GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Rules and Regulations: Officers' Pocket Guide 2014-2015



July 2014

GSMFC No. 230

Quick Contact References

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
24 Hour Communications
(888) 404-3922
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Marine Resources Division M-F (251) 861-2882 or (251) 968-7576 24-Hour Contact Number (251) 476-1256
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Marine Patrol (800) 294-5551 or (228) 523-4134
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement (800) 442-2511 or (225) 765-2440
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department General Information (Mon-Fri 8-5) (800) 792-1112 Operation Game Thief (800) 792-4263 24 hour communications (512) 389-4848 (Austin) (281) 842-8100 (Houston)
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement 24 Hour Hotline (800) 853-1964
United States Coast Guard National Command Center (Emergencies ONLY) (800) DAD-SAFE LA, New Orleans District Eight Command Center (504) 589-6225
 LA, New Orleans Sector Command Center (504) 846-6160 AL, Mobile Sector Command Center (251) 441-6211
 FL, St. Petersburg Sector Command Center (727) 824-7527 TX, Corpus Christi Sector Command Center (361) 939-6393 TX, Houston-Galveston Sector Command Center
(713) 678-9057

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FLORIDA Commercial Size & Possession Limits

5 5 Mer e		
SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Ballyhoo (halfbeaks, balao, & silver stripe halfbeaks)	No size limit	Dependent on method of harvest & gear
Black Drum	14 - 24 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	500 lb/person/day or 500 lb/vessel/day
Blue Crab	5 total width	
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Atlantic North of Monroe Co.: 7,500lb/vessel/day Other State/Federal Waters: None
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	2/person/day, maximum of 6/vessel.
Dolphin	20 FL Size limit applies to purchase & sale of fish.	Directed harvest - None. Incidental bycatch – 10/person (Permit required)
Flounder - Gulf, southern, summer, fringed	12 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Incidental bycatch - 50 lb
Groupers		
Goliath/Nassau Warsaw/Speckled Hind	Prohibited	Prohibited
Gag/Black	24 TL	
Scamp	Gulf – 16 TL Atlantic & Monroe Co. – 20 TL	
Yellowfin/Yellowmouth	20 TL	Atlantic & Monroe Co. Closed
Red	Gulf – 18 TL Atlantic & Monroe Co. – 20 TL	Jan - Apr
Rock Hind/Red Hind	No size limit	
Coney/Graysby/Tiger	ino size illillit	
Yellowedge/Misty		
Golden Tilefish	No size limit	
Tilefish, all other	10 77	4
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	No Limit
Blueback & River Herring	No size limit 12 FL	INO LIMIT
Hogfish	Size limit applies to imported fish.	
Horseshoe Crab	No size limit	25/person/day (100/person/day w/ ML#).
Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	
Lesser Amberjack	14 – 22 FL	No limit/Closed Mar - May
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Lobster, Slipper	No size limit	No Limit - Possession of egg- bearing lobster prohibited
Lobster, Spiny	3 carapace (head) 5 ¹ / ₂ tail	Trap fishery - No Limit Bully Net- 250/vessel Dive Fishery – Regional (250) Permit required
Mackerel, King	24 FL	See Note ¹
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	See Note ²
Mullet, Silver (white, fantail, or redeye)	No size limit	Only allowed within 3 mile line July 1 thru Jan. 31 (weekend closure) 12:01am Sat. to 12:01 am Mon. Atlantic North of Monroe Co. Closed Feb.
Mullet, Striped (black)	11 FL w/ a 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish	Only allowed within 3 mile line Season broadly Oct thru Feb but determined on regional basis
Oysters	3 in greatest dimension.	20 bags/person/day or 20/vessel/day Additional regional limits & restrictions apply.
Permit	11 - 20 FL	100 bycatch Only bycatch allowed outside SPZ when using nets for other species of fish.
Pompano	11 - 20 FL	250/vessel/day Unlimited for persons holding a Pompano Endorsement
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person/day or 2/vessel/day Spearing prohibited
Scallops, Calico	No size limit	250 individual meats per 1lb sample
Shad (Alabama, American, hickory)	No size limit	10/person/day
Sharks	No size limit	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day Permit required
Sheepshead	12 TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lb
Shrimp (Brown, Pinkspotted, Pink, White, Roughneck, Roughback, Seabob)	No size limit	Food Shrimp - Regional. Live Shrimp -5 gallons dead shrimp, heads on, except in NE Region, 1 gallon. RS required.
Snappers		
Red	Gulf: 13 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	2/person/day
Mutton	16 TL	No limit/May-June: 10/vessel/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Vermilion	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 12 TL	
Lane	8 TL	
Gray	12 TL	
Yellowtail/Dog/Mahogany	12 TL	No Limit
Schoolmaster	10 TL	
Blackfin/Silk/Queen	12 TL	
Black.Wenchman	No size limit	
Cubera	12 - 30 TL only 2 >30 TL	>30 - 2/vessel/day
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 24 TL	75/person/day or 150/vessel/day with 2 licensed fishermen aboard
Stone Crab	2¾ claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 LJFL, 29 cleithrum to keel, or 33 lb dressed	No Limit Permit required
Triggerfish ,Gray	14 FL	No Limit
Triggerfish, Ocean	No size limit	No Limit
Tripletail	15 TL	10/vessel/day Permit required (Incidental bycatch 2/vessel/day)
Wahoo	No size limit	500 lb/vessel/day Permit required
Weakfish (gray seatrout or yellow-mouth trout)	12 TL	No Limit

