

FISHING REGULATIONS



**RETURN 'EM
RIGHT**



**Saltwater Angler
Recognition**

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Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: July 2022



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

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Nathan and Owen Smiley with Owens first saltwater fish

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

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

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

Contact us

Go to **MyFWC.com** for up-to-date information on recreational saltwater fishing regulations, news and events as well as resources, publications and videos.

Visit the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute online at **MyFWC.com/Research**

For federal fishing regulations, please contact:

- **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**
888-833-1844
www.gulfcouncil.org
- **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**
866-SAFMC-10
www.safmc.net
- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)**
727-824-5301
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

For additional information please contact:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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Division of Marine Fisheries Management
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or contact/write to: Civil Rights Accessibility Coordinator for Public Access, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041; Telephone 703-358-2349 or 703-358-2131.

Wildlife alert reward program

Report fish and wildlife law violations by calling toll-free 1-888-404-FWCC (3922); on cell phones, dial *FWC or #FWC depending on service carrier; or click **MyFWC.com/Contact**.

On the cover

Yellowtail snapper in active descent with a lip clamp descending device. Photo by Return 'em Right.

Have a picture for the cover? Please send your photographs to: **Saltwater@MyFWC.com**.



Introduction

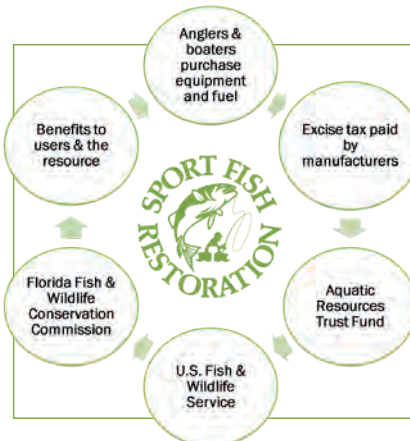
This publication is provided as a guide to Florida fishing laws and regulations. The Florida Administrative Code is the final authority on fishing laws. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) strives to ensure information in this booklet is accurate, but assumes no liability for 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.

2022 Commission meeting dates and locations

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

- March 2-3
- May 4-5
- July 13-14
- September 28-29
- November 30-December 1

*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.

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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.

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Message from the FWC by Chairman Rodney Barreto

With more than one million registered vessels in Florida, our state has solidified its place as the Boating and Fishing Capital of the World. For those of us lucky enough to call Florida home, we understand the importance of working together to preserve our state's natural resources for future generations.

As Chairman of the Commission that is responsible for managing and protecting fish and wildlife, I am proud of all our staff who work hard every day to provide residents and visitors numerous opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. I am also proud of our law enforcement officers who are dedicated to protecting fish and wildlife as well as the public.

Summer is in full swing and that means there are plenty of months ahead to enjoy Florida's beautiful waterways. As seasons for bay scallops, red snapper, and spiny lobster open to harvest, anglers can try their hand at an abundance of saltwater fishing opportunities from inshore fishing for species like spotted seatrout to offshore fishing for species like amberjack and grouper.

Whether you're a new or experienced angler, you'll want to check out our new free online course, Florida Friendly Angler. Fishermen can learn about fisheries management and up their fishing game by learning skills and practices that help ensure fishing opportunities for the future. The course is comprised of three self-paced modules that cover environmental ethics, best fishing practices, and fisheries management. You can register for the course at bit.ly/3yoIkG4.

We also offer tons of resources on MyFWC.com/Marine including information on current regulations, how to fish, saltwater fishing tips, where to fish, ethical angling techniques, boating etiquette and more.

Trying to figure out where to go? Check out our new Where to Fish page at MyFWC.com/Marine. Or use our website to search for an artificial reef, wildlife management area, boat ramp, or fishing pier near you.

We are thankful for all our customers and stakeholders who visit us online, via email, and in person. Let us know how we are doing.

This input is valuable, and we urge you to continue the conversation by reaching out to us at Marine@MyFWC.com, at MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments or at 850-487-0554.



You can also help the next generation of Florida's youth learn to fish by donating to the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida (www.wildlifeflorida.org), our nonprofit citizen support organization, which is also working to conserve our reefs and estuaries.



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Reef to Table Dinner:

How to create a sustainable meal with Florida's invasive lionfish

If you've done any amount of offshore fishing or diving in Florida over the past 10 years, chances are you've probably seen, caught, or at least heard about lionfish before. For the folks reading this article that haven't heard the news, here's the scoop.

Lionfish are an invasive marine reef fish that now call the majority of the western Atlantic, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico their home. These invaders hale from the Indo-Pacific and were thought to be brought to this side of the planet through the aquarium trade. Unfortunately, the two traits that make these fish perfect for an aquarium; their beauty and heartiness, also made them the perfect invader. So perfect that lionfish are considered the worst marine invasion in history!

With high rates of reproduction, voracious appetites, and tolerance to a wide range of habitat conditions, lionfish spell trouble for our native ecosystems. A unique coloration and more than a dozen venomous spines, allow this invader to avoid predation from every species in Florida except one — humans.

Humans are the only hope for controlling lionfish within their invaded range, and we're in luck because they are incredibly delicious. Don't believe us? Try it for yourself! Here's how to get lionfish on your dinner plate tonight.

Catch

The first step in this process is going to be obtaining your fish. For most people, driving down to your local fish house and picking up a handful of fillets is going to be the best route. Many locations in Florida keep lionfish in stock, but you may want to call around before hopping in the car. For those of you with access to a boat and time to spare, harvesting the lionfish yourself is also an option. Visit FWCReefRangers.com to learn more about harvesting lionfish

Clean

We know what you're wondering, what about that venom? Lionfish do have 18 venomous spines. The tissue within these spines contains a neuromuscular toxin that can cause pain, swelling, and other side effects when injected into the body. Luckily, there are no reported deaths from a lionfish sting and there is no venom contained within the flesh of the fish making them perfectly safe to eat.

Filleting a lionfish is like filleting any other type of fish except for using caution to avoid those venomous spines. If you put the fish on its side, you can easily hold the fish by the gill plates without getting stuck. Another option is to wear puncture-resistant gloves. Some also choose to cut the spines off before filleting.

