

OUTDOOR ANNUAL

Texas Hunting and Fishing Regulations

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Saltwater Bag and Length Limits

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Amberjack, greater

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Bass

[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-1]

Catfish

[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-3]

Cobia

[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-7]

Drum

[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-8]

Flounder

[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-11]

Gar, alligator

[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-

Valid Sep. 1, 2017 through Aug. 31, 2018.

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/20180304024835/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://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits>] apply.

Amberjack, greater

Daily Bag: 1

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 38 - No limit

Bass

Striped, its hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: 5 (in any combination)

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

Catfish

Channel and blue, 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

71 captures

29 Dec 2014 - 29 Oct 2020

Go

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2017 2018 2019



About this capture

[Grouper \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-14\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-14)

[Mackerel \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-19\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-19)

[Marlin \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-22\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-22)

[Mullet \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-25\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-25)

[Sailfish \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-27\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-27)

[Seatrout, spotted \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-28\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-28)

[Sharks \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-29\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-29)

[Sheepshead \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-34\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-34)

[Snapper \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-34\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-34)

Cobia

Daily Bag: 2

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

Drum

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.

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.

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.

Gar, alligator

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 \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/gar-closure\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/gar-closure).

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About this capture

[/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-39\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-39)

Tarpon [[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-40\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-40)

Triggerfish, gray [[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-41\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-41)

Tripletail [[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-42\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835mp_/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-bag-and-length-limits#section-42)

Black grouper

Daily Bag: 4

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

Gag grouper

Daily Bag: 2

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 24 - 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: 2

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

Spanish

Daily Bag: 15

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

Marlin

Blue marlin

Daily Bag: No limit

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 131 - No limit

White marlin

Daily Bag: No limit

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

Mullet

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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.

Sailfish

Daily Bag: No limit

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

Seatrout, spotted

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.

Sharks

Note: the daily bag limit is 1 fish for **all** allowable shark species **including** Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, and bonnethead. See [Shark Regulations \[https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20180304024835/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations) for identification tips.

Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead

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

Hammerhead (smooth, great, scalloped)

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 99 - No limit

Other allowable shark species

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 64 - 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, Sandbar, Sand tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

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Daily Bag: 5

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

Snapper

Lane

Daily Bag: No limit

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

Red

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.

Vermilion

Daily Bag: No limit

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

Snook

Daily Bag: 1

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 24 - 28

Tarpon

Daily Bag: 1

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

Triggerfish, gray

Daily Bag: 20

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

Tripletail

Daily Bag: 3

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