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit & a NMFS-approved observer on board.

¹ Duval/Flagler/Nassau/St. John's - Apr 1 – EEZ Close: 3,500lb/vessel/day

- EEZ Close - Mar 31: Recreational limit

Volusia - Apr 1 - EEZ Close: 3,500lbs/vessel/day

- EEZ Close - Oct 31: Recreational limit

Brevard/Broward/Indian River/Martin/Miami-Dade/Palm Beach/St. Lucie

Apr 1 – EEZ Close: 75 fish/vessel/day

- EEZ Close - Oct 31: Recreational limit

- Nov 1 - EEZ Close: 50 fish/vessel/day

- EEZ Close – Mar 31: Harvest prohibited

Monroe – April 1 – EEZ Close: 1,250lb/vessel/day

EEZ Close – Oct 31: Recreational limit
 Nov 1 – Limit reduction: 1.250lb/vessel/day

Limit reduction. 1,25010/vessel/day

- Limit reduction - EEZ Close: 500lb/vessel/day

- EEZ Close - Mar 31: Harvest prohibited

All Gulf counties excluding Monroe - July 1 - Limit reduction: 1,250lb/vessel/day

- Limit Reduction - EEZ Close - 500lb/vessel/day

- EEZ Close - June 30: Harvest prohibited

² Eastern - Apr 1 - Nov 30: 3,500lb/vessel/day

- Dec 1 - Unlimited harvest close: Mon - Fri - 3,500lb/vessel/day

Sat - Sun - 1,500lb/vessel/day

- Unlimited harvest close - EEZ close: 1,500lbs/vessel/day

- EEZ Close - Mar 31: 500lb/vessel/day

Western - Apr 1 - EEZ Close: Unlimited Harvest

- EEZ Close - Mar 31: 500lbs/vessel/day

FLORIDA Recreational Size & Possession Limits

Recitational Size & 1 055e55i0ii Linnits			
SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES		OF FISH SESSION
Amberjack, Greater	Gulf: 30 FL Atlantic: 28 FL	1	on/day 1ne 1 – July 31
Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	5 in ag	gregate
Blue Marlin White Marlin Sailfish	99 FL 66 FL 63 FL	1/person/day	in aggregate
Black Drum	14 – 24 TL (1 over 24)	5/pers	on/day
Bluefish	12 FL	10/pers	son/day
Bonefish	N/A	NO Harve	st Allowed
Cobia	33 FL		6/vessel/day
Crab, Blue	No Size Limit		ole/person/day
Crab, Stone	2¾ Claw	1 gallon/p gallon Closed May	verson or 2 /vessel 16 – Oct 14
Spiny Lobster	>3 inch carapace	6 or 12/person/ on location) Harvest of egg- prohi	egular Season, day (depending Sport Season bearing females bited.
Dolphin	Atlantic: 20 FL		, 60/vessel/day
Flounder	12 TL	10/pers	son/day
Gag Grouper * for purpose of grouper regulations, Gulf does not include Monroe County. *open April 1 – June 30 (Wakulla, Jefferson, & Taylor)	Gulf: 22 TL Atlantic: 24 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day Atlantic: 1/person/day Closed Jan 1 – Apr 30	
Black Grouper *Atlantic: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	Gulf: 22 TL Atlantic & Monroe: 24 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day. Atlantic & Monroe: 1/person/day	AGGREGATE LIMIT Gulf:
Red Grouper *Atlantic: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	20 TL	Gulf: 4/person/day Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day	4/person/day Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day
Yellowfin &Yellowmouth Grouper	20 TL	Gulf: Open year-round.	
Scamp	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	Atlantic & Monroe: Closed Jan 1 – Apr 30	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Warsaw & Speckled Hind		1/vessel/day of each	
Snowy Grouper		Atlantic: 1/person/day	AGGREGATE
Other Groupers Golden Tilefish	No size limit	Gulf Closed: Feb 1 – Mar 31 Atlantic & Monroe Closed: Jan 1 – Apr 30 Atlantic:	LIMIT Gulf: 4/person/day Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day
		1/person/day	
Hogfish	12 FL	5/perso	on/day
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/perso	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/pers	
Mullet, Striped & Silver	No size limit	50 perso Vessel limit depending	t 50 or 100
Pompano	11 FL	6/perso	on/day
Permit (in SPZ) *Closed May 1 – July 31	22 FL	1/person/day,	2/vessel/day