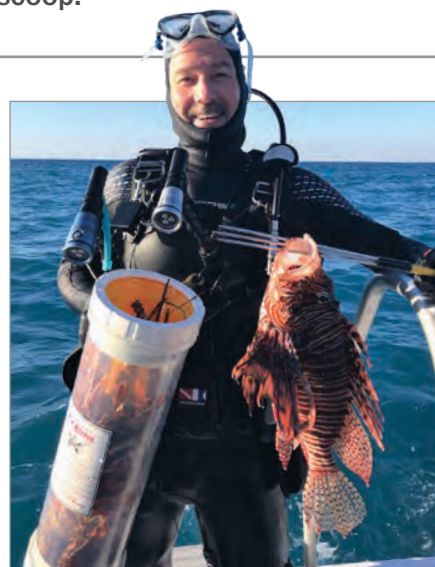
Cook

This is where you can let your creativity run wild. Lionfish are a highly sought-after fish in many high-end seafood restaurants because of their excellent quality. When cooked, lionfish fillets are firm, white, and flaky, with a very mild taste comparable to snapper or hogfish. This means that lionfish can be prepared in a variety of dishes. You may want to keep it classic, pan-searing the fillet with butter and lemon, or go wild, cooking the fish whole with head and spines still intact. If you want to impress a crowd, lionfish ceviche is sure to please, or a classic fish fry! Lionfish taste excellent underneath a coating of cornmeal batter and hot oil.

Whichever way you decide to prepare your meal, you can end your day happy knowing that your meal helped protect Florida's marine ecosystems.

Want to learn more about FWC's lionfish control initiatives?

Visit MyFWC.com/Lionfish.



Lionfish harvester Dean Ruscoe showing off his catch.



Lionfish fillet demonstration.



Lionfish served whole and garnished with lemon.

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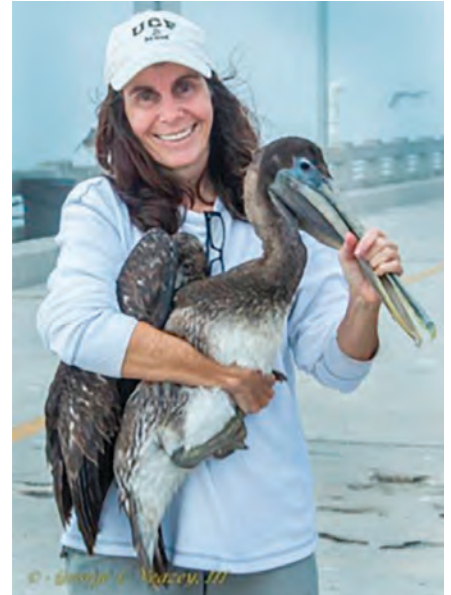
Hooked a Bird? Don't Cut the Line!

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

1. Wear safety glasses and enlist a partner for help.
2. **Reel** the bird in slowly and lift it from the water using a hoop net.
3. Grasp the bird by the head just behind the eyes and fold the wings against the body. For pelicans, hold the beak, keeping the mouth slightly open so it can breathe. Cover the bird's head with a cloth to keep it calm.
4. **Remove** the barb and hook from the bird using pliers or clippers. If the bird is entangled, remove all line.
5. **Release** the bird (if healthy) by placing it on the ground near the water and allowing it to take off.
6. If the bird has swallowed the hook or is severely injured, contact a local seabird rehabilitator. For help finding one, use the link to the locator app at MyFWC.com/Unhook.

How else can you keep the seabirds away from your fish and reduce entanglement?

1. Don't feed the birds, which teaches them to approach where they are more likely to interfere with fishing.
2. Dispose of filleted bones where birds can't get them — in a trash can with lid or at home.
3. Cover bait buckets and take unused bait home.
4. Dispose of fishing line in a monofilament recycling bin or cut into small pieces and place in the trash.
5. Don't leave your line unattended.
6. Cast carefully to avoid being snared on trees, bridge piles, power lines or obstacles.
7. Help others learn what to do when they accidentally hook a bird. It's pretty easy, once you know how.



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Florida manages one of the most diverse, and most active artificial reef programs in the United States. As of May 2022, the FWC Artificial Reef Program has recorded over 3,940 artificial reef deployment locations state-wide. Since November 2021, 28 new artificial reefs have been constructed and the locations from a subset of the most recent reefs are listed in the table below. To download a complete list of Florida's artificial reef locations in a variety of digital formats, view an interactive map, and learn more about Florida's artificial reef program, please visit [MyFWC.com/ArtificialReefs](https://myfwc.com/ArtificialReefs).

Highlights from the 82 Artificial Reefs deployed during 2021

DeployID	County	Date	Deployment Name	Material	Tons	Relief	Depth	Lat (DM)	Long (DM)
PB0138	Palm Beach	11/04/2021	ARHF Juno Culverts	Concrete culverts (497 pieces)	497	8	74	26° 52.766' N	80° 01.808' W
ST0210	Sarasota	11/08/2021	Silvertooth 18/25	34 Concrete modules (various designs)	65	4	25	27° 17.170' N	82° 35.952' W
SL0081	St. Lucie	12/01/2021	The Aftersome Reef	Barge (418' long)	2688	28	175	27° 24.235' N	80° 00.422' W
PB0139	Palm Beach	01/14/2022	Sugar Sands Boulders	Limestone boulders	914	10	30	26° 47.743' N	80° 02.726' W
DA0257	Miami-Dade	01/25/2022	Eternal Reef #37	8 Concrete modules (small domes)	2	4	45	25° 57.762' N	80° 05.897' W
DA0258	Miami-Dade	01/25/2022	Golden Beach Eternal Reef #37	8 Concrete modules (small domes)	2	4	45	25° 57.762' N	80° 05.897' W
ST0211	Sarasota	02/22/2022	Hart's Family Reef	3 Concrete modules (small domes)	1	2	14	27° 22.079' N	82° 34.513' W
ST0214	Sarasota	02/28/2022	Silvertooth 25 Bay Balls	4 Concrete modules (small domes)	5	4	30	27° 17.163' N	82° 35.971' W
OK0374	Okaloosa	03/02/2022	M/V Miss Joann	Steel tug (64' long)	50	35	119	30° 07.613' N	86° 23.491' W
ST0215	Sarasota	03/28/2022	Silvertooth 26 Bay Balls	13 Concrete modules (small domes)	9	27	30	27° 17.170' N	82° 35.952' W
DA0259	Miami-Dade	04/11/2022	Golden Beach Eternal Reef #38	7 Concrete modules (small domes)	4	41	45	25° 57.770' N	80° 05.891' W
BA0514	Bay	05/02/2022	Allen Family Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (8' tetrahedrons)	5	8	74	29° 55.310' N	85° 36.225' W
BA0515	Bay	05/02/2022	Gronbeck Family Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (8' tetrahedrons)	5	8	74	29° 55.460' N	85° 36.218' W
BA0516	Bay	05/02/2022	Frank Visconti Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (8' tetrahedrons)	5	8	74	29° 55.460' N	85° 36.033' W
BA0517	Bay	05/02/2022	Robert Boyd Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (8' tetrahedrons)	5	8	73	29° 55.460' N	85° 35.855' W
BA0518	Bay	05/02/2022	Henry Coghlan Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (various designs)	6	8	65	29° 55.089' N	85° 33.404' W
BA0519	Bay	05/02/2022	Marty Jaron Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (various designs)	6	8	59	29° 54.970' N	85° 32.730' W
BA0520	Bay	05/02/2022	Ryan Tillison Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (various designs)	6	8	57	29° 54.617' N	85° 32.407' W
BA0521	Bay	05/02/2022	William Tuttle Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (various designs)	6	8	55	29° 54.575' N	85° 32.075' W
BA0522	Bay	05/02/2022	Kay Thomas Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (8' tetrahedrons)	5	8	58	29° 43.250' N	85° 28.343' W
BA0523	Bay	05/02/2022	Charles Deaton Memorial	1 Concrete module (8' tetrahedron)	2	8	69	29° 43.444' N	85° 29.143' W
BA0524	Bay	05/02/2022	Kirby Watkins Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (8' tetrahedrons)	5	8	84	29° 46.263' N	85° 36.051' W
BA0525	Bay	05/02/2022	Kenneth Hitt Memorial Reef	2 Concrete modules (various designs)	5	8	95	29° 43.951' N	85° 41.485' W
BA0526	Bay	05/02/2022	MB-275 Unnamed	2 Concrete modules (various designs)	20	25	76	29° 54.866' N	85° 40.468' W
BA0527	Bay	05/02/2022	CCA Florida and Duke Energy	8 Concrete modules (various designs)	82	25	76	29° 55.384' N	85° 40.744' W



