

FISHING REGULATIONS

Valid from July 1, 2011 – Dec. 31, 2011

Contact us

Go to MyFWC.com for up-to-date information on recreational saltwater fishing regulations, news and events as well as resources, publications and videos.

Visit the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute online at MyFWC.com/research

For federal fishing regulations, please contact:

- **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**
888-833-1844
www.gulfcouncil.org
- **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**
866-SAFMC-10
www.safmc.net
- **National Marine Fisheries Service**
(NOAA Fisheries)
727-824-5301
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

Buy your license online!

When you buy your license online, it's fast, convenient and saves time and travel.

You can obtain a license 24 hours a day at **MyFWC.com/LICENSE** and begin fishing immediately!

Licenses are also available toll-free at 1-888-FISHFLORIDA (1-888-347-4356). Processing fees apply to telephone and Internet sales.

Wildlife Alert Reward Program

Report fish and wildlife law violations by calling toll-free **1-888-404-FWCC (3922)**; on cell phones, dial *FWC or #FWC depending on service carrier; or click MyFWC.com/Contact. For more information, see page 2.

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For additional information please contact:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

Division of Marine Fisheries Management
2590 Executive Center Circle East
Berkeley Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850-488-6058



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com/Fishing

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 620 South Meridian Street
 Farris Bryant Building
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
 (850) 488-4676
 (800) 955-8771 TDD

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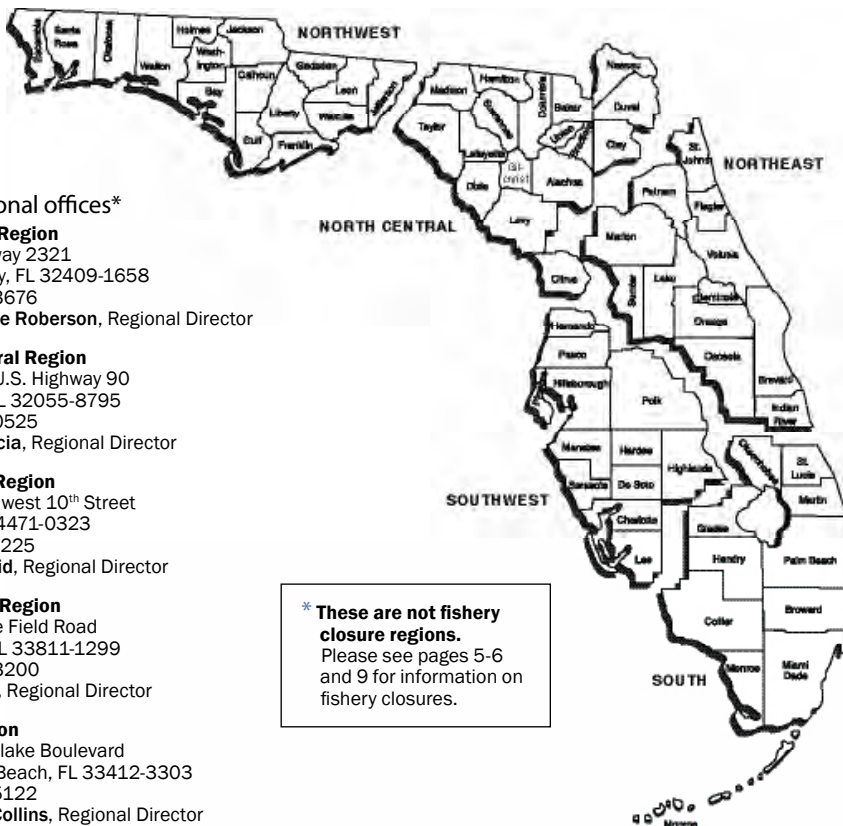
FWC regional offices*
Northwest Region
 3911 Highway 2321
 Panama City, FL 32409-1658
 (850) 265-3676
Lt. Col. Louie Roberson, Regional Director

North Central Region
 3377 East U.S. Highway 90
 Lake City, FL 32055-8795
 (386) 758-0525
Roland Garcia, Regional Director

Northeast Region
 1239 Southwest 10th Street
 Ocala, FL 34471-0323
 (352) 732-1225
Dennis David, Regional Director

Southwest Region
 3900 Drane Field Road
 Lakeland, FL 33811-1299
 (863) 648-3200
Chris Wynn, Regional Director

South Region
 8535 Northlake Boulevard
 West Palm Beach, FL 33412-3303
 (561) 625-5122
Charles E. Collins, Regional Director



FWC Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)

The FWC's Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and anglers as well as to enforce Florida's saltwater fishing and boating laws. FWC officers assist boaters who are in distress, provide advice and direction to those who are traveling Florida's coastline and waterways, and may issue citations for violations of state and federal fishing, wildlife, and boating laws.

In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife, or boating laws are being violated, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cell phone users throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, or hail on VHF Channel 16.