Permit (not in SPZ)	11-22 FL	2/person/day 22"/person	& 2/vessel)
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person or	vessel/day
Red Drum	18 - 27 TL	1/person/day S 2/person/day	
Black Sea Bass	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 13 TL	Atlantic: 5/j	person/day
Shad	No size limit	10 aggregate	/person/day
Shark (Non-Prohibited Species)	54 FL for most species, others have no size limit	1/person 2/vesse	
Shark (Prohibited Species)	NA	Prohibited	
Sheepshead	12 TL	15/pers	
Shrimp	No size limit	5 gallons/pe 5 gallons/v Closed Apr – 1 Duval, St. Joh Flagler,	rson/day or zessel/day May: Nassau, ms, Putnam,
Snapper, Black & Wenchman	No size limit		10/person/
Snapper, Cubera	12 – 30 TL	10/person/day, & 2/person or vessel over 30" not included in aggregate	day Aggregate snapper bag limit.

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER (BAG/POSSI	
Snapper, Gray	10 TL	5/person/day	
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	Gulf: No bag limit Atlantic: Included in aggregate.	10/person/ day Aggregate
Snapper, Mutton	16 TL	10/person/day	snapper bag
Snapper, Red *Zero bag & possession for captain/crew on for-hire vessels	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	Gulf: Visit MyFWC.COM 2 /person/day	limit.
Snapper, Schoolmaster	10 TL	10/person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL	10/person/day	
Snapper, Vermilion	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 12 TL	Gulf: 10/pers Atlantic: 5/pe	
Snook	Gulf: 28-33 TL Atlantic: 28 – 32 TL	1/person/ Permit req Atlantic: Closed Do & June 1 – A Gulf: Closed Dec & May 1- A	uired ec 15 – Jan 31 Aug 31 1-end of Feb Aug 31
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 20 TL (one over 20")	4/person/day SW 5/person/day N 6/person/day N	W region
Swordfish	47 LJFL,29 cleithrum to keel	1/person/d 4/vessel/	
Tarpon	No size limit	1 fish posse Requires Tar	
Triggerfish, Gray	Gulf: 14 FL Closed June 1 –	Gulf: 2/pers	
Thggernsh, Gray	July 31 Atlantic: 12 FL	Atlantic: 1	00 lb
Tripletail	15 TL	2/person/day	
Wahoo	No size limit	2/person/	uay
Weakfish	WMA Nasssau 12 TL	1/person/	/day

Commercial Size & Possession Limits			
SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION	
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ	
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2/person	
Sheepshead	12 FL	No Bag Limit	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	12 /vessel	
Gag Grouper	22 TL		
Red Grouper	18 TL		
Black Grouper	22 TL	Permit Required IFQ	
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Striped Bass Spotted Sea Trout Red Drum Tarpon		No Commercial Retention	
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3/person	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL		
Lane Snapper	8 TL	No Bag Limit	
Gray Snapper	12 TL	Reef Fish Permit Required	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL		
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3/person	
Flounder	12 TL	No Bag Limit	
King Mackerel	24 FL		
Mullet	No Size Limit	No bag limit Jan 1- Oct 23, from October 24 - December 31, the possession limit on Mullet caught by cast net or snagging is 25/boat/day or 25/person/day from the shore.	
All Sharks	No Size Limit	No Bag Limit	

ALABAMA Commercial Size & Possession Limits

Commercial harvest of the following species is prohibited: Atlantic angel shark, Atlantic manta, Basking shark, Bigeye sand tiger shark, Bigeye sixgill shark, Bigeye thresher shark, Bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, Dusky shark, Galapogos shark, Largetooth sawfish, Longfin mako shark, Narrowtooth shark, Night shark, Sand tiger shark, Smalltooth sawfish, Smalltail shark, Sevengill shark, Sixgill shark, Spotted eagle ray, Whale shark, White shark, Nassau grouper, & Goliath grouper (Jewfish).

