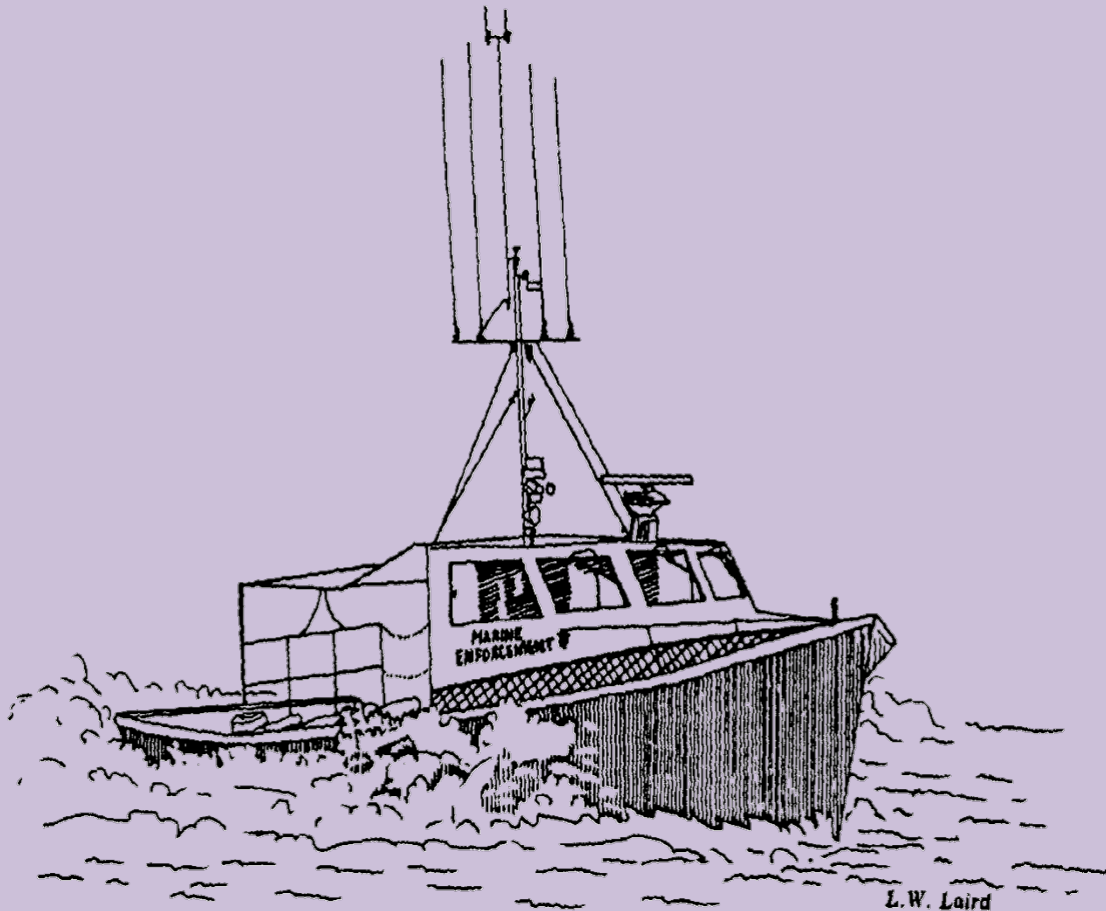


GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

# Law Summary 2022



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

June 2023

GSMFC No. 318

*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 2022 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.

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**ALABAMA**  
**Commercial Size & Possession Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit Required IFQ
Cobia (Ling)	36 FL	1/person – Not to exceed 2 per vessel
Sheepshead	12 FL	No Bag Limit
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	16 /vessel – Reef Fish Permit Required
Gag Grouper	24 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.

**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	1/person – Not to exceed 2 per vessel
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 C FL <sup>1</sup>	3/person
Bigeye Tuna	27 C FL <sup>1</sup>	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	
<b>Sharks</b>		
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

<sup>1</sup> C FL=Curved Fork Length.

**Recreationally Prohibited Species:** Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largemouth 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.

