

FISHING REGULATIONS



Saltwater Angler
Recognition

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Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: June 2023



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Please visit [MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational](https://myfwc.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational) for the most current regulations

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Nichole Nichols with a red snapper.

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When you buy your license online, it's fast, convenient and saves time and travel.

You can obtain a license 24 hours a day at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com or through the Fish|Hunt Florida mobile app, and begin fishing immediately!

Licenses are also available toll-free at 1-888-FISHFLORIDA (1-888-347-4356). Processing fees apply to telephone and Internet sales.

Contact us

Go to 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

For federal fishing regulations, please contact:

- **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**
888-833-1844
www.gulfcouncil.org
- **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**
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- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)**
727-824-5301
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

For additional information please contact:

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Wildlife alert reward program

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.

On the cover

Torrea Cross with her nice sheepshead caught in Pinellas County.

Have a picture for the cover? Please send your photographs to: 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 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, 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.

2023 Commission meeting dates and locations

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

- February 22–23
- May 10–11
- July 19–20
- October 4–5
- December 13–14

*Dates subject to change

For more information about Commission meeting dates, times, locations and agendas, visit MyFWC.com and click on "About Us" and "Commission Meetings" on the top of the page.

Make reel memories.

Stuart, located in Martin County, is known as the Sailfish Capital of the World. Sitting on the most biodiverse estuary in the Northern Hemisphere, Martin County is home to 100 artificial reef systems and over 800 species of fish. Its climate, waterways, natural environment and opportunity for diverse catches make it a mecca for fishermen and nautical explorers year-round. An array of unique shops, fine restaurants, great golf courses and quiet beaches make a day ashore fun, too. Inshore, offshore, saltwater or fresh, head out for an adventure and reel in the memories.

Plan your trip at myfloridafishingtrip.com

MARTIN COUNTY
Florida



Message from the FWC by Chairman Rodney Barreto

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is committed to balancing the needs of Florida's fish and wildlife with the needs of our nearly 22 million Florida residents and the millions of visitors we host each year. In Florida's saltwater ecosystems, the FWC protects and manages more than 500 native species of saltwater fish and invertebrates, and we accomplish this through sound research from our Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and scientists within our agency as well as engagement and partnership with all of our stakeholders, including the millions of anglers who enjoy Florida's marine resources.

FWC's marine research biologists study the fish and invertebrates found in Florida's waters from inshore species living along our coastline to deepwater species living 200 miles offshore and beyond. They gather critical data on these fisheries and their habitats which helps FWC fisheries managers to develop management strategies to balance keeping Florida's fish populations healthy and providing ample fishing opportunities. Recently, FWC fisheries managers adopted a holistic, regional management approach to redfish where annual reviews of several environmental and human factors, such as habitat, fishing effort and stakeholder feedback inform management of the fishery on a very local scale. We are currently considering a similar approach for snook.

FWC researchers and managers also partner with recreational anglers to effectively manage Florida's fisheries. In Florida, anglers and divers fishing for certain reef fish species from a private boat are required to possess the State Reef Fish Angler designation. This no-cost designation makes an individual eligible to receive the State Reef Fish survey, a specialized recreational fishing survey that provides timely and precise data needed to manage and assess important reef fish stocks throughout Florida. As an example, thanks to this great partnership with our anglers, we have been managing private recreational harvest of red snapper in Gulf federal waters since 2020. This has led to FWC being able to provide the longest, sustainable seasons possible.

If you are interested in the future of Florida's saltwater fisheries, please consider getting involved by sharing your thoughts at MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments.



Rodney Barreto
FWC Chairman



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Fish Art Contest

The Fish Art Contest, inspired by a 5th grader's homework assignment, has grown into an international competition introducing youth to the wonders of fishing and the outdoors. FWC, in collaboration with Wildlife Forever, organizes the competition each year for Florida's young artists to show their talent.



Zoe Chen
Grades K-3 Saltwater Winner



Penelope Horwitz
Grades 7-9 Saltwater Winner



Amanda Velazco
Grades 4-6 Saltwater Winner



Scarlett Edammudalige
Grades 10-12 Saltwater Winner



Healthy Fisheries Depend on Healthy Coral Reefs

Coral reefs support an abundant fish community by providing food, shelter and breeding grounds. As adults, fish will often return to spawn at the reef. In return, fish promote reef health by cleaning algae off the corals and keeping pests in check.

