

**GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES
COMMISSION**

**Rules and Regulations:
Officers' Pocket Guide
2015-2016**



July 2015

GSMFC No. 241

Quick Contact References

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

24 Hour Communications

(888) 404-3922

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Marine Resources Division

M-F **(251) 861-2882** or **(251) 968-7576**

24-Hour Contact Number

(251) 476-1256

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Marine Patrol

(844) 937-9367 or **(228) 523-4134**

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Enforcement

(800) 442-2511 or **(225) 765-2440**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

General Information (Mon-Fri 8-5)

(800) 792-1112

Operation Game Thief

(800) 792-4263

24 hour communications

(512) 389-4848 (Austin)

(281) 842-8100 (Houston)

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

24-Hour Hotline

(800) 853-1964

United States Coast Guard

National Command Center (Emergencies ONLY)

(800) DAD-SAFE

LA, New Orleans District Eight Command Center

(504) 589-6225

LA, New Orleans Sector Command Center

(504) 846-6160

AL, Mobile Sector Command Center

(251) 441-6211

FL, St. Petersburg Sector Command Center

(727) 824-7527

TX, Corpus Christi Sector Command Center

(361) 939-6393

TX, Houston-Galveston Sector Command Center

(713) 678-9057

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FLORIDA

Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Ballyhoo (halfbeaks, balao, & silver stripe halfbeaks)	No size limit	Dependent on method of harvest & gear
Black Drum	14 - 24 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	500 lb/person/day or 500 lb/vessel/day
Blue Crab	5 total width	
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Atlantic North of Monroe Co.: 7,500lb/vessel/day Other State/Federal Waters: None
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	2/person/day, maximum of 6/vessel.
Dolphin	20 FL Size limit applies to purchase & sale of fish.	Directed harvest - None. Incidental bycatch – 10/person (Permit required)
Flounder - Gulf, southern, summer, fringed	12 TL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Incidental bycatch - 50 lb
Groupers		
Goliath/Nassau Warsaw/Speckled Hind	Prohibited	Prohibited
Gag/Black	24 TL	Atlantic & Monroe Counties, Closed Jan - Apr
Scamp	Gulf – 16 TL Atlantic & Monroe Co. – 20 TL	
Yellowfin/Yellowmouth	20 TL	
Red	Gulf – 18 TL Atlantic & Monroe Co. – 20 TL	
Rock Hind/Red Hind	No size limit	
Coney/Graysby/Tiger		
Yellowedge/Misty	No size limit	No Limit
Golden Tilefish		
Tilefish, all other		
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	
Blueback & River Herring	No size limit	
Hogfish	12 FL Size limit applies to imported fish.	
Horseshoe Crab	No size limit	25/person/day (100/person/day w/ ML#).
Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	No limit/Closed Mar - May
Lesser Amberjack	14 – 22 FL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Lobster, Slipper	No size limit	No Limit - Possession of egg-bearing lobster prohibited
Lobster, Spiny	3 carapace (head) 5½ tail	Trap fishery - No Limit Bully Net- 250/vessel Dive Fishery – Regional (250) Permit required
Mackerel, King	24 FL	See Note ¹
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	See Note ²
Mullet, Silver (white, fantail, or redeye)	No size limit	Only allowed within 3 mile line July 1 thru Jan. 31 (weekend closure) 12:01am Sat. to 12:01 am Mon. Atlantic North of Monroe Co. Closed Feb.
Mullet, Striped (black)	11 FL w/ a 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish	Only allowed within 3 mile line Season broadly Oct thru Feb but determined on regional basis
Oysters	3 in greatest dimension	20 bags/person/day or 20/vessel/day Additional regional limits & restrictions apply.
Permit	11 - 20 FL	100 bycatch Only bycatch allowed outside SPZ when using nets for other species of fish.
Pompano	11 - 20 FL	250/vessel/day Unlimited for persons holding a Pompano Endorsement
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person/day or 2/vessel/day Spearing prohibited
Scallops, Calico	No size limit	250 individual meats per 1-lb sample
Shad (Alabama, American, hickory)	No size limit	10/person/day
Sharks	No size limit	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day Permit required
Sheepshead	12 TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lb
Shrimp (Brown, Pinkspotted, Pink, White, Roughneck, Roughback, Seabob)	No size limit	Food Shrimp - Regional. Live Shrimp -5 gallons dead shrimp, heads on, except in NE Region, 1 gallon. RS required.
Snappers		
Red	Gulf: 13 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	2/person/day
Mutton	16 TL	No limit/May-June: 10/vessel/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Vermilion	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 12 TL	No Limit
Lane	8 TL	
Gray	12 TL	
Yellowtail/Dog/Mahogany	12 TL	
Schoolmaster	10 TL	
Blackfin/Silk/Queen	12 TL	
Black.Wenchman	No size limit	
Cubera	12 - 30 TL only 2 >30 TL	>30 - 2/vessel/day
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 24 TL	75/person/day or 150/vessel/day with 2 licensed fishermen aboard
Stone Crab	2¾ claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 LJFL, 29 cleithrum to keel, or 33 lb dressed	No Limit Permit required
Triggerfish ,Gray	14 FL	No Limit
Triggerfish, Ocean	No size limit	No Limit
Tripletail	15 TL	10/vessel/day Permit required (Incidental bycatch 2/vessel/day)
Wahoo	No size limit	500 lb/vessel/day Permit required
Weakfish (gray seatrout or yellow-mouth trout)	12 TL	No Limit

