atchafalaya River.
2. A single stationary butterfly net measuring more than 22 feet vertically or horizontally, or double butterfly nets having individual nets measuring more than 12 feet vertically or horizontally are prohibited, unless double butterfly nets are used on a vessel, in which case each individual net can measure no more than 12 feet vertically by 16 feet horizontally. No person on a vessel shall use a double skimmer net having an individual net frame more than 16 feet measured horizontally or 12 feet measured vertically, or 20 feet measured diagonally,

nally, or with a lead line measuring more than 28 feet for each net. Reinforcement framing attached to the net frame shall not be considered in determining the dimensions of a double skimmer. A skimmer or butterfly net may be mounted no more than 24 inches from the side of the vessel. Individual nets cannot be tied together. Operation of butterfly and skimmer nets shall in no way impede normal navigation.

3. No person shall use sweeper devices, leads, extensions, wings or other attachments in conjunction with or attached to butterfly nets or skimmer nets.
4. No net or beam trawl used for taking fish or shrimp from the saltwater areas of the state shall be left unattended as defined in R.S. 56:8(102) except such legal nets or trawls which are attached to a wharf at a camp and which are tagged with an LDWF tag issued in conjunction with the gear being used.
5. Fishing with a butterfly net shall be prohibited in inside waters during the closed season.
6. No butterfly net or bottom net may be suspended from a piling, float, barge, raft, bridge or shore installation in the Rigolets or Chef Menteur Pass or in those portions of Lake Pontchartrain or Lake Borgne which are within two miles of the Rigolets or the Chef Menteur Pass. However, in the Chef Menteur Pass a properly licensed single butterfly net measuring not more than 22 feet by 22 feet may be suspended from a wharf which has been approved by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and which is attached to privately owned or leased immovable property, or to a structure that is not attached to privately owned or leased property if the owner has possessed a permit for such structure from the U.S. Corps of Engineers prior to 1988, provided that the owner or leaseholder is present on the immovable property or permitted structure at all times that the net is in the water.
7. Butterfly nets may be used for the taking of shrimp in Calcasieu Lake, Calcasieu River, Grand Bayou and Calcasieu Ship Channel, all within Cameron Parish only, in the daytime and in the nighttime, during open season.
8. All butterfly nets located in East and West Passes of the Calcasieu River, in Grand Bayou and in Oyster Bayou, all within Cameron Parish only, shall be tagged with a tag listing the fisherman's name, address and butterfly net license number. This tag shall be attached to the net, frame or any other structure or part directly attached to the net or frame in such a manner that it is above the water at all times. This tag shall be of readable size, easily visible and with letters at least three inches high and of appropriate width.
9. No person may operate a stationary shrimp net within 1,000 feet upstream from another stationary shrimp net that is attached to or moored to a wharf or platform permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. However, if two permitted wharves or

platforms are located within 1,000 feet of each other, the owner of the upstream wharf or platform may attach a stationary shrimp net if any one of the following applies:

- a. This permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was issued prior to Aug. 15, 2004.
 - b. His permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was issued prior to the permit for the downstream wharf or platform.
 - c. The owner of the downstream wharf or platform does not operate a stationary shrimp net.
10. A stationary shrimp net is any net for taking shrimp including butterfly or skimmer net that is attached to the water bottom, bank, or fixed structure.
11. When a butterfly net located in West or East Pass of the Calcasieu River, in Oyster Bayou or in Grand Bayou, all within Cameron Parish, is not being fished, all of the following shall apply:
- a. Any object to which the net is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating platform, pontoon or barge, shall be moved from the waterway and relocated adjacent to the shoreline in a manner which shall not present an obstruction or hazard to navigation.
 - b. Any anchor or weight used to secure in the waterway the net or any object to which it is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating platform, pontoon or barge, shall be removed from the waterbottom.
 - c. Any rope, line, chain or other device used to connect to the shoreline the net and any object to which it is attached or mounted solely for purposes of fishing, including but not limited to any unmanned boat or vessel, floating plat-

form, pontoon or barge, shall be prohibited. However, the prohibition expressed herein shall not apply when such rope, line, chain or other device is being used to secure, when not in use, such net and any object to which it is attached or mounted adjacent to the shoreline in a manner which shall not present an obstruction or hazard to navigation.

- d. Any butterfly net, whether or not it is being fished, that is not marked for identification so that the person owning or responsible for such net can be identified shall be considered contraband. Any agent finding the contraband butterfly net shall immediately seize and take it into custody and may obtain from a judge of any court in the parish where the butterfly net was found an ex parte order forfeiting the contraband and ordering its destruction. An agent of the department or an authorized employee who seizes items as provided in this paragraph is immune from liability and from suit for seizure and destruction of a butterfly net.

Shrimper/Crab Trap Interaction: A shrimper who catches an unserviceable crab trap shall keep it on the vessel and properly dispose of it on shore. A shrimper that catches an otherwise serviceable trap without a float shall return it to the water with a common float. A common float is defined as an all-white plastic, one-gallon or larger bleach bottle.

Qualified permit holders in possession of a "special bait dealers permit" may take live bait shrimp during the closed season beginning May 1 of each year and between the spring and fall inshore shrimp seasons. The fee for this permit is \$110 and the permit may be purchased any time between Jan. 1 - April 30 of each year. For more information concerning this permit, contact the Office of Fisheries Marine Fisheries Section.

COMMERCIAL OYSTERING

SEASONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission designates which public oyster beds are open for fishing by opening or closing the season as biological data indicate a need. The oyster harvest season for state public oyster beds (seed grounds and reservations) generally runs from the first Wednesday following Labor Day in September through April 30 of the following year; however, there are often exceptions to this for certain seed grounds. No public ground or reservation shall be fished for market sacks until the second Monday in October. Consult the LDWF web site for the most recent information regarding oyster seasons. The owner of an oyster lease or his designee with written permission, may fish oysters at any time of year on their lease, unless the lease is under a Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) closure order.

NOTE: Areas opened by the commission may, however, be closed by DHH for health reasons. Information on closed areas is available from LDWF or from DHH (1-800-256-2775).

The commission shall fix the open season for commercial taking of oysters from Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake, which for Calcasieu Lake shall begin on any date between Oct. 15 and Nov. 1 and shall end on April 30 or on a date set by commission.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

All oysters taken from public grounds must be three inches or greater in length from hinge to mouth. A lessee of private oyster grounds may be permitted to take undersized oysters from public grounds for bedding purposes only. Size restrictions do not apply to commercially harvested oysters taken from a private lease.

Not more than 25 sacks per boat per day may be taken from Sabine Lake. Harvest limits in Calcasieu Lake shall be set by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission not to exceed 25 sacks of oysters per day per licensed vessel.

Harvest from private leases for commercial purposes is unlimited.

Recreational oyster fishermen may harvest oysters:

1. in leased areas only with the written permission of the lease holder;
2. in personally leased areas;
3. in areas open to the public for the harvesting of oysters, but shall be limited to two sacks per person (R.S. 56:424c) per day for personal consumption.

METHODS OF TAKING

Oysters may be taken from public grounds by dredges, scrapers and tongs. Dredges and scrapers shall be no longer than six feet in width measured along the tooth bar. The dredge teeth shall be no longer than five inches and there shall be no more than seven dredges in use on any one vessel. Dredges shall not be used in such a manner as to remove excessive non-living reef material with seed oyster loads or as to cause physical destruction to the natural reefs.

The use of dredges in Calcasieu and Sabine Lake is limited to a single hand dredge or a single scraper with mechanical assist that has a tooth or flat bar of no more than 36 inches in length.

Any oysters taken from the public natural reefs or the oyster seed grounds or reservations, except those in Calcasieu Lake or Sabine Lake, shall be placed only on a vessel which has an Oyster Seed Ground Vessel permit issued. Such permit shall be issued in the name of the vessel owner and shall identify the vessel permitted by including the state registration number or the United States Coast Guard documentation number. For more information, contact LDWF Marine Fisheries Division at 225-765-2370 or LDWF Licensing Section at 225-765-2898.

Each person in charge of an oyster cargo vessel shall purchase an Oyster Cargo Vessel permit. The permit shall be issued at a cost of \$250 per year for residents and \$1105 per year for non-residents.

LEASES

Any person who qualifies and who desires to lease a part of the bottom of any state waters shall present to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a written application and cash deposit of such amount as determined by the department. Lessees, under the supervision of the department, shall stake off and mark the lease 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.

Oysters shall not be harvested from any unmarked lease.

RESTRICTIONS

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

The taking of oysters one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited.

Oysters taken from the reefs of this state either for sale or consumption shall be landed in Louisiana, except persons in possession of an out-of-state oyster landings permit may land oysters taken from private leases only in any state.

Sacks or any other types of containers used to hold oysters harvested in Louisiana and placed in commerce must be tagged with a tag issued by LDWF.

OYSTER HARVESTER LICENSE

Commercial fishermen harvesting or possessing oysters in state waters must purchase an oyster harvester license, in addition to any and all licenses otherwise required. Commercial fisherman harvesting oysters from the public oyster seed grounds or reservations, except those grounds of Calcasieu and Sabine Lakes, are required to possess a valid Public Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

GENERAL

Reptile and amphibian regulations apply to lizards, snakes, turtles, frogs, salamanders and related species. *They do not include alligators.*

Any person engaged in the sale, barter or trade of native reptiles and amphibians collected in Louisiana must possess either

- a. Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License or
- b. Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License.

Any person engaged in acquiring or handling, by any means, native reptiles or amphibians for resale, or engaged in the shipping or transporting of such reptiles or amphibians into or out of Louisiana must possess a Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Act 376 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature exempts wholesale/retail seafood dealers from this license.

METHODS OF TAKING

- Removal of nesting or nest tending animals is prohibited.
- Traps must be checked daily.
- Turtle traps must be placed in a manner that leaves enough area above the waterline to allow trapped turtles to breathe; be marked as “turtle trap,” and be constructed as a horizontal, single-throated device.
- A commercial gear license is required to operate a single throated hoop net or turtle trap.
- Possession of finfish while turtle trapping is prohibited.
- Use of gasoline to flush animals from hiding places is prohibited.
- Natural cover such as stumps and logs may not be destroyed while searching for animals.
- Frogs may be taken using any visible light and mechanical devices known as frog catchers or with devices that puncture the skin such as gigs and spears.

SIZE/POSSESSION LIMITS

Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) and **pig frogs** (*Rana grylio*): may be taken year round except during the months of April and May where the season is closed throughout the state.

No person shall take or possess bullfrogs that are less than five inches in length, nor take or possess pig frogs or grunners that are less than three inches in length. Length is measured from the tip of the muzzle to the posterior end of the body between the hind legs.

Exception: Frogs under the legal length may be taken from privately owned ponds or waters by the owner thereof or his authorized representative and may be sold for the purpose of stocking ponds or waters.

Alligator snapping turtles (*Macroclmys temminckii*):

- Commercial Take:* may not be sold nor caught for purposes of commerce.
- Recreational take:* Limit of one per day per boat or vehicle.

Diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*): may not be taken by trap of any kind and may not be taken between April 15 - June 15. All terrapins taken must measure at least six inches in length on the plastron (bottom shell plate).

Box turtles (genus *Terrapene*): may not be sold commercially, and recreational take and possession shall not exceed four.

Green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*): less than 1 3/4 inches snout-vent length or less than five inches overall length may not be sold or purchased.

Turtle Eggs: No turtle eggs may be taken except for those of the red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta*), wherever found.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN COLLECTOR'S LICENSE

Anyone gathering reptiles and amphibians for sale must possess a Commercial Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License.

Alligators are excluded from this provision.

All non protected native reptile and amphibian species (frogs, turtles, lizards, salamanders, snakes, etc.), except alligators, can be legally taken by residents possessing a valid recreational fishing license. See **Reptiles and Amphibians** section. Nonresidents may purchase a “Three-day Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License” that is valid for three consecutive days.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN WHOLESALE/RETAIL DEALER'S LICENSE

Commercial dealers engaged in the buying, selling, acquiring or handling by any means any species of native reptile or amphibian in Louisiana for resale, or shipping or transporting any native reptile or amphibian into or out of Louisiana must possess a Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License, Reptile and Amphibian Transport License or Seafood Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License and Seafood Transport Wholesale/Retail Dealer's license if applicable. Wholesale/retail seafood dealers are exempt from this license.

RESTRICTED - THREATENED/ENDANGERED REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

The following species may not be taken or collected from the wild in Louisiana: tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); southern red backed salamander (*Plethodon serratus*); Webster's salamander (*Plethodon websteri*); mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus*); red salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber*); or threatened or endangered species: green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*); Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*); leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*); loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*); gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*); ringed sawback turtle (*Graptemys oculifera*); Dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevosa*).

WMA AND REFUGE REGULATIONS

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Commercial Fishing: Permits are required of all commercial fishing using Grassy Lake, Pomme de Terre and Spring Bayou WMAs. Drag seines (except minnow and bait seines) are prohibited EXCEPT experimental bait seines allowed on Dewey Wills WMA north of LA 28 in diversion canal. Commercial fishing is prohibited during regular waterfowl seasons on Grand Bay, Silver Lake and Lower Sunk Lake on Three Rivers WMA. Commercial fishing is prohibited on Salvador/Timken, Ouachita and Pointe-aux-Chenes WMAs EXCEPT commercial fishing on Pointe-aux-Chenes is allowed in Cutoff Canal and Wonder Lake. No commercial fishing activity shall impede navigation and no unattended vessels or barges will be allowed. Non-compliance with permit regulations will result in revocation of commercial fishing privileges for the period the license is issued and one year thereafter. Commercial fishing is allowed on Pass-a-Loutre and Atchafalaya Delta WMAs. See **Pass-a-Loutre** for addition commercial fishing regulations on mullet.

Commercial activities: Except for licensed activities otherwise allowed by law, commercial activities are prohibited without a permit issued by the Secretary of LDWF.

Camping and houseboat mooring allowed only in designated areas.

FORT POLK

Fishing: Special regulations pertaining to fishing are posted at specific lakes.

GRASSY LAKE

Commercial Fishing: Permitted EXCEPT on Smith Bay, Red River Bay and Grassy Lake proper on Saturday and Sunday and during waterfowl season. Permits available from area supervisor Spring Bayou Headquarters or Opelousas Office.

ISLE DERNIERES BARRIER ISLANDS REFUGE

Isle Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge (Wine, East, Trinity, Whiskey, and Raccoon Islands) is restricted to all public access except for a 3,000 linear feet by 500 linear feet recreational public use area on Trinity Island (borders western end of California Canal). **Only recreational fishing is permitted in the public use area.** Fishing from boats or wade fishing in the surf areas of the islands is allowed adjacent to restricted islands.

OUACHITA

Commercial Fishing: CLOSED.

PASS-A-LOUTRE

Commercial Fishing: Same as outside. Commercial mullet fishing open only in: South Pass, Pass-a-Loutre, North Pass, Southeast Pass, Northeast Pass, Dennis Pass, Johnson Pass, Loomis Pass, Cadro Pass, Wright Pass, Viveats Pass, Cognevich Pass, Blind Bay, Redfish Bay, Garden Island Bay, Northshore Bay, East Bay (west of barrier islands) and oil and gas canals as described on LDWF Pass-a-Loutre WMA Map.

POINTE-AUX-CHENES

Commercial fishing and nighttime activities are prohibited.

POMME DE TERRE

Commercial Fishing: Permitted Monday through Friday EXCEPT closed during duck season. Commercial Fishing Permits available from area supervisor, Opelousas Regional Office or Spring Bayou Headquarters.

ROCKEFELLER REFUGE, STATE WILDLIFE REFUGE & MARSH ISLAND REFUGE

Commercial Fishing: All commercial fishing and use of any commercial fishing gear on the refuge is prohibited. Commercial fishing gear or trawls shall not be permitted in possession while participating in sport fishing on the refuge. Commercial fishing gear may be in possession for non-stop access directly across the refuge or safe harbor only. Nighttime activities are prohibited.

SALVADOR

Commercial fishing and nighttime activities are prohibited.

SPRING BAYOU

Commercial Fishing: Permitted Monday through Friday EXCEPT slat traps and hoop nets permitted any day, and EXCEPT gill or trammel nets or the take or possession of grass carp prohibited. Permits available from area supervisor or Opelousas Regional Office. CLOSED until after 2 p.m. during waterfowl season.

BOATING INFORMATION

VOLUNTARY GULF OF MEXICO MARINE COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

The voluntary Gulf of Mexico (GOM) communications protocol is an agreed communications format that identifies methods of notification, recommended frequencies and generally accepted two-way marine VHF radio protocols. It is for use in GOM Outer Continental Shelf areas and State Territorial Waters adjacent to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The objective is to provide a common voluntary marine communications protocol for GOM resource users to use in alerting parties that will be interacting in the same general area. This protocol will provide a common communication format for notification and feedback between offshore platform and rig operators and others in responding to the safety needs of all GOM resources users.

Any vessel operator (commercial, for hire (charter/head-boat), recreational fishermen, sport divers and oil and gas contractors and operators) proposing to approach either fixed or floating drilling, production and support facilities or oil and gas transportation infrastructure should utilize the GOM communications protocol.

PROTOCOL

Any vessel approaching either a fixed or floating offshore facility with the intent of tying to or remaining around (within 1,500 feet of) that facility for any purpose, should contact as far in advance as practical that specific facility using a marine VHF radio on Channel No. 16. All offshore facilities are identified by signage that identifies the Area, Block, Platform and Operator.

This protocol helps GOM offshore facility operators identify vessels approaching or mooring and gives shared resource users a common communication tool. If vessels fail to establish communications, a facility operator is faced with the task of evaluating the vessel's intent. Communications will help operators make a judgment on the activity and help access if the vessel poses a threat to the people or facility.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO FISHERMEN WHEN FISHING AROUND OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION PLATFORMS

Most offshore fishermen target oil and gas production platforms as their fishing location of choice. Petroleum platforms, commonly referred to as "rigs," provide recreation for fishermen and scuba divers because they act as artificial reefs, attracting and establishing aquatic communities, including highly sought food and sport fishes. Also, offshore facilities serve as navigation points for small marine craft. Manned facilities can also provide a haven for small craft operators forced to abandon their vessels during storms or following accidents.

Generally this interaction between fishermen and offshore platform personnel takes place without incident. However, periodically, a fisherman or scuba diver may be asked by platform personnel to move to another location. This request is generally made when certain potentially dangerous activities are taking place onboard the platform and is made for the safety of both platform personnel and the fisherman.

Some of these potential hazards to fishermen occur when

construction or maintenance activities are underway. These activities frequently require use of marine support vessels that limit access to the facility and require frequent movement and the possibility for entanglement in anchor lines or mooring hardware exists. Platform cranes making lifts can expose vessels and personnel to dropped objects, and overhead work, such as blasting, welding and burning or painting, can also potentially expose people and equipment to falling debris and equipment. These activity types are easy to see and the request to move is easily understood.

Some activities taking place on offshore platforms that may also be dangerous are not as easily seen, and therefore, a request to move may be misunderstood. Activities such as well perforating, poisonous gas releases (red flashing light) or emergency shut downs that may require significant venting or flaring may not be visible from the sea surface. Perforating activities require elimination of radio transmissions to help prevent an inadvertent triggering of the explosive charges. Gas releases, some of which may be poisonous (red flashing light), have the potential to drift to the water surface and envelop a vessel, where an open flame or spark could set off the gas.

Therefore, if asked by platform personnel to move to another structure, please understand the request is made for your safety, the safety of the personnel on board the platform and the safety of the facilities. Please observe common courtesy and move to another location.

EXAMPLE

Contact Request: "Eugene Island 313 "A" Platform, this is M/V Duck, M/V Duck, on Channel 16"

Response: "Eugene Island 313 "A" back to M/V Duck. Switch to Channel No. _____."

Follow Up on New Channel: "M/V Duck back; we are 5 miles out and in route to your location for _____ (offloading, fishing, diving, bird watching, etc) and request assistance in determining your current facility status."

Recognition: "Eugene Island 313 "A" back; we have no current marine traffic or hazardous operations but expect a supply boat later today." If the facility was planning operations that might preclude safe positioning of marine craft or if potentially hazardous lifting or well work is scheduled, the operator would so inform the vessel.

Notification: "M/V Duck back; we are a 25 foot sport fisherman out of Cocodrie with a total of five people on board and will approach your location at 0900 hours and estimate our stay at three hours."

The approaching vessel has established contact, identified its intent to approach or moor, its purpose, and estimated its time of arrival and time at location. The operator is now alerted to the fact that the vessel is approaching with the intent of being in the area and can validate actual activities by visually observing the vessel and its crew.

MISSISSIPPI

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Mississippi. The information is current as of July 1, 2011, 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 (228-523-4134) 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)

Applications for a live bait camp may be submitted anytime. Live bait camps may be inspected within thirty (30) days after receipt of the completed application.

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.

Vessels licensed under Section 49-15-46 may keep in whole, for personal consumption up to thirty-six (36) blue crabs (portunidae family), per day. This exemption for personal consumption does not apply to fish or crabs that are otherwise illegal to possess or catch.

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 weighted 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 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 ten dollars (\$10.00). **A resident sixty-five (65) years of age or older, fishing in the marine waters of the state, shall obtain a lifetime saltwater sports fishing license for a one-time fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00).** These licenses 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 thirty dollars (\$20.00). **This minimum fee shall not apply to nonresidents sixty-five (65) years of age or older. The commission may enter into reciprocal agreements with adjacent states pertaining to fees and exemptions for persons sixty-five (65) years of age or older.** 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. **Any nonresident sixty-five (65) years of age or older shall possess a saltwater sports fishing license.**

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. **In addition to other requirements for charter license eligibility, captains must show proof of participation in a Department of Transportation approved random drug testing program and proof of liability insurance as a charter boat captain.** 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, in accordance with Section 49-7-153, 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. **The first weekend of “National Fishing and Boating Week” in June of each year is designated as “Free Fishing Weekend”,** and July 4th of each year is designated as “Free Saltwater Sports Fishing Day.” Any person may saltwater sport fish without a license on ***** “Free Fishing Weekend.”**

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	33 FL	
Spanish mackerel	No Limit	No Limit	14 FL	
Red snapper	Quota	Quota	16 TL	
Flounder	Quota ⁴	Quota ⁴	12 TL	
<u>Tripletail</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>18 TL</u>	

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 can 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	13 TL	No Limit
Cobia	2	2	33 FL	No Limit
King mackerel	2	2	24 FL	No Limit
Red snapper	2	2	16 TL	
Flounder	15	15	12 TL	No Limit
<u>Tripletail</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>18 TL</u>	<u>No Limit</u>

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; with a minimum size limit of 25 inches total length:

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; The minimum size limit is 37 inches total length:

Large Coastal Sharks

- ♦ Blacktip, *Carcharhinus limbatus*
- ♦ Spinner, *Carcharhinus brevipinna*
- ♦ 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 perezi*
- ♦ Narrowtooth, *Carcharhinus brachyurus*
- ♦ Caribbean sharpnose, *Rhizorionodon 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*
- ♦ Sandbar, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*
- ♦ Silky, *Carcharhinus falciformis*

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 – 13” TL
- Red drum – 18” TL
- Cobia – 33” FL
- 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
- Tripletail- 18” 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) - \$10.00

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).

Anyone trot line fishing south of Interstate 10 shall be registered with the DMR and be issued a unique number that is to be attached along with the fisherman’s name to both ends of the trot line in indelible ink on metal tags so that it is readable by DMR personnel. If name and number is not attached to both ends and readable by DMR personnel and tending the bottom the line will be deemed illegal and may be confiscated by DMR personnel. Additionally, a Marine Patrol Officer will issue a ticket to anyone operating an illegal trot line. **Anyone set pole and line fishing must be on-site and attending their gear from a distance of no greater than fifty (50) feet and be available to move gear to allow for safe navigation. It is illegal to use a set pole and line with more than one (1) hook. It is illegal for any individual to use more than ten (10) set poles and lines in any marine waters south of Interstate 10.**

Multiple or 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 and **flounder** 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 forth in Mississippi Code Annotated §3-3-7.

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

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

GILL NET Rules and Regulations 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 **Title 22 chapter 3** 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 (1/2) 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 (1/4) 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 (1/4) 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 **Title** 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

From and after January 1, 2012 the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for commercial landings of flounder will be set at seventy-four thousand (74,000) pounds. The 2012 commercial fishing season for landing flounder shall commence on January 1, 2012 and end on December 31, 2012. Thereafter, the TAC shall commence on January 1 and end on December 31 of each subsequent year. The commercial fishing season for the current season will run from October 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011 and the TAC will be set at ninety-two thousand five hundred (92,500) pounds.

Section 13

A.

From and after January 1, 2012 the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for commercial landings of red drum will be set at thirty-five thousand (35000) pounds. The 2012 commercial fishing season for landing red drum shall commence on January 1, 2012 and end on December 31, 2012. Thereafter, the TAC shall commence on January 1 and end on December 31 of each subsequent year. The commercial fishing season for the current season will run from October 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011 and the TAC will be set at forty-three thousand seven hundred (43,700) pounds.

B.

From and after January 1, 2012 the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for commercial landings of spotted seatrout will be set at forty thousand (40,000) pounds. The 2012 commercial fishing season for landing spotted seatrout shall commence on January 1, 2012 and end on December 31, 2012. Thereafter, the TAC shall commence on January 1 and end on December 31 of each subsequent year. The commercial fishing season for the current season will run from October 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011 and the TAC will be set at fifty thousand (50,000) pounds.

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. **It shall be unlawful for any commercial fisherman to possess a daily bag limit of more than three (3) Tripletail per person.**

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 **Title** 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 - \$200.00
- 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.

2011–2012 SUMMARY OF FISHING AND HUNTING REGULATIONS

Valid September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The information in this guide is a **SUMMARY** of regulations and statutes governing hunting and fishing. For more detailed information on game and regulations, please contact a TPWD Law Enforcement office (see pg. 18) or call (800) 792-1112 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday). Please note that information contained in this summary is subject to change by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, the Texas Legislature, and/or the federal government. The official regulations, current to the day, can be accessed at www.sos.state.tx.us under Title 31 of the Texas Administrative Code. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Code can be accessed at: www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us

CONTENTS

Where to Get Information and Licenses.....	18
GENERAL HUNTING AND FISHING REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS	
Criminal Penalties and Civil Value Recovery General Law.....	19
General Information About Licenses, Stamp Endorsements and Tags.....	20
Hunting and Fishing Combination License Packages.....	21
Lifetime Licenses Fishing Licenses and Packages.....	22
Fishing Stamp Endorsements and Tags License Requirements for Border Waters.....	24
Hunting Licenses and Permits.....	25
Hunting Stamp Endorsements.....	26
Hunter Education.....	26
Transfer of Wildlife Resources Importation of Wildlife Resources.....	27
SUMMARY OF 2011–2012 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS	
General Fishing Rules for Fresh and Salt Waters.....	28
Reservoir Boundaries.....	30
Freshwater/Saltwater Boundary.....	31
Definitions.....	32
Legal Freshwater and Saltwater Devices and Restrictions for Fish.....	33
Freshwater Fishing Harvest Regulations.....	36
Statewide Bag and Length Limits Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations.....	37
How to Attach Red Drum Fish Tag How to Measure Fish and Crabs Tips for Releasing Fish.....	41
Identification of Yellow, White, Striped, and Hybrid Striped Bass.....	42
Identification of Smallmouth, Guadalupe & Spotted, and Largemouth Bass.....	43
Saltwater Fishing - General Information Bag and Length Limits for Saltwater Fish.....	44
Saltwater Freeze Events Shrimp Regulations.....	46
Crab and Ghost Shrimp Regulations.....	49
Oyster Regulations.....	51
Other Aquatic Life (Fresh and Salt Waters).....	51
Fish Consumption Bans and Advisories.....	52
Boater Education.....	52
Boating Regulations and Safe Boating Tips Invasive Species Operation Game Thief.....	53
SUMMARY OF 2011–2012 HUNTING REGULATIONS	
Definitions.....	54
Means and Methods.....	55
Tagging Deer or Turkey.....	59
Proof of Sex.....	61
After Killing a Deer Processing Deer, Turkey, or Antelope in Camp Cold Storage or Processing Facilities.....	62
Taxidermist.....	63
Game Animals:.....	64
Pronghorn Antelope; Desert Bighorn Sheep; Deer; White-tailed Deer Youth-Only; Javelina; Squirrel Youth-Only, Alligator.....	
Game Birds:.....	67
Migratory Game Birds; Pheasant; Quail; Turkey; Turkey Youth-Only.....	
Migratory Game Birds (Early Season).....	68
Nongame and Other Species [including frogs and turtles].....	72
Restricted Areas in Counties.....	74
County Listings.....	76
Alligator Hide Tag Report Form.....	100
Wildlife Resource Document.....	100

Hunting and fishing regulations, as well as state-mandated hunter education and safety information, are also available online in Spanish. Visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/espanol, or with specific questions call (800) 792-1112. En español, el sumario del reglamento para cacería y pesca, así como la información sobre el requisito de certificación de educación y seguridad en la caza, se encuentran disponibles en línea visitando: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/espanol o con preguntas específicas llamando a (800) 792-1112.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND LICENSES

Recreational hunting and fishing licenses and stamp endorsements are available at approximately 1,700 locations throughout the state in addition to the offices listed below. These locations include sporting goods stores, gun shops, department stores, discount stores, bait and tackle shops, grocery stores, and many other types of stores. Some commercial hunting and fishing licenses are available ONLY at the Austin headquarters and offices listed below. For added convenience, recreational licenses may be purchased by phone or through the Internet with approved Visa, Discover, or MasterCard. A \$5 administrative fee will be charged for those sales. Call (800) TX LIC 4 U (1-800-895-4248) between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed Saturday, Sunday and most holidays), or log on to http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/licenses/online_sales. Many licenses may be purchased for immediate use except where tagging is required, i.e., deer and turkey.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 4200 Smith School Road, Austin (78744)

TOLL-FREE INFORMATION: (Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) (800) 792-1112 or (512) 389-4800

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT INTERNET WEBSITE: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

TPWD REGIONAL AND FIELD LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES:

Abilene , 281 North Willis (79603) (325) 673-3333	LaMarque , 14037 Delany Road (77568) (409) 933-1947
Amarillo , 203 SW 8th Ave., Suite 200 (79101) (806) 379-8900	Laredo , 5119 Bob Bullock Loop (78041) (956) 718-1087
Beaumont , 5550-K Eastex Frwy (77708) (409) 892-8666	Lubbock , 1702 Landmark Lane, Suite 1 (79415) (806) 761-4930
Brownsville , 5460 Paredes Line Road, Suite 201 (78526) (956) 546-1952	Lufkin , Old Texas Plaza, 4100 S. Medford Drive, Suite 204B (75901) (936) 632-1311
Brownwood , 301 Main, Suite D (76801) (325) 646-0440	Midland , 4500 West Illinois, Suite 307 (79703) (432) 520-4649
College Station , 12815 FM 2154 (Wellborn Road), Suite 160 (77845) (979) 696-4148	Mt. Pleasant , 212 South Johnson (75455) (903) 572-7966
Corpus Christi , 5541 Bear Lane, Suite 232 (78405) (361) 289-5566	Rockport , 715 South Hwy. 35 (78382) (361) 790-0312
El Paso , 401 East Franklin, Suite 520 (79901) (915) 834-7050	Rusk , 580 West Sixth Street (75785) (903) 683-2511
Fort Worth , 5400 Airport Frwy, Suite E (76117) (817) 831-3128	San Angelo , 3407 South Chadbourne (76903) (325) 651-4844
Freeport , 210 West First Street, Suite C (77541) (979) 233-7968 - hours 9 AM to 1 PM (boat registration not available at Freeport office)	San Antonio , 858 West Rhapsody (78216) (210) 348-7375
Garland , 346 Oaks Trail, Suite 100 (75043) (972) 226-9966	Temple , 3615 South General Bruce Drive (76504) (254) 778-8913
Houston (north) , 350 North Sam Houston Pkwy E., Suite 100 (77060) (281) 931-6471	Tyler , 3330 South Southwest Loop 323 (75701) (903) 534-0388
Houston (south) , 10101 Southwest Frwy, #206 (77074) (713) 779-8977	Victoria , 2805 N. Navarro, Suite 600A (77901) (361) 575-6306
Kerrville , 309 Sidney Baker South (78028) (830) 257-7611	Waco , 1601 East Crest Drive (76705) (254) 867-7951
	Wichita Falls , 100 Fremar Valley (76301) (940) 723-7327

STOP POACHING! FOR 24-HOUR REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS, CALL (800) 792-GAME, Austin (512) 389-4848, Houston (281) 842-8100 (see pg. 53)

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.

GENERAL HUNTING AND FISHING REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL VALUE RECOVERY

IF YOU VIOLATE FISH AND WILDLIFE LAWS, IN ADDITION TO CIVIL RESTITUTION YOU MAY:

- be fined (Class C – \$25–\$500; Class B – \$200–\$2,000; Class A – \$500–\$4,000; State Jail Felony, \$1,500–\$10,000);
- be jailed (Class B and higher offenses);
- face automatic suspension or revocation of licenses for up to five years;
- forfeit hunting gear, including firearms, used to commit a violation.

CIVIL RESTITUTION: In addition to the criminal penalty for hunting and fishing violations, the department will seek the civil recovery value for the loss or damage to wildlife resources. The civil restitution cost is payable to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is in addition to the fine assessed by the court. Failure to pay the civil recovery value will result in the department's refusal to issue a license, tag, or permit. An individual who hunts or fishes after the refusal commits a Class A misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine not less than \$500 or more than \$4,000; punishment in jail not to exceed one year; or both fine and confinement.

LICENSE REINSTATEMENT: A person who seeks reinstatement of license privileges following license revocation or denial must apply for license privilege reinstatement and pay a \$100 application fee. For questions concerning civil restitution call (512) 389-4630.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Texas is now a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC). The IWVC is a multi-state compact that allows member states to share information about wildlife violators and to deny licensure to persons who have failed to comply with conservation law in member states. For example, if a person has had their hunting, fishing or trapping privileges suspended in one member state, the suspension may be recognized by any member state. For more information call (512) 389-4381.

GENERAL LAW

The following information addresses some of the more commonly asked questions about hunting and fishing requirements and restrictions. For additional information not included in this guide, contact your local game warden or phone the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) toll free at (800) 792-1112.

- **INSPECTION AUTHORITY:** A game warden who observes a person engaged in an activity governed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code or reasonably believes that a person is or has been engaged in such an activity may inspect:
 - (1) any license, permit, tag, or other document issued by the department and required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code of a person hunting or catching wildlife resources;
 - (2) any device that may be used to hunt or catch a wildlife resource;
 - (3) any wildlife resource in the person's possession; and
 - (4) the contents of any container or receptacle that is commonly used to store or conceal a wildlife resource.
- **PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION:** while hunting, fishing or trapping, persons 17 years of age or older must carry on their person a driver's license or personal identification certificate issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Non-residents must carry similar documents issued by the agency in their state or country of residence that is authorized to issue driver's licenses or personal identification certificates.
- **POSSESSION LIMIT:** For all wildlife resources taken for personal consumption and for which there is a possession limit, the possession limit shall not apply after the wildlife resource has reached the possessor's permanent residence and is finally processed.
 - Special regulations and documents are required for the transfer and importation of wildlife resources (see Transfer of Wildlife Resources, pg. 27).
- **WASTE OF GAME:** It is an offense (Class C misdemeanor) if a person while hunting kills or wounds a game bird or game animal and intentionally or knowingly fails to make a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal or bird and include it in the person's daily or seasonal bag limit. It is an offense if a person intentionally takes or possesses a game bird, game animal, or a fish and intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, or with criminal negligence, fails to keep the edible portions of the bird, animal, or fish in an edible condition. It is a Class A misdemeanor to fail to retrieve or to keep in an edible condition a whitetail or mule deer, pronghorn antelope, or desert bighorn sheep hunted without landowner consent; from a vehicle, boat, or aircraft; on a public road; at night; or with the aid of a light.
- **RETRIEVAL OF GAME:** No person may pursue a wounded wildlife resource across a property line without the consent of landowner of the property where the wildlife resource has fled. Under the trespass provisions of the Penal Code, a person on a property without the permission of the landowner is subject to arrest.
- **HARASSMENT OF HUNTERS, TRAPPERS, OR ANGLERS** (Sportsmen's Rights Act - TPWD Code, §62.0125) is punishable by a fine of \$200 to \$2,000 and/or 180 days in jail.

- **IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:**
 - take, attempt to take, or possess wildlife resources within a protected length limit, in greater numbers, by other means, or at any time or place, other than as indicated within this guide.
 - store, transport, or abandon an unsecured loaded firearm in a place where children can obtain unsupervised access to the firearm. A person under age 17 who has lawful access to a firearm may hunt with the firearm if the youth has successfully completed the hunter education course, or is accompanied by a licensed hunter age 17 or older who has complied with the hunter education requirement, if applicable.
 - drive a motor vehicle in the bed of a navigable freshwater stream, unless approved by a local river access plan established by a city, county, or river authority. This law does not apply to the Canadian River and Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. There are other exemptions as well. The full text of this law may be found in Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 90.
 - fish on privately owned waters, fish in public water from private land, or hunt on privately owned lands without the permission of the owner or the owner's agent. Under the Texas Penal Code (§30.05) it is an offense for any person to enter property that is **fenced, posted with a sign(s), or marked (purple paint)** without the **express permission** of the owner. Posts or trees bearing **purple paint** marking of not less than eight inches in length and not less than one inch in width at not less than three or more than five feet from the ground constitute notice that the property is **posted**. A person who hunts without landowner consent and kills a desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, white-tailed deer, or mule deer commits an offense that is a Parks and Wildlife Code state jail felony. Upon conviction, your hunting and fishing license is automatically revoked. You are not required to have a fishing license to fish in private waters in Texas; but, if you are on private property while fishing in public water, a fishing license is required.
 - discharge a firearm on or across a public road.
- **Sale of Inedible Wildlife Parts: The following inedible wildlife parts may be purchased or sold provided the part was lawfully taken or possessed:**
 - Hair, hide, antlers, bones, horns, skull, hooves, or sinew from the following game animals: mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, desert bighorn sheep, gray or cat squirrels, fox squirrels or red squirrels, and collared peccary or javelina.
 - Feathers from ducks, geese, and brant may be used, purchased, or sold for making fishing flies, pillows, mattresses, and similar commercial uses.
 - Feathers from migratory birds may not be purchased or sold for hats or ornamental purposes nor may a person purchase or sell mounted migratory game bird specimens taken by hunting.
 - Feathers, bones, or feet of game birds other than migratory game birds (turkey, grouse, pheasant, partridge, quail, and chachalaca).
- **Hunter Orange:** No hunter orange is required while hunting on private property, but it is recommended.
- There is no open season for any wild animal, wild bird, or exotic animal on public roads or the right-of-way of public roads. **EXCEPTION: See Reptile and Amphibian Stamp, pg. 26.**
- **It is unlawful to possess a deer or any part of a deer that has been hit by a motor vehicle.**

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT LICENSES, STAMP ENDORSEMENTS AND TAGS

See sections on Fishing (pg. 22) and Hunting (pg. 25) for specific licensing information.
License fees ARE NOT refundable.

All of the licenses, license packages, stamp endorsements, and tags listed in this guide, unless otherwise noted, may be purchased at approximately 1,700 locations statewide where licenses are sold.

Many licenses may be purchased by phone or through the Internet with approved Visa, Discover, or MasterCard. Call (800) TX LIC 4 U (1-800-895-4248) between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed Saturday, Sunday and most holidays), or log on to: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/licenses/online_sales

Generally, fishing and hunting licenses and stamp endorsements are valid from the date of sale through Aug. 31, 2012. Temporary hunting and fishing licenses and packages, Year-from-Purchase fishing licenses and Lake Texoma fishing licenses have different expiration dates.

A number of "endorsements," sometimes called "stamps" are available for purchase with fishing packages (pg. 22) and hunting licenses (pg. 25) at the time a license is purchased. All fishing and all combination packages include one or more stamp endorsements. Additional stamp endorsements are available for purchase anytime during the effective date of the license/package. Actual stamps with pictures on them are no longer issued with hunting and fishing licenses; however, a book of commemorative stamps (item Type 555), which are not valid for hunting or fishing use, is available for purchase for \$21.65. The book, which contains all six Texas picture stamps (three hunting, two fishing, one non-game), may be purchased online at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/licenses/online_sales, by phone at 1-800-895-4248 (\$5 administrative fee charged for all online and phone sales), at any TPWD law enforcement office, or Austin headquarters. Stamp books purchased online, by phone, at a TPWD law enforcement office will be mailed to the purchaser. Individual stamps are not sold by TPWD.

Lost/Destroyed License, Package or Stamp Endorsement: Any type of license or stamp endorsement that has been lost or destroyed may be replaced at any license sales location by signing an Application for Replacement License affidavit. Fees vary from \$3-\$10 for replacement of recreational licenses or stamp endorsements.

