

**GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES
COMMISSION**

**Rules and Regulations:
Officers' Pocket Guide
2012-2013**



June 2012

GSMFC No. 204

Quick Contact References

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

24 Hour Communications

(888) 404-3922

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Marine Resources Division

M-F **(251) 861-2882** or **(251) 968-7576**

24-Hour Contact Number

(251) 476-1256

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Marine Patrol

(800) 294-5551 or **(228) 523-4134**

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Enforcement

(800) 442-2511 or **(225) 765-2440**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

General Information (Mon-Fri 8-5)

(800) 792-1112

Operation Game Thief

(800) 792-4263

24 hour communications

(512) 389-4848 (Austin)

(281) 842-8100 (Houston)

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

24 Hour Hotline

(800) 853-1964

United States Coast Guard

National Command Center (Emergencies ONLY)

(800) DAD-SAFE

LA, New Orleans District Eight Command Center

(504) 589-6225

LA, New Orleans Sector Command Center

(504) 846-6160

AL, Mobile Sector Command Center

(251) 441-6211

FL, St. Petersburg Sector Command Center

(727) 824-7527

TX, Corpus Christi Sector Command Center

(361) 939-6393

TX, Houston-Galveston Sector Command Center

(713) 678-9057

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FLORIDA

Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Ballyhoo (halfbeaks, balao, and silver stripe halfbeaks)	No size limit	Dependent on method of harvest and gear
Black Drum	14 - 24 TL	500 lbs/person/day or 500 lbs/vessel/day
Blue Crab	5 total width	
Bluefish	12 FL Size limit applies to sale of fish.	No limit.
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2/person/day, maximum of 6/vessel
Dolphin	20 FL	Directed harvest - None Incidental bycatch – 10/person (Permit required)
Flounder - Gulf, southern, summer, fringed	12 TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs
Groupers		
Goliath/Nassau Warsaw/Speckled Hind Snowy	Prohibited	Prohibited
Gag/Black	24 TL	Vessel trip limit is 6,000 lbs from Jan.1-closed
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Red	20 TL	
Yellowmouth	No size limit	
Rock Hind/Red Hind		
Yellowedge/Misty		
Coney/Graysby/Tiger		
Golden Tilefish	No size limit	No limit
Tilefish, all other	No size limit	440,000 lbs gutted weight
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	No Limit
Herring (blueback and river herring)	No size limit	No Limit
Hogfish	12 FL	No Limit
Horseshoe Crab	No size limit	25/person/day (100/person/day w/ ML# or eel Permit)
Almaco jack	No size limit	No Limit/Mar, Apr, May- no comm. harvest
Banded Rudderfish Lesser Amberjack	14 – 22 FL	No Limit/Mar, Apr, May- no comm. harvest
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	No Limit/Mar, Apr, May- no comm. harvest
Lobster, Slipper	No size limit	No Limit - Possession of eggbearing lobster prohibited
Lobster, Spiny	3 carapace (head) 5½ tail	Trap fishery - No Limit Bully Net- 250/vessel Dive Fishery – Regional (250) Permit required

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Mackerel, King	24 FL	July 1 until vessel limit reduced to 500 lbs - 1,250 lbs daily vessel From date of reduction until EEZ closes - 500 lbs daily vessel From date of EEZ closure til June 30 – no take
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	April 1 til EEZ closure - no limit from EEZ closure until March 31 - 500 lbs daily vessel
Mullet, Silver (white, fantail, or redeye)	No size limit	Only allowed within 3 mile line July 1 thru Jan. 31 (weekend closure) 12:01am Sat. to 12:01 am Mon.
Mullet, Striped (black)	11 FL w/ a 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish	Only allowed within 3 mile line Season broadly Oct thru Feb but determined on regional basis
Oysters	3 in greatest dimension.	20 bags/person/day or 20/vessel/day Additional regional limits and restrictions apply
Permit	11 - 20 FL	No Limit
Pompano	11 - 20 FL	250/person/day or 250/vessel/day except for persons holding a Pompano Endorsement
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person/day or 2/vessel/day
Scallops, Calico	No size limit	250 individual meats per 11lb sample
Shad (Alabama, American, hickory)	No size limit	10/person/day
Sharks	No size limit	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day Permit required
Sheepshead	12 TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs
Shrimp (Brown, Pinkspotted, Pink, White, Roughneck, Roughback, Seabob)	No size limit	Food Shrimp - Regional. Live Shrimp -5 gallons dead shrimp, heads on, except in NE Region, 1 gallon
Snappers		
Red	13 TL	2/person/day
Mutton	16 TL	May and June only 10/person/day or 10/vessel/day

