

FISHING REGULATIONS



Saltwater Angler
Recognition

Page 20-22



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Artificial Reefs**
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10 Year Anniversary**
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Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: July 2026



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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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Delaney Farrell with her first redfish.



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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 text 847411(Tip411) with keyword "FWC". Report incidents online at MyFWC.com/WildlifeAlert.

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.

On the cover

Fish Art Contest 10-12 Saltwater Winner Savannah LaViolette.

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.

2026 Commission meeting dates

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

- February 4–5
- May 13
- August 5–6
- December 9–10

*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

This summer, we are proud to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Catch a Florida Memory, FWC's saltwater angler recognition program. For the last decade, this program has inspired anglers of all ages and skill levels to get out on the water, experience Florida's diverse fisheries, and create memories that will last a lifetime. More than 47,000 catch photos have been submitted over the years by thousands of anglers, and each one represents more than just a single fish. Through Catch a Florida Memory, we have been able to celebrate the excitement of a first catch, the pursuit of a personal best, the stories between family and friends, the experiences that only Florida can offer, and the moments on the water that connect generations. These memories reflect the pride, heritage, and deep connection Floridians share with our marine resources.

To commemorate this milestone anniversary, Catch a Florida Memory launched three new challenges designed to encourage even more anglers to experience the incredible fishing opportunities Florida has to offer. The first is the Veterans Challenge, which recognizes our active-duty and retired military anglers and encourages competition among military branches. Next is the Quarterly Secret Fish Challenge, which encourages anglers to diversify their catches and tests their knowledge of Florida's fish species. Last, the Photo of the Year Challenge recognizes best handling practices and the spirit of capturing that quintessential Florida memory. To learn more about Catch a Florida Memory, these new challenges, and how to participate, visit CatchaFloridaMemory.com.

As our nation commemorates another monumental milestone with America250 and reflects on the traditions that have shaped generations of Americans, we are reminded that fishing, boating, and conservation remain deeply woven into Florida's identity. Florida's anglers continue to play a vital role in conserving and sustaining our world-class fisheries for future generations. Every time you purchase a fishing license and get out on the water, you are supporting fisheries conservation, education, and research through the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

We are grateful for your valuable input and continued participation in public meetings and the fisheries management process. Please continue to share your comments with us at Marine@MyFWC.com, through MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments, or by calling 850-487-0554.

Thank you for your continued support and stewardship of Florida's marine resources. Together, we will continue to protect and enhance our fisheries while ensuring Florida remains the Fishing and Boating Capital of the World.



Rodney Barreto
FWC Chairman



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

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Florida manages one of the most diverse, and most active artificial reef programs in the United States. As of May 2026, the FWC Artificial Reef Program has recorded over 4,548 artificial reef deployment locations state-wide. Since October 2025, over 35 new artificial reefs have been constructed and the locations from a subset of the most recent reefs are listed in the table. To download a complete list of Florida's artificial reef locations in a variety of digital formats, view an interactive map, and learn more about Florida's Artificial Reef Program, please visit MyFWC.com/ArtificialReefs.