A **RESIDENT** is a person who has lived continuously in Texas for more than six months immediately before applying for a license. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces (and their dependents) on active duty anywhere are entitled to purchase a resident license. The term "active duty" means full-time duty in active military service, including the National Guard and Reserves of the United States. Such term includes full-time training duty and attendance while in the active military service at a school designated as a service school by law or by the Secretary of the military department concerned. Non-residents under 17 years of age are designated as residents for hunting license purposes (**not valid for Lifetime Licenses**).

Residency is proven by any three of the following (all documents must reflect the applicant's name and a physical address in Texas). Except for a valid driver's license or a state issued identification card, documentation is not required at time of purchases or while hunting or fishing:

- a current Texas homestead property tax statement
 - the most recent six months of utility bills
 - the most recent six months of paycheck receipts
 - the person's most recent tax return from the Internal Revenue Service
 - a statement from a parole board or probation officer stating that the person has continuously resided in Texas for the six months immediately preceding the application for a license or permit
 - a valid Texas driver's license*
 - a current Texas voter registration certificate*
 - a current vehicle registration*
- *must have been issued at least six months prior to license or permit application

A **NON-RESIDENT** is any person who does not meet the requirements listed for qualification as a Texas resident.

It is unlawful to:

- hunt or fish without a valid license, or a permit and stamp endorsement on your person and available for inspection by a game warden, unless exempt by age, program or a reciprocal agreement with another state.
- use another person's license or tag to hunt or fish.
- let someone else hunt or fish with your license or tags.

It is unlawful to purchase or obtain more than one of the following licenses:

- Resident Hunting
- Youth Hunting
- Senior Hunting
- Free Resident Disabled Veteran "Super Combo"
- Resident "Super Combo" Package
- Senior Resident "Super Combo" Package
- Texas Resident Active Duty Military "Super Combo" Package
- Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing Package
- Senior Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing Package
- General Non-Resident Hunting
- Non-Resident Spring Turkey Hunting

Social Security Numbers Required by Law: The collection of the Social Security Number is mandated by the Federal Government and is required regardless of age. TPWD has no option but to comply with Federal Law and collect the numbers from the purchasers of licenses. TPWD cannot force you to provide your social security number; however, under Federal Statute, we cannot sell you a license. Your social security number is required to be collected for the purpose of child support collection enforcement under Federal Statute 42 U.S.C.A. 666 and Texas Family Code, Section 231.302. If you are buying a license for another person, the law requires that the purchaser provide the social security number of the person who will be holding the license.

HUNTING AND FISHING COMBINATION LICENSE PACKAGES

For Texas residents only:

The "**Super Combo**" includes a Resident Hunting License, a Resident Fishing License and five state stamp endorsements (archery, freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing with a red drum tag, upland game bird, and migratory game bird) at a discount price. For residents who hunt and fish fresh water and/or salt water, the "Super Combo" package can save purchasers up to \$18. **Resident "Super Combo" License Package (Type 111): \$68; Senior Resident "Super Combo" License Package (Type 117): \$32 (for age 65 and over).**

The "Combo" packages include a Resident Hunting License, a Resident Fishing License and either the saltwater stamp endorsement (with a red drum tag), freshwater stamp endorsement, or both, depending on the specific package purchased. **Resident Combination Hunting and Freshwater Fishing: \$50; Resident Combination Hunting and Saltwater Fishing: \$55; Resident Combination Hunting and All-Water Fishing: \$60; Senior Resident Combination Hunting and Freshwater Fishing: \$16 (for age 65 and over); Senior Resident Combination Hunting and Saltwater Fishing: \$21; Senior Resident Combination Hunting and All-Water Fishing: \$26.**

Residents who purchase "Combo" packages specific to either salt or freshwater fishing may upgrade to the All-Water package through the purchase of the appropriate stamp endorsement (i.e., the stamp endorsement not included in the initial license package purchased).

Resident Disabled Veteran "Super Combo" Hunting and All-Water Fishing Package (Type 502): FREE

Available to a resident qualifying as a disabled veteran. Disabled veteran means a veteran with a service-connected disability, as defined by the Veterans Administration, consisting of the loss of the use of a foot or leg, or a disability rating of 60% or more, and who is receiving compensation from the U.S. for the disability. Official proof of disability (issued by the V.A.) must be shown when applying for this license and must state the rate of disability. Includes all five state stamp endorsements (archery, freshwater fishing, migratory game bird, saltwater fishing with a red drum tag, and upland game bird). The Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not included.

Texas Resident Active Duty Military "Super Combo" Hunting and All-Water Fishing Package

(Type 510): **FREE**

Available to any Texas resident on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserves, or National or State Guard. Includes all five state stamp endorsements (archery, freshwater fishing, migratory game bird, saltwater fishing with a red drum tag, and upland game bird). The Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not included. **Proof of residency for this license is: military service record(s) indicating that the person's home of record is in Texas or that the person's duty station for the six months immediately prior to the time of application is in Texas.**

LIFETIME LICENSES

Lifetime Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing: \$1,800; Lifetime Resident Hunting: \$1,000; Lifetime Resident Fishing: \$1,000. Note: A lifetime resident hunting or fishing license can be upgraded to a lifetime resident combination hunting and fishing license for \$800.

Residents may buy hunting and fishing licenses valid for the lifetime of the license holder. The lifetime license exempts the holder from state stamp endorsement requirements. The lifetime license **does not** exempt the holder from the Federal Duck Stamp requirement. **Not valid for commercial fur trapping.** Lifetime tags may be obtained at retailers each year at no fee. Applications for lifetime licenses may be obtained from TPWD offices, online at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/> or by calling (800) 792-1112 (option 9, ext. 4820). **Lifetime licenses are available for purchase from TPWD Austin headquarters and Law Enforcement offices.**

FISHING LICENSES AND PACKAGES

A valid fishing license with a freshwater or saltwater stamp endorsement is required to take fish, mussels, clams, crayfish, or other aquatic life in the public waters of Texas. A hunting license is required to take turtles and frogs.

The first Saturday in June of each year is the annual Free Fishing Day and no person is required to have a fishing license or stamp endorsements while fishing on that day.

A fishing license and stamp endorsement are not required if fishing from the bank in a state park or in waters completely enclosed by a state park. All other fishing regulations, such as length and bag limits, remain in effect.

Recreational anglers must have a Texas fishing license and saltwater endorsement to bring any fish taken in federal waters ashore in Texas or possess fish on a vessel in the tidal waters of Texas (see also Texas State Waters - Federal Water on pg. 44).

Resident Fishing Licenses:

Required of any resident (see RESIDENT, pg. 21) who fishes in the **public waters** of Texas.

You do not need a license/package if you:

- are under 17 years of age.
- were born **BEFORE** Jan. 1, 1931.
- are a mentally disabled person who is engaging in recreational fishing as part of medically approved therapy, and who is fishing under the immediate supervision of personnel approved or employed by a hospital, residence, or school for mentally disabled persons. The mentally disabled person must carry an authorization identifying the entity supplying the service. This authorization may be in the form of an I.D. card that contains the name of the sponsoring entity.
- are a mentally retarded person and you are recreational fishing under the direct supervision of a licensed angler who is a family member or who is a licensed angler that has permission from the family to take the mentally retarded person fishing. While fishing, the mentally retarded person needs a note from a doctor stating the person has been diagnosed as mentally retarded.

A resident fishing license is included in all Super Combination and Combination packages (including Texas Resident Active Duty Military), the Lifetime Resident Combination and Lifetime Resident Fishing licenses, and the various resident fishing packages offered by the department. A resident who holds one of these licenses/packages is not required to purchase a separate resident fishing license.

Non-Resident Fishing Licenses:

Required of all non-residents who fish in the public waters of Texas. Licenses/Packages are not required if you are a:

- non-resident under 17 years of age;
- Louisiana resident 65 years of age or older who possesses a valid Louisiana Recreational Fishing License (includes Senior Fish/Hunt License); or
- Oklahoma resident 64 years of age or older.

A variety of **fishing packages** are offered from which the public may select based on the type of fishing (freshwater, saltwater, or both) and duration of license desired.

License Year Fishing Packages include a **resident, senior resident, special resident, or non-resident** fishing license valid from the date of sale to Aug. 31, 2012 and either a freshwater stamp endorsement, a saltwater stamp endorsement with a red drum tag, or both stamp endorsements valid for the same time period.

Senior Resident Fishing Packages are available to any Texas resident who is at least 65 years of age and was born on or after Jan. 1, 1931. The packages include a senior resident fishing license, and either a freshwater stamp endorsement, a saltwater endorsement with a red drum tag, or both depending on the package selected.

Special Resident All-Water Fishing License is available to any Texas resident who is legally blind. Stamp endorsements are not required for this license. One red drum tag shall be available at no additional charge.

One-Day All-Water Fishing License includes a **resident or non-resident** fishing license valid for the selected day or days purchased. Stamp endorsements are not required for this license. Consecutive days may be bought at the time of purchase. One red drum tag (Item 598) shall be available at no additional charge with the purchase of the first one-day license only.

Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package (available only to Texas residents) includes a resident fishing license, a freshwater stamp endorsement and a saltwater stamp endorsement with a red drum tag, all valid from the date of purchase through the end of the purchase month of the next license year.

2011-2012 FISHING LICENSES AND FEES:

Resident:		Non-Resident:	
• Freshwater Package	\$30	• Freshwater Package	\$58
• Saltwater Package	\$35	• Saltwater Package	\$63
• All-Water Package	\$40	• All-Water Package	\$68
• Senior Freshwater Package	\$12	• One-Day All-Water License	\$16
• Senior Saltwater Package	\$17		
• Senior All-Water Package	\$22		
• Special Resident All-Water License (for legally blind)	\$7		
• Year-from-Purchase All-Water Package	\$47		
• One-Day All-Water License	\$11		

Please note that if you own any valid freshwater fishing package, you will be able to purchase a saltwater stamp endorsement, and conversely, if you own any valid saltwater fishing package, you will be able to purchase a freshwater stamp endorsement.

Sport Oyster Boat License:

Required when using a sport oyster dredge or tongs to take oysters. **Resident** (Type 328): **\$13** - For boats registered in Texas or having a U.S. Coast Guard document that shows the owner's address is in Texas. **Non-resident** (Type 428): **\$51**

Fishing Guide License:

Required for any person who for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports any person engaged in fishing in the waters of the state. See Texas Commercial Fishing Guide, <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/commercial/>

FISHING STAMP ENDORSEMENTS AND TAGS

Freshwater Fishing Stamp Endorsement (Type 256): \$5

This stamp endorsement is required in addition to a valid fishing license if you take or attempt to take fish in the public fresh waters of Texas. If you are not required to hold a fishing license, or if you hold a lifetime combination or lifetime fishing license, this stamp endorsement is not required. A freshwater fishing stamp is included in freshwater and all-water fishing packages.

Saltwater Fishing Stamp Endorsement (Type 211): \$10

This stamp endorsement is required in addition to a valid fishing license if you take or attempt to take fish in the public salt water of Texas. If you are not required to hold a fishing license, or if you hold a lifetime combination or lifetime fishing license, this stamp endorsement is not required. **A red drum tag shall be issued at no additional charge with each saltwater fishing stamp endorsement.** A saltwater fishing stamp is included in saltwater and all-water fishing packages.

Red Drum Tag:

This tag is required for an individual to take one red drum per license year over the maximum length limit of 28 inches, and is included free with the purchase of a saltwater fishing stamp endorsement or any package that includes the saltwater fishing stamp endorsement. See tagging information, pg. 41.

Persons who want to obtain a red drum tag and are EXEMPT from fishing license requirements may purchase an Exempt Angler Red Drum Tag for \$3.

Bonus Red Drum Tag (Type 599): \$3

This tag is required for an individual to take an additional red drum per license year over the maximum length limit of 28 inches. Bonus tag can be purchased at any license sales location upon presenting a valid fishing license or other valid personal identification. Only one bonus tag allowed per person per year.

Saltwater Trotline Tag (Type 307): \$5

Required for each 300 feet, or fraction thereof, on all non-commercial trotlines and sail lines placed in the coastal waters of Texas. Available at TPWD Coastal Law Enforcement offices.

Individual Bait-shrimp Trawl Tag (Type 334): \$37

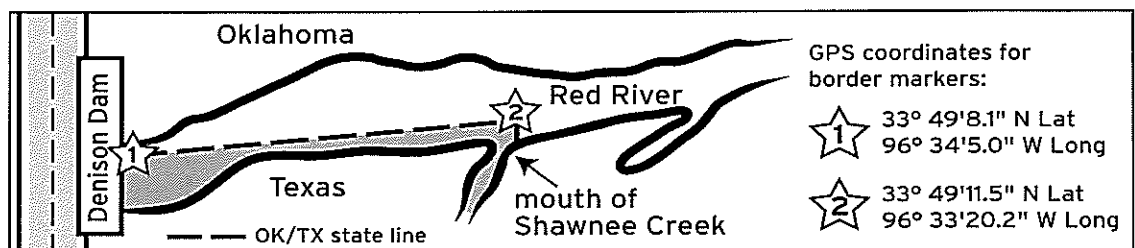
Required for sport shrimp trawls used to take shrimp for personal use. Available at TPWD Coastal Law Enforcement offices.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR BORDER WATERS

ALL fish landed in Texas must comply with Texas bag and length limits. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Texas-Oklahoma and Texas-Arkansas:

- In Oklahoma or Arkansas waters of the Red River, the requirements of those states apply, including fishing regulations.
- A person must have a valid Texas fishing license to fish from the Texas bank from Denison Dam to Shawnee Creek (see illustration). An Oklahoma fishing license is required to wade-fish or fish from a boat in these waters.
- An Oklahoma resident 64 years of age or older is exempt from fishing license requirements in Texas, including on Lake Texoma.
- A person may fish in Texas or Oklahoma waters on Lake Texoma only with the appropriate license from the respective state, unless the person possesses a Lake Texoma fishing license, which is valid anywhere on Lake Texoma.
- **Lake Texoma License** (Type 208): \$12 - With this license, which is valid until December 31 following the date of issuance, a person may fish in both the Texas and Oklahoma waters of Lake Texoma without any additional Texas or Oklahoma fishing licenses or stamps. A Texas resident 64 years of age or older does not need this license to fish in the Oklahoma portion of Lake Texoma. A Lake Texoma license is valid ONLY on Lake Texoma.



Texas-Louisiana: Residents of either state, who are properly licensed in their state (or are exempt because of age), or persons who hold valid non-resident fishing licenses issued by either state may fish in any portion of the lakes and rivers forming a common boundary between Louisiana and Texas inland from a line across Sabine Pass between Texas Point and Louisiana Point. Fish landed in Texas must adhere to Texas bag and length limits; see pgs. 37-41 and 44-45.

Texas-Mexico: A fishing license issued by Mexico is required to fish in Mexican waters.

HUNTING LICENSES AND PERMITS

Note: A Hunting Stamp Endorsement may be required (see pg. 26).

See pg. 22 for specific information on Lifetime, Disabled Veteran, Texas resident ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, and Combination licenses. For residents who hunt and fish fresh water and/or salt water, the "Super Combo" package can save purchasers up to \$18.

A hunting license is required of any person, regardless of age, who hunts any animal, bird, frog or turtle in this state (except furbearers, if the hunter possesses a trapper's license). No license is required for nuisance fur-bearing animals (see pg. 73), depredating hogs or coyotes (see below). Non-residents under 17 years of age may purchase and hunt with the Youth Hunting License (Type 169).

Exceptions: a hunting license is not required to hunt the following:

- Coyotes, if the coyotes are attacking, about to attack, or have recently attacked livestock, domestic animals, or fowl.
- Depredating feral hogs, if a landowner (resident or non-resident) or landowner's agent or lessee is taking feral hogs causing depredation on the landowner's land.
- Fur-bearing animals, if the hunter possesses a trapper's license or if the fur-bearing animals are causing depredation.

Note: All laws and regulations governing hunter education still apply.

Resident Hunting (Type 101): \$25

Valid to hunt any legal bird or animal (terrestrial vertebrates). **Stamp endorsement requirements apply.**

Required of any resident (see RESIDENT defined, pg. 21) unless the resident possesses a valid:

- Senior Resident Hunting License;
- Youth Hunting License;
- Super Combo or Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing License Package;
- Lifetime Resident Hunting License;
- Resident Disabled Veteran Super Combo Hunting and Fishing License Package;
- Lifetime Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing License; or
- Texas Resident Active Duty Military Super Combo Hunting and Fishing License Package.

Senior Resident Hunting (Type 102): \$7

Valid only for residents 65 years of age and older. Valid to hunt any legal bird or animal. Stamp endorsement requirements apply to persons 65 and over.

Youth Hunting License (Type 169): \$7

Valid for any person, resident or non-resident, under 17 years of age at the date of license purchase.

Exempt from state stamp requirements, except for Reptile and Amphibian Stamp (pgs. 26 and 72). License and state stamp exemptions remain valid for the entire license year.

Non-resident General Hunting (Type 105): \$315

Valid to hunt any legal bird or animal (including deer). **Stamp endorsement requirements apply.**

Non-resident Spring Turkey (Type 118): \$126. Available after Feb. 1.

Valid to hunt turkey only during the open spring turkey season. Holders of this license are exempt from the upland game bird stamp endorsement requirements. (Unlawful to possess both this license and a valid Non-Resident General Hunting License.)

Non-resident Special Hunting (Type 107): \$132

Valid to hunt: Exotic animals (see pg. 73), all legal game birds (**NOT VALID FOR TURKEY**), all nongame animals, squirrel, javelina and alligator (**not valid for other game animals, NOT VALID FOR DEER**). **Stamp endorsement requirements apply.**

Non-resident 5-Day Special Hunting (Type 157): \$48

Legal for any period of five consecutive days (valid hunting dates will be printed on the license when issued). **Valid to hunt:** Exotic animals (see pg. 73), all legal game birds (except turkeys), all nongame animals, squirrel, javelina and alligator (**not valid for other game animals, NOT VALID FOR DEER**). **Stamp endorsement requirements apply.**

Non-resident Banded Bird Hunting (Type 120): \$27

Valid only to hunt banded game birds (bobwhite quail, partridge, pheasant, mallard ducks) on private bird hunting areas.

Trapper's: Resident (Type 106): \$19; Non-resident of any age (Type 115): \$315

Required for all persons to hunt, shoot, or take for sale those species classified as fur-bearing animals or their pelts. (See pg. 73 and Fur-bearing Animal Digest for more information.)

Hunting Lease License (Types 132, 133 and 134)

Required of a landowner or landowner's agent who leases hunting rights to another person on property they own or control for pay or other consideration. The license must be displayed on the property. **License fee:** \$79 for 1 through 499 acres; \$147 for 500 through 999 acres; or \$252 for 1,000 acres or more. **NOTE: Hunting lease license record book no longer required.**

Federal Sandhill Crane Hunting Permit (Type 590): FREE

This permit is required to hunt sandhill cranes. The permit can be obtained in person ONLY at TPWD Law Enforcement offices (see pg. 18) and TPWD headquarters in Austin, but also is available by phone at (800) 792-1112 (option 5, menu 2) or (512) 389-4820, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday or online any time at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/licenses/online_sales. For phone and online orders, a confirmation number will be issued in lieu of a permit. A \$5 administrative fee will be charged for online orders. Permittees should keep a record of hunting activities because 26% of crane hunters are chosen for a federal harvest survey.

Harvest Information Program (HIP) Certification (Type 137): FREE

This certification is required to hunt any migratory game bird.

HUNTING STAMP ENDORSEMENTS

SPECIAL NOTE: No STATE stamp endorsements are required for anyone under 17 years of age (resident or non-resident), holders of Lifetime Resident Combination, or Lifetime Resident Hunting licenses. The youth hunting license and state stamp exemptions remain valid for the entire license year.

Archery Stamp Endorsement (Type 135): \$7

Required to hunt deer or turkey during an Archery-Only open season. Required to hunt deer at any time in Grayson County.

Texas Migratory Game Bird Stamp Endorsement (Type 168): \$7

Required to hunt any migratory game bird (waterfowl, coot, rail, gallinule, snipe, dove, sandhill crane, and woodcock). A valid Federal Duck Stamp and HIP Certification are also required of waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older. A free Federal Sandhill Crane Hunting Permit is required to hunt sandhill cranes.

Upland Game Bird Stamp Endorsement (Type 167): \$7

Required to hunt turkey, pheasant, quail, lesser prairie chicken, or chachalaca. Non-residents who purchase the Non-resident Spring Turkey License are exempt from this stamp endorsement requirement. **May not be used to hunt turkey with a Non-resident Special Hunting License (Type 107) or a Non-resident 5-Day Special Hunting License (Type 157).**

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp ("Duck Stamp"): \$17

Required for all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older; available at most U.S. Post offices, TPWD Law Enforcement offices, Austin headquarters, and all license retail sales locations. The stamp must be signed on its face by the person using it. A valid hunting license, HIP Certification, and a valid Texas Migratory Game Bird Stamp endorsement are also required.

Reptile and Amphibian Stamp (Type 178): \$10

Required for any person to capture indigenous reptiles or amphibians on the shoulder of a public road or any unpaved area of a public right of way. Persons under 17 years of age are not exempt from this stamp.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting. Minimum age of certification is 9 years and cost is \$15.

If you were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, and you are:

- under 9 years of age, you must be accompanied*.
- age 9 through 16, you must successfully complete a hunter education course or be accompanied*.

- age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course; or purchase a *"Hunter Education Deferral"* and be accompanied*.

Hunter Education Deferral (cost: \$10) – Allows a person 17 years of age or older who has not completed a hunter education program to defer completion for up to one year. A deferral may only be obtained once and is only valid until the end of the current license year. A person who has been convicted or has received deferred adjudication for violation of the mandatory hunter education requirement is prohibited from applying for a deferral. Take the course by Aug. 31 of the current license year and receive a \$5 discount.

***Accompanied means:** By a person (resident or non-resident) who is at least 17, who is licensed to hunt in Texas, who has passed hunter education or is exempt (born before Sept. 2, 1971), and you must be within normal voice control.

Note: Certification is **not** required to purchase a hunting license.

Bowhunter Education: Certification is required on the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, Pottsboro.

Note: Bowhunter education does **not** substitute for Hunter Education certification.

For course information, please consult the TPWD Hunter Education section at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/ or call toll-free (800) 792-1112 (menu 6) or call (512) 389-4999.

TRANSFER OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

A person may give, leave, receive, or possess any species of legally taken wildlife resource, or part of the resource, that is required to have a tag or permit attached or that is protected by a bag or possession limit if the wildlife resource is accompanied by a **Wildlife Resource Document (WRD)** (see pg. 100) from the person who killed or caught the wildlife resource. Also at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/general/transfer/>

- For deer or antelope, a properly executed **WRD** shall accompany the wildlife resource or part of the resource until it reaches its **final destination** and is **quartered** (see Definitions, pg. 54, 55). For turkey, the WRD must remain attached until the turkey reaches its **final destination** and is finally processed (see pg. 54).
 - **NO WRD** is required to possess a wildlife resource that is required to be tagged if the wildlife resource is tagged.
- For all other wildlife resources, a properly executed **WRD** shall accompany the wildlife resource until it reaches the possessor's permanent residence or a cold storage/processing facility, except:
 - **NO WRD** is required if a person receiving the wildlife resource does not exceed the possession limit (exception: see Migratory Game Birds - Documentation, pg. 69).
 - A person may use the **WRD** document provided in this guide (pg. 100) or a hand written WRD document that includes the same required information may be used.

NOTE: No wildlife resource document is required when the entire carcass of a deer (including head, which may be skinned or unskinned) or antelope (including head, which must be unskinned) is given to, or transported by, another person if the tag from the hunter's license and other required permits or the pronghorn permit remains attached until the carcass reaches its final destination and is quartered.

IMPORTATION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

It is unlawful to import a wildlife resource into this state or possess a wildlife resource taken outside this state unless the person possessing the wildlife resource possesses a valid hunting, fishing, or other applicable license, stamp endorsement, tag, permit, or document for the state or country in which the wildlife resource was legally taken. Such documentation must be produced upon request of a game warden.

NOTE: It is unlawful to land by boat or person any fish taken from public water within a protected length limit, or in excess of the daily bag limit or possession limit established for those fish in Texas, regardless of the state or country in which they were caught.

A person possessing a wildlife resource for importation must produce, upon request of a game warden, a valid driver's license or personal identification certificate.

A person may possess an animal or bird killed outside of Texas that is listed in Texas as threatened or endangered, provided that the person possesses proof that the animal or bird possessed was lawfully killed. Proof consists of bill-of-sale, license tag, or notarized affidavit.

NOTE: (IMPORTS FROM MEXICO) The requirements listed above are waived if an official United States Customs Officer's **Statement** is obtained from the United States Customs Office at the port of entry showing that the wildlife resource was brought in from Mexico. The Customs Officer's statement must accompany the wildlife resource to a final destination.

AN ETHICAL ANGLER...

- Takes only what they can use, and uses what they take.
- Always recycles or properly disposes of monofilament line to protect the environment and aquatic or wildlife resources.
- Leaves no litter and doesn't pollute our waters.
- Records their trophy with care, and returns it to the water.

SUMMARY OF 2011–2012 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS

FISHING REGULATIONS

General Fishing Rules for Fresh and Salt Waters

For purposes of this guide, salt waters and coastal waters mean the same thing.

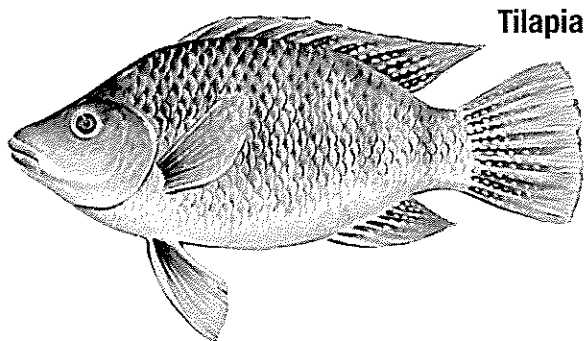
GENERAL PROHIBITED ACTS

NEW LAW: TOURNAMENT FRAUD

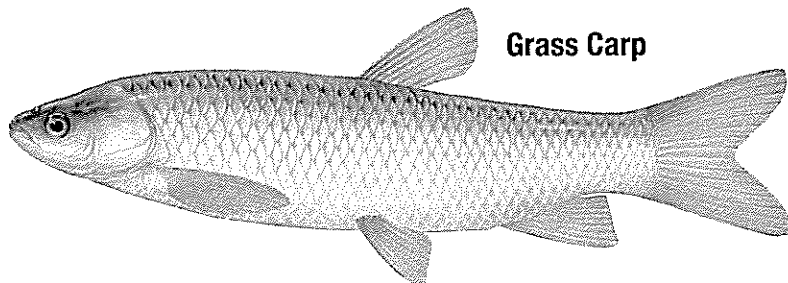
It is illegal to enter fish in a saltwater or freshwater fishing tournament that have had the length or weight altered, were taken unlawfully, or are fraudulently misrepresented. Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, §66.119

It is a violation to:

- Take, kill, or disturb sea turtles or sea turtle eggs;
- Take, kill, or disturb any endangered or threatened species (paddlefish, shovel-nosed sturgeon, smalltooth sawfish, and others);
- Take or kill (no open season) diamondback terrapin, largemouth sawfish, porpoises, dolphins (mammals), or whales;
- Possess any tilapia, grass carp, or any other fish listed as harmful or potentially harmful, without immediately removing the intestines, except on those waters where a valid Triploid Grass Carp Permit is in effect. In those waters, it is illegal to possess grass carp. Any grass carp caught must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. For a list of waters with a Triploid Grass Carp Permit, see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gcpermits>
- Place any game fish into public waters, other than the body of water where the fish was caught, without a valid permit issued by TPWD. This includes fish caught by pole and line. For permit information, please call TPWD at (800) 792-1112 (menu 4) or (512) 389-4444.



Tilapia



Grass Carp

Anchoring Boats and Vessels

It is a violation to:

- Leave unattended for any period of time or anchor a barge, boat, or fishing platform in the Trinity River below Livingston Dam in an area 1,000 feet from the dam to a point 1,500 feet downstream from the dam:
 - for more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period without moving 100 feet or more during that time, or
 - for five or more consecutive days, whether or not it has been moved;
- Anchor or moor a vessel, barge, or structure for a period exceeding two consecutive days within the area in Cedar Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedar Bayou and the department sign erected near the point where the pass empties into the Gulf of Mexico.
- Use a vessel of any type to harass fish.

Tagging Fish - It is unlawful to release into the public waters of this state a fish with a device or substance implanted or attached that is designed, constructed, or adapted to produce an audible, visual, or electronic signal used to monitor, track, follow, or in any manner aid in the location of the released fish. It is **legal** to place an identification tag on the exterior of a fish and release this fish back into public waters. Caution is advised as use of these tags can damage fish.

Waste of Fish - It is unlawful to leave edible fish or bait fish taken from the public waters of the state to die without the intent to retain the fish for consumption or bait.

Possession of Fish taken from Public Water

- Any fish caught must be taken by legal means and methods. Fish caught and immediately released are not considered to be in your possession. Any fish not immediately released that are retained by using any type of holding device such as stringer, cooler, livewell, or bucket are considered in your possession and must adhere to established protected length and bag limits. While fishing, it is illegal to be in possession of more fish than the daily bag limit or fish that are within a protected length limit.
- In order to verify length and species, a fish caught may not have the head or tail removed and may not be filleted until an angler finally lands the catch on the mainland, a peninsula, or barrier island not including jetties or piers and does not transport the catch by boat. Broadbill swordfish, shark, and king mackerel may have the head or tail removed, but the carcass must remain intact and may not be filleted.
- Any fish taken from public water and landed by boat or person in Texas must adhere to the protected length limits and daily bag and possession limits established for those fish in Texas regardless of the state or country in which they were caught.
- The bag limit for a guided fishing party is equal to the total number of persons in the boat licensed to fish or otherwise exempt from holding a license minus each fishing guide and fishing guide deckhand multiplied by the bag limit for each species harvested.

Special Area Designations and Restrictions

- **It is a violation to** move, remove, deface, alter, or destroy any sign, depth marker, or other informational signage placed by the department within, or to delineate boundaries of the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area.
- **It is a violation to** uproot seagrass from the bay bottom in Redfish Bay State Scientific Area using a propeller. It is not a violation to anchor a vessel or use an electric trolling motor in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area. Information for the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area and seagrass can be found at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/seagrass/>
- **Rio Grande:** Portions of the Rio Grande adjacent to the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area are designated as a "Wild and Scenic River." Special federal rules apply to fishing, boating, and other uses in these areas. For more information concerning these rules and boundaries, call the Big Bend National Park at (432) 477-2251 (menu 3, option 3).

RESERVOIR BOUNDARIES (For bag, possession and length limits):

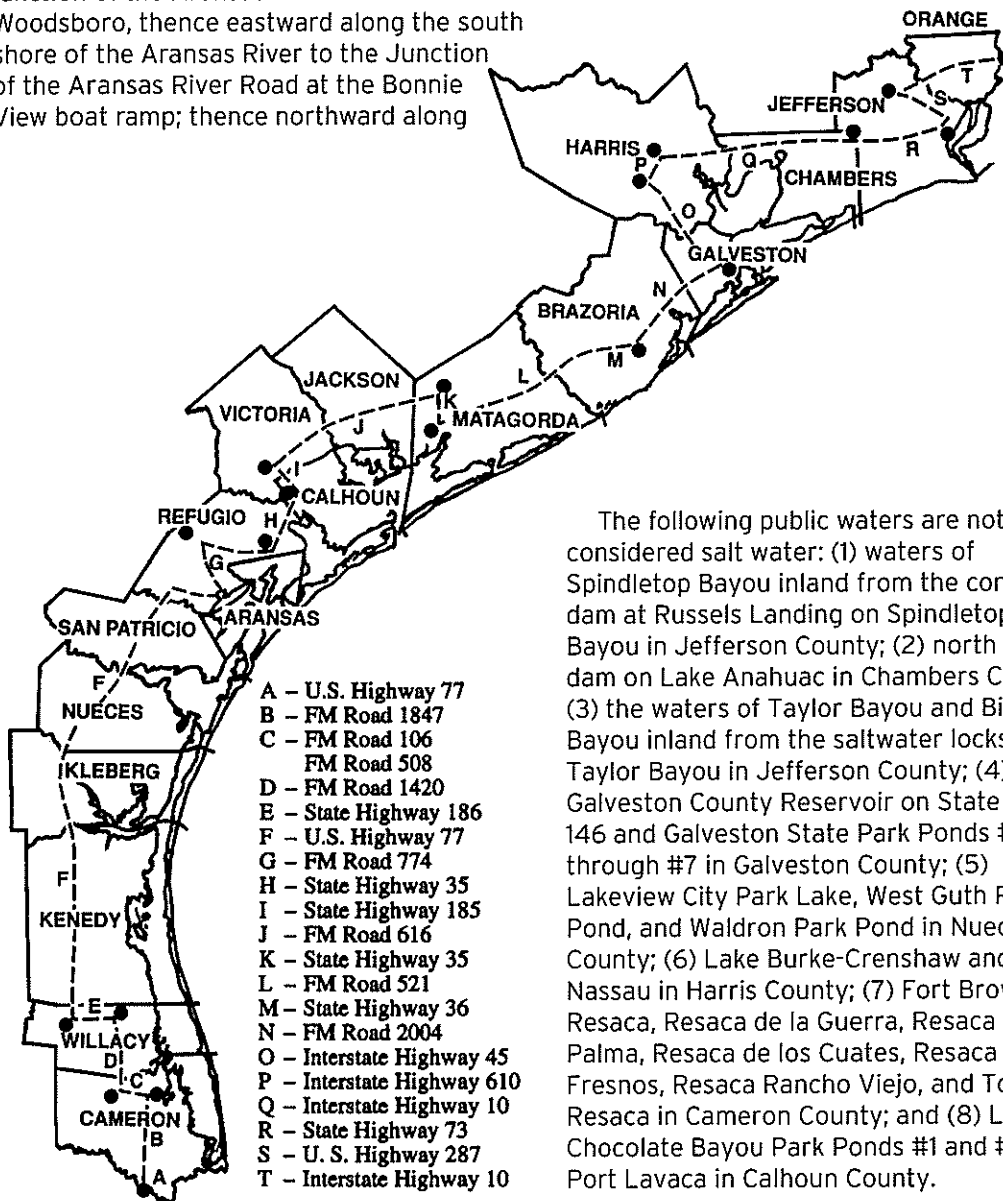
- Buchanan Reservoir in Burnet, Lampasas, Llano, and San Saba counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from Lake Buchanan dam upstream to the U.S. Hwy. 190 bridge.
- Caddo Lake in Marion and Harrison counties comprises all impounded waters of Big Cypress Bayou from the Texas-Louisiana border upstream to the State Hwy. 43 bridge.
- Canyon Reservoir in Comal County comprises all impounded waters of the Guadalupe River from the Canyon dam upstream to the U.S. Hwy. 281 bridge.
- Lake Conroe in Montgomery and Walker counties comprises all impounded waters of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River from the Lake Conroe Dam upstream to FM Road 1791 bridge.
- Cooper Lake (Jim L. Chapman Lake) in Delta and Hopkins counties comprises all waters within the Corps of Engineers lands on Cooper Lake upstream from State Hwy. 19/154 and downstream from FM Road 71.
- Lake Georgetown in Williamson County comprises all impounded waters of the North Fork of the San Gabriel River from the Lake Georgetown Dam upstream to U.S. Hwy. 183 bridge.
- Gibbons Creek Reservoir in Grimes County comprises all waters within the Texas Municipal Power Agency property boundaries.
- Inks Lake in Burnet and Llano counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the Roy Inks Dam (Inks Lake Dam) upstream to the Lake Buchanan Dam.
- Lake Limestone in Leon, Limestone, and Robertson counties comprises all impounded waters of the Navasota River from the Lake Limestone dam upstream to the Fort Parker State Park Lake Dam.
- Lake Livingston in Leon, Houston, Madison, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties comprises all impounded waters of the Trinity River from the Lake Livingston Dam upstream to the lock and dam near State Hwy. 7.
- Lake Lyndon B. Johnson in Burnet and Llano counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the Alvin Wirtz Dam (Lake Lyndon B. Johnson Dam) upstream to the Roy Inks Dam (Inks Lake Dam) including the Llano River upstream to the State Hwy. 16 bridge and Sandy Creek upstream to the State Hwy. 71 bridge.
- Lake Marble Falls in Burnet County comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the Max Starcke Dam (Lake Marble Falls Dam) upstream to the Alvin Wirtz Dam (Lake Lyndon B. Johnson Dam).
- Lake Murvaul in Panola County comprises all impounded waters of Murvaul Creek Bayou upstream from the Lake Murvaul Dam and Murvaul Creek Bayou downstream from the dam to FM Road 1970 bridge.
- Lake O' The Pines in Camp, Marion, Morris, and Upshur counties comprises all impounded waters of Big Cypress Creek from the Ferrell's Bridge Dam (Lake O' The Pines Dam) upstream to U.S. Hwy. 259 bridge.
- Lake Palestine in Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Smith, and Van Zandt counties comprises all impounded waters of the Neches River from the Blackburn Crossing Dam (Lake Palestine Dam) upstream to FM Road 279 bridge, including Kickapoo and Flat Creeks in Henderson County.
- Lake Pat Mayse in Lamar County comprises all impounded waters of Sanders Creek from Pat Mayse Lake Dam upstream to County Road 35610.
- Purtis Creek State Park Lake in Henderson and Van Zandt counties comprises all waters within the Purtis Creek State Park boundaries.
- Lake Somerville in Burleson, Lee, Milam, and Washington counties comprises all impounded waters of Yegua, East Yegua and Middle Yegua Creeks upstream from the Lake Somerville Dam.
- Toledo Bend Reservoir in Newton, Panola, Sabine, and Shelby counties comprises all impounded waters of the Sabine River from Toledo Bend Dam upstream to the Texas - Louisiana state line in Panola County.
- Lake Travis in Burnet and Travis counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the Mansfield Dam (Lake Travis Dam) upstream to the Max Starcke Dam (Lake Mansfield Dam), including the Pedernales River upstream to the Hammetts Crossing-Hamilton Pool Road bridge.

FRESHWATER/SALTWATER BOUNDARY

All public waters east and south of the following boundary are considered salt water: beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Brownsville, northward along U.S. Hwy. 77 to the junction of Paredes Lines Road (FM Road 1847) in Brownsville, thence northward along FM Road 1847 to the junction of FM Road 106 east of Rio Hondo, thence westward along FM Road 106 to the junction of FM Road 508 in Rio Hondo, thence northward along FM Road 508 to the junction of FM Road 1420, thence northward along FM Road 1420 to the junction of State Hwy. 186 east of Raymondville, thence westward along State Hwy. 186 to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 77 near Raymondville, thence northward along U.S. Hwy. 77 to the junction of the Aransas River south of Woodsboro, thence eastward along the south shore of the Aransas River to the Junction of the Aransas River Road at the Bonnie View boat ramp; thence northward along

the Aransas River Road to the junction of FM Road 136 to FM Road 2678 to the junction of FM Road 774 in Refugio, thence eastward along FM Road 774 to the junction of State Hwy. 35 south of Tivoli, thence northward along State Hwy. 35 to the junction of State Hwy. 185 between Bloomington and Seadrift, thence the junction of Interstate Hwy. 10 in Houston, thence eastward along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the junction of State Hwy. 73 in Winnie, thence eastward along State Hwy. 73 to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 287 in Port Arthur, thence northwestward along U.S. Hwy. 287 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 10 in Beaumont, thence eastward along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the Louisiana State Line.

FISHING REGULATIONS



The following public waters are not considered salt water: (1) waters of Spindletop Bayou inland from the concrete dam at Russels Landing on Spindletop Bayou in Jefferson County; (2) north of the dam on Lake Anahuac in Chambers County; (3) the waters of Taylor Bayou and Big Hill Bayou inland from the saltwater locks on Taylor Bayou in Jefferson County; (4) Galveston County Reservoir on State Hwy. 146 and Galveston State Park Ponds #1 through #7 in Galveston County; (5) Lakeview City Park Lake, West Guth Park Pond, and Waldron Park Pond in Nueces County; (6) Lake Burke-Crenshaw and Lake Nassau in Harris County; (7) Fort Brown Resaca, Resaca de la Guerra, Resaca de la Palma, Resaca de los Cuates, Resaca de los Fresnos, Resaca Rancho Viejo, and Town Resaca in Cameron County; and (8) Little Chocolate Bayou Park Ponds #1 and #2 in Port Lavaca in Calhoun County.

DEFINITIONS

Artificial Lure:

Any lure (including flies) with hook or hooks attached that is man-made and is used as a bait while fishing.

Bait:

Something used to lure any wildlife resource. It is unlawful to use game fish or any part thereof as bait.

Community Fishing Lake:

All public impoundments 75 acres or smaller located totally within an incorporated city limits or a public park, and all impoundments of any size lying totally within the boundaries of a state park. See pgs. 38-41 for a listing of specific fishing regulations for these waters. For a list of Community Fishing Lakes in your area, call (800) 792-1112 (menu 3) or check the TPWD Website at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/>

Daily Bag:

Quantity of a species of a wildlife resource, such as fish, that may be taken in one day.