The following sharks are prohibited with the listed exceptions:

Sandbar - unless the fisherman possesses a NOAA Fisheries sandbar shark research permit.

Silky - unless the fisherman possesses a Federal Atlantic commercial shark vessel permit.

When the adjacent federal waters are closed to the harvest of any Gulf Reef Fish, King Mackerel, or sharks, the state waters will be closed.

ALABAMA Recreational Size & Possession Limits

	MINIMUM		
apparea			
SPECIES	SIZE	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	
	LIMIT		
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL		/person
Red Drum	16 – 26 TL	3/person - 1 ov	ersized fish allowed
			ish creel limit
Sheepshead	12 FL		/person
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL		person
King Mackerel	24 FL		person
Spanish Mackerel	No size limit		/person
Florida Pompano	12 TL		person
Gag Grouper	22 TL	2/person in	
Oug Olouper	22 11	aggregate	
Red Grouper	20 TL	4/person in	4 fish Grouper
-	-	aggregate	aggregate
Black Grouper	22 TL		uggroguto
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Greater Amberjack	30 FL		person
Striped Bass	16 TL		person
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	2/	person
Vermillon Snapper	10 TL		
(Beeliner)	-	10/person	
Flounder	12 TL		
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3/person	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	20 fish aggre	egate for reef fish
Lesser Amberjack	14 - 22 FL		ch there is no other
Banded Rudderfish		ba	g limit
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	No Creel Limit	
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL		
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person	
Gray Snapper	12 TL	10	person
(Mangrove, Black)	12 12		1
Tarpon	60 TL		quired to possess,
1		kill, or harv	vest each tarpon
Sharks			
Atlantic Sharpnose	None		
Bonnethead	None	_	
Other Shark Species	54 FL		
Great Hammerhead,		1/pe	rson day
Smooth Hammerhead,	78 FL	FL	
Scalloped			
Hammerhead			

Recreationally Prohibited Species: Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta, 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.

When the adjacent federal waters are closed to the harvest of any Gulf Reef Fish, the state waters will be closed.

MISSISSIPPI

Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia ¹	33 FL	2
Mullet	10 TL	No Limit
Flounder	12 TL	Quota
Red Drum ²	18 - 30 TL	Quota ²
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	Quota
King Mackerel	24 FL	3000 lb
Spanish Mackerel	14 FL	No Limit
Goliath Grouper Nassau Grouper	Prohibited	Prohibited
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Red Grouper	18 TL	
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Black Grouper	24 TL	No Limit
Gag Grouper	22 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Snapper	13 TL	Federal Permit ³
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	N. T. J.
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	No Limit
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	
Hogfish	12 FL	
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	
Bluefin Tuna		
Blue Marlin		
White Marlin	Prohibited	Prohibited
Sailfish	7	
Longbill Spearfish		
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW^4	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	NO LIIIII

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

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

³ Fishermen must possess federal permits or licenses required by NOAA Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan.

⁴ Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

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

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit & a NMFS-approved observer on board.

MISSISSIPPI

Recreational Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia	33 FL	2
Flounder	12 TL	15
Red Drum ¹	18 - 30 TL	31
Spotted Seatrout	13 TL	15
King Mackerel	24 FL	2
Spanish Mackerel	No Size Limit	15
Red Snapper	16 TL	2
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	1
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	20 in aggregate
Almaco Jack		
Tilefish	No Size Limit	
Goliath Grouper		
(Jewfish) ²	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nassau Grouper ²		
Triple Tail		
(Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Warsaw Grouper	No Size Limit	1/vessel within 4 fish aggregate
Red & Yellowfin	2 0 TT	
Grouper	20 TL	4 in aggregate
Black Grouper	22 TL	4 in aggregate
Gag Grouper	22 TL	2 within 4 fish aggregate
Scamp	16 TL	4 in aggregate
Other Groupers		
Speckled Hind	No Size Limit	4 in aggregate
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snappers	12 TL	
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	10 in aggregate
Queen, Blackfin, Silk & Wenchman Snapper	No Size Limit	
Tilefish	No Size Limit	
Greater Amberjack	30 FL	1
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	5 in aggregate
Hogfish	12 TL	5
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	No Limit
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	3
Blue Marlin	99 lower jaw FL	
White Marlin	66 lower jaw FL	No Limit
Sailfish	63 lower jaw FL]
Longbill Spearfish	Prohibited	Prohibited
Sharks - Large Coastals	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Pelagic	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Small	25 TI	4
Coastals	25 TL	4

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW^2	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Size Limit	No Limit

¹Recreational fishermen may retain one red drum over 30" TL. ²Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

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

Recreationally Prohibited Sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White. Also Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta.

