

# FISHING REGULATIONS



Saltwater Angler  
Recognition

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Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: January 2021



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You can obtain a license 24 hours a day at [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com) or through the Fish|Hunt Florida mobile app, and begin fishing immediately!

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## Contact us

Go to [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) for up-to-date information on recreational saltwater fishing regulations, news and events as well as resources, publications and videos.

Visit the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute online at [MyFWC.com/Research](http://MyFWC.com/Research)

For federal fishing regulations, please contact:

- **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**  
888-833-1844  
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- **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
866-SAFMC-10  
[www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)
- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)**  
727-824-5301  
[www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov)

## For additional information please contact:

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[MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com)

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Report fish and wildlife law violations by calling toll-free 1-888-404-FWCC (3922); on cell phones, dial \*FWC or #FWC depending on service carrier; or click [MyFWC.com/Contact](http://MyFWC.com/Contact).

## On the cover

Tug Ocean Wind, deployed 10 nm offshore Pensacola on January 13, 2016 using FWC funds from saltwater fishing license sales.

Photo by Keith Mille 9/28/2017.

Have a picture for the cover?  
Please send your photographs to:  
[Saltwater@MyFWC.com](mailto:Saltwater@MyFWC.com).



### Introduction

This publication is provided as a guide to Florida fishing laws and regulations. The Florida Administrative Code is the final authority on fishing laws. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) strives to ensure information in this booklet is accurate, but assumes no liability for any errors that occur in this publication. Contact the FWC if you have any questions on issues not covered in this booklet. A continuously updated electronic version of this publication is available at [MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing) by clicking on "Saltwater" and "Recreational Regulations."

### About licenses and permits

The money collected from saltwater fishing licenses and permits is used to improve and restore fish habitat and for marine fisheries research, law enforcement and public education on marine resources. Recreational licenses and permits, including reprints, are available at [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com), Fish|Hunt Fl app, tax collectors' offices, license agents, or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Handling fees apply to telephone and internet sales. See more information on page 22.

### Thank you for contributing to conservation

Your purchases of fishing equipment, motorboat fuel and fishing licenses help improve fishing and boating opportunities in Florida through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program (SFR). SFR is a successful cycle of federal funding that includes anglers, the fishing and boating industry, and conservation agencies with the goal to restore and better manage America's recreational fisheries. Funding is derived through an excise tax on fishing gear and motorboat fuel, paid by anglers through fishing and boating manufacturers.

Through this federal "user-pay, public-benefit" system of conservation, millions of dollars in funding each year go toward fisheries research, habitat management, stock enhancement, artificial reefs, boating access improvements, angler outreach and aquatic education. To learn more about how everyone benefits from enhanced fishing opportunities provided through the program, visit [MyFWC.com/SFR](http://MyFWC.com/SFR).

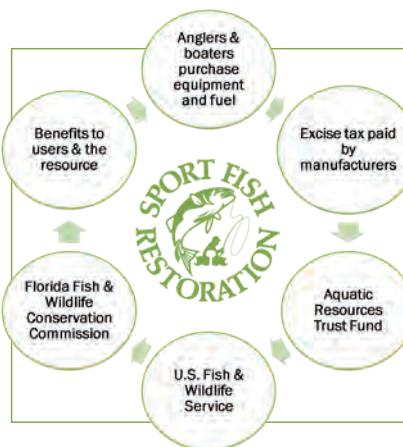
### 2021 Commission meeting dates and locations

Subject to change due to availability of appropriate facilities to hold the meeting.

- February 25-26
- May 12-13
- August 4-5
- October 6-7
- December 15-16

\*Dates subject to change

For more information about Commission meeting dates, times, locations and agendas, visit [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) and click on "About" and "Commission Meetings" on the top of the page.



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Florida



## Make the right kind of waves

As the number of anglers continues to grow, it becomes more important than ever to be a marine resource steward as well as show others respect when on or near the water. By respecting the marine environment and the people in it, we can help ensure good fishing for generations to come and safe fishing experiences. After all, respect for nature and for other anglers is what fishing is all about.

Some ways you can help be a marine resource steward and make the right kinds of waves include:

- **Be an ethical angler:** Ethical angling means knowing when to keep and when to release your catch while always handling fish with care. This includes knowing and abiding by regulations and being able to identify the fish you target.
- **Be ready at the ramp:** Prepare your boat and equipment before launch. At a fuel dock, get fuel, pay and move out of the way.
- **Wear your life jacket:** Set a good example for others and stay safe.
- **Watch the wake:** Stay at least 200 feet from shoreline and other boaters and follow no wake zones. Always yield to wade fishermen.
- **Boat safely:** Know who has the right of way and when.
- **Be courteous on shore:** Don't shoreline fish in areas or during times of day when there are a lot of swimmers. Don't crowd anglers who are fishing from shore.
- **Stash your trash:** Recycle fishing line and dispose of trash in a proper receptacle ashore.
- **Coming in for a landing:** When anchoring up, watch how other boats tie off and do the same. If you think you are too close to other boaters or anglers, you are probably too close. Mind the current and be patient and wait for others to move before docking.
- **Keep the noise down:** Sound is amplified over the water, which can disturb other boaters and those who live near the water.
- **Give anglers space:** The sounds or wake from your boat can cause an angler to lose their catch or drive fish away.



Learn more at [MyFWC.com/Marine](http://MyFWC.com/Marine) by clicking "On-the-Water Etiquette."



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# FWC celebrates the 2020 Lionfish Challenge

The FWC is excited to announce that the Lionfish Challenge removal incentive program continued to grow in its fifth year. A total of 170 recreational and commercial harvesters removed over 21,500 lionfish from Florida waters during the Challenge that started on May 22 and ended on Nov. 1, 2020. FWC has tracked the removal of over 780,000 lionfish from Florida waters since 2014.

The 2020 Lionfish Challenge recreational Lionfish King is David Connerth of Palm Beach County. Connerth earned this designation after harvesting a total of 1,141 lionfish. On average, Connerth conducts harvest trips twice a week and harvests around 25 lionfish per trip. Connerth has always had a passion for biology and the marine environment. His motivation to participate in the Challenge comes from his drive to remove lionfish to protect the reefs and allow more biodiversity and abundance of predatory fishes.

This year's Commercial Champion is Isidoro Bedoya of Duval County. Bedoya harvested a total of 1,196.5 pounds of lionfish (poundage equates to about 1,319 fish). Bedoya targets lionfish and other reef fish species commercially out of Jacksonville. He enjoys helping to protect the reefs and native species. Bedoya harvests 100 lbs. of lionfish on average per trip and conducts about three trips per month.

Connerth and Bedoya earned a woodburning lionfish trophy custom-made by Adam Mahr, a Shearwater Perdix dive computer, and \$300 for SCUBA Nitrox refills.

The 2020 Challenge also included a new incentive this year with monthly Mini-Challenges. During the Mini-Challenge #1, the first 25 participants who qualified for the Lionfish Challenge were entered into a raffle drawing to take home a YETI Panga Dry Backpack. The winners were Chris Campbell, Sarah Peirce and Michael Curry. Mini Challenge #2 awarded participants for harvesting large lionfish between July 3 – July 13. Participants with fish over 400 mm earned a 10L customized Reef Rangers dry bag, and the participant to harvest the largest lionfish earned a Shearwater Perdix dive computer. The winner of the Largest Lionfish Mini-Challenge was Josh Livingston who submitted a fish that was 408 mm (16.06 inches) long! Mini-Challenge #3 awarded participants \$500 in cash for submitting the most lionfish within their region between Aug. 21 – Sept. 1. The winners for the Most Lionfish Mini-Challenge were: Northeast Region: Russell Peters – 705 lionfish; Southeast Region: Shane Rasch – 241 lionfish; West Region: Jennifer Ford-Cote – 105 lionfish; Northwest Region: Bob Gamble – 61 lionfish; and Commercial: Isidoro Bedoya – 174 lbs. Mini-Challenge #4 ran from

Sept. 25 – Oct. 13 and allowed participants to earn one raffle entry for each fish submitted. Winners included: Carlos Orozco, Danny Ward and Annie Beattie, each who won a Dive Rite Aircell XT steel backplate BCD.

A special thanks to the 49 dive shops and businesses that served as checkpoints. Without checkpoint participation, the Challenge would not have been possible.

To learn more about the Challenge, including dates for next year's event, and to see a full list of participants and prize winners, visit FWCReefRangers.com. For questions, e-mail [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com).

## Lionfish Challenge - Recreational Category

	NAME	# OF LIONFISH CAUGHT
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b> <b>Lionfish King</b>	David Connerth	1,141
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	Russell Peters	842
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	Shane Rasch	619

## Lionfish Challenge - Commercial Category

	NAME	POUNDS OF LIONFISH CAUGHT
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b> <b>Commercial Champion</b>	Isidoro Bedoya	1,196.5 lbs.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	Josh Livingston	943 lbs.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	Rachel Bowman	932.75 lbs.





