NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Marine Fisheries - Recreational Fishing Size and Bag Limits

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N.C. Recreational Coastal Waters Guide for Sports Fishermen

Current Version Effective: August 9, 2016

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

CLICK HERE for printer-friendly version

Smartphone and tablet users — view as mobile device webpage

Coastal Recreational Fishing License: Persons engaged in recreational fishing in North Carolina coastal waters are required to possess a Coastal Recreational Fishing License in accordance with G.S. 113-174.2

See also: Fish Identification and Recreational Fishing Reports

Why do we have fishing regulations?

For *inland* fishing regulations, contact Wildlife Resources Commission 919-707-0220 or visit their website www.ncwildlife.org

State Coastal Waters Exclusive Economic Zone EEZ (Internal and 0-3 Miles) (3-200 miles) **Finfish Species** Minimum Length **Bag Limits** Minimum Length **Bag Limits** (note symbols, pg.2) (Per Person) (Per Person) UNLAWFUL TO **UNLAWFUL TO** Alewife and None None POSSESS blueback herring POSSESS 1/Day Amberjack, greater 28" FI 1/Day 28" FI UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS Bass, striped (**A**) (A) See striped bass details **Bluefish** None 15/Day None 15/Day Only 5 greater than 24" TL UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS 37" FI 1/Day/2 per vessel Cobia (M) Dolphin (B) None 10/Day None 10/Day 14"-25" TL (C) 14"-25" TL (C) Drum, black 10/Day 10/Day 18-27" TL (C) UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS Drum, red ▲ 1/Day

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(Channel bass, puppy drum)

12.5" TL

13" TL

None

(E, I, L)

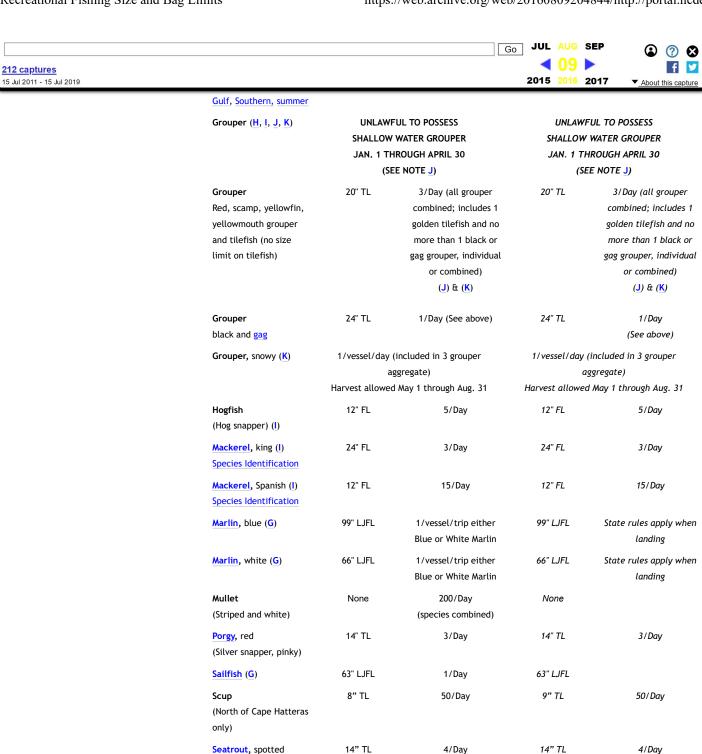
15/day

5/Day

10/Day

1/Vessel/Day

UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS



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12.5" TL

13" TL

None

None

(E, I, L)

15/day

5/Day

(<mark>O</mark>)

(<mark>O</mark>)

1/Vessel/Day

(speckled)▲

Sea bass, black

(North of Cape Hatteras) (D) Sea bass, black

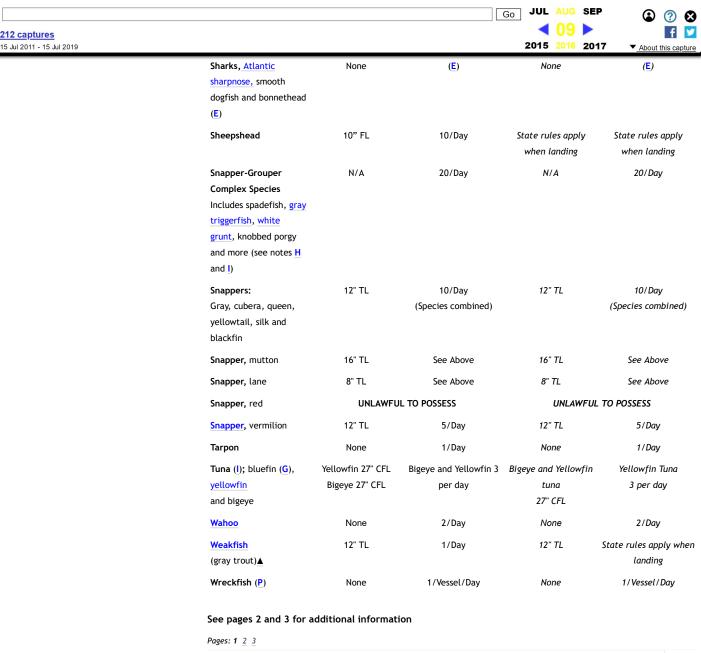
(South of Cape Hatteras)

Shad, American (0)

Shad, hickory (0)

Sharks (E, I, L)

(excluding smoothhound sharks



Next

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries • 3441 Arendell Street • Morehead City, NC 28557 • 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632





orth Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

Toll Free: (877) 623-6748

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