

FISHING REGULATIONS



Catch a Florida Memory



Saltwater Angler Recognition

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Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: July 2025



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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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Tony Hart with a black drum

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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 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

Travis Anderson with a nice spotted sea trout.

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.

2025 Commission meeting dates

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

- February 26–27
- May 21–22
- August 13–14
- November 5–6

*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



Message from the FWC by Chairman Rodney Barreto

Summer is in full swing, and Florida's saltwater is calling!

Whether targeting fish on your life list, snorkeling for bay scallops, or diving for spiny lobsters, our state's abundant waters offer unparalleled angling opportunities thanks to collaborative conservation efforts.

As Chairman of the Commission responsible for managing and protecting Florida's fish and wildlife for future generations, I am immensely proud of staff throughout the entire agency. The incredible saltwater experiences Florida provides are a testament to our staff's hard work and dedication. I'd also like to thank our law enforcement officers for their tireless commitment to safeguarding our precious fish and wildlife resources and protecting the public.

These conservation efforts and opportunities are possible because of the support and active engagement of our strong angling community. Through your partnership, programs such as the State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) have directly benefited our fisheries. This summer, we proudly celebrate the fifth year of SRFS. The data collected from anglers like you, through dockside interviews and mail surveys, helps inform the state on the status of our reef fish fishery. The valuable data you have provided through this program has helped us proudly offer the longest recreational Gulf red snapper season since the state took over management. Thank you for your crucial contributions to this vital program.

Your commitment to conservation extends further through initiatives like the Sport Fish Restoration program. Every time you purchase a fishing license, tackle, or motorboat fuel, you are contributing to the creation of artificial reefs, boat ramps, educational programs, and critical research.

We are grateful for your valuable input, and we thank you for participating in our public meetings and providing feedback on the issues that matter to you. Please continue to contact us at Marine@MyFWC.com, MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments, or 850-487-0554.

Thank you, anglers, for your continued support. Together, we will continue to protect Florida's resources and help ensure it remains the Fishing and Boating Capital of the World.



Rodney Barreto
FWC Chairman



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Photo credit: @zachary_coker



Apalachicola . Carrabelle . Eastpoint . St. George Island . Alligator Point

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.



Rider Leib
Grades K-3 Saltwater Winner



Hopper Borchgardt
Grades 4-6 Saltwater Winner



Aleksandra Pelegrin
Grades 7-9 Saltwater Winner



Savannah LaViolette
Grades 10-12 Saltwater Winner



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

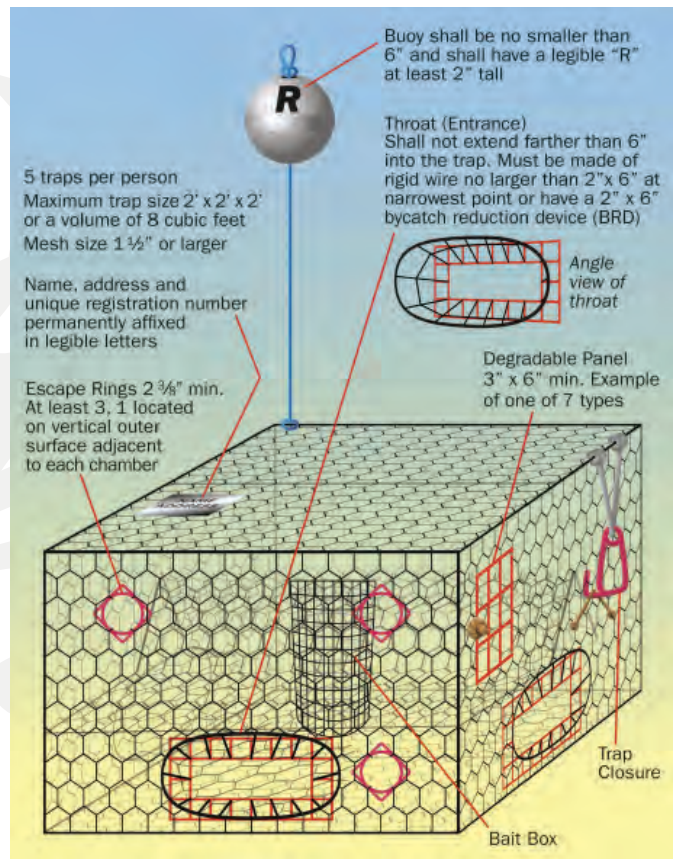
Best Fishing Practices for Recreational Blue Crab