Fish populations and Florida's Coral Reef are closely linked, and both are vital to the state's food supply and economy.

Learn more about the interconnection between fish populations and coral reefs.



FloridaDEP.gov | FloridasCoralReef.org



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.com/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.







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Florida manages one of the most diverse, and most active artificial reef programs in the United States. As of April 2023, the FWC Artificial Reef Program has recorded over 3,956 artificial reef deployment locations state-wide. In the past six months, 24 new artificial reefs have been constructed and the locations from a subset of the most recent reefs are listed in the table below. 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.

Highlights from the 51 Artificial Reefs Deployed during 2022-2023

DeployID	County	Date	Deployment Name	Material	Tons	Relief	Depth	Lat (DM)	Long (DM)
B00127	Broward	10/04/2022	John Michael Baker Memorial Reef	Culverts (15)	75	8'	70'	26° 09.490' N	80° 04.724' W
DA0261	Miami-Dade	10/24/2022	Eternal Reef #40	Concrete dome-shaped modules (14)	8	4'	45'	25° 57.775' N	80° 05.890' W
PB0148	Palm Beach	10/24/2022	2022 Southern Blvd Bridge Material	Bridge material	1600	17'	30'	26° 40.391' N	80° 02.859' W
PB0147	Palm Beach	10/27/2022	FWC Rock 2	Limestone boulders (400)	400	15'	65'	26° 27.184' N	80° 02.981' W
B00126	Broward	11/01/2022	1,000 Mermaids Hollywood	Sculptures (20)	36	7'	55'	25° 59.291' N	80° 05.662' W
ME0100	Manatee	11/04/2022	BRI4NE_22_08	Limestone boulders	490	14'	34'	27° 30.987' N	82° 48.983' W
PB0146	Palm Beach	11/28/2022	2022 Reef Darts	Reef darts (40)	420	42'	460'	26° 46.491' N	79° 57.984' W
DA0262	Miami-Dade	12/19/2022	Bentley Bay Pier	Concrete dock material	345	8'	27'	25° 48.846' N	80° 10.231' W
ES0685	Escambia	12/20/2022	3-Mile Bridge Pilings	Concrete bridge pilings (150)	350	unk	45'	30° 17.660' N	87° 13.485' W
ES0684	Escambia	12/20/2022	3-Mile Bridge 02	Concrete bridge pilings (150)	350	unk	50'	30° 17.375' N	87° 13.575' W
ES0683	Escambia	12/20/2022	3-Mile Bridge 01	Concrete bridge pilings (150)	350	unk	46'	30° 17.750' N	87° 13.500' W
OK0378	Okaloosa	01/15/2023	R/V MANTA	Steel Research Vessel 180'	298	52'	111'	30° 08.630' N	86° 39.192' W
DA0263	Miami-Dade	01/30/2023	Eternal Reefs #41 (ER41)	Concrete dome-shaped modules (8)	3	4'	45'	25° 57.744' N	80° 05.886' W
ST0217	Sarasota	02/20/2023	Silvertooth #23	Concrete dome-shaped modules (12)	5	4'	29'	27° 17.166' N	82° 36.021' W
DA0264	Miami-Dade	02/28/2023	Eternal Reefs #43 (ER43)	Concrete dome-shaped modules (4)	2	4'	45'	25° 57.746' N	80° 05.889' W
DA0265	Miami-Dade	03/01/2023	U-LINK hybrid breakwater units	Concrete hexagonal units (27)	49	6'	14'	25° 51.998' N	80° 07.003' W
OK0379	Okaloosa	03/15/2023	R/V DOLPHIN	Steel Research Vessel 192'	297	51'	122'	30° 07.634' N	86° 24.131' W
ST0218	Sarasota	03/16/2023	Silvertooth #16	Concrete dome-shaped modules (11)	8	6'	31'	27° 17.179' N	82° 36.039' W
OKTBD	Okaloosa	04/18/2023	RMS CYCLOPS	Steel Supply Vessel 105'	unk	35'	72'	30° 20.828' N	86° 26.239' W



