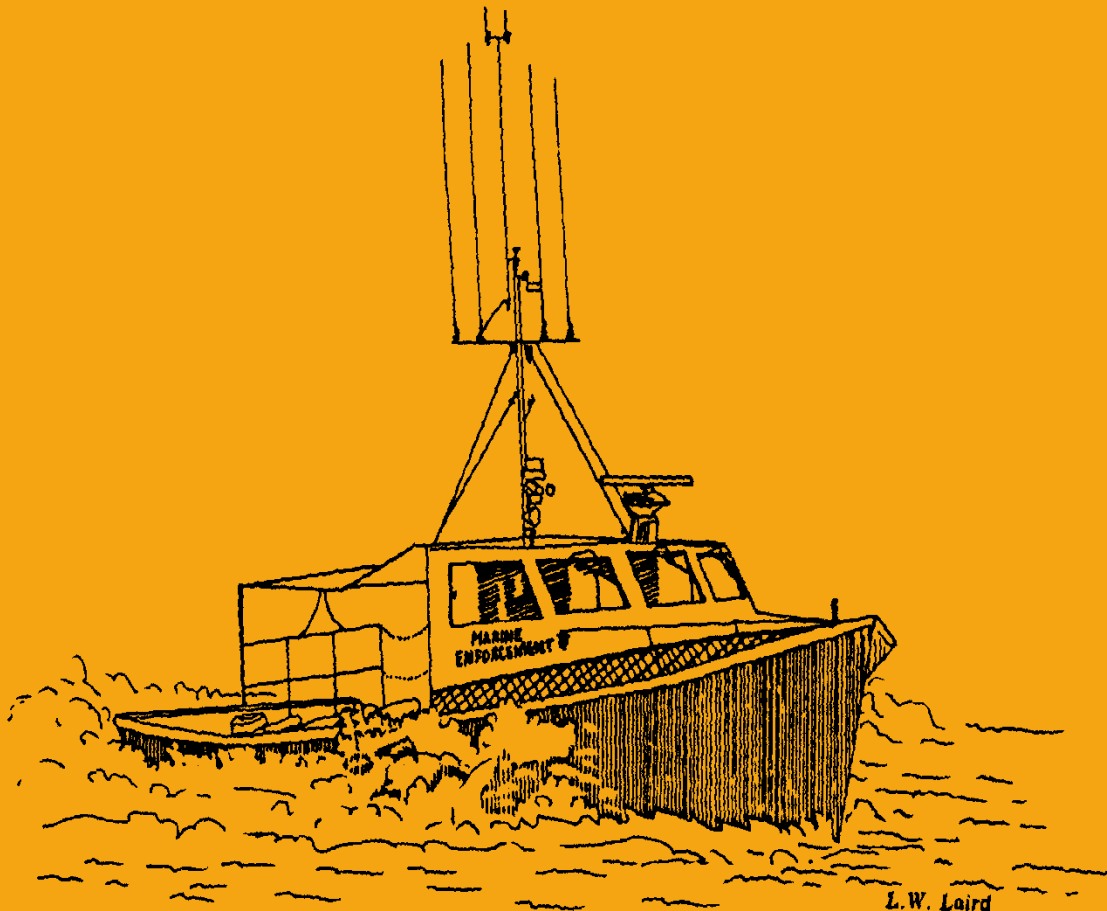


GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Law Summary 2020



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

May 2021

GSMFC No. 304

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 included was for the majority of the 2020 fishing year; 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 Jason Downey
Chief Enforcement Officer
Alabama Marine Resources Division

Lt. Colonel Kyle Wilkerson
Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Captain Scott Pearce
Marine Law Administrator
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission

Assistant Commander Jarret Barker
Law Enforcement Division
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Major Edward Skena
Division of Law Enforcement
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Phillip Land
Special Agent in Charge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region

Tracy A. Dunn
Acting Deputy Director
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
Southeast Enforcement Division

Cynthia Fenyk
Enforcement Attorney
NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and
Litigation, Southeast Region

Luis J. Santiago
Special Agent in Charge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement, Southeast Region

Lt. Nicholas Giancola
U.S. Coast Guard
District Eight (DRE)

Edited by
Debora K. 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.....	1
Recreational Saltwater Regulations.....	2
FLORIDA	3
Commercial Saltwater Regulations.....	3
Recreational Saltwater Regulations.....	5
LOUISIANA	8
Commercial Saltwater Regulations.....	8
Recreational Saltwater Regulations.....	10
MISSISSIPPI	12
Commercial Saltwater Regulations.....	12
Recreational Saltwater Regulations.....	13
TEXAS	14
Commercial Saltwater Regulations.....	14
Recreational Saltwater Regulations.....	15
GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS	16
Commercial Saltwater Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters.....	16
Recreational Saltwater Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters.....	18