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# Artificial Reef Program

Florida manages one of the most diverse, and most active artificial reef programs in the United States. As of October 2020, the FWC Artificial Reef Program has recorded 3,764 artificial reef deployment locations state-wide. So far in 2020, 174 new artificial reefs were constructed, and the locations from a subset of those new reefs are listed in this table. To download a complete list of Florida's artificial reef locations in a variety of digital formats, view an interactive map, and learn more about Florida's artificial reef program, please visit [MyFWC.com/ArtificialReefs](http://MyFWC.com/ArtificialReefs)

## Sample of the 174 Artificial Reefs Deployed During 2020

Deploy ID	County	Deploy Date	Deployment Name	Material	Tons	Relief (ft)	Depth (ft)	Lat (DM)	Long (DM)
BA0478	Bay	07/17/20	St. Joe Reef	Concrete tetrahedrons	202	15	80	29° 55.090'	-85° 39.120'
BA0476	Bay	05/17/20	MB-255	Concrete tetrahedrons	80	15	64	29° 54.810'	-85° 33.054'
BE0069	Brevard	08/13/20	Anglers Reef	Concrete culverts	357	15	82	28° 23.314'	-80° 18.189'
B00122	Broward	04/29/20	John M. Baker Reef	Concrete culverts	58	9	70	26° 09.496'	-80° 04.732'
ES0642	Escambia	06/20/20	Charles F. Gonzalez	Concrete disks	24	4	11	30° 19.727'	-87° 08.318'
FR0065	Franklin	08/20/20	St. Teresa Patch Reef	Concrete domes	20	5	38	29° 47.162'	-84° 27.7995'
ME0098	Manatee	06/25/20	BOR5S-20-06	Limestone boulders	360	9	39	27° 24.414'	-82° 47.829'
ME0097	Manatee	06/29/20	Sean Gucken Reef	Concrete culverts	175	8	33	27° 30.924'	-82° 49.026'
ME0096	Manatee	06/19/20	Jim's Gift Reef	120' Steel barge	250	7	33	27° 30.974'	-82° 49.049'
DA0243	Miami-Dade	02/19/20	FDOT- SW 1st Bridge	Concrete pilings	736	8	27	25° 48.860'	-80° 10.228'
DA0242	Miami-Dade	02/28/20	Dinner Key Pier	Concrete pilings	2,316	9	23	25° 48.806'	-80° 10.251'
OK0342	Okaloosa	09/10/20	S/V DYLAN	61 ft steel sailboat	26	12	119	30° 07.614'	-86° 23.469'
OK0337	Okaloosa	05/27/20	LA-1	Concrete tetrahedrons	38	15	150	30° 05.570'	-86° 24.175'
OK0331	Okaloosa	04/18/20	FH14-07B	Concrete tetrahedrons	33	8	70	30° 21.172'	-86° 36.872'
PB0125	Palm Beach	09/03/20	Andrew Harris Snorkel	Limestone & concrete	265	11	41	26° 57.207'	-80° 03.731'
PB0116	Palm Beach	06/09/20	FWC West Palm Beach	Limestone boulders	323	15	40	26° 45.319'	-80° 01.581'
PB0113	Palm Beach	07/15/20	Andrew Harris Reef	Limestone boulders	700	20	60	26° 57.575'	-80° 03.202'
ST0204	Sarasota	07/13/20	Silvertooth 25	Concrete domes	6	3	30	27° 17.166'	-82° 35.955'
SL0078	St. Lucie	06/23/20	Curtist Bostick (CCA)	Concrete culverts	150	10	100	27° 23.870'	-80° 02.970'
SL0076	St. Lucie	08/06/20	Paul Jacquin Reef (A)	Concrete culverts	900	10	100	27° 23.922'	-80° 02.979'
TA0050	Taylor	07/31/20	DEP-8	Concrete cubes	10	3	50	29° 38.349'	-83° 54.865'
TA0043	Taylor	07/31/20	DEP-1	Concrete cubes	8	3	50	29° 38.423'	-83° 54.189'
V00187	Volusia	09/16/20	Site 8 (NE-1 & 2)	Concrete culverts	430	10	65	28° 55.513'	-80° 42.342'
V00189	Volusia	10/12/20	Site 9 (NE-1 & 2)	Concrete culverts	420	10	125	29° 21.497'	-80° 21.473'
WK0077	Wakulla	08/19/20	Glen Peel Memorial	Concrete culverts	86	7	31	29° 50.421'	-84° 09.476'



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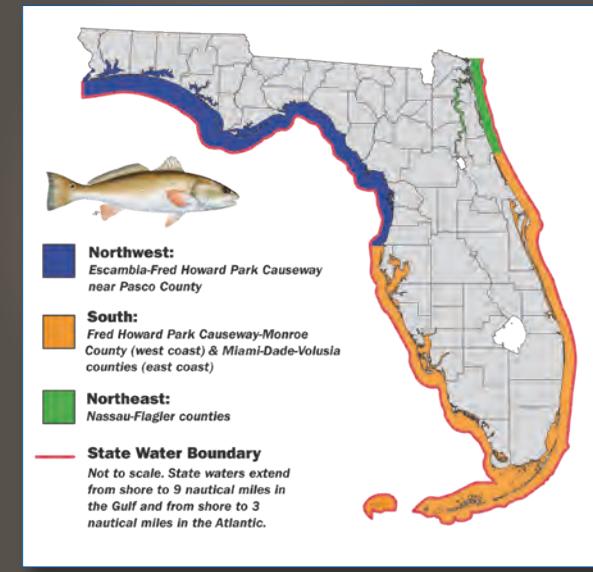
# Know Your Management Zones

For most species, Florida's recreational bag limits apply to all state waters off Florida, which extend out to 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic and out to 9 nautical miles on the Gulf. The following maps provide information regarding two species that have specific management zones where bag limits or rules vary by region.

For management zones for other species including gag, hogfish, snook, permit and weakfish, visit [MyFWC.com/Marine](http://MyFWC.com/Marine) and click on "Recreational Regulations," then "Fisheries Maps."

## Red Drum Management Zones

For red drum, there are three management zones. The daily bag limit is one fish in the northwest and south zones and two fish in the northeast zone.



# Hooked a bird? Don't Cut the Line!

Even if you take precautionary steps to avoid it, sometimes you might hook a bird by accident. That's when it's important to remember—don't cut the line and let the bird fly away with it attached. This can lead to entanglement and death of birds (and an inconvenient loss of line). Instead, follow these simple steps to unhook the bird: **Reel. Remove. Release.**

1. Wear safety glasses and enlist a partner for help.
2. **Reel** the bird in slowly and lift it from the water using a hoop net.
3. Grasp the bird by the head just behind the eyes and fold the wings against the body. For pelicans, hold the beak, keeping the mouth slightly open so it can breathe. Cover the bird's head with a cloth to keep it calm.
4. **Remove** the barb and hook from the bird using pliers or clippers. If the bird is entangled, remove all line.
5. **Release** the bird (if healthy) by placing it on the ground near the water and allowing it to take off.
6. If the bird has swallowed the hook or is severely injured, contact a local seabird rehabilitator. For help finding one, use the link to the locator app at [MyFWC/Unhook](#).

### How else can you keep the seabirds away from your fish and reduce entanglement?

1. Don't feed the birds, which teaches them to approach where they are more likely to interfere with fishing.
2. Dispose of filleted bones where birds can't get them — in a trash can with lid or at home.
3. Cover bait buckets and take unused bait home.
4. Dispose of fishing line in a monofilament recycling bin or cut into small pieces and place in the trash.
5. Don't leave your line unattended.
6. Cast carefully to avoid being snared on trees, bridge piles, power lines or obstacles.
7. Help others learn what to do when they accidentally hook a bird. It's pretty easy, once you know how.



## Spotted Seatrout Management Zones

Spotted seatrout has five management zones and the recreational bag limit is three fish in the western panhandle region, five fish in the big bend region, three fish in the the south region, two fish in the central east region and five fish in the northeast region.

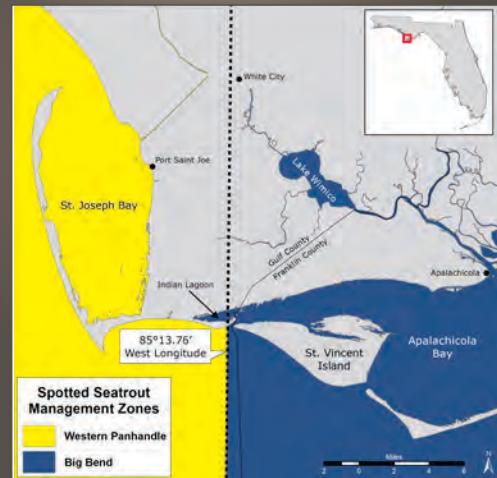


## Seatrout Boundaries



Two new zones were created by splitting the Northwest spotted seatrout management zone into the: (See maps below.)

- Western Panhandle (Escambia County through the portions of Gulf County west of longitude 85 degrees, 13.76 minutes but NOT including Indian Pass/Indian Lagoon).
- Big Bend (remaining portion of Gulf County plus Indian Lagoon, and Franklin County through Fred Howard Park Causeway in Pinellas County).



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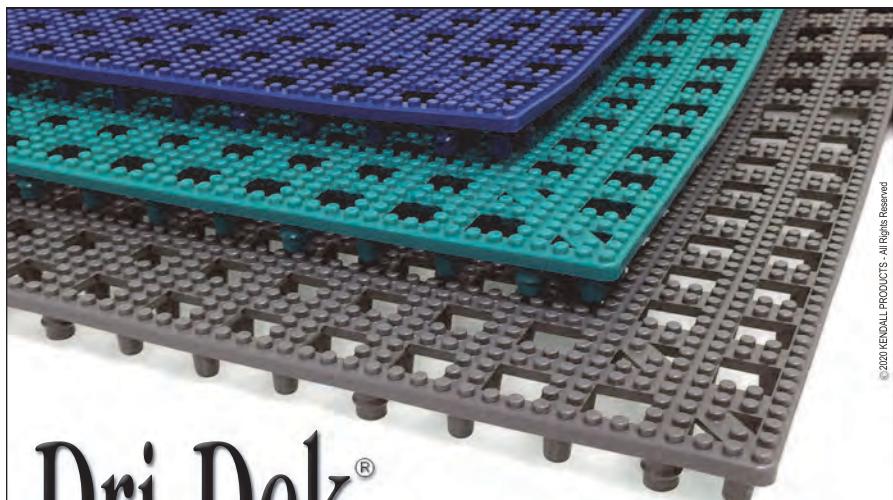


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# Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

Issued: January 2021

New regulations are highlighted in red

(please visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational for the most current regulations)

All art: © Diane Rome Peebles, except snowy grouper (Duane Raver)

## Reef Fish

### Snapper

#### General Snapper Regulations:

- Snapper Aggregate Bag Limit - Within state waters of the Atlantic and Gulf, all species of snapper are included in a 10 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of snapper species, unless stated otherwise.
- Seasons - If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.