Highlights from Recent Florida Artificial Reef Deployments

DeployID	County	Date	Deployment Name	Material	Tons	Relief	Depth	Lat (DM)	Long (DM)
BA0620	Bay	11/20/2025	Black Pearl	Steel vessel 97'	94	20'	74'	30° 06.345' N	85° 49.910' W
BA0621	Bay	03/19/2026	RESTORE Rubble 9 & 10	Secondary-use concrete	159	15'	72'	30° 06.466' N	85° 49.979' W
BE0073	Brevard	11/20/2025	CCA Green Reef	Secondary-use concrete (111)	810	8'	83'	28° 24.373' N	80° 18.319' W
CI0032	Citrus	10/27/2025	Hwy19BCB-1	Secondary-use concrete (81)	615	10'	30'	28° 47.308' N	83° 03.211' W
CI0034	Citrus	11/01/2025	Hwy19BCB-3	Secondary-use concrete (420)	698	10'	30'	28° 47.280' N	83° 03.312' W
CI0033	Citrus	11/01/2025	Hwy19BCB-2	Secondary-use concrete (296)	625	10'	30'	28° 47.345' N	83° 03.250' W
LE0134	Lee	01/07/2026	Big Carlos Bridge	Secondary-use concrete (30)	394	6'	25'	26° 22.842' N	81° 57.690' W
LE0135	Lee	01/14/2026	Big Carlos Bridge	Secondary-use concrete (28)	394	7'	25'	26° 22.841' N	81° 57.671' W
LE0136	Lee	02/04/2026	Big Carlos Bridge	Secondary-use concrete (24)	526	10'	25'	26° 22.846' N	81° 57.738' W
LE0137	Lee	02/12/2026	Big Carlos Bridge	Secondary-use concrete (29)	464	10'	25'	26° 22.853' N	81° 57.765' W
LE0138	Lee	02/25/2026	Big Carlos Bridge	Secondary-use concrete (88)	497	8'	25'	26° 22.838' N	81° 57.740' W
LE0139	Lee	04/06/2026	Big Carlos Bridge	Secondary-use concrete (59)	180	7'	25'	26° 22.859' N	81° 57.772' W
MI0121	Martin	11/18/2025	Boo McCulley Reef	Steel vessel 227'	694	38'	185'	27° 12.287' N	80° 00.396' W
DA0275	Miami-Dade	10/28/2025	Reefline - Traffic Jam	Concrete car sculptures (22)	330	8'	20'	25° 46.379' N	80° 07.626' W
DA0276	Miami-Dade	02/26/2026	Eternal Reefs #51	Concrete dome-shaped modules (11)	6	4'	45'	25° 57.573' N	80° 05.871' W
DA0277	Miami-Dade	03/10/2026	Eternal Reefs #52	Concrete dome-shaped modules (11)	6	4'	45'	25° 57.571' N	80° 05.879' W
DA0278	Miami-Dade	04/19/2026	ULINK, North Miami Beach	Prefabricated modules (3)	11	6'	14'	25° 52.018' N	80° 06.998' W
OK0547	Okaloosa	10/15/2025	M/V NEKTON PILOT	Aluminum and steel vessel 75'	96	40'	130'	30° 04.442' N	86° 18.486' W
OK0548	Okaloosa	03/21/2026	USS SHAMAL (PC 13)	Steel vessel 178'	331	53'	165'	30° 04.860' N	86° 36.760' W
OK0549	Okaloosa	03/23/2026	USS ZEPHYR (PC 8)	Steel vessel 178'	331	47'	157'	30° 04.221' N	86° 33.946' W
ST0253	Sarasota	10/27/2025	Silvertooth #44	Concrete dome-shaped modules (17)	11	4'	30'	27° 17.064' N	82° 36.017' W
ST0255	Sarasota	11/17/2025	M2 Tom Wallin	Concrete dome-shaped modules (24)	16	3'	39'	27° 18.789' N	82° 42.949' W
ST0256	Sarasota	01/20/2026	Silvertooth #45	Concrete dome-shaped modules (12)	5	3'	30'	27° 17.058' N	82° 35.977' W
ST0257	Sarasota	01/29/2026	Silvertooth #46	Concrete dome-shaped modules (12)	5	3'	30'	27° 17.055' N	82° 35.955' W
ST0260	Sarasota	03/30/2026	Silvertooth #43	Concrete dome-shaped modules (13)	6	3'	33'	27° 17.050' N	82° 36.058' W

HAVE YOU MADE THE SWITCH?



AUTO-RENEW: ON

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



Help Prevent Injuries to Florida's Coral Reef

What is a coral reef?

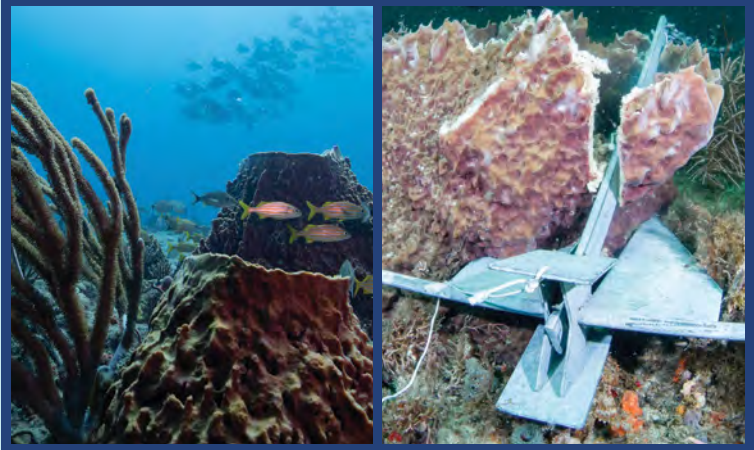
Corals are animals that attach themselves to the ocean floor and form slow-growing reefs. Healthy reefs support 25% of all marine species, are vital for robust fish populations, safeguard against extreme weather and boost Florida's economy.

Can you anchor on a coral reef?

No. In 2009, the Florida Legislature passed the [Florida Coral Reef Protection Act](#) (CRPA) to increase protection of coral reef resources off the coasts of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties. The CRPA makes it illegal to anchor on or otherwise damage coral reefs in Southeast Florida.

How do anchors and chains damage coral?

Anchors can dislodge, crush and crack the corals upon direct impact, and an anchor chain swinging over a reef can scrape or scar large sections. Parts of a reef can be repaired, but it can take centuries to fully recover. Often, coral is not able to naturally recover from a disturbance and is lost permanently.



Vessel grounding and anchoring

Anchoring on coral reef is not stable and can lead to collisions with other vessels or a vessel grounding. The hard limestone framework of the reef can cause extensive damage to vessel engines and hulls or snap anchor lines.

