

Recreational Regulatory History of Selected Species in Louisiana Waters.



LDWF Marine Fisheries - Finfish Program

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Gray Snapper:

- 1990 -- Established a bag limit of 10 fish per person per day within an aggregate bag limit which includes queen snapper, mutton snapper, schoolmaster snapper, blackfin snapper, cubera snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, silk snapper, yellowtail snapper and wenchman. Established a minimum size limit of 12 inches total length. Established a two day bag limit allowance on charter vessels or head boats on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by U.S. Coast Guard for trips over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of trip.
- 2008 -- Established gear requirements for anglers fishing for reef fish, anglers must now use non-stainless circle hooks when fishing with natural baits with reef fish, possess at least one dehooking device and one venting tool.
- 2014 -- Established the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit requirement to possess certain species, including gray snapper. Removed the requirement for having a venting tool.

Greater Amberjack:

- 1990 -- Established a bag limit of 3 fish per person per day. Established a minimum size limit of 28 inches fork length. Established a two day bag limit allowance on charter vessels or head boats on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by U.S. Coast Guard for trips over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of trip.
- 1998 -- Modified the daily bag and possession limit to be 1 fish per person per day.
- 2008 -- Modified the minimum size limit to be 30 inches fork length. Established gear requirements for anglers fishing for reef fish, anglers must now use non-stainless circle hooks when fishing with natural baits with reef fish, possess at least one dehooking device and one venting tool.
- 2013 -- Established a closed season to be from June 1 through July 31 of each year.
- 2014 -- Established the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit requirement to possess certain species, including greater amberjack. Removed the requirement for having a venting tool.
- 2016 -- Modified the minimum size limit to 34 inches fork length.
- 2018 -- Modified the closed season to be from January through April 30 of each year, June 1 through July 31 of each year, and November through December of each year.

King Mackerel:

- 1989 -- Established a bag limit of 2 fish per person per trip for private vessels. Established a bag limit for charter vessels of either 3 fish per person per trip, excluding captain and crew, or 2 fish per person per trip, including captain and crew, whichever is greater.
- 1991 -- Established a minimum size limit of 14 inches total length and a daily bag and possession limit of two fish per person per day for private vessels. Modified the bag and possession limit for charter vessels to be either 3 fish per person per day, excluding captain and crew, or 2 fish per person per day, including captain and crew, whichever is greater.
- 1993 -- Modified bag and possession limits to be 2 fish per person per day (regardless of charter or private). Modified rules to make any person subject to a bag limit for king mackerel may not

- possess during a single day, regardless of the number of trips or duration of a trip, any king mackerel in excess of such bag limit, except that a person who is on a trip that spans more than 24 hours may possess no more than two daily limits, provided such a trip is aboard a charter vessel or head boat, and (1) the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips over 12 hours, and (2) each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.
- 2000 -- Modified the minimum size limit to be 24 inches fork length.
- 2012 -- King mackerel may be cut up and utilized for bait, so long as the carcass is retained with the head and caudal fin intact while such parts are in possession aboard a fishing vessel, so that size and number of fish possessed may be determined.
- 2017 -- Modified the daily bag and possession limit to be 3 fish per person per day.

Pigfish/Grunt:

There have not been and are currently no recreational regulations for pigfish or grunts in Louisiana waters.

Red Drum:

