

JUL

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209 captures

15 Jul 2011 - 14 Apr 2019

NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Marine Fisheries - Recreational Fishing Size and Bag Limits

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2011 NC Recreational Coastal Waters Guide for Sports Fishermen

July 2011 Version

(Website chart reflects the most recent changes to size and bag limits)

[Read and print the PDF version of this Rec Guide](#)

New weakfish bag limit effective May 16, 2010. See [FF-54-2010](#)

New Snapper/Grouper rules effective June 17, 2011. See [FF-58-2011](#)

New Spotted Seatrout size and bag limits effective June 6, 2011. See [FF-57-2011](#)

For *inland* fishing regulations, contact Wildlife Resources Commission (919) 707-0220 or visit their website www.ncwildlife.org

[A Coastal Recreational Fishing License](#) went into effect Jan. 1, 2007 for all of the state's coastal and ocean waters.

Finfish Species (note symbols)	State Coastal Waters (Internal and 0-3 Miles)		Exclusive Economic Zone EEZ (3-200 miles)	
	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (Per Person)	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (Per Person)
Alewife and blueback herring	None	NO POSSESSION	None	NO POSSESSION
Amberjack , greater	28" FL	1/Day	28" FL	1/Day
Bass , striped See striped bass details	(A)	(A)	Unlawful To Possess	
Bluefish	None	15/Day Only 5 greater than 24" TL	None	15/Day
Cobia	33" FL	2/Day	33" FL	2/Day
Dolphin (B)	None	10/Day	None	10/Day
Drum , red (Channel Bass, Puppy Drum)	18-27" TL (C)	1/Day	Unlawful to Possess	
Eel, American	6" TL	50/Day	6" TL	50/Day

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Groupers (H, I, J, K)	(See below)	(See below)	(See below)	(See below)
Groupers; red, scamp, yellowfin and yellowmouth	20" TL	3/Day (all groupers combined; includes 1 golden tilefish, and no more than 1 black or gag grouper, individual or combined) (J)	20" TL	3/Day (all groupers combined; includes tilefish, 1 golden tilefish, and no more than 1 black or gag grouper, individual or combined) (J)
Groupers black and gag	24" TL	1/Day (See above)	24" TL	1/Day (See above)
Grouper, Warsaw	NO POSSESSION		NO POSSESSION	NO POSSESSION
Grouper, snowy	1 / vessel / day		1 / vessel / day	
Hind, speckled (Kitty Mitchell)	NO POSSESSION		NO POSSESSION	NO POSSESSION
Hogfish (Hog snapper)	12" TL	5/Day		
Mackerel , king (I) Species Identification	24" FL	3/Day	24" FL	3/Day
Mackerel , Spanish (I) Species Identification	12" FL	15/Day	12" FL	15/Day
Marlin , blue(G)	99" LJFL	1/vessel/trip either Blue or White Marlin	99" LJFL	
Marlin , white (G)	66" LJFL	1/vessel/trip either Blue or White Marlin	66" LJFL	
Mullet (Striped and White)	None	200/Day (species combined)	None	
Porgy , red (Silver snapper, pinky)	14" TL	3/Day	14" TL	3/Day
Reef Complex Species Includes sheepshead , spadefish, gray triggerfish , white grunt , knobbed porgy and more (see notes H and I)		20/Day		20/Day
Sailfish (G)	63" LJFL	1/Day	63" LJFL	
Scup (North of Cape Hatteras)	8" TL	50/Day	10.5" TL	50/Day (D)
Seatrout , spotted (speckled)(O) See FF-57-2011	14" TL	6/day (O)		
Sea bass , black (North of Cape Hatteras)	12 ½ " TL	25/Day	12 ½" TL	25/Day
Sea bass, black (South of Cape Hatteras) (D) See FF-39-2011	12" TL	5/Day	12" TL	5/Day

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in ocean waters				
Shad, hickory (P)	None	10/Day	None	10/Day
Sharks(I) (excluding spiny and smooth dogfish)	(E, L)	1/Vessel/Day	54"FL (E, L)	1/Vessel/Day
Sharks, Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead (E)	None	(F)	(E, L)	1/Day
Snappers; dog, gray, cubera, mahogany, queen, schoolmaster and yellowtail		10/Day (Species combined)	12" TL	10/Day (Species combined)
Snappers, mutton		See Above	16" TL	See Above
Snappers; silk and blackfin	12" TL	See Above	12" TL	See Above
Snapper, red	NO POSSESSION		NO POSSESSION	
Snapper, vermilion (J)	12" TL	5/Day	12" TL	5/Day
Tarpon	None	1/Day	None	1/Day
Tuna(I);bluefin(G), yellowfin and bigeye	Yellowfin 27" CFL Bigeye 27" CFL	Yellowfin 3 per day	Yellowfin tuna 27" CFL	Yellowfin Tuna 3 per day
Wahoo	None	2/Day	None	2/Day
Weakfish (gray trout)	12" TL	1/Day see FF-54-2010)	12" TL	

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