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Vermilion	10 TL	No Limit
Lane	8 TL	
Gray	12 TL	
Yellowtail/Dog/Mahogany	12 TL	
Schoolmaster	10 TL	
Blackfin/Silk/Queen	12 TL	
Black. Wenchman	No size limit	
Cubera	12 - 30 TL only 2 >30 TL	>30 - 2/person/day or 2/vessel/day
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 24 TL	75/person/day or 75/vessel/day
Stone Crab	2 3/4 claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons
Swordfish	47 LJFL, 29 cleithrum to keel, or 33 lbs dressed	No Limit Permit required
Triggerfish, Gray	14 FL	No Limit
Triggerfish, Ocean	No size limit	No Limit
Tripletail	15 TL	10/person/ day or 10/vessel/day Permit required (Incidental bycatch 2/person/day or 2/vessel/day)
Wahoo	No size limit	500 lb. Commercial Daily Limit Permit required
Weakfish (gray seatrout or yellow-mouth trout)	12 TL	No Limit

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit and a NMFS-approved observer on board.

FLORIDA

Recreational Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Amberjack, Greater	30 FL	1/person/day	
Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish	14 – 22 FL	5 in aggregate	
Blue Marlin	99 FL	1/person/day in aggregate	
White Marlin	66 FL		
Sailfish	63 FL		
Black Drum	14 – 24 TL (one over 24)	5/person/day	
Bluefish	12 FL	10/person/day	
Bonefish	N/A	NO Harvest Allowed	
Cobia	33 FL	1/person/day, 6/vessel/day	
Crab, Blue	No Size Limit	10 gallons whole/person/day	
Crab, Stone	2¾ Claw	1 gallon/person or 2 gallon/vessel	
Spiny Lobster	>3 inch carapace	6/person/day Regular Season, 6 or 12/person/day (depending on location) Sport Season	
Dolphin	No Size Limit	10/person/day, 60/vessel/day	
Flounder	12 TL	10/person/day	
Gag Grouper * for purpose of grouper regulations, Gulf does not include Monroe County	22 TL	2/person/day	4/person/day grouper aggregate
Black Grouper			
Red Grouper	20 TL		
Yellowfin & Yellowmouth Grouper	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Warsaw & Speckled Hind	No size limit	1/vessel/day of each	
Snowy Grouper	No size limit		
Other Groupers			
Golden Tilefish			
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person/day	
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person/day	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person/day	
Mullet, Striped & Silver	No size limit	50 person/day, Vessel limit 50 or 100 depending on season	
Pompano	11 FL	6/person/day	
Permit (in SPZ)	22 FL	1/person/day, 2/vessel/day	
Permit (not in SPZ)	11-22 FL	2/person/day (one over 22/person and 2/vessel)	
Pompano, African	24 FL	2/person or vessel/day	

