The Final Text of the Proposed Rule:

(Substantial rewording of Rule 68A-23.005 follows. See Florida Administrative Code for present text.)

Recommended additions to the rule as proposed are denoted by blue text; recommended deletions are denoted by red strike-through text.

68A-23.005 Bag Limits, Length Limits, Open Season: Freshwater Fish.

(1) The open season for fishing shall be from July 1 until June 30 of the following year, except as otherwise provided by these rules.

(2) This rule does not apply to game fish lawfully acquired for aquarium use in accordance with Rule 68A-23.009, F.A.C.

(3) No person shall have in his possession more than two days’ bag limit of freshwater game fish. In any water body where there are specific regulations as to bag limits, minimum length, maximum length, or protected length limits for any species, which are different from the general regulations, the specific regulations supersede the general provisions of this rule section.

(4) Bag or length limits for lakes designated as Fish Management Areas shall be as specified in Rules 68A-20.004 and 68A-20.005, F.A.C.


(6) State-wide bag limits: Except as otherwise provided in these rules, no person shall take in any one day more than the following:

(a) Five (5) black bass, of which only one may be 16 22 inches or longer.

(b) Twenty-five (25) crappie.

(c) Fifty (50) in the aggregate for all other panfish.

(d) Two (2) butterfly peacock bass, only one (1) of which can be greater than 17 inches total length. No person shall kill or possess any speckled peacock bass.

(7) In that portion of the state north and west of the Suwannee River (including in the Suwannee River and in any tributary river, creek or stream of the Suwannee River), bag or length limits are as follows:

(a) Black bass – no person shall kill or possess any Suwannee Bass, Shoal Bass, Spotted Bass, or Choctaw Bass black bass that is less than 12 inches in total length.

(b) Striped bass, white bass, or sunshine bass – no person shall kill or possess more than 3 striped bass nor any striped bass less than 18 inches total length. The daily aggregate bag limit of white bass, striped bass and sunshine bass shall be 20.

(c) Lake Seminole (Northwest Florida) – see Rule 68A-23.0131, F.A.C., for bag or length limits for certain freshwater game fishes.

(d) Lake Talquin (including that portion of the Ochlockonee River lying between Lake Talquin and the railroad trestle that is located immediately below U.S. Highway 90, that portion of the Little River lying between Lake Talquin and County Road 268, that portion of the Rocky Comfort Creek lying between Lake Talquin and County Road 65-B, and that portion of Bear Creek lying between Lake Talquin and Bear Creek Road, those portions of Ocklawaha and Hammock creeks lying between Lake Talquin and State Road 267, those portions of Blount’s, Freeman [Stoutamire], and Harvey and Polk creeks lying between Lake Talquin and State Road 20): No person shall kill or possess any crappie less than 10 inches in total length.

(e) Chipola River: No person shall kill or possess any Shoal Bass in the section between Peacock Bridge (Peacock Bridge).
1. Black bass—No person shall kill or possess any black bass less than eighteen inches in total length.

2. Crappie—No person shall kill or possess any crappie less than ten inches in total length.

(e) Lake Jackson proper, including Little Lake Jackson west of Highway 27, Muggins Arm of Lake Jackson north of Interstate 10, and Fords Arm of Lake Jackson west of Meridian Road: No person shall take, kill or possess in any day more than five (5) black bass only one of which may be greater than sixteen (16) inches in total length.

(e) Perdido River: The daily aggregate bag limit of black bass shall be 10.

(f) Lake Jackson (Walton County): Daily bag limit of black bass shall be five (5), only one of which can be over 22 inches in total length. No person shall kill or possess any black bass that is less than 12 inches in total length.

(g) In that portion of the state south and east of the Suwannee River to the line established by reference to certain counties in subsection (9) below, bag or length limits or areas closed to fishing are as follows:

(a) Black bass—no person shall kill or possess any black bass that is less than 12 inches in total length.

(b) Striped bass and sunshine bass—daily aggregate bag limit of striped bass and sunshine bass shall be 20, no more than 6 of which may be more than 24 inches total length.

(b)(c) Fishing is prohibited in Silver Glen Springs in Lake and Marion counties and in Salt Springs in Marion County and within 50 yards of the springs. Fishing is prohibited from the headwaters of Rainbow Springs to a point one mile downstream on Rainbow River within Marion County.

