

Proposed Rule Language
68B-2.010
December 5, 2012
Agenda Item 4 C

68B-2.010 Saltwater Game Fish and Sport Fish Designations

(1) Intent – The game fish and sport fish designations are intended to increase public awareness of the need for extensive conservation action in order to prevent premier recreational fish from declining and to encourage voluntary conservation practices. Additionally, these designations are intended to increase Florida’s ability to market the unique and diverse recreational fishing opportunities that exist around the state.

(2) In order to elevate the status of premier recreational fish in Florida, while recognizing game fish are popular food fish and allowing for a limited recreational harvest, the “game fish” designation includes the following provisions, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission:

(a) Commercial Harvest Prohibited – A person may not harvest, possess, or land a game fish for commercial purposes.

(b) Purchase and Sale Prohibited – A person may not purchase or sell a game fish.

(c) Allowed Gear and Method of Harvest – A person may harvest or attempt to harvest a game fish only by or with the use of hook and line gear. All other gears and methods of harvest are prohibited.

(d) Captain and Crew Harvest Prohibited – On a vessel operating for hire, a person who is the captain or a crew member may not harvest or possess a game fish.

(3) In order to elevate the status of premier recreational fish in Florida by making them catch and release only fisheries, the “sport fish” designation includes the following provisions, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission:

(a) A person may not harvest or unnecessarily destroy a sport fish.

(b) Commercial Harvest Prohibited – A person may not harvest, possess, or land a sport fish for commercial purposes.

(c) Purchase and Sale Prohibited – A person may not purchase or sell a sport fish.

(d) Allowed Gear – A person may target a sport fish only by or with the use of hook and line gear. All other gears and methods of harvest are prohibited.