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

ALABAMA
Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ
Cobia (Ling)	36 FL	2/person
Sheepshead	12 FL	No Bag Limit
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	16 /vessel
Gag Grouper	22 TL	Permit Required IFQ
Red Grouper	18 TL	
Black Grouper	24 TL	
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Striped Bass, Spotted Seatrout, Red Drum, Tarpon		No Commercial Retention
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3/person
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	No Bag Limit Reef Fish Permit Required
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Snapper	12 TL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3/person
Flounder	14 TL	40/person/vessel
King Mackerel	24 FL	No bag limit
Mullet	No Size Limit	No bag limit October 24 - December 31, the taking of Mullet is prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, and Fowl River.
All Sharks	No Size Limit	No Bag Limit

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, Galapagos 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.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

ALABAMA
Recreational Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Spotted Seatrout	15-22 TL	6/person-1 oversized allowed
Red Drum	16 – 26 TL	3/person - 1 oversized allowed
Sheepshead	12 FL	10/person
Cobia (Ling)	36 FL	2/person
King Mackerel	24 FL	3/person
Spanish Mackerel	No size limit	15/person
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3/person
Gag Grouper	24 TL	2 in aggregate
Red Grouper	20 TL	2 in aggregate
Black Grouper	24 TL	4 fish Grouper aggregate
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	
Striped Bass	16 TL	2/person
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL	1/person
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	10/person
Flounder	14 TL	5/person
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3/person
Lane Snapper	8 TL	20 fish aggregate for reef fish species for which there is no other bag limit
Lesser Amberjack	14 - 22 FL	
Banded Rudderfish		
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	3/person
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	No Creel Limit
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person
Gray Snapper (Mangrove, Black)	12 TL	10/person
Tarpon	60 TL	\$61.00 tag required to possess, kill, or harvest each tarpon Oct 24 - Dec 31, 25/person from the shoreline or 25/boat. Prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River and Fowl River.
Mullet	None	
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	1/person
Bonnethead	None	1/person
Other Shark Species	54 FL	1/person
Hammerheads Great, Smooth Scalloped	78 FL	1/person
Mako, Shortfin	71 TL (Male) 83 TL (Female)	1/person

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.

Any finfish possessed in Alabama and harvested in federal or waters of another state that does not have a size, bag or creel limit must abide by Alabama size, bag and creel limits for that species.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

FLORIDA
Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Ballyhoo (Halfbeaks, Balao, & Silver Stripe Halfbeaks)	No size limit	Dependent on license/gear
Black Drum	14 - 24 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	500 lb./person/day or 500 lb./vessel/day Whichever is less
Blue Crab	5 total width	
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Atlantic North of Monroe Co.: 7,500 lb./vessel/day Other State/Federal Waters: None
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Atlantic: 2/person/day, maximum of 6/vessel. Gulf (N. of Monroe Co. Line) 1/person, 2/vessel
Dolphin	20 FL Size limit applies to purchase & sale of fish.	Atlantic – Federal Permit Limits Apply (200 lb. N. of 39 degrees N. Latitude; Gulf – No Limit Incidental bycatch – 10/person (Permit required)
Flounder - Gulf, Southern, Summer, Fringed	12 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	No limit for directed harvest Incidental bycatch - 50 lb. (Shrimp trawls)
Groupers		
Goliath/Nassau Warsaw/Speckled Hind	Prohibited	Prohibited
Gag/Black	24 TL	Atlantic & Monroe Counties, Closed Jan - Apr
Scamp	Gulf – 16 TL Atlantic & Monroe Co. – 20 TL	
Yellowfin/Yellowmouth	20 TL	
Red	Gulf – 18 TL Atlantic & Monroe Co. – 20 TL	
Rock Hind/Red Hind	No size limit	
Coney/Graysby/Tiger	No size limit	
Yellowedge/Misty	No size limit	No Limit
Golden Tilefish		
Tilefish, all other		
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	
Blueback & River Herring	No size limit	No Limit
Hogfish	12 FL Size limit applies to imported fish.	
Horseshoe Crab	No size limit	25/person/day (100/person/day w/ ML#).
Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	No limit
Lesser Amberjack	14 – 22 FL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Atlantic: 1,000 lb vessel limit Gulf: 1,500 lb gutted weight vessel limit. Closed Mar - May
Lobster, Slipper	No size limit	No Limit - Possession of egg-bearing lobster prohibited
Lobster, Spiny	3 carapace (head) 5½ tail	Trap fishery - No Limit Bully Net Permit- 250/day Dive Endorsement – 250/day
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-Jan. 31 (weekend closure) 12:01am Sat.-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. Apalachicola Bay: special bag and harvest limits apply see MyFWC.com
Permit	11 - 20 FL	No Directed Harvest 100 bycatch

