

**CHAPTER 68B-14
REEF FISH**

68B-14.001 Purpose and Intent, Designation as Restricted Species.

- (1) No change.
- (2) Designation as restricted species. The following species are hereby designated as restricted species pursuant to section 379.101(32), F.S.:
 - (a) through (f) No change.
 - (g) Golden tilefish – *Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps* ~~*Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*~~.
 - (h) Blueline tilefish – *Caulolatilus microps*.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., Chapter 83-134, Laws of Fla., as amended by Chapter 84-121, Laws of Fla. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., Chapter 83-134, Laws of Fla., as amended by Chapter 84-121, Laws of Fla. History—New 7-29-85, Amended 12-11-86, 2-1-90, 12-31-92, 3-31-94, 12-31-98, Formerly 46-14.001, Amended 1-1-00, 1-1-03, 7-1-07, 7-1-16, _____.

68B-14.0035 Size Limits: Amberjacks, Black Sea Bass, Gray Triggerfish, Grouper, Hogfish, Red Porgy, Snapper.

No person shall land, possess, unnecessarily destroy, purchase, exchange, sell or offer for sale any of the following species harvested in or from state waters, of a length less than set forth as follows:

- (1) Amberjacks (measured in terms of fork length).
 - (a) Almaco jack harvested commercially from the Atlantic Ocean 20 inches.
 - (a) renumbered (b). No change.
 - ~~(c)(b)~~ 1. No change.
 2. Greater amberjack harvested recreationally from the Gulf of Mexico 34 inches consistent with the Federal Standards established in 50 C.F.R. §622.37(c)(4) as of January 4, 2016.
 3. No change.
 - (c) renumbered (d). No change.
 - (2) through (3) No change.
 - (4) Grouper (measured in terms of total length).
 - (a) Black grouper 24 inches. ~~1. Black grouper harvested recreationally from the Atlantic Ocean and all waters of Monroe County 24 inches.~~
 - ~~2. Black grouper harvested recreationally from the Gulf of Mexico except from all waters of Monroe County 24 inches consistent with the Federal Standards established in 50 C.F.R. §622.37(b)(5)(ii) as of May 25, 2016.~~
 - ~~(b) Black grouper harvested commercially 24 inches.~~
 - (b)(e) Gag grouper 24 inches. ~~1. Gag harvested recreationally from the Atlantic Ocean and all waters of Monroe County 24 inches.~~
 - ~~2. Gag harvested recreationally from the Gulf of Mexico except from all waters of Monroe County 24 inches consistent with the Federal Standards established in 50 C.F.R. §622.37(b)(1)(ii) as of May 25, 2016.~~
 - ~~(d) 1. Gag harvested commercially from the Atlantic Ocean and all waters of Monroe County 24 inches.~~
 - ~~2. Gag harvested commercially from the Gulf of Mexico except from all waters of Monroe County 24 inches consistent with the Federal Standards established in 50 C.F.R. §622.37(b)(1) as of July 23, 2018.~~
 - (e) through (h) renumbered (c) through (f). No change.
 - (5)(a) Hogfish harvested from all waters of the Atlantic Ocean and south of 25°09' North Latitude in the Gulf of Mexico 16 inches fork length (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.185(c)(3)(ii) as of August 24, 2017 8-24-17).
 - (b) Hogfish harvested north of 25°09' North Latitude in the Gulf of Mexico 14 inches fork length (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.37(c)(2) as of August 24, 2017 8-24-17).
 - (6) No change.
 - (7) Snapper (measured in terms of total length).
 - ~~(a) Blackfin snapper 12 inches.~~
 - (b) through (g) renumbered (a) through (f). No change.
 - ~~(h) Queen snapper 12 inches.~~

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- (i) through (j) renumbered (g) through (h). No change.
- ~~(k) Silk snapper 12 inches.~~
- (l) through (o) renumbered (i) through (l). No change.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 12-31-98, Amended 3-1-99, Formerly 46-14.0035, Amended 1-1-00, 1-1-01, 1-1-01, 1-1-03, 9-16-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 4-1-08, 1-6-09, 8-27-09, 3-23-12, 6-10-13, 7-9-15, 1-4-16, 6-1-16, 7-1-16, 11-17-16, 1-1-17, 8-24-17, 1-16-18, 7-23-18, 1-15-19, _____.

68B-14.00355 Size Limits for Importation and Sale.

(1) No person shall possess for purposes of sale, purchase, sell, or exchange any of the following species of a length less than set forth as follows:

- (a) through (c) No change.
- (d) Grouper (measured in terms of total length).
 - 1. No change.
 - 2. Gag ~~24~~ 22 inches.
 - 3. through 5. No change.
- (e) Hogfish 14 inches fork length (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.37(c)(2) as of August 24, 2017 ~~8-24-17~~).
- (f) No change.
- (2) Minimum size limits do not apply to the possession, purchase, sale, or exchange of the following species that have been imported from another state or foreign country: almaco jack, banded rudderfish, lesser amberjack, yellowmouth grouper, ~~blackfin snapper, queen snapper, silk snapper~~, or red porgy.
- (3) through (4) No change.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 1-1-03, Amended 9-16-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 4-1-08, 8-27-09, 3-23-12, 7-9-15, 11-17-16, 1-1-17, 8-24-17, _____.