#### Snapper, Cubera ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see below)

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester under 30", included within snapper aggregate bag limit
- May additionally harvest up to 2 over 30" per harvester or vessel, whichever is less, and these 2 fish over 30" are **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit



#### Snapper, Red ▲◆●X

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

##### Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- **Gulf - To be determined**

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester
- Gulf - Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.



#### Snapper, Vermilion ▲◆●X

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12"
- Gulf - 10"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit
- Gulf - 10 per harvester **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit



#### Snapper, Lane ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 8"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester, **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit

### Other Snapper ▲◆●

#### Minimum Size Limits:

- Dog and Mahogany: Atlantic and Gulf - 12"
- No minimum size limit for other snappers

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

See page 18 for gear rules pertaining to reef fish.



#### Snapper, Gray (Mangrove) ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



#### Snapper, Mutton ▲◆●X

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 18"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



#### Snapper, Schoolmaster ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester



#### Snapper, Yellowtail ▲◆●X

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

### Grouper

#### Atlantic Grouper General Regulations:

- Atlantic grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Atlantic and all state waters off Monroe County (Gulf and Atlantic sides).
- **Atlantic Grouper/Tilefish Aggregate Bag Limit** - includes all species of grouper plus golden tilefish and blueline tilefish in any combination of species.
- Seasons - If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.



#### Grouper, Black ▲◆●X

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

##### Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be gag or black

- Gulf - 4 per harvester\*



#### Grouper, Snowy ▲●

##### Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester



#### Grouper, Red ▲◆●X

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

##### Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 2 per harvester\*



#### Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind ▲●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per vessel per day of each species



#### Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

##### Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester

#### Gulf Grouper General Regulations:

- Gulf grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Gulf except off Monroe County (where Atlantic rules apply).
- **Gulf Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit** - all species of grouper in the Gulf are included in a 4 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper species.
- Seasons - If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.



#### Grouper, Scamp ▲◆●

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"

- Gulf - 16"

##### Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester

- Gulf - 4 per harvester



#### Gag Grouper ▲◆●X

##### Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"

- Gulf - 24"

##### Season:

- Atlantic - Closed: Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - State waters off Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties: Open April 1-June 30, & Sept 1-Dec. 31.
- Gulf - State waters off all other counties: Open June 1-Dec. 31

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be gag or black

- Gulf - 2 per harvester\*

#### Other Groupers ▲●

##### Other Grouper includes:

- Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby, Misty, and Yellowedge

##### Season:

- Atlantic - Rock hind, Red hind, Coney, Graysby: Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Atlantic - All others open year-round
- Gulf - Open year-round

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester

\* Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels applies to gag, black, and red grouper only.

**Other Reef Fish (If no season information is provided, the species is open year-round)****Amberjack, Greater ▲●X****Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 28" fork length
- Gulf - 34" fork length

**Season:**

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Open May 1-May 31, Aug. 1-Oct. 31

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester per day

**Tilefish, Blueline ▲●****Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **Atlantic - 3 per harvester per day**
- Gulf - 100 lbs. or 2 per harvester, whichever is greater

**Season:**

- **Atlantic - Open May 1-Aug. 31**
- Gulf - Open year-round

**Remarks**

- Blueline tilefish included within Atlantic grouper aggregate bag limits.

**Great Barracuda ■**

Regulations only apply in Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties.

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Not less than 15" or more than 36"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 2 per person or 6 per vessel
- May possess one over 36" per vessel.
- Unregulated in all other areas.

**Hogfish ▲●X**

Atlantic regulations apply to Monroe county

**Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 16" fork length
- Gulf - 14" fork length

**Season:**

- Atlantic - Open May 1-Oct. 31
- Gulf - Open year round

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **Atlantic - 1 per harvester**
- **Gulf - 5 per harvester**

**Triggerfish (Gray) ▲●X****Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 12" fork length
- Gulf - 15" fork length

**Season:**

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- **Gulf - Open March 1-May 31, Aug. 1-Dec. 31, see MyFWC.com for updates**

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **Atlantic - 10 per harvester**
- **Gulf - 1 per harvester**

**Red Porgy ▲◆●****Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 14"
- Gulf - None

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds

**Tilefish, Golden ▲●****Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **Atlantic - 1 per harvester**
- **Gulf - 100 pounds or 2 per person, whichever is greater**

**Remarks**

- Golden tilefish included within Atlantic Grouper aggregate bag limits

**Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish ▲●X****Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic and Gulf - Cannot be less than 14" or greater than 22" fork length

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per person aggregate of the two species**

**Black Sea Bass ▲◆●****Minimum Size Limits:**

- Atlantic - 13"
- Gulf - 10"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **Atlantic - 7 per harvester**
- **Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester**

**Pelagics****Billfish ▲★****Minimum Size Limits:**

- Sailfish 63";
- Blue Marlin 99";
- White Marlin 66";
- Roundscale Spearfish 66"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 1 per harvester aggregate bag limit

**Remarks**

- Measured tip of lower jaw to fork. All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmpermit.noaa.gov.
- HMS permit required in federal waters.

**Blackfin Tuna ▲■****Minimum Size Limits:**

- No minimum size limit

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 2 fish per person or 10 fish per vessel per day, whichever is greater.

**Mackerel, King ▲****Minimum Size Limits:**

- 24" fork length

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **Atlantic (excluding Monroe) - 2 per harvester**
- **Gulf (including Monroe) - 3 per harvester**

**Remarks**

- Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters if federal waters are closed to recreational harvest.

**Mackerel, Spanish ▲****Minimum Size Limits:**

- 12" fork length

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 15 per harvester

**Swordfish ★****Minimum Size Limits:**

- 47" lower jaw fork length with head attached or 25" cleithrum to keel length if head removed

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed a maximum of 4 per recreational (not for-hire) vessel or 15 per for-hire vessel

**Remarks**

- All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528. HMS permit required in federal waters. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels.

**Wahoo ▲****Minimum Size Limits:**

- None

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 2 per harvester

**Cobia (Ling) ▲****Minimum Size Limits:**

- 33" fork length

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **Atlantic - 1 per harvester not to exceed 6 per vessel**
- **Gulf - 1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel**

**Tripletail ▲★◆■****Minimum Size Limits:**

- 18"

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- 2 per harvester

**Remarks**

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.

**Dolphinfish ▲****Minimum Size Limits:**

- **Atlantic - 20" fork length**

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

- **10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day. Vessel limit does not apply to for-hire vessels.**



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Report fish and wildlife law violations toll free at: 1-888-404-3922

## Coastal Species



### Bluefish



#### Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 10 per harvester (includes Monroe county)



### Permit



#### Size Limits:

- 22" fork Special Permit Zone (SPZ); Not less than 11" or more than 22" fork length all other areas

#### Closed Season:

- April 1-July 31 SPZ Only

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel SPZ;
- 2 per harvester all other state waters

#### Remarks

- May possess 1 over 22" fork length outside the SPZ, not to exceed 2 over 22" fork per vessel per day. For map of SPZ, please see: MyFWC.com.
- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels



### Black Drum



#### Size Limits:

- Not less than 14" or more than 24"

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester

#### Remarks

- May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited.



### Flounder



#### Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester

#### Remarks

- May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.
- Changes pending, see MyFWC.com



### Spotted Seatrout



#### Size Limits:

- Not less than 15" or more than 19"
- May not possess more than 1 over 19" per vessel

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 3 per harvester per day W.P. Zone
- 5 per harvester per day B.B. Zone
- 3 per harvester per day S. Zone
- 2 per harvester per day C.E. Zone
- 5 per harvester per day N.E. Zone

#### Closed Season:

- Feb. W.P. Zone
- Nov. - Dec. C.E. Zone

#### Remarks

- See management zone map on pg. 9.
- Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels
- For current regulations see MyFWC.com
- Remains Catch-and-release only in Pasco-Gordon Pass/Collier counties.



### Bonefish



#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 0 per harvester

#### Remarks

- Catch and release only
- Hook and line only



### Weakfish



#### Minimum Size Limits:

- Weakfish Management Area (WMA) in Nassau County - 12"
- All other areas - no minimum

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- WMA - 1 per harvester
- All other areas - 100 pounds per harvester

#### Remarks

- Regulations apply in parts of Nassau County only.
- See map at: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Weakfish



### Pompano, Florida



#### Minimum Size Limits:

- 11" fork length

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 6 per harvester

#### Remarks

- Hook and line, cast net and beach or haul seine ONLY.



### Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver

#### Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum size

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 50 aggregate per harvester;
- Aggregate vessel limits  
Feb. 1-Aug. 31: 100 per vessel;  
Sept. 1-Jan. 31: 50 per vessel



### Pompano, African



#### Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel



### Lionfish



#### Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 100 fish per harvester



### Sheepshead



#### Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 8 per harvester

#### Remarks

- Snatching prohibited
- Vessel limit of 50 fish during March and April



### Tarpon



#### Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per year. \$50 harvest tag required. Vessel limit of one fish. Harvest tag can only be used when fish is retained for potential IGFA record.

