



# Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

Issued: July 2020

New regulations are highlighted in red  
(please visit: [MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational](http://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 - Open June 11-July 25**

##### 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



#### 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" fork length

##### 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 tilefish in the Atlantic are included in a 3 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper/golden tilefish 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.



#### 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, 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, Snowy ▲◆◆●

##### Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 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\*



#### Grouper, Red ▲◆●●X

##### Minimum Size Limits:

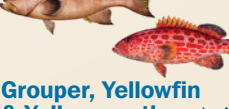
- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

##### Season:

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

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



#### Grouper, 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



#### 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

#### Other Grouper ▲◆◆●

##### Other Grouper includes:

- Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney and Graysby

##### Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

##### Season:

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

##### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Aggregate bag limits apply

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

## Reef Fish

### 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



**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 1**

**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:**

- Sailfin 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 [hmspermits.noaa.gov](http://hmspermits.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
- Gulf - None

**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.



Scan this code with your mobile device to view the regulations online.

Buy your license online at [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com) or toll free at: 1-888-347-4356

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:**
- 10 per harvester
- Remarks**
- **Changes coming**



## 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.



## 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. 7.
  - **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.**



## 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.



## 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



## 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



## Snook (All species) ▲ ★ ◆ † ■

- Size Limits:**
- Not less than 28" or more than 32" Atlantic excluding Monroe
  - Not less than 28" or more than 33" Gulf and Monroe County
- Closed Season:**
- Atlantic (excluding Monroe) closed Dec. 15–Jan. 31 and June 1–Aug. 31.
  - Gulf including Monroe County, Dec. 1–end of February, and May 1–Aug. 31.
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- 1 per harvester

- Remarks**
- Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. See MyFWC.com for snook permit details. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.
  - Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels
  - **Remains Catch-and-release only in Pasco-Gordon Pass/Collier counties**



## Blue Runner ■

- 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 map on 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.



**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.

- ★ 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.
- 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.
- X 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, 2020
- 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](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing) and select "Saltwater", "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 29–30, 2020
- 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)



#### 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](http://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:

- 3" claw

#### Closed Season:

- May 16–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](http://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](http://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com) to register.**
- **Changes coming Oct. 2020**

### Crab, Blue



#### Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. See map on page 6 or visit [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) for 2020 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, visit [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](http://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 which has open areas year-round.

#### 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](http://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](http://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
- **Changes coming**

## Sharks

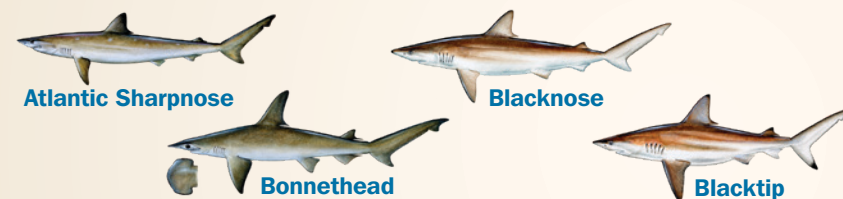
### Retainable Sharks with a 54" fork length minimum ▲ ★ †

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 ▲ ★ †



#### 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, Smaltail 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)
Angelfish	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
Butterflyfish		1–4" slot limit
Filefish/Triggerfish	Except Unicorn Filefish, Gray Triggerfish and Ocean Triggerfish	
Gobies		Maximum size limit: 2"
Hamlets/Seabasses	Except reef fish <sup>2</sup> and Longtail Bass	
Jawfish		Maximum size limit: 4"
Parrotfish		Maximum size limit: 12"
Porkfish		Minimum size limit: 1½"
Pufferfish, Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	
Tangs and Surgeonfish		Maximum size limit (fork length): 9"
Wrasse/Hogfish/Razorfish	Except Hogfish Snapper	Spanish Hogfish: 2–8" slot limit Cuban Hogfish: 3–8" slot limit

Other Marine Life fish include<sup>1</sup>: Basslets, Batfish, Blackbar Soldierfish, Blennies, Brotulas (Black and Key), Cardinalfish, Clingfish, Cometfish, 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>
Anemones	<b>Corallimorphs and Zoanthids:</b> 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> ).
Conch, Queen	Harvest prohibited
Corals: Hard, stony, fire & black	Harvest prohibited
Octocorals	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.
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs
Crab, Horseshoe	Harvest prohibited
Live Rock	Harvest prohibited
Octopods <sup>3</sup>	Except Common Octopus
Sea Fans	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
Siphonophores/Hydroids	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
Sponges	Except Sheepswool, 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
Starfish <sup>3</sup>	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins <sup>3</sup>	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

Other Marine Life invertebrates include<sup>1</sup>: 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>, Featherduster Worms and Calcareous Tube Worms.

### Marine Life — Plants

SPECIES	LIMITS
Algae, Coralline Red	
Caulerpa	One gallon of tropical ornamental marine plants per day in any combination; 2 gallon maximum possession limit
Halimeda/Mermaid's Fan/Mermaid's Shaving Brush	

- 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 8.
- 3—Bag limit of 2 live shell fish of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.



**Stamps South RV Resort**  
**On the Little Manatee River**  
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