Learn more about how you can help protect reefs



[FloridaDEP.gov](#) | [FloridasCoralReef.org](#)



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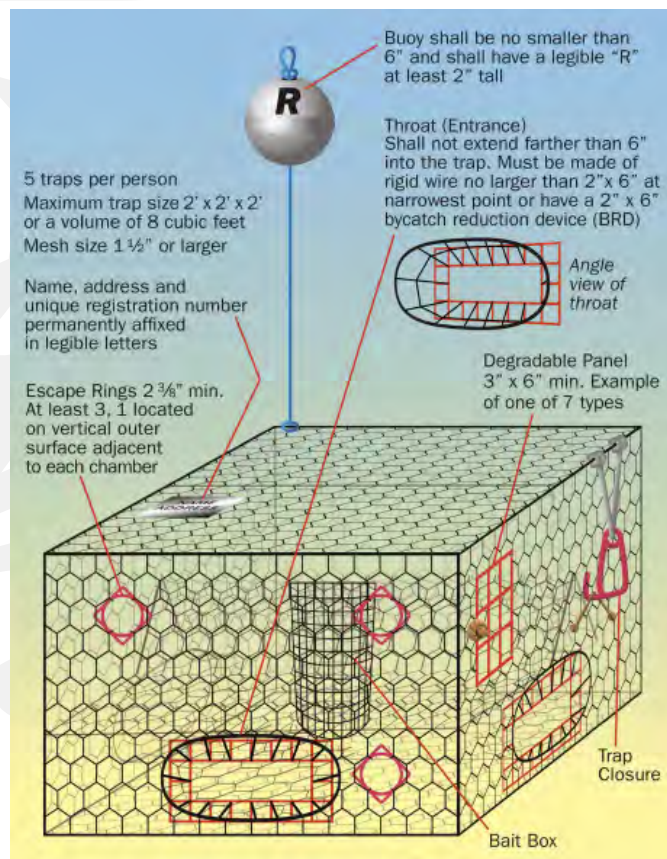


Best Fishing Practices for Recreational Blue Crab

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

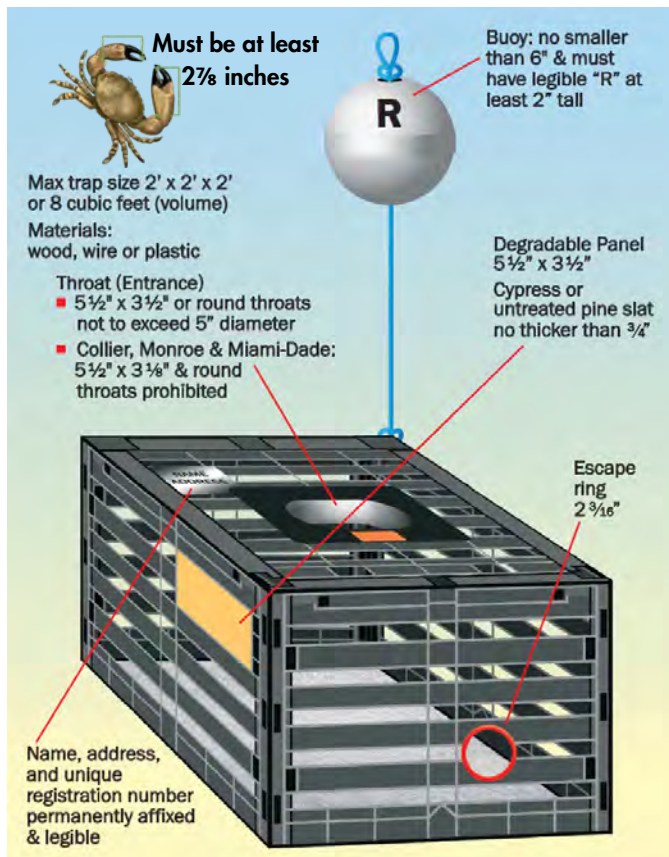
- Only **five traps** are permitted per person, and you must have a recreational fishing license and be registered with FWC.
- Bycatch Reduction Devices **MUST** be installed at every throat entrance.
- At least three escape rings must be present with a 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " minimum.
- Do not place traps 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.
- 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 and be registered with FWC.
- Season closed:** May 2 - Oct. 14
- Traps must be removed from the water during the closure.
- Wire 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".
- Plastic traps must have at least one escape ring on the exterior wall.
- 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 & trap specifications please visit: MyFWC.com/stonecrab

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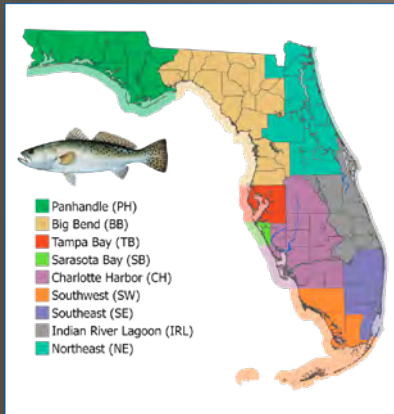
VisitPanamaCityBeach.com

REEL FISHING FUN
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New Spotted Seatrout Management Regions

Seatrout Regional Management

- FWC has implemented a regional management approach for spotted seatrout that brings a holistic view to management decisions using multiple metrics to evaluate the fishery on a smaller regional scale.



- There are six metrics used in the evaluation: spawning potential ratio (SPR), habitat, harmful algal blooms (HABs), relative abundance, fishing effort and stakeholder feedback.
- FWC staff will annually evaluate the spotted seatrout fishery in each region using the metrics, and key findings will be summarized in Annual Review publications.