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
		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 in state waters
Scallops, Calico	No size limit	No limit. Maximum of 250 individual meats per 1 lb. sample
Shad (Alabama, American, Hickory)	No size limit	10/person/day
Sharks	No size limit	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day in state waters HMS Permit required
Sheepshead	12 TL	No limit Incidental bycatch - 50 lb. (Shrimp trawls)
Shrimp (Brown, Pinkspotted, Pink, White, Roughneck, Roughback, Seabob)	No size limit	Food Shrimp – no limit Live Shrimp - 5 gallons dead shrimp, heads on, except in NE Region, 1 gallon.
Snappers		
Red	Gulf: 13 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	2/person/day in state waters
Mutton	18 TL	Atlantic 500 lb. per trip July 1 – Mar. 31. 5 Fish April 1- June 30 in Atlantic. No limit in Gulf state waters
Vermilion	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 12 TL	No Limit
Lane	8 TL	
Gray	12 TL	
Yellowtail/Dog/Mahogany	12 TL	
Schoolmaster	10 TL	
Blackfin/Silk/Queen	12 TL	
Black/Wenchman	No size limit	
Cubera	12 - 30 TL only 2 >30 TL	
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 24 TL	75/person/day or 100/vessel/day with 2 licensed fishermen aboard
Stone Crab	2¾ inch claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 LJFL, 29 cleithrum to keel, or 33 lb dressed	No Limit HMS Permit required
Triggerfish, Gray	14 Gulf 12 Atlantic	Gulf Fed waters 16 fish trip limit Atlantic Fed. Waters 1000 lb. trip limit until quota reached
Triggerfish, Ocean	No size limit	No Limit
Tripletail	18 TL	10/vessel/day Permit required (Incidental bycatch 2/vessel/day)
Wahoo	No size limit	500 lb/vessel/day Fed Permit required in Atlantic
Weakfish (Gray Seatrout or Yellow-mouth Trout)	12 TL	No Limit

¹ **Duval/Flagler/Nassau/St. John's:** Apr 1-Mar 31 @3,500lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies
Volusia: Apr 1-Oct 31 @3,500lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies
Brevard/Broward/Indian River/Martin/Miami-Dade/Palm Beach/St. Lucie: Apr 1-Oct 31 @75 fish/vessel/day; Nov 1-Mar 31 @50 fish/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies
Monroe: Apr 1-Oct 31 @1,250lb/vessel/day, Nov 1-Mar 31 @500lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies
All Gulf counties excluding Monroe: Jul 1-Jun 30 @1,250lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, 500lb/vessel/day.
² **Eastern Counties:** Apr 1-Nov 30 @3,500lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closes to unlimited harvest, Mon-Fri @3,500lb/vessel/day and Sat-Sun @1,500lb/vessel/day; After unlimited closure in EEZ until total EEZ closure @1,500lb/vessel/day, After total EEZ closure-Mar 31 @500lb/vessel/day.
Western Counties: Apr 1-EEZ Closed @ Unlimited Harvest; After EEZ closed-Mar 31 @500lb/vessel/day

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

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

FLORIDA
Recreational Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Amberjack, Greater	Gulf: 34 FL Atlantic: 28 FL	1/person/day Gulf: Closed Nov. 1 – April 30, June and July	
Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	5 in aggregate	
Blue Marlin	99 FL	1/person/day in aggregate (HMS permit required)	
White Marlin	66 FL		
Sailfish	63 FL		
Black Drum	14 – 24 TL (1 over 24)	5/person/day	
Bluefish	12 FL	10/person/day	
Bonfish	N/A	NO Harvest Allowed	
Cobia	33 FL	Atlantic: 1/person/day, 6/vessel/day Gulf: 1/person/day 2/vessel/day	
Crab, Blue	No Size Limit	10 gallons whole/person/day	
Crab, Stone	2% Claw	1 gallon/person or 2 gallon/vessel Closed May 16 – Oct 14	
Spiny Lobster *harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited	2-Day Sport Season (Last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of July)		
	>3-inch carapace ¹	6/person/day (Monroe County and Biscayne National Park) 12/person/day (rest of Florida)	
	Regular Season		
	>3-inch carapace ¹	6/person/day	
Dolphin	Atlantic: 20 FL Gulf: No minimum	10/person/day, 60/vessel/day	
Flounder	12 TL	10/person/day	
Great Barracuda	Collier, Monroe, Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin: 15" to 36", one over 36" allowed	2/person/day, 6/vessel (applies only in state & federal waters off Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, & Martin Counties. Unregulated in all other areas)	
Blackfin Tuna	Minimum Size Limit: none	Season: Open year-round Daily Bag Limit: 2 fish per person or 10 per vessel, whichever is greater.	
Bay Scallops	<u>St Joseph Bay and Gulf County:</u> Aug. 16-Sept. 24 <u>Franklin County through Northwestern Taylor County:</u> July 1 through Sept. 24 <u>Fenholloway through Suwannee Rivers Zone:</u> June 15 through Labor Day <u>Levy, Citrus and Hernando Counties:</u> July 1 through Sept. 24 <u>Pasco County:</u> July 16-25, 2021	<u>Gulf-NW Taylor County and Levy-Pasco County:</u> Per person: 2 gallons of whole bay scallops in shell or 1 pint of bay scallop meat Per vessel: Maximum of 10 gallons of whole bay scallops in shell or 1/2 gallon bay scallop meat (1/2 gallon = 4 pints) <u>Fenholloway through Suwannee River Zone:</u> June 15-30: Per person: 1 gallon whole bay scallops in shell or one cup shucked Per vessel: 5 gallons whole or two pints shucked July 1-Labor Day: Per person: 2 gallons of whole bay scallops in shell or 1 pint of bay scallop meat Per vessel: Maximum of 10 gallons of whole bay scallops in shell, or 1/2 gallon bay scallop meat (1/2 gallon = 4 pints)	
Grouper Aggregate			
Gag *for purpose of grouper regulations, Gulf does not include Monroe County. *open April 1 – June 30 (Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson, & Taylor)(All other counties open Jun 1-Dec 31)	Gulf: 24 TL Atlantic: 24 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day Atlantic: 1/person/day	Atlantic: Shallow water groupers closed Jan. 1 – Apr. 30 AGGREGATE LIMIT Gulf: 4 fish/person/day
Black *Atlantic: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	24	Gulf: 4/person/day. Atlantic & Monroe: 1/person/day	Atlantic & Monroe: 3 fish/person/day