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit & a NMFS-approved observer on board.

- ¹ Duval/Flagler/Nassau/St. John's - Apr 1 – EEZ Close: 3,500lb/vessel/day
- EEZ Close – Mar 31: Recreational limit

Volusia - Apr 1 – EEZ Close: 3,500lbs/vessel/day
- EEZ Close – Oct 31: Recreational limit

Brevard/Broward/Indian River/Martin/Miami-Dade/Palm Beach/St. Lucie

- Apr 1 – EEZ Close: 75 fish/vessel/day
- EEZ Close – Oct 31: Recreational limit
- Nov 1 – EEZ Close: 50 fish/vessel/day
- EEZ Close – Mar 31: Harvest prohibited

Monroe – April 1 – EEZ Close: 1,250lb/vessel/day

- EEZ Close – Oct 31: Recreational limit
- Nov 1 – Limit reduction: 1,250lb/vessel/day
- Limit reduction – EEZ Close: 500lb/vessel/day
- EEZ Close – Mar 31: Harvest prohibited

All Gulf counties excluding Monroe – July 1 – Limit reduction: 1,250lb/vessel/day

- Limit Reduction – EEZ Close – 500lb/vessel/day
- EEZ Close – June 30: Harvest prohibited

- ² Eastern – Apr 1 – Nov 30: 3,500lb/vessel/day
- Dec 1 – Unlimited harvest close: Mon – Fri – 3,500lb/vessel/day
Sat – Sun – 1,500lb/vessel/day

- Unlimited harvest close – EEZ close: 1,500lbs/vessel/day
- EEZ Close – Mar 31: 500lb/vessel/day

Western – Apr 1 – EEZ Close: Unlimited Harvest

- EEZ Close – Mar 31: 500lbs/vessel/day

FLORIDA

Recreational Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Amberjack, Greater	Gulf: 30 FL Atlantic: 28 FL	1/person/day Gulf Closed June 1 – July 31	
Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	5 in aggregate	
Blue Marlin	99 FL	1/person/day in aggregate	
White Marlin	66 FL		
Sailfish	63 FL		
Black Drum	14 – 24 TL (1 over 24)	5/person/day	
Bluefish	12 FL	10/person/day	
Bonefish	N/A	NO Harvest Allowed	
Cobia	33 FL	1/person/day, 6/vessel/day	
Crab, Blue	No Size Limit	10 gallons whole/person/day	
Crab, Stone	2¾ Claw	1 gallon/person or 2 gallon/vessel Closed May 16 – Oct 14	
Spiny Lobster	>3 inch carapace	6/person/day Regular Season, 6 or 12/person/day (depending on location) Sport Season Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.	
Dolphin	Atlantic: 20 FL	10/person/day, 60/vessel/day	
Flounder	12 TL	10/person/day	
Gag Grouper *for purpose of grouper regulations, Gulf does not include Monroe County. *open April 1 – June 30 (Wakulla, Jefferson, & Taylor)	Gulf: 22 TL Atlantic: 24 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day Atlantic: 1/person/day Closed Jan 1 – Apr 30	<u>AGGREGATE LIMIT</u> Gulf: 4/person/day Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day
Black Grouper *Atlantic: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	Gulf: 22 TL Atlantic & Monroe: 24 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day. Atlantic & Monroe: 1/person/day	
Red Grouper *Atlantic: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	20 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day	
Yellowfin & Yellowmouth Grouper	20 TL	Gulf: Open year-round. Atlantic & Monroe: Closed Jan 1 – Apr 30	
Scamp	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL		

