

FISHING REGULATIONS

New Lionfish Opportunities

page 8

► New Cobia Tagging Project
page 13

► Saltwater Grand Slams
page 16

Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: July 1, 2016

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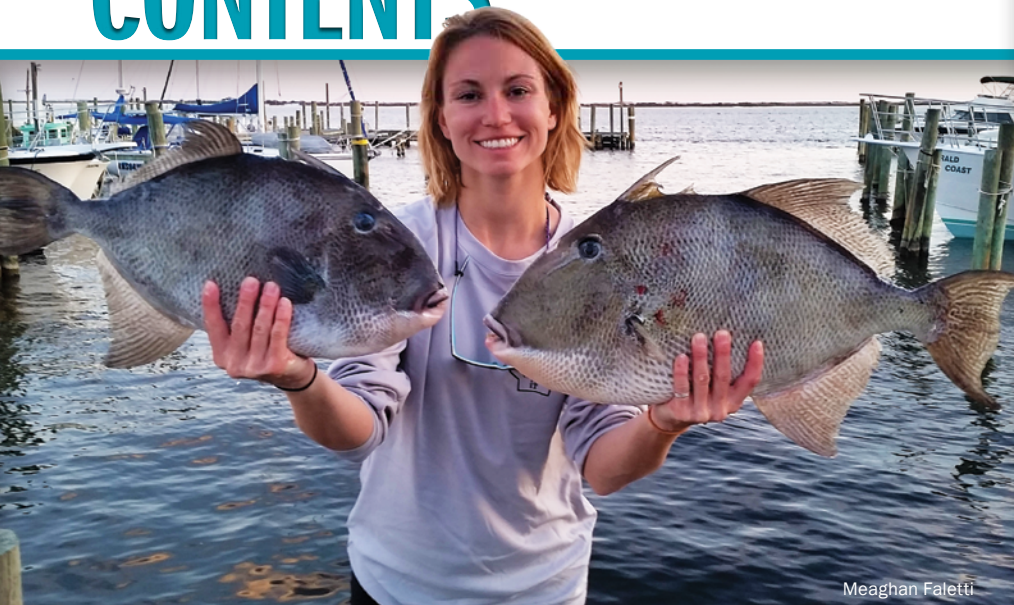
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Go to MyFWC.com for up-to-date information on recreational saltwater fishing regulations, news and events as well as resources, publications and videos.

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
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- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)**
727-824-5301
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For additional information please contact:

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Division of Marine Fisheries Management
2590 Executive Center Circle East
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850-487-0554

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. For more information, see page 21.

On the cover

Katie Purcell with snook.
Photograph by FWC

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."

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 GoOutdoorsFlorida.com or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Processing fees will apply to telephone and Internet sales.

2016 Commission meeting dates and locations

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

- Sept. 8–9, 2016 — Amelia Island / St. Augustine
- Nov. 16–17, 2016 — St. Petersburg

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.

2016 Shows and Events

Visit the FWC booth at these upcoming events to pick up your copy of the *Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations and Fishing Lines: Angler's Guide to Florida's Marine Resources*. For more information call 850-487-0554 or visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater" and "Outreach and Education Programs."

Shows and Expositions

- July 13, ICAST, Orlando
- October 8–9, Florida Sportsman Expo, Tampa
- October 22, FWRI's Marine Quest, St. Petersburg

Kids' Fishing Clinics

- July 16, Palm Coast
- September 17, Sarasota
- November 5, Steinhatchee

Women's Fishing Clinics

Women's Fishing Clinics will be held in March, April, May, and June. Dates and locations have not been determined at this time. Please see: MyFWC.com for more information or contact the FWC - Division of Marine Fisheries Management at: 850-487-0554.



2016 License-Free Saltwater Fishing Days!

- Sept. 3
- Nov. 26



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 Management through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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Snook: Today, Tomorrow and Beyond

Snook like hook or snook like newk, no matter how you pronounce it, it's iconic. It's beloved. It is one of Florida's favorite recreational fish.

Earlier this year, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) began a conversation about snook when they hosted Snook Symposium VI in Orlando. The day-long discussion was open to the public and focused on snook management and research, including opportunities for improving snook management and the results of the 2015 stock assessment (the first assessment to fully evaluate the impacts of the 2010 cold kill).