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Red *Atlantic and Monroe: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	20 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day	AGGREGATE CONTINUED
Yellowfin & Yellowmouth	20 TL	Gulf 4, Atlantic 3	
Scamp	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL		
Warsaw & Speckled Hind	No size limit	1/vessel/day of each Atlantic: 1/person/day, Gulf: 4/person/day	
Snowy		Atlantic – 3 Gulf - 4	
Groupers, Other		Atlantic – 1 Gulf - 4	
Golden Tilefish			
Hogfish	Atlantic: 16 Gulf: 14	Atlantic: 1 Gulf: 5	
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person/day Atlantic (excluding Monroe) 3/person/day Gulf (including Monroe)	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person/day	
Mullet, Striped & Silver	No size limit	50 person/day, Vessel limit 50 or 100 depending on season	
Pompano	11 FL	6/person/day	
Permit	² In SPZ: 22 FL	² In SPZ: 1/person/day, 2/vessel/day ² SPZ Closed April 1 – July 31	
	Not in SPZ: 11-22 FL	Not in SPZ: 2/person/day (one over 22"/person & 2/vessel)	
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person or vessel/day	
Red Drum	18 - 27 TL	1/person/day NW and S 2/person/day NE	
Black Sea Bass	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 13 TL	Atlantic: 5/person/day Gulf: 100 lb per harvester	
Shad	No size limit	10 aggregate/person/day	
Shark (Non-Prohibited Species)	54 FL for most species; others have no size limit	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day	
Shark (Prohibited Species)	N/A	Prohibited	
Mako (Shortfin)	83 FL	1/person or 2/vessel	
Sheepshead	12 TL	8/person/day 50 per vessel limit during Mar. and April	
Shrimp	No size limit	5 gallons/person/day or 5 gallons/vessel/day Closed Apr – May: Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, & Clay	
Snapper Aggregate			
Cubera	12 – 30 TL	10 fish /person/day, in aggregate but 2 fish over 30" are allowed per person or vessel and are excluded from aggregate	10/person/ day Aggregate snapper bag limit.
Gray	10 TL	5 fish/ person/day	
Mutton	18 TL		
Red *Zero bag & possession for captain/crew on for-hire vessels	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day Open June 11 – July 25	
Schoolmaster	10 TL	10 fish /person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL		

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Lane	8 TL	Gulf: 100 lb per harvester Atlantic: 10 fish. Not Included in aggregate.
Vermilion	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 12 TL	Gulf: 10/person/day Atlantic: 5/person/day Not included in aggregate limit
Snook	Gulf: 28-33 TL Atlantic: 28 – 32 TL	1/person/day Permit required Atlantic (excluding Monroe): Closed Dec 15 – Jan 31 & June 1 – Aug 31 Gulf (Including Monroe): Closed Dec 1-end of Feb & May 1-Aug 31
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 19 TL (one over 19) Per vessel	3/person/day S region 2/person/day CE region 5/person/day NE region 3/person WP region 5/person BB region Closed Feb. WP region Closed Nov.-Dec. CE region
Swordfish	47 LJFL, 25 cleithrum to keel	1/person/day or 4/vessel/day
Tarpon	No size limit	1 fish possession Requires Tarpon Tag
Triggerfish, Gray	Gulf: 15 FL Atlantic: 12 FL	Gulf: 1/person/day Closed: Jan., Feb., June Atlantic: 10/person/day
Tripletail	18 TL	2/person/day
Wahoo	No size limit	
Weakfish	12 in WMA No minimum in other areas	1/person/day Nassau only 100 lb rest of state

¹ Possession and use of a measuring device for Spiny Lobster is required at all times.