#### Remarks

- Tarpon over 40 inches must remain in the water during release. Spearing and snatch hooking prohibited. Bottom weighted jigs prohibited in Boca Grande Pass. See: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Tarpon for additional information.



### Red Drum (Redfish)



#### Size Limits:

- Not less than 18" or more than 27"

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day in the NE zone, and 1 per harvester in the NW and S zone. See p. 6
- Off the water possession limit of 6 fish

#### Remarks

- Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.
- Remains Catch-and-release only in Pasco-Gordon Pass/Collier counties

## Can't find your fish in the regulations?

Florida's coastal waters are home to thousands of marine species, and the majority of these species have no specific regulations with regard to bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions or closed seasons. These species are often referred to as "unregulated species," although the name can be a bit misleading. State law provides that for any marine species that does not have specific regulations, harvesting more than 100 pounds or two fish (whichever is the greater amount) constitutes a commercial quantity and requires a commercial license. This means the recreational harvest limit for any unregulated species is 100 pounds or two organisms if the combined weight of the two organisms exceeds 100 pounds.

★ Spearing Prohibited

▲ Must remain in whole condition (removal of gills and guts allowed).

◆ Measured as total length. Total length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.

■ State regulations apply in federal waters.

### Gulf Kingfish

### Jack Crevalle

### Lionfish

### Hardhead Catfish

#### Examples of "unregulated species" include:

Ladyfish, bonito, menhaden, white grunt, southern stingray, gulf kingfish (whiting), pinfish, Atlantic croaker, jack crevalle, cero mackerel, hardhead catfish, gafftopsail catfish, lionfish.

\* No license is required to harvest lionfish by dipnet, pole spear or Hawaiian sling and lionfish bag limit is unlimited for both Gulf and Atlantic state waters.

● Additional gear rules apply, please see: MyFWC.com

† Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook (any hook with two or more points and a common shaft) in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.

✗ State Reef Fish Angler designation required when fishing for select reef fish species from a private vessel in the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean.

## Crustaceans and Mollusks



### Bay Scallops

#### Season:

- Gulf County: Aug. 16-Sept. 24
- Franklin-NW Taylor County: July 1-Sept. 24
- Dixie and remaining Taylor County: June 15-Labor Day
- Levy, Citrus and Hernando counties: July 1-Sept. 24
- Pasco County: 10 days starting on 3rd Friday in July

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester; no more than 10 gallons whole, or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime
- Dixie and remaining Taylor County: From June 15-30, one gallon whole/one cup meat per person or five gallons whole/two pints meat per vessel, whichever is less

#### Remarks

- Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Pinellas - Pasco county line, to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County. Direct transit through closed areas permitted.

### Shrimp



#### Closed Season:

- April & May closed in Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 gallons heads on per harvester or vessel, whichever is less

#### Remarks

- Visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater", "Regulations" and "Shrimp" for additional regulations specific to Dade, Nassau and Duval
- See 68B-31 F.A.C for more information on areas closed to shrimping



### Spiny Lobster



#### Minimum Size Limit:

- Carapace must be greater than 3" measured in the water

#### Seasons:

- Sport Season open July 28-29, 2021
- Regular Season opens Aug. 6 through March 31

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Sport Season: 6 per harvester per day in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 in all other harvest areas.
- Regular Season: 6 per harvester in all areas

#### Remarks

- Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny lobster permit required when license required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.



### Clams (Hard)



### Crab, Stone



#### Minimum Size Limits:

- 2 7/8" claw

#### Closed Season:

- May 2-Oct. 14

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 gal. claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less

#### Remarks

- 5 traps maximum. Visit MyFWC.com for statewide trap construction requirements and specific requirements that apply in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. See how to properly de-claw on our website. New trap registration requirements, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com to register.



### Crab, Blue



### Oysters

#### Minimum Size Limit:

- 3"

#### Closed Season:

- June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
- July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.

#### Apalachicola Bay: Closed

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay

#### Remarks

- Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.**

- Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas.
- Harvest from approved shellfish areas during daylight hours only.
- Go to FloridaAquaculture.com to determine the Open or Closed status of shellfish harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.
- 1 Bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell)
- Harvest prohibited in any harvest area that is in the Closed status as determined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- Bay County: Harvest and possession prohibited in West Bay Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project Zone

## Sharks

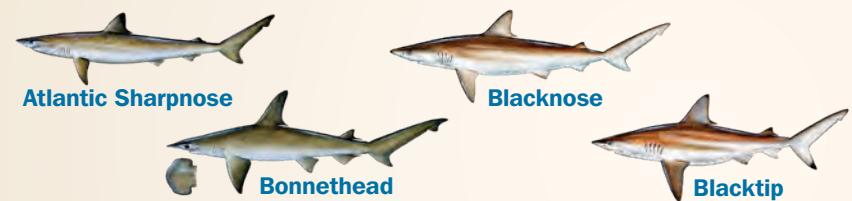
### Retainable Sharks with a 54" fork length minimum ▲★†

Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle (not illustrated).



### Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ▲★†

Finetooth, Smooth Dogfish, Florida Smoothhounds (not illustrated).



### Retainable Sharks with a 83" fork length minimum ▲★†



Shortfin Mako

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less.

#### Remarks

- The retainable sharks are managed as a group for bag limit purposes. In other words, you can only harvest one shark per day and the shark that you harvest must be one of the retainable species.
- Hook-and-line gear only.
- Shore-based Shark Fishing educational course and permit required.
- See list of prohibited species below.

## Prohibited Species

It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell or exchange the following species:

Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Sawfish, Atlantic Angel Shark, Basking Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Sixgill Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Caribbean Sharpnose Shark, Dusky Shark, Galapagos Shark, Lemon Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Night Shark, Silky Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Sandbar Shark, Sevengill Shark, Sixgill Shark, Smalltail Shark, Spiny Dogfish, Whale Shark, White Shark, Tiger Shark, Greater, Scalloped and Smooth Hammerhead Shark, Manta Ray, Devil Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Sturgeon, Queen Conch, Calico Scallop, Stony, Hard, Black and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Bahama Starfish, and Longspine Urchin. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited. Puffer fish harvest is prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

## Marine life regulations

### Requirements for marine life (aquarium species) harvest:

- Recreational saltwater fishing license
- Organisms must be landed and kept alive
- A continuously circulating live well, aeration or oxygenation system of adequate size to maintain these organisms in a healthy condition
- **Allowable Gear:** hand-held net, drop net, rod, barrier net, slurp gun (use of quinaldine is prohibited)\*
- **Bag Limit:** 20 organisms per person per day; only 5 of any one species allowed within the 20-organism bag limit
- **Possession Limit:** 2-day possession limit, 40 total organisms, no more than 10 of any one species allowed
- **Allowable substrate:** see species specifications in table
- **Closed areas:** Some closed areas exist\*\*
- Sale of recreationally caught marine life organisms is prohibited
- Regulations also apply in federal waters

\* Some organisms have additional gear limitations, see chart.

\*\* Various closed areas exist. See regulations for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park and Florida's State Parks before collecting in these areas.

Additional rules apply to the collection of shells containing live organisms in Lee or Manatee counties.

### Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS <sup>1</sup>	SIZE LIMITS (total length unless otherwise noted)
<b>Angelfish</b>	No more than 5 per person per day in any combination	Gray, French Angelfish: 1½–8" slot limit Blue, Queen Angelfish: 1¾–8" slot limit Rock Beauty: 2–5" slot limit
<b>Butterflyfish</b>		1–4" slot limit
<b>Filefish/Triggerfish</b>	Except Unicorn Filefish, Gray Triggerfish and Ocean Triggerfish	
<b>Gobies</b>		Maximum size limit: 2"
<b>Hamlets/Seabasses</b>	Except reef fish <sup>2</sup> and Longtail Bass	
<b>Jawfish</b>		Maximum size limit: 4"
<b>Parrotfish</b>		Maximum size limit: 12"
<b>Porkfish</b>		Minimum size limit: 1½"
<b>Pufferfish, Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish</b>	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	
<b>Tangs and Surgeonfish</b>		Maximum size limit (fork length): 9"
<b>Wrasse/Hogfish/Razorfish</b>	Except Hogfish Snapper	Spanish Hogfish: 2–8" slot limit Cuban Hogfish: 3–8" slot limit
<b>Other Marine Life fish include<sup>1</sup>:</b> Basslets, Batfish, Blackbar Soldierfish, Blennies, Brotulas (Black and Key), Cardinalfish, Clingfish, Cornetfish, Damselfish, Eels (Moray and Snake), Frogfish, Hawkfish, High-hat/Jackknife-fish/Spotted Drum/Cubbyu, Pipefish, Reef Croakers, Seahorses, Sleepers, Yellow Stingray, Sweepers, Toadfish, Trumpetfish and Trunkfish/Cowfish.		

