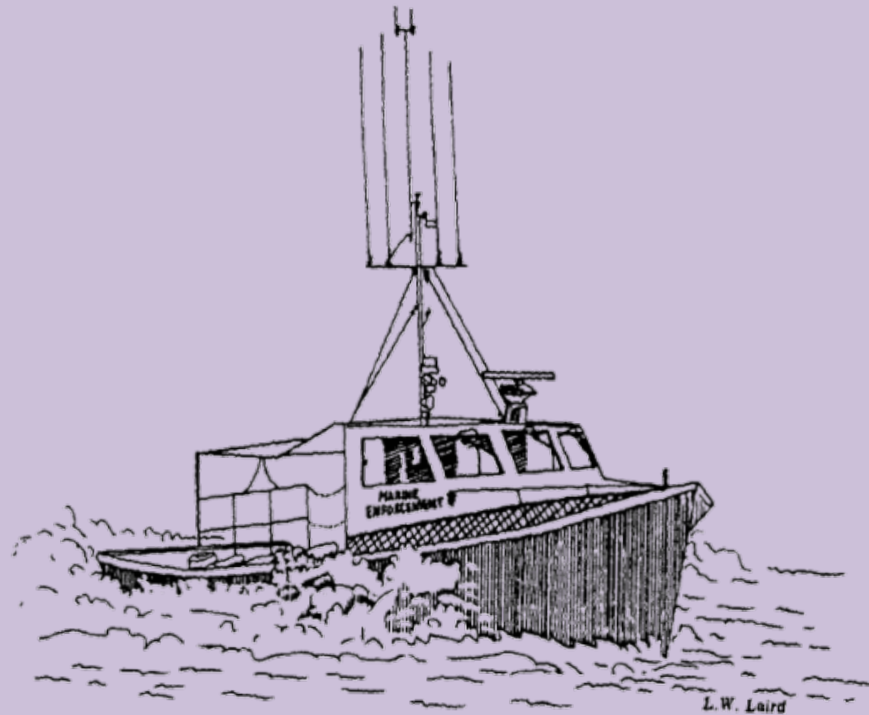


GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Law Summary 2023



Summary of Marine Fishing Laws and Regulations for the Gulf States and the South Atlantic

January 2025

GSMFC Publication No. 329

*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.*

Preface

This publication is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for the Gulf states. Enforcement personnel compiled it specifically for their use and convenience. The information included was for the majority of the 2023 fishing year; however, changes may occur in each state at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations in a specific area, directly contact the respective state or federal agencies.

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ALABAMA

Commercial ¹

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	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		
Grouper – Prohibited Nassau, Goliath	PROHIBITED		
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	October 24 - December 31, the taking of Mullet is prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, and Fowl River.	No Bag Limit
SHARKS			
All Sharks	No Size Limit		No Bag Limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Sandbar, Silky	PROHIBITED Sandbar are prohibited without a NOAA Fisheries sandbar shark research permit. Silky are prohibited without a Federal Atlantic commercial shark vessel permit.		
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand Tiger, Smalltail, Sevengill, Sixgill, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		
Largetooth Sawfish Smalltooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
Rays – Prohibited Atlantic Manta, Spotted Eagle	PROHIBITED		

¹ 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 ^{2, 3}

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	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	
GROUPE				
Gag	24 TL		2 in aggregate	4 fish from Grouper aggregate
Red	20 TL		2 in aggregate	
Black	24 TL			
Yellowfin	20 TL			
Scamp	16 TL			
Goliath, Nassau	PROHIBITED			
Greater Amberjack	34 FL		1/person	
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 FL1		3/person	
Bigeye Tuna	27 C FL1		No Creel Limit	
Red Snapper	16 TL		2/person	
Gray Snapper (Mangrove, Black)	12 TL		10/person	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Tarpon	60 TL		\$61.00 tag required to possess, kill, or harvest each tarpon
Mullet	None	October 24-December 31	25/person from the shoreline or 25/boat (Prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, Fowl River)
SHARKS			
Atlantic Sharpnose	None		1/person
Bonnethead	None		1/person
Other Shark Species	54 FL		1/person
Great Hammerhead	78 FL		1/person
Smooth Hammerhead			
Scalloped Hammerhead			
Mako, Shortfin	71 TL (Male) 83 TL (Female)		1/person
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand Tiger, Smalltail, Sevengill, Sixgill, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		
Largetooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
Smalltooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
Rays – Prohibited Atlantic Manta, Spotted Eagle	PROHIBITED		

¹ C FL=Curved Fork Length.

² When the adjacent federal waters are closed to the harvest of any Gulf Reef Fish, the state waters will be closed.

³ 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.

WEST FLORIDA

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	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		None
Cobia (Ling)	36 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish		1/person or 2/vessel
Dolphin	20 FL Size limit applies to purchase & sale of fish.		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 December 1-October 14 50 fish October 15-November 3	Incidental bycatch - 50 lb (Shrimp trawls)
GROUPERS			
Goliath	PROHIBITED		
Nassau			
Warsaw			
Speckled Hind			
Gag/Black	24 TL	Open Year Round	IFQ
Scamp	16 TL	Open Year Round	
Yellowfin/Yellowmouth	20 TL	Open Year Round	
Red	18 TL	Open Year Round	
Rock Hind/Red Hind	No size limit	Open Year Round	
Coney/Graysby/Tiger		Open Year Round	
Yellowedge/Misty		Open Year Round	
Tilefish, all other			

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Golden Tilefish		Open Year Round	Tilefish: IFQ
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	Open Year Round	
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	Closed March, April, May	250 lb gutted weight vessel limit *Consistent with federal rule
Lobster, Slipper	No size limit		No Limit - Possession of egg-bearing lobster prohibited
Lobster, Spiny	3 in carapace (head) 5½ tail	August 6-March 31	Trap fishery - No Limit Bully Net Permit - 250/day Dive Endorsement - 250/day
Mackerel, King	24 FL	July 1-June 30	1,250 lb/vessel/day
		When EEZ closes	500lb/vessel/day
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	April 1-EEZ Closed	Unlimited Harvest
		After EEZ closed-March 31	500lb/vessel/day
Mullet, Silver (White, Fantail, or Redeye)	No size limit		Only allowed within 3-mile line July 1-January 31 (weekend closure); 12:01 a.m. Saturday until 12:01 a.m. Monday
Mullet, Striped (Black)	11 FL w/ 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish		Only allowed within 3-mile line Season broadly October thru February, 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
Permit	11-20 FL		No Directed Harvest; 100 bycatch Only bycatch allowed outside SPZ when using nets for other fish species
Pompano	11-20 FL		250/vessel/day Unlimited for persons holding a Pompano Endorsement

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Pompano, African	24 FL		2/person/day or 2/vessel/day Spearing prohibited in state waters
Scallops, Calico	No size limit		No Limit Maximum 250 individual meats per 1 lb sample
Shad Alabama, American, Hickory	No size limit		10/person/day
SHARKS			
Sharks – Large Coastal Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Sandbar, Scalloped Hammerhead, Silky, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, Tiger	No size limit		1/person/day or 2/vessel/day in state waters HMS Permit required Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar Sharks MUST have a valid research permit and a NMFS-approved observer on board.
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth			
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue			
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED		
Sheepshead	12 TL		No Limit Incidental bycatch - 50 lb (Shrimp trawls)

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Shrimp Brown, Pinkspotted, Pink, White, Roughneck, Roughback, Seabob	No size limit		Food Shrimp – No Limit Live Shrimp - 5 gallons dead shrimp, heads on
SNAPPERS			
Red	13 TL	Open Year Round	IFQ
Mutton	18 TL		No Limit
Vermilion, Schoolmaster	10 TL		
Lane	8 TL		
Gray Yellowtail, Dog, Mahogany, Blackfin, Silk, Queen	12 TL		
Black, Wenchman	No size limit		
Cubera	12-30 TL only two (2) >30 TL		>30 - 2/vessel/day
Spotted Seatrout	15-24 TL		75/person/day or 100/vessel/day with 2 licensed fishermen aboard
Atlantic Croaker	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Spot	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Stone Crab	2½ in claw	October 14-May 2	No Limit Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 L J FL ¹ , 29 cleithrum to keel, or 33 lb dressed		No Limit HMS Permit required
Triggerfish, Gray	14 FL	June and July	Gulf Fed waters 25 fish trip limit
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
Weakfish Gray Seatrout or Yellow- mouth Trout	12 TL		No Limit

¹ L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length

WEST FLORIDA

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Amberjack, Greater	34 FL	Open May 1-30 and August 1-October 31	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser	14-22 FL		5 in aggregate
Banded Rudderfish			
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
Bonefish	No size limit		NO Harvest Allowed
Cobia	36 FL		1/person/day 2/vessel/day
Crab, Blue	No Size Limit		10 gallons whole/person/day
Crab, Stone	2 $\frac{1}{8}$ Claw	Closed May 2-October 14	1 gallon/person or 2 gallon/vessel
Spiny Lobster *harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited	>3-inch carapace ¹	2-Day Sport Season (Last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of July)	6/person/day (Monroe County and Biscayne National Park) 12/person/day (rest of Florida)
	>3-inch carapace ¹	Regular Season	6/person/day
Dolphin	No size limit		10/person/day, 60/vessel/day
Red Porgy	No size limit	Open Year Round	none
Flounder	12 TL		10/person/day
Great Barracuda	none	Open Year Round	No Limit
Blackfin Tuna	none	Open Year Round	2/person or 10/vessel, whichever is greater