(d) Lake Kerr, including Little Lake Kerr: No person shall kill or possess any black bass that is 15 inches or more in total length and less than 24 inches in total length. No person shall take in any one day more than 3 black bass of which only one may be 24 inches or longer in total length.

(c)(e) No person shall kill or possess any black bass in the following areas:

1. In Wildcat Lake within the boundaries of the Ocala National Forest.
2. In the St. Johns River Water Management Area, in Indian River and Brevard counties (commonly known as Farm-13 and including the Stickmarsh).
3. In the St. Johns River Water Management-owned area formerly known as the S.N. Knight Farm in Indian River County (commonly known as Keenansville Reservoir).

(f) In waters adjoining Saddle Creek Fish Management Area, Polk County, confined by Morgan Combee Road, U.S. Highway 92 and Fish Hatchery Road, no person shall kill or possess any black bass that is 15 inches or more in total length and less than 24 inches in total length. No person shall in any one day more than 3 black bass.

(g) Lake Weohyakapka (Walk-in-Water), Polk County, including all contiguous residential waterways, Weohyakapka (Walk-in-Water) Creek north to the point located 100 yards south of State Road 60, and Tiger Creek west to the point 100 yards west of Walk-in-the-Water Rd.: No person shall kill or possess any black bass that is 15 inches or more in total length and less than 24 inches in total length. No person shall take in any one day more than 3 black bass of which only one may be 24 inches or longer.

(d)(h) Lake Okeechobee:

1. Defined as any point lakeward of a boundary line delineated by the following points: Intersection of St. Rd. 78 and U.S. 441, U.S. 441 SE to St. Rd. 5 (“80”) St. Rd. 5 (“80”) to St. Rd. 25 (U.S. 27) St. Rd. 25 (U.S. 27) to St. Rd. 78 St. Rd. 78 to U.S. 441 Including: Harney Pond Canal (C-41) north of St. Rd. 78 to South Florida Water Mgmt. District (SFWMD) structure S-71 C-41-A Canal, southeast of the S-84 structure Indian Prairie Canal (C-40) north of St. Rd. 78 to SFWMD structure S-72 All of Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough in Okeechobee County C-38/Kissimmee River south of SFWMD structure S-65E to St. Rd. 78, All of L-50 Canal in Glades County, Fisheating Creek to U.S. 27, All of Sportsman’s Canal (LD-3) in Glades County.): No person shall kill or possess any crappie less than ten inches (10”) in total length.

2. Black bass—No person shall kill or possess any black bass less than eighteen inches (18”) in total length.

3. Crappie—No person shall kill or possess any crappie less than ten inches (10”) in total length.

(9) In the counties of Martin (except: north of a line from the St. Lucie Inlet along the south shore of the St. Lucie River to the St. Lucie Canal, north of the St. Lucie Canal, and west of U.S. Highway 441), Palm Beach (east of U.S. Highway 441 and south of State Road 80), Hendry (south of State Road 80), Broward, Collier, Dade, Lee (south of State Road 80), and Monroe:
(a) No person shall take in any one day more than one (1) black bass fourteen inches or greater in total length, except for Lake Trafford, Collier County.

(b) Lake Trafford, Collier County — No person shall kill or possess any black bass that is less than eighteen inches (18") in total length. No person shall take in any one day more than 5 black bass of which only one may be twenty-two inches (22") or longer in total length.

Anglers participating in the TrophyCatch Program in compliance in TrophyCatch Program rules and fish handling guidelines may temporarily possess in live condition one Hall of Fame candidate largemouth bass (13 pounds or greater) over the legal length limit and bag limit until the fish is certified by FWC staff or authorized representative.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History – New 8-1-79, Amended 5-19-80, 6-4-81, 6-21-82, 7-1-83, Formerly 39-23.05, Amended 2-27-86, 5-10-87, 3-1-88, 4-13-88, 7-1-89, 4-11-90, 7-1-92, 8-23-92, 4-20-93, 7-1-94, 9-15-94, 4-1-96, 7-1-98, 10-20-98, Formerly 39-23.005, Amended 7-1-00, 7-1-01, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-08, 7-1-11, 5-22-13, 9-9-13.