² The SPZ (Special Permit Zone) for permit includes state and federal waters south of Cape Florida in the Atlantic and south of Cape Sable in the Gulf.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

LOUISIANA
Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Swordfish	29 carcass length or 33 lb. dressed weight	Permit required
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person
Drum, Black	16 TL	Quota: 16-27 – 3,250,000 lb. >27 – 300,000 fish
Crab, Blue	5 CW ¹	Possession of egg bearing and immature (maiden) females prohibited.
Crab, Stone	2¾ CL ²	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 lb./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 lb. trip limit
Shrimp, White	100 count/lb.	No size limit from Oct 15 through the third Monday in December
Seabass, Black	No size limit	Federal permit required. No bag or possession limit.
Seatrou, Spotted	14 TL	Quota: 1 mil lb. (Commercial Rod and Reel only)
Sheepshead	10 TL	None
Amberjack, Greater	36 TL	1,500 lb. trip limit
Triggerfish, Gray	1 FL	12/trip limit
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	Federal Regulations Apply
Hogfish	1 FL	
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Dwarf Sandperch, Sandperch	None	
	None	
Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	Tilefish IFQ
Gag	24 TL	Shallow-Water Grouper IFQ
Black	24 TL	
Red	18 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	
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
Cubera, Yellowtail, Gray Snappers	12 TL	None
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Atlantic Bluefin	73 CFL	
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply. No directed fishery for Bluefin. Allowed only as undirected bycatch while in possession of a permit.
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply
Sharks – Large Coastal ³	None	
Sharks – Small Coastal ³		
Sharks - Pelagic ³		

¹ (CW) Carapace Length. Does not apply to premolt crabs held in a separate container marked “peelers” or “busters”.

² (CL) Claw Length. Measured from the immovable anterior-most tip of the claw to the base of the joint.

³ 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

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

during closed LA season while in possession of a federal permit. Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar Sharks MUST have a valid research permit & NMFS-approved observer on board.

Prohibited Fish: 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.

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.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

**LOUISIANA
Recreational Size & Bag Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Marlin, Blue ¹	99 LJFL	None
Marlin, White ¹	66 LJFL	
Sailfish ¹	63 LJFL	
Swordfish ¹	29 carcass length or 33 lb. dressed weight	No more than 5/vessel/trip
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person/day
Drum, Black	16 TL	5/person bag and possession. May retain 1 over 27 TL
Drum, Red	16 TL	5/person bag. May retain 1 over 27 TL (2-day bag limits allowed in possession off the water)
Crab, Blue	None (no egg bearing females)	12 dozen/person/day except on State Refuges and WMAs where the limit is 12 dozen/boat or vehicle
Crab, Stone	None	None
Flounder, Southern	None	10/person/bag and possession
Mackerel, King	24 FL	3/person/day (2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	15/person/day (2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)
Mullet, Striped		100 lb./person/day
Seabass, Black	No size limit	No bag or possession limit
Seatrout, Spotted	12 TL	25/person bag (15 fish/person and no more than 2 fish over 25 TL in specified waters of Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes in SW Louisiana)
Tripletail	18 TL	5 fish bag and possession
REEF FISH		Reef fish possession - 2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats
Amberjack, Greater	34 FL	1/person/day (Closed rec. season June 1-July 31)
Amberjack, Lesser Rudderfish, Banded	14 - 22 FL slot	5/person/day in aggregate
Hogfish	14 FL	5/person/day
Gag, Black Grouper	24 TL	4/person/day in aggregate all Groupers - 1 Speckled Hind and 1 Warsaw Grouper/vessel - 2 Red Grouper/person - 2 Gag /person. Closed season for Black, Red, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind, and Scamp Feb 1 - Mar 31-Seaward of 20 fathoms Gag Grouper open June 1- December 1 Jan 1-June 30
Red, Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Speckled Hind, Misty Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw	None	
Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper	Take Prohibited	
Red Snapper	16 TL	Red Snapper state season bag limit - 2 fish.
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogany, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray Snapper	12 TL	10/person/day in aggregate (all Snapper except Red, Vermilion, and Lane)
Mutton Snapper	18 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	15 FL	No more than 2 in 20 fish aggregate Closed season June 1-June 30
Lane Snapper	8 TL	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blue-line Tilefish	None	

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
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. All Shark harvest prohibited April 1-June 30.
Tunas¹		
Bluefin	73 CFL	1/vessel/year with federal angling permit. No directed fishing allowed.
Yellowfin	27 CFL	3/person
Bigeye	27 CFL	None

¹ All HMS species (except Blackfin Tuna) require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries.

Note: Any person possessing in Louisiana waters or landing in Louisiana any of the following species or species groups: Cobia, Wahoo, Dolphinfish, Tunas, Billfishes, Swordfish, Snappers, Amberjacks, Groupers or Hinds, are required to carry a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit.

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

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.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

MISSISSIPPI
Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia ¹	Prohibited ¹	Prohibited ¹
Mullet	10 TL	No Limit
Flounder	12 TL	Quota
Red Drum ²	18 - 30 TL	Quota ²
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	Quota ⁵
King Mackerel	24 FL	3,000 lb
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	No Limit
Goliath Grouper	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nassau Grouper		
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Red Grouper	18 TL	Federal Permit Required IFQ
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Black Grouper	24 TL	
Gag Grouper	24 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Snapper	13 TL	Federal Reef Fish Permit Required ³ Federal Regulations Apply
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	
Bigeye & Yellowfin	27 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Required Federal Regulations Apply
Skipjack & Albacore	No Size Limit	
Bluefin Tuna	Prohibited	
Blue Marlin	Prohibited	Prohibited
White Marlin		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Small Coastal Sharks	25 TL	25 in aggregate ⁶
Large Coastal Sharks	37 TL	
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW ⁴	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	

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

² Commercial fishermen may retain one Red Drum over 30" TL.