The symposium was a success not only in terms of attendance and interest (more than 150 people attended the meeting, and 350 registered) but in the productive conversations that took place.

While ideas about how to manage snook in the future varied, it was clear that some concepts rose to the top for attendees. Many would like to see more attention paid to habitat conservation, maintaining the current higher than average management goal for snook populations, and managing snook for abundance.

Innovative ideas for future management were also explored such as managing snook by estuary.

So what is next? After the meeting, all those who registered were asked to fill out a follow up survey. From this, we plan to continue the conversation by pulling together a series of small groups based on user group (for example, fishing guides from South Florida, tourist industry leaders or recreational anglers). These groups will help fisheries managers better understand what is important to various stakeholder groups when it comes to the snook fishery.

These small group meetings will be followed by larger open to the public workshop to gather feedback on the recommendations developed.

The stock assessment was also recently finalized. And though several hundred thousand snook died statewide as a result of the cold kill, the assessment shows that catch rates for the snook populations have returned to pre-cold event levels and the populations on both coasts, while still recovering, are meeting management goals. The quick recovery demonstrates that FWC's management efforts to date have been successful in building population resilience.



Kevin Hough

Let's keep the conversation going so we can decide together how to manage this iconic fishery. Send your thoughts or questions to Marine@MyFWC.com. Keep up with the latest on snook management at MyFWC.com/Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations" and "Snook." For more information about snook research, go to MyFWC.com/Research, select "Saltwater" then "Saltwater Fish" and then click on "Snook."

Jessica McCawley

Director, Marine Fisheries Management,
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission



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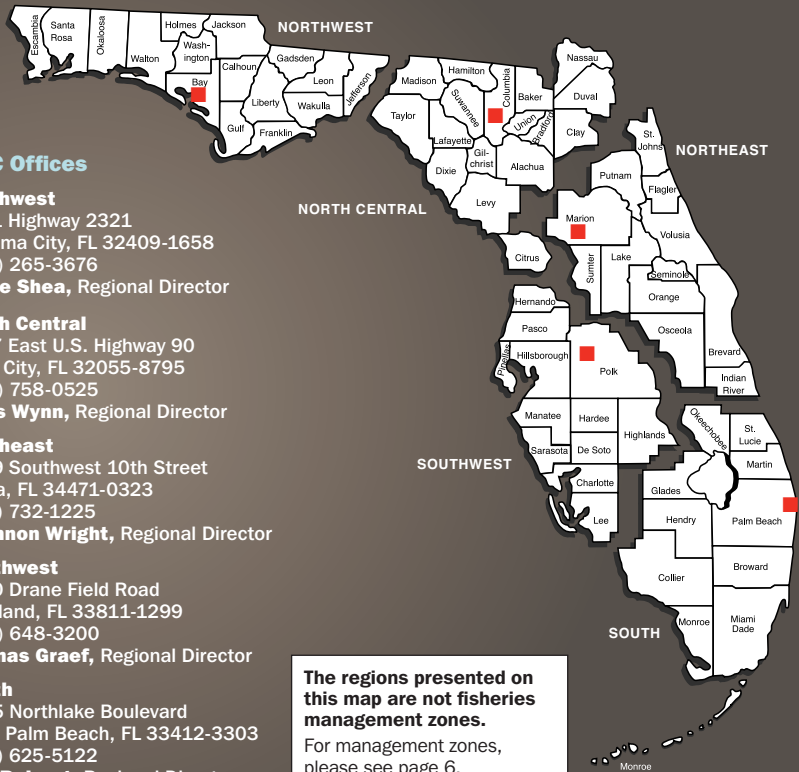
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The regions presented on this map are not fisheries management zones. For management zones, please see page 6.



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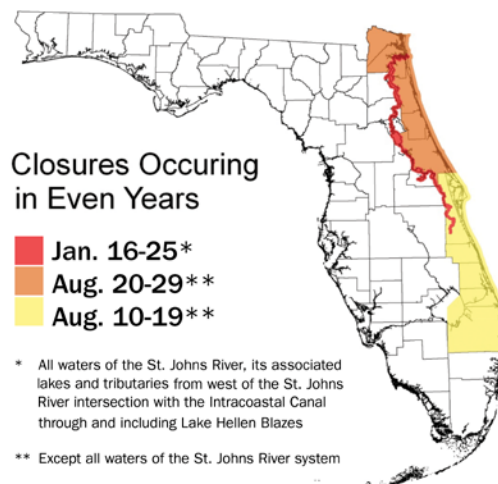


Know Your Management Zones

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 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.