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION	
Red Drum	18 - 27 TL	1/person/day South Region 2/person/day NW and NE	
Black Sea Bass	10 TL	None	
Shad	No size limit	10 aggregate/person/day	
Shark (Non-Prohibited Species)	54 FL for most species, others have no size limit	1/person/day or 2/vessel/day	
Shark (Prohibited Species)	NA	Prohibited	
Sheepshead	12 TL	15/person/day	
Shrimp	No size limit	5 gallons/person/day or 5 gallons/vessel/day	
Snapper, Black & Wenchman	No size limit		10/person/day Aggregate snapper bag limit applies unless otherwise noted
Snapper, Cubera	12 – 30 TL	10/person/day, and 2/person or vessel over 30”not included in aggregate	
Snapper, Gray	10 TL	5/person/day	
Snapper, Lane	8 TL	No bag limit	
Snapper, Mutton	16 TL	10/person/day	
Snapper, Red	16 TL	2 /person/day	
Snapper, Schoolmaster	10 TL	10/person/day	
Snapper, Vermilion	10 TL	10/person/day (not included in aggregate bag limit)	
Snapper, Others	12 TL	10/person/day	
Snook	28 – 33 TL	1/person/day Permit required	
Spotted Seatrout	15 - 20 TL (one over 20”)	4/person/day SW, SE region 5/person/day NW region 6/person/day NE region	
Swordfish	47 LJFL, 29 cleithrum to keel	1/person/day or 4/vessel/day	
Tarpon	No size limit	2 fish possession Requires Tarpon Tag	
Triggerfish, Gray	14 FL	No limit	
Tripletail	15 TL	2/person/day	
Wahoo	No size limit	2/person/day	
Weakfish	12 TL	1/person/day within Weakfish Management Area	

ALABAMA

Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	COMMERCIAL POSSESSION
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2
Sheepshead	12 FL	No Bag Limit
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	No Bag Limit
Gag Grouper	24 TL	Permit Required IFQ
Red Grouper	18 TL	
Black Grouper	22 TL	
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Striped Bass	16 TL	No Commercial Retention
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	No Bag Limit
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Snapper	12 TL	
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Flounder	12 TL	No Bag Limit
King Mackerel	24 FL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	
Mullet	No Size Limit	No bag limit Jan 1- Oct 23, from October 24 - December 31, the possession limit on Mullet caught by snagging is 25/boat/day or 25/person/day from the shore
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	No Size Limit	Alabama waters close to the harvest of all Sharks when the Federal Shark Fishery Management quotas for Small Coastal Sharks and Large Coastal Sharks are reached
All other Sharks	No Size Limit	

Commercially Prohibited Species: Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta., Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit and a NMFS-approved observer on board.

ALABAMA

Recreational Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	10/person	
Red Drum	16 – 26 TL	3/person - 1 oversized fish allowed in the 3 fish creel limit	
Sheepshead	12 FL	10/person	
Cobia (Ling)	33 FL	2/person	
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person	
Spanish Mackerel	No size limit	15/person	
Florida Pompano	12 TL	3/person	
Gag Grouper	22 TL	4/person in aggregate	4 fish Grouper aggregate
Red Grouper	20 TL	4/person in aggregate	
Black Grouper	22 TL		
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL		
Scamp	16 TL		
Greater Amberjack	30 FL	1/person	
Striped Bass	16 TL	2/person	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	20 fish aggregate for reef fish species for which there is no other bag limit	
Vermillon Snapper (Beeliner)	10 TL		
Lane	8 TL		
Flounder	12 TL	10/person	
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3 per person	
Lesser Amberjack	14 - 22 FL	20 fish aggregate for reef fish species for which there is no other bag limit	
Banded Rudderfish			
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	No Creel Limit	
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL		
Red Snapper	16 TL	2 per person	
Gray Snapper (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	1 per person per day	
Bonnethead	None		
Other Shark Species	54 FL		

Recreationally Prohibited Species: Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta., Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

MISSISSIPPI

Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia ¹	33 FL	2
Mullet	10 TL	No Limit
Flounder	12 TL	Quota
Red Drum ²	18 - 30 TL	Quota ²
Spotted Seatrout	14 TL	Quota
King Mackerel	24 FL	3000 lbs
Spanish Mackerel	14 FL	No Limit
Goliath Grouper	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nassau Grouper		
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Red Grouper	18 TL	No Limit
Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Black Grouper	24 TL	
Gag Grouper	22 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Snapper	13 TL	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Federal Permit ³
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snapper	12 TL	
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	
Hogfish	12 FL	
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	
Bluefin Tuna	Prohibited	Prohibited
Blue Marlin		
White Marlin		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW ⁴	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Limit	

¹ It is illegal to sell cobia caught in MS territorial waters or landed in MS.

² Commercial fishermen may retain one red drum over 30" TL.

³ Fishermen must possess federal permits or licenses required by NOAA Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan.

