FLORIDA SALTWATER RECREATIONAL

FISHING REGULATIONS

Saltwater An Recogniti

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Page 20-21

New Florida Saltwater Fishing **Records Categories** Page 4

New Artificial **Reef Deployments** Page 7

Tarpon Handling Page 15

Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: January 2024



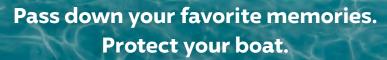


FISHBRAIN

Please visit MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational for the most current regulations



2024



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2024 FWC Commission Meeting Dates and Locations	2
Commissioner's Message	3
New State Records Program	4
Hooked a Bird? Don't Cut the Line!	6
Artificial Reefs	7
Know Your Management Zones	8
Snook Regional Management	9
Basic Regulations:	
Reef Fish and Pelagics10)-11
Coastal Species and	

Coastal Species and Unregulated Species	
Crustaceans and Mollusks	13
Sharks and Prohibited Species	13
Marine Life Regulations	14
Tarpon Handling	15

Lionfish and Friendly Angler Program 16
Recreational Gear & Spearing18-19
Angler Recognition Programs20-21
Licenses and Permits
FWC Offices
FWC Division of Law Enforcement



Buy your license online!

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 866-SAFMC-10 www.safmc.net
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) 727-824-5301 www.fisheries.noaa.gov

For additional information please contact:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

Division of Marine Fisheries Management 1875 Orange Ave. East Tallahassee, Florida 32311 850-487-0554

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Wildlife alert reward program

Report active fishing or wildlife violations when they occur. Call the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922). Cell phone users can download the FWC Wildlife Alert app or text 847411(Tip411) with keyword "FWC". Report incidents online at MyFWC.com/WildlifeAlert.

On the cover

- Ms. Mandy O'Connor with a large triple tail.
- 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.

2024 Commission meeting dates

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

- February 21–22
- May 1–2
- July 10–11
- September 17–18
- December 11–12

*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

As we embark on a new year, I am honored to reflect on the previous year and the remarkable strides our agency has taken to continue our mission of conservation. Serving as Chairman of the Commission that is responsible for managing and protecting fish and wildlife, I am immensely proud of the unwavering dedication exhibited by our staff in their daily work, providing countless opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy Florida's great outdoors. I am equally grateful for the tireless commitment of our law enforcement officers who safeguard our precious fish and wildlife resources and protect the public. I would be remiss if I did not also mention my fellow Commissioners who generously volunteer their time, energy, and resources to our incredibly important duty of collectively managing and conserving Florida's fish and wildlife.

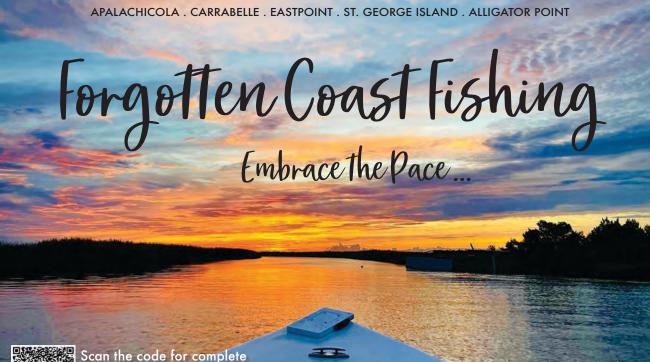
However, these conservation achievements would not be possible without the continued support and partnership of Florida's angling community. Anglers are crucial partners in conservation, and I am always moved by the passion Florida anglers have for ensuring our fisheries and their habitats are thriving for future generations. Anglers are deeply connected to our fisheries, letting us know when and where concerns may be, and offering ideas for addressing these concerns. The new snook regional management approach, in particular, stands as a testament to the collaborative conservation efforts between anglers and the Commission. By anglers working together with researchers and fisheries managers to develop an innovative and adaptive management approach, we have established a trailblazing management model that is garnering recognition nationwide. Thank you to the thousands of anglers who have actively engaged in our public workshops, Commission meetings, and to the thousands more who have submitted their public comment online. Beyond this, your contributions to conservation through initiatives like Sport Fish Restoration have enabled the creation of artificial reefs, boat ramps, educational programs, and vital research through funds generated from purchases of tackle, fishing license, and motorboat fuel.

We are grateful for your unwavering dedication to the conservation of our fish and wildlife, as well as your partnership and collaboration in our conservation mission. It is because of your efforts and support that Florida is and will continue to be the Fishing Capital of the World. Thank you, Florida anglers!



Rodney Barreto FWC Chairman





Scan the code for complete Forgotten Coast launch, marina, guide and tackle information



Download the Florida's Forgotten Coast App for Current Fishing Conditions and Tournaments



New Categories!

Need to Know:

- Effective January 1, 2024
- Youth Weight category for ages 15 and under
- Adult and Youth Length categories to allow for catch and release records
- Prizes from TheMetalEdge.com
- Visit CatchAFloridaMemory.com/Records for details





Healthy Fisheries Depend on Healthy Coral Reefs

LINERI

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!

