

Saltwater Bag and Length Limits

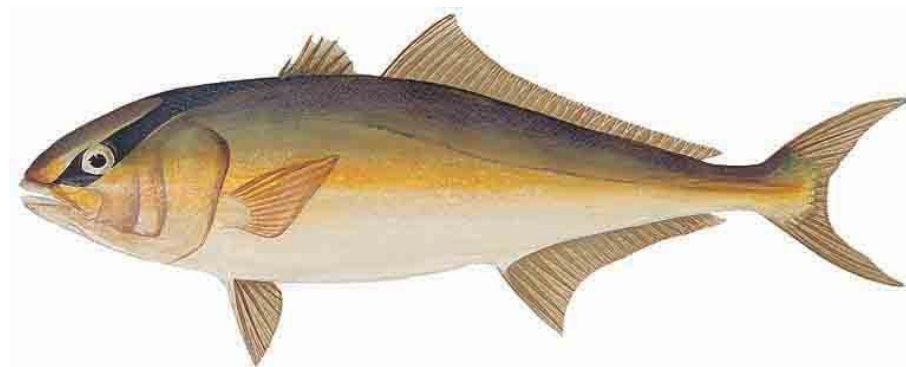
Valid Sep. 1, 2020 through Aug. 31, 2021.

Notice: Red Snapper season in federal waters [closed August 3, 2020](https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20200331a).
[\[https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20200331a\]](https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20200331a)

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://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/definitions) [\[https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/definitions\]](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://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits) [\[https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits\]](https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits) apply.

Amberjack, greater



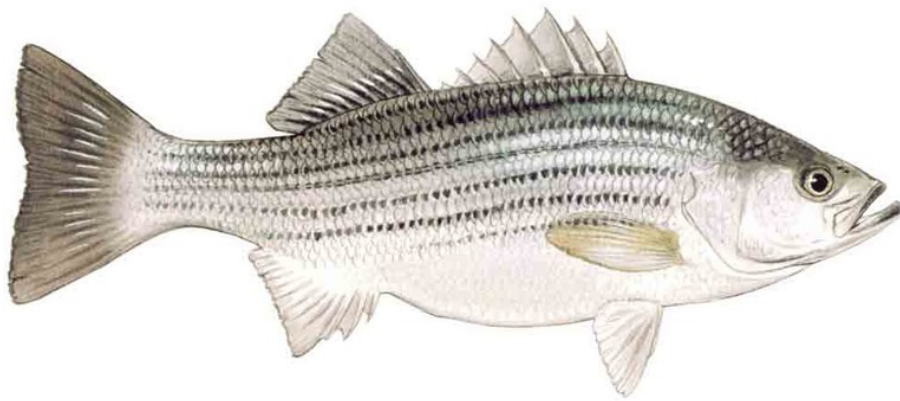
Daily Bag: 1

Min length: 38 inches

Max length: No limit

Bass

Striped, its hybrids and subspecies



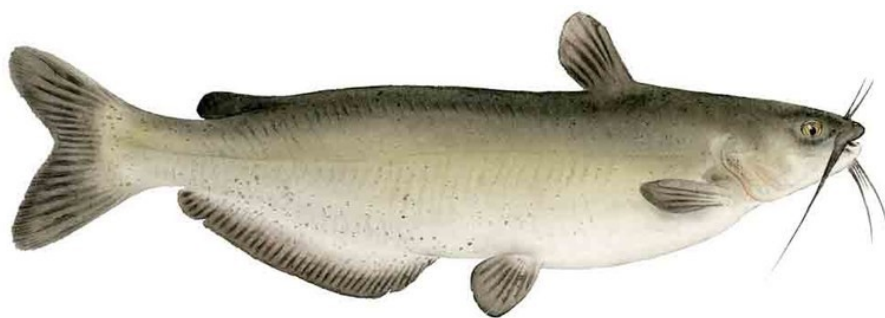
Daily Bag: 5 (in any combination)

Min Length: 18 inches

Max Length: No limit

Catfish

Channel and blue, their hybrids and subspecies



Daily Bag: 25 (in any combination)

