

# FISHING REGULATIONS

**NEW**

## Recognition Programs

pages 9 & 21

Improving Gulf Reef Fish Data

page 10

Taming the Lionfish

page 18



Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: January 1, 2015

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Pat Zabinski and Mike Kalajain

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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](http://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](http://MyFWC.com/Research)

For federal fishing regulations, please contact:

- **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**  
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- **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
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- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)**  
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## For additional information please contact:

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## On the cover

Lionfish by Jason Arnold  
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Have a picture for the cover? Please send your photographs to: [Saltwater@MyFWC.com](mailto:Saltwater@MyFWC.com).







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## 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/Saltwater/Regulations](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Regulations).

### How your license fee helps

The money collected from saltwater fishing licenses is used to improve and restore fish habitat and for marine fisheries research, law enforcement and public education on marine resources.

An additional \$.50 fee will be charged for any license or permit not purchased directly from the county tax collector.

Obtain immediate license privileges, 24 hours a day, at [License.MyFWC.com](http://License.MyFWC.com) or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Processing fees will apply to telephone and Internet sales.

### 2015 Commission meeting dates and locations

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

- February 4-5, 2015 — Jacksonville
- April 14-16, 2015 — Tallahassee
- June 23-25, 2015 — Sarasota

For more information about Commission meeting dates, times, locations and agendas, visit our website at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) and click on "About" and "Commission Meetings" on the top of the page.



Eszter Keresztes



## About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Marine Fisheries Commission through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the FWC staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

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Rosemary White

### Kids' Fishing Clinics

Feb. 28, Crystal River  
March 28, Daytona  
April 11, Pensacola  
April 25, Juno Beach  
May 16, Fernandina Beach  
June 27, Cape Canaveral  
July 18, Palm Coast

### Florida State Fair

Feb. 5-16, Tampa

### Florida Sportsman Expo

Ft. Myers, Jan. 31-Feb. 1  
Port St. Lucie, April 11-12  
Tampa, September 12-13

### Channel 8 Expo & Boat Show

Tampa, Feb. 27-March 1



Jay VanHulzen

## 2015 License-Free Saltwater Fishing Days!

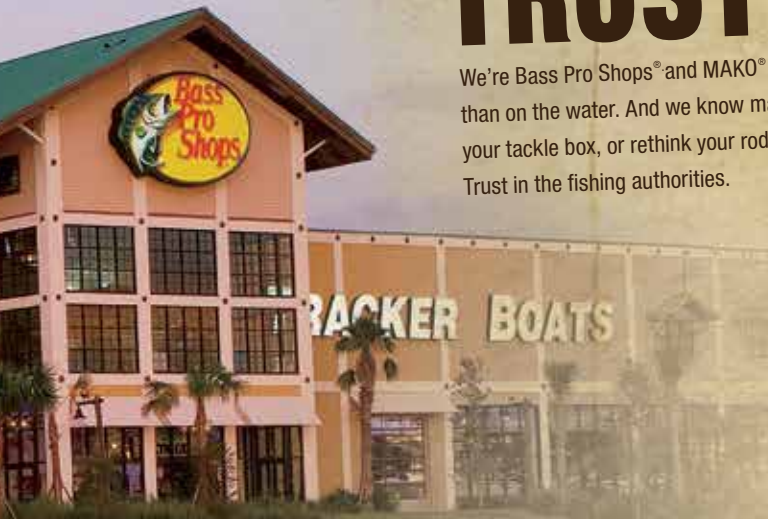
- June 6 & 7
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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



### Have an amazing saltwater catch? Get recognized!

Imagine this: It's another typical day enjoying Florida's abundant saltwater fishing opportunities and then WHAM! The line screams and you're just hooked the big one! You reel the fish in quickly, and what is fighting on the other end of the line is huge and worthy of recognition. You go to MyFWC.com and Congratulations! You've caught a Reel Big Fish!

The Reel Big Fish program is just one of three saltwater angler recognition programs the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has developed. These programs are a great way to get recognized for your fishing success and can even serve as proof for all those doubting friends who claim the story of your monster catch is just another fisherman's tale.

Reel Big Fish and the Florida Saltwater Fish Life List are two new programs that will be unveiled this spring. They allow you to keep track of all the species you catch and reward you for your achievements. The third program, called the Grand Slam Program, was revamped last fall and challenges anglers to catch three different species in a 24-hour period. Now there's a reason to stay out on the water one more hour.

These recognition programs inspire experienced anglers to prove and improve their skills while enticing those new to the sport with worthy and exciting goals. They also encourage ethical angling habits such as targeting more than one species and using proper handling techniques to ensure fish that are released have the best chance of survival.

We want you to be a part of the excitement! Turn to page 9 to learn more about the Grand Slam program or, for questions about any of the saltwater angler recognition programs, email AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com. Become a part of the FWC team of anglers recognized not only for their amazing catches, but their ethical angling and conservation efforts.

Jessica McCawley | Director, Marine Fisheries Management,  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Eszter Keresztes