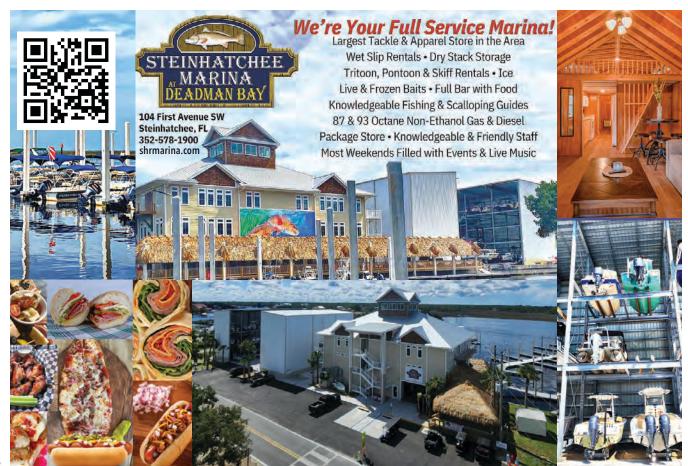
Even if you take precautionary steps to avoid it, sometimes you might hook a bird by accident. That's when it's important to remember-don't cut the line and let the bird fly away with it attached. This can lead to entanglement and death of birds (and an inconvenient loss of line). Instead, follow these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

- 1. Wear safety glasses and enlist a partner How else can you keep the seabirds away 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.

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.





ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Florida manages one of the most diverse, and most active artificial reef programs in the United States. As of October 2023, the FWC Artificial Reef Program has recorded over 4,173 artificial reef deployment locations state-wide. In the past six months, over 220 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.

Highli	ghts fror	n Recent	Florida Artificial Re	ef Deployments					
DeployID	County	Date	Deployment Name	Material	Tons	Relief	Depth	Lat (DM)	Long (DM)
OK0380	Okaloosa	04/18/2023	RMS CYCLOPS	Steel vessel 105'	66	27'	72'	30° 20.828' N	86° 26.239' W
SL0084	St. Lucie	04/22/2023	Unnamed FWC Reef 2023 (1)	Secondary use concrete	516	10'	55'	27° 31.365' N	80° 11.143' W
OK0384	Okaloosa	05/17/2023	Destin High School Reef	Prefabricated modules (9)	48	15'	119'	30° 09.760' N	86° 20.521' W
OK0382	Okaloosa	05/17/2023	Starborough Wine Reef 2023	Prefabricated modules (8)	39	25'	68'	30° 21.099' N	86° 36.876' W
OK0381	Okaloosa	05/17/2023	Crab Trap Offshore Reef	Prefabricated modules (9)	42	15'	106'	30° 09.879' N	86° 24.483' W
LE0133	Lee	05/18/2023	Village 6	Culverts	34	6'	30'	26° 19.827' N	81° 58.132' W
BA0535	Bay	05/22/2023	MB-276	Prefabricated modules (19)	182	15'	64'	29° 55.299' N	85° 33.013' W
BA0534	Bay	05/22/2023	Ernie Johnson Memorial Reef	Tetrahedrons (2)	5	8'	65'	29° 43.250' N	85° 28.830' W
OK0385	Okaloosa	05/29/2023	LA-2023-1	Prefabricated modules (10)	45	15'	110'	30° 08.646' N	86° 24.710' W
PB0151	Palm Beach	06/01/2023	Bob Burton Memorial Reef 1	Limestone boulders	500	10'	65'	26° 27.167' N	80° 02.964' W
PB0153	Palm Beach	06/15/2023	Derek Beckel Memorial Reef	Limestone boulders	500	12'	78'	26° 53.048' N	80° 01.816' W
PB0154	Palm Beach	06/22/2023	Andrew Red Harris Juno Rock	Limestone boulders	500	12'	78'	26° 52.785' N	80° 01.836' W
ST0221	Sarasota	06/26/2023	M-2 Tom Wallin Reef 2023	Prefabricated modules (25)	19	3'	38'	27° 18.809' N	82° 42.924' W
ES0733	Escambia	06/28/2023	EscaRosa 1	Prefabricated modules (7)	36	15'	48'	30° 17.680' N	87° 13.010' W
OK0389	Okaloosa	06/29/2023	RMS ATLANTIS	Steel vessel 125'	58	35'	80'	30° 14.561' N	86° 30.517' W
DA0267	Miami-Dade	07/07/2023	Fisher Island Gazebo & Rip Rap	Limestone boulders	925	13'	27'	25° 48.847' N	80° 10.225' W
WL0066	Walton	07/13/2023	2023 Ed Walline Nearshore NW	Prefabricated modules (7)	21	8'	52'	30° 20.058' N	86° 13.947' W
PB0155	Palm Beach	07/18/2023	2023 PBFF Reef	Culverts (138)	494	8'	515'	26° 46.328' N	79° 57.812' W
ES0805	Escambia	09/08/2023	NRDA Phase 3 Cell 461	Prefabricated module (1)	21	15'	78'	30° 11.710' N	87° 06.991' W
FR0083	Franklin	09/19/2023	Robby's Reef 2023	Prefabricated modules (4)	72	15'	50'	29° 39.630' N	84° 30.000' W
FR0082	Franklin	09/19/2023	Carl Enis Memorial Reef	Prefabricated modules (6)	108	15'	68'	29° 35.423' N	84° 25.387' W
FR0081	Franklin	09/19/2023	Mike Johnston Memorial Reef	Prefabricated modules (9)	27	8'	38'	29° 28.909' N	84° 55.763' W
FR0080	Franklin	09/19/2023	Rocky Burrous Reef	Prefabricated modules (9)	27	8'	38'	29° 28.909' N	84° 55.494' W
BE0072	Brevard	10/19/2023	Memorial Reef	Prefabricated modules (15)	45	8'	83'	28° 23.609' N	80° 17.795' W

