

# Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations Regulations apply to <u>state</u> waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

State waters extend 9 miles from shore on the Gulf and 3 miles from shore on the Atlantic coast.

### **Revised: November 2024**

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.

## 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.

### 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.

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

Snapper, Cubera ▲ ♦ ●	

### **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, Grav (Mangrove) ▲ ♦ ● Minimum Size Limits:

 Atlantic and Gulf - 10 **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 

Grouper, Black

Atlantic - 24

• Gulf - 24"

Season.

Minimum Size Limits:

Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1–April 30

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

· Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be

· Gulf - Open vear-round

gag or black. Gulf - 4 per harvester\*

**Other Grouper** 

Yellowedge and Graysby

Atlantic and Gulf - None

· Gulf - Open year-round

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

Season:

Minimum Size Limit:

Other Grouper includes:

· Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Misty,

· Atlantic-Rock hind, Red hind, Coney,

Graysby: Closed Jan. 1-April 30

Atlantic - All others open year round

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**  Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



**Snapper, Red** 

· Atlantic - 20'

• Gulf - 16"

Season:

undates

on for-hire vessels.

**Minimum Size Limits:** 

· Atlantic - Open year-round

• Gulf - Fri. - Sun. from Sept. 1 - Nov. 30

Snapper, Mutton 🛦 🔶 🗙

Minimum Size Limits:

Atlantic and Gulf - 18"

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Minimum Size Limit:

Season: • Atlantic - Open May 1-June30 · Gulf - Open year round

- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic 1 per vessel · Gulf - 4 per harvester



# Minimum Size Limits:

- Gulf 24"
- Atlantic Closed June 15, 2024-April 30, 2025
- Visit MyFWC.com for 2025 season updates
- gag or black.

# Daily Recreational Bag Limit:



· Atlantic - 12

• Gulf - 10"

Snapper. Schoolmaster **Minimum Size Limits:** 

Snapper, Vermilion ▲♦●X

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 

the snapper aggregate bag limit.

· Atlantic - 5 per harvester, not included within

Minimum Size Limits:

 Atlantic and Gulf - 10 **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 

Grouper, Red

Minimum Size Limit:

· Atlantic - 3 per harvester

· Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester



### **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.

Snapper. Yellowtail • • X Minimum Size Limits:

Atlantic and Gulf - 12

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester



# Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind

Minimum Size Limits:

- Season:
- · Open year round on both coasts
- **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



Atlantic - 20"

• Gulf - 16'

Season:

• Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 

· Gulf - Open year-round

Atlantic - 3 per harvester

Gulf - 4 per harvester

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### **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be

- Season:

- Gulf -Closed Sept. 16 2024-Aug. 31, 2025

- - Gulf 2 per harvester\*





## **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 - Closed April 1-30
- · Gulf-Open Sept. 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 - 2 per harvester · Gulf - 100 lbs per person or two fish over 100 lbs which ever is greater

Season: • Atlantic - Open May 1-July 18 · Gulf - Open year round

Visit MyFWC.com for updates.

Remarks Blueline tilefish included within Atlantic

Grouper aggregate bag limits · Atlantic has zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire



#### **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



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
- Pompano.

African ● ★ ▲ T■

Minimum Size Limits: · 24" fork length

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** · 2 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel



**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
- Remarks • May possess one over 36" per vessel.
- · Unregulated in all other areas



**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





# **Red Porgy**

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

Season.

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: · Atlantic - 1 per harvester

· Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester

# Pelagics



# Minimum Size Limits:

- Measured tip of lower jaw to fork.
- Sailfish 63":
- Blue Marlin 99
- · White Marlin 66":
- Roundscale Spearfish 66"

### Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per harvester aggregate bag limit

### Remarks

- · All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmspermits.noaa.gov.
- HMS permit required in federal waters. Hook and line only



- **Minimum Size Limits:**
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 2 per harvester



### **Dolphinfish** Minimum Size Limits: · Atlantic - 20" fork length

- Gulf None Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
- · Atlantic 5 per harvester, not to exceed 30 pervessel. Vessel limit does not apply to for-hire vessels.
- · Gulf 10 per harvester, not to exceed 60 per vessel
- · Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels



Minimum Size Limits: · 36" fork length

Scan this code with your

mobile device to view the

regulations online.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: · Gulf & Atlantic-1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel.