Jim Higgins



Claudia Tritton

## Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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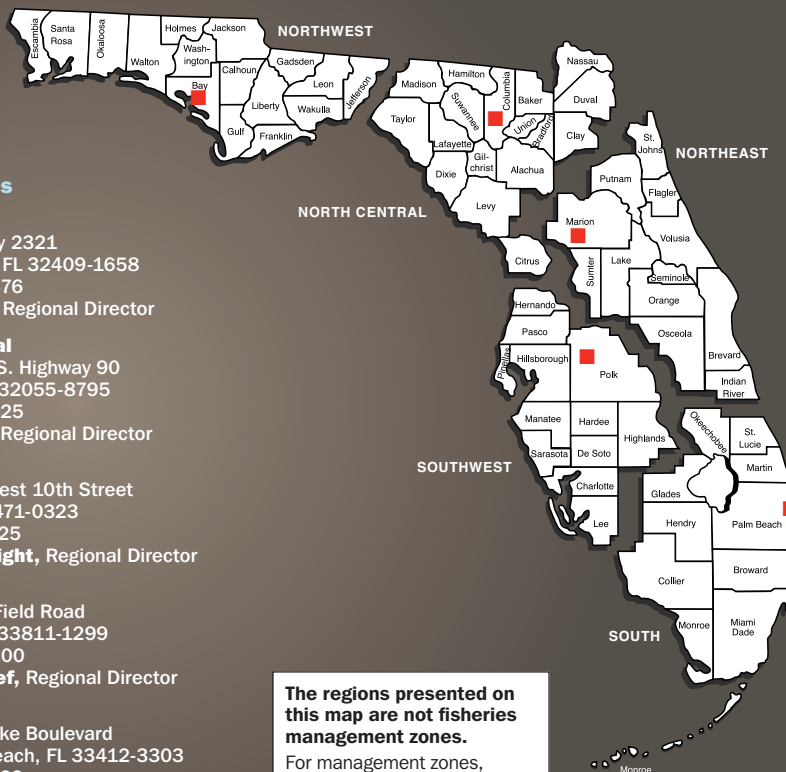
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The regions presented on this map are not fisheries management zones.

For management zones, please see page 8.



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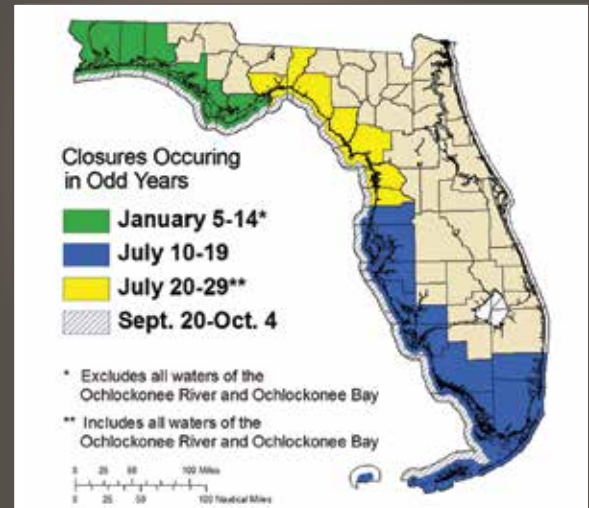


# Know Your Management Zones

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 maps below provide information regarding 3 species that have specific management zones where bag limits or rules vary by region.

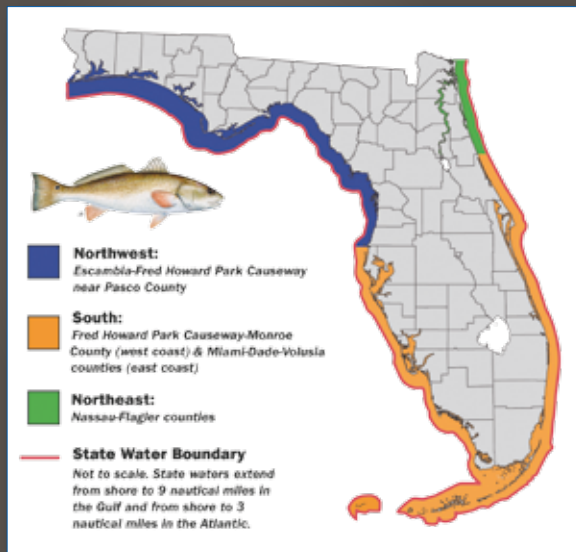
## Blue Crab Trap Closures

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](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Blue-Crab).



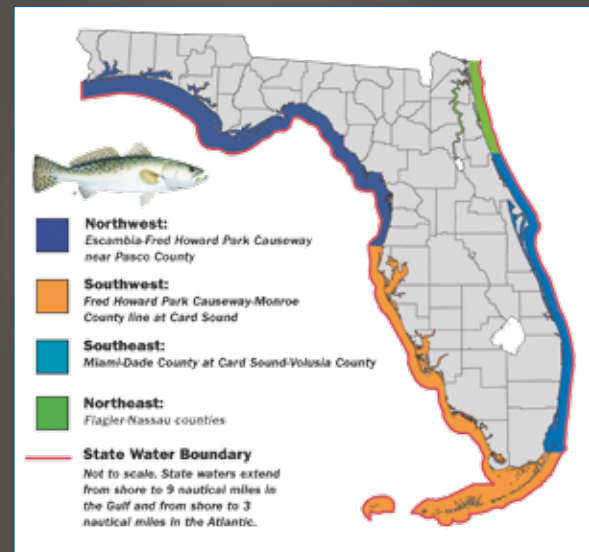
## Red Drum Management Zones

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



## 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.





# FWC unveils NEW Grand Slams!

Think you have what it takes to catch a new Saltwater Grand Slam? Grand Slams challenge anglers to catch three specific fish species in a 24-hour period and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has recently updated the program by creating nine new slams including a Small Fry Slam for children 15 and under.

Fishing in Florida is a favorite pastime for millions of anglers. What makes it so special and exciting is not only the beautiful places and weather, but the large variety of saltwater species an angler can catch. Programs like the new and improved grand slams make for a great day out on the water!