CATCH THE FUN

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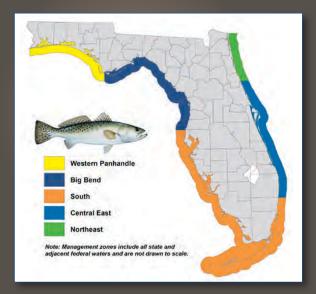
VisitPanamaCityBeach.com



KNOW YOUR MANAGEMENT ZONES

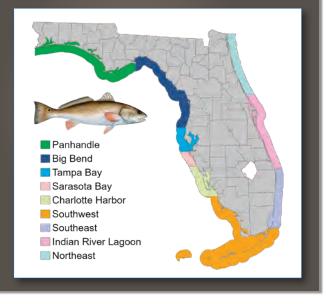
Spotted Seatrout Management Zones

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 management zones. The daily bag limit is one fish in all the Florida state waters, except for the Indian River Lagoon region where red drum are catchand-release only. Zero bag limit for captain and crew.







www.visitnaturecoast.com

Photo by Bonish Photography



352.356.1008 850.371.1977 352.363.0128

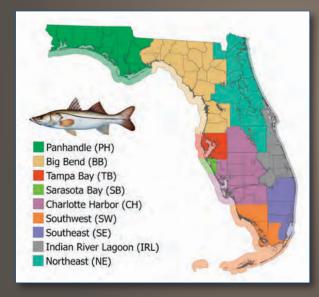
Proverbs 22:1 – "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold."



Snook Regional Management

Recent Changes to Snook Management

 FWC has adopted a regional management approach for snook that brings a holistic view to management decisions using multiple metrics to evaluate the fishery on a smaller regional scale.



- There are seven metrics used in the evaluation: spawning potential ratio (SPR), habitat, harmful algal blooms (HABs), relative abundance, fishing effort, temperature, and stakeholder feedback.
- The new regulations establish nine snook management regions throughout Florida. These management regions extend inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters.
- FWC staff will annually evaluate the snook fishery in each region using the metrics, and key findings will be summarized in "Annual Review" publications.
- To see the latest snook annual reviews for each management region, visit MyFWC.com/Snook.

New Regulations (Effective Jan. 1, 2024)

Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay Open season: March – April, September – November Bag limit: one fish Slot limit: 28–33 inches

Charlotte Harbor, Southwest Open season: March – April, October – November Bag limit: one fish Slot limit: 28–33 inches

Southeast, Indian River Lagoon, Northeast Open season: February – May, September – Dec. 14 Bag limit: one fish Slot limit: 28–32 inches





Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

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 $\blacktriangle \blacklozenge \bullet \blacksquare$

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.

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.



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, Gray

Minimum Size Limits:

Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Minimum Size Limits:

· Gulf - Open year-round

fish can be gag or black

· Gulf - 4 per harvester*

Grouper, Scamp

Minimum Size Limits:

· Gulf - Open year-round

· Atlantic - 3 per harvester

· Gulf - 4 per harvester

• Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

• Atlantic - 20'

• Gulf - 16"

Season:

• Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

• Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1

• Atlantic - 24"

• Gulf - 24"

Season:

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

• Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester

(Mangrove)

Minimum Size Limits • Atlantic - 20" • Gulf - 16"

Season:

Atlantic - Open year-round
 Gulf - TBD

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, Mutton **A** • X

Minimum Size Limits: • Atlantic and Gulf - 18"

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



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



Schoolmaster
A

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



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



Minimum Size Limits: • Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

Grouper, Warsaw

& Speckled Hind

Minimum Size Limits:

· Atlantic and Gulf - None

day of each species

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

· Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per vessel per

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



Grouper, Snowy Minimum Size Limit: • Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: • Atlantic - 1 per harvester

• Gulf - 4 per harvester

Gag Grouper

• Atlantic - 24"

• Gulf - 24"

Season:

Minimum Size Limits:

• Atlantic - Closed: Jan. 1-April 30

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

• Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1

• Gulf - Open Sept. 1-Nov. 10

fish can be gag or black

Gulf - 2 per harvester*



Grouper, Red A • X Minimum Size Limits:

• Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

Season:

A •

- Atlantic Closed Jan. 1-April 30 • Gulf - Open year-round
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

Atlantic - 3 per harvester

Gulf - 2 per harvester*



- 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
- Gulf 4 per harve

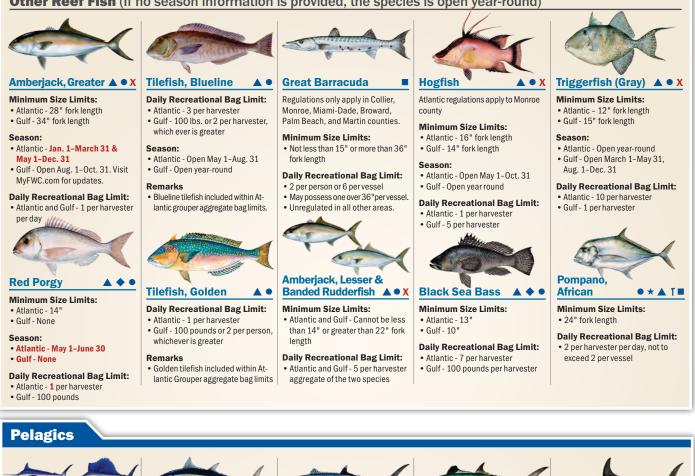
Issued: January 2024 New regulations are highlighted in red (please visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational

for the most current regulations)
Peebles excent blueline tilefish golden tilefish and snowy

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

Reef Fish

Other Reef Fish (If no season information is provided, the species is open year-round)





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.



Wahoo

- Minimum Size Limits: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 2 per harvester



Blackfin Tuna

greater.

Minimum Size Limits:

No minimum size limit

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

• 2 fish per person or 10 fish per

vessel per day, whichever is

- Minimum Size Limits: 36" fork length
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: · Gulf and Atlantic - 1 per harvester not to exceed 2 per vessel

- Mackerel, King **Minimum Size Limits:** 24" fork length
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** Atlantic (excluding Monroe) - 2 per harvester
- Gulf (including Monroe) 3 per harvester



- Minimum Size Limits: • 18"
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 2 per harvester
- Remarks · Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



Minimum Size Limits: 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per harvester



Dolphinfish

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic 5 per harvester per day, not to exceed 30 pervessel
- · Gulf 10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 pervessel
- · Vessel limits does not apply for for-hire vessels.
- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew



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

Buy your license online at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, or toll free at: 1-888-347-4356 or at Fish|Hunt FL app

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

Swordfish

Minimum Size Limits:

• 47" lower jaw fork length with

keel length if head removed

• 1 per harvester per day, not to

15 per for-hire vessel

Remarks

waters.

894-5528

hire vessels.

head attached or 25" cleithrum to

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

All landed fish must be reported

to NOAA within 24 hours 800-

HMS permit required in federal

Zero daily bag and possession

limit for captain and crew of for-

exceed a maximum of 4 per private recreational (not for-hire) vessel or

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 pervessel 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.



- Minimum Size Limits: • 14"
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 5 per harvester
- **Closed Season:** • Oct 15-Nov 30 Remarks





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 ▲★1■

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.

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).



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;



· 100 fish per harvester

Gulf Kingfish Jack Crevalle

Examples of "unregulated species" include: Ladyfish, bonito, menhaden, white grunt, southern stingray, gulf kingfish (whiting), pinfish, Atlantic croaker, jack crevalle, cero mackerel, hardhead catfish, gafftopsail catfish, lionfish.

- * No license is required to harvest lionfish by dipnet, pole spear or Hawaiian sling and lionfish bag limit is unlimited
- for both Gulf and Atlantic state waters.
 - Additional gear rules apply, please see: MyFWC.com
 - T 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.
 - cies from a private vessel in the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean.
- State Reef Fish Angler designation required when fishing for select reef fish spe-Х

Lionfish

State regulations apply in federal waters.

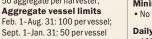
Measured as total length. Total length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with

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

★ Spearing Prohibited

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission





No minimum



Daily Recreational Bag Limit:



• 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.

• * T =





* •

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 Dav
- · 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 24-25, 2024 Regular Season opens Aug. 6 through

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.

Minimum Size Limits • 2 7/8" claw

Closed Season:

Crab, Stone

• May 2-Oct. 14

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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



Closed Season:

 Regional trap closures apply. Visit MyFWC.com for 2024 tran 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:

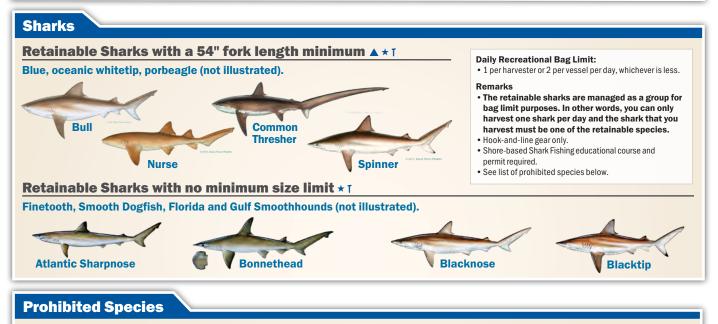
- June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
- July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.
- Apalachicola Bay: Closed

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



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 Scallop, Stony, Hard, Black and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Bahama Starfish, and Longspine Urchin. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited. Puffer fish harvest is prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

FWC – Division of Marine Fisheries Management, 1875 Orange Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32311

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.





