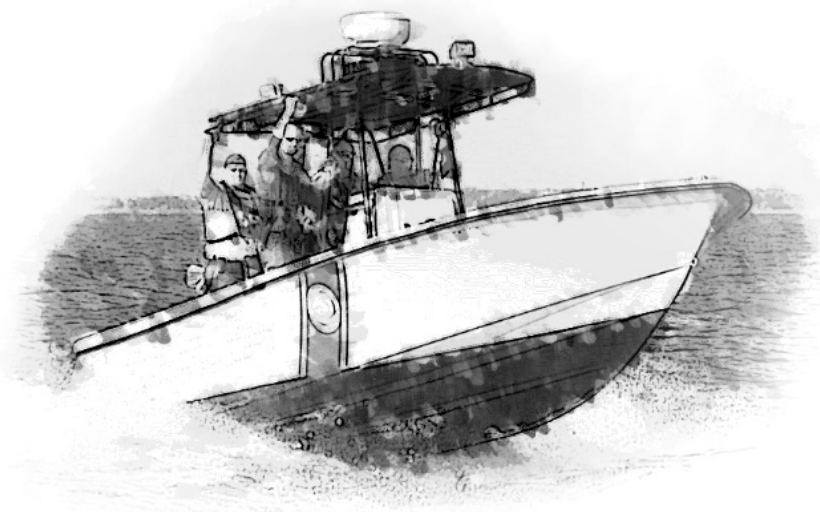


**GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**

# **Rules and Regulations: Officers' Pocket Guide 2017-2018**



July 2017

GSMFC No. 264

## 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) 365-2533**

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

**(281) 464-4851**

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**FLORIDA**  
**Commercial Size & Possession Limits**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION</b>
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 Whichever is less
Blue Crab	5 total width	
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	Atlantic North of Monroe Co.: 7,500 lb/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 (Shrimp trawls)
<b>Groupers</b>		
Goliath/Nassau Warsaw/Speckled Hind Gag/Black	Prohibited	Prohibited
Scamp	Gulf – 16 TL Atlantic & Monroe Co. – 20 TL	Atlantic & Monroe Counties, Closed Jan - Apr
Yellowfin/Yellowmouth	20 TL	
Red	Gulf – 18 TL Atlantic & Monroe Co. – 20 TL	
Rock Hind/Red Hind Coney/Graysby/Tiger	No size limit	
Yellowedge/Misty Golden Tilefish Tilefish, all other	No size limit	
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	No Limit
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#).

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION</b>
Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	No limit/Closed Mar - May
Lesser Amberjack	14 – 22 FL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	
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 <sup>1</sup>
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	See Note <sup>2</sup>
Mullet, Silver (white, fantail, or redeye)	No size limit	Only allowed within 3 mile line July 1-Jan. 31 (weekend closure) 12:01am Sat.-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. Apalachicola Bay: special bag and harvest limits apply see MyFWC.com
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 trawls)

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
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.
<b>Snappers</b>		
Red	Gulf: 13 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	2/person/day
Mutton	16 TL	No limit/May-June: 10/vessel/day
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 inch 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

<sup>1</sup> **Duval/Flagler/Nassau/St. John's:** Apr 1-Mar 31 @3,500lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies

**Volusia:** Apr 1-Oct 31 @3,500lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies

**Brevard/Broward/Indian River/Martin/Miami-Dade/Palm Beach/St. Lucie:** Apr 1-Oct 31 @75

fish/vessel/day; Nov 1-Mar 31 @50 fish/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies

**Monroe:** Apr 1-Oct 31 @1,250lb/vessel/day, Nov 1-Mar 31 @500lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, state recreational limit applies

**All Gulf counties excluding Monroe:** Jul 1-Jun 30 @1,250lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closed, 500lb/vessel/day.