### Marine Life — Invertebrates

SPECIES	REMARKS <sup>1</sup>
<b>Anemones</b>	Corallimorphs and Zoanths: No more than 5 polyps of each may be landed per person per day, must be harvested with a flexible blade no wider than 2". Corallimorphs must be harvested as single polyps only. Zero bag limit on Giant Anemone ( <i>Condylactis gigantea</i> ).
<b>Conch, Queen</b>	Harvest prohibited
<b>Corals: Hard ,stony, fire &amp; black</b>	Harvest prohibited
<b>Octocorals</b>	No more than 6 octocoral colonies per person per day in any combination; harvest of attached substrate within 1" of base is permitted; harvest closes when quota met.
<b>Crab, Hermit</b>	Except Land Hermit Crabs
<b>Crab, Horseshoe</b>	Harvest prohibited
<b>Live Rock</b>	Harvest prohibited
<b>Octopods<sup>3</sup></b>	Except Common Octopus
<b>Sea Fans</b>	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
<b>Siphonophores/Hydroids</b>	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
<b>Sponges</b>	Except Sheepwool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef and Velvet Sponges; no more than 5 sponges per harvester per day in any combination; harvest of substrate within 1" of base permitted north and west of the southernmost point of Egmont Key, no substrate allowed south of Egmont Key
<b>Starfish<sup>3</sup></b>	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
<b>Urchins<sup>3</sup></b>	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited
<b>Other Marine Life invertebrates include<sup>1</sup>:</b> Brittlestars <sup>3</sup> , Decorator (Furcate Spider) Crab, False Arrow Crab, Green Clinging (Emerald) Crab, Nimble Spray (Urchin) Crab, Red Mithrax Crab, Red-Ridged Clinging Crab, Spotted Porcelain Crab, Yellowline Arrow Crab, Fileclams <sup>3</sup> , Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs <sup>3</sup> , Sea Cucumbers <sup>3</sup> , Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails <sup>3</sup> , Starsnails <sup>3</sup> , Feather-duster Worms and Calcareous Tube Worms.	

### Marine Life — Plants

SPECIES	LIMITS
<b>Algae, Coralline Red</b>	
<b>Caulerpa</b>	One gallon of tropical ornamental marine plants per day in any combination; 2 gallon maximum possession limit

1—Unless otherwise noted, combined bag limit of 20 marine life fish and invertebrates per person per day, only 5 of any one species allowed. A 2-day possession limit also applies (40 total organisms, only 10 of any one species).

2—Such as groupers, snappers, seabass and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on pages 10.

3—Bag limit of 2 live shell fish of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.



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## Catching up with the latest release recommendations

Whether you're fishing for harvest, or just for sport, chances are you're going to need to release a fish. Properly releasing any fish that you do not intend to keep increases its chance of survival to help maintain and improve your Florida fish populations. Check out these tips to give your fish a fighting chance upon release.

### Things to Know:

- Be aware of the area you will be fishing and local fish you might catch.
- Know the regulations for your target species and make sure that you have all the proper gear.
- Determine ahead of time which fish you want to keep. This will help get released fish back in the water quickly.

### Gear to Grab:

- **Barbless circle hooks** — Studies have shown that the hook you use is one of the most important factors in release survival. Circle hooks are significantly more likely to hook a fish in the mouth, reducing risk of serious injury and allowing anglers to get the fish back in the water faster. Use barbless non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks for an even better release since they are easier and faster to remove than barbed hooks. Use a pair of pliers or small hand crimper to flatten a circle hook's barb; for larger hooks, a bench crimper can be used. If a hook is left in a fish, non-stainless-steel hooks should degrade faster than stainless-steel hooks.
- **Dehooking tool** — Allows for a quick release while minimizing injuries and handling time.
- **Correct-weight tackle** — Using appropriately sized lures, hooks, line and tackle is important to hooking fish properly and reeling them in quickly. Tackle that is too small can be swallowed more easily and is more likely to gut hook. It can also take longer to reel fish in, leaving them exhausted and less able to avoid predators upon release.



■ **Knotless, rubber-coated net** — These support the weight of the fish while removing a minimal amount of slime and scales, reducing the risk of infection.

■ **Lip gripping devices** — Can be effective for controlling and handling fish, especially ones with sharp teeth. Grip behind the lower lip and support the weight of the fish in a horizontal position.

### Taking Action:

- Make sure to reel the fish in as quickly as possible. Playing the fish too much can result in an exhausted fish that cannot avoid predators once released.
- If the fish has swallowed the hook, **cut the line as close to the hook as possible**. Studies have shown that a key factor in the survival of gut hooked fish was leaving the hook in place. Fish are often able to shed the hook on their own and you can do more damage by attempting to remove the hook.
- If possible, **keep the fish in the water** while removing the hook and taking photos.
- Never hold a fish by the gills or eyes.
- Do not remove large fish like tarpon and sharks from water.
- Return the fish to the water as quickly as possible. One of the major factors in the survival of a released fish is how much time it spends out of the water. The more fish that survive upon release today, the more fish that will be available to catch tomorrow.
- Revive fish that do not swim away immediately or appear lethargic:
  - » Place fish in the water head first — it is easiest to hold one hand on the bottom lip or tail and one hand under the belly of the fish.
  - » Move the fish forward in the water — this allows the water to flow through the mouth and over the gills. The fish must face the direction of water flow.
- For fish caught in deep water with signs of barotrauma, **use a descending device to return fish to depth or vent the fish** by inserting a sharpened, hollow tube at a 45-degree angle, one inch behind the base of the pectoral fin.

### Ensure Fish Survive to Help Populations Thrive!

The steps you take on the water today can help positively impact the future of your Florida fish populations! To learn more about proper catch-and-release techniques, visit [MyFWC.com/FishHandling](http://MyFWC.com/FishHandling).

## STATE REEF FISH SURVEY

# Are You a State Reef Fish Angler?

Recreational anglers who fish for or harvest certain reef fish from a private vessel must obtain the State Reef Fish Angler designation. This designation allows for FWC to collect information about recreational reef fish directly from the people that fish for these species as part of the State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS).

### Who needs to obtain the State Reef Fish Angler designation?

Anyone 16 and older (including those over 65) on a private boat who intends to recreationally fish for or harvest any of the following reef fish species:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ mutton snapper</li> <li>■ yellowtail snapper</li> <li>■ hogfish</li> <li>■ red snapper</li> <li>■ vermilion snapper</li> <li>■ gag grouper</li> <li>■ red grouper</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ black grouper</li> <li>■ greater amberjack</li> <li>■ lesser amberjack</li> <li>■ banded rudderfish</li> <li>■ almaco jack</li> <li>■ gray triggerfish</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

### How do I sign up?

Sign up for the State Reef Fish Angler designation anywhere saltwater fishing licenses are sold ([GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com), Fish|Hunt FL mobile app, 1-888-FISHFLORIDA (347-4356), or at tackle shops, sporting goods stores, and tax collectors' offices).

If you are a Gulf Reef Fish Angler, you do not need a State Reef Fish Angler designation until your current Gulf designation expires.

### What happens once I have the State Reef Fish Angler designation?

Each month, a group of State Reef Fish Anglers will be mailed a short survey about their fishing trips. If you receive a survey, please respond and return it ASAP, even if you did not fish that month.

In addition, if you are asked by an FWC biologist at the dock or ramp to give an interview, please take a few minutes to answer questions about your fishing trip and catch.

Better, more precise data provides a clearer picture of the health of reef fish stocks throughout the state and helps ensure the long-term sustainability of recreational fishing in Florida. Your participation is crucial to the success of these efforts!



# Florida Friendly Fishing Guide

## Looking for an eco-minded fishing guide?

When scheduling your next fishing trip, visit the Florida Friendly Fishing Guide certification program page to find guides who are committed to preserving the future of Florida's fisheries by using sustainable boating and fishing practices.

Established by UF/IFAS, Florida Sea Grant, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the online certification course covers fisheries management, best practices for catch and release fishing, sustainable waste management and fueling, and other topics. Salt and freshwater fishing guides that have completed the voluntary course show that they adhere to the highest environmental standards.

Learn more about this program and how to find a Florida Friendly Fishing Guide near you at:

[bit.ly/fl-friendly-guides](http://bit.ly/fl-friendly-guides)

For questions, please email Savanna Barry at [Savanna.barry@ufl.edu](mailto:Savanna.barry@ufl.edu)



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## Recreational gear

Additional regional gear restrictions may apply in your county. For further clarification, contact the local regional offices listed on page 24.

### Reef fish gear rules

(applies to species marked with ● on pages 10-11)

■ **Gulf of Mexico:** These regulations require the use of a dehooking device when recreationally fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. All persons aboard a vessel harvesting reef fish must possess and use non-stainless steel non-offset circle hooks when using natural baits.

■ **Atlantic Ocean:** Recreational and commercial fishers are required to use dehooking devices as needed while fishing for reef fish. (New) When fishing for reef fish using hook-and-line with natural baits from a vessel, non-stainless steel, non-offset circle hooks are required N. of 28 degrees N. latitude and non-stainless steel hooks are required S. of 28 degrees N. latitude

These rules apply to all members of the reef fish complex including groupers, snappers, amberjacks, red porgy, gray triggerfish, black sea bass, golden tilefish, banded rudderfish, speckled hind and others. For a complete species list, please visit MyFWC.com.

### Hook-and-line gear

Hook-and-line anglers must tend their gear at all times to prevent people, marine life and shore life from becoming entangled in the line or injured by the hook. Also, it is against the law to intentionally discard any monofilament netting or line into or onto state waters. Monofilament line can entangle birds, marine mammals, marine turtles and fish, often injuring or killing them. Trot lines with 10 or fewer hooks are considered hook-and-line gear and must

be tended at all times while deployed. Species identified with "T" on pages 10 through 13 cannot be harvested with multi-hooks (single hook with two or more points) in conjunction with natural baits.

### Nets

The following types of nets may be used for recreational purposes in Florida waters:

- Bully nets (for lobster only) no greater than 3 feet in diameter and not made of monofilament.
- Frame nets and push nets (for shrimp only) no greater than 16 feet in perimeter and not made of monofilament. Frame nets cannot be used in state waters off Dade County.
- Hand-held landing or dip nets no greater than 96 inches in perimeter.
- Cast nets measuring 14 feet or less stretched length (stretched length is defined as the distance from the horn at the center of the net with the net gathered and pulled taut, to the lead line).
- Beach or haul seines measuring no larger than 500 square feet of mesh area, no larger than 2 inches stretched mesh size, not constructed of monofilament, and legibly marked at both ends with the harvester's name and address if a Florida resident. Non-residents using beach or haul seines for recreational purposes are required to have a commercial saltwater products license and legibly mark the seine at both ends with the harvester's saltwater products license number.
- Cast nets and seines may be used as harvesting gear for the following species only: black drum, bluefish, cobia, flounder, mullet, Florida pompano, red drum, sheepshead, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, weakfish and unregulated species (see p. 12).
- No more than two nets can be fished from any vessel and no more than one net can be fished by any person not on a vessel.