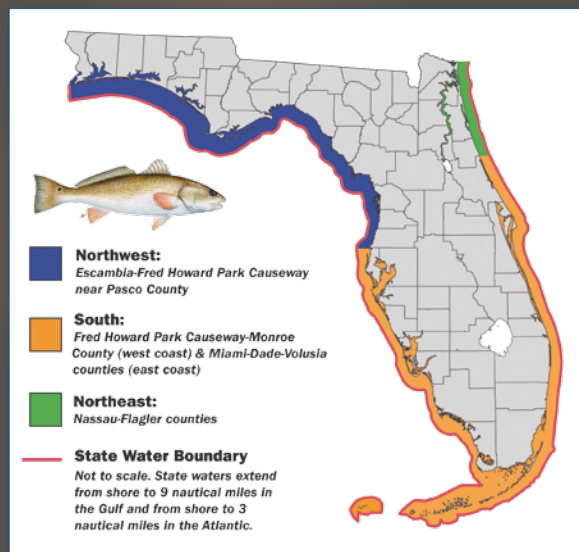
Blue Crab Trap Closures

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.



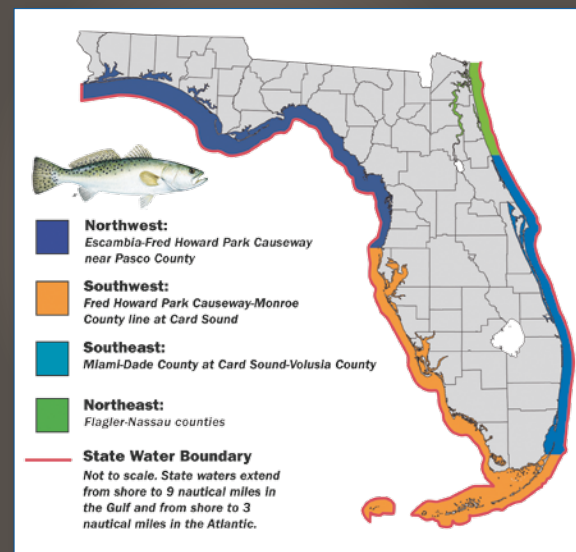
Red Drum Management Zones

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.



Hooked a Bird? Don't Cut the Line!

If you are a fisherman, you may hook a seabird or wading bird by accident. Then what to do? First, don't panic and cut the line! This is important. Because when a bird flies away with a hook and line attached, it often becomes entangled in trees. That can injure or kill the bird. And once the line is snared where birds roost, it can catch and kill even more birds.

If you hook a bird — or find one that is hooked or entangled — take these steps for safe rescue and release:

1. Reel the bird in slowly. Do not attempt to shake it loose, which can increase chances of injury. If you are on a pier or bridge, lift the bird from the water using a hoop net.
2. If the bird has swallowed the hook or is severely injured, contact a local wildlife rehabilitator. For wildlife rehabilitators in your area, call any of FWC's five regional offices listed on page 5. Otherwise follow the steps below to unhook a seabird.
3. Wear safety glasses for protection and enlist a partner to help.
4. Grasp the bird by the head just behind the eyes and fold the wings against the body. For pelicans, hold the beak but keep the mouth slightly open so it can breath.
5. Cover the birds head with a cloth to keep it calm.
6. If the bird is hooked and the barb is exposed, either mash down the barb with pliers and back it out or cut off either end of the hook so it can be easily removed. If the tip and barb are not exposed, push the hook through so that it can be cut above the barb and removed.

7. If the bird is entangled, gently remove all line from the bird.
8. If the bird seems healthy, place it on the ground near the water and allow the bird to take off on its own.

How else can you help a seabird or wading bird?

1. Don't feed the birds. Feeding birds teaches them to approach fishermen, where they are more likely to be hooked.
2. Birds also generally eat small fish whole and can easily digest small bones, but the bigger bones of a filleted fish can tear throats, stomachs and intestines. Dispose of filleted bones where birds can't get them — in a trash can with lid or at home.
3. Cover bait buckets.
4. Dispose of fishing line in a monofilament recycling bin or else cut into small pieces (3 inches or smaller) and place in the trash.
5. Don't leave your line unattended.
6. Cast carefully to avoid being snared on trees, bridge piles, power lines or obstacles.
7. Help other fishermen learn what to do when they accidentally catch a bird. It's pretty easy, once you know how.