- 1984 -- Daily limit of a combined total of 50 red drum and spotted seatrout with a one day catch in possession. Possession of a saltwater fishing license required for all anglers fishing south of the officially established "saltwater line" for saltwater species. No minimum size and two fish allowed over 36 inches total length.
- 1986 -- Two fish allowed over 30 inches.
- 1987 -- Minimum size limit of 14 inches total length established.
- 1988 -- (January) 15 inches minimum total length size limit established.
- 1988 -- (February) Recreational harvest closed until July 21, 1988.
- 1988 -- (July) Recreational harvest reopened and a 16 inches minimum and 27 inches maximum total length established with a one fish allowance over 27 inches. Creel and possession limit reduced to 5 fish daily on the water.
- 2018 -- Modified possession limits so a fisherman who holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can demonstrate to the department's satisfaction use of a boat launch located south of U.S. Highway 90 and that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more may possess up to the possession limit of filleted red drum. The filleted fish shall have sufficient skin remaining on the fillet to allow for identification of the species and shall be segregated by species into plastic bags or plastic containers that are marked by species to allow easy identification, the date caught, and the name and license number of the person who took the fish. The red drum fillets shall be no less than fourteen inches in length. The fish shall be in the possession only of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.
- 2018 -- Modified possession limits so that the possession limit for red drum taken south of U.S. Highway 90 shall be three times the daily take limit when the fisherman holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can show a landing receipt from a public boat launch located south of U.S. Highway 90 that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more. The fish shall be kept whole or whole gutted in separate bags for each species of fish. The bags shall be marked with the date the fish were taken, the species, the number of fish contained in the bag, and the name and license number of the person taking the fish. The fish shall only be in the possession of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.

Red Snapper:

- 1990 -- Established a bag limit of 7 fish per person per day. Established a two day bag limit allowance on charter vessels or head boats on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by U.S. Coast Guard for trips over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of trip.
- 1994 -- Established a minimum size limit of 14 inches total length.
- 1995 -- Modified the daily bag and possession limit to be 5 fish per person per day.
- 1996 -- Modified the minimum size limit to 15 inches total length.
- 1998 -- Modified the daily bag and possession limit to be 4 fish per person per day.
- 2000 -- Modified the minimum size limit to 16 inches total length.
- 2008 -- Modified the daily bag and possession limit to be 2 fish per person per day. Modified bag and possession limits to prohibit captain and crew on a charter vessel from retaining a daily bag limit of red snapper. Established a recreational closed season from October 1 of each year through May 31 of the following year. Established gear requirements for anglers fishing for reef fish, anglers must now use non-stainless circle hooks when fishing with natural baits with reef fish, possess at least one dehooking device and one venting tool.
- 2013 -- Modified the daily bag and possession limit to be 3 fish per person. Modified the recreational closed season to be from October 1 through the Friday before Palm Sunday of the following year and the open season to be weekends only with a weekend defined as Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with the exception of Memorial Day and Labor Day, when Monday would be classified as a weekend as well. Authority given to the Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify recreational red snapper regulations as deemed necessary.
- 2014 -- (June) Established the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit requirement to possess certain species, including red snapper. Removed the requirement for having a venting tool.
- 2014 -- (November) Modified the daily bag limit to be 2 fish per person per day.

Sheepshead:

There have not been and are currently no recreational regulations for sheepshead in Louisiana waters.

Southern Flounder:

- 1988 -- Established a daily creel limit of 10 southern flounder for each consecutive day on the water.
- 1996 -- Modified the daily creel limit to 10 southern flounder per day per licensed angler, with only one day's limit allowed in possession.
- 2004 -- Harvest of southern flounder with barbed gigs allowed.
- 2018 -- Modified possession limits so a fisherman who holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can demonstrate to the department's satisfaction use of a boat launch located south of U.S. Highway 90 and that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more may possess up to the possession limit of filleted southern flounder. The filleted fish shall have sufficient skin remaining on the fillet to allow for identification of the species and shall be segregated by species into plastic bags or plastic containers that are marked by species to allow easy identification, the date caught, and the name and license number of the person who took the fish. The fish shall be in the possession only of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.

Spanish Mackerel:

- 1987 -- Established a minimum size of 14 inches total length or 12 inches fork length.
- 1989 -- Established a daily bag and possession limit of 10 fish per person per trip.
- 1991 -- Modified minimum size to be 14 inches total length only. Modified the daily bag and possession limit to 10 fish per person per day.