Min Length: 12 inches

Max Length: No limit

Flathead

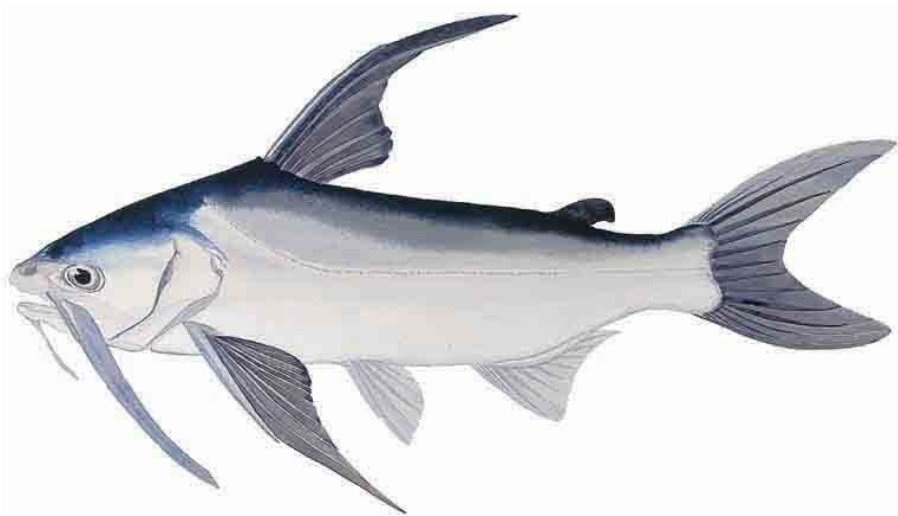


Daily Bag: 5

Min Length: 18 inches

Max Length: No limit

Gafftopsail



Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 14 inches

Max Length: No limit

Cobia



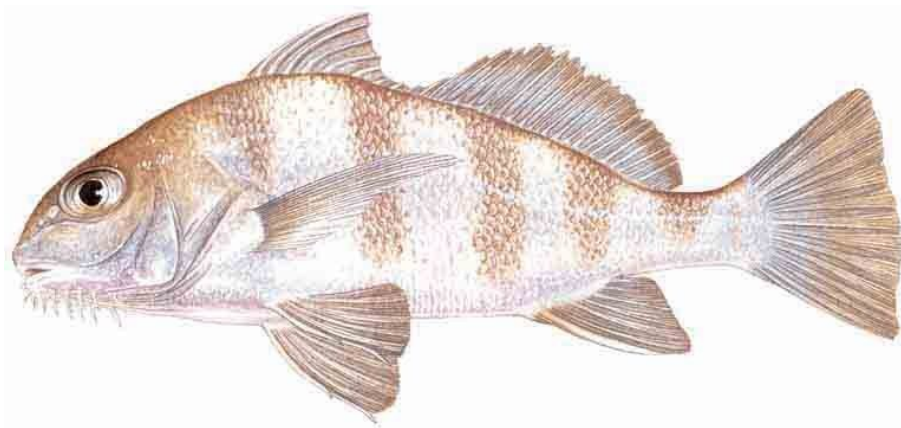
Daily Bag: 2

Min Length: 40 inches

Max Length: No limit

Drum

Black drum



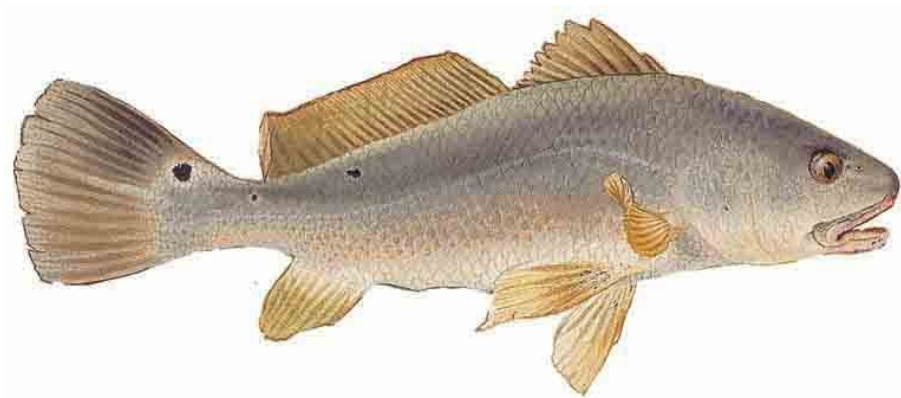
Daily Bag: 5

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



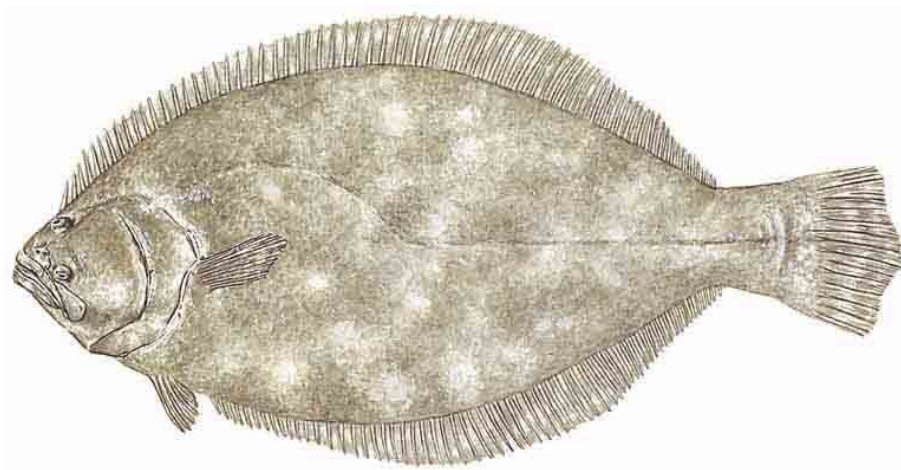
Daily Bag: 3

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 (in any combination)