**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)	36 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Gulf & Atlantic 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	14 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Directed harvest: 150 fish from Dec. 1 – Oct. 14 50 fish Oct. 15 – Nov. 3 Incidental bycatch - 50 lb. (Shrimp trawls)
<b>Groupers</b>		
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 Gulf Golden Tilefish: IFQ Atlantic Golden Tilefish: 500 lbs gw
Golden Tilefish	No size limit	
Tilefish, all other	No size limit	
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: season 1- 1,200 lb vessel limit Season 2-1000 lbs Gulf: 1,000 lb gutted weight vessel limit Closed Mar - May
Lobster, Slipper	No size limit	No Limit - Possession of egg-bearing lobster prohibited
Lobster, Spiny	3 in carapace (head) 5½ tail	Trap fishery - No Limit Bully Net Permit- 250/day Dive Endorsement – 250/day
Mackerel, King	24 FL	See Note <sup>1</sup>
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	See Note <sup>2</sup>
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/ 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: Closed

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Permit	11-20 FL	No Directed Harvest 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 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
<b>Snappers</b>		
Red	Gulf: 13 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	Gulf: IFQ Atlantic: 75 lbs gw
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	2 7/8 in claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 L J FL <sup>3</sup> , 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length.

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



**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	36 FL	Gulf & Atlantic: 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 <sup>1</sup>	6/person/day (Monroe County and Biscayne National Park) 12/person/day (rest of Florida)	
	Regular Season		
	>3-inch carapace <sup>1</sup>	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 1 - Aug. 6, 2023	<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)	
<b>Grouper Aggregate</b>			
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	<b>Atlantic:</b> Shallow water groupers closed Jan. 1 – Apr. 30 <b>Gulf:</b> Closed Nov. 16-Aug. 31
Black *Atlantic: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	24	Gulf: 4/person/day. Atlantic & Monroe: 1/person/day	<b>AGGREGATE LIMIT</b> Gulf: 4 fish/person/day

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	<b>AGGREGATE CONTINUED</b>  Atlantic & Monroe: 3 fish/ person/day
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	
Snowy		Atlantic: 1/person/day, Gulf: 4/person/day	
Groupers, Other		Atlantic – 3 Gulf - 4	
Golden Tilefish		Atlantic – 1 Gulf - 4	
Hogfish	Atlantic: 16 Gulf: 14	Atlantic: 1 Gulf: 5	
Blueline tilefish		Gulf - 100 lbs per person Atlantic- 3 per person within 3 grouper aggregate Open May – July 25	
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	In SPZ <sup>2</sup> : 22 FL	In SPZ <sup>2</sup> : 1/person/day, 2/vessel/day SPZ <sup>2</sup> Closed April 1 – July 31	
Permit Pompano, African	Not in SPZ <sup>2</sup> : 11-22 FL	Not in SPZ <sup>2</sup> : 2/person/day (one over 22"/person & 2/vessel)	
	24 FL	2/person or vessel/day	
Red Drum	18-27 TL	1/person/day all state waters. Catch and Release in the Indian River Lagoon Region 4 fish vessel limit in the following regions: Panhandle, Big Bend, and Northeast 2 fish vessel limit in the following regions: Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest, and Southeast	
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)	Prohibited	Prohibited	
Sheepshead	12 TL	8/person/day 50 per vessel limit during March and April	
Shrimp	No size limit	5 gallons/person/day or 5 gallons/vessel/day Closed April – May: Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, & Clay	
<b>Snapper Aggregate</b>			
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	5 fish/ person/day	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Red *Zero bag & possession for captain/crew on for-hire vessels	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day  Open June 16–July 31 Friday–Sunday October 6–8 October 13–15 October 20–22 October 27–29 November 3–5 November 10–12 November 17–19 November 24–26	<b><u>AGGREGATE CONTINUED</u></b>
Schoolmaster	10 TL	10 fish /person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL	10 fish /person/day Gulf: 100 lb. per harvester	
Lane	8 TL	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 Catch and release only zone SW Florida	
Spotted Seatrout	15-19 TL (one over 19) Per vessel	3/person/day S region (6 fish vessel limit) 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 L J FL <sup>3</sup> , 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	2/person/day 1/person/day	
Weakfish	12 in WMA No minimum in other areas	Nassau only 100 lb. rest of state	

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length.

Goliath – Prohibited, unless properly permitted.

