

## OUTDOOR ANNUAL

Texas Hunting and Fishing Regulations

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# Saltwater Bag and Length Limits

Valid Sep. 1, 2018 through Aug. 31, 2019.

Notice: Red Snapper season in federal waters will close on Wednesday Aug 22, 2018.

[Read about the Red Snapper closure.](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20180815a) [\[https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20180815a\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20180815a)

Bag and length limits apply to listed saltwater species. There are no bag, possession, or length limits on game or nongame fish, except as listed in this guide. See [definitions of daily bag and possession limits](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/definitions) [\[https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/definitions\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/definitions).

For freshwater finfish species caught in the public salt waters of this state, [statewide freshwater limits](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits) [\[https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/bag-length-limits) apply.

## Amberjack, greater

Daily Bag: 1

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 38 - No limit

## Bass

### Striped, its hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: 5 (in any combination)

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 18 - No limit

## Catfish

### Channel and blue, their hybrids and subspecies

Daily Bag: 25 (in any combination)

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 12 - No limit

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**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 18 - No limit

## Gafftopsail

**Daily Bag:** No limit

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 14 - no limit

## Cobia

**Daily Bag:** 2

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 37 - No limit

## Drum

### Black drum

**Daily Bag:** 5

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 14 - 30

No more than one black drum over 52 inches may be retained per person per day and counts as part of the daily bag limit and possession limit.

### Red drum

**Daily Bag:** 3

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 20 - 28

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

## Flounder

### All species, their hybrids and subspecies

**Daily Bag:** 5/2 (see below)

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 14 - No limit

Daily bag is 5 fish except from Nov. 1-30, when the daily bag limit is 2 fish and flounder may be taken only by pole-and-line; and from December 1-14, when the daily bag limit is 2 fish and flounder may be taken by any legal means, including gigging. Possession limit is equal to the daily bag.

### Gar, alligator

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Certain areas may be temporarily closed to alligator gar fishing when optimum spawning conditions occur. [Get details \[https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/gar-closure\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/freshwater-fishing/gar-closure) .

## Grouper

### Black grouper

Daily Bag: 4

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 24 - No limit

### Gag grouper

Daily Bag: 2

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 24 - No limit

### Goliath grouper (formerly called Jewfish)

Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

### Nassau grouper

Daily Bag: 0 (catch and release only)

## Mackerel

### King

Daily Bag: Increased to 3, effective March 16, 2018

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 27 - No limit

### Spanish

Daily Bag: 15

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 14 - No limit

## Marlin

### Blue marlin

Daily Bag: No limit

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 131 - No limit

### White marlin

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## Mullet

### All species, their hybrids and subspecies

**Daily Bag:** No limit

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** No limit - 12 (see below)

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.

## Sailfish

**Daily Bag:** No limit

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 84 - No limit

## Seatrout, spotted

**Daily Bag:**

All waters north of FM 457 in Matagorda County - 10

All waters south of FM 457 - 5

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)**

15 - 25

No more than one spotted seatrout over the stated maximum length may be retained per person per day and counts as part of the daily bag and possession limit.

## Sharks

**Note:** the daily bag limit is 1 fish for all allowable shark species including Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, and bonnethead. See [Shark Regulations \[https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/shark-regulations) for identification tips.

### Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 24 - No limit

### Hammerhead (smooth, great, scalloped)

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 99 - No limit

### Other allowable shark species

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 64 - No limit

### Prohibited shark species

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**Daily Bag:** 0 (catch and release only)

## Sheepshead

**Daily Bag:** 5

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 15 - No limit

## Snapper

### Lane

**Daily Bag:** No limit

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 8 - No limit

### Red

**Daily Bag:** 4

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 15 - No limit

Red snapper may be taken using pole and line, but it is unlawful to use any kind of hook other than a circle hook when using natural bait.

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[Read about the Red Snapper closure. \[https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20180815a\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20190304015248/https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20180815a)

### Vermilion

**Daily Bag:** No limit

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 10 - No limit

## Snook

**Daily Bag:** 1

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 24 - 28

## Tarpon

**Daily Bag:** 1

**Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum)** 85 - No limit

## Triggerfish, gray

**Daily Bag:** 20

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## Tripletail

Daily Bag: 3

Length in Inches (Minimum - Maximum) 17 - No limit