⁴ Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

Commercially Prohibited Sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, Silky, and White.

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit and a NMFS-approved observer on board.

MISSISSIPPI

Recreational Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Cobia	33 FL	2
Flounder	12 TL	15
Red Drum ¹	18 - 30 TL	3 ¹
Spotted Seatrout	13 TL	15
King Mackerel	24 FL	2
Spanish Mackerel	No Size Limit	15
Red Snapper	16 TL	2
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	20 in aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 TL	
Almaco Jack	No Size Limit	
Tilefish		
Goliath Grouper (Jewfish) ²	Prohibited	Prohibited
Nassau Grouper ²		
Triple Tail (Blackfish)	18 TL	3
Warsaw Grouper	No Size Limit	1/vessel within 4 fish aggregate
Red & Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	4 in aggregate
Black Grouper	22 TL	4 in aggregate
Gag Grouper	22 TL	2 within 4 fish aggregate
Scamp	16 TL	4 in aggregate
Other Groupers	No Size Limit	4 in aggregate
Speckled Hind		
Gray, Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, & Yellowtail Snappers	12 TL	10 in aggregate
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk & Wenchman Snapper	No Size Limit	
Tilefish	No Size Limit	
Greater Amberjack	30 FL	
Lesser Amberjack & Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL	5 in aggregate
Hogfish	12 TL	5
Bigeye Tuna	27 CFL	No Limit
Yellowfin Tuna	27 CFL	3
Blue Marlin	99 lower jaw FL	No Limit
White Marlin	66 lower jaw FL	
Sailfish	63 lower jaw FL	
Longbill Spearfish	Prohibited	Prohibited
Sharks - Large Coastals	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Pelagic	37 TL	1 up to 3/vessel
Sharks - Small Coastals	25 TL	4

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	NUMBER OF FISH BAG/POSSESSION
Crabs - Hard Shells	5 TW ²	No Limit
Crabs - Soft Shell	No Size Limit	No Limit

¹Recreational fishermen may retain one red drum over 30" TL.

²Measured from tips of lateral spines across back of shell.

Retention of Federally prohibited species is not allowed by state ordinance and Federal law.

Recreationally Prohibited Sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White. Also Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta.

LOUISIANA

Commercial Size and Possession Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	Permit required
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person
Drum, Black	16 TL	Quota: 16-27 – 3,250,000 lbs >27 – 300,000 fish
Crab, Blue	5 CW*	Possession of egg bearing females prohibited
Crab, Stone	2 ¾ CL**	Both claws may be removed but crab must be returned to the waters in which they were taken
Flounder, Southern	None	10/person/day (Does not apply to shrimp boats)
Mackerel, King	24 FL	3,000 lb/trip Federal quota
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	Federal quota
Mullet, Striped		Permit required
Pompano		Permit required (Permit only applies for fishing strike nets in Chandeleur/ Breton Sound during open season)
Shrimp, White	100 count per pound	No size limit from Oct 15 through the third Monday in December
Seabass, Black	8 TL	Federal permit required
Seatrout, Spotted	14 TL	Quota: 1 mil lbs (Commercial Rod & Reel only)
Sheepshead	10 TL	
Amberjack, Greater	36 TL	Federal Regulations Apply
Amberjack, Lesser Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	
Hogfish	12 FL	
Triggerfish, Grey	14 FL	
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman, Almaco Jack, Dwarf Sandperch, Sandperch	None	
Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline	None	Tilefish IFQ

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS/QUOTA
Gag	22 TL	Shallow-Water Grouper IFQ
Black	24 TL	
Red	18 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Rock Hind, Red Hind	None	
Misty, Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None	Deep-Water Grouper IFQ
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit and IFQ required
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany, Yellowtail, Gray Snappers	12 TL	None
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Atlantic Bluefin	73 CFL	
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply. No directed fishery for Bluefin. Allowed only as undirected bycatch while in possession of a permit
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	
Sharks – Large Coastal	None	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply
Sharks – Small Coastal		
Sharks - Pelagic		

*(CW) Carapace Length. Does not apply to premolt crabs held in a separate container marked “peelers” or “busters”.

