

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 PELAGIC			
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 Mutton Yellowtail Queen Schoolmaster Blackfin Cubera Dog Mahogany Silk Wenchman	12" total length 12" total length 12" total length none none none none none none none none none none none	none none none none none none none none none none none none none	10/person in Aggregate (includes all snappers except red, vermillion and lane).
<u>Groupers</u> Red Yellowfin Black Gag Scamp Yellowmouth Rock Hind Red Hind Speckled Hind Misty Snowy Yellowedge Warsaw	20" total length 20" total length 20" total length 20" total length none none none none none none none none none none none none none none	none none none none none none none none none none none none none none none none	5/person in aggregate of all groupers
<u>Protected Groupers</u> Jewfish Nassau grouper	Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited		
Greater Amberjack	(recreational) 28" fork length	none	1/person
<u>Aggregate Reef Fish Bag Limit Species</u> Vermilion Snapper Lane Snapper *Black Sea Bass	8" total length 8" total length 8" total length	none none none	20/person of all listed species in aggregate (i.e., all reef fish species not otherwise subject to a bag limit). (* Note: the Gulf Council has proposed removing sea basses, grunts and porgies from federal management, and removing from the aggregate reef fish bag limit those species that are listed in the fishery but not in the management unit. If approved, the species marked by an asterisk would no longer be subject to the aggregate reef fish bag limit. These proposals are under review by NMFS.)
Lesser Amberjack Almaco Jack Banded Rudderfish *Red Porgy *Grass Porgy *Jolthead Porgy *Knobbed Porgy *Littlehead Porgy *Pinfish	*White Grunt *Tomtate *Pigfish *Dwarf Sand Perch *Sand Perch Gray Triggerfish *Queen Triggerfish	*Bank Sea Bass *Rock Sea Bass Goldface Tilefish Blackline Tilefish Anchor Tilefish Blueline Tilefish Tilefish	*Hogfish
OTHER SPECIES			
Red Drum	Harvest prohibited in federal waters.		

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
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
<u>Billfish</u>	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
<u>SHARKS</u> Atlantic sharpnose other sharks	none none	none none	2/person 2/vessel in aggregate
<u>Protected Sharks</u> 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</u> apply 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. ventalina, 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:

Tip of snout to fork of tail]]

Curved fork length:

Tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body

Carcass length:

Curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel

Total length:

Tip of snout to tip of tail

RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS - as of October 1997

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
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
<u>Billfish</u>	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
<u>SHARKS</u> Atlantic sharpnose other sharks	none none	none none	2/person 2/vessel in aggregate
<u>Protected Sharks</u> 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 to cobia</u>
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 saafans Gorgia flabellum and G. ventalina, 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:

Tip of snout to fork of tail]]

Curved fork length:

Tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body

Carcass length:

Curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel

Total length:

Tip of snout to tip of tail