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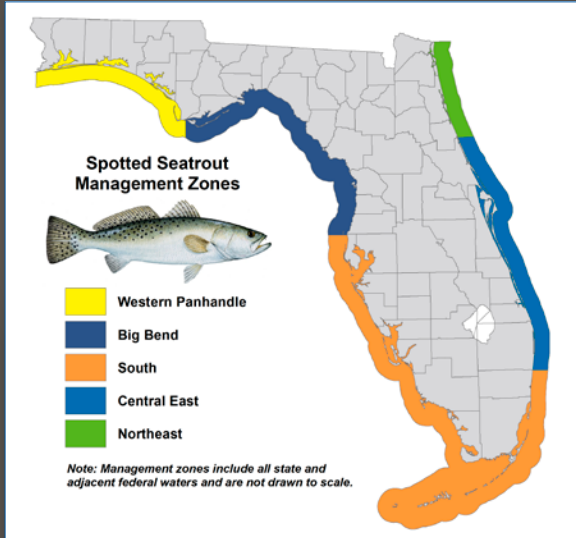
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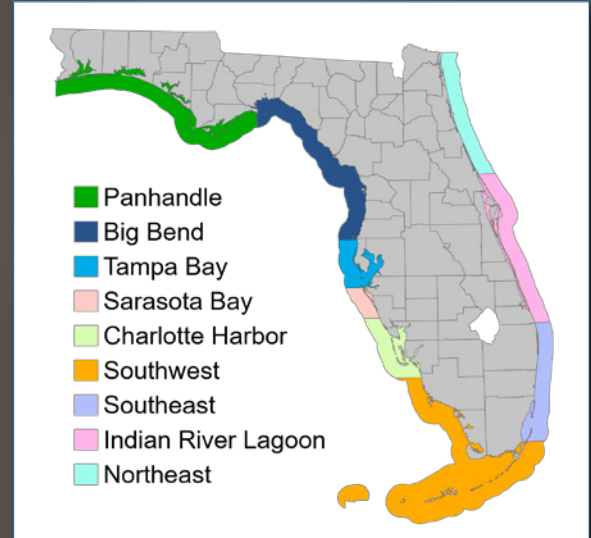
Spotted Seatrout Management Zones

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 south region, two fish in the central east region and five fish in the northeast region.



Red Drum Management Zones

For red drum, there are nine new management zones. The daily bag limit is one fish in all of Florida state waters. Zero bag limit for captain and crew.



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Snook Regional Management

FWC is considering changes to regional management for Snook.

- FWC is adopting a holistic management approach for snook that includes an inclusive review of several environmental and human factors such as habitat, fishing effort, and stakeholder feedback to evaluate the fishery at a more local scale.
- We would like to hear from you! What has your snook fishing been like lately? Do you have thoughts on regulation changes like bag or vessel limits? Submit a comment by emailing Marine@myfwc.com, scanning the QR code below, or by visiting MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments



Dan Casey holding a snook

Mike's Marine Supply

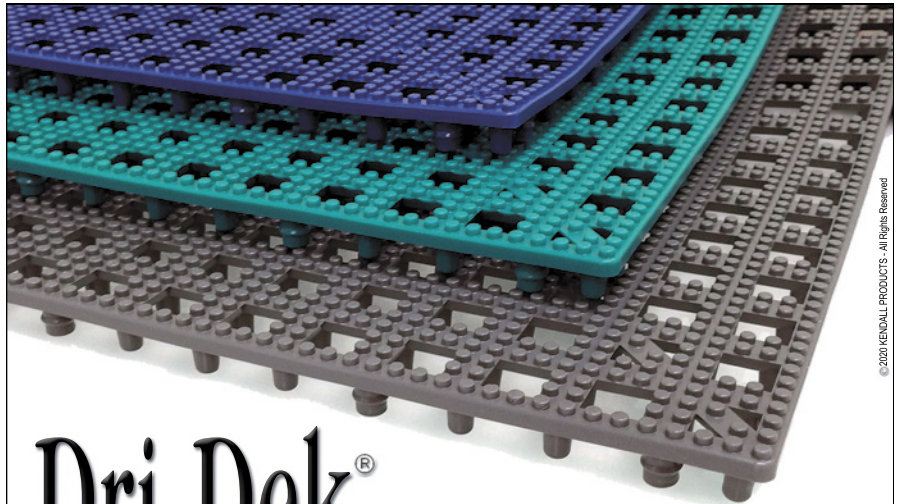
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Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

Issued: June 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 blueline tilefish, golden tilefish and snowy grouper (Duane Raver); lionfish (FWC); and crustaceans and mollusks

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 - June 16 - July 31, 2023**
Each Friday - Sunday in Oct. & Nov

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 and blueline tilefish 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 bag limit for captain and crew of 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:

- 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, 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 - 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, 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

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

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 Aug. 1-Oct. 31. Visit MyFWC.com for updates.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester per day



Tilefish, Blueline ▲ ●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- 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" fork length

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

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



Pompano, African ● ★ ▲ † ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day, 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 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.
- 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:

- 36" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - **1 per harvester not to exceed 2 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.