**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)	36 FL	2/person
Drum, Black	16 TL	Quota: 16-27 – 3,250,000 lb >27 – 300,000 fish
Crab, Blue	5 CW <sup>1</sup>	Possession of egg bearing and immature (maiden) females prohibited.
Crab, Stone	2¾ CL <sup>2</sup>	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	None	Permit required
Pompano	None	Permit required (Permit only applies for fishing strike nets in Chandeleur/ Breton Sound during open season)
Tripletail	18 TL	100 lb. trip limit, no more than one vessel trip per day
Shrimp, White	100 count/lb.	No size limit from Oct 15 through the third Monday in December
Seabass, Black	None	Federal permit required. No bag or possession limit.
Seatrout, Spotted	14 TL	Quota: 1 mil lb. (Commercial Rod and Reel only)
Sheepshead	10 TL	None
Amberjack, Greater	36 FL	1,000 lb.(Gutted) / trip limit
Triggerfish, Gray	15 FL	16 / trip limit
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot	Federal Regulations Apply
Hogfish	14 TL	
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Dwarf Sandperch, Sandperch	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, Yellow Edge, 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 C FL <sup>4</sup>	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply. No directed fishery for Bluefin. Allowed only as undirected bycatch while in possession of a permit.
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 C FL <sup>4</sup>	
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Sharks – Large Coastal <sup>3</sup>	Under the LDWF-issued shark permit, 45 large coastal sharks per trip per day per permitted angler on the vessel; large coastal sharks include: blacktip, bull, great hammerhead, lemon, nurse, sandbar, scalloped hammerhead, silky, smooth hammerhead, spinner and tiger sharks.	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply
Sharks – Small Coastal <sup>3</sup>		
Sharks - Pelagic <sup>3</sup>		

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Louisiana’s Shark season closed April, May & June in state waters. Shark may be taken in the EEZ 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.

<sup>4</sup> C FL=Curved Fork Length.

**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, Large tooth sawfish, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Smalltooth, Whale, & White.

**LOUISIANA**  
**Recreational Size & Bag Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Marlin, Blue <sup>1</sup>	99 LJ FL <sup>2</sup>	None
Marlin, White <sup>1</sup>	66 LJ FL <sup>2</sup>	
Sailfish <sup>1</sup>	63 LJ FL <sup>2</sup>	
Swordfish <sup>1</sup>	29 carcass length or 33 lb. dressed weight	No more than 5/vessel/trip
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	36 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	None	100 lb/person/day
Seabass, Black	None	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
<b>REEF FISH</b>		Reef fish possession - 2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats
Amberjack, Greater	34 FL	1/person/day (Opens May 1-31, Aug 1- Oct 31 or until quota is met)
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	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>Sharks</b>		
Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead	None	1/person/day (each species) All Shark harvest prohibited April 1-June 30.
Shortfin Mako Shark	Males: 71 FL Females: 83 FL	Aggregate 1/vessel/trip & in possession. No silky or sandbar sharks. All Shark harvest prohibited April 1-June 30.
Sharks other than Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead & not Prohibited	54 FL	
<b>Tunas<sup>1</sup></b>		
Bluefin	73 C FL <sup>3</sup>	1 per vessel per year with appropriate federal permit as incidental catch during the open season.
Yellowfin	27 C FL <sup>3</sup>	3/person
Bigeye	27 C FL <sup>3</sup>	None

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

<sup>2</sup>LJ FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length.

<sup>3</sup>C FL = Curved Fork Length.

**Note:** Any person possessing in Louisiana waters or landing in Louisiana any of the following species or species groups: Cobia, Wahoo, Dolphinfin, 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.

**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Commercial Size & Possession Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>1</sup>
Mullet	10 TL	No Limit
Flounder	12 TL	Quota
Red Drum <sup>2</sup>	18-30 TL	Quota <sup>2</sup>
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	Quota <sup>5</sup>
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 <sup>3</sup> Federal Regulations Apply
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	
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 C FL <sup>8</sup>	
Skipjack & Albacore	No Size Limit	
Bluefin Tuna <sup>6</sup>	Prohibited	Federal Tuna Permit Required Federal Regulations Apply
Blue Marlin	Prohibited	Prohibited
White Marlin		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Small Coastal Sharks	25 TL	25 in aggregate <sup>7</sup>
Large Coastal Sharks	37 TL	
Crabs - Hard Shell	5 TW <sup>4</sup>	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	

<sup>1</sup> It is illegal to sell Cobia caught in MS territorial waters or landed in MS.

<sup>2</sup> Commercial fishermen may retain one Red Drum over 30" TL.