Day:

A 24-hour period of time that begins at midnight and ends at midnight.

Fishing:

Taking or attempting to take aquatic animal life by any means.

Fishing Guide:

A person who, for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports a person or persons engaged in fishing in the water of this state.

Fishing Guide Deck Hand:

A person in the employ of a fishing guide who assists in operating a boat for compensation to accompany or to transport a person or persons engaged in fishing in the water of this state.

Game Fish (includes hybrids or subspecies of fish on this list):

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Bass: Guadalupe, largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, striped, white, yellow) | • Pickerel | • Spearfish, longbill |
| • Catfish: blue, channel, flathead | • Red drum | • Swordfish, broadbill |
| • Cobia | • Sailfish | • Tarpon |
| • Crappie: black, white | • Sauger | • Tripletail |
| • Mackerel: king, Spanish | • Seatrout, spotted | • Trout: brown, rainbow |
| • Marlin: blue, white | • Sharks | • Wahoo |
| | • Snook | • Walleye |

Gear Tag:

A tag constructed of material as durable as the device to which it is attached. The gear tag must be legible, contain the name and address of the person using the device and the date the device was set out. Date is not required for saltwater trotlines or crab traps. For juglines and freshwater trotlines, properly-marked buoys or floats qualify as valid gear tags.

Nongame Fish:

All species not listed as game fish except endangered and threatened fish which are defined and regulated under separate rules.

Permanent Residence:

One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place. This does not include one's temporary abode or dwelling such as a hunting/fishing club, or any club house, cabin, tent, car, truck, or trailer house used as a hunting/fishing club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, fishing, pleasure, or business trip.

Possession Limit:

The maximum number of fish a person may possess before returning to their permanent residence. Possession limit is twice the daily bag on game and nongame fish, except as provided in this guide, and does not apply to fish in the possession of or stored by a person at their permanent residence.

Wildlife Resources:

Any wild animal, wild bird, or aquatic life.

Legal Freshwater and Saltwater Devices and Restrictions for Fish

ONLY DEVICES AND RESTRICTIONS LISTED MAY BE USED TO TAKE OR ATTEMPT TO TAKE AQUATIC LIFE.

GAME FISH may be taken only by pole and line (which includes rod and reel), except as otherwise provided in this guide.

A person may fish with **multiple poles** or other devices, except as provided in this guide. **In fresh water, it is unlawful** to fish with more than 100 hooks on all devices combined.

In fresh water, it is unlawful to take fish with a hand operated device held underwater except that a spear or spear gun may be used to take NONGAME fish.

CAST NET: A net that can be hand-thrown over an area.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish and shrimp only (see shrimp regulations, pg. 46).
- May not be greater than 14 feet in diameter.
- In **SALT WATER**, nongame fish may be taken for bait purposes only.

DIP NET: A mesh bag suspended from a frame attached to a handle.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish only.
- May be used to aid in the landing of fish caught by other legal devices.
- In **SALT WATER**, nongame fish may be taken for bait purposes only.

GAFF: Any hand-held pole with a hook attached directly to the pole.

- May only be used to aid in the landing of fish caught by other legal devices, means, or methods.
- Fish landed with a gaff **MAY NOT** be below the minimum, above the maximum, or within a protected length limit.

GIG: Any hand-held shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish only.

HAND FISHING: Fishing by the use of hands only and without any other fishing device such as gaff, pole hook, trap, or spear.

- May be used to take channel, blue, and flathead catfish in fresh water only.

JUGLINE: For use in **FRESH WATER** only. A fishing line with five or less hooks tied to a free-floating device.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish, channel catfish, blue catfish, and flathead catfish only.
- **Placement and Location Restrictions:** Juglines may not be used in
 - Community Fishing Lakes (see pg. 32 for definition)
 - Reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park
 - Lake Bastrop in Bastrop County
 - Bellwood Lake in Smith County
 - Lake Bryan in Brazos County
 - Boerne City Lake in Kendall County
 - Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County
 - Dixieland Reservoir in Cameron County
 - Gibbons Creek Reservoir in Grimes County
 - North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam
 - Lake Pflugerville in Travis County
 - South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam
 - Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County
 - Wheeler Branch Reservoir in Somervell County
- **Tagging and Marking Requirements:**
 - Must be used with a valid **GEAR TAG** (see pg. 32) attached within 6 inches of the free-floating device; gear tag is valid for 30 days after the date set out and must include the number of the permit to sell nongame fish taken from fresh water, if applicable. Properly-marked buoys or floats qualify as valid gear tags.
 - For non-commercial purposes, a jugline must be marked with a white, free-floating device.
 - For commercial purposes, a jugline must be marked with an orange, free-floating device.

LAWFUL ARCHERY EQUIPMENT: Includes longbow, recurved bow, compound bow, and crossbow.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish only.
- Any fish that is edible or can be used for bait (includes all gar species, common carp, and buffalo) may not be released back into the water after being taken with lawful archery equipment. See also "Waste of Fish" on pg. 29.
- State regulations permit bow fishing in most public waters (see Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations, pgs. 37-41). Additionally, bow fishers are advised to check with local authorities that may have ordinances restricting use of archery equipment.

NEW LAW: Bow fishing is now legal on navigable rivers or streams in Dimmit, Edwards, Frio, Kenedy, Llano, Maverick, Real, Uvalde and Zavala counties; however, a person while bowfishing may not possess an arrow equipped with fletching of any kind, an unbarbed arrow, or a bow that is not equipped with a reel and line.

MINNOW TRAP:

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish only.
- Trap may not exceed 24 inches in length. The throat may not exceed 1 inch by 3 inches.
- In **SALT WATER**: **GEAR TAG** (see pg. 32) valid for only 30 days must be visibly attached.

PERCH TRAPS: For use in **SALT WATER** only.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish only.
- May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
- Must be marked with a floating visible orange buoy not less than 6 inches in height and 6 inches in width. The buoy must have a **GEAR TAG** (see pg. 32) valid only for 30 days attached.
- Must be equipped with a degradable panel as described for crab traps (see pg. 50).
- Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
- It is unlawful to place any type of trap within the area in Cedar Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedar Bayou and the department sign erected near the point where the pass empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

POLE AND LINE (which includes rod and reel): A line with hook, attached to a pole.

- May be used to take **GAME AND NONGAME** fish.
- It is unlawful to take or attempt to take fish with one or more hooks attached to a line or artificial lure used in a manner to foul-hook a fish (snagging or jerking). A fish is foul-hooked when caught by a hook in an area other than the fish's mouth.
- Game and nongame fish may be taken by pole and line, except that in the Guadalupe River in Comal County from the second bridge crossing on River Road upstream to the easternmost bridge crossing on FM Road 306, rainbow and brown trout may not be retained when taken by any method except artificial lures. In this area only, artificial lures cannot contain or have attached either whole or portions, living or dead, of organisms such as fish, crayfish, insects (grubs, larvae or adults) or worms, any other animal or vegetable material, or synthetic scented materials. This does not prohibit the use of artificial lures that contain components of hair or feathers. It is an offense to possess rainbow and brown trout while fishing with any other device in that part of the Guadalupe River defined in this paragraph.
- Pole and line is the only lawful method for taking game fish and nongame fish from Community Fishing Lakes (see definition, pg. 32; includes impoundments lying totally within the boundaries of a state park), sections of rivers lying totally within boundaries of a state park, the North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam, the South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam, Wheeler Branch Reservoir, and Lake Pflugerville.

SAIL LINE: For use in **SALT WATER** only. A type of trotline with one end of the main line fixed on the shore, the other end of the main line attached to a wind-powered floating device or sail.

- Nongame fish, red drum, spotted seatrout, and sharks may be taken with a sail line.
- No more than one sail line may be used per fisherman.
- The sail line must be attended at all times the line is fishing.
- Sail lines may not be used by the holder of a commercial fishing license.
- Sail lines may be used seven days a week.
- **Tag Requirements:** Must have a valid **SALTWATER TROTLINE TAG** for each 300 feet of mainline or fraction thereof being fished.
- **Construction and Design Restrictions:**
 - Sail line may not exceed 1,800 feet from reel to sail.
 - Sail and the most shoreward float must be bright orange or red color. All other floats must be yellow. **No float** may be more than 200 feet from the sail.
 - A weight of 1 ounce or more must be attached to the line not less than 4 feet or more than 6 feet shoreward of the most shoreward float.
 - Reflectors of not less than 2 square inches shall be attached to the sail and floats. They must be easily seen from all directions. This applies for sail lines operated from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
 - May have no more than 30 hooks.
 - There is no hook spacing requirement.
 - No hook may be placed more than 200 feet from the sail.
 - May be baited with either natural or artificial bait.
- **Placement and Location Restrictions:**
 - Must meet placement and location requirements for saltwater trotlines (see pg. 36).

SEINE: (Includes a push net.) A section of non-metallic mesh webbing, with the top edge buoyed upwards by a floatline and the bottom edge weighted.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish and shrimp only.
- May not be longer than 20 feet.
- May not have mesh exceeding 1/2-inch square.
- Must be manually operated.
- In **SALT WATER**, nongame fish may be taken by seine for bait purposes only.

SHAD TRAWL: For use in **FRESH WATER** only. A bag-shaped net which is dragged along the bottom or through the water to catch aquatic life.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish only.
- May not be longer than 6 feet or with a mouth larger than 36 inches in diameter.
- May be equipped with a funnel or throat and must be towed by boat or hand.

SPEAR: Any shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless, which may be propelled by any means, but does not include arrows. May be used to take **NONGAME** fish only.

SPEAR GUN: Any hand operated device designed and used for propelling a spear, but does not include the crossbow. May be used to take **NONGAME** fish only, not a legal means to take fish in a community fishing lake.

THROWLINE: For use in **FRESH WATER** only. A fishing line with five or less hooks and with one end attached to a permanent fixture. Components of a throwline may also include swivels, snaps, rubber, and rigid support structures.

- May be used to take **NONGAME** fish, channel catfish, blue catfish, and flathead catfish only.
- **Placement and Location Restrictions:** Throwlines may not be used in:
 - Community Fishing Lakes (see pg. 32 for definition)
 - Reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park
 - Lake Bastrop in Bastrop County
 - Bellwood Lake in Smith County
 - Lake Bryan in Brazos County
 - Boerne City Lake in Kendall County
 - Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County
 - Dixieland Reservoir in Cameron County
 - Gibbons Creek Reservoir in Grimes County
 - North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam
 - Lake Pflugerville in Travis County
 - South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam
 - Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County
 - Wheeler Branch Reservoir in Somervell County

TRAWL (INDIVIDUAL BAIT-SHRIMP TRAWL): For use in **SALT WATER** only. A bag-shaped net which is dragged along the bottom or through the water to catch aquatic life.

- See pg. 46 under Shrimp Regulations for trawl design restrictions.
- Nongame fish (EXCEPT those species regulated by bag or size limits) taken incidental to legal shrimping operations may be retained.
- "Legal shrimping operations" means the use of a legal trawl in places, at times, and in manners as authorized by TPWD (see section on Shrimp for details).
- 200 nongame fish taken with an individual bait-shrimp trawl may be retained per person for **BAIT PURPOSES ONLY**.

TROTLINE: A non-metallic main fishing line with more than five hooks attached and with each end attached to a fixture.

- Nongame fish, channel catfish, blue catfish, and flathead catfish may be taken by trotline.
- Red drum, spotted seatrout, and sharks caught on a trotline may not be retained or possessed.
- **General Construction and Design Restrictions:** Trotlines may not be used with:
 - a mainline length exceeding 600 feet;
 - hooks spaced less than 3 horizontal feet apart;
 - metallic stakes;
 - or the main fishing line and attached hooks and stagings placed above the water's surface.

TROTLINES IN FRESH WATER

- **Tag Requirements:** Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (see pg. 32). Properly-marked buoys or floats qualify as valid gear tags. Gear tags must be attached within 3 feet of the first hook at each end of the trotline and are valid for 30 days after the date set out.
- **Construction and Design Restrictions:** May not have more than 50 hooks on any one trotline.
- **Placement and Location Restrictions:** Trotlines may not be used in:
 - Community Fishing Lakes (see pg. 32 for definition)
 - Reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park
 - Lake Bastrop in Bastrop County
 - Bellwood Lake in Smith County
 - Lake Bryan in Brazos County
 - Boerne City Lake in Kendall County
 - Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County

- Dixieland Reservoir in Cameron County
- Fayette County Reservoir in Fayette County
- Gibbons Creek Reservoir in Grimes County
- North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam
- Pinkston Reservoir in Shelby County
- Lake Pflugerville in Travis County
- South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam
- Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County
- Wheeler Branch Reservoir in Somervell County

TROTTLINES IN SALT WATER

- No more than 1 trotline may be used per fisherman.
- **Tag Requirements:**
 - Must have a valid SALTWATER TROTLINE TAG attached to each 300 feet of mainline or fraction thereof. (Must be purchased at TPWD Law Enforcement offices, see pg. 18.)
 - Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (see pg. 32) attached within 3 feet of the first hook at each end of the trotline. Tag does not need to be dated.
- **Construction and Design Restrictions:**
 - Must be marked with a yellow floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length, and 6 inches in width, bearing a two-inch wide stripe of contrasting color, attached to end fixtures.
 - Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
 - May not be baited with other than natural bait. Natural bait is a whole or cut-up portion of a fish or shellfish or a whole or cut-up portion of plant material in its natural state, provided that none of these may be altered beyond cutting into portions.
 - May not be used with hooks other than circle-type hook with point curved in and having a gap (distance from point to shank) of no more than one-half inch, and with the diameter of the circle not less than five-eighths inch (comparable to Mustad 11/0 circle hook Model #3996OST).
- **Placement and Location Restrictions:**
 - May not be used in or on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within the jurisdiction of this state.
 - May not be placed closer than 50 feet from any other trotline, or set within 200 feet of the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway or its tributary channels.
 - May not be used in Aransas County in Little Bay and the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula, then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine-Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island, including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula.
 - No trotline or trotline components (EXCEPT Sail Lines), including lines and hooks, but excluding poles, may be left in or on coastal waters between the hours of 1 p.m. on Friday through 1 p.m. on Sunday of each week, except that attended sail lines are excluded from the restrictions imposed by this clause. In the event small craft advisories or higher marine weather advisories issued by the National Weather Service are in place at 8 a.m. on Friday, trotlines may remain in the water until 6 p.m. on Friday. If small craft advisories are in place at 1 p.m. on Friday, trotlines may remain in the water until Saturday. When small craft advisories are lifted by 8 a.m. on Saturday, trotlines must be removed by 6 p.m. on Saturday. When small craft advisories or higher marine weather advisories are still in place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, trotlines may remain in the water through 1 p.m. on Sunday. It is a violation to tend, bait, or harvest fish or any other aquatic life from trotlines during the period that trotline removal requirements are suspended under this provision for adverse weather conditions. For purposes of enforcement, the geographic area customarily covered by marine weather advisories will be delineated by department policy.

UMBRELLA NET: A non-metallic mesh net that is suspended horizontally in the water by multiple lines attached to a rigid frame.

- May be used to take crabs and **NONGAME** fish only.
- May not have within the frame an area that exceeds 16 square feet.

Freshwater Fishing Harvest Regulations

- Statewide regulations apply for all public fresh waters except for those locations noted in the Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations on pgs. 37-41.
- A person taking or attempting to take game and nongame fish from freshwater for non-commercial purposes is required to have a valid fishing license and a freshwater fishing stamp endorsement.
- The only exception to the statewide possession limits, which are twice the daily bag limits, is for striped bass from Lake Texoma (see pg. 39). Please note that on Caddo Reservoir, Kirby Reservoir, Lake Livingston, Palestine Reservoir, the Sabine River below Toledo Bend Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir where some daily bag limits are larger than the statewide daily bag, the possession limits remain twice the statewide daily bag limits listed on pg. 37.
- For saltwater finfish species caught in the public fresh waters of this state, statewide bag, possession, and length limits as listed on pgs. 44-45 apply.
- Some reservoirs have special regulations for red drum. See Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations.

Statewide Bag and Length Limits (see below and pgs. 38-41 for exceptions)

Daily bag and possession limit defined on pg. 32.

Species	Daily Bag	Length in Inches (Minimum)
Bass:		
largemouth and smallmouth	5 (in any combination)	14
spotted and Guadalupe		No limit
Bass, striped and hybrid striped bass (also known as palmetto or sunshine bass)	5 (in any combination)	18
Bass, white	25	10
Bass, yellow	No limit	No limit
Catfish: channel and blue catfish, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination)	12
Catfish, flathead	5	18
Crappie: white and black crappie, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination)	10
Paddlefish	No harvest allowed	
Gar, alligator	1 ^a	No limit
Saugeye	3	18
Sunfish: various species including bluegill, redear, green, warmouth and longear	No limit	No limit
Trout: rainbow and brown trout, their hybrids and subspecies	5 (in any combination)	No limit
Walleye	5 (only two can be less than 16 inches in length)	No limit

For fishes not listed above, there are **NO** statewide bag or length limits. There are special requirements associated with the harvest of harmful or potentially harmful exotic fishes (tilapia, grass carp); see pg. 28.

^aSee notes on "Lawful Archery Equipment" on pg. 33.

Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations

Bait Fish Exceptions

In Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Kinney, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward, and Winkler counties, the only fishes that may be used or possessed for bait while fishing are common carp, fathead minnows, gizzard and threadfin shad, golden shiners, goldfish, Mexican tetra, Rio Grande cichlid, silversides (Atherinidae family) and sunfish (Lepomis).

How to use the table (pgs. 38-41): First, look for your location of interest (lake or river) under **Location**. The locations are listed in alphabetical order. If you find the location you are looking for, first check the counties listed to the right of the locations to make sure you have the correct location. If those match, continue reading to the right and note the codes for regulation exceptions. Exception codes are listed starting on pg. 40.

For instance, Lake Braunig is located in Bexar County. The codes for regulations that are exceptions to statewide regulations are **Bass7** and **RDrm1**. Locate these codes listed on pgs. 40-41. Then read the description for each regulation exception. Please note MLL = Minimum Length Limit.

If you do not find the location you are looking for, that means **statewide regulations apply**. Please see above for Statewide Bag and Length Limits. If the lake is less than 75 acres and within a public park, it is most likely a **Community Fishing Lake**. See the Community Fishing Lakes listing for regulation exceptions and also see the definition on pg. 32.

Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations (see "How to use the table" on pg. 37)

Location	County(ies)	Exceptions		
Alan Henry	Garza	Bass14		
Aquilla	Hill	Bass7		
Athens	Henderson	Bass9		
Bastrop	Bastrop	Bass9	Gear3	
Bellwood	Smith	Bass7	Ctfsh1	Gear3
Boerne City Lake	Kendall	Gear3		
Braunig	Bexar	Bass7	RDrm1	
Bridgeport	Jack / Wise	Bass8		
Bright	Williamson	Bass7	Ctfsh2	Gear2
Brushy Creek Lake	Williamson	Bass7	Ctfsh2	Gear2
Bryan	Brazos	Bass7	Gear3	
Buck	Kimble	Bass4	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Buescher State Park Lake	Bastrop	Bass9	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Burke-Crenshaw	Harris	Bass8	Ctfsh2	Gear2
Caddo*	Harrison / Marion	Bass16 Ctfsh9	Crpie1 S&W5	Ctfsh8
Calaveras	Bexar	Bass7	RDrm1	
Casa Blanca	Webb	Bass7		
Cleburne State Park Lake	Johnson	Bass7	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Coffee Mill	Fannin	Gear3		
Coletto Creek Reservoir	Goliad / Victoria	RDrm1		
Community Fishing Lakes (except Reservoirs totally within State Parks; see State Park Lakes, pg. 39)	Various - See pg. 32 for definition	Ctfsh2	Gear2	
Concho River (North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam and South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam)	Tom Green	Ctfsh2	Gear1	
Conroe*	Montgomery / Walker	Bass6		
Cooper (Jim L. Chapman)*	Delta / Hopkins	Bass7		
Davy Crockett	Fannin	Bass8	Gear3	
Devils River	Val Verde - State Hwy. 163 bridge downstream to Dolan Falls	Bass12		
Dixieland	Cameron	Ctfsh1	Gear3	
Elm	Fort Bend	Ctfsh2	Gear1	
Fairfield	Freestone	Bass7	RDrm1	
Fayette County	Fayette	Bass10	Gear4	
Fork	Hopkins / Rains / Wood	Bass11	Crpie2	
Fort Parker State Park Lake	Limestone	Ctfsh2	Gear1	
Fort Phantom Hill	Jones	Bass6		
Georgetown*	Williamson	Bass8		
Gibbons Creek Reservoir*	Grimes	Bass10	Gear3	
Gilmer	Upshur	Bass7		
Granbury	Hood	Bass6		
Grapevine	Denton / Tarrant	Bass8		
Guadalupe River#	Comal	Trout1		
Houston County	Houston	Bass9		
Jacksonville	Cherokee	Bass7		
Joe Pool	Dallas / Ellis / Tarrant	Bass9		
Kirby	Taylor	Ctfsh8		
Kyle	Hays	Bass9	Ctfsh2	Gear2

FISHING REGULATIONS

*See Reservoir Boundaries on pg. 30. #See pg. 34 for boundaries under Pole and Line.

Location	County(ies)	Exceptions		
Lady Bird (Town)	Travis	Bass9	Carp1	
Lake O' The Pines*	Marion / Morris / Upshur	Crpie2		
Lewisville	Denton	Ctfsh7		
Livingston*	Houston / Leon / Madison / Polk / San Jacinto / Trinity / Walker	Ctfsh3		
Lost Maples State Natural Area	Bandera	Bass3	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Madisonville	Madison	Bass8		
Marine Creek	Tarrant	Bass7		
Meredith	Hutchinson / Moore / Potter	Bass13		
Meridian State Park Lake	Bosque	Bass7	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Mill Creek Lake	Van Zandt	Bass9		
Mineral Wells	Parker	Ctfsh2	Gear1	
Monticello	Titus	Bass10		
Murvaul*	Panola	Bass9		
Nacogdoches	Nacogdoches	Bass1		
Nelson Park Lake	Taylor	Bass4	Ctfsh2	Gear2
O.H. Ivie	Coleman / Concho / Runnels	Bass12	Bass15	
Old Mt. Pleasant City	Titus	Bass7	Ctfsh2	Gear2
Palestine	Anderson / Cherokee / Henderson / Smith	Ctfsh8		
Pflugerville	Travis	Bass7	Gear1	
Pifant	Fort Bend	Ctfsh2	Gear1	
Pinkston	Shelby	Bass9	Gear4	
Possum Kingdom	Palo Pinto / Stephens / Young	Bass6	S&W6	
Proctor	Comanche	Bass6		
Purtis Creek SP Lake*	Henderson / Van Zandt	Bass5	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Raven	Walker	Bass5	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Ratcliff	Houston	Bass6	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Red River below Lake Texoma	Grayson	S&W3	Ctfsh4	
Richland Chambers	Freestone / Navarro	Ctfsh7		
Sections of Rivers within State Parks	Various	Gear1		
Rusk State Park Lake	Cherokee	Bass7	Ctfsh2	Gear1
Sabine River (from Toledo Bend Dam to I-10 Bridge)	Newton / Orange	Bass2 Ctfsh9	Crpie1 S&W2	Ctfsh8 S&W5
San Augustine City	San Augustine	Bass8		
Sheldon	Harris	Ctfsh2	Gear1	
State Park Lakes (includes reservoirs totally within State Parks)	Various	Ctfsh2	Gear1	
Sweetwater	Nolan	Bass8		
Tankersley	Titus	Ctfsh1	Gear3	
Texoma	Cooke / Grayson	S&W1 Crpie3	S&W5 Wall1	Ctfsh5 Gar1
Timpson	Shelby	Bass9		
Toledo Bend*	Newton / Panola / Sabine / Shelby	Bass2 Ctfsh9	Crpie1 S&W2	Ctfsh8 S&W5
Tradinghouse Creek Reservoir	McLennan	RDRm1		
Trinity River	Polk / San Jacinto	S&W4	Ctfsh6	Shad1
Waco	McLennan	Ctfsh7		
Walter E. Long	Travis	Bass9		
Welsh	Titus	Bass7		
Wheeler Branch	Somervell	Bass9	Bass12	Gear1

FISHING REGULATIONS

*See Reservoir Boundaries on pg. 30.

REGULATION EXCEPTION CODES AND DESCRIPTIONS:

BASS (LARGEMOUTH, SMALLMOUTH, SPOTTED AND GUADALUPE BASS):

Bass1 - For largemouth bass, only bass 16 inches in length or less may be retained. Daily bag = 5 bass. Bass 24 inches or greater in length may be temporarily retained in a live well or other aerated holding device and immediately weighed using personal scales. Bass weighing 13 pounds or more may be donated to the Share-Lunker Program; otherwise, the fish must be immediately released in Lake Nacogdoches. Anglers wishing to donate their bass must immediately cease fishing and contact TPWD at (903) 681-0550. Anglers may not remove the bass from the immediate vicinity of the reservoir unless instructed to do so by TPWD staff. Bass not accepted by TPWD must be immediately released.

Bass2 - Daily bag for all four species of bass = 8 bass in any combination. Possession limit = 10.

Bass3 - Catch and release only for largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, and Guadalupe bass.

Bass4 - Catch and release only for largemouth bass.

Bass5 - Catch and release only for largemouth bass, except that any bass 24 inches or greater in length may be temporarily retained in a live well or other aerated holding device and immediately weighed using personal scales. Bass weighing 13 pounds or more may be donated to the ShareLunker Program; otherwise, the fish must be immediately released in the lake where caught. Anglers wishing to donate their bass must immediately cease fishing and contact TPWD at (903) 681-0550. Anglers may not remove the bass from the immediate vicinity of the reservoir unless instructed to do so by TPWD staff. Bass not accepted by TPWD must be immediately released.

Bass6 - For largemouth bass, MLL = 16 inches, and daily bag for all four species of bass = 5 bass in any combination.

Bass7 - For largemouth bass; MLL = 18 inches, and daily bag for all four species of bass = 5 bass in any combination.

Bass8 - For largemouth bass, length limit is a 14-18 slot. Bass 14 inches and less or 18 inches or greater in length may be retained, and daily bag for all four species of bass = 5 bass in any combination.

Bass9 - For largemouth bass, length limit is a 14-21 slot. Bass 14 inches and less or 21 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one bass 21 inches or greater may be retained each day.

Bass10 - For largemouth bass, length limit is a 14-24 slot. Bass 14 inches and less or 24 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one bass 24 inches or greater may be retained each day.

Bass11 - For largemouth bass, length limit is a 16-24 slot. Bass 16 inches and less or 24 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one bass 24 inches or greater may be retained each day.

Bass12 - For smallmouth bass, MLL = 18 inches and daily bag = 3.

Bass13 - For smallmouth bass, length limit is a 12-15 slot. Bass 12 inches and less or 15 inches or greater in length may be retained. Daily bag = 3.

Bass14 - For largemouth and spotted bass there is no MLL. Daily bag = 5 bass in any combination. Up to 5 largemouth or spotted bass may be retained; however, only 2 may be less than 18 inches.

Bass15 - For largemouth bass, no MLL, daily bag = 5. However, only two largemouth bass less than 18 inches may be retained each day.

Bass16 - For largemouth bass, length limit is a 14-18 slot. Largemouth bass 14 inches and less or 18 inches or greater in length may be retained, and daily bag for all bass species = 8 bass in any combination of which

no more than four may be largemouth bass 18 inches greater. Possession limit = 10

BASS (STRIPED, WHITE, AND HYBRID STRIPED BASS):

S&W1 - For striped bass and hybrid striped bass, no MLL, daily bag = 10 and possession limit = 20, and only two striped or hybrid striped bass, 20 inches or greater, may be retained each day. Culling of striped bass and hybrid striped bass is prohibited.

S&W2 - For striped bass, no MLL, daily bag = 5, and only two striped bass, 30 inches or greater, may be retained each day.

S&W3 - For striped bass and hybrid striped bass, no MLL and daily bag = 5. Culling of striped bass is prohibited.

S&W4 - For the Trinity River from the Lake Livingston dam downstream to the FM Road 3278 bridge, striped bass MLL = 18 inches and daily bag = 2.

S&W5 - For white bass, no MLL and daily bag = 25.

S&W6 - For striped bass and hybrid striped bass, MLL = 18 inches and daily bag = 2.

COMMON CARP:

Carp1 - For common carp, only one carp 33 inches or greater may be retained each day. There is no daily bag limit for carp less than 33 inches in length.

CATFISH (BLUE, CHANNEL, AND FLATHEAD CATFISH):

Ctfish1 - For channel and blue catfish, MLL = 12 and daily bag = 5 in any combination

Ctfish2 - For channel and blue catfish, no MLL and daily bag = 5 in any combination.

Ctfish3 - For channel and blue catfish, daily bag and possession limit = 50 in any combination. NOTE: Applies only to the portion of Lake Livingston in Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties.

Ctfish4 - For flathead catfish, MLL = 20 inches and daily bag = 5.

Ctfish5 - For blue and channel catfish, MLL = 12 and daily bag = 15. Only one blue catfish 30 inches or greater may be retained each day. For flathead catfish, MLL = 20 inches and daily bag = 5.

Ctfish6 - For the Trinity River from the Lake Livingston dam downstream to the FM Road 3278 bridge, blue and channel catfish MLL = 12 and daily bag = 10, of which only 2 fish can be 24 inches or larger.

Ctfish7 - For blue catfish, length limit is a 30- to 45-inch slot. Blue catfish 30 inches and less or 45 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one blue catfish 45 inches or greater may be retained each day. Daily bag = 25 blue and channel catfish in any combination.

Ctfish8 - For blue and channel catfish, no MLL and daily bag and possession limit = 50 in any combination of which no more than five blue or channel catfish 20 inches or greater may be retained.

Ctfish9 - For flathead catfish, daily bag = 10 and possession limit = 10.

CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE):

Crpie1 - For black and white crappie, there is no MLL and daily bag = 25 in any combination.

Crpie2 - For black and white crappie caught from DEC. 1 through the last day of FEB., there is no MLL, daily bag = 25 in any combination, and all crappie caught must be retained.

Crpie3 - For black and white crappie, MLL = 10 inches and daily bag = 37 in any combination. Possession limit = 50

GAR (ALLIGATOR):

Gar1 - During May, taking alligator gar is prohibited in the portion of Lake Texoma within the boundaries of

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge and from the U.S. 377 bridge (Willis Bridge) upstream to the IH 35 bridge.

GEAR AND METHODS: (see pg. 33 for Legal Freshwater and Saltwater Devices and Restrictions)

Gear1 - Fishing is by pole and line only.

Gear2 - Fishing is by pole and line only. Anglers may use no more than two poles while fishing.

Gear3 - Use of juglines, throwlines, and trotlines is prohibited.

Gear4 - Use of trotlines is prohibited.

RED DRUM:

RDm1 - For red drum, MLL = 20 inches and daily bag = 3 and no maximum length limit.

SHAD (GIZZARD AND THREADFIN SHAD):

Shad1 - For the Trinity River below Lake Livingston between Polk and San Jacinto counties, the daily bag for shad = 500 and the possession limit = 1,000 fish in any combination.

TROUT (RAINBOW AND BROWN TROUT):

Trout1 - For rainbow and brown trout, MLL = 18 inches and daily bag = 1 fish. Harvest of trout is by artificial lures only. See pg. 34 under Pole and Line for additional restrictions and area covered by this exception.

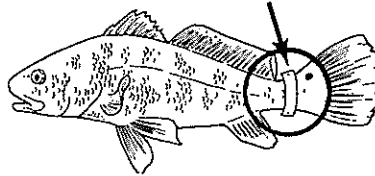
WALLEYE:

Wall1 - For walleye, MLL = 18 inches and daily bag = 5.

How to Attach Red Drum Tag

Immediately upon retaining a fish:

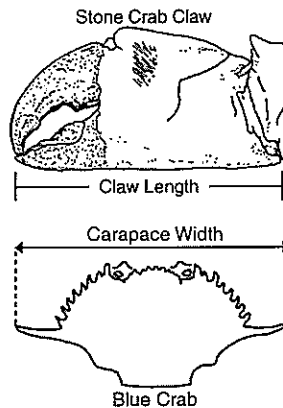
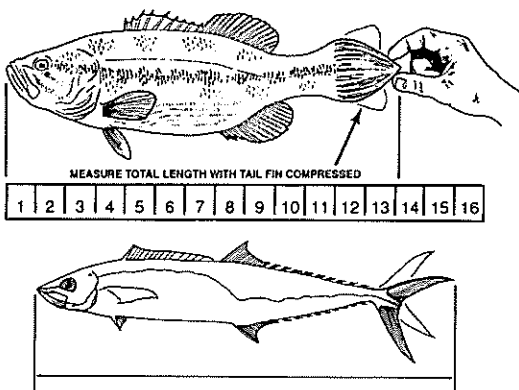
1. Remove tag from license and use entire tag.
2. Fill in ALL information spaces on front of tag.
3. Cut out day and month.
4. Attach tag with a string or wire to the narrowest part of the tail, just ahead of the tail fin (see diagram).



How to Measure Fish and Crabs

Use these guidelines to measure fish correctly:

1. Place the fish on its side with the jaw closed.
2. Squeeze the tail fin together or turn it in a way to obtain the maximum overall length.
3. Measure a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin.



Tips for Releasing Fish

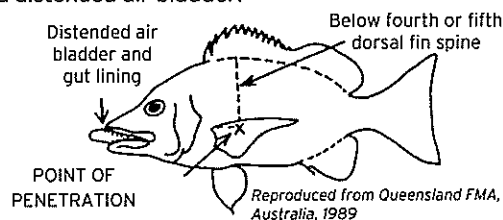
Releasing fish today means better fishing for tomorrow. Give your fish the best chance at survival by following these tips:

- Play and land fish as quickly as possible.
- Minimize the time fish is out of the water (no longer than you can hold your breath).
- Wet hands to avoid removing protective slime.
- Smaller fish (under 5 pounds) can be vertically held by the lower jaw. Never hold fish horizontally by jaw unless supporting with a second hand under the fish's body.
- Attempt to remove all hooks before release as most will not rust out.
- For details on hook removal, depressurizing overinflated air bladders, and more fish survival tips, see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/catchrelease/>

For saltwater fishes only

When releasing a fish that cannot right itself or is showing a distended air bladder:

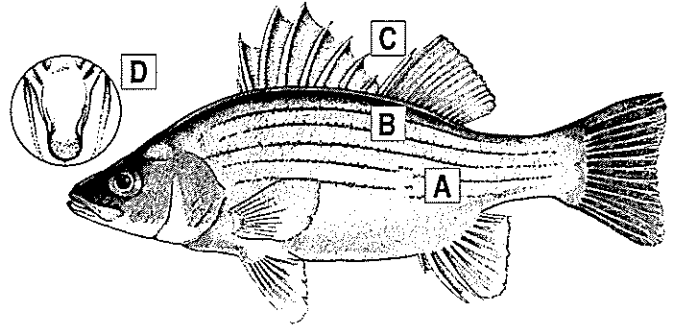
- Gently insert a thin point or an approved device through the side of the fish immediately behind the upper part of the pectoral fin base. This is usually directly below the fourth or fifth spine (see diagram right).
- Revive fish by holding upright in water and facing it into the current, gently forcing water through gills.



Identification of Yellow, White, Striped and Hybrid Striped Bass

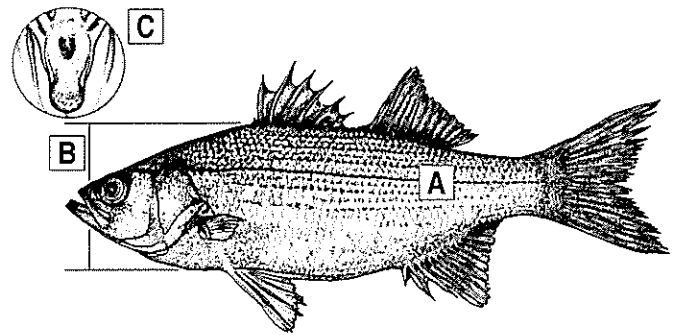
yellow bass

- A** Stripes distinct, broken above anal fin.
- B** Color - silvery yellow.
- C** Dorsal fins joined.
- D** Does not have a tooth patch near the midline towards the back of the tongue.



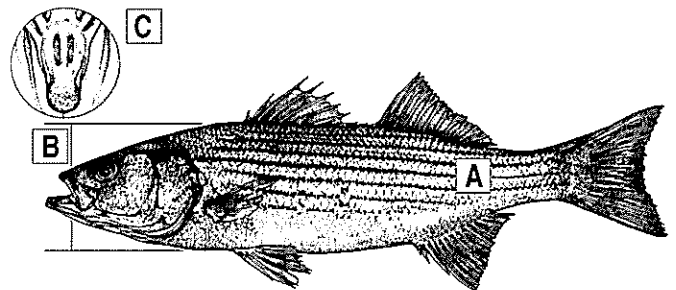
white bass

- A** Stripes faint, only one extends to tail.
- B** Body deep, more than 1/3 length.
- C** Has one tooth patch near the midline towards the back of the tongue.



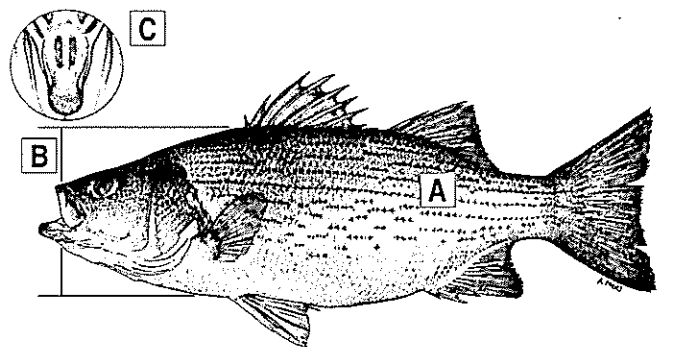
striped bass

- A** Stripes distinct, several extend to tail.
- B** Body slender, less than 1/3 length.
- C** Has two, distinct tooth patches near the midline towards the back of the tongue.



hybrid striped bass

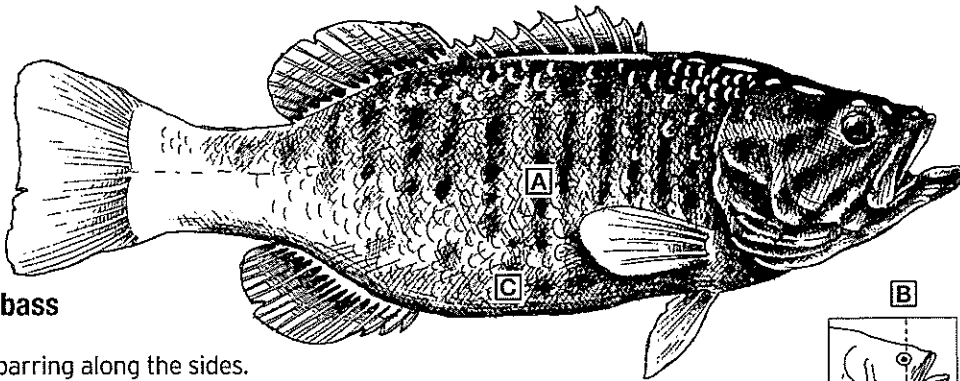
- A** Stripes distinct, usually broken, several extend to tail.
- B** Body deep, more than 1/3 length.
- C** Has two tooth patches near the midline on the back of the tongue. Tooth patches may be distinct or close together.



Note: For hybrid striped bass, all characteristics should be considered for identification as characteristics in individual fish may vary.