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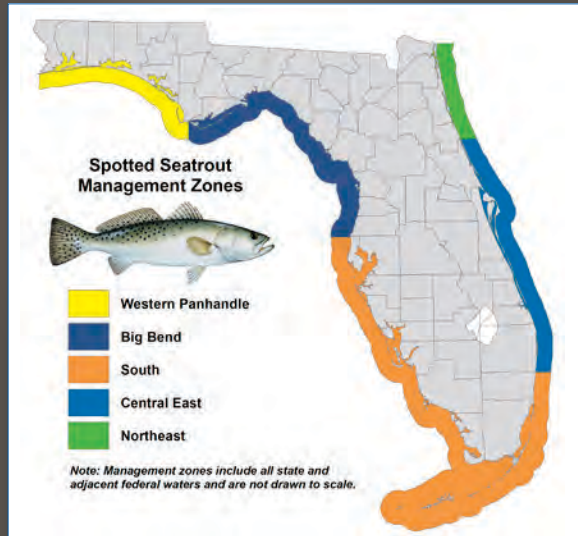


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MANAGEMENT ZONES

Spotted Seatrout Management Zones

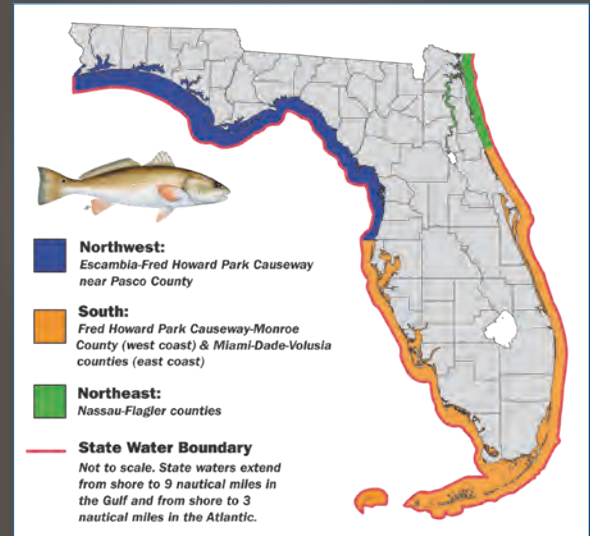
Spotted seatrout has five management zones and the recreational bag limit is three fish in the western panhandle region, five fish in the big bend region, three fish in the south region, two fish in the central east region and five fish in the northeast region.



Red Drum Management Zones

For red drum, there are three management zones. The daily bag limit is one fish in the northwest and south zones and two fish in the northeast zone.

NEW Regulations coming soon.



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Photo by Bonish Photography

Snook, Red Drum, and Seatrout Short-Term Management

Sarasota Bay through Gordon Pass in Collier County:

- Snook and redfish will remain catch-and-release through August 31, 2022.
- Spotted seatrout harvest is allowed with a three fish per person or six fish per vessel which ever is less. Commercial harvesters will also be held to the recreational three-fish bag and six-fish vessel limits through August 31, 2022.
- These regulations are for all state waters south of State Road 64 in Manatee County including Palma Sola Bay through Gordon Pass in Collier County but not including the Braden River or any tributaries of the Manatee River.



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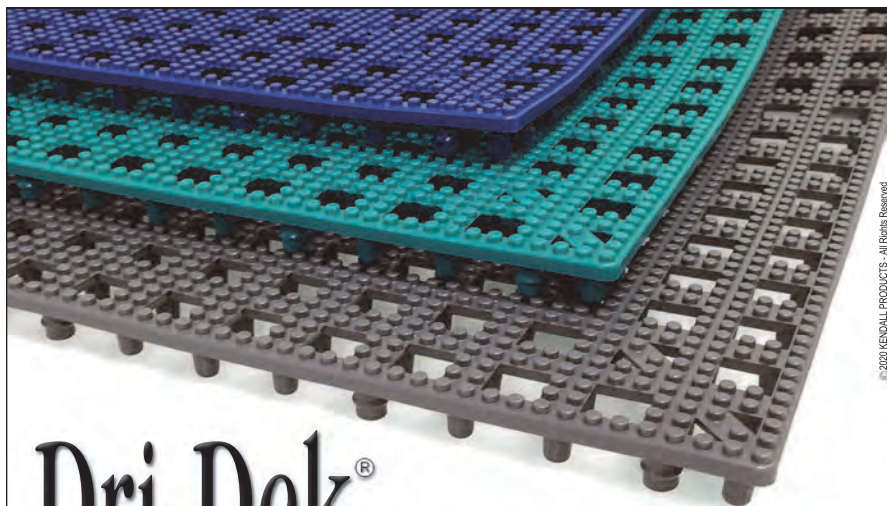
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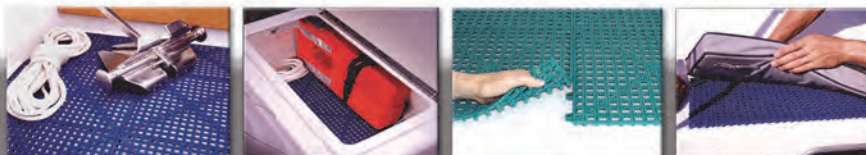
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Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

Issued: July 2022

New regulations are highlighted in red
(please visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational
for the most current regulations)

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

Reef Fish

Snapper

General Snapper Regulations:

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



Snapper, Cubera ▲◆◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see below)

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester under 30", included within snapper aggregate bag limit
- May additionally harvest up to 2 over 30" per harvester or vessel, whichever is less, and these 2 fish over 30" are **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit



Snapper, Red ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- **Gulf - June 17 - July 31**
Oct. 8-9, 15-16, 22-23
Nov. 11-13, 25-27

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester
- Gulf - Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.