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Warsaw & Speckled Hind	No size limit	1/vessel/day of each	<u>AGGREGATE LIMIT</u> Gulf: 4/person/day Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day
Snowy Grouper		Atlantic: 1/person/day	
Other Groupers		Gulf Closed: Feb 1 – Mar 31 Atlantic & Monroe Closed: Jan 1 – Apr 30	
Golden Tilefish		Atlantic: 1/person/day	
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person/day	
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person/day	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person/day	
Mullet, Striped & Silver	No size limit	50 person/day, Vessel limit 50 or 100 depending on season	
Pompano	11 FL	6/person/day	
Permit (in SPZ) *Closed May 1 – July 31	22 FL	1/person/day, 2/vessel/day	
Permit (not in SPZ)	11-22 FL	2/person/day (one over 22”/person & 2/vessel)	
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person or vessel/day	
Red Drum	18 - 27 TL	1/person/day South Region 2/person/day NW & NE	
Black Sea Bass	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 13 TL	Atlantic: 5/person/day	
Shad	No size limit	10 aggregate/person/day	
Shark (Non-Prohibited Species)	54 FL for most species, others have no size limit	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day	
Shark (Prohibited Species)	NA	Prohibited	
Sheepshead	12 TL	15/person/day	
Shrimp	No size limit	5 gallons/person/day or 5 gallons/vessel/day Closed Apr – May: Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, & Clay	
Snapper, Black & Wenchman	No size limit		10/person/day Aggregate snapper bag limit.
Snapper, Cubera	12 – 30 TL	10/person/day, & 2/person or vessel over 30” not included in aggregate	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Snapper, Gray	10 TL	5/person/day	10/person/day Aggregate snapper bag limit.
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	Gulf: No bag limit Atlantic: Included in aggregate.	
Snapper, Mutton	16 TL	10/person/day	
Snapper, Red *Zero bag & possession for captain/crew on for-hire vessels	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	Gulf: Visit MyFWC.COM 2 /person/day	
Snapper, Schoolmaster	10 TL	10/person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL	10/person/day	
Snapper, Vermilion	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 12 TL	Gulf: 10/person/day Atlantic: 5/person/day	
Snook	Gulf: 28-33 TL Atlantic: 28 – 32 TL	1/person/day Permit required Atlantic: Closed Dec 15 – Jan 31 & June 1 – Aug 31 Gulf: Closed Dec 1-end of Feb & May 1- Aug 31	
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 20 TL (one over 20")	4/person/day SW, SE region 5/person/day NW region 6/person/day NE region	
Swordfish	47 LJFL, 25 cleithrum to keel	1/person/day or 4/vessel/day	
Tarpon	No size limit	1 fish possession Requires Tarpon Tag	
Triggerfish, Gray	Gulf: Closed until January 1, 2016 Atlantic: 14 FL	Gulf: 100 lbs Atlantic: 3/person/day	
Tripletail	15 TL	2/person/day	
Wahoo	No size limit		
Weakfish	WMA Nasssau 12 TL	1/person/day	

ALABAMA

Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2/person
Sheepshead	12 FL	No Bag Limit
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	12 /vessel
Gag Grouper	22 TL	Permit Required IFQ
Red Grouper	18 TL	
Black Grouper	22 TL	
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Striped Bass Spotted Sea Trout Red Drum Tarpon		No Commercial Retention
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3/person
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	No Bag Limit Reef Fish Permit Required
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Snapper	12 TL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3/person
Flounder	12 TL	No Bag Limit
King Mackerel	24 FL	
Mullet	No Size Limit	No bag limit. October 24 - December 31, the taking of Mullet is prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, and Fowl River.
All Sharks	No Size Limit	No Bag Limit

Commercial harvest of the following species is prohibited: Atlantic angel shark, Atlantic manta, Basking shark, Bigeye sand tiger shark, Bigeye sixgill shark, Bigeye thresher shark, Bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, Dusky shark, Galapagos shark, Largetooth sawfish, Longfin mako shark, Narrowtooth shark, Night shark, Sand tiger shark, Smalltooth sawfish, Smalltail shark, Sevengill shark, Sixgill shark, Spotted eagle ray, Whale shark, White shark, Nassau grouper, & Goliath grouper (Jewfish).