When recreationally fishing for blue crab, please keep the following in mind:

- Only **five traps** are permitted per person, and you must have a recreational fishing license.
- Bycatch Reduction Devices **MUST** be installed at every throat entrance.
- At least three escape rings must be present with a 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " minimum.
- Do not place traps in areas where they can become navigational hazards.
- Check your traps frequently. If you are not actively fishing your trap, please remove it from the water.
 - Traps left in the water continue to "ghost fish" and harm animals that cannot escape.
- You must remove your traps during each closure. You can find the closure map at MyFWC.com.

For a complete list of license requirements and trap specifications please visit:

MyFWC.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/blue-crab





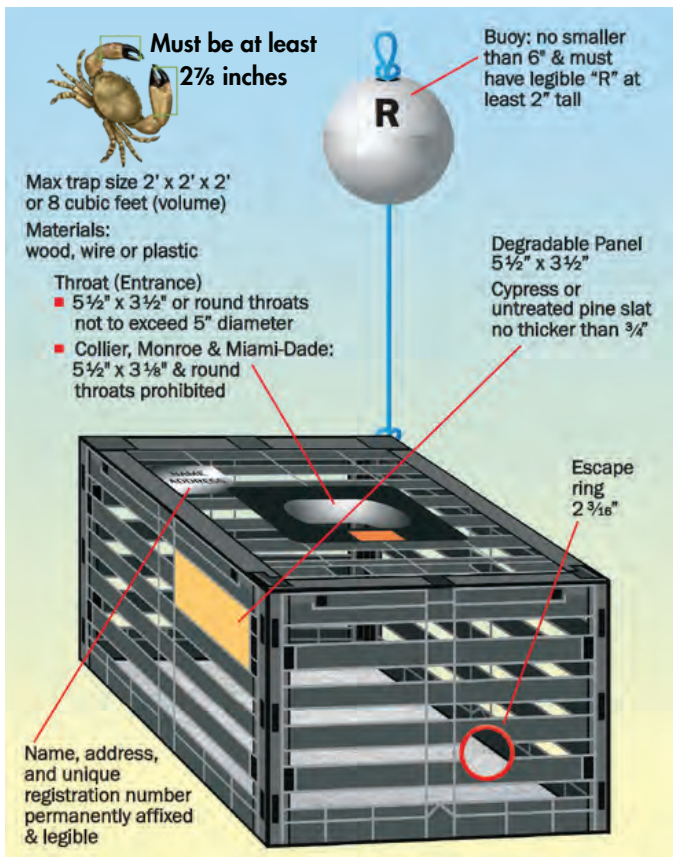
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Best Fishing Practices for Recreational Stone Crab

When recreational fishing for stone crab, please keep the following in mind:

- Only **five traps** are permitted per person, and you must have a recreational fishing license.
- **Season closed:** May 2 - Oct. 14
- Traps must be removed from the water during the closure.
- Traps must have at least three unobstructed escape rings and a degradable panel made of cypress or untreated pine slat. No thicker than 3/4".
- Check your traps frequently. If you are not actively fishing your trap, please remove it from the water.
- Do not place traps in areas where they can become navigational hazards.