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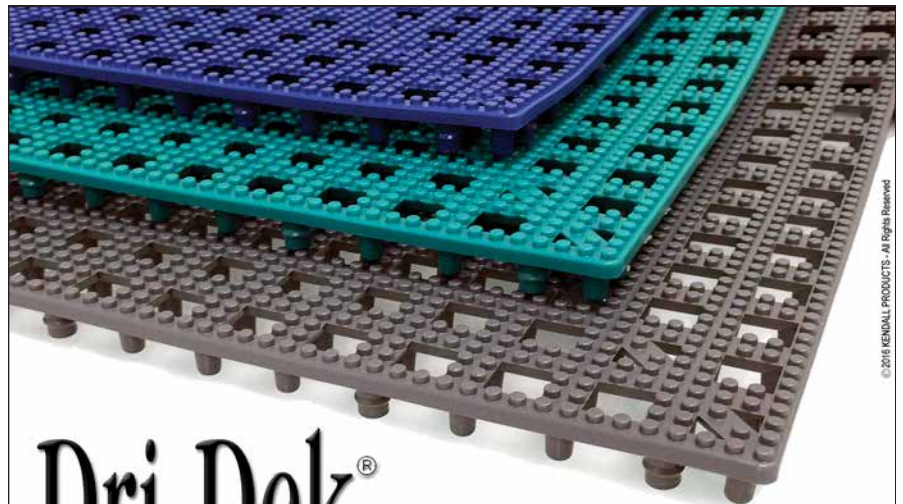
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Julian and Lexi Polecitt

FWC's Lionfish Reward Programs

Two new reward programs were approved by the FWC Commission in April 2016 and the competition officially started on May 14. These programs are designed to increase public awareness about the lionfish invasion, increase diver participation in removal efforts, and help reduce the number of lionfish in our waters.

"Innovative programs like these are a great way to generate public involvement and interest in controlling the lionfish population," said FWC Chairman Brian Yablonski.

Statewide Program

The statewide "Lionfish Challenge" program started on May 14 and runs through Sept. 30, 2016. To qualify, participants must remove 50 or more lionfish. Under the program, participants can document their catch by submitting photographs electronically to FWC or by dropping off labeled bags of lionfish tails at one of the identified drop off locations. A list of drop off locations can be found at MyFWC.com/Lionfish.

Persons who reach 50 lionfish will receive a commemorative lionfish coin to mark their membership and a Lionfish Challenge t-shirt; be featured in the lionfish hall of fame on the MyFWC.com website; and be entered in drawings to win prizes including fishing licenses, diving equipment, fuel cards and tank fill cards. Those who qualify prior to the 2016 lobster mini-season (July 27–28, 2016) will also be eligible to take one additional lobster per day during the two-day season. For each additional 50 lionfish that are harvested, participants will receive one additional entry into the raffle.

The person who "checks in" the most lionfish between May 14 and Sept. 30 will be crowned Florida's Lionfish King or Queen and will receive a lifetime saltwater fishing license and have his or her photograph on the cover of the January 2017 Florida

Saltwater Regulations magazine. The King or Queen will also be recognized at the November 2016 Commission Meeting.

Pilot Program

A second program referred to as the "Panhandle Pilot Program" will focus on removal efforts in the Florida panhandle region from Escambia County to Franklin County. For every 100 lionfish harvested from waters off these seven counties between May 14, 2016, and May 20, 2017, the harvester will receive a tag that allows the harvest of an additional red grouper or cobia from state waters. All other recreational fishing regulations apply. FWC will issue a maximum of 100 red grouper tags and maximum of 30 cobia tags to successful participants in the pilot program on a first come first served basis. In addition, the first 10 participants or groups to harvest 500 or more lionfish during the program will be given the opportunity to name one of Florida's artificial reefs.

Unlike the statewide program, photo documentation will not be allowed for fish entered under the Pilot program. Tails of fish to be entered under the pilot program must be brought one of the identified locations in a panhandle county.