Regional Regulations

Panhandle

Season: Closed in February
Bag limit: 3 fish
Slot limit: 15–19 inches
Over-slot allowance: One fish over-slot allowed per vessel or per person if fishing from shore

Big Bend

Season: Open year-round
Bag limit: 5 fish
Slot limit: 15–19 inches
Over-slot allowance: One fish over-slot allowed per vessel or per person if fishing from shore

Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest and Southeast

Season: Open year-round
Bag limit: 3 fish
Slot limit: 15–19 inches
Over-slot allowance: One fish over-slot allowed per vessel or per person if fishing from shore

Indian River Lagoon

Season: Closed Nov. 1–Dec. 31
Bag limit: 2 fish
Slot limit: 15–19 inches
Over-slot allowance: not allowed

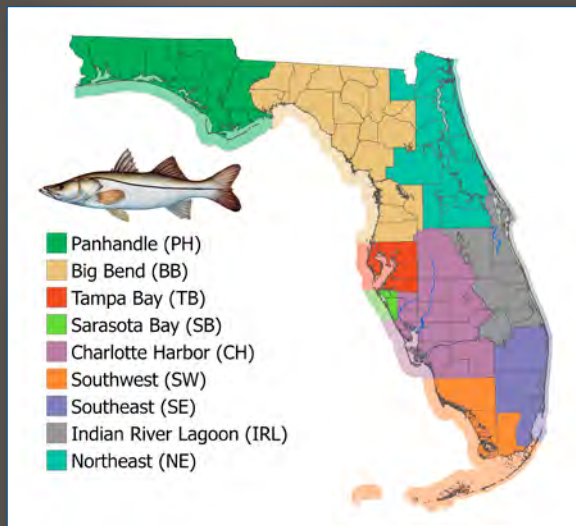
Northeast

Season: Open year-round
Bag limit: 3 fish
Slot limit: 15–19 inches
Over-slot allowance: not allowed

To see the latest spotted seatrout annual reviews for each management region, visit [MyFWC.com/Seatrout](https://myfwc.com/seatrout)

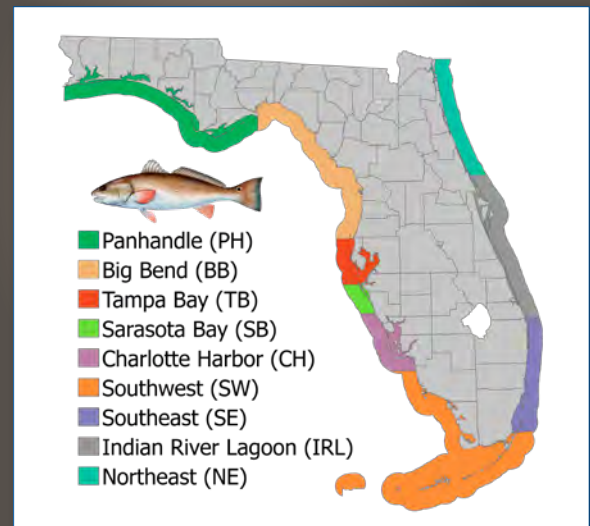
Snook Management Regions

Snook has nine management regions and the recreational bag limit is one fish in all management regions. The Panhandle through Southwest regions have a 28–33 inch slot limit, the Northeast through Southeast regions have a 28–32 inch slot limit. Recreational closed seasons vary by region (see page 12 for seasons). For-hire captain and crew may not keep a bag limit while on a for-hire trip.



Red Drum Management Regions

For red drum, there are nine management regions. 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. Recreational vessel limits vary by region (see page 12 for vessel limits). For-hire captain and crew may not keep a bag limit while on a for-hire trip.





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Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Issued: July 2026

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

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

New regulations are highlighted in red

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

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

Reef Fish

Snapper

General Snapper Regulations:

- **Snapper Aggregate Bag Limit** – Within state waters of the Atlantic and Gulf, all species of snapper are included in a 10 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of snapper species, unless stated otherwise.
- **Seasons** – If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.



Snapper, Cubera ▲◆◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see below)

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester under 30", included within snapper aggregate bag limit
- May additionally harvest up to 2 over 30" per 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
- **Gulf - Visit MyFWC.com for 2026 updates**

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.

Remarks

- **Check MyFWC.com for Atlantic updates**



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 - 8"
- **Gulf - 10"**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- **Gulf - 20 per harvester not included within the snapper aggregate bag limit.**

Other Snapper ▲◆◆■

Minimum Size Limits:

- Dog and Mahogany: Atlantic and Gulf - 12"
- No minimum size limit for other snappers

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

See page 18 for gear rules pertaining to reef fish.



Snapper, Gray (Mangrove) ♣▲◆◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



Snapper, Mutton ♣▲◆◆X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 18"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



Snapper, Schoolmaster ♣▲◆◆■

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester



Snapper, Yellowtail ♣▲◆◆X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Grouper

Atlantic Grouper General Regulations:

- Atlantic grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Atlantic and all state waters off Monroe County (Gulf and Atlantic sides).
- **Atlantic Grouper/Tilefish Aggregate Bag Limit** – includes all species of grouper plus golden and blueline tilefish included in a 3 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of species.

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 30
- 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–Aug. 1**
- **Gulf - Visit MyFWC.com for 2026 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 - Visit MyFWC.com for 2026 season update**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester per day



Red Porgy ▲ ◆ ●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 14"
- Gulf - None

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 lbs. or 2 per harvester, whichever is greater



Tilefish, Blueline ▲ ●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Season:

- Atlantic - Open May 1-Aug. 31
- Gulf - Open year-round

Remarks

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



Tilefish, Golden ▲ ●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 lbs. or 2 per harvester, whichever is greater

Remarks

- Golden tilefish included within Atlantic Grouper aggregate bag limits



Great Barracuda ♣ ■

Regulations only apply in Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties.