By encouraging anglers to target multiple species during fishing trips, the grand slam program entices anglers to learn more about Florida's vast recreational fishing opportunities. The new slams include:

**Inshore Grand Slam:**

Red drum, spotted seatrout, flounder

**Family Slam:**

Any three fish in the same family

**Blue Water Slam:**

Dolphinfish, sailfish, wahoo

**Florida Grand Slam:**

Permit, tarpon, bonefish

**Shoreline Slam:**

Sheepshead, kingfish (whiting), Florida pompano

**Reefs and Rubble Slam:**

Black sea bass, gag, triggerfish

**Nearshore Slam:**

Cobia, tripletail, king mackerel

**Bay and Estuary Slam:**

Mangrove snapper, snook, Spanish mackerel

**Small Fry Slam:**

(15 and under): Pinfish, grunt, catfish

All catches, past and present, are eligible as long as they can be documented. Successful anglers will receive a certificate signed by both the Executive Director of the FWC and the President of the International Game Fish Association as well as a colorful shirt in recognition of their achievement. Recipients will also be listed on the MyFWC.com website and in the this Saltwater Fishing Regulations Booklet.

As always, FWC encourages responsible angling. Remember proper catch-and-release techniques when fishing. Anglers do not have to harvest their fish to be eligible, and are strongly encouraged to release their catches alive. For more information or to apply for a grand slam visit our website MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater" and "Angler Recognition" or send an email to AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com. Share your grand slam photographs and stories with us on Twitter or Instagram by using #FWCSlam.

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# Improving Gulf Reef Fish Data Starts With You

**Attention Gulf reef fish anglers: You've asked for better data and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has listened and taken action. But we need your help.**

Sign up today to participate in the Gulf Reef Fish Survey. The process is easy and no-cost and will help the FWC paint a clearer picture of how many people are targeting Gulf reef fish like red snapper and gag and what they are seeing and harvesting.

### Who should participate?

The Gulf Reef Fish Survey is for anglers (including those 65 and older) fishing in the Gulf of Mexico (excluding Monroe County) from a private boat, who plan to harvest, possess or land any of the following reef fish: red and vermilion snapper; gag, black and red grouper; gray triggerfish; greater and lesser amberjack; banded rudderfish; and almaco jack.

If you are fishing from a for-hire vessel, you do not need to participate in the Gulf Reef Fish Survey. Anglers under 16 years of age and those fishing from a vessel that has a vessel recreational fishing license also do not need to participate.

### How do I participate?

To sign up, visit [License.MyFWC.com](http://License.MyFWC.com) and click "Purchase a License" to add Gulf Reef Fish Angler to your cart. You can also sign up when renewing or purchasing a saltwater fishing license at any retailer such as tackle shops, sporting goods stores and tax collector offices. Renewal will be on an annual basis, just like any one-year fishing license.

Are you a Florida resident 65 or older and exempt from needing a recreational saltwater fishing license? No worries! Though you are still required to click "Purchase a License," signing up as a "Gulf Reef Fish Angler" is no-cost. You are not required to purchase any other license, such as a recreational saltwater fishing license, or pay any other fees to participate.

Anglers who are renewing or purchasing a license may choose to begin participating in the program right now. Signing up will be mandatory for Gulf reef fish anglers starting April 1, 2015.

### How does the Gulf Reef Fish Survey work?

Through this program, researchers will be able to better determine how many people in Florida are fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. Many of those who signed up for the Gulf Reef Fish Survey will be contacted by the FWC and asked if they would be willing to provide information about their Gulf reef fish fishing activities. The Gulf Reef Fish Survey will improve recreational data collection, giving us a more realistic picture of what is happening on the water and allowing for more informed fisheries management decisions.

### Need more information?

Want to know more about the Gulf Reef Fish Survey? Visit [MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing) and click on "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations" and "Gulf Reef Fish Survey."

**( Signing up will be mandatory for Gulf reef fish anglers starting April 1, 2015. )**



John Davis





# Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Issued: January 2015

New regulations are highlighted in red  
 Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic  
 (please visit: [MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational)  
 for the most current regulations)

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

## Reef Fish

### Snappers

#### General Snappers Regulations:

- Within state waters of the Atlantic and Gulf, the snapper aggregate bag limit is 10 fish per harvester unless the species rule specifies that it is not included in the aggregate. This means that a harvester can retain a total of 10 snappers in any combination of species. Exceptions are noted below.
- If no season information is included, the species is open year-round.

#### All Other Snapper ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

##### Remarks

- Includes: Blackfin, Dog, Mahogany, Queen, Silk and Yellowtail



#### Snapper, Cubera ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see remarks)

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

##### Remarks

- May possess no more than 2 over 30" per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less. 30" or larger not included within the snapper aggregate bag limit.



#### Snapper, Red ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

##### Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Check MyFWC.com for 2015 season

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester

##### Remarks

- Gulf - Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.



#### Snapper, Vermilion ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12"
- Gulf - 10"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester
- Gulf - 10 per harvester

##### Remarks

- **Not** included within the snapper aggregate bag limit.



#### Snapper, Lane ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 8"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds (see remarks)

##### Remarks

- Gulf not included within the 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 - 16"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 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 is 3 fish, which means that no harvester shall retain more than 3 Atlantic groupers in any combination of species.

#### 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 is 4 fish which means that no harvester can retain more than 4 Gulf grouper in any combination of species.
- Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels applies to gag, black, and red grouper only.

##### Season Information:

- If no season information is provided, the species is open year-round.



#### Grouper, Black ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 22"

##### 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 ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 22"

##### Seasons:

- Atlantic - Closed: Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - State waters off Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties: Open April 1-June 30
- Gulf - State waters off all other counties: Open July 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 ▲◆●

##### 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**  
**Check MyFWC.com for updates**

#### Other Grouper ▲●

##### Other Grouper includes:

- Tiger, 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:

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



#### 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 ▲●

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 28" fork
- Gulf - 30" fork

**Season:**

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Closed June 1-July 31

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester



#### Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish ▲●

**Minimum Size Limits:**

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

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

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



#### Black Sea Bass ▲◆●

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 13"
- Gulf - 10"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester



#### Triggerfish (Gray) ▲●

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 12" fork
- Gulf - 14" fork

**Season:**

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Closed June 1-July 31

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- Atlantic - 100 pounds
- Gulf - 2 per harvester



#### Red Porgy ▲◆●

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 14"
- Gulf - None

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds



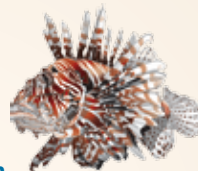
#### Tilefish, Golden ▲●

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

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

**Remarks**

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



#### Lionfish

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- Atlantic and Gulf - unlimited

**Remarks**

- No license required to harvest by dip net, pole spear, Hawaiian sling.
- Divers are encouraged to safely remove lionfish whenever they are found.