For a complete list of license requirements and trap specifications please visit: MyFWC.com/stonecrab



CATCH THE FUN

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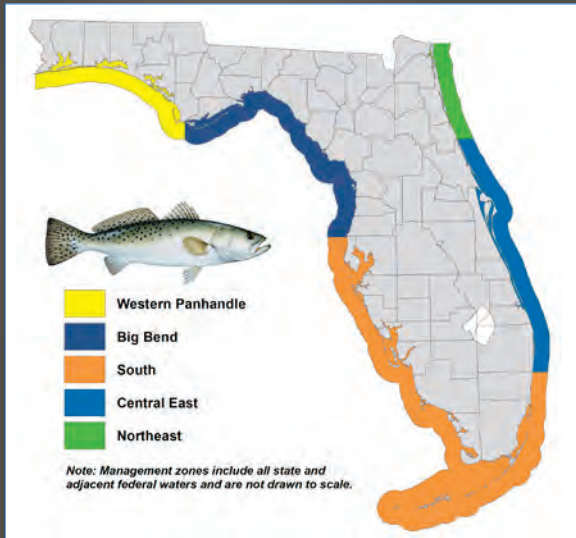
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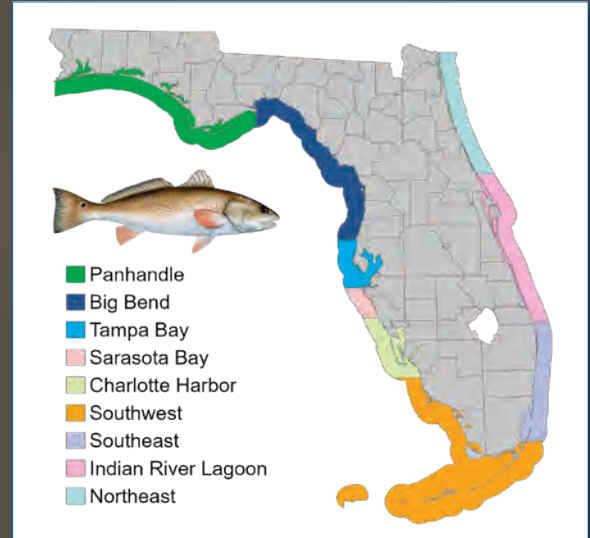
Spotted Seatrout Management Zones

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 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 catch-and-release only. Zero bag limit for captain and crew.



More to Explore

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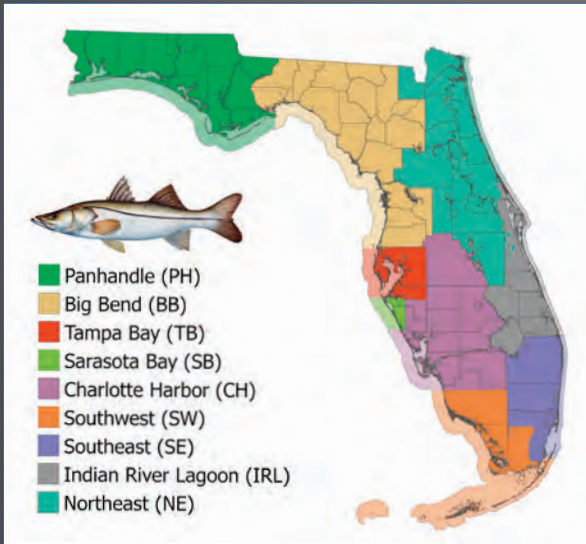
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Snook Management Zones

Snook Regional Management

- FWC has implemented 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.
- FWC staff will annually evaluate the snook fishery in each region using the metrics, and key findings will be summarized in Annual Review publications.
- The management regions extend inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters.
- To see the latest snook annual reviews for each management region, visit MyFWC.com/Snook.

Regional Regulations

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

The image shows a hand holding a smartphone. The screen displays the eRegulations app interface, which includes the logo, the text "OFFICIAL REGULATIONS", and a dropdown menu labeled "Select a state...".

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Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Issued: July 2025

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

New regulations are highlighted in red

(please visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational for the most current regulations)

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

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 vessel, 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
- **Open May 24-26; June 1-July 31; Sept. 1-14, 19-21, 26-28; Oct. 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26; Oct. 31-Nov. 2; Nov. 7-9, 11, 14-16, 21-23, 27-30; Dec. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 25-28**

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 - 18"

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.

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.

* Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels applies to Gulf 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

Season:

- Atlantic - **Open May 1-June 8**
- Gulf - Open year round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per vessel
- 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

Season:

- Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per vessel 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



Grouper, Gag ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

Season:

- Atlantic - **Open May 1-June 25**
- **Gulf - Visit MyFWC.com for 2025 season updates**

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 - **Closed April 1-30**
- Gulf - **Open Sept. 1-Oct. 31**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester per day



Tilefish, Blueline ▲●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 2 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 lbs. or 2 per harvester, which ever is greater

Season:

- Atlantic - Open May 1-July 21
- Gulf - Open year-round

Remarks

- Blueline tilefish included within Atlantic grouper aggregate bag limits.
- Atlantic has a zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew



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 harvester or 6 per vessel, whichever is less

Remarks

- 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

Season:

- Atlantic - May 1 - June 30
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester



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 harvester 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 vessel

Pelagics



Billfish ★▲

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester aggregate bag limit

Remarks

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



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



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 private 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.
- Hook and line only



Wahoo ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester



Cobia (Ling) ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 36" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Gulf and Atlantic - 1 per harvester not to exceed 2 per vessel



Tripletail ★▲◆■↑

Minimum Size Limits:

- 18"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester

Remarks

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



Dolphinfish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20" fork length
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 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.
- 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

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:**
- PH, BB, TB, SB, CH, and SW management regions: Not less than 28" or more than 33"
 - SE, IRL, and NE management regions: Not less than 28" or more than 32"
- Open Season:**
- PH, BB, TB, and SB management regions are open Mar.-April and Sept.-Nov.
 - CH and SW management regions are open March-April and Oct.-Nov.
 - SE, IRL, and NE management regions are open Feb.-May and Sept.-Dec. 14.

- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
- In each management region: 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
 - See page 9 for regional map



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



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.




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.

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, gaftopsail 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 America or Atlantic Ocean.

Crustaceans and Mollusks

Bay Scallops



Season:

- Gulf County: Aug. 16–Sept. 24
- Franklin-NW Taylor County: July 1–Sept. 24
- Fenholloway - Suwannee River Zone: June 15–Labor Day
- Levy, Citrus and Hernando counties: July 1–Sept. 24
- Pasco Zone: July 10–Aug. 18

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 America 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 30–31, 2025
- 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 2025 trap closure dates and locations.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 gallons whole per harvester

Remarks

- 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. New trap registration requirements, 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 person or vessel per day, whichever is less

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, porbeagle (not illustrated).



Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

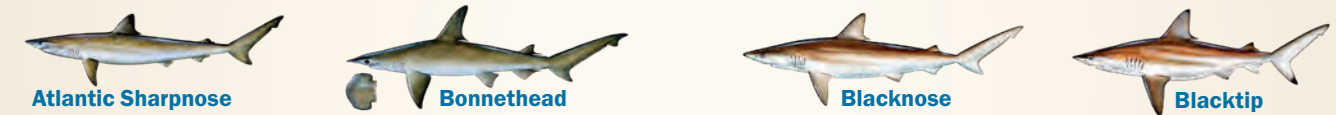
- 1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less.

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:

Oceanic Whitetip, 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.

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.

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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 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". 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 10–11.
- 3—Bag limit of 2 live shell fish of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.

Is Data From YOUR Fishing Trip Being Used to Help Inform Management Decisions?

Recreational fishing is a popular pastime in Florida and an 11.1-billion-dollar industry that supports 70,570 jobs. Ensuring the sustainable harvest of Florida's fisheries is necessary for anglers to be able to continue to enjoy catching their favorite fish from one generation to the next. However, estimating fish abundance and removals due to recreational fishing is not an easy task.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) utilizes the **State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS)** to collect data from private recreational anglers on 13 different reef species across the state (*Red Snapper, Vermilion Snapper, Yellowtail Snapper, Mutton Snapper, Hogfish, Gray Triggerfish, Greater Amberjack, Lesser Amberjack, Banded Rudderfish, Almaco Jack, Gag Grouper, Black Grouper, and Red Grouper*). We rely solely on the participation of saltwater anglers, like yourself, to collect accurate data about your fishing trips. The more data we collect from anglers, the more the fishing effort and catch data will represent what you experience on the water. Ultimately, the data gathered from anglers on these 13 reef species provides estimated harvest and release data that are used in stock assessments and inform management decisions. In fact, data collected from fisherman during the SRFS survey has led to consistently longer fishing seasons for Gulf Red Snapper. FWC needs your help to make sure management decisions are based on accurate data from as many fishermen as possible for Red Snapper and the other reef species.

