

FISHING REGULATIONS



Page 20

- ▶ New Artificial Reef Deployments
Page 16
- ▶ New Shark Regulations
Page 17
- ▶ Upcoming License-Free Saltwater Fishing Days
June 1 & 2, Sept. 7. & Nov. 30

Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: June 1, 2019



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Please visit [MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational](https://myfwc.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational) for the most current regulations

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CONTENTS



Dawn Forlizzo

2019 FWC Commission Meeting Dates and Locations	2
Message from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	4
Crab Trap Registration	5
Know Your Management Zones	6-7
Lionfish Program Updates	8
Basic Regulations:	
Reef Fish and Pelagics	10-11
Coastal Species and Unregulated Species	12
Crustaceans and Mollusks	13
Sharks and Prohibited Species	13
Marine Life Regulations	14
New Artificial Reefs and Gulf Reef Fish Survey	16
New Shark Regulations	17
Recreational Gear	18

Spearing	19
Angler Recognition Programs	20-21
Know your Sharks	22
FWC Offices	23
FWC Division of Law Enforcement	23
Licenses and Permits	24



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When you buy your license online, it's fast, convenient and saves time and travel.

You can obtain a license 24 hours a day

at **GoOutdoorsFlorida.com** and begin fishing immediately!

Licenses are also available toll-free at 1-888-FISHFLORIDA (1-888-347-4356). Processing fees apply to telephone and Internet sales.

Contact us

Go to MyFWC.com for up-to-date information on recreational saltwater fishing regulations, news and events as well as resources, publications and videos.

Visit the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute online at MyFWC.com/Research

For federal fishing regulations, please contact:

- **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**
888-833-1844
www.gulfcouncil.org
- **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**
866-SAFMC-10
www.safmc.net
- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)**
727-824-5301
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

For additional information please contact:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

Division of Marine Fisheries Management
2590 Executive Center Circle East
Berkeley Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
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or contact/write to: Civil Rights Accessibility Coordinator
for Public Access, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife
and Sport Fish Restoration Program, 5275 Leesburg
Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041; Telephone 703-358-2349
or 703-358-2131.

Wildlife alert reward program

Report fish and wildlife law violations by calling toll-free 1-888-404-FWCC (3922); on cell phones, dial *FWC or #FWC depending on service carrier; or click MyFWC.com/Contact.

On the cover

Chairman Spottswood son and grandson enjoying the beauty of Florida Keys fishing

Photo by Captain Clay Shidler.

Have a picture for the cover?
Please send your photographs to:
Saltwater@MyFWC.com.



Introduction

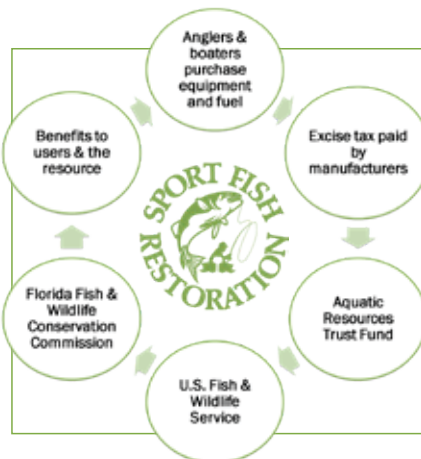
This publication is provided as a guide to Florida fishing laws and regulations. The Florida Administrative Code is the final authority on fishing laws. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) strives to ensure information in this booklet is accurate, but assumes no liability for any errors that occur in this publication. Contact the FWC if you have any questions on issues not covered in this booklet. A continuously updated electronic version of this publication is available at MyFWC.com/Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater" and "Recreational Regulations."

About licenses and permits

The money collected from saltwater fishing licenses and permits is used to improve and restore fish habitat and for marine fisheries research, law enforcement and public education on marine resources. Recreational licenses and permits, including reprints, are available at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, tax collectors' offices, license agents, or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Handling fees apply to telephone and Internet sales. See more information on page 24.

Thank you for contributing to conservation

Your purchases of fishing equipment, motor-boat fuel and fishing licenses help improve fishing and boating opportunities in Florida! Through the Sport Fish Restoration program, a federal "user-pay, public-benefit" system of conservation, millions of dollars in funding each year go toward fisheries research, stock enhancement, artificial reefs, boating access improvements, angler outreach and aquatic education. To learn more, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Sport Fish Restoration."



2019 Commission meeting dates and locations

Subject to change due to availability of appropriate facilities to hold the meeting.

- July 17-18, 2019 (Stuart)
- Oct. 2-3, 2019 (TBD)
- Dec. 11-12, 2019 (TBD)

For more information about Commission meeting dates, times, locations and agendas, visit MyFWC.com and click on "About" and "Commission Meetings" on the top of the page.

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PUBLISHING

Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

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SPECIES: Barracuda

LOCALE: Ambergris Caye, Belize

SITUATION: Polling Flats

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Message from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners



Some of the fondest childhood memories are made on or near the water. There's something about catching that first fish with family that creates a passion for conservation and for exploring outdoors. This is one of the many reasons we are promoting fishing across generations on our cover this edition. Mentoring the kids in your life by taking them fishing is one of the most important things you can do for conservation. Teach them how to tie the perfect knot. Show them how to land that big fish, or how to release it so it can be caught another day. Buy them a fishing license and some tackle, which both help contribute to conservation through programs like Sport Fish Restoration (SFR), helping provide access via boat ramps, artificial reefs and more. If you picked up this book in hopes of learning more about how to fish, consider coming to one of our many Sport Fish Restoration funded saltwater fishing clinics (we have them for adults and kids). Cultivate interest by participating in our saltwater angler recognition program Catch a Florida Memory, which rewards anglers for their fishing efforts. Create tomorrow's conservationists. Make memories. Take a kid fishing.

For more information, contact the FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management at Marine@MyFWC.com or 850-487-0554.

Submit Catches & Earn Rewards!

Saltwater Angler Recognition

See page 20!

CatchaFloridaMemory.com

The most up-to-date regulations online.



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New Recreational Stone Crab/ Blue Crab Trap Registration

The FWC recently approved new rules that will require recreational fishers age 16 and older who intend to use stone crab or blue crab traps in the next year to complete an online recreational trap registration. This no-cost registration will allow FWC to collect important information about these recreational fisheries needed for future stock assessments and management decisions.

Completion of the recreational stone crab trap registration will be required for the 2019 stone crab season, which opens Oct. 15. The recreational blue crab trap registration will be required starting Jan. 1, 2020.

To register, each recreational harvester will need to visit the FWC licensing system at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com and add the Recreational Stone Crab Trap Registration or the Recreational Blue Crab Trap Registration to their fishing license account. Recreational harvesters who are age 16 or older and are otherwise exempt from needing a saltwater fishing license will still be required to complete the no-cost online trap registration.

Upon completion, each person will receive unique trap identification numbers that must be

included on each trap along with the owner's full name and address. Stone crab trap identification numbers will begin with the letter "S"; blue crab trap registration numbers will begin with the letter "B." This information must be legible and must be permanently attached to each trap.

When marking traps, it is important to use materials that will withstand being submerged in saltwater. For example, engraved metal or

plastic pet tags and laminated cards are much better options than a piece of plastic that has been marked with permanent ink or paint.

Both the stone crab and blue crab recreational trap registrations will be made available online approximately 1-2 months before the start of the 2019 stone crab season to allow harvesters time to mark their traps with their unique trap identification numbers.



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Know Your Management Zones

For most species, Florida's recreational bag limits apply to all state waters off Florida, which extend out to 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic and out to 9 nautical miles on the Gulf. The following maps provide information regarding three species that have specific management zones where bag limits or rules vary by region. Great barracuda (map not included) also has a new bag limit of two fish per person and six per vessel that applies within all state and federal waters off Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties. Barracuda is not specifically regulated in other areas.

See the link below for management zones on gag grouper, hogfish, snook, permit and weakfish.
MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Maps

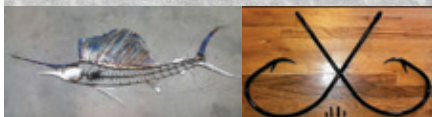
Blue Crab Trap Closures

The blue crab trap closure map identifies the regions and time-frames where recreational traps must be removed from the water or tied to private property. Crabbing can continue during a trap closure period with other legal gear or with traps that are attached to private property.

For more information on trap closures please visit:
MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Blue-Crab.