68B-14.0036 Recreational Bag Limits: Snapper, Grouper, Hogfish, Black Sea Bass, Red Porgy, Amberjacks, Tilefish, Exception, Wholesale/Retail Purchase Exemption.

- (1) Snapper.
 - (a) through (c) No change.
 - (d) Vermilion snapper. Except as provided elsewhere in this rule, no recreational harvester shall harvest in or from state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, nor possess while in or on state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, more than 5 vermilion snapper per day (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.187(b)(5) (as of January 16, 2013). No recreational harvester shall harvest in or from state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, nor possess while in or on state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, more than 10 vermilion snapper per day. Such bag and possession shall not be counted for purposes of the aggregate snapper bag and possession limits prescribed in paragraph (a).
 - (e) through (g) No change.
 - (2) Grouper.
 - (a) and (b) No change.
 - (c) Red grouper. Except as provided elsewhere in this rule, in all state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, except in all waters of Monroe County, within the the aggregate bag and possession limit established in paragraph (2)(a), no more than 2 fish may be red grouper (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.38(b)(2) as of May 7, 2015). No recreational harvester may harvest in or from state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, nor possess while in or on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, except in all waters of Monroe County, more than 2 red grouper.
 - (d) through (g) No change.
 - (3) Hogfish.
 - (a) In the Atlantic Ocean and south of 25°09' North Latitude in the Gulf of Mexico, no recreational harvester shall harvest in or from state waters, nor possess while in or on state waters, more than 1 hogfish per day (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.187(b)(3)(ii) as of August 24, 2017 ~~8-24-17~~).
 - (b) In the Gulf of Mexico north of 25°09' North Latitude, no recreational harvester shall harvest in or from state waters, nor

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possess while in or on state waters, more than 5 hogfish per day (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.38(b)(7) as of August 24, 2017 8-24-17).

(4) through (10) No change.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 12-31-98, Amended 3-1-99, Formerly 46-14.0036, Amended 10-22-99, 1-1-00, 3-6-00, 3-1-01, 1-1-03, 1-3-05, 9-16-05, 1-1-06, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 4-1-08, 1-6-09, 8-27-09, 10-16-09, 1-19-10, 12-30-11, 7-1-12, 6-10-13(4), 6-10-13(8), 3-13-14, 5-7-15, 7-1-16, 11-17-16, 1-1-17, 5-30-17, 8-24-17, 1-16-18, _____.

68B-14.0042 Recreational Hogfish Season.

(1) Hogfish Open Seasons. In all state waters of the Atlantic Ocean and south of 25°09' North Latitude in the Gulf of Mexico, the season for the recreational harvest and possession of hogfish shall be May 1 through October 31 (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.183(b)(4) as of August 24, 2017 8-24-17).

(2) Hogfish Closed Seasons. Except for persons harvesting hogfish for commercial purposes pursuant to Rule 68B-14.0045, F.A.C., no person shall harvest in or from state waters of the Atlantic Ocean and south of 25°09' North Latitude in the Gulf of Mexico any hogfish from January 1 through April 30 and November 1 through December 31 (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.183(b)(4) as of August 24, 2017 8-24-17).

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 8-24-17, _____.

68B-14.0045 Commercial Harvest Requirements; Licenses, Season Closures, Bag and Trip Limits.

(1) Licenses.

(a) Each person harvesting any of the species listed in subsection 68B-14.001(2), F.A.C., for commercial purposes in state waters shall possess a valid saltwater products license with a restricted species endorsement and:

1. If fishing in state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, either a valid transferable commercial permit or a trip-limited commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper pursuant to 50 C.F.R. ~~§622.170(a)(1) §622.18~~ issued to and possessed aboard the vessel.

2. If fishing in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, a valid commercial reef fish permit pursuant to 50 C.F.R. ~~§622.20(a)(1) §622.4(a)(2)(v)~~ issued to and possessed aboard the vessel, except as provided in subparagraph 3.

3. through 4. No change.

(b) through (e) No change.

(2) Season Closures.

(a) through (e) No change.

~~(f) Beginning January 1 and continuing through April 30 each year, no person harvesting for commercial purposes shall harvest in or from state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, nor possess while in or on state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, any red porgy; provided, however, a person harvesting other species for commercial purposes during this closure may harvest and possess three red porgy. During this closed season, the purchase, sale, or exchange of any red porgy harvested from state waters of the Atlantic Ocean is prohibited.~~

(g) renumbered (f). No change.

(3) Bag and Trip Limits.

(a) through (c) No change.

~~(d) Red Porgy. Except during the closed season specified in paragraph (2)(f), no more than 50 pounds of red porgy shall be possessed aboard any vessel in or on state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, or landed from such a vessel, per day.~~

(e) renumbered (d). No change.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 2-1-90, Amended 12-31-92, 10-18-93, 3-1-94, 6-15-95, 1-1-96, 11-27-96, 12-31-98, 3-1-99, Formerly 46-14.0045, Amended 1-1-00, 3-6-00, 1-1-01, 3-1-01, 6-1-01, 1-1-03, 7-15-04, 5-20-05, 9-16-05, 3-10-06, 7-1-07, 4-1-08, 8-27-09, 1-19-10, 1-12-11, 6-10-13, 10-16-14, 7-1-16, 1-1-17, 1-1-19, _____.