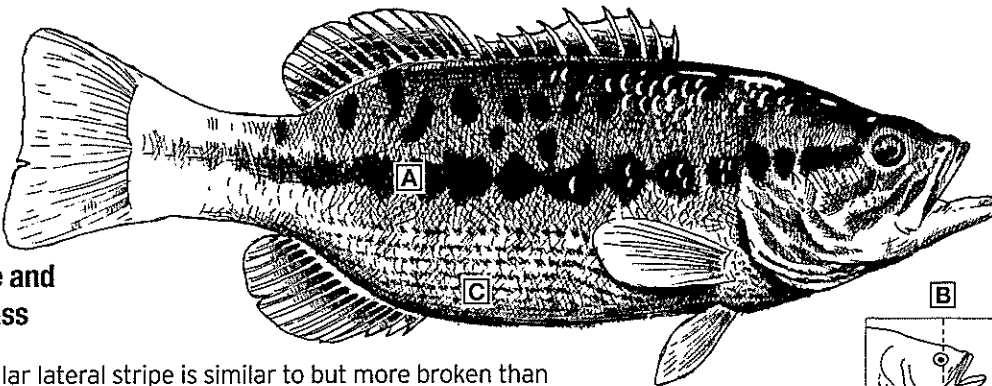
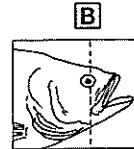
Identification of Smallmouth, Guadalupe & Spotted and Largemouth Bass

FISHING REGULATIONS



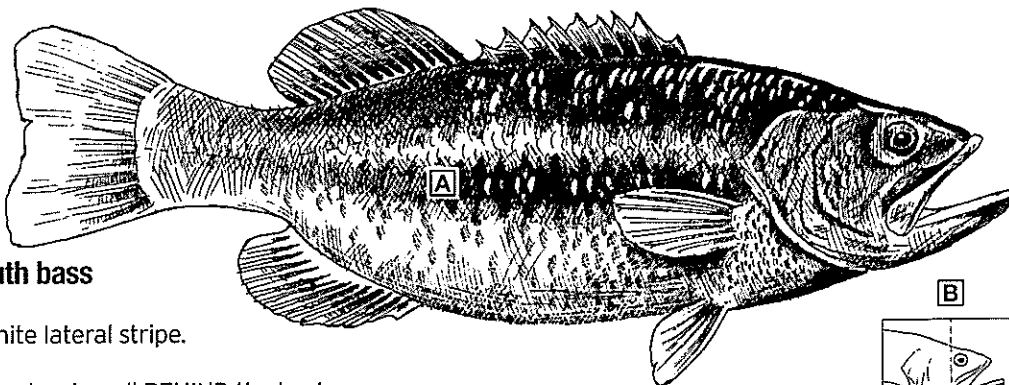
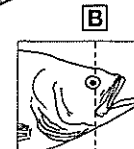
smallmouth bass

- A** Vertical barring along the sides.
- B** Jaw does not extend BEYOND the back margin of the eye when mouth is closed.
- C** Brownish-green color; white belly area does not extend high on the sides.



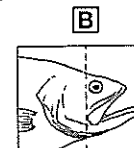
Guadalupe and spotted bass

- A** Irregular lateral stripe is similar to but more broken than largemouth bass.
- B** Jaw does not extend BEYOND the back margin of the eye when mouth is closed.
- C** Spots on scales form "rows" of stripes on whitish belly area.



largemouth bass

- A** Definite lateral stripe.
- B** Jaw extends well BEHIND the back margin of the eye when mouth is closed.



SALTWATER FISHING – GENERAL INFORMATION

- For freshwater finfish species caught in the public salt waters of this state, statewide bag, possession and length limits as listed on pg. 37 apply.
- A person taking or attempting to take game and nongame fish from salt water for non-commercial purposes is required to have a valid fishing license and a saltwater fishing stamp endorsement.

Texas State Waters – Federal Waters

Texas recreational and commercial fishermen fishing more than nine (9) nautical miles off the coast of Texas are in federal waters and are subject to rules and regulations that may differ from those in state waters. An example would be the federal requirement to use non-stainless circle hooks when fishing for reef fish. Recreational anglers must have a Texas fishing license and saltwater endorsement to bring any fish taken in federal waters ashore in Texas. To ensure that you are in compliance with federal regulations, you should contact the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at (888) 833-1844 (toll free).

The limits and restrictions in this guide apply to aquatic life caught in the public waters of Texas out to nine (9) nautical miles in the Gulf of Mexico, and also apply to aquatic life caught between 9 and 200 nautical miles in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and landed in this state. (Federal law also regulates species between 9 and 200 nautical miles managed under a Federal Fishery Management Plan.) See pg. 27 for Importation of Wildlife Resources.

Bag and Length Limits for Saltwater Fish

- Daily bag and possession limit are defined on pg. 32.
- There are no bag, possession, or length limits on game or nongame fish, except as listed in this guide.

Species	Daily Bag	Length in Inches (Minimum — Maximum)
Amberjack, greater	1	34 – No limit
Bass: striped, its hybrids and subspecies	5 (in any combination)	18 – No limit
Catfish: channel and blue catfish, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination)	12 – No limit
Catfish, flathead	5	18 – No limit
Catfish, gafftopsail	No limit	14 – No limit
Cobia	2	37 – No limit
Drum, black ^a	5	14 – 30 ^a
Drum, red ^b	3	20 – 28 ^b
Flounder: all species, their hybrids and subspecies ^c	5/2 ^c (in any combination)	14 – No limit ^c
Gar, alligator	1	No limit – No limit
Grouper, gag	2	22 – No limit
Grouper, goliath (formerly called Jewfish)	0	Catch and release only
Mackerel, king	2	27 – No limit
Mackerel, Spanish	15	14 – No limit
Marlin, blue	No limit	131 – No limit
Marlin, white	No limit	86 – No limit
Mullet: all species, their hybrids and subspecies ^d	No limit	No limit – 12 ^d (during Oct., Nov., Dec. & Jan.)

(Continued)

Species	Daily Bag	Length in Inches (Minimum — Maximum)
Sailfish	No limit	84 – No limit
Seatrout, spotted	10 ^e See Special Regulation ^e below for Lower Laguna Madre.	15 – 25'
Sharks:	1 See Special Regulation ^g below.	
Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead		24 – No limit
allowable shark species		64 – No limit
Sharks, prohibited species ^h	0	Catch and release only
Sheepshead	5	15 – No limit
Snapper, lane	No limit	8 – No limit
Snapper, red ⁱ	4	15 – No limit
Snapper, vermillion	No limit	10 – No limit
Snook	1	24 – 28
Tarpon	1	85 – No limit
Triggerfish, gray	20	16 – No limit
Tripletail	3	17 – No limit

^a No more than one black drum over 52 inches may be retained per person per day and counts as part of the daily bag and possession limit.

^b Red drum special regulation: During a license year, one red drum over the stated maximum length limit may be retained when affixed with a properly completed Red Drum Tag and one red drum over the stated maximum length limit may be retained when affixed with a properly completed Bonus Red Drum Tag. Any fish retained under authority of a Red Drum Tag or a Bonus Red Drum Tag may be retained in addition to the daily bag and possession limit as stated in this section.

^c Flounder special regulation: Daily bag is 5 fish except for the period Nov. 1-30 when the daily bag is 2 fish and flounder may be taken only by pole and line. Possession limit is equal to the daily bag.

^d May not take from public waters, or possess on board a boat, mullet over 12 inches during October, November, December, and January. No limits apply during other months.

^e **Special Regulation:** For the Lower Laguna Madre, the daily bag limit and the possession limit shall be 5 fish in all inside waters south of marker 21 located inside the area known as the Land Cut. Inside waters are all bays, inlets, outlets, passes, rivers, streams, and other bodies of water landward from the shoreline of the state along the Gulf of Mexico and contiguous to, or connected with, but not a part of, the Gulf of Mexico and within which the tide regularly rises and falls.

^f No more than one spotted seatrout over the stated maximum length may be retained per person per day and counts as part of the daily bag and possession limit.

^g **Special Regulation:** The daily bag limit is 1 fish for all allowable shark species **INCLUDING** Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip and bonnethead.

^h **Prohibited shark species:** 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, White.

ⁱ **Special Regulation:** Red snapper may be taken using pole and line, but it is unlawful to use any kind of hook other than a circle hook when using natural bait.

Saltwater Freeze Events

When temperatures on the coast are predicted to fall below 32°F for three or more days, the TPWD executive director may close one or more of the sites listed on the website below for saltwater fishing until the threat from the freeze event is over. This NOTICE OF CLOSURE will be made available to local media including newspapers. If you have any questions about your fishing area during a freeze event, please watch your local newspaper or call the nearest TPWD Law Enforcement office (see pg. 18).

Coastal areas that may be closed to fishing during freeze conditions can be found at the following website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/fish/freeze/>

Shrimp Regulations

- Shrimp may be taken for personal use (bait or food). Shrimp taken for personal use may not be sold.
- A person taking or attempting to take shrimp from salt water for non-commercial purposes is required to have a valid fishing license and a saltwater fishing stamp endorsement.

Legal Sport Shrimping Devices:

- Cast Net (see pg. 33 for cast net restrictions)
- Seine (see pg. 34 for seine restrictions)
- Individual Bait-shrimp Trawl with Individual Bait Shrimp Trawl Tag (see pg. 24 and below)

Individual Bait-shrimp Trawl:

- Only one trawl per boat is allowed.
- Must have an individual bait-shrimp trawl tag in one's possession while trawling (see pg. 24).
- Must not be greater than 20 feet in width between the doors.
- Mesh size must not be smaller than 8-3/4 inches over a consecutive series of five stretched meshes.
- Boards must not be larger than 450 square inches each.

Coastal waters (all the salt waters of the state) are divided into the following groups:

- 1. Outside Water:** That part of the Gulf of Mexico extending from the shoreline seaward to nine nautical miles. May not take shrimp from outside waters during closed seasons (see pg. 48)
- 2. Inside Water:** All bays, passes, rivers, or other bodies of water landward from the shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico. In these waters, the tide rises and falls and saltwater shrimp are found or migrate. Shrimping is not permitted within any natural or man-made pass leading from the inside waters to the outside waters of the state.
- 3. Major Bays:**
 - Sabine Lake north of Cameron Causeway to south of a line marked by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (Sabine Neches Canal/Sabine River) between the easternmost tip of Goat Island to the westernmost tip of Stewts Island
 - Trinity Bay southward from a line extending from the mouth of Double Bayou in Chambers County to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to Separator C-2, to Point Barrow in Chambers County
 - Galveston Bay
 - East Bay westward from a line extending from Frozen Point to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Marker 12
 - Matagorda Bay westward of a line extending from a location on the mainland (where a line running immediately northwest [bearing 330 degrees] from Shellfish Marker A intersects the mainland), thence southeasterly to Shellfish Marker A located near the mainland, thence to Shellfish Marker B located near the end of Shell Island Reef, thence to the tide gauge located near the Matagorda Peninsula, and thence southeasterly [bearing 153 degrees] to the Matagorda Peninsula.

- East Matagorda Bay
- Tres Palacios Bay south of a line from Grasse Point to the mouth of Pilkington Bayou
- Espiritu Santo Bay
- Lavaca Bay southward of State Highway 35
- San Antonio Bay southward of a line from McDowell Point to Mosquito Point
- Aransas Bay
- Corpus Christi Bay exclusive of the area bounded by a line extending from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at the southwest point of the Dagger Island chain, along Dagger Island to the southeast tip of Ransom Island, then southeast to the westernmost point of land north of Marker 14 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel
- All exclusive of tributary bays, bayous, inlets, lakes and rivers

4. Bait Bays (includes major bays and those listed here):

- Chocolate Bay
- West Bay south and west of Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway inclusive of the area south of a line extending westward from Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge at Virginia Point, along the southern edge of Tiki Island to the northeastern tip of North Deer Island at Channel Marker 48
- Trinity Bay northward from a line extending from the mouth of Double Bayou in Chambers County to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to Separator C-2, to Point Barrow in Chambers County
- The Old Brazos River lying north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Brazoria County
- Upper Laguna Madre
- Baffin Bay
- Alazan Bay
- Barroom Bay
- Lower Laguna Madre, including the Brownsville Ship Channel
- The entire Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, exclusive of all tributaries

5. Nursery Areas: (No Shrimping Allowed) Those coastal waters not specifically named above as Major Bays or Bait Bays are considered Nursery Areas. Includes tributary bays, bayous, inlets, lakes, and rivers that serve as significant growth and development environments for postlarval and juvenile shrimp. Does not include outside waters, major bays, or bait bays.

Bait Shrimping (Major Bays and Bait Bays)

Season	Hours	Limits
Aug. 15 - Mar. 31	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 quarts/person (with heads attached) • 4 quarts/boat (with heads attached) on boats taking shrimp with individual bait shrimp trawl
Apr. 1 - Aug. 14	30 minutes before sunrise to 2 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No count size restrictions

Shrimping for Purposes other than Bait (Major Bays only)

Season	Hours	Limits
Spring Open Season May 15 - July 15	30 minutes before sunrise to 2 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 pounds/person/day (heads attached) • No count size restrictions
Fall Open Season Aug. 15 - Oct. 31	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 pounds/person/day (heads attached) • Must count no more than 50 shrimp/pound
Fall Open Season Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 pounds/person/day (heads attached) • No count size restrictions

Shrimping in Outside Waters — Southern Zone

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

Location	Season	Hours	Limits
Beyond 5 nautical miles	Dec. 1-May 15**	Day and Night	• 100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)
	July 16**-Nov. 30		
Inside 5 nautical miles	July 16**-Nov. 30	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	• 100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)
	CLOSED TO NIGHT SHRIMPING	30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise	CLOSED TO NIGHT SHRIMPING
	WINTER CLOSED SEASON Dec. 1-May 15**	Day and Night	CLOSED SEASON
Inside 9* nautical miles	SUMMER CLOSED SEASON May 15**-July 15**	Day and Night	CLOSED SEASON

***SPECIAL NOTICE:** The federal government may close the Exclusive Economic Zone off Texas (9-200 nautical miles) at the same time Texas waters are closed. For further information call the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727) 570-5305.

****SPECIAL NOTICE:** These dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours public notice on new opening dates.

FISHING REGULATIONS

Shrimping in Outside Waters — Northern Zone

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

Location	Season	Hours	Limits
Beyond 5 nautical miles	Dec. 1-May 15**	Day and Night	• 100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)
	July 16**-Nov. 30		
Inside 5 nautical miles	Feb. 16-May 15**	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	• 100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)
	July 16**-Nov. 30		
	CLOSED TO NIGHT SHRIMPING	30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise	CLOSED TO NIGHT SHRIMPING
	WINTER CLOSED SEASON Dec. 1-Feb. 15	Day and Night	CLOSED SEASON
Inside 9* nautical miles	SUMMER CLOSED SEASON May 15**-July 15**	Day and Night	CLOSED SEASON

***SPECIAL NOTICE:** The federal government may close the Exclusive Economic Zone off Texas (9-200 nautical miles) at the same time Texas waters are closed. For further information call the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727) 570-5305.

****SPECIAL NOTICE:** These dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours public notice on new opening dates.

Special County Restrictions

Nueces: It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take shrimp with a trawl in the Laguna Madre north of a line starting on the mainland at the most northeasterly point on the north side of the entrance to Whiteley Channel then proceeding in a straight line to the north end of Pita Island; then continuing on a line to the southernmost point on the westerly most spoil island bordering the north side of the New Humble Channel (commonly referred to as Hap's Channel); then continuing on a line along the north edge of the New Humble Channel (commonly referred to as Hap's Channel) to its junction with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; then continuing on a straight line to the Nueces/Kleberg County line marker on Padre Island.

Crab and Ghost Shrimp Regulations

NOTE: It is unlawful to place, fish, or leave a crab trap or crab trap component in the coastal waters of the state from Feb. 18-27, 2011.

- Crabs may be taken for personal use (bait or food). Crabs taken with recreational license for personal use **may not be sold**.
- There are no public salt waters, seasons, or times closed to the taking and retaining of crabs and ghost shrimp, **EXCEPT** as provided in this guide.
- It is lawful to take, attempt to take, or possess crabs and ghost shrimp by means, in numbers, and of sizes **ONLY** as described below.
- A person taking or attempting to take crabs or ghost shrimp from salt water for non-commercial purposes is required to have a valid fishing license and a saltwater fishing stamp endorsement.

Bag, Possession and Length Limits

Species	Daily Bag	Possession	Minimum Length
Blue crab ^a	No limit	No limit	5 inches (Measured across the widest point of the body from tip of spine to tip of spine.) See pg. 41.
Stone crab ^b (right claw only)	No limit	No limit	2-1/2 inches claw (Measured from the tip of claw to first joint behind the immovable claw.) See pg. 41.
Ghost shrimp	20	20 per person	None

^a Except that not more than 5% by number, of undersized blue crabs may be possessed for bait purposes only and must be placed in a separate container.

- May not possess egg-bearing (sponge) crabs.
- May not possess a female crab that has its abdominal apron removed.

^b Only the right claw may be retained or possessed. The body of the stone crab must be immediately returned to the water from which it was taken.

Legal Devices and Restrictions

Crab Line: A baited line with no hook attached.

- No restrictions.

Umbrella Net (sometimes called crab net): A non-metallic mesh net that is suspended horizontally in the water by multiple lines attached to a rigid frame.

- May be used to take crabs and **NONGAME** fish only.
- May not have within the frame an area that exceeds 16 square feet.

Folding Panel Traps:

- Only crabs may be taken.
- Overall surface area (including panels) may not exceed 16 square feet.

Crab Traps:

- Only six crab traps at a time may be fished for non-commercial purposes.
- May only remove crab traps from the water or remove crabs from crab traps during the period from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.
- **Tag Requirements:** Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (see pg. 32) attached within six inches of the buoy or pier to which the trap is tied.
- **Construction and Design Restrictions:**
 - May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
 - Must be equipped with at least two escape vents in each crab-retaining chamber and located on the outside trap walls.
 - Escape vents must be at least 2-3/8 inches in diameter.
 - Must be marked with a white floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length, and 6 inches in width, bearing a 2-inch wide center stripe of contrasting color, attached to the crab trap.
 - Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
 - Must be equipped with a degradable panel. A trap is considered to have a degradable panel if one of the following methods is used in construction of the trap:
 - the trap lid tie-down strap is secured to the trap at one end by a simple loop of untreated jute twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller. The trap lid must be secured so that when the twine or wire degrades, the lid will no longer be securely closed; or
 - the trap contains at least one sidewall, not including the bottom panel, with a rectangular opening no smaller in either dimension than 3 inches by 6 inches. Any obstruction placed in this opening may not be secured in any manner EXCEPT it may be laced, sewn, or otherwise obstructed by a single length of untreated jute twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller knotted only at each end and not tied or looped more than once around a single mesh bar. When the twine or wire degrades, the opening in the sidewall of the trap will no longer be obstructed; or
 - the obstruction may be loosely hinged at the bottom of the opening by no more than two untreated steel hog rings and secured at the top of the obstruction in no more than one place by a single length of untreated jute twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller. When the twine or wire degrades, the obstruction will hinge downward and the opening in the sidewall of the trap will no longer be obstructed.

- **Placement and Location Restrictions:**

- May not place a crab trap or portion thereof closer than 100 feet from any other crab trap, EXCEPT when traps are secured to a pier or dock.
- May not fish a crab trap in public fresh waters.
- May not fish a crab trap within 200 feet of a marked navigable channel in Aransas County; and in the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island, including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula.
- May not possess, use, or place more than three crab traps in waters north and west of Hwy. 146 where it crosses the Houston Ship Channel in Harris County.
- May not use or place more than three crab traps in public waters of the San Bernard River north of a line marked by the boat access channel at Bernard Acres.
- It is unlawful to place any type of trap within the area in Cedar Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedar Bayou and the department sign erected near the point where the pass empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

- **Other Devices:**

- Devices legally used for taking of fresh or saltwater fish or shrimp may be used to take crab if operated in places and at times authorized by a proclamation of the Parks and Wildlife Commission or the Parks and Wildlife Code.
- See applicable pages in this guide to determine authorized uses, places, and times for other legal devices.

Sand Pumps: A self-contained, hand-held, hand-operated suction device used to remove and capture Callinassid ghost shrimp.

- May only be manually operated.
- May not be used for commercial purposes.

Oyster Regulations

- Oysters may be taken for personal use (food). Oysters taken with recreational license for personal use **may not be sold**.
- A person taking or attempting to take oysters is required to have a valid fishing license and a saltwater stamp endorsement.
- Persons fishing with tongs or a dredge must hold a sport oyster boat license.
- Oysters may be taken only from waters approved by the **Texas Department of State Health Services**. For more information call (800) 685-0361.
- Oysters may not be taken from marked private leases, except by permission of the lessee.
- **Seasons:** November 1 through April 30, sunrise to sunset, coastwide.
- **Length and Possession Limits:**
 - Oysters must be 3 inches or larger as measured by the greatest length of the shell.
 - Oysters 3/4 inch to 3 inches must be culled and returned to the reef from which taken.
 - Oysters 3/4 inch to 3 inches may not make up more than 15% by number of oysters in possession.
 - No more than two sacks of legal oysters may be possessed per person. A sack is defined as 110 pounds of oysters including the sack.
- **Devices:**
 - Oysters may be taken by hand, with tongs, or by oyster dredge.
 - Oyster dredges may not be more than 14 inches in width.

Other Aquatic Life (Fresh and Salt Waters)

- Aquatic life, except threatened and endangered species, not addressed in this guide may be taken only by hand or with the devices defined as lawful for taking fish, crabs, oysters, or shrimp in places and at times as provided in this guide.

- In public fresh waters, a fishing license and freshwater fishing stamp endorsement is required to take mussels, clams, crayfish, and other aquatic life for personal use. In salt water, a saltwater fishing stamp endorsement is required with the fishing license.
- **A hunting license is required to hunt non-protected turtles and frogs** (see pgs. 25 and 72).
- No more than 25 pounds of whole mussels and clams, or 12 pounds of mussel and clam shells may be taken per day for personal use only.
- **Clams, Mussels and Other Molluscan Shellfish** taken from public **salt waters** may be taken only from waters approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS). (Maps identifying approved areas may be obtained from the TDSHS, Seafood and Aquatic Life Group (512) 834-6757. Additional information concerning area closures may be obtained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling (800) 685-0361.
- **Consumption of Clams and Mussels** taken from public **fresh waters** is prohibited by the TDSHS.
- Mussels and clams may only be taken by hand.
- Freshwater mussels of the following species may be taken only when they will not pass through a ring with an inside diameter (I.D.) specified for that species.

Species	Ring I.D. in inches
Washboard	4.00
Threeridges and roundlakes	2.75
Mapleleafs and pimplebacks	2.75
Tampico pearlymussel	2.75
Bleufer	2.75
All Other Species of Freshwater Mussels	2.50

- More information on harvesting freshwater mussels and clams, including areas closed to harvest, can be obtained by calling TPWD in Austin at (512) 389-4444.
- It is unlawful to take more than 15 live univalve snails during a day which include no more than two each of the following snails: lightning whelk, horse conch, Florida fighting conch, pear whelk, banded tulip, or Florida rocksnail.
- It is unlawful to take or kill shell-bearing mollusks, hermit crabs, starfish, or sea urchins from Nov. 1 through Apr. 30 within the following boundary: the bay and pass sides of South Padre Island from the east end of the north jetty at Brazos Santiago Pass to the west end of West Marisol Drive in the town of South Padre Island, out 1,000 yards from the mean high-tide line, and bounded to the south by the centerline of the Brazos Santiago Pass.

Fish Consumption Bans and Advisories

Fish and shellfish can be a source of high-quality protein in your diet. Fish and shellfish, however, can accumulate contaminants from the waters in which they live. The **Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS)** monitors fish in the state for the presence of environmental contaminants and alerts the public through bans and advisories when a threat to human health may occur from the consumption of contaminated fish.

In waters with consumption bans, possession and consumption of fish and/or shellfish is prohibited. Catch-and-release fishing from these areas is allowed. A consumption advisory is a recommendation to limit consumption to specified quantities, species, and sizes of fish. For additional information, a listing of all consumption bans and advisories, or a listing of areas tested where no bans or advisories were issued, call the **TDSHS at (800) 685-0361 (shellfish) or (512) 834-6757 (fish)** or visit: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/seafood>

Boater Education

Anyone born on or after September 1, 1993 MUST complete an approved boater education course before operating in public water a vessel of more than 15 horsepower, a windblown vessel of more than 14 feet in length, or a personal watercraft, unless there is another person on board who is 18 years of age or older and who is legally qualified to operate the vessel or personal watercraft.

For course information, please call TPWD toll-free at **(800) 792-1112** (menu 6) or call **(512) 389-4999** or consult the TPWD Boater Education section at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/boating/education>

Boating Regulations and Safe Boating Tips

Each year, over 90 percent of all sportsmen who die in the water were not wearing a life jacket. **WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!** The life you save may be your own.

If you use a boat:

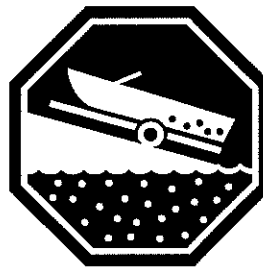
- **STATE LAW REQUIRES** a wearable-type life jacket (Types I, II, or III) for each person on board. Life jackets must be U.S. Coast Guard approved.
- Children under 13 years of age **must wear** a wearable personal flotation device on a vessel under 26 ft. in length while underway. It is recommended that non-swimmers always wear a life jacket on the water. In addition, a Type IV throwable-type life jacket is required on boats 16 feet in length and longer.
- **STATE LAW PROHIBITS** intoxicated persons (.08% BAC) from operating a boat.
- **CHECK THE WEATHER** and give a "float plan" to a friend before departing.
- See the **Texas Water Safety Act Digest** available on the TPWD website for a detailed summary of boating regulations.

Zebra mussels have been found in Lake Texoma. This tiny, highly invasive mussel can multiply rapidly and cause tremendous environmental and economic damage. To avoid spreading this destructive pest to other water bodies, boaters and anglers are urged to thoroughly clean and inspect boat, trailers, and other fishing gear upon leaving the lake.

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Failure to immediately remove and lawfully dispose of any harmful or potentially harmful aquatic plant that is clinging or attached to a vessel, watercraft, trailer, motor vehicle, or other device used to transport or launch a vessel or watercraft can result in a fine of \$25-\$500.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

See <http://www.texasinvasives.org> for more information on invasive species. For a list of harmful and potentially harmful aquatic species, visit: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/exotic>

Operation Game Thief

Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program

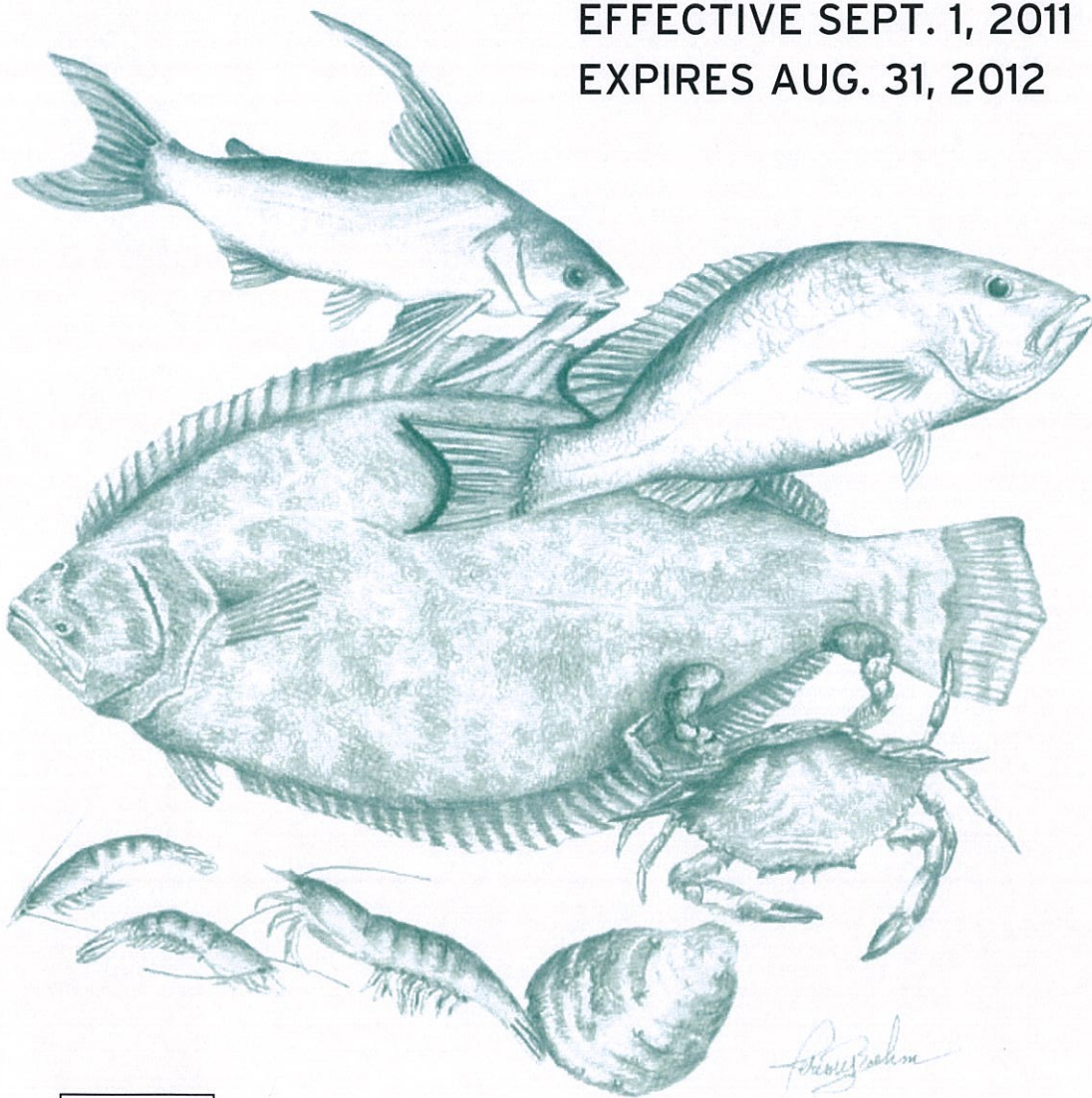
Reward Hotline
(800) 792-4263

You can make a difference by reporting poaching, pollution and dumping, arson in state parks and intoxicated boaters! Up to \$1,000 may be paid for information leading to arrest and conviction of a person for a violation of our state's wildlife and fisheries laws, as well as for certain laws related to environmental crime, arson and intoxicated boaters.

Operation Game Thief is privately funded. Please consider supporting efforts to protect our precious natural resources and keep our waterways safe by sending your tax deductible donation to Operation Game Thief, or by becoming an Operation Game Thief member. Please visit our Website at www.ogttx.com for membership information. Donations can be sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or you may also call (512) 389-4381 to make a donation by credit card.

2011-2012 Texas Commercial Fishing Guide

EFFECTIVE SEPT. 1, 2011
EXPIRES AUG. 31, 2012



Life's better outside.®

Information in this guide may change
due to Legislative or Commission action.

IMPORTANT: See Special Notices, Page 2

A GUIDE TO TEXAS COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY REGULATIONS

Commercial fishing is any activity involving taking or handling fresh or saltwater aquatic products for pay or for the purpose of barter, sale or exchange.

This publication is a summary of regulations for the commercial fishing industry in Texas and is designed as a guide only. Regulations concerning sport fishing are contained in the *Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual*

which is available free of charge from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) offices and from bait, tackle and sporting goods dealers where fishing licenses are sold.

More detailed information concerning commercial fishing industry regulations can be obtained from TPWD game wardens or any law enforcement office of TPWD.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIAL NOTICES.....	2
OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE REGULATIONS.....	4
GENERAL REGULATIONS.....	4
Civil Restitution.....	4
Possession of Prohibited Fishing Devices.....	5
Definitions.....	5
Potentially Harmful Exotic Fish, Shellfish and Aquatic Plants.....	6
LICENSE REQUIREMENTS.....	7
Sportfishing License Requirements for Commercial Fishermen.....	7
General Licenses.....	7
Shrimp, Crab, Finfish and Oyster License Management.....	7
Bait Dealers' Licenses.....	8
Other Business Licenses.....	9
Boat Licenses.....	11
Permit to Sell Non-game Fish Taken From Public Fresh Water.....	11
PURCHASE OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS FOR RESALE.....	11
SHIPPING REGULATIONS.....	
Aquatic Product Transportation Invoices.....	12
Interstate Transportation.....	12
Containers.....	12
Licenses.....	12
RECORDS.....	
Commercial Harvest Reports.....	13
MARKING OF VEHICLES.....	13
IMPORTATION REGULATIONS.....	14
Importation of Commercially Protected Fish.....	14
FRESHWATER/SALTWATER BOUNDARY.....	15
FISH.....	
General Regulations.....	16
Prohibited Acts in all Public Waters.....	16
Sale of Fish – Fresh Water.....	16
Sale of Fish – Salt Water.....	16
Texas State Waters – Federal Waters.....	17
Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) for Red Snapper.....	17
Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Gulf Menhaden.....	17
Padre Island National Seashore – Special Regulations.....	17
How to Measure Fish and Crabs.....	17
Commercial Bag, Possession and Length Limits.....	18
Freshwater Devices, Means and Methods.....	19
Saltwater Devices, Means and Methods.....	20
SHRIMP.....	
General Regulations.....	22
Display Boat Numbers.....	23
Method of Net Measurement.....	23
Special Regulations (Bay and Bait Shrimping).....	23
Waters Defined.....	24
Map of Gulf Shrimp Fishery Management Zones.....	25
Outside Waters.....	26
Inside Waters.....	29
BRD and TED Illustrations.....	31-35
CRABS.....	36
OYSTERS.....	38
MUSSELS AND CLAMS.....	39
SEA TURTLES AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE.....	39
CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL VALUE RECOVERY.....	39

SPECIAL NOTICES

1. **All commercial shipments of aquatic products** must be accompanied by an invoice and containers must be labeled. (See **SHIPPING REGULATIONS** page 12.)
2. **The Shipper and Receiver** of commercial shipments of aquatic products must keep the shipping invoices on file as a record for one year from the date of shipment. (See **RECORDS** page 13.)
3. **Consumption of Clams, Mussels, and Other Molluscan Shellfish** taken from public **fresh waters** is prohibited by the Texas Department of State Health Services.
4. **Clams, Mussels, Oysters, and Other Molluscan Shellfish** taken from public **salt waters** may be taken only from waters approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services. (Maps identifying approved areas may be obtained from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Seafood Safety Division (512) 834-6757. Additional information concerning **area closures** may be obtained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling **(800) 685-0361**.)
5. **By Order of the Texas Department of State Health Services** the area of **Lavaca Bay** inshore of a line beginning at the last point of land at the northeastern approach of the Lavaca Bay Causeway, then in a southwest direction to Aquatic Life Marker A to Aquatic Life Marker B to Channel Marker #12, then in a southeastern direction to Aquatic Life Marker C to Aquatic Life Marker D to Aquatic Life Marker E to Channel Marker #74, then in a northeastern direction to Aquatic Life Marker F to the southernmost point of land on the spoil island east of the ship channel, is **closed** to the **retention of finfish and crabs**. (Catch and release of finfish and crabs is lawful. This closure is due to mercury contamination.)
6. **By Order of the Texas Department of State Health Services** the area of the **Trinity River** from the 7th Street Bridge in Fort Worth downstream to the Texas State Highway 36 Bridge in Kaufman and Ellis counties southeast of Dallas, Echo Lake in Tarrant County, and Mountain Creek Lake in Dallas County are **closed** to the **retention of finfish**. Catch and release of finfish is lawful. This closure is due to **chlordan**e contamination and toxic organic compounds in fish.
7. **By order of the Texas Department of State Health Services** the **Donna Irrigation System** located in **Hidalgo County** is declared a prohibited area for the taking of all species of aquatic life. This closure is due to elevated levels of **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's)** found in fish samples.
8. Commercial Bay, Bait, and Gulf Shrimp boat licenses, Commercial Crab Fisherman's licenses, Commercial Finfish Fisherman's licenses, and Commercial Oyster boat licenses, are subject to limited issuance. For detailed information see page 7.
9. Texas Department of State Health Services recommends limiting consumption of certain fish in these areas as follows:
 - (a) **GULF OF MEXICO: All Texas Coastal Waters.**
 - **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
 - King mackerel greater than 43 inches in total length should not be consumed.
 - For **king mackerel** 37 to 43 inches in total length:
 - Adults should limit consumption to no more than one, 8-ounce meal per week.
 - Women of child-bearing age and children should limit consumption to not more than one, 8-ounce meal per month.
 - **King mackerel** less than 37 inches in total length are safe for unrestricted consumption.
 - (b) **Arroyo Colorado, Llano Grande Lake, and the Main Floodway** upstream of the Port of Harlingen in Cameron and Hidalgo counties.
 - **Chemicals of Concern:** Mercury, DDE, and Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
 - Persons should not consume **longnose gar** and **smallmouth buffalo** from these waters.
 - (c) **B.A. Steinhagen Lake** in Jasper and Tyler counties; **Big Cypress Creek** in Marion County; **Caddo Lake** in Harrison and Marion counties; **Sam Rayburn Reservoir** in Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Sabine and San Augustine counties; and **Toledo Bend Reservoir** in Newton, Panola, Sabine and Shelby counties.
 - **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
 - **All Locations:** For **largemouth bass and freshwater drum**, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not consume any largemouth bass or freshwater drum from these lakes.
 - **For B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir:** For **white bass or hybrid striped bass**, adults should limit consumption to

- no more than one, 8-ounce meal per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than one, 4-ounce meal per month. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not consume white bass or hybrid striped bass from this lake.
- (d) **Houston Ship Channel** upstream of the Lynchburg Ferry crossing and all contiguous water including the **San Jacinto River** below U.S. Highway 90 bridge.
- **Chemicals of Concern:** Dioxin, Organochlorine pesticides, and Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).
 - For **all species of fish and blue crabs**, adults should limit consumption to no more than one, 8-ounce meal per month, and women of child-bearing age and children under 12 should not consume any fish or blue crabs from this area.
- (e) **Houston Ship Channel** downstream of the Lynchburg Ferry crossing **and all contiguous waters including Upper Galveston Bay** north of a line drawn from Red Bluff Point to Five Mile Cut marker to Houston Point.
- **Chemicals of Concern:** Dioxin and Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
 - For **spotted seatrout, blue crabs** and **all catfish species**, adults should limit consumption to no more than one, 8-ounce meal per month, and women of child-bearing age and children under 12 should not consume any spotted seatrout, blue crabs, or any catfish species from this area.
- (f) **Lake Daingerfield** in Morris County and **Lake Ratcliff** in Houston County.
- **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
 - For **largemouth bass**, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not consume largemouth bass from these lakes.
- (g) **Lake Kimball** in Hardin and Tyler counties and **Lake Pruitt (Black Cypress Creek)** in Cass County.
- **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
 - For all species of fish, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children under 12 years of age should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not consume any fish from this lake.
- (h) **Lake Meredith** in Hutchinson, Moore and Potter counties.
- **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
 - For **walleye**, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not consume walleye from this lake.
- (i) **Lake Worth** in Tarrant County.
- **Chemicals of Concern:** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
 - Persons should not consume any species of fish from these waters.
- (j) **Fosdic Lake** (also known as **Oakland Lake**) in Tarrant County.
- **Chemicals of Concern:** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
 - For **common carp**, adults and children 12 and older are advised to eat no more than two, 8-ounce servings per month. Children under 12 should eat no more than two, 4-ounce servings per month. Pregnant women, women who could become pregnant and mothers who are nursing are advised not to eat **any common carp** from the lake.
- (k) **Lower Leon Creek** from the Texas Highway 90 bridge downstream to Military Drive in San Antonio, Bexar County and **Lone Star Lake** (also known as **Ellison Creek Reservoir**) in Morris County.
- **Chemical of Concern:** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
 - Persons should not consume any species of fish from these waters.
- (l) **Trinity River** from Texas 34 to Cedar Creek Reservoir discharge in Kaufman, Ellis, Henderson and Navarro counties.
- **Chemicals of Concern:** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Chlordane, DDE
 - Persons should not consume any species of **gar** from these waters.
- (m) **Canyon Lake** in Comal County
- **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
 - For **striped bass and longnose gar**, adults and children 12 and older are advised to eat no more than two, 8-ounce servings per month. Children under 12 should eat no more than two, 4-ounce servings per month. Pregnant women, women who could become pregnant and mothers who are nursing are advised not to

eat any **striped bass or longnose gar** from the lake.

(n) **Clear Lake and Hills Lakes** in Panola County

- **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
 - For **largemouth bass and freshwater drum in both locations, and for bowfin in Clear Lake**, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children under 12 years of age should limit consump-

tion to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month. Women of child-bearing age who are or might become pregnant, or who are nursing should not consume the indicated species from these lakes.

Note: Additional information concerning Texas Department of State Health Services closures or advisories may be obtained by calling (800) 685-0361 (shellfish) or (512) 834-6757 (other advisories) or visiting: www.dshs.state.tx.us/seafood

OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE REGULATIONS

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department adopted rules that prescribe the procedures and conditions for operating an offshore aquaculture facility in Texas waters, and implement the department's responsibilities under Agriculture Code, Chapter 134 by providing protection for marine resources in the wild, including endangered species. TPWD's responsibility is to protect the health and viability of native populations of fish, shellfish, and aquatic life in state waters, including endangered species. In general, the new rules prescribe the conditions under which marine species may be introduced into an offshore aquaculture facility without damaging surrounding water and marine resources.

The regulation of offshore aquaculture involves both state and federal jurisdictions. With respect to state agencies, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is the primary agency responsible for regulating aquaculture, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has primary responsibility for establishing and enforcing water quality standards, the Texas

General Land Office (GLO) is responsible for managing state-owned submerged lands, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is responsible for management of animal disease necessary to protect agriculture, and the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) is the primary agency for protecting human health and safety, including seafood safety. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) are responsible for establishing maritime navigation standards and the identification, marking, and mitigation of navigational hazards.