LOUISIANA

Commercial Size & Possession Limits

Commercial Size & Possession Limits		
SPECIES	MINIMUM	POSSESSION
DILCIED	SIZE LIMIT	LIMITS/QUOTA
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	Permit required
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person
Drum, Black	16 TL	Quota: 16-27 – 3,250,000 lbs >27 – 300,000 fish
Crab, Blue	5 CW*	Possession of egg bearing females prohibited
Crab, Stone	2¾ CL**	Both claws may be removed but crab must be returned to the waters in which they were taken
Flounder, Southern	None	10/licensed commercial fisherman/day (Does not apply to shrimp boats)
Mackerel, King	24 FL	3,000 lbs/trip Federal quota
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	Federal quota
Mullet, Striped		Permit required
Pompano		Permit required (Permit only applies for fishing strike nets in Chandeleur/ Breton Sound during open season)
Tripletail	18 TL	100 lbs trip limit
Shrimp, White	100 count/lb	No size limit from Oct 15 through the third Monday in December
Seabass, Black	8 TL	Federal permit required
Seatrout, Spotted	14 TL	Quota: 1 mil lb (Commercial Rod and Reel only)
Sheepshead	10 TL	
Amberjack, Greater	36 TL	2,000 lbs trip limit
Triggerfish, Gray	14 FL	12/trip limit
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	
Hogfish	12 FL	
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Dwarf Sandperch, Sandperch	None	Federal Regulations Apply
Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	Tilefish IFQ

SDECIES	MINIMUM	POSSESSION
SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	LIMITS/QUOTA
Gag	22 TL	
Black	24 TL	
Red	18 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	Shallow-Water Grouper IFQ
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind	None	
Misty, Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None	Deep-Water Grouper IFQ
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit and IFQ required
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, Yellowtail, Gray Snappers	12 TL	None
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Atlantic Bluefin	73 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 CFL	Federal Regulations Apply. No
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	directed fishery for Bluefin. Allowed only as undirected bycatch while in possession of a permit.
Sharks – Large Coastal Sharks – Small Coastal Sharks - Pelagic	None	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply

*(CW) Carapace Length. Does not apply to premolt crabs held in a separate container marked "peelers" or "busters".

** (CL) Claw Length. Measured from the immovable anterior-most tip of the claw to the base of the joint.

Sailfish, Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Striped Marlin, Hatchet Marlin, White Marlin, & Red Drum are game fish in Louisiana & may not be commercially harvested, sold, bartered, traded, or exchanged.

Louisiana's Shark regulations are the same as Federal except for closed season April, May & June in state waters. Shark may be taken in the EEZ during closed LA season while in possession of a federal permit.

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

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit & a NMFS-approved observer on board.