Minimum Size Limits:

- Not less than 15" or more than 36" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester or 6 per vessel, whichever is less

Remarks

- May possess one over 36" per vessel.
- Unregulated in all other areas.



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



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



Black Sea Bass ▲ ◆ ●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 13"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 7 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester



Triggerfish (Gray) ♣ ▲ ● X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12" fork length
- Gulf - 15" fork length

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Open March 1-May 31, Aug. 1-Dec. 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 1 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



Wahoo ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester



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.



Cobia (Ling) ▲

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



Tripletail ♣ ★ ▲ ◆ ↑ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 18"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester

Remarks

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



Mackerel, Spanish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester



Dolphinfin ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20" fork length
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



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



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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:

- Special Permit Zone (SPZ): Not less than 22" fork length
- All other areas: Not less than 11" or more than 22" fork length

Closed Season (SPZ only):
• April 1–July 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
• SPZ: 1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel
• All other areas: 2 per harvester

Remarks

- Outside the SPZ, anglers may possess 1 fish greater than 22" fork length
- Map of SPZ available at MyFWC.com
- For-hire captain and crew cannot keep a bag limit



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"
- **Excluding Northeast and Indian River Lagoon management regions, harvesters may keep 1 greater than 19" per vessel or 1 greater than 19" per harvester if fishing from shore**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
• **Big Bend: 5 per harvester**
• **Indian River Lagoon: 2 per harvester**
• **All other regions: 3 per harvester**

Closed Season:

- **Panhandle: Feb. 1–end of month**
- **Indian River Lagoon: Nov. 1–Dec. 31**

Remarks

- For maps of management zones, see MyFWC.com/Seatrout
- For-hire captain and crew cannot keep a bag limit



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:
• Panhandle, Big Bend, Northeast: 1 per harvester, not to exceed 4 per vessel
• Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest, Southeast: 1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel
• Indian River Lagoon: catch and release only
• Off-water possession limits apply, see MyFWC.com

Remarks

- For maps of management zones, see MyFWC.com/redfish
- Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited
- Harvest in federal waters prohibited
- For-hire captain and crew cannot keep a bag limit



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.

Some unregulated species have special size and bag limits inside Biscayne National Park. Visit MyFWC.com/BNP for more information.



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.

♣ Special size and bag limits apply in Biscayne National Park

■ 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 29–30, 2026
- 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 2026 trap closure dates and locations.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 gallons whole per harvester

Remarks

- Traps must be registered, see GoOutdoors-Florida.com.
- 5 traps maximum. See MyFWC.com for trap requirements.
- Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.

Oysters



Minimum Size Limit:

- 3"

Closed Season:

- Dixie, Wakulla and Levy Counties: June 1–Aug. 31.
- **Apalachicola Bay: March 1–Sept. 30; special permit required**
- All other areas: July 1–Sept. 30

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- **Apalachicola: 1 bag per season; special permit required**
- All other areas: 2 bags per harvester
- 1 bag equals 2 five-gallon buckets, 1 ten-gallon bucket, or 60 lbs. of oysters in shell

Remarks

- Harvest from approved shellfish areas during daylight hours only
- Go to www.FDACS.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Aquaculture/Shellfish-Harvesting-Area-and-Aquaculture-Lease-Map to determine the Open or Closed status of shellfish harvesting areas
- 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
- Harvest by hand or tong only

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, Carolina, Greater, Scalloped and Smooth Hammerhead Shark, Manta Ray, Devil Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Sturgeon, Queen Conch, Calico Scallop, Stony, Hard, Black and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Bahama Starfish, and Longspine Urchin. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited. Puffer fish harvest is prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

Marine life regulations

Requirements for marine life (aquarium species) harvest:

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

* Some organisms have additional gear limitations, see chart.

** Various closed areas exist. See regulations for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park and Florida's State Parks before collecting in these areas.

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

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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.

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
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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.

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.



Chandler Watkins
Grades K-3 Saltwater Winner



Mila Das
Grades 7-9 Saltwater Winner



Emma Zhang
Grades 4-6 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

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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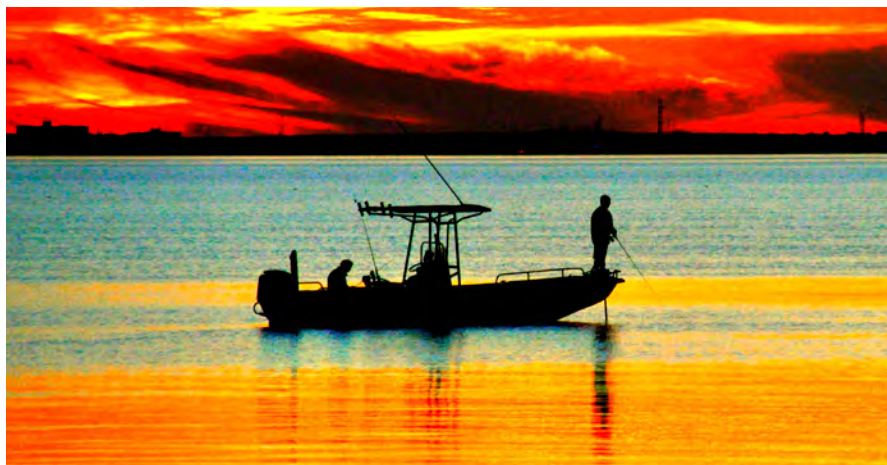
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SPEARING

* 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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Stash the Trash!