Resource information

Join the nation's largest conservation law enforcement agency—become an FWC law enforcement officer. For more information contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-866-FWC-HIRE (392-4473) or visit MyFWC.com/Law

- To purchase fishing licenses: 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356) MyFWC.com/license
- FWC Division of Law Enforcement 888-404-FWCC (3922)
- For up-to-date information on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill please visit MyFWC.com/OilSpill
- To report fish and wildlife law violations, call the Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922)
- FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
- 727-896-8626 MyFWC.com/research
- To report fish kills: 800-636-0511
- To report fish tags: 800-367-4461 TagReturn@myfwc.com
- To report Sawfish sightings: 941-255-7403 sawfish@MyFWC.com
- Bird Entanglement 888-404-3922 727-391-6211 for Tampa area
- To request Tarpon DNA Sampling Kits: 800-367-4461 TarponGenetics@myfwc.com
- Red Tide Information Hotline 866-300-9399 toll free in Florida 727-552-2488 nationwide
- Aquatic Toxins Hotline 888-232-8635
- Shellfish Harvesting Questions FDACS, 850-488-5471 www.floridaaquaculture.com
- To report Lionfish sightings, please visit MyFWC.com/reportlionfish or call 1-877-786-7267

Saltwater fishing in Florida...

What you must know before you go

Saltwater fishing licenses are sold online at www.fl.wildlifelicenses.com, at all county tax collectors' offices and at many license agents. Licenses may also be obtained over the telephone by dialing toll-free, 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). An additional fee is charged for telephone and Internet services. For any recreational licensing information not contained in this publication, please go to MyFWC.com/License.

Florida residents

When applying for a saltwater recreational fishing license, you are considered to be a Florida resident if you are:

- Any person who has resided in Florida for six continuous months prior to applying for a resident license and who claims Florida as their primary residence.
- Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is stationed in this state and any family members residing with them.

Gold sportsman's license

- **\$100** (valid for one year). Includes:
 - Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses
 - Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading Gun, Turkey, Florida Waterfowl, Deer, Snook, and Spiny Lobster permits
- Florida residents may buy a lifetime saltwater fishing license or a lifetime sportsman license. Holders of lifetime saltwater fishing licenses may fish in saltwater for life and will pay no additional fees. The lifetime license fee includes the taking of snook or spiny lobster, which would otherwise require a separate fee. A lifetime sportsman license allows holders to fish in freshwater or saltwater and to hunt in Florida. Both of the licenses require holders to obey fishing or hunting laws in effect at any given time.

You do not need a license if you are:

- A resident who is saltwater fishing from land or a structure fixed to land who has been determined eligible for the food stamp, temporary cash assistance, or Medicaid Program by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Proof of identification and a benefit issuance or program identification card issued by DCFS or the Agency for Health Care Administration must be on your person when fishing.
- A child under 16 years of age.
- Any resident fishing for recreational purposes only, within her or his county of residence with live or natural bait, using poles or lines not equipped with a fishing line retrieval mechanism.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel—guide, charter, party boat—that has a valid charter boat license or charter captain license.
- A holder of a valid saltwater products license.
- A Florida resident 65 years of age or older

Costs for licenses

In addition to the cost of licenses and permits specified in this section, license agents may charge an issuance fee for selling licenses or permits. **Note: all sales are final.**

Florida resident licenses

One-Year Shoreline Only License	\$0.00
Covers shoreline fishing only , not fishing from a watercraft or from shore reached by watercraft.	
One-Year License	\$17.00
Covers both watercraft and shoreline fishing.	
Five-Year License	\$79.00

Combination licenses (Florida residents only)

Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater	\$32.50
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater & Hunting	\$48.00
One-Year Gold Sportsman's License	\$100.00
One-Year Military Gold Sportsman's License	\$20.00

(Offers the same privileges as the Gold Sportsman's License. Available only to Florida residents who are active or retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, the National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard or the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, upon submission of a current military identification card and proof of Florida residency. Purchase at county tax collector's offices only.)

Lifetime saltwater fishing license (Florida residents only; includes Snook and Lobster Permits)

Age: 0-4	\$126.50
Age: 5-12	\$226.50
Age: 13 or older	\$301.50

Lifetime sportsman license (Florida residents only)

Age: 0-4	\$401.50
Age: 5-12	\$701.50
Age: 13 or older	\$1,001.50

Non-resident licenses

Three-day License	\$17.00
Seven-day License	\$30.00
One-Year License	\$47.00

Permits

Snook Permit	\$10.00
Five-Year Snook Permit (Florida residents only)	\$50.00
Spiny Lobster Permit	\$5.00
Five-Year Spiny Lobster Permit (Florida residents only)	\$25.00
Tarpon Tag (available only at tax collector offices)	\$51.50

If you are required to have a license, even the \$0.00 shoreline license, you are required to purchase permits to harvest Snook and Spiny Lobster.

and you possess proof of age and residency, such as a Florida driver's license or ID, or an optional no-cost Resident Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing Certificate.