** (CL) Claw Length. Measured from the immovable anterior-most tip of the claw to the base of the joint.

Sailfish, Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Striped Marlin, Hatchet Marlin, White Marlin, and Red Drum are game fish in Louisiana and may not be commercially harvested, sold, bartered, traded, or exchanged.

Louisiana’s Shark regulations are the same as Federal except for closed season April, May and June in state waters. Shark may be taken in the EEZ during closed LA season while in possession of a federal permit.

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks MUST have a valid research permit and a NMFS-approved observer on board.

LOUISIANA

Recreational Size and Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Marlin, Blue*	99 LJFL	None
Marlin, White*	66 LJFL	
Sailfish*	63 LJFL	
Swordfish*	47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length or 33 lbs dressed weight	5/vessel/trip
Cobia (Ling or Lemonfish)	33 FL	2/person/day
Drum, Black	16 TL	5/person bag and possession. May retain 1 over 27 TL
Drum, Red	16 TL	5/person bag. May retain 1 over 27 TL (Two-day bag limits allowed in possession off the water)
Crab, Blue	None (no egg bearing females)	12 dozen per person per day except on State Refuges and WMAs where the limit is 12 dozen per boat or vehicle
Crab, Stone	None	None
Flounder, Southern	None	10/person/day for each consecutive day on the water
Mackerel, King	24 FL	2/person/day (Two-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)
Mackerel, Spanish	12 FL	15/person/day (Two-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats)
Mullet, Striped		100 lbs/person/day
Seabass, Black	8 TL	
Seatrout, Spotted	12 TL	25/person bag (15 fish/person and no more than 2 fish over 25 TL in specified waters of Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes in SW Louisiana)
REEF FISH		Reef fish possession - Two-day possession limit on multi-day trips on charter or head boats
Amberjack, Greater	30 FL	1/person/day
Amberjack, Lesser Rudderfish, Banded	14 - 22 FL slot	5/person/day in aggregate

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person/day
Gag, Black	22 TL	5/person/day in aggregate all Groupers - one Speckled Hind and one Warsaw Grouper/vessel - one Red Grouper/person - 5 Gag /person Closed season for Black and Red Feb 15 - Mar 14 Closed season for Gag Feb 1 – March 14
Red, Yellowfin Grouper	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Red Hind, Rock Hind, Speckled Hind, Misty Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper, Yellowmouth Grouper, Warsaw	None	
Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper	Take Prohibited	Take Prohibited
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person/day (Charter boat captain and crew bag limit is zero for all of these species)
Schoolmaster, Cubera, Mahogany, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray Snapper	12 TL	10/person/day in aggregate (all Snapper except Red, Vermilion, and Lane)
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Queen Snapper, Blackfin Snapper, Silk Snapper, Wenchman	None	Included in 10 fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Included in 20 fish aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	
Almaco Jack, Goldface Tilefish, Tilefish, Blackline Tilefish, Anchor Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead	None	1/person/day (each species)
Sharks other than Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead (not Prohibited)	54 FL	Aggregate 1/vessel/trip and in possession

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT	BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
Tunas*		
Bluefin	73 CFL	One per vessel per year with federal angling permit. No directed fishing allowed.
Yellowfin	27 CFL	3/person
Bigeye	27 CFL	None

*All HMS species (except blackfin tuna) require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries

Prohibited Fish: Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Smalltooth Sawfish, and Largetooth Sawfish

Prohibited Sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

TEXAS

Commercial Bag and Length Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT
Amberjack, Greater	34	1/person and 2 possession
Drum, Black	14 -30 slot	No Limit with commercial finfish fisherman's license
Catfish: Blue & Channel	14	25/person in any combination 50 possession (50/person in Lake Livingston)
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14	No Limit
Cobia	37	2/person and 4 possession
Flounder: all species, their hybrids, and subspecies	14	30/person with commercial finfish license 5/licensed shrimp boat captain November pole and line only and limit 2
Mackerel, King	27	2/person and 4 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14	15/person and 30 possession
Mullet: all species their hybrids & subspecies	No Limit (Feb – Sept) 12 maximum (Oct – Jan)	No Limit
Snapper, Lane	8	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15	4/person and 8 possession (circle hook and line only)
Snapper, Vermilion	10	No Limit
Shark: All species, their hybrids & subspecies	64	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, and Bonnethead	24	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	15	No Limit with commercial finfish license
Tripletail	17	3/person and 6 possession
Gag Grouper	22	2/person and 4 possession
Triggerfish	16	20/person and 40 possession