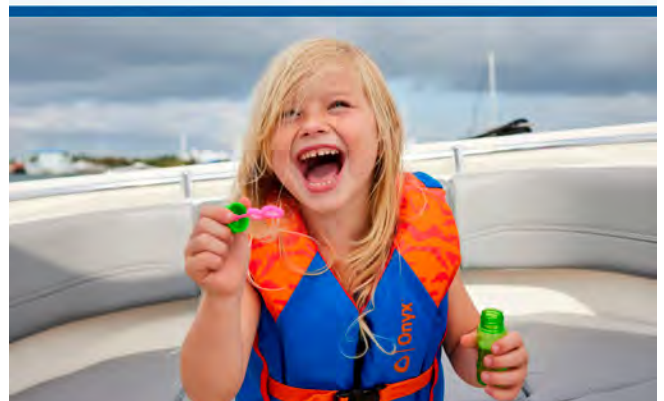
Protect fish and wildlife. Learn how at:
MyFWC.com/StashTheTrash



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Learn proper fit, smart selection, and simple maintenance that saves lives.

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boat-ed.com/Lifejacket



Catch a Florida Memory



Your purchase of fishing equipment, motorboat fuel and a fishing license supports angler recognition programs.

- ✓ Sign up at CatchaFloridaMemory.com
- ✓ Target a diversity of species
- ✓ Submit saltwater fish photos
- ✓ Reach fishing achievements
- ✓ Earn prizes and recognition!



Valentina Weis with her sailfish.

Prizes!

- Certificates, t-shirts and more
- Monthly drawing entries for each achievement
- Earn more prizes as you reach more achievements



Bradley White and his crevalle jack.



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



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



AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com

Florida Fishing Records

Youth, Fly, Length and All Tackle categories. See our website for more details.

Saltwater Grand Slams

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

Saltwater Life List

Track your progress at catching 75 species of saltwater fish.

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.

A Special Thanks to Our Partners:



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

New Saltwater Grand Slam Club Members

Grand Slam Tier 1 - 3 Different Grand Slams:

David Naumann
Christopher D. Perry
John M. Suleski

Bay and Estuary:

Earl F. Lynch

Blue Water:

Kevin Knight

Family - Drum:

Charles C. Cook
Eric Fontaine

Susan K. Gros
George V. Katsaras
Earl F. Lynch
Sterling Smith
Jared Thomas
David S. Wagoner
Sonya G. Wagoner

Family - Grouper:

Janice Gerkens
Lynne Krause

Family - Grunt:

John-Paul Fox

Family - Mackerel/ Tuna:

John Georgiades

Family - Snapper:

James H. Belden
Dwayne M. Nathan
Tommy Nelson
Mark Tyndall
Chad M. Wammock

Inshore:

Justin Alderman
Steve Austin

Jeffrey D. Bergstrand
Anthony S. Deangelis
Robey Fender
Karl Frianela
Gavin Hart
Sarah Honadel
Jay Ingold
George V. Katsaras
Robert R. Kurtz
Earl F. Lynch
Willa Nicholls
Jacob Okeefe
Leo F. Ryan

James Stanley
Jake Travers
Roy Williams

Nearshore:

Julia Bernstein
Reefs and Rubble
Christopher D. Perry

Shoreline:

Charles Johnson

Souther Inshore:

Samantha Armstrong
Jeffrey D. Bergstrand

Steve D. Bond Jr
Allison Carter
Cheldon A. Carter
James Centers
Leyton J. Ciserella
Cameron M. Clark
Jay J. Deraedt
Brady Dickerson
John H. Dobbins
David Evans
Garrison H. Fairhurst
Brian J. Ferreira
Eric Fontaine

Brendon P. Huebner
Josh Lively Sr
Earl F. Lynch
Roy Magnuson
Christopher D. Perry
Alec Rosen
Leo F. Ryan
Alexander Schmid
John M. Suleski
Andrew Toutant
Mark Tyndall
Anthony J. Varela-Clark
Bruce Wojcik

New Saltwater Fish Life List Club Members

50 - Fish Club:

John Georgiades
Kurt Larson
Jason A. Pollard
Alexandria J. Salts

30 - Fish Club:

Kurt J. Doyle

Gregory Lee McConnell
Nathan C. Nielsen
John Tirado

10 - Fish Club:

Gerard M. Acosta
James H. Belden
Jeffrey D. Bergstrand

Matthew R. Brandt
Eric Burish
Nina Burish
James Centers
Benjamin W. Chiles
Charles C. Cook
Brian K. Corwin

Chase Dejarrett
Brady Dickerson
Tomas Dillon
Ian Doan
Brandon Dybdal
Barrett Fine
John D. Fiocchi

Misael Garcia
James Gray
David W. Harris
Sarah Honadel
Sullivan Hoppe
George V. Katsaras
Lynne Krause

Jackson Leighton
Nicholas Marcus
Todd Metcalf
Karoly Oross
Selena Ortiz
Brian Ruiz
James S

