

OUTDOOR ANNUAL

Hunting, Fishing and Boating Regulations

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Saltwater Bag and Length Limits

Valid Sep. 1, 2019 through Aug. 31, 2020.

Notice: Red Snapper season in federal waters closes August 2, 2019. [Read more about the 2019 federal red snapper season closing \[https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20190722b\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20190722b).

Bag and length limits apply to listed saltwater species. There are no bag, possession, or length limits on game or nongame fish, except as listed in this guide. See [definitions of daily bag and possession limits \[https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/definitions\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/definitions).

For freshwater finfish species caught in the public salt waters of this state, [statewide freshwater limits \[https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits) apply.

Amberjack, greater

Daily Bag: 1

Min length: 38 inches

Max length: No limit

Bass

Striped, its hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: 5 (in any combination)

Min Length: 18 inches

Max Length: No limit

Catfish

Channel and blue, their hybrids and subspecies

Go

MAR SEP MAR

07

2018 2019 2020

75 captures

29 Dec 2014 - 22 Jan 2021

▼ About this capture

Flathead

Daily Bag: 5

Min Length: 18 inches

Max Length: No limit

Gafftopsail

Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 14 inches

Max Length: No limit

Cobia

Daily Bag: 2

Min Length: 40 inches

Max Length: No limit

Drum

Black drum

Daily Bag: 5

Min Length: 14 inches

Max Length: 30 inches

No more than one black drum over 52 inches may be retained per person per day and counts as part of the daily bag limit and possession limit.

Red drum

Daily Bag: 3

Min Length: 20 inches

Max Length: 28 inches

During a license year, one red drum over the stated maximum length limit may be retained when affixed with a properly completed Red Drum Tag and one red drum over the stated maximum length limit may be retained when affixed with a properly completed Bonus Red Drum Tag. Any fish retained under authority of a Red Drum Tag or a Bonus Red Drum Tag may be retained in addition to the daily bag and possession limit as stated in this section.

Flounder

All species, their hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: 5/2 (see details below)

Go

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07

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29 Dec 2014 - 22 Jan 2021

Daily bag is 5 fish except from Nov. 1-30, when the daily bag limit is 2 fish and flounder may be taken only by pole-and-line; and from December 1-14, when the daily bag limit is 2 fish and flounder may be taken by any legal means, including gigging. Possession limit is equal to the daily bag.

Gar, alligator

Daily Bag: 1

Min Length: No limit

Max Length: No limit

See [Special Restrictions](https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/gar-closure) - includes mandatory harvest reporting. [<https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/gar-closure>]

Grouper

Black grouper

Daily Bag: 4

Min Length: 24 inches

Max Length: No limit

Gag grouper

Daily Bag: 2

Min Length: 24 inches

Max Length: No limit

Goliath grouper (formerly called Jewfish)

Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

Nassau grouper

Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

Mackerel

King

Daily Bag: 3

Min Length: 27 inches

Max Length: No limit

Spanish

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Marlin

Blue marlin

Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 131 inches

Max Length: No limit

White marlin

Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 86 inches

Max Length: No limit

Mullet

All species, their hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: No limit

Max Length: 12 inches (see below)

May not take from public waters, or possess on board a boat, mullet over 12 inches during October, November, December, and January. No limits apply during other months.

Sailfish

Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 84 inches

Max Length: No limit

Seatrout, spotted

Daily Bag: 10 - All waters north of FM 457 in Matagorda County Until August 31, 2019

5 - All waters north of FM 457 in Matagorda County Effective Sept 1, 2019

5 - All waters south of FM 457

Min Length: 15 inches

Max Length: 25 inches - No more than one spotted seatrout over the stated maximum length may be retained per person per day and counts as part of the daily bag and possession limit.

Sharks

Daily Bag: 1 (in any allowable combination) - Special regulation: The daily bag limit is one fish for all allowable shark species including Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip and bonnethead.

Go

MAR SEP MAR

07

2018 2019 2020

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75 captures

29 Dec 2014 - 22 Jan 2021

See [Shark Limits and Identification \[https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations) for identification tips.

Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead

Min Length: 24 inches

Max Length: No limit

Hammerhead (smooth, great, scalloped)

Min Length: 99 inches

Max Length: No limit

Other allowable shark species

Min Length: 64 inches

Max Length: No limit

Prohibited shark species

Atlantic angel, Basking, Bigeye sand tiger, Bigeye sixgill, Bigeye thresher, Bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

Non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks MUST be used when fishing for sharks in state waters.

See [Shark Limits and Identification \[https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190907095019/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations) for identification tips.

Sheepshead

Daily Bag: 5

Min Length: 15 inches

Max Length: No limit

Snapper

Lane

Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 8 inches

Max Length: No limit

Red

Go

MAR SEP MAR

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Red snapper may be taken using pole and line, but it is unlawful to use any kind of hook other than a circle hook when using natural bait.

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Vermilion

Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 10 inches

Max Length: No limit

Snook

Daily Bag: 1

Min Length: 24 inches

Max Length: 28 inches

Tarpon

Daily Bag: 1

Min Length: 85 inches

Max Length: No limit

Triggerfish, gray

Daily Bag: 20

Min Length: 16 inches

Max Length: No limit

Tripletail

Daily Bag: 3

Min Length: 17 inches

Max Length: No limit