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

<sup>4</sup> Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

<sup>5</sup> Commercial fishermen in possession of Spotted Seatrout must possess a valid endorsement.

<sup>6</sup> It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to take, catch, or have in possession any Atlantic Bluefin in the waters of the State of Mississippi, except for incidental catches by recreational fishermen. All landings must be reported to the MDMR.

<sup>7</sup> Commercial fishermen in possession of Small or Large Coastal sharks must possess a valid endorsement.

<sup>8</sup> C FL = Curved Fork Length.

**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	36 FL	2	
Flounder	12 TL	10	
Red Drum <sup>1</sup>	18-30 TL	3 <sup>1</sup>	
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	1 per person	20 in aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL		
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 C FL <sup>6</sup>	No Limit	
Yellowfin Tuna	27 C FL <sup>6</sup>	3	
Bluefin Tuna <sup>4</sup>		1 per vessel per week	
Blue Marlin	99 L J FL <sup>5</sup>	No Limit	
White Marlin	66 L J FL <sup>5</sup>		
Sailfish	63 L J FL <sup>5</sup>		
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 <sup>3</sup>	1 Per vessel per day	
Crabs - Hard Shell	5 TW <sup>2</sup>	No Limit	
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Size Limit	No Limit	

<sup>1</sup>Recreational fishermen may retain one Red Drum over 30" TL.

<sup>2</sup>Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

<sup>3</sup> It shall be unlawful for any fisherman to remove an Atlantic Tarpon over the length of 40" from the water unless the intent is to harvest within the minimum prescribed size.

<sup>4</sup>It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to take, catch, or have in possession any Atlantic Bluefin in the waters of the State of Mississippi, except for incidental catches by recreational fishermen. All landings must be reported to the MDMR.

<sup>5</sup> L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length.

<sup>6</sup> C FL = Curved Fork Length.

**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.

**TEXAS**  
**Commercial Bag and Length Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	BAG and POSSESSION LIMIT
Amberjack, Greater	38 TL	1/person and 2 possession
Drum, Black	14-30 TL slot	No Limit with commercial finfish fisherman's license
Catfish, Blue and Channel	14 TL	25/person in any combination 50 possession Exceptions to catfish daily bag limit: 1) In Lakes Caddo, Livingston, Sam Rayburn, and Toledo Bend, and the Sabine River from Toledo Bend dam to the I.H. 10 bridge, the daily bag limit for blue and channel catfish is 50 in any combination, and no more than 5 catfish 30" or greater in length may be retained each day; 2) In lakes lying totally within a state park and community fishing lakes, the daily bag limit for blue and channel catfish is 5 in any combination, taken by pole and line only. *Counties where sale and purchase of catfish taken from public fresh water is allowed under the provisions of Parks and Wildlife Code, §66.111(b)(5): 25 (in any combination).
Catfish, Gaff-topsail	14 TL	No Limit
Cobia	40 TL	2/person and 4 possession Not allowed on shrimping vessels
Flounder: all species, their hybrids, and subspecies	15 TL	30/commercial finfish license 5/licensed shrimp boat captain The season for flounder is closed from November 1 through December 14 every year
Grouper, Black	24 TL	4/person and 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL	2/person and 4 possession
Mackerel, King	27 TL	3/person and 6 possession Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Mackerel, Spanish	14 TL	15/person and 30 possession Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Mullet: all species their hybrids and subspecies	No Limit (Feb – Sept) 12 TL maximum (Oct – Jan)	No Limit
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15 TL	4/person and 8 possession (circle hook and line only) IFQ Vessel Allocation required
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL	No Limit
Shark: All species, their hybrids and subspecies	64 TL	1/person and 2 possession of any specie unless prohibited Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, and Bonnethead	24 TL	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Shark: Great, Scalloped, and Smooth Hammerhead	99 TL	1/person and 2 possession Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Sheepshead	15 TL	No Limit with commercial finfish license
Triggerfish	16 TL	20/person and 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL	3/person and 6 possession

**Commercially Prohibited Fish:** Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Nassau Grouper, and 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, and White.