Maverick Salts
Steven Schlotterbeck
Mark Tyndall
Anthony J. Varela-clark
Larry F. Widdifield
Austin Wyman

New Saltwater Reel Big Fish Club Members

Tier 1 - 5 Different Species:

Dan Kipnis

African Pompano:

Danny J. Slayton

Almaco Jack:

James H. Belden
Dan Kipnis
Kurt Larson

Black Sea Bass:

Miki Ramsey

Black Drum:

Mike Cockman
Russell S. Dasch

Brent E. Harsch

Catfish:

Christopher J. Barton
Dustin T. Beck
Ava Davis
Brantley Davis
Hudson Davis
Jeffrey L. Gobeli
Stacie K. Wond

Crevalle Jack:

Miki Ramsey
Carrie A. Warner

Florida Pompano:

Teddy Blanchard
Micah A. Cain

Thomas M. Ouellette
Maverick Salts
Lauren A. Thorburn

Flounder:

Christopher Mueller
Craig D. Van Brocklin

Gag:

Julia Bernstein
John G. Harmon
Mark Tyndall

Gray (Mangrove) Snapper:

Cody L. Martin

Gray Triggerfish:

Thomas Ruggles

Mutton Snapper:

Dan Kipnis

Red Drum:

Kelnette S. Alforque
Mike S. Batchelor
Dustin T. Beck
James M. Dabbs
Spencer Dahlstrom
Everett Ekey
Barrett Fine
Eric Fontaine
Nathan J. Gibeault
James Gray
Eden Hatcher
Ricky G. High
Graham J. Leighton

Jackson Leighton
Mason Nicholls
Thoren Person
Robert E. Sowder
Anthony J. Varela-Clark
Thomas Wickham
Shane M. Wiley

Red Grouper:

Sullivan Hoppe
Christopher D. Perry
Philip E. Smith

Sheepshead:

Ronan Armstrong
Matthew S. Batchelor
Joshua R. Guthrie

Francesca M. Molinary
Christopher Mueller

Snook:

Logan C. Chambers
Caleb Marple

Spanish Mackerel:

Barrett Fine
Finn C. Hahn
Gregory Lee McConnell

Spotted Seatrout:

Brandon W. Alford
Obadiah H. Allison
Christopher J. Barton
Daniel Blanchard
Sadie Boohaker

Lyndra E. Davis
Wesley Fox
Kevin Frost
Jeffrey L. Gobeli
Tony Hart
Colton E. Moore
Leo F. Ryan
Dexter Williams

Tripletail:

Ryder Harmel

Vermilion Snapper:

Dan Kipnis
John G. Harmon
Colton Woodie

New Triple Threat Club Members

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

James H. Belden
Eric Burish

Garrison H. Fairhurst
Eric Fontaine

Finn C. Hahn
John G. Harmon

Robert R. Kurtz
Earl F. Lynch

Roy Magnuson
Leo F. Ryan

Mark Tyndall
James R. Uille JR

Anthony J. Varela-clark
Thomas Wickham

New Florida Saltwater Fishing Records

Youth Weight - Cobia

Julia Bernstein

Youth Weight - Little Tunny

Julia Bernstein

Youth Weight - Yellowtail Snapper

Remington Loy

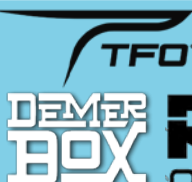
Youth Length - Red Drum

Carson Atcheson

Adult Weight - Blue Runner

Daniel Ireland

A Special Thanks to Our Partners:



Celebrating 10 Years of Florida Memories



The Catch a Florida Memory Team is excited to celebrate 10 years of sharing your memorable catches in the Fishing Capital of the World! To celebrate, we're running three new exciting challenges for anglers across all skill levels. Visit CatchaFloridaMemory.com for challenge updates, prizing information, and more!



Veterans Challenge



Quarterly Secret Fish



Photo of the Year

Open exclusively to active and retired military, this challenge encourages service members to compete against other military branches by submitting catches to earn points. Each participant will receive an exclusive Catch a Florida Memory Veterans Challenge Coin and hat.

Diversify your catches to up your chances of reeling in the Quarterly Secret Fish from the Life List! A hint for the selected species will be in the Catch a Florida Memory newsletter, Facebook, and website at the beginning of each quarter. Take a guess and cast your line!

Use your best fish handling and put on your biggest smile for a chance to be featured in our Saltwater Fishing Regulations! Only Life List species qualify and program participants will vote on the top 10 photos in early 2027. Capture your Florida memory today!

Program Updates!

If you haven't already, check out our program, updates including reduced Reel Big Fish lengths, new Life List species, and updated Grand Slams! Visit CatchaFloridaMemory.com to learn more.