Snapper, Vermilion ▲◆◆X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit
- Gulf - 10 per harvester **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit



Snapper, Lane ▲◆◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 8"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester, **not** included within snapper aggregate bag limit

Other Snapper ▲◆◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

See page 18 for gear rules pertaining to reef fish.



Snapper, Gray (Mangrove) ▲◆◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



Snapper, Mutton ▲◆◆X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 18"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



Snapper, Schoolmaster ▲◆◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester



Snapper, Yellowtail ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Grouper

Atlantic Grouper

General Regulations:

- Atlantic grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Atlantic and all state waters off Monroe County (Gulf and Atlantic sides).
- **Atlantic Grouper/Tilefish Aggregate Bag Limit** – includes all species of grouper plus golden and blueline tilefish included in a 3 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of species.
- **Seasons** – If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.

Gulf Grouper

General Regulations:

- Gulf grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Gulf except off Monroe County (where Atlantic rules apply).
- **Gulf Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit** – all species of grouper in the Gulf are included in a 4 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper species.
- **Seasons** – If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.

* Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels applies to gag, black, and red grouper only.



Grouper, Black ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be gag or black
- Gulf - 4 per harvester*



Grouper, 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, Snowy ▲◆◆●

Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 4 per harvester



Gag Grouper ▲◆◆X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed: Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - State waters off Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties: Open April 1-June 30, & Sept 1-Dec. 31.
- Gulf - State waters off all other counties: Open June 1-Dec. 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be gag or black
- Gulf - 2 per harvester*



Grouper, Red ▲◆◆X

Minimum Size Limits:

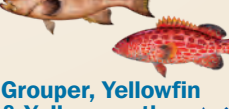
- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

Season:

- Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 2 per harvester*



Grouper, 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



Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind ▲◆◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per vessel per day of each species

Other Groupers ▲◆◆●

Other Grouper includes:

- Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby, Misty, and Yellowedge

Season:

- Atlantic - Rock hind, Red hind, Coney, Graysby: Closed Jan. 1-April 30
- Atlantic - All others open year-round
- Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Reef Fish

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



Amberjack, Greater ▲●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 28" fork length
- Gulf - 34" fork length

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester per day



Red Porgy ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 14"
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds



Tilefish, Blueline ▲●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 lbs. or 2 per harvester, whichever is greater

Season:

- Atlantic - Open May 1-July 25
- Gulf - Open year-round

Remarks

- Blueline tilefish included within Atlantic grouper aggregate bag limits.



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



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"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per person or 6 per vessel
- 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 person 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, see MyFWC.com for updates

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 harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel

Pelagics



Billfish ▲★

Minimum Size Limits:

- Sailfish 63";
- Blue Marlin 99";
- White Marlin 66";
- Roundscale Spearfish 66"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester aggregate bag limit

Remarks

- Measured tip of lower jaw to fork. All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmspermits.noaa.gov.
- HMS permit required in federal waters.



Wahoo ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester



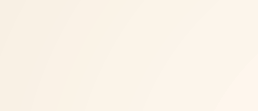
Blackfin Tuna ▲■

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:

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

Remarks

- Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters if federal waters are closed to recreational harvest.



Tripletail ▲★◆■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 18"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester

Remarks

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



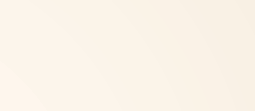
Mackerel, Spanish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester



Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20" fork length
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester per day, not to exceed 30 per vessel. Vessel limit does not apply to for-hire vessels.



Swordfish ★

Minimum Size Limits:

- 47" lower jaw fork length with head attached or 25" cleithrum to keel length if head removed

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed a maximum of 4 per recreational (not for-hire) vessel or 15 per for-hire vessel

Remarks

- All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528.
- HMS permit required in federal waters.
- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels.



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

- 6 fish vessel limit south of state road 64 (Manatee County) through Gordon Pass (Collier County). See map on pg. 9.
- See management zone map on pg. 8.
- Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels statewide



Pompano, Florida ▲ ★ ✦ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 11" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 6 per harvester

Remarks

- Hook and line, cast net and beach or haul seine ONLY.



Bonefish ★ ■

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 0 per harvester

Remarks

- Catch and release only
- Hook and line only



Weakfish ▲ ★ ◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Weakfish Management Area (WMA) in Nassau County - 12"
- All other areas - no minimum

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- WMA - 1 per harvester
- All other areas - 100 pounds per harvester

Remarks

- Regulations apply in parts of Nassau County only.
- See map at: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Weakfish



Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver

Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum size

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 50 aggregate per harvester;
- Aggregate vessel limits
Feb. 1-Aug. 31: 100 per vessel;
Sept. 1-Jan. 31: 50 per vessel



Atlantic Croaker and Spot ● ★ ▲ ✦ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 50 per harvester per species (excludes Monroe County)
- Gulf - 100 lbs. per harvester (including Monroe County)



Snook (All species) ▲ ★ ◆ ✦ ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 28" or more than 32" Atlantic excluding Monroe
- Not less than 28" or more than 33" Gulf and Monroe County

Closed Season:

- Atlantic (excluding Monroe) closed Dec. 15-Jan. 31 and June 1-Aug. 31.
- Gulf including Monroe County, Dec. 1-end of February, and May 1-Aug. 31.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester

Remarks

- Remains Catch-and-release only south of state road 64 (Manatee County) to Gordon Pass (Collier County). See map on pg. 9.
- Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. See MyFWC.com for snook permit details. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.
- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels



Blue Runner ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 100 fish per harvester



Sheepshead ● ▲ ◆ ✦ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 8 per harvester

Remarks

- Snatching prohibited
- Vessel limit of 50 fish during March and April



Tarpon ● ★ ✦ ■

Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per year. \$50 harvest tag required. Vessel limit of one fish. Harvest tag can only be used when fish is retained for potential IGFA record.

Remarks

- Tarpon over 40 inches must remain in the water during release. Spearing and snatch hooking prohibited. Bottom weighted jigs prohibited in Boca Grande Pass. See: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Tarpon for additional information.



Red Drum (Redfish) ▲ ★ ◆ ✦ ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 18" or more than 27"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day in the NE zone, and 1 per harvester in the NW and S zone. See map on pg. 6.
- Vessel and off water transport limits apply

Remarks

- New regulations coming soon.
- Remains Catch-and-release only south of state road 64 (Manatee County) to Gordon Pass (Collier County). See map on pg. 9.
- Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.

Can't find your fish in the regulations?