- A Florida resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, who is not stationed in this state, while on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders. This does not include family members.
- Any person who has been accepted as a client for developmental services by the Department of Children and Family Services, provided the department furnishes proof thereof.
- Fishing for recreational purposes from a pier that has a valid pier saltwater fishing license.
- Fishing from a boat that has a valid recreational vessel fishing license.
- A Florida resident who is fishing for mullet in freshwater with a valid Florida *freshwater* fishing license.
- A Florida resident who possesses a no-cost Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate. In order to qualify for this, applicants must provide a certification of total and permanent disability

from the United States Armed Forces, Railroad Retirement Board, Florida Worker's Compensation or the United States Veterans Administration. Alternatively, current documentation from the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits also will be accepted.

Other saltwater fishing fees

Licenses (Charter Boat or Charter Captain) are required for all vessels that charge a fee (for-hire vessels) to take passengers out to catch marine fish.

Eleven or more customers	\$801.50
Five to ten customers	\$401.50
Four or fewer customers	\$201.50

Optional fees include the annual Recreational Vessel fee (\$2,001.50) for not-for-hire pleasure craft and the annual Pier license (\$501.50). For charter licensing information, contact your local county tax collector's office or visit MyFWC.com.

Marine life regulations

Requirements for Recreational Marine Life Harvest:

- Recreational saltwater fishing license
- Organisms must be landed and kept alive
- A continuously circulating live well, aeration, or oxygenation system of adequate size to maintain these organisms in a healthy condition
- **Allowable Gear:** hand held net, drop net, rod, barrier net, slurp gun (use of quinaldine is prohibited)*
- **Bag Limit:** 20 organisms per person per day; only 5 of any one species allowed within the 20-organism bag limit
- **Possession Limit:** 2-day possession limit, 40 total organisms, no more than 10 of any one species allowed
- **Allowable substrate:** see species specifications in table
- **Closed areas:** Some closed areas exist**
- Sale of recreationally caught marine life organisms is prohibited

* Some organisms have additional gear limitations, see chart.

** Various closed areas exist. See regulations for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, and Florida's State Parks before collecting in these areas.

Additional rules apply to the collection of shells containing live organisms in Lee or Manatee counties.

See MyFWC.com for FAQs about marine life harvest and information about collecting shells with live organisms.

Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹	SIZE LIMITS (total length unless otherwise noted)
Angelfish	No more than 5 per person per day in any combination	Gray, French Angelfish: 1½ - 8" slot limit Blue, Queen Angelfish: 1¾ - 8" slot limit Rock Beauty: 2 - 5" slot limit
Butterflyfish		1 - 4" slot limit
Filefish/Triggerfish	Except Gray and Ocean Triggerfish	
Gobies		Maximum size limit: 2"
Hamlets/Seabasses	Except reef fish ² and Longtail Bass	
Jawfish		Maximum size limit: 4"
Parrotfish		Maximum size limit: 12"
Porkfish		Minimum size limit: 1½"
Pufferfish, Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	
Tangs and Surgeonfish		Maximum size limit (fork length): 9"
Wrasse/Hogfish/Razorfish	Except Hogfish Snapper	Spanish Hogfish: 2 - 8" slot limit Cuban Hogfish: 3 - 8" slot limit

Other Marine Life fish include¹: Basslets, Batfish, Blackbar Soldierfish, Blennies, Brotulas (Black and Key), Cardinalfish, Clingfish, Cornetfish, Damsel fish, Eels (Moray and Snake), Frogfish, Hawkfish, High-hat/Jackknife-fish/Spotted Drum/Cubbyu, Pipefish, Reef Croakers, Seahorses, Sleepers, Yellow Stingray, Sweepers, Toadfish, Trumpetfish, and Trunkfish/Cowfish.

Marine Life — Invertebrates

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹
Anemones	Corallimorphs and Zoanths: No more than 5 polyps of each may be landed per person per day, must be harvested with a flexible blade no wider than 2". Corallimorphs must be harvested as single polyps only.
Conch, Queen	Harvest prohibited
Corals, Hard (Stony)	Harvest prohibited
Corals, Soft (Octocorals)	No more than 6 octocoral colonies per person per day in any combination; harvest of attached substrate within 1" of base is permitted; harvest closes in response to federal octocoral closures
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs
Crab, Horseshoe	Harvest prohibited
Live Rock	Harvest prohibited
Octopods ³	Except Common Octopus
Sea Fans	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
Siphonophores/Hydroids	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
Sponges	Except Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef, and Velvet Sponges; no more than 5 sponges per harvester per day in any combination; harvest of substrate within 1" of base permitted north and west of the southernmost point of Egmont Key, no substrate allowed south of Egmont Key
Starfish ³	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins ³	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

Other Marine Life invertebrates include¹: Brittlestars³, Decorator (Furcate Spider) Crab, False Arrow Crab, Green Clinging (Emerald) Crab, Nimble Spray (Urchin) Crab, Red Mithrax Crab, Red-Ridged Clinging Crab, Spotted Porcelain Crab, Yellowline Arrow Crab, Fileclams³, Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs³, Sea Cucumbers³, Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails³, Starsnails³, Featherduster Worms, and Calcareous Tube Worms.