Commercially Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

Note: All measurements are in Total Length not Fork Length

TEXAS

Recreational Bag and Length Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH IN INCHES	DAILY BAG
Amberjack, Greater	34	1/person and 2 possession
Bass: Striped, its hybrids and subspecies	18	5 in any combination/person 10 possession
Catfish: Channel and Blue Catfish, their hybrids and subspecies	12	25 in any combination/person 50 possession
Catfish, Flathead	18	5/person and 10 possession
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14	No limit
Cobia	37	2/person and 4/possession
Drum, Black	14 - 30 slot	5/person and 10 possession May include one over 52 inches
Drum, Red	20 - 28 slot	3/person and 6/possession May retain one additional red drum over 28" with affixed Red Drum Tag
Flounder: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	14	5/person total (Jan-Oct, Dec), 2/person pole & line only (Nov) Possession is daily bag
Grouper, Goliath (formerly Jewfish)	Catch and release only	0
Mackerel, King	27	2/person and 4 possession
Mackerel, Spanish	14	15/person and 30 possession
Marlin, Blue	131	No Limit
Marlin, White	86	
Sailfish	84	
Mullet: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	No Limit 12 maximum (Oct-Jan)	No Limit
Seatrout, Spotted	15 – 25 slot	10/person statewide 5/person in Lower Laguna Madre 1 fish may be retained over maximum
Shark: all species, their hybrids and subspecies	64	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited (prohibited are catch and release only)
Shark: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacktip, and Bonnethead	24	1/person and 2 possession of any species unless prohibited
Sheepshead	15	5/person and 10 possession
Snapper, Lane	8	No Limit
Snapper, Red	15	4/person and 8 possession (circle hook and line only with natural baits)
Snapper, Vermilion	10	No Limit
Snook	24 - 28 slot	1/person and 2 possession
Tarpon	85	1/person and 2 possession
Triggerfish	16	20/person and 40 possession
Gag Grouper	22	2/person and 4 possession
Tripletail	17	3/person and 6 possession

FEDERAL WATERS

Commercial Size and Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	QUOTA
Red Snapper	13 TL	Permit required IFQ
Vermilion	10 TL	None
Lane	8 TL	
Mutton	16 TL	
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail Schoolmaster, Cubera, Dog, Mahogany	12 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Tilefish	None	
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	IFQ
		None
Groupers		
Black, Gag	24 TL	IFQ
Red	18 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth	none	
Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge, Speckled Hind	None	
Goliath	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	106,000 lbs
Hogfish	12 FL	None
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	
Greater Amberjack	36 FL	Commercial closure Mar – May (proposed 2000lb trip limit)
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	None - Closed season 4/1-8/5
Cobia	33 FL	2/person
King Mackerel	24 FL (Up to 5% by weight may be undersized)	Hook and line – 1,250 lbs/trip Gill net – 25,000 lbs/trip
Atlantic Bluefin	73 CFL	Federal Tuna Permit Federal Regulations Apply
Yellowfin, Bigeye	27 CFL	
Skipjack, Albacore	No size limit	
Blue Marlin	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
White Marlin		
Sailfish		
Longbill Spearfish		
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length	Commercial swordfish permit required

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	QUOTA
Red Drum	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Sharks - Large Coastal	None	Permit for Permitted Sharks Federal Quotas Apply
Sharks - Small Coastal		
Sharks - Pelagic		

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

NOTE: Commercial fishermen harvesting Sandbar sharks **MUST** have a valid research permit and a NMFS-approved observer on board.

