

Spotted Seatrout
DRAFT RULE LANGUAGE

Draft Rule Hearing
Agenda Item # 5A

May 1, 2019

68B-37.003 Size Limits for Recreational and Commercial Harvest; Whole Condition Requirement.

(1) Minimum and Maximum Size Limits –

(a) Recreational Minimum and Maximum Size Limits –

1. Except as provided in subparagraph (1)(a)2., a recreational harvester may not harvest or possess within or without Florida Waters or land a spotted seatrout that is less than 15 inches or greater than 20 inches in total length.

2. Within the Northwest and Northeast regions, a recreational harvester may harvest, and possess, ~~within or without Florida Waters~~ and land only 1 spotted seatrout per day that is greater than 20 inches in total length. This provision will not be construed to authorize harvest or possession of spotted seatrout of any size in excess of the applicable bag limits.

(b) Commercial Minimum and Maximum Size Limit – A commercial harvester may not harvest or possess within or without Florida Waters or land a spotted seatrout that is less than 15 inches or greater than 24 inches in total length.

(2) No change

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 11-1-89, Amended 1-1-96, 8-1-96, Formerly 46-37.003, Amended 7-1-00, 2-1-12, 9-1-13, _____.

68B-37.004 Regional Recreational Bag Limits; Bag Limit for Captain and Crew; Commercial Bag, Vessel, and Landing Limits.

(1) Recreational Bag Limits – A recreational harvester may not harvest or land per day ~~from Florida Waters~~ or possess at any time more spotted seatrout than the specified bag limit established in this subsection within the following identified regions:

(a) Southeast Region and Southwest Regions – Two (2) ~~Four (4)~~ spotted seatrout.

(b) Southwest Region – Three (3) spotted seatrout.

(c) ~~(b)~~ Northwest Region – Three (3) ~~Five (5)~~ spotted seatrout.

(d) ~~(e)~~ Northeast Region – Five (5) ~~Six (6)~~ spotted seatrout.

(2) Captain and Crew Harvest Prohibited – On a vessel for hire, a person who is the captain or a crew member may not harvest or possess a spotted seatrout within or without Florida Waters.

(2) renumbered as (3)

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 11-1-89, Amended 1-1-96, 8-1-96, Formerly 46-37.004, Amended 7-1-00, 2-1-12, 9-1-13, _____.

68B-37.005 Commercial Seasons.

(1) Recreational Closed Season –

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (1)(b), there is no closed season for the recreational harvest of spotted seatrout.

(b) Northwest Region – No person shall harvest or land spotted seatrout from waters of the Northwest Region or possess spotted seatrout in or on waters of the Northwest Region beginning February 1 and continuing through the last day of February each year.

(1) through (2) renumbered as (2) through (3)

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 11-1-89, Amended 1-1-96, Formerly 46-37.005, Amended 2-1-12, 9-1-13, _____.