Florida's coastal waters are home to thousands of marine species, and the majority of these species have no specific regulations with regard to bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions or closed seasons. These species are often referred to as "unregulated species," although the name can be a bit misleading. State law provides that for any marine species that does not have specific regulations, harvesting more than 100 pounds or two fish (whichever is the greater amount) constitutes a commercial quantity and requires a commercial license. This means the recreational harvest limit for any unregulated species is 100 pounds or two organisms if the combined weight of the two organisms exceeds 100 pounds.



Gulf Kingfish



Jack Crevalle



Lionfish



Hardhead Catfish

Examples of "unregulated species" include:

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

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

★ Spearing Prohibited

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

◆ Measured as total length. Total length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.

■ State regulations apply in federal waters.

● Additional gear rules apply, please see: MyFWC.com

✦ Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook (any hook with two or more points and a common shaft) in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.

✗ State Reef Fish Angler designation required when fishing for select reef fish species from a private vessel in the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean.

Crustaceans and Mollusks

Bay Scallops



Season:

- Gulf County: Aug. 16–Sept. 24
- Franklin-NW Taylor County: July 1–Sept. 24
- Dixie and remaining Taylor County: June 15–Labor Day
- Levy, Citrus and Hernando counties: July 1–Sept. 24
- Pasco County: 10 days starting on 3rd Friday in July

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester; no more than 10 gallons whole, or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime
- Dixie and remaining Taylor County: From June 15–30, one gallon whole/one cup meat per person or five gallons whole/two pints meat per vessel, whichever is less

Remarks

- Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Pinellas - Pasco county line, to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County. Direct transit through closed areas permitted.

Shrimp



Closed Season:

- April & May closed in Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 gallons heads on per harvester or vessel, whichever is less

Remarks

- Visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater", "Regulations" and "Shrimp" for additional regulations specific to Dade, Nassau and Duval
- See 68B-31 F.A.C for more information on areas closed to shrimping

Spiny Lobster



Minimum Size Limit:

- Carapace must be greater than 3" measured in the water

Seasons:

- Sport Season open July 27–28, 2022
- 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 statewide trap construction requirements and specific requirements that apply in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. See how to properly de-claw on our website. New trap registration requirements, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com to register.

Crab, Blue



Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. Visit MyFWC.com for 2022 trap closure dates and locations.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 gallons whole per harvester

Remarks

- 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. New trap registration requirements, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com to register.

Oysters



Minimum Size Limit:

- 3"

Closed Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay

Remarks

- Harvest from approved shellfish areas during daylight hours only.
- Go to FloridaAquaculture.com to determine the Open or Closed status of shellfish harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.
- 1 Bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell)
- Harvest prohibited in any harvest area that is in the Closed status as determined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- Bay County: Harvest and possession prohibited in West Bay Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project Zone

Sharks

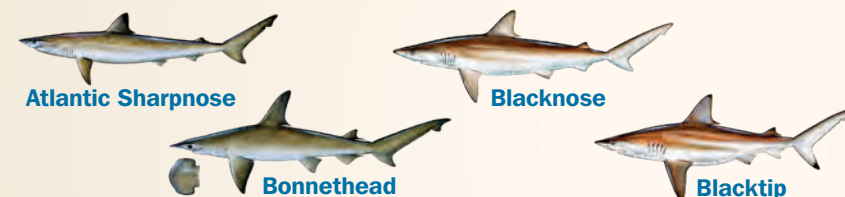
Retainable Sharks with a 54" fork length minimum ▲ ★ †

Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle (not illustrated).



Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ▲ ★ †

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



Retainable Sharks with a 83" fork length minimum ▲ ★ †



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.

Prohibited Species

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

Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Sawfish, Atlantic Angel Shark, Basking Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Sixgill Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Caribbean Sharpnose Shark, Dusky Shark, Galapagos Shark, Lemon Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Night Shark, Silky Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Sandbar Shark, Sevengill Shark, Sixgill Shark, Smalltail Shark, Spiny Dogfish, Whale Shark, White Shark, Tiger Shark, Greater, Scalloped and Smooth Hammerhead Shark, Manta Ray, Devil Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Sturgeon, Queen Conch, Calico Scallop, Stony, Hard, Black and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Bahama Starfish, and Longspine Urchin. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited. Puffer fish harvest is prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

Marine life regulations

Requirements for marine life (aquarium species) harvest:

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

* Some organisms have additional gear limitations, see chart.

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

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

Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹	SIZE LIMITS (total length unless otherwise noted)
Angelfish	No more than 5 per person per day in any combination	Gray, French Angelfish: 1½–8" slot limit Blue, Queen Angelfish: 1¾–8" slot limit Rock Beauty: 2–5" slot limit
Butterflyfish		1–4" slot limit
Filefish/Triggerfish	Except Unicorn Filefish, Gray Triggerfish and Ocean Triggerfish	
Gobies		Maximum size limit: 2"
Hamlets/Seabasses	Except reef fish ² and Longtail Bass	
Jawfish		Maximum size limit: 4"
Parrotfish		Maximum size limit: 12"
Porkfish		Minimum size limit: 1½"
Pufferfish, Burrfish, Balloofish, Porcupinefish	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloofish, 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, Cometfish, 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
Octopods ³	Except Common Octopus
Sea Fans	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
Siphonophores/Hydroids	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
Sponges	Except Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef and Velvet Sponges; no more than 5 sponges per harvester per day in any combination; harvest of substrate within 1" of base permitted north and west of the southernmost point of Egmont Key, no substrate allowed south of Egmont Key
Starfish ³	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins ³	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

Other 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.

Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free 814.572.4387 HuntofaLifetime.org

Marine Life — Plants

SPECIES	LIMITS
Algae, Coralline Red	
Caulerpa	One gallon of tropical ornamental marine plants per day in any combination; 2 gallon maximum possession limit
Halimeda/Mermaid's Fan/Mermaid's Shaving Brush	

- 1—Unless otherwise noted, combined bag limit of 20 marine life fish and invertebrates per person per day, only 5 of any one species allowed. A 2-day possession limit also applies (40 total organisms, only 10 of any one species).
- 2—Such as groupers, snappers, seabass and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on pages 10.
- 3—Bag limit of 2 live shell fish of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.

Return 'Em Right to Help Released Deep-Water Fish Survive

When reeling up fish from deep water, you might notice some have bulging eyes, a bloated belly, protruding intestines, or their stomach coming out of the mouth. These “floaters” have barotrauma, or injuries caused by pressure changes when they are rapidly brought to the surface from deep water.



If your fish needs to be released, it is important to help them **get back down to the bottom quickly**, so they have a chance to survive and be caught another day.

Properly using descending devices or venting tools can help fish overcome barotrauma injuries. It takes a little practice to learn how to use these correctly, but research shows they can greatly **increase the long-term survival of released deep-water fish**.