Marine life regulations

Requirements for marine life (aquarium species) harvest:

- Recreational saltwater fishing license
- Organisms must be landed and kept alive
- A continuously circulating live well, aeration or oxygenation system of adequate size to maintain these organisms in a healthy condition
- Allowable Gear: hand-held net, drop net, rod, barrier net, slurp gun (use of quinaldine is prohibited)*
- **Bag Limit:** 20 organisms per person per day; only 5 of any one species allowed within the 20-organism bag limit
- Possession Limit: 2-day possession limit, 40 total organisms, no more than 10 of any one species allowed
- Allowable substrate: see species specifications in table
- Closed areas: Some closed areas exist**
- Sale of recreationally caught marine life organisms is prohibited
- Regulations also apply in federal waters
- Some organisms have additional gear limitations, see chart.
- ** Various closed areas exist. See regulations for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park and Florida's State Parks before collecting in these areas.

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





Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS 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: 11/2"
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 — In	vertebrates
SPECIES	REMARKS1
Anemones	Corallimorphs and Zoanthids: 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". Coral- limorphs must be harvested as single polyps only. Zero bag limit on Giant Anemone (Condylactis gigantea).
Conch, Queen	Harvest prohibited
Corals: Hard ,stony, fire & black	Harvest prohibited
Octocorals	No more than 6 octocoral colonies per person per day in any combination; harvest of attached substrate within 1 " of base is permitted; harvest closes when quota met.
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs
Crab, Horseshoe	Harvest prohibited
Live Rock	Harvest prohibited
Octopods ³	Except Common Octopus
Sea Fans	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
Siphonophores/Hydroids	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
Sponges	Except Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef and Velvet Sponges; no more than 5 sponges per harvester per day in any combination; harvest of substrate within 1" of base permitted north and west of the southernmost point of Egmont Key, no substrate allowed south of Egmont Key
Starfish ³	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins ³	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited
Other Merine Life incode has	

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
Halimeda/Mermaid's Fan/ Mermaid's Shaving Brush	combination; 2 gallon maximum possession limit

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

- 2-Such as groupers, snappers, seabass and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on pages 10.
- 3-Bag limit of 2 live shell fish of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County

14

TARPON HANDLING

Keep Silver Kings Reigning Use Best Fishing Practices



Photos courtesy of Capt. Bryon Chamberlin

Gear

- · Use non-stainless, non-offset, barbless circle hooks
- Use single hook rigs
- Use tackle heavy enough to land tarpon quickly and minimize fight time by matching tackle to conditions and targeted fish size
- · Use a dehooking tool to quickly and easily remove hooks

Handling

- Tarpon over 40 inches MUST remain in the water by law, unless in pursuit of a state or world record using a tarpon tag
- Tarpon smaller than 40 inches should only be handled with wet hands and be supported horizontally if removed from the water
- Work quickly to minimize handling time and exposure to air
- Keep fingers away from the gills and eyes
- Avoid dragging tarpon over the gunnel of a boat, or over rocks or railings

Release

- · Release fish as quickly as possible
- Revive lethargic tarpon ensuring water passes over the gills from front to back or hold it horizontally in the water to allow it to pump water through its gills
- If a shark appears while you are fighting a tarpon, consider breaking the tarpon off as close to the hook as possible so it has a chance to escape before it is too tired





Chloe Bedford

Robert Modys

Additional Best Fishing Practices for Tarpon

- Take efforts to shorten future fight times if tarpon appear lethargic during release
- · Move to another fishing location if sharks are in the area
- Avoid fishing for tarpon from bridges or piers as this requires specialized lifting gear or cutting the line with long amounts of line trailing behind the fish, leading to entanglement of other marine life including birds

Visit MyFWC.com/Tarpon to learn more about fishing for tarpon in Florida.

LIONFISH CHALLENGE



Lionfish King Baye Beauford



Commercial Champion Jerry Butler

Conquering the Seas

Eighth Annual Lionfish Challenge Shatters Records

The 2023 Lionfish Challenge was a showstopper that shattered all expectations, raising the Reef Rangers bar to new heights in numbers of participants and lionfish harvested! From June 1 through Oct. 1, a fleet of 281 fearless and ambitious divers removed 30,494 invasive lionfish from Florida waters, protecting our precious marine resources. This year's top competitors really brought the heat! The 2023 Lionfish King, Baye Beauford of Jacksonville, reigned supreme in the Recreational Category with the 1,514 lionfish he harvested, and the 2023 Commercial Champion, Jerry Butler of Jacksonville, removed a staggering 1,208 pounds of lionfish, equivalent to approximately 1,331 fish, securing his spot at the top of the Commercial Category. This year also marked the inaugural inclusion of a Military Prize to be presented to the top Active Military or Veteran competitor. Eric Larson of Gulf Breeze took home the prize with an impressive harvest of 591 lionfish. A salute to our military heroes who protect and serve both on land and in the water!