The intent of this rulemaking is that individuals applying to the various agencies for their necessary permissions be able to do so simultaneously so that the many needed reviews, inspections and other activities can be accomplished in the minimum amount of time. However, the rule also specifies that all of these other permissions be obtained before the permit is approved by TPWD. For more information, call Robert Adami at (361) 939-7784.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

These rules also apply to fish, shrimp, crabs or other aquatic life caught in the Exclusive Economic Zone and landed in Texas.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: A person who seeks reinstatement of license privileges following license revocation or denial must apply for license privilege reinstatement and pay a \$100 application fee.

CIVIL RESTITUTION

When a Texas Game Warden encounters a violation of hunting and fishing regulations, there will be a criminal complaint filed in either a justice court or a county court. Fines for such violations are assessed by the presiding judge hearing the case. In addition to assessed fines that may be associated with a criminal complaint, violators are also liable to civil restitution for the loss of or

damage to wildlife resources that have resulted from the violation. Civil restitution will be assessed following each conviction and each violator will receive an invoice for this restitution from the department. Failure to pay the civil recovery value will result in the department's refusal to issue any license, tag or permit in the violator's name until restitution is made. An individual who hunts or fishes after such a refusal commits a Class A misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine not less than \$500 or more than \$4,000; punishment in jail not to exceed one year; or both fine and confinement. **For questions concerning civil restitution call (512) 389-4630.**

Texas residents 17 years of age or older while fishing, hunting or trapping **MUST** have on their person a driver's license or personal identification certificate issued by the Department of Public Safety. **Non-residents** must have similar documents issued by the agency of the

state or country of which the person is a resident that is authorized to issue driver's licenses or personal identification certificates.

POSSESSION OF PROHIBITED FISHING DEVICES

It is unlawful to possess a device designed to catch fish or other aquatic life in or on the public water of this state where the use of the device is prohibited.

In coastal waters, a prohibited device may be possessed on board a vessel if the vessel is in port or in a marked channel going directly to or from an area in this state where the use of the device is permitted.

Gill nets, trammel nets, strike nets and seines (other than minnow seines) may not be possessed within 500 yards of any public coastal waters.

DEFINITIONS

Aquaculture: The business of producing and selling cultured species raised in private facilities.

Aquatic Product: Any live or dead uncooked, fresh or frozen aquatic animal life.

Artificial Lure: Any lure (including flies) with hook or hooks attached that is man-made and is used as a bait while fishing.

Bait: Something used to lure any wildlife resource. It is unlawful to use gamefish or any part thereof as bait.

Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD): A device installed in the cod end (tail bag) of a shrimp trawl for the purpose of excluding finfish from the net.

NOTE: BRDs are required in certain trawls.

Cast Net: A net which can be thrown or cast to drop over an area.

Charter Vessel: A vessel less than 100 gross tons that meets the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer passengers for hire and that carries a passenger for hire at any time during the calendar year. A charter vessel with a commercial permit is considered to be operating as a charter vessel when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

Circle Hook: A hook originally designed and manufactured so that the point of the hook is turned perpendicularly back toward the shank of the hook to form a generally circular or oval shape.

Community Fishing Lake: All public impoundments 75 acres or smaller located totally within an incorporated city limits or a public park, and all impoundments of any size lying totally within the boundaries of a state park. For a list of community fishing lakes in your area, call (800) 792-1112.

Crab Line: A baited line with no hook or pole attached.

Crab Measurement: Blue crabs are measured across the widest point of the body from tip of spine to tip of spine. Stone crab claws are measured by the propodus length which is that distance from the tip of the immovable claw finger to the first joint behind the claw.

Daily Bag Limit: The quantity of a species that may be taken in one day.

Day: A 24-hour period of time that begins at midnight and ends the following midnight.

Fishing: Taking or trying to take fish, shrimp, crabs, oysters, clams, mussels or any other aquatic life by any means.

Fishing Guide: A person who, for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports a person or persons engaged in fishing in the waters of this state.

Fishing Guide Deck Hand: A person in the employ of a fishing guide who assists in operating a boat for compensation to accompany or to transport a person or persons engaged in fishing in the water of this state.

Gaff: Any hand-held pole with a hook attached.

Game Fish (includes hybrids or subspecies of fish on this list):

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Bass, Guadalupe | • Marlin, blue |
| • Bass, largemouth | • Marlin, white |
| • Bass, smallmouth | • Pickerel |
| • Bass, spotted | • Sailfish |
| • Bass, striped | • Sauger |
| • Bass, white | • Seatrout, spotted |
| • Bass, yellow | • Sharks |
| • Catfish, blue | • Snook |
| • Catfish, channel | • Spearfish, longbill |
| • Catfish, flathead | • Swordfish, broadbill |
| • Cobia | • Tarpon |
| • Crappie, black | • Tripletail |
| • Crappie, white | • Trout, brown |
| • Drum, red | • Trout, rainbow |
| • Mackerel, king | • Wahoo |
| • Mackerel, Spanish | • Walleye |

Gear Tag: A tag constructed of material as durable as the device to which it is attached. The gear tag must be clearly legible and show the name and address of the person using the device and except for saltwater trotlines and crab traps, the date the device is set out.

Gig: Any hand-held shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless.

Headboat: A vessel that holds a valid Certificate of Inspection issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry passengers for hire. A headboat with a commercial vessel permit is considered to be operat-

ing as a headboat when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or, in the case of persons aboard fishing for or possessing coastal migratory fish or Gulf reef fish, when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ): A form of limited access that assigns a fixed share of the total allowable catch to each user of the resource.

Jug Line (fresh water): A fishing line with five or less hooks tied to a free-floating device.

Lawful Archery Equipment: Longbow, recurved bow, compound bow and crossbow.

Mussels and Clams: Includes all freshwater and marine bivalve mollusks except oysters.

- Freshwater mussels – bivalve mollusks of the family Unionidae.

Natural Bait: A whole or cut-up portion of a fish or shellfish or a whole or cut-up portion of plant material in its natural state, provided that none of these may be altered beyond cutting into portions.

Non-game Fish: All species not listed as game fish except endangered or threatened fish which are defined and regulated under separate rules.

Non-resident: A person who does not meet the resident requirements.

Offshore Aquaculture Facility: All enclosures and associated infrastructure used to produce, hold, propagate, transport or sell stock under authority of an offshore aquaculture permit.

Paddle Craft: Any non-motorized vessel.

Paddle-craft Fishing Guide: A person who, for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports a person or persons by means of a non-motorized vessel engaged in fishing in the coastal waters of this state.

Permanent Residence: One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place. This does not include a temporary abode or dwelling such as a hunting/fishing club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting/fishing club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, fishing, pleasure or business trip.

Permanent Structure: A building designed, planned and constructed so as to remain at one location.

Pole and Line: A line with hook, attached to a pole. This gear includes rod and reel.

Possession Limit: The maximum number of a species of game, fish or other animals that may be possessed at one time.

Purse Seine: A net with flotation on the corkline adequate to support the net in open water without touching bottom with a rope or wire cable strung through rings attached along the bottom edge to close the bottom of the net.

Resident: A person who has lived in Texas continuously for more than six months immediately

before applying for a license. (This includes residents and their spouses or unmarried children living at home who enter the United States Armed Forces and continue to list Texas as their state of residency with the armed forces.)

Sack: 110 pounds of oysters including the weight of the sack.

Seine: A section of non-metallic mesh webbing. The top edge buoyed upwards by a floatline and the bottom edge weighted.

Spear: Any shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless, which may be propelled by any means, but does not include arrows.

Spear Gun: Any hand operated device designed and used for propelling a spear, but does not include the crossbow.

Stock: Native species of fish, shellfish, or aquatic plants intended for use in, being transported to, or contained within an offshore aquaculture facility under the terms of an offshore aquaculture permit.

Throwline (fresh water): A fishing line with five or less hooks and with one end attached to a permanent fixture. Components of a throwline may also include swivels, snaps, rubber and rigid support structures.

Trap: A rigid device of various designs and dimensions used to entrap aquatic organisms.

Trawl: A beam trawl or otter trawl with a bag-shaped net which is used to catch shrimp.

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

Trotline: A non-metallic main fishing line with more than five hooks attached and with each end attached to a fixture.

Turtle Excluder Device (TED): A device installed in a shrimp trawl forward of the cod end (tail bag) for the purpose of excluding sea turtles from the net. **NOTE: TEDs are required in certain trawls.**

Umbrella Net: A non-metallic mesh net that is suspended horizontally in the water by multiple lines attached to a rigid frame.

POTENTIALLY HARMFUL EXOTIC FISH, SHELLFISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

The importation, sale, transportation and release of exotic fish, shellfish, or aquatic plants designated harmful or potentially harmful by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission are prohibited except by special permit from the department. The list of potentially harmful species may be obtained by calling (800) 792-1112.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

License requirements and fees are subject to change. (License fees are not refundable.)

SPORTFISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

Residents who possess a Resident General Commercial Fisherman's License must purchase a Resident Sport Fishing License or a Resident One-Day All-Water Fishing License to fish for recreational purposes.

Non-resident commercial fishermen must obtain a Non-Resident Fishing License or a Non-Resident One-Day All-Water Fishing License to fish for recreational purposes.

In addition to the above, a Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp is required to fish for recreational purposes in coastal waters of this state and a Freshwater Fishing Stamp is required to fish for recreational purposes in fresh waters of this state. When fishing under a recreational sport license; recreation size, bag and possession limits apply and no aquatic species taken under a recreational license may be sold.

SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT

A moratorium on the sale of licenses or a license management program (limited entry) has been in effect for the Texas bay and bait shrimp fishery since 1996, the crab fishery since 1998, the saltwater finfish fishery since 2000 and both the gulf shrimp and oyster fisheries since 2005. To retain eligibility in each of these fisheries, purchase of the previous year's license is required. A license buyback provision is in place for bay and bait shrimp boat, crab and finfish commercial licenses, but not for gulf shrimp boat or oyster boat licenses.

For further information regarding any limited entry requirements, license buybacks or other provisions of the program contact: Mr. Art Morris, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Natural Resources Center, 6300 Ocean Drive, Suite 2500, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412, (361) 825-3356, email: art.morris@tpwd.state.tx.us or Ms. Tonya Wiley, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Dickinson Marine Lab, 1502 FM 517E, Dickinson, Texas 77539, (281) 534-0131, email: tonya.wiley@tpwd.state.tx.us

GENERAL LICENSES

General Commercial Fisherman's	
Resident (Type 372).....	\$26
Non-resident (Type 340).....	\$189

Required for any person who:

- catches aquatic products from the waters of this state for pay or for the purpose of

sale, barter or exchange or any other commercial purpose; or

- unloads in this state aquatic products that were taken from water outside this state and have not been previously unloaded in another state or a foreign country, for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter or exchange or any other commercial purpose.
- a non-resident who is residing in a state that denies the privilege of commercial fishing in that state to a Texas resident because of residency status is not eligible for a non-resident general commercial fisherman's license.

Exceptions:

- a person who holds a commercial shrimp boat captain's license, commercial oyster boat captain's license, a bait dealer's license and catching bait only, commercial crab fisherman's license, commercial finfish fisherman's license, Class A and Class B menhaden boat license, or the crew of a licensed commercial shrimp boat or oyster boat **is not required** to obtain a general commercial fisherman's license.

Commercial Finfish Fisherman's

Resident (Type 371).....	\$360
Non-resident (Type 361).....	\$1,440

This is a limited entry license. See SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT (pg. 7).

Required for any person who takes finfish for commercial purposes from the coastal waters of this state.

- Finfish Fisherman: defined as a person who catches finfish from the coastal waters of this state for the purpose of sale, barter, exchange or any other commercial purpose.
- Finfish: defined as those living resources having either cartilaginous or bony skeletons (Chondrichthyes and Osteichthyes).

Exceptions:

- A person who is licensed as a bait dealer and who takes finfish for bait only is not required to obtain a commercial finfish fisherman's license.
- A person who is in a vessel licensed as a menhaden boat and who takes menhaden is not required to obtain a commercial finfish fisherman's license.
- A person who holds a commercial shrimp boat captain's license or the crew of a licensed commercial shrimp boat is not required to obtain a commercial finfish fisherman's license when catching finfish incidental to legal shrimp trawling operations.
- A person may operate a boat bearing a commercial finfish fisherman's license plate

ONLY if that person possesses on board the following documentation:

- a commercial finfish fisherman's license OR
- a general commercial fisherman's license, AND a copy of an affidavit permitting the boat operator to fish the commercial finfish fishing devices owned by the person to whom the commercial finfish fisherman's license was issued. The affidavit must contain the date, original signature of the licensee, and commercial finfish license number which matches the commercial finfish license plate number on the boat.
- A person operating a boat for the purpose of commercial finfish fishing is not required to possess a commercial fishing boat license.

Note:

- A person purchasing this license will receive two (2) license plates bearing a number unique to that person.
- A boat operated for the purposes of commercial finfish fishing is required to have a commercial finfish fisherman's license plate prominently displayed as to be clearly visible from both sides of the boat.
- **No more than one set of commercial finfish fisherman's license plates may be on board a commercial finfish fishing boat at any one time.**

Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's

Resident (Type 333)..... **\$50**
Non-resident (Type 433)..... **\$126**

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.

Commercial Oyster Boat Captain's

Resident (Type 309)..... **\$32**
Non-resident (Type 409)..... **\$126**

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

Commercial Oyster Fisherman's

Resident (Type 370)..... **\$126**
Non-resident (Type 470)..... **\$315**

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. (Not required of the captain and crew of licensed commercial oyster boats.)

Commercial Crab Fisherman's

Resident (Type 338)..... **\$630**
Non-resident (Type 438)..... **\$2,520**

This is a limited entry license. See SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT (pg. 7).

Required for any person who takes crabs for commercial purposes from the coastal waters of the state.

NOTE: No person may hold more than three commercial crab fisherman's licenses.

Exceptions:

- A person may operate a boat bearing a commercial crab fisherman's license plate ONLY if that person possesses on board the following documentation:
 - a commercial crab fisherman's license OR
 - a general commercial fisherman's license, AND a copy of an affidavit permitting the boat operator to fish the commercial crab fishing devices owned by the person to whom the commercial crab fisherman's license was issued. The affidavit must contain the date, original signature of the licensee, and commercial crab license number which matches the commercial crab license plate number on the boat.
- A person operating a boat for the purpose of commercial crab fishing is not required to possess a commercial fishing boat license.

Note:

- A person purchasing this license will receive two (2) license plates bearing a number unique to that person.
- A boat operated for the purposes of commercial crab fishing is required to have a commercial crab fisherman's license plate prominently displayed as to be clearly visible from both sides of the boat.
- No more than one set of commercial crab fisherman's license plates may be on board a commercial crab fishing boat at any one time.

Commercial Mussel and Clam Fisherman's

Resident (Type 320)..... **\$38**
Non-resident (Type 420)..... **\$1,008**

Required of any person taking mussels, clams or their shells from the public waters of this state for commercial purposes. See MUSSELS AND CLAMS on page 39.

Fishing Guide Licenses:

Required for any person who for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports any person engaged in fishing in the public waters of the state.

Fresh Water

Resident and Non-resident

(Type 600) \$132

All-Water

Resident (Type 610)..... \$210

Non-resident (Type 710)..... \$1,050

Required of any person operating as a fishing guide in all public waters (salt water only or both fresh and salt water).

NOTE: No person operating a motorized vessel or boat as a fishing guide on or in the salt waters of this state may be issued a fishing guide license unless the person presents original documentation to the license agent that the applicant possesses a valid and appropriate U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Operator's License. It is the operator's responsibility to assure compliance with USCG regulations. For additional information, contact the USCG Regional Examination Center in Houston, Texas at (713) 948-3350.

All-Water Paddle Craft

Resident (Type 650)..... \$210

Non-resident (Type 750)..... \$1,050

Required of any person operating as a fishing guide and utilizing paddle craft (canoes, kayaks, etc.) in all coastal waters.

NOTE: Persons operating as a fishing guide and utilizing paddle craft (canoes, kayaks, etc.) while guiding can qualify for a fishing guide license upon presentation to a license agent of certification or proof of completion of a TPWD boater safety course, CPR/First Aid training, and completion of the American Canoe Association Coastal Kayak Day Trip Leading Assessment or the British Canoe Union Four Star Leader Sea Kayak Certification. This license is applicable only to paddle craft and cannot be used when a person is operating a motorized vessel.

Any person who possesses a All-Water fishing guide license and a valid USCG vessel operator's license is qualified as an All-Water paddle craft fishing guide.

All-Water fishing guide and All-Water paddle craft licenses available only at TPWD Law Enforcement offices. Freshwater fishing guide licenses available at any location where licenses are sold.

BAIT DEALERS' LICENSES

All bait dealers who purchase aquatic product(s) from anyone except other dealers, and all bait dealers who harvest aquatic product(s) themselves are required to report these landings under the Trip Ticket Program. See page 13, **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS**.

Bait Dealer – Individual

(Type 312)..... \$38

Required for any person who catches, transports or sells his own catch of minnows, fish or other aquatic products (**except shrimp**) for bait.

Note: In addition to this license, a permit to sell non-game fish taken from public fresh water is required. The fee for this license is \$60 and can be obtained by calling (512) 389-8037.

Bait Dealer – Place of Business/Building

(Type 515)..... \$38

Required for any person who buys for the purpose of sale, minnows, fish, shrimp in non-coastal counties or other aquatic products for bait.

Bait Dealer – Place of Business/Motor Vehicle

(Type 516)..... \$38

Required for any person operating a place of business and buying, for the purpose of sale from a motor vehicle, minnows, fish, shrimp in non-coastal counties or other aquatic products for bait.

Bait-Shrimp Dealer (coastal counties)

(Type 335)..... \$215

Required for any person who operates an established place of business engaged in selling shrimp for fish bait. Minnows, non-game fish or other aquatic products may also be sold for fish bait under this license. Only the place of business/building bait dealer's license is required for grocery stores which do not unload or purchase shrimp directly from commercial bait-shrimp boats.

OTHER BUSINESS LICENSES

"Place of business" means a **permanent structure** on land or a **motor vehicle** where aquatic products or orders for aquatic products are received or where aquatic products are sold or purchased, but does not include a boat or any type of floating device, a public cold-storage vault, the portion of a structure that is used as a residence, or a vehicle from which no orders are taken or no shipments or deliveries are made other than to the place of business of a licensee in this state.

Aquatic products lawfully taken from the waters of another state may be sold within this state by licensed dealers without regard to size limitations imposed on such products taken within this state. A record of the source and disposition of such undersized or oversized products shall be maintained by the dealer for as long as the undersized or oversized products are retained and for at least 30 days thereafter.

All fish dealers who purchase aquatic product(s) from anyone except other dealers, and all fish dealers who harvest aquatic product(s)

themselves are required to report these landings under the Trip Ticket Program. See page 13, **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS**.

- *Wholesale Fish Dealer (each place of business except trucks)** (Type 314)..... **\$825**
- *Wholesale Fish Truck Dealer (for each truck used as a place of business)** (Type 315) **\$590**

Required for any person who operates a place of business for the purpose of selling, offering for sale, canning, preserving, processing, or handling for shipments or sale aquatic products to retail or wholesale fish dealers, hotels, restaurants, cafes, or consumers.

***Note:** HB 2470 of the 78th Legislature mandated a 10% surcharge on fees for these licenses. The funds generated by these increases will be dedicated to a shrimp marketing and promotion program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

- *Retail Fish Dealer (each place of business except trucks)** (Type 302)..... **\$92.40**
- *Retail Fish Truck Dealer (each truck used as a place of business)** (Type 316)..... **\$171.60**

Required for any person who operates a place of business and sells aquatic products to consumers.

***Note:** HB 2470 of the 78th Legislature mandated a 10% surcharge on fees for these licenses. The funds generated by these increases will be dedicated to a shrimp marketing and promotion program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Menhaden Fish Plant (Type 326) **\$180**

Required for any person who operates, at a fixed location on land, any installation where fish and fish by-products are processed by pressure, heat or chemical means into fish oil, fish solubles, fish scraps or other products.

Texas Finfish Import License (Type 380)..... **\$95**

Required of any person in this state receiving bass of the genus *Micropterus*, blue marlin, crappie, flathead catfish, goliath grouper (formerly called jewfish), longbill spearfish, muskellunge, northern pike, red drum, sailfish, sauger, snook, spotted seatrout, striped bass, tarpon, walleye, white bass, white marlin, yellow bass or hybrids of any of these fish directly from another state or country; or importing, transporting, or selling these fishes in this state. (This license is not required for licensed Texas fish farmers raising these fishes, or persons transporting these fish by common carrier from outside this state to a point of delivery outside this state providing the fish are not unloaded in Texas and are accompanied by a bill of lading.)

Shell Buyer
Resident (Type 324)..... **\$126**
Non-resident (Type 424)..... **\$1,890**

Required to purchase for commercial use mussel and clam shells that have been taken from the public waters. See **MUSSELS AND CLAMS** on page 39.

BOAT LICENSES

Current boat registration or documentation papers must be presented when purchasing a boat license.

A **non-resident boat** is defined as a boat that does not have a Texas Certificate of Number or a boat that does not have a United States Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation that lists the owner's address in Texas.

Commercial Fishing Boat (Type 304)..... **\$27**

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

Class A Menhaden Boat (Type 325)..... **\$4,200**

Required for each boat used in the coastal waters of this state for the purpose of catching, storing and transporting menhaden for pay, barter, sale or exchange. Persons aboard a menhaden boat for the purpose of taking menhaden are not required to possess a general commercial fisherman's license or commercial finfish fisherman's license.

Class B Menhaden Boat (Type 329)..... **\$50**

Required for each boat used for the purpose of assisting a Class A Menhaden boat in catching menhaden. Persons aboard a Class B Menhaden boat for the purpose of catching menhaden are not required to possess a general commercial fisherman's license or commercial finfish fisherman's license.

Bait-Shrimp Boat
Resident (Type 337)..... **\$366**
Non-resident (Type 437)..... **\$758**

This is a limited entry license. See **SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT** (pg. 7).

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. A boat licensed as a commercial bait shrimp boat may also be used to take edible aquatic products, other than shrimp, for pay, barter, sale or exchange from inside waters.

Bay-Shrimp Boat

Resident (Type 336).....	\$382.80
Non-resident (Type 436).....	\$825

This is a limited entry license. See SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT (pg. 7).

Required for each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in the inside major bay waters of the state for taking shrimp for pay, barter, sale or exchange. A boat licensed as a commercial bay shrimp boat may also be used to take other edible aquatic products for pay, barter, sale or exchange from inside waters.

Gulf-Shrimp Boat

Resident (Type 330).....	\$495
Non-resident (Type 430).....	\$1,485

This is a limited entry license. See SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT (pg. 7).

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 edible aquatic products for pay, barter, sale or exchange or for boats unloading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters.

Commercial Oyster Boat License

Resident (Type 306).....	\$441
Non-resident (Type 406).....	\$1,764

Required for each boat used to transport or for taking oysters for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose from the public waters of this state by utilizing a dredge, tongs, or other mechanical means.

PERMIT TO SELL NON-GAME FISH TAKEN FROM PUBLIC FRESH WATER

In addition to a General Commercial Fisherman's License, Bait Dealer's License, and/or a Commercial Fishing Boat License (if using a boat to catch non-game fish), no person may sell a non-game fish taken from the public fresh waters of this state unless that person first obtains a permit to sell non-game fish. (See the section entitled **SALE OF FISH — FRESH WATER**, page 16 of this guide.) The fee for the PERMIT TO SELL NON-GAME FISH is \$60, and can be obtained by calling (512) 389-8037.

PURCHASE OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS FOR RESALE

Wholesale fish dealers may purchase for resale, or receive for sale, barter, exchange, or any other commercial purpose aquatic products **only** from persons or entities in this state who hold a valid:

- general commercial fisherman's license;
- commercial oyster fisherman's license;
- commercial oyster boat license;
- wholesale fish dealer's license;
- fish farmer's license;
- commercial oyster boat captain's license;
- commercial shrimp boat license;
- commercial shrimp boat captain's license;
- commercial crab fisherman's license; or
- commercial finfish fisherman's license.

All wholesale fish dealers who purchase aquatic product(s) from anyone except other dealers, and all wholesale fish dealers who harvest aquatic product(s) themselves are required to report these landings under the Trip Ticket Program. See page 13, **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS**.

Retail fish dealers may purchase for resale, or receive for sale, barter, exchange, or any other commercial purpose aquatic products **only** from persons or entities in this state who hold a valid:

- wholesale fish dealer's license;
- fish farmer's license;
- general commercial fisherman's license;

- commercial shrimp boat captain's license;
- commercial shrimp boat license when the retail fish dealer has given written notification to the department of the dealer's intent to purchase aquatic products from the holder of a general commercial fisherman's license or a commercial shrimp boat license;
- commercial crab fisherman's license; or
- commercial finfish fisherman's license.

All retail fish dealers who purchase aquatic product(s) from anyone except other dealers, and all retail fish dealers who harvest aquatic product(s) themselves are required to report these landings under the Trip Ticket Program. See page 13, **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS**.

Restaurant owners, operators or employees may purchase aquatic products (**only** for consumption by the restaurant's patrons on the restaurant premises) **only** from persons or entities in this state who hold a valid:

- general commercial fisherman's license;
- wholesale fish dealer's license;
- fish farmer's license;
- commercial shrimp boat license;
- commercial shrimp boat captain's license;
- commercial crab fisherman's license; or
- commercial finfish fisherman's license.

SHIPPING REGULATIONS

AQUATIC PRODUCT TRANSPORTATION INVOICES

All aquatic products (uncooked, fresh or frozen fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, etc.) shipped for commercial purposes must be accompanied by an invoice prepared by the shipper containing the following information:

- Invoice Number
- Date of Shipment
- Name and Physical Address of Shipper (Fish Dealer)
- Name and Physical Address of Receiver
- Dealer Number of Shipper
- Quantity of Aquatic Products contained in the shipment; finfish by species, number or weight; oysters by volume; and all other aquatic products by weight.

Shippers shall sequentially number invoices during each license year. No number may be used twice during any one license period.

Shipper and receiver shall maintain a copy of invoice for a period of one year from date of shipment.

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION

No person may bring into this state and deliver aquatic products for commercial purposes unless the person has obtained a wholesale fish dealer's license, a retail fish dealer's license, a bait dealer's license, or an exotic species interstate transport permit, as applicable, issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Aquatic products lawfully taken from the waters of another state may be sold within this state by licensed dealers without regard to size limitations imposed on such products taken within this state. A record of the source and disposition of such undersize or oversize products shall be maintained by the dealer for as long as the undersize or oversize products are retained and for at least 30 days thereafter.

No person may transport aquatic products out of this state for commercial purposes unless the transporter first obtains a wholesale fish dealer's license or a retail fish dealer's license. A person who delivers aquatic products for a licensed wholesale fish dealer or retail fish dealer must possess a copy of the dealer's license while making deliveries.

CONTAINERS

All containers of aquatic products shipped for commercial purposes must have a label attached to the outside listing the following information:

- Aquatic Products Transportation Invoice number of the shipment of which the container is a part

- Kind of aquatic product contained
 - Weight of aquatic product in the container
- Finfish may not be shipped in individual packages that contain more than one species.

A commercial fisherman licensed to take aquatic products from Texas waters transporting **his own catch** within this state is not required to invoice the shipment or label containers.

LICENSES

Any person transporting aquatic products for commercial purposes must have in his possession the license authorizing the shipment.

- Commercial finfish fisherman's license OR
- General commercial fisherman's license and an affidavit from the holder of the commercial finfish fisherman's license authorizing the person to operate their fishing devices for shipments of the fisherman's own catch.
- Commercial shrimp boat license (or copy of commercial shrimp boat license) and commercial shrimp boat captain's license for shipments of shrimp and/or other aquatic products taken on a commercial shrimp boat.
- Commercial oyster boat captain's license and commercial oyster boat license (or copy of commercial oyster boat license), for shipments of oysters taken on a commercial oyster boat.
- Commercial oyster fisherman's license for shipments of the fisherman's own catch of oysters.
- Wholesale or retail fish dealer's truck Licenses (original license) or a **copy** of the wholesale or retail fish dealer's business license for shipments going to or from the place of business of fish dealer.

No person may transport aquatic products **out** of this state for commercial purposes unless the shipper first obtains a wholesale fish dealer's license, retail fish dealer's license or a bait dealer's license, whichever is applicable.

No person may bring into this state and **deliver** aquatic products for any commercial purpose unless he has obtained a wholesale fish dealer's license or a retail fish dealer's license, whichever is applicable.

A motor carrier providing contract carriage of aquatic products for a fish dealer is not responsible for invoicing or labeling the shipment or obtaining a wholesale or retail fish dealer's license. The shipper (seller of the aquatic product) is responsible for invoicing and labeling the shipment and obtaining the proper dealer's license.

RECORDS

COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS

Trip Tickets

NOTE: All aquatic product transactions are required to be recorded by individual trip regardless of the species involved in the transaction, and each trip's landings will be linked to information about the fisherman and his equipment. These transactions may be recorded electronically [using software provided by TPWD at the address below] or on paper using forms provided by TPWD [at the same address].

All dealers who purchase or receive aquatic product(s) from anyone other than another dealer **MUST** file a monthly report with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on or before the 10th day of each month following the month in which the reportable activity occurred. The report must be filed every month, whether or not reportable activity occurs. The filing of an incorrect or false report is unlawful. This report must include the forms for all transactions conducted during the period covered by the report. **All commercial fishermen who sell their catch to individuals other than wholesale fish dealer, retail fish dealer, wholesale truck dealer, retail truck dealer, bait dealer, bait-shrimp dealer, MUST report these sales by filing a monthly report with the TPWD on or before the 10th day of each month following the month in which reportable activity occurred. Processed aquatic products not sold to the processing dealer must**

be reported by the commercial fishermen at the landing weight prior to processing.

A trip ticket must include:

- the name of the seller;
- the **commercial license** number of the seller;
- commercial license type of seller;
- Texas driver's license;
- the date of sale;
- the number of pounds sold by species;
- unit and condition codes
- count and/or market size
- the water body or bay system from which the aquatic products were taken;
- price paid per pound per species;
- gear used to harvest the aquatic product;
- trip time;
- fishing time;
- commercial fishing vessel name;
- commercial fishing vessel registration number;
- dealer name; and
- the **commercial license** number of the dealer.

Trip tickets are required for all **aquatic** products and must be completed at the time the products are delivered from the fisherman to the dealer.

Source of Forms

Dealer report forms for aquatic products are available by writing: Commercial Harvest Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Dickinson Marine Laboratory, 1502 FM 517 E, Dickinson, Texas 77539 or calling (281) 534-0117.

MARKING OF VEHICLES

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 letters of good proportion in contrasting color to the background and be at least six inches in height, or be marked in the lower left portion, on the rear of the vehicle with a decal (see illustration – right) as prescribed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. For information call (512) 389-4628. **Each individual dealer or company is responsible for generating their own decal according to provided guidelines.**

A motor carrier providing contract carriage of aquatic products for a fish dealer is not required to mark his vehicle providing the motor carrier does not own or have part ownership of the aquatic products.



(Reduced version of truck decal. Must be at least six inches by six inches in size and in contrasting color to the truck.)

IMPORTATION REGULATIONS

No person may import into this state or possess a wildlife resource taken outside this state, unless the person possessing the wildlife resource produces on demand by a game warden a valid hunting, fishing or other applicable license, stamp, tag, permit or document for the state or country in which the wildlife resource was legally taken.

A person importing or possessing a wildlife resource from another state or country must produce upon demand by a game warden a valid driver's license or personal identification certificate.

Fish imported into Texas and landed by boat, must comply with Texas bag and size limits. This does not apply to fish caught under the authority of an approved Federal Fishery Management Plan.

IMPORTATION OF COMMERCIALY PROTECTED FISH

All shipments of commercially protected finfish must be accompanied by a "Commercially Protected Finfish Shipping Invoice." A copy of the invoice must accompany all commercially protected finfish shipments through their place of final sale to the consumer.

Commercially Protected Finfish

- Bass of the genus *Micropterus**
- Bass, striped*
- Bass, white*
- Bass, yellow
- Catfish, flathead*
- Crappie, black*
- Crappie, white*
- Drum, red*
- Grouper, goliath (formerly called jewfish)
- Marlin, blue
- Marlin, white
- Muskellunge
- Pike, northern
- Sailfish
- Sauger
- Seatrout, spotted
- Snook
- Spearfish, longbill
- Tarpon
- Walleye
- Hybrids of any of these fish*

***NOTICE:** 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 any 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.

Commercially Protected Finfish Invoice

1. Shall accompany all shipments of commercially protected finfish imported, exported or shipped within the state.

2. Shall contain all of the following information, correctly stated and legibly written:

- (a) Commercially Protected Finfish Shipping Invoice number;
- (b) Date of shipment;
- (c) Name and physical address of shipper;
- (d) Name and physical address of receiver;
- (e) Shipper's and receiver's Texas Finfish Import Dealer number when required;
- (f) Number and weight of whole fish or fillets by species contained in the shipment; and
- (g) State (or country, if outside the United States) of origin.

3. Shall be in the form prescribed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and 8¹/₂ x 11 inches in size.

4. Be sequentially numbered during the license period.

5. The **shipper** and **receiver** is responsible for submitting a copy of each invoice for shipments made during each month to the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Regional Law Enforcement office** on or before the **10th day of the following month**, except a retail dealer or restaurant selling only to the consumer is not required to submit a copy of the invoice.

6. One copy of each invoice must be **retained** by the shipper and receiver, including retail dealers and restaurants, for a period of at least one year from the date of shipment.

Package Requirements

Commercial shipments of commercially protected finfish must be shipped in containers whose volume is no greater than six cubic feet or in containers that do not contain more than three individual fish each.

Package Labels

Each package of commercially protected finfish shall be labeled as to its contents. Labels shall be placed on the outside of each package and contain the following information:

1. The commercially protected finfish invoice number of the shipment of which the package is a part.

2. The number and weight of whole fish or fillets by species contained in the package.

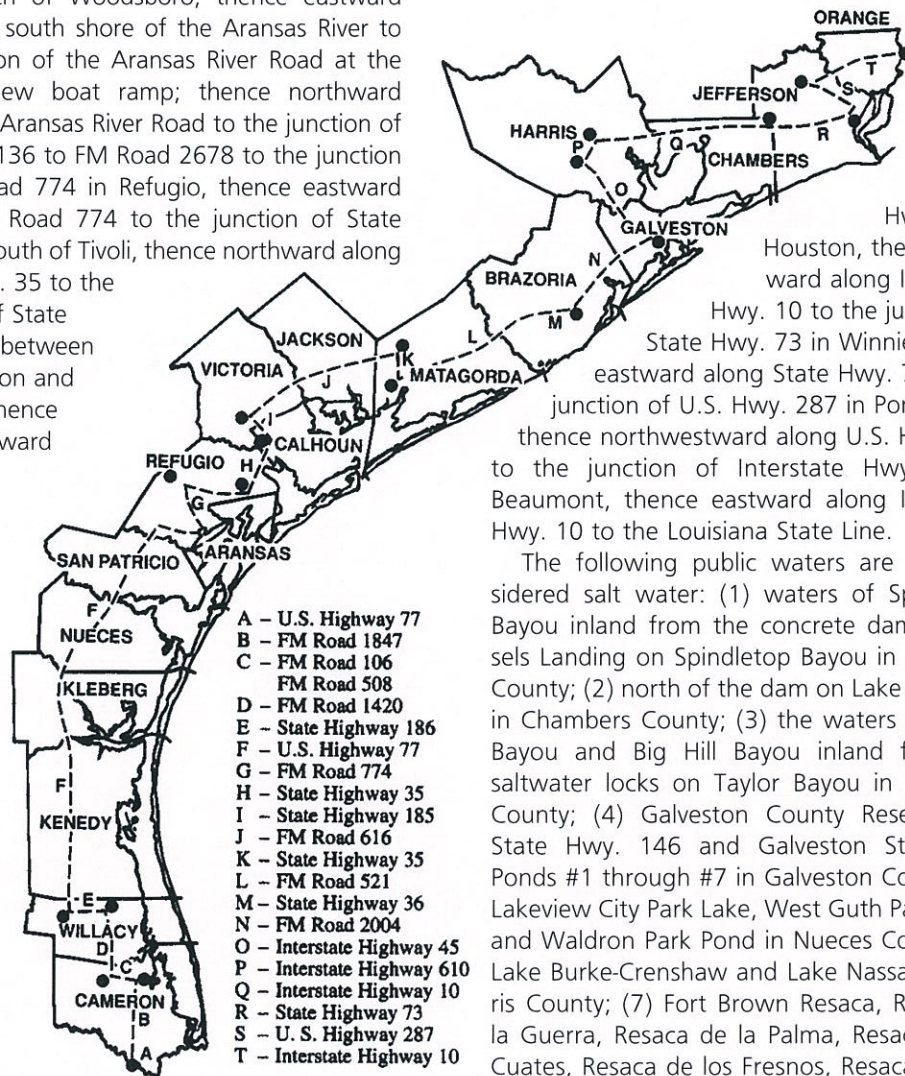
Importation of Commercially Protected Finfish from the EEZ by Commercial Fishermen

A commercially protected finfish lawfully taken or raised for commercial purposes in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the authority of a Federal Fishery Management Plan or Federal Permit may be transported into this state by the harvesting vessel. These commercially protected finfish may only be unloaded to the holder of a Texas Finfish Import License.

FRESHWATER/SALTWATER BOUNDARY

All public waters east and south of the following boundary are considered salt waters: beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Brownsville, northward along U.S. Hwy. 77 to the junction of Paredes Lines Road (FM Road 1847) in Brownsville, thence northward along FM Road 1847 to the junction of FM Road 106 east of Rio Hondo, thence westward along FM Road 106 to the junction of FM Road 508 in Rio Hondo, thence northward along FM Road 508 to the junction of FM Road 1420, thence northward along FM Road 1420 to the junction of State Hwy. 186 east of Raymondville, thence westward along State Hwy. 186 to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 77 near Raymondville, thence northward along U.S. Hwy. 77 to the junction of the Aransas River south of Woodsboro, thence eastward along the south shore of the Aransas River to the junction of the Aransas River Road at the Bonnie View boat ramp; thence northward along the Aransas River Road to the junction of FM Road 136 to FM Road 2678 to the junction of FM Road 774 in Refugio, thence eastward along FM Road 774 to the junction of State Hwy. 35 south of Tivoli, thence northward along State Hwy. 35 to the junction of State Hwy. 185 between Bloomington and Seadrift, thence northwestward

along State Hwy. 185 to the junction of FM Road 616 in Bloomington, thence north-eastward along FM Road 616 to the junction of State Hwy. 35 east of Blessing, thence southward along State Hwy. 35 to the junction of FM Road 521 north of Palacios, thence north-eastward along FM Road 521 to the junction of State Hwy. 36 south of Brazoria, thence southward along State Hwy. 36 to the junction of FM Road 2004, thence northward along FM Road 2004 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 45 between Dickinson and La Marque, thence northwestward along Interstate Hwy. 45 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 610 in Houston, thence east and northward along Interstate Hwy. 610 to the junction of Interstate



- A - U.S. Highway 77
- B - FM Road 1847
- C - FM Road 106
- FM Road 508
- D - FM Road 1420
- E - State Highway 186
- F - U.S. Highway 77
- G - FM Road 774
- H - State Highway 35
- I - State Highway 185
- J - FM Road 616
- K - State Highway 35
- L - FM Road 521
- M - State Highway 36
- N - FM Road 2004
- O - Interstate Highway 45
- P - Interstate Highway 610
- Q - Interstate Highway 10
- R - State Highway 73
- S - U.S. Highway 287
- T - Interstate Highway 10

Hwy. 10 in Houston, thence eastward along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the junction of State Hwy. 73 in Winnie, thence eastward along State Hwy. 73 to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 287 in Port Arthur, thence northwestward along U.S. Hwy. 287 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 10 in Beaumont, thence eastward along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the Louisiana State Line.

The following public waters are not considered salt water: (1) waters of Spindletop Bayou inland from the concrete dam at Russels Landing on Spindletop Bayou in Jefferson County; (2) north of the dam on Lake Anahuac in Chambers County; (3) the waters of Taylor Bayou and Big Hill Bayou inland from the saltwater locks on Taylor Bayou in Jefferson County; (4) Galveston County Reservoir on State Hwy. 146 and Galveston State Park Ponds #1 through #7 in Galveston County; (5) Lakeview City Park Lake, West Guth Park Pond, and Waldron Park Pond in Nueces County; (6) Lake Burke-Crenshaw and Lake Nassau in Harris County; (7) Fort Brown Resaca, Resaca de la Guerra, Resaca de la Palma, Resaca de los Cuates, Resaca de los Fresnos, Resaca Rancho Viejo, and Town Resaca in Cameron County; and (8) Little Chocolate Bayou Park Ponds #1 and #2 in Port Lavaca in Calhoun County.

FISH

GENERAL REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to take, attempt to take, possess, sell or purchase fish within a protected length limit, in greater numbers, by other means, or at any time or place other than as provided in this guide.

