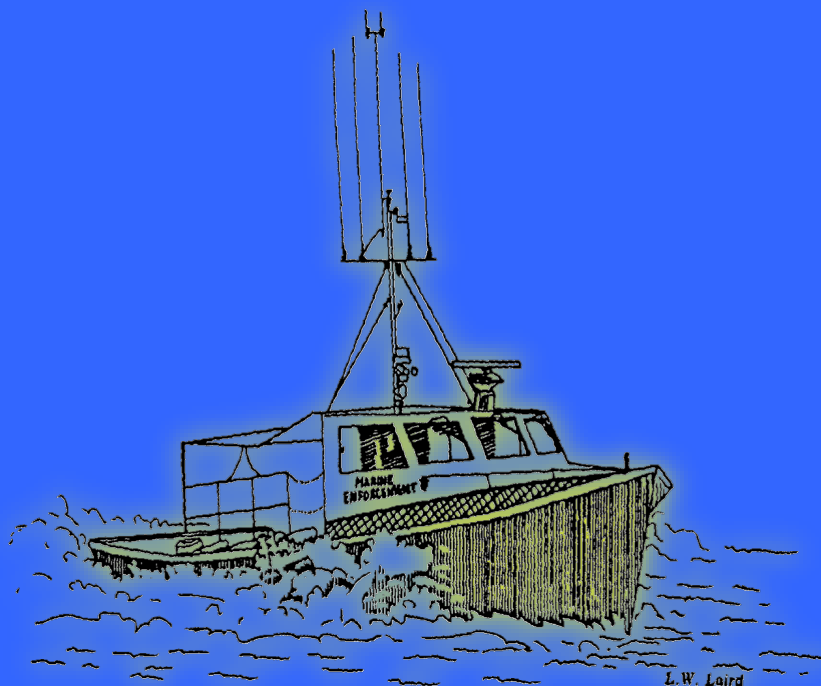


Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Law Summary 2025



Marine Fishing Laws & Regulations for the Gulf States & the South Atlantic

*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 state's marine resources agency.*

GSMFC Publication No. 345

October 2026



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Law Enforcement Committee

Captain Neil "Scott" Pearce

Marine Law Administrator

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Les Casterline

Assistant Commander of Fisheries Enforcement

Law Enforcement Division

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Major Dean Aucoin, II

Law Enforcement Division

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Lieutenant Patrick Carron

Office of Law Enforcement

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Major Jason Downey

Chief Conservation Enforcement Officer

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Jim Stinebaugh

Resident Agent in Charge, Southwest Region 2

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement

Sidney Charbonnet

Resident Agent in Charge, Southeast Region 4

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement

Manny Antonaras

Deputy Special Agent in Charge

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

Duane Smith

Enforcement Attorney

NOAA Office of General Counsel and Enforcement Section

Lt. Jackson P. Morton

U.S. Coast Guard Heartland District

Enforcement Branch (DRE)

Publication Editor: Keith Wilson, Staff Assistant for IJF Program, Publications & Social Contents

PREFACE

This publication of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations. Enforcement personnel from the Gulf and South Atlantic have worked with GSMFC staff to compile this information specifically for professional use and convenience. All regulations provided were summarized for the majority of the 2025 fishing year; however, changes per fishery and by specific state may have occurred at various times.

For definitive enforcement regulations in your area, directly contact these state and federal agencies:

Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
Marine Resources Division
P.O. Box 189
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Coastal Fisheries Division
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

Gulf Council
4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200
Tampa, Florida 33607

Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Rembert C. Dennis Building
1000 Assembly Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

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ALABAMA

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Red Snapper	13 TL	State Matches Federal	Permit Required IFQ
Cobia (Ling)	36 FL	Open Year Round	1/person – Not to exceed 2 per vessel
Sheepshead	12 FL	Open Year Round	No Bag Limit
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	State Matches Federal	16/vessel – Reef Fish Permit Required
Gag Grouper	24 TL	State Matches Federal	Permit Required IFQ
Red Grouper	18 TL	State Matches Federal	
Black Grouper	24 TL	State Matches Federal	
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	State Matches Federal	
Scamp	16 TL	State Matches Federal	
Grouper – Prohibited Nassau, Goliath	PROHIBITED		
Striped Bass, Spotted Seatrout, Red Drum, Tarpon	No Commercial Retention		
Florida Pompano	12 TL	Closed January 1 thru Labor Day for Gill Net Fishery	3/person
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	State Matches Federal	No Bag Limit Reef Fish Permit Required
Lane Snapper	8 TL	State Matches Federal	
Gray Snapper	12 TL	State Matches Federal	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	State Matches Federal	
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	Open Year Round	3/person
Flounder	14 TL	Closed November annually	40/person/vessel – 80/person/vessel with commercial gill net
King Mackerel	24 FL	State Matches Federal	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
Snook	28 FL	Open Year Round	1/person

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
SHARKS			
All Sharks	No Size Limit	State Matches Federal	No Bag Limit
Sandbar, Silky	PROHIBITED <i>Sandbar are prohibited without a NOAA Fisheries sandbar shark research permit.</i> <i>Silky are prohibited without a Federal Atlantic commercial shark vessel permit.</i>		
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Shortfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand Tiger, Smalltail, Sevengill, Sixgill, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		
Largetooth Sawfish Smalltooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
Rays – Prohibited Atlantic Manta, Spotted Eagle	PROHIBITED		

¹ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

ALABAMA

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	
Spotted Seatrout	15-22 TL	Open Year Round	6/person - 1 oversized allowed	
Red Drum	16-26 TL	Open Year Round	3/person	
Sheepshead	12 FL	Open Year Round	8/person	
Cobia (Ling)	36 FL	Open Year Round	1/person Not to exceed 2 per vessel	
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round	3/person	
Spanish Mackerel	No size limit	Open Year Round	15/person	
Florida Pompano	12 TL	Open Year Round	3/person	
Snook	28 TL	Open Year Round	1/person	
GROUPEr				
Gag	24 TL	State Matches Federal	2 in aggregate	4 fish from Grouper aggregate
Red	20 TL	State Matches Federal	2 in aggregate	
Black	24 TL	State Matches Federal		
Yellowfin	20 TL	State Matches Federal		
Scamp	16 TL	State Matches Federal		
Goliath, Nassau	PROHIBITED			
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	State Matches Federal	1/person	
Striped Bass	16 TL	Open Year Round	2/person When caught in areas under Marine Resources Division jurisdiction as provided in Rule 220-2-.42	
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL	State Matches Federal	1/person	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	State Matches Federal	10/person	
Flounder	14 TL	Closed season November 1-30	5/person	
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	Open Year Round	3/person	
Lane Snapper	10 TL	State Matches Federal	20 fish aggregate for reef fish species for which there is no other bag limit	
Lesser Amberjack	14-22 FL	State Matches Federal		
Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL	State Matches Federal		
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL [‡]	State Matches Federal	3/person HMS permit required	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL [‡]	State Matches Federal	No Creel Limit HMS permit required
Red Snapper	16 TL	Season Set by State	2/person
Gray Snapper (Mangrove, Black)	12 TL	State Matches Federal	10/person
Tarpon	60 TL	Open Year Round	\$61.00 tag required to possess, kill, or harvest each tarpon
Mullet	None	Open Year Round	No Creel Limit From October 24 to December 31 season the limit is 25/person from the shoreline or 25/boat (Prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, Fowl River)
SHARKS			
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	Open Year Round	1/person
Bonnethead	None	Open Year Round	1/person
Other Shark Species	54 FL	Open Year Round	1/person
Great Hammerhead	78 FL	Open Year Round	1/person
Smooth Hammerhead		Open Year Round	
Scalloped Hammerhead		Open Year Round	
Skates and Rays	None	Open Year Round	3/person (Full Retention when using bow, spear, or gig and it shall be unlawful to remove the tail from any released Skates or Rays)
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Shortfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand Tiger, Smalltail, Sevengill, Sixgill, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		
Largetooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
Smalltooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
Rays – Prohibited Atlantic Manta, Spotted Eagle	PROHIBITED		

[‡] CFL=Curved Fork Length.

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.

¹ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

WEST FLORIDA

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Ballyhoo Halfbeaks, Balao, Silver Stripe Halfbeaks	No size limit	Open Year Round	Dependent on license/gear
Black Drum	14-24 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish	Open Year Round	500 lb/person/day or 500 lb/vessel/day, whichever is less
Blue Crab	5 inches total width	Open Year Round	No Limit
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish	Open Year Round	No Limit
Cobia (Ling)	36 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish	Open Year Round	1/person or 2/vessel
Dolphin	20 FL Size limit applies to purchase & sale of fish.	Open Year Round	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, Nassau, Warsaw, Speckled Hind	PROHIBITED		
Gag/Black	24 TL	Open Year Round	IFQ
Scamp	16 TL	Open Year Round	
Yellowfin/Yellowmouth	20 TL	Open Year Round	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Red	18 TL	Open Year Round	Tilefish: IFQ
Rock Hind/Red Hind	No size limit	Open Year Round	
Coney/Graysby/Tiger			
Yellowedge/Misty			
Tilefish, all other			
Golden Tilefish			
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	Open Year Round	
Blueback & River Herring	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Hogfish	12 FL (size limit applies to imported fish)	Open Year Round	
Horseshoe Crab	No size limit	Open Year Round	25/person/day (100/person/day w/ ML#)
Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL	Open Year Round	No Limit
Lesser Amberjack	14-22 FL	Open Year Round	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Closed March, April, May	250 lb gutted weight vessel limit *Consistent with federal rule
Lobster, Slipper	No size limit	Open Year Round	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

