

2015 - 2016

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Saltwater Bag and Length Limits

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Gag Grouper
[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-10]

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://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745/http://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://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745/http://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits>] apply.

Alligator Gar

Daily Bag: 1

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) No limit - No limit

Certain areas may be temporarily closed to alligator gar fishing when optimum spawning conditions occur. [Get details](#) [<https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745/http://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/gar-closure>] .

Bass

Striped, its hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: 5 (in any combination)

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 18 - No limit

Black Drum

Daily Bag: 5

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 14 - 30

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.

Blue Marlin

Daily Bag: No limit

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Goliath Grouper

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-13]

Gray Triggerfish

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-14]

Greater Amberjack

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-15]

King Mackerel

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-16]

Lane Snapper

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-17]

Mullet

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-18]

Red Drum

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-20]

Red Snapper

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-21]

Sailfish

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-22]

Sharks

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-23]

Catfish

Channel and blue catfish, their hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: 25 (in any combination)

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 12 - No limit

Flathead

Daily Bag: 5

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 18 - No limit

Gafftopsail

Daily Bag: No limit

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 14 - no limit

Cobia

Daily Bag: 2

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 37 - No limit

Flounder

All species, their hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: 5/2 (see below)

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 14 - No limit

Daily bag is 5 fish except from Nov. 1-30, when the daily bag limit is 2 fish and flounder may be taken only by pole-and-line; and from December 1-14, when the daily bag limit is 2 fish and flounder may be taken by any legal means, including gigging. Possession limit is equal to the daily bag.

Gag Grouper

Daily Bag: 2

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 22 - No limit

Goliath Grouper

(formerly called Jewfish)

Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

Gray Triggerfish

Daily Bag: 20

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 16 - No limit

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About this capture

[/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-27\]](#)

Snook [[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-28\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-28])

Spanish Mackerel [[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-29\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-29])

Spotted Seatrout [[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-30\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-30])

Tarpon [[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-31\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-31])

Tripletail [[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-32\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-32])

Vermilion Snapper [[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-33\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-33])

White Marlin [[https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-34\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20150916101745mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-34])

Daily Bag: 1

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 34 - No limit

King Mackerel

Daily Bag: 2

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 27 - No limit

Lane Snapper

Daily Bag: No limit

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 8 - No limit

Mullet

All species, their hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: No limit

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) No limit - 12 (see below)

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.

Red Drum

Daily Bag: 3

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 20 - 28

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.

Red Snapper

Daily Bag: 4

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 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.

Sailfish

Daily Bag: No limit

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 84 - No limit

Sharks

Note: the daily bag limit is 1 fish for **all** allowable shark species **including** Atlantic

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regulations for identification tips.

Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 24 - No limit

Other allowable shark species

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 64 - No limit

Prohibited species

Prohibited shark species: 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, and White.

Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

Sheepshead

Daily Bag: 5

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 15 - No limit

Snook

Daily Bag: 1

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 24 - 28

Spanish Mackerel

Daily Bag: 15

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 14 - No limit

Spotted Seatrout

Daily Bag:

All waters north of FM 457 in Matagorda County - 10

All waters south of FM 457 - 5

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 15 - 25

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.

Tarpon

Daily Bag: 1

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 85 - No limit

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Daily Bag: 3

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 17 - No limit

Vermilion Snapper

Daily Bag: No limit

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 10 - No limit

White Marlin

Daily Bag: No limit

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 86 - No limit