#### Hogfish ▲●

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" fork

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester

## Pelagics



#### Billfish ▲

**Minimum Size Limits:**

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

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 1 per harvester per day 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.



#### 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 per day

**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.



#### Mackerel, King ▲

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- 24" fork

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 2 per harvester per day

**Remarks**

- Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters when federal waters are closed to all harvest.



#### Mackerel, Spanish ▲

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- 12" fork

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 15 per harvester per day



#### Wahoo ▲

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- None

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 2 per harvester per day



#### Cobia (Ling) ▲

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- 33" fork

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed 6 per vessel per day



#### Tripletail ▲◆†

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- 15"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 2 per harvester per day

**Remarks**

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



#### Dolphin ▲

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 20" fork
- 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.



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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

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester per day



## 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 day

### Remarks

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



## Black Drum ▲ ◆ ■

### Minimum Size Limits:

- Not less than 14" or more than 24"

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester per day

### Remarks

- May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited.



## Blue Runner ■

### Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 100 fish per harvester per day



## Snook (All species) ▲ ◆ ■

### Minimum 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 per day

### Remarks

- Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. See [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) for snook permit details. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.



## Flounder ▲ ◆ ■

### Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester per day

### Remarks

- May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.



## Bonefish ■

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 0 per harvester per day

### Remarks

- Catch and release only
- Hook and line only



## Spotted Seatrout ● ▲ ◆ ■

### Minimum 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](http://MyFWC.com).



## Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver

### Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum size

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



## Pompano, African ● ▲ ■

### Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



## Permit ● ▲ ■

### Minimum Size Limits:

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

### Closed Season:

- May 1-July 31 SPZ Only

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel per day SPZ;
- 2 per harvester per day 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](http://MyFWC.com).



## Pompano, Florida ▲ ■

### Minimum Size Limits:

- 11" fork

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 6 per harvester per day

### Remarks

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



## Sheepshead ● ▲ ◆ ■

### Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester per day

### Remarks

- Snatching prohibited



## 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](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Tarpon) for additional information.



## Red Drum (Redfish) ▲ ◆ ■

### Minimum Size Limits:

- Not less than 18" or more than 27"

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day in NE and NW zones, 1 per harvester per day in S zone. See map at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com).
- Vessel limit of 8 fish, on-shore possession limit during transport 6 fish

### Remarks

- Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.

## 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, great barracuda, white grunt, southern stingray, gulf kingfish (whiting), pinfish, Atlantic croaker, jack crevalle, cero mackerel, hardhead catfish, gafftopsail catfish and blackfin tuna.

- ▲ 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](http://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.



## Crustaceans and Mollusks



### 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 per day, whichever is less

#### Remarks

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



### Bay Scallops

#### Season:

- Open June 27–Sept. 24, 2015

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester per day; 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 Pasco-Hernando county line, to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County. It is illegal to harvest, possess and land bay scallops on waters outside open harvest area.



### Crab, Blue

#### Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. See MyFWC.com for 2015 trap closure dates and locations.

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 gallons whole per harvester per day

#### Remarks

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



### Spiny Lobster

#### Minimum Size Limit:

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

#### Seasons:

- Regular Season Opens August 6, 2015
- Sport Season Open July 29–30, 2015

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Sport Season: 6 per harvester per day in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 per day 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.



### Crab, Stone

#### Minimum Size Limits:

- 2¾" 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. Trap requirements apply. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs 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.
- One to [www.FloridaAquaculture.com](http://www.FloridaAquaculture.com) for allowable harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.



### 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: Effective until May 31, 2015: East Hole (area 1671) closed to harvest; bag limit of 5 gallons per person or vessel in all other areas; harvest prohibited on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.**
- Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas.
- Harvest from approved shellfish areas during daylight hours only.
- Go to [FloridaAquaculture.com](http://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.

## Sharks

#### 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.
- See list of prohibited species below.

### Examples of Retainable Sharks (With a 54" fork length minimum) ▲†



Bull



Common Thresher



Nurse



Spinner

### Complete List of Retainable Sharks (With no minimum size limit) ▲†



Atlantic Sharpnose



Blacknose



Blacktip



Bonnethead



Finetooth



Smooth Dogfish

## 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, Great Hammerhead Shark, Scalloped and Smooth Hammerhead Shark, Manta Ray, Devil Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Sturgeon, Queen Conch, Stony, Hard 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.



# The Oculina Bank

## Nature's Hidden Coral Treasure



The Oculina Bank, a 90-mile strip of reefs off the central east coast of Florida, is a unique place named for the slow-growing ivory tree coral, *Oculina varicosa*, which forms massive thickets there, supporting diverse communities of finfish and invertebrates.

### Restricted Areas

In 1984, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council established the 92-square mile *Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (OHAPC)* in order to protect the fragile coral from damage. The OHAPC was expanded in 2000 to include an additional 300 square miles and the Council has proposed additional expansions based on recent scientific research.

### Know The Rules Before You Go!

#### Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (OHAPC) and Experimental Closed Area

Restrictions are in place in the 300-square mile OHAPC to protect fragile Oculina coral found in the area. The 92-square mile Oculina Experimental Closed Area (OECA) within the OHAPC has further restrictions to protect species of snapper and groupers.