The following sharks are prohibited with the listed exceptions:

Sandbar - unless the fisherman possesses a NOAA Fisheries sandbar shark research permit.

Silky – unless the fisherman possesses a Federal Atlantic commercial shark vessel permit.

When the adjacent federal waters are closed to the harvest of any Gulf Reef Fish, King Mackerel, or sharks, the state waters will be closed.

ALABAMA

Recreational Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	10/person	
Red Drum	16 – 26 TL	3/person - 1 oversized fish allowed	
Sheepshead	12 FL	10/person	
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2/person	
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person	
Spanish Mackerel	No size limit	15/person	
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3/person	
Gag Grouper	22 TL	2 in aggregate	4 fish Grouper aggregate
Red Grouper	20 TL	2 in aggregate	
Black Grouper	22 TL		
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Greater Amberjack	34 FL	1/person	
Striped Bass	16 TL	2/person	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	2/person	
Vermillon Snapper	10 TL	10/person	
Flounder	12 TL		
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3/person	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	20 fish aggregate for reef fish species for which there is no other bag limit	
Lesser Amberjack	14 - 22 FL		
Banded Rudderfish			
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	No Creel Limit	
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL		
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person	
Gray Snapper (Mangrove, Black)	12 TL	10/person	
Tarpon	60 TL	\$50.00 tag required to possess, kill, or harvest each tarpon	
Mullet	None	Oct 24 - Dec 31, 25/ person from the shoreline or 25/ boat. Prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River and Fowl River.	
Sharks			
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	1/person/day	
Bonnethead	None	1/person/day	
Other Shark Species	54 FL	1/person/day	
Hammerheads Great, Smooth Scalloped	78 FL	1/person/day	

Recreationally Prohibited Species: Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta, Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White.

When the adjacent federal waters are closed to the harvest of any Gulf Reef Fish, the state waters will be closed.

MISSISSIPPI

Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia ¹	33 FL	2
Mullet	10 TL	No Limit
Flounder	12 TL	Quota
Red Drum ²	18 - 30 TL	Quota ²
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	Quota
King Mackerel	24 FL	3000 lb
Spanish Mackerel	14 FL	No Limit
Goliath Grouper	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nassau Grouper		
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Red Grouper	18 TL	No Limit
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Black Grouper	24 TL	
Gag Grouper	22 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Snapper	13 TL	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Federal Permit ³
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	
Hogfish	12 FL	
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	
Bluefin Tuna	Prohibited	Prohibited
Blue Marlin		
White Marlin		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW ⁴	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	

¹ It is illegal to sell cobia caught in MS territorial waters or landed in MS.

² Commercial fishermen may retain one red drum over 30" TL.

³ Fishermen must possess federal permits or licenses required by NOAA Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan.

⁴ Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

Commercially Prohibited Sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, Silky, & White.

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit & a NMFS-approved observer on board.

MISSISSIPPI

Recreational Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia	33 FL	2
Flounder	12 TL	15
Red Drum ¹	18 - 30 TL	3 ¹
Spotted Seatrout	13 TL	15
King Mackerel	24 FL	2
Spanish Mackerel	No Size Limit	15
Red Snapper	16 TL	2
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	20 in aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	
Almaco Jack	No Size Limit	
Tilefish		
Goliath Grouper (Jewfish) ²	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nassau Grouper ²		
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Warsaw Grouper	No Size Limit	1/vessel within 4 fish aggregate
Red & Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	4 in aggregate
Black Grouper	22 TL	4 in aggregate
Gag Grouper	22 TL	2 within 4 fish aggregate
Scamp	16 TL	4 in aggregate
Other Groupers	No Size Limit	4 in aggregate
Speckled Hind		
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snappers	12 TL	10 in aggregate
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk & Wenchman Snapper	No Size Limit	
Tilefish	No Size Limit	
Greater Amberjack	30 FL	
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	5 in aggregate
Hogfish	12 TL	5
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	No Limit
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	3
Blue Marlin	99 lower jaw FL	No Limit
White Marlin	66 lower jaw FL	
Sailfish	63 lower jaw FL	
Longbill Spearfish	Prohibited	Prohibited
Sharks - Large Coastals	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Pelagic	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Small Coastals	25 TL	4

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW ²	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Size Limit	No Limit

¹Recreational fishermen may retain one red drum over 30" TL.

²Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

Retention of Federally prohibited species is not allowed by state ordinance & Federal law.

Recreationally Prohibited Sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White. Also Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta.

LOUISIANA

Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Swordfish	29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	Permit required
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person
Drum, Black	16 TL	Quota: 16-27 – 3,250,000 lbs >27 – 300,000 fish
Crab, Blue	5 CW*	Possession of egg bearing females prohibited
Crab, Stone	2¾ CL**	Both claws may be removed but crab must be returned to the waters in which they were taken.
Flounder, Southern	None	10/licensed commercial fisherman/day (Does not apply to shrimp boats)
Mackerel, King	24 FL	3,000 lbs/trip Federal quota
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	Federal quota
Mullet, Striped		Permit required
Pompano		Permit required (Permit only applies for fishing strike nets in Chandeleur/ Breton Sound during open season)
Tripletail	18 TL	100 lbs trip limit
Shrimp, White	100 count/lb	No size limit from Oct 15 through the third Monday in December
Seabass, Black	8 TL	Federal permit required. No bag or possession limit.
Seatrout, Spotted	14 TL	Quota: 1 mil lb (Commercial Rod and Reel only)
Sheepshead	10 TL	
Amberjack, Greater	36 TL	2,000 lbs trip limit
Triggerfish, Gray	14 FL	12/trip limit
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	Federal Regulations Apply
Hogfish	12 FL	
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Dwarf Sandperch, Sandperch	None	
Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	Tilefish IFQ

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Gag	22 TL	Shallow-Water Grouper IFQ
Black	24 TL	
Red	18 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind	None	
Misty, Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None	Deep-Water Grouper IFQ
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit and IFQ required
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, Yellowtail, Gray Snappers	12 TL	None
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Atlantic Bluefin	73 CFL	
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply. No directed fishery for Bluefin. Allowed only as undirected bycatch while in possession of a permit.
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	
Sharks – Large Coastal	None	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply
Sharks – Small Coastal		
Sharks - Pelagic		

*(CW) Carapace Length. Does not apply to premolt crabs held in a separate container marked “peelers” or “busters”.

** (CL) Claw Length. Measured from the immovable anterior-most tip of the claw to the base of the joint.

Sailfish, Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Striped Marlin, Hatchet Marlin, White Marlin, & Red Drum are game fish in Louisiana & may not be commercially harvested, sold, bartered, traded, or exchanged.

Louisiana’s Shark regulations are the same as Federal except for closed season April, May & June in state waters. Shark may be taken in the EEZ during closed LA season while in possession of a federal permit.

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White.

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks **MUST** have a valid research permit & a NMFS-approved observer on board.

LOUISIANA

Recreational Size & Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Marlin, Blue*	99 LJFL	None
Marlin, White*	66 LJFL	
Sailfish*	63 LJFL	
Swordfish*	29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	No more than 5/vessel/trip
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person/day
Drum, Black	16 TL	5/person bag and possession. May retain 1 over 27 TL
Drum, Red	16 TL	5/person bag. May retain 1 over 27 TL (2-day bag limits allowed in possession off the water)
Crab, Blue	None (no egg bearing females)	12 dozen/person/day except on State Refuges and WMAs where the limit is 12 dozen/boat or vehicle
Crab, Stone	None	None
Flounder, Southern	None	10/person/bag and possession
Mackerel, King	24 FL	2/person/day (2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	15/person/day (2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)
Mullet, Striped		100 lbs/person/day
Seabass, Black	8 TL	No bag or possession limit
Seatrou, Spotted	12 TL	25/person bag (15 fish/person and no more than 2 fish over 25 TL in specified waters of Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes in SW Louisiana)
Tripletail	18 TL	5 fish bag and possession
REEF FISH		Reef fish possession - 2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats
Amberjack, Greater	30 FL	1/person/day (Closed rec. season June1-July 31)
Amberjack, Lesser Rudderfish, Banded	14 - 22 FL slot	5/person/day in aggregate
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Gag, Black	22 TL	4/person/day in aggregate all Groupers - 1 Speckled Hind and 1 Warsaw Grouper/vessel - 4 Red Grouper/person - 2 Gag /person Closed season for Black, Red, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind, and Scamp Feb 1 - Mar 31-Seaward of 20 fathoms Closed season for Gag Jan 1-June 30
Red, Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Speckled Hind, Misty Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw	None	
Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper	Take Prohibited	Take Prohibited
Red Snapper	16 TL	Red snapper state season bag limit is reduced to 2 fish until further notice. Season opened early on February 14 this year & is open until further notice.
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogany, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray Snapper	12 TL	10/person/day in aggregate (all Snapper except Red, Vermilion, and Lane)
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman	None	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	No more than 10 in 20 fish aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	No more than 2 in 20 fish aggregate Closed season June 1-July 31
Lane Snapper	8 TL	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead	None	1/person/day (each species)
Sharks other than Atlantic Sharpnose & Bonnethead (not Prohibited)	54 FL	Aggregate 1/vessel/trip & in possession

