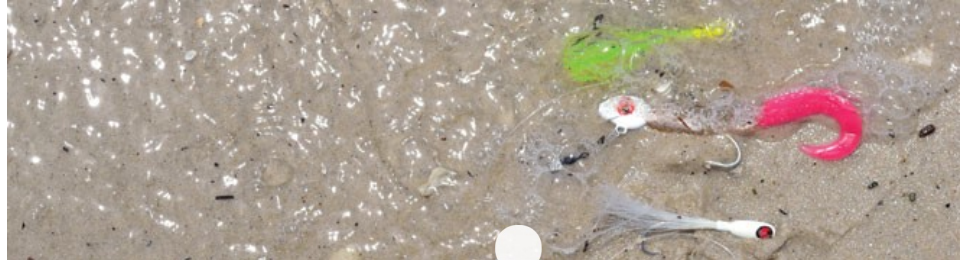


NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Marine Fisheries - Recreational Fishing Size and Bag Limits

NCDMF - Homepage

- Recreational Fishing
 - Size and Bag Limits for Recreational Fishing
 - Public Notices and News Releases
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 - Fishing Tournaments
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- Rules and Regulations
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- Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality
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- Employment Opportunities
- Stock Status Reports
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N.C. Recreational Coastal Waters Guide for Sports Fishermen

Current Version Effective: June 3, 2012

(Website chart reflects the most recent changes to size and bag limits)

[Read and print the Rec. Guide](http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/20120607052727/http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=8d578b3c-36c6-4c44-92a8-f738aadd2263&groupId=38337) (http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/20120607052727/http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=8d578b3c-36c6-4c44-92a8-f738aadd2263&groupId=38337)

[View as single webpage](#) (Smartphone and tablet users)

New weakfish bag limit effective May 16, 2010. See [FF-54-2010](#)

New Snapper/Grouper rules effective June 17, 2011. See [FF-58-2011](#)

New Spotted Seatrout size and bag limits effective Nov. 14, 2011. See [FF-75-2011](#)

For inland fishing regulations, contact Wildlife Resources Commission 919-707-0220

or visit their website www.ncwildlife.org

[A Coastal Recreational Fishing License](#) went into effect Jan. 1, 2007

for all of the state's coastal and ocean waters.

Finfish Species (note symbols, pg.2)	State Coastal Waters (Internal and 0-3 Miles)		Exclusive Economic Zone EEZ (3-200 miles)	
	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (Per Person)	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (Per Person)
Alewife and blueback herring	None	NO POSSESSION	None	NO POSSESSION
Amberjack , greater	28" FL	1/Day	28" FL	1/Day
Bass , striped See striped bass details	(A)	(A)	Unlawful To Possess	
Bluefish	None	15/Day Only 5 greater than 24" TL	None	15/Day
Cobia	33" FL	2/Day	33" FL	2/Day
Dolphin (B)	None	10/Day	None	10/Day
Drum , red ▲ (Channel Bass, Puppy Drum)	18-27" TL (C)	1/Day	Unlawful to Possess	
Eel, American	6" TL	50/Day	6" TL	50/Day
Flounder ▲ Gulf , Southern	15" TL	6/Day	15" TL	6/Day
Groupers (H, I, J, K)	(See below)	(See below)	(See below)	(See below)
Groupers ; Red, scamp, yellowfin,	20" TL	3/Day (all groupers combined; includes	20" TL	3/Day (all groupers combined; includes,

230 captures 15 Jul 2011 - 16 Oct 2020		<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>	APR JUN JUL 07 2011 2012 2013	
		combined) (J) & (K)	combined) (J) & (K)	
Groupers black and gag	24" TL	1/Day (See above)	24" TL	1/Day (See above)
Grouper, snowy	1 / vessel / day		1 / vessel / day	
Hogfish (Hog snapper)	12" TL	5/Day		
Mackerel , king (I) Species Identification	24" FL	3/Day	24" FL	3/Day
Mackerel , Spanish (I) Species Identification	12" FL	15/Day	12" FL	15/Day
Marlin , blue (G)	99" LJFL	1/vessel/trip either Blue or White Marlin	99" LJFL	
Marlin , white (G)	66" LJFL	1/vessel/trip either Blue or White Marlin	66" LJFL	
Mullet (Striped and White)	None	200/Day (species combined)	None	
Porgy , red (Silver snapper, pinky)	14" TL	3/Day	14" TL	3/Day
Reef Complex Species Includes spadefish, gray triggerfish , white grunt , knobbed porgy and more (see notes H and I)		20/Day		20/Day
Saifish (G)	63" LJFL	1/Day	63" LJFL	
Scup (North of Cape Hatteras) (D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Seatrout , spotted (speckled) ▲	14" TL	4/day		
Sea bass , black (North of Cape Hatteras) (D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Sea bass , black (South of Cape Hatteras) (D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Shad, American (O)	None	10/Day No possession in ocean waters	Unlawful To Possess	
Shad, hickory (O)	None	10/Day	None	10/Day
Sharks (I) (excluding spiny and smooth dogfish)	(E, L)	1/Vessel/Day	54"FL (E, L)	1/Vessel/Day
Sharks, Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead (E)	None	(E)	(E, L)	1/Day
Snappers; dog, gray, cubera, mahogany, queen, schoolmaster and yellowtail		10/Day (Species combined)	12" TL	10/Day (Species combined)
Snappers, mutton		See Above	16" TL	See Above
Snappers; silk and blackfin	12" TL	See Above	12" TL	See Above

230 captures

15 Jul 2011 - 16 Oct 2020

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2011 2012 2013

About this capture

Tarpon	None	1/Day	None	1/Day
Tuna (I); bluefin (G), yellowfin and bigeye	Yellowfin 27" CFL Bigeye 27" CFL	Bigeye and Yellowfin 3 per day	Bigeye and Yellowfin tuna 27" CFL	Yellowfin Tuna 3 per day
Wahoo	None	2/Day	None	2/Day
Weakfish (gray trout) ▲	12" TL	1/Day see FF-54-2010)	12" TL	
Wreckfish (P)	None	1/vessel/day	None	1/vessel/day

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