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
		After EEZ closed-March 31	500 lb/vessel/day
Mullet, Silver (White, Fantail, or Redeye)	No size limit	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	Only allowed within 3-mile line Season broadly October thru February, but determined on regional basis
Oysters	3 in (greatest dimension)	Open Year Round (regulated by FDACS) NOTE: Season for Apalachicola Bay started January 1, 2026	20 bags/person/day or 20/vessel/day Additional regional limits & restrictions apply. Apalachicola Bay open to harvesters with AP endorsement. Limited entry endorsement.
Permit	11-20 FL	No Direct Harvest	No Directed Harvest; 100 bycatch Only bycatch allowed outside SPZ when using nets for other fish species
Pompano	11-20 FL	Closed in SPZ April, May, June, July	250/vessel/day Unlimited for persons holding a Pompano Endorsement
Pompano, African	24 FL	Open Year Round	2/person/day or 2/vessel/day Spearing prohibited in state waters
Scallops, Calico	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit Maximum 250 individual meats per 1 lb sample

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Shad Alabama, American, Hickory	No size limit	Open Year Round	10/person/day
SHARKS			
Sharks – Large Coastal Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Sandbar, Scalloped Hammerhead, Silky, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, Tiger	No size limit	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	No Limit; Incidental bycatch - 50 lb (Shrimp trawls)

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Shrimp Brown, Pinkspotted, Pink, White, Roughneck, Roughback, Seabob	No size limit	Open Year Round	Food Shrimp – No Limit Live Shrimp - 5 gallons dead shrimp, heads on
SNAPPERS			
Red	13 TL	Open Year Round	IFQ
Mutton	18 TL	Open Year Round	
Vermilion, Schoolmaster	10 TL	Open Year Round	
Lane	8 TL	Open Year Round	
Gray Yellowtail, Dog, Queen, Mahogany, Blackfin, Silk	12 TL	Open Year Round	
Black, Wenchman	No size limit	Open Year Round	
Cubera	12-30 TL only two (2) >30 TL	Open Year Round	>30 - 2/vessel/day
Spotted Seatrout	15-24 TL	South Region, Big Bend Region, and Western Panhandle Region: Open June 1-October 31 Central East Region: Open May 1-September 30 Northeast Region: Open June 1-November 30	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	2% in claw	Open October 14-May 2	No Limit Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 L J FL ¹ , 29 cleithrum to keel, or 33 lb dressed	Open Year Round	No Limit HMS Permit required
Triggerfish, Gray	14 FL	Open June and July	Gulf Fed waters 25 fish trip limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Triggerfish, Ocean	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	10/vessel/day Permit required (Incidental bycatch 2/vessel/day)
Wahoo	No size limit	Open Year Round	500 lb/vessel/day
Weakfish Gray Seatrout or Yellow- mouth Trout	12 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit

¹ L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length

² Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

WEST FLORIDA

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Amberjack, Greater	34 FL	Open September 1-October 31	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser	14-22 FL	Open Year Round	5 in aggregate
Banded Rudderfish			
Blue Marlin	99 FL	Open Year Round	1/person/day in aggregate (HMS permit required)
White Marlin	66 FL	Open Year Round	
Sailfish	63 FL	Open Year Round	
Black Drum	14-24 TL (1 over 24)	Open Year Round	5/person/day
Bluefish	12 FL	Open Year Round	10/person/day
Bonefish	No size limit	Open Year Round	NO Harvest Allowed
Cobia	36 FL	Open Year Round	1/person/day 2/vessel/day
Crab, Blue	No Size Limit	Open Year Round	10 gallons whole/person/day
Crab, Stone	2% 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	Open Year Round	10/person/day, 60/vessel/day
Red Porgy	No size limit	Open Year Round	none
Flounder	12 TL	Closed October 15-November 30	10/person/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Great Barracuda	none	Open Year Round	No Limit	
Blackfin Tuna	none	Open Year Round	2/person or 10/vessel, whichever is greater	
Bay Scallops		St Joseph Bay and Gulf counties: August 16-September 24 Franklin County through northwestern Taylor County: July 1 - September 24 Fenholloway through Suwannee Rivers Zone: June 15 through Labor Day Levy, Citrus and Hernando counties: July 1-September 24 Pasco County: July 10-August 18	Gulf-NW Taylor County and Levy-Pasco County: 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) Fenholloway through Suwannee River Zone: 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	Open September 1-15	Gulf: 2/person/day	AGGREGATE LIMIT Gulf: 4 fish/person/day
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		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Warsaw	No size limit	Open Year Round	1/vessel/day of each	AGGREGATE LIMIT Gulf: 4 fish/person/day
Speckled Hind				
Snowy		Open Year Round	4/person/day	
Groupers, Other		Open Year Round	4	
Golden Tilefish		Open Year Round	4	
Hogfish	14 TL	Open Year Round	5	
Goliath	PROHIBITED (unless properly permitted)			
Blueline tilefish		Open May 1-June 18	100 lb/person	
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round	3/person/day (including Monroe)	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round	15/person/day	
Mullet, Striped & Silver	No size limit	Open Year Round	50/person/day; Vessel limit 50 or 100 depending on season	
Pompano	11 FL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	Not in SPZ ² : 2/person/day (one over 22"/person & 2/vessel)	
	24 FL	Open Year Round	2/person or vessel/day	
Red Drum	18-27 TL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	100 lb/harvester	
Shad	No size limit	Open Year Round	10 aggregate/person/day	
SHARKS				
Shark Blue, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Bull, Nurse, Common Thresher, Spinner	54 FL	Open Year Round	1/person/day, or 2/vessel/day for all retainable sharks	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Shark Finetooth, Smooth Dogfish, Florida and Gulf Smoothhounds, Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Black Nose, Black Tip	No size limit	Open Year Round		
Shark – Prohibited Mako (Shortfin)	PROHIBITED			
Sheepshead	12 TL	Open Year Round	8/person/day 50 per vessel limit during 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	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	5 fish/ person/day	
Mutton	18 TL	Open Year Round	5 fish/ person/day	
Red	16 TL	Open June and July; 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	Open Year Round	10 fish/person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL	Open Year Round		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Lane	10 TL	Open Year Round	Lane snapper 20 fish/person/day	Not included in aggregate bag
Vermilion	10 TL	Open Year Round	10/person/day Not included in aggregate limit	
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	Open Year Round	1/person/day or 4/vessel/day	
Tarpon	No size limit	Open Year Round	1 fish possession Requires Tarpon Tag	
Triggerfish, Gray	15 FL	Closed: January, February, June	1/person/day	
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	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.

⁴ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

LOUISIANA

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Swordfish	47 inches LJFL or 25 inches CK	Open Year Round	• Permit required • You may not transfer swordfish between vessels in state or federal waters. • You may only skin or scale swordfish after you have put them on shore or when you sell them.
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	36 FL	Open Year Round	1 daily per person No more than 2 per vessel per day
Drum, Black	16 TL	Fishing year begins Sept 1; Open Year Round or until quota is harvested	Quota: 16-27 – 3,250,000 lb >27 – 300,000 fish
Crab, Blue	5 CW ¹	Open Year Round	Possession of egg bearing and immature (maiden) females prohibited.
Crab, Stone	2¾ CL ²	Open Year Round	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	Season begins July 1; Closed when quota is reached	3,000 lb/trip Federal quota; Federal permit in Federal waters

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	Fishing year begins April 1; Closed when quota is reached	Federal quota; Federal permit in Federal waters
Mullet, Striped	• No harvesting of any other fish while harvesting mullet with a strike or cast net. • Strike net: None • Live Bait: None, but all mullet harvest commercially with a cast net must remain alive until sold.	• Strike Net: Third Monday in October through third Monday in following January; harvest only allowed Monday through Friday, from sunrise to sunset. • Live Bait: Open Year Round, with cast net only; harvest only allowed Monday through Friday, from sunrise to sunset.	• Unless harvesting mullet for live bait, you must have a Mullet Permit (\$300 resident, \$1,200 nonresident) to harvest and sell mullet (plus other commercial fishing and gear licenses). To qualify, you must have had a Saltwater Gill Net License during any two years from 1993 to 1995 and provide state and federal income tax returns (including Schedule C of the federal 1040 form) demonstrating more than 50% of your earned income came from the capture and sale of seafood in at least two years from 1993 to 1995. • You may only harvest mullet commercially with a mullet strike net (see page 20). However, you may harvest mullet for live bait with a commercial cast net (no more than 12 feet in radius, operated manually, during any season, with appropriate gear licenses).
Pompano	None	• Strike net: August 1-October 31 annually, sunrise to sunset, no weekends, Closed on Labor Day • Other legal gear: Open Year Round	You must have a Pompano Permit (no fee) to harvest and sell pompano caught with a strike net; application period is January 1-April 30 each year.
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	100 pounds per trip; no more than one vessel trip per day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Shrimp, White	100 count/lb	• Inside: Open when enough market-sized shrimp are available in these waters for harvest. The spring/brown shrimp season generally runs May to July. The fall/white shrimp season is generally open mid-August to mid-December; some waters stay open into January. • Outside: Open Year Round, except from December or January to March or May in certain areas to protect small white shrimp and allow them to grow to market size. Through the authority given by the Commission, the Secretary can close these waters at other times of the year if necessary. • Federal Waters Off Louisiana: Open Year Round	White shrimp is legal size when a pound of white shrimp equals 100 whole shrimp or less. You may not harvest sub-legal white shrimp, except from Oct. 15 through the third Monday in December. Also, when more than half of your catch is seabob or brown shrimp, no more than 10% (by weight) of your catch may be sub-legal sized white shrimp.
Seabass, Black	None	Open Year Round	No bag or possession limit; Federal permit required
Seatrout, Spotted	14 TL	• Second day of January until the last day of December, or until the quota is reached (whichever comes first). • No harvest on weekends (from official sunset on Friday to official sunrise on Monday). • When not on a commercial trip, harvest may be up to the recreational limit of spotted seatrout between 10 pm and 5 am when the season is open and anytime when it's closed; basic recreational and a saltwater fishing license required. • No sell/barter/trade/exchange these fish.	Quota: 1.0M lb (Commercial Rod and Reel only)

