

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 20-30

Temporary Modification of Regulations for Blue Marlin,
White Marlin, and Roundscale Spearfish in All State
Waters

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, through its Executive Director under Delegations of Authority Paragraph 22, and due to the catch-and-release only requirement of blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish in Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico federal waters effective September 30, 2020, in response to harvest projections indicating the 2020 recreational landings limit for blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish has been exceeded for 2020, hereby temporarily modifies the recreational blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish fisheries to be catch-and-release only in all state waters for the remainder of 2020. Sailfish may continue to be retained and landed in or on state waters consistent with applicable regulations. This temporary modification is consistent with the catch-and-release requirement in federal waters of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. Such actions are only authorized as follows as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-33, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and except as provided in paragraph 2 below, a person must immediately release any blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish caught in or on all state waters and may not harvest, possess or land a blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish in or on all state waters.
2. During the term of this order, a person may temporarily possess blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish in or on all state waters, only for the purpose of photographing and measuring such blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish. A person who temporarily possesses a blue marlin, white marlin, or roundscale spearfish pursuant to this paragraph must release the fish alive and unharmed in the immediate area where it was caught, immediately after it has been photographed and measured.
3. All other requirements of 68B-33, F.A.C., shall remain in effect.
4. This order shall take effect at 12:00 am on September 30, 2020 and shall expire at 11:59 pm on December 31, 2020.

Specific Authority:
Law Implemented:



Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
On this 15th day of September 2020

Eric Sutton, Executive Director

Attest:
Agency Clerk

/s/ Quilla Miralia
Approved as to form and legal sufficiency