

Recreational Size and Bag Limits for Alabama State Waters (Includes inshore waters and Gulf Waters out to 3 miles offshore)

Updated April 22, 2003

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Spotted Seatrout*	14" min. TL	10 per person
Red Drum**	16" min. - 26" max	3 per person
Cobia (Ling)	33" min. FL	2 per person
King Mackerel	24" min. FL	2 per person
Spanish Mackerel	no size limit	15 per person
Florida Pompano	12" min. TL	3 per person
Gag Grouper***	22" min TL	***Grouper Aggregate
Red Grouper***	20" min TL	***Grouper Aggregate
Black Grouper***	22" min TL	***Grouper Aggregate
Yellowfin Grouper***	20" min TL	***Grouper Aggregate
Scamp***	16" min TL	***Grouper Aggregate
Greater Amberjack	28" min FL	1 per person
Striped Bass****	16" min TL	2 per person
Gray Triggerfish	12" min TL	Reef fish aggregate*
Flounder	12" min TL	No bag limit
Tripletail (Blackfish)	16" min TL	3 per person

* Spotted Seatrout (speckled trout) - no undersized fish allowed.

** Red Drum (redfish) - 1 fish may exceed maximum size.

*** Mixed species grouper aggregate bag limit (including Gag): 5 per person

**** Only two Striped Bass are allowed within MRD Jurisdiction.

The recreational red snapper fishery operates under a 4.47 million pound quota (unchanged since 1996). The recreational red snapper season is open continuously from April 21 through October 31. Based on NMFS projections, this is the amount of time in which the recreational quota will be filled under a 4-fish bag limit and 16 inch total length minimum size limit.

Red Snapper	16" TL	4 per person
Vermillon Snapper (beeliner)	10" TL	Reef fish aggregate*
Lane	8" TL	Reef Fish aggregate*
Gray (mangrove, black)	12" TL	10 per person

Tarpon	60" TL	\$50.00 tag required to possess, kill or harvest each tarpon.
--------	--------	---

Sharks

* Atlantic Sharpnose none 2 per person per day

* All Other Shark Species 54" min FL 1 per person per day

* Prohibited Species: Goliath grouper (jewfish), Nassau grouper, Atlantic angel shark, Bigeye thresher, Dusky, Longfin mako, Sand tiger, Basking, Whale, White, Nurse, Smalltail, Smalltooth sawfish, Largetooth sawfish, Spotted eagle ray, Atlantic manta.

Alabama has instituted new regulations pertaining to the harvest of shark species for commercial and recreational purposes. [Click here](#) for info provided to aid anglers in the identification of common species of sharks which may occur in Alabama's coastal waters.

* There is a twenty (20) fish aggregate bag limit for reef fish species for which there is no other bag limit. (for example, grunts, porgies, gray triggerfish, beeliner, Lane snapper, etc).

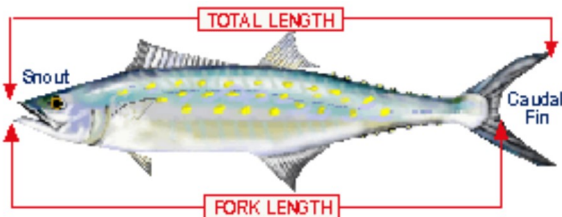
All fishing regulations are subject to change. Check with the [AL Marine Resources Division](#) before going fishing.

Mississippi and Florida also require saltwater fishing licenses. Florida's state waters extend 9 miles from the coastline. You can be fined for straying into another state's waters with fish caught in Alabama or federal waters.

State waters extend into the Gulf of Mexico 3 miles south of Alabama's coastline from Florida almost due west along the Fort Morgan peninsula and Dauphin Island to Mississippi; however, the line bulges southward 3 miles from Sand Island. A rule of thumb leaving Mobile Bay: if you are south of the Farewell Buoy, you are in federal waters.



Fish Measurement



The following methods should be used to determine the length of a fish:

- Place fish on a flat surface with jaw closed.
- Squeeze tail together or turn it in such a way to obtain total length.
- For fork length, measure in a straight line from the tip of snout to the deepest notch in tail.

Catch and Release Techniques