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Sheepshead	10 TL	Open Year Round	None
Amberjack, Greater	36 FL	Opens Jan. 1; Closed March 1 - May 31; reopens June 1 if quota available.	1,000 lb (Gutted)/trip limit
Triggerfish, Gray	15 FL	Closed June 1 - July 31	16 fish per trip; annual quotas may fluctuate from year to year; see the most recent quota online at gulfcouncil.org . Federal commercial trip limits have changed to 25 fish. State regulation changes have not been enacted at the time of the printing of this document.
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot	Open Year Round	Federal Regulations Apply
Almaco Jack	None	Open Year Round	
Dwarf Sandperch		Open Year Round	
Sandperch		Open Year Round	
Tilefish Goldface, Tilefish, Blackline, Anchor, Blueline	None	Open Year Round	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			

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
GROUPER			
Gag	24 TL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	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 ⁴	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
SHARKS			
Sharks – Large Coastal Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Sandbar, Scalloped Hammerhead, Silky, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, Tiger			Under the LDWF-issued shark permit, 45 large coastal sharks per trip per day per permitted angler on the vessel; Harvest limits and sizes may vary in federal waters; check federal regulations at www.gulfcouncil.org. • You must have an LDWF-issued Shark Permit (\$25) to harvest shark. If you're fishing in federal waters, you must also have a Federal Shark Permit. Go to fisheries.noaa.gov for federal information. • You may not possess sandbar sharks unless you have a valid Federal Shark Research Permit. • Shark finning is illegal. All sharks aboard your vessel must have fins naturally attached by at least some portion of uncut skin. • You may not transfer sharks between vessels. • You may only skin or scale sharks after you have put them on shore, or when you sell them. • Seasons may close if quota is met or projected to be met. • Any requiem sharks being exported by a dealer from the U.S. require C.I.T.E.S. permits, contact USFWS at (703) 358-2104. • Visit go.usa.gov/xPm3x for information on identifying sharks and best practices for handling sharks.
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth		Open Year Round	
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue			

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
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 seasons apply; No direct fishing of Bluefin	- You must have a Federal Commercial Tuna Permit to harvest, possess or sell Atlantic albacore, bigeye, bluefin, skipjack and yellowfin tuna, regardless of whether you're fishing in state or federal waters. You must follow both state and federal laws, rules and regulations, regardless of where you're fishing. Seasonal changes in federal regulations may supersede LDWF's regulations. Go to fisheries.noaa.gov or call 888.872.8862 for current federal information. - You may only skin or scale tuna after you have put them on shore or when you sell them.
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 C FL ³	Federal seasons apply	
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	Federal seasons apply	

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

⁴ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

LOUISIANA

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Marlin, Blue ¹	99 LJ FL ²	Open Year Round	No Limit Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Marlin, White ¹	66 LJ FL ²	Open Year Round	
Roundscale Spearfish		Open Year Round	
Sailfish ¹	63 LJ FL ²	Open Year Round	
Swordfish ¹	47" Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) or 25" Cleithrum to Caudal Keel (CK)	Open Year Round	1 per person No more than 4 per vessel trip
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	36 FL	Open Year Round	1 daily per person No more than 2 per vessel
Wahoo	None	Open Year Round	Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Dolphin	None	Open Year Round	Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Drum, Black	16" min total length 27" max total length	Open Year Round	5/person bag and possession (one over 27 TL)
Drum, Red	18" min total length 27" max total length	Open Year Round	4 daily per person - bag 2,4 None over 27" max total length Retention by captain and crew on charter or head boats while on a for-hire trip is prohibited
Crab, Blue	No Limit (No egg bearing females)	Open Year Round	12 dozen/person/day except on State Refuges and WMAs where the limit is 12 dozen/boat or vehicle
Crab, Stone	No Limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Flounder, Southern	No Limit	Open Year Round	10/person/bag and possession No possession allowed October 15-November 30
Mackerel, King	24 FL	Open Year Round	3/person/day (2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	Open Year Round	15/person/day (2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)
Mullet, Striped	No Limit	Open Year Round	100 lb/person/day
Seabass, Black	No Limit	Open Year Round	No bag or possession limit
Seatrout, Spotted	13" min total length 20" max total length	Open Year Round	15 daily per person with no more than 2 over 20" max total length Retention by captain and crew on charter or head boats while on a for hire trip is prohibited
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	5/person/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
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	The recreational greater amberjack season is open May 1-31. There is a fixed closed season from June 1-July 31. The season reopens August 1-October 31, or until the annual quota is met or projected to be met. For more information, go to www.wlf.la.gov/news?cat=18 OR sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/2018/021/index.html	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser Rudderfish, Banded	14-22 FL slot	The recreational greater amberjack season is open May 1-31. There is a fixed closed season from June 1-July 31. The season reopens August 1-October 31, or until the annual quota is met or projected to be met. For more information, go to www.wlf.la.gov/news?cat=18 OR sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/2018/021/index.html	5/person/day in aggregate
Hogfish	14 FL	Open Year Round	5/person/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
GROUPE			
Gag, Black Grouper	24 TL	There is a closed season for the recreational harvest of gag from Jan. 1 through May 31 of each year	4/person/day in aggregate all Groupers - 1 Speckled Hind Grouper/vessel - 1 Warsaw Grouper/vessel - 2 Red Grouper/person - 2 Gag/person
Red, Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	A closed season for the recreational harvest of Black, Red, Yellowfin and Yellowmouth groupers as well as Scamp has also been established from February 1-March 31 of each year seaward of the 20 fathom (120 feet) curve.	
Scamp	16 TL		
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Speckled Hind, Misty Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw	Aggregate		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper	PROHIBITED		
SNAPPER			
Red	16 TL	Set annually by State	4 Daily Per Person Subject to change mid-season Possession information check the LDWF website at: www.wlf.la.gov/fishing/recreational-fishing . Updated to 4 fish by State.
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogany, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray (Mangrove)	12 TL	Open Year Round	10/person/day in aggregate (all except Red, Vermilion, Lane)
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	Open Year Round	No more than 5 in 10 fish aggregate
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman	No Limit	Open Year Round	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Open Year Round	No more than 10 in 20 fish aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL	There is a Closed Season for recreational harvest of Gray triggerfish from January 1 through the end of February and from June 1-July 31 annually.	No more than 1 in 20 fish aggregate

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Lane Snapper	8 TL	Open Year Round	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	No Limit	Open Year Round	
SHARKS			
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead	No Limit	Open Year Round	1/person/day (each species)
			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, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		
Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
TUNAS ¹			
Bluefin	73 C FL ³	Open Year Round	1 per vessel per year with appropriate federal permit as incidental catch during the open season; Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Yellowfin	27 C FL ³	Open Year Round	3/person Recreational Offshore Landing Permit required
Bigeye	27 C FL ³	Open Year Round	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

⁴ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

MISSISSIPPI

Commercial Law Summary 2025

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

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ³	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Open Year Round	Federal Reef Fish Permit Required Federal Regulations Apply
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	Open Year Round	
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL	Open Year Round	
TUNAS			
Bigeye & Yellowfin	27 C FL ²	Open Year Round	Federal Tuna Permit Required Federal Regulations Apply
Skipjack & Albacore	No Size Limit	Open Year Round	
Bluefin	PROHIBITED		
Blue Marlin	PROHIBITED		
White Marlin			
Sailfish			
Longbill Spearfish			
SHARKS			
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth	25 TL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue		Open Year Round	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ³	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
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.		
Atlantic Tarpon	PROHIBITED		
Crabs - Hard Shell	5 in TW ²	Open Year Round	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	Open Year Round	

¹ C FL = Curved Fork Length.

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

³ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

MISSISSIPPI

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁵	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Cobia ⁴	36 FL	Open Year Round	2	
Flounder	12 TL	Open Year Round	10	
Red Drum	18-30 TL	Open Year Round	3 (one over 30 TL)	
Spotted Seatrout	15 TL	Open Year Round	15	
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round	3	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round	15	
Sheepshead	14 TL	Open Year Round	15	
SNAPPERS ⁴				
Red Snapper	16 TL	Open Year Round	2	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Open Year Round	10/person	20 in aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL	Open Year Round	1/person	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	Open Year Round		
Almaco Jack	No Size Limit	Open Year Round		
Tilefish		Open Year Round		
Gray ⁴ , Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snappers	12 TL	Open Year Round	10 in aggregate	
Mutton Snapper (no more than five within the 10 fish aggregate)	18 TL	Open Year Round		
Queen, Blackfin, Silk & Wenchman Snapper	No Size Limit	Open Year Round		
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	Open Year Round	3	
GROUPERS ⁴				
Warsaw	No Size Limit	Open Year Round	1/vessel within 4 fish aggregate	
Speckled Hind		Open Year Round		
Gag	24 TL	Open Year Round	2 within 4 fish aggregate	
Red, Yellowfin	20 TL	Open Year Round	4 in aggregate	
Black	24 TL	Open Year Round		
Scamp	16 TL	Open Year Round		
Other Groupers	No Size Limit	Open Year Round		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁵	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Greater Amberjack ⁴	34 FL	Open Year Round	1
Lesser Amberjack ⁴ , Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL	Open Year Round	5 in aggregate
Hogfish	14 FL	Open Year Round	5
TUNAS			
Bigeye	27 C FL ¹	Open Year Round	No Limit
Yellowfin		Open Year Round	3
Bluefin		Open Year Round	1/vessel/week (incidental) All landings must be reported to the MDMR
Blue Marlin	99 L J FL ²	Open Year Round	No Limit
White Marlin	66 L J FL ²	Open Year Round	
Sailfish	63 L J FL ²	Open Year Round	
Swordfish	47 L J FL ²	Open Year Round	
Longbill Spearfish	PROHIBITED		
SHARKS			
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth	25 TL	Open Year Round	4
Sharks – Large Coastal Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Sandbar, Scalloped Hammerhead, Silky, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, Tiger	37 TL	Open Year Round	1 per person, up to 3/vessel
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue	37 TL	Open Year Round	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁵	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
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		
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	Open Year Round	1/vessel/day
Smalltooth Sawfish	PROHIBITED		
Largetooth Sawfish			
Spotted Eagle Ray			
Atlantic Manta Ray			
Crabs - Hard Shell	5 TW ³	Open Year Round	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Size Limit	Open Year Round	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.

