

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Order No. EO 18-41, Amendment 1**

**Temporary Suspension of Bag and Size Limits  
and General Methods of Take for Saltwater  
Fish**

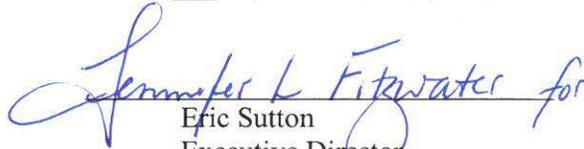
The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Paragraph 22 of the Delegations of Authority, and due to the prolonged natural red tide event in southwest Florida that caused widespread mortality of saltwater fish and marine organisms, hereby temporarily suspends bag limits, size limits, season and area closures, and general methods of take for certain saltwater fish and marine organisms to facilitate the removal and disposal of saltwater fish carcasses and marine organisms that have died as a result of this prolonged red tide event from shoreline areas or inshore and nearshore Florida waters within Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties. Such actions are only authorized as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Division 68B, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and subject to the limitations of paragraph 3, all applicable bag limits, size limits, possession limits, season and area closures are hereby waived for the term of this order for all species of dead marine organisms to facilitate the removal of saltwater fish carcasses and dead marine organisms from shoreline areas or inshore and nearshore Florida waters within Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties.
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Division 68B, F.A.C., general methods of taking saltwater fish are hereby modified to facilitate the removal of saltwater fish carcasses and dead marine organisms from shoreline areas or inshore and nearshore Florida waters within Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties as follows: any reasonable means of removal, excluding gear prohibited by Art. X, Sec. 16 of the Florida Constitution or Chapter 68B-4, F.A.C.
3. This order does not authorize the removal or possession of sawfishes (*Pristis* spp.), marine turtles, American crocodiles, manatees, dolphins, whales, or other marine mammals.
  - a. Any sick, injured, or dead sawfish should be reported immediately by calling toll-free 1-844-4SAWFISH (472-9347).
  - b. Any sick, injured, or dead marine turtle, American crocodile, manatee, dolphin, whale, or other marine mammal should be reported immediately to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline by calling 1-888-404-3922.
4. All saltwater fish carcasses and dead marine organisms collected pursuant to this order must be disposed of in compliance with local safety, health, and sanitation requirements for such disposal.
5. All persons removing saltwater fish carcasses or dead marine organisms pursuant to this order are hereby exempt from the recreational saltwater fishing license requirements established in 379.354, Florida Statutes.
6. The provisions of this order only apply within shoreline areas or inshore and nearshore Florida waters within Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties.

7. All other rules of the Commission relating to the regulation of marine organisms and protected species and their habitats and nests, including but not limited to sea turtles and shorebirds, shall remain in effect.
8. This amendment extends the term of EO 18-41 and shall expire at 12:00 a.m. on May 31, 2019, unless rescinded or extended by subsequent order or amendment.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution  
Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution and subsection 120.81(5), Florida Statutes

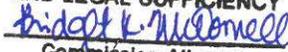
Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 21 day of December, 2018.

  
Eric Sutton  
Executive Director

Attest  
Agency Clerk





APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY  
  
Commission Attorney