### Explosives, etc.

The use of powerheads, explosives, chemicals or the discharge of firearms to kill or harvest marine life is prohibited in state waters.

## Spearing

Spearing is a general term that includes bow fishing, gigging, spearfishing (underwater), or the use of any other device to capture a fish by piercing its body. Spearing does not include snagging or snatch hooking by hook and line. Marine species harvested by spearing are subject to the same recreational regulations (e.g., bag limits, size limits, and closed seasons) as those marine species that are harvested by any other type of recreationally-allowed gear. The following is a list of species or groups of species that are prohibited from harvest by all forms of spearing in state waters:

- All prohibited species (listed on p. 10-13)
- Billfish (all species)
- Bonefish
- Crab (blue, stone)
- Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*)
- Goliath grouper
- Manta ray
- Nassau grouper
- Permit
- Pompano (Florida and African)
- Red drum
- Sharks (all species including dogfish)
- Snook
- Spotted eagle ray
- Spotted seatrout
- Sturgeon
- Tarpon
- Tripletail
- Weakfish
- Marine life species (listed on p. 14)

\* Volusia County — You may not harvest by spearing in Volusia County inland waters with



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## SPEARING

the exception of flounder and sheepshead, and only by the use of a barbed spear with three or fewer prongs.

\* Special Local Laws also prohibit harvest by spearing in specific areas (Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations," "Full Text Rule by Species" and "Local Laws.")

### Spearfishing

Spearfishing is a specific form of "spearing" defined as "the catching or taking of a fish through the instrumentality of a hand or mechanically propelled, single or multi-pronged spear or lance, barbed or barbless, **operated by a person swimming at or below the surface of the water.**" In addition to the harvest species limitations above, you may not spearfish:

- For any species that cannot be harvested by spearing (see Spearing on pg. 18).
- For any species (freshwater or marine) in freshwater. Possession of spearfishing equipment in or on freshwater is also prohibited.
- Within the upper Keys no-spearfishing zone, which includes all state waters from the Miami-Dade County line down to and including Long Key.
- Within 100 yards of any designated public bathing beaches, commercial or public fishing piers, or portions of bridges where fishing is allowed.

- Within 100 feet of the unsubmerged portion of any jetty, except that spearing is allowed along the last 500 yards of any jetty that extends more than 1,500 yards from the shoreline.
- In or on any body of water under the jurisdiction of the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection. Within these areas, the possession of spearfishing equipment is also prohibited except when such equipment is un-loaded and is properly stored upon watercraft passing nonstop through the area.
- Within the no-take areas of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (Visit: [www.floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://www.floridakeys.noaa.gov).)
- Within any area where spearfishing is prohibited by a Special Local Law (Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations," "Full Text Rule by Species" and "Local Laws.")

### Powerheads, Bangsticks, Rebreathers

Harvest with the use of powerheads, bangsticks or rebreathers is prohibited in state waters, except that rebreathers are allowed for the harvest of lionfish. Within state waters, powerheads and bangsticks can be used for personal protection only, and cannot be used to harvest any species.

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# Catch a Florida Memory

Submit catches and earn rewards, all while supporting marine fisheries conservation! Catch a Florida Memory encourages anglers to target a diverse array of saltwater fish, thus helping to reduce pressure on the most commonly sought-after catches. Photos of anglers properly handling their catches are required. Visit [CatchaFloridaMemory.com](http://CatchaFloridaMemory.com) and submit your saltwater fish photos to reach achievements, earn prizes and gain recognition!



## Saltwater Grand Slams

Catch three specified fish species in 24 hours from nine categories.

## Saltwater Fish Life List

Track your progress at catching 70 species of saltwater fish.

## Saltwater Reel Big Fish

Catch memorable-sized saltwater fish in 30 species categories. Anglers must submit a photo of the entire fish on a length measuring device showing that the qualifying length was reached.

## Earn Great Prizes!

- **Life List 10-Fish Club; each Grand Slam and Reel Big Fish:** Prize pack including certificate, t-shirt and tumbler.
- **Monthly raffles:** One automatic entry for each approved submission made in the last 18 months for a chance to win a fish mount from Mount This! Fish Company, fillet knife from Smith's Consumer Products, Dek Decals from SeaDek Marine Products and more!
- **Recognition tier prizes:** Qualify for multiple Life List Clubs, Grand Slams and Reel Big Fish to earn dri-fit shirts, hats and fishing gear.
- **Triple Threat Club:** Prize pack including certificate, performance dri-fit shirt and exclusive Triple Threat raffles.
- **Grand prizes:** Catch all eligible Grand Slams, all Reel Big Fish or all Life List species to earn a rod and reel, Engel cooler and fishing kayak!

## Florida Saltwater Fishing Records

State all-tackle records for the heaviest fishes caught in Florida waters are maintained for 81 marine species in conventional tackle and fly fishing categories. Successful anglers receive a certificate and custom ink fish print courtesy of Fish Print Shop.

## Partnerships

Discover Martin County, the Sailfish Capital of the World, partners with Catch a Florida Memory to provide custom tumblers for our angler prize packs as well as helping to get anglers out on the water to catch some of Florida's most exciting saltwater species. Learn more about them at [DiscoverMartin.com/Fish-Like-a-Local](http://DiscoverMartin.com/Fish-Like-a-Local), and don't forget to check out our other generous partners who help provide rewards and recognition: American Integrity Insurance Company, CCA Florida, Mount This Fish Company!, Engel Coolers, SeaDek Marine Products, Smith Optics, McLean Angling, Smith's Consumer Products, Tony Ivory Art and Apparel, Ocean Waves Sunglasses, Fish Print Shop, EGO Fishing, Carlos Cardenas — Marine Artist, Reel Local, and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida. To become a partner, contact us at [AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com](mailto:AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com) or 850-487-0554.

## Connect with Us

- Website: [CatchaFloridaMemory.com](http://CatchaFloridaMemory.com)
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/CatchaFLMemory](https://Facebook.com/CatchaFLMemory)
- YouTube: [MyFWC.com/SaltwaterFishing](https://MyFWC.com/SaltwaterFishing)
- Email: [AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com](mailto:AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com)

► *Anglers who have qualified for an achievement for the first time are listed in the Club Members boxes.*



Desmond Carter with a reel big tripletail.



**Submit catches and earn rewards!**

## New Saltwater Grand Slam Club Members

**Tier 1 – 3 Different Grand Slams:**

Richard A. Brundage

**Bay and Estuary:**

Charles T. Douglas

Ryan Kiernan

Greg John Knothe

Maxwell Miller

**Family – Drum:**

Richard A. Brundage

James N. Corvin

John H. Dobbins

Steve Limer

Robert D. Manning

**Family – Grouper:**

Alex Fogg

Lewis Raymond Lowry IV

**Family – Jack/Pompano:**

William Sperry

**Family – Snapper:**

Curtis Alexander

Ethan J. Ball

Troy Bass

Trevor A. Beaman

Steve Brasheir

James M. Brumley

James N. Corvin

Wayne H. Crotty

Marc Dahl

John A. D'esposito

Alex Gaus

Cooper Lane Goldring

Spencer Drake Goldring

Coral Huyett

**Grady Kerr**

John W. Kerr III

James Y. Littlejohn

JD Malone

Laura J. Nathan-Kadish

Marlin Salts

Philip E. Smith

William Sperry

Ben Swaringen

Presley Verm

Amelia Vernon

Heather Weaver

Andrew P. Welch

Sean T. Wilms

Sean C. Wray

**Florida:**

Nicholas W. East IV

**Inshore:**

Mir F. Ali

Eric T. Anderson

Robert Courtney G.

Ashburn

Steve D. Bond Jr.

Henry Lee Bowman III

Richard A. Brundage

Stanley Bryant Jr.

Matthew B. Bushor

Corey Cobb

Mike Cockman

Robert W. Crane

Lathaniel Lee Crews

Joshua E. Damon

Joseph C. Denly

Ed C. Ellett

Marcia E. Ellett

Jeffrey L. Floyd

Chad French

Clifton Gagliano

David Galasso

Travis Haynes

Bob A. Hoelze

Riley K. Hyde

Travis Jacobs

Dean Krueger

Jeff Krueger

Joey Landreneau

Judd Lee Jr.

Michael N. McClain Sr.

Dale C. Melms

David E. Moore

John R. Morin

David Naumann

Katlyn M. Paul

Gwen Pelchat

Robert M. Rohe

Landon Smith

Patrick J. Smith

Philip E. Smith

Stephen Stubbs

Timothy Thurman

Dennis B. Vann

Nicholas Vugman

Fred Williamson III

**Small Fry:**

Gabriel Kamal Bahra

Wyatt Cress

Rylan J. Larkin

## New Saltwater Fish Life List Club Members

**10-Fish Club:**

Andrew Ancelin

Richard Austin

Ethan J. Ball

Chris Calhoon

Rob Clendenin

James N. Corvin

Matt Corvin

Robert L. Coville Jr.