Dolphinfin ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20" fork length
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester per day, not to exceed 30 per vessel
- Gulf - 10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel
- Vessel limits does not apply for 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:**
- 14"
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- 5 per harvester
- Closed Season:**
- Oct. 15–Nov. 30
- 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. 8.
 - Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels statewide



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



Atlantic Croaker and Spot ● ★ ▲ † ■

- Minimum Size Limits:**
- None
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- Atlantic - 50 per harvester per species (excludes Monroe county)
 - Gulf - 100 lbs. per harvester (including Monroe county)



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



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:**
- **Catch and Release in the Indian River Lagoon Region**
 - **1 fish bag limit in the following regions: Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest, Southeast, 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**
 - See pg. 8 for regional map

- Remarks**
- Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.

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.



Gulf Kingfish **Jack Crevalle** **Lionfish**

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.
- ✗ 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: **July 1 - Aug. 6**

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 26-27, 2023
- 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 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 state-wide 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



Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. Visit MyFWC.com for 2023 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 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.
- **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 ▲ ★ †

Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle (not illustrated).



Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

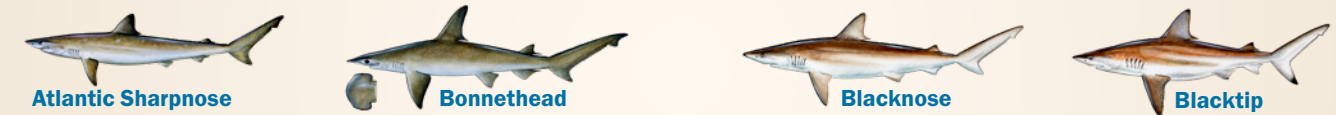
- 1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less.

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.

Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ◆ ★ †

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



Prohibited Species

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

Shortfin Mako, 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, 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 Scallops, 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.

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Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹	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 ² 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 include¹: 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 ¹
Anemones	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>).
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
Octopods³	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
Starfish³	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins³	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

Other Marine Life invertebrates include¹: Brittlestars³, 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, Fileclams³, Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs³, Sea Cucumbers³, Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails³, Starsnails³, 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 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.

Taking a Deep Dive: Do you know the solutions to help deepwater fish survive?

Barotrauma, injuries caused by pressure changes when fish are rapidly brought to the surface from deep water, is one of the leading causes of mortality in released reef fish. Do you know the signs? Next time you are fishing in waters 30 feet or deeper remember **B.I.P.S.:** **B**loated belly, **I**ntestines protruding, **P**opeye, and **S**tomach coming out of the mouth. If your fish is displaying one of these symptoms, it is suffering from barotrauma and may need assistance to get back down to depth.

Barotrauma injuries can be fatal to fish unless intervention occurs with the use of descending devices or venting tools. Which tool you choose to use can depend on your comfort level and skills, as well as the regulations where you are fishing.

Descending devices are weighted tools that help take fish back to the appropriate depth. There are many different types of descending devices, but the most common ones are lip clamps, inverted hooks, and fish elevators.

Venting tools are sharp, hollow instruments, like a large gauge needle, that help release expanded gas from the swim bladder, which enables the fish to swim back down to depth. Knives, ice picks, and hooks are not venting tools because they do not allow the gases to properly escape and can cause more harm than good.

As of April 1, 2023, either a venting tool or descending device is required to be rigged and ready for use on board a vessel, including a kayak or standup paddleboard, when harvesting or attempting to harvest reef fish in Florida state

waters (from shore to 9 nautical miles on the Gulf and from shore to 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic). This also includes catch and release fishing. For the purposes of this regulation, “reef fish” include groupers, snappers, amberjacks, red porgy, gray triggerfish, black sea bass, golden tilefish and more. A complete list can be found by visiting MyFWC.com/ReefFishGear.

Descending devices are also required in Atlantic federal waters (from shore to 3 nautical miles) when fishing for Reef fish and a descending device or venting tool is required in Gulf federal waters (from shore to 9 nautical miles) when fishing for reef fish.

