

Snook Item 10 B. (1)

Snook 68B-21, F.A.C.

Draft Rule language

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68B-21.0015 Definitions.

(1)–(3) No change

(4) “Harvest” means the catching or taking of a fish by any means whatsoever, followed by a reduction of such fish to possession. Fish that are caught but immediately returned to the water free, alive, and unharmed are not harvested. In addition, temporary possession of a fish for the purpose of measuring it to determine compliance with the minimum or maximum size requirement of this chapter shall not constitute harvesting such fish, provided that it is measured immediately after taking, and immediately returned to the water free, alive, and unharmed if undersize or oversize.

(5)–(9) No change

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 7-9-87, Amended 1-1-98, Formerly 46-21.0015, Amended 1-1-02, 5-13-02, 7-1-06, 7-12-07

68B-21.003 Prohibition of Sale of Snook.

(1) It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to buy, sell, trade, barter or exchange snook taken within or without the state in any form or manner, or to receive anything of value for any snook with or without changing possession thereof, except as provided in Rule 68B-8.012, F.A.C.

(2) It is unlawful for any wholesale or retail seafood dealer or restaurant to possess, buy, sell, or store any snook or part thereof taken within or without the state, or permit any snook or part thereof to be possessed, bought, sold or stored on, in, or about the premises or vehicles where such wholesale or retail seafood business or restaurant is carried on or conducted; provided, however, that snook which have been lawfully harvested, or parts thereof, may be kept on the premises of a restaurant for the limited purpose of preparing such snook for consumption by the angler who harvested them, so long as such snook or parts thereof are packaged or on strings with tags bearing the name and address of the owner clearly written thereon.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 7-23-85, Formerly 46-21.003, Amended 5-13-02, 7-12-07.

68B-21.004 Seasons.

(1) No person, firm or corporation shall kill, harvest or have in its possession, ~~regardless of where taken~~, any snook taken within or without the state during the following closed periods, in the indicated areas:

(a) Statewide, during the period beginning December 15 of each year and continuing through January 31 of the following year.

(b) In the Atlantic Region, during the months of June, July or August.

(c) In the Gulf Region, during the first 14 days of the month of December, and during the months of February, May, June, July, or August.

(2) Exceptions to the closed seasons established by this rule shall only be granted by special permit issued by the Commission pursuant to Section 379.244(2), F.S., for experimental, scientific, or exhibitional purposes.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 7-23-85, Amended 7-9-87, 3-1-94, Formerly 46-21.004, Amended 1-1-02, 7-12-07.

68B-21.005 Size Limits.

(1) It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to kill, harvest or possess any snook that measures less than 28 inches or greater than 32 inches in total length in the Atlantic Region and less than 28 inches or greater than 33 inches in the Gulf Region.

(2) All snook harvested from Florida waters shall be landed in a whole condition. The possession, ~~while on state waters~~, of snook, while on state waters, whether taken within or without the state, that have been deheaded, sliced, divided, filleted, ground, skinned, scaled, or deboned is prohibited. Mere evisceration or “gutting” of snook, or mere removal of gills from snook, before landing is not prohibited. Preparation of snook for immediate consumption on board the vessel from which the fish were caught is not prohibited.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 7-23-85, Amended 7-9-

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87, 3-1-94, 12-31-98, Formerly 46-21.005, Amended 7-1-06, 7-19-06, 7-12-07.