It is unlawful to transport by boat or person any fish within a protected length limit, or in excess of the daily bag limit or possession limit established for those fish.

No person on board a licensed commercial fishing boat (a commercial fishing boat, commercial shrimp boat, menhaden boat, commercial oyster boat) may possess any fish species whose sale is prohibited. On board a commercial shrimp boat fish legally taken incidental to a legal shrimp operation may only be possessed by a person with a shrimp boat captains license or a person who is the owner of a licensed commercial shrimp boat. To legally sport fish from a licensed commercial fishing boat the commercial plates must be removed from the boat. While no commercial plates are on board all sport fishing regulations apply including size, bag and possession limits. While the commercial plates are on board, all commercial regulations apply, including size, bag and possession limits.

No person may possess a finfish of any species, except broadbill swordfish, shark or king mackerel, taken from public water that has the head or tail removed until such person finally lands the catch on the mainland, a peninsula or barrier island, not including jetties, piers and does not transport the catch by boat.

Leaving fish to die. A person commits an offense if the person leaves **edible fish** or **bait fish** taken from the public waters of this state to die without the intent to retain the fish for consumption or bait.

PROHIBITED ACTS IN ALL PUBLIC WATERS

It is unlawful to fail to immediately remove the intestines from **grass carp, tilapia, or any other harmful exotic species** when caught or possessed. (For a complete listing contact TPWD at (800) 792-1112.)

It is **unlawful** for any person to use a gaff except to aid in the landing of fish caught by other legal devices, means, or methods. Fish landed with a gaff may not be below the minimum, above the maximum, or within a protected length limit.

It is **unlawful** for any person to release into the public waters of this state a fish with a device or substance implanted or attached that is designed, constructed or adapted to produce an audible, visual or electronic signal used to monitor, track, follow or in any manner aid in the location of the released fish.

It is **unlawful** to catch, possess, use, transport, purchase or sell any game fish or any part thereof as bait.

Billfish, except swordfish, may not be landed or possessed by the captain or crew of a commercial fishing vessel.

SALE OF FISH – FRESH WATER

It is unlawful to sell any fish taken from the public fresh water of Texas except for the following:

(1) **Channel and blue catfish** over **14** inches in length taken in the following:

- Angelina County
- Bowie County
- Camp County
- Cass County
- Chambers County
- Franklin County
- Freestone County
- Gregg County
- Hardin County
- Harris County
- Harrison County
- Jasper County
- Jefferson County
- Lamar County
- Leon County
- Liberty County
- Madison County
- Marion County
- Montgomery County
- Morris County
- Nacogdoches County
- Navarro County
- Newton County
- Orange County
- Panola County
- Polk County
- Red River County
- Sabine County
- San Augustine County
- San Jacinto County
- Shelby County
- Titus County
- Trinity County
- Tyler County
- Upshur County
- Walker County
- the Neches and Trinity rivers in Houston County
- the Colorado River in Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Matagorda or Wharton counties

(2) A **PERMIT TO SELL NON-GAME FISH** is required to sell alligator gar, shortnose gar, spotted gar, longnose gar, bowfin, gizzard shad, threadfin shad, common carp, goldfish, grass carp, bighead carp, bigmouth buffalo, black buffalo, smallmouth buffalo, river carpsucker, black bullhead, yellow bullhead, freshwater drum (gaspergou), Mozambique tilapia, blue tilapia, redbelly tilapia, Rio Grande perch, silversides, mullet, shiners, minnows and hybrids of these species taken from the public fresh waters of this state. Other non-game fish may not be sold. For permit information call (512) 389-8037.

SALE OF FISH – SALT WATER

All fish listed below taken from the public salt water of Texas may **NOT** be sold for any purpose. All other fish taken from public salt water may be sold provided all commercial fishing

regulations including licensing, and size, possession and bag limits are met.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| • Bass of the genus <i>Micropterus</i> | • Muskellunge |
| • Bass, striped | • Pike, northern |
| • Bass, white | • Sailfish |
| • Bass, yellow | • Sauger |
| • Catfish, flathead | • Seatrout, spotted |
| • Crappie, black | • Snook |
| • Crappie, white | • Spearfish, longbill |
| • Drum, red | • Tarpon |
| • Grouper, goliath (formerly called jewfish) | • Walleye |
| • Marlin, blue | • Hybrids of any of these fish |
| • Marlin, white | |

Commercial Fishing Seasons

The commercial fishing seasons for red snapper, sharks and king mackerel caught in Texas waters shall run concurrently with commercial seasons established for these species in federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (more than 9nm off shore).

TEXAS STATE WATERS – FEDERAL WATERS

Texas recreational and commercial fishermen fishing more than nine (9) nautical miles off the coast of Texas are in federal waters and are subject to rules and regulations that may differ from those in state waters. To insure you are in compliance with federal regulations, you should contact the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at (888) 833-1844 (toll-free) or visit their web site at <http://gsmfc.org> and click on REGULATIONS.

INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA (IFQ) FOR RED SNAPPER

No person aboard any vessel shall sell, barter, trade, or exchange red snapper; land or attempt to land red snapper for the purpose of sale, barter, trade, or exchange; or possess red snapper for the purpose of sale, barter, trade, or exchange unless the person possesses a valid federal permit for the harvest of Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish, a valid federal red snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) vessel endorsement and a sufficient allocation for red snapper.

TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) FOR GULF MENHADEN

The commercial season for menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*) is open beginning on the third Monday in April and will continue until whichever of the following first occurs: the first day in

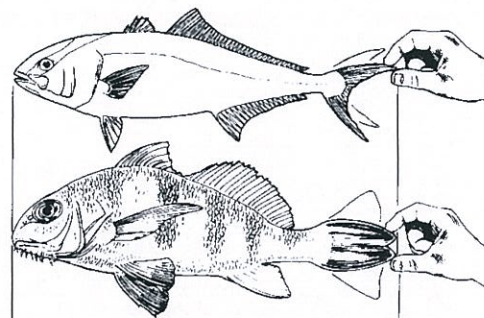
November; or the total catch for the season has reached 31,500,000 pounds.

PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE – SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Starting March 7, 2009 anyone, excluding vendors and concessionaires, who makes money from a public resource at the Padre Island National Seashore or within its aquatic perimeter is required to possess a National Park Service issued "Commercial Use Authorization" permit while operating their service. Direct questions to Kaci Messenger at (361) 949-9239, ext. 33. Also check the Web site for a full explanation of the rule: www.nps.gov/pais

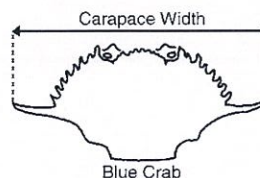
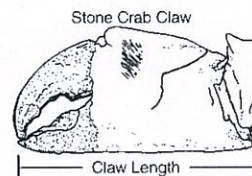
HOW TO MEASURE FISH AND CRABS

The length to be measured is that straight line distance from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail or caudal fin. All measurements are to be made as that straight line distance (not over the curve of the body) with the fish lying on its side and with the jaw closed in a normal position, not extended in any way. The tail should be squeezed or rotated to produce the maximum overall length.



MEASURE TOTAL LENGTH WITH TAIL FIN COMPRESSED

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----



COMMERCIAL BAG, POSSESSION AND LENGTH LIMITS

Species	Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Length (Inches)	Maximum Length (Inches)
Amberjack, greater	1	2	34	No limit
Drum, black ^a	No limit	No limit	14	30
Catfish: blue and channel	25 ^b (In any combination)	50 (In any combination)	14	No limit
Catfish, gafftopsail	No limit	No limit	14	No limit
Cobia	2	4	37	No limit
Flounder ^c	30/2 ^c	30/2 ^c	14	No limit
Gar, alligator	1	2	No limit	No limit
Grouper, gag	2	4	22	No limit
Mackerel, king	2	4	27	No limit
Mackerel, Spanish	15	30	14	No limit
Mullet: all species their hybrids and subspecies ^d	No limit	No limit	No limit	12 during Oct., Nov., Dec. & Jan.
Shark:				
Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead	1 See Special Regulation ^e below	2	24	No limit
allowable shark species			64	No limit
Shark: prohibited species ^f	0	0	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Sheepshead ^a	No limit	No limit	15	No limit
Snapper, lane	No limit	No limit	8	No limit
Snapper, red ^g	4	8	15	No limit
Snapper, vermilion	No limit	No limit	10	No limit
Triggerfish, gray	20	40	16	No limit
Tripletail	3	6	17	No limit

^a Only the holder of a commercial finfish fisherman's license is exempt from recreational bag and possession limits while commercial fishing for black drum or sheepshead.

^b Exceptions to catfish daily bag limit:

- 1) in Lake Livingston (Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity and Walker counties) the daily bag limit for channel and blue catfish is 50 in any combination;
- 2) in lakes lying totally within a state park and community fishing lakes (see the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual), the daily bag limit for channel and blue catfish is 5 in any combination and fish may be taken by pole and line only.

^c **Special Regulation:** The daily bag and possession limit of flounder for the holder of a valid commercial finfish fisherman's license is 30 fish, except on board a licensed commercial shrimp boat the limit is 5 per person with a current shrimp boat captain's license and is subject to the 50% bycatch rule (see page 23). For the period Nov. 1-30, flounder may be taken using hook and line only. Possession limit during the period Nov. 1-30 is 2 fish.

^d May not take from public waters or possess on board a boat mullet over 12 inches during October, November, December and January. No limits apply during other months.

^e **Special Regulation:** The daily bag limit is 1 fish for all allowable shark species **INCLUDING** Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip and bonnethead.

^f **Prohibited shark species:** 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, Smaltail, Whale, White.

^g **Special Regulation:** Red snapper may be taken using pole and line, but it is unlawful to use any kind of hook other than a circle hook, when using natural bait.

The possession limit does not apply to fish in the possession of:

(1) **a person who has an invoice or sales ticket** showing the name and address of the seller, number of fish by species, date of the sale, and other information required on a sales ticket or an invoice.

(2) for all wildlife resources (including fish) taken for personal consumption and

for which there is a possession limit, the possession limit shall not apply after the wildlife resource has reached its final destination.

It is unlawful for any person while fishing on or in public waters to have in possession fish in excess of the daily bag limit or fish within a protected length limit as established for those waters.

FRESHWATER DEVICES, MEANS AND METHODS

This section describes what fishing devices may be lawfully used to take fish from public freshwater and in what areas the devices may be used. Areas of the state where fish may be taken commercially from public fresh water are described in the **SALE OF FISH — FRESH WATER** section on page 16 of this guide.

It is **unlawful** for any person to fish with more than 100 hooks on all devices combined or for any person to take, attempt to take, or possess fish caught by any device, means, or method other than as listed in this guide.

In community fishing lakes and in sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of state parks, game and non-game fish may be taken by pole and line only.

Channel and blue catfish may be taken only by pole and line (includes rod and reel), trotline, jugline or throwline.

Non-game fish may be taken by pole and line (includes rod and reel), trotline, jugline, throwline, shad trawl, minnow seine, dip net, cast net, minnow trap, gig, umbrella net, speargun and spear or bow and arrow.

Cast Net: It is **unlawful** for any person to use a cast net exceeding 14 feet in diameter. Non-game fish only may be taken.

Dip Net: It is **unlawful** for any person to take **game fish** with a dip net except a dip net may be used to aid in the landing of fish caught on other legal devices.

Jugline: It is unlawful for any person to use a jugline with more than five hooks attached. Gear tags must be attached within six inches of the free floating device,

are valid for 30 days after the date set out, and must include the number of the permit to sell non-game fish taken from public fresh water, if applicable. For commercial purposes, a jugline must be marked with an orange free floating device; for non-commercial purposes, a jugline must be marked with a white free floating device. The use of a jugline is prohibited in Lake Bastrop, Bellwood Lake, Boerne City Park Lake, Lake Bryan, Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County, Dixieland Reservoir, Gibbons Creek Reservoir, Lake Pflugerville in Travis County, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, community fishing lakes and in sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park.

Hand Fishing: Fishing by the use of hands only and without any other fishing device such as gaff, pole hook, trap, or spear.

- May be used to take channel and blue catfish in fresh water only.

Lawful Archery Equipment: Only non-game fish, may be taken for commercial purposes.

Minnow Seine: It is **unlawful** for any person to use a minnow seine: which exceeds 20 feet in length; with mesh exceeding 1/2-inch square; or which is not manually operated. **Non-game fish only** may be taken.

Minnow Trap: It is **unlawful** for any person to use a minnow trap exceeding 24 inches in length or with a throat opening larger than one inch by three inches. Non-game fish only may be taken.

Shad Trawl: It is **unlawful** for any person to use a shad trawl longer than 6 feet or with a mouth larger than 36 inches in

diameter. A shad trawl may be equipped with a funnel or throat and must be towed by a boat or by hand. Non-game fish only may be taken.

Speargun and Spear: Non-game fish only may be taken. Not a legal means to take fish in a community fishing lake.

Throwline: It is unlawful for any person to use a throwline with more than five (5) hooks attached. The use of a throwline is prohibited in Lake Bastrop, Bellwood Lake, Boerne City Park Lake, Lake Bryan, Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County, Dixieland Reservoir, Gibbons Creek Reservoir, Lake Pflugerville in Travis County, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, community fishing lakes and in sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park.

Trotline: It is **unlawful** for any person to use a trotline: with a mainline length

exceeding 600 feet; without valid gear tags (gear tags must be attached within three feet of each end of the trotline and are valid only for 30 days after the date set out); with hook intervals of less than three horizontal feet; with metallic stakes; with the main fishing line and attached hooks and stagings above the water's surface; or with more than 50 hooks.

The use of trotlines is prohibited in Pinkston Reservoir, Lake Bastrop, Gibbons Creek Reservoir, Fayette County Reservoir, Bellwood Lake, Boerne City Park Lake, Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County, Dixieland Reservoir, Lake Pflugerville in Travis County, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, community fishing lakes and in reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park.

Umbrella Net: It is **unlawful** for any person to use an umbrella net with the area within the frame exceeding 16 square feet. Non-game fish only may be taken.

SALTWATER DEVICES, MEANS AND METHODS

It is **unlawful** to take gamefish on any device except pole and line (includes rod and reel). Non-game fish may be taken with lawful archery equipment, cast net (for bait only), gig, minnow seine (for bait only), perch trap (for bait only), pole and line (includes rod and reel), spear gun and spear, or trotline. Purse seines may be used for taking menhaden only.

In salt water, it is unlawful to fish with any device that is marked with a buoy made of a plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.

Cast Net: It is **unlawful** for any person to use a cast net exceeding 14 feet in diameter. Non-game fish only, to be used for bait only, may be taken.

Circle Hook: It is **unlawful** to fish for red snapper using any kind of hook other than a circle hook, when using natural bait.

Minnow Seine: It is **unlawful** for any person to use a minnow seine which exceeds 20 feet in length. Non-game fish only, to be used for bait only, may be taken.

Perch Traps: For use in SALT WATER only.

- May be used to take NONGAME fish for bait only.
- May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
- Must be marked with a floating visible orange buoy not less than 6 inches in height and 6 inches in width. The buoy must have a GEAR TAG (see page 5) valid only for 30 days attached.
- Must be equipped with a degradable panel as described for crab traps (see pages 36 and 37).
- Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
- It is unlawful to place any type of trap within the area in Cedar Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedar Bayou and the department sign erected near the point where the pass empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

Purse Seine: Purse seines with not less than 1-1/2 inch stretched mesh, not including the bag, may be used only for taking menhaden from the third Monday in April through the first day in November. Purse

seines for taking menhaden may not be used in any bay, river, pass or tributary, nor within one mile of any barrier, jetty, island or pass, nor within 1/2 mile offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. When using a purse seine to take menhaden, edible aquatic products may not exceed five percent by volume of the menhaden in possession.

Trotline: A non-metallic main fishing line with more than five (5) hooks attached and with each end attached to a fixture.

- May be used to take non-game fish, channel catfish, blue catfish and flathead catfish.
- Red drum, spotted seatrout and sharks caught on a trotline may not be retained or possessed.
- Maximum Number of Trotlines Allowed:
 - It is unlawful to fish for commercial purposes with more than 20 trotlines at one time.
 - It is unlawful to fish for non-commercial purposes with more than one trotline at one time.
- Tag Requirements:
 - Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (see page 5) attached and attached within 3 feet of the first hook at each end of the trotline.
- Construction and Design Restrictions:
 - The mainline length may not exceed 600 feet.
 - May not use metallic stakes.
 - May not place the main fishing line and attached hooks and stagings above the water's surface.
 - Must be marked with yellow flagging attached to stakes or with a yellow floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height and 6 inches in width, attached to end fixtures.
 - Floats must be yellow.
 - Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
 - May not be baited with other than natural bait (EXCEPT Sail Lines). **Natural bait** is whole or cut-up portion of a fish or shellfish or a whole or cut-up portion of plant material in its natural state, provided that none of these may be altered beyond cutting into portions.

- Hooks must be 3 feet apart.
- May not be used with hooks other than circle-type hook (comparable to Mustad 11/0 circle hook Model #39960ST) with point curved in and having a gap (distance from point to shank) of no more than 1/2 inch, and with the diameter of the circle not less than 5/8 inch (EXCEPT Sail Lines).

• Placement and Location Restrictions:

- May not be used in or on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within the jurisdiction of this state;
- May not be placed closer than 50 feet from any other trotline, or set within 200 feet of the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway or its tributary channels.
- May not be used in Aransas County in Little Bay and the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula, then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine-Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island, including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula.
- No trotline or trotline components (EXCEPT Sail Lines), including lines and hooks, but excluding poles, may be left in or on coastal waters between the hours of 1 p.m. on Friday through 1 p.m. on Sunday of each week, except that attended sail lines are excluded from the restrictions imposed by this clause. Under the authority of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Code, §66.206(b), in the event small craft advisories or higher marine weather advisories issued by the National Weather Service are in place at 8 a.m. on Friday, trotlines may remain in the water until 6 p.m. on Friday. If small craft advisories are in place at 1 p.m. on Friday,

trotlines may remain in the water until Saturday. When small craft advisories are lifted by 8 a.m. on Saturday, trotlines must be removed by 1 p.m. on Saturday. When small craft advisories or higher marine weather advisories are still in place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, trotlines may remain in the water through 1 p.m. on Sunday. It is a

violation to tend, bait or harvest fish or any other aquatic life from trotlines during the period that trotline removal requirements are suspended under this provision for adverse weather conditions. For purposes of enforcement, the geographic area customarily covered by marine weather advisories will be delineated by department policy.

SHRIMP

GENERAL REGULATIONS

LICENSE REQUIRED

- Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's License
 - Commercial Shrimp Boat License (Bay, Bait or Gulf)
- (see pages 8 and 10-11)

To legally sport fish from a licensed commercial shrimp boat and to legally catch and retain fish species prohibited from sale, the commercial plates must be removed from the boat. While no commercial plates are on board, all sport fishing regulations apply including licenses, size, bag and possession limits. All commercial regulations apply when the commercial plates are on board.

It is **unlawful** to:

- take or attempt to take shrimp within the boundaries of any natural or man-made pass leading from the inside waters to the outside waters (Gulf of Mexico) of the state.
- use a trawl or fail to have the spreading devices on deck and the trawl bag untied at a time when shrimping is prohibited.
- possess a trawl that is too wide or has small mesh in an area where the trawl is prohibited. Such trawls may be possessed on vessels in port or in a marked channel going directly to or from an area in this state where the use of the trawl is permitted.
- head shrimp aboard a boat in inside waters.

- possess a device designed to catch fish or other aquatic life, including a shrimp trawl, in or on the public waters of the state where the use of the device is prohibited.
- catch and retain fish species prohibited from sale on a licensed commercial shrimp boat while the commercial plates are on board.
- retain a red drum, spotted seatrout or lightning whelk on board a licensed commercial shrimp boat if there is a trawl on board the boat.

It is **unlawful** for any person:

- aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial **bay** shrimp boat to off-load, transfer, sell, or barter any amount of live or dead shrimp to a person aboard another vessel;
- aboard a vessel to off-load, transfer, purchase, or barter from a person aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial **bay** shrimp boat any amount of live or dead shrimp;
- aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial **bait** shrimp boat to off-load, transfer, sell, or barter any amount of live or dead shrimp, except an amount of live or dead shrimp not to exceed two quarts per sport fisherman or one gallon (by volume) for two or more sport fishermen may be off-loaded, transferred, sold, or bartered to a person aboard a sport fishing vessel; or
- aboard a vessel to off-load, transfer, purchase, or barter from a person aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial **bait**

shrimp boat any amount of live or dead shrimp, except a person aboard a sport fishing vessel may off-load, transfer, purchase, or barter an amount of shrimp not to exceed two quarts per sport fisherman or one gallon (by volume) for two or more sport fishermen.

A commercial shrimp boat license must be prominently displayed as to be clearly visible from both sides of the boat.

Fresh shrimp may be held in possession only through open seasons and five days thereafter, **except** that bait dealers and sport fishermen may possess bait shrimp throughout the year.

The captain of a licensed commercial shrimp boat is required to hold a Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's license.

Non-game fish and other aquatic products taken incidental to legal shrimp trawling operations may be retained provided each person that retains a lawful limit of fish has a current shrimp boat captain's license, or is the licensed owner of the shrimp boat, and:

- the total weight of aquatic products retained, in any combination, do not exceed 50% by weight of shrimp on a shrimping vessel; or
- from May 1 to Sept. 30 up to 1,500 live non-game fish not regulated by bag or size limit and/or 300 dozen ribbonfish may be retained daily **for bait purposes only** on board a vessel licensed for commercial bait shrimp fishing.

The taking of aquatic products of **illegal size** on board a licensed commercial shrimp boat engaged in the lawful taking of shrimp is not a violation if the aquatic products of unlawful size are returned to the waters from which taken in a manner to ensure their **best chance of survival**.

DISPLAY BOAT NUMBERS

All commercial shrimp boats are required to exhibit the vessel's documentation or registration number on the **port** and **starboard** sides of the deckhouse or hull and on an **appropriate weather deck**. The number in block Arabic numerals in con-

trasting color to the background must be at least 18 inches in height on vessels over 65 feet and 10 inches in height for all other vessels and be permanently attached.

METHOD OF NET MEASUREMENT

All total widths specified for commercial otter trawls, including try nets, are measured along the uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door, including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline. All beam trawl widths are measured along the beam in its fully extended position.

Mesh sizes specified for commercial trawls apply to the trawl, bag and trawl liner and are measured in inches of length between the two most widely separated knots in any consecutive series of five stretched meshes after the trawl has been placed in use.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS (Bay and Bait Shrimping)

A boat having on board or displaying a bait shrimp boat license must operate **only** under commercial bait shrimp regulations, including: 1) 200 pound daily limit; 2) maintaining 50% of the shrimp alive; 3) places authorized for bait shrimping; and 4) sale or unload to a bait shrimp dealer or sportsman. See page 22, **GENERAL REGULATIONS**.

A shrimp boat licensed both as a bay shrimp boat and a bait shrimp boat may not shrimp in both a major bay and any other water on the same calendar day during the period May 15 through July 15 (Spring Open Season).

A shrimp boat licensed both as a bay shrimp boat and a bait shrimp boat may not take more than 600 pounds of heads on shrimp per calendar day during the period May 15 through July 15 (Spring Open Season).

WATERS DEFINED

Outside Waters—That part of the Gulf of Mexico extending from the shoreline seaward to nine nautical miles.

Inside Waters—All bays, passes, rivers or other bodies of water landward from the Gulf of Mexico. In these waters, the tide rises and falls and saltwater shrimp are found or migrate.

Major Bays (arranged geographically north to south)

- Sabine Lake (north of Cameron Causeway to the south of a line marked by the GIWW [Sabine Neches Canal/Sabine River] between the eastern most tip of Goat Island to the western most tip of Stewts Island)
- Trinity Bay (southward from a line extending from the mouth of Double Bayou in Chambers County to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to Separator C-2, to Point Barrow in Chambers County)
- Galveston Bay
- East Bay (westward from a line extending from Frozen Point to the GIWW Marker 12)
- Matagorda Bay (westward of a line extending from a location on the mainland where a line running immediately northwest [bearing 330 degrees] from Shellfish Marker A intersects the mainland; thence southeasterly to Shellfish Marker A located near the mainland, thence to Shellfish Marker B located near the end of Shell Island Reef, thence to the tide gauge located near the Matagorda Peninsula, and thence southeasterly [bearing 153 degrees] to the Matagorda Peninsula)
- East Matagorda Bay
- Tres Palacios Bay (south of a line from Grasse Point to the mouth of Pilkington Bayou)
- Espiritu Santo Bay
- Lavaca Bay (seaward of State Hwy. 35)

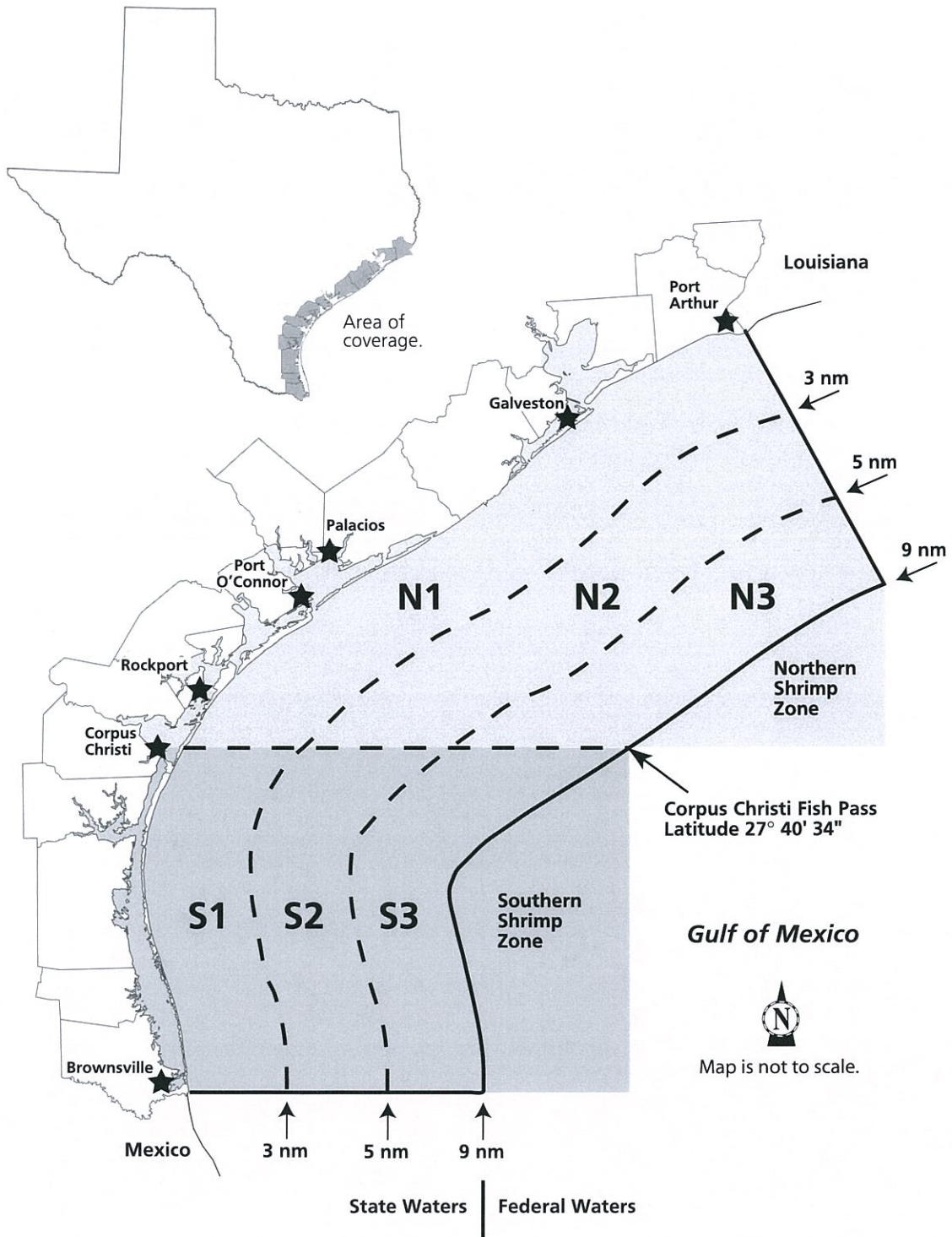
- San Antonio Bay (seaward of a line from McDowell Point to Mosquito Point)
- Aransas Bay
- Corpus Christi Bay (exclusive of the area bounded by a line extending from the GIWW at the southwest point of Dagger Island chain, along Dagger Island to the southeast tip of Ransom Island, then southeast to the westernmost point of land north of Marker 14 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel)
- All exclusive of tributary bays, bayous and inlets, lakes and rivers.

Bait Bays include major bays and the following (arranged geographically north to south)

- Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) exclusive of all tributaries
- Chocolate Bay
- West Bay (south and west of Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge and the GIWW inclusive of the area south of a line extending westward from the Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge at Virginia Point, along the southern edge of Tiki Island to the northeastern tip of North Deer Island at Channel Marker 48)
- Trinity Bay (northward from a line extending from the mouth of Double Bayou in Chambers County to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to Separator C-2, to Point Barrow in Chambers County)
- The Old Brazos River (lying north of the GIWW in Brazoria County)
- Baroom Bay
- Upper Laguna Madre
- Alazan Bay
- Baffin Bay, and
- Lower Laguna Madre including the Brownsville Ship Channel

Nursery Areas (Those coastal waters not specifically named above as Major Bays or Bait Bays are considered Nursery Areas)—Includes tributary bays, bayous, inlets, lakes and rivers that provide growth and development environments for postlarval and juvenile shrimp. Does not include outside waters, major bays or bait bays.

MAP OF GULF SHRIMP FISHERY MANAGEMENT ZONES



OUTSIDE WATERS

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

Closed Seasons:

- **Federal Waters** (from 9 miles to 200 miles from the Texas Coast), shrimping is closed:
 - from May 15** – July 15**

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The rules regarding the Summer Closed Season for Federal Waters off Texas may have changed prior to publication of this guide. For current rules, please call the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727) 570-5305 or contact your nearest TPWD Law Enforcement office.
- **Within 5 miles of the Texas coast** (Zones N1, N2, S1, S2), shrimping is closed:
 - at night (30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise)
 - from Dec. 1 – Feb. 15
- **Within 5 miles of the Texas coast in the South Zone** (Zones S1, S2), shrimping is closed:
 - from Feb. 16 – May 15**
- **Within 9 miles of the Texas coast** (Zones N1, N2, N3, S1, S2, S3), shrimping is closed:
 - from 30 minutes after sunset May 15** to 30 minutes after sunset July 15**

****SPECIAL NOTICE:** These dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours notice on new opening dates.

Net Limitations:

- **Net Type I:**
 - **Trawl Size:** Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 feet 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 corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline.
- **Net Dimensions:**

Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)
3' or more but less than 4'	71'
4' or more but less than 5'	73'
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	89'

- **Net Type II:**
 - **Trawl Size:** Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 feet 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 corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline.

• **Net Dimensions:**

Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)
3' or more but less than 4'	40'
4' or more but less than 5'	42'
5' or more but less than 6'	44'
6' or more but less than 7'	46'
7' or more but less than 8'	48'
8' or more but less than 9'	50'
9' or more but less than 10'	52'
10' or more	54'

- **Seabob Net:**
 - **Trawl Size:** Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 feet 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 corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline.

• **Net Dimensions:**

Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)
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'
7' or more but less than 8'	56'
8' or more but less than 9'	58'
9' or more but less than 10'	60'
10' or more	62'

- **Try Nets** (Gulf and Inshore – Bay Shrimping):
 - **Otter Trawls:**
 - Total width: 21 feet
 - Doors: 450 square inches
 - **Beam Trawls:** May not exceed 10 feet in width
- **Try Nets** (Inshore – Bait Shrimping):
 - **Otter Trawls:**
 - Total width: 12 feet
 - Doors: 450 square inches
 - **Beam Trawls:** May not exceed 5 feet in width

See tables on pages 27-28 for open seasons, limits and requirements for the Southern and Northern Zones for Commercial Gulf-Shrimp Boats.

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

The State Outside Waters of the Southern Shrimp Zone are OPEN TO SHRIMPING as follows:					
Map Segments (see pg. 25)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
S3	5-9 nautical miles	July 16** – Nov. 30 Dec. 1 – May. 15**	Day and Night	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trawls: No Limit • Mesh Size: Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • Trawl Size: No Limit • Approved BRDs† are required • Approved TEDs‡ are required
S2	3-5 nautical miles	July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset		
S1	Inside 3 nautical miles	July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trawls: No more than 2 • Mesh Size: Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • Trawl Size: Net Type I (see pg. 26) • Approved BRDs† are required • Approved TEDs‡ are required

****SPECIAL NOTICE:** These dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours notice on new opening dates.
† **BRD** means Bycatch Reduction Device
‡ **TED** means Turtle Excluder Device

NORTHERN SHRIMP ZONE (North of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass [Latitude 27° 40' 34"] to the Louisiana Border)

Northern Shrimp Zone					
The State Outside Waters of the Northern Shrimp Zone are OPEN TO SHRIMPING as follows:					
Map Segments (see pg. 25)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
N3	5-9 nautical miles	July 16** – Nov. 30 Dec. 1 – May 15**	Day and Night	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trawls: No Limit • Mesh Size: Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • Trawl Size: No Limit • Approved BRDs† are required • Approved TEDs‡ are required
N2	3-5 nautical miles	Feb. 16 – May 15** July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset		
N1	Inside 3 nautical miles	Feb. 16 – May 15** July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trawls: No more than 2 • Mesh Size: Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • Trawl Size: Net Type I (see pg. 26) • Approved BRDs† are required • Approved TEDs‡ are required
N1, N2 & N3	<u>Seabobs</u>	Dec. 1 – May 15** July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	No person catching seabobs may catch or have on board a boat any other species of shrimp which exceed 10%, in weight or number of the entire catch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trawls: No more than 1 • Mesh Size: 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes • Trawl Size: Seabob Net (see pg. 26) • Approved BRDs† are required • Approved TEDs‡ are required
<p>**SPECIAL NOTICE: These dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours notice on new opening dates. † BRD means Bycatch Reduction Device ‡ TED means Turtle Excluder Device</p>					

INSIDE WATERS

Commercial Bay-Shrimp Boats – Seasons, Limits and Gear Restrictions (Major Bays Only)

Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
Major Bays	Spring Open Season May 15 – July 15	30 min. before sunrise to 2 p.m.	Bag: 600 pounds Size: No Limit	<p>Main Net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net. Mesh Size: 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes Trawl Size: Net Type II (see pg. 26) (Beam trawls used as the main trawl cannot exceed 25 feet in width.) Approved BRDs† are required. Approved TEDs‡ are required (FEDERAL REGULATION).
Major Bays	Fall Open Season Aug. 15 – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	<p>Bag: No Limit</p> <p>Size: <u>Aug. 15 – Oct. 31:</u> 50 h-o/lb* <u>Nov. 1 – Nov. 30:</u> No Limit</p>	<p>Main Net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net. <u>Aug. 15 – Oct. 31:</u> Mesh Size: Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes <u>Nov. 1 – Nov. 30:</u> Mesh Size: 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes Approved BRDs† are required Approved TEDs‡ are required (FEDERAL REGULATION). Trawl may not exceed 95 ft. in total width.
Major Bays – Only south of the Colorado River	Winter Open Season Feb. 1 – April 15	30 min. after sunset to 30 min. before sunrise	<p>Bag: No Limit</p> <p>Size: No Limit</p>	<p>Main Net:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net. Mesh Size: 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes Trawl Size: Net Type II (see pg. 26) (Beam trawls used as the main trawl cannot exceed 25 feet in width.) Approved BRDs† are required. Approved TEDs‡ are required (FEDERAL REGULATION).

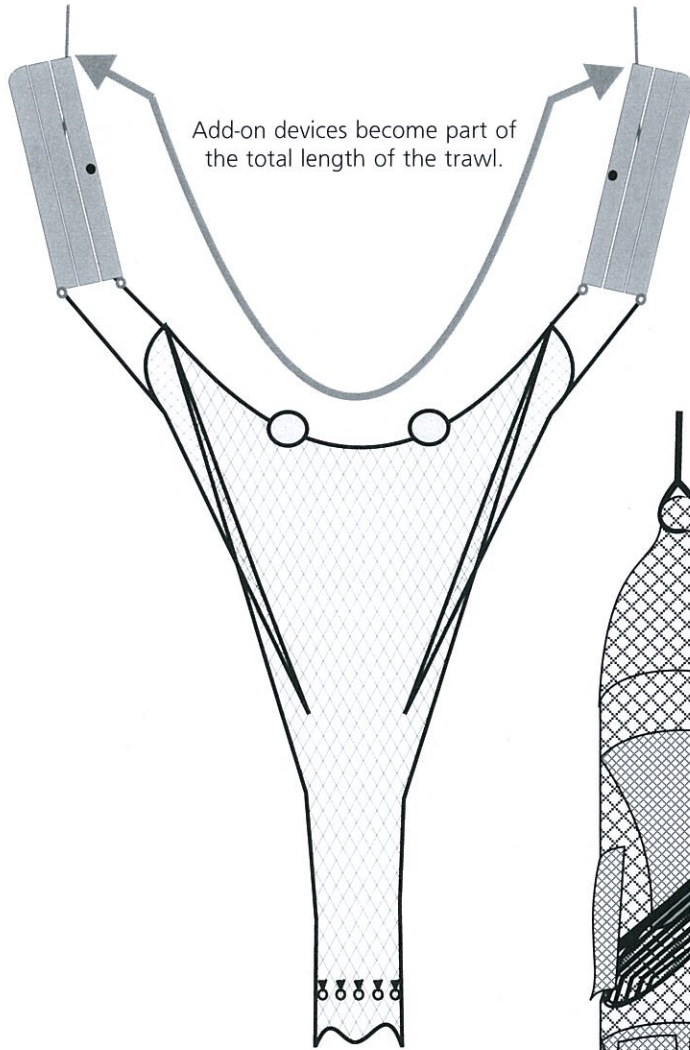
† BRD means Bycatch Reduction Device

‡ TED means Turtle Excluder Device

* h-o means heads on

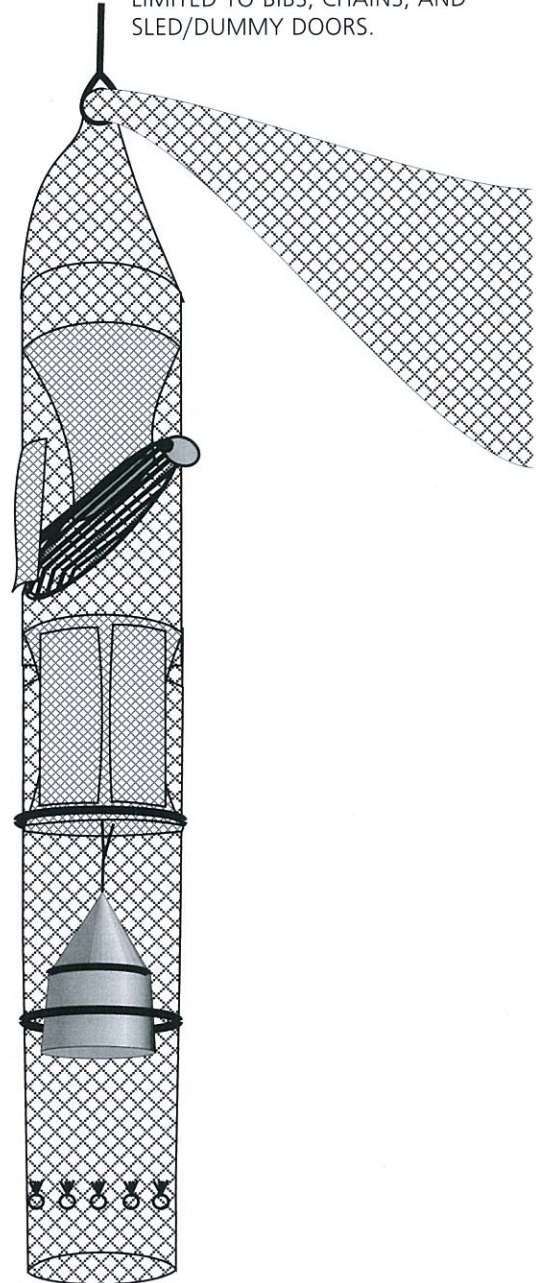
Commercial Bait-Shrimp Boats – Seasons, Limits and Gear Restrictions (Major Bays and Bait-Bays)

Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
Major Bays and Bait Bays	Year-round	Aug. 15 – Mar. 31: 30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset Apr. 1 – Aug. 14: 30 min. before sunrise to 2 p.m.	Bag: 200 pounds Size: No Limit Special Requirements: Nov. 15 – Aug. 15: at least 50% of the onboard catch must be kept in a live condition. Aug. 16 – Nov. 14: all shrimp must have heads attached.	Main Net: • No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net. • Mesh Size: 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes • Trawl Size: Net Type II (see pg. 26) (Beam trawls used as the main trawl cannot exceed 25 feet in width.) • Approved TEDs† are required (FEDERAL REGULATION).
<p>Nueces County Laguna Madre Special Commercial Bait-Shrimping Regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All year in the Intracoastal waterway between markers 17 and 57 in the Laguna Madre in Nueces County, commercial bait-shrimp boats may take bait-shrimp from 1 a.m. to 30 minutes before sunrise each day with a legal beam trawl only. • It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take shrimp with a trawl at any other time or in any other place in the Laguna Madre in Nueces County north of a line starting on the mainland at the most northeasterly point on the north side of the entrance of Whiteley Channel then proceeding in a straight line to the north end of Pita Island; then continuing on a line to the southernmost point on the westerly most spoil island bordering the north side of the New Humble Channel (commonly referred to as Hap's Channel); then continuing on a line along the north edge of the New Humble Channel (commonly referred to as Hap's Channel) to its junction with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; then continuing on a straight line to the Nueces/Kleberg County line marker on Padre Island. 				
<p>† BRD means Bycatch Reduction Device ‡ TED means Turtle Excluder Device</p>				



OTTER TRAWL MEASUREMENTS

Shrimp trawls in Texas are measured from leading tip of one door along the uninterrupted cork line to the leading tip of the other door. (Any devices added to the cork line, except the corks, will not be considered interrupting the cork line and will be included in the total measurement of the trawl.) THESE ATTACHMENTS/ ADDITIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO BIBS, CHAINS, AND SLED/DUMMY DOORS.