Whether you are a casual recreational diver or hard core tournament competitor, these programs are a great opportunity to get involved in Florida's lionfish removal efforts. Please visit MyFWC.com/Lionfish for program instructions and additional information.



Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Issued: July 2016

New regulations are highlighted in red
Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic
(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:

- 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 - Open: Saturdays and Sundays starting May 7, May 28-July 10, Fridays Saturdays and Sundays in Sept. and Oct., and Labor Day**

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 - 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 ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- **Gulf - 24"**

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 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 ▲◆●

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 person



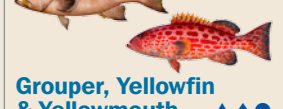
Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind ▲◆●

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

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

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 length
- Gulf - 34" fork length

Season:

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



Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish ▲●

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



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



Black Sea Bass ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 13"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Great Barracuda ▲◆■

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per person and 6 per vessel applies only in state and federal waters off Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties.
- Unregulated in all other areas.



Triggerfish (Gray) ▲●

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Closed June and July and may remain closed until Jan. 1, 2017. Check MyFWC.com for current information

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 2 per harvester



Hogfish ▲●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester
- Changes possible – visit MyFWC.com for updates

Pelagics



Billfish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- Sailfin 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.



Wahoo ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day



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.



Cobia (Ling) ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 33" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Mackerel, King ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day

Remarks

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



Tripletail ▲◆†

Minimum Size Limits:

- 15"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day

Remarks

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



Mackerel, Spanish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester per day



Dolphinfish ▲

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.



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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 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



Black Drum ▲ ◆ ■

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 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 ● ▲ ◆ ■

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.



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 length

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 length 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.



Pompano, Florida ▲ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 11" fork length

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 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 per day in the NW and S zone. See map on p. 6 and Check MyFWC.com for possible changes.**
- 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, menhaden, 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
- † 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

Bay Scallops



Season:

- Open June 25–Sept. 24, 2016

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.

- **Changes possible – Check MyFWC.com**



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

Spiny Lobster



Minimum Size Limit:

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

Seasons:

- Sport Season Open July 27–28, 2016
- Regular Season Closes on March 31, 2016 Reopens Aug. 6, 2016

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.



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:

- 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. **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.



Crab, Blue

Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. See MyFWC.com for 2016 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.

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.

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.

Retainable Sharks with a 54" fork length minimum ▲↑

Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako.



Bull



Common Thresher



Nurse



Spinner

Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ▲↑



Atlantic Sharpnose



Blacknose



Blacktip



Bonnethead



Finetooth



Smooth Dogfish

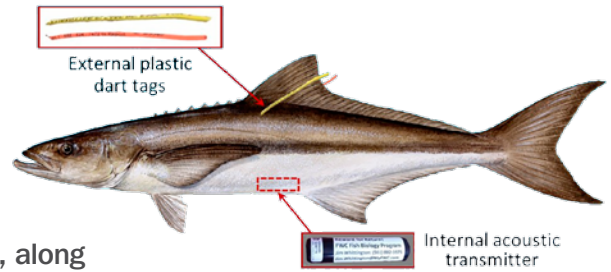
Prohibited Species

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, Calico Scallop, 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.

Tagged Cobia Project Gathers Important Data on Fishery

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), along with other states and organizations, is using acoustic telemetry technology to gather data that will help shed light on wide-ranging cobia migrations and the geographical boundary of Atlantic and Gulf stocks.



Researchers are surgically implanting cobia with acoustic transmitters that give off signals, allowing each fish to be detected by an array of acoustic receivers found along the coast. Data collected will allow researchers to track cobia movements and help managers make informed decisions on the cobia fishery.

What if i catch a tagged cobia?

These cobia are marked with two external dart tags on their back. **If you catch a tagged cobia please do NOT harvest it! Record the tag number, fork length, date and general**

location of catch; release the fish in good condition with tags still intact; and call 888-824-7472 to report the cobia and get a t-shirt. Releasing tagged cobia will allow them to continue gathering valuable data.

For the purpose of this study, we discourage the harvest of tagged cobia. **If you accidentally harvest a tagged cobia, please report all information listed above AND return both the internal acoustic transmitter and plastic dart tags to FWC** (Attn: Jim Whittington, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tequesta Field Laboratory,

19100 SE Federal Hwy. Tequesta, FL 33469). The internal acoustic transmitter can be found implanted just inside the body cavity on the underside of the fish.

