

# Saltwater Regulations

## *FINFISH*

For freshwater finfish species caught in the public salt waters of this state, statewide bag, possession and length limits as listed on pages 37-41 apply.

## *TEXAS STATE WATERS FEDERAL WATERS*

Texas recreational and commercial fishermen fishing more than nine (9) miles off the coast of Texas are in federal waters and are subject to rules and regulations that may differ from those in state waters. To ensure that you are in compliance with federal regulations, you should contact the National Marine Fisheries Service office at 813-570-5326 or the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at 813-228-2815.

## BAG, POSSESSION AND LENGTH LIMITS

Daily bag is the quantity of a species of a wildlife resource that may be taken in one day.

- Possession limit is twice the daily bag on game and non-game fish except as provided in this guide.
- Possession limit does not apply to wildlife resources in the possession of or stored by a person at their permanent residence or in cold storage.
- There are no bag, possession or length limits on game or non-game fish except as listed in this guide.

Species in Inches	Daily Bag	Length
<b>(Minimum--Maximum)</b>		
Amberjack, greater	1	32--No limit
Bass: striped, its hybrids & subspecies	5 (in any combination)	18--No limit
Catfish: channel & blue catfish, their hybrids & subspecies	25 (in any combination)	12--No limit
Catfish, flathead	5	18--No limit
Catfish, gafftopsail	No limit	14--No limit
Cobia	2	37--No limit
Drum, black	5	14--30
Drum, red (see <a href="#">a</a> )	3	20--28 ( <a href="#">a</a> )
Flounder: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	10 (in any combination)	14--No limit
Jewfish	0	Catch and release only
Mackerel, king	2	23--No limit
Mackerel, Spanish	7	14--No limit

Marlin, blue	No limit	114--No limit
Marlin, white	No limit	81--No limit
Mullet: all species, their hybrids & subspecies (see)	No limit (during Oct, Nov, Dec and Jan)	No limit--12
Sailfish	No limit	76--No limit
Seatrout, spotted	10	15--No limit
Shark: all species, their hybrids & subspecies	5 (in any combination)	No limit-- No limit
Sheepshead	5	12--No limit
Snapper, lane	No limit	8--No limit
Snapper, red	5	15--No limit
Snapper, vermilion	No limit	8--No limit
Snook	1	24--28
Tarpon (see <a href="#">c</a> )	0	Catch and release only

a Red drum special regulation: During a license year, one red drum over the stated maximum length limit may be retained when affixed with a properly executed Red Drum Tag and one red drum over the stated maximum length limit may be retained when affixed with a properly executed Bonus Red Drum Tag. Any fish retained under authority of a Red Drum Tag or a Bonus Red Drum Tag shall be counted in addition to the daily bag and possession limit as stated in this section.

b 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.

c Tarpon special regulation: One tarpon 80 inches or larger in length may be retained during a license year when affixed with a properly executed Tarpon Tag.