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Vice Chairman, Fort Lauderdale

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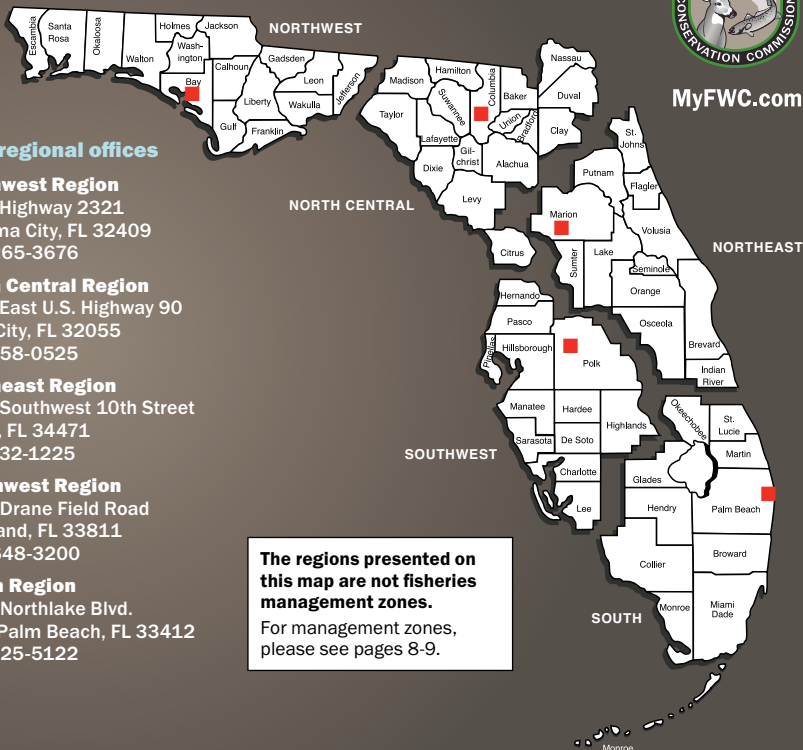
Charles "Rett" Boyd
Assistant Executive Director

George Warthen
Chief Conservation Officer

FWC regional offices

- **Northwest Region**
3911 Highway 2321
Panama City, FL 32409
850-265-3676
- **North Central Region**
3377 East U.S. Highway 90
Lake City, FL 32055
386-758-0525
- **Northeast Region**
1239 Southwest 10th Street
Ocala, FL 34471
352-732-1225
- **Southwest Region**
3900 Drane Field Road
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.



MyFWC.com

The FWC's Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and anglers as well as to enforce Florida's saltwater fishing and boating laws. FWC officers assist boaters who are in distress, provide advice and direction to those who

are traveling Florida's coastline and waterways, and may issue citations for violations of state and federal fishing, wildlife and boating laws.

In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife or boating laws are being violated, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cell phone users

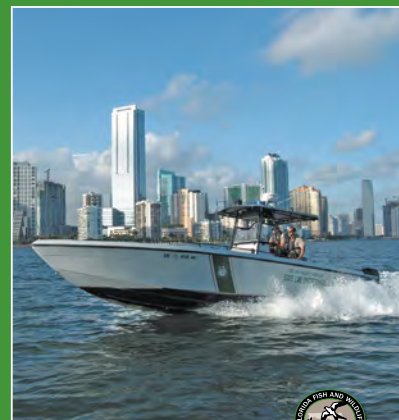
throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text messages directly to an email address. You can text Tip@MyFWC.com; standard usage fees may apply.

Resource Information

Join the nation's largest conservation law enforcement agency—become an FWC law enforcement officer. For more information contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-866-FWC-HIRE (392-4473) or visit MyFWC.com/Law

- **To purchase fishing licenses:**
888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)
GoOutdoorsFlorida.com
- **FWC Division of Law Enforcement**
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **To report fish and wildlife law violations, call the Wildlife Alert Hotline:**
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute**
727-896-8626
MyFWC.com/Research
- **To report fish kills:**
800-636-0511
- **To report fish tags:**
800-367-4461
TagReturn@MyFWC.com
- **To report sawfish sightings:**
941-255-7403
sawfish@MyFWC.com
- **Bird entanglement**
888-404-3922
727-391-6211 for Tampa area
- **Red tide information hotline**
866-300-9399 toll free in Florida
727-552-2488 nationwide
- **Aquatic toxins hotline:** 888-232-8635
- **Shellfish harvesting questions**
FDACS, 850-617-7600
https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices
- **To report lionfish sightings:**
1-877-786-7267
MyFWC.com/Lionfish

At the FWC, it pays to love the outdoors!



Visit MyFWC.com to learn how to become an FWC officer.





Certification That Carries Over to the Water

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A cartoon illustration of a blonde woman in a pink shirt and orange vest, holding a tablet and giving a thumbs up. The tablet screen displays a lesson titled "LESSON: A BOAT'S CAPACITY" with a progress bar and a goal of 310. The screen shows two boat icons with passenger counts and a table of weights. A QR code is in the bottom left, and a certification card is in the bottom right.

LESSON: A BOAT'S CAPACITY

Distribute the remaining passengers and gear keeping both boats within capacity.

Item	Weight
Person 1	200
Person 2	160
Person 3	120
Person 4	100
Person 5	80
Gear 1	100
Gear 2	60

Category	Value
Persons Total Number	3
Persons Total Weight	430
Outboard Motor Weight	780
Total Overall Weight	1210

4 Persons on Boat 1 (2000 lbs Persons, Motor, Gear)

6 Persons on Boat 2 (2000 lbs Persons, Motor, Gear)

QR Code

Your State Safe Boating Division

Certificate Number: 1119630
Birth Date: 08/22/89
Certification Date: 4/30/15
Instructor: Boat Ed+

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