<sup>2</sup> **Eastern Counties:** Apr 1-Nov 30 @3,500lb/vessel/day; When EEZ closes to unlimited harvest, Mon-Fri @3,500lb/vessel/day and Sat-Sun @1,500lb/vessel/day; After unlimited closure in EEZ until total EEZ closure @1,500lb/vessel/day, After total EEZ closure-Mar 31 @500lb/vessel/day.

**Western Counties:** Apr 1-EEZ Closed @ Unlimited Harvest; After EEZ closed-Mar 31 @500lb/vessel/day

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



**FLORIDA**  
**Recreational Size & Possession Limits**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION</b>
Amberjack, Greater	Gulf: 34 FL Atlantic: 28 FL	1/person/day Gulf: Closed April 22 – Dec 31 2017
Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	5 in aggregate
Blue Marlin	99 FL	1/person/day in aggregate (HMS permit required)
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 *harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited	2-Day Sport Season (Last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of July)	
	>3 inch carapace <sup>1</sup>	6/person/day (Monroe County and Biscayne National Park) 12/person/day (rest of Florida)
	Regular Season	
	>3 inch carapace <sup>1</sup>	6/person/day
Dolphin	Atlantic: 20 FL	10/person/day, 60/vessel/day
Flounder	12 TL	10/person/day
Great Barracuda	None	2/person/day, 6/vessel (applies only in state & federal waters off Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, & Martin Counties. Unregulated in all other areas)

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Grouper Aggregate			
Gag *for purpose of grouper regulations, Gulf does not include Monroe County. *open April 1 – June 30 (Wakulla, Jefferson, & Taylor)(All other counties open Jun 1-Dec 31) Visit MyFWC.COM	Gulf: 24 TL Atlantic: 24 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day  Atlantic: 1/person/day Closed Jan 1 – Apr 30	<b><u>AGGREGATE</u></b> <b><u>LIMIT</u></b> Gulf: 4 fish/person/ day  Atlantic & Monroe: 3 fish /person/day
Black *Atlantic: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	Gulf: 24 TL Atlantic & Monroe: 24 TL	Gulf: 4/person/day.  Atlantic & Monroe: 1/person/day	
Red *Atlantic: Closed Jan 1 – April 30	20 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day  Atlantic & Monroe: 3/person/day	
Yellowfin & Yellowmouth	20 TL	Gulf: Open year-round.	
Scamp	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	Atlantic & Monroe: Closed Jan 1 – Apr 30	
Warsaw & Speckled Hind	No size limit	1/vessel/day of each	
Snowy		Atlantic: 1/person/day	
Grouper, Other		Gulf Closed: Feb 1 – Mar 31  Atlantic & Monroe Closed: Jan 1 – Apr 30	
Golden Tilefish		Atlantic: 1/person/day	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Hogfish	12 FL <i>Changes pending</i>	5/person/day	
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person/day Atlantic (excluding Monroe) 3/person/day Gulf (including Monroe)	
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	<sup>1</sup> In SPZ: 22 FL	<sup>1</sup> In SPZ: 1/person/day, 2/vessel/day <sup>1</sup> SPZ Closed May 1 – July 31	
	Not in SPZ: 11-22 FL	Not in SPZ: 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 statewide	
Black Sea Bass	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 13 TL	Atlantic: 5/person/day Gulf: 100lbs per harvester	
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 Aggregate			
Cubera	12 – 30 TL	10 fish /person/day, in aggregate but 2 fish over 30" are allowed per person or vessel and are excluded from aggregate	10/person/day Aggregate snapper bag limit. (Continued)
Gray	10 TL	5/person/day	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Mutton	16 TL	10 fish /person/day	(Continued from previous)
Red *Zero bag & possession for captain/crew on for-hire vessels	Gulf: 16 TL Atlantic: 20 TL	Gulf: 2/person/day	
Schoolmaster	10 TL	10 fish /person/day	
Snapper, Others	12 TL	10 fish /person/day	
Lane	8 TL	Gulf: 100lb per harvester Atlantic: Not Included in aggregate.	
Vermilion	Gulf: 10 TL Atlantic: 12 TL	Gulf: 10/person/day Atlantic: 5/person/day Not included in aggregate limit	
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: 14 FL Atlantic: 12 FL	Gulf closed Jan 1 – Dec 31 2017 Changes possible Atlantic: 10/person/day	
Tripletail	15 TL	2/person/day Specific to certain counties	
Wahoo	No size limit		
Weakfish	WMA (Weakfish Management Area) Nassau 12 TL	1/person/day Nassau only 100 lbs rest of state	