Marine Life — Plants

SPECIES	LIMITS
Algae, Coralline Red	One gallon of tropical ornamental marine plants per day in any combination; 2 gallon maximum possession limit
Caulerpa	
Halimeda/Mermaid's Fan/Mermaid's	
Shaving Brush	

¹ Unless otherwise noted, combined bag limit of 20 marine life fish and invertebrates per person per day, only 5 of any one species allowed. A 2-day possession limit also applies (40 total organisms, only 10 of any one species).

² Such as groupers, snappers, seabass, and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on pages 5-6.

³ Bag limit of 2 live shells of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.

Basic recreational saltwater fishing regulations

This brief summary of regulations governs the taking of saltwater species in Florida state waters for personal use. It is not applicable to the commercial harvesting of these species. The absence of complete laws, rules and regulations in this summary does not relieve persons from compliance with those laws, rules or regulations. State waters extend to 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic and 9 nautical miles on the Gulf. **Federal rules apply beyond state waters unless expressly stated otherwise.** For species that do not have an established bag limit, more than 100 pounds or two fish per harvester per day (whichever is greater), is considered commercial quantities. A saltwater products license and commercial vessel registration are required to harvest commercial quantities of unregulated species. It is illegal to sell recreationally harvested fish without compliance with commercial license requirements. Issue Thirty Nine, July 2011. Highlights indicate recent regulation changes.

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Rec. Bag Limit	Remarks
Amberjack, Greater	28" fork Atlantic; 30" fork Gulf	June 1 – July 31 Gulf of Mexico	1 per harvester per day	
Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish	Not less than 14" or more than 22" fork		5 aggregate of lesser amberjack and banded rudderfish	
Billfish	Sailfish 63"; Blue Marlin 99"; White Marlin 66"		1 per harvester per day aggregate bag limit	Measured tip of lower jaw to fork. All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmspermits.noaa.gov. HMS permit required in federal waters.
Black Drum T	Not less than 14" or more than 24"		5 per harvester per day	May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited.
Bluefish	12" fork		10 per harvester per day	
Bonefish			0 per harvester per day	Catch and release only. Hook and line gear only.
Clams (Hard)	1" thick across hinge	May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise	One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel, whichever is less per day (whole in shell)	Illegal to harvest from closed areas. Go to www.floridaaquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
Cobia (Ling)	33" fork		1 per harvester or 6 per vessel per day, whichever is less	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit follow commercial regulations.
Crab, Blue		Sept. 20 – Oct. 4 Gulf state waters beyond 3 miles closed to traps; federal waters closed to traps; Regional closures (see map on page 9)	10 gallons whole per harvester per day	5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. See page 9 for more information.
Crab, Blue Land		July 1 – Oct 31	20 per harvester per day	Trapping prohibited, harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited, harvest prohibited in state parks and from the right-of-way of federal, state or county maintained roads.
Crab, Stone	2 ¾" claw	May 16 – Oct 14	1 gal. Stone Crab claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less	5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.
Crawfish (Spiny Lobster)	Carapace must be greater than 3" measured in the water	April 1 – Aug. 5 Exception: Sport Season (last consecutive Wed & Thurs of July each year)	Regular season: 6 per harvester per day	Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny Lobster permit required when license required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited. Special bag limit for 2-day Sport Season. Contact FWC regional office for current information on Sport Season.
Dolphin	20" fork Atlantic		10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit follow commercial regulations.
Flounder T	12"		10 per harvester per day	May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.
Gag	24" Atlantic & Monroe County 22" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	June 1 – Sept. 15 & Nov. 16 – Dec. 31, 2011 Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1 – April 30 Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1 – March 31	1 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 2 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	No more than 1 fish may be Gag or Black Grouper, either individually or in combination in Atlantic & Monroe County. Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain & crew on for-hire vessels.
Grouper, Black	24" Atlantic & Monroe County 22" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1 – March 31	1 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 4 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	
Grouper, Red	20"	Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1 – April 30	3 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 2 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain & crew on for-hire vessels.
Grouper, Snowy			1 per harvester per day Atlantic	
Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth	20"	Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1 – March 31		
Grouper, Scamp	20" Atlantic & Monroe County; 16" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1 – April 30		
Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind			1 per vessel per day of each species	Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit.
Grouper, all others		Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1 – March 31 for Rock Hind and Red Hind Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1 – April 30 for Tiger, Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby		Atlantic & Monroe County: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels
Hogfish	12" fork		5 per harvester per day	
Mackerel, King	24" fork		2 per harvester per day	Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters when federal waters are closed to all harvest. Check www.MyFWC.com /Fishing for most current regulations prior to fishing.
Mackerel, Spanish	12" fork		15 per harvester per day	Transfer of Spanish Mackerel to other vessels at sea is prohibited.
Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver			50 aggregate per harvester per day; Aggregate vessel limits Feb. 1 – Aug. 31: 100 per vessel; Sept. 1 – Jan. 31: 50 per vessel	Mullet aggregate bag limit includes Striped and Silver. Call DMFM for additional restrictions in Pinellas and Charlotte counties.
Oysters	3"	June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties. July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas.	2 bags per harvester or vessel, whichever is less per day. 1 Bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell)	Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas. Harvest from approved shellfish areas only. Go to www.floridaaquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
Permit T	22" fork SPZ; Not less than 11" or more than 22" fork all other areas	May 1 – July 31 SPZ	1 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel per day SPZ; 2 per harvester per day all other state waters	Effective August 31, 2011. May possess 1 over 22" fork length in all other areas, not to exceed 2 over 22" fork per vessel per day. See page 7 for gear restrictions, page 8 for SPZ definition and other information.
Pompano, Florida T	11" fork		6 per harvester per day	Effective August 31, 2011. Hook and line, cast net, and beach or haul seine ONLY. See page 8 for more information.


Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Rec. Bag Limit	Remarks
Pompano, African T	24" fork		2 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel per day.	Effective August 31, 2011. See page 7 for gear restrictions. See page 8 for more information.
Red Drum (Redfish) T	Not less than 18" or more than 27"		1 per harvester per day	Gigging, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.
Red Porgy	14" Atlantic		3 per harvester per day Atlantic	
Scallops, Bay		Sept. 26, 2011– June 30, 2012	2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester per day; no more than 10 gallons whole, or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime	Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Pasco-Hernando county line, to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County.
Sea Bass, Black	12" Atlantic; 10" Gulf		15 per harvester per day Atlantic	
Shad			10 aggregate per harvester per day	American, Alabama & Hickory are part of aggregate limit. Hook & line gear only.
Shark T	54" fork for all sharks except Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, finetooth and smooth dogfish		1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less	Hook and line gear only. See list below for prohibited species.
Sheepshead T	12"		15 per harvester per day	Snatching prohibited.
Shrimp		April & May closed to Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties	5 gallons heads on per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less	Contact FWC Regional Office for closed areas.
Snapper, Black & Wenchman			Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper, Cubera	12" (see remarks)		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit if under 30"	May possess no more than 2 Cubera Snapper over 30" per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less. 30" or larger not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Gray (Mangrove)	10"		5 per harvester per day	Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Lane	8"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit Atlantic	Gulf not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Mutton	16"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper, Red	20" Atlantic; 16" Gulf	July 19– May 31 Gulf	2 per harvester per day	Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit. Note: Check www.MyFWC.com/Fishing for most current regulations prior to fishing. Gulf: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Snapper, Schoolmaster	10"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper, Vermilion	12" Atlantic; 10" Gulf	Nov. 1– March 31 Atlantic	5 per harvester per day Atlantic ; 10 per harvester per day Gulf	Vermilion Snapper not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit. Atlantic: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Snapper, all other	12"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	Includes: Blackfin, Dog, Mahogany, Queen, Silk & Yellowtail.
Snook (all species) T	Not less than 28" or more than 32" Atlantic Not less than 28" or more than 33" Gulf of Mexico, Monroe County, Everglades Nat. Park	Dec. 15–Jan. 31; June 1– Aug. 31 Atlantic Closed through Aug. 31, 2012 Gulf of Mexico, Monroe County, Everglades National Park	1 per harvester per day	Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. Illegal to buy or sell snook. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.
Sponge, Commercial	Greater than 5" in greatest dimension measured across the top of the sponge		10 per harvester per day	Includes: Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef & Velvet sponge.
Spotted Seatrout T	Not less than 15" or more than 20" (statewide) except one fish over 20" per person	Nov. & Dec. S. Region Feb. N.E. and N.W. Regions (see regional definitions page 9)	4 per harvester per day South Region 5 per harvester per day N.E. and N.W. Regions	May possess no more than 1 over 20"; included in the regional bag limit. See regional definitions map on page 9.
Swordfish	47" lower jaw fork length with head attached or 29" cleithrum to keel length if head removed.		1 per harvester per day, not to exceed a maximum of 4 per recreational (not for-hire) vessel or 15 per for-hire vessel per day	All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528. HMS permit required in federal waters. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels.
Tarpon			2 fish possession limit	Requires \$50 tarpon tag to possess or harvest. Snatching and spearing prohibited. Boca Grande Pass has seasonal regulations. Contact DMFM for current information.
Tilefish, Golden			1 per harvester per day Atlantic	Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Atlantic: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels
Triggerfish (Gray)	12" fork Atlantic ; 14" fork Gulf			Triggerfish except Gray and Ocean have live landing & live well requirements.
Tripletail T	15"		2 per harvester per day	Hook & line gear only. No snatch hooks.
Wahoo			2 per harvester per day	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit, follow commercial regulations.
Weakfish	12"		1 per harvester per day	Regulations apply in parts of Nassau County only. See MyFWC.com for map.

Must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (heads, fins & tails intact).
Measured as total length. Total length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.
State regulations apply in federal waters.
Additional gear rules apply. See Reef Fish Gear Rules page 7.
T Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.