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Bay Scallops		<u>St Joseph Bay and Gulf counties:</u> August 16-September 24 <u>Franklin County through northwestern Taylor County:</u> July 1 - September 24 <u>Fenholloway through Suwannee Rivers Zone:</u> June 15 through Labor Day <u>Levy, Citrus and Hernando counties:</u> July 1-September 24 <u>Pasco County:</u> July 10-August 18	<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	24 TL	September 1-15	Gulf: 2/person/day	AGGREGATE LIMIT Gulf: 4 fish/person/day AGGREGATE CONTINUED
Black	24	Open Year Round	4/person/day	
Red	20 TL	Open Year Round Closed July 1, 2024	2/person/day	
Yellowfin	20 TL	Open Year Round	4	
Yellowmouth		Open Year Round		
Scamp	16 TL	Open Year Round		
Warsaw	No size limit		1/vessel/day of each	
Speckled Hind			4/person/day	
Snowy			4	
Groupers, Other			4	
Golden Tilefish			4	
Hogfish	14 TL		5	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Goliath	Prohibited unless properly permitted		
Blueline tilefish		Open May 1-June 18	100 lb/person
King Mackerel	24 FL		3/person/day (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 ² : 22 FL	SPZ ² Closed April 1-July 31	In SPZ ² : 1/person/day, 2/vessel/day
Permit Pompano, African	Not in SPZ ² : 11-22 FL		Not in SPZ ² : 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 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	10 TL		100 lb/harvester
Shad	No size limit		10 aggregate/person/day
SHARKS			
Shark Blue, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Bull, Nurse, Common Thresher, Spinner	54 FL		1/person/day or 2/vessel/day for all retainable sharks
Shark Finetooth, Smooth Dogfish, Florida and Gulf Smoothhounds, Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Black Nose, Black Tip	No size limit		
Shark - Prohibited	PROHIBITED		
Mako (Shortfin)	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
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 counties	
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		5 fish/ person/day	
Red	16 TL	Open June and July, and September 1-2, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-29; October 4-6, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27; November 1-3, 8-11, 15-17, 22-24, 28-30	2/person/day *Zero bag & possession for captain/crew on for-hire vessels	
Schoolmaster	10 TL		10 fish /person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL		10 fish	
Lane	8 TL		/person/day 100 lb/harvester	
Vermilion	10 TL		10/person/day Not included in aggregate limit	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Snook	28-33 TL	Open March-April and September-November in Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay management regions Open March-April and October-November in Charlotte Harbor and Southwest management regions	1/person/day Permit required
Spotted Seatrout	15-19 TL (one over 19) per vessel	WP Region: Closed February CE Region: Closed November and December Regions: https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/spotted-seatrout/	3/person/day S region (6 fish vessel limit) 2/person/day Central East region 5/person/day North East region 3/person Western Panhandle region 5/person Big B bend region
Swordfish	47 L J FL ³ , 25 cleithrum to keel		1/person/day or 4/vessel/day
Tarpon	No size limit		1 fish possession Requires Tarpon Tag
Triggerfish, Gray	15 FL	Closed: January, February, June	1/person/day
Tripletail	18 TL		2/person/day
Wahoo	No size limit	Open Year Round	2/person/day
Weakfish	12 in TL (Wildlife Management Areas only) No minimum in other areas		100 lb/day 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.

³ L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length.

LOUISIANA

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	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 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	Closed October 15-November 30	10/licensed commercial fisherman/day (Limit 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 October 15 through the third Monday in December
Seabass, Black	None		Federal permit required. No bag or possession limit.
Seatrout, Spotted	14 TL		Quota: 1.0M lb (Commercial Rod and Reel only)
Sheepshead	10 TL		None
Amberjack, Greater	36 FL		1,000 lb (Gutted)/trip limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Triggerfish, Gray	15 FL		16/trip limit
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot		Federal Regulations Apply
Almaco Jack	None		
Dwarf Sandperch			
Sandperch			
Tilefish Goldface, Tilefish, Blackline, Anchor, Blueline	None		Tilefish IFQ
Sailfish	PROHIBITED Game Fish in Louisiana and may not be commercially harvested, sold, bartered, traded, or exchanged		
Marlin Blue, Black, Striped, Hatchet, White			
Red Drum			
GROUPE			
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
SNAPPER			
Red	13 TL		Permit and IFQ required
Cubera, Yellowtail, Gray	12 TL		None
Mutton	18 TL		
Vermilion	10 TL		
Lane	8 TL		
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None		Federal Regulations Apply
Hogfish	14 TL		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
SHARKS			
Sharks – Large Coastal Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Sandbar, Scalloped Hammerhead, Silky, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, Tiger		Closed April-June in state waters.	Under the LDWF-issued shark permit, 45 large coastal sharks per trip/day/permitted angler on the vessel Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply 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.
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth			
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue			
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED		
TUNAS			
Atlantic Bluefin	73 C FL ³		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 ³		
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit		

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 C FL = Curved Fork Length.

LOUISIANA

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Marlin, Blue ¹	99 LJ FL ²		No Limit Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Marlin, White ¹	66 LJ FL ²		
Roundscale Spearfish			
Sailfish ¹	63 LJ FL ²		
Swordfish ¹	29 carcass length or 33 lb dressed weight		5/vessel/trip Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	36 FL		2/person/day Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Wahoo			Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Dolphin			Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Drum, Black	16 TL		5/person bag and possession (one 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	No Limit (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	No Limit		No Limit
Flounder, Southern	No Limit		10/person/bag and possession No possession allowed October 15-November 30
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)

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Mullet, Striped	No Limit		100 lb/person/day
Seabass, Black	No Limit		No bag or possession limit
Seatrout, Spotted	13-20 TL		15 daily per person with no more than 2 over 20 TL max
Tripletail	18 TL		5/person/day
REEF FISH			2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required for Snappers, Amberjacks, Groupers or Hinds
Amberjack, Greater	34 FL	Open: May, August 1-October 31, or until quota is met; Closed June 1-July 31	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser Rudderfish, Banded	14-22 FL slot		5/person/day in aggregate
Hogfish	14 FL		5/person/day
GROUPEr			
Gag, Black Grouper	24 TL	Gag: Open June 1-December 1 and January 1-June 30	4/person/day in aggregate all Groupers - 1 Speckled Hind Grouper/vessel - 1 Warsaw Grouper/vessel - 2 Red Grouper/person - 2 Gag/person
		Black: Closed	
Red, Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	Open February 1-March 31: Seaward of 20 fathoms	
Scamp	16 TL	Closed	
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Speckled Hind, Misty Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw	No Limit	Closed: Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind	
Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper	PROHIBITED		
SNAPPER			
Red	16 TL		Red Snapper state season bag limit of 2 fish; July 17 moved to 4 fish

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogany, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray (Mangrove)	12 TL		10/person/day in aggregate (all except Red, Vermilion, Lane)
Mutton Snapper	18 TL		No more than 5 in 10 fish aggregate
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman	No Limit		Included in 10 fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL		No more than 10 in 20 fish aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL	Closed June	No more than 1 in 20 fish aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL		Included in 20 fish aggregate
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	No Limit		
SHARKS			
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead	No Limit	All harvest prohibited April, May, June	1/person/day (each species)
Shortfin Mako Shark	Males: 71 FL Females: 83 FL		Aggregate 1/vessel/trip & in possession. No Silky or Sandbar Sharks.
Other Non-Prohibited	54 FL		
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED		
Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
TUNAS¹			
Bluefin	73 C FL ³		1 per vessel per year with appropriate federal permit as incidental catch during the open season; Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Yellowfin	27 C FL ³		3/person Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Bigeye	27 C FL ³		No Limit Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required

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

² L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length

³ C FL = Curved Fork Length

MISSISSIPPI

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia	PROHIBITED		
Mullet	No Size Limit		No Limit
Flounder	12 TL		Quota
Red Drum	18-30 TL		Quota (one over 30 TL)
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL		Quota Seatrout endorsement required
King Mackerel	24 FL		3,000 lb
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL		No Limit
Goliath Grouper	PROHIBITED		
Nassau Grouper			
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL		3
GROUPE			
Red	18 TL		Federal Permit Required IFQ
Yellowfin	20 TL		
Black	24 TL		
Gag	22 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Hogfish	14 FL		
SNAPPER			
Red	13 TL		Federal Reef Fish Permit Required Federal Regulations Apply
Vermilion	10 TL		
Lane	8 TL		
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, Yellowtail	12 TL		
Mutton	18 TL		
Greater Amberjack	36 FL		Federal Reef Fish Permit Required Federal Regulations Apply
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL		
TUNAS			
Bigeye & Yellowfin	27 C FL ²		Federal Tuna Permit Required Federal Regulations Apply
Skipjack & Albacore	No Size Limit		
Bluefin	PROHIBITED		
Blue Marlin	PROHIBITED		
White Marlin			
Sailfish			
Longbill Spearfish			
SHARKS			
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth	25 TL		25 in aggregate Must have valid shark endorsement
Sharks – Large Coastal Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Sandbar, Scalloped Hammerhead, Silky, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, Tiger	37 TL		
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue			
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit and a NMFS-approved observer on board.		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Atlantic Tarpon	PROHIBITED		
Crabs - Hard Shell	5 in TW ²		No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit		

¹ C FL = Curved Fork Length.

² Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

MISSISSIPPI

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Cobia ⁴	36 FL		2	
Flounder	12 TL		10	
Red Drum	18-30 TL		3 (one over 30 TL)	
Spotted Seatrout	15 TL		15	
King Mackerel	24 FL		3	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL		15	
Sheepshead	14 TL		15	
SNAPPERS ⁴				
Red Snapper	16 TL		2	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL		10/person	20 in aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL		1/person	
Lane Snapper	8 TL			
Almaco Jack	No Size Limit			
Tilefish				
Gray ⁴ , 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			
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL		3	
GROUPERS ⁴				
Warsaw	No Size Limit		1/vessel within 4 fish aggregate	
Speckled Hind				
Gag	24 TL		2 within 4 fish aggregate	
Red, Yellowfin	20 TL		4 in aggregate	
Black	24 TL			
Scamp	16 TL			
Other Groupers	No Size Limit			
Greater Amberjack ⁴	34 FL		1	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Lesser Amberjack ⁴ , Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL		5 in aggregate
Hogfish	14 FL		5
TUNAS			
Bigeye	27 C FL ¹		No Limit
Yellowfin			3
Bluefin			1/vessel/week (incidental) All landings must be reported to the MDMR
Blue Marlin	99 L J FL ²		No Limit
White Marlin	66 L J FL ²		
Sailfish	63 L J FL ²		
Swordfish	47 L J FL ²		
Longbill Spearfish	PROHIBITED		
SHARKS			
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth	25 TL		4
Sharks – Large Coastal Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Sandbar, Scalloped Hammerhead, Silky, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, Tiger	37 TL		1 per person, up to 3/vessel
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue	37 TL		
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Atlantic Tarpon	75 FL Fisherman may not remove any Atlantic Tarpon over 40 TL from the water unless the intent is to harvest and is legal length		1/vessel/day
Smalltooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
Largetooth Sawfish			
Spotted Eagle Ray			
Atlantic Manta Ray			
Crabs - Hard Shell	5 TW ³		No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Size Limit		No Limit

¹ C FL = Curved Fork Length

² L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length

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

⁴ Mississippi anglers are now required to obtain a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP) to possess any species of Snapper, Amberjack, Grouper, Hind, Triggerfish, and Cobia in Mississippi waters. Gray (Mangrove) Snapper may be harvested North of the Intracoastal Waterway (inshore) without this permit.

TEXAS

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Amberjack, Greater	34 TL		1/person and 2 possession
Catfish, Blue and Channel	14 TL		<p>25/person in any combination 50 possession</p> <p>Exceptions to catfish daily bag limit:</p> <p>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 per day;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>*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).</p>
Catfish, Gaff-topsail	14 TL		No Limit
Cobia	40 TL		<p>2 /person and 4 possession</p> <p>Not allowed on shrimping vessels</p>
Drum, Black	14-30 TL slot		No Limit with commercial finfish fisherman's license
Flounder: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	15 TL	Flounder Season always closed Nov. 1- Dec. 14	<p>30/commercial finfish license</p> <p>5/licensed shrimp boat captain</p>
Grouper, Black	24 TL		4/person and 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL		2/person and 4 possession
Grouper, Goliath	PROHIBITED		
Grouper, Nassau			

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Limit (Feb. thru Sept.)• 12 TL maximum (Oct. thru Jan.)		No Limit
Sawfish, Largetooth	PROHIBITED		
Sawfish, Smalltooth			
SNAPPER			
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
SHARKS			
Shark: All other allowable shark species	64 TL		1/person and 2 possession of any species 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
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Ocean Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
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

TEXAS

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	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	No Limit		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	Flounder: Always Closed from November 1-December 14	5/person total
Grouper, Black	24 TL		4/person and 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL		2/person and 4 possession
Grouper, Goliath and Nassau	Catch and release only		Prohibited
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		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY BAG
Mullet: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	No Limit 12 TL maximum (Oct-Jan)		No Limit
Sawfish, Largetooth	PROHIBITED		
Sawfish, Smalltooth			
Seatrout, Spotted	15-25 TL slot		5/person statewide 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 the following limits applied: 17-23 slot, 3/person No spotted seatrout over 23" may be retained
Sheepshead	15 TL		5/person and 10 possession
SNAPPER			
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 federal waters. 2/person (during open season)
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL		No Limit
SHARKS			
Shark: Great, Scalloped, and Smooth Hammerhead	99 TL		1/person and 2 possession
Shark: all other allowable shark species	64 TL		1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, and Bonnethead	24 TL		1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY BAG
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Ocean Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	PROHIBITED (Catch and Release ONLY)		
Snook	24-28 TL slot		1/person and 2 possession
Tarpon	85 TL		
Triggerfish	16 TL		20/person and 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL		3/person and 6 possession

GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	
SNAPPERS				
Red Snapper	13 TL		Commercial Reef Fish Permit required IFQ	
Vermilion	10 TL	Subject to in-season closure.	Commercial Reef Fish Permit required	
Lane	8 TL	Subject to in-season closure.		
Mutton	18 TL			
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail, Cubera	12 TL			
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None			
Tilefish	None		Commercial Reef Fish Permit required IFQ	
GROUPERS				
Black	24 TL		IFQ	
Gag	24 TL			
Red	18 TL			
Yellowfin	20 TL			
Scamp	16 TL			
Yellowmouth	None			
Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind				
Goliath and Nassau	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED			
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	Season Closed: June 1-July 31; subject to in-season closure.	25 fish/trip limit, closed June and July	Commercial Reef Fish Permit Required
Hogfish ¹	14 FL		None	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot			
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Subject to in-season closure* Season Closed: March 1-May 31; Season Closed: June 18 – December 31*	7-fish/trip limit	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	
Spiny Lobster	3" carapace or tail more than 5.5 inches	Season Closed: April 1-August 5	None	Spiny Lobster Permit Required
Cobia	36 FL		2/vessel/day	Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permit Required, federal Spanish Mackerel or King Mackerel permit to sell fish
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL		None	Commercial Vessel Permit
King Mackerel	24 FL (Up to 5% by weight may be undersized)	Southern Zone: Season Opens July 1 Northern Zone: Season Opens October 1 Western Zone: Season Opens July 1	Hook & Line Southern Zone: 1,250 lb/trip Northern Zone: 1,250 lb/trip Western Zone: 3,000 lb	Commercial Fishing Permit Required
		Southern Zone: Opens Tuesday after MLK, Jr. holiday in January	Gill Net Southern Zone: 45,000 lb/trip	Gill Net for King Mackerel Permit Required
Atlantic Bluefin	73 C FL ⁴		Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply ^{2, 3} 1/vessel/year Longline: IBQ program	
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 C FL ⁴			
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit			
Blue Marlin	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED			
White Marlin				
Roundscale Spearfish				
Sailfish				
Longbill Spearfish				

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Red Drum	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Swordfish	47 L J FL5, or 25 cleithrum to keel		Federal Swordfish Permit Federal Regulations Apply ²
SHARKS			
Sharks – Large Coastal	None		Federal Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply ² (Harvested Sandbar Sharks MUST have a valid research permit and NMFS-approved observer on board.)
Sharks – Small Coastal	None		Federal Smoothhound Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply ²
Sharks – Pelagic			
Sharks – Smoothhound			
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED		

¹ 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.

² 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>.

³ Federal regulations do not apply to Federal Atlantic Tunas permit holders fishing in Mississippi state waters.

⁴ C FL = Curved Fork Length

⁵ L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length

GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	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 ¹	10 TL		10/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Lane ¹	8 TL		20/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Mutton	18 TL		5/person within the 10-snapper aggregate
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail	12 TL		10/person within the 10-snapper aggregate
Cubera		Species subject to in-season closure.	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	Species subject to in-season closure.	
Almaco Jack, Golden Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None		20/person in 20-reef fish aggregate
GROUPERS			For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Gag	24 TL	Species subject to in-season closure.	Closed January-May 2/person included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Red ⁵	20 TL	Season Closed: February 1-March 31 when fishing beyond the 20-fathom break (Red Snapper subject to in-season closure.)	2/person included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Black ⁵	24 TL		Any combination in a 4-Grouper aggregate
Yellowfin ⁵	20 TL		
Scamp ⁵	16 TL		
Yellowmouth ⁵	None		
Yellowedge, Snowy	None		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Speckled Hind, Warsaw	None		1/vessel included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Goliath and Nassau	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Hogfish ¹	14 FL		5/person
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL	Species subject to in-season closure.	1/person included in 20-reef fish aggregate
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	Species subject to in-season closure.	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	Season Closed: April 1-Aug. 5	6/person No egg-bearing females
Cobia	36 FL		2/vessel
King Mackerel	24 FL		3/person including for-hire captain & crew
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL		15/person
Bluefin Tuna ²	73 C FL ⁶		1/vessel/year, incidental catch only 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.
Yellowfin Tuna ² , Bigeye Tuna ²	27 C FL ⁶		3/person/day or trip for Yellowfin, none for Bigeye

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Albacore, Skipjack ²	None		None
Blue Marlin ³	99 L J FL ⁷		None
White Marlin ³	66 L J FL ⁷		
Roundscale Spearfish ³			
Sailfish ³	63 L J FL ⁷		
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Swordfish ²	47 L J FL ⁷ , or 25 cleithrum to keel		1/person up to a max of 4/vessel Charter boats – 6/vessel/trip Headboats – 15/vessel/trip 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.
Red Drum	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
SHARKS ²			
Atlantic Sharpnose	None		1/person/trip
Bonnethead			
Smoothhound	None		None
Hammerheads (Great, Smooth, Scalloped) ⁴	78 FL		1 total/trip (except prohibited species)
Shortfin Mako	71 FL males and 83 FL females		
All Other Sharks ⁴	54 FL		
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED		

¹ 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.

² 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>.

³ 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.

⁴ Anglers cannot possess Hammerhead or Oceanic Whitetip Sharks while in possession of Tunas, Billfish, or Swordfish.