<sup>1</sup> Possession and use of a measuring device for spiny lobster is required at all times

<sup>2</sup> The SPZ (Special Permit Zone) for permit includes state and federal waters south of Cape Florida in the Atlantic and south of Cape Sable in the Gulf.

# 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	24 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 allowed	
Sheepshead	12 FL	10/person	
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2/person	
King Mackerel	24 FL	3/person	
Spanish Mackerel	No size limit	15/person	
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3/person	
Gag Grouper	24 TL	2 in aggregate	4 fish Grouper aggregate
Red Grouper	20 TL	2 in aggregate	
Black Grouper	24 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	
Vermilion 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.

Any finfish possessed in Alabama and harvested in federal or waters of another state that does not have a size, bag or creel limit must abide by Alabama size, bag and creel limits for that species.

# MISSISSIPPI

## Commercial Size & Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited <sup>1</sup>
Mullet	10 TL	No Limit
Flounder	12 TL	Quota
Red Drum <sup>2</sup>	18 - 30 TL	Quota <sup>2</sup>
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	Quota
King Mackerel	24 FL	3,000 lb
Spanish Mackerel	14 FL	No Limit
Goliath Grouper	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nassau Grouper		
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Red Grouper	18 TL	Federal Permit Required IFQ
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Black Grouper	24 TL	
Gag Grouper	22 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Snapper	13 TL	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Federal Reef Fish Permit Required <sup>3</sup> Federal Regulations Apply
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	
Bigeye & Yellowfin	27 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Required Federal Regulations Apply
Skipjack & Albacore	No Size Limit	
Bluefin Tuna	73 CFL	
Blue Marlin	Prohibited	Prohibited
White Marlin		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW <sup>4</sup>	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	

<sup>1</sup> It is illegal to sell cobia caught in MS territorial waters or landed in MS.

<sup>2</sup> Commercial fishermen may retain one red drum over 30" TL.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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 and 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 <sup>1</sup>	18 - 30 TL	3 <sup>1</sup>
Spotted Seatrout	15 TL	15
King Mackerel	24 FL	2
Spanish Mackerel	No Size Limit	15
Red Snapper	16 TL	2
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	10/person within 20 fish aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	20 in aggregate
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	
Almaco Jack	No Size Limit	
Tilefish		
Goliath Grouper (Jewfish)	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nassau Grouper		
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Warsaw Grouper	No Size Limit	1/vessel within 4 fish aggregate
Speckled Hind		
Gag Grouper	24 TL	2 within 4 fish aggregate
Red & Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	4 in aggregate
Black Grouper	24 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Other Groupers	No Size Limit	
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	34 FL	1
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

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Sharks - Pelagic	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Small Coastals	25 TL	4
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW <sup>2</sup>	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Size Limit	No Limit

<sup>1</sup>Recreational fishermen may retain one red drum over 30" TL.

<sup>2</sup>Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

Retention of Federally prohibited species is not allowed by state ordinance and 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 lb dressed weight	Permit required
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person
Drum, Black	16 TL	Quota: 16-27 – 3,250,000 lb >27 – 300,000 fish
Crab, Blue	5 CW <sup>1</sup>	Possession of egg bearing and immature (maiden) females prohibited. Closed season from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday in February for 30 consecutive days
Crab, Stone	2¾ CL <sup>2</sup>	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 lb/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 lb trip limit
Shrimp, White	100 count/lb	No size limit from Oct 15 through the third Monday in December
Seabass, Black	No size limit	Federal permit required. No bag or possession limit.
Seatrout, Spotted	14 TL	Quota: 1 mil lb (Commercial Rod and Reel only)
Sheepshead	10 TL	None
Amberjack, Greater	36 TL	1,500 lb 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	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	Tilefish IFQ
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 <sup>3</sup>	None	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply
Sharks – Small Coastal <sup>3</sup>		
Sharks - Pelagic <sup>3</sup>		

<sup>1</sup>(CW) Carapace Length. Does not apply to premolt crabs held in a separate container marked “peelers” or “busters”.