**TEXAS**  
**Recreational Bag and Length Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	DAILY BAG
Amberjack, Greater	38 TL	1/person and 2 possession
Bass: Striped, its hybrids and subspecies	18 TL	5 in any combination/person 10 possession
Catfish: Channel and Blue Catfish, their hybrids and subspecies	12 TL	25 in any combination/person 50 possession It is unlawful to retain more than 10 channel and blue catfish, in the aggregate, of 20" or greater in length. Additional water body exceptions may apply.
Catfish, Flathead	18 TL	5/person and 10 possession
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14 TL	No limit
Cobia	40 TL	2/person and 4 possession
Drum, Black	14-30 TL slot	5/person and 10 possession May include one over 52"
Drum, Red	20-28 TL slot	3/person and 6 possession May retain one additional Red Drum over 28" with affixed Red Drum Tag
Flounder: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	15 TL	5/person total The season for flounder is closed from November 1 through December 14 every year
Grouper, Black	24 TL	4/person and 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL	2/person and 4 possession
Grouper, Goliath and Nassau	<b>Catch and release only</b>	<b>Prohibited</b>
Mackerel, King	27 TL	3/person and 6 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14 TL	15/person and 30 possession
Marlin, Blue	131 TL	No Limit
Marlin, White	86 TL	
Sailfish	84 TL	
Mullet: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	No Limit 12 TL maximum (Oct-Jan)	No Limit
Seatrout, Spotted	15-25 TL slot (North of FM 457) 17-23 slot (South of FM 457)	5/person statewide North of FM 457 1 fish may be retained over maximum *From March 16, 2022 through Aug. 31, 2023 in Matagorda, San Antonio, Aransas, Corpus Christi and Laguna Madre Bay Systems (all beaches and bay fronts for the waters continuously south of FM 457), the following limits apply: 3/person No spotted seatrout over 23" may be retained
Shark: Great, Scalloped, and Smooth	99 TL	1/person and 2 possession
Shark: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	64 TL	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited (prohibited are catch and release only)
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, and Bonnethead	24 TL	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	15 TL	5/person and 10 possession
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15 TL - State Waters 16 TL - Federal Waters	State Waters Applies to: Private recreational anglers in state waters. 4/person and 8 possession (circle hook and line only with natural baits) Federal Waters Applies to: Private recreational anglers in state waters. 2/person (during open season)
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL	No Limit
Snook	24-28 TL slot	1/person and 2 possession
Tarpon	85 TL	1/person and 2 possession
Triggerfish	16 TL	20/person and 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL	3/person and 6 possession

**Prohibited Fish:** Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, and 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, and White.

**FEDERAL WATERS**  
**Commercial Size & Bag Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT	
Red Snapper <sup>1</sup>	13 TL	Commercial Reef Fish Permit required IFQ	
Vermilion <sup>1</sup>	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	
<b>Groupers</b>			
Black	24 TL	IFQ	
Gag <sup>1</sup>	24 TL		
Red <sup>1</sup>	18 TL		
Yellowfin	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Yellowmouth	None		
Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None		
Goliath and Nassau	<b>HARVEST &amp; POSSESSION PROHIBITED</b>		
Gray Triggerfish <sup>1</sup>	14 FL	16 fish/trip limit, closed June and July	Commercial Reef Fish Permit Required
Hogfish <sup>2</sup>	14 FL	None	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot		
Greater Amberjack <sup>1</sup>	36 FL	Closed Mar –May (1,000 lb. trip limit), when 75% of ACT reached, then 250 lbs GW	
Almaco Jack	None	None	
Spiny Lobster	3" carapace or tail more than 5.5 inches	None - Closed season 4/1 - 8/5	Spiny Lobster Permit Required
Cobia	36 FL	2/person/day	Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permit Required, federal Spanish Mackerel or King Mackerel permit to sell fish
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	None	Commercial Vessel Permit for Spanish Mackerel
King Mackerel	24 FL (Up to 5% by weight may be undersized)	<b>Hook &amp; line –</b> 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	King Mackerel Commercial Fishing Permit Required
		<b>Gill net –</b> Southern Zone: 45,000 lb./trip Opens day after MLK holiday.	Gill Net for King Mackerel Permit Required

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT
Atlantic Bluefin	73 C FL <sup>6</sup>	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply <sup>3,4</sup> 1/vessel/year Longline: IBQ program
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 C FL <sup>6</sup>	
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	
Blue Marlin	<b>HARVEST &amp; POSSESSION PROHIBITED</b>	
White Marlin		
Roundscale Spearfish		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Red Drum	<b>HARVEST &amp; POSSESSION PROHIBITED</b>	
Swordfish	47 L J FL <sup>7</sup> , or 25 cleithrum to keel	Federal Swordfish Permit Federal Regulations Apply <sup>3</sup>
Sharks - Large Coastal <sup>5</sup>	None	Federal Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply <sup>3</sup>
Sharks - Small Coastal		
Sharks - Pelagic		
Sharks – Smoothhound	None	Federal Smoothhound Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Species subject to in-season closure.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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>.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> C FL= Curved Fork Length.