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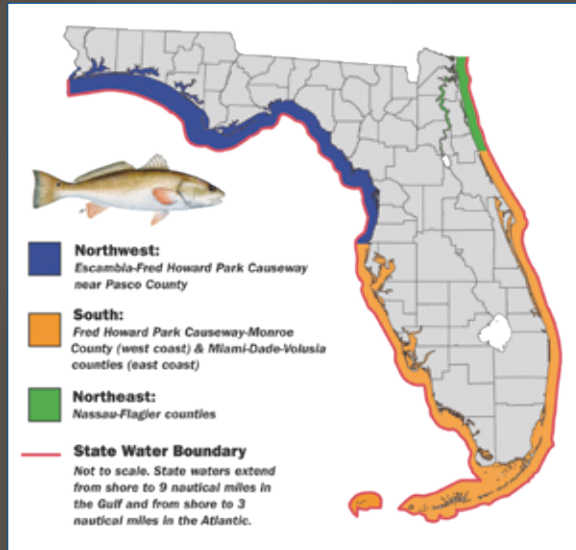
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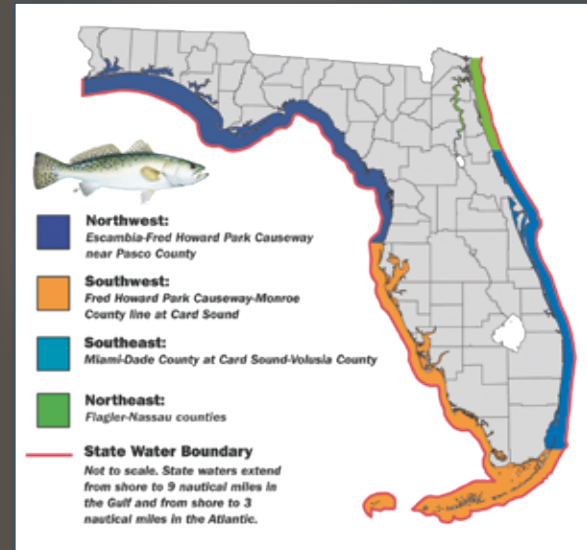
Red Drum Management Zones

For red drum, there are three management zones. The daily bag limit is one fish in the northwest and south zones and two fish in the northeast zone.



Spotted Seatrout Management Zones

Spotted seatrout has four management zones and the recreational bag limit is six fish in the northeast region, five fish in the northwest region, and four fish in the southeast and southwest zones.



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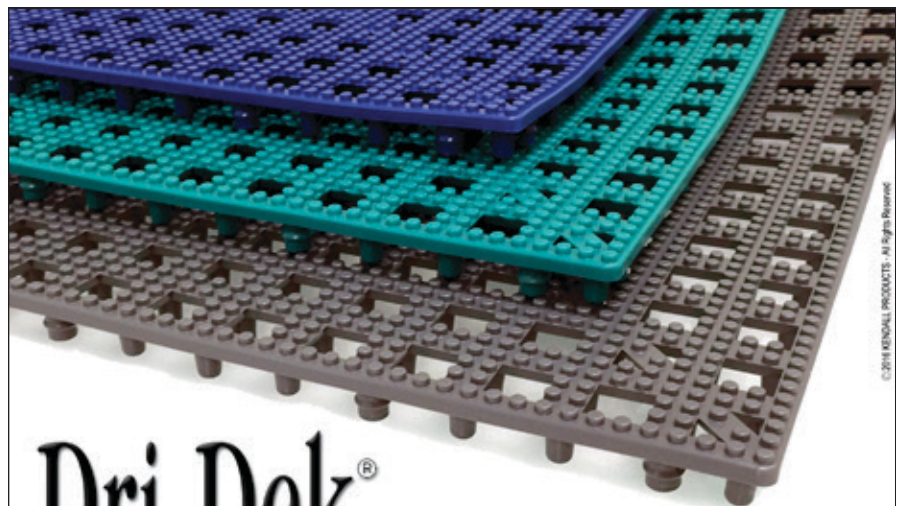
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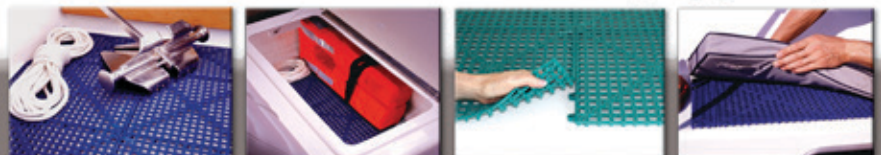
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Catch Some Summer Fun! Multiple Ways to Get Involved in FWC Lionfish Programs

The battle continues, join your fellow lionfish hunters to remove these invasive species! Participate in the annual Lionfish Challenge, a summer-long incentive program that runs through Labor Day (Sept. 2). Submit the most lionfish to become Florida's next Lionfish King/Queen or Commercial Champion and target lionfish of all sizes for your chance to win up to \$3,000 in cash!

Coined the worst marine invasion to date, these voracious nonnative predators pose a threat to native species and ecosystems.

To participate in the 2019 Lionfish Challenge, register at FWCReefRangers.com. Participants can compete in either the recreational or commercial category.

Qualify for the Challenge by submitting 25 or more lionfish (25lbs. for commercial) and get rewarded with a 2019 Challenge performance t-shirt, commemorative coin, and opportunity to harvest an additional spiny lobster during the two-day sport season. Additional submissions of lionfish tails must be brought to a statewide checkpoint listed on FWCReefRangers.com (recreational category) or trip tickets can be submitted online (commercial category). Submitting lionfish will earn you additional prizes including customized apparel, harvesting gear, Costa sunglasses, Engel Coolers, and more.

Cash prizes of up to \$3,000 will be awarded to participants who submit the largest and smallest lionfish in this year's Challenge. Thanks to our generous sponsors American Sportfishing Association, Yamaha Motors, National Marine Manufacturers Association, and Marine Industries of Palm Beach County for making this incentive possible!

Are you a charter captain? Assist the FWC Lionfish Control Team as a participant in the Lionfish Harvest Charter Program. The program incentivizes dive charters who conduct lionfish-specific harvesting trips.

Rather stay on dry land? Be the messenger! The Lionfish Educational Exhibit Program provides financial assistance to public facilities in Florida with an interest in creating or updating educational lionfish exhibits. For more information and to apply, visit MyFWC.com/Lionfish.

Help preserve Florida's marine ecosystems and remove more lionfish in 2019. Happy lionfish hunting!

Top: Harvest Charter Program participants show off their lionfish catch!
Photo courtesy of Blue Water Escape Charters

Bottom: FWC's Lionfish Educational Exhibit Program
Gulf Specimen Marine Lab





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Learn more at TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation



TAKEMEFISHING.org





Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

Issued: June 2019

New regulations are highlighted in red

(please visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational for the most current regulations)

All art: © Diane Rome Peebles, except snowy grouper (Duane Raver)

Reef Fish

Snapper

General Snapper Regulations:

- **Snapper Aggregate Bag Limit** - Within state waters of the Atlantic and Gulf, all species of snapper are included in a 10 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of snapper species, unless stated otherwise.
- **Seasons** - If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.

Other Snapper ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Remarks

- Includes: Dog, Mahogany, and Yellowtail
- **No minimum size limit for Blackfin, Queen, and Silk**



Snapper, Cubera ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see remarks)

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester under 30", included within snapper aggregate bag limit
- May additionally harvest up to 2 per harvester or vessel-whichever is less-over 30", and these 2 fish over 30" are **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit



Snapper, Red ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- **Gulf - Open June 11 - July 12, 2019**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester
- Gulf - Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.



Snapper, Vermilion ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit
- Gulf - 10 per harvester **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit



Snapper, Lane ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 8"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester, **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit



Snapper, Gray (Mangrove) ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



Snapper, Mutton ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 18"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



Snapper, Schoolmaster ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester



Snapper, Black & Wenchman ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Grouper

Atlantic Grouper

General Regulations:

- Atlantic grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Atlantic and all state waters off Monroe County (Gulf and Atlantic sides).
- **Atlantic Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit** - all species of grouper plus golden tilefish in the Atlantic are included in a 3 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper/golden tilefish species.
- **Seasons** - If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.

Gulf Grouper

General Regulations:

- Gulf grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Gulf except off Monroe County (where Atlantic rules apply).
- **Gulf Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit** - all species of grouper in the Gulf are included in a 4 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper species.
- **Seasons** - If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.

* Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels applies to gag, black, and red grouper only.