#### OHAPC Coordinates

Bounded on the north by 28°30' N. Lat., on

the south by 27°30' N. Lat., on the east by the 100-fathom (183 meter) contour, as shown on the latest edition of NOAA chart 11460, and on the west by 80°00' W. Long. *Two satellite areas* are adjacent: the first bounded on the north by 28°30' N. Lat., on the south by 28°29' N. Lat., on the east by 80°00' W. Long, and on the west by 80°03' W. Long. The second satellite is bounded on the north by 28°17' N. Lat., on the south by 28°16' N. Lat., on the east by 80°00' W. Long., and on the west by 80°03' W. Long. *OHAPC Restrictions include: No anchoring, trawling, use of fish traps, bottom-longlining, fishing rock shrimp, or possession of coral or bottom habitat.*

#### OECA Coordinates

The Experimental Closed Area is bounded on the north by 27°53' N. Lat., on the south by 27°30' N. Lat., on the east by 79°56' W. Long., and on the west by 80°00' W. Long. This area provides researchers with the opportunity to evaluate the effect of prohibiting bottom fishing and fishing-related impacts to habitat in a closed area in the South Atlantic region. *OECA Fishing Restrictions Include: All OHAPC restrictions, no fishing for or possession of snapper grouper species, and any snapper or grouper caught incidentally while targeting other species must be released immediately by cutting the line without removing the fish from the water.*

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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 6.

### Reef fish gear rules

(applies to species marked with ● on pages 11–12)

- **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 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 11 through 14 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.
- Frame nets and push nets (for shrimp only) no greater than 16 feet in perimeter. 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). Cast nets 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, spotted seatrout, weakfish and unregulated species.

- 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. Beach or haul 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.

### Explosives, etc.

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

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## Spearfishing

Spearfishing is defined as “the catching or taking of a fish by bowhunting, giggering, spearfishing, or any device used to capture a fish by piercing its body.” Spearfishing does not include the catching or taking of a fish by a hook with hook-and-line gear or by snagging (snatch hooking). Spearfishing is 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.” The use of powerheads, bangsticks, and rebreathers remains prohibited. The following is a list of species which are prohibited for harvest by spearfishing. Any other species not listed which are managed by the Commission, and those not managed by the Commission are allowed to be harvested by spearfishing.

- Billfish (all species)
- Sturgeon
- Sharks
- Tarpon
- Snook
- Nassau grouper
- Red drum
- Stone crab
- African pompano
- Spotted eagle ray
- Manta ray
- Bonefish
- Goliath grouper
- Blue crab
- Spotted seatrout
- Weakfish
- Florida pompano
- Permit

- Tripletail
- Families of ornamental reef fish (surgeonfish, trumpetfish, angelfish, butterflyfish, porcupinefish, cornetfish, squirrelfish, trunkfish, damsselfish, parrotfish, pipefish, seahorse, puffers, triggerfish except gray and ocean)
- Lobster

### You may NOT spearfish (excluding bowfishing and giggering):

- Spearfishing of marine and freshwater species in freshwater is prohibited. Possession of a spear gun in or on freshwater is also prohibited.
- Within 100 yards of a public swimming beach, any commercial or public fishing pier, or any part of a bridge from which public fishing is allowed.
- Within 100 feet of any part of a jetty that is above the surface of the sea—except for the last 500 yards of a jetty that extends more than 1,500 yards from the shoreline.
- In Monroe County from Long Key north to the Dade County line.
- For any fish for which spearfishing is expressly prohibited by law.
- In any body of water under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks. (Possession of spearfishing equipment is

prohibited in these areas, unless it is unloaded and properly stored.)

- Fishermen who catch and/or sell fish harvested by spearfishing are subject to the same rules and limitations that other anglers in the state are required to follow.
- In Monroe County, there are additional regulations for spearfishing. For more information call 305-289-2320 or visit [www.floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://www.floridakeys.noaa.gov).

### You may NOT spear, bowfish or gig:

- In Volusia County inland waters with the exception of flounder and sheepshead which can be harvested using a spear with three or fewer prongs.

### Permit, Florida Pompano and African Pompano

- Permit and African pompano: Hook and line only in state waters; hook and line or spearfishing only in federal waters.
- Florida pompano: Hook-and-line, cast net and beach or haul seine only in state and federal waters.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!



Photo: Jeff Marino



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# Taming the Lionfish

Lionfish, lionfish, everywhere! In the news, on the reefs (both artificial and natural), in shallow waters and way down deep. You'd think every man, woman and child would know that lionfish are an issue by now, but it's not so.

Many Floridians and visitors to the state have no idea that populations of invasive, non-native lionfish are expanding rapidly in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Matter of fact, more than half of the visitors to our "Be The Predator" traveling outreach and education booth are not even aware that lionfish are harming our native wildlife and habitat.

We can all do our part in helping combat the lionfish issue. After reading this article, share the news with your friends and family. Post an article about lionfish on your Facebook wall. And if you see a lionfish, remove it.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is doing its part too. This includes a series of regulatory changes that increase your ability to remove lionfish, outreach to inform the public, and incentives to increase harvest pressure. We continue to work closely with those who have a stake in the lionfish issue from fostering long-term partnerships to brainstorming with the public. Have an idea? Email it to us at [Saltwater@MyFWC.com](mailto:Saltwater@MyFWC.com).

We pledge to continue doing what we can to make sure everyone knows about the lionfish issue and is inspired to act.

## New Reef Rangers Lionfish Control Program

While the dive community is the primary line of defense against the lionfish invasion, we all have a vested interest in protecting our reef systems. For this reason, FWC is creating new and innovative ways for both divers and non-divers to get involved in lionfish control efforts.