Other ways to get involved?

You can further assist in this project by collecting fin clips from cobia caught on the east coast of Florida. Email Jim.Whittington@MyFWC.com or call 561-882-5975 to request a fin clip kit.

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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 5.

Reef fish gear rules

(applies to species marked with ● on pages 9–10)

- **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 9 through 12 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, spotted seatrout, weakfish and unregulated species (see p. 11).
- 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.

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Spearfishing

Spearfishing 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. Spearfishing does not include snagging or snatch hooking by hook and line. Marine species harvested by spearfishing 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 spearfishing in state waters:

- All prohibited species (listed on p. 12)
- Billfish and swordfish (all species)
- Bonefish
- Crab (blue, stone)
- Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*)
- Permit
- Pompano (Florida and African)
- Red drum
- Sharks (all species including dogfish)
- Snook
- Spotted seatrout
- Tarpon
- Tripletail
- Weakfish
- Marine life species (listed on p. 18)

* Volusia County — You may not harvest by spearfishing 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 spearfishing in specific areas (Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations," "Full Text Rule by Species" and "Local Laws.")

Spearfishing

Spearfishing is a specific form of "spearfishing" 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 spearfishing (see Spearfishing 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 spearfishing 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 unloaded 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 rebreaters is prohibited in state waters, except that rebreaters 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 with FWC's Saltwater Grand Slam Program

FWC's Saltwater Grand Slams are a challenge to catch three specified fish species in a 24-hour period. This program entices anglers to learn more about Florida's vast recreational fishing opportunities by encouraging them to target multiple species during fishing trips.



All catches, past and present, are eligible if they can be documented and photos of the angler properly holding each fish or in the picture with each fish are submitted.

Successful anglers will receive a certificate signed by the Director of FWC Marine Fisheries Management 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 in the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulations Booklet.

As always, FWC encourages responsible angling. Remember proper catch-and-release techniques when fishing. Anglers do not have to harvest fish to be eligible, and are encouraged to release catches alive.

The nine Grand Slams include:

Inshore Grand Slam:

Red drum, spotted seatrout, flounder

Family Grand Slam:

Any three fish in the same scientific family

Blue Water Grand Slam:

Dolphinfish, sailfish, wahoo

Florida Grand Slam:

Permit, tarpon, bonefish

Shoreline Grand Slam:

Sheepshead, kingfish (whiting), Florida pompano

Reefs and Rubble Grand Slam:

Black sea bass, gag, triggerfish

Nearshore Grand Slam:

Cobia, tripletail, king mackerel

Bay and Estuary Grand Slam:

Mangrove snapper, snook, Spanish mackerel

Small Fry Grand Slam:

(15 and under): Pinfish, grunt, catfish



Barry Bennet



John Tait

Congratulations to these Grand Slam Certificate Recipients!

Inshore Grand Slam:

Robert Forbes
Sherri D. Williams
Ken Van Doren
Patrick Kroboth
Bryan Gold
Tim Blue
John Tait
Samuel Lambert
Ken Van Doren

Gary M. Gambill
Robert Connor Jr.
Joseph Ferranti
Donald Saven
James Stemp
El Rushak
Dan Price
Capt. Ken Lai
Anthony Santiago

Family Grand Slam:

Steve Datkuliak
Steve Meerman

Bay and Estuary Grand Slam:

Christopher Rowell

Be on the lookout for additional FWC Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs in the future, including the Saltwater Fish Life List (a challenge to catch over 70 different species of saltwater fish) and Reel Big Fish (recognition for extraordinarily-sized catches). These programs will recognize anglers for their fishing skills and help strengthen conservation ethics.

For more information or to apply for a Grand Slam, visit MyFWC.com/AnglerRecognition or email AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com. Share your Grand Slam photographs and stories with us on social media by using #FWCSlam. We hope that you will participate and "Catch a Florida Memory!"

Submit your fishing photo to Saltwater@MyFWC.com



Eszter Keresztes



Beau Yeiser and JJ Brodbeck



Steve Datkuliak



Ken Hughes



Sean Skakandy



Jerry McBride



Rosemary White



Arthur Smith



Shawn McCole

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 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 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, Balloofish, Porcupinefish	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloofish, 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	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, 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 9–10.