Chris R. Craft II

Shane Cress

Wyatt Cress

Marc Dahl

Brooke Davis

John A. D'esposito

John R. Eaton

Jeffrey Eiber

Ed C. Ellett

Ben Friedman

Monty A. Gomez

Susan K. Gros

Brandon Guynn

Michael D. Hughes

Steven A. Johnson

Callie Jones

Richard M. Karcher

Logan Karowski

Richard Karowski

Cayden Karppe

Ryder Karppe

Elizabeth C. Klontz

Dean Krueger

Judd Lee Jr.

Steve Limer

Pam J. Ludlow

John C. Marks

Sivan N. Marks

Matthew D. Marraffino

Clay D. Marrs

Mary S. Martin

Xavier Martinez

Angel L. Melendez Rivera

Maxwell Miller

Brayden Mize

Pamela G. Moore

Paige N. Murray

Jennifer Nail

Laura J. Nathan-Kadish

Christopher A. Oakley

Giuseppe Paolucci

Gage T. Pollard

Jason A. Pollard

Kylie Pollard

Christina Rodriguez

Brandon Rose

Tim Ruble

Alexandria J. Salts

Jordan D. Sanford

William Sperry

John M. Suleski

Dylan R. Sullivan

Ben Swaringen

Chad M. Wammock

Sarah Emily Williams

Lee E. Willis Sr.

**30-Fish Club:**

Brandon Crotty

Bryce P. Duffy

Cooper Lane Goldring

Spencer Drake Goldring

Emily R. Hanzlik

Steve Limer

Mike J. Nolan

Jason A. Pollard

Philip E. Smith

Ben Swaringen

Brooke West

Sean C. Wray

**50-Fish Club:**

Adam J. Ball

**Black Drum:**

Sarah C. Austin

Parker Fish

**Crevalle Jack:**

Michael J. Bennett Jr.

Ben Fairbairn

David Galasso

Emily R. Hanzlik

**Gray (Mangrove) Snapper**

Cooper Lane Goldring

Robert Grundwald

Katlyn M. Paul

George Saridakis

Viviana B. Schuyler

Sean T. Wilms

**Gray Triggerfish:**

Alex Fogg

Robert Grundwald

Alexis Rose Paul

**King Mackerel:**

Travis Reed Anderson

Spencer Drake Goldring

Sean T. Wilms

**Ladyfish:**

Garrison H. Fairhurst

Cayden Karppe

Weston J. Labelle

Rylan J. Larkin

Brayden Mize

Sean C. Wray

Mason Zimmer

**Mutton Snapper:**

Craig N. Ambroson

Brandon Crotty

Ryan M. Milder

Laura J. Nathan-Kadish

**Permit:**

Emily R. Hanzlik

**Red Drum:**

Jeff P. Altman

Eric T. Anderson

Michael J. Bennett

James N. Corvin

Wyatt Cress

Brandon Crotty

Alex Fogg

Bryce P. Duffy

Ed C. Ellett

Philip W. Pennypacker

Buddy Romero

Jim Thirkill

Timmy R. Turner

Craig D. Van Brocklin

Larry Weedman

Avera G. Williams

**Scamp:**

Jeremy M. Summers

**Snook:**

Michael Paul Boggs

Socrates Conomos

Kathryn E. Cooke

Emily R. Hanzlik

Cayden Karppe

Eszter Keresztes

Judd Lee Jr.

Nathaniel Alan Legler

Maia Lowell

Dalton Scott McKee

Angel L. Melendez Rivera

Dale C. Melms

Miguel Navarro

Philip W. Pennypacker

Buddy Romero

Spencer Drake Goldring

Brayden Mize

Judd Lee Jr.

# LICENSES AND PERMITS

## Florida resident saltwater licenses

Saltwater licenses cover both watercraft and shoreline fishing.	
Annual Saltwater License	\$17.00
Youth Saltwater Fishing License — valid until 17th birthday	\$17.00
Five-Year Saltwater License	\$79.00
Annual Saltwater Shoreline License	\$0.00
Covers saltwater fishing only from shorelines and attached structures accessible by foot. Does not cover fishing from a watercraft, fishing from a shoreline reached by watercraft, or fishing while swimming or diving.	

## Non-resident saltwater licenses

Three-day Saltwater License	\$17.00
Seven-day License	\$30.00
Annual License	\$47.00

## Saltwater permits – residents and non-residents

Annual Snook Permit	\$10.00
Five-Year Snook Permit (Florida residents only)	\$50.00
Annual Spiny Lobster Permit	\$5.00
Five-Year Spiny Lobster Permit (Florida residents only)	\$25.00
Tarpon Tag (available only at tax collector offices)	\$51.50

Unless exempt from license requirements, permits are necessary for the take of Snook and Spiny Lobster. Tarpon tags required to land tarpon.

## Information for additional saltwater permits and designations

State Reef Fish Angler Designation – those fishing for reef fish from a private vessel in Gulf and Atlantic waters. No exemptions except youth under age 16.	\$0.00
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Annual Shore-Based Shark Fishing Permit	\$0.00
Annual Blue Crab Trap Registration	\$0.00
Annual Stone Crab Trap Registration	\$0.00

These new no-cost permits are available online only at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com. Youth under age 16 are exempt. No other exemptions apply.

## Florida resident combination licenses

Annual Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing	\$32.50
Annual Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing and Hunting	\$48.00

## Gold Sportsman's Licenses

Includes Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing and Hunting licenses and Snook, Spiny Lobster, Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading, Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl permits.	
Annual Gold Sportsman's License	\$100.00
Five-Year Gold Sportsman's License	\$494.00
Youth Gold Sportsman's License — valid until 17th birthday	\$100.00
Annual Military Gold Sportsman's License	\$20.00
Includes the same licenses and permits as the Gold Sportsman's License. Available for Florida residents who are active duty or retired military members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Armed Forces Reserve, Florida National Guard, Coast Guard or Coast Guard Reserve at county tax collectors' offices with current military identification card or at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com through an online verification process.	

## Florida Resident Lifetime Saltwater Fishing licenses

Includes Saltwater Fishing license and Snook and Spiny Lobster permits

Age: 0–4	\$126.50
Age: 5–12	\$226.50
Age: 13 or older	\$301.50

## Florida Resident Lifetime Gold Sportsman's licenses

Includes Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing and Hunting licenses and Snook, Spiny Lobster, Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading, Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl permits.

Age: 0–4	\$401.50
Age: 5–12	\$701.50
Age: 13 or older	\$1,001.50

## Saltwater fishing in Florida – what to know before you go:

Saltwater fishing licenses can be obtained online at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, at county tax collectors' offices and license agents, or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). All sales are final. Handling fees apply for telephone and Internet sales. For more information on recreational licensing information, visit MyFWC.com/License.

## For purposes of saltwater fishing in Florida, a resident is defined as:

- Any person who has declared Florida as his or her only state of residence as evidenced by a valid Florida driver license or identification card with both a Florida address and a Florida residency verified by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (HSMV). A Florida voter registration card, declaration of domicile, or homestead exemption may also be used as proof of Florida residency.
- Active duty United States military personnel stationed in Florida, including spouses and dependent children residing in the household, with military orders.

## Saltwater license exemptions:

- Youth under 16 years of age.
- Florida resident age 65 or older with proof of age and residency, such as a Florida driver's license or identification card.
- Florida resident fishing within his or her county of residence with live or natural bait, using poles or lines not equipped with a fishing line retrieval mechanism.
- Florida Resident Persons with Disabilities Hunting and Fishing License holder. Information at MyFWC.com/ADA.
- Florida resident accepted as a client for developmental disabilities services by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, with agency proof thereof.
- Florida resident saltwater fishing from land or a structure fixed to land who has been determined eligible for the food stamp, temporary cash assistance, or Medicaid Program by the Department of Children and Family Services. Must have proof of identification and a benefit issuance or program identification card issued by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities or the Agency for Health Care when fishing.
- U.S. Armed Forces members who is a Florida resident not stationed in the state but home on leave with orders for 30 days or less. Does not include family members.
- Individual commercial saltwater products license holders.

- Those recreationally fishing from a pier that has a pier saltwater fishing license.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel (including guide, charter, party boat) that has a valid charter boat or charter captain license.
- Fishing from a boat that has a recreational vessel fishing license.
- A Florida resident who is fishing for mullet in freshwater with a valid Florida freshwater fishing license.

## More saltwater fishing licenses – available at Tax Collectors' office:

Charter Boat and Charter Captain licenses are available and required to carry paying customers (where a fee is paid directly or indirectly) to take, attempt to take, or possess saltwater fish or organisms. Guides must comply with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) requirements.

- Four or fewer customers ..... \$201.50
- Five to ten customers ..... \$401.50
- Eleven or more customers ..... \$801.50

**Recreational Vessel licenses** are available for not-for-hire pleasure crafts that are registered recreationally for a fee of \$2,001.50.

**Pier licenses** are available for \$501.50 annually and exempt persons fishing from a pier fixed to land from saltwater fishing requirements.

# HOW WILDLIFE IS THRIVING BECAUSE OF GUNS & HUNTING

Since the late 1930s, hunters, target shooters and the firearms industry have been the nation's **LARGEST** contributors to conservation, paying for programs that benefit America's wildlife and all who love the outdoors.

## HOW IT WORKS



This System Has Provided  
MORE THAN **\$12.5 Billion**  
For Conservation So Far

### Where the Money Goes

Buy, develop, maintain and operate wildlife management areas

Research projects focused on wildlife conservation

Hunter safety and education programs

Construction and maintenance of public target shooting ranges

### Quick History

- Early 1900s
 

As many wildlife species are dwindling in numbers or disappearing, firearms industry steps forward and asks Congress to redirect excise tax on sale of guns and ammo to help fund wildlife conservation.

- 1937
 

Congress passes and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act into law.

