

STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 20-05

Temporary Modification of Regulations for  
Red Drum, Snook, and Spotted Seatrout in  
Southwest Florida

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 late-2017 through early 2019 prolonged natural red tide event in southwest Florida that caused widespread mortality of saltwater fish, hereby temporarily modifies the red drum, snook, and spotted seatrout fisheries to be catch-and-release only within specified waters of southwest Florida. Such actions are only authorized as follows:

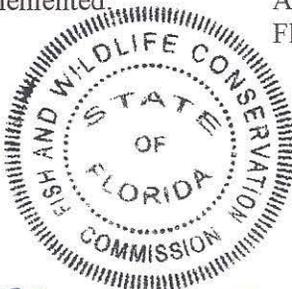
1. The provisions of this order apply in and on all Florida waters of the following geographic areas:
  - a. All Florida waters of Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties; and
  - b. All Florida waters of Collier County north of a line extending due east and due west from the south bank at the mouth of Gordon Pass (26°05.52' North Latitude).
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapters 68B-22, 68B-21, or 68B-37, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and except as provided in paragraph 3 below, a person must immediately release any red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), snook (*Centropomus* spp.), or spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) caught in or on the described region during the term of this order and may not possess or land a red drum, a snook, or a spotted seatrout in the described region.
3. During the term of this order, a person may temporarily possess a red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), snook (*Centropomus* spp.) or a spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) in or on the described region, only for the purpose of photographing, measuring, or weighing (with a hand-held scale) such red drum, snook, or spotted seatrout. A person who temporarily possesses a red drum, a snook, or a spotted seatrout pursuant to this paragraph must release such red drum, snook, or spotted seatrout alive and unharmed in the immediate area where it was caught, immediately after it has been photographed, measured, or weighed.
4. During the term of this order, no Red Drum Catch-Hold-and-Release Tournament Exemption Permits will be issued for activities conducted within the described region.
5. All other rules or orders of the Commission relating to red drum, snook, and spotted seatrout shall remain in effect.
6. This order shall take effect at 12:00 a.m. on June 1, 2020 and shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2021, unless rescinded or extended by subsequent order.

Specific Authority:

Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution

Law Implemented:

Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution and subsection 120.81(5),  
Florida Statutes



Attest  
Agency Clerk

Jill Canfield  
Quilla Mialia  
Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida  
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
on this 19 day of February 2020.

Eric Sutton  
Eric Sutton  
Executive Director