Grouper, Black ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be gag or black
- Gulf - 4 per harvester*



Grouper, Scamp ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester



Grouper, Snowy ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester



Gag Grouper ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed: Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - State waters off Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties: Open April 1-June 30, & Sept 1-Dec. 31.
- Gulf - State waters off all other counties: Open June 1-Dec. 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be gag or black
- Gulf - 2 per harvester*



Grouper, Red ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 2 per Harvester*

Other Grouper ▲◆●

Other Grouper includes:

- Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney and Graysby

Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Aggregate bag limits apply



Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per vessel per day of each species



Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester

Reef Fish

Other Reef Fish (If no season information is provided, the species is open year-round)



Amberjack, Greater ▲●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 28" fork length
- Gulf - 34" fork length

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Open Aug. 1-Oct. 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester



Red Porgy ▲◆◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 14"
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds



Great Barracuda ▲■

Regulations only apply in Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties.

Minimum Size Limits:

- Not less than 15" or more than 36"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per person or 6 per vessel
- May possess one over 36" per vessel.
- Unregulated in all other areas.



Tilefish, Golden ▲●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester

Remarks

- Golden tilefish included within Atlantic and Gulf Grouper aggregate bag limits



Hogfish ▲●

Atlantic regulations apply to Monroe county

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 16" fork length
- Gulf - 14" fork length

Season:

- Atlantic - Open May 1-Oct. 31
- Gulf - Open year round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 5 per harvester



Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish ▲●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - Cannot be less than 14" or greater than 22" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per person aggregate of the two species



Triggerfish (Gray) ▲●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12" fork length
- Gulf - 15" fork length

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Closed

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 1 per harvester



Black Sea Bass ▲◆◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 13"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 7 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester

Pelagics



Billfish ▲★

Minimum Size Limits:

- Sailfin 63";
- Blue Marlin 99";
- White Marlin 66";
- Roundscale Spearfish 66"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester aggregate bag limit

Remarks

- Measured tip of lower jaw to fork. All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmspermits.noaa.gov.
- HMS permit required in federal waters.



Wahoo ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester



Swordfish ★

Minimum Size Limits:

- 47" lower jaw fork length with head attached or 25" cleithrum to keel length if head removed

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed a maximum of 4 per recreational (not for-hire) vessel or 15 per for-hire vessel

Remarks

- All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528. HMS permit required in federal waters. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels.



Cobia (Ling) ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 33" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester not to exceed 6 per vessel
- Gulf - 1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel



Mackerel, King ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic (excluding Monroe) - 2 per harvester
- Gulf (including Monroe) - 3 per harvester

Remarks

- Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters if federal waters are closed to recreational harvest.



Tripletail ▲★◆■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 18"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester

Remarks

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



Mackerel, Spanish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester



Dolphinfin ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20" fork length
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day. Vessel limit does not apply to for-hire vessels.



Scan this code with your mobile device to view the regulations online.

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Report fish and wildlife law violations toll free at: 1-888-404-3922

Coastal Species



Bluefish ▲ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester



Permit ● ▲ ★ ↑ ■

Size Limits:

- 22" fork Special Permit Zone (SPZ); Not less than 11" or more than 22" fork length all other areas

Closed Season:

- April 1–July 31 SPZ Only

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel SPZ;
- 2 per harvester all other state waters

Remarks

- May possess 1 over 22" fork length outside the SPZ, not to exceed 2 over 22" fork per vessel per day. For map of SPZ, please see: MyFWC.com.
- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels



Black Drum ▲ ◆ ↑ ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 14" or more than 24"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester

Remarks

- May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited.



Flounder ▲ ◆ ↑

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester

Remarks

- May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.



Spotted Seatrout ● ★ ▲ ◆ ↑ ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 15" or more than 20" (See remarks)

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester per day N.W. Zone
- 4 per harvester per day S.W. Zone
- 4 per harvester per day S.E. Zone
- 6 per harvester per day N.E. Zone

Remarks

- May possess no more than 1 over 20"; included in the regional bag limit. See management zone map at MyFWC.com.
- **Catch and release only in SW region, see MyFWC.com for more information.**



Pompano, Florida ▲ ★ ↑ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 11" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 6 per harvester

Remarks

- Hook and line, cast net and beach or haul seine ONLY.



Bonefish ★ ■

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 0 per harvester

Remarks

- Catch and release only
- Hook and line only



Weakfish ▲ ★ ◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Weakfish Management Area (WMA) in Nassau County - 12"
- All other areas - no minimum

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- WMA - 1 per harvester
- All other areas - 100 pounds per harvester

Remarks

- Regulations apply in parts of Nassau County only.
- See map at: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Weakfish



Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver

Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum size

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 50 aggregate per harvester;
- **Aggregate vessel limits**
Feb. 1–Aug. 31: 100 per vessel;
Sept. 1–Jan. 31: 50 per vessel



Pompano, African ● ★ ▲ ↑ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel



Snook (All species) ▲ ★ ◆ ↑ ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 28" or more than 32" Atlantic excluding Monroe
- Not less than 28" or more than 33" Gulf and Monroe County

Closed Season:

- Atlantic (excluding Monroe) closed Dec. 15–Jan. 31 and June 1–Aug. 31.
- Gulf including Monroe County, Dec. 1–end of February, and May 1–Aug. 31.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester

Remarks

- Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. See MyFWC.com for snook permit details. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.
- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels
- **Catch and release only in SW region, see MyFWC.com for more information**



Blue Runner ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 100 fish per harvester



Sheepshead ● ★ ▲ ◆ ↑ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 8 per harvester

Remarks

- Snatching prohibited
- Vessel limit of 50 fish during March and April



Tarpon ● ★ ↑ ■

Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per year. \$50 harvest tag required. Vessel limit of one fish. Harvest tag can only be used when fish is retained for potential IGFA record.

Remarks

- Tarpon over 40 inches must remain in the water during release. Spearing and snatch hooking prohibited. Bottom weighted jigs prohibited in Boca Grande Pass. See: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Tarpon for additional information.



Red Drum (Redfish) ▲ ★ ◆ ↑

Size Limits:

- Not less than 18" or more than 27"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day in the NE zone, and 1 per harvester in the NW and S zone. See map on p. 6
- Off the water possession limit of 6 fish

Remarks

- Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.
- **Catch and release only in SW region, see MyFWC.com for more information**

Can't find your fish in the regulations?

Florida's coastal waters are home to thousands of marine species, and the majority of these species have no specific regulations with regard to bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions or closed seasons. These species are often referred to as "unregulated species," although the name can be a bit misleading. State law provides that for any marine species that does not have specific regulations, harvesting more than 100 pounds or two fish (whichever is the greater amount) constitutes a commercial quantity and requires a commercial license. This means the recreational harvest limit for any unregulated species is 100 pounds or two organisms if the combined weight of the two organisms exceeds 100 pounds.



Examples of "unregulated species" include:

Ladyfish, bonito, menhaden, white grunt, southern stingray, gulf kingfish (whiting), pinfish, Atlantic croaker, jack crevalle, cero mackerel, hardhead catfish, gafftopsail catfish, lionfish and blackfin tuna.

* No license is required to harvest lionfish by dipnet, pole spear or Hawaiian sling and lionfish bag limit is unlimited for both Gulf and Atlantic state waters.

★ Spearing Prohibited

▲ Must remain in whole condition (removal of gills and guts allowed).

◆ Measured as total length. Total length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.

■ State regulations apply in federal waters.

● Additional gear rules apply, please see: MyFWC.com

↑ Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook (any hook with two or more points and a common shaft) in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.

X Gulf reef fish survey required when fishing for selected reef species from a private vessel in the Gulf of Mexico.

Crustaceans and Mollusks

Bay Scallops



Season:

- **Gulf County:** Aug. 16-Sept. 15, 2019
- **Franklin-NW Taylor & Levy-Hernando:** July 1-Sept. 24, 2019
- **SW Taylor - Dixie:** June 15 - Sept. 10, 2019
- **Pasco County:** July 19 - 28, 2019

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester; no more than 10 gallons whole, or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime

Remarks

- Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Pinellas - Pasco county line, to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County. Direct transit through closed areas permitted.



Shrimp

Closed Season:

- April & May closed in Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 gallons heads on per harvester or vessel, whichever is less

Remarks

- Visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater", "Regulations" and "Shrimp" for additional regulations specific to Dade, Nassau and Duval

Spiny Lobster



Minimum Size Limit:

- Carapace must be greater than 3" measured in the water

Seasons:

- Sport Season open July 24-25, 2019
- Regular Season opens Aug. 6 through March 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Sport Season: 6 per harvester per day in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 in all other harvest areas.
- Regular Season: 6 per harvester in all areas

Remarks

- Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny lobster permit required when license required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.



Clams (Hard)

Minimum Size Limits:

- 1" thick across hinge

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel (whole in shell)

Remarks

- Illegal to harvest from closed areas.
- Go to www.FloridaAquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.

