

2008

Recreational Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters



**For Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council**

This publication was prepared for general informational purposes in January 2008, and has no legal force or effect. Fishing regulations are subject to change. A separate summary of commercial fishing regulations is available from the Gulf Council.

A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NAO5NMF4410003



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About the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery plans, which are designed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Council consists of 17 voting members: the Southeast Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (or his designee), the directors of the five Gulf state marine resource management agencies (or their designees), and 11 members who are nominated by the state governors and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. Appointments are three year terms with a maximum of three consecutive terms. In addition, there are four nonvoting members representing the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of State, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Council meets five times a year at various locations around the Gulf coast. When reviewing potential rule changes, the Council draws upon the services of knowledgeable people from other state and federal agencies, universities, and the public, who serve on panels and committees.

Prior to taking final action on any proposed rule change public hearings are held throughout the Gulf. Public testimony is also heard during the meeting at which final action is scheduled. Proposed rule changes are then submitted to NMFS for further review and approval before implementation.

State Agencies:

Alabama Department of Conservation and Marine Resources	251-861-2882
Information or to report state fishing violations	251-968-7576
24hour voice mail to report state fishing violations	251-476-1256
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission information	850-488-4676
To report state fishing violations	850-488-9924
Cellular phone	888-404-3922
	*FWC
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries information	225-765-2800
To report state fishing violations	800-442-2511
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources	
Information and to report state fishing violations	228-374-5000
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Information	800-792-1112
To report state fishing violations	512-389-4848
	281-842-8100
	800-792-game

Errata and Update Sheet

A supplemental "errata and update sheet" will be periodically published to indicate changes in fishing regulations since this pamphlet was published. Contact the Gulf Council to obtain the most recent supplement.

NOTE: The Official Electronic Code of Federal Regulations for 50 CFR 622—for Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic is available online. [Please visit www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html).

Important Phone Numbers

NMFS Operations Branch 727-824-5305
 NMFS Permits and Regulations Branch 727-824-5326
 (see below for tuna permit applications)

To apply for permits online: www.nmfspermits.com

NMFS nationwide federal fishing violations hotline 800-853-1964
 NMFS 24-hour tuna information line 888-872-8862
 (also for tuna permit applications) 978-281-9260
 NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division 301-713-2347
 NMFS Swordfish/Billfish Recreational Reporting 800-894-5528

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary 409-621-5151

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 843-571-4366

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission 228-875-5912

U.S. Coast Guard, 7th District 305-415-6781
 (Florida east of St. Marks)

U.S. Coast Guard, 8th District 504-671-2245
 (St. Marks, Florida to Texas)

Regional NMFS Office for Law Enforcement 727-824-5344

NMFS Enforcement Field Offices:

Marathon, FL 305-743-3110
 Niceville, FL 850-729-8628
 Baton Rouge, LA 225-769-3134
 Austin, TX 512-916-5401
 Galveston, TX 409-770-0812
 Harlingen, TX 956-423-3450

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Recreational Fishing Regulations

Reef Fish			
Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Snappers			
Red Snapper	16" total length	Opens 12:01 am June 1 - closes 12:01 am Sept. 30	2 per person Not included in the 20-reef fish aggregate
Vermilion Lane	10" total length 8" total length	None None	Included in the 20-reef fish aggregate
Gray/Mangrove Mutton	12" total length 16" total length	None None	10 per person in snapper aggregate
Yellowtail	12" total length	None	
Schoolmaster	12" total length	None	
Cubera	12" total length	None	
Dog	12" total length	None	
Mahogany	12" total length	None	
Queen	None	None	
Blackfin	None	None	
Silk	None	None	
Wenchman	None	None	
Species included in the 20-fish aggregate bag limit			
Almaco Jack Gray Triggerfish Vermilion Snapper Lane Snapper Tilefish Goldface Tilefish Blueline Tilefish Blackline Tilefish Anchor Tilefish			20/per person of all listed species in aggregate

****NOTICE****
NOAA Fisheries has issued an **early closure** of August 5, 2008 for red snapper

Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council manages federal waters of Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone. Federal waters begin three to nine nautical miles offshore to 200 mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico. From Texas and Florida, federal waters begin nine nautical miles out, and from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama, federal waters begin three nautical miles out.

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

PART 600—MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT PROVISIONS
Subpart B—Regional Fishery Management Councils

§ 600.105 Intercouncil boundaries.

