



Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

Revised: December 2023
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, Cuba ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see remarks)

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester under 30", included within snapper aggregate bag limit.
- May additionally harvest up to 2 per harvester or vessel-whichever is less- over 30", 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 - Visit MyFWC.com for 2024 season updates**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester
- Gulf - Zero daily bag 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 the snapper aggregate bag limit.
- Gulf - 10 per harvester, **not** included within the 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 the 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 MyFWC.com 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 Aggregate Bag Limit - all species of grouper plus golden and blueline tilefish in the Atlantic are included in a 3 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of species.
- Seasons - If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.

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.

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



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:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Grouper, Red ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Closed

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Other Grouper ▲◆●

Other Grouper includes:

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

Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

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



Gag Grouper ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed: Oct.23-May 1
- Gulf - Open Sept. 1-Nov. 10

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be gag or black.
- Gulf - 2 per harvester*



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



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

Reef Fish

All art: © Diane Rome Peebles, except golden and blueline tilefish (Duane Raver); lionfish (FWC)

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 Jan 1-March 31 & May 1-Dec. 31
- Gulf - Aug. 1-Oct. 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester per day



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.



Tilefish, Blueline ▲●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
• Atlantic - 3 per harvester
• Gulf - 100 lbs per person or two fish over 100 lbs which ever is greater

Season:

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

Remarks

- Blueline tilefish included within Atlantic Grouper aggregate bag limits



Tilefish, Golden ▲●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
• Atlantic - 1 per harvester
• Gulf - 100 lbs per person or two fish over 100 lbs which ever is greater

Remarks

- Golden tilefish included within Atlantic Grouper aggregate bag limits



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



Red Pogy ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:
• Atlantic - 14"
• Gulf - None

Season:

- Atlantic - Open May 1- June 30
- Gulf - Open year round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds



Great Barracuda ■

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

Size Limits:

- Not less than 15" or more than 36" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per person or 6 per vessel, per day
- May possess one over 36" per vessel.



Black Sea Bass ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:
• Atlantic - 13"
• Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 7 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds 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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Pompano, African ●★▲T■

Minimum Size Limits:
• 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel

Pelagics



Billfish ★▲

Minimum Size Limits:
• Sailfish 63";
• Blue Marlin 99";
• White Marlin 66";
• Roundscale Spearfish 66"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvesterggregate 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 hmspermits.noaa.gov.
- HMS permit required in federal waters.



Wahoo ▲

Minimum Size Limits:
• None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester



Dolphinfin ▲

Minimum Size Limits:
• Atlantic - 20" fork length
• Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester, not to exceed 30 per vessel. Vessel limit does not apply to for-hire vessels.
- Gulf - 10 per harvester, not to exceed 60 per vessel

Remarks

- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels



Cobia (Ling) ▲

Minimum Size Limits:
• 36" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Gulf & Atlantic-1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel.



Mackerel, King ▲

Minimum Size Limits:
• 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



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 per day.

Remarks

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



Tripletail ★▲◆■T

Minimum Size Limits:
• 18"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester

Remarks

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



Blackfin Tuna ▲■

Minimum Size Limits:
• None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Coastal Species



Black Drum ▲◆T■

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.



Permit ●★▲T■

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 limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.



Flounder ▲◆T■

Minimum Size Limits:
• 14"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester

Closed Season:

- Oct. 15-Nov. 30

Remarks

- May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.



Snook (All species) ▲★◆T■

Size Limits:
• Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor and Southwest regions - not less than 28" or more than 33"
• Southeast, Indian River Lagoon and Northeast regions - not less than 28" or more than 32"

Closed Season:

- Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay regions closed Dec. 1-end of February, and May 1-Aug. 31
- Charlotte Harbor and Southwest regions closed Dec. 1 - end of February, and May 1-Sept. 30
- Southeast, Indian River Lagoon, and Northeast regions closed Dec. 15-Jan. 31 and June 1-Aug. 31.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester in all regions

Remarks

- Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. See MyFWC.com for details.
- Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.
- Zero daily bag limit and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
- See MyFWC.com/Snook for regional map



Bluefish ▲■

Minimum Size Limits:
• 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Blue Runner ■

Minimum Size Limits:
• None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 100 fish per harvester



Bonefish ★■

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
• 0 per harvester

Remarks

- Catch and release only
- Hook and line only



Spotted Seatrout ●★▲◆T■

Size Limits:
• Not less than 15" or more than 19"
• May not possess more than 1 over 19" per vessel; included in the regional bag limit

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 MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Spotted-Sea trout for management zone map
- Zero daily bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels



Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver ▲★T■

Minimum Size Limits:
• None

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



Atlantic Croaker and Spot ●★▲T■

Size Limits:
• None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 50 per harvester per species (excluding Monroe County)
- Gulf - 100 lbs. per harvester (including Monroe County)



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 day

Remarks

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



Sheepshead ■●▲◆T

Minimum Size Limits:
• 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 8 per harvester

Remarks

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



Red Drum (Redfish) ▲★◆T

Size Limits:
• Not less than 18" or more than 27"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Catch and Release only in the Indian River Lagoon Zone
- 1 per harvester per day in the following regions: Panhandle, Big Bend, and Northeast
- 4 fish vessel limit in the following regions: Panhandle, Big Bend, and Northeast
- 2 fish vessel limit in the following regions: Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest and Southeast
- Off water possession limits apply, visit MyFWC.com for more information.

Remarks

- See MyFWC.com/Redfish for regional map
- Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.
- Zero daily bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels



Tarpon ●★T■

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 or state 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/Tarpon for additional information.

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.



Crustaceans and Mollusks

Bay Scallops



Season:

- Gulf County: Aug. 16 - Sept. 24
- Franklin-NW Taylor: July 1-Sept. 24
- Dixie and remaining Taylor County: June 15-Labor Day
- Levy, Citrus, and Hernando counties: July 1-Sept. 24
- Pasco County: July 1-August 6

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester per day; 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/1 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 per day, whichever is less

Remarks

- Visit: MyFWC.com/Marine and select "Regulations", and "Shrimp" for additional regulations specific to Dade, Nassau and Duval.

Spiny Lobster



Minimum Size Limit:

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

Seasons:

- Sport Season open July 24-25, 2024
- Regular Season opens Aug. 6 through March 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Sport Season: 6 per harvester in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 per harvester 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)



Minimum Size Limits:

- 1" thick across hinge

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel (whole in shell)

Remarks

- Illegal to harvest from closed areas.
- Go to www.FloridaAquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.

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 declaw on our website. New trap registration requirements, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com to register.

Crab, Blue



Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. Visit MyFWC.com for 2024 trap closure dates and locations.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 gallons whole per harvester

Remarks

- 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. New trap registration requirements, see GoOutdoorsFlorida.com to register.

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.
- **Apalachicola Bay: Closed**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay

Remarks

- 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 ▲ ★ T

Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle (not illustrated).



Bull



Common Thresher



Nurse



Spinner

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester or 2 per vessel, 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.
- Shoreline shark fishing educational course and permit required.
- See list of prohibited species below.

Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ▲ ★ T

Smooth Dogfish, Florida Smoothhounds (not illustrated).



Atlantic Sharpnose



Blacknose



Finetooth



Bonnethead



Blacktip

Prohibited Species

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

Goliath Grouper (Jewfish, without harvest permit), 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, Shortfin 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, Scalloped, Smooth, and Great Hammerhead Shark, Manta Ray, Devil Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Sturgeon, Queen Conch, Calico Scallop, Black Coral, Stony, Hard 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.