In May 2015, FWC will unveil the new "Reef Rangers" Lionfish Control Program via a weekend-long, blowout event in Pensacola. Think of it like an Adopt-A-Highway program, but instead of cleaning up trash off a local roadway, participants will pledge to conduct regular lionfish removals from specific reefs. Not a diver? No worries, Reef Ranger dive teams will need partners like you to support lionfish removal efforts.

It is clear that that lionfish can and will repopulate a reef after a single harvesting event. Scientific studies have also shown that repeated harvesting events are the best way to keep the population of lionfish under control and protect reef ecosystems.

Reef Rangers will be the first control program in Florida that is designed to provide sustained, long-term control,

and the first program designed to involve the non-diving community. On top of the good feelings a Reef Ranger will get from doing their part, they will be entered into a drawing and eligible for prizes if they submit their data via the Report Florida Lionfish app or [MyFWC.com/Lionfish](http://MyFWC.com/Lionfish).

## Report Those Lionfish!

Have you reported your lionfish sighting or catch on the new Report Florida Lionfish app yet? Thanks to your suggestions, the app has undergone some great transformations, including the addition of an interactive map. This map includes all lionfish reports, including photos of the fish caught, and has a reef option so you can look at all of Florida's artificial reefs. The map is also viewable on the [MyFWC.com/Lionfish](http://MyFWC.com/Lionfish) website. Other new features include entry slots for largest and smallest fish caught, the ability to submit data without including a photograph and the ability to share your catch on Facebook or Twitter. When using the app, please make sure to enter the exact coordinates for the harvest location and the date you collected them. This information is vital!

## Sell Those Lionfish!

Lionfish harvesters are asking if they can legally sell lionfish to defray the cost of harvest? The answer is "YES!" and the process for obtaining the required Individual Saltwater Products License is very simple. Just visit: [MyFWC.com/License](http://MyFWC.com/License) and click on "Commercial Saltwater Products" and "2014-15 Saltwater Products License Application (with instructions)." Print and complete the application form and mail to the address on the application with a check or money order for \$50. The individual SPL also replaces your recreational saltwater fishing license as well as the snook and lobster permits. That's all there is to it, just remember that this license only allows you to sell to licensed wholesale dealers. If you have any questions, just call the FWC Office of Licensing and Permitting at: 850-487-3122.

## Invite the Lionfish Outreach Team to Participate in Your Event!

Have you seen the Be The Predator Lionfish Outreach and Education booth? Lionfish Outreach Coordinator Meaghan Faletti has been all over that state with the booth sharing information about lionfish. Since July 2014, the team has participated in tournaments, festivals and other public events across Florida and discussed lionfish with more than 1,200 people. Visitors to the booth learn about lionfish life history, distribution, population expansion and how our native species and ecosystems are being affected.

Visit [MyFWC.com/Lionfish](http://MyFWC.com/Lionfish) and click on Derbies and Events to see when the lionfish booth will be at a location near you, or request a no-cost lionfish workshop in your area by visiting [MyFWC.com/Lionfish](http://MyFWC.com/Lionfish). You can also reach the Lionfish Outreach and Education team by phone at 850-487-0554.







## Meet Meaghan! FWC's New Lionfish Outreach Coordinator

I remember clearly the first time I heard about the lionfish invasion. Around the water most of my life, and studying marine biology, I was not only surprised, but honestly, I was disappointed in myself for not realizing it was an issue earlier. I saw my first lionfish underwater in June 2012 in Florida Bay.

From that moment on, I knew I wanted to be on the front lines combating the invasion.

I spent my undergraduate years studying the species and assisting with research on lionfish diet. While I plan to continue researching lionfish, my work as FWC's Lionfish Outreach Coordinator has allowed me to achieve my goal of affecting change by raising awareness about lionfish.

Today, I have the unique opportunity to travel around the state and share information about the lionfish invasion with thousands of people like you. I'm intrigued by your curiosity and amazed by how many people have not heard about the issue.

I have also had the opportunity to dive and collect lionfish with some of the most accomplished lionfish hunters and leading lionfish researchers. Learning to hunt lionfish and sharing the latest information has been an awesome experience. When you are in the water, the feeling of responsibility is overwhelming. You have the power to do something about it.

Spreading the word about the invasion is not just my job—it's my passion, and I'm excited to be working with you.

Come see me at the FWC "Be the Predator" booth at your local events and lionfish tournaments. I'm happy to answer your lionfish questions. Happy hunting!



Meaghan collecting lionfish.



The FWC "Be the Predator" booth.



## Marine life regulations

### Requirements for Recreational Marine Life 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 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.

### Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup> 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 include<sup>1</sup>:** 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 <sup>1</sup>
Anemones	<b>Corallimorphs and Zoanthids:</b> 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	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 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins <sup>3</sup>	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

**Other Marine Life invertebrates include<sup>1</sup>:** Brittlestars<sup>3</sup>, 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, Fileclams<sup>3</sup>, Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs<sup>3</sup>, Sea Cucumbers<sup>3</sup>, Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails<sup>3</sup>, Starsnails<sup>3</sup>, Featherduster 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 11–12.
- 3—Bag limit of 2 live shells of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.



## Grand Slams and State Records

The Florida Saltwater Grand Slam program is managed by the FWC in partnership with the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). Grand Slams challenge anglers to catch three different fish species in a 24-hour period and were created to increase the variety of species targeted by anglers. There are eight Grand Slam challenges plus a Small Fry Slam for children 15 and under: Inshore, Family, Blue Water, Florida, Shoreline, Reefs & Rubble, Nearshore, Bay & Estuary and the Small Fry Slam. The grand slams are based on species, not where they are caught in Florida. Anglers can earn any of the grand slams regardless of what region/habitat they are fishing in. Successful applicants receive a certificate signed by both the FWC Executive Director and the President of the IGFA, as well as a colorful T-shirt to recognize their achievement.