³ 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.

⁵ Commercial fishermen in possession of Spotted Seatrout must possess a valid endorsement.

⁶ Commercial fishermen in possession of Small or Large Coastal sharks must possess a valid endorsement.

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.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

**MISSISSIPPI
Recreational Size & Possession Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Cobia	36 FL	2	
Flounder	12 TL	10	
Red Drum ¹	18 - 30 TL	3 ¹	
Spotted Seatrout	15 TL	15	
King Mackerel	24 FL	3	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15	
Sheepshead	14 TL	15	
Red Snapper	16 TL	2	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	20 in aggregate	
Gray Triggerfish	15 TL		1 per person
Lane Snapper	8 TL		
Almaco Jack	No Size Limit		
Tilefish			
Goliath Grouper (Jewfish)	Prohibited	Prohibited	
Nassau Grouper			
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3	
Warsaw Grouper	No Size Limit	1 per vessel within 4 fish aggregate	
Speckled Hind			
Gag Grouper	24 TL	2 within 4 fish aggregate	
Red & Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	4 in aggregate	
Black Grouper	24 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Other Groupers	No Size Limit		
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snappers	12 TL	10 in aggregate	
Mutton Snapper (no more than five within the 10 fish aggregate)	18 TL		
Queen, Blackfin, Silk & Wenchman Snapper	No Size Limit		
Tilefish	No Size Limit		
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	1	
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	5 in aggregate	
Hogfish	14 FL	5	
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	No Limit	
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	3	
Bluefin Tuna		1 per vessel per week	
Blue Marlin	99 lower jaw FL	No Limit	
White Marlin	66 lower jaw FL		
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 Coastals	25 TL	4	
Atlantic Tarpon	75 FL ³	1 Per vessel per day, must be reported to MDMR	
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.

³ It shall be unlawful for any fisherman to remove an Atlantic Tarpon over the length of forty inches from the water unless the intent is to harvest within the minimum prescribed size.

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

Recreationally Prohibited Sharks and Rays: 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.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

TEXAS
Commercial Bag & Length Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Amberjack, Greater	38 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Drum, Black	14 -30 TL slot	No Limit with commercial finfish fisherman's license
Catfish, Blue & Channel	14 TL	25/person in any combination 50 possession (50/person in Lake Livingston)
Catfish, Gaff-topsail	14 TL	No Limit
Cobia	40 TL	2/person & 4 possession Not allowed on shrimping vessels
Flounder: all species, their hybrids, & subspecies	15 TL	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
Grouper, Black	24 TL	4/person & 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL	2/person & 4 possession
Mackerel, King	27 TL	3/person & 6 possession Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Mackerel, Spanish	14 TL	15/person & 30 possession Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Mullet: all species their hybrids & subspecies	No Limit (Feb – Sept) 12 TL maximum (Oct – Jan)	No Limit
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15 TL	4/person & 8 possession (circle hook & line only) IFQ Vessel Allocation required
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL	No Limit
Shark: All species, their hybrids & subspecies	64 TL	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, & Bonnethead	24 TL	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Shark: Great, Scalloped, & Smooth Hammerhead	99 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Sheepshead	15 TL	No Limit with commercial finfish license
Triggerfish	16 TL	20/person & 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL	3/person & 6 possession

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

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.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

TEXAS
Recreational Bag & Length Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	DAILY BAG
Amberjack, Greater	38 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Bass: Striped, its hybrids & subspecies	18 TL	5 in any combination/person 10 possession
Catfish: Channel & Blue Catfish, their hybrids & subspecies	12 TL	25 in any combination/person 50 possession
Catfish, Flathead	18 TL	5/person & 10 possession
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14 TL	No limit
Cobia	40 TL	2/person & 4 possession
Drum, Black	14 - 30 TL slot	5/person & 10 possession May include one over 52 inches
Drum, Red	20 - 28 TL slot	3/person & 6 possession May retain one additional Red Drum over 28" with affixed Red Drum Tag
Flounder: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	15 TL	5/person total (Jan-Oct, Dec), 5/person 3 rd week of Dec-Oct, 1st 2 weeks of Dec 2/person any legal means 2/person pole & line only (Nov) Possession is daily bag
Grouper, Black	24 TL	4/person & 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL	2/person & 4 possession
Grouper, Goliath & Nassau	Catch & release only	Prohibited
Mackerel, King	27 TL	3/person & 6 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14 TL	15/person & 30 possession
Marlin, Blue	131 TL	No Limit
Marlin, White	86 TL	
Sailfish	84 TL	
Mullet: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	No Limit 12 TL maximum (Oct-Jan)	No Limit
Seatrout, Spotted	15 – 25 TL slot	5/person statewide south of FM 457 10/person statewide north of FM 457 1 fish may be retained over maximum
Shark: Great, Scalloped, & Smooth	99 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Shark: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	64 TL	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited (prohibited are catch & release only)
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, & Bonnethead	24 TL	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	15 TL	5/person & 10 possession
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15 TL	4/person & 8 possession (circle hook & line only with natural baits)
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL	No Limit
Snook	24 - 28 TL slot	1/person & 2 possession
Tarpon	85 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Triggerfish	16 TL	20/person & 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL	3/person & 6 possession

