

68B-14.002 Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, except where the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) through (11) No change.

~~(12) “Recreational harvester” means any person, other than a person harvesting for commercial purposes, who harvests fish in or from the waters of the State of Florida.~~

~~(13)~~(12) “Spearing” means the catching or taking of a fish by bow hunting, gigging, spearfishing, or by any device used to capture a fish by piercing the body. Spearing does not include the catching or taking of a fish by a hook with hook and line gear or by snagging (snatch hooking).

~~(14)~~(13) “Total length” means the straight line distance from the most forward point of the head with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed, while the fish is lying on its side.

~~(15)~~(14) “Trip” means a fishing trip of whatever duration which begins with departure of the fishing vessel from a dock, berth, beach, seawall, or ramp and which terminates with return to a dock, berth, beach, seawall, or ramp.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 7-29-85, Amended 12-11-86, 2-1-90, 12-31-92, 3-1-94, 1-1-98, 12-31-98, Formerly 46-14.002, Amended 1-1-00, 1-1-03, 7-1-06, _____.

68B-14.009 Reporting Requirement.

The purpose and intent of this rule is to improve recreational harvest data collection capabilities for certain reef fish species by identifying the population of anglers fishing for these species.

(1) Beginning April 1, 2015, recreational harvesters are required to report their intention to harvest or attempt to harvest certain reef fish species in the upcoming year. A recreational harvester may not harvest, attempt to harvest, or possess red snapper, vermilion snapper, gag grouper, red grouper, black grouper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, banded rudderfish, or almaco jack while aboard a vessel in or on Florida Waters of the Gulf of Mexico excluding Monroe County, unless that person has reported their intention to do so to the Gulf Reef Fish Data Reporting System. Under 379.401(1) F.S., failure to file reports of intention required of persons who hold recreational licenses is a non-criminal infraction.

(2) Proof of submission of the report of intention required in subsection (1) must be in the personal possession of the recreational harvester while the recreational harvester is harvesting, attempting to harvest or possessing these species aboard a vessel in Florida Waters of the Gulf of Mexico excluding Monroe County.

(3) Persons meeting the criteria outlined in 379.353(2)(a), (i), (j), and (o) F.S. are exempt from the reporting requirement.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New _____.