Pound nets for nongame fish
The use of pound nets is limited to sites registered prior to 1983. See FWC rules for details.

Hoop nets for nongame fish
Maximum number – 100 per licensee

Specifications:
- Maximum diameter – 5 feet.
- Mesh size – Not less than 1/2 inch stretched throughout, nor more than 2½ inches stretched rearward of the attachment of the second funnel.
- Depth – At least 3 feet of clearance between the highest point of the hoop net and the water surface.
- Funnels – A cross or other restrictive device shall be attached to the inside of the first funnel opening in order to exclude manatees. This device shall be constructed to prevent cylindrical objects 7 inches or more in diameter from entering the front funnel opening.
- Second funnel opening shall be designed to discourage or prevent the entrance of game fish by restricting said opening with twine or webbing.

Locations:
- Allowed in Trout River east of Interstate 95; Broward River, Dunn Creek and in that portion of the St. Johns River from the Seaboard Coastline Bridge in Duval County upstream to State Road 46 (Mims Bridge), including Crescent Lake, Dunn Creek and lakes Beresford, Woodruff, Dexter, Monroe and Harney, except Lake Jessup.
- Hoop nets are prohibited within 100 feet of the mouths of the following St. Johns tributaries: Getout Creek, Blue Springs Run, Wekiva River, Deep Creek, Alexander Springs Creek, Spring Garden Creek, Shell Creek and DeLeon Springs Creek.
- Hoop nets are prohibited within 25 yards of vegetation in Crescent Lake except from June 1 through Aug. 31. Hoop nets are prohibited in the main channel of the St. Johns River from a point immediately south of Lake Monroe to State Road 46 (except in Lake Harney) from Jan. 1 to March 31.
- Minnow lift nets for nongame fish

Maximum number – 10 per licensee

Specifications:
- Maximum dimensions – 12 feet square.
- Maximum mesh – 1 inch stretched.
- Markings – Poles shall be marked with reflective material at least 6 inches in width, visible 360 degrees.
- Permanent tag bearing the name and address of the owner shall be attached to the pull pole of the lift net.

Area specific regulations:
- No minnow lift nets shall be fished in the St. Johns River Water Management Areas of Lake County formerly known as Long Farm, S.N. Knight Lisbon Farm (both parcels north and south of the Yale-Griffin canal), S.N. Knight Leesburg Farm, Lowrie Brown Farm, Eustis Muck Farm and Walker Ranch.

Minnow seine for nongame fish (except catfish)

Specifications:
- Nets for use in public waters: maximum length 40 feet; no pocket permitted; maximum mesh, 1 inch stretched.
- Eel traps and pots

Persons licensed in accordance with Section 379.363(1), F.S., may take eels as specified in Rule 68A-23.002, 68A-23.003, or 68A-23.004, or 68A-23.005 F.A.C., only under permit from the Commission. Permits shall be subject to such terms, conditions and restrictions as prescribed therein and shall be issued, denied, renewed or revoked as provided in Rule 68-1.010, F.A.C. Eel harvest permits shall be issued to applicants who have submitted a completed eel harvest permit application. See http://bit.ly/Eel-perm.

American Eels must be nine inches or greater in total length for recreational and commercial harvest.

Wholesale/Retail purchase exemption: Recreational anglers purchasing American eels as bait may possess more than the legal bag limit provided that the eels were purchased from a licensed dealer.

Specifications:
- Eel traps or pots – shall be of one inch by ½ inch wire mesh.
- In waters other than those specified for wire traps or slat baskets, such eel traps and pots, in addition to having a 1 inch by ½ inch wire mesh, shall be of the following types and specifications:
  - Square “Carolina”-type pots
  - Cylindrical “shotgun”-type pots

Maximum dimensions – 24 inches by 24 inches by 18 inches.
- Maximum diameter of any and all funnel openings – 2 inches.

Miscellaneous rules

Fishing gear such as hoop nets, wire traps, slat baskets, trotlines, bush hooks and setlines must be clearly and legibly marked with the fisherman’s name and address. This enables better enforcement and removal of abandoned gear or improperly positioned gear, such as gear that is in too shallow water, which would create a navigation hazard. A limited number of permits may be issued by the executive director to authorize operation of haul seines in the Lake Okeechobee and in the Southwest Region. Contact the Commission for information on permits, application procedures, and gear specifications and use.

Blue crab traps and pots may be fished in fresh water. Trap and set specifications and use shall be as specified in FWC rules.

Commercial harvest or sale of freshwater mussels is prohibited.


Commercial fishing license fees

Resident:
- FCL – Resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing (fish or frogs) $25
- FCL NR – Resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing (fish or frogs) $100
- FWD – Resident Wholesale Fish Dealer $500
- FWB – Nonresident Wholesale Fish Buyer $50

Nonresident:
- FCL NR – Nonresident Freshwater Commercial Fishing (fish or frogs) $100
- FKL NR – Nonresident Retail Fish Dealer $100
- FWD – Nonresident Wholesale Fish Dealer $500
- FWB – Nonresident Wholesale Fish Buyer $50

Commercial fishing licenses are issued only by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). For complete rules see the Florida Administrative Code: FLrules.org. FWC rules are in Chapter 68.