Another challenge hosted by the FWC is the Florida State Records program. There are currently 76 species eligible for state records in both conventional tackle and fly fishing categories. almaco jack and vermilion snapper are now eligible and several other species are being considered.

In addition to the programs mentioned, there are a couple of exciting new programs currently being developed by the FWC. The intention of the new programs is to encourage a saltwater fishing interest in new anglers as well as expand the activities of those already "hooked" on fishing.

For more information or to apply for a state record or grand slam, contact the FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management by calling 850-487-0554, or visit [MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing) and click on "Saltwater" and "Angler Recognition." Entries are free!

### Grand Slams

#### Inshore Slam

red drum, spotted seatrout, flounder

#### Family Slam

any three fish in the same family

#### Blue Water Slam

dolphinfish, sailfish, wahoo

#### Florida Slam

permit, tarpon, bonefish

#### Shoreline Slam

sheepshead, kingfish (whiting), Florida pompano

#### Reefs and Rubble Slam

black sea bass, gag, triggerfish

#### Nearshore Slam

cobia, tripletail, king mackerel

#### Bay and Estuary Slam

mangrove snapper, snook, Spanish mackerel

#### Small Fry Slam

(15 and under)  
pinfish, grunt, catfish

### NEW 2014 Grand Slam Certificate Recipients

#### East Florida

Tim Quicksell, James Manus, Mark Lee

#### West Florida

Jeff Turner, Ryan DeGroot, William Carter, Justin Grubich, Mark Lee, Steve Kost, David Kubert, Craig Del Valle, Ethan White, Tim Quicksell

#### South Florida

Larry Langohr, Nathan Linville, Vitaliy Cervone, Emily Bracher, Stephen Trippe, Patrick Callahan, Lawson Stiff, Jr., Liza Hough

#### North Florida

None

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## Costs for licenses

In addition to the cost of licenses and permits specified in this section, license agents may charge an issuance fee for selling licenses or permits. **Note: All sales are final.**

### Florida resident licenses

<b>One-Year Saltwater Shoreline Only License</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Covers saltwater fishing from shorelines and attached structures. Does not cover fishing from a watercraft, fishing from a shoreline reached by watercraft, or fishing while swimming or diving.	
<b>One-Year Saltwater License</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
Covers both watercraft and shoreline fishing	
<b>Youth Saltwater Fishing License — valid until 17th birthday</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
<b>Five-Year Saltwater License</b>	<b>\$79.00</b>
<b>Combination licenses (Florida residents only)</b>	
<b>Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater</b>	<b>\$32.50</b>
<b>Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater &amp; Hunting</b>	<b>\$48.00</b>
<b>One-Year Gold Sportsman's License</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Five-Year Gold Sportsman's License</b>	<b>\$494.00</b>
<b>Youth Gold Sportsman's License — valid until 17th birthday</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>One-Year Military Gold Sportsman's License</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>

(Offers the same privileges as the Gold Sportsman's License. Available only to Florida residents who are active or retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, the National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard or the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, upon submission of a current military identification card and proof of Florida residency. Purchase at county tax collector's offices only.)

### Lifetime saltwater fishing license (Florida residents only; includes Snook and Lobster Permits)

<b>Age: 0–4</b>	<b>\$126.50</b>
<b>Age: 5–12</b>	<b>\$226.50</b>
<b>Age: 13 or older</b>	<b>\$301.50</b>
<b>Lifetime sportsman license (Florida residents only)</b>	
<b>Age: 0–4</b>	<b>\$401.50</b>
<b>Age: 5–12</b>	<b>\$701.50</b>
<b>Age: 13 or older</b>	<b>\$1,001.50</b>

### Non-resident licenses

<b>Three-day License</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
<b>Seven-day License</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>One-Year License</b>	<b>\$47.00</b>

### Permits

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

**If you are required to have a license, even the \$0.00 shoreline license, you are required to purchase permits to harvest Snook and Spiny Lobster.**

## Saltwater fishing in Florida... What you must know before you go

Saltwater fishing licenses are sold online at License.MyFWC.com, at county tax collectors' offices and at many license agents. Licenses may also be obtained over the telephone by dialing toll-free, 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). An additional fee is charged for telephone and Internet services. For any recreational licensing information not contained in this publication, please go to MyFWC.com/License.

### Florida residents

When applying for a saltwater recreational fishing license, you are considered to be a Florida resident if you are:

- 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; or
- Any member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in Florida (includes spouse and dependent children residing in the household).

### Gold sportsman's licenses

- Includes:
  - » Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses
  - » Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading Gun, Turkey, Florida Waterfowl, Deer, Snook and Spiny Lobster permits
- Florida residents may buy a lifetime saltwater fishing license or a lifetime sportsman license. Holders of lifetime saltwater fishing licenses may fish in saltwater for life and will pay no additional fees. The lifetime license fee includes the taking of snook or spiny lobster, which would otherwise require a separate fee. A lifetime sportsman license allows holders to fish in freshwater

or saltwater and to hunt in Florida. Both of the licenses require holders to obey fishing or hunting laws in effect at any given time.

### You do not need a license if you are:

- A resident who is 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. 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 Administration must be on your person when fishing.
- A child under 16 years of age.
- Any resident fishing for recreational purposes only, within her or his county of residence with live or natural bait, using poles or lines not equipped with a fishing line retrieval mechanism.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel—guide, charter, party boat—that has a valid charter boat license or charter captain license.
- A holder of a valid saltwater products license.
- A Florida resident 65 years of age or older and you possess proof of age and residency, such as a Florida driver's license or ID, or an optional no-cost Resident Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing Certificate.
- A Florida resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, who is not stationed in this state, while on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders. This does not include family members.
- Any person fishing who has been accepted as a client for developmental disabilities services by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, provided the agency furnishes proof thereof.
- Fishing for recreational purposes from a pier that has a valid pier saltwater fishing license.
- Fishing from a boat that has a valid recreational vessel fishing license.