LOUISIANA Recreational Size & Bag Limits

Recreational Size & Bag Limits		
MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT	
99 LJFL		
66 LJFL	None	
47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	1/person/day with no more than 5/vessel/trip	
33 FL	2/person/day	
16 TL	5/person bag and possession. May retain 1 over 27 TL	
16 TL	5/person bag. May retain 1 over 27 TL (2-day bag limits allowed in possession off the water)	
None (no egg bearing females)	12 dozen/person/day except on State Refuges and WMAs where the limit is 12 dozen/boat or vehicle	
None	None	
None	10/person/bag and possession	
24 FL	2/person/day (2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)	
12 FL	15/person/day (2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)	
	100 lbs/person/day	
8 TL		
12 TL	25/person bag (15 fish/person and no more than 2 fish over 25 TL in specified waters of Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes in SW Louisiana)	
18 TL	5 fish bag and possession	
	Reef fish possession - 2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats	
30 FL	1/person/day (Closed rec. season June1-July 31)	
14 - 22 FL slot	5/person/day in aggregate	
12 FL	5/person/day	
	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT 99 LJFL 66 LJFL 63 LJFL 47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight 33 FL 16 TL 16 TL 16 TL 12 FL 63 LJFL 14 T L 15 TL 16 TL 12 TL 12 TL 18 TL 30 FL 14 - 22 FL slot	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Gag, Black	22 TL	4/person/day in aggregate all
Red, Yellowfin	20 TL	Groupers
Grouper		- 1 Speckled Hind and 1 Warsaw Grouper/vessel
Scamp	16 TL	- 4 Red Grouper/person
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Speckled Hind, Misty Grouper, Snowy Grouper,	None	- 2 Gag /person Closed season for Black, Red, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth, Rock
Yellowedge Grouper Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw		Hind, Red Hind, and Scamp Feb 1 - Mar 31-Seaward of 20 fathoms Closed season for Gag Jan 1-June 30
Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper	Take Prohibited	Take Prohibited
Red Snapper	16 TL	Red snapper state season bag limit is reduced to 2 fish until further notice. Season opened early on February 14 this year & is open until further notice.
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogony, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray Snapper	12 TL	10/person/day in aggregate (all Snapper except Red, Vermilion, and Lane)
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman	None	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	No more than 10 in 20 fish aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	No more than 2 in 20 fish aggregate Closed season June 1-July 31
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead	None	1/person/day (each species)
Sharks other than Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead (not Prohibited)	54 FL	Aggregate 1/vessel/trip & in possession

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Tunas*		
Bluefin	73 CFL	1/vessel/year with federal angling permit. No directed fishing allowed.
Yellowfin	27 CFL	3/person
Bigeye	27 CFL	None

*All HMS species (except blackfin tuna) require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries

Prohibited Fish: Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, & Largetooth Sawfish

Any person possessing in Louisiana waters or landing in Louisiana any of the following species or species groups: tunas, billfishes, swordfish, snappers (except gray snapper), amberjacks, groupers or hinds, are required to carry a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit.

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

TEXAS Commercial Bag & Length Limits

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

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

Note: All measurements are in Total Length not Fork Length.

TEXAS

Recreational Bag & Length Limits

MINIMUM		
ann anna	. –	
SPECIES	LENGTH	DAILY BAG
	IN INCHES	
Amberjack, Greater	34	1/person & 2 possession
Bass: Striped, its	18	5 in any combination/person
hybrids & subspecies	10	10 possession
Catfish: Channel &		25 in any combination moreon
Blue Catfish, their	12	25 in any combination/person 50 possession
hybrids & subspecies		50 possession
Catfish, Flathead	18	5/person & 10 possession
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14	No limit
Cobia	37	2/person & 4/possession
Drum, Black	14 - 30 slot	5/person & 10 possession
Diulli, Black	14 - 30 8100	May include one over 52 inches
		3/person & 6/possession
Drum, Red	20 - 28 slot	May retain one additional red drum
		over 28" with affixed Red Drum Tag
		5/person total (Jan-Oct, Dec),
Flounder: all		5/person 3rd week of Dec-Oct, 1st 2
species, their hybrids	14	weeks of Dec 2/person any legal
& subspecies		means 2/person pole & line only
		(Nov) Possession is daily bag
Grouper, Goliath	Catch & release	0
(formerly Jewfish)	only	-
Mackerel, King	27	2/person & 4 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14	15/person & 30 possession
Marlin, Blue	131	
Marlin, White	86	No Limit
Sailfish	84	
Mullet: all species,	No Limit	
their hybrids &	12 maximum	No Limit
subspecies	(Oct-Jan)	
G G 1	15 05 1	5/person statewide south of FM 457
Seatrout, Spotted	15 – 25 slot	10/person statewide north of FM 457
		1 fish may be retained over maximum
Shark: all species,	64	1/person & 2 possession of any
their hybrids & subspecies	64	species unless prohibited (prohibited are catch & release only)
Shark: Atlantic		(promoted are calch & release only)
	24	1/person & 2 possession of any
Sharpnose, Blacktip,	24	species unless prohibited
& Bonnethead Sheepshead	15	5/person & 10 possession
Sneepsnead Snapper, Lane	15 8	No Limit
Snapper, Lane	0	4/person & 8 possession (circle hook
Snapper, Red	15	& line only with natural baits)
Snapper, Vermilion	10	No Limit
Snook	24 - 28 slot	1/person & 2 possession
Tarpon	24 - 28 slot 85	1/person & 2 possession
Triggerfish	16	20/person & 40 possession
Gag Grouper	22	20/person & 40 possession 2/person & 4 possession
Tripletail	17	3/person & 6 possession
mpician	1/	5/person & 0 possession

