

How To Certify a State Record Freshwater Fish

1. Angler must have a valid Florida fishing license or be exempt under provisions addressed in Florida Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations.
2. The fish must have been caught legally using an active hook-and-line method (bush hooks, snatch hooks, set lines, trotlines, etc. are excluded) in fresh waters of Florida.
3. If possible, keep the fish alive. If it is not possible to keep the fish alive, place it in ice water. Avoid freezing the fish, because it will dehydrate causing it to lose weight.
4. Before contacting the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), weigh the fish to determine if a possible state record exists.
5. Make arrangements with the local FWC office during business hours to have the fish species certified by a biologist, and to have a FWC employee witness the official weighing, on a certified scale, and take measurements.

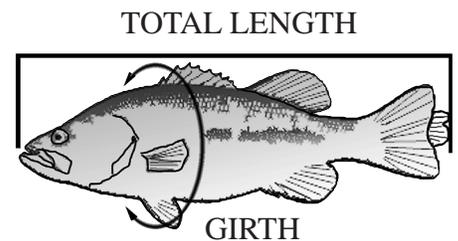
FWC Regional Offices:

Northwest Region	(850) 265-3676
Northeast Region	(352) 732-1225
North Central	(386) 758-0525
Southwest Region	(863) 648-3200
South Region	(561) 625-5122

6. Fill out a State Record Fish application and have the application signed by the biologist and notarized. Applications can be obtained from local offices of the FWC or on the Internet at www.MyFWC.com/fishing.
7. Mail the completed application to: **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Record Fish Program, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL, 32399-1600**

MEASUREMENT STANDARDS:

- A) A flexible steel ruler should be used to measure the fish's total length and girth to the nearest one-quarter inch. Total length is measured with the mouth closed and tail fin pinched together. Girth is the measurement around the widest part of the fish (see illustration).
- B) Weight shall be determined on a scale certified by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or International Game Fish Association, within one year of the scale's certification. Weighing shall be done by a FWC employee and rounded according to the following: (i) nearest one-quarter ounce for fish up to five pounds, (ii) to the nearest one-half ounce for fish more than five pounds and up to 10 pounds, and (iii) to the nearest one ounce for fish more than 10 pounds.
- C) A FWC biologist must see the actual fish and certify its species. The biologist shall also validate the measurements of the fish.



If your fish does not qualify as a state record, the "*Big Catch*" Angler Recognition Program, sponsored by eAngler.com, rewards anglers who catch a memorable-sized fish. Qualifying anglers receive a colorful citation showing the type fish they caught and a window sticker to proudly display their prowess. To qualify, the fish must be legally caught and exceed the specified minimum length or weight. The catch must be witnessed and a "*Big Catch*" form completed. Details can be found on applications available at many bait-and-tackle shops, FWC offices, in the Freshwater Regulations Summary, or on the Internet at <http://www.state.fl.us/fwc/fishing/>

OFFICIAL APPLICATION - FRESHWATER STATE RECORD FISH FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE: _____

COUNTY WHERE FISH WAS CAUGHT: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____

DATE FISH WAS CAUGHT: _____

LAKE OR RIVER CAUGHT FROM: _____

TIME OF CATCH: _____ AM, PM

FISHING LICENSE NUMBER: _____

, OR, IF EXEMPT, CHECK ONE:

YOUNGER THAN 16, OLDER THAN 65,

PERMANENTLY DISABLED,

USED CANE POLE IN COUNTY OF RESIDENCE,

MILITARY HOME ON LEAVE,

OTHER: _____

FISHING METHOD USED TO CATCH FISH (Check one and complete blank)

ROD AND REEL WITH ARTIFICIAL LURE

LURE USED: _____

ROD AND REEL WITH NATURAL BAIT

NATURAL BAIT USED: _____

CANE POLE WITH NATURAL BAIT

NATURAL BAIT USED: _____

FLY ROD AND REEL WITH ARTIFICIAL FLY

FLY USED: _____

OTHER FISHING METHOD

DESCRIBE: _____

IDENTIFICATION AND WEIGHT/LENGTH OF FISH

* SEE BACK OF FORM FOR INSTRUCTIONS

SPECIES: _____

LENGTH: _____ GIRTH: _____

WEIGHT: _____ POUNDS _____ OUNCES

WAS FISH RELEASED? YES, NO

OWNER OF CERTIFIED SCALE USED: _____ PHONE: _____

DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: _____ INSPECTION NO.: _____

I, _____, STATE THAT THE FISH DESCRIBED IN THIS APPLICATION WAS LEGALLY CAUGHT IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, BY MYSELF, AND THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT. THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MAY USE THIS INFORMATION AND ANY ATTACHED PHOTOS FOR RESEARCH, INFORMATIONAL AND OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

BIOLOGIST'S SIGNATURE: _____

WITNESS' SIGNATURE: _____

SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20 _____

NOTARY PUBLIC'S SIGNATURE: _____

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: _____

NOTICE: The FWC reserves the right to cancel this application and any official recognition resulting from it, if at any time the application is shown to contain false statements. Recognition is not official until approved by the FWC and a Record Fish Certificate is issued.