- A Florida resident who is fishing for mullet in freshwater with a valid Florida *freshwater* fishing license.
- A Florida resident who possesses a no-cost Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate. In order to qualify for this, applicants must provide a certification of total and permanent disability from the United States Armed Forces, Railroad Retirement Board, Florida Worker's Compensation or the United States Veterans Administration. Alternatively, current documentation from the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits also will be accepted.

### Other saltwater fishing fees

Licenses (Charter Boat or Charter Captain) are required for all vessels that charge a fee (for-hire vessels) to take passengers out to catch marine fish.

<b>Eleven or more customers .....</b>	<b>\$801.50</b>
<b>Five to ten customers .....</b>	<b>\$401.50</b>
<b>Four or fewer customers .....</b>	<b>\$201.50</b>

Optional fees include the annual Recreational Vessel fee (\$2,001.50) for not-for-hire pleasure craft and the annual Pier license (\$501.50). For charter licensing information, contact your local county tax collector's office or visit MyFWC.com.

**NEW Requirements for Gulf Reef Fish Anglers**

**See Page 10**



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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)  
License.MyFWC.com
- **FWC Division of Law Enforcement**  
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **For up-to-date information on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill please visit**  
MyFWC.com/OilSpill
- **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
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941-255-7403  
sawfish@MyFWC.com
- **Bird Entanglement**  
888-404-3922  
727-391-6211 for Tampa area
- **To request Tarpon DNA Sampling Kits:**  
800-367-4461  
TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com
- **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,**  
please visit MyFWC.com/ReportLionfish  
or call 1-877-786-7267

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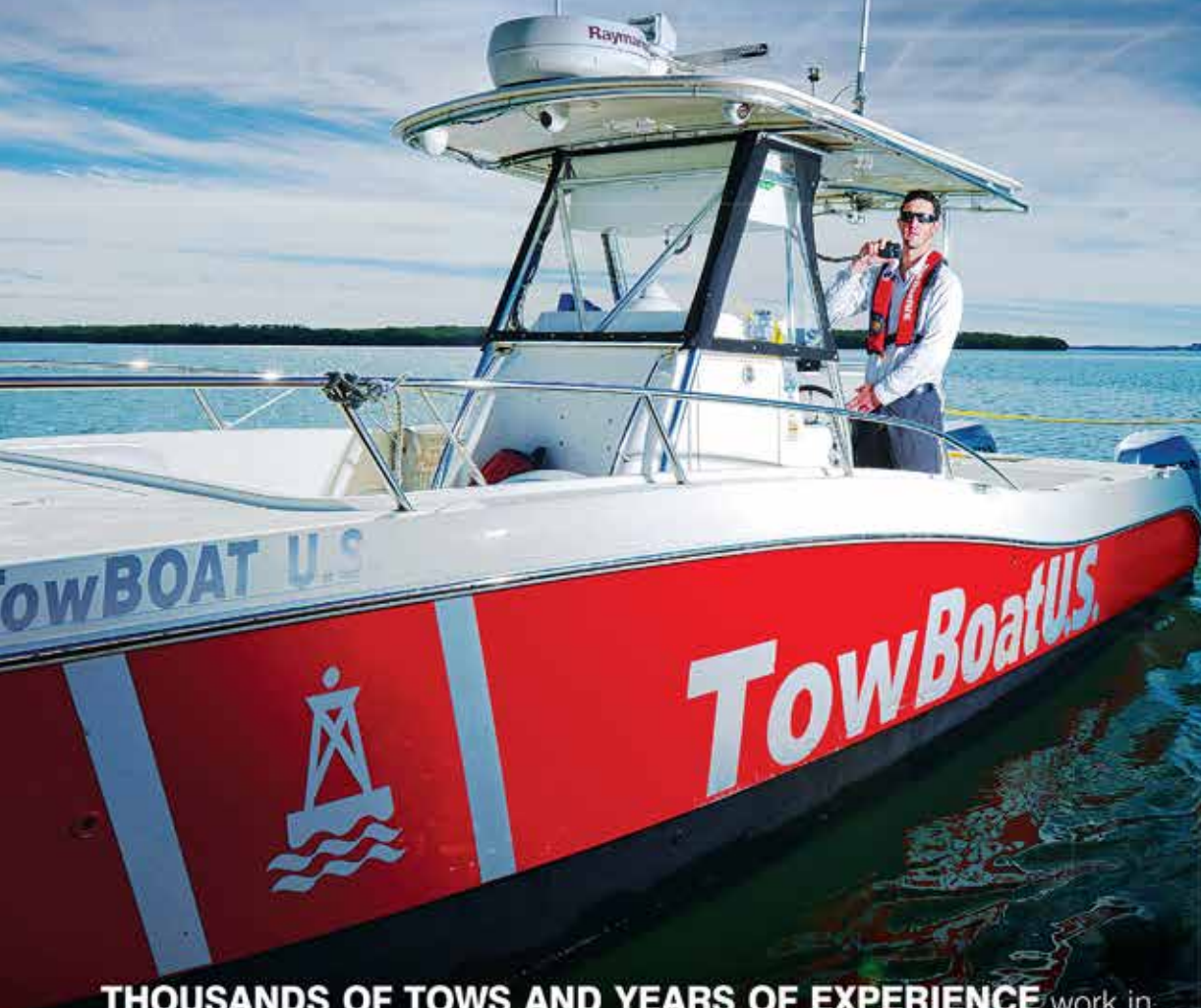
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