Min Length: 15 inches

Max Length: No limit

Daily bag is 5 fish except from Nov. 1 – 30, when it is 2 fish (flounder may be taken only by pole-and-line); and from Dec. 1 – 14, when it is 2 fish (flounder may be taken by any legal means, including gigging). Possession limit = the daily bag.

Gar, alligator



Daily Bag: 1

Min Length: No limit

Max Length: No limit

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

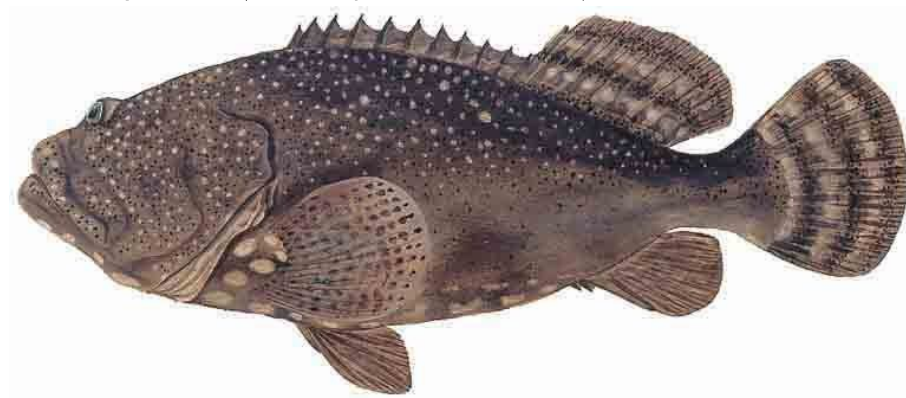
Gag grouper

Daily Bag: 2

Min Length: 24 inches

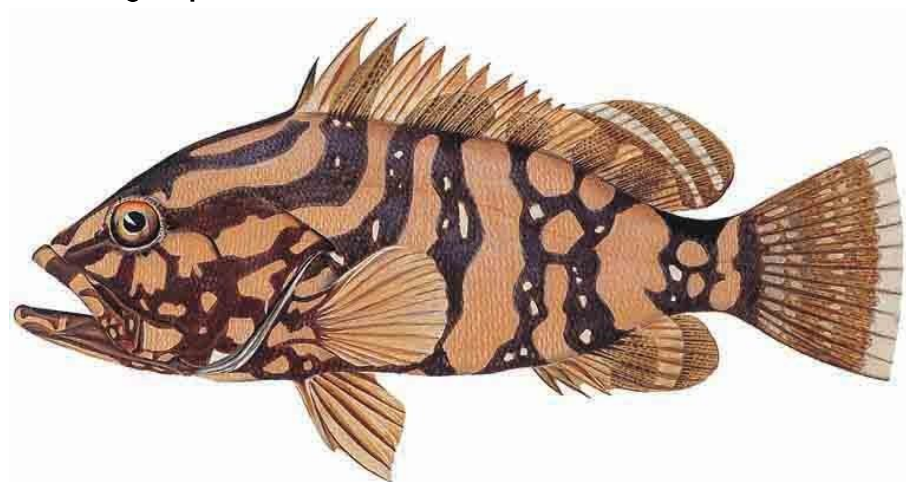
Max Length: No limit

Goliath grouper (formerly called Jewfish)



Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

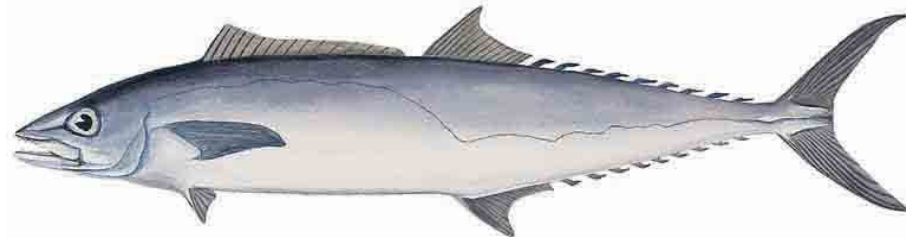
Nassau grouper



Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

Mackerel

King

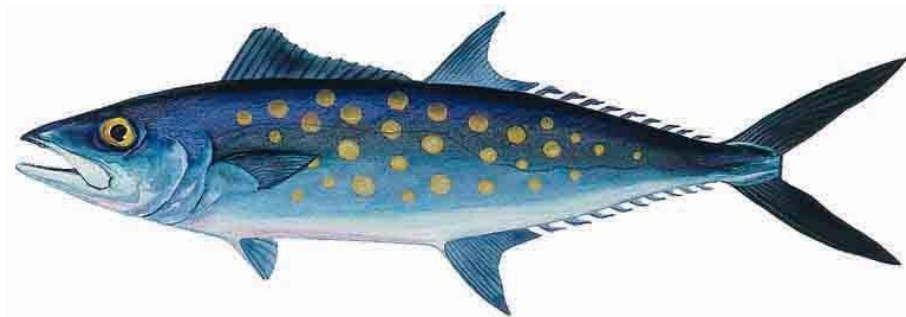


Daily Bag: 3

Min Length: 27 inches

Max Length: No limit

Spanish



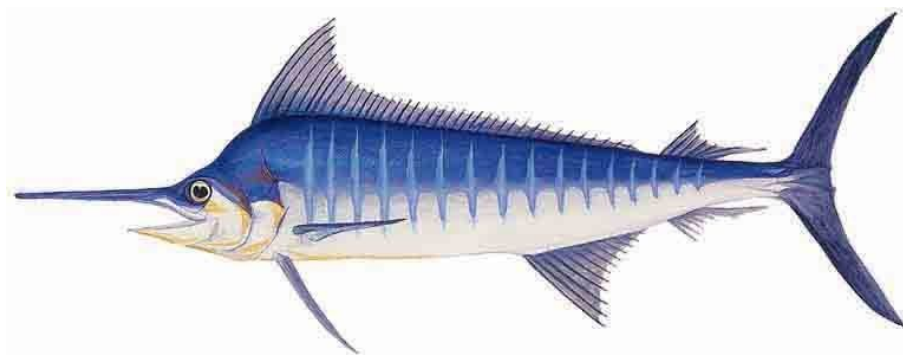
Daily Bag: 15

Min Length: 14 inches

Max Length: No limit

Marlin

Blue marlin



Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 131 inches

Max Length: No limit

White marlin

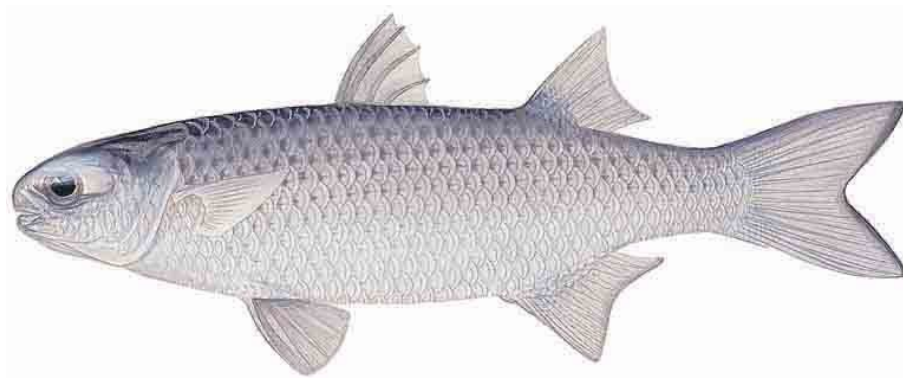


Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 86 inches

Max Length: No limit

Mullet



All species, their hybrids and subspecies

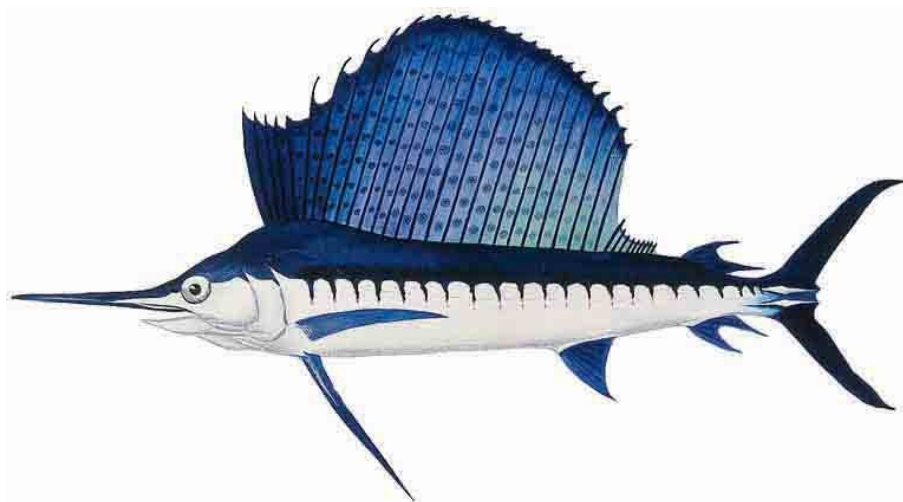
Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: No limit

Max Length: 12 inches (see below)