Crab, Stone



Minimum Size Limits:

- 2 ¾" claw

Closed Season:

- May 16-Oct. 14

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 gal. claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less

Remarks

- 5 traps maximum. Visit MyFWC.com for statewide trap construction requirements and specific requirements that apply in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. See how to properly de-claw on our website.



Crab, Blue

Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. See map on page 6 or visit MyFWC.com for 2019 trap closure dates and locations.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 gallons whole per harvester

Remarks

- 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

Oysters



Minimum Size Limit:

- 3"

Closed Season:

- June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
- July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay

Remarks

- **Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.**
- Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas.
- Harvest from approved shellfish areas during daylight hours only.
- Go to FloridaAquaculture.com to determine the Open or Closed status of shellfish harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.
- 1 Bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell)
- Harvest prohibited in any harvest area that is in the Closed status as determined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- Bay County: Harvest and possession prohibited in West Bay Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project Zone

Sharks

Retainable Sharks with a 54" fork length minimum ▲ ★ †

Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako (not illustrated).



Bull



Nurse



Common Thresher



Spinner

Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ▲ ★ †



Atlantic Sharpnose



Bonnethead



Blacknose



Finetooth



Blacktip



Smooth Dogfish

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less.

Remarks

- The retainable sharks are managed as a group for bag limit purposes. In other words, you can only harvest one shark per day and the shark that you harvest must be one of the retainable species.
- Hook-and-line gear only.
- **Effective July 1, 2019. New shoreline shark fishing permit and new gear/handling requirements, see MyFWC.com**
- See list of prohibited species below.

Prohibited Species

It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell or exchange the following species:

Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Sawfish, Atlantic Angel Shark, Basking Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Sixgill Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Caribbean Sharpnose Shark, Dusky Shark, Galapagos Shark, Lemon Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Night Shark, Silky Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Sandbar Shark, Sevengill Shark, Sixgill Shark, Smalltail Shark, Spiny Dogfish, Whale Shark, White Shark, Tiger Shark, Greater, Scalloped and Smooth Hammerhead Shark, Manta Ray, Devil Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Sturgeon, Queen Conch, Calico Scallop, Stony, Hard, Black and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Bahama Starfish, and Longspine Urchin. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited. Puffer fish harvest is prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

Marine life regulations

Requirements for marine life (aquarium species) harvest:

- Recreational saltwater fishing license
- Organisms must be landed and kept alive
- A continuously circulating live well, aeration or oxygenation system of adequate size to maintain these organisms in a healthy condition
- **Allowable Gear:** hand-held net, drop net, rod, barrier net, slurp gun (use of quinaldine is prohibited)*
- **Bag Limit:** 20 organisms per person per day; only 5 of any one species allowed within the 20-organism bag limit
- **Possession Limit:** 2-day possession limit, 40 total organisms, no more than 10 of any one species allowed
- **Allowable substrate:** see species specifications in table
- **Closed areas:** Some closed areas exist**
- Sale of recreationally caught marine life organisms is prohibited
- Regulations also apply in federal waters

* Some organisms have additional gear limitations, see chart.

** Various closed areas exist. See regulations for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park and Florida's State Parks before collecting in these areas.

Additional rules apply to the collection of shells containing live organisms in Lee or Manatee counties.

Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.

If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

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Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹	SIZE LIMITS (total length unless otherwise noted)
Angelfish	No more than 5 per person per day in any combination	Gray, French Angelfish: 1½–8" slot limit Blue, Queen Angelfish: 1¾–8" slot limit Rock Beauty: 2–5" slot limit
Butterflyfish		1–4" slot limit
Filefish/Triggerfish	Except Unicorn Filefish, Gray Triggerfish and Ocean Triggerfish	
Gobies		Maximum size limit: 2"
Hamlets/Seabasses	Except reef fish ² and Longtail Bass	
Jawfish		Maximum size limit: 4"
Parrotfish		Maximum size limit: 12"
Porkfish		Minimum size limit: 1½"
Pufferfish, Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	
Tangs and Surgeonfish		Maximum size limit (fork length): 9"
Wrasse/Hogfish/Razorfish	Except Hogfish Snapper	Spanish Hogfish: 2–8" slot limit Cuban Hogfish: 3–8" slot limit

Other Marine Life fish include¹: Basslets, Batfish, Blackbar Soldierfish, Blennies, Brotulas (Black and Key), Cardinalfish, Clingfish, Cornetfish, Damselfish, Eels (Moray and Snake), Frogfish, Hawkfish, High-hat/Jackknife-fish/Spotted Drum/Cubbyu, Pipefish, Reef Croakers, Seahorses, Sleepers, Yellow Stingray, Sweepers, Toadfish, Trumpetfish and Trunkfish/Cowfish.

Marine Life — Invertebrates

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹
Anemones	Corallimorphs and Zoanthids: No more than 5 polyps of each may be landed per person per day, must be harvested with a flexible blade no wider than 2". Corallimorphs must be harvested as single polyps only. Zero bag limit on Giant Anemone (<i>Condylactis gigantea</i>).
Conch, Queen	Harvest prohibited
Corals: Hard, stony, fire & black	Harvest prohibited
Octocorals	No more than 6 octocoral colonies per person per day in any combination; harvest of attached substrate within 1" of base is permitted; harvest closes when quota met.
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs
Crab, Horseshoe	Harvest prohibited
Live Rock	Harvest prohibited
Octopods ³	Except Common Octopus
Sea Fans	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
Siphonophores/Hydroids	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
Sponges	Except Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef and Velvet Sponges; no more than 5 sponges per harvester per day in any combination; harvest of substrate within 1" of base permitted north and west of the southernmost point of Egmont Key, no substrate allowed south of Egmont Key
Starfish ³	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins ³	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

Other Marine Life invertebrates include¹: Brittlestars³, Decorator (Furcate Spider) Crab, False Arrow Crab, Green Clinging (Emerald) Crab, Nimble Spray (Urchin) Crab, Red Mithrax Crab, Red-Ridged Clinging Crab, Spotted Porcelain Crab, Yellowline Arrow Crab, Fileclams³, Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs³, Sea Cucumbers³, Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails³, Starsnails³, Feather-duster Worms and Calcareous Tube Worms.

Marine Life — Plants

SPECIES	LIMITS
Algae, Coralline Red	
Caulerpa	One gallon of tropical ornamental marine plants per day in any combination; 2 gallon maximum possession limit
Halimeda/Mermaid's Fan/Mermaid's Shaving Brush	

- 1—Unless otherwise noted, combined bag limit of 20 marine life fish and invertebrates per person per day, only 5 of any one species allowed. A 2-day possession limit also applies (40 total organisms, only 10 of any one species).
- 2—Such as groupers, snappers, seabass and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on pages 10–11.
- 3—Bag limit of 2 live shell fish of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.

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New Artificial Reef Locations

Florida manages one of the most diverse, and most active artificial reef programs in the United States. As of March 2019, the FWC Artificial Reef Program has recorded over 3,561 artificial reef deployment locations state-wide. Between August 2018 and March 2019, 164 new artificial reefs were constructed, and the locations of those new reefs are listed in the table below. To download a complete list of Florida's artificial reef locations in a variety of digital formats, view an interactive map, and learn more about Florida's artificial reef program please visit MyFWC.com/ArtificialReefs