- (c) South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils. The boundary coincides with the line of demarcation between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, which begins at the intersection of the outer boundary of the EEZ, as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and 83° 00' W. long., proceeds northward along that meridian to 24° 35' N. lat., (near the Dry Tortugas Islands), thence eastward along that parallel, through Rebecca Shoal and the Quicksand Shoal, to the Marquesas Keys, and then through the Florida Keys to the mainland at the eastern end of Florida Bay, the line so running that the narrow waters within the Dry Tortugas Islands, the Marquesas Keys and the Florida Keys, and between the Florida Keys and the mainland, are within the Gulf of Mexico.

State Authority in Federal Waters

A state may regulate vessels that are registered in that state and fishing in federal waters for species for which there are no federal fishery management plans or applicable federal regulations, or for which the appropriate fishery management plan has delegated management of the state and the state rules are consistent with federal regulations.

Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

Bottom anchoring, the use of trawling gear, bottom longlines, buoy gear and all traps/pots are prohibited in the Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) listed below.

Pulley Ridge (Area closed to fishing)		
Position	North Latitude	West Longitude
A	24°58'18" N	83°37'33" W
B	24°58'18" N	83°37'00" W
C	24°41'11" N	83°37'00" W
D	24°40'00" N	83°41'22" W
E	24°43'55" N	83°47'15" W
A	24°58'18" N	83°38'33" W
McGrail Bank		
Position	North Latitude	West Longitude
A	27°59'06.0" N	92°37'19.2" W
B	27°59'06.0" N	92°32'17.4" W
C	27°55'55.5" N	92°32'17.4" W
D	27°55'55.5" N	92°37'19.2" W
A	27°59'06.0"N	92°37'19.2"W

The following locations are closed to all fishing. Anchoring of fishing vessels is also not allowed. The boundaries of the areas are as follows:

EEZ portion of Tortugas North—The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points: From point A at 24E40'00" N. lat., 83E06'00" W. long. to point B at 24E46'00" N. lat., 83E06'00" W. long. to point C at 24E46'00" N. lat., 83E00'00" W. long.; thence along the line denoting the seaward limit of Florida's waters to point A at 24E40'00" N. lat., 83E06'00" W. long.

Tortugas South—The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24E33'00"	83E09'00"
B	24E33'00"	83E05'00"
C	24E18'00"	83E05'00"
D	24E18'00"	83E09'00"
A	24E33'00"	83E09'00"

Recreational Fishing Regulations *continued*

- Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold.
- Stressed areas for reef fish begin at the shoreward boundary of federal waters and generally following the 10 fathom contour from the Dry Tortugas to Sanibel Island; the 20 fathom contour to Tarpon Springs; the 10 fathom contour to Cape San Blas; the 25 fathom contour to south of Mobile Bay; the 13 fathom contour to Ship Island, Mississippi; the 10 fathom contour off Louisiana; and the 30 fathom contour off Texas. Use of fish traps, roller trawls, and power heads is prohibited in designated "stressed areas."
- Reef fish gear is limited to no more than 3 hooks in a special management zone off Alabama. Nonconforming gear is restricted to bag limit, or for reef fish without a bag limit to 5% by weight of all fish aboard.
- Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required, along with venting tools and de-hooking devices when angling for reef fish because they reduce mortality on released fish.

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Groupers			
Black	22" total length	Feb. 15 to March 15 closed season for black, gag and red grouper	5 per person in aggregate of all groupers except goliath grouper and Nassau grouper.
Gag *	22" total length		
Red	20" total length		
Yellowfin	20" total length		
Scamp	16" total length		
Yellowmouth	None	**NOTICE** An interim rule effective January 1, 2009 reduces the gag bag limit to 2 fish and increases the closed season for gag from February 1—March 31. Additionally, federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing in state waters for red snapper, greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, and gag.	No more than 1 red grouper per person (counts as part of the 5 grouper aggregate bag limit).
Rock Hind	None		
Yellowedge	None		
Misty	None		
Snowy	None		
Red Hind	None		1 per vessel 1 per vessel
Speckled Hind	None		
Warsaw	None		

NOTE: For-hire captains and crew are prohibited from retaining bag limits of any grouper or red snapper while under charter.

