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 & Yellowmouth

Grouper) 20" TL 5/Day

Effective Date for this Guide is January 10, 2000

Updated 5/5/2000

Attention Flounder Fishermen : See [Ocean Flounder Regulations](#)Please Note [Mackerel Advisory](#) 3/23/2000**2000 NC Recreational Coastal Waters Guide for Sports Fishermen**

State Regulations 0-3 Miles | Federal Regulations 3 - 200 Miles

Finfish Species (note symbols)	State Minimum Length	State Bag Limits (Per Person)	Federal Minimum Length	Federal Bag Limits (Per Person)
Greater Amberjack (K)	28" FL	1/Day	28" FL	1/Day
Bluefish		10/Day		10/Day
Cobia	33" FL	2/Day	33" FL	2/Day
Dolphin (B)		10/Day		
King Mackerel	24" FL	3/Day	24" FL	3/Day
Spanish Mackerel	12" FL	10/Day	12" FL	10/Day
Yellowfin Tuna (H)			27" CFL	3/Day
Bluefin Tuna (C)(H)			27" CFL Currently 47" CFL	Contact NMFS for closures and limits (301)713-2347
Bigeye Tuna (H)			27" CFL	Contact NMFS for closures and limits (301)713-2347
Sharks (excluding Atlantic Sharpnose)	(L)	(L)	(C)(F)54" FL	1/vessel/trip
Sharks, Atlantic Sharpnose	(L)	(L)	(C)(F)	1/person/trip
Blue Marlin(C)	99" LJFL	1/vessel/trip either Blue or White Marlin	99" LJFL	
White Marlin(C)	66" LJFL	1/vessel/trip either Blue or White Marlin	66" LJFL	
Sailfish(C)	63" LJFL	1/Day	63" LJFL	
Red Drum (Channel Bass, Puppy Drum)	18" TL(D)	1/Day	Unlawful to Possess	
Flounder	13" TL (Internal)	No Limit (Internal)	15" TL	8/Day
	15" TL (Ocean)(G)	8/Day (Ocean)(G)		
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled)	12" TL	10/Day		
Gray Trout (Weakfish)	14" TL	10/Day	14" TL	10/Day
Tarpon (C)		1/Day		
Striped Bass (C)	(A)	(A)	Unlawful To Possess	
American & Hickory Shad (M)		10/Day		
Eels	6" TL			

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Red, Scamp, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth Groupers	20" TL	5/Day (Species combined, only 1 speckled hind, 1 warsaw, and no more than 2 black or gag grouper - individual or combined)	20" TL	5/Day (Species combined, includes tilefish, only 1 speckled hind, 1 warsaw, and no more than 2 black or gag grouper - individual or combined) Contact NMFS
Black and Gag Groupers (K)	24" TL	2/Day (See above)	24" TL	2/Day (See above)
Speckled Hind (Kitty Mitchell) (C)		1/Vessel/Trip (See above)		1/Vessel/Trip (See above)
Warsaw Grouper		1/Vessel/Trip (See above)		1/Vessel/Trip (See above)
Red Porgy (Silver Snapper, Pinky) (J)		Unlawful To Possess		Unlawful To Possess
Dog, Gray, Cubera, Mahogany, Queen, Schoolmaster, & Yellowtail Snappers		10/Day (Species combined; includes up to 2 Red Snapper)	12" TL	10/Day (Species combined; includes up to 2 Red Snapper)
Mutton Snapper		See Above	16" TL	See Above
Silk and Blackfin Snappers	12" TL	See Above	12" TL	See Above
Red Snapper	20" TL	2/Day - See Above	20" TL	2/Day - See Above
Vermillion Snapper	11" TL	10/Day	11" TL	10/Day
Reef Complex Species (I) (Includes Sheepshead, Spadefish, Gray Triggerfish)		20/Day		20/Day

Prohibited Finfish Species

Coastal Waters (Internal waters and Atlantic Ocean out to 3 miles)	Federal Waters (Atlantic Ocean more than 3 miles)
Sturgeon, Nassau Grouper, Jewfish, Red Porgy	Red Porgy, Sharks (Whale, Basking, White, Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Atlantic Angel Shark, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sevengill, Sixgill, and Smalltail), Red Drum, Striped Bass, Sturgeon, Nassau Grouper, Jewfish, and Spearfish

Shellfish

Species (note symbols)	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (Per Person)	Federal Minimum Length	Federal Bag Limits (Per Person)
Blue Crab	5" Carapace Width	50 crabs/day not to exceed 100 crabs/vessel/day		
Hard Clam	1" Thick	100 clams/day not to exceed 200 clams/vessel/day		
Eastern Oyster (L)	3" Shell Length	1 bushel/day not to exceed 2 bushels/vessel/day		
Bay Scallops (L)		1/2 bushel/day not to exceed 1 bushel/vessel/day		
Conchs & Whelks		10/day not to exceed 20/vessel/day		
Mussels		100/day not to exceed 200/vessel/day		

Explanation of Symbols

(A) Albemarle Sound Management Area: contact DMF for seasons, areas or other limits; Atlantic Ocean year-round: 2 per person per day at 28" TL minimum; Other coastal areas year-round: 3 per person per day at 18" TL minimum.
 (B) Charter vessel limit of 60/trip
 (C) No sell provision
 (D) Unlawful to possess red drum greater than 27 inches total length.
 (E) South of Cape Hatteras.
 (F) See prohibited species, Legal sharks include; sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, lemon, bull, nurse, smooth and scalloped and great hammerhead, blacknose, finetooth, bonnethead, shortfin mako, blue, thresher, porbeagle, and oceanic whitetip. One (1) Atlantic sharpnose per person per trip may be landed in addition to allowable bag limits for other

(I) Reef complex species: whitebone porgy, jolthead porgy, knobbed porgy, longspine porgy, sheepshead, gray triggerfish, queen triggerfish, yellow jack, crevalle jacks, bar jack, almaco jack, lesser amberjack, banded rudderfish, white grunt, margates, spadefish, and hogfish - 20 fish per person per day in combination.
 (J) New federal restrictions pending. For snapper, grouper, and mackerels contact the South Atlantic Council (1-843-571-4366 or www.safmc.noaa.gov) or for tunas, billfishes, and sharks contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division (1-301-713-2347 or www.usatuna.com)
 (K) Seasonal no sale restriction in effect for: gag and black grouper (March and April), and amberjack (April)
 (L) Contact DMF for seasons, areas or other limits
 (M) May only be taken with recreational commercial gear such as drift gill

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CFL

Total length (TL) is measured from tip of snout with mouth closed to tip of compressed tail. Fork length (FL) is measured from tip of snout to middle of fork in tail. Lower jaw fork length (LJFL) is measured from lower jaw to middle of fork in tail. Curved fork length (CFL) is the measurement of the length taken in a line tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.

Bag limits are not additive for state and federal waters.

Ocean boundary is defined as water seaward of the COLREGS Demarcation Lines as indicated on National Ocean Service navigation charts

No one may possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing any fish subject to limits without head and tail attached. - Reference 15A NCAC 3M .0101

IMPORTANT Check with Division of Marine Fisheries for most current minimum lengths and catch limits. 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 (North Carolina only). For inland water limits contact Wildlife Resources Commission 919-733-3633.

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