⁵ <https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Recreational-Shallow-Water-Grouper-Closure.pdf>

⁶ C FL = Curved Fork Length

⁷ L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length

EAST FLORIDA

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	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 inches total width		
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish		Atlantic North of Monroe County: 7,500 lb./vessel/day Other State/Federal Waters: None
Cobia (Ling)	36 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish		1/person, 2/vessel
Dolphin	20 FL Size limit applies to purchase and sale of fish		Federal Permit Limits Apply (200 lb. N. of 39 degrees N. Latitude; Incidental bycatch - 10/person (Federal Permit required to harvest in state waters)
Flounder Gulf, Southern, Summer, Fringed	14 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish		Directed Harvest: 150 fish from December 1 - October 14 50 fish October 15 - November 3 Incidental Bycatch: 50 lb (Shrimp trawls)
GROUPERS			
Goliath, Nassau, Warsaw, Speckled Hind	PROHIBITED		
Gag, Black	24 TL	Closed January - April Closed January - April	
Scamp, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth, Red	20 TL		
Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby, Tiger	No size limit		
Yellowedge, Misty	No size limit		No Limit
Golden Tilefish			500 lbs gw
Tilefish, all other			No Limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Black Sea Bass	10 TL		
Blueback & River Herring	No size limit		No Limit
Hogfish	16 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 slot		No Limit
Lesser Amberjack			
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	Closed March - May	Season 1-1,200 lb vessel limit Season 2-1000 lbs
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		<p>Duval/Flagler/Nassau/St. John's: April 1-March 31 @3,500lb/vessel/day; when EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies.</p> <p>Volusia: April 1-October 31 @3,500lb/vessel/day; when EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies.</p> <p>Brevard/Broward/Indian River/Martin/Miami-Dade/Palm Beach/St. Lucie: April 1-October 31 @75 fish/vessel/day; November 1-March 31 @50 fish/vessel/day; when EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies.</p> <p>Monroe: April 1-October 31 @1,250lb/vessel/day, November 1-March 31 @500lb/vessel/day; when EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies</p>

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL		Atlantic: April 1-November 30 @3,500lb/vessel/day; when EEZ closes to unlimited harvest, Monday-Friday @3,500lb/vessel/day and Saturday-Sunday @1,500lb/vessel/day; after unlimited closure in EEZ until total EEZ closure @1,500lb/vessel/day; after total EEZ closure-March 31 @500lb/vessel/day
Mullet, Silver (White, Fantail, or Redeye)	No size limit	Only allowed within 3-mile line July 1-January 31 (weekend closure) 12:01 a.m. Saturday – 12:01 a.m. Monday Atlantic North of Monroe County; Closed February	
Mullet, Striped (Black)	11 FL w/ 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish	Only allowed within 3-mile line Season broadly October thru February, but determined on regional basis	
Oysters	3 inch greatest dimension		20 bags/person/day or 20/vessel/day Additional regional limits & restrictions apply
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

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
SHARKS			
Sharks	No size limit		1/person/day or 2/vessel/day in state waters; HMS Permit required Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar Sharks MUST have a valid research permit and a NMFS-approved observer on board.
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED		
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	20 TL		2 per trip
Mutton	18 TL		500 lb per trip July 1-March 31 5 fish - April, May, June
Vermilion, Gray, Yellowtail, Dog, Mahogany, Blackfin, Silk, Queen	12 TL		No Limit
Lane	8 TL		
Schoolmaster	10 TL		
Black/Wenchman	No size limit		
Cubera	12-30 TL only two (2) >30 TL		>30 - 2/vessel/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Spotted Seatrout	15-24 TL		75/person/day or 100/vessel/day with 2 licensed fishermen aboard
Stone Crab	2 $\frac{1}{8}$ in claw	October 14-May 2	No Limit Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 L J FL ¹ , 29 cleithrum to keel, or 33 lb dressed		No Limit HMS Permit required
Triggerfish, Gray	12 FL		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
Weakfish (Gray Seatrout or Yellow-mouth Trout)	12 TL		No Limit

¹ L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length.

EAST FLORIDA

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Amberjack, Greater	28 FL	Closed April	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser, and Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot		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
Bonefish	No Harvest Allowed		
Cobia	36 FL		1/person/day 2/vessel/day
Crab, Blue	No Size Limit		10 gallons whole/person/day
Crab, Stone	2 $\frac{1}{8}$ Claw	Closed May 2-October 14	1 gallon/person or 2 gallon/vessel
Spiny Lobster harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited	>3-inch carapace ¹	2-Day Sport Season (Last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of July)	6/person/day (Monroe County and Biscayne National Park) 12/person/day (rest of Florida)
	>3-inch carapace ¹	Regular Season	6/person/day
Dolphin	20 FL		5/person/day, 30/vessel/day
Flounder	12 TL		10/person/day
Great Barracuda	Collier, Monroe, Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties: 15-36 TL (1 over 36)		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	No Size Limit	Open Year Round	2 fish/person or 10/vessel, whichever is greater
GROUPER AGGREGATE			
Goliath	PROHIBITED UNLESS PROPERLY PERMITTED		
Gag	24 TL	Closed June 15-December 31	1/person/day
Black	24	Closed January 1-April 30	Atlantic & Monroe: 1/person/day
Red	20 TL	Closed January 1-April 30	Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day

Atlantic:
Shallow water
groupers
closed
January 1-

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Yellowfin & Yellowmouth	20 TL		3	April 30
Scamp	20 TL			AGGREGATE LIMIT
Warsaw & Speckled Hind	No size limit			1/vessel/day/each
Snowy				1/person/day
Groupers, Other			3	Atlantic & Monroe: 3 fish/ person/day
Golden Tilefish			1 per person	
Hogfish	16 TL			
Blueline Tilefish		Open May 1-July 25	3/person within 3 grouper aggregate	
King Mackerel	24 FL		2/person/day (excluding 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 ² : 22 FL	SPZ ² Closed April, June, July	In SPZ ² : 1/person/day, 2/vessel/day	
Permit Pompano, African	Not in SPZ²: 11-22 FL (one over 22)		Not in SPZ ² : 2/person/day (one over 22 in/person and 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 Northeast region 2 fish vessel limit in Southeast region	
Black Sea Bass	13 TL		5/person/day	
Shad	No size limit		10 aggregate/person/day	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
SHARKS				
Sharks – Large Coastal Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Sandbar, Scalloped Hammerhead, Silky, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, Tiger	54 FL for most species; others have no size limit		1/person/day or 2/vessel/day	
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth				
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue				
Sharks – Prohibited 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	PROHIBITED			
Mako, Shortfin	PROHIBITED			
Sheepshead	12 TL		8/person/day 50 per vessel limit March and April	
Shrimp	No size limit	Closed April-May: Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, Clay counties	5 gallons/person/day or 5 gallons/vessel/day	
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
Gray	10 TL		5 fish/ person/day	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Mutton	18 TL		5 fish/ person/day	Aggregate snapper bag limit
Red	20 TL	Open Year Round	*Zero bag & possession for captain/crew on for-hire vessels	
Schoolmaster	10 TL		10 fish /person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL		10 fish /person/day	
Lane	8 TL		Not Included in aggregate.	
Vermilion	12 TL		5/person/day Not included in aggregate limit	
Snook	28-32 TL	Southeast, Indian River Lagoon, and Northeast management regions: Open February-May and September-December 14; see website for regions map	1/person/day	
Spotted Seatrout	15-19 TL (one over 19) Per vessel	Closed November-December Central East region	South region: 3/person/day, or 6 fish vessel limit Central East region: 2/person/day North East region: 5/person/day	
Swordfish	47 L J FL ³ , 25 cleithrum to keel		1/person/day or 4/vessel/day	
Tarpon	No size limit		1 fish possession Requires Tarpon Tag	
Triggerfish, Gray	12 FL	Closed January, February, and June	10/person/day	
Tripletail	18 TL		2/person/day	
Wahoo	No size limit		2/person/day	
Weakfish	12 in (Wildlife Management areas only) Other areas: no minimum		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.

³ L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length.

GEORGIA

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY LIMIT/POSSESSION
Amberjack*	28 FL	Open Year Round	1
American Eel	9 TL	Open Year Round	25
Atlantic Croaker	No Limit	Open Year Round	25
Atlantic Sturgeon	PROHIBITED		
Billfish* – Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish	Catch and Release Only		
Black Drum	14 TL	Open Year Round	15
Black Sea Bass*	12 TL	Open Year Round	15
Bluefish	12 FL	Open Year Round	15
Cobia	36 FL	Open March 1-October 31	1 per angler, max 6 per boat
Dolphin*	20 FL	Open Year Round	10 (not to exceed 60 per boat, except for headboats, which are allowed 10 per paying customer)
Flounder	12 TL	Open Year Round	15
Gag grouper*	24 TL	Open Year Round	2
King Mackerel*	24 TL	Open Year Round	3
Red Drum** - Channel Bass, Spottail Bass, Redfish	14 TL (23 TL maximum)	Open Year Round	5
Red Porgy*	14 TL	Open Year Round	3
Red Snapper*	20 TL	Open Year Round	2
SHARKS			
Hammerheads – Great, Scalloped, Smooth^	78 FL	Open Year Round	1 per angler or boat, whichever is less
Small shark composite (SSC)^ – Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Spiny Dogfish	30 FL	Open Year Round	1 per angler

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY LIMIT/POSSESSION
Sharks – Prohibited Sand Tiger, Sandbar, Silky, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Whale, Basking, White, Dusky, Bignose, Galapagos, Night, Reef, Narrowtooth, Caribbean Sharpnose, Smalltail, Atlantic Angel, Longfin Mako, Bigeye Thresher, Sharpnose Sevengill, Bluntnose Sixgill, Oceanic Whitetip, and Bigeye Sixgill	NO HARVEST – PROHIBITED		
Sharks – Other	54 FL 83 FL (Shortfin Mako)	Open Year Round	1 per angler or boat, whichever is less
Sheepshead	10 FL	Open Year Round	15
Spanish Mackerel*	12 FL	Open Year Round	15
Spot		Open Year Round	25
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	Open Year Round	15
Striped Bass (saltwater)	22 TL	Open Year Round	2
Striped Bass (Savannah River)	27 TL	Open Year Round	2
Tarpon	68 FL	Open Year Round	1
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	2
Weakfish	13 TL	Open Year Round	1

* These species are also federally managed from 3 to 200 miles offshore. Go to www.SAFMC.net for federal regulations.