FEDERAL WATERS

Recreational Size and Bag Limits

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Snappers		
Red Snapper	16 TL	2/person Not included in the 20-reef fish aggregate
Vermilion Snapper	10 TL	Included in the 20-reef fish aggregate
Lane Snapper	8 TL	
Mutton Snapper	16 TL	10/person in Snapper aggregate Includes all Snappers except Red, Vermilion, and Lane
Gray/Mangrove, Yellowtail, Cubera	12 TL	
Queen, Blackfin, Silk, Wenchman	None	
Almaco Jack, Tilefish, Goldface Tilefish, Blueline Tilefish	None	20/person in 20-reef fish aggregate
Groupers		
Gag	22 TL	2/person included in 4-fish aggregate
Red	20 TL	4/person in aggregate
Black	22 TL	
Yellowfin	20 TL	
Scamp	16 TL	
Yellowmouth, Yellowedge, Snowy	None	
Speckled Hind, Warsaw	None	1/vessel included in 4-fish aggregate
Goliath	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Hogfish	12 FL	5/person
Gray Triggerfish	14 FL	Included in 20-reef fish aggregate
Greater Amberjack	30 FL	1/ person. For-hire captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14 - 22 FL slot	5 fish aggregate limit excluded from 20-reef fish aggregate limit
Spiny Lobster	3 inch carapace	April – August season No egg bearing females
Cobia	33 FL	2/person
King Mackerel	24 FL	2/person including for-hire captain and crew
Spanish Mackerel	12 FL	15/person

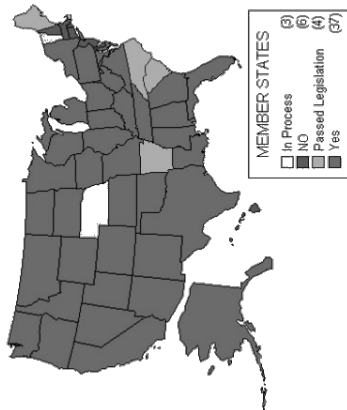
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT IN INCHES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Bluefin and Bigeye Tuna	27 curved FL	None*
Yellowfin	27 FL	3/person
Albacore, Skipjack, Blackfin	None	None
Blue Marlin	99 LJFL	None
White Marlin	66 FL	
Sailfish	63 FL	
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Swordfish	47 LJFL, or 29 carcass length	1/person up to a maximum of 4/vessel, 6 for charter boats and 15 for headboats.
Red Drum	HARVEST AND POSSESSION PROHIBITED	
Sharks		
Atlantic Sharpnose	None	1/person
Bonnethead		
All Other Sharks (except prohibited)	54 TL	1/vessel

*NMFS prohibits vessels from targeting bluefin tuna but charterboats may keep one 73" or larger per YEAR as a "trophy" fish for the boat.

Prohibited sharks: Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, and White.

Wildlife Compact Member States

States	Member	Effective Date	States	Member	Effective Date	States	Member	Effective Date
Alabama	Yes	3/1/2010	Minnesota	Yes	3/1/2000	New York	Yes	3/1/2006
Alaska	Yes	9/8/2008	Mississippi	Yes	9/1/2007	North Carolina	Yes	10/1/2008
Arizona	Yes	10/14/1991	Missouri	Yes	12/20/1999	North Dakota	Yes	8/15/2001
Arkansas	Passed Legislation		Montana	Yes	2/3/1996	Maine	Yes	9/28/2011
California	Yes	1/1/2002	Nebraska	In Process		Ohio	Yes	1/1/2008
Colorado	Yes	2/25/1991	Nevada	Yes	2/19/1991	Oklahoma	Yes	11/1/2010
Connecticut	No		New Hampshire	No		Oregon	Yes	2/19/1991
Delaware	No		New Mexico	Yes	8/30/2001	Pennsylvania	Yes	1/1/2011
Florida	Yes	9/1/2006				Rhode Island	No	
Georgia	Yes	6/1/2003				South Carolina	No	
Hawaii	No					South Dakota	Yes	9/1/2004
Idaho	Yes	3/15/1991				Tennessee	Yes	11/1/2006
Illinois	Yes	7/1/2007				Texas	Yes	5/30/2010
Indiana	Yes	10/31/2001				Utah	Yes	3/1/1993
Iowa	Yes	8/31/2001				Vermont	No	
Kansas	Yes	11/1/2005				Virginia	Yes	3/2/2010
Kentucky	Yes	7/15/2008				Washington	Yes	3/15/1991
Louisiana	Yes	2/1/2009				West Virginia	Yes	11/23/2009
Maryland	Yes	2/28/2000				Wisconsin	Yes	4/15/2008
Massachusetts	No					Wyoming	Yes	8/3/1996
Michigan	Yes	8/8/2005						



All the Gulf States are included, which causes the violator to be restricted or penalized in any of the Gulf States regardless of where that person was charged/convicted as long as the charging state was a member of the compact.

