

SPOTTED SEATROUT, CH 46-37, FAC (Effective Nov. 1, 1989)

- Designates spotted seatrout as a "restricted species"
- Prohibits snatch hooking and the use of multiple hooks when fishing for seatrout with natural bait
- Sets a recreational 14-inch minimum and 24-inch maximum size limit (one fish over 24 inches may be kept per day)
- Establishes daily bag limit and on the water possession limit of 10 fish per person
- Sets a 3-inch minimum net mesh size for the harvest of seatrout (the minimum net mesh size becomes 3½ inches on Jan. 1, 1993)
- Regulates commercial harvest by dividing the state into three regions - East Coast (Florida/Georgia line to Dade/Monroe county line), Southwest Coast (Dade/Monroe county line to Pinellas/Pasco county line), and Northwest Coast (Pinellas/Pasco county line to Florida/Alabama line); season begins Nov. 1 in each region and continues until Oct. 31 of the following year for each region; harvest limits set at 70% of the average harvest taken from 1984-1987; a 500 pound daily vessel limit applies until 50% of the season harvest limit is reached, then a 200 pound daily vessel limit applies until the season limit is harvested; commercial harvest of spotted seatrout ends in each region when the 200 pound season is closed and no sale of native seatrout is allowed beginning when all three regional quotas are met until the following Nov. 1

SPOTTED SEATROUT, CH 46-37, FAC (Effective Jan. 1, 1996)

- Prohibits all harvest of spotted seatrout in state waters from the Pinellas/Pasco counties line to the Florida/Alabama line in February, and in all other state waters in November and December each year
- Establishes daily recreational bag limits of 7 spotted seatrout harvested in state waters from the Pinellas/Pasco counties line to the Florida/Alabama line, and 5 spotted seatrout harvested from all other state waters
- Raises the minimum size limit for spotted seatrout harvested statewide to 15 inches total length
- Establishes a 24 inches total length maximum size limit for spotted seatrout harvested in state waters from the Pinellas/Pasco counties

line to the Florida/Alabama line, and a 20 inches total length maximum size limit for spotted seatrout harvested in all other state waters (an allowance for the daily harvest of one fish larger than the respective maximum lengths applies statewide)

- Allows the commercial harvest and sale of spotted seatrout in June, July, and August only - a 75 fish daily vessel limit and a 15 inches total length minimum/24 inches maximum size limit applies during these months for all commercial harvest of spotted seatrout statewide
- Allows only the use of hook and line gear and cast nets for all harvest of spotted seatrout
- Prohibits the simultaneous possession aboard a vessel of any gill net or entangling net together with any spotted seatrout
- Requires all spotted seatrout to be landed in a whole condition, and prohibits the possession of spotted seatrout that are not in a whole condition in or on state waters, on any public or private fishing pier, on a bridge or catwalk attached to a bridge from which fishing is allowed, or on any jetty
- Defines "total length" for spotted seatrout to mean the length of the fish measured from the most forward point of the head to the hindmost point of the tail

SPOTTED SEATROUT, CH 46-37, FAC (Effective Aug. 1, 1996)

Replaces the November/December closed season to the harvest of spotted seatrout with a December through February closure - in Nassau through Flagler counties only.

SPOTTED SEATROUT, CH 68B-37, FAC (Effective July 1, 2000)

- Creates two recreational management regions for spotted seatrout - the North Region includes state waters on the Gulf coast north and west of a line near the Pinellas/Pasco counties border (near Fred Howard County Park in Pinellas County), and on Florida's east coast north of the Volusia/Flagler counties border; the South Region includes all other state waters
- Establishes 15-inch minimum/20-inch maximum size limits statewide

- Establishes a five-fish daily bag limit in the North Region and a four fish limit in the South Region (one fish larger than the maximum size limit may be retained)
- Establishes a February closed season to spotted seatrout harvest in the North Region, and a November/December closed season in the South Region

SPOTTED SEATROUT, CH 68B-37, FAC (Effective July 1, 2006)

Provides that, for purposes of determining the legal size of spotted seatrout, "total length" means the straight-line distance from the most forward point of the head with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed, while the fish is lying on its side.

