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Recreational Coastal Waters Guide for Sportsfishermen

Attention: Weakfish changed April 5, 1999 - See [Proclamation FF-15-99](#) - 14 Inch Minimum/10 Per Person Per Day

This page last updated 4-12-99

We have provided a smaller version of the Rec Guide (without shellfish and crab limits) which should print out on one sheet of paper for your convenience. [You can find it here](#). **IMPORTANT** Check with *Division of Marine Fisheries for most current minimum lengths and catch limits. 919-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 (North Carolina only). For inland water limits contact Wildlife Resource Commission 919-733-3633.*

This document is a public record under chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Anyone who alters, defaces, mutilates or destroys it shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction subject to fines.

State Regulations for waters 0 - 3 miles offshore.

TL = Total Length FL = Fork Length LJFL = Lower Jaw Fork Length

Finfish Species	Minimum Length	Catch Limits
Amberjack (C)	28" FL	3/Day
Striped Bass (A) (C)	(A)	(A)
Bluefish	No Size Limit	10/Day
Cobia	33" FL	2/Day
Dolphin (B)	-	10/Day (B)
King Mackerel	20" FL	3/Day
Spanish Mackerel	12" FL	10/Day
Sharks, (excluding Atlantic Sharpnose) (F) (K)	(No finning)	-

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White Marlin	66" LJFL	1/Day
Sailfish	57" LJFL	1/Day
Red Drum (Channel Bass, Puppy Drum)	18" TL (D)	1/Day
Flounder	13" TL (Internal) 15" TL (Ocean) (G) (J)	No Limit (Internal) 8/Day (Ocean) (G)
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled)	12" TL	10/Day
Gray Trout (Weakfish)	14" TL	10/Day
Tarpon (C)	-	1/Day (C)
Sturgeon	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	-
Eels	6" TL	-
Black Sea Bass (E)	8" TL (E) 10" TL (I)	Season closes North of Hatteras August 1 - 15, 1998
Hogfish	-	-
Grouper (Black, Gag, Red, Scamp, Yellowfin, & Yellowmouth Grouper)	20" TL	5/Day (species combined; Includes only 1 Speckled Hind and 1 Warsaw)
Speckled Hind (Kitty Mitchell)(C)	-	1/Vessel/Day
Warsaw Grouper (C)	-	1/Vessel/Day
Nassau Grouper & Jewfish	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	-
Red Porgy (Silver Snapper)	12" TL	-
Dog, Gray, Cubera, Mahogany, Queen, Schoolmaster, & Yellowtail Snapper	-	10/Day (Species combined; Includes up to 2 Red Snapper)
Mutton Snapper	-	-
Silk and Blackfin	12" TL	-
Red Snapper	20" TL	2/Day
Vermillion Snapper	10" TL	10/Day
Scup	7" TL	-
Other Species	Minimum Length	Catch Limits (Per Person)

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Hard Clam	1" Thick	200/Clams/Vessel/Day
Eastern Oyster (A)	3" Shell Length	1/Bushel/Day not to exceed 2/Bushels/Vessel/Day
Bay Scallops (A)	-	1/2 Bushel/Day not to exceed 1 Bushel/Vessel/Day
Conchs & Whelks	-	10/Day not to exceed 20/Vessel/Day
Mussels	-	100/Day not to exceed 200/Vessel/Day

What the letters mean! (A) **Contact DMF for seasons, areas, or other limits.** (B) Charter vessel limit of 60/Trip. (C) **No-Sell Provision** (D) No possession of fish over 27" (E) South of Cape Hatteras. To become 10" TL in fall of 1998. (F) All sharks not retained must be released in a manner that ensures maximum probability of survival. (G) Also applies to gigging in the ocean. (H) Federal permit required (508) 281-9370 (I) North of Cape Hatteras, effective 1/1/1997 (J) State restrictions apply during passage through state waters. (K) No retention of whale, basking, white, sand tiger, and bigeye sand tiger:(bag limit may include an additional allowance of 2 Atlantic sharpnose per person per trip).

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