PROHIBITED SPECIES
It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell, or exchange the following species: Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Sawfish, Atlantic Angel Shark, Basking Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Sixgill Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Caribbean Sharpnose Shark, Dusky Shark, Galapagos Shark, Lemon Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Night Shark, Silky Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Sandbar Shark, Sevengill Shark, Sixgill Shark, Smalltail Shark, Spiny Dogfish, Whale Shark, White Shark, Manta Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Roundscale Spearfish, Sturgeon, Florida Queen Conch, Stony, Hard and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Bahama Starfish, and Longspine Urchin. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited. Puffer fish harvest is prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

Harvester: Regardless of what species you are fishing for, bag limits are only for properly licensed individuals and those people exempt from licensing requirements who are actively harvesting. People harvesting may not exceed the individual bag limit and take someone else's bag limit. That is, people (including children) who are not actively harvesting or are not properly licensed (if license is required) may NOT be counted for the purpose of bag limits.

FWC REGIONAL OFFICES
Northwest Region Panama City 850-265-3676; North Central Region Lake City 386-758-0525;
Northeast Region Ocala 352-732-1225; Southwest Region Lakeland 863-648-3200;
South Region West Palm Beach 561-625-5122; Wildlife Alert 888-404-FWCC (3922)



For saltwater fish identification, request a copy of FWC's Fishing Lines magazine or visit: MyFWC.com.

Recreational gear

Additional regional gear restrictions may apply in your county. For further clarification, contact the local regional offices listed on page 2.

Reef fish gear rules (applies to species marked with on pages 5 and 6)

- **Gulf of Mexico:** These regulations require the use of a venting tool and dehooking device when recreationally or commercially fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. All persons aboard a vessel harvesting reef fish must possess and use non-stainless steel circle hooks when using natural baits.
- **Atlantic Ocean:** Recreational and commercial fishers are required to use dehooking devices as needed while fishing for reef fish.

These rules apply to the following species. For a complete species list, please visit MyFWC.com.

- Greater amberjack
- Banded rudderfish
- Black grouper
- Snowy grouper
- Yellowmouth grouper
- Warsaw grouper
- Grouper, all others
- Red porgy
- Black snapper
- Cubera snapper
- Lane snapper
- Red snapper
- Vermilion snapper
- Golden tilefish
- Lesser amberjack
- Gag grouper
- Red grouper
- Yellowfin grouper
- Scamp grouper
- Speckled hind
- Hogfish
- Black sea bass
- Wenchman snapper
- Gray snapper
- Mutton snapper
- Schoolmaster snapper
- Snapper, all other
- Gray triggerfish

Hook-and-line gear

Hook-and-line anglers must tend their gear at all times to prevent people, marine life and shore life from becoming entangled in the line or injured by the hook. Also, it is against the law to intentionally discard any monofilament netting or line into or onto state waters. Monofilament line can entangle birds, marine mammals, marine turtles and fish, often injuring or killing them.

Nets

The following types of nets may be used for recreational purposes in Florida waters:

- Bully nets (for lobster only) no greater than 3 feet in diameter.
- Frame nets and push nets (for shrimp only) no greater than 16 feet in perimeter.
- Hand held landing or dip nets no greater than 96 inches in perimeter.
- Cast nets measuring 14 feet or less stretched length (stretched length is defined as the distance from the horn at the center of the net with the net gathered and pulled taut, to the lead line). Cast nets may be used as harvesting gear for the following species only: black drum, bluefish, cobia, flounder, mullet, Florida pompano, red drum, sheepshead, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, spotted seatrout, weakfish and unregulated species.
- Beach or haul seines measuring no larger than 500 square feet of mesh area, no larger than 2 inches stretched mesh size, not constructed of monofilament, and legibly marked at both ends with the harvester's name and address if a Florida resident. Non-residents using beach or haul seines for recreational purposes are required to have a commercial saltwater products license and legibly mark the seine at both ends with the harvester's saltwater products license number. Beach or haul seines may be used as harvesting gear for the following species only: black drum, bluefish, cobia, flounder, mullet, Florida pompano, red drum, sheepshead, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, weakfish and unregulated species.

Explosives, etc.

The use of powerheads, explosives, chemicals or the discharge of firearms into the water to kill or harvest marine life is prohibited in state waters.

Spearing

Spearing is defined as "the catching or taking of a fish by bowhunting, giggering, spearfishing, or any device used to capture a fish by piercing its body." Spearing does not include the catching or taking of a fish by a hook with hook-and-line gear or by snagging (snatch hooking). Spearfishing is defined as "the catching or taking of a fish through the instrumentality of a hand or mechanically propelled, single or multi-pronged spear or lance, barbed or barbless, operated by a person swimming at or below the surface of the water." The use of powerheads, bangsticks, and rebreathers remains prohibited. The following is a list of species which are prohibited for harvest by spearing. Any other species not listed which are managed by the Commission, and those not managed by the Commission are allowed to be harvested by spearing.