⁵ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

TEXAS

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Amberjack, Greater	38 TL	Open Year Round	1/person and 2 possession
Catfish, Blue and Channel	14 TL	Open Year Round	25/person in any combination 50 possession Exceptions to daily bag limit: 1) In Lakes Caddo, Livingston, Sam Rayburn, and Toledo Bend, and the Sabine River from Toledo Bend dam to the I.H. 10 bridge, the daily bag limit for blue and channel catfish is 50 in any combination, and no more than 5 catfish 30" or greater in length may be retained per day. 2) In lakes lying totally within a state park and community fishing lakes, the daily bag limit for blue and channel catfish is 5 in any combination, taken by pole and line only. *Counties where sale and purchase of catfish taken from public fresh water is allowed under the provisions of Parks and Wildlife Code, §66.111(b)(5): 25 (in any combination).
Catfish, Gaff-topsail	14 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit
Cobia	40 TL	Open Year Round	1/person and 2 possession Not allowed on shrimping vessels
Drum, Black	14-30 TL slot	Open Year Round	No Limit with commercial finfish fisherman's license
Flounder: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	15 TL	Always Closed November 1-December 14	30/commercial finfish license 5/licensed shrimp boat captain

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Grouper, Black	24 TL	See Federal IFQ regulations for this species	4/person and 8 possession IFQ regulations apply for this species: (a) The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department adopted by reference the provisions of 50 CFR §622.21, 622.22, and 622.30, which shall govern the commercial take, possession, transportation, and landing of red snapper, grouper, and tilefish in Texas waters. (b) No person for commercial purposes may take, possess, land, or sell red snapper, grouper, or tilefish in or via state waters unless that person possesses a valid federal Commercial Vessel Permit with applicable endorsements (if required) as provided by 50 CFR §622.20.
Grouper, Gag	24 TL	See Federal IFQ regulations for this species	2/person and 4 possession IFQ regulations apply for this species: (a) The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department adopted by reference the provisions of 50 CFR §622.21, 622.22, and 622.30, which shall govern the commercial take, possession, transportation, and landing of red snapper, grouper, and tilefish in Texas waters. (b) No person for commercial purposes may take, possess, land, or sell red snapper, grouper, or tilefish in or via state waters unless that person possesses a valid federal Commercial Vessel Permit with applicable endorsements (if required) as provided by 50 CFR §622.20.
Grouper, Goliath	PROHIBITED		
Grouper, Nassau			

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Mackerel, King	27 TL	The commercial seasons for King Mackerel caught in Texas waters shall run concurrently with commercial seasons established for the same species caught in federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).	3/person and 6 possession Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Mackerel, Spanish	14 TL	Open Year Round	15/person and 30 possession Not allowed for shrimping vessels
Mullet: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	• No Limit (Feb. through Sept.) • 12 TL maximum (Oct. through Jan.)	Open Year Round	No Limit
Sawfish, Largetooth	PROHIBITED		
Sawfish, Smalltooth			
SNAPPER			
Lane	8 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit
Red	15 TL	The commercial seasons for Red Snapper caught in Texas waters shall run concurrently with commercial seasons established for the same species caught in federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).	4/person and 8 possession (circle hook and line only) IFQ regulations apply for this species: (a) The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department adopted by reference the provisions of 50 CFR §622.21, 622.22, and 622.30, which shall govern the commercial take, possession, transportation, and landing of red snapper, grouper, and tilefish in Texas waters. (b) No person for commercial purposes may take, possess, land, or sell red snapper, grouper, or tilefish in or via state waters unless that person possesses a valid federal Commercial Vessel Permit with applicable endorsements (if required) as provided by 50 CFR §622.20.
Vermilion	10 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
SHARKS			
Shark – All other allowable shark species	64 TL	The commercial seasons for Sharks caught in Texas waters shall run concurrently with commercial seasons established for the same species caught in federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited; not allowed for shrimping vessels
Shark – Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, and Bonnethead	24 TL	The commercial seasons for Sharks caught in Texas waters shall run concurrently with commercial seasons established for the same species caught in federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).	1/person and 2 possession; not allowed for shrimping vessels
Shark – Great, Scalloped, and Smooth Hammerhead	99 TL	The commercial seasons for Sharks caught in Texas waters shall run concurrently with commercial seasons established for the same species caught in federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).	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, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	PROHIBITED		
Sheepshead	15 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit with commercial finfish license
Triggerfish	16 TL	Open Year Round	20/person and 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL	Open Year Round	3/person and 6 possession

¹ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

TEXAS

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	DAILY BAG
Amberjack, Greater	38 TL	Open Year Round	1/person and 2 possession
Bass: Striped, its hybrids and subspecies	18 TL	Open Year Round	5 in any combination/person 10 possession
Catfish: Channel and Blue Catfish, their hybrids and subspecies	No Limit	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	5/person and 10 possession
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14 TL	Open Year Round	No limit
Cobia	40 TL	Open Year Round	1/person and 2 possession
Drum, Black	14-30 TL slot	Open Year Round	5/person and 10 possession May include one over 52"
Drum, Red	20-28 TL slot	Open Year Round	3/person and 6 possession In addition to the daily bag and possession limit, one Red Drum over 28" may be retained per license year with an affixed Red Drum Tag. One additional Red Drum over 28" may also be retained per license year with an affixed bonus Red Drum Tag
Flounder: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	15 TL	Always Closed from November 1-December 14	5/person total
Grouper, Black	24 TL	Open Year Round	4/person and 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL	Open Year Round	2/person and 4 possession

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	DAILY BAG
Grouper, Goliath and Nassau	Catch and Release ONLY	Open Year Round	PROHIBITED
Mackerel, King	27 TL	Open Year Round	3/person and 6 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14 TL	Open Year Round	15/person and 30 possession
Marlin, Blue	131 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit
Marlin, White	86 TL	Open Year Round	
Sailfish	84 TL	Open Year Round	
Mullet: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	No Limit 12 TL maximum (October through January)	Open Year Round	No Limit
Sawfish, Largetooth	PROHIBITED		
Sawfish, Smalltooth			
Seatrout, Spotted	15-20 TL slot	Open Year Round	*On September 1, 2024 the following limits took effect: 15-20 slot, 3/person and 6 possession. A new spotted seatrout tag was created to allow anglers to harvest one oversized spotted seatrout greater than 28 inches per license year; a \$3 Bonus Spotted Seatrout tag was also created to allow the retention of one additional oversized spotted seatrout per license year.
Sheepshead	15 TL	Open Year Round	5/person and 10 possession

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	DAILY BAG
SNAPPER			
Lane	8 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit
Red	15 TL - State 16 TL - Federal	State Waters Open Year Round Federal Waters Opens: June 1 Closes: In season harvest is monitored to determine the closure date. Once determined, the department will issue a media release to provide the closure date to the public.	State Waters 4/person and 8 possession (circle hook and line only with natural baits) Applies to private recreational anglers in state waters. Federal Waters 2/person (during open season) Applies to private recreational anglers in federal waters.
Vermilion	10 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit
SHARKS			
Great, Scalloped, and Smooth Hammerhead	99 TL	Open Year Round	1/person and 2 possession
All other allowable shark species	64 TL	Open Year Round	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, Bonnethead	24 TL	Open Year Round	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White	PROHIBITED (Catch and Release ONLY)		
Snook	24-28 TL slot	Open Year Round	1/person and 2 possession
Tarpon	85 TL	Open Year Round	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	DAILY BAG
Triggerfish	16 TL	Open Year Round	20/person and 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL	Open Year Round	3/person and 6 possession

¹ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

GULF FEDERAL WATERS

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	DAILY BAG LIMIT
SNAPPERS			
Red	13 TL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail, Cubera	12 TL	Open Year Round	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	Open Year Round	
Tilefish	None	Open Year Round	Commercial Reef Fish Permit required IFQ
GROUPERS			
Black	24 TL	Open Year Round	IFQ
Gag	24 TL		
Red	18 TL		
Yellowfin	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Yellowmouth	None		
Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None		
Goliath and Nassau	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	DAILY BAG LIMIT	
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	Open Year Round	None	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot		7-fish/trip limit	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Subject to in-season closure* Season Closed: March 1-May 31; *Season Closed: September 2-Dec. 31	None	
Almaco Jack	None	Open Year Round	None	
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	Open Year Round	2/vessel/day	Federal Spanish Mackerel or King Mackerel permit required to sell fish
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round (all zones)	None	Spanish Mackerel Permit Required
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	King Mackerel Permit Required
		Southern Zone: Opens Tuesday after MLK, Jr. holiday in January	Gill Net Southern Zone: 45,000 lb/trip	Gill Net Endorsement and King Mackerel Permit Required

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Atlantic Bluefin	73 C FL ⁴	Open Year Round	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply ^{2, 3} Longline: IBQ program
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 C FL ⁴	Open Year Round	No Limit
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Blue Marlin	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
White Marlin			
Roundscale Spearfish			
Sailfish			
Longbill Spearfish			
Red Drum	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Swordfish	47 L J FL ⁵ , or 25 cleithrum to keel	Open Year Round	Federal Swordfish Permit Federal Regulations Apply ²
SHARKS			
Sharks – Large Coastal	None	Open Year Round	Federal Shark Limited Access Permit Federal Regulations Apply ² (Harvested Sandbar Sharks MUST have a valid research permit and NMFS-approved observer on board.)
Sharks – Small Coastal	None	Open Year Round	Federal Shark Limited Access Permit Federal Regulations Apply ²
Sharks – Pelagic			Shortfin Mako retention is zero.
Sharks – Smoothhound			Federal Smoothhound Permit for open access

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, 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