Clarification 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

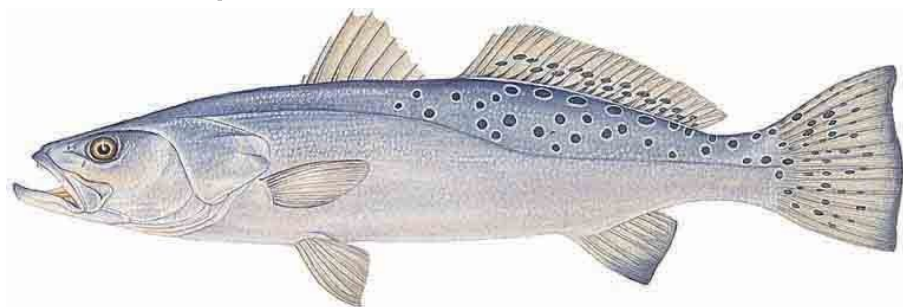


Daily Bag: No limit

Min Length: 84 inches

Max Length: No limit

Seatrout - spotted



Daily Bag: 5

Min Length: 15 inches

Max Length: 25 inches

Clarification: 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.

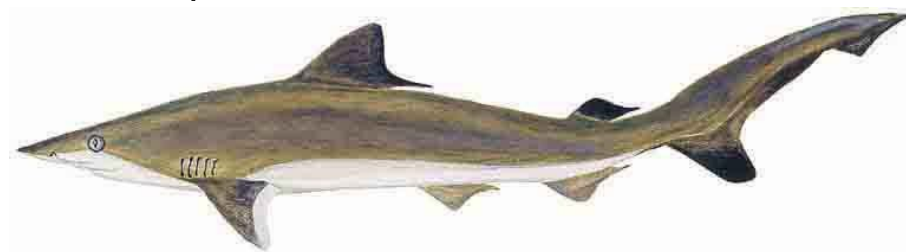
Sharks

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.

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

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

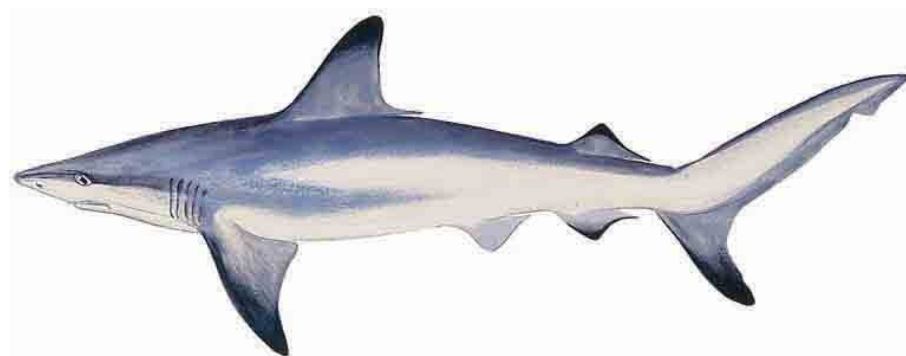
Atlantic sharpnose



Min Length: 24 inches

Max Length: No limit

Blacktip



Min Length: 24 inches

Max Length: No limit

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 \[https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations\]](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