Artificial Reef Highlights

DeployID	County	Deploy Date	Deployment Name	Material	Tons	Relief	Depth	Lat (DM)	Long (DM)
BE0067	Brevard	8/7/18	Newy Reef	24 Dome-shaped modules	48	5	80	29° 54.731' N	85° 35.243' W
B00119	Broward	8/7/18	John M. Baker Fishing Reef	572 Tons Secondary Use Concrete	572	5	155	26° 09.457' N	80° 04.134' W
B00120	Broward	8/14/18	John M. Baker Memorial Reef	50 Tons Concrete Culverts	50	6	70	26° 09.482' N	80° 04.721' W
CH0042	Charlotte	11/20/18	Jeff Steele Memorial Reef	445 Tons Secondary Use Concrete	445	15	61	26° 55.791' N	82° 35.941' W
DA0238	Miami-Dade	2/18/19	Eternal Reef #29	11 Reefballs	6	4	43	25° 57.725' N	80° 05.890' W
DU0103	Duval	10/13/18	Starship Reef	14" Square Concrete Pilings (various lengths)	640	5	70	30° 10.177' N	81° 09.351' W
ES0578	Escambia	10/15/18	ESERS 571	1 Large Tetrahedron	18	15	82	30° 11.583' N	87° 06.243' W
ES0587	Escambia	10/17/18	ESERS 559	1 Large Tetrahedron w/ Ecosystem	21	15	81	30° 11.340' N	87° 07.741' W
ES0601	Escambia	11/6/18	ESERS 14	1 Large Tetrahedron w/ Ecosystem	19	18	93	30° 12.068' N	87° 10.865' W
IR0014	Indian River	8/25/18	Alan's Reef	10 Tetrahedron Modules	30	8	55	27° 50.127' N	80° 21.639' W
MI0111	Martin	8/24/18	Brause Girls Reef	100 ft. Steel Tug	199	63	188	27° 12.463' N	80° 00.236' W
MI0113	Martin	8/16/18	2018 Kerry Dillon Site 2	800 Tons Concrete (Culverts, Poles, & Slabs)	802	5	42	27° 11.820' N	80° 05.539' W
PB0103	Palm Beach	8/21/18	PBFF Reef	24 Pre-Fabricated Reef Darts	240	35	110	26° 47.661' N	80° 00.144' W
PB0104	Palm Beach	8/23/18	Andrew Red Harris Reef	32 Cell Modules & 500 Tons of Boulders	600	15	75	26° 52.751' N	80° 01.871' W
SR0020	Santa Rosa	2/4/19	SR-27 NRDA Patch Reef7	25 Reef Modules (15 Tetrahedron & 10 Ledge)	85	16	70	30° 21.427' N	86° 50.706' W
SR0021	Santa Rosa	2/4/19	SR-27 NRDA Patch Reef 29	25 Reef Modules (11 Tetrahedron & 14 Ledge)	82	16	70	30° 21.555' N	86° 51.562' W
ST0194	Sarasota	10/8/18	Silvertooth	16 Dome-shaped modules	7	3	14	27° 17.160' N	82° 35.977' W
ST0196	Sarasota	11/19/18	Younkmon Reef	6 Dome-shaped modules	2	3	14	27° 22.574' N	82° 35.589' W
ST0197	Sarasota	3/1/19	Silvertooth	12 Dome-shaped modules	7	4	30	27° 17.135' N	82° 35.971' W
VO0171	Volusia	9/7/18	Argoil wreck concrete pile	400 Tons Secondary Use Concrete	400	16	72	29° 07.070' N	80° 41.560' W
VO0172	Volusia	9/7/18	Semarca wreck concrete pile	400 Tons Secondary Use Concrete	400	10	75	29° 09.178' N	80° 40.638' W
VO0174	Volusia	9/20/18	Thomas H wreck concrete pile	400 Tons Secondary Use Concrete	400	12	80	29° 11.730' N	80° 44.888' W
VO0175	Volusia	10/26/18	Mindinao wreck concrete pile	375 Tons Secondary Use Concrete	375	14	85	29° 11.952' N	80° 44.887' W
VO0179	Volusia	9/27/18	Lady P. Reef Trail	375 Tons Secondary Use Concrete	375	15	75	29° 11.581' N	80° 46.154' W

How to Help with Recreational Data Collection for Gulf Reef Fish

Summer recreational fishing is in full swing, but no matter the time of year, we need your help to improve Gulf reef fish catch and effort data.

Ways to participate

Gulf Reef Fish Angler: It is *mandatory* to sign up as a Gulf Reef Fish Angler if you are fishing from a private boat from Florida's Gulf coast (excluding Monroe County) and plan to target: red and vermilion snappers; gag, black and red groupers; gray triggerfish; and other jack species. You can sign up annually via FWC's licensing system (GoOutdoorsFlorida.com or at any location that sells licenses).

Mail Survey: Gulf Reef Fish Anglers may be randomly selected to receive a survey by mail about their fishing activity. The information you provide is used to estimate the total number of recreational fishing trips for reef fish on Florida's west coast during a given month. Even if you did not fish for Gulf reef fish, your

feedback allows scientists to more accurately determine fishing effort. You may also receive a survey from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) about your recent fishing activity. If you receive either survey, please respond and return as soon as possible, *even if you did not fish in the given month!*

Dockside Interviews: FWC biologists conduct in-person interviews at boat ramps and marinas, where they ask for details about fishing trips such as the number and types of reef fish harvested and released. They may also ask to weigh and measure your catch and take biological samples. These interviews take just a few minutes and help fisheries scientists estimate recreational harvest and average catch for reef fish and obtain key biological information for fisheries stock assessments.

iAngler Gulf Red Snapper Smartphone App Pilot Program: Many red snapper anglers have been asking for a way to share catch information

electronically on a smartphone or tablet. In partnership with the Angler Action Foundation (AAF), FWC is testing the iAngler Gulf Red Snapper smartphone app that allows anglers to do just that. Use of this app is voluntary and does not replace signing up as a Gulf Reef Fish Angler or participating in mail surveys and dockside interviews. This app is also a great way to keep a fishing log, so download it today!

Reeling it in

The information you provide through surveys helps scientists and managers monitor annual harvests and assess the status of fisheries. The app helps fishery managers understand more about anglers' experiences on the water. With better, more precise data, we can keep Florida's fisheries sustainable and productive. Remember, the next time you are surveyed about your fishing activity, whether by mail or in person, your response is contributing to fisheries management in Florida.

New Shark Regulations

– Effective July 1, 2019

If you fish for sharks from shore or from a boat, heads up, several new regulations go into effect July 1 that will impact you.

FWC approved changes earlier this year after months of collecting public input and working with stakeholders. The updates are intended to increase survival of released sharks, improve information gathering for the shore-based fishery and address some of the public safety concerns related to the fishery.

Fishing for sharks from shore? You need the permit.

Adult anglers fishing for shark from shore must take an online educational shore-based shark fishing course AND have a no-cost, shore-based shark fishing permit (renew annually). This permit will be associated with your recreational fishing license if you are required to have one. Fishing for sharks from a vessel does not require the additional permit.

This requirement is for all adult anglers that require a license (as well as those over the age of 65 who are normally exempt from needing a license) targeting or harvesting sharks from shore, including from any structure attached to shore such as jetties, bridges and piers. The permit is also required if fishing **from shore for any species** under the following circumstances:

- Fishing with a metal leader more than 4 feet long,
- Using a fighting belt/harness, or
- Deploying bait by any means other than casting (kayaking for example) while using a hook that is 1 ½ inches or larger at the widest inside distance.

Those 16 and younger fishing for sharks from shore or as otherwise described above are not required to obtain the permit but will be required to take the online educational course unless they are fishing with an adult who already holds the permit.

When chumming for shark or other species...

Chumming is prohibited when fishing for any species (not just sharks) from the beach.

What if I catch a prohibited shark species?

Whether fishing from shore, or from a boat, prohibited species must remain in the water. When fishing from shore, prohibited sharks must be released immediately. Hook removal or cutting the hook or leader must be completed as quickly as possible to prevent delaying release of prohibited species.

What kind of gear do I use when fishing for sharks?

When fishing from shore or vessel, non-offset, non-stainless-steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for sharks with live or dead natural bait. The new rules also require that you be in possession of a device capable of quickly cutting your hook or leader (bolt cutters or cable cutters for example).

Learn more about the online education course and how to get the permit, see a list of prohibited sharks, and more at MyFWC.com/Marine by clicking on "Recreational Regulations" and "Sharks."



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Recreational gear

Additional regional gear restrictions may apply in your county. For further clarification, contact the local regional offices listed on page 23.

Reef fish gear rules

(applies to species marked with ● on pages 10-11)

- **Gulf of Mexico:** These regulations require the use of a dehooking device when recreationally fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. All persons aboard a vessel harvesting reef fish must possess and use non-stainless steel non-offset circle hooks when using natural baits.
- **Atlantic Ocean:** Recreational and commercial fishers are required to use dehooking devices as needed while fishing for reef fish.

These rules apply to all members of the reef fish complex including groupers, snappers, amberjacks, red porgy, gray triggerfish, black sea bass, golden tilefish, banded rudderfish, speckled hind and others. For a complete species list, please visit MyFWC.com.

Hook-and-line gear

Hook-and-line anglers must tend their gear at all times to prevent people, marine life and shore life from becoming entangled in the line or injured by the hook. Also, it is against the law to intentionally discard any monofilament netting or line into or onto state waters. Monofilament line can entangle birds, marine mammals, marine turtles and fish, often injuring or killing them. Trot lines with 10 or fewer hooks are considered hook-and-line gear and must be tended at all times while deployed. Species identified with "T" on pages 10 through 13 cannot be harvested with multi-hooks (single hook with two or more points) in conjunction with natural baits.