⁶ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

GULF FEDERAL WATERS

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁸	DAILY BAG LIMIT
SNAPPERS			
Red Snapper ¹	Federal For-Hire: 16 TL Private Recreational: Determined by each Gulf State	Subject to in-season closure* For-Hire Season Closed: January 1-May 31 *For-Hire Season Closed: August 28- November 17 Private season 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	Open Year Round	10/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Lane ¹	8 TL	Subject to in-season closure*	20/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Mutton	18 TL	Open Year Round	5/person within the 10-snapper aggregate
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail	12 TL	Open Year Round	10/person within the 10-snapper aggregate
Cubera			
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	Open Year Round	
Almaco Jack, Golden Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	Open Year Round	20/person in 20-reef fish aggregate

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁸		DAILY BAG LIMIT
GROUPERS				For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Gag	24 TL	Subject to in-season closure* Season Closed January-August 31 Season Closed October 20-December 31*		Closed January-May 2/person included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Red ⁵	20 TL	Subject to in-season closure* Season Closed June 1-Dec. 31*	Season Closed: Feb 1-Mar 31 when fishing beyond the 20-fathom break	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	Open Year Round		
Speckled Hind, Warsaw	None	Open Year Round		1/vessel included in 4-Grouper aggregate
Goliath and Nassau	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED			
Hogfish ¹	14 FL	Open Year Round		5/person
Gray Triggerfish	15 FL	Subject to in-season closure		1/person included in 20-reef fish aggregate
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	Subject to in-season closure* Season Closed January 1-July 31 Season Closed Sept 27 -December 31*		1/person; for-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit
Lesser Amberjack and Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL	Open Year Round		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	Open Year Round		2/vessel
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round		3/person including for-hire captain & crew

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁸	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round	15/person
Bluefin Tuna ²	73 C FL ⁶	Open Year Round	1/vessel/year, incidental catch only NMFS prohibits vessels from targeting Bluefin Tuna in the Gulf 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	Open Year Round	3/person/day or trip for Yellowfin, none for Bigeye
Albacore, Skipjack ²	None	Open Year Round	None
Blue Marlin ³	99 L J FL ⁷	Open Year Round	None
White Marlin ³	66 L J FL ⁷		
Roundscale Spearfish ³			
Sailfish ³	63 L J FL ⁷		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁸	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Swordfish ²	47 L J FL ⁷ , or 25 cleithrum to keel	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	1/person/trip
Bonnethead			
Smoothhound	None	Open Year Round	None
Hammerheads (Great, Smooth, Scalloped) ⁴	78 FL	Open Year Round	1 total/trip (except prohibited species)
Shortfin Mako	71 FL males and 83 FL females	Open Year Round	None
All Other Sharks ⁴	54 FL	Open Year Round	1 total/trip (except prohibited species)

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁸	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, 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 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

⁸ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

EAST FLORIDA

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Ballyhoo Halfbeaks, Balao, Silver Stripe Halfbeaks	No size limit	Lampara net prohibited August 1-31	Dependent on license/gear
Black Drum	14-24 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish	Open Year Round	500 lb/person/day or 500 lb/vessel/day, whichever is less
Blue Crab	5 inches total width	Open Year Round	No Limit
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	1/person, 2/vessel
Dolphin	20 FL Size limit applies to purchase and sale of fish	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	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		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Gag, Black	24 TL	Closed January-April	No Limit
Scamp, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth, Red	20 TL		
Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby, Tiger	No size limit		
Yellowedge, Misty	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Golden Tilefish		Open Year Round	500 lb gw
Tilefish, all other		Open Year Round	No Limit
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	Open Year Round	
Blueback & River Herring	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Hogfish	16 FL (size limit applies to imported fish)	Closed November 1-April 30	
Horseshoe Crab	No size limit	Open Year Round	25/person/day (100/person/day w/ ML#)
Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot	Open Year Round	No Limit
Lesser Amberjack			
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	Closed March-May	Season 1-1,200 lb vessel limit Season 2-1000 lb
Lobster, Slipper	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit - Possession of egg-bearing lobster prohibited
Lobster, Spiny	3 in carapace (head) 5½ tail	Open August 6-March 30	Trap fishery - No Limit Bully Net Permit - 250/day Dive Endorsement - 250/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Mackerel, King	24 FL	North of the Flagler/Volusia line Open March 1-September 30 Season 2: October 1-February 28 South of the Flagler/Volusia line to the Volusia/Brevard line Open March 1-September 30 Season 2: October 1-February 28 South of the Volusia/Brevard line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe line Open March 1-September 30 Season 2: October 1-February 28	Duval/Flagler/Nassau/St. John's: April 1-March 31 @3,500 lb/vessel/day; when EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies. Volusia: April 1-October 31 @3,500 lb/vessel/day; when EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies. 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. Monroe: April 1-October 31 @1,250lb/vessel/day; November 1-March 31 @500lb/vessel/day; when EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	Open Year-Round	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	No Limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
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	No Limit
Oysters	3 inch greatest dimension	Open Year Round	20 bags/person/day or 20/vessel/day Additional regional limits & restrictions apply
Permit	11-20 FL	No Direct Harvest	No Directed Harvest 100 bycatch; only bycatch allowed outside SPZ when using nets for other species of fish
Pompano	11-20 FL	Open Year Round	250/vessel/day Unlimited for persons holding a Pompano Endorsement
Pompano, African	24 FL	Open Year Round	2/person/day or 2/vessel/day Spearing prohibited in state waters
Scallops, Calico	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit; maximum of 250 individual meats per 1 lb sample
Shad (Alabama, American, Hickory)	No size limit	Open Year Round	10/person/day
SHARKS			
Sharks	No size limit	Open Year Round	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.

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
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	Open Year Round	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, including the NE Region.
SNAPPERS			
Red	20 TL	Open Year Round	2 per trip
Mutton	18 TL	Open Year Round	500 lb per trip July 1-March 31 5 fish - April, May, June
Vermilion, Gray, Yellowtail, Dog, Mahogany, Blackfin, Silk, Queen	12 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit
Lane	8 TL	Open Year Round	
Schoolmaster	10 TL	Open Year Round	
Black/Wenchman	No size limit	Open Year Round	
Cubera	12-30 TL only two (2) >30 TL	Open Year Round	>30 - 2/vessel/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Spotted Seatrout	15-24 TL	South Region, Big Bend Region, and Western Panhandle Region: Beginning June 1-Ending October 31 Central East Region: Beginning May 1-September 30 Northeast Region: Beginning June 1-November 30	75/person/day or 100/vessel/day with 2 licensed fishermen aboard
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	Open Year Round	No Limit HMS Permit required
Triggerfish, Gray	12 FL	Open Year Round	Fed. Waters 1000 lb. trip limit until quota reached
Triggerfish, Ocean	No size limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	10/vessel/day Permit required (Incidental bycatch 2/vessel/day)
Wahoo	No size limit	Open Year Round	500 lb/vessel/day Fed Permit required
Weakfish (Gray Seatrout or Yellow-mouth Trout)	12 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit

¹ L J FL = Lower Jaw Fork Length.

² Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

EAST FLORIDA

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Amberjack, Greater	28 FL	Closed April	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser, and Banded Rudderfish	14-22 FL slot	Open Year Round	5 in aggregate
Blue Marlin	99 FL	Open Year Round	1/person/day in aggregate (HMS permit required)
White Marlin	66 FL	Open Year Round	
Sailfish	63 FL	Open Year Round	
Black Drum	14-24 TL (1 over 24)	Open Year Round	5/person/day
Bluefish	12 FL	Open Year Round	10/person/day
Bonefish	PROHIBITED - No Harvest Allowed		
Cobia	36 FL	Open Year Round	1/person/day 2/vessel/day
Crab, Blue	No Size Limit	Open Year Round	10 gallons whole/person/day
Crab, Stone	2½ 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	Open Year Round	5/person/day, 30/vessel/day
Flounder	12 TL	Closed October 15-November 30	10/person/day
Great Barracuda	Collier, Monroe, Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties: 15-36 TL (1 over 36)	Open Year Round	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

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
GROUPE AGGREGATE				
Goliath	PROHIBITED UNLESS PROPERLY PERMITTED			
Gag	24 TL	Open May 1-June 25	1/person/day	<u>Atlantic:</u> Shallow water groupers closed January 1-April 30 <u>AGGREGATE LIMIT</u> <u>Atlantic & Monroe:</u> 3 fish/ 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	
Yellowfin & Yellowmouth	20 TL	Shallow water groupers closed January 1-April 30	3	
Scamp	20 TL	Shallow water groupers closed January 1-April 30		
Warsaw & Speckled Hind	No size limit	Shallow water groupers closed January 1-April 30	1/vessel/day/each	
Snowy		Shallow water groupers closed January 1-April 30	1/person/day	
Groupers, Other		Shallow water groupers closed January 1-April 30	3	
Golden Tilefish		Shallow water groupers closed January 1-April 30	1 per person	
Hogfish	16 TL	Open May 1-Oct. 31		
Blueline Tilefish		Open May 1-August 31	3/person within 3 grouper aggregate	
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round	2/person/day (excluding Monroe)	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round	15/person/day	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Mullet, Striped & Silver	No size limit	Open Year Round	50/person/day, Vessel limit 50 or 100 depending on season
Pompano	11 FL	Open Year Round	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)	Open Year Round Inside SPZ Closed April 1-July 31	Not in SPZ ² : 2/person/day (one over 22 in/person and 2/vessel)
	24 FL	Open Year Round	2/person or vessel/day
Red Drum	18-27 TL	Open Year Round	1/person/day all state waters. Indian River Lagoon Region: Catch and Release Northeast Region: 4 fish/vessel limit Southeast Region: 2 fish/vessel limit
Black Sea Bass	13 TL	Open Year Round	5/person/day
Shad	No size limit	Open Year Round	10 aggregate/person/day
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	Open Year Round	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day
Sharks – Small Coastal Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth			
Sharks – Pelagic Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Blue			

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
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	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	5 fish/ person/day	
Mutton	18 TL	Open Year Round	5 fish/ person/day	
Red	20 TL	Open Year Round	*Zero bag & possession for captain/crew on for-hire vessels	
Schoolmaster	10 TL	Open Year Round	10 fish /person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL	Open Year Round	10 fish /person/day	
Lane	8 TL	Open Year Round	Not Included in aggregate	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁴	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Vermilion	12 TL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	1/person/day or 4/vessel/day
Tarpon	No size limit	Open Year Round	1 fish possession Requires Tarpon Tag
Triggerfish, Gray	12 FL	Closed January, February, and June	10/person/day
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	2/person/day
Wahoo	No size limit	Open Year Round	2/person/day
Weakfish	12 in (Wildlife Management areas only); Other areas: no minimum	Open Year Round	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.