<sup>2</sup>(CL) Claw Length. Measured from the immovable anterior-most tip of the claw to the base of the joint.

<sup>3</sup>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. Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit & NMFS-approved observer on board.

**Prohibited Fish:** 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.

**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.

**LOUISIANA**  
**Recreational Size & Bag Limits**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT</b>	<b>BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMIT</b>
Marlin, Blue <sup>1</sup>	99 LJFL	None
Marlin, White <sup>1</sup>	66 LJFL	
Sailfish <sup>1</sup>	63 LJFL	
Swordfish <sup>1</sup>	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	No size limit	No bag or possession limit
Seatrout, 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
<b>REEF FISH</b>		Reef fish possession - 2-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats
Amberjack, Greater	34 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	24 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 Gag grouper open June 1–December 1
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 - 2 fish.
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-June 30
Lane Snapper	8 TL	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	
<b>Sharks</b>		
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. All shark harvest prohibited April 1-June 30.
<b>Tunas<sup>1</sup></b>		

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

<sup>1</sup>All HMS species (except blackfin tuna) require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries

**Note:** Any person possessing in Louisiana waters or landing in Louisiana any of the following species or species groups: cobia, wahoo, dolphinfish, tunas, billfishes, swordfish, snappers, amberjacks, groupers or hinds, are required to carry a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit.

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

**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	38 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Drum, Black	14 -30 TL slot	No Limit with commercial finfish fisherman's license
Catfish: Blue & Channel	14 TL	25/person in any combination 50 possession (50/person in Lake Livingston)
Catfish, Gaff-topsail	14 TL	No Limit
Cobia	37 TL	2/person & 4 possession
Flounder: all species, their hybrids, & subspecies	14 TL	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
Grouper, Black	24 TL	4/person & 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL	2/person & 4 possession
Mackerel, King	27 TL	2/person & 4 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14 TL	15/person & 30 possession
Mullet: all species their hybrids & subspecies	No Limit (Feb – Sept) 12 TL maximum (Oct – Jan)	No Limit
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15 TL	4/person & 8 possession (circle hook & line only)
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL	No Limit
Shark: All species, their hybrids & subspecies	64 TL	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, & Bonnethead	24 TL	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Shark: Great, Scalloped, & Smooth Hammerhead	99 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Sheepshead	15 TL	No Limit with commercial finfish license
Triggerfish	16 TL	20/person & 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL	3/person & 6 possession

**Commercially Prohibited Fish:** smalltooth sawfish, largetooth sawfish, Nassau Grouper, & Goliath Grouper

**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.



**TEXAS**  
**Recreational Bag & Length Limits**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES</b>	<b>DAILY BAG</b>
Amberjack, Greater	38 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Bass: Striped, its hybrids & subspecies	18 TL	5 in any combination/person 10 possession
Catfish: Channel & Blue Catfish, their hybrids & subspecies	12 TL	25 in any combination/person 50 possession
Catfish, Flathead	18 TL	5/person & 10 possession
Catfish, Gaff-topsail	14 TL	No limit
Cobia	37 TL	2/person & 4 possession
Drum, Black	14 - 30 TL slot	5/person & 10 possession May include one over 52 inches
Drum, Red	20 - 28 TL 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 TL	5/person total (Jan-Oct, Dec), 5/person 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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, Black	24 TL	4/person & 8 possession
Grouper, Gag	24 TL	2/person & 4 possession
Grouper, Goliath (formerly Jewfish), Nassau	<b>Catch &amp; release only</b>	<b>Prohibited</b>
Mackerel, Spanish	14 TL	15/person & 30 possession
Marlin, Blue	131 TL	No Limit
Marlin, White	86 TL	
Sailfish	84 TL	
Mullet: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	No Limit 12 TL maximum (Oct-Jan)	No Limit
Seatrout, Spotted	15 – 25 TL slot	5/person statewide south of FM 457 10/person statewide north of FM 457 1 fish may be retained over maximum
Shark: Great, scalloped, & Smooth	99 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Shark: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	64 TL	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited (prohibited are catch & release only)
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, & Bonnethead	24 TL	1/person & 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	15 TL	5/person & 10 possession
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15 TL	4/person & 8 possession (circle hook & line only with natural baits)