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Tunas*		
Bluefin	73 CFL	1/vessel/year with federal angling permit. No directed fishing allowed.
Yellowfin	27 CFL	3/person
Bigeye	27 CFL	None

*All HMS species (except blackfin tuna) require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries

Prohibited Fish: Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, & Largetooth Sawfish

Any person possessing in Louisiana waters or landing in Louisiana any of the following species or species groups: tunas, billfishes, swordfish, snappers (except gray snapper), amberjacks, groupers or hinds, are required to carry a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit.

Prohibited Sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White.

TEXAS

Commercial Bag & Length Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Amberjack, Greater	34	1/person & 2 possession
Drum, Black	14 -30 slot	No Limit with commercial finfish fisherman's license
Catfish: Blue & Channel	14	25/person in any combination 50 possession (50/person in Lake Livingston)
Catfish, Gaff-topsail	14	No Limit
Cobia	37	2/person & 4 possession
Flounder: all species, their hybrids, & subspecies	14	30/commercial finfish license 5/licensed shrimp boat captain November limit 2 pole & line *First 2 weeks in December limit 2 by any legal means
Mackerel, King	27	2/person & 4 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14	15/person & 30 possession
Mullet: all species their hybrids & subspecies	No Limit (Feb – Sept) 12 maximum (Oct – Jan)	No Limit
Snapper, Lane	8	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15	4/person & 8 possession (circle hook & line only)
Snapper, Vermilion	10	No Limit
Shark: All species, their hybrids & subspecies	64	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, & Bonnethead	24	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	15	No Limit with commercial finfish license
Tripletail	17	3/person & 6 possession
Gag Grouper	22	2/person & 4 possession
Triggerfish	16	20/person & 40 possession

Commercially Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White.

Note: All measurements are in Total Length not Fork Length.

TEXAS

Recreational Bag & Length Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	DAILY BAG
Amberjack, Greater	34	1/person & 2 possession
Bass: Striped, its hybrids & subspecies	18	5 in any combination/person 10 possession
Catfish: Channel & Blue Catfish, their hybrids & subspecies	12	25 in any combination/person 50 possession
Catfish, Flathead	18	5/person & 10 possession
Catfish, Gaff-topsail	14	No limit
Cobia	37	2/person & 4/possession
Drum, Black	14 - 30 slot	5/person & 10 possession May include one over 52 inches
Drum, Red	20 - 28 slot	3/person & 6/possession May retain one additional red drum over 28" with affixed Red Drum Tag
Flounder: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	14	5/person total (Jan-Oct, Dec), 5/person 3 rd week of Dec-Oct, 1st 2 weeks of Dec 2/person any legal means 2/person pole & line only (Nov) Possession is daily bag
Grouper, Goliath (formerly Jewfish)	Catch & release only	0
Mackerel, King	27	2/person & 4 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14	15/person & 30 possession
Marlin, Blue	131	No Limit
Marlin, White	86	
Sailfish	84	
Mullet: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	No Limit 12 maximum (Oct-Jan)	No Limit
Seatrout, Spotted	15 – 25 slot	5/person statewide south of FM 457 10/person statewide north of FM 457 1 fish may be retained over maximum
Shark: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	64	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited (prohibited are catch & release only)
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, & Bonnethead	24	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	15	5/person & 10 possession
Snapper, Lane	8	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15	4/person & 8 possession (circle hook & line only with natural baits)
Snapper, Vermilion	10	No Limit
Snook	24 - 28 slot	1/person & 2 possession
Tarpon	85	1/person & 2 possession
Triggerfish	16	20/person & 40 possession
Gag Grouper	22	2/person & 4 possession
Tripletail	17	3/person & 6 possession