We would like to extend a special thanks to the 55 shops that served as checkpoints for recreational submissions and our primary sponsor, ZooKeeper, for supporting the Lionfish Challenge and designing and providing tournament shirts. Without their invaluable support, the Lionfish Challenge truly wouldn't be possible.

To learn more about the Challenge, other Reef Rangers programs, and ways to get involved visit **FWCReefRangers.com**. For questions, email Lionfish@MyFWC.com.

Recreational Category			Commercial Category			
	Name	Number of Lionfish		Name	Pounds of Lionfish	
1st place Lionfish King	Baye Beauford	1,514	1st place Commercial	Jerry Butler	1,208 lbs	
2nd place	Dale Wolber	1,145	Champion			
3rd place	David Connerth	773	2nd place	David Garrett	744 lbs	
Military Prize	Eric Larson	591	3rd place	Alex Fogg	516 lbs	

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 at FLFriendlyAngler.com to learn about best fishing practices, environmental ethics, and fisheries management.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Florida Friendly Angler Program.



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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 a dehooking device and a venting tool or descending device rigged and ready for use 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: These regulations require a dehooking device and a venting tool or descending device rigged and ready for use when recreationally fishing for reef fish in the Atlantic. (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. Nonresidents 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)
- SnookSpotted 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:

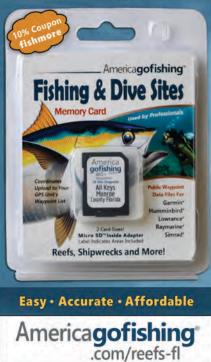
- For any species that cannot be harvested by spearing (see Spearing on pg. 18).
- For any species (freshwater or marine) in freshwater. Possession of spearfishing equipment in or on freshwater is also prohibited.
- Within the upper Keys no-spearfishing zone, which includes all state waters from the 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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Catch a Florida Memory

84

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Winner Laura Nathan-Kadish

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Catch a

Florida Memory



CatchaFloridaMemory.com

Below: William Whittle with his blackfin tuna.



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

Records NEW! Length and Youth categories. Visit CatchaFLMemory.com

Florida Fishing

Saltwater for more details. **Reel Big Fish**

Catch memorable-sized saltwater fish in 30 species categories. A photo of the entire fish on a length measuring device is required.

Saltwater Life List

Track your progress at catching 70 species of saltwater fish.



New Saltwater Grand Slam Club Members

Grand Slam Tier 2 -6 different Grand Slams: Amy C. Lombardo Gregg E. Lewis **Bay and Estuary:**

Grant Sperry Family - Drum:

Anthony M. Acevedo Jonathan Benedict Ben J. Campbell **Clinton Erlinger** Sean Featherstone Todd Gerkens James K. Goodfellow Phillip L. Todd Roxanne Todd Craig D. Van Brocklin Chad M. Wammock Family - Grouper: Daniel Byrd Shane Cress **Rick Moreland** Carlie F. Sawallis Family - Grunt: Steve Limer

Peyton Kinnebrew

Family - Jack/Pompano: Josh P. Bennett Steve Limer Family - Mackerel/ Tuna: Benjamin J. Parker Family - Porgy: Dan Kipnis Family - Requiem Shark: Alesia Haber Carson L. Atcheson Connor T. Atcheson Family - Snapper: Mir S. Ali

Christine A. Biron **Jimmy Chretien** Diana W. Corvin Supriti Cygon Luke Dunn **Casey Fort** Jeffry L. Gobeli Louis Hernandez Caleb G. Kembro Michael G. Kissner Hans Lemke

David G. Levitt Steve Limer Mark Marusic Adler Murray William E. Ray Charlyn P. Salts Michael Loran Schulze Aaron A. Schweitzer Mike Vallee Raymundo C. Veloso Zachary Woods Florida: Gregg E. Lewis

Inshore: Joseph P. Agee James G. Boykin Kevin N. Campbell Jacob D. Jones Cayden Karppe Zain Khalid Kristopher Kinnebrew Pevton Kinnebrew Thomas Lynn Colin Ralph Angelo Soyangco Cooper L. Stephenson **Ryan Stevens**

Mike Vallee Richard Vlacos Fred M. Wammock **Small Fry:** Justin R. Alsen Carson L. Atcheson Connor T. Atcheson Mason A. Chaplauske Luke Dunn Cayden Karppe **Ryder Karppe** Adler Murray C. B. Williams