A descending device or venting tool should only be used when a fish is showing signs of barotrauma prior to release so **it is critical to remember B.I.P.S. and know the solutions to help deepwater fish survive release.** Learn more at MyFWC.com/Barotrauma.

Check out Return 'Em Right at ReturnEmRight.org for best release practices and FREE gear to send reef fish back to depth.

Recognize the Signs of Barotrauma!



Bloated Belly



Intestines Protruding



Popeye

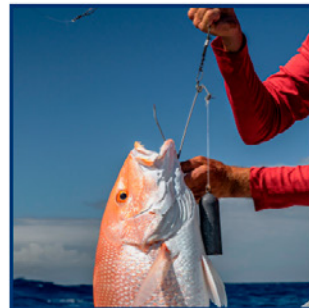


Stomach Coming Out of the Mouth

Know the Solutions and Use a Barotrauma Mitigation Tool



Pressurized Lip Clamp



Inverted Hook



Weighted Container



Vent with Hollow Tool

Only use these tools when fish show signs of barotrauma!

Photos courtesy of Return Em' Right. Visit ReturnEmRight.org to learn more about best release practices for reef fish.

The Florida Friendly Angler Program



The **Florida Friendly Angler Program** is a **FREE** online course created for anyone who interacts with fisheries or aquatic habitats. This program teaches **science-based conservation** information needed when fishing in Florida. **Register today** to learn about best fishing practices, environmental ethics, and fisheries management.



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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 the exception of flounder and sheepshead, and



SPEARING

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 unloaded 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.)
- 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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Below: Nayaal P. with his gray (mangrove) snapper.



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Florida Honoree with spotted seatrout.



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[YouTube.com/FWCSaltwaterFishing](https://www.youtube.com/FWCSaltwaterFishing)

AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com

A Special Thanks to Our Partners:



To become a partner, contact us at AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com or 850-487-0554.

New Saltwater Grand Slam Club Members

Grand Slam Tier 1 - 3 different Grand Slams:

John (Jay) C. Cooper Jr
Robert A. Hollenbeck
Daniel James Jones
Steve Limer
William Phillips

Bay and Estuary:

Robert D. Alsen
Steve Limer
William Phillips

Family - Drum:

Braymer Biddle
Robert Buzaki
Scott Cieslak
John (Jay) C. Cooper Jr
Joseph de Jesus
Christopher Long
William Phillips

Craig C. Topping II

Martha R. Vandrew

Richard Vlacos

Family - Filefish:

William Phillips

Family - Grouper:

Donald W. Eicher IV

Family - Grunt:

John A. Aufderheide

Ethan L. Norling

William Phillips

Vincent Rafailovici

Family - Jack/Pompano:

Taylor Grossmann

Samantha M. Mein

Family - Mackerel/Tuna:

Julia Bernstein

Philip E. Smith

Family - Mojarra:

Michael D. Yannick

Family - Snapper:

Craig N. Ambrosion

Greg G. Borries Jr

Joshua Cohen

Barbara N. Henwood

Andrea Hix

Christopher Hix

Tara Howes

Brandon Jones

Adam J. Macek

Deborah A. Mahle

Dennis Mahle

Karen Millsap

Brian Murray

Alejandro Pinera

Eve T. Pittinger

Ozzie Z. Pittinger

Jaci L. Pustelnik

Matthew S. Sawallis

Barry J. Strauss

Ryn O. West

Family - Snook:

William Phillips

Florida:

John G. Harmon

Daniel James Jones

Inshore:

Kandace Agner

Robert D. Alsen

Derek Ball

Braymer Biddle

Sarah Caselnova

John (Jay) C. Cooper Jr

Joseph de Jesus

Raymond Evans

Leah Federico

Donnie Thomas Fleming

Jacob Fleming

Jason C. Hales

Clifford C. Holloway

Josh D. Infinger

Kelsey Krueger

Samuel G. Krueger

Steve Limer

Robert Lovell

Christopher Lyon Jr

Terri L. McCarty

Kyle Adam Miller

Lucy O'Connor

William Phillips

Otis Richards

Amanda L. Shelton

Stephanie Smith

Craig C. Topping II

Martha R. Vandrew

Whit Whitaker

Colton Woodie

Michael Jay Woodie

Robert B. Zimmerman

Nearshore :

Garrett Stephens

Reefs and Rubble :