Protected Groupers

Goliath (Jewfish) Nassau	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED
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Recreational Fishing Regulations *continued*

Other Reef fish

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Hogfish	12" fork length	None	5 per person
Gray Triggerfish	14" fork length As of 8/4/08	None	Included in 20 reef fish aggregate limit
Greater Amberjack	30" fork length As of 8/4/08	None	1 per person
Lesser Amberjack	14" – 22" fork length slot limit	None	5 fish aggregate limit for lesser amberjack and banded rudderfish, excluded from 20 reef fish aggregate limit
Banded Rudderfish	14" – 22" fork length slot limit	None	
Shellfish			
Stone Crab	Minimum 2 ¾" claw	5/16 – 10/14	See additional rules on page 9
Spiny Lobster	More than 3" carapace. Divers must measure in water.	4/1 – 8/5 There is a special 2 day, non-trap, recreational season, to be the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.	6 per person, no transfer at sea between boats (During the 2 day special recreational season, 12 per person off Florida, except 6 per person for Monroe County, Florida Keys.)

****NOTICE****
New size limits for Greater Amberjack and Gray Triggerfish as of 8/4/08. Greater Amberjack zero bag limit for captain and crew of charter boat/headboat

Reef Fish as Bait

Reef fish as bait, except sand perch or dwarf sand perch, is prohibited

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

The following locations off the west-central coast of Florida are closed to all fishing from November 1 to April 30.

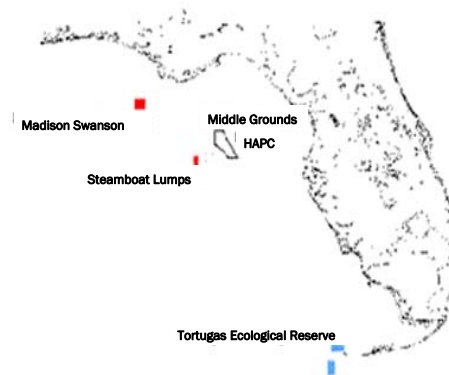
Surface trolling for species other than reef fish is allowed May 1 to October 31.

- Madison/Swanson Marine Reserve**

NW corner 29° 17' N. lat., 85° 50' W. long.
NE corner 29° 17' N. lat., 85° 38' W. long.
SW corner 29° 06' N. lat., 85° 50' W. long.
SE corner 29° 06' N. lat., 85° 38' W. long.

- Steamboat Lumps Marine Reserve**

NW corner 28° 14' N. lat., 84° 48' W. long.
NE corner 28° 14' N. lat., 84° 37' W. long.
SW corner 28° 03' N. lat., 84° 48' W. long.
SE corner 28° 03' N. lat., 84° 37' W. long.



Head and Fins Attached Rule

All fish except for bait and oceanic migratory species taken from federal waters must have heads and fins intact through landing. Up to 1½ pounds of finfish per person is exempt from the head and fins intact rule for personal consumption provided the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish.

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

West Flower Garden Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
W-1	27° 49'11.14" N	93° 50'45.83" W
W-2	27° 50'13.34" N	93° 52'11.04" W
W-3	27° 51'13.81" N	93° 52'52.20" W
W-4	27° 51'33.39" N	93° 52'51.24" W
W-5	27° 52'50.86" N	93° 52'25.34" W
W-6	27° 55'01.91" N	93° 49'44.25" W
W-7	27° 54'59.30" N	93° 48'38.11" W
W-8	27° 54'36.23" N	93° 47'10.91" W
W-9	27° 54'15.78" N	93° 46'49.85" W
W-10	27° 53'36.61" N	93° 46'51.82" W
W-11	27° 52'58.32" N	93° 47'15.82" W
W-12	27° 50'41.24" N	93° 47'22.70" W
W-13	27° 49'11.88" N	93° 48'43.28" W

Stetson Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
S-1	28° 09'31.03" N	94° 18'31.98" W
S-2	28° 10'10.20" N	94° 18'30.21" W
S-3	28° 10'07.84" N	94° 17'23.90" W
S-4	28° 09'28.66" N	94° 17'25.68" W

Recreational Fishing Regulations *continued*

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Coastal Migratory Pelagics			
Cobia (ling)	33" fork length	None	2 per person
King Mackerel	24" fork length	None	2 per person including captain and crew of for-hire vessels.
Spanish Mackerel	12" fork length	None	15 per person

Coral and Other Species

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Coral and Coral Reefs			
Allowable Octocorals	Attached substrate within 1 inch of octocoral is allowed.	Fishery season regulated by state of Florida rules.	6 colonies per day
Live Rock	Harvest and possession of live rock is prohibited (except for permitted aquaculture operations). Call 727-824-5763		
Other Marine Life Organisms	Marine life organisms from the EEZ harvested or possessed by Florida residents or landed in Florida are subject to Florida's Marine Life Rule. Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for more information at 850 487-3122.		
Other Species			
Red Drum	Illegal to harvest or possess in federal waters.		