Federal Permit Quick Guide / Gulf of Mexico				
Fish	Charter/Headboat	Commercial	Recreational	Dealer
Amberjack	RCG	RR	None	RD
Atlantic Tunas (BAYS & BFT)	HMS CHB	HMS (general/longline/ HMS CHB, Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine, Atlantic Tunas Harpoon, and Trap)	HMS Angling and Tournaments	TD
Blackfin Tuna	None	None	None	None
Blue Marlin	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling and Tournaments	Prohibited
Bluefish	CHG	None	None	None
Bonito	None	None	None	None
Cero Mackerel	CHG	None	None	None
Cobia	CHG	None	None	None
Dolphin	CHG	None	None	None
Groupers	RCG	RR / IFQ Endorsement	None	RD/IFQ Dealer Endorsement
Grunts	RCG	RR	None	RD
Hogfish	RCG	RR	None	RD
Jacks	RCG	RR	None	RD
King Mackerel	CHG	KM	None	None
Little Tunny	CHG	None	None	None
Longbill Spearfish	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling and Tournaments	Prohibited
Porgies	None	None	None	None
Red Snapper	RCG	RR & IFQ Endorsement	None	RD & IFQ Dealer Endorsement
Roundscale Spearfish	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling and Tournaments	Prohibited
Sailfish	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling and Tournaments	Prohibited
Shark (Some Prohibited)	HMS CHB	SKD / SKI	HMS Angling and Tournaments	SH
Shrimp	None	Shrimp EEZ	None	None
Snappers	RCG	RR	None	RD
Spadefish	None	None	None	None
Spanish Mackerel	CHG	SM	None	None
Spiny Lobster	None	LC/LT	None	None
Swordfish	HMS CHB	SFD / SFI / SFH	HMS Angling and Tournaments	SD
Tilefishes	RCG	RR / IFQ Endorsement	None	RD/IFQ Dealer Endorsement
Triggerfishes	RCG	RR	None	RD
Tripletail	None	None	None	None
Wahoo	None	None	None	None
White Marlin	HMS CHB	Prohibited	HMS Angling and Tournaments	Prohibited

Permit Types & Codes

Charter/Headboat

- CHG - Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagic - no sale
- RCG - Gulf of Mexico Charter / Headboat for Reef Fish - no sale
- HMS CHB - Charter/headboat, may sell BAYS or non-bluefin tuna only

Commercial Permits

- KM - King Mackerel - 3000 lb / trip
- SM - Spanish Mackerel
- RR - Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish
- Red Snapper Vessel Endorsment
- LC - Spiny Lobster
- LT - Spiny Lobster Tailing
- SFD - Swordfish Directed - no limit open season, or 15 closed season with longline, 2 in other gear
- SKD - Shark Directed 33 large coastal, no limit small coastal or pelagic
- SKI - Shark Incidental - 5 large coastal, 16 small coastal and pelagic

- HMS - General Category Tuna - handgear only
- HMS - Tuna Longline - no longline use in state waters (must have cml sword & shark of some type)
- Shrimp - Shrimp EEZ

Commercial Dealer

- RD - Reef Fish Dealer
- Red Snapper Endorsement
- TD - Atlantic Tuna Dealer
- SH - Shark Dealer (fish from federal waters)
- SD - Swordfish Dealer

Recreational

- HMS Angling - Highly Migratory Species / recreational tunas, sharks, billfishes, swords (for certain tunas)

Other

- BFT** – Bluefin tuna
- BAYS** – Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, Skipjack

NOTES

NOTES



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

2404 Government Street
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 875-5912