

RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS - as of October 1997

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
SHELLFISH			
Stone Crab	Minimum 2 3/4" claw	5/16 - 10/14	
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/person, and no transfer at sea between boats. (During the 2-day special recreational season, 12/person off Florida except 6/person for Monroe County - Florida Keys)
COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS			
Cobia (ling)	Minimum 33" fork length	none	2/person
King Mackerel	Minimum 20" fork length	none	2/person for all vessels.
Spanish Mackerel	Minimum 12" fork length	none	Same as state limit but not to exceed 10/person.*
REEF FISH			
<u>Snappers</u>			
Red Snapper	15" total length (16" total length eff. 1/1/98)	Season closes when recreational quota is projected to be reached.	5/person
Vermilion Lane	10" total length 8" total length	none none	No limit. No limit.
Gray	12" total length	none	
Mutton	12" total length	none	
Yellowtail	12" total length	none	
Queen	none	none	
Schoolmaster	none	none	
Blackfin	none	none	
Cubera	none	none	
Dog	none	none	
Mahogany	none	none	
Silk	none	none	
Wenchman	none	none	
<u>Groupers</u>			
Red	20" total length	none	
Yellowfin	20" total length	none	
Black	20" total length	none	
Gag	20" total length	none	
Scamp	none	none	
Yellowmouth	none	none	
Rock Hind	none	none	
Red Hind	none	none	
Speckled Hind	none	none	
Misty	none	none	
Snowy	none	none	
Yellowedge	none	none	
Warsaw	none	none	
<u>Protected Groupers</u>			
Jewfish	Harvest prohibited		
Nassau grouper	Harvest prohibited		
Greater Amberjack	(recreational) 28" fork length	none	1/person
<u>Aggregate Reef Fish Bag Limit Species</u>			
Vermilion Snapper	8" total length	none	20/person of all listed species in aggregate (i.e., all reef fish species not otherwise subject to a bag limit).
Lane Snapper	8" total length	none	
*Black Sea Bass	8" total length	none	
Lesser Amberjack	*White Grunt	*Bank Sea Bass	*Hogfish
Almaco Jack	*Tomtate	*Rock Sea Bass	
Banded Rudderfish	*Pigfish	Goldface Tilefish	
*Red Porgy	*Dwarf Sand Perch	Blackline Tilefish	
*Grass Porgy	*Sand Perch	Anchor Tilefish	
*Jolthead Porgy	Gray Triggerfish	Blueline Tilefish	
*Knobbed Porgy	*Queen Triggerfish	Tilefish	
*Littlehead Porgy			
*Pinfish			
OTHER SPECIES			
Red Drum	Harvest prohibited in federal waters.		

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HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES			
Tuna Bluefin	<u>Size Categories</u> school - 27" to <47" CFL large school - 47" to <59" CFL small medium - 59" to <73" CFL large medium - 73" to <81" CFL giant - 81" + CFL curved fork length - see below	Bag limits are subject to sub-quotas by size and permit categories, change seasonally, and are reduced to zero when sub-quotas are filled. Telephone the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Management Division's toll-free 24 hour information line for updates on bag limits and quotas: 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888- 872-8862).	
Bigeye Yellowfin	27" CFL 27" CFL	none none	none none
Albacore Skipjack Blackfin Atlantic Bonito	none none none none	none none none none	none none none none
Billfish	Minimum size lower jaw to tail fork 86" 62" 57" none		
Blue Marlin White Marlin Sailfish Longbill spearfish		none none none none	none none none none
Swordfish	29" carcass length or 33 lbs. dressed weight	none	none
SHARKS Atlantic sharpnose other sharks	none none	none none	2/person 2/vessel in aggregate
Protected Sharks Basking shark White shark Bigeye sand tiger Sand tiger Whale shark	Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited		
CORAL AND CORAL REEFS			
Allowable Octocorals	Attached substrate within 1 inch of octocoral is allowed.	Season closes when quota of 50,000 colonies is reached	6 colonies per day
Live Rock	Harvest and possession of live rock is prohibited (except for permitted aquaculture operations).		
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 Florida Marine Fisheries Commission for more information.		
ADDITIONAL REMARKS:	Persons on qualified charter or headboat trips in excess of 24 hours may possess 2 days' bag limits of reef fish species, king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.		
Stone Crab	Claws may not be removed from egg-bearing females. Illegal to land whole crab. Measures apply off Florida's west coast and the Keys		
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 <u>does not apply</u> to cobia		
Red snapper	Red snapper have a recreational quota of 4.47 million pounds, and the red snapper fishery will close when the recreational quota is projected to be reached.		
Allowable Octocorals	Allowable octocoral means an erect, nonencrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia, except the seafans Gorgia flabellum and G. ventralina, plus the attached substrate within 1 inch of an allowable octocoral. Note: An octocoral with attached substrate exceeding 1 inch is considered to be live rock and not allowable octocoral.		
Tuna - Bluefin	Tuna permit holders are required to report by telephone all recreationally caught bluefin tuna. Call 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) and select the catch reporting option. For information about fishing under the NMFS tag and release program when bag limits are closed, call 1-800-437-3936.		
Tuna - others	All tunas must be landed in round or eviscerated form with one pectoral fin intact. Head removal allowed. Caudal fin must be intact on bluefin.		
Billfish	No retention unless taken by rod and reel. Sale prohibited. Head, fins and bill must be intact through landing.		
Swordfish	dressed = gutted, headed and finned.		
Sharks	Dogfish are not included in the shark limits. See commercial regulations for complete list of sharks under management. Sale prohibited without permit; sharks not retained must be released uninjured. Limits allowed in both groups. Illegal to remove the fins and return remainder of shark to sea.		
Fork length: Curved fork length: Carcass length: Total length:	Tip of snout to fork of tail]] Tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body Curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel Tip of snout to tip of tail		