Other Federal Regulations

Highly Migratory Species

All HMS species (except blackfin tuna) require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries. Permits are available by calling 888-872-8862 or visiting www.nmfspermits.com. No sale permitted for HMS species caught under an angling permit. Additional recreational reporting requirements apply for swordfish, billfish, and Atlantic bluefin tuna. For complete HMS regulations, contact the NOAA Fisheries HMS Management Division at 301-713-2347 or visit the web site at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/.

For updates on tuna quota monitoring and tuna retention limit adjustments, anglers may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at 888-872-8862 or 978-281-9305, or visit www.nmfspermits.com. For further information on tunas, contact the HMS Management Division located in Gloucester, Massachusetts at 978-281-9260. Recreational swordfish and billfish landings should be reported to 800-894-5528.

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Tuna			
Bluefin	27" curved fork length	Bag limits are subject to sub-quotas by size and permit categories, change seasonally, and are reduced to zero when sub-quotas are filled.	
Bigeye	27" curved	None	None
Yellowfin	27" fork length	None	3 per person
Albacore	None	None	None
Skipjack	None	None	None
Blackfin	None	None	None
Billfish Minimum size lower jaw to fork			
Blue Marlin	99" lower jaw	None	None
White Marlin	66" fork	None	None
Sailfish	63" length	None	None
Longbill spearfish	HARVEST PROHIBITED		
Swordfish	Whole fish: 47" lower jaw to tail fork, or 29" carcass length or 33 lbs. dressed weight.	None	1 per person up to a maximum of 3 per vessel.

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures *continued*

Injury to or Possession of Sanctuary Resources

The following activities are prohibited:

- Injuring or removing, or attempting to injure or remove, any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, marine invertebrate (e.g., spiny lobster, queen conch, shell, sea urchin), brine-seep biota or carbonate rock.
- Possessing within the Sanctuary (regardless of where collected, caught, harvested or removed), any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, or fish (except for fish caught by use of conventional hook and line gear).
- Placing or abandoning any structure, material or other matter on the seabed of the Sanctuary.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Boundary Coordinates (NAD 83) Updated February 8, 2007

East Flower Garden Bank Boundary Coordinates:		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
E-1	27° 52' 54.84" N	93° 37' 41.84" W
E-2	27° 53' 35.80" N	93° 38' 23.90" W
E-3	27° 55' 14.61" N	93° 38' 40.89" W
E-4	27° 57' 31.68" N	93° 38' 33.81" W
E-5	27° 58' 28.63" N	93° 37' 46.67" W
E-6	27° 59' 02.38" N	93° 35' 32.29" W
E-7	27° 59' 01.47" N	93° 35' 10.23" W
E-8	27° 55' 23.35" N	93° 34' 15.32" W
E-9	27° 54' 05.02" N	93° 34' 19.42" W
E-10	27° 53' 27.68" N	93° 35' 05.54" W
E-11	27° 52' 53.04" N	93° 36' 57.77" W

Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Phone: (409) 621-5151

Fax: (409) 621-1316

Email: flowergarden@noaa.gov

URL: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>

The following is an abbreviated summary of prohibited or otherwise regulated activities within the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary:

For full text of the regulations contact the Sanctuary office, or see: 15 CFR, Pt. 922, Subpart L, §922.122(a); 15 CFR, Pt. 922, Subpart A, §922.3

Fishing and Related Activities

The following activities are prohibited:

- Fishing by any means (e.g. *spear guns, powerheads, traps, longlines, nets*) **except** conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing, except while passing through the Sanctuary without interruption, any fishing gear, device, or equipment (e.g. *trawl gear, spearguns*) **except** conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing fish caught by any means **other** than conventional hook and line.
- Feeding fish.

Conventional hook and line gear means any fishing apparatus operated aboard a vessel and composed of a single line terminated by a combination of sinkers and hooks or lures and spooled upon a reel that may be hand or electrically operated, hand-held or mounted.

