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, Dunnus 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 feet 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 the following types and specifications:

Square “Carolina”-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: Resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing (fish & frogs) $25
RCD: Resident Freshwater Commercial Fish & Frog Dealer $40

Nonresident:

FCL: Nonresident Freshwater Commercial Fishing (fish & frogs) $100
FWB: Nonresident Freshwater Commercial Wholesale Buyer $50
FWD: Nonresident Freshwater Commercial Wholesale Fish Dealer $500
FRD: Nonresident Freshwater Commercial Fish Dealer $100

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/CLS.

See Flrules.org (23.003, F.A.C.) for complete up-to-date rules.
commercial fishing licenses.

Purpose of sale.

A Commercial Fishing License is required even for use in Florida, to buy freshwater fish or frogs from resident or nonresident, who does not sell freshwater fish or frogs within the state. License may be purchased for taking nongame fish for personal use. Persons operating more than 25 bush hooks or sets of lines or a trotline using more than 25 hooks are considered to be fishing commercially for nongame fish.

A game fish taken by trotlines, bush hooks or sets of lines shall be immediately returned to the water. It is unlawful to possess any game fish while operating trotlines, bush hooks or sets of lines.

Trotlines, bush hooks or sets of 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 Woodruff Dam; Bear Lake and 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; Truit Lake, Manic Tanka Lake, and Lake Hatchineha in Martin County; in 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 (except Lake Harney). Trotlines are prohibited from 9 a.m. until sunset in the Oklawaha River below the Rodman Dam.

In lakes Beauchalle, Cartlon, Dora, Eustis, Griffin, Harris and Yale, no trotline shall be allowed from 9 a.m. Friday until one hour before sunset Sunday. Trotlines shall also be prohibited from 9 a.m. until one hour before sunset Monroe County from Thursday 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 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, Minnehaha, Minneola, Patalakaha, Susan, Wilson and Winona. Orange County – Butler, Chase, Conway, Down, Fish, Islesworth, Johns, Mable, Maitland, Mikel, Osceola, Picket, Sheep, Starke, Tibet Butler and Virginia.

Trotlines are prohibited in Lake Tohopekaliga from 9 a.m. until sunset. Trotlines are prohibited from 9 a.m. until sunset in the waters of the following lakes: Lake Monroe to State Road 46 (except Lake Harney) from Jan. 1 to March 31. Wire traps and slat baskets are prohibited within 25 yards of vegetation in Crescent Lake east of the highway.

Eighty wire traps and slat baskets per licensee in the part of the main channel of the St. Marys River downstream from the railroad bridge paralleling U.S. Highway 17. Regulations pertaining to wire traps fished in Lake Okeechobee are contained in FWC Rule 68A-23.012.

Forty wire traps and slat baskets in the aggregate per licensee in lakes Apopka, West 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 Arbuckle, Crago, Banana, Buffum, Davenport, Henry, Gibson, Marion, Reedy, Surveyors, Vann, Effie, Hancock, Hunter, 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 trotlines not being fished shall be removed from the water.