- Mackerel, King **Minimum Size Limits:** 24" fork length

**Tripletail** 

2 per harvester

Remarks

18'

Minimum Size Limits:

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 

· Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: · Atlantic (excluding Monroe) - 2 per harvester · Gulf (including Monroe) - 3 per harvester

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toll free at: 1-888-347-4356



### Mackerel, Spanish Minimum Size Limits: 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: · 15 per harvester



- Minimum Size Limits: None
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: · 2 fish per person or 10 fish per vessel per day, whichever is greater



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.

within 24 hours 800-894-5528. HMS permit

required in federal waters. Zero daily bag

**Report fish and wildlife** 

law violations toll free at:

1-888-404-3922

limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels.

### Remarks · All landed fish must be reported to NOAA

· Hook and line only

# **Coastal Species**



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

Size Limits: • 22" fork length in Special Permit Zone (SPZ); Not less than 11" or more than 22" fork length all other areas.

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- **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

Bluefish

12" fork length

County)

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Atlantic - 3 per harvester

Spearing Prohibited

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



- 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:**
- · Pandhandle, 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
- See MyFWC.com/Snook for regional map



- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 100 fish per harvester

# 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.

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

compressed or squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.

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



- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 0 per harvester
- Remarks Catch and release only · Hook and line only





#### Seatrout • \* **A** • TE 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-Seatrout for management zone map
- Zero daily hag limit for cantain and crew of for-hire vessels



### Minimum Size Limits: None

- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
- 50 aggregate per harveste
- · Aggregate vessel limits
  - Feb. 1-Aug. 31: 100 per vessel; Sept. 1-Jan. 31: 50 per vessel





- · Gigging, 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.



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### Examples of "unregulated species" include:

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

Pompano,

**Minimum Size Limits:** 

**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 

Hook and line, cast net and beach or haul

Florida

• 11" fork length

6 per harvester

Remarks

seine ONLY

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

- State regulations apply in federal waters.
- Additional gear rules apply, please see: MyFWC.com
- т 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.
- Gulf reef fish survey required when fishing for selected reef species from a private Х vessel in the Gulf of Mexico.



- **Minimum Size Limits:**
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
- Gulf 10 per harvester (includes Monroe
- captain and crew on for-hire vessels.

# **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 10-August 18

### **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



### Minimum Size Limit:

- Carapace must be greater than 3" measured in the water
- Seasons: · Sport Season open July 30-31, 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.



# Minimum Size Limits:

- 1" thick across hinge
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**

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

- harvesting areas.
- · May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.



# 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.



### Closed Season:

 Regional trap closures apply. Visit MyFWC.com for 2025 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.



### Minimum Size Limit:

### **Closed Season:**

- · June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
- July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay.

### • Apalachicola Bay: Closed

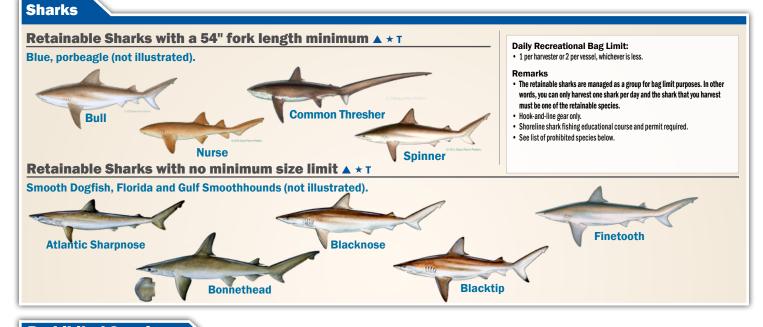
**Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 

# · 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay

### Remarks

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- 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.



# **Prohibited Species**

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

Goliath Grouper (Lewfish, 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, Oceanic Whitetip 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.

### FWC – Division of Marine Fisheries Management, 1875 Orange Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 850-487-0554

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.

Remarks Illegal to harvest from closed areas. · Go to www.FloridaAquaculture.com for allowable