Commercial Size & Bag Limits		
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ
Vermilion	10 TL	
Lane	8 TL	
Mutton	16 TL	-
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail Cubera	12 TL	None
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Tilefish	None	IFQ
Groupers		
Black	24 TL	
Gag	22 TL	
Red	18 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	IFQ
Yellowmouth	none	
Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None	
Goliath	HARVEST &	POSSESSION PROHIBITED
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	12 fish/trip limit
Hogfish	12 FL	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	None
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Commercial closure Mar – May (2,000 lb trip limit)
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	None - Closed season 4/1-8/5
Cobia	33 FL	2/person
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	None
King Mackerel	24 FL (Up to 5% by weight may be	Hook & line – 1,250 lbs/trip Gill net – 25,000 lbs/trip
	undersized)	Gin net 25,000 105/up
Atlantic Bluefin	73 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 CFL	Federal Regulations Apply
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	No direct fishing for bluefin tuna, incidental longline catch only, while season is open.
Blue Marlin		· •
White Marlin	1	
winte wantin	1	
Roundscale Spearfish	HADVEST .	POSSESSION PROUIDITED
	HARVEST &	POSSESSION PROHIBITED

FEDERAL WATERS

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT
Red Drum	HARVEST &	POSSESSION PROHIBITED
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 25 cleithrum to keel	Federal Swordfish Permit Federal Regulations Apply
Sharks - Large Coastal Sharks - Small Coastal Sharks - Pelagic	None	Federal Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply

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

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit & a NMFS-approved observer on board.

FEDERAL WATERS Recreational Size & Bag Limits

	Kecreational Size & Dag Linnis		
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	
Snappers			
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person Not included in the 20-reef fish aggregate. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	10/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	20/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate	
Mutton Snapper	16 TL		
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail, Cubera	12 TL	10/person includes all Snappers except Red, Vermilion, & Lane	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	,,,,	
Almaco Jack, Tilefish, GoldfaceTilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	20/person in 20-reef fish aggregate	
Groupers		For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.	
Gag	22 TL	2/person included in 4-grouper aggregate	
Red	20 TL	3/person included in 4-grouper aggregate	
Black	22 TL		
Yellowfin	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL	Any combination in a 4-grouper	
Yellowmouth, Yellowedge, Snowy	None	aggregate	
Speckled Hind, Warsaw	None	1/vessel included in 4-grouper aggregate	
Goliath	HARVEST &	& POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	Included in 20-reef fish aggregate (Bag limit of 2 within the 20-reef fish aggregate)	
Greater Amberjack	30 FL	1/ person. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	5 fish aggregate limit excluded from 20-reef fish aggregate limit	
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	April 1 – August 5 season	

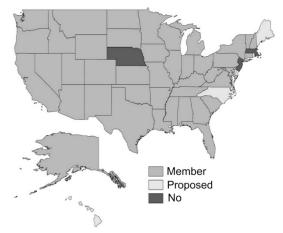
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
		No egg bearing females
Cobia	33 FL	2/person
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person including for-hire captain & crew
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person
Bluefin Tuna	73 CFL	None*
Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	3/person
Albacore, Skipjack, Blackfin	None	None
Blue Marlin	99 LJFL	
White Marlin Roundscale Spearfish	66 LJFL	None
Sailfish	63 LJFL	
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST &	& POSSESSION PROHIBITED
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 25 cleithrum to keel	1/person up to a maximum of 4/vessel, 6 for charter boats & 15 for headboats.
Red Drum	HARVEST &	& POSSESSION PROHIBITED
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose Bonnethead	None	1/person
All Other Sharks (except prohibited)	54 FL	1/vessel

*NMFS prohibits vessels from targeting bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico but charter boats & recreational anglers may keep one 73" or larger per YEAR as a "trophy" fish when the trophy category is still open & if the blue fin tuna is caught incidentally to other targeted species.