- Billfish (all species)
 - Manta ray
 - Tarpon
 - Blue crab
 - Red drum
 - Florida Pompano
 - Tripletail
 - Spotted eagle ray
 - Sharks
 - Goliath grouper
 - Nassau grouper
 - Weakfish
 - African pompano
 - Lobster
 - Sturgeon
 - Bonefish
 - Snook
 - Spotted seatrout
 - Stone crab
 - Permit
- Families of ornamental reef fish (surgeonfish, trumpetfish, angelfish, butterflyfish, porcupinefish, cornetfish, squirrelfish, trunkfish, damselfish, parrotfish, pipefish, seahorse, puffers, triggerfish except gray and ocean)

You may NOT spearfish (excluding bowfishing and giggering):

- Spearfishing of marine and freshwater species in freshwater is prohibited. Possession of a spear gun in or on freshwater is also prohibited.
- Within 100 yards of a public swimming beach, any commercial or public fishing pier, or any part of a bridge from which public fishing is allowed.
- Within 100 feet of any part of a jetty that is above the surface of the sea—except for the last 500 yards of a jetty that extends more than 1,500 yards from the shoreline.
- In Collier County and in Monroe County from Long Key north to the Dade County line.
- For any fish for which spearing is expressly prohibited by law.
- In any body of water under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks. (Possession of spearfishing equipment is prohibited in these areas, unless it is unloaded and properly stored.) Fishermen who catch and/or sell fish harvested by spearing are subject to the same rules and limitations that other anglers in the state are required to follow.
- In Monroe County there are additional regulations for spearfishing. For more information call 305-289-2320 or visit www.floridakeys.noaa.gov.

You may NOT spear, bowfish or gig:

- In Volusia County inland waters with the exception of flounder and sheepshead using a spear with three or fewer prongs.

Permit, Florida Pompano and African Pompano

- Permit and African Pompano: Hook and line only in state waters; hook and line or spearing only in federal waters.
- Florida Pompano: Hook and line, cast net and beach or haul seine only in state and federal waters

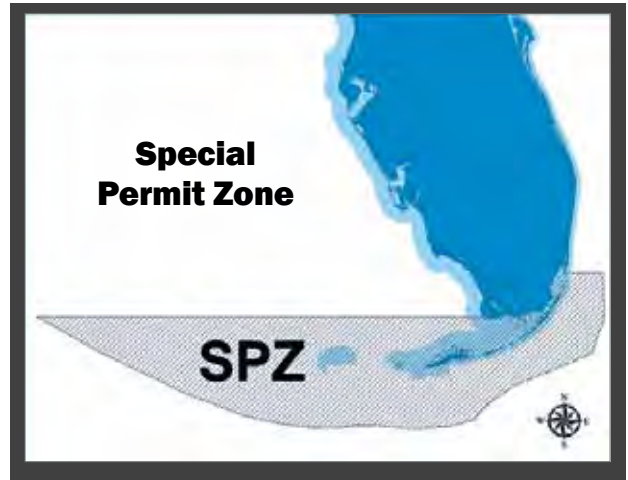
Increased protection for Permit, Florida Pompano, and African Pompano

In June 2011, the Commission amended the rule for permit, Florida pompano, and African pompano in order to provide increased protection for these important species. In the past, there were no regulations for these fish in federal waters adjacent to Florida. The recreational rule amendments primarily establish recreational regulations in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic.

Additionally, the Commission decided to create separate management strategies for each species. The combined bag limit for Florida pompano and permit was split into separate bag limits, and the size limits for each species were changed.

The rule amendments the Commission passed created two separate management areas in Florida for permit. The Special Permit Zone (SPZ) lies in south Florida, encompassing waters south of Cape Florida on the Atlantic coast and south of Cape Sable on the Gulf coast. The regulations for permit in the SPZ are more restrictive to protect spawning aggregations of permit as well as large permit that support the trophy fishery in the Keys. The remainder of Florida (north of Cape Florida and Cape Sable) makes up the other permit management area.

Overall the new regulations for permit, Florida pompano, and African pompano should greatly increase the protection for these three fish in Florida waters and ensure that future generations can enjoy them.



Get Involved!
Volunteer groups may remove traps and trap debris from state waters during trap closures when they host an organized cleanup event and obtain authorization from the FWC.
More information about how you can help organize or participate in a cleanup event in your area is available online at MyFWC.com/get-involved.
You can also email Cleanuptraps@MyFWC.com with questions or comments about volunteer cleanup events.

The new regulations take effect August 31, 2011.

The recreational regulations in the chart below apply in Florida state and federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic unless otherwise noted.

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit	Gear	Remarks
Permit – inside SPZ	22" fork length	May 1–July 31	1 per harvester per day	State waters: Hook and line only. Federal waters: Hook and line and spearing.	Vessel Restriction: no more than 2 permit.
Permit – outside SPZ	Not less than 11" or more than 22" fork length		2 per harvester per day	State waters: Hook and line only. Federal waters: Hook and line and spearing.	May possess 1 over 22" fork included in the per person bag limit. Vessel Restriction: no more than 2 over 22" fork.
Florida Pompano	11" fork length		6 per harvester per day	Hook and line, cast net, and beach or haul seine.	
African Pompano	24" fork length		2 per harvester per day	State waters: Hook and line only. Federal waters: Hook and line and spearing.	Vessel Restriction: no more than 2 African pompano.