** Red Drum are gamefish in Georgia [O.C.G.A. 27-1-2 (36)(l)]. As gamefish, Red Drum may only be fished for with hook and line.

^ These species are also federally managed. Go to www.Fisheries.NOAA.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-minimum-size-and-bag-limits for federal regulations.

GEORGIA

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY LIMIT/POSSESSION
Amberjack*	28 FL	Open Year Round	1
American Eel	9 TL	Open Year Round	25
Atlantic Croaker		Open Year Round	25
Atlantic Sturgeon	NO HARVEST - PROHIBITED		
Billfish – Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish*	Catch and Release Only		
Black Drum	14 TL	Open Year Round	15
Black Sea Bass*	12 TL	Open Year Round	15
Bluefish	12 FL	Open Year Round	15
Cobia	36 FL	Open March 1-October 31	1 per angler, max 6 per boat
Dolphin*	20 FL	Open Year Round	10 (Not to exceed 60 per boat, except for headboats, which are allowed 10 per paying customer)
Flounder	12 TL	Open Year Round	15
Gag grouper*	24 TL	Open Year Round	2
King mackerel*	24 FL	Open Year Round	3
Red Drum – Channel Bass, Spottail Bass, Redfish**	14 TL (23 TL maximum)	Open Year Round	5
Red porgy*	14 TL	Open Year Round	3
Red snapper*	20 TL	Open Year Round	2
SHARKS			
Hammerheads – Great, Scalloped, Smooth ^A	78 FL	Open Year Round	1 per angler or boat, whichever is less
Small shark composite (SSC) ^A – Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Spiny Dogfish	30 FL	Open Year Round	1 per angler

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	DAILY LIMIT/POSSESSION
Sharks – Prohibited Sand Tiger, Sandbar, Silky, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Whale, Basking, White, Dusky, Bignose, Galapagos, Night, Reef, Narrowtooth, Caribbean Sharpnose, Smalltail, Atlantic Angel, Longfin Mako, Bigeye Thresher, Sharpnose Sevengill, Bluntnose Sixgill, Oceanic Whitetip, and Bigeye Sixgill ^A	NO HARVEST – PROHIBITED		
Sharks - Others ^A	54 FL 83 FL (Shortfin Mako)	Open Year Round	1 per angler or boat, whichever is less
Sheepshead	10 FL	Open Year Round	15
Spanish mackerel*	12 FL	Open Year Round	15
Spot		Open Year Round	25
Spotted seatrout	14 TL	Open Year Round	15
Striped bass (Saltwater)	22 TL	Open Year Round	2
Striped bass (Savannah River)	27 TL	Open Year Round	2
Tarpon	68 FL	Open Year Round	1
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	2
Weakfish	13 TL	Open Year Round	1

* These species are also federally managed from 3 to 200 miles offshore. Go to www.safmc.net for federal regulations. BILLFISH: State regulation changes are proposed, effective March 1, 2022. See CoastalGaDNR.org/BillfishRule for regulation change.

** Red Drum are a gamefish in Georgia [O.C.G.A. 27-1-2 (36)(I)]. As gamefish, Red Drum may only be fished for with pole and line (rod/reel) [O.C.G.A. 27-4-5].

^A Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Amberjack ¹	34 FL	March 1-February 28	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Atlantic Croaker		Open Year Round	50/licensed angler/day, aggregate bag limit with Spot and Whiting, only applies to hook and line
Atlantic Sturgeon	PROHIBITED		
Billfish ¹ Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, Round-scale Spearfish	CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY		
Black Drum	14-27 TL	Open Year Round	5/person/day
Black Sea Bass ¹	11 TL	Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Blue Crab	5-inch minimum carapace (point to point)	Open Year Round	General Trawl Zone is closed to crab traps when trawling season is open – sponge crabs are prohibited
Bluefish		Open Year Round	3/licensed angler/day
Cobia^^	33 FL	Open Year Round	2/licensed angler, max 6/boat, federal waters only
Dolphin ¹	20 FL	Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Flounder	16 TL	Open Year Round	5/licensed angler, max 10/boat
Gag grouper ¹	24 TL	Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
King Mackerel ¹	24 TL	Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Oysters – Wild Harvest	3 inches	Typically, October-May	
Clams – Wild Harvest	½ inch	Typically, October-May	
Red Drum^ (Channel Bass, Spottail Bass, Redfish)	PROHIBITED		
Red Porgy ¹	14 TL	May 1-December 31	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Red Snapper ¹	20 TL	State waters: Open Year Round	2/licensed angler
Red Snapper ¹		Federal waters	Federal Permit and Limits Apply

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
SHARKS			
Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks (LCS) Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Hammerhead (Great, Scalloped, and Smooth) ¹		Open Year Round	55/vessel/trip other than sandbar sharks Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Other LCS Sandbar, Silky ¹	Sandbar can only be retained by vessels selected to participate in the shark research fishery, Silky may not be possessed by vessels with pelagic longline gear on board		Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Small Coastal Sharks (SCS) Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacknose, Bonnethead, Finetooth**		Open Year Round	Blacknose only: 8/vessel/trip All others: No limit Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Sharks – Prohibited ¹ Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	NO HARVEST – PROHIBITED		
Sheepshead	14 FL	Open Year Round	10/licensed angler; max 30/boat
Shrimp White, Brown, Pink		General Trawl Zone (typically, April/May–January)	Federal Permit and Limits Apply in federal waters
Spanish Mackerel ¹	12 FL	Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Spot		Open Year Round	50/licensed angler/day, aggregate bag limit with Atlantic Croaker and Whiting, only applies to hook and line
Spotted Seatrout ²	PROHIBITED		
Striped Bass (saltwater)	22 TL	Open Year Round	2/person/day
Striped Bass (Savannah River)	27 TL	Open Year Round	2/person/day
Tarpon ²	PROHIBITED		
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	3/licensed angler, max 9/boat

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Tuna Bigeye, Bluefin, Yellowfin, Albacore, Skipjack ¹		Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Tuna Blackfin, Little Tunny, Bonita		Open Year Round	
Wahoo ¹		Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Weakfish	12 TL	Open Year Round	1/licensed angler/day
Whiting		Open Year Round	50/licensed angler/day, aggregate bag limit with Atlantic Croaker and Spot, only applies to hook and line

¹ These species are federally managed from 3 to 200 miles offshore; cannot be in possession of gamefish when using or transporting commercial gear.

² Cobia, Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, Striped Bass, and Tarpon have been declared gamefish and native caught fish may not be sold in South Carolina. Saltwater gamefish in South Carolina [SECTION 50-5-1700]. (A) It is unlawful to sell, purchase, trade, or barter or attempt to sell, purchase, trade, or barter saltwater gamefish in this State regardless of where taken except as provided in this chapter. (C) It is unlawful for a person to have in possession a saltwater gamefish while fishing or transporting a seine or a gill net or other commercial fishing equipment. A saltwater gamefish caught in the net or commercial fishing equipment must be returned to the water immediately.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	RECREATIONAL POSSESSION
INSHORE FIN FISH			
American Shad*	No size limit	Shad and Herring	10
Herring*	No size limit	Shad and Herring	1 US bushel/person/day
Black Drum	14-27 in TL		5/person/day
Bluefish	No size limit		3/person/day 5/person in the for-hire fishery
Flounder Southern, Summer, Gulf	16 TL		5/person/day 10/boat/day
Red Drum	15-23 TL	NO HARVEST by gig December 1-February 28	2/person/day 6/boat/day
Saltwater Catfishes Hard-head Gafftopsail	POSESSION PROHIBITED		
Sheepshead	14 TL		10/person/day 30/boat/day
Striped Bass**	26 TL	Open: Oct. 1 – June 15	3 fish/person/day
Striped Bass (lower reach of Savannah River)	27 TL	Open Year Round	2/person/day*
Hybrid Bass, White Bass, and Combinations	No size limit	Open Year Round	No limit in saltwater
Hybrid Bass, White Bass, and Combinations (lower reach of Savannah River)	27 TL	Open Year Round	2/person/day
Tarpon**	77 FL		1/person/day
Tripletail	18 TL		3/person/day 9/boat/day
Weakfish	12 TL		1/person/day
Atlantic Croaker, Spot, Whiting	No size limit		50/person/day aggregate