Most descending devices attach to a fish's mouth and use weights to take fish back down to depth. A lip clamp descending device clips onto the fish's bottom jaw, while an inverted hook descending device slides through the fish's lip, ideally in the hole made by the hook. You can also use a fish elevator, such as a crate, box or net with weights that is turned upside-down, to return fish to the bottom.

Be sure to **have descending gear ready for use before your fishing trip** when fishing in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean. You can attach the device and weights to a heavy-duty rod and reel designated for descending or use a rope to handline the device and weights down and back up. A good goal is to use one pound of weight for every five pounds of fish being descended. Use a combination of loop knots, swivels, snaps, clips, etc. to attach the weights and device to your line. Be able to quickly and easily add or remove weights as needed, based on the size of the fish being descended and the water conditions. Unless you use a pressure-sensor device that releases fish automatically, you'll need to jig your device to release the fish once the weights have brought it back down to depth.

Venting is an alternative to descending but is only effective if done correctly with a proper hollow-tubed instrument piercing the side of the fish at a 40° angle, approximately two to three inches behind the base of the pectoral fin, to allow air to escape from the swim bladder. Do not puncture the fish's stomach or intestines if they are coming out of the fish.

Be aware of gear regulations for best fishing practices in the area you are fishing. **Download the Fish Rules app** to stay updated on these regulations and more. Visit the reef fish gear webpage at [MyFWC.com/ReefFishGear](https://www.myfwc.com/reeffishgear) to view gear rules. Learn about best fishing practices at [MyFWC.com/FishHandling](https://www.myfwc.com/fishhandling). Visit [ReturnEmRight.org](https://www.returnemright.org) to learn more and see if you are eligible for free descending gear.



A. Designated rod and reel with descending device and weights.

B. Rigged descending device with weight.

C. Active descent of red snapper with lip clamp descending device and 3-pound weight.



A. Inverted hook descending device through lower jaw of the fish that needs to be descended.

B. Alternative inverted hook descending device through the hole made by a circle hook.

C. Hollow tip venting tool at a 40° angle, placed behind the base of the pectoral fin.

Photos: Return 'Em Right



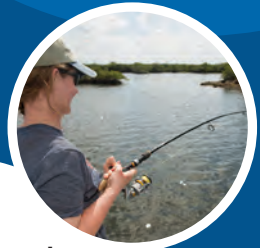


Florida Friendly Fishing Guide

Looking for an eco-minded fishing guide?

When scheduling your next fishing trip, visit the Florida Friendly Fishing Guide certification program page to find guides who are committed to preserving the future of Florida's fisheries by using sustainable boating and fishing practices.

Established by UF/IFAS, Florida Sea Grant, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the online certification course covers fisheries management, best practices for catch and release fishing, sustainable waste management and fueling, and other topics. Salt and freshwater fishing guides that have completed the voluntary course show that they adhere to the highest environmental standards.



Learn more about this program and how to find a Florida Friendly Fishing Guide near you at:

bit.ly/fl-friendly-guides










For questions, please email Savanna Barry at Savanna.barry@ufl.edu



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Help Plan the Future of the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area

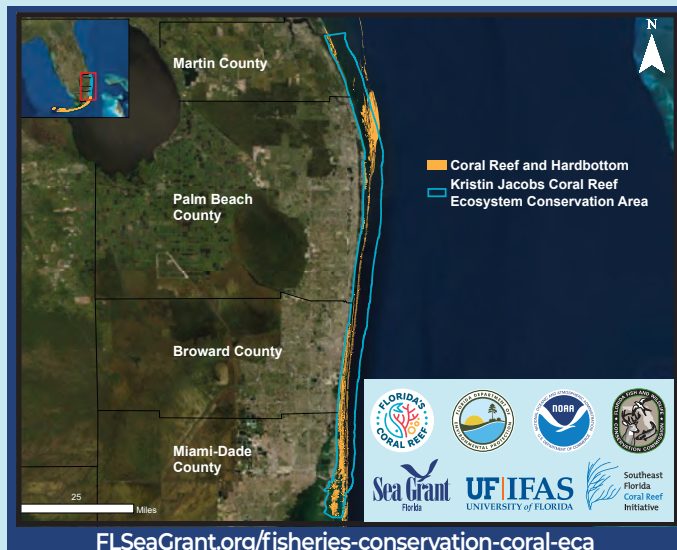
The Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area (Coral ECA) is a newly renamed conservation area offshore of Martin, Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. The area stretches from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern boundary of Biscayne National Park and includes state waters and sovereign submerged lands.

A fisheries stakeholder committee has been formed to develop recommendations to enhance the coral reef ecosystem and fishing quality in the Coral ECA. These recommendations will be shared with local, state and federal government agencies to help guide management of these waters.

The committee has engaged in discussions related to important environmental issues impacting the Coral ECA, including water quality, habitat loss and coral disease.



The committee seeks to engage the fishing and diving community in Southeast Florida by distributing a public survey and encouraging participation in public meetings.



How can you get involved?

Visit the website or scan the QR code to receive updates on the next public meeting, an upcoming survey and the committee's progress.



Recreational gear

Additional regional gear restrictions may apply in your county. For further clarification, contact the local regional offices listed on page 24.

Reef fish gear rules

(applies to species marked with ● on pages 10-11)

- **Gulf of Mexico:** These regulations require the use of a dehooking device when recreationally fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. All persons aboard a vessel harvesting reef fish must possess and use non-stainless steel non-offset circle hooks when using natural baits.
- **Atlantic Ocean:** Recreational and commercial fishers are required to use dehooking devices as needed while fishing for reef fish. (New) When fishing for reef fish using hook-and-line with natural baits from a vessel, non-stainless steel, non-offset circle hooks are required N. of 28 degrees N. latitude and non-stainless steel hooks are required S. of 28 degrees N. latitude

These rules apply to all members of the reef fish complex including groupers, snappers, amberjacks, red porgy, gray triggerfish, black sea bass, golden tilefish, banded rudderfish, speckled hind and others. For a complete species list, please visit MyFWC.com.

Hook-and-line gear

Hook-and-line anglers must tend their gear at all times to prevent people, marine life and shore life from becoming entangled in the line or injured by the hook. Also, it is against the law to intentionally discard any monofilament netting or line into or onto state waters. Monofilament line can entangle birds, marine mammals, marine turtles and fish, often injuring or killing them. Trot lines with 10 or fewer hooks are considered hook-and-line gear and must be tended at all times while deployed. Species identified with "T" on pages 10 through 13 cannot be harvested with multi-hooks (single hook with two or more points) in conjunction with natural baits.

