

## RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS - as of January, 2001

Species	Minimum Size Limit (Unless otherwise indicated)	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
<b>SHELLFISH</b>			
Stone Crab	Minimum 2 3/4" claw	5/16 - 10/14	See additional rules on next page
Spiny Lobster	More than 3" carapace. Divers must measure in water.	4/1 - 8/5 There is a special 2 day non-trap recreational season, to be the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.	6/person, and no transfer at sea between boats (During the 2-day special recreational season, 12/person off Florida except 6/person for Monroe County - Florida Keys).
<b>COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS</b>			
Cobia (ling)	33" fork length	none	2/person
King Mackerel	24" fork length	none	2/person including captain and crew of for-hire vessels.
Spanish Mackerel	12" fork length	none	15/person.
<b>REEF FISH</b>			
<u>Snappers</u> Red Snapper	16" total length	Season to open at 12:01 AM April 21, 2001 and close at 12:00 midnight October 31, 2001.	4/person
Vermilion Lane	10" total length 8" total length	none none	Included in 20 reef fish aggregate limit. Included in 20 reef fish aggregate limit.
Gray Mutton Yellowtail Schoolmaster Cubera Dog Mahogany Queen Blackfin Silk Wenchman	12" total length 16" total length 12" total length 12" total length 12" total length 12" total length none none none none	none none none none none none none none none none	10/person in aggregate bag limit.  Includes all snappers except red, vermilion, and lane.
<u>Groupers</u> Black Gag Red Yellowfin Scamp Yellowmouth Rock Hind Red Hind Yellowedge Misty Snowy  Speckled Hind Warsaw	22" total length 22" total length 20" total length 20" total length 16" total length none none none none none none none  none none	none none none none none none none none none none none none  none none	5/person in aggregate of all groupers except Jewfish and Nassau grouper.             1 per vessel 1 per vessel
<u>Protected Groupers</u> Jewfish Nassau Grouper	Harvest prohibited Harvest prohibited		
Hogfish Gray Triggerfish	12" fork length 12" total length	none none	5/person Included in 20 reef fish aggregate limit.
Greater Amberjack Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	28" fork length (recreational) 14" to 22" fork length slot limit 14" to 22" fork length slot limit	none none none	1/person 5-fish aggregate limit for lesser amberjack and banded rudderfish, excluded from 20 reef fish aggregate limit
<u>Aggregate Reef Fish Bag Limit Species</u> Vermilion Snapper    Goldface Tilefish    Tilefish Lane Snapper        Almaco Jack        Blackline Tilefish Gray Triggerfish     Anchor Tilefish     Blueline Tilefish			20/person of all listed species in aggregate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold.</li> <li>o Stressed areas for reef fish begin at the shoreward boundary of federal waters and generally follow the 10 fathom contour from the Dry Tortugas to Sanibel Island; the 20 fathom contour to Tarpon Springs; the 10 fathom contour to Cape San Blas; the 25 fathom contour to south of Mobile Bay; the 13 fathom contour to Ship Island, Mississippi; the 10 fathom contour off Louisiana; and the 30 fathom contour off Texas. Use of fish traps, roller trawls, and power heads is prohibited in designated "stressed areas".</li> <li>o Reef fish gear is limited to no more than 3 hooks in a special management zone off Alabama. Nonconforming gear is restricted to bag limit or for reef fish without a bag limit to 5 percent by weight of all fish aboard.</li> <li>o Circle hooks are encouraged when angling for reef fish because they reduce mortality on released fish.</li> </ul>			