How is my data used?

The information you provide through SRFS helps scientists and managers monitor annual harvests and assess the health of fisheries. Since the program's expansion statewide in



Scott Fenner with red grouper.

2020, SRFS has played an increasingly important role in stock assessments across both Gulf and South Atlantic waters, offering a more reliable and precise method compared to previous recreational sampling practices. A stock assessment is a scientific process that uses data to estimate a fishery's productivity, abundance, and sustainable harvest levels. The Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process coordinates federal stock assessments in the southeast region of the United States, including both coasts in Florida. Throughout the SEDAR process, SRFS data is combined with information from commercial fisheries, charter recreational data, fishery research, and biological data to create a comprehensive picture of a species' status. Most recently, SRFS data was used in assessments for Gulf Red Grouper, Yellowtail Snapper, and Mutton Snapper. These peer-reviewed stock assessments are then used by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Gulf Council to update management measures.

How can you make sure your data is included?

There are 3 ways you can contribute to SRFS:

- 1. Register as a State Reef Fish Angler.** Recreational anglers who target or harvest any of the 13 SRFS species from a private recreational vessel are required to obtain the State Reef Fish Angler designation, including anyone over 65 and those spearfishing. This designation is free and easy to add to your saltwater fishing license. If you have a lifetime or 5-year license, you can now opt in to have your SRFS designation set to auto-renew for the duration of your license period. Sign up for the State Reef Fish Angler designation anywhere saltwater fishing licenses are sold (GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, Fish|Hunt Florida mobile app, 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356), or at tackle shops, sporting goods stores, and tax collectors offices) and remember to update your information annually so we know the best address to send you a survey if you are selected.

- 2. Participate in the dockside interviews.** FWC biologists are in the field to meet you at the docks once you return from your fishing day. They will conduct a short interview and record information about your fishing trip. If anyone on the boat targeted or caught one or more of the 13 SRFS species, then those anglers are eligible for a more detailed interview including questions about gear type, depth fished, area fished, and what species they caught and released. Biologists may even ask to weigh and measure your catch and take biological samples. Please participate! These interviews take just a few minutes and help fisheries scientists estimate recreational harvest and obtain key biological information for fisheries stock assessments.

- 3. Fill out and submit the mail survey.** A subset of State Reef Fish Anglers will be randomly selected to receive a survey by mail about their fishing activity. The survey is mailed to the address entered when you purchase your fishing license, so please make sure your contact information is up to date. The data you provide in this survey is used to estimate the total number of recreational fishing trips for reef fish by region during a given month. Even if you did not fish for reef fish, your feedback allows scientists to more accurately determine fishing effort. If you receive a survey, please respond and return as soon as possible, *even if you did not fish in the given month!*

As you can see, there are several ways you can contribute data about your recreational fishing trips to support fisheries science and management. Florida's recreational fishery is the largest in the nation, and its successful management depends on precise, reliable data. The State Reef Fish Survey would not be possible without the support from recreational anglers like yourself! *Thank you for helping us ensure a sustainable fishery for generations to come!*

Have a question about marine fisheries regulations, improving recreational data or catch and release? We are here for you. Send your questions, photos and fishing tales to Marine@MyFWC.com.