Commercial licenses may be purchased online at: MyFWC.com.

See FLrules.org (23.003, F.A.C.) for complete up-to-date rules.
Introduction
Any person who takes freshwater fish or frogs by any lawful method prescribed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for purpose of sale is required to possess a Commercial Fishing License (resident or nonresident). Holders of this license may sell to anyone but may not buy fish for the purpose of sale. A valid Commercial Fishing License also allows recreational fishing.

The Resident Freshwater Fish Dealer License permits a resident to import, export or sell freshwater fish or frogs, including live bait. An import permit also is required in addition to this license to import certain live freshwater fish.

The holder of a Nonresident Retail Fish Dealer License may buy freshwater fish from people properly licensed to sell freshwater fish and may sell live freshwater fish, including live bait, directly to a consumer.

The holder of a Nonresident Wholesale Fish Dealer License may buy freshwater fish for resale from people properly licensed to sell freshwater fish and may sell live freshwater fish within the state.

A Commercial Fishing License is required even for use of trotlines of 25 hooks or less when fish are taken for purpose of sale.

Senior citizens are not exempt from purchase of a Nonresident Wholesale Fish Dealer License.

Lawful methods for using trotlines and bush hooks or set lines
A trotline limited to 25 hooks may be used for taking nongame fish for personal use. Persons operating more than 25 bush hooks or set lines or a trotline using more than 25 hooks are considered to be fishing commercially and are required to possess a properly licensed trotline license. All game fish taken by trotlines, bush hooks or set lines shall be immediately returned to the water, and it is unlawful to possess any game fish while operating trotlines, bush hooks or set lines.

Trotlines, bush hooks or set lines are permitted statewide except in that portion of the Ochlockonee River between State Road 20 and the Lake Talquin Power Dam; that portion of the Apalachicola River between U.S. Highway 90 and the Jim Wooddard Dam; Bear Gulch Lake in Seminole County; the Oklawaha River upstream from the Eureka Bridge; Lake Jackson in Walton County; Silver Lake on the Withlacoochee River; Lakes Jessamine and Holden in Orange County; Tripod Lake in Seminole County; Lake Hamilton in Marion County; and Martin County east of the Sunshine State Parkway; in that portion of the St. Johns River and its tributaries south of State Road 46 and north of U.S. Highway 192, including lakes Poinsett, Winder and Washington.

Trotlines are permitted in the portion of the St. Johns River lying between U.S. Highway 17-92 and State Road 46 provided that from 9 a.m. on Saturday until sunset on Sunday all trotlines shall be sunk to the bottom or to a minimum depth of 4 feet during daylight hours. From Jan. 1 until March 31 trotlines shall be prohibited from 9 a.m. until sunset in the waters of the main channel of the St. Johns River from a point immediately south of Lake Monroe to State Road 46, excluding Lake Harris. Trotlines are prohibited from 9 a.m. until sunset in the Oklawaha River below the Rodman Dam.

In lakes Beaulacrie, Carlton, Dora, Eustis, Griffin, Harris and Yale, no trotline shall be allowed from 9 a.m. Friday until one hour before sunset Sunday. Trotlines also shall be prohibited from 9 a.m. until one hour before sunset Monday through Thursday from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31. No trotline shall be secured to or fished within 50 yards of a private pier or dock.

In East Lake Tohopekaliga, trotlines are permitted only from sunset Sunday until midnight Friday of each week, and only during the period from sunset each day until 9 a.m. the following morning.

Trotlines are prohibited in Little Lake Bay in Orange County except under permit. Trotlines are prohibited in Lake Talquin during daylight hours.

Trotlines are prohibited from 9 a.m. until sunset in the waters of the following lakes: Lake County – Cherry, Cook, Crescent, Hiawatha, Johns, Louisia, Minnehamma, Minneola, Palatka, Suscan, Wilson and Winona. Orange County – Butler, Chase, Conway, Down, Fish, islandworth, Johns, Mable, Maitland, Mixel, Osceola, Picket, Sheen, Starke, Tibet Butler and Virginia.

Polk County – All lakes except Arbuckle, Crooked, Hancock, Rosalie, Tiger and Walk-in-Water.

Commercial fishing devices – provisions for certain waters
Persons licensed under s. 372.65, F.S. may use certain commercial fishing devices only in the manner and in the areas as specified in this section, except as specified in FWC Rule 68A-23.002(10). Any game fish taken by these devices shall be returned to the water immediately.

Wire traps and slot baskets for nongame fish
Specifications for wire traps: Maximum length – 7 feet. Maximum diameter – 2 inches. Maximum type – Two funnels in one end. Depth – At least 2 feet of clearance between the highest point on the trap and the water surface.

Specifications for slat baskets: Maximum length – 6 feet. Maximum diameter – 32 inches. Construction of slats with openings of at least 1 and 1/2 inch in the head or upstream end. Depth – At least 3 feet of clearance between the highest point on the basket and the water surface. Funnel openings minimum of smallest funnel opening 2 inches, except under pressure.

Locations and number of traps and baskets: Eighty wire traps per licensee in the state. Eighty wire traps and slot baskets per licensee in the state. Eighty wire traps and slot baskets per licensee in the state. Eighty wire traps and slot baskets per licensee in the state.