John (Jay) C. Cooper Jr

Robert A. Hollenbeck

Steve Limer

Shoreline :

James F. Gregory

Sharon Marsh

Small Fry :

Anna Tibbs

New Saltwater Fish Life List Club Members

10 - Fish Club:

Saf Aboussad
Orrin M. Agner
Robert D. Alsen
Timothy S. Anderson
Jerri M. Avera
Shannon L. Avera
Anna Beard
Julia Bernstein
Trevor J. Bilodeau
Beau R. Bradberry
David Chenard
Mason Chenard
Douglas G. Clinger
Vincent Conwell
John (Jay) C. Cooper Jr

Chris M. Cronin

Torrea J. Cross

Joseph de Jesus

Peter A. Digiovanni

Kurt J. Doyle

Ryan Gentry

Todd Gerkens

Mitchell Gibbs

Nathan J. Gibeault

Robert Gillespie

Jeffrey L. Gobeli

Travis J. Goodale

James K. Goodfellow

James F. Gregory

Abel F. Groh

Norman J. Hamner III

William R. Hastings

Robert Home

Michael S. Houchins

Brandon Jones

John Keller

Ryan Kiernan

Lawrence Kissner

Christopher Komatz

Kelsey Krueger

Samuel G. Krueger

Charie Linhart

Xin Lu

Adam J. Macek

Samantha M. Mein

Beverly J. Miller

Denise Mock

Lucas Mock

Robert D. Modys

Rick Moreland

Christopher Mueller

Thor Orbesen

Raymond Padilla

William Phillips

Keith P. Planner

Vincent Rafailovici

Nathan W. Rich

Phillip T. Ridout

Joedelee Rigdon

Cathy J. Sanders

Matthew S. Sawallis

Aaron A. Schweitzer

Gaylord R. Smith

Sheila M. Snyder

Garrett Stephens

Jeff Stephens

Barry J. Strauss

Jason Stubbs

Kyle Thiel

Phillip L. Todd

Roxanne Todd

Martha R. Vandrew

Raymundo C. Veloso

Richard Vlacos

Ben Wageman

Justin Wallheiser

James M. Wheeler

William Whittle

30 - Fish Club:

John Barrington

Kevin R. Burkhead Sr

Robert Buzaki

Wyatt Cross

Ed C. Ellett

Marcia E. Ellett

Alan George

James K. Goodfellow

Joshua R. Guthrie

Ryan Kiernan

Richard Vlacos

Brian Murray

David Satava

Shawn T. Singleton

Eric P. Sullivan

Bruce Wojcik

50 - Fish Club:

Christopher K. Perry

New Saltwater Reel Big Fish Club Members

Tier 1 - 5 Different Species:

Julia Bernstein
Roy Magnuson
Dylan R. Sullivan

Black Drum:

Mark L. Dabbs

Cobia:

Lane E. Warnick

Catfish:

Hollie I. Agapi
Steven Agapi
Shannon L. Avera
Adam Burish
Vincent Conwell
Charles Keller
Darren Krause
Roy Magnuson
Christopher Mueller
Dylan R. Sullivan

Florida Pompano:

Nina Burish

Joseph T. Lamb

Randy Maron

Rick Moreland

Dylan R. Sullivan

Arthur Yuan

Flounder:

Sandra A. Connors

Jean-Philippe Freudenreich

Nathaniel S. Little

Jonathan M. Malin

Gray (Mangrove) Snapper:

Matthew Stephen Batchelor

Krieger Webb Brasseale II

Traci R. Fallenstein

Martha R. Vandrew

Greater Amberjack:

Philip E. Smith

King Mackerel:

Heather "Heidi" Mason

Cameron E. Mein

Marenglen Mihaj

Christian Wilkinson

Ladyfish:

Greg G. Borries Jr

Brayden Madison

Roy Magnuson

Joey Phillips

Nathan W. Rich

Dylan R. Sullivan

Cody J. Trippel

Tanner J. Trippel

Mutton Snapper:

Julia Bernstein

Permit:

Julia Bernstein

Red Drum:

Shannon L. Avera

Shawn Robert Blanton

Vincent Phillip Brown Jr

Robert Buzaki

Mark L. Dabbs

Luke Dunn

Kevin Frost

Travis J. Goodale

Barry Loyd

Adam J. Macek

Liam W. Mickel

Denise Mock

Isaiah J. Moore

Christopher Mueller

William Phillips

Matthew S. Sawallis

A. R. Storm

Richard Vlacos

Jackson Wright

Scamp:

Jeffrey L. Gobeli

Sheepshead:

Gibson M. Stephenson

Snook:

Ben Fairbairn

Dennis Mahle

Michael F. Molnár

David Naumann

Michael R. Ortega

Diego Pero

Christopher K. Perry

Caden G. Seagraves

Ryan A. Widman

Spanish Mackerel:

Julia Bernstein

Kaiya Miller

Vincent Rafailovici

Spotted Seatrout:

Robert Buzaki

Jake Caracciolo

Dylan Cress

Luke Fischer

James Hornsby

Kasen O. Krueger

David Naumann

Lonnie O'Neal

Christopher K. Perry

Jason A. Pollard

John M. Suleski

Tanner J. Trippel

Grant Whitaker

Whit Whitaker

Fred Williamson III

Tripletail:

Naylan Patel

Vermilion Snapper:

Deacon Hanshaw

James Hanshaw

Brian Murray

Joseph Quay

Holly Street

Thomas Street

Dylan R. Sullivan

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
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.



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- > Show your support for Florida's fisheries, coastal habitats and marine resources on the road with a "Conserve Florida's Fisheries" specialty license plate!
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- > Personalized (vanity) plates orders can also be purchased online or in person
- > Funds from the sale of this license plate support protecting and enhancing saltwater marine resources, expanding habitat restoration efforts and promoting coastal environmental education

For additional information, please visit REDFISHTag.com

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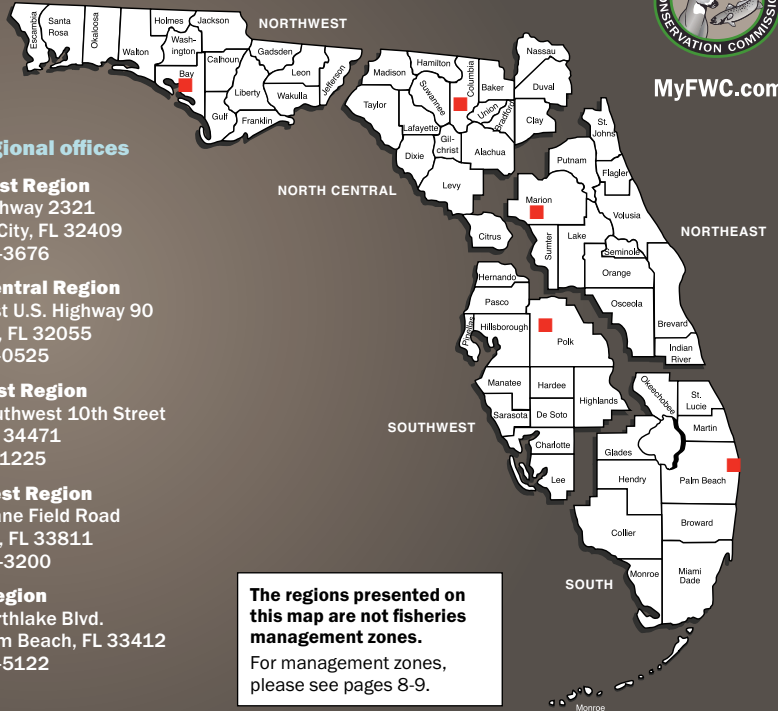
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MyFWC.com

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

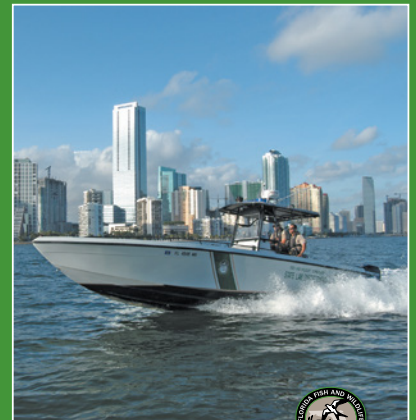
throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text messages directly to an email address. You can text Tip@MyFWC.com; standard usage fees may apply.

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

- **To purchase fishing licenses:**
888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)
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
- **To report fish kills:**
800-636-0511
- **To report fish tags:**
800-367-4461
TagReturn@MyFWC.com
- **To report sawfish sightings:**
941-255-7403
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

At the FWC, it pays to love the outdoors!



Visit 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](https://www.TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation)



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