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	RECREATIONAL POSSESSION
Cobia	36 FL	Closed May in state waters south of 032° 31.0 N latitude (Jeremy Inlet, Edisto Island)	1/person/day and no more than 3/boat/day in State waters south of 032° 31.0 N. 1/person/day and no more than 6/boat/day in federal waters and state waters north of 032° 31.0 N
Dolphin	20 FL		10/person/day 54/boat/day Headboats have no boat limit.
King Mackerel	24 FL		3/person/day
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL		15/person/day
Wahoo	No size limit		2/person/day
SNAPPER-GROUPER COMPLEX			
Greater Amberjack	28 FL	In April, for-hire vessels are limited to 1/person/day or 1/person/trip	1/person/day
Hogfish	17 FL		2/person/day
Wreckfish	No size limit	Open July 1-August 31	1/boat/day
Black Sea Bass	13 TL		7/person/day
Red Porgy	14 TL		1/person/day
Vermillion Snapper	12 TL		5/person/day
Red Snapper	20 TL		2/person/day
Lane Snapper	8 TL		10/person/day aggregate
Cubera, Yellowtail, Gray Snapper	12 TL		
Blackfin, Silk, Queen Snapper	No size limit		
Mutton Snapper	18 TL		5/person/day, included in the aggregate above
Gag and Black Grouper	24 TL	Closed January 1-April 30	Included in 3 grouper aggregate bag limit. Maximum one Gag or Black Grouper (but not both)/person/day
Red Grouper	20 TL	Closed January 1-May 31	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate bag limit
Scamp, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth Grouper		Closed January 1-April 30	
Golden Tilefish ^A	No size limit		1/person/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	RECREATIONAL POSSESSION
Sand Tilefish ^A	No size limit		3/person/day
Blueline Tilefish ^A	No size limit	Closed September 1-April 30	3/person/day
Misty and Yellowedge Grouper	No size limit		Included in the 3 grouper aggregate bag limit
Coney, Graysby, Red Hind, Rock Hind	No size limit	Closed January 1-April 30	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit
Snowy Grouper	No size limit	Closed September 1-April 30	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate bag limit; only 1 fish/vessel/day
Warsaw and Speckled Hind	POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Nassau and Goliath Grouper			
Other snapper/grouper complex	No size limit		20/person/day aggregate with no more than 10 of any one species
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL		
Spadefish	14 TL		30/boat/day
BILLFISH AND ATLANTIC TUNAS			
Blue Marlin**	99 FL from lower jaw		
White Marlin**	66 FL from lower jaw		
Swordfish ^B	47 FL from lower jaw		1/person/day not to exceed 4/vessel/trip
Roundscale Spearfish**	66 from lower jaw		
Longbill Spearfish	Prohibited		
Bigeye Tuna	27 curved FL		
Bluefin Tuna	For size and bag limits: https://hmspermits.noaa.gov		3/person/day
Yellowfin Tuna	27 curved FL		
SHARKS			
Atlantic Sharpnose	No size limit		1/person/day
Bonnethead			
Blacknose, Blacktip, Blue, Bull, Finetooth, Lemon, Nurse, Porbeagle, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger, Oceanic Whitetip	54 FL		1 of group/vessel/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	RECREATIONAL POSSESSION
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead	78 FL		1 of group/vessel/day
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bignose, Dusky, Galapagos, Shortfin Mako, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Caribbean Reef, Sandbar, Sevengill, Caribbean Sharpnose, Silky, Bigeye Sixgill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Bigeye Thresher, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Sand Tiger, Whale, White Shark	POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
CRUSTACEANS			
Blue Crabs	5-inch minimum carapace (point to point)		Females with sponge must be returned to water unharmed immediately
Stone Crabs	Claws must be 2¾ inch minimum forearm		Only crabs with 2 claws can have one removed (larger of two). No claws removed from female with sponge
Spiny Lobster ^C	3-inch minimum carapace		2/person/day Berried females prohibited
Taking Shrimp without bait	No size limit	Closed December 16-April 30	12 dozen dead or live allowed during closed season. 48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed/day/boat (per person if no boat is used or per seining party) during open season
Shrimp Baiting	No size limit	Open last Friday before September 15 and lasts 60 days	48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed/day/set of poles

* See South Carolina Rules and Regulations for more information [Shad and Herring](#)

**May only be taken by rod and reel

***Bag limit applies to hook and line only

****Sale of recreational catch is prohibited

^A Included in the 3 grouper aggregate bag limit

^B May only be taken by rod and reel or handline

^C Removal of tail at sea prohibited. No harvest of berried females. No explosives, poisons, spears, or piercing devices other than fishing hooks are allowed.

NORTH CAROLINA

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
SNAPPER GROUPE			
Black Sea Bass (North of Cape Hatteras)	11 TL (excluding the caudal fin filament)	Trawl 500 lb moratorium January 1-March 31	2,000 lb/trip for fish pots, traps, and hook-and-line gear
		100 lb moratorium April 1-December 31 unless nets have min mesh of 4.5 inch diamond	5,000 lb/trip for trawls
		Fishery closes at 80% of quota	100 lb for any other gear
Black Sea Bass (South of Cape Hatteras)	11 TL	January 1-April 30	354 lb WW (300 lb GW) for hook-and-line per trip
		May 1-December 31	1,180 lb WW (1,000 lb GW) for hook-and-line per trip
		April 1-30 November 1-30 No harvest shallower than 25 m	1,180 lb WW (1,000 lb GW) for pot gear per trip
		December 1-March 31 No harvest shallower than 30 m	
Red Grouper	20 TL	April 1-December 31	200 lb GW per trip
Yellowfin and Yellowmouth Grouper, Scamp			No Limit
Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby	None		
Snowy Grouper	None	Open Year Round	200 lb GW per trip
Black Grouper	24 TL	Closed: January 1-April 30	No trip limit
Gag Grouper			1,000 lbs GW per trip
Speckled Hind, Warsaw Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Goliath Grouper	PROHIBITED		
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	March 1-March 31 May 1-August 31	1,200 lb (WW or GW) per trip
		April 1-30	1/person/day or 1/person/trip
		September 1-Last day of February	1,000 lb (WW or GW) per trip

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Almaco Jack	20 FL	Open Year Round	500 lbs (GW) per trip (individually or in aggregate)
Banded Rudderfish, Lesser Amberjack	None		
Vermilion Snapper	12 TL		1,000 lb (GW) per trip
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	17 FL		
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	January 1-March 31 July 1-December 31	500 lb (WW) per trip
		April 1-June 30	5/person/day or 5/person/trip
Red Snapper	None	July 10-January 1, or closes when ACL is met	75 lb (GW) per trip
Yellowtail Snapper, Cubera Snapper, Gray Snapper	12 TL	Year Round, or closes when complex ACL is met	No Limit
Lane Snapper	8 TL		
DEEPWATER COMPLEX Yellowedge Grouper, Silk Snapper, Misty Grouper, Queen Snapper, Sand Tilefish, Blackfin Snapper	No Limit		
Red Porgy	14 TL	Year Round	15/vessel/day or 15/vessel/trip
Scup (South of Cape Hatteras)	None	Year Round	No Limit
Scup (North of Cape Hatteras)	9 TL	January 1-April 30, or when 80% of quota is met	50,000 lb per trip
	TRAWL GEAR ONLY		
	9 TL	October 1-April 14	1,000 lb per trip
		April 15-June 15	2,000 lb per trip
June 16-September 30		100 lb per trip	
Whitebone Porgy, Jolthead Porgy, Knobbed Porgy, Saucereye Porgy	None	Year Round	No Limit
Golden Tilefish	None	January 1 until quota is met	4,000 lb (GW) per trip for Longline Endorsements
			500 lb (GW) per trip for hook-and-line
Blueline Tilefish	None	January 1-April 30	100 lb (GW) per trip
		May 1-December 31, or closes when ACL is met	300 lb (GW) per trip
Gray Triggerfish	12 TL	Year Round	1,000 lb (WW) per trip

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Flounder Summer Flounder and other	TRAWL GEAR ONLY		
	None	Closes April 1 once 80% of quota is reached, or at 6:00 P.M. August 31. May be extended if quota not met.	Max 35,000 lb/trip More than 100 lb not to be landed in any consecutive 5-day period
	POUND NET ONLY		
	None	September 15 until quota met North of Pamlico Sound	1,000 lb/trip
		October 1 until quota met Pamlico Sound and tribs	2,000 lb/trip
		October 1 until quota met Core Sound and south	500 lb/trip
Bluefish	None	Open Year Round; Closed when quota is met	800 lb/day or 800 lb per/trip
American Shad	None	Prohibited in Atlantic Ocean Waters from Feb. 20-April 11	No Limit
Hickory Shad		Prohibited in Atlantic Ocean Waters from January 1-April 14	
Cobia	36 FL	Open Year Round; Closed when quota is met	2/person/day or 6/vessel/day
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	March 1-September 24, or when ACL is met	3,500 lb/day in aggregate
King Mackerel			
Striped Bass (Albemarle Sound)	18-25 TL	March 3-April 30, or when allocation is reached	10/SCFL holder/day No more than 2 daily limits per SCFL holder in possession
Mullet (North of HWY 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle)	None	January 1-November 7	No Limit
Mullet (South of HWY 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle)		January 1-November 10	
Horseshoe Crabs	None	January 1-April 30	50/day/fishing operation

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
SHARKS			
AGGREGATED LARGE COASTAL ¹ Blacktip, Silky, Spinner, Bull, Tiger, Lemon, Nurse, Scalloped Hammerhead, Great Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, Sandbar	None	Open Year Round (If annual quotas are reached prior to the end of the season, harvest will be closed by proclamation)	55 Large Coastal sharks other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip. (Sandbar may only be retained if part of NOAA observer program)
SMALL COASTAL (North of 34° 00’ N. Latitude) Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Finetooth			No Limit Blacknose Prohibited
SMALL COASTAL (South of 34° 00’ N. Latitude) Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Finetooth, Blacknose			No Limit Except Blacknose (8/trip)
PELAGIC Blue, Porbeagle, Oceanic Whitetip, Common Thresher			No Limit
Smooth Dogfish (Smoothhound Shark)		November 15-April 30; or when quota is met	15,000 lb/trip
Spiny Dogfish			
SHARKS – PROHIBITED Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sandtiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandtiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		

¹ It is unlawful to possess silky, scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead and/or oceanic whitetip sharks from a vessel with pelagic longline gear onboard or on vessels issued both an HMS Charter/Headboat permit and a commercial shark permit when tuna, swordfish, or billfish are on board the vessel or being offloaded from the vessel.