Anchoring and Mooring

The following activities are prohibited:

- Anchoring any vessel within the Sanctuary boundaries.
- Mooring a vessel over 100 feet in registered length on a Sanctuary mooring buoy.

Discharges

Discharging or depositing any material or other matter within the Sanctuary is prohibited, with the following exceptions:

- Fish, fish parts, chumming materials or bait used in, or resulting from, fishing with conventional hook and line gear.
- Biodegradable effluents incidental to vessel use and generated by an approved marine sanitation device.
- Water generated by routine vessel operations (e.g. *engine exhaust, cooling water, deck wash down, and gray water*), excluding oily wastes from bilge pumping.

Other Federal Regulations *continued*

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit
Sharks			
All sharks*	54" fork length	None	1 per vessel
* Exceptions:			
Atlantic sharpnose	None	None	1 per person
Bonnethead	None	None	1 per person

Prohibited Sharks-Recreational Harvest

Atlantic angel	Bigeye thresher	Bigeye sand tiger	Caribbean reef	Caribbean sharpnose
Bigeye sixgill	Basking	Bignose	Dusky	Sand tiger
Galapagos	Longfin mako	Narrowtooth	Night	White
Sevengill	Sixgill	Smalltail	Whale	

Additional Rules

Charter vessels/ headboat two-day bag limit allowance	Persons on qualified charter vessels or headboats with two captains for trips in excess of 24 hours may possess 2 days' bag limits of reef fish species, king mackerel and Spanish mackerel. One-day bag limits apply on all other species and trips regardless of length.
Stone Crab	Claws may not be removed from egg-bearing females. Illegal to land whole crab. Florida daily limit of claws is 1 gallon per person, 2 gallons per vessel.
Spiny Lobster	Removal of tail prohibited at sea. See commercial regulations for trap use. No spears, hooks, or piercing devices. No taking of spiny or slipper lobsters that are berried (egg-bearing).
Cobia (ling)	The 2-day bag limit allowance for charter vessels and headboats does not apply to cobia.
Allowable Octocorals	Allowable octocoral means an erect, nonencrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia, except the seafans <i>Gorgonia flabellum</i> and <i>G. ventalina</i> , plus the attached substrate within 1" of an allowable octocoral. NOTE: An octocoral with attached substrate exceeding 1" is considered to be live rock and not allowable octocoral.

Recreational Permit Requirements

Recreational Requirements	
Permit	Required for:
Charter vessel/headboat coastal pelagics permit	Charter vessel and headboats fishing for mackerels, cobia, little tunny, cero, dolphin, bluefish. NOTE: Issuance of new permits is under a moratorium effective June 16, 2003.
Charter vessel/headboat reef fish permit	Charter vessels and headboats require a reef fish permit when fishing for snappers, groupers, amberjack, tilefish, hogfish, and gray triggerfish. NOTE: Issuance of new permits is under a moratorium effective June 16, 2003
Allowable octocoral permit	Harvest or possession of allowable octocoral, other than allowable octocoral that is landed in Florida. Appropriate Florida state permits are required to land allowable octocoral in Florida.
Highly migratory species (HMS) Charter/headboat permit	HMS Charter/headboat permit is required for all charter or headboats that fish for or possess an HMS.
HMS Recreational Angling Permit	Owners of vessels used to fish recreationally for Atlantic HMS Atlantic tunas (other than blackfin), billfish, sharks and swordfish.

Applications for permits other than HMS permits may be obtained from National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (telephone 727-824-5326). HMS permits can be purchased online at www.nmfspermits.com or by calling 888-872-8862.

Measurement Guidelines

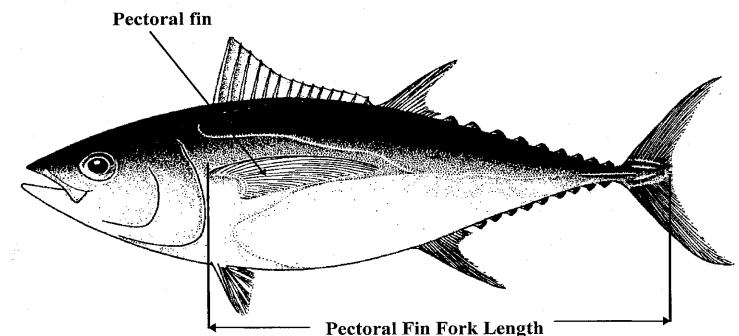
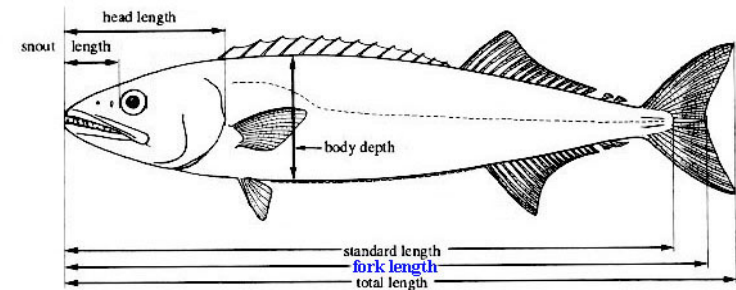
Fork length: the straight-line distance from the tip of the head (snout) to the rear center edge of the tail (caudal fin).