- 1938 to today:
 

Revenue from this act has purchased millions of acres of prime habitat that is maintained by state wildlife agencies. These lands, where game and non-game species flourish, are purchased with sportsmen's dollars but used by all Americans.

## THEN & NOW

White Tailed Deer Population	
1900	<b>500,000</b>
TODAY	<b>32,000,000</b>
Ducks / Waterfowl Population	
1901	<b>FEW</b>
TODAY	<b>44,000,000</b>
Rocky Mountain Elk	
1907	<b>41,000</b>
TODAY	<b>1,000,000</b>
Wild Turkeys	
1900	<b>100,000</b>
TODAY	<b>7,000,000</b>
Pronghorn Antelope	
50 YEARS AGO	<b>12,000</b>
TODAY	<b>1,100,000</b>

## OTHER WAYS SPORTSMEN CONTRIBUTE

**Excise taxes** combined with revenue from hunting and fishing **license sales** fund the majority of state wildlife agency budgets.



**\$81 Million**  
CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY

Duck stamp proceeds are used by the government to buy or lease wetland habitat for ducks, geese and hundreds of non-game birds and animals.

### SOME HEROES OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION MODEL IN THE WORLD ARE:



Theodore Roosevelt



Aldo Leopold



Key Pittman



Willis Robertson



# Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



**Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.**

620 South Meridian Street  
Farris Bryant Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600  
(850) 488-4676  
(800) 955-8771 TDD

## Commissioners

**Robert A. Spottswood**  
Chairman, Key West

**Michael W. Sole**  
Vice Chairman, Tequesta

**Rodney Barreto**  
Coral Gables

**Steven Hudson**  
Ft. Lauderdale

**Gary Lester**  
Oxford

**Gary Nicklaus**  
Jupiter

**Sonya Rood**  
St. Augustine

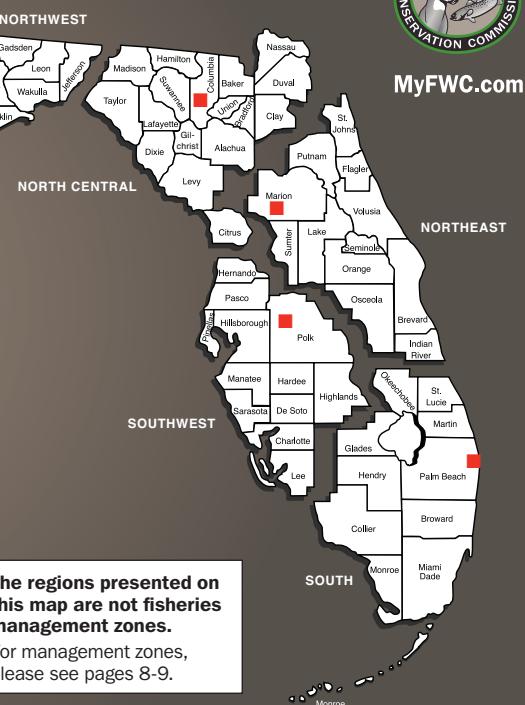
## Staff

**Eric Sutton**  
Executive Director

**Dr. Thomas H. Eason**  
Assistant Executive Director

## FWC regional offices

- **Northwest Region**  
3911 Highway 2321  
Panama City, FL 32409  
850-265-3676
- **North Central Region**  
3377 East U.S. Highway 90  
Lake City, FL 32055  
386-758-0525
- **Northeast Region**  
1239 Southwest 10th Street  
Ocala, FL 34471  
352-732-1225
- **Southwest Region**  
3900 Drane Field Road  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
863-648-3200
- **South Region**  
8535 Northlake Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33412  
561-625-5122



The regions presented on this map are not fisheries management zones.

For management zones, please see pages 8-9.

The FWC's Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and anglers as well as to enforce Florida's saltwater fishing and boating laws. FWC officers assist boaters who are in distress, provide advice and direction to those who

are traveling Florida's coastline and waterways, and may issue citations for violations of state and federal fishing, wildlife and boating laws.

In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife or boating laws are being violated, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cell phone users

throughout the state, dial \*FWC (\*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text messages directly to an email address. You can text Tip@MyFWC.com; standard usage fees may apply.

## Resource Information

Join the nation's largest conservation law enforcement agency—become an FWC law enforcement officer. For more information contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-866-FWC-HIRE (392-4473) or visit [MyFWC.com/Law](http://MyFWC.com/Law)

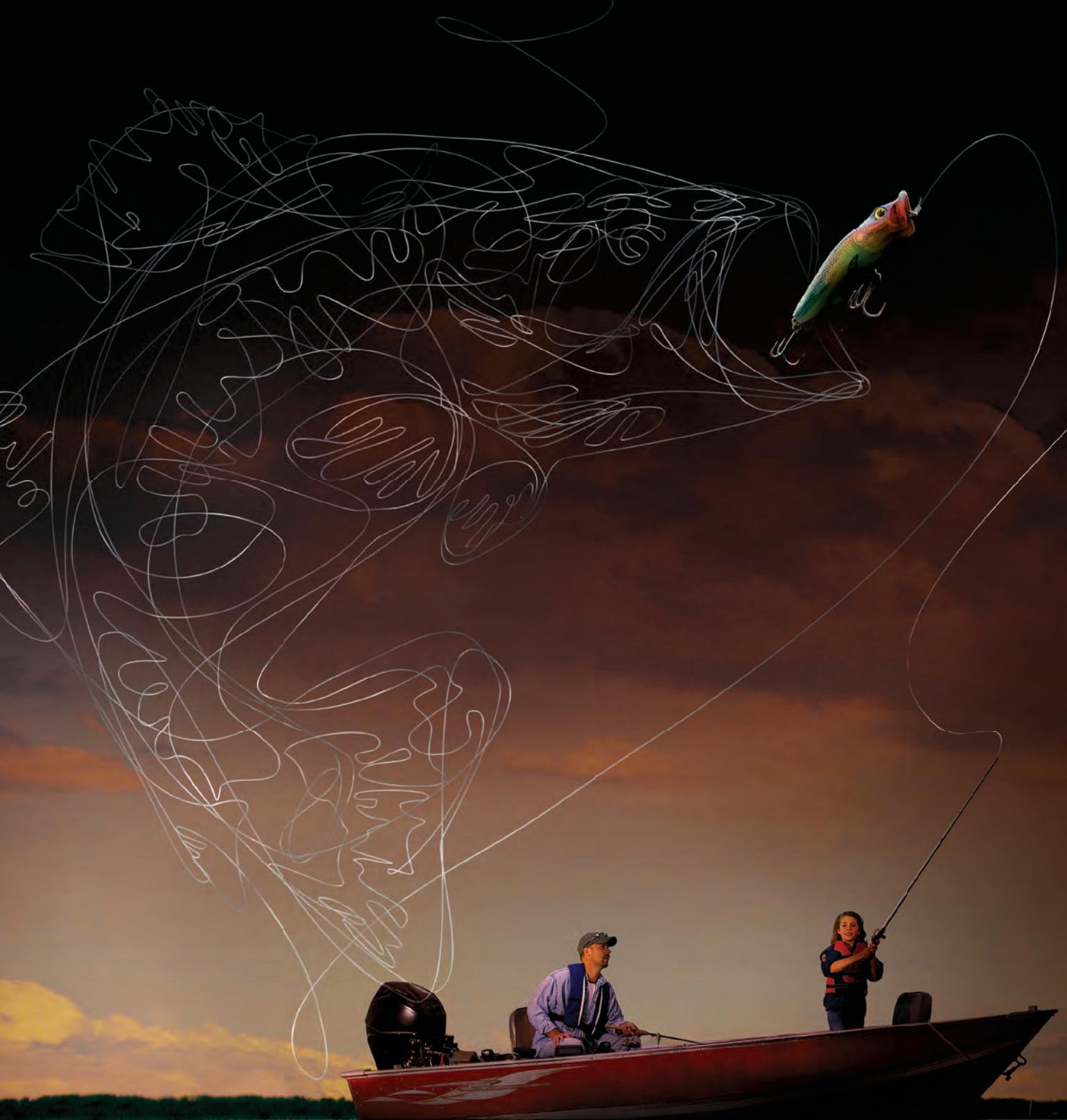
- **To purchase fishing licenses:**  
888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)  
[GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com)
- **FWC Division of Law Enforcement**  
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **To report fish and wildlife law violations, call the Wildlife Alert Hotline:**  
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute**  
727-896-8626  
[MyFWC.com/Research](http://MyFWC.com/Research)
- **To report fish kills:**  
800-636-0511
- **To report fish tags:**  
800-367-4461  
[TagReturn@MyFWC.com](mailto:TagReturn@MyFWC.com)
- **To report sawfish sightings:**  
941-255-7403  
[sawfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:sawfish@MyFWC.com)
- **Bird entanglement**  
888-404-3922  
727-391-6211 for Tampa area
- **Red tide information hotline**  
866-300-9399 toll free in Florida  
727-552-2488 nationwide
- **Aquatic toxins hotline:** 888-232-8635
- **Shellfish harvesting questions**  
FDACS, 850-617-7600  
<https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices>
- **To report lionfish sightings:**  
1-877-786-7267  
[MyFWC.com/Lionfish](http://MyFWC.com/Lionfish)

**At the FWC, it pays to love the outdoors!**



Visit [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) to learn how to become an FWC officer.





## THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

Learn more at [TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation](http://TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation)



TAKEMEFISHING.org



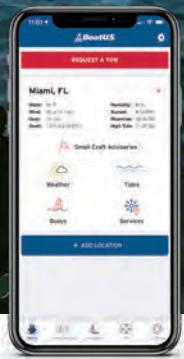
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