NORTH CAROLINA

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Bluefish	None		3 per day; creel is 3 per day non for-hire and up to 5 per day for-hire
Cobia	36 FL	Recreational harvest open May 1-December 31	1 per day
		Private (not for hire) harvest open May 1-June 30	2 per vessel per day if 2+ people are onboard; 1 per day, if 1 person onboard
		Private (not for hire) harvest open July 1-December 31	1 per vessel per day
		For-hire harvest open May 1-December 31	4 per vessel per day; or 1 per person per day, if fewer than 4 people onboard.
Wahoo	None		2 per day
Dolphin	None		10 per person per day, or 54 per trip, whichever is less. Head boats: 10 per person per day. (No sale of recreational bag limit on vessels operating as charter or head boats.)
King Mackerel	24 FL		3 per day
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL		15 per day
Tuna – Bluefin	27 Curved FL		Yellowfin: 3 per day In state or federal waters, federal permit required for tunas (excluding Atlantic bonito, little tunny (false albacore), and blackfin tuna). Prior to removal from vessel, all bluefin tuna must be reported at NC HMS reporting stations.
Tuna – Bigeye			
Tuna – Yellowfin			
Spiny Dogfish	None		None
Recreational Shore-Anglers: 1 shark from the recreationally permitted species list per person per calendar day			
SHARKS	Recreational Vessel-Fishing: Possessing more than one (1) additional shark from the recreationally permitted species list aboard a vessel, per calendar day, regardless of the number of people on board the vessel is prohibited. (In state or federal waters, federal permit required)		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Large Coastal – Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead*, Scalloped Hammerhead*, Smooth Hammerhead*, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger	Hammerheads: 78 FL Non-Hammerheads: 54 FL		*Unlawful to possess while in possession of tunas, billfish, or swordfish.
Small Coastal – Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead	None	January 1-December 31	1 per person of each species per day
Small Coastal – Blacknose, Finetooth	54 FL		
Pelagic – Blue, Oceanic Whitetip*, Porbeagle, Thresher	54 FL		*Unlawful to possess while in possession of tunas, billfish, or swordfish.
Other – Smooth Dogfish (Smoothhound), Spiny Dogfish	Exempt		Exempt
Prohibited – Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sandtiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		
Blue Marlin	99 LJFL		1 per vessel per trip; in state or federal waters, federal permit required. Prior to removal from vessel, must be reported at NC HMS reporting stations.
White Marlin	66 LJFL		
Sailfish	63 LJFL		1 per day; in state or federal waters, federal permit required. Prior to removal from vessel, must be reported at NC HMS reporting stations.
Red Drum (Channel Bass, Puppy Drum)	18-27 TL Prohibited: greater than 27 TL		1 per day
Flounder	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout)	14 TL		4 per day
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	12 TL		1 per day
Sheepshead	10 TL		10 per day
Black Drum	14-25 TL		10 per day; 1 per person per day over 25 TL
Tarpon	PROHIBITED		
Striped Bass			
Shad – American, Hickory	None	January 1-April 14	<p>Pamlico & Pungo Rivers and Tributaries: No more than 10 American Shad or Hickory Shad, in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes.</p> <p>Cape Fear River and Tributaries: No more than 10 American Shad or Hickory Shad, in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes and only 5 of the 10 may be American Shad.</p> <p>Atlantic Ocean: No more than 10 Hickory Shad per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes.</p> <p>All Other Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters: No more than 10 American Shad or Hickory Shad, in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes and only 1 of the 10 may be American Shad.</p>
Alewife and Blueback Herring	PROHIBITED		
American Eel	9 TL	Open January 1-August 31, or Open Year Round when taken by baited pots	25 per day
Scup (<i>North of Cape Hatteras only</i>)	9 TL		40 per day
Black Sea Bass (<i>North of Cape Hatteras only</i>)	13 TL		15 per day
Black Sea Bass (<i>South of Cape Hatteras only</i>)	13 TL		7 per day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
SNAPPERS			
Red Snapper	PROHIBITED		
Vermillion Snapper	12 TL		5 per day
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	PROHIBITED (Season reopens January 1, 2024)		
Yellowtail Snapper, Cubera Snapper, Gray Snapper	12 TL		
Mutton Snapper	18 TL		5 per day within 10 fish snapper aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL		
Queen Snapper	12 TL		10 fish aggregate per person per day
Silk Snapper	12 TL		10 fish aggregate per person per day
Queen Snapper	12 TL		10 fish aggregate per person per day
Blackfin Snapper	12 TL		10 fish aggregate per person per day
GROUPERS			
Red Grouper	20 TL	Closed: January 1-May 31	3 fish aggregate per person per day
Yellowfin (Fireback) Grouper		Closed: January 1-April 30 Gag; Closed October 23, 2023; Reopened May 1, 2024	
Yellowmouth or Scamp			
Gag	24 TL		1 per day in combined bag
Black Grouper			1 per day in combined bag
Rock Hind Grouper			
Coney Grouper			
Graysby Grouper			
Misty Grouper			3 fish aggregate per person per day
Snowy Grouper		Open: May 1-August 31	1 per day in combined bag; 3 fish aggregate per person per day
Yellowedge Grouper			3 fish aggregate per person per day
Grouper – Prohibited Goliath, Nassau, Speckled Hind, Warsaw	PROHIBITED		
PORGYS			
Red Porgy	14 TL	Open: May 1-June 30	1 per person per day, or 1 per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive
Other Porgys –	None		10 of 20 fish aggregate per person per day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Jolthead, Knobbed, Longspine, Saucereye, Whitebone, Scup			
Sand Tilefish			3 fish aggregate per person per day
Golden Tilefish	PROHIBITED (Season reopens January 1, 2024)		1 per day in combined bag
Blueline Tilefish	PROHIBITED	Open: May 1-August 31	3 fish aggregate per person per day
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL		10 of 20 fish aggregate per person per day
Wreckfish		Open: July 1-August 31	1 per vessel per day
Greater Amberjack	28 FL	Closed: April 1-30	1 per day
Other Jacks – Almaco Jack, Bar, Banded Rudderfish, Lesser Amberjack			20 fish aggregate per day; 10 of the 20 aggregate when season is open
White Grunt, Sailors Choice, Margate	None		10 fish per day, 20 in aggregate
Atlantic Spadefish	None		
Mullet (Striped and White)		Closed: November 7-December 31 North of Highway 58 Bridge and November 10-December 31 South of Highway 58 Bridge	200 per day (species combined)
Spot	None		50 per day
Atlantic Croaker	None		50 per day
Other Finfish – Prohibited River Herring, Atlantic Sturgeon, Shortnose Sturgeon	PROHIBITED		

¹ Total length (TL) is measured from tip of snout with mouth closed to top of compressed tail.

² Fork length (FL) is measured from tip of snout to middle of fork in tail.

³ Lower jaw fork length (LJFL) is measured from lower jaw to middle of fork in tail.

⁴ Curved fork length (CFL) is the measurement of the length taken in a line tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.

⁵ Anglers cannot catch both a federal and state bag limit for the same species on the same trip.

SOUTH ATLANTIC FEDERAL WATERS

Commercial

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
SNAPPER GROUPEL			
Atlantic Spadefish	No Limit	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	No Limit
Bar Jack	No Limit	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	No Limit
Black Grouper	24 TL	May 1-December 31; Closed when ACL met	No Limit
Black Sea Bass (<i>South of Cape Hatteras</i>)	11 TL	January 1-April 30	354 lbs WW (300 lbs GW) per trip
		May 1-December 31	1,180 lbs WW (1,000 lbs GW) per trip
		Commercial pot closure ¹ November 1-April 30	Closed to pot fishing in the designated area
Blueline Tilefish	No Limit	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	100 lb (GW) per trip
		May 1-December 31; Closed when ACL met	300 lb (GW) per trip
Gag	24 TL	May 1-December 31; Closed when ACL met	300 lbs GW per trip
Golden Tilefish	No Limit	Longline: January 15-December 31; or closed when gear-specific ACL met	4,000 lb (GW) per trip for Longline Endorsements
		Hook-and-line: January 1-December 31, or closed when gear-specific ACL met	500 lb (GW) per trip for hook-and-line
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	Trip Limit: 1,000 lbs gw
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	Open March and May thru August 31; or closed when seasonal ACL met	1,200 lb (WW or GW) per trip
		Spawning closure: April 1-30	Harvest prohibited during April
		September 1-Last day of February, or closed when seasonal ACL met	1,200 lb (WW or GW) per trip
Hogfish (GA-NC)	17 FL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	500 lbs (WW) per trip
Hogfish (East FL-FL Keys)	16 FL	Year Round, or closes when ACL is met	25 lbs (WW) per trip
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	Open January 1-March 31 and July 1-December 31; closed when ACL met	500 lbs (WW) per trip
		April 1-June 30, or closed when ACL met	5/person/day or 5/person/trip
Red Grouper	20 TL	May 1-December 31	200 lb GW per trip