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

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.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

FEDERAL WATERS
Commercial Size & Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT	
Red Snapper ¹	13 TL	Commercial Reef Fish Permit required IFQ	
Vermilion ¹	10 TL	Commercial Reef Fish Permit required	
Lane	8 TL		
Mutton	18 TL		
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail, Cubera	12 TL		
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None		
Tilefish	None	IFQ	
Groupers			
Black	24 TL	IFQ	
Gag ¹	24 TL		
Red ¹	18 TL		
Yellowfin	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Yellowmouth	None		
Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None		
Goliath	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Gray Triggerfish ¹	14 FL	12 fish/trip limit	Commercial Reef Fish Permit Required
Hogfish ²	14 FL	None	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot		
Greater Amberjack ¹	36 FL	Commercial closure Mar – May (1,500 lb. trip limit)	
Almaco Jack	None	None	
Spiny Lobster	3-inch carapace	None - Closed season 4/1 - 8/5	Spiny Lobster Permit Required
Cobia	36 FL	2/person	Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permit Required
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	None	
King Mackerel	24 FL (Up to 5% by weight may be undersized)	Hook & line – Southern Zone: 1,250 lb./trip Open July 1 Northern Zone: 1,250 lb./trip Open Oct. 1 Western Zone: 3,000 lb. Open July 1	Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permit Required
		Gill net – Southern Zone: 45,000 lb./trip Opens day after MLK holiday.	Gill Net Endorsement Required

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT
Atlantic Bluefin	73 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply ^{3,4} No directed fishing for Bluefin Tuna, incidental longline catch only, while season is open.
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 CFL	
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	
Blue Marlin	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
White Marlin		
Roundscale Spearfish		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Red Drum	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 25 cleithrum to keel	Federal Swordfish Permit Federal Regulations Apply ³
Sharks - Large Coastal ⁵	None	Federal Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply ³
Sharks - Small Coastal		
Sharks - Pelagic		
Sharks – Smoothhound	None	Federal Smoothhound Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply ³

¹ Species subject to in-season closure.

² Boundary is defined as waters north of line extending west from Cape Sable, FL (29°09'). South of that is subject to South Atlantic regulations.

³ Information on Federal regulations can be found in the HMS Commercial Compliance Guide at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-compliance-guides>. Possession limits and fishery status change throughout the year -- for current minimum sizes, trip limits, and fishery status by species and permit type see <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-minimum-sizes-and-bag-limits>.

⁴ Federal regulations do not apply to Federal Atlantic Tunas permit holders fishing in Mississippi state waters.

⁵ Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar Sharks MUST have a valid research permit and NMFS-approved observer on board.

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.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

FEDERAL WATERS Recreational Size & Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Snappers		
Red Snapper ¹	Federal For-Hire: 16 TL Private Recreational: Determined by Each Gulf State	Federal For-Hire: 2/person Private Recreational: Determined by Each Gulf State Not included in the 20-reef fish aggregate. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Vermilion Snapper ¹	10 TL	10/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	20/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	10/person within the 10-snapper aggregate. Includes all Snappers except Red, Vermilion, & Lane.
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail, Cubera	12 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Almaco Jack, Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, Blue-line Tilefish	None	20/person in 20-reef fish aggregate
Groupers		
For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.		
Gag ¹	24 TL	2/person included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Red ¹	20 TL	2 /person included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Black	24 TL	Any combination in a 4-Grouper aggregate
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Yellowedge, Snowy	None	
Speckled Hind, Warsaw	None	
Goliath	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Hogfish ²	14 FL	5/person
Gray Triggerfish ¹	15 FL	1/person Included in 20-reef fish aggregate
Greater Amberjack ¹	34 FL	1/person. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Spiny Lobster	3-inch carapace	April 1 – August 5 closed season No egg-bearing females
Cobia	36 FL	2/person
King Mackerel	24 FL	3/person including for-hire captain & crew
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person
Bluefin Tuna ^{3,4}	73 CFL	No directed fishing for Bluefin Tuna, incidental catch only. 1/vessel/year
Yellowfin Tuna ⁴ , Bigeye Tuna ⁴	27 CFL	3/person for Yellowfin, None for Bigeye
Albacore, Skipjack ⁴	None	None
Blue Marlin ⁵	99 LJFL	None
White Marlin ⁵ , Roundscale Spearfish ⁵	66 LJFL	
Sailfish ⁵	63 LJFL	
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Swordfish ^{4,6}	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	
Sharks⁴		
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	1/person
Bonnethead		
Smoothhound	None	None
Hammerheads (Great, Smooth, Scalloped) ⁷	78 FL	1/vessel (except prohibited)
Shortfin mako	71 FL males and 83 FL females	
All Other Sharks ⁷	54 FL	

¹ Species subject to in-season closure.

