Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Reef Fish

Snapper

General Snapper Regulations:
- Snapper Aggregate Bag Limit - Within state waters of the Atlantic and Gulf, all species of snapper are included in a 10 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of snapper species, unless stated otherwise.
- Seasons - If no seasonal information is provided, species is open year-round.

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see remarks)

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

**Remarks**
- Includes: Dog, Mahogany, and Yellowtail
- No minimum size limit for Blackfin, Queen, and Silk

Snapper, Cubera

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see remarks)

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

**Season:**
- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - 2020 season TBD, see MyFWC.com for updates

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester

Snapper, Red

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

**Season:**
- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - 2020 season TBD, see MyFWC.com for updates

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester

Snapper, Vermillion

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"
- Gulf - 10"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Snapper, Lane

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 8"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester, not included within snapper aggregate bag limit

Snapper, Gray (Mangrove)

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester

Snapper, Mutton

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 18"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester

Snapper, Schoolmaster

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Other Snapper

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 30 per harvester

Grouper

Atlantic Grouper

**General Regulations:**
- Atlantic grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Atlantic and all state waters off Monroe County (Gulf and Atlantic sides).
- Atlantic Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit - All species of grouper plus golden tilefish in the Atlantic are included in a 3 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper/golden tilefish species.
- Seasons - If no seasonal information is provided, species is open year-round.

**Gulf Grouper**

**General Regulations:**
- Gulf grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Gulf except off Monroe County (where Atlantic rules apply).
- Gulf Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit - All species of grouper in the Gulf are included in a 4 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper species.
- Seasons - If no seasonal information is provided, species is open year-round.

Snapper, Black & Wenchman

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - None

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Grouper, Black

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

**Season:**
- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester

Grouper, Scamp

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

**Season:**
- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester

Gag Grouper

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

**Season:**
- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - State waters off all other counties: Open June 1-Dec. 31

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 2 per harvester

Other Grouper

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

**Season:**
- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester

Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf - None

**Season:**
- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Aggregate bag limits apply
Reef Fish

**Other Reef Fish** (If no season information is provided, the species is open year-round)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Amberjack, Greater</strong></th>
<th><strong>Great Barracuda</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hogfish</strong></th>
<th><strong>Triggerfish (Gray)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Size Limits:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Season:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minimum Size Limits:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Atlantic - 28” fork length</td>
<td>• Atlantic - 14”</td>
<td>• Atlantic - 1 per harvester</td>
<td>• Atlantic - 12” fork length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gulf - 34” fork length</td>
<td>• Atlantic - Open year-round</td>
<td>• Gulf - 4 per harvester</td>
<td>• Gulf - 15” fork length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Remarks:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Season:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester</td>
<td>Regulations only apply in Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties.</td>
<td>Atlantic regulations apply to Monroe county</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Red Porgy</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tilefish, Golden</strong></th>
<th><strong>Amberjack, Lesser &amp; Banded Rudderfish</strong></th>
<th><strong>Black Sea Bass</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Size Limits:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minimum Size Limits:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minimum Size Limits:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Atlantic - 14”</td>
<td>• Atlantic - 1 per harvester</td>
<td>• Atlantic and Gulf - Cannot be less than 14” or greater than 22” fork length</td>
<td>• Atlantic - 13”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gulf - None</td>
<td>• Gulf - 4 per harvester</td>
<td>• Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per person aggregate of the two species</td>
<td>• Gulf - 10”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Remarks:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Atlantic - 3 per harvester</td>
<td>Golden tilefish included within Atlantic and Gulf Grouper aggregate bag limits</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Atlantic - 1 per harvester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gulf - 100 pounds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Blackfin Tuna</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mackerel, King</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mackerel, Spanish</strong></th>
<th><strong>Swordfish</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Size Limits:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Minimum Size Limits:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sailfish 63”;</td>
<td>• 24” fork length</td>
<td>• Atlantic - 12” fork length</td>
<td>• 47” lower jaw fork length with head attached or 25”cleithrum to keel length if head removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Blue Marlin 99”;</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• White Marlin 66”;</td>
<td>• Atlantic (excluding Monroe) - 2 per harvester</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Roundscale Spearfish 66”</td>
<td>• Gulf (including Monroe) - 3 per harvester</td>
<td>• 5 per harvester per day, not to exceed a maximum of 4 per recreational (not for-hire) vessel or 15 per for-hire vessel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Remarks:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Remarks:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 per harvester aggregate bag limit</td>
<td>Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters if federal waters are closed to recreational harvest.</td>
<td>All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmspermits.noaa.gov.</td>
<td>• 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day. Vessel limit does not apply to for-hire vessels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remarks:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured tip of lower jaw to fork. All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmspermits.noaa.gov.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HMS permit required in federal waters.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Coastal Species

#### Bluefish
- Minimum Size Limits: 12” fork length
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 10 per harvester

#### Flounder
- Minimum Size Limits: 12”
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 10 per harvester
- Remarks: May be harried by spearing, Snatching prohibited.