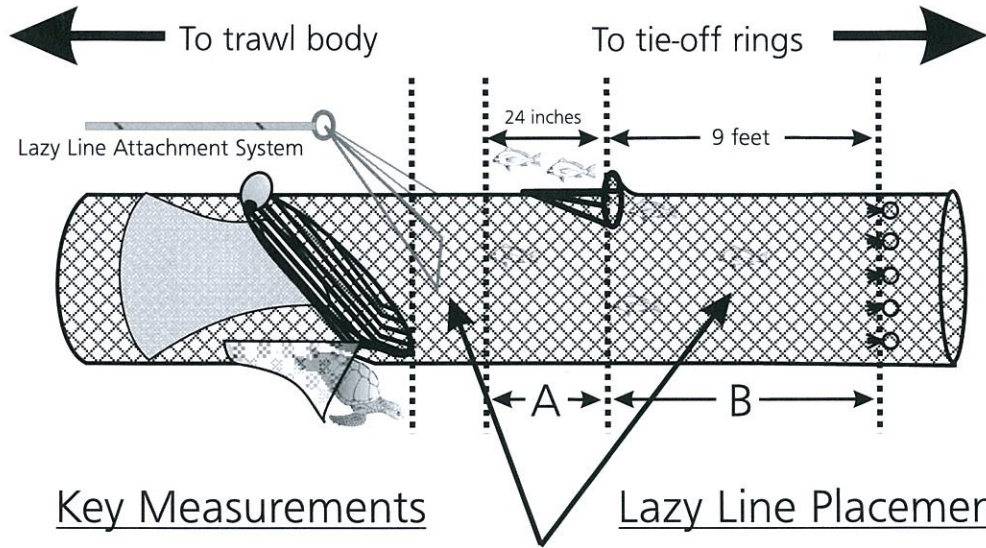
BRD MEASUREMENTS

All measurements must be taken with gear in a hanging position.

For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

FISHEYE AND SEA EAGLE BRDs

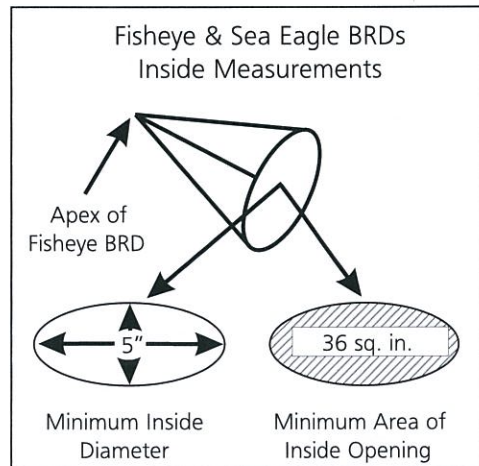
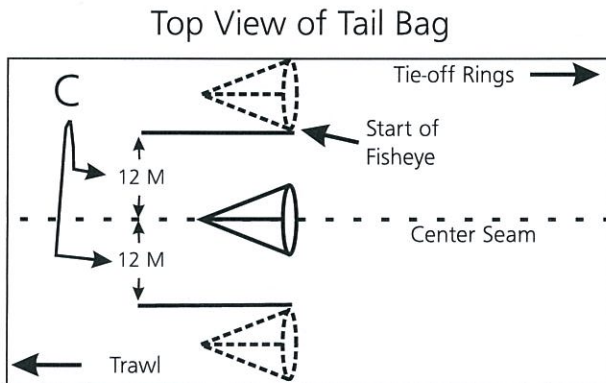


Key Measurements

- A. Fisheye opening may not be placed less than 24 inches behind lazy line attachment system.
- B. Fisheye opening must be less than 9 ft. from the cod end tie-off rings.
- C. Fisheye may not be placed more than 12 meshes either side of the center seam of the tail bag.

Lazy Line Placement

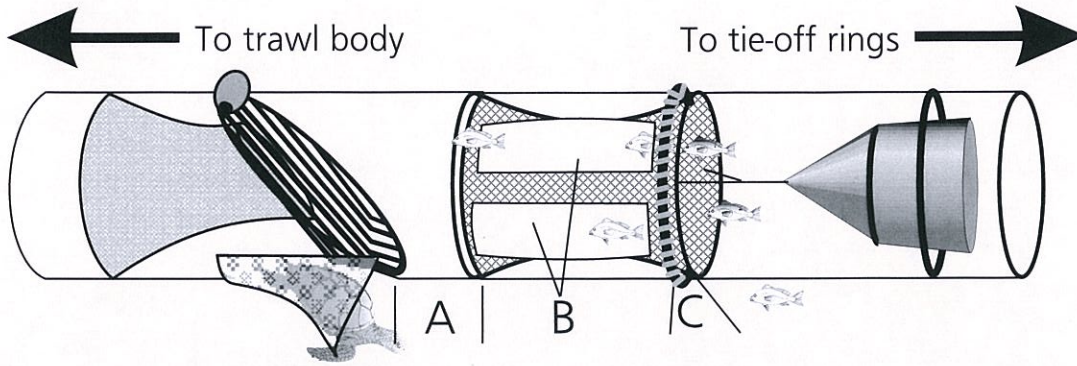
- Lazy lines, choker straps, elephant ears, rings and other lines may be placed in these areas.
- Fisheye opening may not be obstructed by any ropes, rings, elephant ears or straps.



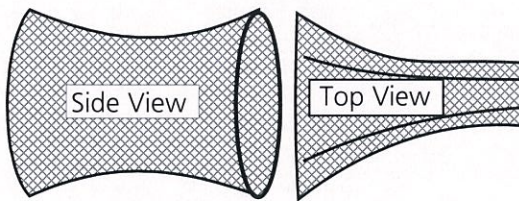
For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

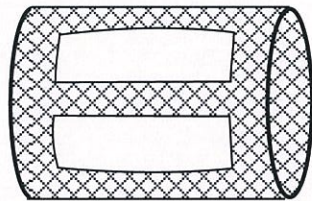
JONES-DAVIS BRD



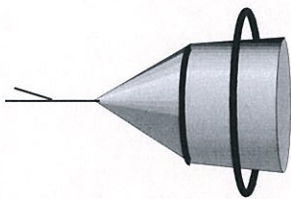
Components



Funnel Section



Escape Openings
(Openings are cutouts in the body of the trawl tail bag)



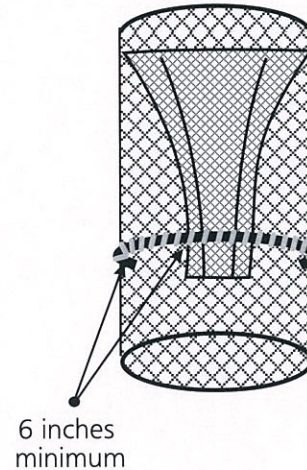
Jones-Davis Cone Stimulator



Semi-rigid Hoop

Key Measurements

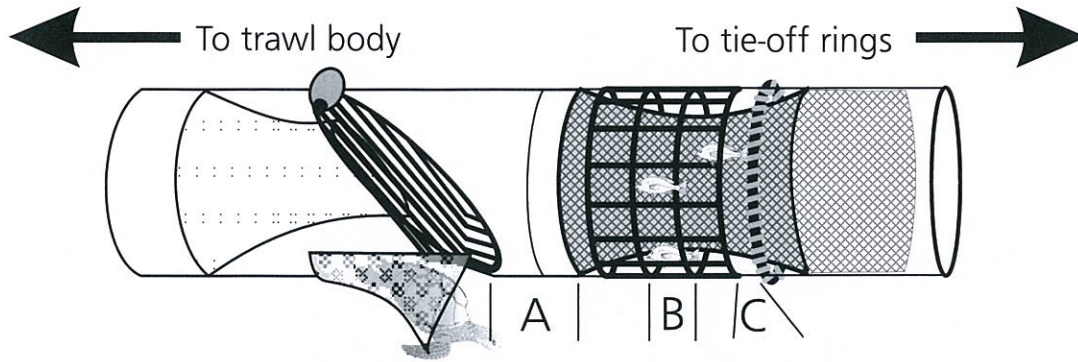
- A. Leading edge of the Escape Opening must be within 18 inches of the posterior edge of the TED grid.
- B. BRD escape opening should total a minimum of 864 sq. in.
- C. Clearance between the 28-inch hoop and the side of the funnel, when hanging, should be at least 6 inches.



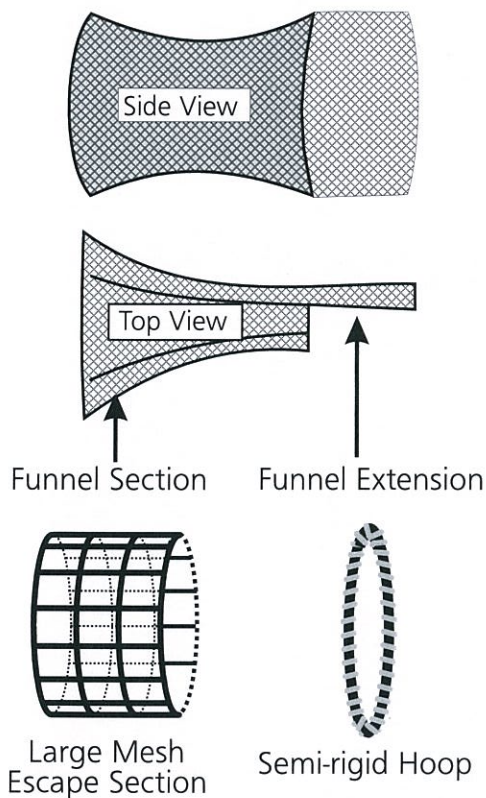
For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

LARGE MESH EXTENDED FUNNEL BRD

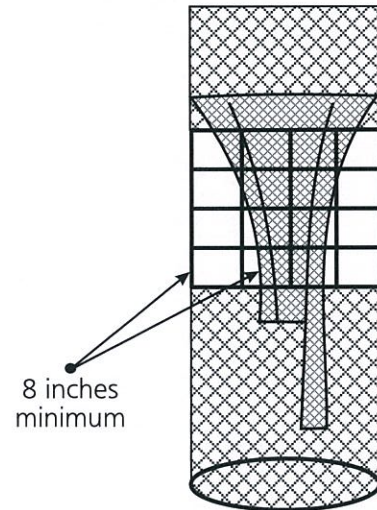


Components



Key Measurements

- A. BRD funnel should not be more than 14 inches from the posterior edge of the TED grid.
- B. Mesh size of the Large Mesh Escape Section should be between 4 and 5 inches on a side.
- C. Clearance between the posterior edge of the large mesh escape section and the funnel, when hanging, should be at least 8 inches.



For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

APPROVED TED DESIGNS



Standard Grid



Bent Rod



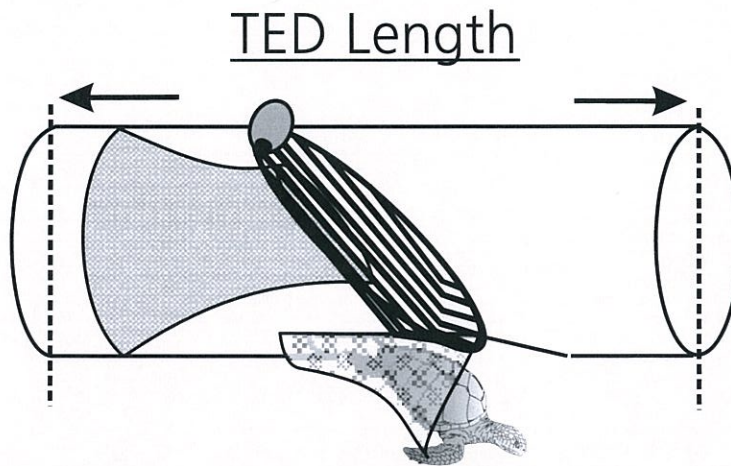
Anthony



Bent Pipe



Fixed Angle



If webbing immediately around TED has a mesh size smaller than allowed for the trawl, such webbing may not be greater than 60 total stretched meshes in length.

For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

CRABS

NOTE: It is unlawful to place, fish or leave a crab trap component in the coastal waters of the state from Feb. 18–27, 2011.

- There are no public salt waters, seasons or times closed to the taking and retaining of crabs and ghost shrimp, EXCEPT as provided in this guide.
- It is lawful to take, attempt to take or possess crabs and ghost shrimp by means, in numbers, and of sizes ONLY as described below.

Bag, Possession and Length Limits

Blue crab

- Daily Bag: No limit
- Possession: No limit
 - Except that not more than 5% by number, of undersized blue crabs may be possessed for **bait purposes only** and must be placed in a separate container.
 - May not possess egg-bearing (sponge) crabs.
 - May not possess a female crab that has its abdominal apron detached.
- Minimum Length: five inches
 - Measured across the widest point of the body from tip of spine to tip of spine (see page 17).

Stone crab (right claw only)

- Daily Bag: No limit
- Possession: No limit
 - Only the right claw may be retained or possessed.
 - The body of the stone crab must be returned immediately to the water from which it was taken.
- Minimum Length: 2-1/2 inches claw measurement
 - Measured from the tip of the immovable claw to the first joint behind the claw (see page 17).

Devices and Restrictions

Crab Line: A baited line with no hook attached.

- Must be marked with a white floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length and 6 inches in width.
- Buoys must be marked with a commercial crab fisherman's license plate number in letters of a contrasting color at least 2 inches high attached to the trap.
- Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.

Crab Traps:

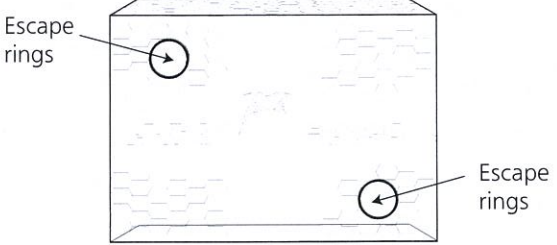
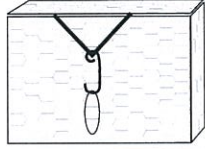
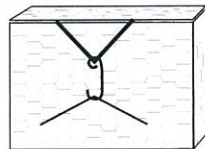
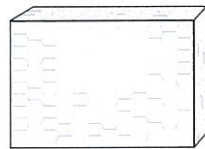
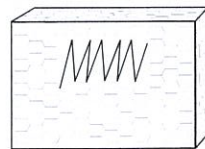
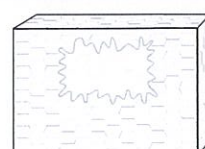
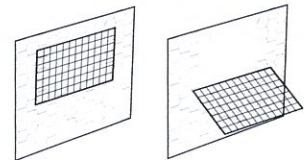
- May only remove crab traps from the water or remove crabs from crab traps during the period from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

- **Maximum Number of Traps Allowed:**
 - Only 200 crab traps at a time may be used while fishing under the authority of a commercial crab fisherman's license.
 - Only 20 crab traps at a time may be used while fishing under the authority of a commercial finfish fisherman's license.
- **Tag Requirements:** Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (see page 5) attached within 6 inches of the buoy.
- **Construction and Design Restrictions:**
 - May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
 - Must be equipped with at least two escape vents in each crab-retaining chamber and located on the outside trap walls.
 - Escape vents must be at least 2-3/8 inch in diameter.
 - Must be marked with a white floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length and 6 inches width.
 - Crab traps fished under the authority of a **commercial crab fisherman's license** must have buoys marked with a commercial crab fisherman's license plate number in letters of a contrasting color at least 2 inches high attached to the trap.
 - Crab traps fished under the authority of a **commercial finfish fisherman's license** must have buoys marked with a commercial finfish fisherman's license plate number preceded with the letter "F" in letters of a contrasting color at least 2 inches high attached to the trap.
 - Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
 - Must be equipped with a degradable panel. A trap is considered to have a degradable panel if one of the following methods is used in construction of the trap:
 - the trap lid tie-down strap is secured to the trap at one end by a simple loop of untreated jute twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller. The trap lid must be secured so that when the twine or wire degrades, the lid will no longer be securely closed; or
 - the trap contains at least one sidewall, not including the bottom panel, with a rectangular opening no smaller in either dimension than 3 inches by 6 inches. Any obstruction placed in this opening may not be secured in any manner EXCEPT it may be laced, sewn, or otherwise obstructed by a single length of untreated jute twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller knotted only at

each end and not tied or looped more than once around a single mesh bar. When the twine or wire degrades, the opening in the sidewall of the trap will no longer be obstructed; or

- the obstruction may be loosely hinged at the bottom of the opening by no more than two untreated steel hog rings and secured at the top of the obstruction in

no more than one place by a single length of untreated jute twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller. When the twine or wire degrades, the obstruction will hinge downward and the opening in the sidewall of the trap will no longer be obstructed.

<p>ESCAPE RINGS</p> <p>A crab trap must be equipped with at least two escape vents in each crab-retaining chamber and located on the outside trap walls (saltwater perch traps are not required to be equipped with escape rings). Escape vents must be at least 2-3/8 inches in diameter.</p>		
<p>DEGRADABLE PANELS</p> <p>A crab trap and a saltwater perch trap must be equipped with a degradable panel. A trap is considered to have a degradable panel if one of the following methods is used in construction of the trap:</p>		
<p>Option 1</p>	<p>The lid tie-down strap is hooked into a LOOP of approved material.</p>	
<p>Option 2</p>	<p>The lid tie-down strap is hooked into a BRIDLE of approved material.</p>	
<p>Option 3</p>	<p>A hole (minimum of 3 in. x 6 in.) may be cut in the trap sidewall AND EITHER</p>	
	<p>a. The hole is laced over with a single strand of approved material; OR</p>	
	<p>b. Wire mesh is laced into the hole with a single strand of approved material; OR</p>	
	<p>c. The hole is covered by a hinged door tied once at the top with a single strand of approved material.</p>	

- **Placement and Location Restrictions:**
 - May not place a crab trap or portion thereof closer than 100 feet from any other crab trap, EXCEPT when traps are secured to a pier or dock.
 - May not fish a crab trap in public fresh waters.
 - May not fish a crab trap within 200 feet of a marked navigable channel in Aransas County; and in the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula.
 - May not possess, use or place more than three crab traps in waters north and west of Highway 146 where it crosses the Houston Ship Channel in Harris County.
 - May not use or place more than three crab traps in public waters of the San Bernard River north of a line marked by the boat access channel at Bernard Acres.
- **Baiting Crab Traps:** It is unlawful to use any part of a game fish for bait, except for processed catfish heads used as crab-trap bait

by a licensed crab fisherman, provided the catfish is obtained from an aquaculture facility permitted to operate in the United States. A person who uses catfish as bait under this subparagraph shall, upon the request of a department employee acting within the scope of official duties, furnish appropriate authenticating documentation, such as a bill of sale or receipt, to prove that the catfish was obtained from a legal source.

Other Devices:

- Devices legally used for taking of fresh or saltwater fish or shrimp may be used to take crab if operated in places and at times authorized by a proclamation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission or the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Code.
- See applicable pages in this guide to determine authorized uses, places and times for other legal devices.

ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE – SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Beginning March 1, 2009 the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge began enforcing a no commercial crabbing regulation within refuge marshes. For more information contact the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge at (361) 286-3559.

OYSTERS

NOTICE – Oyster regulations are currently under review for change and amendment as directed by new legislation from the 82nd Legislature. Changes will be in effect before the 2011/2012 oyster season; information updates will be available at all TPWD offices.

Commercial Oystering Seasons—Nov. 1 through Apr. 30 except in all private leases with permits from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where there is no closed season. During open season, oysters may be taken only from sunrise to sunset.

Commercial Oyster Limits—No oyster boat may take more than 90 sacks of oysters per boat per day, and may possess no more than six sacks (equivalent of two barrels) of uncultured oysters. A sack is defined as 110 pounds of oysters (including the sack).

Legal Size Limits—Three (3) inches (greatest length of shell) or larger. Oysters 3/4 inch to 3 inches are to be culled and returned to reef from which taken; provided, however, that each cargo may contain not more than 15 percent of oysters of this size. Not more than six sacks of uncultured oysters are permitted on board while on a reef.

Legal Means and Methods—It is unlawful while taking or attempting to take oysters for pay or the purpose of sale, barter or exchange or

any other commercial purpose to use more than one dredge, use a dredge which exceeds 48 inches in width and a two-barrel capacity, have more than one dredge connected in any manner to a winch, chain or other lifting device during the open public season; or have any additional dredge(s) on board unless secured below deck, to the wheelhouse or to the deck in such a manner as to be lashed, tied, shackled or chained as to prevent its immediate use. Commercial oyster boats limited to not more than 90 sacks of legal size oysters.

Special Provisions—Oysters may be taken only from waters approved by the State Commissioner of Health.

New Law: The penalty for a commercial oyster boat taking oysters in a closed area has increased to a Parks and Wildlife Class "A" Misdemeanor (see criminal penalties section) and everyone on the vessel will be in violation.

The harvesting, shucking, processing and sale of oysters must conform to all regulations specified by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

MUSSELS AND CLAMS

A moratorium on the sale of new licenses is in effect for the Texas commercial freshwater mussel fishery. A commercial mussel or clam fisherman's license can only be obtained by a person who held a resident or non-resident commercial mussel or clam

fisherman's license valid for the 2003-2004 or 2004-2005 license year or who obtained a commercial mussel or clam fisherman's license between Sept. 1, 2005 and May 1, 2006. For additional information, please call (512) 389-4444.

SEA TURTLES AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

It is unlawful for any person to knowingly take, kill or disturb any **sea turtle** or **sea turtle eggs** in the State of Texas. To report stranded sea turtles or nests, please call 1-866-TURTLE5.

There is no open season in any county for ALL MARINE MAMMALS INCLUDING POR-

POISES, DOLPHINS AND WHALES.

Any other aquatic life (except threatened and endangered species) not addressed in this guide may be taken only by hand or with the devices defined as lawful for taking fish, shrimp, oysters or crabs in places and at times as provided in this guide.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL VALUE RECOVERY

If you violate fish and wildlife laws, in addition to civil restitution you may:

- **be fined (Class C – \$25–\$500; Class B – \$200–\$2,000; Class A – \$500–\$4,000; State Jail Felony, \$1,500–\$10,000);**
- **be jailed (Class B and higher offenses);**
- **face automatic suspension or revocation of licenses for up to five years;**
- **forfeit hunting gear, including firearms, used to commit a violation.**

CIVIL RESTITUTION: In addition to the criminal penalty for hunting and fishing violations, the department will seek the civil recovery value for the loss or damage to wildlife resources. The civil restitution cost is payable to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is in addition to the fine assessed by the court. Failure to pay the civil recovery value will result in the department's refusal to issue a license, tag, or permit. An individual who hunts or fishes after the refusal commits a Class A misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine not less than \$500 or more than \$4,000; punishment in jail not to exceed one year; or both fine and confinement.

LICENSE REINSTATEMENT: A person who seeks reinstatement of license privileges following license revocation or denial must apply for license privilege reinstatement and pay a \$100 application fee. For questions concerning civil restitution call (512) 389-4630.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Texas is now a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC). The IWVC is a multi-state compact that allows member states to share information about wildlife violators and to deny licensure to persons who have failed to comply with conservation law in member states. For example, if a person has had their hunting, fishing or trapping privileges suspended in one member state, the suspension may be recognized by any member state. For more information call (512) 389-4381.

Operation Game Thief

Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program

You can make a difference by reporting poaching, pollution and dumping, arson in state parks, and intoxicated boaters! Up to \$1,000 may be paid for information leading to arrest and conviction of a person for a violation of our state's wildlife and fisheries laws, as well as for certain laws related to environmental crime, arson, and intoxicated boaters.



Reward Hotline (800) 792-GAME

Operation Game Thief is privately funded. Please consider supporting efforts to protect our precious natural resources and keep our waterways safe by sending your tax deductible donation to Operation Game Thief, or by becoming an Operation Game Thief Member. Please visit our Web site at www.ogtx.com for membership information. Donations can be sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or you may also call (512) 389-4381 to make a donation by credit card.

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND LICENSES

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department **Regional** and Field Law Enforcement Offices

ABILENE, 281 North Willis (79603) (325) 673-3333
AMARILLO, 203 West 8th, Suite #200, LB14006
(79101) (806) 379-8900
BEAUMONT, 5550-K Eastex Freeway (77708)
(409) 892-8666
BROWNSVILLE, 5460 Paredes Line Road, Suite 201
(78526) (956) 546-1952
BROWNWOOD, 301 Main, Suite D (76801)
(325) 646-0440
COLLEGE STATION, 12845 FM 2154 (Wellborn
Road), Suite 160 (77845) (979) 696-4148
CORPUS CHRISTI, 5541 Bear Lane, Suite 232
(78405) (361) 289-5566
EL PASO, 401 East Franklin, Suite 520 (79901)
(915) 834-7050
FORT WORTH, 5400 Airport Freeway, Suite E
(76117) (817) 831-3128
FREEPORT, 210 W. First Street, Suite C (77541)
(979) 233-7968 - hours 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
(boat registration not available at Freeport
office)
GARLAND, 346 Oaks Trail, Suite 100 (75043)
(972) 226-9966
HOUSTON (NORTH), 350 North Sam Houston
Pkwy E., Suite 100 (77060) (281) 931-6471
HOUSTON (SOUTH), 10101 Southwest Frwy, #206
(77074) (713) 779-8977
KERRVILLE, 309 Sidney Baker South (78028)
(830) 257-7611
LAMARQUE, 14037 Delany Road (77568)
(409) 933-1947
LAREDO, 5119 Bob Bullock Loop (78041)
(956) 718-1087
LUBBOCK, 1702 Landmark Lane, Suite 1 (79415)
(806) 761-4930
LUFKIN, 4100 S. Medford Drive, Suite 204B
(75901) (936) 632-1311
MIDLAND, 4500 West Illinois, Suite 307 (79703)
(432) 520-4649
MT. PLEASANT, 212 South Johnson (75455)
(903) 572-7966
ROCKPORT, 715 South Highway 35 (78382)
(361) 790-0312
RUSK, 580 West 6th Street (75785) (903) 683-2511
SAN ANGELO, 3407 South Chadbourne (76903)
(325) 651-4844
SAN ANTONIO, 858 West Rhapsody (78216)
(210) 348-7375
TEMPLE, 3615 So. General Bruce Drive (76504)
(254) 778-2851
TYLER, 3330 South Southwest Loop 323 (75701)
(903) 534-0388
VICTORIA, 2805 N. Navarro, Suite 600A (77901)
(361) 575-6306
WACO, 1601 East Crest Drive (76705)
(254) 867-7951
WICHITA FALLS, 100 Fremar Valley (76301)
(940) 723-7327

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE LIMITED ENTRY AND BUYBACK PROGRAMS

For further information regarding any commercial license management program or license buyback program contact: Mr. Art Morris, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Natural Resources Center, 6300 Ocean Drive, Suite 2500, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, (361) 825-3356, e-mail: art.morris@tpwd.state.tx.us or Ms. Tonya Wiley, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Dickinson Marine Lab, 1502 FM 517E, Dickinson, TX 77539, (281) 534-0131, e-mail: tonya.wiley@tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Website: www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Operation Game Thief

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department • 4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

STOP POACHING! FOR 24-HOUR REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS, you may call:
(800) 792-GAME; AUSTIN – (512) 389-4848; HOUSTON – (281) 842-8100

TOLL FREE INFORMATION (Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

For information concerning fishing regulations or other subjects related to TPWD.

(800) 792-1112 (general information) OR (512) 389- + extension #

#4820 Hunting & Fishing Licenses	#4828 Boat Registration	#4726 Resource Protection
#4854 Law Enforcement - Hunting	#2011 Coastal Fisheries	#4481 Scientific Permit
#4630 Law Enforcement - Fishing	#4444 Inland Fisheries	#4628 Commercial Licenses

This digest will be revised as new regulations become effective. Note the date on the front cover and make sure you have the latest issue. For further information, please contact your local game warden or Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



© 2011 by TPWD. PWD BK V3400-074 (7/11)
Dispersal of this publication conforms with Texas State Documents
Depository Law, and it is available at Texas State Publications
Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.

2011

Recreational Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters



For Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
Email: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org
Web site: www.gulfcouncil.org

About the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils 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.

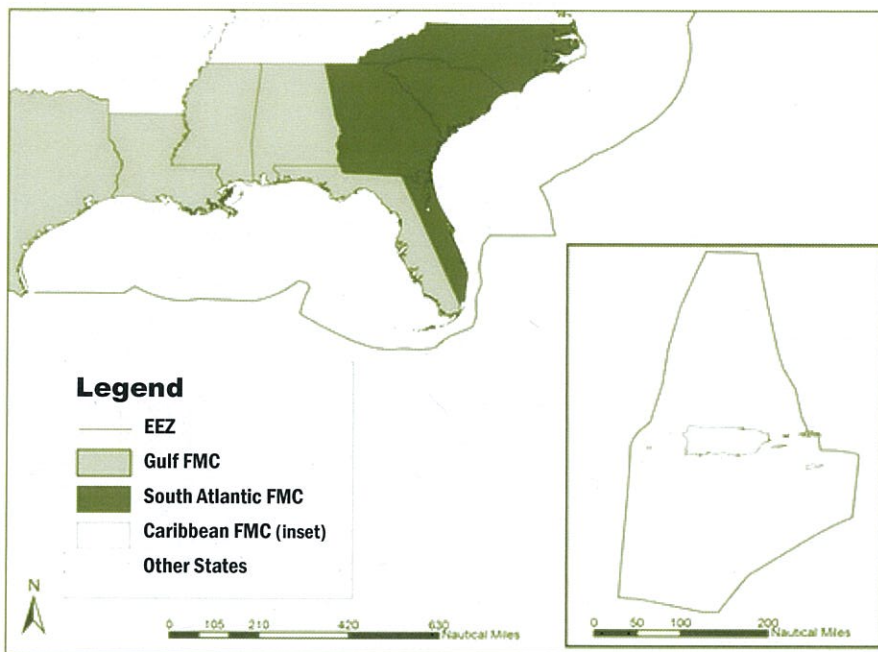
The Council consists of 17 voting members: the Southeast Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (or his designee), the directors of the five Gulf state marine resource management agencies (or their designees), and 11 members who are nominated by the state governors and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. Appointments are three year terms with a maximum of three consecutive terms. In addition, there are four 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 five times a year at various locations around the Gulf coast. 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.

Public hearings are held throughout the Gulf coast before the takes final action on proposed rule changes. Public testimony is also heard during the meeting at which final action is scheduled. Proposed rule changes are then submitted to NOAA Fisheries Service for further review and approval before implementation.

Table of Contents

Recreational Regulations for Snapper and Grouper	4
Coral/Other Species	7
Other Federal Recreational Regulations	8
Additional Rules	9
Recreational Permit Requirements	10
Special Pull-Out Section (Abbreviated Regulations).....	11
Measurement Guidelines.....	15
Marine Sanctuaries and Closed Areas	16
Important Numbers	22



Recreational Fishing Regulations

Reef Fish			
Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Snappers			
Red Snapper	16" total length	**2011 Red Snapper Season opens June 1 - closes 12:01 a.m. July 19	2 per person Not included in the 20-reef fish aggregate
Vermilion Lane	10" total length 8" total length	None None	Included in the 20-reef fish aggregate
Gray/Mangrove Mutton Yellowtail Schoolmaster Cubera Dog Mahogany Queen Blackfin Silk Wenchman	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	10 per person within the 10-snapper aggregate Includes all snappers except red, vermilion, and lane
Other Reef fish			
Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Hogfish	12" fork length	None	5 per person
Gray Triggerfish	14" fork length	None – Subject to reduced season if prior year quota is exceeded	Included in 20-reef fish aggregate
Greater Amberjack	30" fork length	Closed June 1– July 31	1 per person Captain & crew may not retain a bag limit
Lesser Amberjack	14" – 22" fork length slot limit	None	5 fish aggregate, excluded from 20 reef fish aggregate
Banded Rudderfish	14" – 22" fork length slot limit	None	

Recreational Fishing Regulations *continued*

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Shallow-water Groupers	**NOTICE** A temporary rule establishes a 2011 recreational gag season from 9/16 through 11/15.		
Red Gag	20" total length 22" total length	2/ 1 - 3/31 closed season for shallow-water grouper	2 within the 4-grouper aggregate
Black Yellowfin Scamp Yellowmouth Rock Hind Red Hind	22" total length 20" total length 16" total length None None None	NOTE: 1/1–4/30 closure of "The Edges" 40 fathom contour, a 390 nautical square mile region northwest of Steamboat Lumps. Boundaries: NW=28° 51'N, 85° 16'W NE=28° 51'N, 85° 04'W SW=28° 14'N, 84° 54'W SE=28° 14'N, 84° 42'W	4 per person in aggregate of all groupers, shallow-water and deep-water, except goliath grouper and Nassau grouper.
Deep-water Groupers			
Yellowedge Misty Snowy	None None None		
Speckled Hind Warsaw	None None		1 per vessel, included in the 4-fish aggregate
Protected Groupers			
Goliath <small>(Jewfish)</small> Nassau	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED		

Species included in the 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit

Vermilion Snapper Lane Snapper Almaco Jack Gray Triggerfish Tilefish Goldface Tilefish Blueline Tilefish Blackline Tilefish Anchor Tilefish	20/per person of all listed species in aggregate
---	--

NOTES: For-hire captains and crew are prohibited from retaining bag limits of any grouper or red snapper while under charter.

Federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing for reef fish in state waters.

Recreational Fishing Regulations *continued*

- Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold.
- 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. Use of roller trawls and power heads is prohibited in designated “stressed areas.”
- 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. For reef fish without a bag limit nonconforming gear is restricted to 5% by weight of all fish aboard.
- Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required, along with venting tools and dehooking devices when angling for reef fish, because they reduce mortality on released fish.

Reef Fish as Bait

Reef fish as bait, except sand perch or dwarf sand perch, is prohibited.

Additional Rules, Regulations and Permit Requirements

Please see pages 8–10 for details on other applicable recreational rules, regulations and permit requirements.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Cobia (ling)	33" fork length	None	2 per person
King Mackerel	24" fork length	None	2 per person including captain and crew of for-hire vessels
Spanish Mackerel	12" fork length	None	15 per person

Recreational Fishing Regulations *continued*

Shellfish

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Stone Crab	Minimum 2 ¾" claw	5/16 - 10/14	See additional rules on page 9.
Spiny Lobster	More than 3" carapace. Divers must measure in water.	4/1 - 8/5 There is a special 2 day, non-trap, recreational season, to be the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.	6 per person, no transfer at sea between boats (During the 2 day special season, 12 per person off Florida, except 6 per person for Monroe County, Florida Keys.) See additional rules on page 9.

Coral and Other Species

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
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). Call 727-824-5763.		
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 at 850 487-3122		

Other Species

Red Drum	Illegal to harvest or possess in federal waters
----------	---

Other Federal Regulations

Highly Migratory Species

All HMS species (except blackfin tuna) require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries. Permits are available by calling 888-872-8862 or visiting 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 301-713-2347 or visit the web site at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/.

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 www.nmfspermits.com. For further information on tunas, contact the HMS Management Division located in Gloucester, MA at 978-281-9260. Recreational swordfish and billfish landings should be reported to 800-894-5528.

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Tuna			
Bluefin	27" curved fork length	Bag limits are subject to sub-quotas by size and permit categories, change seasonally, and are reduced to zero when sub-quotas are filled	
Bigeye	27" curved	None	None
Yellowfin	27" fork length	None	3 per person
Albacore	None	None	None
Skipjack	None	None	None
Blackfin	None	None	None
Billfish			
	Minimum size lower jaw to fork		
Blue Marlin	99" lower jaw	None	None
White Marlin	66" fork length	None	None
Sailfish	63" fork length	None	None
Longbill spearfish	HARVEST PROHIBITED		
Swordfish	Whole fish: 47" lower jaw to tail fork, or 29" carcass length	None	1 per person; maximum 4 per vessel (6 per vessel for Charter boats; 15 per vessel for Head boats)

Other Federal Regulations *continued*

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Sharks			
All sharks*	54" fork length	None	1 per vessel
* Exceptions:			
Atlantic sharpnose	None	None	1 per person
Bonnethead	None	None	1 per person

Prohibited Sharks-Recreational Harvest

Atlantic angel	Bigeye thresher	Bigeye sand tiger	Caribbean reef	Caribbean sharpnose
Bigeye sixgill	Basking	Bignose	Dusky	Sand tiger
Galapagos	Longfin mako	Narrowtooth	Night	White
Sevengill	Sixgill	Smalltail	Whale	Sandbar

Additional Rules

Charter vessels/ headboat two-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. One-day bag limits apply on all other species and trips regardless of length.
Cobia (ling)	The 2-day bag limit allowance for charter vessels and headboats does not apply to cobia.
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).
Stone Crab	Claws may not be removed from egg-bearing females. Illegal to land whole crab. Florida daily limit of claws is 1 gallon per person, 2 gallons per vessel.
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" of an allowable octocoral. NOTE: An octocoral with attached substrate exceeding 1" is considered to be live rock and not allowable octocoral.

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.

Recreational Permit Requirements

Recreational Requirements

























Permit	Required for:
Charter vessel/headboat coastal pelagics permit	Charter vessel 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 vessels and headboats require a reef fish permit when fishing for snappers, groupers, amberjack, tilefish, hogfish, and gray triggerfish. NOTE: Issuance of new permits is under a moratorium effective June 16, 2003.
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, 263 13th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (telephone 877-376-4877). HMS permits can be purchased online at www.nmfspermits.com or by calling 888-872-8862.