² Boundary is defined as waters north of line extending west from Cape Sable, FL (29°09'). South of that is subject to South Atlantic regulations.

³ 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 Bluefin Tuna is caught incidentally to other targeted species. Anglers must report all Bluefin Tuna landings and dead discards to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov>, on the Catch Reporting app, in the SAFIS eTrips program, or by calling (888) 872-8862.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

⁴Information on Federal regulations can be found in the HMS Recreational Compliance Guide at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-compliance-guides>. Bag limits and fishery status change throughout the year -- for current minimum sizes, bag limits, and fishery status by species and permit type see <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-minimum-sizes-and-bag-limits>.

⁵There is an annual U.S. landings limit of 250 Atlantic Blue & White Marlin, and Roundscale Spearfish (combined). Landings updates are posted at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-landings-updates> and seasonal closures are posted at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/atlantic-billfish-recreational-minimum-sizes-and-bag-limits>. **Anglers must report all recreational Billfish landings within 24 hours either online at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov>, on the Catch Reporting app, in the SAFIS eTrips program, or by calling (800) 894-5528.** If a Billfish is landed during an HMS tournament then the tournament operator must report the landing.

⁶Anglers must report all recreational Swordfish landings within 24 hours either online at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov>, on the Catch Reporting app, in the SAFIS eTrips program, or by calling (800) 894-5528.

⁷Anglers cannot possess Hammerhead or Oceanic Whitetip Sharks while in possession of Tunas, Billfish, or Swordfish.

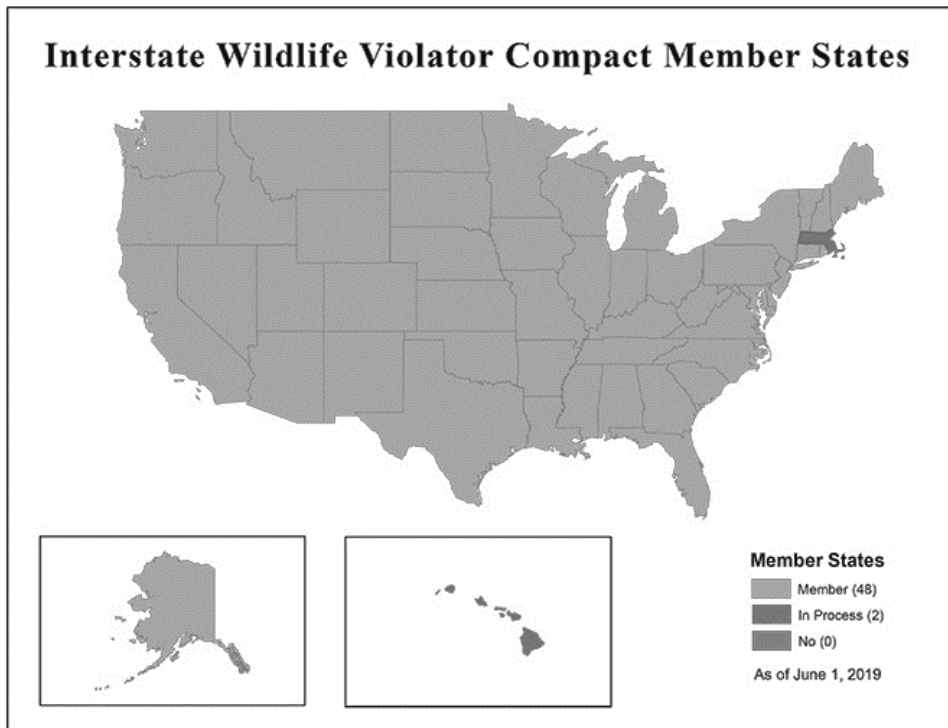
Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White.

The information included is for the majority of the 2020 fishing year. For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, contact state or federal agencies directly.

Wildlife Compact Member States

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.

States	Member	States	Member
Alabama	Yes	Montana	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Nebraska	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Nevada	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	New Hampshire	Yes
California	Yes	New Jersey	Yes
Colorado	Yes	New Mexico	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	New York	Yes
Delaware	Yes	North Carolina	Yes
Florida	Yes	North Dakota	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Ohio	Yes
Hawaii	Process	Oklahoma	Yes
Idaho	Yes	Oregon	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Pennsylvania	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Rhode Island	Yes
Iowa	Yes	South Carolina	Yes
Kansas	Yes	South Dakota	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Tennessee	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	Texas	Yes
Maine	Yes	Utah	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Vermont	Yes
Massachusetts	Process	Virginia	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Washington	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	West Virginia	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Wisconsin	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Wyoming	Yes





**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
2404 Government Street
Ocean Springs, Mississippi, 39564**