#### Bonefish
- Minimum Size Limits: 24” fork length
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel
- Remarks: Catch and release only
- Hook and line only

#### Pompano, African
- Minimum Size Limits: 12”
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 8 per harvester
- Remarks: Snatching prohibited
- Vessel limit of 50 fish during March and April

#### Sheepshead
- Minimum Size Limits: 12”
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 6 per harvester
- Remarks: Snatching prohibited
- Vessel limit of 100 pounds per vessel

#### Red Drum (Redfish)
- Size Limits: Not less than 18” or more than 27”
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 per harvester per day in the NE zone, and 5 per harvester in the NW and S zone. See map on p. 6
- Remarks: Off the water possession limit of 6 fish

#### Snook (All species)
- Minimum Size Limits: Not less than 28” or more than 32”
- Atlantic excluding Monroe
- Not less than 28” or more than 33”
- Gulf and Monroe County
- Closed Season: 15-Jan. 31 and June 1-Aug. 31.
- Rules: Catch and release only in SW region, see MyFWC.com for more information

#### Tarpon
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per harvester per year. $50 harvest tag required. Vessel limit of one fish. Harvest tag can only be used when fish is retained for potential IGFA record.

#### Can’t find your fish in the regulations?
Florida’s coastal waters are home to thousands of marine species, and the majority of these species have no specific regulations with regard to bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions or closed seasons. These species are often referred to as “unregulated species,” although the name can be a bit misleading. State law provides that for any marine species that does not have specific regulations, harvesting more than 100 pounds or two fish (whichever is the greater amount) constitutes a commercial quantity and requires a commercial license. This means the recreational harvest limit for any unregulated species is 100 pounds or two organisms if the combined weight of the two organisms exceeds 100 pounds.

- **Gulf Kingfish**
- **Jack Crevalle**
- **Lionfish**
- **Hardhead Catfish**

Examples of unregulated species include:
- Ladyfish, bonito, menhaden, white grunt, southern stingray, gulf kingfish (whiting), pinfish, Atlantic croaker, jack crevalle, cero mackerel, hardhead catfish, gafftopsail catfish, lionfish.

- **No license is required to harvest lionfish by dipnet, pole spear or Hawaiian sling and lionfish bag limit is unlimited for both Gulf and Atlantic state waters.**

- **Additional gear rules apply, please see: MyFWC.com**
- Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook (any hook with two or more points and a common shaft) in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.
- Gulf reef fish survey required when fishing for selected reef species from a private vessel in the Gulf of Mexico.
**Crustaceans and Mollusks**

### Bay Scallops

**Season:**
- Gulf County: Aug. 16–Sept. 24
- Franklin-NW Taylor County: July 1–Sept. 24, 2020
- Dixie and remaining Taylor County: June 15–Labor Day
- Levy, Citrus and Hernando counties: July 1–Sept. 24
- Pasco County: 10 days starting on 3rd Friday in July

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester; no more than 10 gallons whole, or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime.
- Dixie and remaining Taylor County: From June 15–30, one gallon whole/one cup meat per person or five gallons whole/two pints meat per vessel, whichever is less.

**Remarks**
- Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Pinellas - Pasco county line, to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County. Direct transit through closed areas permitted.

### Spiny Lobster

**Minimum Size Limit:**
- Carapace must be greater than 3” measured in the water

**Seasons:**
- Sport Season: open July 29–30, 2020
- Regular Season: opens Aug. 6 through March 31

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Sport Season: 6 per harvester per day in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 in all other harvest areas.
- Regular Season: 6 per harvester in all areas

**Remarks**
- Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny lobster permit required when license required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.

### Crab, Stone

**Minimum Size Limit:**
- 2½” claw

**Closed Season:**
- May 16–Oct. 14

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- 1 gal. claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less

**Remarks**
- 5 traps maximum. Visit MyFWC.com for statewide trap construction requirements and specific requirements that apply in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. See how to properly de-claw on our website. New trap registration requirements, see MyFWC.com to register.

### Oysters

**Minimum Size Limit:**
- 3”

**Closed Season:**
- June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
- July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay

**Remarks**
- Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.
- Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas.
- Harvest from approved shellfish areas during daylight hours only.
- Go to Floridaaquaculture.com to determine the Open or Closed status of shellfish harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.
- 1 Bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell)
- Harvest prohibited in any harvest area that is in the Closed status as determined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- Bay County: Harvest and possession prohibited in West Bay Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project Zone

**Clams (Hard)**

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- 1” thick across hinge

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel (whole in shell)

**Remarks**
- Illegal to harvest from closed areas.
- Go to www.FloridaAquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.

**Crab, Blue**

**Closed Season:**
- Regional trap closures apply. See map on page 6 or visit MyFWC.com for 2020 trap closure dates and locations.

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- 10 gallons whole per harvester

**Remarks**
- 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. New trap registration requirements, see MyFWC.com to register.

**Sharks**

### Retainable Sharks with a 54” fork length minimum ✯ ✯ ✯

**Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako (not illustrated).**

**Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ✯ ✯ ✯

**Finetooth, Smooth Dogfish, Florida Smoothhounds (not illustrated).**

**Prohibited Species**

It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell or exchange the following species:


FWC – Division of Marine Fisheries Management, 1875 Orange Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32311

Phone: 850-487-0554

This publication is provided as a guide to Florida fishing laws and regulations. The Florida Administrative Code is the final authority on fishing laws. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) strives to ensure information in this booklet is accurate, but assumes no liability for any errors that occur in this publication.