Scan this QR code to learn more about SRFS



Join the Seatrout Conversation

The FWC is embarking on a new chapter in spotted seatrout management. Building on the success of holistic management strategies for redfish and snook, the FWC is now exploring a similar approach for spotted seatrout—one that incorporates additional management metrics and a focus on smaller regional scales. The FWC is excited to offer multiple opportunities for Florida’s saltwater anglers to be a part of the conversation shaping the future of the seatrout fishery.

2025 FWC Seatrout Symposium

This one-day event, taking place on August 27, 2025, in Daytona Beach, Florida, will bring together stakeholders, scientists, and fisheries managers for an in-depth look at the spotted seatrout fishery in Florida. The symposium marks the beginning of this new chapter in spotted seatrout management. This event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is encouraged because space is limited. For more information, visit MyFWC.com/SeatroutSymposium.

Public Workshops

Following the Seatrout Symposium, the FWC will hold public workshops throughout the state to gather additional input. During these workshops, stakeholders can provide feedback on future seatrout management strategies. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to also attend a workshop in their region. More information about marine fisheries workshops is available at MyFWC.com/SaltwaterWorkshops.



2025 FWC Seatrout Symposium



Want to help shape the future of the spotted seatrout fishery?

Join the conversation!

August 27, 2025
Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort
Daytona Beach, FL





Why You Should Attend:

- Participate in discussions that will shape regional management
- Hear updates on the status of spotted seatrout in Florida
- Learn about habitat conservation and restoration efforts
- Gain insights on management and future considerations
- Engage in an interactive panel discussion
- Share your local knowledge during breakout sessions
- Network and collaborate with others

View details at:
MyFWC.com/SeatroutSymposium



HAVE YOU MADE THE SWITCH?



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Auto-renew your **State Reef Fish Survey** designation today, a **mandatory** but **free** designation for all saltwater anglers targeting reef fish.



Make the switch to auto-renew today at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com





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



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 America:** 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 America. 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. 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)

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SPEARING

* Volusia County — You may not harvest by spearing in Volusia County inland waters with the exception of flounder and sheepshead, and 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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CatchaFloridaMemory.com



Dan Kipnis left with yellowtail snapper in 2024 and right with tarpon in 1970.

Prizes!

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- Monthly raffle entries for each achievement
- Earn more prizes as you reach more achievements



Aida Logan with her spotted seatrout.

Florida Fishing Records

NEW! Youth weight categories. Visit CatchaFLMemory.com for more details.

Saltwater Grand Slams

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

Saltwater 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.



[Facebook.com/CatchaFLMemory](https://www.facebook.com/CatchaFLMemory)



[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 - Cody J. Trippel	Family - Jack/Pompano: Marco N. Digiovanni	Inshore: Ethan Lee	Debra Trippel
3 Different Grand Slams: Casey Fort Cody J. Trippel Tanner J. Trippel	James R. Ulle Jr Gavin Valent	Adam D. Bonenfant Russell S. Dasch Chris Della Penna Niko P. Della Penna Atlas X. Enos Casey Fort Lukas Hallman Samuel R. Hastings Alex Hernandez Joanne Hernandez Griffen D. Johnson	Don Trippel Hank Watson Michael D. Yannick
Family - Drum: Dalton Avera Jeri M. Avera Adam J. Ball Pat K. Bolster Rick Carson Nathan J. Gibeault	Family - Grouper: Bob Deangelis Chance Logan		Shoreline: Derrick Wyle
	Family - Snapper: Tom Berg Gerald Burch Alexander M. Calinao Serge Chenkerian Vaughn Chenkerian Vyke Chenkerian Ryan Crawford Matthew Defazio		Small Fry: Haden L. Fanning Alyssa A. Timpe
	Family - Grunt: Tom Berg Gerald Burch		