Current recreational regulations for state waters through August 30, 2011.

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Daily Bag Limit	Gear	Remarks
Permit & Florida Pompano	Not less than 11" or more than 20" fork length	6 per harvester per day aggregate of permit and Florida pompano	Permit: Hook and line only	May possess one over 20" fork of either permit or Florida pompano included in the aggregate bag limit. Vessel restriction: no more than 2 permit and Florida pompano over 20" fork length at any time in any combination.
African Pompano	Not less than 24" fork length	2 per harvester or per vessel per day, whichever is less	Hook and line only	

For additional information visit MyFWC.com/Fishing.

Blue Crab Regulations for Recreational Harvest

Requirements for Recreational Blue Crab Harvest

- Recreational saltwater fishing license.
- No more than 10 gallons of blue crab per day can be harvested or possessed.
- Egg-bearing blue crabs must be released.

Allowable Gear

Dip or landing net, drop net, fold-up trap, hook and line gear, push scrape, trotline, trap less than 1 cubic ft. in volume fished from a vessel, dock, or shore, and commercial-style, or standard, traps.

Commercial Style Traps

- If you are using commercial style traps you are allowed to use no more than 5 traps per person.
- Each trap must have a mesh size of 1.5 inches.
- Throats may only be located on vertical surfaces and may reach into the trap no more than 6 inches.
- Maximum dimension is 2 ft. x 2 ft. x 2 ft. or have a volume of 8 cubic ft. or less.
- Traps must have a buoy that is made of Styrofoam, cork, PVC, or polystyrene and be a bright color that can be easily distinguished, seen, and located. The buoy must be spherical in shape and be no less than 6 inches in diameter or some other shape that is no shorter than 10 inches in the longest dimension and the width at some point must exceed 5 inches, each buoy must have a legible "R" written on it (stands for recreational) at least 2 inches in height, and no more than 5 ft. of line can float on the surface of the water. Buoy requirements do not apply to traps tied to private property, such as a dock.
- Each trap must have at least three unobstructed escape rings with an inside diameter of $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches and at least one ring must be placed adjacent to each crab retaining chamber on a vertical surface.
- Each trap must have the harvester's name and address permanently affixed.
- Traps may only be worked from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

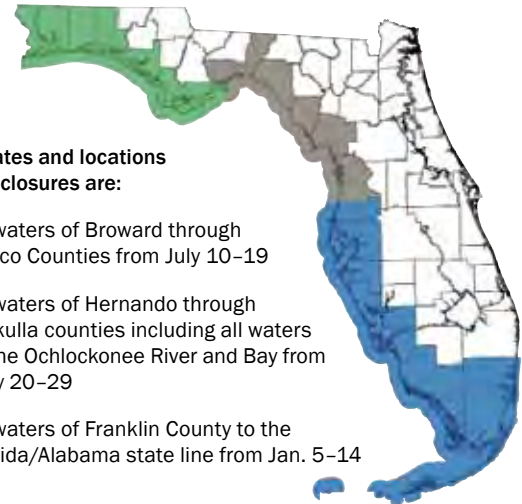
Closures to Commercial Style Traps

- There are six regional closed seasons to the harvest of blue crabs with traps to help clean up Florida's waters. Traps that remain in the water will be removed and disposed of by FWC.
- The closures apply only to standard recreational and commercial blue crab traps.
- During the closures, these traps must be removed from the water.
- The harvest of blue crabs by other gears, such as dip nets and fold-up traps, is allowed during the closures.
- The closures apply to recreational harvesters who use standard blue crab traps unless the traps are attached to private property, such as a dock.
- Closures will extend from the shoreline out to 3 nautical miles and include all inland waters in these regions.**
- Florida Statutes prohibit tampering with, collecting from or moving traps that are not yours, even during the above closures (F.S. 379.366(4)(b)).

* All waters of the St. Johns River, its associated lakes and tributaries from west of the St. Johns River's intersection with the Intra-coastal Canal through and including Lake Hellen Blazes.

** Except all waters of the St. Johns River system.

Closures Occurring in Odd Years (2011)



The dates and locations of the closures are:

- All waters of Broward through Pasco Counties from July 10–19
- All waters of Hernando through Wakulla counties including all waters of the Ochlockonee River and Bay from July 20–29
- All waters of Franklin County to the Florida/Alabama state line from Jan. 5–14

Spotted Seatrout Regions

- Northeast Region means all state waters lying north of the Flagler-Volusia County line to the Florida-Georgia border, and adjacent federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters.
- Northwest Region means all state waters north and west of a line running due west from the westernmost point of Fred Howard Park Causeway (28E9.350'N 82E48.398'W), which is approximately 1.17 nautical miles south of the Pasco-Pinellas County line to the Florida-Alabama border, and adjacent federal EEZ waters.
- South Region means state waters lying between the Flagler-Volusia County line on the Atlantic Ocean and the southern boundary of the Northwest Region on the Gulf of Mexico in Pinellas County and adjacent federal EEZ waters.