Nets

The following types of nets may be used for recreational purposes in Florida waters:

- Bully nets (for lobster only) no greater than 3 feet in diameter and not made of monofilament.
- Frame nets and push nets (for shrimp only) no greater than 16 feet in perimeter and not made of monofilament. Frame nets cannot be used in state waters off Dade County.
- Hand-held landing or dip nets no greater than 96 inches in perimeter.
- Cast nets measuring 14 feet or less stretched length (stretched length is defined as the distance from the horn at the center of the net with the net gathered and pulled taut, to the lead line).
- Beach or haul seines measuring no larger than 500 square feet of mesh area, no larger than 2 inches stretched mesh size, not constructed of monofilament, and legibly marked at both ends with the harvester's name and address if a Florida resident. Non-residents using beach or haul seines for recreational purposes are required to have a commercial saltwater products license and legibly mark the seine at both ends with the harvester's saltwater products license number.
- Cast nets and seines may be used as harvesting gear for the following species only: black drum, bluefish, cobia, flounder, mullet, Florida pompano, red drum, sheepshead, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, weakfish and unregulated species (see p. 12).
- No more than two nets can be fished from any vessel and no more than one net can be fished by any person not on a vessel.

Explosives, etc.

The use of powerheads, explosives, chemicals or the discharge of firearms to kill or harvest marine life is prohibited in state waters.

Spearing

Spearing is a general term that includes bow fishing, gigging, spearfishing (underwater), or the use of any other device to capture a fish by piercing its body. Spearing does not include snagging or snatch hooking by hook and line. Marine species harvested by spearing are subject to the same recreational regulations (e.g., bag limits, size limits, and closed seasons) as those marine species that are harvested by any other type of recreationally-allowed gear. The following is a list of species or groups of species that are prohibited from harvest by all forms of spearing in state waters:

- All prohibited species (listed on p. 10-13)
- Billfish (all species)
- Bonefish
- Crab (blue, stone)
- Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*)
- Goliath grouper
- Manta ray
- Nassau grouper
- Permit
- Pompano (Florida and African)
- Red drum
- Sharks (all species including dogfish)
- Snook
- Spotted eagle ray
- Spotted seatrout
- Sturgeon
- Tarpon
- Tripletail
- Weakfish
- Marine life species (listed on p. 14)

* Volusia County — You may not harvest by spearing in Volusia County inland waters with the exception of flounder and sheepshead, and only by the use of a barbed spear with three or fewer prongs.

* Special Local Laws also prohibit harvest by spearing in specific areas (Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations," "Full Text Rule by Species" and "Local Laws.")



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AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.

THE NEW HAVALON® TALON™ QUIK-CHANGE II™ MULTI-BLADE CUTLERY SYSTEM BRINGS TOGETHER NEARLY 40 YEARS OF EXPERTISE IN THE SURGICAL FIELD AND DECADES OF QUALITY TIME SPENT OUT IN OPEN WATERS.

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Spearfishing

Spearfishing is a specific form of "spearing" defined as "the catching or taking of a fish through the instrumentality of a hand or mechanically propelled, single or multi-pronged spear or lance, barbed or barbless, **operated by a person swimming at or below the surface of the water.**" In addition to the harvest species limitations above, you may not spearfish:

- For any species that cannot be harvested by spearing (see Spearing above).
- For any species (freshwater or marine) in freshwater. Possession of spearfishing equipment in or on freshwater is also prohibited.
- Within the upper Keys no-spearfishing zone, which includes all state waters from the Miami-Dade County line down to and including Long Key.
- Within 100 yards of any designated public bathing beaches, commercial or public fishing piers, or portions of bridges where fishing is allowed.
- Within 100 feet of the unsubmerged portion of any jetty, except that spearing is allowed along the last 500 yards of any jetty that extends more than 1,500 yards from the shoreline.
- In or on any body of water under the jurisdiction of the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection. Within these areas, the possession of spearfishing equipment is also prohibited except when such equipment is

un-loaded and is properly stored upon watercraft passing nonstop through the area.

- Within the no-take areas of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (Visit: www.floridakeys.noaa.gov.)
- Within any area where spearfishing is prohibited by a Special Local Law (Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations," "Full Text Rule by Species" and "Local Laws.")

Powerheads, Bangsticks, Rebreathers

Harvest with the use of powerheads, bangsticks or rebreathers is prohibited in state waters, except that rebreathers are allowed for the harvest of lionfish. Within state waters, powerheads and bangsticks can be used for personal protection only, and cannot be used to harvest any species.



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Catch a Florida Memory

Submit catches and earn rewards, all while supporting marine fisheries conservation! Catch a Florida Memory encourages anglers to target a diverse array of species while fishing to help reduce fishing pressure on the most commonly sought-after catches. Learn more at CatchaFloridaMemory.com.



Saltwater Grand Slams

Catch three specified fish species in 24 hours from nine categories.

Saltwater Fish Life List

Track your progress at catching 70 species of saltwater fish.



Marley with her Family Grand Slam yellowtail snapper

Saltwater Reel Big Fish

Catch memorable-sized saltwater fish in 30 species categories. Anglers must submit a photo of the entire fish on a length measuring device showing that the qualifying length was reached.

Earn Great Prizes!

- **Life List 10-Fish Club;** each Grand Slam and Reel Big Fish: Prize pack including certificate, t-shirt and tumbler.
- **Monthly raffles:** One automatic entry for each approved submission made in the last three years.
- **Recognition tier prizes:** Qualify for multiple Life List Clubs, Grand Slams and Reel Big Fish.
- **Triple Threat Club:** Prize pack including certificate, performance shirt and exclusive Triple Threat raffles
- **Grand prizes:** Catch all eligible Grand Slams, all Reel Big Fish or all Life List species.

Florida Saltwater Fishing Records

State all-tackle records for the heaviest fishes caught in Florida waters are maintained for 81



marine species in conventional tackle and fly-fishing categories. Successful anglers receive a certificate and custom ink fish print courtesy of Fish Print Shop.

Partnerships

We gratefully acknowledge our generous partners who help provide rewards and recognition: American Integrity Insurance Company, Martin County Office of Tourism, CCA Florida, Mount This Fish Company, Engel Coolers, SeaDek Marine Products, Smith Optics, McLean Angling, Smith's Consumer Products, Tony Ivory Art and Apparel, Warbird Fishing Gear, Ocean Waves Sunglasses, Fish Print Shop, EGO Fishing, Keep Em Wet Fishing, Bass Assassin, Bottom Candy, Carlos Cardenas – Marine Artist, Reel Local, and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida. To become a partner, contact AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com or 850-487-0554.

Connect with Us

- Website: CatchaFloridaMemory.com
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/CatchaFLMemory](https://www.facebook.com/CatchaFLMemory)
- YouTube: [MyFWC.com/SaltwaterFishing](https://www.youtube.com/MyFWCSaltwaterFishing)
- Email: AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com



Matthew St. Martin with a red drum added to his Life List

Saltwater Grand Slam Club

Inshore:

Steven Cason Ash
Dalton L. Avera (2)
Matt Browder
Joshua Brown
Cory Cocita
Mikele Cockman (2)
Robert Connor, Jr.
Lathaniel Lee Crews, Jr.
Robert Day
Bryce P. Duffy
Kyle Webster Ellis
James Fetterhoff
Clifton Gagliano (4)
Brandon Guynn
Heath Hall
Robert Davis Hammond
Randall W. Head
James Anthony Johnson
Catherine Longmire (5)
Brett Andrew Louis
George Frank Maddox, III
Kane A. McDermott (3)
Dalton Scott McKee
Capt. Dale C. Melms (2)
Matthew L. Paredes (2)
Patrick S. Pritchard
Kimberly Ritter
Melissa Ann Rodriguez
Bart Rutan (2)
J. Michael Sammartino
Jena K. Schallhorn
Joe Edwin Sheaffer, Jr.
Philip E. Smith

Jason Alan Stanland
Stephen Stubbs (10)
Michael Needam Tyson
Logan Wyatt Watson
Fred Williamson, III

Family:

Travis Reed Anderson
Shannon L. Avera
Michael Paul Boggs
Brandon Crotty
Stevie Marie Crotty
David C. Deliere
Myla F. DiPaolo
John H. Dobbins (4)
Clark Georgiades
Jake Georgiades
John Georgiades (5)
Judy Georgiades
Sara Georgiades
Eric J. Gerlak
Dan Goetz
Chad Ketchum
Geoffrey Kiernan
Glenn Pardo
Mary M. Powell
Evan Mikel Rexroat
Melissa A. Rodriguez
Tim Rodriguez
Alexandrea J. Tapley
Steve FL Wilkins

Bay and Estuary:

Eric J. Gerlak
Heath Hall

Saltwater Reel Big Fish Club

Black Drum:

Ron E. Misjak

Florida Pompano:

Remington Colt Thompson

King Mackerel:

Robert Lee Game
Cooper Lane Goldring
Delanie Bae Goldring
Chris Musser
R. Shane Oldham
Teag E. Vann

Ladyfish:

Katlyn Michelle Paul
Adalynn Grace Cockman

Mutton Snapper:

Thomas J. Cimitile
John Georgiades
John Georgiades
Cooper Lane Goldring
Spencer Drake Goldring
Allison Stattner

Red Drum:

Dalton L. Avera (3)
Marc Blanton
Chris Paul Cortopassi
Joshua Damon (2)
David C. Deliere
Darin Detherow
Mike Forta Eady
Matthew J. Fekkers
Clifton C. Gagliano (2)
Sam Giroux
Catherine Longmire
Clay D. Marrs
Emory Metcalf
Eric Payne

Crystal Selover

Joe Edwin Shaeffer, Jr.
Bryon Sean Sineff
Stephen Stubbs
Remington Colt Thompson
Steven Trollinger
Sandra Withers-Kirby
Vince Edward Wray
Chris Arrich

Sheepshead:

Hugo Gomez

Snook:

Marc Blanton
Robert Burns
Ryan Chamberlain
Jason D. Garner
Daniel Patterson
Joe Edwin Sheaffer, Jr.

Spotted Seatrout:

Jeff Paul Altman
Zach Tyler Annett
Shannon L. Avera
Robert Blyth
Mikele Cockman
Cooper Kirven
Tim Nelson
Matthew Leonard Paredes (2)
Joe Stoddard
Stephen Stubbs (4)
Anthony James Watson
Steven Wayne Wetherington, Jr.
Joseph Wolter

Tripletail:

Eli Parks

Yellowtail Snapper:

John Georgiades

Saltwater Fish Life List Club

50-Fish Club:

Allison Stattner

30-Fish Club:

Stephen Bouwer
Dan Casey
Matthew Peterson
Andrew Jackson Taylor

10-Fish Club:

Jeff P. Altman, Sr.
Matthew Bertocini
Stephen Bouwer
Chip Clovis
Corey Cobb
Mikele Cockman
Christaphor Paul Cortopassi
Kelly Jean Cox
Brandon Crotty
Bryce P. Duffy
Parker Fish
Aarik Joseph Ford
Jason D. Garner
Martin Gazo
Rado Gazo
John Georgiades
Shannon Dean Gepford

Cooper L. Goldring
Spencer D. Goldring
Christopher G. Hill
Dennis P. King
Madeleine Krychowewky
JD Malone
Joshua Mars
Harry Louis Mason
Tommy Joe Mincey
Kerry Anna Naughton-Wurl
Robert John Pratte
Robert G. Ricketts
Madelyn Ruble
Lori Jane Schneider
Trevor Joseph Seits
Ethan Molito Smith
Matthew John Smith
Philip Smith
Matthew Jacob St. Martin
Stephen Stubbs
Alexandrea J. Tapley
Andrew Jackson Taylor
Remington Colt Thompson
Yvon Wagner
Anthony James Watson

Triple Threat Club

Have attained a Grand Slam, Reel Big Fish & Life List Club

William S. Davidson Jr.
Matthew Batchelor
Eric J. Gerlak
Trevor Wayne Hall
Kevin Russell Burkhead, Jr.
Billy Grant
Dave Lunsford
Dan Casey
John H. Dobbins
Clifton C. Gagliano
Drew Serraeas
Matthew Johnson
Katlyn M. Paul
Ethan Sonnenberg
Michael (Soloyaker) Taylor
Joshua Damon
Michael Nathan Gibson

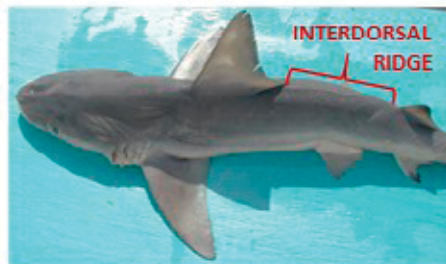
Tony Hart
Capt. Ken Lai
Catherine Longmire
Eric Todd Anderson
Dalton L. Avera
Michael D. Yannick
Mike Boggs
Greg John Knothe
Allison M. Stattner
John Georgiades
Sandra Withers-Kirby
Stephen Stubbs
David C. Deliere
Steven Trollinger
Melissa Ann Rodriguez
Travis Reed Anderson


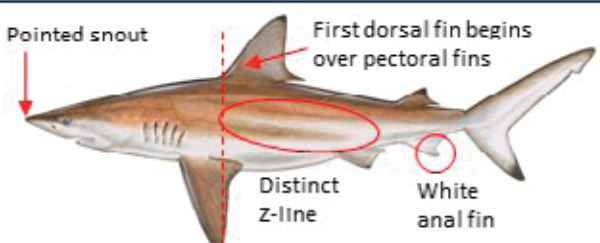

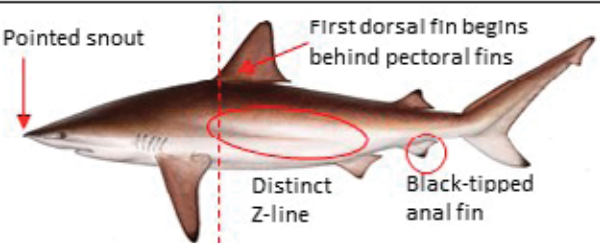

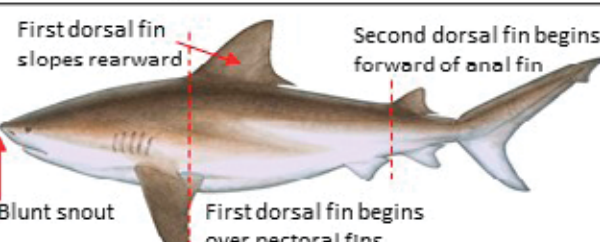
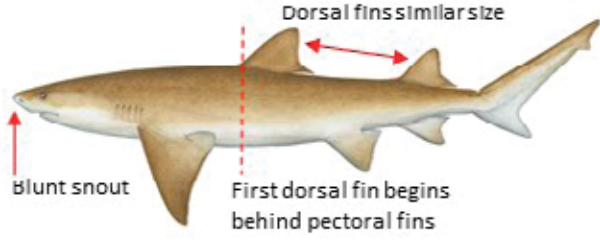
Florida Saltwater Fishing Record Recipients

Clayton Fridell – Red Porgy

Know Your Common Florida Sharks

Some sharks have an **interdorsal ridge**, a visible line of raised skin between the dorsal fins, that can assist in species identification. **Sharks with an interdorsal ridge are prohibited from harvest in Florida waters, except for oceanic whitetip and smooth dogfish.** Below are tips for identifying some common sharks with smooth backs (no interdorsal ridge). Visit MyFWC.com/Marine and click on "Recreational" and "Sharks" to learn more.



Species	Description	Identification and Size Limits
Blacktip Shark <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snout is pointed ▪ First dorsal fin originates over pectoral fins ▪ White anal fin ▪ Distinctive Z-shaped band (Z-line) on sides 	 <p>➤ No minimum size limit</p>
Spinner Shark <i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snout is pointed ▪ First dorsal fin originates behind pectoral fins ▪ Anal fin has black tip ▪ Distinctive Z-shaped band (Z-line) on sides 	 <p>➤ 54" fork length minimum size limit</p>
Bull Shark <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snout is blunt ▪ Stocky body ▪ First dorsal fin is sloped rearward and originates over pectoral fins ▪ Black-tipped fins on smaller sharks 	 <p>➤ 54" fork length minimum size limit</p>
Lemon Shark <i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Snout is blunt ▪ Dorsal fins nearly equal in size ▪ First dorsal fin originates behind pectoral fins ▪ Yellowish-green to olive-gray in color 	 <p>➤ Harvest prohibited</p>