FEDERAL WATERS

Commercial Size & Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ
Vermilion	10 TL	None
Lane	8 TL	
Mutton	16 TL	
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail Cubera	12 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Tilefish	None	IFQ
Groupers		
Black	24 TL	IFQ
Gag	22 TL	
Red	18 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth	None	
Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None	
Goliath	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	12 fish/trip limit
Hogfish	12 FL	None
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Commercial closure Mar – May (2,000 lb trip limit) (1,500 lb trip limit pending)
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	None - Closed season 4/1-8/5
Cobia	33 FL	2/person
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	None
King Mackerel	24 FL (Up to 5% by weight may be undersized)	Hook & line – 1,250 lbs/trip Gill net – 25,000 lbs/trip
Atlantic Bluefin	73 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply No direct fishing for bluefin tuna, incidental longline catch only, while season is open.
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 CFL	
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	
Blue Marlin	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
White Marlin Roundscale Spearfish		
Sailfish		

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Red Drum		
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 25 cleithrum to keel	Federal Swordfish Permit Federal Regulations Apply
Sharks - Large Coastal	None	Federal Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply
Sharks - Small Coastal		
Sharks - Pelagic		

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White.

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks **MUST** have a valid research permit & a NMFS-approved observer on board.

FEDERAL WATERS

Recreational Size & Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Snappers		
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person Not included in the 20-reef fish aggregate. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	10/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	20/person within the 20-reef fish aggregate
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	10/person includes all Snappers except Red, Vermilion, & Lane
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail, Cubera	12 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Almaco Jack, Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	20/person in 20-reef fish aggregate
Groupers		For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Gag	22 TL	2/person included in 4-grouper aggregate
Red	20 TL	2 fish bag limit included in 4-grouper aggregate
Black	22 TL	Any combination in a 4-grouper aggregate
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Yellowedge, Snowy	None	
Speckled Hind, Warsaw	None	1/vessel included in 4-grouper aggregate
Goliath	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	Included in 20-reef fish aggregate (Bag limit of 2 within the 20-reef fish aggregate)
Greater Amberjack	30 FL (34 FL size pending)	1/ person. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	5 fish aggregate limit excluded from 20-reef fish aggregate limit

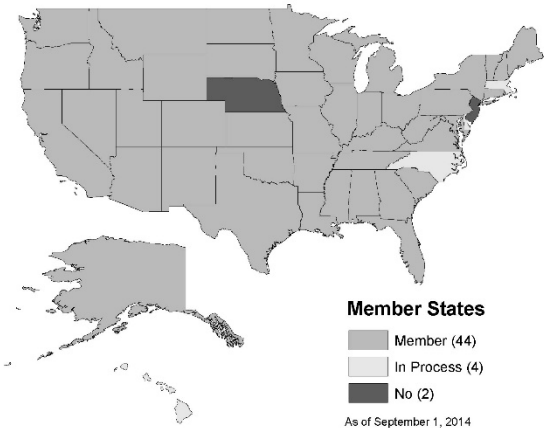
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	April 1 – August 5 closed season No egg bearing females
Cobia	33 FL	2/person
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person including for-hire captain & crew
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person
Bluefin Tuna	73 CFL	None*
Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	3/person
Albacore, Skipjack, Blackfin	None	None
Blue Marlin	99 LJFL	None
White Marlin	66 LJFL	
Roundscale Spearfish	63 LJFL	
Sailfish	63 LJFL	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED
Longbill Spearfish		
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 25 cleithrum to keel	
Red Drum		HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	1/person
Bonnethead		
All Other Sharks (except prohibited)	54 FL	1/vessel

*NMFS prohibits vessels from targeting bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico but charter boats & recreational anglers may keep one 73" or larger per YEAR as a "trophy" fish when the trophy category is still open & if the blue fin tuna is caught incidentally to other targeted species.

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, & White.

Wildlife Compact Member States

States	Member	States	Member
Alabama	Yes	Montana	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Nebraska	No
Arizona	Yes	Nevada	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	New Hampshire	Yes
California	Yes	New Jersey	No
Colorado	Yes	New Mexico	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	New York	Yes
Delaware	Process	North Carolina	Process
Florida	Yes	North Dakota	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Ohio	Yes
Hawaii	Process	Oklahoma	Yes
Idaho	Yes	Oregon	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Pennsylvania	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Rhode Island	Yes
Iowa	Yes	South Carolina	Yes
Kansas	Yes	South Dakota	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Tennessee	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	Texas	Yes
Maine	Yes	Utah	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Vermont	Yes
Massachusetts	Process	Virginia	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Washington	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	West Virginia	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Wisconsin	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Wyoming	Yes



All of the Gulf States are included, which causes the violator to be restricted or penalized in any of the Gulf States regardless of where that person was charged/convicted as long as the charging state was a member of the compact.

