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 2 inches 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, Dunnis 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 ⅛ inch wire mesh.

In waters other than those specified for wire traps or slat baskets, hoop nets, sweep nets, eel traps and pots, in addition to having a 1 inch by ⅛ inch wire mesh, shall be of the following types and specifications:

Square “California-type pots”
Maximum dimensions – 24 inches by 24 inches by 18 inches. Maximum diameter of any and all funnel openings – 2 inches.

Cylindrical “shotgun-type pots”
Maximum dimensions – 4 feet by 18 inches. Maximum diameter of any 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 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 pot 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 – To catch and sell freshwater fish or frogs: $25
RFD – To buy and sell freshwater fish or frogs: $40

Nonresident:
FCL NR – To catch and sell freshwater fish or frogs: $25
FRD – 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: FLCrules.org. FWC rules are in Chapter 68.

The customer can pay online at MyFWC.com/CLS or mail invoice with check or money order to P.O. Box 6150, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6150.

Florida Commercial Freshwater Fisheries
2022-2023 Rules and Regulations Summary
See FLCrules.org (23.003, F.A.C.) for complete up-to-date rules.
No freshwater Commercial Fishing License or Fish Dealer License is required to take or sell live bait, other than freshwater fish or frogs.

It is unlawful for licensed freshwater fish dealers or buyers to purchase freshwater fish or frogs from any unlicensed person. All boats engaged in commercial fishing shall have at least one commercial license on board.

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 specified in this section, except as specified in FWC Rule 68A-23.012. Forty wire traps and slat baskets in the aggregate per licensee in lakes Apopka, Tohopekaliga, Cypress, Hatchineha and Kissimmee. Twenty slat baskets per licensee in the Santa Fe, Suwannee (and its tributary, the Withlacoochee) and Apalachicola rivers (except in the section between U.S. Highway 90 and Jim Woodruff Dam); and the Apalachicola River tributaries (except that portion of the Chipola River upstream from Dead Lakes Dam); and in Lake Seminole in Jackson County. No wire traps permitted. Forty wire traps per licensee in Lake Istokpoga and Red Beach Lake in Highlands County and in lakes Arborc, Crago, Banana, Buffum, Davenport, Henry, Gibson, Marion, Reedy, Surveyors, Varn, Effie, Hancock, Parker, Rosalie and Tiger in Polk County. Additionally, wire traps and slat baskets may be fished in other specific areas as designated by rule of the Commission.

Traps or trap nets not being fished shall be removed from the water.