Illustrations by Diane Peebles

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

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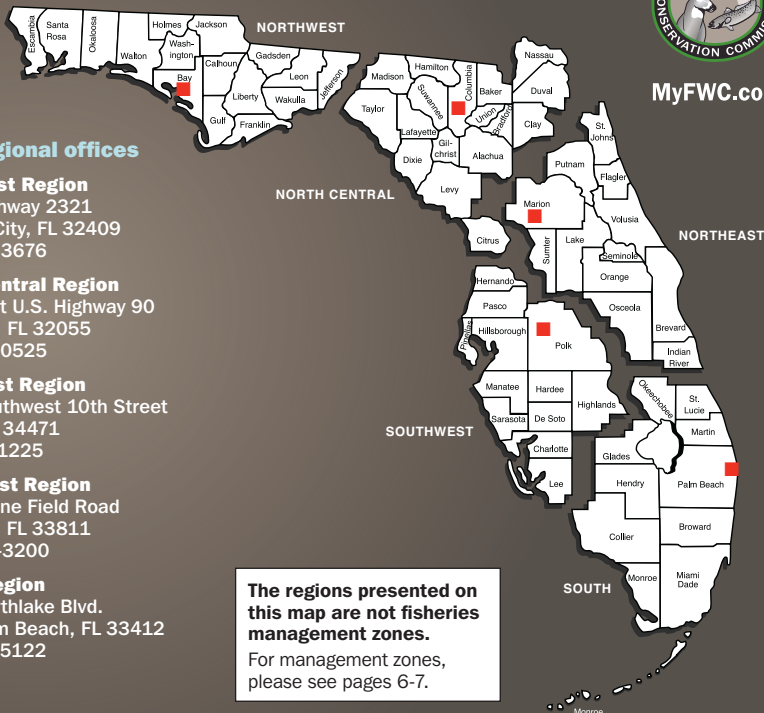
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Assistant Executive Director

FWC regional offices

- **Northwest Region**
3911 Highway 2321
Panama City, FL 32409
850-265-3676
- **North Central Region**
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Lake City, FL 32055
386-758-0525
- **Northeast Region**
1239 Southwest 10th Street
Ocala, FL 34471
352-732-1225
- **Southwest Region**
3900 Drane Field Road
Lakeland, FL 33811
863-648-3200
- **South Region**
8535 Northlake Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
561-625-5122



MyFWC.com

The FWC's Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and anglers as well as to enforce Florida's saltwater fishing and boating laws. FWC officers assist boaters who are in distress, provide advice and direction to those who

are traveling Florida's coastline and waterways, and may issue citations for violations of state and federal fishing, wildlife and boating laws.

In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife or boating laws are being violated, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cell phone users

throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text messages directly to an email address. You can text Tip@MyFWC.com; standard usage fees may apply.

Resource Information

Join the nation's largest conservation law enforcement agency—become an FWC law enforcement officer. For more information contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-866-FWC-HIRE (392-4473) or visit MyFWC.com/Law

- **To purchase fishing licenses:**
888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)
GoOutdoorsFlorida.com
- **FWC Division of Law Enforcement**
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **To report fish and wildlife law violations, call the Wildlife Alert Hotline:**
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute**
727-896-8626
MyFWC.com/Research
- **To report fish kills:**
800-636-0511
- **To report fish tags:**
800-367-4461
TagReturn@MyFWC.com
- **To report sawfish sightings:**
941-255-7403
sawfish@MyFWC.com
- **Bird entanglement**
888-404-3922
727-391-6211 for Tampa area
- **Red tide information hotline**
866-300-9399 toll free in Florida
727-552-2488 nationwide
- **Aquatic toxins hotline:** 888-232-8635
- **Shellfish harvesting questions**
FDACS, 850-488-5471
www.floridaaquaculture.com
- **To report lionfish sightings:**
1-877-786-7267
MyFWC.com/Lionfish

At the FWC, it pays to love the outdoors!



Visit MyFWC.com
to learn how to become
an FWC officer.



Florida resident saltwater licenses

Saltwater licenses cover both watercraft and shoreline fishing.

Annual Saltwater License	\$17.00
Youth Saltwater Fishing License — valid until 17th birthday	\$17.00
Five-Year Saltwater License	\$79.00
Annual Saltwater Shoreline License	\$0.00

Covers saltwater fishing only from shorelines and attached structures accessible by foot. Does not cover fishing from a watercraft, fishing from a shoreline reached by watercraft, or fishing while swimming or diving.

Non-resident saltwater licenses

Three-day Saltwater License	\$17.00
Seven-day License	\$30.00
Annual License	\$47.00

Saltwater permits – residents and non-residents

Annual Snook Permit	\$10.00
Five-Year Snook Permit (Florida residents only)	\$50.00
Annual Spiny Lobster Permit	\$5.00
Five-Year Spiny Lobster Permit (Florida residents only)	\$25.00
Tarpon Tag (available only at tax collector offices)	\$51.50

Unless exempt from license requirements, permits are necessary for the take of Snook and Spiny Lobster. Tarpon tags required to land tarpon.

Information for additional saltwater permits and designations

Gulf Reef Fish Angler Designation – for anglers fishing for reef fish in Gulf state waters. No exemptions except youth under age 16.	\$0.00
NEW! Annual Shore-Based Shark Fishing Permit – see page 17	\$0.00
NEW! Annual Blue Crab Trap Registration – see page 5	\$0.00
NEW! Annual Stone Crab Trap Registration – see page 5	\$0.00

These new no-cost permits are available online only at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com. Youth under age 16 are exempt. No other exemptions apply.

Florida resident combination licenses

Annual Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing	\$32.50
Annual Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing and Hunting	\$48.00

Gold Sportsman's Licenses

Includes Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing and Hunting licenses and Snook, Spiny Lobster, Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading, Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl permits.

Annual Gold Sportsman's License	\$100.00
Five-Year Gold Sportsman's License	\$494.00
Youth Gold Sportsman's License — valid until 17th birthday	\$100.00
Annual Military Gold Sportsman's License	\$20.00

Includes the same licenses and permits as the Gold Sportsman's License. Available for Florida residents who are active duty or retired military members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Armed Forces Reserve, Florida National Guard, Coast Guard or Coast Guard Reserve at county tax collectors' offices with current military identification card or at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com through an online verification process.

Florida Resident Lifetime Saltwater Fishing licenses

Includes Saltwater Fishing license and Snook and Spiny Lobster permits

Age: 0–4	\$126.50
Age: 5–12	\$226.50
Age: 13 or older	\$301.50

Florida Resident Lifetime Gold Sportsman's licenses

Includes Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing and Hunting licenses and Snook, Spiny Lobster, Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading, Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl permits.

Age: 0–4	\$401.50
Age: 5–12	\$701.50
Age: 13 or older	\$1,001.50

Saltwater fishing in Florida – what to know before you go:

Saltwater fishing licenses can be obtained online at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, at county tax collectors' offices and license agents, or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). All sales are final. Handling fees apply for telephone and Internet sales. For more information on recreational licensing information, visit MyFWC.com/License.

For purposes of saltwater fishing in Florida, a resident is defined as:

- Any person who has declared Florida as his or her only state of residence as evidenced by a valid Florida driver license or identification card with both a Florida address and a Florida residency verified by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (HSMV). A Florida voter registration card, declaration of domicile, or homestead exemption may also be used as proof of Florida residency.
- Active duty United States military personnel stationed in Florida, including spouses and dependent children residing in the household, with military orders.

Saltwater license exemptions:

- Youth under 16 years of age.
- Florida resident age 65 or older with proof of age and residency, such as a Florida driver's license or identification card.
- Florida resident fishing within his or her county of residence with live or natural bait, using poles or lines not equipped with a fishing line retrieval mechanism.
- Florida Resident Persons with Disabilities Hunting and Fishing License holder. Information at MyFWC.com/ADA.
- Florida resident accepted as a client for developmental disabilities services by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, with agency proof thereof.
- Florida resident saltwater fishing from land or a structure fixed to land who has been determined eligible for the food stamp, temporary cash assistance, or Medicaid Program by the Department of Children and Family Services. Must have proof of identification and a benefit issuance or program identification card issued by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities or the Agency for Health Care when fishing.
- U.S. Armed Forces members who is a Florida resident not stationed in the state but home on leave with orders for 30 days or less. Does not include family members.
- Individual commercial saltwater products license holders.

- Those recreationally fishing from a pier that has a pier saltwater fishing license.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel (including guide, charter, party boat) that has a valid charter boat or charter captain license.
- Fishing from a boat that has a recreational vessel fishing license.
- A Florida resident who is fishing for mullet in freshwater with a valid Florida freshwater fishing license.

More saltwater fishing licenses – available at Tax Collectors' office:

Charter Boat and Charter Captain licenses are available and required to carry paying customers (where a fee is paid directly or indirectly) to take, attempt to take, or possess saltwater fish or organisms. Guides must comply with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) requirements.

- Four or fewer customers \$201.50
- Five to ten customers \$401.50
- Eleven or more customers \$801.50

Recreational Vessel licenses are available for not-for-hire pleasure crafts that are registered recreationally for a fee of \$2,001.50.

Pier licenses are available for \$501.50 annually and exempt persons fishing from a pier fixed to land from saltwater fishing requirements.

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