⁴ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

GEORGIA

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	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 ¹	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)(I)]. 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.

¹ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

GEORGIA

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	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**	15-25 TL	Open Year Round	3
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

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	DAILY LIMIT/POSSESSION
Small shark composite (SSC) ^A – Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Spiny Dogfish	30 FL	Open Year Round	1 per angler
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.

¹ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ³	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	No Possession limit - General Trawl Zone is closed to crab traps when trawling season is open – sponge crabs are prohibited – no harvest above saltwater dividing line
Bluefish		Open Year Round	Federal Quota Limits Apply
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	No possession limit
Clams – Wild Harvest	½ inch	Typically, October-May	No possession limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ³	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
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
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

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ³	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
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
Tuna Bigeye, Bluefin, Yellowfin, Albacore, Skipjack ¹		Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
Tuna Blackfin, Little Tunny, Bonita		Open Year Round	Federal Permit and Limits Apply
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.

³ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ^D	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	Open Year Round	5/person/day
Bluefish	No size limit	Open Year Round	3/person/day 5/person in the for-hire fishery
Flounder Southern, Summer, Gulf	16 TL	Open Year Round	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	POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Sheepshead	14 TL	Open Year Round	10/person/day 30/boat/day
Striped Bass**	26 TL	Closed June 16-September 30	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	Open Year Round	1/person/day
Tripletail	18 TL	Open Year Round	3/person/day 9/boat/day
Weakfish	12 TL	Open Year Round	1/person/day
Atlantic Croaker, Spot, Whiting	No size limit	Open Year Round	50/person/day aggregate

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ^D	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	Open Year Round	10/person/day 54/boat/day Headboats have no boat limit.
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round	3/person/day
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round	15/person/day
Wahoo	No size limit	Open Year Round	2/person/day
SNAPPER-GROUPER COMPLEX In Federal Waters (no snapper-grouper closures in state waters)			
Greater Amberjack	28 FL	Closed in April	1/person/day
Hogfish	17 FL	Open Year Round	2/person/day
Wreckfish	No size limit	Closed January -April and July-December	1/boat/day
Black Sea Bass	13 TL	Open Year Round	7/person/day
Red Porgy	14 TL	Open Year Round	1/person/day
Vermillion Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	5/person/day
Red Snapper	20 TL	Open Year Round	2/person/day
Lane Snapper	8 TL	Open Year Round	10/person/day aggregate
Cubera, Yellowtail, Gray Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	
Blackfin, Silk, Queen Snapper	No size limit	Open Year Round	
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	Open Year Round	5/person/day, included in the aggregate above
Gag and Black Grouper	24 TL	Closed January 1-April 30 and June 26-December 31	Included in 3 grouper aggregate bag limit. Maximum one Gag or Black Grouper (but not both)/person/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ^D	RECREATIONAL POSSESSION
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	Closed March 21-December 31	1/person/day
Sand Tilefish ^A	No size limit	Open Year Round	3/person/day
Blueline Tilefish ^A	No size limit	Closed July 22-December 31	3/person/day
Misty and Yellowedge Grouper	No size limit	Open Year Round	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 June 9-December 31	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate bag limit; only 1 fish/vessel/day
Warsaw and Speckled Hind	PROHIBITED		
Nassau and Goliath Grouper			
Other Snapper/Grouper Complex	No size limit	Open Year Round	20/person/day aggregate with no more than 10 of any one species
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL	Open Year Round	
Spadefish	14 TL	Open Year Round	30/boat/day (state waters)
BILLFISH AND ATLANTIC TUNAS			
Blue Marlin**	99 FL from lower jaw	Open Year Round	
White Marlin**	66 FL from lower jaw	Open Year Round	
Sailfish**	63 FL from lower jaw	Open Year Round	
Swordfish ^B	47 FL from lower jaw	Open Year Round	1/person/day not to exceed 4/vessel/trip
Roundscale Spearfish**	66 from lower jaw	Open Year Round	
Longbill Spearfish	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ^D	RECREATIONAL POSSESSION
Bigeye Tuna	27 curved FL	Open Year Round	
Bluefin Tuna	For size and bag limits: https://hmspermits.noaa.gov	Open Year Round	3/person/day
Yellowfin Tuna	27 curved FL		
SHARKS			
Dogfish (spiny and smooth)	No associated regulations		
Atlantic Sharpnose	No size limit	Open Year Round	1/person/day
Bonnethead			
Blacknose, Blacktip, Blue, Bull, Finetooth, Lemon, Nurse, Porbeagle, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger	54 FL	Open Year Round	1 of group/vessel/day
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead	78 FL	Open Year Round	1 of group/vessel/day
Sharks – Prohibited Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bignose, Dusky, Galapagos, Shortfin Mako, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Caribbean Reef, Sandbar, Sevengill, Caribbean Sharpnose, Silky, Bigeye Sixgill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Bigeye Thresher, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Sand Tiger, Whale, White Shark	POSSESSION PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ^D	RECREATIONAL POSSESSION
CRUSTACEANS			
Blue Crabs	5-inch minimum carapace (point to point)	Open Year Round	1 US bushel per person per day and 2 US bushels per boat per day. Females with sponge must be returned to water unharmed immediately
Stone Crabs	Claws must be 2¾ inch minimum forearm	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	2/person/day Berried females prohibited
Oysters	No size limit	Typically closed May 16-September 30	2 US bushels per person per day, no more than 3 personal limits in boat or vehicle
Clams	1 inch minimum thickness	Typically closed May 16-September 30	½ US bushel per person per day, no more than 3 personal limits in boat or vehicle
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.

^D Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

NORTH CAROLINA

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
SNAPPER GROUPER			
Black Sea Bass (North of Cape Hatteras)	11 TL (excluding the caudal fin filament)	January 1-December 31, or when 80% of quota is met	3,000 lb/trip for fish pots, traps, and hook-and-line gear
			5,000 lb/trip for trawls
			100 lb for any other gear
Black Sea Bass (South of Cape Hatteras)	11 TL	Hook and Line Gear	
		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
		Pot Gear	
		April 1-30 and 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	June 1-December 31	200 lb GW per trip
Yellowfin and Yellowmouth Grouper, Scamp		May 1-December 31	No Limit
Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby	None		
Snowy Grouper	None	January 1-June 30 and July 1-December 31	200 lb GW per trip

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Black Grouper	24 TL	May 1- December 31	No trip limit
Gag Grouper		May 1-December 1	300 lb GW per trip
Speckled Hind, Warsaw Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Goliath Grouper	PROHIBITED		
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	May 1-March 31	1,200 lb (WW or GW) per trip
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		500 lb (WW) per trip
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	January 1-March 31 July 1-December 31	
		April 1-June 30	5/person/day or 5/person/trip
Red Snapper	None	July 14-September 23	75 lb (GW) per trip
Yellowtail Snapper, Cubera Snapper, Gray Snapper	12 TL	Open 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	None		
Red Porgy	14 TL	Open Year Round	15/vessel/day or 15/vessel/trip
Scup (<i>South of Cape Hatteras</i>)	None	Open Year Round	No Limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Scup (North of Cape Hatteras)	9 TL	January 1-April 30 or when 80% of quota is met	50,000 lb per trip
		May 1-September 30 or until quota is met	100 lb per trip
		October 1-December 31 or until quota is met	15,000 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 or until quota is met	200 lb per trip
Whitebone Porgy, Jolthead Porgy, Knobbed Porgy, Saucereye Porgy	None	Open Year Round	No Limit
Golden Tilefish	None	January 15-October 16	4,000 lb per trip with longline endorsement
		January 1 until quota is met	500 lb (GW) per trip for hook-and-line
Blueline Tilefish	None	January 1-April 30	100 lb (GW) per trip
		May 1-July 23 September 21-26	300 lb (GW) per trip
Gray Triggerfish	12 TL	Open Year Round	1,000 lb (WW) per trip

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Flounder Summer Flounder and other	TRAWL GEAR ONLY		
	None	January 1-February 15 or once 80% of quota is met	Max 12,500 lb/trip More than 100 lb not to be landed in any consecutive 5-day period
	POUND NET ONLY		
	15 TL	September 15 until quota met North of Pamlico Sound	500 lb/trip
		October 1 until quota met Pamlico Sound and tribs	750 lb/trip
		October 1 until quota met Core Sound and south	500 lb/trip
Bluefish	None	Open Year Round; Closed when quota is met	300 lb/day or 300 lb per/trip
American Shad	None	Cape Fear River: February 20-April 11 Atlantic Ocean: Closed All other areas: February 15-April 14	No Limit
Hickory Shad		January 1-April 14	
Cobia	36 FL	Open Year Round; Closed when quota is met	2/person/day or 6/vessel/day; whichever is more restrictive
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	March 1-November 14 or when ACL is met	3,500 lb/day in aggregate
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round	
Striped Bass (Albemarle Sound)	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Mullet	None	January 1-September 30: Closed 11:59 PM Friday to 12:01 AM Monday each week	No Limit
		October 1-December 31: Closed 11:59 PM Friday to 12:01 AM Tuesday each week	
Horseshoe Crabs	None	January 1-April 30 July 20-November 16	50/day/fishing operation

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	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)			
Spiny Dogfish		November 20-April 30 or when quota is met	15,000 lb/trip

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
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.

² Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

NORTH CAROLINA

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Bluefish	None	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	2 per day
Dolphin	None	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	3 per day
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round	15 per day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Tuna- Bluefin	For size and bag limits: https://hmspermits.noaa.gov	Open Year Round	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	27 CFL		
Tuna – Yellowfin			
Spiny Dogfish	None	Open Year Round	No Limit
SHARKS	Recreational Shore-Anglers: 1 shark from the recreationally permitted species list per person per calendar day 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)		
LARGE COASTAL – Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead*, Scalloped Hammerhead*, Smooth Hammerhead*, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger	Hammerheads: 78 FL Non-Hammerheads: 54 FL	Open Year Round	*Unlawful to possess while in possession of tunas, billfish, or swordfish. 1 per vessel OR 1 per person for shore-anglers
SMALL COASTAL – Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead	None	Open Year Round	1 per person of each species per day
SMALL COASTAL – Blacknose, Finetooth	54 FL	Open Year Round	1 per vessel OR 1 per person for shore-anglers
PELAGIC – Blue, Porbeagle, Thresher	54 FL	Open Year Round	1 per vessel
OTHER – Smooth Dogfish (Smoothhound), Spiny Dogfish	Exempt	Open Year Round	Exempt

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
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, Oceanic Whitetip	PROHIBITED		
Blue Marlin	99 LJFL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	
Sailfish	63 LJFL	Open Year Round	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	Open Year Round	1 per day
Flounder	15 TL	September 1-14	1 per day
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout)	14–20 TL, 1 greater than 26	July 1-December 31 (due to cold stun closure)	3 per day
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	12 TL	Open Year Round	1 per day
Sheepshead	10 TL	Open Year Round	10 per day
Black Drum	14-25 TL	Open Year Round	10 per day; 1 per person per day over 25 TL
Tarpon	PROHIBITED		
Striped Bass	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
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 (North of Cape Hatteras only)	9 TL	Open Year Round	30 per day
Black Sea Bass (North of Cape Hatteras only)	13 TL	Open: May 15-Sept. 30 & Oct. 10-Dec. 31	15 per day
Black Sea Bass (South of Cape Hatteras only)	13 TL	Open Year Round	7 per day
Shad – American, Hickory	None	January 1-April 14	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. 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. Atlantic Ocean: No more than 10 Hickory Shad per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes. 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.

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
SNAPPERS			
Red Snapper	None	July 11-12	1 per day
Vermillion Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	5 per day
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	17 FL	Open Year Round	2 per day
Yellowtail Snapper, Cubera Snapper, Gray Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	10 fish snapper aggregate/person/day
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	Open Year Round	5 per day within 10 fish snapper aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	Open Year Round	10 fish snapper aggregate/person/day
Queen Snapper	None	Open Year Round	10 fish snapper aggregate/person/day
Silk Snapper	None	Open Year Round	10 fish snapper aggregate/person/day
Blackfin Snapper	None	Open Year Round	10 fish snapper aggregate/person/day
GROUPERS			
Red Grouper	20 TL	June 1-December 31	3 fish aggregate/person/day
Yellowfin (Fireback) Grouper		Gag: May 1- June 25 Others: May 1-December 31	3 fish aggregate/person/day
Yellowmouth or Scamp			3 fish aggregate/person/day
Gag	24 TL		1 per day; 3 fish aggregate/person/day; limit of 2 gag and 2 black grouper per vessel per day not to exceed the daily limit of 1 gag or 1 black grouper per person per day, whichever is more restrictive
Black Grouper			
Rock Hind Grouper	None		3 fish aggregate/person/day
Coney Grouper	None		3 fish aggregate/person/day
Graysby Grouper	None		3 fish aggregate/person/day
Misty Grouper	None	Open Year Round	3 fish aggregate/person/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Snowy Grouper	None	May 1-June 8	1 per vessel per day; 3 fish aggregate/person/day
Yellowedge Grouper	None	Open Year Round	3 fish aggregate/person/day
Grouper – Prohibited Goliath, Nassau, Speckled Hind, Warsaw	PROHIBITED		
PORGYS			
Red Porgy	14 TL	May 1-June 30	1 per person per day, or 1 per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive
Other Porgys – Jolthead, Knobbed, Longspine, Saucereye, Whitebone, Scup	None	Open Year Round	10 within 20 fish aggregate/person/day
Sand Tilefish	None	Open Year Round	3 per day; 3 fish aggregate/person/day
Golden Tilefish	None	January 1-March 21	1 per day; 3 fish aggregate/person/day
Blueline Tilefish	None	May 1-July 21	2 per day; 3 fish aggregate/person/day
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL	Open Year Round	10 within 20 fish aggregate/person/day
Wreckfish	None	July 1-August 31	1 per vessel per day
Greater Amberjack	28 FL	Closed: April 1-30	1 per person per day
Other Jacks – Almaco Jack, Bar, Banded Rudderfish, Lesser Amberjack	None	Open Year Round	10 within 20 fish aggregate/person/day
White Grunt, Sailors Choice, Margate	None	Open Year Round	10 within 20 fish aggregate/person/day
Atlantic Spadefish	None	Open Year Round	
Mullet (Striped and White)	None	Open Year Round	100/Day per person, max 400/vessel

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ⁶	BAG LIMITS (PER PERSON)
Spot	None	Open Year Round	50 per day
Atlantic Croaker	None	Open Year Round	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.

⁶ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

SOUTH ATLANTIC FEDERAL WATERS

Commercial Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
SNAPPER-GROUPER			
Atlantic Spadefish	No Limit	Open Year Round	No Possession Limit; Sector ACL: 150,552 lbs WW
Bar Jack	No Limit	Open Year Round	No Possession Limit; Sector ACL: 13,228 lbs WW
Black Grouper	24 TL	May 1-December 31	No Possession Limit; Sector ACL: 96,844 lbs WW
Black Sea Bass (<i>South of Cape Hatteras</i>)	11 TL	Hook-and-line: Open January 1-April 30	354 lbs WW (300 lbs GW) per trip for hook-and-line
		Hook-and-line: Open May 1-December 31	1,180 lbs WW (1,000 lbs GW) per trip for hook-and-line
		Pots: Open Year Round	1,180 lbs WW (1,000 lbs GW) per trip for pots
		Commercial pot closure ¹	Closed to pot fishing in the designated area
			ACL (all gears): 276,490 lbs ww
Blueline Tilefish	No Limit	Open January 1-April 30	100 lbs GW per trip
		Opened on May 1	300 lbs GW per trip
		Closed on July 23-September 20 due to ACL being projected to be met	
		Re-opened September 21-26	300 lbs GW per trip
		Closed September 27-December 31 due to ACL being projected to be met	Sector ACL: 117,148 lbs WW

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Gag	24 TL	Opened on May 1	300 lbs GW per trip
		Closed December 1-December 31 due to ACL being met	Sector ACL: 171,687 lbs GW
Golden Tilefish	No Limit	Longline: Open January 15-October 17; Closed on October 18 due to gear-specific ACL being projected to be met	4,000 lb (GW) per trip for longline; ACL (longline): 332,165 lbs GW
		Hook-and-line: Open Year Round	500 lb (GW) per trip for hook-and-line; ACL (hook-and-line): 110,722 lbs GW
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL	Open Year Round	Trip Limit: 1,000 lbs gw; ACL (January-June): 156,162 lbs WW; ACL (July-December): 156,162 lbs WW
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	Open March 1-March 31 and May 1-August 31	1,200 lb (WW or GW) per trip; ACL (March 2025-August 2025): 544,990 lbs GW
		Spawning closure: April 1-30	Harvest prohibited during April
		Open September 1-Last day of February	1,200 lb (WW or GW) per trip; ACL (September 2025-February 2026): 363,327 lbs GW
Hogfish (GA-NC)	17 FL	Open Year Round	500 lbs (WW) per trip; Sector ACL: 23,456 lbs WW
Hogfish (East FL-FL Keys)	16 FL	Open Year Round	25 lbs (WW) per trip; Sector ACL: 14,167 lbs WW
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	Open January 1-March 31 and July 1-December 31	500 lbs WW per trip
		Open April 1-June 30	5/person/day or 5/person/trip
			Sector ACL: 111,354 lbs WW

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Red Grouper	20 TL	Federal waters off GA and FL: Open May 1-December 31	200 lbs GW per trip; Sector ACL: 71,280 lbs WW
		Federal waters off NC and SC: Open June 1-December 31	
Red Porgy	14 TL	Open January 1-April 30	15 fish/vessel/day or 15 fish/vessel/trip; Seasonal Sector ACL: 13,500 lbs GW
		Open May 1-December 31	15 fish/vessel/day or 15 fish/vessel/trip; Seasonal Sector ACL: 31,501 lbs GW
Red Snapper	No Limit	Open July 14 (season start date announced annually)-September 24 due to ACL being met	75 lbs GW per trip; Sector ACL: 102,951 lbs WW
Scamp	20 TL	Open May 1-Dec 31	No Possession Limit; Sector ACL: 219,375 lbs WW
Snowy Grouper	No Limit	Open January 1-June 30	200 lb GW per trip; Seasonal Sector ACL: 75,312 lbs GW
		Open July 1-December 31	200 lb GW per trip; Seasonal Sector ACL: 32,277 lbs GW
Vermilion Snapper	12 TL	Open January 1-June 30	1,000 lb GW per trip; Seasonal Sector ACL: 454,240 lbs WW
		Open July 1-December 31	1,000 lb GW per trip; Seasonal Sector ACL: 454,240 lbs WW
Wreckfish	No Limit	Open January 1-14 And April 16-December 31, ITQ	ITQ; Sector ACL: 369,645 lbs WW
Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	No Possession Limit; Sector ACL: 1,596,510 lbs WW
Speckled Hind, Warsaw Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Goliath Grouper	PROHIBITED		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
DEEPWATER COMPLEX			
Yellowedge Grouper, Silk Snapper, Misty Grouper, Queen Snapper, Sand Tilefish, Blackfin Snapper	No Limit	Open Year Round	No Possession Limit; Sector ACL: 131,268 lbs WW
JACKS COMPLEX			
Banded Rudderfish, Lesser Amberjack	No Limit	Open Year Round	500 lbs GW per trip (in aggregate); Sector ACL: 189,422 lbs WW
Almaco Jack	20 FL		
SNAPPERS COMPLEX			
Gray Snapper, Cubera Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	No Limit; Sector ACL: 344,575 lbs WW
Lane Snapper	8 TL		
GRUNTS COMPLEX			
White Grunt, Sailor’s Choice, Tomtate, Margate	No Limit	Open Year Round	No Limit; Sector ACL: 217,903 lbs WW
OTHER SHALLOW WATER GROUPERS COMPLEX			
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Coney, Graysby	No Limit	Open May 1-Dec 31	No Possession Limit; Sector ACL: 55,542 lbs WW
Yellowfin Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper	20 TL		
PORGY COMPLEX			
Jolthead Porgy, Knobbed Porgy, Saucereye Porgy, Scup, Whitebone Porgy	No Limit	Open Year Round	No Limit; Sector ACL: 36,348 lbs WW
SNAPPER GROUPER ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT SPECIES			
Bank Sea Bass, Rock Sea Bass, Longspine Porgy, Ocean Triggerfish, Cottonwick	No Limit	Open Year Round	No Limit