To report federal fishing violations call the

Identification Chart

Artwork © Diane Rome Peebles

Red Snapper		Black Grouper	
Vermilion Snapper		Gag Grouper	
Lane Snapper		Red Grouper	
Gray/Mangrove		Yellowmouth	
Cubera		Yellowfin	
Mahogany		Scamp	
Schoolmaster		Greater Amberjack	
Yellowtail Snapper		Lesser Amberjack	
Dog Snapper		Banded Rudderfish	
Mutton Snapper		Cobia (ling)	
Blackfin		Spanish Mackerel	
Silk Snapper		King Mackerel	

24 hour toll-free hotline: 1-800-853-1964

2011

Abbreviated Recreational Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters



Special Pull-Out Section



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
Email: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org
Web site: www.gulfcouncil.org

To report federal fishing violations call the

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Closed Season
Red Snapper	16" TL	**2011 Red Snapper Season opens June 1 - closes 12:01 a.m. July 19
Vermilion Snapper	10" TL	None
Lane Snapper	8" TL	
Gray/Mangrove, Cubera, Mahogany, Schoolmaster, Yellowtail Snapper, Dog	12" TL	None
Mutton Snapper	16" TL	
Blackfin, Silk, Queen and Wenchman	None	
Gag Grouper (SW)	22" TL	**NOTICE** A temporary rule establishes a 2011 recreational gag season from September 16 through November 15.
Black Grouper (SW)	22" TL	
Red Grouper (SW)	20" TL	
Yellowfin (SW)	20" TL	February 1–March 31 for all shallow-water grouper
Scamp (SW)	16" TL	January 1–April 30 closure of "The Edges"
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind (SW)	None	
Misty, Snowy, Yellowedge (DW)	None	None
Speckled Hind, Warsaw (DW)	None	
Hogfish	12" FL	None
Gray Triggerfish	14" FL	None– Subject to reduced season if prior year quota is exceeded
Greater Amberjack	30" FL	Closed June 1–July 31
Lesser Amberjack, Banded Rudderfish	14" - 22" FL	
Stone Crab	Min 2 ¾" claw	5/16–10/14
Spiny Lobster	3" carapace measured in water	4/1–8/5 2-day mini-season– last Wed & Thurs in July
Cobia (ling)	33" FL	None
Spanish Mackerel	12" FL	
King Mackerel	24" FL	

24 hour toll-free hotline: 1-800-853-1964

Daily Bag Limit	Remarks
1 per person	For-hire captain & crew prohibited from retaining bag limit while under charter.
Included in the 20 reef fish aggregate*	*Also included in the 20 reef fish aggregate are: all tilefish, Almaco Jack, and gray triggerfish.
10 per person in Snapper aggregate. Exceptions are red, vermilion, and lane	<p>For-hire captain & crew prohibited from retaining bag limits of any grouper while under charter.</p> <p>Federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing for reef fish in state waters.</p> <p>SW = Shallow-water DW = Deep-water</p>
1 per person in aggregate of all groupers except goliath grouper and Nassau grouper. No more than 2 gag grouper per person (counts as part of the 4 grouper aggregate bag limit), and no more than 2 red grouper per person (counts as part of the grouper aggregate bag limit).	
1 per vessel	
1 per person	
Included in the 20 reef fish aggregate	
1 per person. Captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.	
1 fish aggregate (excluded from the 20 reef fish aggregate)	
Florida daily limit of claws is 1 gallon per person, 2 gallons per vessel.	
Removal of tail prohibited at sea. No spears, hooks or piercing devices. No taking of egg-bearing females.	
1 per person	
5 per person	
1 per person including for-hire captain & crew	

Measurement Guidelines

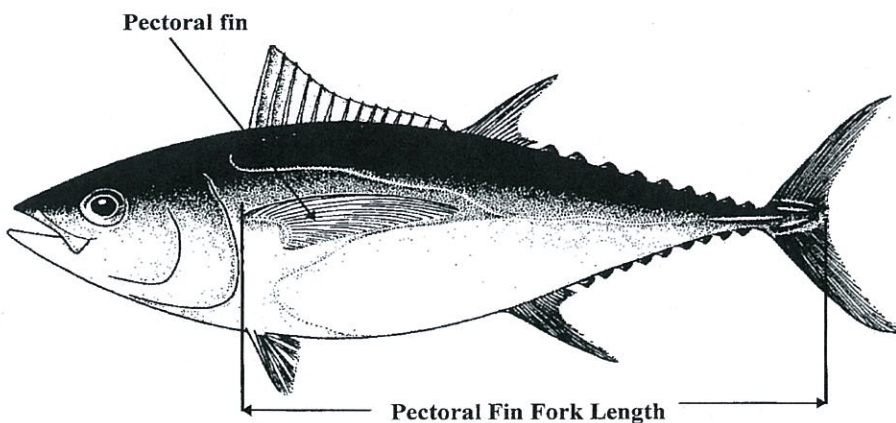
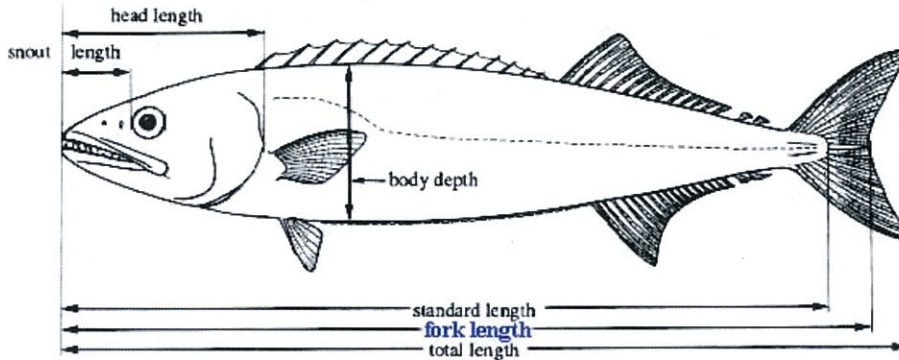
Fork length: the straight-line distance from the tip of the head (snout) to the rear center edge of the tail (caudal fin).

Total length: the straight-line distance from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (caudal fin), excluding any caudal filament, while the fish is lying on its side. The mouth of the fish may be closed and/or the tail may be squeezed together to give the greatest overall measurement.

Dressed weight: fish has been gutted and the head and fins removed, but is otherwise in whole condition.

Curved fork length: the tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body.

Carcass length: the curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.



Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Phone: (409) 621-5151

Fax: (409) 621-1316

Email: flowergarden@noaa.gov

URL: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>

The following is an abbreviated summary of prohibited or otherwise regulated activities within the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary:

For full text of the regulations contact the Sanctuary office, or see: 15 CFR, Pt. 922, Subpart L, §922.122(a); 15 CFR, Pt. 922, Subpart A, §922.3

Fishing and Related Activities

The following activities are prohibited:

- Fishing by any means (*e.g. spear guns, powerheads, traps, longlines, nets*) **except** conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing, except while passing through the Sanctuary without interruption, any fishing gear, device, or equipment (*e.g. trawl gear, spearguns*) **except** conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing fish caught by any means **other** than conventional hook and line.
- Feeding fish.

Conventional hook and line gear means any fishing apparatus operated aboard a vessel and composed of a single line terminated by a combination of sinkers and hooks or lures and spooled upon a reel that may be hand or electrically operated, hand-held or mounted.

Anchoring and Mooring

The following activities are prohibited:

- Anchoring any vessel within the Sanctuary boundaries.
- Mooring a vessel over 100 feet in registered length on a Sanctuary mooring buoy.

Discharges

Discharging or depositing any material or other matter within the Sanctuary is prohibited, with the following exceptions:

- Fish, fish parts, chumming materials or bait used in, or resulting from, fishing with conventional hook and line gear.
- Biodegradable effluents incidental to vessel use and generated by an approved marine sanitation device.
- Water generated by routine vessel operations (*e.g. engine exhaust, cooling water, deck wash down, and gray water*), excluding oily wastes from bilge pumping.

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

Injury to or Possession of Sanctuary Resources

The following activities are prohibited:

- Injuring or removing, or attempting to injure or remove, any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, marine invertebrate (e.g., *spiny lobster, queen conch, shell, sea urchin*), brine-seep biota or carbonate rock.
- Possessing within the Sanctuary (regardless of where collected, caught, harvested or removed), any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, or fish (except for fish caught by use of conventional hook and line gear).
- Placing or abandoning any structure, material or other matter on the seabed of the Sanctuary.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Boundary Coordinates (NAD 83) Updated February 8, 2007

East Flower Garden Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
E-1	27° 52' 54.84" N	93° 37' 41.84" W
E-2	27° 53' 35.80" N	93° 38' 23.90" W
E-3	27° 55' 14.61" N	93° 38' 40.89" W
E-4	27° 57' 31.68" N	93° 38' 33.81" W
E-5	27° 58' 28.63" N	93° 37' 46.67" W
E-6	27° 59' 02.38" N	93° 35' 32.29" W
E-7	27° 59' 01.47" N	93° 35' 10.23" W
E-8	27° 55' 23.35" N	93° 34' 15.32" W
E-9	27° 54' 05.02" N	93° 34' 19.42" W
E-10	27° 53' 27.68" N	93° 35' 05.54" W
E-11	27° 52' 53.04" N	93° 36' 57.77" W

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

West Flower Garden Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
W-1	27° 49'11.14" N	93° 50'45.83" W
W-2	27° 50'13.34" N	93° 52'11.04" W
W-3	27° 51'13.81" N	93° 52'52.20" W
W-4	27° 51'33.39" N	93° 52'51.24" W
W-5	27° 52'50.86" N	93° 52'25.34" W
W-6	27° 55'01.91" N	93° 49'44.25" W
W-7	27° 54'59.30" N	93° 48'38.11" W
W-8	27° 54'36.23" N	93° 47'10.91" W
W-9	27° 54'15.78" N	93° 46'49.85" W
W-10	27° 53'36.61" N	93° 46'51.82" W
W-11	27° 52'58.32" N	93° 47'15.82" W
W-12	27° 50'41.24" N	93° 47'22.70" W
W-13	27° 49'11.88" N	93° 48'43.28" W

Stetson Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
S-1	28° 09'31.03" N	94° 18'31.98" W
S-2	28° 10'10.20" N	94° 18'30.21" W
S-3	28° 10'07.84" N	94° 17'23.90" W
S-4	28° 09'28.66" N	94° 17'25.68" W

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

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

Madison/Swanson Marine Reserve:		
	Latitude	Longitude
NW	29° 17'N.	85° 50'W.
NE	29° 17'N.	85° 38'W.
SW	29° 06'N.	85° 50'W.
SE	29° 06'N.	85° 38'W.

Steamboat Lumps Marine Reserve:		
	Latitude	Longitude
NW	28° 14'N.	84° 48'W.
NE	28° 14'N.	84° 37'W.
SW	28° 03'N.	84° 48'W.
SE	28° 03'N.	84° 37'W.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

The following locations are closed to all fishing. Anchoring of fishing vessels is also not allowed. The boundaries of the areas are as follows:

EEZ portion of Tortugas North Ecological Reserve

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24E40'00"	83E06'00"
B	24E46'00"	83E06'00"
C	24E46'00"	83E00'00"
D	24E06'00"	83E38'00"

Tortugas South Ecological Reserve

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24E33'00"	83E09'00"
B	24E33'00"	83E05'00"
C	24E18'00"	83E05'00"
D	24E18'00"	83E09'00"
A	24E33'00"	83E09'00"

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

"The Edges" 40 fathom contour is closed January 1–April 30. The Edges is a 390 nautical square mile region northwest of Steamboat Lumps.

The Edges Coordinates:		
	Latitude	Longitude
NW	28° 51" N	85° 16' W
NE	28° 51" N	85° 04' W
SW	28° 14' N	84° 54' W
SE	28° 14' N	84° 42' W

Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Bottom anchoring, the use of trawling gear, bottom longlines, buoy gear and all traps/pots are prohibited in the Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) listed below.

Pulley Ridge		
Position	North Latitude	West Longitude
A	24° 58' 18" N	83° 38' 33" W
B	24° 58' 18" N	83° 37' 00" W
C	24° 41' 11" N	83° 37' 00" W
D	24° 40' 00" N	83° 41' 22" W
E	24° 43' 55" N	83° 47' 15" W
A	24° 58' 18" N	83° 38' 33" W

McGrail Bank		
Position	North Latitude	West Longitude
A	27° 59' 06.0" N	92° 37' 19.2" W
B	27° 59' 06.0" N	92° 32' 17.4" W
C	27° 55' 55.5" N	92° 32' 17.4" W
D	27° 55' 55.5" N	92° 37' 19.2" W
A	27° 59' 06.0" N	92° 37' 19.2" W

Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council manages federal waters of Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone. Federal waters begin three to nine nautical miles offshore to 200 mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico. From Texas and Florida federal waters begin nine nautical miles out, and from Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, federal waters begin three nautical miles out.

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

PART 600—MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT PROVISIONS
Subpart B—Regional Fishery Management Councils

§ 600.105 *Intercouncil boundaries.*

- (c) South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils. The boundary coincides with the line of demarcation between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, which begins at the intersection of the outer boundary of the EEZ, as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and 83° 00' W. long., proceeds northward along that meridian to 24° 35' N. lat., (near the Dry Tortugas Islands), thence eastward along that parallel, through Rebecca Shoal and the Quicksand Shoal, to the Marquesas Keys, and then through the Florida Keys to the mainland at the eastern end of Florida Bay, the line so running that the narrow waters within the Dry Tortugas Islands, the Marquesas Keys and the Florida Keys, and between the Florida Keys and the mainland, are within the Gulf of Mexico.

State Authority in Federal Waters

A state may regulate vessels that are registered in that state and 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 of the state and the state rules are consistent with federal regulations.

NOTE: Federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing for reef fish in state waters.

Important Phone Numbers

NMFS Operations Branch	727-824-5305
NMFS Permits and Regulations Branch (see below for tuna permit applications)	877-376-4877

To apply for permits online: www.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
NMFS Swordfish/Billfish Recreational Reporting	800-894-5528

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary	409-621-5151
---	--------------

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	305-809-4700
--	--------------

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council	843-571-4366
---	--------------

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	228-875-5912
---	--------------

U.S. Coast Guard, 7th District (Florida east of St. Marks)	305-415-6781
---	--------------

U.S. Coast Guard, 8th District (St. Marks, Florida to Texas)	504-671-2245
---	--------------

Regional NMFS Office for Law Enforcement	727-824-5344
--	--------------

NMFS Enforcement Field Offices:

St. Petersburg, FL	727-893-3616
Marathon, FL	305-743-3110
Niceville, FL	850-729-8628
Slidell, LA	985-643-6232
Galveston, TX	409-770-0812
Harlingen, TX	956-423-3450

State Agencies:

Alabama Department of Conservation and Marine Resources	251-861-2882
Information or to report state fishing violations	251-968-7576
24-hour 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 888-404-3922
Cellular phone	*FWC
Louisiana Department 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 Department Information	800-792-1112
To report state fishing violations	512-389-4848 281-842-8100 800-792-game

Errata and Update Sheet

Supplemental “errata and update sheets” will be published periodically to reflect changes in fishing regulations implemented since this pamphlet was published. Contact the Gulf Council to obtain the most recent supplement.

NOTE: The Official Electronic Code of Federal Regulations for 50 CFR 622—for Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic is available online. [Please visit www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html).

This publication was prepared for general informational purposes May 31, 2011, and has no legal force or effect. Fishing regulations are subject to change. A separate summary of commercial fishing regulations is available from the Gulf Council.

A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA10NMF4410011



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
Email: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org
Web site: www.gulfcouncil.org

2011

Commercial Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters



**For Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council**



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
Email: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org
Web site: www.gulfcouncil.org

About the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

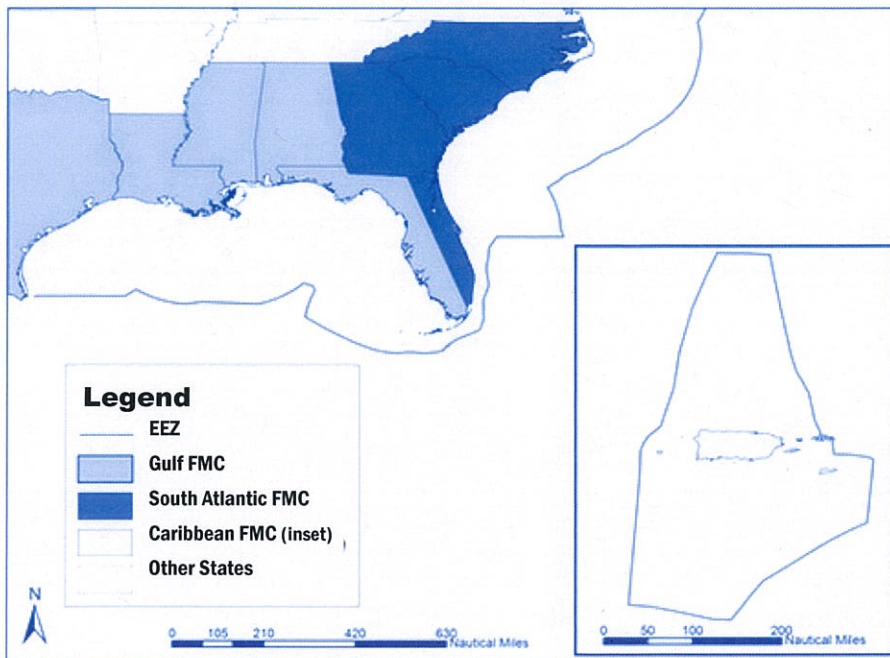
The Council consists of 17 voting members: the Southeast Regional Administrator of NMFS (or his designee), the directors of the five Gulf state marine resource management agencies (or their designees), and 11 members who are nominated by the state governors and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. Appointments are three-year terms with a maximum of three consecutive terms. In addition, there are four 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 five times a year at various locations around the Gulf coast. 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.

Public hearings are held throughout the Gulf coast before the Council takes final action on proposed rule changes. Public testimony is also heard during the meeting at which final action is scheduled. Proposed rule changes are then submitted to NOAA Fisheries Service for further review and approval before implementation.

Table of Contents

Commercial Regulations for Coastal Migratory Pelagics	4
Reef Fish	5
Corals/Shellfish/Other	7
Commercial Permit Requirements	8
Other Requirements	9
New Regulations.....	15
Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures	16
Important Numbers	22



Commercial Fishing Regulations—CMPs

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
Coastal Migratory Pelagics			
Cobia (ling)	33" fork length	Daily bag and possession limit of 2 per person	NOTE: Drift gill nets are prohibited
King Mackerel	Minimum 24" fork length Maximum of 5% by weight may be undersized	Eastern Zone: FL east coast subzone 11/1 to 3/31—50 fish per trip until quota filled. If 75% of quota is not harvested by 2/1, trip limit increases to 75 fish. 4/1 to 10/31—South Atlantic regulations apply, refer to South Atlantic Council regulation pamphlet. 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 whole weight FL west coast subzone: Hook-and-line 7/1 until 75% gear quota—1,250 lbs/trip then 500 lbs/trip whole weight until gear quota filled Gill net 25,000 lbs/trip whole weight Western Zone: 7/1 - 3,000 lbs/trip until quota filled	Quota (subdivided as shown): 3,264,000 lbs whole weight Gulf group Eastern Zone: 2,252,160 lbs FL-east subzone 1,040,625 lbs whole weight FL-west subzone 1,209,374 lbs whole weight Northern Hook- and-line 168,750 lbs whole weight Southern Gillnets 520,312 lbs whole weight Southern Hook-and-line 520,312 lbs whole weight Western Zone: 1,010,000 lbs whole weight

Use of gillnets permitted only in the southern Florida west coast subzone. 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.

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
Spanish Mackerel	12" fork length	None	Quota: 5.187 MP Gulf group. Season from 4/1 through 3/31.

Commercial Fishing Regulations—Reef Fish

Reef Fish

Red Snapper	13" total length	Red snapper is managed under an IFQ program. Anyone commercially fishing for red snapper must possess IFQ allocation and follow established protocols.	3.542 MP
Vermilion Lane	10" total length	None	NOTE: The Gulf Council is considering a Catch Share program for the entire commercial reef fish fishery and has set a control date of December 31, 2008 for all reef fish.
Gray (Mangrove)	8" total length	None	
Mutton	12" total length	None	
Yellowtail	16" total length	None	
Mahogany	12" total length	None	
Schoolmaster	12" total length	None	
Dog	12" total length	None	
Cubera	12" total length	None	
Blackfin	12" total length	None	
Queen	None	None	
Silk	None	None	
Wenchman	None	None	
Tilefish	None	Tilefish is now managed under an IFQ program. Anyone commercially fishing for tilefish must possess IFQ allocation and follow established protocols.	Overall tilefish Quota: 0.44 MP gutted weight

Reef Fish continued

Species	Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
Deep-Water Groupers			
Misty	None	Grouper are managed under an IFQ program. Anyone commercially fishing for grouper or tilefish must possess IFQ allocation and follow established protocols.	**For purposes of the IFQ, speckled hind and Warsaw grouper are also included as SWG. Overall quota 1.02 MP gutted weight
Snowy	None		
Yellowedge	None		
Warsaw**	None		
Speckled Hind**	None		
Shallow-Water Groupers			
Gag	24" total length	*Scamp is considered a SWG species. For purposes of the IFQ, once an IFQ account holder's other SWG allocation has been landed and sold, or transferred, or if the IFQ account holder has no SWG allocation, the DWG allocation may be used to land and sell scamp.	Overall quota 7.57 MP gutted weight Gag: Under an interim rule, only 430,000 pounds of the 2011 gag quota will be released Red Grouper: 5.75 MP gutted weight
Black	24" total length		
Red	18" total length		
Yellowfin	20" total length		
Scamp*	16" total length		
Yellowmouth	None		
Rock Hind	None		
Red Hind	None		
Goliath <small>(Jewfish)</small>			
Nassau	Harvest Prohibited		
Other Reef Fish			
Gray Triggerfish	14" fork length	None	106,000 pounds round weight
Hogfish	12" fork length	None	None
Greater Amberjack	36" fork length	None	486,209 lbs round wt. March–May Closure
Lesser Amberjack	14" - 22" fork length slot limit	None	None
Banded Rudderfish	14" - 22" fork length slot limit	None	None

NOTICE: Greater Amberjack will close at 12:01 a.m. local time, June 18, 2011

Coral/Shellfish/Other

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 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 850-488-4676.

Species	Size Limit	Trip Limit	Quotas/Closed Seasons
Shellfish			
Stone Crab	Minimum 2 3/4" claw	None	Season closed 5/16–10/14
Spiny Lobster	Carapace more than 3" or tail more than 5 1/2". Divers must measure in water	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	Shrimp trawlers must have a BRD installed on each net rigged for fishing. Royal red shrimp is exempt. Royal red quota—392,000 lbs tail weight. Royal red shrimp season opens 1/1 and closes when quota is filled.

Other Species

Red Drum	Illegal to harvest or possess in federal waters.
----------	--

Commercial Permit Requirements

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, 263 13th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701, (telephone 877-376-4877), except for tuna permits, which may be obtained by calling 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.
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. See additional remarks on page 17.
Shrimp	Permit required for all vessels that intend to fish for shrimp in EEZ waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Permit moratorium in effect. Shrimp trawlers must have a BRD installed on each net rigged for fishing.
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, 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. Permit moratorium, area restrictions, and restrictions on permit transfer in effect.
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. Existing permits are transferable.

Commercial Permit Requirements continued

Aquacultured live rock permit	Possession or harvest of cultivated live rock. Florida state permits are also required to land live rock in Florida. Wild live rock possession/harvest 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 contact the Atlantic tunas information line (888-872-8862) or 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 bag limits.
Dealer Permits	A dealer permit is required for a dealer to receive Gulf reef fish harvested from federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A Gulf IFQ dealer endorsement is also required. Call 1-866-425-7627 for more information.

Other Requirements & Restrictions

- January 1–April 30 closure of “The Edges” 40 fathom contour, a 390 nautical square mile region northwest of Steamboat Lumps.
 - Boundaries:
 - NW = 28° 51'N, 85° 16'W
 - NE = 28° 51'N, 85° 04'W
 - SW = 28° 14'N, 84° 54'W
 - SE = 28° 14'N, 84° 42'W
- Vessel monitoring systems are required onboard all vessels with federal commercial permits for Gulf reef fish, including charter vessels/headboats that also have a commercial reef fish permit.
- Entangling nets may not be used for directed harvest of reef fish.
- Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold.

Other Requirements/Restrictions continued

- Vessels with shrimp trawls or entangling net gear aboard may not exceed the recreational reef fish bag limits.
- Venting tools and dehooking devices are required on board all vessels participating in the reef fish fishery.
- The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks is required when using natural baits in the reef fish fishery.
- Commercial vessels are prohibited from retaining reef fish caught under the recreational size and bag/possession limits when commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish are on board.
- Reef fish as bait, except sand perch or dwarf sand perch is prohibited.
- 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 roller trawls, and power heads is prohibited.
- Reef fish gear is limited to no more than 3 hooks in a special management zone off Alabama. Nonconforming gear is restricted to bag limits, or for reef fish without a bag limit to 5% by weight of all fish aboard.
- Operators of vessels with Gulf of Mexico reef fish commercial or charter vessel/headboat permits comply with guidelines for proper care and release of incidentally caught smalltooth sawfish and sea turtles must and possess on board specific gear to ensure proper release of such species.
- A state may regulate vessels that are registered in that state and that are fishing in federal waters for species for which there are no federal fishery management plans or applicable federal regulations.
- 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.
- The use of longlines and buoy gear for reef fish is prohibited inside of 50 fathoms west 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 a bag limit, 5% by weight of all fish aboard. See page 15 for new buoy gear regulations.
- 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.

24 hour toll-free hotline: 1-800-853-1964

2011

Abbreviated Commercial Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters



Special Pull-Out Section



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
Email: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org
Web site: www.gulfcouncil.org

To report federal fishing violations call the

Species	Size Limit	Trip Limit
Red Snapper	13" TL	See remarks
Vermilion Snapper	10" TL	None
Lane Snapper	8" TL	
Gray/Mangrove, Cubera, Mahogany, Schoolmaster, Yellowtail Snapper, Dog	12" TL	
Mutton Snapper	16" TL	
Blackfin, Silk, Queen and Wenchman	None	
Gag Grouper (SWG)	24" TL	
Black Grouper (SWG)	24" TL	
Red Grouper (SWG)	18" TL	
Yellowfin (SWG)	20" TL	
Scamp (SWG)*	16" TL	
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind (SWG)	None	
Misty, Snowy, Yellowedge (DWG)		
Speckled Hind, Warsaw **(DWG)		
Hogfish	12" FL	None
Gray Triggerfish	14" FL	
Greater Amberjack	36" FL	
Lesser Amberjack, Banded Rudderfish	14" - 22" FL	
Stone Crab	Min 2¾" claw	None
Spiny Lobster	Carapace more than 3" or tail more than 5½"	None
Cobia (ling)	33" FL	Daily bag and possession limit of 2 per person
Spanish Mackerel	12" FL	None
King Mackerel	24" FL	

NOTICE: Greater Amberjack will close at 12:01 a.m. local time, June 18, 2011

SWG = Shallow Water Grouper

























DWG = Deep Water Grouper

24 hour toll-free hotline: 1-800-853-1964

Quotas/Closed Seasons	Remarks
3.542 MP	Commercial red snapper is managed under an IFQ program. Anyone commercially fishing for red snapper must possess IFQ allocation and follow established protocols.
None	NOTE: The Gulf Council is considering a Catch Share program for the entire commercial reef fish fishery and has set a control date of December 31, 2008 for all reef fish. A control date provides notice to affected fishermen that if the Council chooses to further restrict participation in the commercial reef fish fishery, they may use the control date to determine a permit holder's eligibility to participate in a catch share program.
NOTE: Under an interim rule only 430,000 pounds of the 2011 gag quota will be released.	<p>*Scamp is considered a SWG species. For purposes of the IFQ, once an IFQ account holder's other SWG allocation has been landed and sold, or transferred, or if the IFQ account holder has no SWG allocation, the DWG allocation may be used to land and sell scamp.</p> <p>**For purposes of the IFQ, speckled hind and Warsaw grouper are also included as SWG.</p>
None	
106,000 pounds round weight	
486,209 pounds round weight March–May Season Closure	
None	
Season closed 5/16–10/14	
Season closed 4/1–8/5 Divers must measure in water.	
Quota: 5,187 MP Gulf group. Season opens 4/1 and closes when quota is filled.	
Managed by zone—see page 4 or check with Council on closures.	

To report federal fishing violations call the

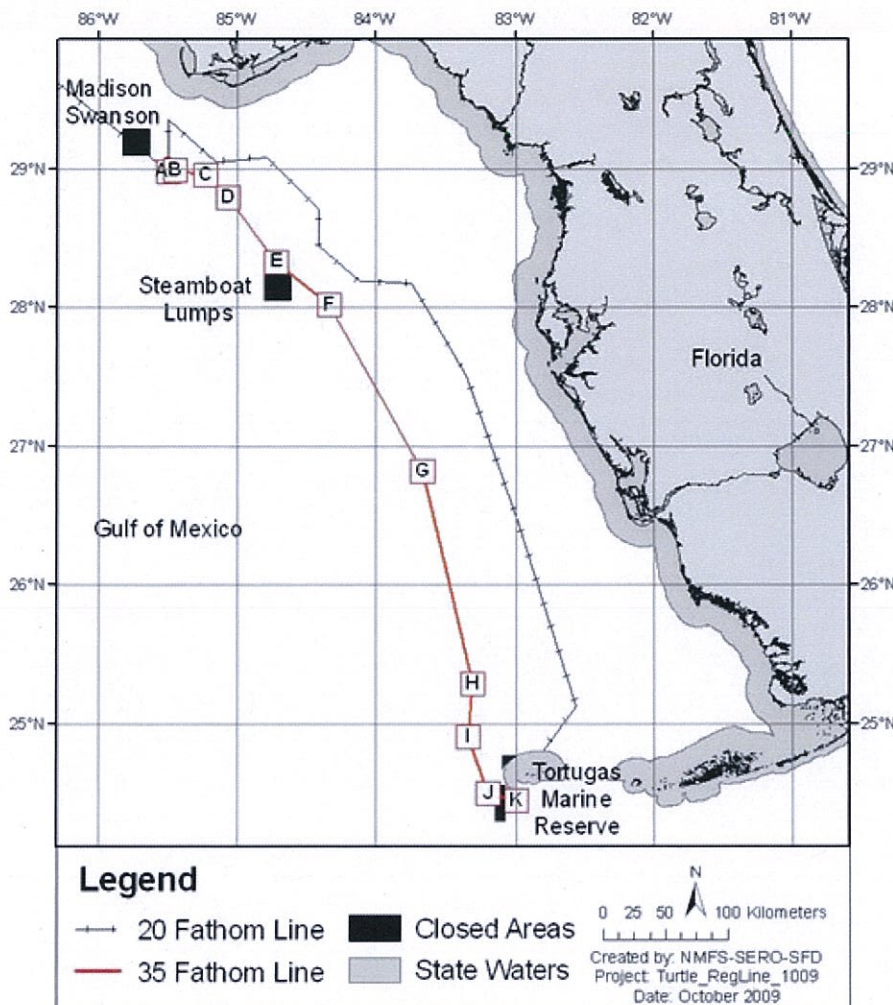
Identification Chart Artwork © Diane Rome Peebles

Red Snapper		Black Grouper	
Vermilion Snapper		Gag Grouper	
Lane Snapper		Red Grouper	
Gray/Mangrove		Yellowmouth	
Cubera		Yellowfin	
Mahogany		Scamp	
Schoolmaster		Greater Amberjack	
Yellowtail Snapper		Lesser Amberjack	
Dog Snapper		Banded Rudderfish	
Mutton Snapper		Cobia (ling)	
Blackfin		Spanish Mackerel	
Silk Snapper		King Mackerel	

Other Requirements/Restrictions continued

Reef fish bottom longline rules:

- The use of bottom longline gear in the reef fish fishery east of Cape San Blas, Florida, shoreward of a line approximating the 35-fathom depth contour is prohibited from June through August;
- Reduce the number of bottom longline vessels operating in the fishery through a longline endorsement provided only to federally-permitted vessels with demonstrated average annual landings of 40,000 pounds of fish taken by fish traps or longlines during 1999-2007;
- Maximum number of hooks that may possessed onboard each reef fish bottom longline vessel is 1,000 hooks total, only 750 of which may be fished or rigged for fishing at any time; and
- Longline endorsement required.



Marine Sanctuaries & Area Closures

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Phone: (409) 621-5151

Fax: (409) 621-1316

Email: flowergarden@noaa.gov

URL: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>

The following is an abbreviated summary of prohibited or otherwise regulated activities within the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary:

For full text of the regulations contact the Sanctuary office, or see: 15 CFR, Pt. 922, Subpart L, §922.122(a); 15 CFR, Pt. 922, Subpart A, §922.3

Fishing and Related Activities

The following activities are prohibited:

- Fishing by any means (e.g. *spear guns, powerheads, traps, longlines, nets*) **except** conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing, except while passing through the Sanctuary without interruption, any fishing gear, device, or equipment (e.g. *trawl gear, spearguns*) **except** conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing fish caught by any means **other** than conventional hook and line.
- Feeding fish.

Conventional hook and line gear means any fishing apparatus operated aboard a vessel and composed of a single line terminated by a combination of sinkers and hooks or lures and spooled upon a reel that may be hand or electrically operated, hand-held or mounted.

Anchoring and Mooring

The following activities are prohibited:

- Anchoring any vessel within the Sanctuary boundaries.
- Mooring a vessel over 100 feet in registered length on a Sanctuary mooring buoy.

Discharges

Discharging or depositing any material or other matter within the Sanctuary is prohibited, with the following exceptions:

- Fish, fish parts, chumming materials or bait used in, or resulting from, fishing with conventional hook and line gear.
- Biodegradable effluents incidental to vessel use and generated by an approved marine sanitation device.
- Water generated by routine vessel operations (e.g. *engine exhaust, cooling*)

water, deck wash down, and gray water), excluding oily wastes from bilge pumping.

Injury to or Possession of Sanctuary Resources

The following activities are prohibited:

- Injuring or removing, or attempting to injure or remove, any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, marine invertebrate (e.g., *spiny lobster*, *queen conch*, *shell*, *sea urchin*), brine-seep biota or carbonate rock.
- Possessing within the Sanctuary (regardless of where collected, caught, harvested or removed), any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, or fish (except for fish caught by use of conventional hook and line gear).
- Placing or abandoning any structure, material or other matter on the seabed of the Sanctuary.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Boundary Coordinates (NAD 83) Updated February 8, 2007.

“The Edges” 40 fathom contour is closed January 1–April 30. The Edges is a 390 nautical square mile region northwest of Steamboat Lumps.

The Edges Coordinates:		
	Latitude	Longitude
NW	28° 51" N	85° 16' W
NE	28° 51" N	85° 04' W
SW	28° 14' N	84° 54' W
SE	28° 14' N	84° 42' W

Stetson Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
S-1	28° 09' 31.03" N	94° 18' 31.98" W
S-2	28° 10' 10.20" N	94° 18' 30.21" W
S-3	28° 10' 07.84" N	94° 17' 23.90" W
S-4	28° 09' 28.66" N	94° 17' 25.68" W

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

East Flower Garden Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
E-1	27° 52' 54.84" N	93° 37' 41.84" W
E-2	27° 53' 35.80" N	93° 38' 23.90" W
E-3	27° 55' 14.61" N	93° 38' 40.89" W
E-4	27° 57' 31.68" N	93° 38' 33.81" W
E-5	27° 58' 28.63" N	93° 37' 46.67" W
E-6	27° 59' 02.38" N	93° 35' 32.29" W
E-7	27° 59' 01.47" N	93° 35' 10.23" W
E-8	27° 55' 23.35" N	93° 34' 15.32" W
E-9	27° 54' 05.02" N	93° 34' 19.42" W
E-10	27° 53' 27.68" N	93° 35' 05.54" W
E-11	27° 52' 53.04" N	93° 36' 57.77" W

West Flower Garden Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
W-1	27° 49' 11.14" N	93° 50' 45.83" W
W-2	27° 50' 13.34" N	93° 52' 11.04" W
W-3	27° 51' 13.81" N	93° 52' 52.20" W
W-4	27° 51' 33.39" N	93° 52' 51.24" W
W-5	27° 52' 50.86" N	93° 52' 25.34" W
W-6	27° 55' 01.91" N	93° 49' 44.25" W
W-7	27° 54' 59.30" N	93° 48' 38.11" W
W-8	27° 54' 36.23" N	93° 47' 10.91" W
W-9	27° 54' 15.78" N	93° 46' 49.85" W
W-10	27° 53' 36.61" N	93° 46' 51.82" W
W-11	27° 52' 58.32" N	93° 47' 15.82" W
W-12	27° 50' 41.24" N	93° 47' 22.70" W
W-13	27° 49' 11.88" N	93° 48' 43.28" W

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

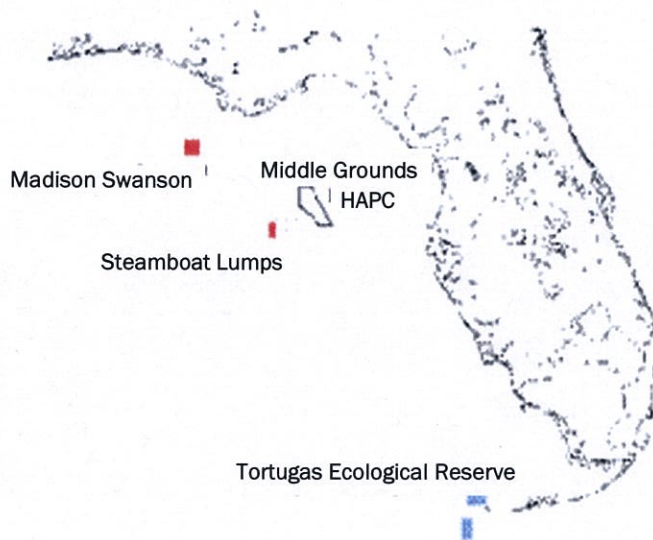
The following locations are closed to all fishing. Anchoring of fishing vessels is also not allowed. The boundaries of the areas are as follows:

EEZ portion of Tortugas North Ecological Reserve

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24E40'00"	83E06'00"
B	24E46'00"	83E06'00"
C	24E46'00"	83E00'00"
D	24E06'00"	83E38'00"

Tortugas South Ecological Reserve

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24E33'00"	83E09'00"
B	24E33'00"	83E05'00"
C	24E18'00"	83E05'00"
D	24E18'00"	83E09'00"
A	24E33'00"	83E09'00"



Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

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

Madison/Swanson Marine Reserve:		
	Latitude	Longitude
NW	29° 17'N.	85° 50'W.
NE	29° 17'N.	85° 38'W.
SW	29° 06'N.	85° 50'W.
SE	29° 06'N.	85° 38'W.

Steamboat Lumps Marine Reserve:		
	Latitude	Longitude
NW	28° 14'N.	84° 48'W.
NE	28° 14'N.	84° 37'W.
SW	28° 03'N.	84° 48'W.
SE	28° 03'N.	84° 37'W.

Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Bottom anchoring, trawling gear, bottom longlines, buoy gear and traps/pots are prohibited in the Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) listed below.

Pulley Ridge		
Point	North Latitude	West Longitude
A	24° 58'18" N	83° 38'33" W
B	24° 58'18" N	83° 37'00" W
C	24° 41'11" N	83° 37'00" W
D	24° 40'00" N	83° 41'22" W
E	24° 43'55" N	83° 47'15" W
A	24° 58'18" N	83° 38'33" W
McGrail Bank		
Point	North Latitude	West Longitude
A	27° 59'06.0" N	92° 37'19.2" W
B	27° 59'06.0" N	92° 32'17.4" W
C	27° 55'55.5" N	92° 32'17.4" W
D	27° 55'55.5" N	92° 37'19.2" W
A	27° 59'06.0" N	92° 37'19.2" W

Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council manages federal waters of Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone. Federal waters begin three to nine nautical miles offshore to 200 mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico. From Texas and Florida federal waters begin nine nautical miles out, and from Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, federal waters begin three nautical miles out.

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

PART 600—MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT PROVISIONS
Subpart B—Regional Fishery Management Councils

§ 600.105 Intercouncil boundaries.

- (c) South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils. The boundary coincides with the line of demarcation between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, which begins at the intersection of the outer boundary of the EEZ, as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and 83° 00' W. long., proceeds northward along that meridian to 24° 35' N. lat., (near the Dry Tortugas Islands), thence eastward along that parallel, through Rebecca Shoal and the Quicksand Shoal, to the Marquesas Keys, and then through the Florida Keys to the mainland at the eastern end of Florida Bay, the line so running that the narrow waters within the Dry Tortugas Islands, the Marquesas Keys and the Florida Keys, and between the Florida Keys and the mainland, are within the Gulf of Mexico.

State Authority in Federal Waters

A state may regulate vessels that are registered in that state and 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 of the state and the state rules are consistent with federal regulations.

NOTE: Federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing for reef fish in state waters.

Important Phone Numbers

NMFS Operations Branch	727-824-5305
NMFS Permits and Regulations Branch (see below for tuna permit applications)	877-376-4877

To apply for permits online: www.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
NMFS Swordfish/Billfish Recreational Reporting	800-894-5528

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary	409-621-5151
---	--------------

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	305-809-4700
--	--------------

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council	843-571-4366
---	--------------

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	228-875-5912
---	--------------

U.S. Coast Guard, 7th District (Florida east of St. Marks)	305-415-6781
---	--------------

U.S. Coast Guard, 8th District (St. Marks, Florida to Texas)	504-671-2245
---	--------------

Regional NMFS Office for Law Enforcement	727-824-5344
--	--------------

NMFS Enforcement Field Offices:

St. Petersburg, FL	727-893-3616
Marathon, FL	305-743-3110
Niceville, FL	850-729-8628
Slidell, LA	985-643-6232
Galveston, TX	409-770-0812
Harlingen, TX	956-423-3450

State Agencies:

Alabama Department of Conservation and Marine Resources	251-861-2882
Information or to report state fishing violations	251-968-7576
24-hour voice mail to report state fishing violations	251-476-1256
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Regulations Information	850-487-0544
Commission information	850-488-4676
To report state fishing violations	850-488-9924
Cellular phone	888-404-3922 *FWC
Louisiana Department 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 Department Information	800-792-1112
To report state fishing violations	512-389-4848 281-842-8100 800-792-game

Errata and Update Sheets

Supplemental “errata and update sheets” will be published periodically to reflect changes in fishing regulations implemented since this pamphlet was published. Contact the Gulf Council to obtain the most recent supplement.

NOTE: The Official Electronic Code of Federal Regulations for 50 CFR 622—for Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic is available online. [Please visit www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html).

This publication was prepared for general informational purposes May 31, 2011, and has no legal force or effect. Fishing regulations are subject to change. A separate summary of recreational fishing regulations is available from the Gulf Council.

A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NAO5NMF4410011



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
Email: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org
Web site: www.gulfcouncil.org



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
2404 Government Street
Ocean Springs, Mississippi, 39564
www.gsmfc.org