Federal Permit Quick Guide / Gulf of Mexico				
Fish	Charter/Headboat	Commercial	Recreational	Dealer
Amberjack	RCG	RR	None	GSAD
BAYS Tunas	HMS CHB	HMS (CHB / Tunas General / ATL / Purse Seine / Harpoon / Trap	HMS Angling	TD
Bluefin Tuna	HMS CHB (no sale)	Atlantic Tunas Longline	HMS Angling	TD
Blackfin Tuna	None	None	None	none
Blue Marlin	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited
Bluefish	CHG	None	None	GSAD
Bonito	None	None	None	GSAD
Cobia	CHG	None	None	GSAD
Groupers	RCG	RR / IFQ Allocation	None	GSAD
Hogfish	RCG	RR	None	GSAD
Jacks	RCG	RR	None	GSAD
King Mackerel	CHG	KM	None	GSAD
Porgies	None	None	None	GSAD
Red Snapper	RCG	RR & IFQ Allocation	None	GSAD
Sailfish	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited
Shark (Some Prohibited)	HMS CHB	SKD / SKI	HMS Angling	SH
Shrimp	None	Shrimp EEZ	None	None
Snappers	RCG	RR	None	GSAD
Spadefish	None	None	None	GSAD
Spanish Mackerel	CHG	SM	None	GSAD
Spiny Lobster	None	LC/LT	None	GSAD
Swordfish	HMS CHB	SWO General/SFD / SFI / SFH/Squid Trawl	HMS Angling	SD
Tilefishes	RCG	RR / IFQ Allocation	None	GSAD
Triggerfishes	RCG	RR	None	GSAD
Tripletail	None	None	None	GSAD
Wahoo	None	None	None	GSAD
White Marlin	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited
Round Scale Spearfish	HMS CHB (retention prohibited)	Prohibited	HMS Angling (retention prohibited)	Prohibited
Longbill Spearfish				

Permit Types & Codes

Charter/Headboat - Limited Access & Moratorium

- CHG - Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagic - no sale
- RCG - Gulf of Mexico Charter / Headboat for Reef Fish - no sale
- HMS CHB – (Charter/headboat) – handgear only; BFT – no sale; may sell BAYS tunas; no bag limit on CML trips / up to – recreational bag limit on charter trips;
Swordfish: three per vessel per trip; handgear only; must sell to TD or SD

Commercial Permits – Annual Open Access

- KM - King Mackerel
- SM - Spanish Mackerel
- LC - Spiny Lobster
- LT - Spiny Lobster Tailing
- Shrimp - Shrimp EEZ

Commercial Permits - Limited Access & Moratorium

- RR - Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish ¹ and ²
- SFD - Swordfish Directed - no limit open season, or 15 closed season with longline, 2 other gear ¹
- SFI – Swordfish Incidental – 30 per vessel per trip
- SFH - Swordfish Handgear

- SKD - Shark Directed - 36 large coastal, no limit small coastal or pelagic
- SKI - Shark Incidental - three large coastal, 16 small coastal and pelagic (combined)
- Tunas - General Category - handgear and green-stick only¹
- SWO General – Swordfish General Commercial – handgear only
- ATL - Atlantic Tunas Longline ¹ no longline use in state waters (must have cml sword & shark of some type)

Commercial Dealer

- SH - Shark Dealer (¹ fish from federal waters)
- SD - Swordfish Dealer ¹
- TD -
- GSAD – Gulf and South Atlantic Dealer Permit (but valid reef fish, etc, permits are equivalent until that permit expires – mackerel and lobster must have GSAD)

Recreational

- HMS Angling - Highly Migratory Species / recreational BFT and BAYS tunas, sharks, billfishes, swordfish

Other

- BFT** – Bluefin tuna
- BAYS** – Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, Skipjack

¹ permit required in state waters to sell or possess or for dealer to purchase fish ² Bottom longline endorsement required for longline gear east of Cape San Blas, FL

NOTES

NOTES



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

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