New Saltwater Fish Life List Club Members

10 - Fish Club: Hollie I. Agapi Konnor L. Aleknavich **Brooke Allen** Wyatt O. Andre Carson L. Atcheson Connor T. Atcheson Derek Ball Christopher J. Barton **Gary Beisel** Jonathan Benedict Nathan D. Benedict Josh P. Bennett Christine A. Biron Adam Burish Ryan Derenzy Burkhead Martin R. Byers

Ben J. Campbell Jake Caracciolo Isaac Hellmuth Mason A. Chaplauske Joseph Chen **Jimmy Chretien** Diana W. Corvin Supriti Cygon Seth Jaeger Joshua H. Daughtry **Chris Debone** Mary Khan Luke Dunn Dan Kipnis Donald W. Eicher IV **Clinton Erlinger** Devin Kitrel **Casey Fort** Sean L. Kittle **Dominic Lee Francia** Jayden K. Fries Kurt Larson Janice Gerkens Kyle Ledford Paul R. Hanzlik David G. Levitt

Christian Haugland Mason A. Long Mary F. Magnuson Louis Hernandez Andrew Mahood Ezra M. Holbrook Jason May Robert A. Hollenbeck David McCoy Camden Huffman Scott McCune Timothy J. Mezger Caleb G. Kembro Laura Millington Adler Murray Mandy O'connor Michael G. Kissner Michael Olsen Julius Ortega Brian K. Ott Kasen O, Krueger Micheal D. Page Mikayla A. Pfenning Joey T. Phillips Garren Pollard

Gavin Pollard Clement B. Quinones William E. Ray Justin Reed Amador Rojas Alec Rosen Leo F. Ryan Jr Marlin Salts Carlie F. Sawallis Albert C. Scarmato Jr Michael Loran Schulze Tania J. Schulze Brian Selai Jack Smith Michael S. Smith Angelo Soyangco Grant Sperry

Reed J. Trottier Shane J. Trottier James R. Ulle Jr Mike Vallee Ariel B. Vincent Berna Vlacos Faith Weedman Larry Weedman Ryan A. Widman Jon Wissman Samuel Jason Woodall Derrick Wyle **Binhong Ye** John D. Zambrano 30 - Fish Club: Dan Kinnis Kurt Larson

Adam J. Macek **Brayden Madison Roy Magnuson** Adam T. Maxfield Rick Moreland Alejandro Pinera Gage T. Pollard Vincent Rafailovici **Glenn Salts** Angelo Soyangco John M. Suleski Dylan R. Sullivan Shane J. Trottier Zachary Woods 50 - Fish Club: Michael Paul Boggs Amy Lockhart

New Saltwater Reel Big Fish Club Members

Tier 3 - 15 Different Species: Christopher K. Perry Tier 2 - 10 Different Species: Gregg E. Lewis

Tier 1 - 5 Different **Species:**

Travis Reed Anderson Matthew Stephen Batchelor Maxwell Miller Vincent Rafailovici

Black Drum: Garrett Hart

Gavin Hart

Catfish: Justin R. Alsen Robert D. Alsen Carson L. Atcheson Connor T. Atcheson Matthew Stephen Batchelor George F. Williams Nathan D. Benedict Greg G. Borries Jr Daniel Ciobanu Ella M. Debone

Todd Gerkens Michael G. Kissner **Keeton Krueger** Samuel G. Krueger Gregg E. Lewis James Linhart Katie Linhart Angel L. Melendez Rivera **Christopher Meredith** Adler Murray Christopher K. Perry Joey T. Phillips Keith P. Planner Vincent Rafailovici Christopher L. Sheffield Phillip L. Todd **Roxanne Todd** Cody J. Trippel Steven Trollinger Eli S. Williams John Franklin Williams **Crevalle Jack:** Emmette Kessler Amy C. Lombardo

Dominic Lee Francia

Angelo Soyangco Gray (Mangrove) **Snapper:** Shane Cress **Brayden Madison** Joshua Mars John R. Morin Matthew D. Stoddard **Gray Triggerfish:** Tv H. Hitsos Kurt Larson **Greater Amberjack:** Gregg E. Lewis **Hogfish:** Carlie F. Sawallis **King Mackerel:** James N. Corvin Jevin L. Haston Gregg E. Lewis Nathan C. Nielsen Rj O'connor

Jane Pollock **Holly Street** Thomas Street Graham Yaun

Ladyfish: Audrey G. Corvin James N. Corvin Vincent M. Delbuono Sean Featherstone Gregory Lee McConnell Matthew Olsen Alexis Rose Paul Aj J. Phillips Joev T. Phillips Vincent Rafailovici Michael Loran Schulze Shawn T. Singleton Grant Sperry Nathan Timpe Steven Trollinger Camden Williams **Mutton Snapper: James Huffman** Alexandria J. Salts Carlie F. Sawallis

Philip E. Smith **Permit: Cobey Khan** James M. Wheeler

Red Drum:

Magnus O. Bingham Shawn R. Blanton Marc D. Chancey Vincent Delbuono Vincent M. Delbuono Mark R. Edwards **Clinton Erlinger Christian Haugland** Jessica Honovic **Dean Krueger** Reed M. Krueger Amy C. Lombardo Emmanuel Lopez Travis A. Miller Barbara Moore Christopher K. Perry Donald Przybylski **Michael Loran Schulze** Tania J. Schulze John M. Suleski Stacie K Wond **Red Grouper: Rick Moreland Red Porgy:** Sean L. Kittle

Snook:

Joseph de Jesus James Ryan Dodd Brian J. Ferreira

Kurt Larson Mason A. Long Maxwell Miller Barbara Moore Nicholas J. Orlosky **Dana Thrower** John D. Zambrano **Tripletail:** Spencer D. Connolly **Garrett Farmer** Hank McIntyre **Vermilion Snapper: Richard Heming** Sean L. Kittle Hans Lemke Nathan C. Nielsen Aiden W. Roberts **Yellowtail Snapper: Barry Downes Jr**

Robert A. Hollenbeck Joshua Mars Alexandria J. Salts Abigail Sperry William Sperry

New Triple Threat Club Members

Have obtained a Grand Slam, Reel Big Fish AND Life List Club Recognition

- Robert D. Alsen Carson L. Atcheson Connor T. Atcheson Derek Ball Joseph Chen John (Jay) C. Cooper Jr
- Matt Corvin Shane Cress Joshua H. Daughtry Joseph de Jesus **Charles T. Douglas** Luke Dunn

Mark R. Edwards **Clinton Erlinger Todd Gerkens** Jeffry L. Gobeli James K. Goodfellow Joshua R. Guthrie

Robert A. Hollenbeck Cayden Karppe Ryder Karppe Michael G. Kissner **Dean Krueger** Reed M. Krueger

Samuel G. Krueger Kurt Larson Amy C. Lombardo Travis A. Miller **Rick Moreland** Adler Murray

Alexandria J. Salts Charlyn P. Salts Marlin Salts Carlie F. Sawallis Michael Loran Schulze Angelo Soyangco

Joshua R. Guthrie

Grant Sperry William Sperry Dana Thrower Phillip L. Todd Roxanne Todd Jon Wissman

Travis Reed Anderson Charles T. Douglas James K. Goodfellow Jonathan Kenny Adam J. Macek David McCoy Marlin Salts Matthew A. Torres Shane J. Trottier **Brooke West** Southern Flounder: Mandy O'connor John (Jay) C. Cooper Jr John D. Zambrano Spanish Mackerel: Maxwell Miller Dennis Triana Spotted Seatrout: Mark R. Bleiler Corey J. Blevins Adam Burish Russe S. Dasch Joshua H. Daughtry

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 Snook and Spiny Lobster. Tarpon tags required to land tarpon.	take of
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.

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.

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 Sno Lobster, Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading, Deer, Tur 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 \$70:	
Age: 13 or older \$1,0	001.50

- 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.

REDFISHTag



CONSERVE FLORIDA'S FISHERIES LICENSE PLATE



- > Show your support for Florida's saltwater fisheries, habitat restoration, stock enhancement and Florida's marine resources on the road with a "Conserve Florida's Fisheries" specialty license plate.
- > To order the specialty plate, visit RedfishTag.com and complete the online form or visit your local tax collector's office
- Online orders will be processed by our partners at the Indian River County Tax Collector's office. A representative will contact each purchaser to complete the transaction.
- > 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

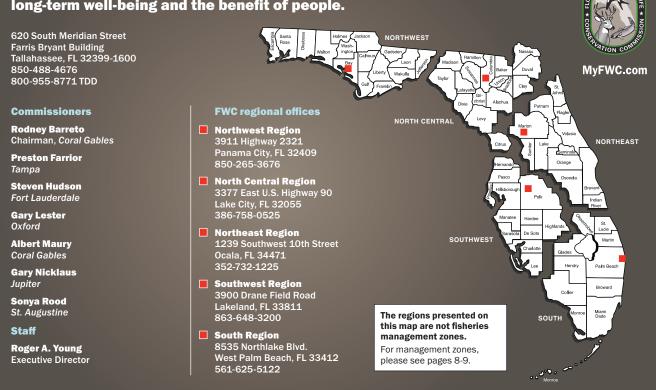
For additional information, please visit REDFISHTag.com





Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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



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.

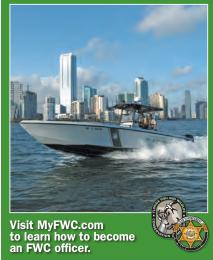
Resource Information

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

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- J.O. Black Crab Spice
- J.O. Cajun Seasoning
- J.O. Maryland Seafood Seasoning
- J.O. Lumberjack Meat/Poultry Seasoning
- J.O. Rib/Chicken Seasoning
- J.O. Venison/Steak/Beef Seasoning
- J.O. Soup Mixes





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Details of services provided can be found online at BoatUS.com/Agree. TowBoatU.S. is not a rescue service. In an emergency situation, you must contact the Coast Guard or a government agency immediately.