- 1993 -- Modified bag and possession limits to be 2 fish per person per day (regardless of charter or private). Modified rules to make any person subject to a bag limit for Spanish mackerel may not possess during a single day, regardless of the number of trips or duration of a trip, any Spanish mackerel in excess of such bag limit, except that a person who is on a trip that spans more than 24 hours may possess no more than two daily limits, provided such a trip is aboard a charter vessel or head boat, and (1) the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips over 12 hours, and (2) each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.
- 2000 -- (July) Modified the minimum size limit to be 12 inches fork length.
- 2000 -- (December) Modified the daily bag and possession limit to be 15 fish per person per day.
- 2012 -- Spanish mackerel may be cut up and utilized for bait, so long as the carcass is retained with the head and caudal fin intact while such parts are in possession aboard a fishing vessel, so that size and number of fish possessed may be determined.

Spotted Seatrout:

- 1977 -- Daily limit of a combined total of 50 red drum and spotted seatrout with an allowable two-day catch in possession.
- 1984 -- Daily limit of a combined total of 50 red drum and spotted seatrout with a one day catch in possession. Possession of a saltwater fishing license required for all anglers fishing south of the officially established "saltwater line" for saltwater species.
- 1987 -- Established a minimum 12 inches total length size limit.
- 1988 -- Reduced the daily bag limit to 25 spotted seatrout with an allowable on-day catch in possession.
- 1998 -- Increased possession limit to twice the daily limit; however, only the daily limit may be in possession on the water.
- 2004 -- Changed daily bag and possession limit in described parts of Cameron and Calcasieu Parish (*south of Interstate 10 from its junction at the Texas-Louisiana boundary eastward to its junction with Louisiana Highway 171, south to Highway 14, south to Holmwood, and then south on Highway 27 through Gibbstown, south to Louisiana Highway 82 to Oak Grove, then due south to the western shore of the Mermentau River, following this shoreline south to the junction with the Gulf of Mexico, and then due south to the limit of the state territorial sea*) to include no more than two fish over 25 inches total length in possession.
- 2006 -- Changed the daily bag and possession limit in described parts of Cameron and Calcasieu Parish (*south of Interstate 10 from its junction at the Texas-Louisiana boundary eastward to its junction with Louisiana Highway 171, south to Highway 14, south to Holmwood, and then south on Highway 27 through Gibbstown, south to Louisiana Highway 82 to Oak Grove, then due south to the western shore of the Mermentau River, following this shoreline south to the junction with the Gulf of Mexico, and then due south to the limit of the state territorial sea*) to 15 fish per day, with only two fish over 25 inches total length in possession.
- 2018 -- Modified possession limits so a fisherman who holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can demonstrate to the department's satisfaction use of a boat launch located south of U.S. Highway 90 and that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more may possess up to the possession limit of filleted spotted sea trout. The filleted fish shall have sufficient skin remaining on the fillet to allow for identification of the species and shall be segregated by species into plastic bags or plastic containers that are marked by species to allow easy identification, the date caught, and the name and license number of the person who took the fish. The spotted sea trout fillets shall be no less than ten inches in length and the red drum shall be no less than fourteen inches in length. The fish shall be in the possession only of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.
- 2018 -- Modified the possession limit for spotted sea trout so that the possession limit for fish taken south of U.S. Highway 90 shall be three times the daily take limit when the fisherman holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can show a landing receipt from a public boat launch located south of U.S. Highway 90 that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the

department that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more. The fish shall be kept whole or whole gutted in separate bags for each species of fish. The bags shall be marked with the date the fish were taken, the species, the number of fish contained in the bag, and the name and license number of the person taking the fish. The fish shall only be in the possession of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.

Yellowtail Snapper:

- 1990 -- Established a bag limit of 10 fish per person per day within an aggregate bag limit which includes queen snapper, mutton snapper, schoolmaster snapper, blackfin snapper, cubera snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, silk snapper, gray snapper, and wenchman. Established a minimum size limit of 12 inches total length. Established a two day bag limit allowance on charter vessels or head boats on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by U.S. Coast Guard for trips over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of trip.
- 2008 -- Established gear requirements for anglers fishing for reef fish, anglers must now use non-stainless circle hooks when fishing with natural baits with reef fish, possess at least one dehooking device and one venting tool.
- 2014 -- Established the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit requirement to possess certain species, including yellowtail snapper. Removed the requirement for having a venting tool.