Nets

The following types of nets may be used for recreational purposes in Florida waters:

- Bully nets (for lobster only) no greater than 3 feet in diameter and not made of monofilament.
- Frame nets and push nets (for shrimp only) no greater than 16 feet in perimeter and not made of monofilament. Frame nets cannot be used in state waters off Dade County.
- Hand-held landing or dip nets no greater than 96 inches in perimeter.
- Cast nets measuring 14 feet or less stretched length (stretched length is defined as the

distance from the horn at the center of the net with the net gathered and pulled taut, to the lead line).

- Beach or haul seines measuring no larger than 500 square feet of mesh area, no larger than 2 inches stretched mesh size, not constructed of monofilament, and legibly marked at both ends with the harvester's name and address if a Florida resident. Non-residents using beach or haul seines for recreational purposes are required to have a commercial saltwater products license and legibly mark the seine at both ends with the harvester's saltwater products license number.
- Cast nets and seines may be used as harvesting gear for the following species only: black drum, bluefish, cobia, flounder, mullet, Florida pompano, red drum, sheepshead, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, weakfish and unregulated species (see p. 12).
- No more than two nets can be fished from any vessel and no more than one net can be fished by any person not on a vessel.

Explosives, etc.

The use of powerheads, explosives, chemicals or the discharge of firearms to kill or harvest marine life is prohibited in state waters.

Spearing

Spearing is a general term that includes bow fishing, gigging, spearfishing (underwater), or the use of any other device to capture a fish by piercing its body. Spearing does not include snagging or snatch hooking by hook and line. Marine species harvested by spearing are subject to the same recreational regulations (e.g., bag limits, size limits, and closed seasons) as those marine species that are harvested by any other type of recreationally-allowed gear. The following is a list of species or groups of species that are prohibited from harvest by all forms of spearing in state waters:

- All prohibited species (listed on p. 10-13)
- Billfish (all species)
- Bonefish
- Crab (blue, stone)
- Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*)
- Goliath grouper
- Manta ray
- Nassau grouper
- Permit
- Pompano (Florida and African)
- Red drum
- Sharks (all species including dogfish)
- Snook
- Spotted eagle ray
- Spotted seatrout
- Sturgeon
- Tarpon
- Tripletail
- Weakfish
- Marine life species (listed on p. 14)

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



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Info@GrassyKeyMarinaFL.com or GrassyKeyInfo@Gmail.com

SPEARING

only by the use of a barbed spear with three or fewer prongs.

* Special Local Laws also prohibit harvest by spearing in specific areas (Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations," "Full Text Rule by Species" and "Local Laws.")

Spearfishing

Spearfishing is a specific form of "spearing" defined as "the catching or taking of a fish through the instrumentality of a hand or mechanically propelled, single or multi-pronged spear or lance, barbed or barbless, **operated by a person swimming at or below the surface of the water.**" In addition to the harvest species limitations above, you may not spearfish:

- For any species that cannot be harvested by spearing (see Spearing on pg. 18).
- For any species (freshwater or marine) in freshwater. Possession of spearfishing equipment in or on freshwater is also prohibited.
- Within the upper Keys no-spearfishing zone, which includes all state waters from the Miami-Dade County line down to and including Long Key.
- Within 100 yards of any designated public bathing beaches, commercial or public fishing piers, or portions of bridges where fishing is allowed.

- Within 100 feet of the unsubmerged portion of any jetty, except that spearing is allowed along the last 500 yards of any jetty that extends more than 1,500 yards from the shoreline.
- In or on any body of water under the jurisdiction of the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection. Within these areas, the possession of spearfishing equipment is also prohibited except when such equipment is unloaded and is properly stored upon watercraft passing nonstop through the area.
- Within the no-take areas of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (Visit: www.floridakeys.noaa.gov)
- Within any area where spearfishing is prohibited by a Special Local Law (Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations," "Full Text Rule by Species" and "Local Laws.")

Powerheads, Bangsticks, Rebreathers

Harvest with the use of powerheads, bangsticks or rebreathers is prohibited in state waters, except that rebreathers are allowed for the harvest of lionfish. Within state waters, powerheads and bangsticks can be used for personal protection only, and cannot be used to harvest any species.

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Florida Saltwater Fishing Records

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



AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com

Above:
Nicole Hazellief with
her mutton snapper.

Below: Alexander
Acala with his spotted
seatrout.



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.

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Track your progress at catching 70 species of saltwater fish.

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

[identifyyourself](http://identifyyourself.com)

New Saltwater Grand Slam Club Members

Grand Slam Tier 1 - 3 different Grand Slams:

Gregg E. Lewis

Bay and Estuary:

Gregg E. Lewis

Ryan Nihill

Family - Drum:

Michael J. Bennett

Rob Clendenin

Mark R. Edwards

Samantha M. Hamilton

Robert A. Hollenbeck

John J. Jenkins

Travis A. Miller

Michael A. Morrison

Eduardo Rivera Jr

Jon Wissman

Family - Grouper:

Traci R. Fallenstein

Family - Grunt:

Clayton Pinera

Family - Jack/Pompano:

John H. Dobbins

Family - Snapper:

Jayden K. Fries

Charlie Stuve

Dylan R. Sullivan

Eric P. Sullivan

Andrew T. Wade

Bruce Wojcik

Inshore:

Alexander Acala-Sweat

Fabio Andrade

Marquis Baker

Douglas G. Clinger

Vincent Conwell

Antoni Dahlbeck

Derrick Evans

Robert A. Hollenbeck

Donald K. House Jr

Christopher Komatz

Matthew Lanier

Gregg E. Lewis

Michele Mathes

Audrey F. McClain

Tonya McConnell

Ryan Nihill

Justin D. Powell

Rick Schmitz

Jerald Seely

Austin Shanahan

Sheila M. Snyder

Clifford W. Thompson Jr

Shoreline :

Eli A. Orth

Small Fry :

Savannah Bouwer

Audrey G. Corvin

New Saltwater Fish Life List Club Members

10 - Fish Club:

Steven Agapi

Will Bamwell

John Barrington

William T. Boaz

Jaxson Calhoun

Kassidy Dieter

Derrick Evans

Isaac G. Garcia

James Gilner Gilner

Jonathan Hallett

Wyatt B. Haney IV

Samuel R. Hastings

Marvin B. Hatcher

Nicole Hazellief

Barbara N. Henwood

John C. Henwood

Chad Hightower

Jessica Honovic

Robert R. Kurtz

Walker P. Lea Jr

Karen Massey

Tim McGarey

Reed A. Miller

Travis A. Miller

Karen Millsap

Chuck Murphy

Ryan Nihill

Connor Orlando

Eli A. Orth

Brian Pyun

Duane Redder

Eduardo Rivera Jr

Casey Rogers

Eric B. Roth

Charlyn P. Salts

Crystal Samuel

Stefanie Semmes

Austin Shanahan

Josh Smith

Crystal Wade

Andrew T. Wade

Christopher G. Wells Jr

Lena Wiggers

Zachary Woods

Derek L. Yan

30 - Fish Club:

Greg G. Borries Jr

Joshua Cohen

Alex Gaus

John Georgiades

Kaelyn A. Kinley

Kerry Anna Naughton-Wurl

Christopher K. Perry

Robert John Pratte

David Mark Sager

Ethan Sonnenberg

Lane E. Warnick

50 - Fish Club:

Gregg E. Lewis

New Saltwater Reel Big Fish Club Members

Tier 2 - 10 Different Species:

Christopher K. Perry

African Pompano:

Brady Rice

Black Sea Bass:

Nathan C. Nielsen

Abner J. Urias

Catfish:

Gwyneth Burish

Patrick J. Nealon

Elliot Peterson

Andrew T. Wade

Florida Pompano:

Esteban Acosta

Olivia Clevenger

Brent E. Harsch

Steve Limer

Michael A. Richardson

David E. Wiltfong

Gray (Mangrove) Snapper:

Carson Alston

Flounder:

Carson Alston

Mark Rohrbeck

Greater Amberjack:

Elena Rice

King Mackerel:

Glenn Salts

Ladyfish:

Aaron C. Culpepper

Mutton Snapper:

Eric A. Clark

Red Drum:

Robert T. Barnum

Lathaniel Lee Crews

Derrick Evans

Christopher J. Evey

Isaac C. Evey

Jordan M. Jones

Andrew J. Moline

Casey Rogers

Josh Smith

Sheila M. Snyder

Todd D. Strong

Tanner Tew

Sheepshead:

Ryland Coston

Kaelyn A. Kinley

Snook:

Zisko M. Apaza

Logan G. Holley

Ryan Nihill

Spanish Mackerel:

Christopher J. Evey

Isaac C. Evey

Susan K. Gros

Spotted Seatrout:

Brittany Guynn

Nickolas Kapoi

Jeremiah A. Kidd

Shauna L. Watson

Tripletail:

Michael C. Montgomery

Crystal Samuel

Vermilion Snapper:

Christopher K. Perry

Yellowtail Snapper:

Clayton Pinera

Charlyn P. Salts

Charlie Stuve

New Triple Threat Club Members

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

Olivia Clevenger

Kassidy Dieter

Christopher J. Evey

Derrick Evans

Marvin B. Hatcher

Steve Limer

Ryan Nihill

Glenn Salts

Josh Smith

Dylan R. Sullivan

Andrew T. Wade

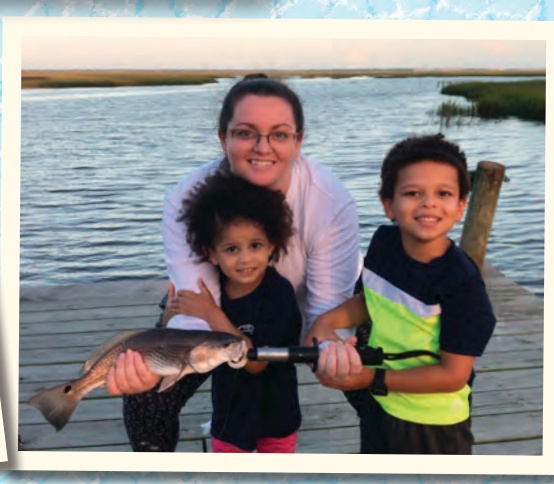
New Florida Saltwater Fishing Records

All Tackle - White Grunt

Krieger Webb Brasseale II

All Tackle - Blueline Tilefish

Terri Breedon



From left to right: Krieger Brasseale with his record white grunt, Ginger Baker-Sanhueza with red drum, Christopher K. Perry with Florida pompano.

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.

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.



THE CONSERVE FLORIDA'S FISHERIES LICENSE PLATE



- > Show your support for Florida's fisheries, coastal habitats and marine resources on the road with a "Conserve Florida's Fisheries" specialty license plate!
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- > 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



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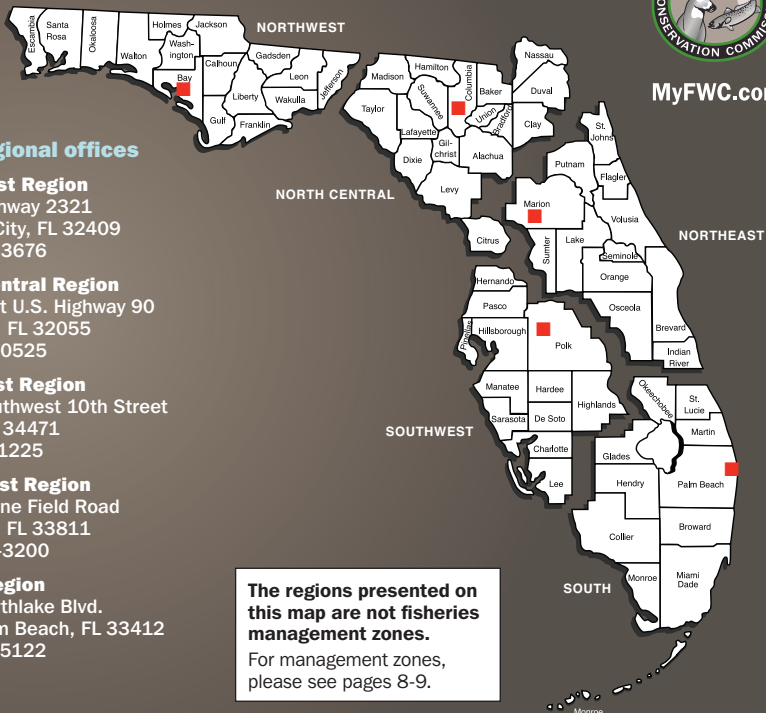
Staff

Eric Sutton
Executive Director

Dr. Thomas H. Eason
Assistant Executive Director

FWC regional offices

- **Northwest Region**
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- **North Central Region**
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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



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

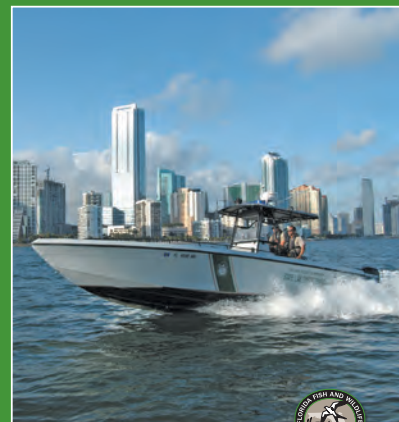
throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text messages directly to an email address. You can text Tip@MyFWC.com; standard usage fees may apply.

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.



Shhhhh. No wake zone.



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1-800-PROGRESSIVE / [PROGRESSIVE.COM](https://www.progressive.com)

PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. & affiliates. Additional charge may apply. Prices vary based on how you buy.



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