Total length: the straight-line distance from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (caudal fin), excluding any caudal filament, while the fish is lying on its side. The mouth of the fish may be closed and/or the tail may be squeezed together to give the greatest overall measurement.

Dressed weight: fish has been gutted and the head and fins removed, but is otherwise in whole condition.





















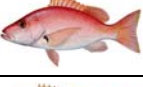



Curved fork length: the tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body.

Carcass length: the curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.



Identification Chart

Artwork © Diane Rome Peebles

Red Snapper		Black Grouper	
Vermilion Snapper		Gag Grouper	
Lane Snapper		Red Grouper	
Gray/Mangrove		Yellowmouth	
Cubera		Yellowfin	
Mahogany		Scamp	
Schoolmaster		Greater Amberjack	
Yellowtail Snapper		Lesser Amberjack	
Dog Snapper		Banded Rudderfish	
Mutton Snapper		Cobia (ling)	
Blackfin		Spanish Mackerel	
Silk Snapper		King Mackerel	

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Abbreviated Recreational Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters



Special Pull-Out Section



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607
Tel: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
Email: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org
Web site: www.gulfcouncil.org

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit	Remarks
Red Snapper	16" TL	Oct 1—May 31	2 per person	For-hire captain & crew prohibited from retaining bag limit
Vermilion Snapper	10" TL	**NOTICE** NOAA Fisheries has issued an <u>early closure</u> of August 5, 2008 for red snapper	Included in the 20 reef fish aggregate*	*Also included in the 20 reef fish aggregate are: all tilefish, Almaco Jack, and Gray Triggerfish
Lane Snapper	8" TL			
Gray/Mangrove, Cubera, Mahogany, Schoolmaster, Yellowtail Snapper, Dog	12" TL		10 per person in Snapper aggregate. Exceptions are red, vermilion, and lane	**NOTICE** An interim rule effective January 1, 2009 reduces the gag bag limit to 2 fish and increases the closed season for gag from February 1—March 31. Additionally, federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations with fishing in state waters for red snapper, greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, and gag.
Mutton Snapper	16" TL			
Blackfin, Silk, Queen and Wenchman	None			
Black Grouper	22" TL		February 15—March 15 annual closure	
Gag Grouper *	22" TL			
Red Grouper	20" TL			
Yellowfin	20" TL	None		
Scamp	16" TL			
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Yellowedge,	None			
Misty, Snowy, Red Hind,				
Speckled Hind, Warsaw			1 per vessel	
Goliath, and Nassau	HARVEST PROHIBITED			
Hogfish	12" FL	**NOTICE** New size limits for Greater Amberjack and Gray Triggerfish as of 8/4/08. Greater Amberjack zero bag limit for captain and crew of charter boat/headboat	5 per person	
Gray Triggerfish	14" FL		Included in the 20 reef fish aggregate	
Greater Amberjack	30" FL		1 per person	
Lesser Amberjack	14" - 22" FL Slot limit		5 fish aggregate-excluded from the 20 reef fish aggregate	
Banded Rudderfish				
Stone Crab	Min 2 ¾" claw	5/16—10/14	Florida daily limit of claws is 1 gallon per person, 2 gallons per vessel.	
Spiny Lobster	More than 3" carapace measured in water	4/1—8/5 2-day special non-trap mini-season—last Wed & Thurs in July	Removal of tail prohibited at sea. No spears, hooks or piercing devices. No taking of egg-bearing females.	
Cobia (ling)	33" FL	None	2 per person	
Spanish Mackerel	12" FL		15 per person	
King Mackerel	24" FL		2 per person including for-hire captain & crew	