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
King Mackerel	24 FL	Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG) Northern Zone (N of NC/SC border): Open YearRound (March-end of February, Fishing Year)	AMG north of Flagler/Volusia FL county border (all year): 3,500 lbs per trip; Northern Zone Sector Quota: 2,062,594 lbs
		AMG Southern Zone (NC/SC border-Monroe/Miami-Dade county border): Open March 1-September 30	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/trip
			AMG Volusia/Brevard-Miami-Dade/Monroe during April 1-September 30 if ≥75% of zone seasonal quota has been landed: 50 fish/trip
			Southern Zone Seasonal Sector Quota: 4,133,782 lbs
		AMG Southern Zone (NC/SC border-Monroe/Miami-Dade county border): Open October 1-end of February	AMG Flagler/Volusia-Miami-Dade/Monroe during October 1-end of February: 100 fish per trip; Southern Zone Seasonal Sector Quota: 2,755,854 lbs
		Gulf Migratory Group (GMG) Southern Zone (Monroe/Miami-Dade county border-Lee Collier county border) Hook-and-Line: Open Year-Round (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: Open Tuesday after Martin Luther King Jr. Day-June 30	GMG Southern Zone (Monroe/Miami-Dade county border-Lee Collier county border) Run-Around Gillnet: 45,000 lbs per day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG) Northern Zone (N of NC/SC border): Open March 1-July 27 (March-February fishing year)	AMG Northern Zone: 3,500 lbs per day; Northern Zone Quota: 662,670 lbs
		AMG Southern Zone (NC/SC border-Monroe/Miami-Dade county border): Open Year Round (March-February fishing year)	AMG Southern Zone when <75% of the adjusted quota has been landed: 3,500 lbs per day; Southern Zone Quota: 2,417,330 lbs
			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): Open Year Round; closed when regional total ACL met (March-February fishing year)	
Cobia (<i>East FL</i>)	36 FL	Open Year Round	1 fish per person or 2 fish per vessel, whichever is more restrictive; Sector ACL: 81,696 lbs
DOLPHIN-WAHOO			
Dolphin	Fish caught off East FL, GA, and SC: 20 FL No size limit for fish caught off other states	Open Year Round	No limit for vessels with only allowable gear onboard until 75% of the commercial ACL is reached; if 75% of the commercial ACL is reached: 4,000 lb WW per trip; 500 lbs (WW or GW) per trip for vessels with pot, trap, or buoy (prohibited gear) onboard and fish must be landed with rod and reel gear; Sector ACL: 1,719,953 lbs WW

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ²	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Wahoo	None	Open Year Round	500 lb (WW or GW) per trip; Sector ACL: 70,690 lbs WW

¹ [Link to CFR with nearshore area waypoints](#)

² Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.

SOUTH ATLANTIC FEDERAL WATERS

Recreational Law Summary 2025

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
SNAPPER-GROUPER			
Atlantic Spadefish	No Limit	Open Year Round	10 fish per person per day within the 20-fish per person other snapper-grouper aggregate bag limit; Sector ACL: 661,926 lbs WW
Bar Jack	No Limit	Open Year Round	10 fish per person within the 20-fish per person other snapper-grouper aggregate bag limit; Sector ACL: 49,021 lbs WW
Black Grouper	24 TL	Open May 1-December 31	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
			Sector ACL: 165,750 lbs WW
Black Sea Bass (<i>South of Cape Hatteras</i>)	13 TL	Open Year Round	7 fish per person per day; Sector ACL: 366,510 lbs WW
Blueline Tilefish	No Limit	Open May 1-July 22 (season 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; Sector ACL: 116,820 lbs WW

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Gag	24 TL	Open May 1-June 26 (season end date announced annually)	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
			Sector ACL: 176,665 lbs GW
Golden Tilefish	No Limit	Open January 1-March 21 due to ACL being met	1 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit; Sector ACL: 2,694 fish
Gray Triggerfish	12 FL	Open Year Round	10 fish per person per day within the 20-fish per person other snapper-grouper aggregate bag limit; 404,675 lbs WW
Greater Amberjack	28 FL	Open January 1-March 31	1 fish per person per day
		Spawning closure: April 1-April 30	Harvest prohibited during April
		Open May 1-December 31	1 fish per person per day
			Sector ACL: 1,754,350 lbs WW (March 2025-February 2026)
Hogfish (GA-NC)	17 FL	Open Year Round	2 fish per person per day; Sector ACL: 988 fish
Hogfish (East FL-FL Keys)	16 FL	Open May 1-October 31	1 fish per person per day; Sector ACL: 46,046 fish

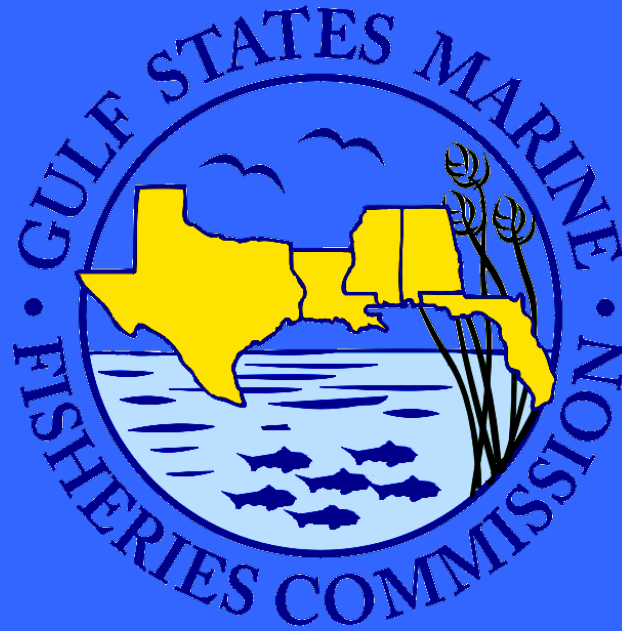
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Mutton Snapper	18 TL	Open Year Round	5 fish per person per day within the 10 fish per person per day aggregate snapper bag limit; Sector ACL: 127,115 fish
Red Grouper	20 TL	Open May 1-December 31 for federal waters off GA and FL	3 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit; Sector ACL: 90,720 lbs WW
		Open June 1-December 31 for federal waters off SC and NC	
Red Porgy	14 TL	Open May 1-June 30	1 fish per person per day; Sector ACL: 42,499 lbs WW
Red Snapper	No Limit	July 11-July 12 (season start and end dates announced annually)	1 fish per person per day; Sector ACL: 22,797 fish
Scamp	20 TL	Open May 1-Dec 31	3 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit; Sector ACL: 116,369
Snowy Grouper	No Limit	Open May 1-June 9 due to ACL being met	1 fish per vessel per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit; Sector ACL: 1,713 fish
Vermilion Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	5 fish per person per day; 427,520 lbs WW
Wreckfish	No Limit	Open July 1-August 30	1 fish per vessel per day; Sector ACL: 19,455 lbs WW
Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	10 fish per person per day within the 10 fish per person per day aggregate snapper bag limit; Sector ACL: 1,440,990 lbs WW

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
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	3 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit; Sector ACL: 38,628 lbs WW
JACKS COMPLEX			
Banded Rudderfish, Lesser Amberjack	No Limit	Open Year Round	10 fish of any one species per person per day within the 20-fish per person other snapper grouper aggregate bag limit; Sector ACL: 267,799 lbs WW
Almaco Jack	No Limit		
SNAPPERS COMPLEX			
Cubera Snapper	12 TL	Open Year Round	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
			Sector ACL: 1,169,308 lbs WW

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
GRUNTS COMPLEX			
White Grunt, Sailor’s Choice, Margate	No Limit	Open Year Round	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
			Sector ACL: 618,122 lbs ww
OTHER SHALLOW WATER GROUPERS COMPLEX			
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Coney, Graysby	No Limit	Open May 1-Dec 31	3 fish per person per day within the 3-fish per person per day aggregate grouper and tilefish bag limit; Sector ACL: 48,648 lbs WW
Yellowfin Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper	20 TL		
PORGY COMPLEX			
Jolthead Porgy, Knobbed Porgy, Saucereye Porgy, Scup, Whitebone Porgy	No Limit	Open Year Round	10 fish of each species per person per day within the 20-fish per person other snapper grouper aggregate bag limit; Sector ACL: 106,914 lbs WW
SNAPPER GROUPER ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT SPECIES			
Bank Sea Bass, Rock Sea Bass, Longspine Porgy, Ocean Triggerfish, Cottonwick	No Limit	Open Year Round	No Limit
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
King Mackerel	24 FL	Open Year Round; closed when ACL met (March- end of February fishing year)	3 fish per person per day; Sector ACL: 15,177,770 lbs
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	Open Year Round; closed when ACL met (March- end of February fishing year)	15 fish per person per day; Sector ACL: 2,727,00 lbs WW

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE IN INCHES	SEASON ¹	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
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	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
			Sector ACL: 22,850,811 lbs WW
Wahoo	No Limit	Open Year Round	2 fish per person; Sector ACL: 2,814,613 lbs WW

¹ Seasons listed as Open Year Round may have been subject to closures not previously scheduled.



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