3—Bag limit of 2 live shells of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.

2016 Women's Saltwater Fishing Clinics

Florida has been coined The Fishing Capital of the World for good reason. With 8,426 miles of tidal shoreline, 7,700 lakes, and roughly 10,550 miles of rivers, residents and tourists are never far from water. So where does a first time or novice woman learn about saltwater fishing?

Women's Fishing Clinics (WFCs) are free, one-day educational events that introduce women to saltwater fishing and educate participants on conserving Florida's marine resources. These catch and release only events are conducted by the FWC staff with funding in part by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. This national program is funded by your purchases of fishing equipment, boats and motorboat and small-engine fuel sales.

The clinic class sizes are kept low in an effort to implement a structured hands-on approach to basic saltwater fishing skills and conservation of fish resources. These events are held in coastal cities statewide.

Participants learn about types of fishing rods and reels, how to use and setup a spinning rod and reel, knot tying, cast netting, catch-and-release techniques, marine habitats, conservation efforts and fishing tackle. The program partners with local professionals to provide information and instruction at the events.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own equipment for the fishing component of the program but if they do not have any, FWC will provide some for the day.

These clinics are free to the public, participants must be 18 years or older, and they are required to possess a valid recreational saltwater fishing license to attend, unless exempt.



Advanced registration is required, to register, call the Division of Marine Fisheries Management Outreach and Education subsection at (850) 487-0554 or email Heather.Sneed@MyFWC.com.

For more information, visit MyFWC.com/education/outdoor-skills/women-fishing/.



SEAFAN is a reporting and response network designed to protect southeast Florida's coral reefs.



If you are on or in the water and see signs of trouble for coral reefs, please file a report by visiting:

www.SEAFAN.net

or calling

1-866-770-7335.



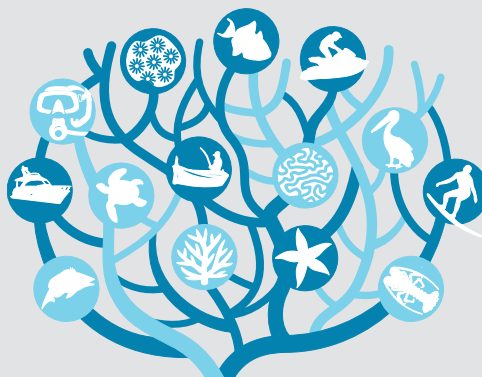
Coral disease



Anchor damage



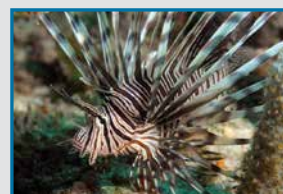
Coral bleaching



SEAFAN

Southeast Florida Action Network

We're All Connected ~ Keep It Protected



Invasive species



Marine debris



Other disturbances

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

One-Year Saltwater Shoreline Only License	\$0.00
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.	
One-Year Saltwater License	\$17.00
Covers both watercraft and shoreline fishing	
Youth Saltwater Fishing License — valid until 17th birthday	\$17.00
Five-Year Saltwater License	\$79.00
Combination licenses (Florida residents only)	
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater	\$32.50
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater & Hunting	\$48.00
One-Year 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
One-Year Military Gold Sportsman's License	\$20.00

(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)

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

Non-resident licenses

Three-day License	\$17.00
Seven-day License	\$30.00
One-Year License	\$47.00

Permits

Snook Permit	\$10.00
Five-Year Snook Permit (Florida residents only)	\$50.00
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

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 GoOutdoorsFlorida.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.

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

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.



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.

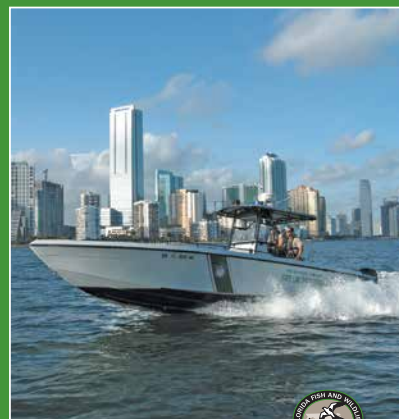
In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife or boating laws are being violated, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cell phone users throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text 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/ReportLionfish

At the FWC, it pays to love the outdoors!



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



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