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	DAILY BAG
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL	No Limit
Snook	24 - 28 TL slot	1/person & 2 possession
Tarpon	85 TL	1/person & 2 possession
Triggerfish	16 TL	20/person & 40 possession
Tripletail	17 TL	3/person & 6 possession

**Prohibited Fish:** smalltooth sawfish, largetooth sawfish, & Goliath Grouper

**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.

## FEDERAL WATERS

### Commercial Size & Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT	
Red Snapper <sup>1</sup>	13 TL	Commercial Reef Fish Permit required IFQ	
Vermilion <sup>1</sup>	10 TL	Commercial Reef Fish Permit required	
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 <sup>1</sup>	22 TL		
Red <sup>1</sup>	18 TL		
Yellowfin	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Yellowmouth	None		
Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None		
Goliath	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
Gray Triggerfish <sup>1</sup>	14 FL	12 fish/trip limit	Commercial Reef Fish Permit Required
Hogfish	12 FL	None	
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot		
Greater Amberjack <sup>1</sup>	36 FL	Commercial closure Mar – May (1,500 lb trip limit)	
Almaco Jack	None	None	
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	None - Closed season 4/1 - 8/5	Spiny Lobster Permit Required
Cobia	33 FL	2/person	Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permit Required
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	None	

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	POSSESSION LIMIT & PERMIT	
King Mackerel	24 FL (Up to 5% by weight may be undersized)	Hook & line – Southern Zone: 1,250 lb/trip Open July 1	Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permit Required
		Northern Zone: 1,250 lb/trip Open Oct. 1	
		Western Zone: 3,000 lbs Open July 1	Gill Net Endorsement Required
		Gill net – Southern Zone: 45,000 lb/trip Opens day after MLK holiday.	
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			
Longbill Spearfish			
Red Drum	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED		
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 <sup>1</sup>			
Sharks - Pelagic			
Sharks – Smoothhound	None	Federal Smoothhound Shark Permit Federal Regulations Apply	

<sup>1</sup> Species subject to in-season closure.

<sup>2</sup> Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit and NMFS-approved observer on board.

**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.

## FEDERAL WATERS

### Recreational Size & Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
<b>Snappers</b>		
Red Snapper <sup>1</sup>	16 TL	2/person Not included in the 20-reef fish aggregate. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Vermilion Snapper <sup>1</sup>	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 within the 10 snapper aggregate. 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
<b>Groupers</b>		For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Gag <sup>1</sup>	24 TL	2/person included in 4-grouper aggregate
Red <sup>1</sup>	20 TL	2 fish bag limit included in 4-grouper aggregate
Black	24 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	<b>HARVEST &amp; POSSESSION PROHIBITED</b>	
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person
Gray Triggerfish <sup>1</sup>	14 FL	Included in 20-reef fish aggregate (Bag limit of 2 within the 20-reef fish aggregate)
Greater Amberjack <sup>1</sup>	34 FL	1/person. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a 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