New Saltwater Fish Life List Club Members

50 - Fish Club: Dan Kipnis Christopher D. Perry	Dale C. Melms William Phillips James R. Ulle Jr	Luke Cheung Amber Cranmer Samuel A. Cuva Darin E. Davidson Isaac C. Evey Garrett D. Ewing Michael R. Featherstone Lukas Hallman	John J. Hanley Eddy P. Hebert Jason Henson Joshua Hulslander Logan Hulslander Jason Humbert Rick Hunter Brian C. Jenkins	Keith L. Kirk Sharon A. Leska Carlos E. Lima Stefani L. Logan Ian Lutz Madison McCord Randy S. Mueller Bentley Owens	Caroline L. Pride Wesley Rankin John M. Sbrana Theresa M. Sbrana Eric N. Sheley Ryan Sowle Cal J. Starling Jordan J. Stenger	Cameron Stone A. R. Storm Derek Sutton Debra Trippel Gavin Valent Robert S. Van Der borg Stacie K. Wond
30 - Fish Club: Daniel Byrd Tony Hart Michael G. Kissner	10 - Fish Club: Nicholas Am Gwyneth Burish Alexander M. Calinao					

New Saltwater Reel Big Fish Club Members

Tier 1 - 5 Different Species: Gavin Hart Cody J. Trippel Colton Woodie	Susan A. Klein Ian Lutz Shannon Pollard Kaia Simon	Flounder: Brayden Vinson	Ladyfish: Carson L. Atcheson Denise Cinco Ed C. Ellett Noah Johnson Adam J. Macek Rhett A. Pinelo Dana Thrower	Kurt Larson Karen Massey Seth Ward Watson E. Wilson Jr	Spotted Seatrout: Hudson Davis John Duquin Charlie Linhart Tyler J. Macek Stephen M. Renwick Cody J. Trippel
Black Drum: Jack E. McClanahan	Cobia: Natasha Jovic	Snapper: Bruce Wojcik	Permit: Brandon D. Ehlen	Red Grouper: Bentley Owens	Tripletail: Chris A. Williams
Bluefish: David Allen Eric R. Gambill Ryan A. Widman Jay B. Young	Crevalle Jack: Wyatt Anderson Howard L. White III	Gray Triggerfish: Steve Limer Andrew T. Morris Bentley Owens Christina L. Williams	Red Drum: Gregory J. Botzau Gwyneth Burish Adalynn Grace Cockman Mikki S. Gathercole Kylie F. Harrell Samuel R. Hastings	Sheepshead: Gavin Hart Colton Woodie	Vermilion Snapper: Joshua R. Guthrie Eddy P. Hebert Cooper Hoff
Catfish: Amber Cheung Jaxon W. Erlinger Gavin Hart Alex Hernandez	Florida Pompano: Corrick L. Meinhart Dashed Miltz Jack Monahan Cameron T. Morley Kaia Simon	Greater Amberjack: Andrew T. Morris Christopher K. Perry		Snook: Crosby Burik Logan M J Clifton Heather Davis T.J. Grunwald Armande Lam William E. Ray Austen R. Smart	Yellowtail Snapper: Laura J. Nathan- Kadish Jonathan Parris Bruce Wojcik
	Gag: Bentley Owens	King Mackerel: Gwen Verna			

New Triple Threat Club Members

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

Thomas Baker	Samuel R. Hastings	James Huffman	Bentley Owens	William E. Ray	Bruce Wojcik
Russell S. Dasch	Eddy P. Hebert	Chance Logan			

New Florida Saltwater Fishing Records

Youth Weight - Mutton Snapper Julia Bernstein	Youth Weight - Spotted Seatrout Cash Ward	Youth Length - Snook Luke Ormston	Adult Weight - Yellow Jack Nathaniel Campbell	Adult Weight - Blueline Tilefish Aleks Williams
Youth Weight - Blackfin Tuna Julia Bernstein	Youth weight - Sheepshead Theo Zellers	Adult Length - Snook Renee Knight	Adult Length - Red Drum Gene Wilson	

A Special Thanks to Our Partners:



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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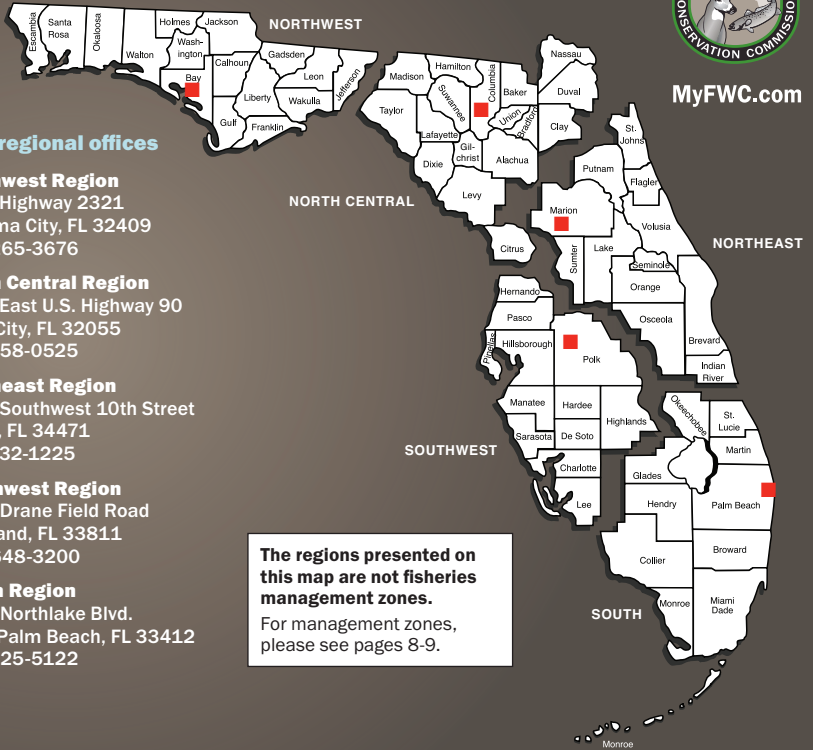
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FWC regional offices

- **Northwest Region**
3911 Highway 2321
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850-265-3676
- **North Central Region**
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386-758-0525
- **Northeast Region**
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Ocala, FL 34471
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- **Southwest Region**
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Lakeland, FL 33811
863-648-3200
- **South Region**
8535 Northlake Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
561-625-5122

The regions presented on this map are not fisheries management zones. For management zones, please see pages 8-9.

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

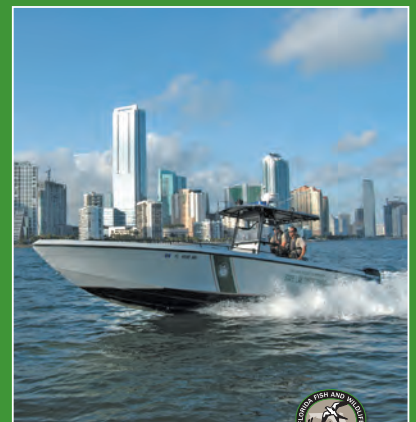
throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text messages directly to an email address. You can text Tip@MyFWC.com; standard usage fees may apply.

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

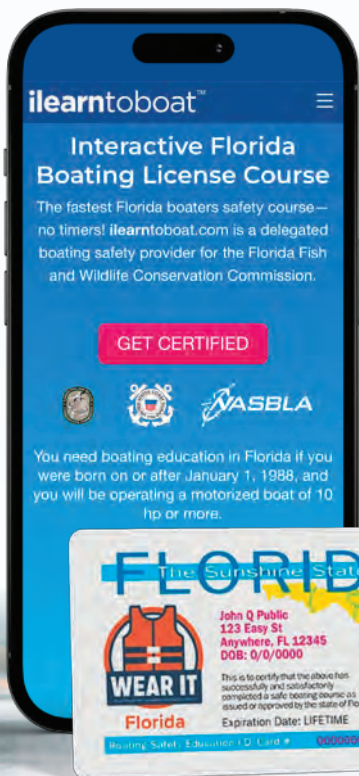
- To purchase fishing licenses:**
888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)
GoOutdoorsFlorida.com
- FWC Division of Law Enforcement**
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- To report fish and wildlife law violations, call the Wildlife Alert Hotline:**
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute**
727-896-8626
MyFWC.com/Research
- 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.





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