

Commonly Caught Alabama Offshore Fish



RED SNAPPER

The Gulf of Mexico is the center of abundance for northern red snapper. This is one of the Gulf's most important fish species; about 13 million pounds are taken in United States waters annually. Its esteemed reputation as one of the finest food fishes in the world is well deserved.



VERMILION SNAPPER (BEELINER)

This snapper favors rocky reefs in moderate to deep shelf areas. Groups amass on flatter tops of reefs or along gentler sloping reefs, avoiding steep drop-offs and ledges.



LANE SNAPPER

The color of the lane snapper is the quick way to distinguish it from other snappers. It is a rich red color with 8-10 yellow-gold parallel horizontal stripes along the side, and a large black diffuse spot under the dorsal fin.



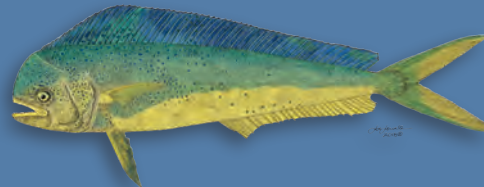
GRAY SNAPPER (BLACK/MANGROVE)

This is one of the few snappers found in shallow estuarine waters. Individuals may mingle with aggregates of pinfish or pigfish around wharfs.



GAG GROUPER

Most "black grouper" from the Gulf are really gags. The placement of artificial reefs in shallow shelf waters of the Gulf in recent years has greatly enhanced the gag grouper fishery.



DOLPHINFISH (MAHI MAHI)

Dolphinfish are usually found offshore near sargassum weeds looking for squid, flying fish, and other small fish to eat. They are extremely fast swimmers and one of the fastest growing fish in the ocean. They're bright colors of purples, blues and yellow make them an attractive fish to catch and eat!



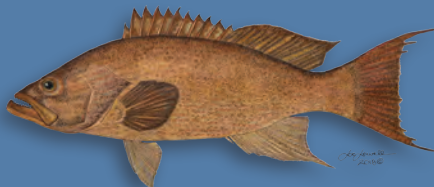
GRAY TRIGGERFISH

The gray triggerfish is a wide-ranging fish in the western Atlantic. It is a very fine food fish, and is also a valuable commercial species.



ATLANTIC SPADEFISH

Spadefish are superb eating, and when the right spot is found along with a school in the right mood, a nice catch of pound-weight spadefish is a real possibility.



SCAMP

There is no doubt that scamp is one of the most highly esteemed food fishes in the Gulf. When served at the finest seafood restaurants, it commands a price comparable to red snapper or pompano.



WAHOO

Wahoo are slender bodied with a dark-bluish green back and silvery sides. They are found offshore cruising the blue water looking for squid or other fish to eat and can quickly switch directions if need be.



GREATER AMBERJACK

There are four varieties of amberjack: greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, Almaco jack, and banded rudderfish. Federal and state minimum sizes on amberjacks make it imperative that you release any little jacks of whose identification you're not absolutely certain.

Commonly Caught Inshore and Coastal Fish



KING MACKEREL

The largest of the mackerels in our region, reaching 6 feet in length and up to 80 pounds. Throughout most of the Gulf, the king is a favorite offshore game fish.



FLORIDA POMPAÑO

The Florida pompano typically commands the highest price per pound of any marine food fish in the continental U.S. Favorite foods are small shelled animals living in the upper layers of sandy bottoms.



COBIA (LING)

Cobia are attracted to large objects, including buoys, ships, sharks, turtles, and giant rays. This fish has many common names including cobia, cabio, ling, lemon fish and crabeater.



SHEEPSHEAD

One of the largest members of the porgy family, sometimes exceeding 2 feet and 10 pounds. Though difficult to clean, its mild flavor rates high on the list of Gulf fishes. The gray-black vertical bars on its side make it easy to identify.



SAND & SILVER SEATROUT (WHITE TROUT)

Small for sportfish, usually topping out at about 14 to 16 inches, and a couple of pounds, they are highly regarded for their sporting nature and flesh quality. Lumped together, they are known locally as "white trout."



TRIPLETAIL (BLACKFISH)

One way to catch is by using long cane poles and live bait, lowering the bait within a perimeter of pilings, buoys or other obstructions. If nothing strikes in a few minutes, it's on the next spot.



PERMIT

These fish can be found offshore near structures, inshore over seagrass beds or over sandy bottom near inlets in search of small crabs or shrimp to eat.



SPANISH MACKEREL

Spanish mackerel are fast-moving, voracious predators favoring shallow shelf waters. Sardines, especially anchovies, are their main staple, and their presence and abundance is often reflected by that of the anchovy schools.



RED DRUM (REDFISH)

One of the largest drums, often exceeding a yard in length and 30-40 pounds. Big "bull" reds prefer offshore waters or deeper waters of estuaries, but younger "rat" reds frequent the shallows near piers and jetties. They prefer shellfish, but will not pass up a good chunk of fish if offered.



FLOUNDER

Flounder are bottom-dwelling fish that thrive in sandy or muddy bottoms near rocky reefs waiting to ambush any small fish or crustaceans that pass by their mouths. They are also very good to eat especially grilled whole and stuffed with crab meat.



SPOTTED SEATROUT (SPECKLED TROUT)

Spotted seatrout feed primarily on fishes and larger shellfish. Because they rely on vicious rapid first strikes to dismember their prey, they are noted as heavy hitters on artificial lures.