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Red Porgy	14 TL	January 1-April 30, or closed when seasonal ACL met	15 fish/vessel/day or 15 fish/vessel/trip
		Open May 1-December 31; closed when seasonal ACL met	
Red Snapper	No Limit	Season start date announced annually; closed when ACL met	Trip Limit: 75 lb GW
Scamp	20 TL	Open May 1-Dec 31; closed when ACL met	No Limit
Snowy Grouper	No Limit	Open January 1-June 30; closed when seasonal ACL met	200 lb GW per trip
		Open July 1-December 31; closed when seasonal ACL met	
Vermilion Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	1,000 lb GW per trip
Wreckfish	No Limit	January 1-14 April 16-December 31, ITQ	ITQ
Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	No Limit
Speckled Hind, Warsaw Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Goliath Grouper	PROHIBITED		
DEEPWATER COMPLEX			
Yellowedge Grouper, Silk Snapper, Misty Grouper, Queen Snapper, Sand Tilefish, Blackfin Snapper	No Limit	Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	No Limit
JACKS COMPLEX			
Banded Rudderfish, Lesser Amberjack	No Limit	Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	500 lbs GW per trip (in aggregate)
Almaco Jack	20 FL		
SNAPPERS COMPLEX			
Gray Snapper, Cubera Snapper	12 TL	Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	No Limit
Lane Snapper	8 TL		
GRUNTS COMPLEX			
White Grunt, Sailor’s Choice, Tomtate, Margate	No Limit	Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	No Limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
OTHER SHALLOW WATER GROUPERS COMPLEX			
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Coney, Graysby	No Limit	May 1-Dec 31, or closed when ACL met	No Limit
Yellowfin Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper	20 TL		
PORGY COMPLEX			
Jolthead Porgy, Knobbed Porgy, Saucereye Porgy, Scup, Whitebone Porgy	No Limit	Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	No Limit
Ecosystem Component Species: Bank Sea Bass, Rock Sea Bass, Longspine Porgy, Ocean Triggerfish, Cottonwick	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
King Mackerel	24 FL	Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG) Northern Zone (N of NC/SC border): Year Round, or closes when regional ACL is met (March-February Fishing Year)	AMG north of Flagler/Volusia FL county border (all year): 3,500 lbs per trip
		AMG Southern Zone (NC/SC border-Monroe/Miami-Dade county border): March 1-September 30; closed when zone seasonal quota met	AMG Flagler/Volusia-Miami-Dade/Monroe county borders during March: 75 fish per trip
			AMG Flagler/Volusia-Volusia/Brevard during April 1-September 30: 3,500 lbs per trip
			AMG Volusia/Brevard-Miami-Dade/Monroe during April 1-September 30 if <75% of zone seasonal quota has been landed: 75 fish per trip
			AMG Volusia/Brevard-Miami-Dade/Monroe during April 1-September 30 if ≥75% of zone seasonal quota has been landed: 50 fish per trip
		AMG Southern Zone (NC/SC border-Monroe/Miami-Dade county border): October 1-end of February; closed when zone seasonal ACL met	AMG Flagler/Volusia-Miami-Dade/Monroe during October 1-end of February: 100 fish per trip

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
		Gulf Migratory Group (GMG) Southern Zone (Monroe/Miami-Dade county border-Lee Collier county border) Hook-and-Line: Year Round; closed when zone gear-specific ACL met (July-June Fishing Year)	GMG Southern Zone (Monroe/Miami-Dade county border-Lee Collier county border) Hook-and-Line: 1,250 lbs per day
		GMG Southern Zone (Monroe/Miami-Dade county border-Lee Collier county border) Run-Around Gillnet: Tuesday after Martin Luther King Jr. Day-June 30; season may be reduced if payback of zone gear-specific ACL overage is necessary	GMG Southern Zone (Monroe/Miami-Dade county border-Lee Collier county border) Run-Around Gillnet: 45,000 lbs per day
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG) Northern Zone (N of NC/SC border): Year Round; closed when zone quota met (March-February Fishing Year)	AMG Northern Zone: 3,500 lbs per day
		AMG Southern Zone (NC/SC border-Monroe/Miami-Dade county border): Year Round; closed when zone quota met (March-February Fishing Year)	AMG Southern Zone when <75% of the adjusted quota has been landed: 3,500 lbs per day
			AMG Southern Zone when ≥75% and less than 100% of the adjusted quota has been landed: 1,500 lbs per day
			AMG Southern Zone when ≥100% of the adjusted quota and <100% of the zone quota has been landed: 500 lbs per day
		GMG (South of Monroe/Miami-Dade county border and into Gulf of Mexico): Year Round; closed when regional total ACL met (March-February Fishing Year)	15 fish per trip
Cobia (<i>East FL</i>)	36 FL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	1 fish per person or 2 fish per vessel, whichever is more restrictive

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
DOLPHIN WAHOO			
Dolphin	Fish caught off East FL, GA, and SC: 20 FL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	No Limit until 75% of the commercial ACL is reached If 75% of the commercial ACL is reached: 4,000 lb WW per trip
Wahoo	None	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	500 lb (WW or GW) per trip

¹ Link to CFR with nearshore area waypoints

SOUTH ATLANTIC FEDERAL WATERS

Recreational

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
SNAPPER GROUPER			
Atlantic Spadefish	No Limit	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	10 fish per person per day within the 20-fish per person other snapper grouper aggregate bag limit
Black Grouper	24 TL	May 1-December 31; closed when ACL met	Private vessels: 1 gag or black grouper per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit or 2 black grouper per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive
			For-hire vessels: 1 gag or black grouper per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit or 2 black grouper per vessel per trip, whichever is more restrictive
Bar Jack	No Limit	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	10 fish per person within the 20-fish per person other snapper grouper aggregate bag limit
Black Sea Bass (<i>South of Cape Hatteras</i>)	13 TL	January 1-end date announced annually	7 fish per person per day
Blueline Tilefish	No Limit	May 1-August 31; closed on end date announced annually	2 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit; no captain or crew retention

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Gag	24 TL	May 1-December 31; season may be reduced if payback of ACL overage is necessary	Private vessels: 1 gag or black grouper per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit or 2 gag per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive
			For-hire vessels: 1 gag or black grouper per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit or 2 gag per vessel per trip, whichever is more restrictive
Golden Tilefish	No Limit	January 1-end date announced annually	1 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL	Open Year Round; closed when ACL met	10 fish per person per day within the 20-fish per person other snapper grouper aggregate bag limit
Greater Amberjack	28 FL	March 1-March 31; closed when ACL met	1 fish per person per day
		Spawning closure: April 1-April 30	Harvest prohibited during April
		May 1-Last day of February, or closes when ACL is met	1 fish per person per day
Hogfish (GA-NC)	17 FL	Open Year Round; closed when ACL met	2 fish per person per day
Hogfish (East FL-FL Keys)	16 FL	May 1-October 31; closed when ACL met	1 fish per person per day
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	Open Year Round; closed when ACL met	5 fish per person per day within the 10 fish per person per day aggregate snapper bag limit
Red Grouper	20 TL	May 1-December 31 for federal waters off GA and FL; closed when ACL met; June 1-December 31 for federal waters off SC and NC; closed when ACL met	3 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit
Red Porgy	14 TL	May 1-June 30; season may be reduced if payback of ACL overage is necessary	1 fish per person per day
Red Snapper	No Limit	Season start and end dates announced annually	1 fish per person per day
Scamp	20 TL	May 1-Dec 31; closed when ACL met	3 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Snowy Grouper	No Limit	May 1-June 30; season may be reduced if payback of ACL overage is necessary	1 fish per vessel per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit
Vermilion Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	5 fish per person per day
Wreckfish	No Limit	July 1-August 30; closed when ACL met	1 fish per vessel per day
Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	10 fish per person per day within the 10 fish per person per day aggregate snapper bag limit
Speckled Hind, Warsaw Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Goliath Grouper	PROHIBITED		
DEEPWATER COMPLEX			
Yellowedge Grouper, Silk Snapper, Misty Grouper, Queen Snapper, Sand Tilefish, Blackfin Snapper	No Limit	Open Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	3 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit
JACKS COMPLEX			
Banded Rudderfish, Lesser Amberjack	No Limit	Open Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	10 fish of any one species per person per day within the 20-fish per person other snapper grouper aggregate bag limit
Almaco Jack	No Limit		
SNAPPERS COMPLEX			
Cubera Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	All NC-GA fish and East Florida fish <30 inches TL: 10 fish per person per day within the 10 fish per person per day aggregate snapper bag limit
			East Florida fish ≥30 inches TL: 2 fish per person per day or 2 fish per vessel, whichever is more restrictive
Gray Snapper	12 TL		10 fish per person per day within the 10 fish per person per day aggregate snapper bag limit
Lane Snapper	8 TL		10 fish per person per day within the 10 fish per person per day aggregate snapper bag limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
GRUNTS COMPLEX			
White Grunt, Sailor’s Choice, Margate	No Limit	Open Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	10 fish of each species per person per day within the 20-fish per person snapper grouper aggregate bag limit
Tomtate			No Limit for Tomtate
OTHER SHALLOW WATER GROUPERS COMPLEX			
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Coney, Graysby	No Limit	May 1-Dec 31; closed when ACL met	3 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit
Yellowfin Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper	20 TL		
PORGY COMPLEX			
Jolthead Porgy, Knobbed Porgy, Saucereye Porgy, Scup, Whitebone Porgy	No Limit	Open Year Round; closed when complex ACL met	10 fish of each species per person per day within the 20-fish per person other snapper grouper aggregate bag limit
Ecosystem Component Species: Bank Sea Bass, Rock Sea Bass, Longspine Porgy, Ocean Triggerfish, Cottonwick	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round; closed when ACL met (March-February fishing year)	3 fish per person per day
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round; closed when ACL met (March-February fishing year)	15 fish per person per day
Cobia (East Florida)	36 FL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	1 fish per person per day or 2 fish per vessel per trip, whichever is more restrictive
DOLPHIN WAHOO			
Dolphin	Fish caught off eastern FL, GA, and SC: 20 FL	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	Atlantic EEZ only (except headboats): 10 fish per person or 54 fish per vessel, whichever is more restrictive
	NC and all other states to the north: No Limit		Atlantic EEZ only headboats: 10 fish per paying passenger
Wahoo	No Limit	Open Year Round; Closed when ACL met	2 fish per person



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
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