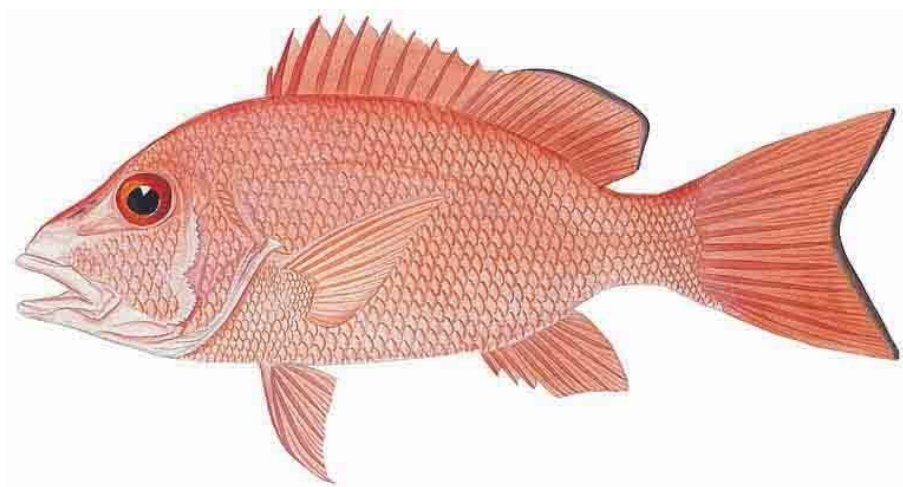
Snapper

Lane



Daily Bag: No limit
Min Length: 8 inches
Max Length: No limit

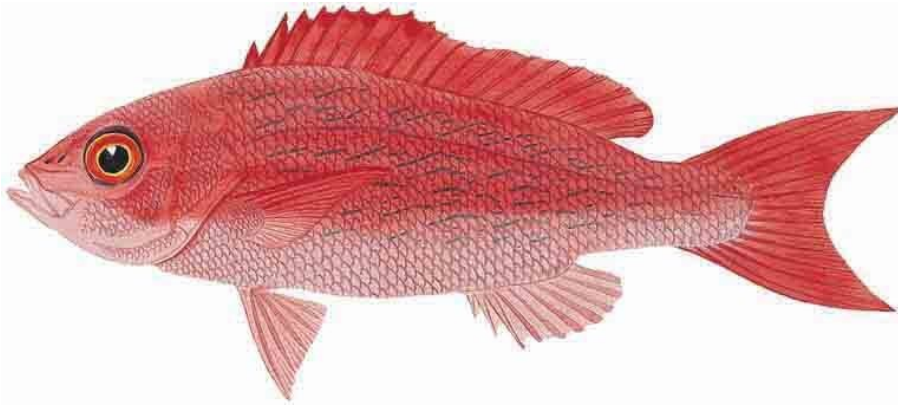
Red



Daily Bag: 4
Min Length: 15 - No limit

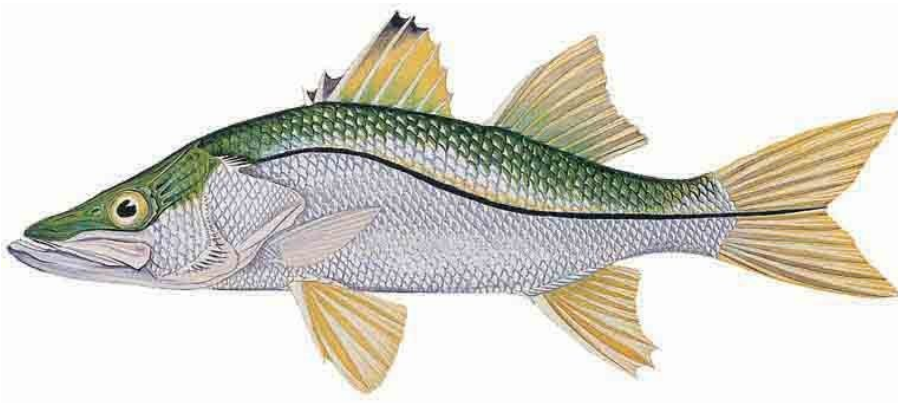
Red snapper may be taken using pole and line, but it is unlawful to use any kind of hook other than a circle hook when using natural bait.

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