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

Wildlife Compact Member States

States	Member	States	Member
Alabama	Yes	New Jersey	No
Alaska	Yes	New Mexico	Yes
Arizona	Yes	New York	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	North Carolina	Process
California	Yes	North Dakota	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Ohio	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Oklahoma	Yes
Delaware	Process	Oregon	Yes
Florida	Yes	Pennsylvania	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Rhode Island	Yes
Hawaii	Process	South Carolina	Yes
Idaho	Yes	South Dakota	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Tennessee	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Texas	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Utah	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Vermont	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Virginia	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	Washington	Yes
Maine	Yes	West Virginia	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Wisconsin	Yes
Massachusetts	Process	Wyoming	Yes
Montana	Yes	Michigan	Yes
Nebraska	No	Minnesota	Yes
Nevada	Yes	Mississippi	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Missouri	Yes



All of the Gulf States are included, which causes the violator to be restricted or penalized in any of the Gulf States regardless of where that person was charged/convicted as long as the charging state was a member of the compact.

	Fed	Federal Permit Quick Guide / Gulf of Mexico	Mexico		
Fish	Charter/Headboat	Commercial	Recreational	Dealer	
Amberjack	RCG	RR	None	GSAD	
BAYS Tunas	HMS CHB	HMS (CHB / Tunas General / ATL / Purse Seine / Harpoon / Trap	HMS Angling	TD	
Bluefin Tuna	HMS CHB (no sale)	Atlantic Tunas Longline	HMS Angling	TD	
Blackfin Tuna	None	None	None	none	
Blue Marlin	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited	
Bluefish	CHG	None	None	GSAD	
Bonito	None	None	None	GSAD	
Cobia	CHG	None	None	GSAD	
Groupers	BCG	RR / IFQ Endorsement	None	GSAD	
Hogfish	RCG	RR	None	GSAD	
Jacks	BCG	RR	None	GSAD	
King Mackerel	CHG	WX	None	GSAD	
Porgies	None	None	None	GSAD	
Red Snapper	RCG	RR & IFQ Endorsement	None	GSAD	
Sailfish	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited	
Shark (Some Prohibited)	HMS CHB	SKD / SKI	HMS Angling	HS	
Shrimp	None	Shrimp EEZ	None	None	
Snappers	BCG	RR	None	GSAD	
Spadefish	None	None	None	GSAD	
Spanish Mackerel	CHG	WS	None	GSAD	
Spiny Lobster	None	LC/LT	None	GSAD	
Swordfish	HMS CHB	SWO General/SFD / SFI / SFH/Squid Trawl	HMS Angling	SD	
Tilefishes	RCG	RR / IFQ Endorsement	None	GSAD	
Triggerfishes	RCG	RR	None	GSAD	
Tripletail	None	None	None	GSAD	
Wahoo	None	None	None	GSAD	
White Marlin Round Scale Spearfish	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited	
Longbill Spearfish	HMS CHB (retention prohibited)	Prohibited	HMS Angling (retention prohibited)	Prohibited	

Permit Types & Codes	& Codes
Charter/Headboat - Limited Access & Moratorium	SKD - Shark Directed - 36 large coastal, no limit small
CHG - Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagic - no sale RCG - Gulf of Mexico Charter / Headboat for Reef Fish - no sale	coastal or pelagic SKI - Shark Incidental - three large coastal, 16 small coastal and pelagic (combined) Tunas - General Category - handgear and green-stick only*
HMS CHB – (Charter/headboat) – handgear only; BFT – no sale; may sell BAYS tunas; no bag limit on CML trips / up to – recreational bag limit on charter trips; Swordfish: three per vessel per trip: handgear only:	SWO General – Swordfish General Commercial – handgear only ATL - Atlantic Tunas Longline * no longline use in state waters (must have cml sword & shark of some type)
must sell to TD or SD	Commercial Dealer
Commercial Permits – Annual Open Access KM - King Mackerel	SH - Shark Dealer (* fish from federal waters) SD - Swordfish Dealer * TD -
SM - Spanish Mackerel LC - Spiny Lobster LT - Spiny Lobster Tailing Shrimp - Shrimp EEZ	GSAD – Gulf and South Atlantic Dealer Permit (but valid reef fish, etc, permits are equivalent until that permit expires – mackerel and lobster must have GSAD)
Commercial Permits - Limited Access & Moratorium	Recreational
RR - Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish * SFD - Swordfish Directed - no limit open season. or 15	HMS Angling - Highly Migratory Species / recreational BFT and BAYS tunas, sharks, billfishes, swordfish
closed season with longline, 2 other gear * SFI – Swordfish Incidental – 30 per vessel per trip SFH - Swordfish Handgear	Other BFT – Bluefin tuna BAYS – Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, Skipjack
*	* permit required in state waters to sell or possess or for dealer to purchase fish

NOTES

NOTES



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

2404 Government Street Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (228) 875-5912