<sup>7</sup> L J FL= Lower Jaw Fork Length.

**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.

**FEDERAL WATERS**  
**Recreational Size & Bag Limits**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
<b>Snappers</b>		
Red Snapper <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup>	10 TL	10/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Lane Snapper <sup>1</sup>	8 TL	20/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	Mutton: 5/person within the 10-snapper aggregate. 10/person within the 10-snapper aggregate. Includes all Snappers except Red, Vermilion, and Lane.
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail, Cubera <sup>1</sup>	12 TL	
Queen <sup>1</sup> , Blackfin <sup>1</sup> , Silk <sup>1</sup> , Wenchman <sup>1</sup>	None	
Almaco Jack, Golden Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	20/person in 20-reef fish aggregate
<b>Groupers</b>		
For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.		
Gag <sup>1</sup>	24 TL	Closed Jan. - May 2/person included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Red <sup>1,8</sup>	20 TL	2/person included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Black <sup>8</sup>	24 TL	Any combination in a 4-Grouper aggregate
Yellowfin <sup>8</sup>	20 TL	
Scamp <sup>8</sup>	16 TL	
Yellowmouth <sup>8</sup> , Yellowedge, Snowy	None	
Speckled Hind, Warsaw	None	1/vessel included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Goliath and Nassau	<b>HARVEST &amp; POSSESSION PROHIBITED</b>	
Hogfish <sup>2</sup>	14 FL	5/person
Gray Triggerfish <sup>1</sup>	15 FL	1/person Included in 20-reef fish aggregate
Greater Amberjack <sup>1</sup>	34 FL	1/person. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Lesser Amberjack and Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL	5 fish combined total in aggregate
Spiny Lobster	3-inch carapace	April 1 – August 5 closed season, 6/person 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 <sup>3,4</sup>	73 C FL <sup>9</sup>	1/vessel/year, incidental catch only
Yellowfin Tuna <sup>4</sup> , Bigeye Tuna <sup>4</sup>	27 C FL <sup>9</sup>	3/person/day or trip for Yellowfin, none for Bigeye
Albacore, Skipjack <sup>4</sup>	None	None
Blue Marlin <sup>5</sup>	99 L J FL <sup>10</sup>	None
White Marlin <sup>5</sup> , Roundscale Spearfish <sup>5</sup>	66 L J FL <sup>10</sup>	
Sailfish <sup>5</sup>	63 L J FL <sup>10</sup>	
Longbill Spearfish	<b>HARVEST &amp; POSSESSION PROHIBITED</b>	
Swordfish <sup>4,6</sup>	47 L J FL <sup>10</sup> , or 25 cleithrum to keel	1/person up to a maximum of 4/vessel charter boats – 6/vessel/trip headboats – 15/vessel/trip
Red Drum	<b>HARVEST &amp; POSSESSION PROHIBITED</b>	
<b>Sharks<sup>4</sup></b>		
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	1/person/trip
Bonnethead		
Smoothhound	None	None
Hammerheads (Great, Smooth, Scalloped) <sup>7</sup>	78 FL	1 total/trip (except prohibited species)
Shortfin Mako	71 FL males and 83 FL females	
All Other Sharks <sup>7</sup>	54 FL	

<sup>1</sup> Species subject to in-season closure.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> Information 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>.
- <sup>5</sup> There 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.
- <sup>6</sup> Anglers 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.
- <sup>7</sup> Anglers cannot possess Hammerhead or Oceanic Whitetip Sharks while in possession of Tunas, Billfish, or Swordfish.
- <sup>8</sup> Closed February – March when fishing beyond the 20-fathom break: <https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Recreational-Shallow-Water-Grouper-Closure.pdf>
- <sup>9</sup> C FL= Curved Fork Length.
- <sup>10</sup> L J FL= Lower Jaw Fork Length.

**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, Smaltail, Whale, and White.



**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
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