Species	Minimum Size Limit (unless otherwise indicated)	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit
OTHER SPECIES			
Red Drum	Illegal to harvest or possess in federal waters.		
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES			
<u>Tuna</u> Bluefin	<u>Size Categories</u> school - 27" to < 47" CFL large school - 47" to < 59" CFL small medium - 59" to < 73" CFL large medium - 73" to < 81" CFL giant - 81" + CFL	Bag limits are subject to sub-quotas by size and permit categories, change seasonally, and are reduced to zero when sub-quotas are filled. Telephone the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Management Division's toll-free 24 hour information line for updates on bag limits and quotas: 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888- 872-8862).  CFL - Curved fork length - Tip of the upper jaw to fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body.	
Bigeye Yellowfin Albacore Skipjack Blackfin Atlantic Bonito	27" CFL 27" CFL none none none none	none none none none none none	none 3/person none none none none
<u>Billfish</u> Blue Marlin White Marlin Sailfish Longbill spearfish	Minimum size lower jaw to tail fork 99" 66" 63" harvest prohibited	none none none none	none none none none
Swordfish	29" carcass length or 33 lbs. dressed weight. Carcass length is a curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.	none	none
<u>SHARKS</u> Atlantic sharpnose other sharks	none 54" fork length	none none	1/person 1/vessel in aggregate
<u>Prohibited Sharks-Recreational Harvest</u> Atlantic angel Basking Bigeye sand tiger Caribbean reef Caribbean sharpnose Bigeye sixgill Bigeye thresher Bignose Dusky Galapagos Longfin mako Narrowtooth Night Sand tiger Sevengill Sixgill Smalltail Whale White			Harvest prohibited for these species.
CORAL AND CORAL REEFS			
Allowable Octocorals	Attached substrate within 1 inch of octocoral is allowed.	Season closes when quota of 50,000 colonies is reached.	6 colonies per day
Live Rock	Harvest and possession of live rock is prohibited (except for permitted aquaculture operations).		
Other Marine Life Organisms	Marine life organisms from the EEZ harvested or possessed by Florida residents or landed in Florida are subject to Florida's Marine Life Rule. Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for more information (850-487-3122).		

<b>ADDITIONAL RULES</b>	
Charter vessels/Headboat 2-day bag limit allowance	Persons on qualified charter vessels or headboats with two captains for trips in excess of 24 hours may possess 2 days' bag limits of reef fish species, king mackerel and Spanish mackerel. 1-day bag limits apply on all other species and trips regardless of length.
Stone Crab	Claws may not be removed from egg-bearing females. Illegal to land whole crab. Florida daily limit of claws is 1gallon/person, 2gallons/vessel.
Spiny Lobster	Removal of tail prohibited at sea. See commercial regulations for trap use. No spears, hooks, or piercing devices. No taking of spiny or slipper lobsters that are berried (egg-bearing).
Cobia (ling)	The 2 day bag limit allowance for charter vessels and headboats <u>does not</u> apply to cobia.
Red snapper	Exact dates of the red snapper season opening and closing dependant on the NMFS projections. Contact the NMFS Fishery Operations Branch at 727-570-5305 for further details.
Allowable Octocorals	Allowable octocoral means an erect, nonencrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia, except the seafans Gorgonia flabellum and G. ventalina, plus the attached substrate within 1 inch of an allowable octocoral. Note: An octocoral with attached substrate exceeding 1 inch is considered to be live rock and not allowable octocoral.
Tuna - Bluefin	Tuna permit holders are required to report by telephone all recreationally caught bluefin tuna. Call 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) and select the catch reporting option. For information about fishing under the NMFS tag and release program when bag limits are closed, call 1-800-437-3936.
Tuna - others	All tunas must be landed in round or eviscerated form with one pectoral fin intact. Head removal allowed. Caudal fin must be intact on bluefin.
Billfish	No retention unless taken by rod and reel. Sale prohibited. Head, fins, and bill must be intact through landing. Those people conducting a tournament involving score keeping or awards for Atlantic highly migratory species (whether or not retained), must register their tournament with the Fisheries Service's Southeast Fisheries Science Center: attn: "Tournament Registration", 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149. The registration must be in writing, at least four weeks prior to commencement of tournament fishing. A tournament registration form is available upon request from the above address or can be requested by FAX (305-361-4219).
Swordfish	dressed = gutted, headed, and finned.