SPOTTED SEATROUT, CH 68B-37, FAC (Effective Feb. 1, 2012)

- Removes all recreational season closures
- Increases the recreational bag limit in the Northeast region to six fish
- Defines Southeast and Southwest regions
- Increases commercial seasons (Southeast: May 1- Sept 30; Northeast: June 1- Nov. 30; Southwest and Northwest: June 1- Oct. 31)
- Establishes a commercial vessel limit of 150 when two or more licensed fishermen are aboard
- Establishes sale of seatrout inventory will be allowed for 30 days after the season closes

SPOTTED SEATROUT, CH 68B-37, FAC (Effective Sept. 1, 2013)

Chapter reorganized and reformatted as part of phase one of the rule cleanup process.

SPOTTED SEATROUT, EO 19-06 Temporary Modification of Regulations for Spotted Seatrout in Southwest Florida (Effective Feb. 22, 2019)

- A person may not harvest a spotted seatrout greater than 20 inches in total length caught in or on the described region and may not possess or land a spotted seatrout greater than 20-inches in total length in the described region during the term of this order
- The provisions of this order apply in and on all waters of the following geographic areas:
 - All Florida waters, and adjacent federal waters, off Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties; and
 - All Florida waters, and adjacent federal waters, off Collier County north of a line extending due east and due west from the south bank at the mouth of Gordon Pass
- This order shall take effect at 12:00 a.m. on Feb. 22, 2019 and shall expire at 11 :59 p.m. on May 10, 2019, unless rescinded or extended by subsequent order

SPOTTED SEATROUT, EO 19-06 (Effective Feb. 22, 2019 – May 10, 2019)

- Temporarily modifies the spotted seatrout fishery to prohibit the harvest and possession of spotted seatrout greater than 20-inches in total length within specified waters of southwest Florida as follows
 - All Florida waters, and adjacent federal waters, off Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties; and
 - All Florida waters, and adjacent federal waters, off Collier County north of a line extending due east and due west from the south bank at the mouth of Gordon Pass

SPOTTED SEATROUT, EO 19-14 (Effective May 11, 2019 – May 31, 2020)

- Temporary modification of regulations for red drum, snook, and spotted seatrout in Southwest Florida
- A person must immediately release any red drum, snook, or spotted seatrout caught in or on the described region during the term of this order and may not possess or land a red drum, a snook, or a spotted seatrout in the described region

- A person may temporarily possess a red drum, snook or a spotted seatrout in or on the described region, only for the purpose of photographing, measuring, or weighing (with a handheld scale) such red drum, snook, or spotted seatrout
- A person who temporarily possesses a red drum, a snook, or a spotted seatrout pursuant to this paragraph must release such red drum, snook, or spotted seatrout alive and unharmed in the immediate area where it was caught, immediately after it has been photographed, measured, or weighed
- During the term of this order, no Red Drum Catch-Hold-and-Release Tournament Exemption Permits will be issued for activities conducted within the described region
- The provisions of this order apply in and on all Florida waters of the following geographic areas:
 - All Florida waters of Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties; and
 - All Florida waters of Collier County north of a line extending due east and due west from the south bank at the mouth of Gordon Pass

SPOTTED SEATROUT, CH 68B-37, FAC (Effective Feb. 1, 2020)

- Modifies management zones
 - Splits the current Northwest zone into the Western Panhandle and Big Bend zones
 - Moves the border between the current Southwest and Southeast zones to the Broward-Palm Beach county line
- Reduces the recreational bag limits to three (3) fish in the Western Panhandle and South zones, two (2) fish in the Central East zone, and five (5) fish in the NE zone
- Modifies the recreational slot size limit to 15-19 inches
- Allows harvest of only one over-the-slot fish per vessel
- Prohibits guides (captain and crew) from keeping a personal bag limit when on a for-hire trip
- Re-establishes a February winter closure in the Western Panhandle and a November – December winter closure in the Central East zone
- Reduces the daily commercial trip and vessel limits to 50 seatrout per person with a maximum of 100 seatrout per vessel statewide

- Removes an unnecessary commercial reporting form.