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person
Bluefin Tuna <sup>2</sup>	73 CFL	No direct fishing for Bluefin Tuna, incidental catch only. 1/vessel/year
Yellowfin Tuna Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	3/person for Yellowfin, None for Bigeye
Albacore, Skipjack, Blackfin	None	None
Blue Marlin	99 LJFL	None
White Marlin <sup>3</sup> Roundscale Spearfish <sup>3</sup>	66 LJFL	
Sailfish	63 LJFL	
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 25 cleithrum to keel	1/person up to a maximum of 4/vessel, 6 for charter boats & 15 for headboats.
Red Drum	HARVEST & POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	1/person
Bonnethead		
Smoothhound	None	None
Hammerheads (Great, Smooth, Scalloped) <sup>4</sup>	78 FL	1/vessel (except prohibited)
All Other Sharks <sup>4</sup>	54 FL	

<sup>1</sup> Species subject to in-season closure.

<sup>2</sup> 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 bluefin tuna is caught incidentally to other targeted species. Anglers must report all Bluefin tuna landings to NMFS within 24 hours either online at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov>, or by calling (888) 872-8862.

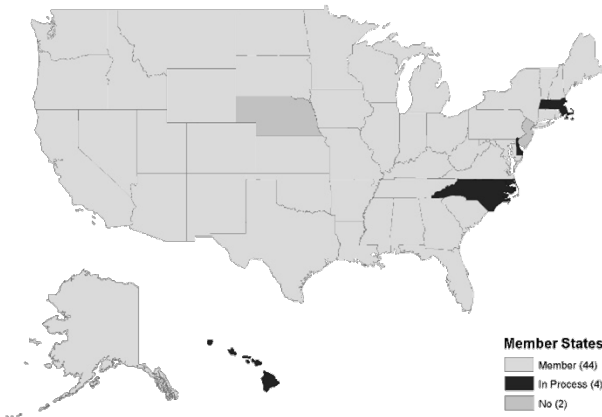
<sup>3</sup> There is an annual U.S. landings limit of 250 Atlantic blue & white marlin, and roundscale spearfish (combined). Landings updates and seasonal closures are posted at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/billfish>. **Anglers must report all recreational billfish landings either online at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov>, or by calling (800) 894-5528.** If a billfish is landed during an HMS tournament then the tournament operator must report the landing.

<sup>4</sup> Anglers cannot possess hammerhead or oceanic whitetip sharks while in possession of tunas, billfish, or swordfish.

**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)	ATL	HMS Angling	TD
Blackfin Tuna	None	None	None	none
Blue Marlin	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling	Prohibited
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
Smoothhound Shark	HMS CHB	SS	HMS Angling	SH
Shrimp	None	SPGM / GRRS	None	None
Snappers	RCG	RR	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
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 – sale only with SM or KM

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

SM - Spanish Mackerel

LC - Spiny Lobster

LT - Spiny Lobster Tailing

GRRS - Royal Red Shrimp, must have SPGM

SM – Spanish Mackerel

SS - Smoothhound Shark

## Commercial Permits - Limited Access & Moratorium

RR - Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup>

Reef Fish Longline

SFD - Swordfish Directed - no limit open season, or 15 closed season with longline, 2 other gear<sup>1</sup>

SFI – Swordfish Incidental – 30 per vessel per trip

SFH - Swordfish Handgear

SPGM - Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Moratorium

SKD - Shark Directed - 45 large coastal (may be adjusted during fishing year between 0-55), 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 only<sup>1</sup>

SWO General – Swordfish General Commercial – handgear only

ATL - Atlantic Tunas Longline<sup>1</sup> no longline use in state waters

(must have cml sword & shark of some type)

KM – King Mackerel

Commercial Dealer

SH - Shark Dealer (' fish from federal waters)

SD - Swordfish Dealer<sup>1</sup>

TD - Atlantic Tuna Dealer<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> Permit required in state waters to sell or possess or for dealer to purchase fish

<sup>2</sup> Bottom longline endorsement required for longline gear east of Cape San Blas, FL

# NOTES

# NOTES



**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission**

2404 Government Street  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564  
(228) 875-5912